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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

June 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Jim Cannon *June*  
SUBJECT: Bob McClory's Letter of June 3

*GRY*

You have asked if Bob McClory's letter of June 3 (copy attached) has been reviewed. The answer is "Yes."

Dick Parsons has worked closely with Bob and members of his staff on the crime issue during the past few months, and has carefully reviewed Bob's letter.

Virtually all of the issues raised in the letter were touched upon during your recent meeting with the Attorney General concerning the Crime Message. Most of Bob's suggestions have been positively addressed in the message.

I will call Bob and brief him on the contents of the message prior to its transmittal.

Room 2452  
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 223-5221

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
INTELLIGENCEU.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY  
UNION DELEGATION

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 3, 1975

KANE COUNTY  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
150 DEXTER COURT  
ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120  
(312) 637-5005

LAKE COUNTY  
POST OFFICE BUILDING  
326 NORTH GENESEE STREET  
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS 60085  
(312) 335-4334

McHENRY COUNTY  
McHENRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
2260 SEMINARY ROAD  
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS 60093  
(815) 333-2040

The Honorable  
Gerald R. Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

*MP*  
In connection with your forthcoming message to the Congress on the subject of crime, I would strongly recommend that you would include a number of subjects which can contribute to the reduction of crime in America.

First, it seems to me extremely important to emphasize the need to create additional Federal judgeships. The measure which I cosponsored earlier this year to add 65 additional Federal District Court Judges is languishing in the House Judiciary Committee with no hearings scheduled. My requests to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee urging hearings on this legislation have gone unheeded.

Second, extension and even expansion of the Law Enforcement Assistance Act should be recommended as the principal means of encouraging and expanding control of crime by local and state authorities. Any diminution of this principle would appear to be a retreat from the goal of more effective investigation and prosecution of criminals.

Third, an affirmative response should be provided to the demand for improved gun control laws. Such laws can be directed primarily against the criminal misuse of handguns without imposing substantial inconvenience on law-abiding citizens who purchase and possess handguns for legitimate purposes. In the light of the escalating rate of handgun crime, the following improvements and changes in current federal law seem essential:

(a) The loopholes in the Gun Control Act of 1968 which have permitted the increase in the illicit interstate traffic and criminal misuse of handguns should be closed. This would require in the first place the prohibition of the domestic manufacture of the cheap poorly constructed handgun known as the "Saturday Night Special," which currently accounts for approximately fifty percent of traceable handguns used in crime. These "Specials" can not be imported into the United States, but there is no prohibition of either the importation of their parts or their domestic manufacture. Closing the loopholes would also require a reduction in the number of federally licensed firearms dealers to include only persons legitimately engaged in the firearms business and a limitation on the ability of pawnbrokers to deal in firearms. Other minor gaps in the 1968 Act should be closed such as the failure of that Act to regulate firearms replicas which

are increasingly being used in violent crimes.

(b) The funds and personnel of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms should be increased above the current law levels which are totally unacceptable in the light of the responsibilities of that Bureau in the regulation of firearms, explosives, alcohol, tobacco, and wagering. Moreover, your administration should move against the gun traffickers and criminals who use firearms in violent crimes, much as the Federal government moved against organized crime in the early 1960's.

(c) The recordkeeping requirements of current law should be improved to enable the federal government to trace firearms to facilitate the investigation and apprehension of persons who use firearms in the commission of crime. Current federal law constitutes sufficient authority to require firearms dealers to submit to the Treasury Department the records of sales of handguns; these records could be retained on a confidential basis and used in the tracing process. Equally as important is the need for a requirement that handgun owners record with either the federal government or the states their ownership of handguns, and any transfer, loss or theft of such handguns. Finally, a system of the identification of handgun owners should be created to ensure that only law abiding citizens can acquire and possess handguns. Such systems could be designed to be financially self-supporting.

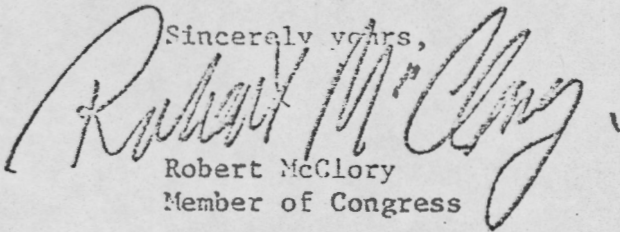
(d) Mandatory criminal penalties, especially mandatory prison sentences, should be imposed for all crimes of violence, but especially for crimes with firearms.

