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CRIME BILL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
AFTERNOON NEWSMAKER

Thursday, September 8, 1994

National Press Club
529 14th Street, N W.
Washington, D.C.

1:00 p.m.

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1 STATEMENT OF GIL KLEIN, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

2 Mr. Klein: Good afternoon. Welcome to the National
3 Press Club.

4 My name is Gil Klein. I am the Club's president and
5 the national correspondent with Media General News
6 Service.

7 I would like to thank Attorney General Janet Reno for
8 coming to the Press Club today for our afternoon
9 newsmaker.

10 The Attorney General will discuss the Clinton
11 Administration's crime bill implementation plan. She
12 helped pass \$30 billion worth of it. And now we have to
13 figure out how they are going to spend that money.
14 President Clinton will sign the bill into law next week.

15 The Attorney General will speak for about 20 minutes,
16 and then she will take your questions.

17 Attorney General Reno.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON JANET RENO, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA .

3 Attorney General Reno: Thank you very much. It is a
4 pleasure to be back here.

5 For the last year-and-a-half, President Clinton and I
6 have worked with the American people to get a good crime
7 bill passed.

8 We met with police officers who work the streets of
9 the communities day in and day out. We talked with
10 citizens who care so very much about their community,
11 their neighborhood. And they are spending countless hours
12 volunteering to make their neighborhood a better place.

13 We walked with Republican and Democratic mayors
14 through their communities, large and small, and saw what
15 their communities were doing in a partnership between
16 government and citizens to make their area a better place
17 to live.

18 I have been to rural America to talk with sheriffs,
19 to see the problems that they face as they try to deal
20 with the crime problem that spreads beyond our urban
21 cities.

22 And I have talked with young people, who want so much
23 to have hope in the future, who have so many good ideas,
24 and who want to be so desperately involved.

25 There is a boldness and a courage out there. There

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1 is an excitement out in the communities of America and the
2 neighborhoods. The people that I spoke with spoke with a
3 great sense of urgency, and, indeed, with a spirit that
4 was to me very, very inspiring.

5 They spoke with the need to come together to stop the
6 violence and the drugs, to stop the senseless killing of
7 our children by our children.

8 They spoke with hope, because they knew what their
9 communities were doing with limited resources to make a
10 difference, even with resources sorely limited in so many
11 different situations.

12 But they talked with anger and frustration, because
13 they could not understand why Congress for six years had
14 not been able to enact a crime bill that began to address
15 what they considered to be the major problem in America
16 today, the problem of violence.

17 We heard them. The President acted by pushing for a
18 tough, smart crime bill, a bill that was funded. And it
19 was not full of empty promises, a bill that provided
20 billions of dollars for policing, punishment, and
21 prevention, that could make a difference.

22 Slowly the bill moved through both houses of
23 Congress. But then political bickering and special
24 interests raised their head again, and the bill looked as
25 if it would fail.

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1 But this President would not give up. This President
2 refused to see the crime bill die. He refused to
3 compromise on the provisions that he had talked about in
4 the campaign, that he had talked about in his State of the
5 Union message, the ban on assault weapons, 100,000 police
6 officers, three-strikes-you're-out, and the program to
7 give our kids something to say yes to, rather than just to
8 face a life of crime, and violence, and drugs.

9 And in a bipartisan spirit that was so heartening,
10 Republicans and Democrats joined together to say with him,
11 "We have heard from the American people. They want a
12 crime bill passed. They want a crime bill passed that is
13 tough and smart."

14 And they joined together. And we now have a crime
15 bill.

16 And we also have a historic opportunity. Now, all
17 Americans have an opportunity to work together, citizens
18 and public officials, Republicans and Democrats, to lay
19 differences aside and to use the resources of this bill in
20 the right way without bureaucratic red tape, without
21 bickering, without turf wars, without partisanship, to
22 make a difference.

23 In Washington, we must do it the right way, without
24 political concerns, without waste, without turf battles.
25 We must put the people first. But we cannot and must not

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1 implement the crime bill by having Washington tell
2 communities what to do.

3 For too long Washington has said, "We know better how
4 to solve a problem in Springfield than the people of
5 Springfield," or "We know how to solve the problem in some
6 rural county better than the sheriff and the citizens of
7 that rural county."

