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just have to see what happens with the military-to-military contacts. The most important thing now is that we get something that is, a, verifiable and, b, that will work—which means we have to know that they're withdrawing; we have to have a schedule for the introduction of the international force.

Keep in mind the big picture here. The big picture is to reverse the ethnic cleansing, to bring the Kosovars home, to have them safe and be able to govern themselves, and to have an international security force with NATO at the core. So we have to watch for the big picture. And that's why even yet, and notwithstanding this very good development, we have to sound some note of caution here. We have to work on it.

Movie Ratings/Youth Violence

Q. On the movie ratings, sir, did you seek greater enforcement because Hollywood was lukewarm to the idea of signing on to the national campaign against violence in film?

The President. No. No, I think there should be greater enforcement of the existing laws, that Congress should pass the commonsense gun legislation that I've recommended. And there should be a national grassroots campaign against youth violence.

I'll make you a prediction: I believe that there will be a significant number of people in the entertainment community who will participate in it, because a lot of them have said something to me about it. And I think that the public ambivalence you see is more their uncertainty about, well, are we agreeing to censorship; are we getting into trouble here? But I think if they just go back to the beginning—which is, we've got a lot of children in trouble in this country; they're subject to too much violence through media and cultural contacts, and it's too easy for them to get guns. And if we all work at it that way, so that nobody is pointing a finger at anybody else, I think we'll have good participation from the entertainment community, and I'll be surprised if we don't.

Mrs. Clinton's Possible Senate Bid

Q. Do you think you'd really be happy as a Senate husband?

Q. Is there any doubt she'll run, sir?

The President. I'll be happy if she's doing what she wants.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:36 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Representatives of the National Association of Theatre Owners and an Exchange With Reporters

June 8, 1999

The President. Good afternoon. Please be seated.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you won't be confused when I tell you that I have just met with the representatives of NATO, and we talked about the movies. [*Laughter*] I am, of course, referring to a somewhat different NATO than we usually discuss around here—the National Association of Theatre Owners.

We had a very good discussion, and I want to thank NATO President Bill Kartozian and his colleagues who are here with him for the efforts they are making to make sure that we work together to prevent youth violence, and the ways the theater industry, in particular, can help in that cause.

It has been less than 2 months since the tragedy at Columbine High School seared itself into our national consciousness. Ever since that day, our country has been moving steadily away from a culture of youth violence toward creating the kind of future we want for our children. People from all walks of life are coming together in a national grassroots campaign to prevent youth violence, to give our children the childhoods they deserve.

We all know that parents are the first and most important influences on their children, but we know, too, that the demands on them are increasing, and as more and more parents work outside the home, they have less and less time with their children. On average, families now have a life in which parents spend about 22 hours a week less at home than parents did a generation ago. Over the 18 years of a child's childhood, that amounts to more than 2 years' time.

Since my first days as President, we have worked hard to help parents better balance the demands of home and work. One of the ways we've tried to do that is to give parents better tools to make immediate but informed judgments about the shows their children watch, the music they hear, the video games they play. We've worked hard to give parents new tools like the V-chip, which by the end of next month will be in half the new television sets sold in America and will help parents to block violent programming from their living rooms. We've also made progress on parental screening for the Internet and ratings for Internet game sites.

But we must do more. We must ensure that children are not the targets of violence in marketing. That's why last week I asked the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to study the extent to which the video game, movie, and music industries market violence to children and whether those industries are abiding by their own voluntary systems of regulation.

For rating systems to work, they must also be enforced, not simply by watchful parents but by retailers at the point of sales and theater owners at the multiplex. The great thing about the multiplex is that there's a movie for every member of the family, but not every movie is for every member of the family. When you drop them off, you shouldn't have to worry about your G-rated kids getting into violent or suggestive R-rated movies. Too often children do get past the ticket counter, unescorted and underage.

I'm pleased to announce today the theater owners are clearly drawing the line. The Nation's largest group of theater owners has asked—has agreed to ask young people for ID's at R-rated movies. From now on, parents will know that the R-rating means what it is supposed to mean—restricted, no one under 17 without a parent or guardian, and no exceptions.

Last month, when I challenged the theater owners to step up to this responsibility, I could only have hoped that they would respond so quickly. So again, let me applaud Bill Kartozian, his organization, and all their members for doing their part. I know we have parents here representing the PTA, and I want to thank them for coming, and I know they join me in applauding this action.

Let me also say that I hope that, as the recess ends, the Congress will do its part. Next week the House will take up important legislation already passed by the Senate to help prevent youth violence by commonsense measures to keep guns out of the hands of children. They closed the deadly gun show loophole, required that safety locks be sold with every handgun, banned the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips, and banned violent juveniles from owning guns as adults. I strongly urge the House not to riddle this legislation with loopholes, or to delay, but to pass the law, and pass it quickly.

Let me also say I hope others will follow the lead of the theater owners. In our growing national campaign to prevent youth violence, none can stand aside; none should stand in the way. In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to move forward as one nation, striving to build that better future we all want for our children.

Now, I'd like to ask Bill Kartozian to tell us more about the steps the theater owners have agreed to take. Let's give him a big hand.

Mr. Kartozian.

[*At this point, William F. Kartozian, president, National Association of Theatre Owners, made brief remarks.*]

Situation in the Balkans

Q. Mr. President, are you optimistic on Kosovo?

The President. Well, I'm hopeful. You know, we're going to have—we've got to have the military meeting and work out the details. But the G–8 statement is good.

Q. And how quickly could the peacekeepers go in, do you think?

The President. Well, they're working out the details—I hope shortly, we will know.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.