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U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

6

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1995

7

MIAMI, FLORIDA

8

JANET RENO'S SPEECH

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1 THE SPEAKER: We are very privileged and
2 very pleased to have our next speaker here
3 with us. As we all know, she is a native of
4 Miami, born and raised here, who has had an
5 outstanding record of service as a public
6 servant in this area, a former State Attorney
7 for Dade County, initially appointed to that
8 position by the governor of Florida, but
9 subsequently elected to serve as Dade County
10 State Attorney on five occasions.

11 We have stood shoulder to shoulder with
12 her on the Whitehouse lawn asking for
13 legislation that has enabled us in making the
14 communities safer places.

15 Janet Reno, we very much appreciate and
16 value your receptivity to the city mayors and
17 their communities. We are tremendously
18 pleased to have you with us today. And would
19 everyone join me with welcoming the Attorney
20 General of the United States, Janet Reno.

21 MS. RENO: Mayor, I am so very honored
22 to be here with you today because I have
23 really been privileged to work with you and
24 mayors from across this country almost from
25 the day I took office as attorney general.

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1 You have been at the Department of
2 Justice, I have had an opportunity to visit
3 with you on the streets of your city to see
4 the exciting work that you are doing, and it
5 is just really wonderful to see you again.

6 But it is especially wonderful to
7 welcome you to a city I love very, very much.
8 I was born here, I was raised here. One of
9 the first summer jobs I had was with the City
10 of Miami Convention Bureau in a place that is
11 now Bayside. I have watched a city grow from
12 a small city into a great and vibrant
13 international city. I have been a part of
14 some of its most frustrating and most
15 difficult times. But it is from this city
16 and its surrounding cities that I have
17 learned that this is where it all happens.
18 This is where people got me to be innovative
19 and bold. And this city taught me so very
20 much about how to deal with the issues that I
21 know confront me as an attorney general. One
22 of the points that I have learned is that you
23 have got to have continuity, that you can't
24 give up, that you can't solve problems
25 overnight. The mayors that have been in

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1 office year in, year out that have dealt with
2 the complex issues and the changing time are
3 really heroes and heroines of all.

4 It is important for me that we continue
5 a dialogue. I think my first, as I
6 indicated, one of my first meetings with
7 mayors was in my conference room, and I
8 promised that I would not just stop there.
9 And I met with you in Washington requiring a
10 continuing dialogue and acquired action and
11 not just words and then in Portland and then
12 in your cities.

13 And I think we have made progress but we
14 have much, much to do. A little over a year
15 ago, I announced the anti-violence issue as
16 part of the Department of Justice. I have
17 too often seen a one-way street with law
18 enforcement and the Federal Government. I
19 saw law enforcement locally giving the
20 Federal government information but too often
21 it was not the two-way street I longed for.
22 We have tried to develop that two-way street
23 with police agencies across the country
24 sharing information, not taking cases just
25 for the credit, but taking cases because it

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1 was the right thing to do, and it being taken
2 (inaudible) after consultation to local law
3 enforcement. I think we are making real
4 progression in terms of identifying what the
5 Federal Government should be doing, how we
6 can support you and assist you, how we can
7 take cases that are better handled in Federal
8 court and how we can support local law
9 enforcement every step of the way.

10 But not just in terms of law
11 enforcement. In terms of preventative
12 programs. I have asked the Office of
13 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
14 and the office of Justice Program to work
15 with communities across this nation to design
16 programs that fit the needs of communities,
17 recognizing that you understand your needs
18 and resources far better than we do, and that
19 everything that we can do to support
20 community initiatives should be one of the
21 priorities of the Justice Department. I
22 think we are making progress.

23 One of the areas that we have got to
24 continue to confront is the whole issue of
25 terrorism, and we make sure that the local

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1 law enforcement and the Federal government
2 work together in understanding the perils in
3 taking common sense approaches to addressing
4 the concerns that so concern this nation in
5 these last months.

6 But one of the problems that I think you
7 probably more than most people are familiar
8 with is the problem of violence and we must
9 work together, again, to make sure that we
10 share the information, that if there is a
11 youth gang that sweeps out from one city to
12 another city that is not understood yet and
13 all you have that person for in the second
14 city is a minor auto theft, but in the first
15 city he is wanted on a robbery or for some
16 other serious crime, that we link that
17 information together so that we can support
18 your local police in every way possible. If
19 a case is better handled in Federal court, we
20 will handle it there. We share information
21 with respect to gangs and we want to do that
22 in every way we possibly can.