8 We want to listen, and to work with, and to involve
9 all Americans in implementing this crime bill, and work
10 with those who are truly on the front line in the fight
11 against crime in making sure this bill gets implemented in
12 the right way.

13 I am here today to begin the first of a series of
14 announcements about how the Department of Justice will
15 implement the crime bill.

16 Overall, our goal is to have the structure in place
17 on October 1st to begin this historic partnership to get
18 the crime bill implemented. In this regard, I have six
19 specific announcements today.

20 First, I will talk with, work with, and listen to the
21 people who are out on the front lines, the mayors, the
22 police chiefs, the cops on the beat, the citizens, the
23 prevention specialists, the correctional officials, people
24 who know what is working and what is not working, the
25 groups who helped to draft this bill, to make sure that we

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1 obtain their views on how to implement this bill in a
2 smart, prompt, and effective manner.

3 Secondly, I have asked Associate Attorney General
4 John Schmidt to oversee the implementation of the crime
5 bill.

6 John, as you know, is a distinguished attorney, with
7 a great commitment to public service, and a keen
8 understanding of local government. He will take personal
9 responsibility for implementation of this bill.

10 As the number three person in the Justice Department,
11 John Schmidt will make sure that accountability for this
12 bill remains at the highest level in the department.

13 Third, I have been interviewing candidates to head
14 the cop's program at the Department of Justice. This
15 program will have responsibility for putting 100,000
16 community police officers on the streets with police
17 departments throughout America.

18 That program will be run by a police officer.
19 Decisions about which request from which cities should be
20 funded will be made by someone who has walked the streets
21 and understands law enforcement. And the President and I
22 will name that leader in the next several days.

23 Fourth, in the first week of October, we will send
24 \$200 million to cities, counties, and towns across America
25 to put more than 2,000 new police officers on our streets,

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1 getting the 100,000 cops program started fast, with fast
2 action.

3 We aim to put 20,000 police on the streets in 16
4 months. We want to do this in an effective manner, and
5 work with all concerned to ensure sound recruiting and
6 training on a central effort in any police hiring
7 undertaking.

8 These community police officers will walk the beats
9 in our neighborhoods. They will work with the people in
10 cities and towns. They will identify the problems in
11 communities.

12 They will work with citizens to establish priorities.
13 And they will help bring America together, for as I have
14 traveled across this nation in this year-and-a-half, I
15 have seen community police officers, trusted by all in the
16 neighborhood, to be fair.

17 I have seen these people on the cutting edge of
18 bringing a neighborhood together, of getting teachers to
19 talk with parents and community leaders, counselors, young
20 people; and all citizens coming together around the effort
21 of a community police officer to solve the neighborhood's
22 problems.

23 And most rewardingly, I have seen the community
24 police officer again and again become the mentor to young
25 people at risk in their communities, making a difference,

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1 and providing supervision and guidance that young people
2 so sorely need, supervision and guidance from a person
3 they respect, is firm, but fair and understanding.

4 Fifth, President Clinton and I will meet with all 93
5 United States attorneys in Washington next week to discuss
6 the implementation of the new criminal provisions in this
7 bill.

8 This will guarantee that on October 1st we will be
9 ready to implement the new penalty provisions to make our
10 streets safer.

11 And sixth, we will establish a Department of Justice
12 800 hot line, so that state and local governments can call
13 us at anytime for help in understanding how they can use
14 their fair share of crime bill resources.

15 Yes, finding out how to use the crime bill in your
16 neighborhood should not require a Ph.D. or a set of
17 regulations as thick as a New York City telephone book.
18 We need to make communication direct, responsive, and put
19 it in terms that people can understand and easily use.

20 Not everything will happen overnight. As you know,
21 the bill is funded by savings that will be achieved by a
22 reduction of 250,000 positions in the federal work force
23 over the next five years.

24 And some of the provisions of the bill are authorized
25 and funded for subsequent years as the savings accrue.

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1 However, I have committed the department to achieve
2 the following goals by October 1, 1996; First, we will
3 have and will have distributed funds to hire 40,000 new
4 community police officers, and start them on their way to
5 protecting people on the streets.

