

CNN'S "LARRY KING LIVE" GUESTS: ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO LEE BROWN, DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY BILL COSBY, ACTOR REV. RAYMOND EAST, CHURCH OF ST. TERESA OF AVILA, WASHINGTON D.C. BERNADETTE TROWELL, MOTHERS OF MURDERED SONS 9:00 P.M. (EST) THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1994

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ANNOUNCER: Welcome to a special edition of Larry King Live. Tonight: Crime in America, a city under fire. From strife-torn Anacostia in the District of Columbia, the attorney general of the United States, Janet Reno; White House drug policy director Lee Brown; Bill Cosby; and local heroes fighting the cancer of crime and violence that threatens us all, plus questions from a live audience and your phone calls. Now, from the church of St. Teresa of Avila in Washington D.C., Larry King. (Applause.)

MR. KING: Good evening. Thank you. Thank you. (Continued applause.) Thank you and good evening. Okay. Thank you very much from this beautiful and old church in this wonderful section of Washington D.C. that has seen so many problems. We're going to present to you tonight an hour and a half of a look at crime in America from various standpoints. We have an outstanding panel. We'll be including the audience. We'll be including your phone calls. To set it all up, watch.

This is the Washington you don't see on TV. You know the monuments, the Capitol, long avenues full of limousines. But just 10 minutes from the corridors of power lie dark streets full of fear. It's a different world, where nightfall empties the sidewalks, where everyone you know has lost someone to a bullet, where kids pass time by planning their own funerals because the odds of growing up seem so remote. Fear of crime dominates America in this new year. TV coverage makes random violence seem dangerously close to many of us. But in this part of Washington, it's tragically real; a daily scourge that has long had the upper hand.

Every big city has a neighborhood like this one, where random death is a fact of daily life. Their inhabitants can be white, black, Asian, Hispanic. Tonight we zero in on just one neighborhood in just one troubled city, a place you might not dare visit, to show you what it's really like and to show there's some hope even here; some heroes working on real answers to the plague that is crime in America.

Our panelists here at St. Teresa of Avila Church in Anacostia in Washington D.C. are Reverend Ray East; he is pastor of this church and has been here since 1988; the attorney general of the United States, Janet Reno; the famed Bill Cosby, star of television and screen and so many, many impacts on America for so many years; Bernadette Trowell, a member of MOMS -- that's Mothers On the Move Spiritually. Her son, by the way, was killed in drug violence in 1987. And Lee Brown, former police commissioner of New York City; director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

What's going on, Janet? What's happening? What's wrong?

ATTY. GEN. RENO: I think too many people think they can get away with it, that they can hurt other people without getting punished. And we've got to change that. But too much of what we have seen in terms of violence is a product of America for too long having been indifferent and forgotten its children. And we've got to make a major investment in our children and in their future as well.

MR. KING: Do you think most of white America, Reverend East, doesn't think about Anacostia or its other neighborhoods?

REV. EAST: Well, I'd say that most of white America is frightened of Anacostia. In fact, we have a hard time inviting visitors to come here, because when we invite people they find out that we're east of the river and they say, "Sorry, I'll look at -- I'll pray for you." But many people don't come, and it's because of fear. People are paralyzed by fear. And we're --

MR. KING: Even though it's a black problem, it's a white problem, it's a Hispanic problem, why do we turn away from this? Why do you think, Bill?

MR. COSBY: I'm scared. I mean, I want to survive. If I look at and believe what you just told me about Anacostia and the reverend said, "Come over and see the place," I'd think you didn't like me. Don't you think it makes sense that if what you just said about this place and you said, "Come over," daytime or nighttime, why would I want to come over when I know that little children are planning their own funeral? I'm twice the size of a kid. They can hit me easier. So the point is, why would anybody really want to come over here if that's what the image is of the place? Yet there are people here who are still alive. So who's putting this story out and who's putting --

MR. KING: Well, was what we said wrong?

MR. COSBY: Larry, what the problem is is you asked me if I would come over here. And I said after watching that, no. I wouldn't want to come over here. I wouldn't send my kid over here if what I just saw in 30 seconds is what is true.

MR. KING: But what we did show in 30 seconds was true, wasn't it, Reverend? Wasn't that true?

REV. EAST: It's one side of it, but there's another side. And, of course, what we'd like to try to do is to show the other side, the hope that's behind the headlines.

MR. KING: Bernadette, your son was killed, right?

MS. TROWELL: Yes.

MR. KING: Killed by another son.

MS. TROWELL: Yes.

MR. KING: Why do you stay?

MS. TROWELL: Well, let me start by saying originally I grew up over here in Anacostia. Matter of fact, I went to Douglas Junior High and all; graduated from Eastern -- Ballou and then Eastern. I came back to the community because this was my roots and I wanted to give something back. And this was prior to the killing of my son.

MR. KING: But you could have left, couldn't you, after?

MS. TROWELL: No, no.

MR. KING: Didn't want to leave.

MS. TROWELL: No.

MR. KING: Okay, so we have conflict here. We have crime. This is a terrible area for crime. Yet the people in it want to stay, which is like other people when floods occur and they want to stay.

MS. TROWELL: Right.

MR. KING: Why?

MS. TROWELL: Actually --

MR. KING: I ask that sincerely. Why?

MS. TROWELL: Actually, there's no place to run. It's everywhere. (Applause.) It has no respect for persons, places, or anything else. And if you stay, you just might can make a difference. (Applause.)

MR. KING: How much of this problem, Lee, as a former police commissioner in the most famous city in the world, to the drug czar of the most famous country in the world, how much of this problem is drugs?

MR. BROWN: A large part of the problem is drug-related. But it goes beyond that. Drugs represent one part of the problem. I think we can safely say that it's not a black problem, not a white problem. This is an American problem. (Applause.) The problem of drugs, crime and violence is not just the inner cities. It's the suburbs, increasingly our rural areas.

As you know, I spent over 30 years of my life in the policing business and I dealt with all of this for years and years. I've seen most of it and I've given a lot of thought to it. It seems to me that there are a number of issues that we must address if we're going to be serious about addressing the problem, starting off with the fact that the family is in crisis. The family as we used to know it does not exist today. We have to address that, because that's where we learn all the things about caring, respect and all of those --

MR. KING: What changed that?