23 It is the spirit of partnership that
24 brought about the passage of the president's
25 contract in 1994, and the U.S. Conference of

1 Mayors was right in the forefront of getting
2 that legislation passed. It provides tough,
3 hardened approach to fighting crime in our
4 communities. In no small measure to your
5 support, we won tougher enforcement, more
6 prisons, and direct intervention programs
7 that can make a difference. The climate
8 outlawed dangerous assault weapons and
9 provided funds to continue implementing the
10 Brady Bill, which has prevented 41,000 guns
11 at least from reaching the hands of felons in
12 the first year alone.

13 There are some that want to go back on
14 that effort and that must not happen.

15 (Applause)

16 During our many discussions you made it
17 clear that you needed additional police
18 officers, that you needed additional
19 automation to keep police officer's time to
20 get to the streets. We are now well on our
21 way to fulfilling the president's historic
22 plan to put 100,000 new police officers on
23 your streets and we are doing so in record
24 time. Awards for over 17,000 police officers
25 have already been paid. From the nations

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1 smallest towns to its largest cities, you now
2 have more police officers on your streets.

3 We recognize, and I knew full well from
4 my go-rounds with the Federal bureaucracy
5 that you wanted and needed less bureaucracy.
6 That's why we have cut red tape dramatically
7 for the various cop programs. We have
8 attempted to make the application process
9 simple and notification of all awards have
10 been. Best of all the administrative cost of
11 the program are less than one percent of the
12 funds, a truly outstanding figure. One of
13 the reasons that program has been a success
14 is because of you, because of your police
15 chiefs telling us what was needed, what the
16 problems were, and we have had tried to
17 answer those concerns by developing a program
18 that works.

19 We are also focusing on the prison
20 moneys in the crime bill. We must have truth
21 in the sentencing. So many local police
22 chiefs have to deal with the problem of
23 arresting the person, watching them go to
24 prison, and watching them get out in 20 to 30
25 percent of the sentence because there are not

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1 enough prison cells in this country to house
2 the truly dangerous offenders. We must make
3 sure that the program is implemented in the
4 right way so that we get moneys from both
5 states and local correctional facilities
6 where they count. But we must also renew our
7 efforts to make sure that we understand that
8 most people going to prison are coming back
9 sooner rather than later, even if they serve
10 their full term, and they must come back with
11 after care and programs that can give them a
12 chance to get off to a fresh start, otherwise
13 your police agencies will be merely
14 reinventing the wheel each time they come
15 into the jail system. We must focus on
16 serious youthful offenders and make sure that
17 we have facility for those youthful violent
18 offenders to let them know there is no excuse
19 to putting a gun up aside somebody's head,
20 that there is going to be punishment to this,
21 that is fair, firm and that fits the crime,
22 but there is going to be an opportunity to
23 get off to a fresh start when they come out
24 of the detention facility.

25 / But most of all I would like to talk to

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1 you about prevention. You made me believe
2 that it was possible to do something about
3 prevention in the crime bill. When I first
4 spoke with you, you let me know that you
5 understood that we could not build our way
6 solely out of the crime problem, that we had
7 to prevent the problem before it got started.
8 We have made some progress, violence is down
9 in most of the major cities in the country,
10 but it is still there. And it tax our beings
11 and our souls, particularly when we see our
12 children as a victim of violence. I think
13 often of the child who grows up in fear, who
14 grows up just feeling demoralized, helpless,
15 alone in the fear of violence. This kind of
16 future is one this country cannot tolerate
17 for its children, but yet violent acts of
18 crime are growing in an alarming rate among
19 young people. Juvenile arrest rates have
20 grown nearly 40 percent since 1988. On
21 average the number of juveniles arrested for
22 murder is double the average for young
23 adults. And in the United States a child is
24 killed by gun fire every two hours. Young
25 people are now the most victimized group in

1 the country. In other words, kids are
2 killing kids and it must stop.

3 How do we do it? We have got to focus
4 on the serious youthful offenders and make
5 sure that there is the punishment that fits
6 the crime, but we have got to understand what
7 mayors across this country understands, that
8 prevention can work, that we can start early
9 and prevent crime, prevent the victimization,
10 prevent the gangs, if we only take steps up
11 front.

