

Feb. 8 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

to setting national standards that will challenge our students, encourage partnerships between parents, schools, and communities, and guarantee that our young people have the skills they need to compete in the global marketplace.

I look forward to swift agreement between the House and Senate on these critical investments in our Nation's future.

Statement by the Press Secretary on House Banking Committee Access to Iraq-Related Documents

February 8, 1994

President Clinton on February 4 restored the access of the House Banking Committee to classified material and ordered relevant Federal agencies to declassify certain Iraq-related documents requested by the committee.

In a letter to Banking Committee Chairman Henry Gonzalez, the President said, "I am very pleased to tell you that in view of your October 28 letter and your pledge to protect the confidentiality of classified information provided by the administration, we have decided, effective immediately, to restore fully your committee's access to classified information. This action will resolve an unfortunate and long-standing difficulty that has severely interfered in the committee's relations with the executive branch."

Accordingly, the President has directed relevant agencies of the Federal Government to provide the committee access to the classified information it has requested in connection with its investigation of BNL and pre-war policy to-

ward Iraq. Consistent with past practice and policy, access will be subject to arrangements to protect intelligence sources and methods as well as ongoing law enforcement investigations.

The President also ordered relevant Federal agencies to declassify and disclose to the public Iraq-related documents requested by the committee concerning the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL), Cardoen, Matrix-Churchill, Gerald Bull, and U.S. policy toward Iraq immediately preceding the Persian Gulf war. The President also indicated that agencies will review for declassification other specific documents identified by the committee as necessary to carry out the purposes of its investigation. The administration will declassify these documents to the maximum extent possible, excluding from public release only: (1) material that must remain classified; (2) material whose disclosure would compromise privacy rights; and (3) material that reveals executive branch deliberations.

Remarks at Prince Georges County Correctional Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland

February 9, 1994

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. And Dr. Brown, thank you for all the work you have done to develop the drug strategy. Thank you, Adele Hayes, for this fine program we came here to celebrate today. And thank you, Mr. Saxton, for having us here.

I was a little uncomfortable about how hard you all laughed at the—[laughter]—it occurred to me that this could be one of the great moments in American history for people who hate politicians. You've got the President, the Vice

President, half the Cabinet, and a substantial portion of the Congress all in jail at the same time. [Laughter]

I want to say a special word of thanks, too, to Joseph Mundo, because I know how hard it was for him to stand up here and give that talk. And I thank you, sir, for doing it.

We have introduced a lot of people here today, and I don't want to lengthen that. But there are two people that I think it's very, very important to recognize as I get into what our

administration's approach to the drug issue will be, because it is clear to me and has been for some time from personal experience that we have to have, in order to succeed here, an enormous effort across this country that goes way beyond the Federal Government and way beyond law enforcement, that involves citizens supporting our common efforts, and that involves some pretty sweeping cultural changes, and there are two Americans here who have done as much to try to fight the drug problem in that way as any people who live in our country. I'd like to ask them to stand and be recognized: the former Secretary of what was then the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the director of the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, Joe Califano, thank you, Joe; and one of our country's most distinguished leaders and the chairman of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, Mr. Jim Burke, is also here.

Ladies and gentlemen, we came here for a real purpose, to announce our antidrug strategy. I do believe it is the most comprehensive one ever, but we wanted to come here to illustrate that this is an issue which must be dealt with person by person, one at a time—it's a very human problem—and that it requires those of us who are trying to deal with it to take certain steps and those who have already suffered from alcohol or drug abuse to take even stronger steps.

I believe very much in what we are doing today from two angles. One is, the first job I ever had, courtesy of the voters, was the job of attorney general; I started out in a law enforcement job. Second is that I have had the questionable privilege of living in a family that has dealt with both alcoholism and drug abuse. I know treatment works. I also know that it is important to be tough as well as caring.