MR. BROWN: Well, for about 30 years now we've seen the problem of the unwed mother being a predominant factor in our society. That's a very major concern.

MR. KING: Are you saying somewhere along the moral road?

MR. BROWN: Children are now trying to raise children. And we know statistically that a single-parent family is more likely to be living in poverty. The neighborhood as we used to know it doesn't exist anymore. It used to be we cared about one another. Today oftentimes we don't even know who our neighbor is.

MR. KING: But explain violence. If it's not -- you don't think it's drugs at its core, the drug is at the core of the problem?

MR. BROWN: I think drugs is one aspect of it, and a major aspect of it. Crack cocaine is, in my estimation, at epidemic proportions in this country. We're not seeing any reduction in the crack problem. We know that crack brings about a large amount of the violence and crime that we're concerned about. But similarly we have a proliferation of guns on the streets of our city. It's a real shame now that we find our cops outgunned by our children. MR. KING: This is -- why are we killing each other, Janet? Why do you think?

ATTY. GEN. RENO: I think it's, again, because people have for too long thought that they could get away with it and didn't get punished to fit the crime; or if they did get a sentence, they got out prematurely because there were not enough prison cells. Or if they did serve --

MR. KING: So are you saying --

ATTY. GEN. RENO: If they did serve their time, they got out without job training, without placement, without having their drug problem addressed, and they got right back into trouble again. It doesn't make sense. We've got to have punishment that fits the crime, but then we've got to give people who are coming out of prison a chance to come back to the community with the chance of getting off on the right foot. But most of all, we've got to band together to do something about the children of America and their families and give them a chance to grow in a constructive way.

MR. KING: Do you think it can happen, Bill? Do you think we can change this?

MR. COSBY: Not on this program.

MR. KING: I didn't say on this program.

MR. COSBY: No, no, that's the point. (Scattered applause.) That's the point. Larry, we can talk and talk and talk all day. And we leave; this program is over. And just like you go to another program, these people will still have 18 percent unemployment when two, maybe three miles away, unemployment is 1 percent. Tell Rush that story and ask Rush to look at the color as the line goes up and unemployment. It is not a matter of looking in the paper and going to find a job. That's not it. It is what happened to these kids when they were in school.

I doubt very much, if you ask people to raise their hands, the young people -- and this is a special audience; people have come, so we won't get the ones on the corner. We won't get the people who need to be here.

MR. KING: There are some of them.

MR. COSBY: We won't. (Applause.) But if you ask these children out here how many of them in the school in this area have algebra and geometry, the numbers are very, very low, very low. The SAT tests that require you to take so that you can be graded to go on to college is strong in algebra and geometry.

MR. KING: Why don't they have algebra?

MR. COSBY: Huh?

MR. KING: Why don't they have algebra?

MR. COSBY: You live in America. Don't ask that question anymore, anymore. (Applause.) I cannot, after 56 years, 30 living outside of the projects that I grew up in, watching liberals, conservatives, but American people, I cannot accept that when they turn the camera around and view people and say, "Black," and then after black there's a group called "Others," and then there's a group above the black called "Whites," I cannot understand how, born here, raised here, that I am a different person, that I am damn near a different nation. I cannot understand how the education of this United States of America has been told time and time again, "Either make it separate but equal or integrate; therefore it will be equal," and it has been separate and unequal.

MR. KING: All right, let me get a break. And we'll come right back. Crime in America; that's our topic. We're here for an hour and a half on Larry King Live. Don't go away.

(Announcements.)

MR. KING: We're in Anacostia in Washington D.C. Our subject is crime in America. This is a special edition of Larry King Live. It is a town meeting. And so we're going to involve the town and we'll start to include some questions from the audience for the panel or any specific member of the panel.

Your name, ma'am?

JANET KELLY: Janet Kelly.

MR. KING: And you are, sir?

CHARLES KELLY: My name is Charles Kelly.

MR. KING: You are Mr. and Mrs. Kelly.

MRS. KELLY: Mother and son.

MR. KING: Son. You look very young, ma'am. Question?

MR. KELLY: Yes, I'd like to address it to you, Larry King. Everybody always seems like they're trying to find a quick fix to the solution about crime over here in Southeast. And me myself, I'm a Washingtonian. I grew up in Southeast, me and my four brothers. Well, we lost one. Now it's three. It's

tragic. You know, violence is going on out here. And I would like to say everybody's tried to put the blame on one another about how we're going to solve this problem while all the guns going on around here.

I would like to say one thing; that the reason why I believe that a lot of this problem is going on is because parents have a stress going on and the children have a peer pressure. And part of that, you put both of them together and you've got a whole bunch of chaos. There are a lot of parents out there. I think they are concerned. They'd like to be a part of it and help out to show their children that they love them.

MR. KING: But what's the question?

MR. KELLY: The question is jobs. The child today sees their parents work day in and day out to struggle to pay the rent over here in Anacostia, where it's roach-infested. And they grow up. They look around. They don't want to live like that. They don't want to work for \$5 a hour or \$4.50 a hour. And the parent -- the mother and the father --

MR. KING: What's the question, sir? I'm sorry.

MR. KELLY: The question is that there's no solution. You need to shut down the government and restart all over again.

MR. KING: All right, Reverend, do you want to comment? A pessimistic view.

REV. EAST: The word Anacostia is an Indian word and it means, I've been told, standing against the enemy. And I think it's important to name the enemy. Unemployment is part of the enemy. Racism is part of the enemy. And we can't go 15 minutes into the show without naming the fact that America has a deep-seated hatred against peoples of color, and especially people of African ancestry. (Applause.) And we see the result. What we're doing is we're reaping a 350-year, 400-year harvest of shame. And we're standing right here in the home of Frederick Douglass, who lived about three blocks to the north of this church. And he, born a slave, born into slavery, he tried to agitate against this cancer of slavery. One hundred years later, we're still reaping the results.

MR. KING: In law enforcement, Janet -- you've been in law enforcement all your life; prosecutor in Dade County with a large black population -- do you feel that? Do you feel that there's this hate race-to-race?