12 Let us work together to make sure that
13 any legislation that purports to address
14 crime in this country continues to maintain
15 the prevention packet that is in the crime
16 bill you helped us get to fight crime.

17 (Applause)

18 When I first talked about prevention
19 when I came to Washington people said she is
20 a social worker. Then I talked to chiefs of
21 police, then I talked to mayors, and they
22 were telling me the same thing. We have got
23 to have punishment that fits the crime, but
24 we have got to work together to make sure
25 that we maintain, enhance and do everything

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1 possible to develop programs together that
2 prevent the crime.

3 How do we do it? Programs in the
4 afternoons, evenings and during the
5 summertime. Where do you put those programs?
6 Has it ever bothered you as you drive passed
7 a school at four or five in the afternoon
8 after somebody has been to your city
9 commission asking you to appropriate moneys
10 to a youth center and think why couldn't that
11 school be open for longer hours. During the
12 summer as you try to develop recreational
13 programs, don't you wish that the school
14 could be there to be a learning experience
15 year round for that child? We can do so much
16 if we use the resources that we have, if the
17 federal government works with you in
18 partnership to fill in the gaps in your
19 community to try to provide programs that
20 occupy our children, that provide mentoring
21 for our children, that provide conflict
22 resolution programs that teach our children
23 how to resolve conflicts without knives, guns
24 and fists.

25 Ladies and gentlemen, you probably

1 better than anybody else know that these
2 programs can work. We have got to get the
3 message to Washington, to Congress, that
4 these programs are working. They are working
5 as effectively as other law enforcement
6 initiatives, police chiefs, police officers
7 are behind them, let us work together to make
8 sure that they maintain our efforts at
9 prevention.

10 (applause)

11 But we will never deal with the problem
12 of youth violence, we will never deal with
13 the problems of violence in the streets and
14 in our schools, unless we start focusing on
15 violence in the home. To that end the Crime
16 Act provided the Violence Against Women Act.
17 Through this act we are taking a whole
18 approach to ending domestic violence. We are
19 combining strong law enforcement with needed
20 prevention.

21 This year a total of 26 million dollars
22 is available to fund police and prosecution
23 and preventative programs to combat violence
24 against women.

25 I commend Mayor Rice of Seattle for the

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1 city's gallant efforts to bridge the gap
2 between community policing and domestic
3 violence.

4 Recently the director of Violence
5 Against Women program, Bonnie Campbell, and
6 COPS director, Joe Graham, visited Seattle to
7 experience firsthand Seattle's innovative
8 program. With my discussion with Bonnie and
9 Joe it is clear that Seattle is setting an
10 example for us all to follow.

11 And it is so important, as I have
12 developed community initiatives here in Miami
13 and community police programs, we can quickly
14 begin to address the problems of youth
15 violence by developing the prevention
16 programs and by focusing on the youthful
17 violent offender, but the problem that then
18 remains and is even more difficult to solve
19 was the problem of domestic violence, the
20 problem of domestic disputes that escalated
21 into domestic violence. We need to work
22 together through the Violence Against Women
23 Program, with the administration of this
24 grant to make sure that the dollars gets to
25 your community where they count and where

1 they can make a difference.

2 And we must renew our efforts against
3 drugs in this country. Every time I turn
4 around I see the correlation. I applaud your
5 dedication and efforts to spend the flow and
6 use of drugs in your community and in this
7 nation. We must all reject proposals to
8 legalize illicit drugs.

9 (applause)

10 And we have got to use common sense. I
11 have always been frustrated, and I shared
12 this frustration with you in Portland, when
13 the federal agencies focus on the kingpins,
14 many of whom are in foreign countries and who
15 don't authorize extradition, so the person
16 sits in the foreign country while the police
17 are trying to deal with the problems on the
18 streets, and it is so important that we
19 develop together a comprehensive effort, a
20 partnership, again, between Federal and local
21 law enforcement, that provides for the
22 exchange of information, that provides for a
23 comprehensive approach so that we get not
24 just the kingpins but the traffickers,
25 domestically, the distribution network, the

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1 street user, and that we take the appropriate
2 steps to address the problem of each.

3 I think we can make a difference if we
4 approach it in a comprehensive way, and free
5 the costly time of the administrators of the
6 DEA, and are dedicated to doing everything we
7 can to insure that working partnership with
8 local law enforcement and efforts against
9 drugs.