6 By that time, October 1, 1996, we will hire 1,000 new
7 border patrol agents to secure our borders.

8 We will involve 300,000 of our nation's youth in
9 prevention programs designed to keep them off the streets
10 and out of situations where they are encouraged to choose
11 a life of crime.

12 And we will put more than \$1 billion in the hands of
13 state and local governments for their use in fighting
14 crime through punishment, and jails, and prisons, and boot
15 camps, and for prevention programs that on the other hand
16 can give our youngsters something to say yes to.

17 When President Clinton signs the crime bill into law
18 next week, it will ban 19 different types of assault
19 weapons. These weapons, designed for the battlefields of
20 war, have no place in our neighborhoods or our
21 communities.

22 When President Clinton signs the crime bill into law,
23 it will ban the possession of handguns by anyone under the
24 age of 18, and enable us to swiftly and severely punish
25 anyone who sells or gives a gun to a child.

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1 There is an epidemic of kids killing kids in America
2 today, and it must and it will stop.

3 The bill will strengthen the ability of the federal
4 government to conduct background checks on individuals who
5 seek to purchase firearms.

6 In October, we will begin to fund major improvements
7 in the National Criminal Record System. That will
8 increase the ability of federal, state, and local law
9 enforcement agencies to check a criminal's prior record.

10 This is a major first step towards improving our
11 ability to enforce the Brady Law, the three-strikes-and-
12 you're-out provision in this bill, and sentencing
13 guidelines for courts at all levels.

14 It will be done in the next 12 months and will have a
15 real impact on identifying criminals who have prior
16 records, who need to be detained and held until they are
17 tried.

18 When President Clinton signs the crime bill into law,
19 three-strikes-and-you're-out will become a reality.
20 Repeat offenders in violent crimes will be put in jail for
21 good; no more chances to ruin the lives of others.

22 Our law is tough, but it is also smart. It does not
23 mean that everyone who commits three crimes will be put
24 away for life. It focuses on the serious, dangerous,
25 violent felon.

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1 The person who commits one armed robbery and goes to
2 jail, gets out, commits another, goes to jail, gets out
3 and commits another, that person has indicated contempt
4 for human life, and certainly will be the subject of this
5 effort.

6 The bill also over these next six years will provide
7 for 100,000 new prison beds throughout this country in
8 state and local prisons and jails.

9 Nothing is so frustrating for the law enforcement
10 officer on the street, or the prosecutor in the court, or
11 the citizen who has been the victim than to see the system
12 work, to see someone get arrested, prosecuted, tried
13 without a plea bargain, see them sentenced to jail for an
14 appropriate length of time, and then see them out in 20 to
15 30 percent of the sentence, because we do not have enough
16 prison cells in state and local systems to house people
17 for the length of time the judges are sentencing them.

18 This will give to state and local correctional
19 systems, which have been overwhelmed, the tools to
20 incarcerate those dangerous offenders for the length of
21 time the judges are sentencing them.

22 But this bill also starts early. It recognizes that
23 too many people have ended up in the criminal justice
24 system, because when they first got in trouble as a
25 juvenile, someone told them, "Do not do it again," and

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1 sent them home, and too often told them again, "Do not do
2 it again," and sent them home.

3 When President Clinton signs the crime bill into law,
4 it will provide \$25 million this coming year to establish
5 boot camps to place young first-time offenders in an
6 environment where they will learn discipline, respect, and
7 authority.

8 And it also provides the much needed after-care
9 efforts to make sure that as these young offenders come
10 out of the system, they come out with a chance of success
11 and a strong and positive future.

12 Another section of the bill, which I think is
13 particularly important, is that related to women's rights
14 and domestic violence. This bill provides monies to help
15 the victims of domestic violence.

16 Funding will be available for expansion of critically
17 needed shelters for battered spouses, shelters which are
18 needed so desperately, because too many of these victims
19 of domestic violence end up with their children amongst
20 the ranks of the homeless, with no place to go.

21 The bill provides support for law enforcement and
22 court initiatives, designed to reduce domestic violence,
23 to intervene in the cycle of violence, to make sure the
24 case gets prosecuted, and that there are appropriate
25 dispositions to address what caused the problem in the

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1 first place.

2 We must succeed in this effort. Far too often
3 violence begins in the home, and our children who see it
4 in the home are coming to accept violence as a way of
5 life.