ATTY. GEN. RENO: About 15 years ago, people were real mad at me in Dade County for some of the things that I did. Fifteen years later, I could walk down the street of almost any place in Dade County because we would reach out; we would talk to each other. There are things that can be done. I came to an elementary school east of the river, River Terrace Elementary. I was met by a young man at the door. I asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, and he said he wanted to be a marine biologist.

I asked him how he knew about marine biology and he said because the marshal who had adopted his school had brought a marine biologist to his school and his eyes just lit up. Each one of us can reach out and make a difference, just as you're doing in this church in a positive way. And there are so many people across America who want to reach out, not in hate, but in working together. We see it in so many different places.

MR. KING: Don't you think more people are good than bad, Bernadette? Don't you think more people care than don't care?

MS. TROWELL: Oh, of course, of course. We are children of a king. We can't do anything but really care. It's just that different things have to be put in place. In answer to your question, I can really relate to that and sympathize with that. MOMS have taken a position with that. The job thing is just a -- the lack of jobs, the lack of affordable housing and health care and all of that are just the root causes of this drug and violences. And until those things are met, I agree with you; the violences and the other things are attractive. So these kids, of course, are going to go for the material and financial dreams they can't attain.

MR. KING: Would you -- have you given any thought to legalizing drugs?

MS. TROWELL: No.

MR. KING: Absolutely not.

MR. BROWN: We believe that that's surrender. We believe that would be the road to destruction for this country. I believe very strongly, if we look at some of the problems, particularly in our African-American community, particularly our African-American youth, that the call for legalization, in my estimation -- and I don't think it's an exaggeration -- will be the moral equivalent to genocide. So when we talk about giving up, saying, "Legalize drugs," we say absolutely no. My position would be that you treat those who need help. We don't have adequate treatment programs in this country to deal with the problem.

MR. KING: Yeah, but this is a profit-making center without taxation off a product people apparently want.

MR. BROWN: There's absolutely no evidence that would suggest that the profit would be removed from it. We all know, even those who call for legalization, that the number of people who would use drugs under legalization would increase, just as happened when the prohibition --

MR. KING: Well, there's a lot we should talk about. I just touched on that. We'll pick right up with more from our audience and more from our panel on crime in America. This is Larry King Live in Washington. Don't go away.

(Announcements.) MR. KING: We're back on Larry King Live, and we'll have a question now from the lady. Your name?

LENDIA WASHINGTON: Okay, my name is Lenda Washington.

MR. KING: Hi, Lenda.

MS. WASHINGTON: How are you? I have a question for our attorney general, who I must say that I'm very, very impressed with. There was an article, or an editorial, I guess, in yesterday's Wall Street Journal about the attorney general's office turning more into a social service type of agency than what it's been before. But I think actually you address the problems of violence in the larger community in a way that makes sense, and that's the root cause. That's the family and --

MR. KING: Do you want her to comment on the Journal article?

MS. WASHINGTON: Yes.

MR. KING: Janet?

MS. WASHINGTON: I want her to comment on what the attorney general's office can do to make a difference and the cause effects of violence.

ATTY. GEN. RENO: What we're trying to do with our Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the weed-and-seed program is reach out to other agencies -- HUD, Health & Human Services, Education and Labor -- and link together with cities, such as the District of Columbia. We're working with Eric Holder, the United States attorney, as the federal official closest to the people, to try to design programs that link the community and fit the community together in ensuring healthy children, in ensuring proper child care and trying to develop programs after school and in the evening. It's a large order. But when you go to the community and let the community help you plan rather than going and saying, "This is what you should be doing," you can do it so much more effectively.

MR. KING: Was the article unfair, Janet?

ATTY. GEN. RENO: Well, one of the things that I discovered quickly after I took this job was what Abraham Lincoln said. If I read everything bad that people said about me, I might as well close up the shop and go home. So I haven't read it yet.

MR. KING: You haven't read it.

MR. BROWN: (Off mike) -- fresh, new, optimistic and promising approach to her office. What she's saying is that law enforcement alone is not the solution to the crime problem in America. We have to look out for our children, make sure that they're raised in an atmosphere where they can become productive citizens. We have to deal with prevention. You have law enforcement, yes, but that by itself is not the answer to the problem.

MR. COSBY: There's something that I'm sure about 90 percent of the people watching on television and sitting out in this audience don't understand. Law enforcement -- they go to school; they train to arrest people. Their job is to stop and keep our neighborhood clean and clear. Now, it is understood that law enforcement knows the drug dealer who is on the corner. Law enforcement understands the crack house and where the people are. If we watch movies -- pardon me -- it says that the cops run right up there and bust everybody. Yet today you say to a policeman -- he says, "I don't have enough people to help me do that."

MR. KING: All right, let me get -- we've got to break here, Bill. We'll come right back. We'll get an answer to that, okay?

MR. COSBY: Okay.

MR. KING: Okay. We'll be right back. MR. KING: Welcome back to this special edition of "Larry King Live." It's a 90-minute edition. We'll be including your phone calls, questions from the audience.

Our panel, let me reintroduce them if you've just joined us. Reverend Ray East is pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Church here in Anacostia. Janet Reno

is the Attorney General of the United States. Bill Cosby is the famed performer, entertainer, and activist. Bernadette Trowell is with MOMS, the Mothers on the Move Spiritually. Lee Brown is the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the former police commissioner of New York.

Speaking of police, your name sir?

CHIEF PENNINGTON: Assistant Chief Richard Pennington, Metropolitan Police Department. I have a comment. I don't have a question. I'd just like to say I was commanding officer in Anacostia for two years before I was promoted to the rank of assistant chief. And a lot of positive things are happening in Anacostia. (Applause.) And I just wanted to make that comment -- (applause) -- as it relates to community policing, bringing the community together with the police in a collaborative effort. We have done some really outstanding things as it relates to the youth, the boys and girls club in this community. So I just wanted to make that comment that --

MR. KING: Is there trust of police in this community?

Q I think that we're bridging the gap and the police are beginning to work a lot closer. We have had problems within the police department, but when the community works with the police, and the police is very honest about their enforcement efforts and what they're doing, and very open. And I think that's what's going to make the difference in this community. And we're going to continue to do that.

