

News from Senator

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CRIME BILL

LET'S GIVE OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICIALS THE AUTHORITY THEY NEED TO STOP CRIMINALS

ON JANUARY 12, PRESIDENT BUSH ASKED CONGRESS FOR THE AUTHORITY TO DO WHAT HAD TO BE DONE TO STOP AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL FROM TERRORIZING A NATION AND A REGION.

THE WORLD IS FOR THE BETTER BECAUSE WE GRANTED THAT AUTHORITY.

MONDAY, PRESIDENT BUSH ASKED CONGRESS TO GIVE OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS THE AUTHORITY TO DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO STOP AMERICA'S CRIMINALS FROM TERRORIZING OUR STREETS AND NEIGHBORHOODS.

AND AMERICA WILL BE FOR THE BETTER IF WE GRANT THIS AUTHORITY, AS WELL.

THE 100 DAY CLOCK IS TICKING

WITH THE TRANSMISSION OF THE "COMPREHENSIVE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL ACT OF 1991," THE CLOCK HAS NOW BEEN SET INTO MOTION. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NOW WAIT TO SEE IF CONGRESS CAN MEET THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE AND APPROVE THIS LEGISLATION WITHIN 100 DAYS.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR LAW ABIDING AMERICANS, CONGRESS SEEMS MORE CONCERNED WITH COMING UP WITH 100 EXCUSES ON WHY WE CAN'T MEET THAT DEADLINE. ALREADY, MEMBERS OF THE OTHER BODY ARE QUIBBLING OVER WHEN THE 100 DAY CLOCK STARTED TO RUN. DID IT START MONDAY, WHEN THE PRESIDENT TRANSMITTED THE PROPOSAL? DOES IT START WHEN THE BILL IS ACTUALLY INTRODUCED? "ARE THOSE CALENDAR DAYS, OR LEGISLATIVE DAYS?" ASKED A HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE STAFFER.

THE HUMAN TOLL OF VIOLENT CRIME

AND WHILE CONGRESS FIDDLES, AMERICA BURNS. BY THE TIME 100 DAYS ROLL AROUND, ANOTHER 6000 AMERICANS WILL BE MURDERED. ANOTHER 37,000 WOMEN WILL BE RAPED. AND ANOTHER 460,000 WILL BE THE VICTIMS OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS.

THE PRESIDENT'S COMPREHENSIVE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL ACT SEEKS TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE THESE NUMBERS BY FOLLOWING FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES.

A SAFE AND SECURE AMERICA

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE IS THAT A PRIMARY PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT IS TO PROTECT CITIZENS AND THEIR PROPERTY. AMERICANS DESERVE TO LIVE IN A SOCIETY IN WHICH THEY ARE SAFE AND FEEL SECURE.

SECOND, THOSE WHO COMMIT VIOLENT CRIMINAL OFFENSES MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

THIRD, OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM SHOULD SEEK THE SWIFT AND CERTAIN APPREHENSION, PROSECUTION, AND INCARCERATION OF THOSE WHO BREAK THE LAW.

AND FINALLY, IF WE ARE TO WIN THE WAR AGAINST CRIMINALS, THEN FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS MUST WORK TOGETHER.

THROUGH A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AND MUCH-NEEDED PROPOSALS, THE PRESIDENT'S PACKAGE MEETS THESE PRINCIPLES.

GETTING TOUGH ON CRIMINALS

IT REFORMS THE HABEAS CORPUS PROCESS, WHICH CRIMINALS HAVE USED TO DELAY THEIR PUNISHMENT, WHILE STICKING TAXPAYERS WITH THE BILL.

IT REFORMS THE EXCLUSIONARY RULE THAT HAS ALLOWED OBVIOUSLY GUILTY CRIMINALS DON'T GO FREE AND TURNED OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM INTO A CRAPSHOOT.

IT CREATES A WORKABLE FEDERAL DEATH PENALTY--A PENALTY DEMANDED BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF AMERICANS.

IT CREATES MANDATORY TEN YEAR PRISON TERMS FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS OR VIOLENT FELONS WHO USE A SEMIAUTOMATIC FIREARM.

IT INCLUDES STIFFER SENTENCES FOR GANG ACTIVITIES, FOR SEX CRIMES, AND FOR SELLING DRUGS TO PREGNANT WOMEN.

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE WEAPONS CONTAINED IN THE PRESIDENT'S CRIME FIGHTING PACKAGE...WEAPONS NEEDED IF WE ARE TO WIN THE BATTLE AGAINST VIOLENT CRIMINALS AND DRUG DEALERS...WEAPONS NEEDED IF WE ARE MAKE OUR STREETS AND OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE AGAIN.

AS PRESIDENT BUSH SAID, OUR SOLDIERS WON THE GULF WAR IN 100 HOURS. SURELY, 100 DAYS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO TAKE THIS MUCH-NEEDED STEP IN THE WAR AGAINST CRIME.

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