6 The bill, for the first time in history, creates a
7 civil cause of action, to empower women to sue those who
8 harm them physically.

9 Women will be able to take their attackers to court
10 and get real monetary damages for the harm they suffer.
11 That will go a long way to curbing domestic violence, one
12 of the most dangerous and damaging forms of dispute.

13 To complement this portion of the bill, I will
14 appoint a Violence Against Women Advisory Committee at the
15 Department of Justice to make sure that we are at the
16 forefront in providing technical expertise, assistance,
17 support, and the resources in a way that can truly have an
18 impact on domestic violence on this nation.

19 But a comprehensive approach to public safety means
20 more than simply getting criminals off the streets. It
21 must address the factors that led people to choose a life
22 of crime, and provide the tools to deter and prevent those
23 crimes before they take place.

24 We cannot just stand by and wait for crimes to be
25 committed. We cannot just stand by and wait and watch

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1 children shoot children.

2 I do not think I have ever met a victim of crime, no
3 matter how severe the punishment, who would not rather
4 have prevented the crime in the first place.

5 That is why our effort to combat crime and violence
6 is not complete unless it provides for prevention programs
7 that work. And this crime bill does that.

8 We cannot attack crime in our cities, unless we give
9 those who have no hope, no job, no other answer, something
10 positive to say yes to, so that they can say no to
11 violence and drugs.

12 In the years to come, this crime bill will bring
13 prevention efforts to hard-hit, high-crime areas. It will
14 establish after-school programs, summer youth activities,
15 midnight basketball leagues, employment, sports and
16 recreation opportunities that can take the place of gangs
17 and crime as a way of life.

18 Now, during the debate on the crime bill, I kept
19 hearing criticism of these provisions, pork, soft on
20 crime. -But the arm chair quarterbacks, who have never
21 really been involved in the effort on the streets to fight
22 crime should listen to the people on the front lines, the
23 police officers, the prosecutors, the cops on the streets,
24 who all say that crime prevention programs in their
25 communities are working. And they are critical to our

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1 ultimate effort against crime.

2 This bill will fight crime on the street in a local
3 level, not just in Washington, not just by talk in
4 Washington.

5 For too long, the Department of Justice has focused
6 its resources solely at the federal level. In 1992, just
7 nine percent of our budget was directed at federal crimes
8 and federal courts.

9 Law enforcement and litigation helped, but did not
10 fully address so many of the crime problems in our cities
11 and towns.

12 As a local prosecutor, it used to bother me to see
13 all the resources of the federal government focused just
14 primarily on white collar crime, on some other efforts,
15 but not on violence which was tearing this community and
16 now this nation apart.

17 This bill represents a dramatic shift in that
18 philosophy. The Department of Justice will play a role in
19 working with our cities and with our communities and
20 neighborhoods to fight crime across America.

21 We will expand the mission of the department beyond
22 mere law enforcement. We will work to develop a
23 comprehensive community effort with communities around
24 this nation, a partnership that involves us not telling
25 them what to do, but recognizing that they understand

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1 their needs and resources far better than we do, and that
2 we should be in the position of trying to support them,
3 and assist them in designing anti-violence programs both
4 in law enforcement and in prevention that can make a
5 difference.

6 No longer will we ignore the pleas of mayors and
7 governors.

8 No longer will we ignore the pleas of police
9 officers, "Hey, we need your help."

10 We are engaged in a two-way street now. In 1995,
11 instead of nine percent, roughly twenty percent of the
12 resources of the department will be channeled directly to
13 state and local governments. By the year 2000, that 20
14 percent will become 40 percent.

15 These are not handouts. They do not take the place
16 of local funding for law enforcement, and there will be no
17 effort by the federal government to meddle with state and
18 local law enforcement, to try to supersede it, to try to
19 take credit for it.

20 We want to be a true partner with local communities
21 in providing resources and in doing what the federal
22 government does best to complement the efforts of local
23 government.

24 This is a meaningful cooperation. It represents the
25 type of coherent, logical national response to crime that

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1 mayors, like Mayor Daly in Chicago, Mayor Rendel in
2 Philadelphia, Mayor Reardon in Los Angeles, Mayor
3 Guillianina in New York, and mayors in cities and towns
4 across this nation have been waiting for for far too long.