MR. KING: Was this a tough area to police?

Q At times it's a tough area. But, you know, when you look at unemployment in this area -- this community has a high unemployment problem, and I think, yes, it is a very diverse community, but the people -- there are some outstanding citizens in this community. I just wanted to make that point.

MR. KING: Thank you. (Applause.) Lee, Los Angeles is experiencing with much more involvement of the police officer with the community -- especially in East Los Angeles. A good idea?

MR. BROWN: It's an excellent idea, the concept of community policing is the future policing of America. It worked for me --

MR. KING: They get out and work right out with the people?

MR. BROWN: It worked for me when I was police chief in Houston. It worked when I was police commissioner of New York. What it means basically is forging a partnership between the police and the people to work together, to do a number of things. Number one, to jointly -- and I underline jointly, because what it involves is people defining their own problem, not the problem being defined by the police. Jointly determining the problems that exist in neighborhoods, jointly determining the best strategies to resolve those problems, and using the combined resources of the police, the community, other governmental agencies, the private sector, to solve problems.

MR. KING: Is it necessarily true that black police officers are better in black neighborhoods?

MR. BROWN: Well, I think the question is the police officer, him or herself. There are obviously cultural differences. Anyone I think could be

trained to deal with cultural differences. We're not going to have the luxury of having police officers are black in black neighborhoods or white neighborhoods. Nor should we attempt to do that. What we should strive to do is make sure we select police officers who want to come into the police service in the spirit of service, and not so much the spirit of adventure.

MR. KING: Do you live in fear, Bernadette, in this community?

MS. TROWELL: No, I do not.

MR. KING: You do not.

MS. TROWELL: And I would like to just add that in the '50s, when I grew up over here in the community, it was the norm for the police officers to mingle and walk the beats -- I'm talking about Stanton Road and that area. We are used to what is happening now, because we always had it. Along with that I'd like to add that the community-based organizations out there have to help the police officers. Also, I want to just add that we mothers must take a personal inventory and start to do some drastic things. And that's what I came to talk about. (Applause.)

MR. KING: Like? Drastic things like?

MS. TROWELL: Like, first of all, in taking that personal inventory we have to face the fact that our own very kids -- our own various kids may be involved in the crime situation now. The other part to that is we may have to even step out on faith -- and I say that reluctantly, because we know the consequences of sometime approaching the judicial system for assistance when we think something is wrong and think our children are involved in criminal activities. We propose that once that happens -- and that kind of collaboration can be relooked at, then maybe the crime would stop or at least --

MR. KING: Are you saying go over to a police officer and tell them you're worried about your son?

MS. TROWELL: I think they should be approachable in that sense. I really do. I think that also for the youth who are offenders but less a threat to this country should not have the strenuous jail sentences. I think that that money that is being reinvested -- that is being used for new jails and the building of new jails needs to be reinvested in the human beings and not buildings. (Applause.)

MR. KING: Let me get a call. There is someone on the phone from Tarzana, California. Hello.

CALLER: Yes, hello, good evening. I would like to know why in the past year and a half the Bloods and Crips in Los Angeles have been able to do what a billion police could never do, and that is significantly cut back on the gang deaths in certain sections of the inner city where the peace that they organized is holding. Why are the Bloods and the Crips in Los Angeles, who were supposed to have been promised some type of jobs, et cetera, haven't received those jobs? How are they able not being hired, not being paid a salary, to be able to maintain a peace and cut down on those deaths? Why do we need more police when the Bloods and Crips can do it themselves, and I'm sure gang members across the country could do it themselves too?

MR. KING: Lee?

MR. BROWN: I think we need more police officers. Certainly Los Angeles needs more police officers. In fact, the President will be putting 100,000 more police officers on the streets.

But it's more than just police officers. How do you use them? And using them under the concept of community policing will be what will make the difference.

MR. KING: Does the National Guard come into this area every Wednesday?

REV. EAST: (?) They come and light up a couple of our really bad corners. But I'd like to talk about that community policing concept. It really works here. When I came to Anacostia five years ago from right across the river in Southeast, my house was broken into 11 times within one year -- three times when people were in the house. But what we did, though -- that whole neighborhood got fed up -- it was because the crack epidemic was starting. And we needed to come together as neighbors against hits problem of crime -- particularly the crack houses. So we got together -- folks like Ed Johnson that put together Fair Lawn Coalition Orange Hats. Five years later that problem has almost disappeared of people's homes getting broken into, neighbors being terrorized -- because we have community policing, working really with a strong relationship with the Seventh District.

MR. KING: But Bill's question about law enforcement being the answer, are you saying, Janet, it is only part of the answer?

ATTY. GEN. RENO: Nobody can do it by themselves. The police can't do it by themselves. The parents sometimes can't do it by themselves. We all have to work together. But the real answer is each of us has to be accountable for ourselves. And what those gang members did in Los Angeles was to begin to be accountable. We have got to reach out and develop a stronger society around them so that they will have the chance to get the education, to get the skills that will enable them to get jobs. We have got to attack it from so many different points of view. And we can't say it's just one person's problem. It's everybody's problem in America.

MR. KING: We have a young lady. Tronda, is that you? Tronda Wheeler, why don't you lean in on the mike. I understand that you are not very optimistic -- right?

MISS WHEELER: Yeah.

MR. KING: You think you're going to get killed?

MISS WHEELER: Well, sort of. You never know what's going to happen. So I just think about it a lot. MR. KING: Just heard a siren go by now. Do you worry? Are you the girl who's planning, thinking about your own funeral?

MISS WHEELER: Yes, because -- I mean, around my neighborhood it's very dangerous and stuff. I mean, you never know what could happen to me. And so I'm saying if I die -- I mean, this is the way I want my funeral and this is the song I want to be played. I mean --

MR. KING: So you have written that down? You've told the family?

MISS WHEELER: Yes.

MR. KING: Your friend too?

MR. REED: Yeah.

MR. KING: What's your name?

MR. REED: Howard Reed.

MR. KING: And you're thinking about your own funeral?

MR. REED: Yeah.

MR. KING: How old are you, Howie?

MR. REED: Fifteen.

MR. KING: Fifteen. Have you had friends that have been killed?

MR. REED: Yeah.

