

Memorandum on the Ounce of Prevention Council September 13, 1994

Memorandum for the Vice President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Education, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Director of National Drug Control Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

Subject: The Ounce of Prevention Council

The Federal Government must administer its programs and deliver services to the American people in the most efficient, effective, and economical ways possible. To that end, this Administration is committed to streamlining, coordinating, and integrating the related responsibilities, programs, and functions of our various executive branch departments and agencies and to designing solutions to traditionally local problems in a manner that provides greater flexibility to those who implement these solutions—our State and local governments.

It gives me great pleasure to sign into law today the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (“Act”), which attacks this country’s crime and violence problems through a comprehensive, responsible, and bottom-up approach. This Act establishes, among other things, new programs designed to address some of the root causes of criminal and violent behavior. All of these prevention programs are being fully funded through the reduction of the Federal bureaucracy—which was accomplished under the Vice President’s National Performance Review. (Specifically, these reductions were effectuated by Executive Order No. 12839 of February 10, 1993, my memorandum of September 11, 1993, and the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act, approved March 30, 1994, which together directed executive branch departments and agencies to reduce the Federal workforce by 272,900 positions.)

The Act also empowers States and localities by providing these governmental entities with maximum flexibility in administering the Act’s prevention programs. But, unlike similar programs established in the past and in the true meaning of “reinventing government,” this law

sets strict guidelines that ensure that these programs are administered in a manner that is consistent with the Act and fulfills the goals of the programs. Finally, the Act creates the Ounce of Prevention Council (the “Prevention Council” or “Council”) to, among other things, oversee and coordinate the various crime prevention programs governed by the Act.

In order to continue our efforts to streamline, coordinate, and integrate the work and activities of the Federal Government, I hereby order the following:

(i) The Vice President, who leads the National Performance Review and chairs the President’s Community Enterprise Board (the “Board”); the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, who is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Crime Bill; and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall be members of the Prevention Council;

(ii) The Vice President shall serve as the Chair of the Council and shall appoint a staff to support the work of the Council, and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy shall serve as the Council’s Vice Chair;

(iii) The Vice President, to the extent appropriate and permitted by law, shall coordinate and integrate the work of the Prevention Council with the work of the President’s Community Enterprise Board, which is responsible for coordinating across agencies various Federal programs available to distressed communities;

(iv) The Prevention Council shall report to the Board on its activities, which shall include assisting communities in developing bottom-up crime prevention strategies that are sufficiently tailored and flexible to meet the security needs of the communities and evaluating the effectiveness of the programs governed by the Act;

(v) To the extent permitted by law, Prevention Council members shall cooperate with the Vice President in coordinating all of the Administration’s crime prevention programs and in integrating the work of the Council and the Board; and

(vi) Each executive branch department and agency represented on the Council shall dedicate the personnel and administrative support

necessary for the Council to fulfill its missions and responsibilities.

With this structure, I am confident that we will be able to provide communities in distress

with a single Federal forum dedicated to helping them address their economic and security needs.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: H.R. 3355, approved September 13, was assigned Public Law No. 103-322.

Statement on Senate Action on Banking Legislation September 13, 1994

Today this country took an historic step, one that has been delayed for much too long, to help American banks better meet the needs of our people, our communities, and our economy. By joining the House in passing the interstate banking bill, the Senate has gone beyond gridlock to eliminate unnecessary barriers to the competitiveness and efficiency of our banking system while preserving essential prerogatives of the States.

We also welcome the bill's requirement that the Treasury, with the assistance of a broadly representative advisory committee, study and make recommendations on the future shape of financial services in the United States. American banks have shown over the last several years that they can combine high quality service for all with strong financial performance. Enactment of the interstate bill and the community development and regulatory improvement legislation will help them continue that record.

Remarks on the Reinventing Government Initiative September 14, 1994

Thank you. You know, when the Vice President opened this occasion by saying that he would have to wear his full body suit for 2 years and that the Speaker of the House had been restored to full powers after his surgery came out all right, I couldn't help thinking, it took reinventing Government to get him on David Letterman—[laughter]—and now this terrible accident—but he's actually become the funniest person in the administration as a result of these two projects.

There is no effort that he has spared to promote this project. You remember he even went on the Letterman show to smash an ashtray. And he has now been invited, as part of our followup to show we're making progress, to go on the show again, where he will read a top five list; showing that we can do more with less, he will make each one of them twice as funny as any top 10 list that was there. [Laughter]

I want to thank Dr. Mendoza, Mr. Torno, Ms. Holstein for traveling here to tell your stories. For all the facts and figures and charts about the success of reinventing Government, the thing that really counts is that the benefits are being felt the way they ought to be by the American people, in a very personal and immediate way. And of course, we hope as a result of this occasion today and the followup report, that the rest of the American people will see that we are changing the way the Federal Government works.

I want to thank the successful teams who made these particular stories possible: Erskine Bowles and the "Low Doc" team from the Small Business Administration who cut a 100-page application down to one page; Customs Commissioner George Weise, the Assistant Commissioner Samuel Banks, and Lynn Gordon for their team in the Miami office, who realized that becoming partners with airlines and shippers is a win-win situation; my old friend James Lee