What we are trying to do today is to start our Government on a course that offers the promise of real results to the American people. When I asked Lee Brown to come and be head of the Office of Drug Policy, I told him that for the first time ever I would make the Director a member of my Cabinet, that I recognized that it was folly to believe that 100 or 125 or, for that matter, 1,000 people working in a Federal office in Washington could change the habits and the policies of the American people, that we had to enlist the entire Government.

I daresay this is probably the first time that we've ever had seven Cabinet members on a stage at the same time all manifesting their commitment to dealing with this issue. And there are many others. We'll have a total of 10 just in the next 2 days who will be announcing their part of this battle to implement this strategy. We also have here the Director of our AIDS effort, the head of the Internal Revenue Service, the head of the Secret Service. We have an enormous number of Federal officials here who are not on this stage who have a big part of this endeavor. I say this to illustrate the fact that we have really tried to be very realistic, very hardheaded to try to take some time to think about what it is we can do and what it is the rest of America has to do to reinvigorate this Nation's fight against the scourge of drugs.

We know we have to build on the works of parents and community leaders who did so much to bring down casual drug use in the 1980's. We know we have to add to the success of law enforcement authorities who have proved there are things you can do that work. We know that where energies have been deployed effectively, whether it was cracking down on pushers, cracking down on drug networks, or building up people like this man who spoke so eloquently today, that they can make progress.

We also know some pretty tough facts. We know that hardcore drug abuse in America has continued unabated. We know that its persistence represents the threat to the stability of our society and the economic future of our country. We know that no nation can fight crime and drugs without dealing honestly and forthrightly with the problem of drug addiction. As I said in my State of the Union Address, we need an approach to crime and drugs that is both tough and smart. We very often have one without the other, and we paid a price for that, as well.

The crime bill and this strategy we announced today puts more into law enforcement than we've ever put before. It does more to keep drugs off the street. It does more than ever before to help hard-core drug users into treatment programs where they belong. It is a new national attack on drug addictions.

The craving for drugs is an enormous factor in a lot of our problems: the rise of violence, the spread of AIDS, the spiraling costs of health care. Every time I have one of my town meetings on health care, I tell the American people

we have to do some things to provide health care to all Americans and bring down the cost, but we have to be honest. No health care proposal can solve all the problems that lead American health care to be more expensive than any other country. And one big one health care cannot solve is the fact that we pay more for violence because we've got our emergency rooms full of people who have been cut up and shot. We pay more to deal with AIDS. And both those things are the direct result, in large measure, of our very high rate of drug abuse. You know it, and I know it. So if we want to deal with this problem, we have to face it.

You also heard Mr. Mundo say in such powerful terms that he lost everything. We know that drug abuse is a big factor in the breakdown of families, in the increase in joblessness, in the increase in homelessness. How many people—every day when I go out for my run at the White House, I see what seems like an ever-increasing number of people who are living homeless within three or four blocks of the White House. And you know every one of them has a personal life story, many of them, a story that involves drugs.

We know if you go to any children's hospital in any sizable city today and you go to the ward where the little babies are, you'll see baby after baby after baby born with an addiction to drugs. We know that now many of our streets are too dangerous to walk and our schools even dangerous to attend. I met a young man about a year ago from Chicago, who was a big, strapping, handsome young fellow who wanted to really make something of his life. And he said that he knew he had to get an education to do it, but he was scared to walk from home to school to get the ticket out of his neighborhood. I've had that scene replayed many times just in the last year with other people.

If we want to, therefore, reduce crime and cut health care costs and reform our welfare system, if we want to rebuild our families and our communities, all these things require a serious effort to curb the use of drugs. Part of it is enforcement. The crime bill now before the Congress is part of that strategy. It would put another 100,000 police officers on the street. It would provide boot camps for juvenile offenders. It would provide dramatic increases in support for drug courts, very successful drug courts, like the ones in Florida, New York, California, and the District, where court-ordered rehabilita-

tion programs have cleaned people up and freed prison cells for truly violent criminals. The Miami drug court has treated 4,500 first offenders since 1987, with a rearrest rate of only 11 percent.