MR. KING: How many?

MR. REED: A lot.

MR. KING: A lot of friends. Shot?

MR. REED: Yeah.

MR. KING: By other friends?

MR. REED: No, by other people. I don't know.

MR. KING: Drug involvement?

MR. REED: Maybe, I don't know --

MR. KING: You have to move a little closer to the mike.

MR. REED: I don't know.

MR. KING: You go to school?

MR. REED: Yeah.

MR. KING: You feel safe at school?

MR. REED: No.

MR. KING: You go to school, Tronda?

MISS WHEELER: Yes.

MR. KING: Do you feel safe at school?

MISS WHEELER: I feel safe at school, because it seems like there's a lot of protection and stuff -- at my school anyway. I mean, I'm not scared to go to school or nothing. I mean, because there's always like police officers or security guards or someone around, you know, when we need them. So --

MR. KING: So you're living in a constant atmosphere with that around you?

MISS WHEELER: Yeah. I mean, I don't be scared. It's all right in school. It's just when I go home.

MR. KING: What do you want to be, Howie, when you grow up?

MR. REED: I want to direct, make movies, and be an actor.

MR. KING: Okay. But you're not sure you're going to grow up?

MR. REED: No.

MR. KING: So you wrote down what you want at your funeral too?

MR. REED: Yeah.

MR. KING: Bill, what would you say to this young man?

MR. COSBY: Well, I'd say to both of them that you have to really find out who is supposed to protect you. I still haven't gotten an answer from Dr. Brown about the people standing on the street corner that all these people --

MR. KING: They have to worry about living --

MR. COSBY: These are the people who are doing the shooting. They are fighting for their turf. And they are driving by and sometimes -- whatever -- I don't know the psychology. All I know is I saw movies about Jesse James, and people road down the middle of the town and they shot and they robbed the bank, and nobody ever did a movie about the people inside of the houses who were on the floor worried about these guys riding through town on horses. (Applause.) And I never saw in a cowboy picture where the sheriff said, "There's too many of them. I can't go out." John Wayne and all the people that I watched got up and went to town. (Laughter.) I want to know when Lee Brown and his people are going to come in here and give these people something that they can then come out and talk about! (Applause.)

You can't -- this woman lost a child. She then figured in her mind, "I've already lost one" -- she went out. There are people trying to protect what they have and they don't want to talk. They don't want to say where it is and who it is. She's got to go and give them all --

MR. KING: What do you say, Lee, to these two youngsters about their fear?

MR. BROWN: Well, I've raised children myself. I have grandchildren. I think there is hope. There is reason to be optimistic.

MR. COSBY: It's not enough, Lee. You've got to tell them where the cops are who are supposed to arrest these people with the drugs that they see! (Applause.)

MR. KING: Janet?

MR. COSBY: We have hope! We have hope!

MR. KING: They don't have hope.

MR. COSBY: No, they do have hope! They haven't seen hope.

MR. KING: You mean they have it but haven't --

MR. COSBY: They have hope but they haven't seen hope! This boy wants to be a director. He didn't say, "I don't have a future." He said, "I want to be a director -- Lord, if I live that long." (Applause.)

MR. KING: We'll be right back with more of "Larry King Live." Don't go away.

(Announcements.)

MR. KING: We're back with a response from Mr. Brown to Mr. Cosby, and then Ms. Reno, and then a caller.

MR. BROWN: I think one aspect is as we talk about television -- you know, crime on television time is on for a half an hour with time out for commercials. That's not what goes on in real life. The police are making arrests. In New York City, when I was commissioner, we would arrest up to 300,000 people a year. That's bigger than most cities in America. The jails are overcrowded, the prisons are overcrowded. But we did not solve the problem. The police will continue to make arrests throughout America.

What we have to do is have a two-prong agenda. The first would be the immediate relief because people are suffering -- what Bill talks about, people on the floors when the guns go off. We have to provide relief for that. And that's where the police will come in. That's where the 100,000 more police officers operating under the concept of community policing will make a difference. We also must have a long-term agenda to deal with the problems that bring about the crime and drug problems to begin with. Jobs --

MR. KING: But while you're working on that, someone could be shot tomorrow.

MR. BROWN: Again, that's why we have to have a two-prong approach: community policing with more police officers out there on the streets working with the people. I think the bottom line is the police alone will not solve the problem.

MR. KING: Janet?

ATTY. GEN. RENO: The police are making an arrest. They make an arrest of somebody who has a crack addiction. He goes to jail; he may not get treatment. Or if he gets treatment he doesn't get after care and follow-up and an opportunity for a job. And the police are having to do it again and again. We need to get a good crime bill passed that provides for drug courts, that would provide a carrot-and-stick approach to youngsters who are getting arrested because of drugs, gets them off drugs back to the streets with job training and placement, and gives them an opportunity. We have got to get community police

working to prevent crime. You say they're just out there to make an arrest? Go with a good community police officer someday and watch him reach out to youngsters and make a difference, and pull him back from the brink of crime and get them started off on the right foot. Nobody can do it by themselves, particularly the police. But when you have a community like what the reverend is talking about here where the police and the community are coming together, where the assistant chief is talking about the developments that have been made, we can begin to make a difference. But it is not going to happen overnight, and it's not going to happen just by one group assuming the responsibility for the whole problem. MR. COSBY: You're here now, and you've been on your job three months or whatever. This is not a put down of you. I'm talking about -- No, no, I'm talking about the United States of America. James Baldwin in whatever -- '50 something -- a gentleman said, "Well, James, for integration, whatever it is, don't you think we need time?" And Baldwin said, "Time? You've already taken up my great-grandfather's time. You've taken up my grandfather's time. You've taken up my father's time. And now you're going to take up my nieces' and nephews' time." I'm sure, man, that these people are tired of this. You keep saying, "Have hope, keep hope alive." Meanwhile 12 policemen are busted because they were ! working with the drug dealers. (Applause/cheers.) Look, I'm saying that it's not just the guys you see on the street. Now, if we can find Noriega in the hillside -- (applause) -- and the old thing about if we can send a man to the moon -- why are we sitting in the church wondering when help is going to come so these people can open up and go out and get their children on to high school, to college? That's all I'm saying, Larry. I'm not blaming these two. But if they had these jobs, then I think the people --

ATTY. GEN. RENO: You can blame me. And --

MR. COSBY: No, I can't blame you, because --

ATTY. GEN. RENO: Well, let me tell you what --

MR. COSBY: You're not the president. (Laughter.)

