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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

The emphasis in our effort  
should be ~~protecting~~ the victims  
of crime. The protection of

Crime message  
to the Congress  
1975



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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON *JC*

SUBJECT: Crime Message

Attached is the final Crime Message, which has been revised to reflect your comments.

Pages one and three have been revised to reflect the "domestic tranquility" and "victims of crime" theme of the Yale speech.

Page fifteen has been revised to specifically reflect your views concerning the Federal registration of guns or gun owners.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M. L. F.*  
SUBJECT: Crime Message and Gun Control Proposals

Yesterday afternoon, Bob Wolthuis and Ken Lazarus went to the Hill and met with the following Members regarding the Crime Control Message:

<u>SENATE</u>	<u>HOUSE</u>
Helms	Holt
McClure	Dingell
Hansen	Sikes
Fannin	Waggoner
Goldwater	
Hruska	
McClellan	

The following, except where noted, is a consensus of the opinions they expressed:

1. With the exception of Senator Helms, Senator McClure and Mrs. Holt, they all felt that the "Saturday Night Special" would be a legitimate ban if it could be defined acceptably, and if the ban stopped there. Most expressed doubt that this would happen.
2. Senator Goldwater, quoting the Los Angeles Chief of Police, said that he was okay on "Saturday Night Specials" The others took the position that among conservatives, the gun lobby and the gun owners, it would be perceived as only the first step towards a total ban on handguns.
3. Except for Senators Goldwater, Hruska and McClellan, there was unanimous agreement that the proposal on "Saturday Night Specials" would be very damaging to the President on the political right. McClure and Helms stressed that it would be a very volatile issue for Wallace, and Dingell and Sikes made the same comment about Reagan.

4. Dingell stressed that it would also be damaging to the President in Western and Midwestern States in the November '76 election, and in the Republican National Convention.
5. Senator Helms said, "Bye-Bye Jerry." He said as far as the conservative right is concerned, this would be another "Rockefeller appointment."
6. There was also near unanimous feeling, and expressed most strongly by Sikes and Dingell, that the "Saturday Night Special" will not make the President any political friends in the middle and on the left. The proposal does not go far enough to satisfy them. (McClellan and Hruska said nothing on this.)
7. Dingell stressed that it would be a mistake to open up the 1968 law if the "Saturday Night Special" proposal is sent up to the Congress. He felt it should not be in the form of amendments to the 1968 Act. He argued that the 1968 law has never really been enforced.
8. Dingell felt that a proposal to ban "Saturday Night Specials" will not be the end legislative product. He thinks the liberals may well be able to enact a licensing and registration law. He asked how the President would react to that.
9. Without exception, there was strong support for the mandatory penalties provision in the message. Senator McClure and Congressman Sikes both recommended that it also appear in the message in the gun control section.
10. Senator Hruska had no objection whatever to the substance or the merits. Ken Lazarus thinks he would prefer nothing, though this was not expressed today by Hruska. Hruska did, however, say "Looks good and I can support all of it."
11. If we go with the message as now constituted, most felt we should include more details on the definition of "Saturday Night Specials" and on bonafide dealers.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Jim Cannon

*Jim*

Attached, at Tab A, is a paragraph that the Attorney General has recommended be added to your crime message.

The Attorney General is concerned that if the message does not contain some reference to white-collar crime, certain news reporters will focus on and exploit this aspect.

The paragraph he suggests would be inserted after the first paragraph on page 19.

The Counsel to the President and I concur in the Attorney General's recommendation.

Agree

*WAF*

Disagree

\_\_\_\_\_



Finally, white-collar crime is taking an increasing toll in terms of financial and social costs. The United States Chamber of Commerce recently reported that in 1974 white-collar crime cost the public approximately \$40 billion, excluding the costs of price-fixing and industrial espionage. In addition to direct economic losses, white-collar crime can destroy confidence in and support for the nation's economic, legal and political institutions. In recognition of the gravity of the impact of white-collar crime, I have directed the Attorney General to undertake new initiatives to coordinate all Federal enforcement and prosecutorial efforts against white-collar crime.