5 With John Schmidt at the helm, the federal government
6 will provide the resources, so that governors, and mayors,
7 and cops, and prosecutors can do what they do best, keep
8 our streets safe and work with our communities to make
9 America stronger.

10 But government cannot do it all, not government at
11 any level. It is important that all Americans get
12 involved, every police officer, and every teacher,
13 attorneys general, doctors, parents, lawyers, ministers,
14 bankers, and construction workers, everyone must get
15 involved.

16 Getting involved means taking time to contribute to
17 your neighborhood, to work in the schools. It means
18 working with kids one-on-one or in groups. It means
19 painting out graffiti, and improving your neighborhood.

20 It means coaching Little League, and helping in a 4H
21 program. It means getting to know the people in your
22 community, and letting them get to know you.

23 You say you are too busy, but let me tell you about
24 the prominent lawyer who spends Saturday mornings in
25 Anacostia working with kids at risk on a regular basis.

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1 Let me tell you about the law firm that went to a
2 school to help refurbish it and help meet the needs of
3 that school in terms of pulling it together.

4 Some people say they are too old, that they have done
5 their service.

6 But I will always remember the man who stood up and
7 said, "Guess how old I am and what I do three mornings a
8 week, three hours each morning. I am 84 years old, and I
9 volunteer as a teacher's aide."

10 And I will remember the teacher who stood up with him
11 and said, "I am the first grade teacher for whom he
12 volunteers. And the kids with learning disabilities
13 cannot wait for their time with him, because he is so
14 patient. And he has just brought them much farther than I
15 ever could. And the kids who are the gifted cannot wait,
16 because he challenges them far beyond what I could do."

17 None of us are too old or too busy to make a
18 difference in the lives of our community.

19 The last time I spoke to the Press Club I issued a
20 challenge. It was a challenge to all Americans, to
21 Congress.

22 It was a challenge to all the people in government,
23 to police officers and prosecutors, defense attorneys, and
24 to the press. It was a challenge to every child and to
25 every American.

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1 It was a challenge to "Let us work together," to "Let
2 us be honest with each other," to put aside some of our
3 cynicism, and to commit ourselves to making our country
4 better.

5 We have the chance to do that now. Surely, there is
6 no more satisfying feeling for a public official than to
7 see Americans start to come together, work together, and
8 listen to each other with mutual respect.

9 I took this job because I believe deeply in the
10 American people. I believe in their can-do attitude I
11 believe in their incredible ability to never give up in
12 the face of adversity.

13 After a year-and-a-half in office, after having a
14 chance to visit with so many different Americans, I have
15 never believed in them so strongly, and I do so with all
16 my heart.

17 We have now given the American people -- Congress, in
18 a bipartisan effort, led by the President, has now given
19 the American people the tools to do something about crime
20 in this nation.

21 I think, working together, if we implement this crime
22 bill together, we can stem the violence. We can make a
23 difference, child by child, family by family, block by
24 block, neighborhood by neighborhood, community by
25 community, until we make this nation safe and strong

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1 again.

2 Question From the Audience: On the three-strikes-
3 you're-out, this will be resulting in federalization of
4 crimes.

5 Do you have any sense of the numbers? Are we talking
6 about hundreds, or thousands, or tens of thousands of
7 cases a year that the federal prosecutors will take over?

8 And what will happen if, say, in a highly publicized
9 case both the local prosecutor and the U S attorney would
10 want to handle the case?

11 Attorney General Reno: First of all, let me take the
12 last question first. I have been working with our U.S
13 attorneys. And they share my feeling that we do not want
14 to take a case just for the sake of taking it, or to get
15 credit, or to federalize it.

16 We want to do what is in the best interest of the
17 community. And if the local prosecutor has the resources
18 to do the job, if we can get the dollars to the state
19 prison systems so that we know that those people are going
20 to serve time, then we are going to work with that local
21 prosecutor to support him or her in their effort to handle
22 the prosecution.

23 We do not want to see an unwarranted federalization
24 of cases. That is the whole purpose for the philosophy of
25 this crime bill.

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1 We recognize that state and local systems are
2 overwhelmed, that people have tended to sometimes take
3 cases to the federal system, because they thought that
4 they could get longer prison sentences, because the local
5 prisons were so overwhelmed.