ATTY. GEN. RENO: And let me tell you what time means. I saw a community in my home of Miami that was plagued by crime and drugs, where people were being killed. I watched the community come together with ministers like the reverend who cared and mothers that cared, and joined together with community police officers who formed a team with a community police officer, a social worker, and a public health nurse, that went to the highest crime area, so reduce crime. Not in years, but in months, and in a matter of from April until August, just before the hurricane hit that made a significant difference in that community. There is more than hope. There is actual real progress in so many areas. He helped reduce crime in New York City -- violent crime. It is happening. And it can happen here in Anacostia. It will. But it won't happen just by talk. It's happening by action of people who care.

MR. KING: I've got to get a call in -- and then Bernadette. Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, hello.

CALLER: Yes, hello, Mr. King. Yes, I have a question for all the people there. I'd like to make something clear first. I'm from Saudi Arabia, and we have a very strong system here, especially a punishment system, which as you know probably if you kill someone you get killed yourself, or you are sacrificed. If you steal something you get your hand chopped off. And it's something -- I think America is living in really barbaric times.

MR. KING: Wait a minute. You don't live in a barbaric state where a hand is chopped off if it robs something?

CALLER: Well, if you look at it that way, you see you are being faced by barbaric people, felon, really dangerous people. And if you have a son, a five-year-old son, or a daughter, which gets shot in front of you, or a loved one that gets killed, don't you think that that person should be killed himself, and not rot away in a prison wasting the taxpayer's money?

MR. KING: Bernadette?

MS. TROWELL: Jesus. (Laughter.) Jesus. I have three -- four things to say to that person. You need some hope, sir. You need to have some faith, sir. And then you need to learn to forgive, sir, because God gave us life, and God is the only one who has the office to take life.

MR. KING: By the way, I need --

MS. TROWELL: But, before that, I want to address something that's dear to me. These two young people -- come back to the mikes please.

MR. KING: Wait, don't run the show, Bernadette. I've got to take a break. But they can come back. Okay. Bernadette's a tough lady. We're going to take a break and come back. By the way, on all the breaks we're hearing from this wonderful choir at the St. Teresa of Avila Church in Anacostia. More to come, don't go away.

(Announcements.) MR. KING: Welcome back to "Larry King Live." If you notice some members of the choir missing, they're young and they went to sleep, and their parents took them home.

And our panel is Reverend Ray East, pastor of the St. Teresa of Avila Church here in Anacostia, Janet Reno, the Attorney General of the United States, Bill Cosby, who needs no introduction, Bernadette Trowell of MOMS, Mothers on the Move Spiritually, and Lee Brown, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the former police commissioner of New York and former police chief of Houston. And we have called our young folks back, Tronda and Howie, and Bernadette wishes to say something to them. Go.

MS. TROWELL: Yes. MOMS want to tell you that we didn't want you to sit down on that negative note. We work with families in crisis everyday and have a youth program that do provide services to youth like you.

I want you to look at that positively what you said you're doing in terms of mapping out your funeral arrangements or thinking about life -- I mean death and all that kind of thing.

I just want to say to you though that we didn't come here to stay, but along with that, if one of my youth had come to me and said that, I'd say because we have family bonding, school bonding and community bonding, what you're doing is not out of the norm. Everyone usually, especially today, make those arrangements and things. Do not look at it as a negative, but as a maturing and positive mode.

And I thank you.

MR. KING: Thank you. Boy, I -- (applause) -- don't know that that is much hope but I -- young lady here, want to hand it to me? One member of the choir wanted me to ask you a question.

Why is so much emphasis on the negative and not the positive? Think we do too much of that, Reverend?

REV. EAST: I think behind every negative headline, there's a positive story of hope, and we really need to pump up the hope because, for example, in Anacostia, there's a lot of hope, excellent efforts being made. We talked about the education system. We have valiant principals and teachers and staff at Ketchum (sp) Elementary, Anacostia High, Ballow (sp) High, Orr (sp) Elementary. They're really going in there and doing amazing and wonderful things with the kids and the results are paying off --

MR. KING: (Inaudible) -- what part is the media --

REV. EAST: But it's not sexy -- it's not a sexy issue. The media loves sexy issues and so they don't put on the good -- the time -- it takes time to heal this wound, this 400 year wound that we have and --

MR. KING: Gentleman here --

REV. EAST: -- nobody wants to do -- put (their emphasis?) on a slow motion healing effort.

MR. KING: Gentleman, sir -- are you okay?

MR. WILLIAM W. JOHNSON: Yes, uh-huh.

MR. KING: Okay -- you want to step up. Oh, you were praying, I'm sorry.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes. First of all I'd like to say to Mr. Cosby that I had a lot of respect for you, brother, before I said here, but after listening to you, I think I speak for everybody here, we've got a lot of respect for you now. (Applause.)

As a retired DC policeman here in the District, you've been asking a question. There are things that policemen can do, Mr. Cosby. Myself, I took it upon myself personally to do some things, like I got into a situation once where a young boy of 15 had \$2,000 in his pocket. I know he didn't work at the Safeway or any place else. I knew where he got that money from. We were in a tight -- and I didn't have him legally as the law said, but I presented a proposal to him to go to the nearest church, which was Jericho Baptist Church over in Northeast Washington and make a contribution back to the community. He did that.

You can do things if you really want to. I was a policeman, but I was also a man. And you have to step past being that policeman to be that man --

MR. KING: Your son was killed?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes. I lost a son -- I locked a kid up one day -- when you first came on with what Anacostia was all about, I locked a kid up one day. It wound up with us having a relationship, it wound up with me adopting him. He was an all F student. The system said that he was a slow learner, emotionally

disturbed. But at the time of his death, he was an honor roll student at Parkdale Senior High School.

It lead to -- he was intelligent and he was a good looking black man. The young man who killed him just recently asked me to come and live with my family. We're going to allow him to do that because he's an intelligent, handsome black man, Mr. Cosby, intelligent, just passed his GED test down in the Lorton Youth Center, he's talking about going to college.

