I am more convinced now than ever that we have to keep doing this, that we have to make this reinventing Government a permanent process, and that there are serious structural issues which still have to be addressed. Washington needs to work for ordinary middle class Americans. And in order to do that, we have got to find a way to open this process up so that the public interest can always overwhelm particular interest in matters of great importance.

That’s why Congress must also finish the job it has begun, passing a tough campaign finance reform bill, a lobbying reform bill, and the bill that requires Congress to live under the laws it imposes on the rest of Americans, before the end of this session. All three of these actions have broad bipartisan support in both Houses. Two of the bills have passed both Houses and await conference resolution. The House of Representatives has overwhelmingly passed the third one. We need to move forward. These are actions that Americans deserve and demand, and they will help them to believe that the rest of these things are also occurring, as well.

Meanwhile, I assure you that we will be unrelenting in our efforts to continue reinventing Government, to give you a Government that costs less, does more, empowers employees, and listens to the people who pay for it. We will measure our progress not only in terms of bills passed and money saved but in terms of people better served. You met some of those satisfied citizens today. We’re committed to making a lot more satisfied citizens in the months and years to come.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:45 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Emilio Mendoza, president/CEO, Galactic Technologies, Inc., San Antonio, TX; Art Torno, managing director, American Airlines, Miami, FL; Alameda Holstein, disaster victim, East Northridge, CA; and Beatrice Gonzales, FEMA disaster assistance employee praised by Ms. Holstein for her help.
more time in jail automatically. It not only helps serious crime or belong to a gang, you can get cally be tripled.

If you use the penalty for criminals who lure children into the drug trade. And from now on, if you use a child to sell drugs, the penalty will automatically be tripled.

Violence in and around the home is still a terrible problem in this country, and it gives us the tools to do something about it. It has some innovative provisions for boot camps and drug courts, and other innovations which we know have worked to lower the crime rate and to give people the chance to live a safer and more secure life.

These are just some of the examples of what is in the crime bill. Much of America does not know everything that’s in the crime bill yet, but many people in the law enforcement community don’t know everything that’s in the crime bill yet. The penalties for selling drugs to residents of public housing are doubled. There are increased penalties for felons who commit crimes with guns, for criminals who use assault weapons, for those who sell guns to minors.

All of these things have to be implemented in order to work. The most important thing I want to emphasize today is the sweeping ban on handgun possession by minors. If we can enforce this, it will make a massive difference in the problem of youth violence. So let’s come back here in 100 days with a plan to do it, and let’s start the next year, 1995, with a system in place that will prove that the confidence of people in this crime bill is not misplaced, and that we are going to lower crime, reduce violence, and increase security in the United States with your leadership.

Thank you very much.

Now I would like to introduce Mary Jo White and Michael Stiles, and they’re going to speak, and maybe they’ll ask me to do something, since I asked you to do something.

The Attorney General said that’s dangerous; they’ll ask for money. I’ve gotten good at saying no to that. [Laughter]

Let me also say, just as I introduce Mary Jo and Michael, because I know they are the leaders of this task force representing you in working with the Attorney General, we have worked very hard here at the White House and in the Justice Department in the appointment of United States Attorneys, in the appointment of Federal judges, and we are proud of the
job that we have done because of the job that you are doing and the job you will do. And I want you to know that that is also, to me, a very important part of the President’s job, and I spend a great deal of time on it.

So I want to emphasize again, as I ask Mary Jo and Michael to come up here, that one of the things that I have been so pleased about the Attorney General’s performance in doing is bringing you here on a regular basis and involving you in a regular way in making the policy of the Justice Department. Because for most Americans, the policy of the Justice Department is not the decisions we make about what appeals to enter into or what position to take on appeals; for most Americans, the policy of the Justice Department is what you do all day every day, and we thank you for that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:40 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Interview With Wire Service Reporters on Haiti
September 14, 1994

The President. I asked you in here today because I want to talk a little about Haiti. As you know, I am going to the country tomorrow night, and I will have more to say then. But I wanted to emphasize the interests of the United States and the values of the United States that are at stake in this situation and to just remind you and, through you, the American people of what the United States has done here for the last 3 years.

Let me begin by saying that the report of the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, John Shattuck, yesterday highlights the interest we have there that has gotten so much worse. This is plainly the most brutal, the most violent regime anywhere in our hemisphere. They have perpetrated a reign of terror in Haiti, and it is getting worse.

I just had a long meeting with John Shattuck, and he left me, just for example, these pictures as illustrative of what is going on there that you may want to look at of people who have been killed: This man killed in the slums, in Port-au-Prince, disemboweled in the—[inaudible]; this man, a distinguished supporter of the elected President, dragged out of church and murdered; this woman horribly disfigured. And we have examples now of the slaughter of orphans: the killing of a priest, in small towns killing people and dismembering them and then burying them and leaving parts of their bodies to stick out to terrify people. We have clear examples of widespread use of political rape, that is, rape against wives and daughters to intimidate people, children included. We now know there have been over 3,000—well over 3,000 political murders since the military coup occurred.

So the human rights violations and the situation there, right on our back door, is very, very significant.

The second point I’d like to make is that the United States clearly has an interest in preventing another massive outflow of refugees, which are plainly going to flow from this if the international community does not act to put an end to it. We already have over 14,000 Haitian refugees at Guantanamo; many thousands of others have come——

Q. How many?

The President. Over 14,000. Many thousands of others had come to the shores of the United States or attempted to, as you know. We’re going to have a massive immigration problem that we will have to pay for, with thousands of dislocated people.

The third thing I want to emphasize is a point that has been made repeatedly to me by leaders in the region, in the Caribbean, and has been echoed by the person who was in charge of Latin American policy under the previous administration, and that is that we have a decided interest in seeing democracy succeed in Haiti. We have now 33 of the 35 countries in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America are democratic governments. Cuba is not and has not been for a very long time. But Haiti is the only one where there was an election and then a military coup negated it. Ninety percent of the people in Haiti voted;