

Clinton is proposing in assistance to state and local law enforcement. Let me alert my colleagues to what the President is proposing.

Undisclosed by the Administration's spin machine and most media reports, President Clinton is proposing more than \$1.5 billion in cuts to state and local crime fighting efforts. Among the programs on the President's chopping block is the entire Violent Offender and Truth in Sentencing Incentive Grant program. This program has, by any measure, been a tremendous success, providing critical seed money to states for bricks and mortar prison construction and thus making our streets safer.

Incarceration deters crime. Dramatic and historic reductions in sentence lengths and the expectation of punishment from the 1950s onward fueled steep increases in crime in the Sixties, Seventies, and Eighties. Only after these incarceration trends began to be reversed in this decade, did crime rates start to fall also.

The Violent Offender and Truth in Sentencing Incentive Grant program has been an important component of this effort. In response to federal assistance, states have changed their sentencing laws. As the President's own Justice Department reported just last month, because of this program, 70 percent of prison admissions in 1997 were in states requiring criminals to serve at least 85 percent of their sentence. The average time served by violent criminals has increased 12.2 percent since 1993. With such success, why would the President want to eliminate this program?

And he doesn't stop there. Also eliminated in the President's budget is the highly successful Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program, which since 1995 has provided more than \$2 billion in funding for equipment and technology directly to state and local law enforcement. The President wants to cut 20 percent from the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act, which he signed into law just last year, to provide vests to protect officers whose departments otherwise could not afford this life-saving equipment. The President wants to cut \$50 million from the successful and popular Byrne Grant program, which provides funding for numerous state crime-fighting initiatives, and he proposes funding changes that put this program at further risk in future budgets. The President wants to cut by \$85 million funding that reimburses states for the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens. He wants to cut \$4 million from the Violence Against Women program, and \$12.5 million from COPS grants targeting violence against women. And the Clinton budget slashes the entire juvenile accountability block grant, which over the past two years has provided \$500 million for states and local government to address the single most ominous crime threat we face—serious and violent juvenile crime.

Mr. President, the recent gains of state and local law enforcement in the fight against violent crime are fragile, and have been based largely on the Congress's endless push to place the interests of the law abiding over the establishment of new social spending programs. Time and again, Congress has had to remind President Clinton that government's first domestic responsibility is to keep our streets and communities free from crime.

From the earliest days of the Clinton Administration, the President proposed severe cuts in law enforcement. For example, in March 1993, the President took the unprecedented step of firing every incumbent United States Attorney, a move the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts later said contributed to significant declines in federal prosecutions.

In 1994, the President proposed cutting 1,523 Department of Justice law enforcement positions, including 847 in the FBI, 355 in the DEA, and 143 in U.S. Attorney's offices. Congress said no.

In 1996, 1997, and 1998, the President has proposed cuts to state and local law enforcement assistance. Congress has said no.

And ever since 1995, the President has wanted to use badly needed prison construction grants intended for bricks and mortar to fund drug treatment and other social programs not shown to have the same crime deterrent effect. Congress has said no.

Now the President wants to cut the program entirely, and make further cuts in assistance to state and local law enforcement. Let me summarize these cuts:

\$50 million in Byrne grants for state and local law enforcement—Cut.

\$523 million in Local Law Enforcement Block Grants—Cut.

\$645 million in Truth in Sentencing Grants—Cut.

\$85 million for criminal alien incarceration—Cut.

\$250 million for juvenile crime and accountability grants—Cut.

\$4 million in Violence Against Women Grants—Cut.

\$12.5 million in COPS grants targeting domestic violence—Cut.

Even the President's own COPS program—\$125 million Cut.

And what does the President want to fund? \$200 million for a program to turn prosecutors into social workers, who "focus on the offender, rather than the specific offense," and provide punishments such as recreational programs for criminals up to age 22 who commit violent offenses, including weapons offenses, drug distribution, hate crimes, and civil rights violations.

It appears that Congress will have to say no again, and once again remind President Clinton that our government's first domestic duty is to protect the people from crime and violence. I will have more to say in the coming days about the President's budget and the Judiciary Committee's agenda, but suffice it to say, however, that I find

President Clinton's budget for Administration of Justice spending is in need of significant attention.

I intend to see that this budget and administration of justice programs get that attention. As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to advise my colleagues that a priority of the Committee this year will be the reauthorization of the Department of Justice. Included in this will be efforts to address expiring authorizations from the 1994 crime law, a number of which have been vital to assisting state and local government in reducing crime. I hope and expect that we will consider, on a bipartisan basis, the important funding and policy questions inherent in this effort, so to ensure that the Department can continue into the next century its important mission of upholding the rule of law.

We will hold a series of hearings, both in the newly established Criminal Justice Oversight Subcommittee and at Full Committee, with the goal being to ensure that the Department of Justice is making the most of the precious law enforcement dollars appropriated and that essential law enforcement priorities are being met for the American people.

Mr. President, I appreciate my colleagues' attention. I look forward to working with them on these important matters. I thank the Chair, and yield the floor.

#### RECORD CORRECTION

Mr. REID. On rollcall vote No. 8, the Senator from Maryland, Ms. MIKULSKI, was necessarily absent because of illness. In the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of January 28, her vote was erroneously announced as "aye." Her vote on rollcall vote No. 8 should have been announced as "no." I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD be changed to reflect this correction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### APPOINTMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1928a-1928d, as amended, appoints the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH) as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly during the 106th Congress.

#### APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-83, his appointment of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) to serve as a member of the National Council on the Arts.