6 By providing dollars for state and local government
7 to house dangerous offenders through the provision of an
8 additional 100,000 beds, I think we can provide a far
9 better balance.

10 The whole philosophy of what we do is to work with
11 local prosecutors to make the decision based on what is in
12 the best interest of the case and in the community, and to
13 use federal resources when they are better utilized than
14 state resources to stem the particular type of crime
15 involved.

16 In some instances, there may be a local rule of
17 evidence or a local procedural rule that will suggest to
18 the local prosecutor that they will want the case handled
19 in the federal court.

20 In those instances, we would try to work with local
21 prosecutors to cross-designate their assistant state
22 attorneys if they want to go with the case to federal
23 court.

24 But we will work together to make sure we try to do
25 it, based on what is in the best interest of the

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1 community.

2 Question From the Audience: Do you have any sense of
3 how many cases a year it may be?

4 Attorney General Reno: No. We have heard different
5 numbers, but I think, again, with the recognition that
6 there will be far more monies for state and local prisons,
7 there will be an appropriate balance.

8 Question From the Audience: Attorney General,
9 reportedly some gun manufacturers who manufacture the
10 assault weapon that have been banned are stepping up the
11 productions last week before the crime bill went into
12 effect.

13 And I have two part question. The first one is: Do
14 you think this will affect the impact of the crime bill?
15 And number two, could Clinton sign the bill sooner to
16 prevent this from happening?

17 Attorney General Reno: I think it is going to take
18 some time for them to get these weapons of war
19 manufactured. And I think that it will be signed -- it
20 will be signed next week.

21 And I think that it can, both in terms of the ban on
22 assault weapons and in terms of all its features, as I
23 have indicated, have a real impact on crime in this
24 country.

25 Question From the Audience: Ms. Reno, what are the

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1 criteria for deciding which cities get how much money to
2 hire more police? How many details have already been
3 worked out?

4 Attorney General Reno: We have had the opportunity
5 in this past year to implement the police hiring
6 supplement. A year ago this summer, Congress provided
7 \$150 million for us to implement a community police hiring
8 effort that gave us a chance to provide a down payment on
9 the 100,000 police officers, gave us a chance to set up a
10 system, begin to work with local police officers to
11 understand what was needed.

12 The bill provides that a certain number of the
13 positions should go to cities and towns under 150,000, and
14 a certain number over, so that we pay attention to all
15 America, to rural America as well as urban America,
16 because as I noted earlier in my comments, we have seen
17 crime spill out from urban America into cities and towns
18 that have not been touched by it.

19 But we will work with all concerned to try to focus
20 it based on need, and based on communities that submit
21 applications that show a true understanding of community
22 policing.

23 We will be working with them to provide technical
24 expertise, training, and suggestions to help them enhance
25 that effort.

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1 And we think, judging by -- we had over 3,000
2 applications for that \$150 million supplement. We were
3 able to award only 250 grants for some 2,000 police
4 officers.

5 The need is there. But with monies for 100,000
6 officers, we think that we are going to meet those needs.

7 Now, there are some cities that say, "Well, we would
8 like some of the money in overtime, because we have
9 exceptional community police officers, and we would like
10 to have them on the streets longer."

11 We will work with them on those standards.

12 Others say, "I would like to automate and free up
13 police officers to get them out to the streets."

14 We will work with them in those standards. We will
15 try to work with each community to shape our efforts to
16 their needs so that it is not arbitrary and non-useful to
17 them.

18 Question From the Audience: As a follow-up, you said
19 we will focus on the needs. How will you measure the
20 needs of, say, one large city compared to another?

21 Attorney General Reno: One of the things that we do
22 not want to do -- some cities had been extraordinarily
23 successful through their own efforts, through raising
24 taxes, through providing additional police officers.

25 They had been successful in reducing crime. We do

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1 not want to penalize. We want to again look at overall
2 need, looking at index crime rates, patterns, and
3 practices, crime trends, economic situations.

4 If a city, for example, has had a major business
5 close and there are unemployment consequences that have
6 generated potential for higher crime or higher crime, we
7 will be working to truly address community needs.

8 And that is what I will be about with John Schmidt in
9 these next weeks, talking with police officers and mayors
10 to ensure that we develop understandings and criteria that
11 everyone feels comfortable with.