10 But we must do more. What happens when
11 we arrest that street user? What happens
12 when he goes to jail? There is no treatment
13 program, no follow-up. He is right back out
14 on the street being arrested by your officers
15 again.

16 The Department of Justice will soon be
17 awarding grants for drug courts. With drug
18 courts we will be able to intervene and stop
19 the vicious cycle of drug related crime and
20 the violence that goes with it. I have seen
21 those programs work in this community. We
22 can improve on it, we can work together to
23 make sure that if we focus on the trafficker,
24 focus on the user, and design the programs
25 that fit the crime. But as importantly, we

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1 must renew our efforts with groups across
2 this country to educate our children,
3 targeting their formative years and going
4 back to what can we do to give our children a
5 chance to grow in a strong, constructive way.
6 Let us not wait until they get into drug
7 abuse, let us provide the programs, afternoon
8 and evenings, let's give them a helping hand,
9 let's us provide a mentor that keeps them out
10 of drugs in the first place. We can do it if
11 we work together. There are so many issues
12 that you face as mayors in your cities across
13 this country. But you are on the cutting
14 edge. You are my heroes and heroines because
15 as I have told you before, I look at the
16 cycle of this nation, and the depression,
17 people began to look to Washington as a place
18 to get the problems solved. In World War II
19 they looked more often to Washington. With
20 the civil rights efforts of the fifties and
21 sixties they looked to Washington for
22 justice. In the seventies they looked to
23 Washington for money. And then Washington
24 started shifting the programs to the states,
25 but without the dollars. And then the states

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1 started shifting programs to the communities
2 without the dollars. And then mayors and
3 police chiefs and local officials and local
4 citizens started joining together and saying,
5 we can do it, we may have our back up against
6 the wall, but if we come together, if we
7 bring disciplines together, we can make a
8 difference.

9 In almost every city I have visited in
10 this country, I see evidence of that
11 boldness, of that innovation, and the
12 Department of Justice wants to work with you,
13 wants to be your partner in a separate and
14 local law enforcement and in prevention in
15 ways that it can help.

16 Now it doesn't do for me to come and say
17 this is the way it should be done. I have
18 been listening to you, to your police chiefs,
19 trying to understand how the Department of
20 Justice can be a true partner. I hope this
21 will not be the last time I talk with you
22 because problems are not solved overnight,
23 but we want to work with you as we have with
24 the COPS program, to design programs that are
25 effective, that are efficient, that meet your

1 needs.

2 I salute you. . You do so much for the
3 cities that you represent. And when I go to
4 your cities you give me such great hope for
5 America.

6 In these last months we have dealt with
7 violence, a terrible violence. But we
8 watched this nation come together, we watched
9 the citizens of Oklahoma City come together,
10 we watched this nation come together and work
11 with law enforcement who are bringing law
12 enforcement to track the people down who are
13 responsible for this terrible act. We then
14 watched people reach out to the survivors, to
15 victims and hold them and help them begin to
16 heal.

17 It was a remarkable experience for me to
18 talk to fire-fighters and doctors in
19 Indianapolis who had recently returned from
20 Oklahoma City. It was a remarkable
21 experience for me to talk with residents of
22 Oklahoma City and watch how they responded.
23 And then to watch the nation join together,
24 to speak out against the violence that had
25 spawned that terrible blast, and watch this

1 nation come together to defend its freedoms.
2 I have never been so proud of this nation in
3 adversity as I have as I watched us come
4 together, but we must now continue to speak
5 out against violence in all its forms, to
6 come together, to use that spirit that came
7 as one after Oklahoma City and continue to
8 address the problems that face this nation,
9 with the ingenuity, with the spirit of you
10 and your cities, we will do it.

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REPORTER'S DEPOSITION CERTIFICATE WITH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, SALLY M. TOMLINSON, do hereby certify authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing speech; and that the transcript is a true record of the speech given.

Dated this 19th day of June, 1995.

Sally M. Tomlinson

SALLY M. TOMLINSON

STATE OF FLORIDA:

COUNTY OF DADE:

The foregoing certificate was acknowledged me this 19 day of June, 1995, by SALLY M. TOMLINSON, who is personally known to me.

Loures M Duenas

Notary Public, State of Florida

My Commission Expires:

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