We know these kinds of initiatives will support the efforts of community grassroots efforts, like the one sponsored by Monsignor East and his parishioners in Washington who started an orange-hat brigade, where community leaders patrol streets in bright orange hats, sending a message that drugs and drug trade won't be tolerated. There are thousands of groups like this all across America who work with police to shut down crack houses and take their neighborhoods back.

Last Friday, the Vice President and the Cabinet outlined our new plan to help residents of public housing rid themselves of crime and drugs. We can't do that unless people at the grassroots participate and take the lead. But we have to also do our part. The most effective things mobilize all the resources of a community. And that's what our strategy seeks to support.

We also seek to support a new, more drug-free America through prevention. We need to reach people before they get started through prevention and early intervention, especially among our young people before they enter middle school, much less high school or college. The latest statistics show an increase in drug use among the young. Our children need a constant drum beat reminder that drugs are not safe; drugs are not good; drugs are illegal; there will be consequences for using them.

I know a lot of these programs work. I saw them work in the schools where my child attended when she was very, very young. I saw the impact that a law enforcement officer in a uniform, talking to children who had never before had a positive human personal relationship with an authority figure, could have in these schools. I know we can do it. And our proposal provides a substantial increase in funds to support those kinds of activities.

We also know we have to do more in the workplace. Drug-free programs at work can be every bit as important and effective as drug-free programs at school. Our strategy supports programs like these and calls on everyone in a position of influence to do their part.

Finally, we have to have some more effort at treatment. This strategy recognizes that drug

addiction is a disease, that it can and should be treated, and that treatment can work, as Adele said. We're letting hardcore drug users know that if you're an addict caught in the cycle of drug abuse, we can help you to get the help you need. Our goal is to get 140,000 more hardcore users into treatment in the next year, 140,000 more, targeting chronic hardcore users, including adults and juveniles under the supervision of criminal authorities, along with pregnant women and children.

Every dollar we spend on treatment will save seven dollars America is losing today. It will make up for lost productivity. It will save money we are using now to fight the problem instead of to prevent it. This target is a significant start that allows us to expand programs as the effectiveness of service and research findings grow.

One of the most important parts from your perspective of our health care proposal is that it would include drug treatment as part of health care coverage. This is a very important thing. We have to recognize that until we have the appropriate level of treatment on demand without delay, we will continue to pay for a problem that we can reduce. You know treatment works. It's time for the Congress to recognize it in the form of the budgets we have presented and for America to aggressively embrace it in the way you have at this institution.

We also recognize we need to try to do something to control the supply. Strategy calls for what we strongly believe is an improvement of our international drug control programs, shifting away from a policy that was focused largely on interdiction—that is stopping the drugs when they were on the way to the United States—to a three-pronged approach: working with countries in which drugs are grown that have the political will to go after the kingpins in those countries; destroying the cartels that grow rich from supplying our people with drugs; and continuing our interdiction effort, hopefully with better technology and smarter efforts that allow us to interdict even more drugs. That is very important. We should not stop it, but we must supplement those efforts so that we can be more successful.

Dr. Brown has said, yes, we want to continue our presence at the border to interdict drugs, but we don't want to wait for people at the border anymore. He says he's tired of swatting hornets, he'd rather go after the hornet's nest. And that's a pretty good line.

I might say our friends and neighbors beyond our borders should welcome this. We have seen in nation after nation how international drug trafficking is a threat to democratic institutions. It fuels human rights abuses and terrorism against the innocent. It undermines legitimate, broadbased economic development. It contributes to regional instability. Many of the countries that deal with this problem will never become what they want to be until they're able to be rid of it. We ought to help them, for ourselves and for their own people as well.

This is an important part of our foreign policy toward major source countries and major transit countries. We have to make it an important part of our commitment to promoting democracy, economic reform, and human rights. None of that's going to happen in countries dominated by people who dictate events because of the profits of the drug trade.

