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**THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....**

**REMARKS FOR CRIME MESSAGE BRIEFING**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1975**

TWO MONTHS AGO, AT YALE UNIVERSITY'S LAW SCHOOL,  
I SPOKE ABOUT A SUBJECT THAT TOUCHES THE LIVES OF ALL AMERICANS --  
CRIME. TODAY, I AM SENDING THE CONGRESS A SPECIAL MESSAGE  
SPELLING OUT IN CONCRETE TERMS THE PROGRAM FOR CURBING CRIME  
AND ENSURING DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY WHICH I ADVOCATED IN THAT  
SPEECH.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED  
TOWARD THE PROTECTION OF THE LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN. FOR TOO LONG,  
THE LAW HAS CENTERED ITS ATTENTION MORE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE  
CRIMINAL THAN ON THE VICTIM OF THE CRIME. IT IS HIGH TIME  
WE REVERSED THIS TREND AND PUT THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THE VICTIMS  
AND POTENTIAL VICTIMS.

EVEN THOUGH THE CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY IN COMBATTING  
CRIME LIES WITH THE STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE LEADERSHIP. IT CAN IMPROVE THE  
QUALITY OF EXISTING FEDERAL LAWS AND THE FEDERAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.  
IT CAN ENACT AND VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE NEW LAWS GOVERNING  
CRIMINAL CONDUCT AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL. AND IT CAN PROVIDE  
FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
IN THEIR EFFORTS TO STEM LAWLESSNESS.

FOR EXAMPLE, I PROPOSE THAT THE CONGRESS ENACT  
MANDATORY PRISON SENTENCES FOR FEDERAL OFFENSES COMMITTED  
WITH FIREARMS OR OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPONS -- AND FOR HIJACKERS,  
KIDNAPPERS, TRAFFICKERS IN HARD DRUGS AND REPEATED FEDERAL  
OFFENDERS WHO COMMIT CRIMES OF VIOLENCE. I URGE STATE  
AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO TAKE SIMILAR STEPS.

I AM UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO FEDERAL REGISTRATION OF GUNS OR GUN OWNERS. I DO PROPOSE THAT THE CONGRESS ENACT LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO USE HANDGUNS FOR CRIMINAL PURPOSES.

I ALSO PROPOSE FURTHER FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS ON SO-CALLED "SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS."

WE CAN AND MUST MAKE OUR LEGAL SYSTEM WHAT IT WAS  
ALWAYS INTENDED -- A MEANS OF INSURING "DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY"  
AND MAKING AMERICA SAFE FOR DECENT, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS.

THIS IS A MATTER OF DEEP PERSONAL CONCERN TO ALL  
AMERICANS. SO I URGE THE CONGRESS TO REFLECT THIS CONCERN  
FOR THE VICTIMS OF CRIME BY ACTING ON THIS MESSAGE IN A PROMPT,  
POSITIVE AND NON-PARTISAN SPIRIT.



TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILS OF THE CRIME MESSAGE,  
I WILL NOW TURN YOU OVER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL EDWARD LEVI.

END OF TEXT