12 Question From the Audience: Can you give us an idea
13 of which communities are requesting police officers versus
14 the city?

15 Attorney General Reno: I cannot, off the top of my
16 head, but we have -- a significant number of Congress
17 realize that the \$150 million appropriate last summer a
18 year ago was inadequate.

19 I think Congress had had so many complaints from the
20 communities who were not able to have their grants
21 recognized, because we simply did not have enough money,
22 that the first \$200 million, which will be distributed in
23 the first week in October, will begin to address those
24 grants that were submitted in the police hiring supplement
25 but that, because of the reduced sum, we did not have

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1 monies to grant.

2 Question From the Audience: There was a lot of
3 debate during the bill on whether there really would be
4 100,000 new officers. Some Republicans said it was as low
5 as 20,000. Are you confident that there really will be
6 100,000?

7 Attorney General Reno: Again, I am looking at an
8 actual track record, with the 2,000, based on the \$150
9 million, and I think that we can do that.

10 But I want to point out that some cities came back to
11 us and said, "We have police officers sitting behind desks
12 doing desk work. If we could automate, we could free
13 those officers."

14 Those officers would count as new officers on the
15 streets. Again, we do not want to get into inflexible
16 arbitrary attitudes that hurt the cities we are trying to
17 help.

18 Question From the Audience: Attorney General Reno,
19 there were reports in The Washington Post recently
20 tracking the increase of hiring that took place in
21 Washington in 1990, with problems that emerged, because of
22 the problems in training that took place of that specific
23 class.

24 What measures are there going to be to prevent a wave
25 of police hirings resulting in further problems rather

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1 than further solutions to the problems?

2 Attorney General Reno: I come from a community that
3 also hired a significant number of police officers in a
4 short time.

5 And if you noted in my remarks, I very carefully
6 pointed out that in distributing the funds, in reviewing
7 the applications, in working with state and local
8 governments, we want to make sure that the recruiting
9 practices and the training practices are sound and
10 effective, and not abbreviated in any way.

11 You are not going to be giving all this money to one
12 single police department. It is going to be spread
13 throughout this country.

14 And if we work with them in providing the expertise
15 and sharing information about community policing,
16 and ensuring the best training, I think that we can bring
17 these officers on-line in cities and communities
18 throughout America in a sound and professional manner.

19 Question From the Audience: With regard to
20 prevention programs authorized for fiscal year 1995, when
21 do you expect to make funding available to state and local
22 governments?

23 Attorney General Reno: The prevention programs in
24 1995, we will be working through the Office of Justice
25 Programs, which will also be reporting to John Schmidt, to

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1 make sure that those monies are distributed.

2 A large portion of the prevention monies will not be
3 available until subsequent years, again recognizing that
4 because this bill is trying -- we tried to focus on real
5 dollars and make sure that the promises were real, that
6 the savings from the 250,000 work force reduction will
7 begin to accrue.

8 And it is at that time that the large bulk of the
9 prevention monies will become available.

10 Question From the Audience: What procedures have to
11 be put in place in terms of the prison money going to
12 states, and when will that money start going out?

13 Attorney General Reno: The first monies for prison
14 monies -- there will be \$25 million this coming fiscal
15 year for boot camps. And those provisions will be in
16 place as quickly as we can -- we are focusing on those,
17 and want to make sure that they are in place.

18 Congress, as I recall, provided that the monies for
19 reimbursement to states for criminal aliens and prisons, a
20 significant portion should be distributed by February 1st.

21 We hope to beat that deadline, and to have in place a
22 sound formula, again working with correctional officials
23 and governors that can get that money to states as quickly
24 as possible.

25 I know from my own experience in Florida what a

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1 burden that can be, and we want to get those dollars out
2 quickly.

3 Question From the Audience: Ms Reno, you spoke of
4 the need to avoid red tape and bureaucracy in the program
5 And yet you are going outside to name someone to run the
6 police program. And I think you have to have an ounce-
7 of-prevention council under the law.

8 Are not these additional bureaucratic entities that
9 you already have have the capability of doing through your
10 Office of Justice programs and existing offices?

11 Attorney General Reno: One of the points -- when you
12 are responsible for the expenditure of some almost \$30
13 billion, you want to make sure that you do it right. The
14 department has not distributed funds like that.