Fourth, I strongly urge that you omit any specific recommendation to provide compensation for victims of crime. While such a measure has been passed by the Senate in previous Congresses, and several such bills are currently pending in both the Senate and the House, I have my doubts about the efficacy and wisdom of such a program. The potential expense to the U. S. Treasury of such a program could rival that of a National Health Program -- and would certainly involve Federal expenditures which might be estimated in terms of billions of dollars. Your assurance that no new spending programs would be approved by your Administration would seem to preclude a new massive Federal program aimed at compensating all who are victims of crime. At the very least, I would recommend deferring such a recommendation until an opportunity for more thorough study of this subject has been undertaken.

Fifth, the causes and cure of crime cannot possibly be set forth in a single message to the Congress, nor even in the delineation of a number of recommendations. The principal elements in relation to human behavior are the family, the church, the school, the neighborhood -- and the essentially local environment. Stricter enforcement of the law, more responsible behavior on the part of the Judiciary, and improvements in criminal rehabilitation are vital ingredients to a comprehensive solution to the problem of crime in America. There is no reason for a single individual to feel that he or she is excused from making a contribution to a law-abiding society. Public officials at all levels and representatives of management and labor should

be particularly circumspect in helping to provide examples of honorable behavior which can contribute to a more law-abiding society.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert McClory". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert McClory  
Member of Congress

RMCC/gc

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES E. CONNOR

THRU: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M.F.*

FROM: VERN LOEN *VL*

Mr. McClory has been notified that a number of his recommendations have been incorporated in the Crime Message.

Rich Parsons is doing a memo to the President in response to his notation concerning Representative McClory's letter.

cc: Rich Parsons

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Jim Cannon

Has Bob McClurg's  
been renewed?

June 5, 1975

Dear Bob:

Many thanks for your June 3 letter and the helpful recommendations you made of areas for consideration in developing proposals for a crime control program.

I have been studying various proposals and working with my advisers on how we can most effectively reach a solution to this problem which is affecting the lives of so many Americans, both directly and indirectly. I appreciate having your input and I have asked my staff to review it most carefully in relation to other proposals now under consideration.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jerry Ford*

The Honorable Robert McClory  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

~~cc:~~ w/incoming to Dick Parsons for further handling

GRF:MLF:EF:VO:vo



ROBERT MCCLORY  
13TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

Room 2452  
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-5221

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
INTELLIGENCE

U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY  
UNION DELEGATION

*Memorandum*

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES  
KANE COUNTY  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
150 DEXTER COURT  
ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120  
(312) 697-5005

LAKE COUNTY  
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326 NORTH GENESSEE STREET  
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS 60085  
(312) 335-4554

McHENRY COUNTY  
McHENRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
2200 SEMINARY ROAD  
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS 60098  
(815) 338-2040

June 3, 1975

The Honorable  
Gerald R. Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

*me*  
In connection with your forthcoming message to the Congress on the subject of crime, I would strongly recommend that you would include a number of subjects which can contribute to the reduction of crime in America.

First, it seems to me extremely important to emphasize the need to create additional Federal judgeships. The measure which I cosponsored earlier this year to add 65 additional Federal District Court Judges is languishing in the House Judiciary Committee with no hearings scheduled. My requests to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee urging hearings on this legislation have gone unheeded.

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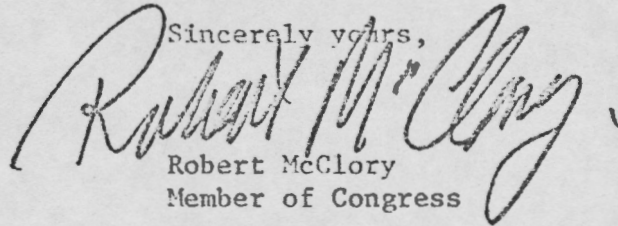
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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert McClory". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert McClory  
Member of Congress

RMCC/gc

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 10, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR



The attached was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation to you:

-- Has Bob McClory's letter  
been reviewed?

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

cc: Don Rumsfeld  
Max Friedersdorf