MR. KING: You're going to bring into your home the man or young man who killed your son?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, because I'm a Christian and I preach to my children that they must forgive -- (applause) --

We tell our children that we -- we tell our children that we have this commitment to them, that we're behind them 100 percent. But I want to run a scenario past you, Ms. Reno, that I'm quite sure you're not aware of.

You came to our boys club on the 16th of December for race against the drugs and you were a speaker. They painted the stage when you got there and they kept you on that level. But they didn't take you downstairs where the commodes are backed up and it stinks. They didn't take you up on the third floor where the ceiling is leaking. They didn't take you to all the trouble spots in that building. They didn't take you to where there's an indoor pool that only stays open six weeks during the year and the other 10-1/2 months it's closed to the community, nobody's using it. They don't take you there. When they have these conferences and spend all of this money, the money that they spend could go to worthwhile people.

There's a wealth of talent here in Anacostia. There are people out here doing things -- (applause). But the government would rather give an organization a half million dollar grant and they spend 490,000 of it in office space and everything else -- (applause) -- 10,000 goes actually to kids. (Applause.)

I go to Oak Hill every first and third Saturday of the month, I go and talk with kids. I tell them about the Good Samaritan and I run it down to them like they would understand. I say you're going home one night, there's a 4 x 4 Pathfinder, music's blasting, the driver's hanging half out of the driver's side, he's been shot four or five times. On the side -- on the ground beside him is a bag of dope, in the seat behind him is a fully loaded nine millimeter and in his pocket is \$15,000 cash. What would you do?

I get all kinds of answers. I get, "I'll take the gun and the dope. I'll take the gun and the money. I'll take everything." I even had a kid recently tell me that he would finish the guy first and take everything.

I ask myself what would I do if I went home and asked my kids that and I did. I went home and asked my six kids. My daughter said "I'd take the gun and the money." My other daughter said, "Dad, give me a few minutes to think about what I would take, but I'd take something" -- (laughter). My other son said, "I'd take the 15 grand." My 12 year old busted my bubble because he said, "Dad, I'd take the dope and sell it. I'd take the gun and pawn it. I'd take the Toyota Pathfinder and sell it to whoever wants it to be sold to him, and I'd keep the 15 grand." That let me know that after my kids saw me for 20 years as

a policeman, eight years of being in a church, that I had to do double work. But the bottom --

MR. KING: All right --

MR. JOHNSON: -- line --

MR. KING: Let Janet respond. That was eloquent, beautiful. Janet?

ATTY GEN. RENO: I don't know all about Washington that you do, but for 15 years, I walked the streets of Miami. I went into public housing projects where the toilet was falling from above the ceiling into the kitchen below, where stairs were falling in, and I tried to press the country to take action.

I finally sued Dade County as state attorney to make sure that that was changed. I walked the streets of Dade County. I saw where people were killed. More recently in these last 10 months that I've been in Washington, I adopted an elementary school. But I went to the elementary school and I walked through that. I then walked through the neighborhood. I have seen this person was shot and killed here, a person was injured here, this is where there have been drug problems in the past.

I'm trying to get to know this community and others just as I knew the community that I came from and that I loved very much. And the one thing that impresses me so much is if we all come together, police, and everyone concerned and make a difference for the lives of every single person, and I think you are a wonderful example of what can happen when somebody cares. MR. JOHNSON: I have to give God that glory. I'm not -- (inaudible) -- stage, but, Mr. Cosby, if you ever get a chance to come to my boys club, please do. And I'd like to invite you, Ms. Reno, to go to Oakhill with me one Saturday, the first or the third --

MR. KING: Reverend --

MR. JOHNSON: -- unannounced. Let's just go, you got to --

ATTY GEN. RENO: You just give me a call and you've got it.
(Applause.)

REV. EAST: There's an African proverb that says it takes a whole village to raise a child. I think that's what we're seeing. We've got to come together. And what you see tonight is not just the same old, same old. In Anacostia and in places all over this country, you see people coming together, building coalitions to solve the problems and the problems are starting to be solved. We -- (inaudible). We're trying in Washington to unite churches, mosques, synagogues and temples in a broad-based coalition that organizes people around power, not around budgets and programs, but around power --

MR. KING: I'd like to pick up the role of the media in this and we are really zipping along. We'll be right back with more of "Larry King Live" right after this. More of the choir too.

(Announcements.)

MR. KING: We're back on "Larry King Live." Before we go to our audience again, let's get a call in from Gainesville, Georgia. Hello.

Q Yes. I wanted to address a question to Attorney General. I agree with her comments about there being too much violence on TV and in the media, but I have to say that the most violent thing that I've ever witnessed, most disturbing thing I've ever seen on TV is when I watched the compound in Waco, Texas, burning, knowing that there were children burning and dying while I was watching, not fiction but reality. If we want to teach our children and society to deal peacefully with their problems, how can we do that when our government and our authority figures continually use force and violence in their problem solving?

MR. KING: Janet?

ATTY GEN. RENO: That is certainly one of the most difficult decisions that anyone has to deal with to consider the people that were deal there, to consider the officers who had died because of violence by someone else. These are extraordinarily difficult situations. And what you do is try to look at what you would do again and learn from that tragic experience and try to do everything you can to avoid it for the future.

But obviously again it comes down to the fact that people who create that situation for themselves have to be accountable as well.

MR. KING: The gentleman, your name?

MR. SHAWN KING: Shawn King.

MR. KING: Hi, Shawn. Your name?

MS. RICHARDSON: Brenda Richardson.

MR. KING: Do you have a question?

MS. RICHARDSON: I have a comment and Shawn has a question and I'll be very brief.

I'm outraged and I am tired of the media comes into this community and portrays Anacostia as the wild, wild West. And we are being introduced to the world -- I understand that your -- this show is being shown in 220 countries and Anacostia is being portrayed as this terrible community.