15 I am not going outside the Department of Justice to
16 create a bureaucracy. I am going outside the Department
17 of Justice to find a leader who has experience on the
18 streets, who knows what it is like to put dollars on the
19 streets where they count, and does not get just caught up
20 in the bureaucratic red tape of Washington to assist in
21 working through this, so that we use the least possible
22 structure in the Department of Justice to make sure the
23 monies get to the streets the right way.

24 At the same time, I have seen LEA grants and CETA
25 programs that work. And I want to do everything I can to

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1 develop a system that does not snarl itself in red tape,
2 but provides appropriate checks and balances to make sure
3 that these monies are spent wisely.

4 And to that end, we have been working with our
5 inspector general to ensure that we have a system in place
6 that is responsive, but that has the checks and balances
7 that can assure the American people that their dollars are
8 going to be well spent.

9 Question From the Audience: Ms. Reno, let me make
10 sure we have the timetable correct: By the first week in
11 October, \$200 million for community policing, for 2,000
12 officers, and then money for 20,000 officers within 16
13 months.

14 Attorney General Reno: That is correct.

15 Question From the Audience: And then there was an
16 October 1st goal, correct?

17 Attorney General Reno: October 1, 1996, I hope to
18 have the monies out for 40,000 officers. Now, understand,
19 and it goes back to the question this gentleman asked,
20 getting the monies out, there still remains recruiting,
21 training, and doing it the right way.

22 The problems that cities have seen is that if they
23 rush the training, they sometimes return a trainee or a
24 cadet to the streets without the tools necessary to do the
25 job.

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1 Policing is one of the single hardest tasks, one of
2 the single hardest professions I know. A police officer
3 has to make the same legal decisions that a lawyer has to
4 make, but oftentimes he has not gone to law school.

5 He oftentimes has to make those decisions in the face
6 of an angry crowd or with a life-threatening situation.

7 He cannot prop up his feet on his desk and say,
8 "Hmmm, well, I think there is probable cause here," or
9 not.

10 He has to make the decision right away. We need to
11 do everything we can to give them the tools to do the job
12 the right way.

13 Mr Klein: I understand there is time for one more
14 question.

15 Question From the Audience: Ms. Reno, a recent
16 survey in Georgia showed that 30 percent of gun buyers had
17 criminal records. And that is quite an increase from the
18 seven percent after the hundred-day check. Do you see
19 that to be a trend across the country?

20 Attorney General Reno: One of the things that has
21 interested me is, after the Brady Law went into effect,
22 the number of people who have been determined to be
23 ineligible based on records checks.

24 I think we have to do everything we can to make sure
25 that people who are not qualified to have guns under the

1 law do not have guns. And that applies as well to what we
2 see as an epidemic across America of young people, even
3 children, with guns.

4 Question From the Audience: How do you know that
5 the Brady Bill is actually being successful in picking
6 these people out?

7 Attorney General Reno: I think it is clearly being
8 successful.

9 Question From the Audience: Ms Reno, could I ask a
10 quick question?

11 Attorney General Reno. Yes, sir.

12 Mr. Klein: It is up to you. It is your show.

13 Question From the Audience: When do you think we
14 will see an actual decrease in the crime rate because of
15 these measures?

16 Attorney General Reno: One of the most rewarding
17 moments that I have had -- and I do not know what has
18 happened since the floods. This occurred before the
19 floods.

20 But people are telling me -- for example, in Albany,
21 Georgia, they are talking about the impact that crime bill
22 has had, or the police hiring supplement had through the
23 new community police officers provided for in Albany.

24 I am hearing now from around the nation of
25 communities that are seeing crime reduced through

1 community policing initiatives, through our anti-violence
2 partnership between federal and local governments.
3 Working together, I think we can make a difference.

4 One of things that I have tried to do is not promise
5 the American people more than I can deliver. I want to do
6 everything I can to make sure that we implement it the
7 right way, and that we get the results that they and I
8 both want, which is reduction of crime.

9 - Thank you.

10 Mr Klein: Thank you very much, Attorney General
11 We appreciate your being here.

12 Attorney General Reno. Thank you very much.

13 (Whereupon, at 1:45 p.m., the speech was concluded.)

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