Finally, let me end where I began. From my own personal experience, in my family as well as my work in law enforcement as an attorney general and a Governor, I believe still that once it occurs, drug addiction has to be overcome one person at a time. In the past year as President, I've spoken about drugs on 85 separate occasions. And I can keep talking about this until I, once again, lose my voice, but you and I know that we're not going to make a dent in this problem except by having it happen, one person at a time. If this man had not chosen to take some responsibility for his own life, then this fine program would still be just another expenditure of taxpayer money.

The newly inaugurated mayor of Detroit, Dennis Archer, offered a challenge to his city when he was sworn into office. I'd like to quote it for you now because it equals what I think we're facing. He said, and I quote, "To the people of Detroit, stand with me when I tell the dope man to get off our streets, to leave our children alone, to get out of our way. We're taking back our streets, and we're taking back our children."

Well, Mayor Archer can't do it alone. Monsignor East can't do it alone. But this administration and the entire weight of State and local government can't do it alone either. The people of this country have got to take responsibility for themselves, their children, and their neighbors. If we work with them, if we say we know hardcore drug users can't do it alone, the help they need is treatment, the help they need is

support, then I think we can make a real profound difference.

I want every American, every Member of Congress, every State official, everybody who works for a mayor or a city government to join me in putting this strategy to work. This is a national strategy, not a Federal strategy. I don't want it to become partisan in any way, shape, or form. This should unite us in America: people in the private sector, people in Government, people at the local level, people at the national level, Republicans and Democrats, people who are inside this institution, and people who are beyond its walls. We have a common interest in saving our country. And all of us have a

personal responsibility to pursue. This drug strategy we announce today is our attempt to be your partner and pursue our personal responsibility. And together, together we can do it.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:22 p.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Adele Hayes, human services coordinator, Awakening; Sam Saxton, director, Prince Georges County Correctional Center; Joseph Del Mundo, former drug treatment client; and Monsignor Raymond G. East, pastor, St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church, Washington, DC.

Teleconference With Mayors and an Exchange With Reporters February 9, 1994

The President. Hello. Mayor Daley, Mayor White, Mayor Rice, Mayor Minor, welcome to the telephone conversation. I'm here with the Attorney General and with our Director of Drug Policy, Lee Brown. And we're glad to visit with you.

Today I'm happy to announce that the four cities you represent and 30 others and towns across our country will receive the second round of grants to put more police on the street and to expand community policing.

The Justice Department has now received applications from 3,000 communities across the country and awarded grants in more than 100 cities and towns. It's obvious that every community in our country is coming to the same conclusion, that more police officers on the street, properly trained and properly placed, will reduce the crime rate. And these grants today are another downpayment on our pledge to put 100,000 new officers on the streets.

I've asked Congress, as I think all of you know, to send me a comprehensive crime bill as soon as possible that does that, that puts 100,000 police officers on the street, bans assault weapons, expands boot camps, prisons, and drug courts, and says to violent offenders, "Three strikes and you're out."

I've also provided funding for that crime bill in this budget through the 5-year, \$22 billion violent crime reduction trust fund that takes the money we're going to save from reducing the

Federal bureaucracy by 250,000 over 5 years and pays for the police officers.

Earlier today, Lee Brown and I announced our new drug control strategy, which expands drug treatment programs as well as provides more police officers on the street. These two items in our budget got bigger increases than almost anything else. Community policing went up \$1.7 billion. The drug budget went up \$1 billion, even though we were cutting half the Government Departments and 60 percent of the line items in the budget.

So I am very encouraged that at least we're beginning to make our contribution to this effort. I want to thank all of you for what you're doing to fight crime in your communities. I want to give you a chance to be heard today. And as I said, Lee Brown and Janet Reno and I are here, we want to support you, and we want to do everything we can to help you succeed.

Mayor Daley.

[At this point, Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago, IL, and Mayor Michael White of Cleveland, OH, spoke in support of community policing, and Mayor White expressed support for the President's crime bill.]

The President. Thank you very much. We need your support for the crime bill. We need you up here going door to door. And we also need your support for the drug budget because the two things go together.