MR. KING: But it's also being portrayed beautifully. It's being portrayed as a community of --

MS. RICHARDSON: I understand that. But I want the world to know that there are decent, law-abiding citizens that live in this community -- (applause). And I also think -- (applause) -- I also think that, Dr. Lee Brown, I respect you and I appreciate you, but I think President Clinton's cabinet members should be sitting out in this audience. I think that the people like Ms. Hawkins (sp), and Myrtle Lowry (sp), and Al Freeman (sp), people -- community leaders, should be sitting on that panel telling you what is working here in this community.

Too often -- I don't get called to the White House to find out what you guys can do to help this community. The people in this community that have programs, that need money, that are volunteering, we're not the ones that get called to the White House. (Applause.) We're the ones that are out here struggling, we're the ones that have the knowledge and we have the experience,

and we are tired. I don't want to see another show (coming out of?) Anacostia talking about crime and violence. (Applause.) There are too many good things happening in this community. (Applause.)

If you come back, and, Larry King, I invite you to come back, but I invite you to come back to celebrate the goodness of Anacostia and the people here. (Applause.)

MR. KING: I accept. (Applause.)

I've seen nothing but goodness tonight.

MR. SHAWN KING: My question is what will Lee Brown and Janet Reno do for Anacostia after they leave here tonight? (Applause.)

MR. BROWN: I've already accepted prior to this invitation to come over here and be with the people here, I intend to do that any way that I can using the resources at my disposal to be of assistance. That's what I pledge to do.

MR. KING: Janet?

ATTY GEN. RENO: What I had said earlier in the program was just what you're talking about, that one of the worst things is for the federal government to come to town wherever it is and say, "We know better," or "This is what should be done." As I mentioned, what we have already initiated with Eric Holder (sp), the U.S. Attorney here, is an effort to bring the five federal agencies who make and have an impact on the community together, trying to reach out to the communities of all of Washington so that they can say what we need, not what you think we need, but what we need and what our hopes and fears are.

I have walked the streets of Washington and I have seen the goodness that you're talking about. I have seen the challenges, I've seen the problems. And there is so much that we can do if we reach out and work together. I am going to continue that effort with Eric, with the people of Washington, trying to find out and listen. But it is a problem that exists throughout the nation because it's not just Anacostia, it's every city in this nation. MR. KING: Bill, you have had -- thank you both very much. You have had such extraordinary -- (applause) -- success. I must ask you quickly, do you see the Anacostia? I know you're here for Reverend Jesse Jackson's Rainbow crusade -- there goes another siren --

MR. COSBY: No, I --

MR. KING: Do you see the Anacostia --

MR. COSBY: -- I'm not here for Reverend Jesse Jackson. Larry, I was brought up in a housing project, lower economic. The bullets didn't come out as fast in those days. The people had churches. We talked. And there were mothers and fathers. Speaking about whether or not we should legalize drugs, never. You've legalized -- not you, but we've legalized alcohol and look at the abuse that's still going on. It could be worse and more devastating.

The other thing is, I want to address -- (inaudible) -- of violence. Violence is not just a gun. Violence is an angry person striking another person with a fist, somebody with a finger nail file, somebody shoving somebody onto the subway tracks, somebody hitting a car and getting out and two people

fighting. It's two girls who are arguing over lipstick who begin to pull each other's hair. That's violence. And violence is in the mind. And we have to teach people that this is not the way to win. And history tells us this is not the way to win.

There are too many dead people. But the important thing -- the important thing, Larry, about all of this is that it's just not a black thang. (Applause.)

MR. KING: Going to get a break. We'll come right back on "Larry King Live." Don't go away. We'll be right back.

(Announcements.)

MR. KING: We're back with our remaining moments on this special edition of "Larry King Live." (Program notes.)

To our visitors, Janet, what are you going to take away from here tonight?

ATTY GEN. RENO: I'm going to take away a sense of hope, a sense of caring, a sense that we are somebody, we can make a difference, and we should all talk together, listen together, and people should come together knowing that no one person can make the difference, but all of us accountable can make a difference.

MR. KING: Bill, you have made every success there is in life. You have no want. What do you take away from a neighborhood like this tonight as you leave?

MR. COSBY: I saw more police cars around this church tonight because we were coming than I would see around any dangerous area. I want it evened up. That's what I talk away. That's my hope. (Applause.)

MR. KING: More police?

MR. COSBY: More police.

MR. KING: So that they live.

MR. COSBY: So that these people can then feel that they have some support. You can't get the town's people to go rushing out knowing that they're going to be ambushed.

MR. KING: What do you take away, Lee?

MR. BROWN: I spent most of my adult career working in law enforcement, working with the community, and I see hope in every community I go to. Here, (as been?) stated over and over again, the vast, vast majority of the people are good people doing good things, working to make sure that their community is safe. I take away also a sense of hope for our young people. They represent our future. They're the ones that we must depend upon for the future.

MR. KING: Bernadette, media often focuses on the bad. Tonight we focused on both. Now, as a resident, what do you take away tonight?

MS. TROWELL: Well, I'm encouraged because MOMS is also a community-based organization and I'm encouraged that there are other people and organizations like ours on the battlefield. And I want to commend you for your efforts, but I want to say to you, don't look for the federal dollars. Be more committed and do the volunteer time. We will get the rewards afterwards. (Applause.)

MR. KING: And, Reverend East, you live here, you work here, you lead this ministry.

REV. EAST: The word Anacostia means standing against the enemy. We've named the enemy. Now it's time for us to come together and I think we are coming together in positive ways. And what you're seeing tonight is a little bit of hope that's already begun, the healing has begun. We just want to announce it. And if it can happen in Anacostia, it can happen all over the United States.

MR. KING: Hopefully, (we could lend?) to turn it around.

I might add that we'd like to thank on the part of the whole gang at CNN, our entire crew, the production staff, the St. Teresa of Avila Church, their chorus and the Kelly (sp) Youth Choir, who you're going to hear some more of as we leave, special thanks, of course, to Father East. Also we want to thank the community for letting us come, for hopefully focussing a brighter light on things so that tomorrow's a little better than yesterday was.

We want to thank the St. Philips (sp) and Union Temple churches for inviting their congregations to join us tonight. And I think you should applaud yourselves as we applaud the Kelly (sp) Youth Choir, who will sing us out on this edition of "Larry King Live."

Thank you and good night. (Applause.)

END