

# CLINTON GORE '96

## *Police Departments Across The Nation Commend The President's Courage In Taking On The Powerful Gun Lobby* September 18, 1996

Across America today, local law enforcement officers will hold over 60 press conferences in 45 states to announce their support of President Clinton. Many of these officers endorsed Ronald Reagan and George Bush in recent elections, but now support President Clinton because of his commitment to keeping guns off our streets -- even when it requires taking on the powerful gun lobby.

Thanks to the President's Crime Bill, the Brady Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban, our streets -- and the police officers that patrol them -- are safer. Senator Dole, by comparison, repeatedly opposed the Crime Bill, Brady Bill and Assault Weapons Ban.

***The Brady Bill.*** President Clinton signed the Brady Bill, which institutes a 5-day waiting period for handgun purchases, during which criminal records checks are performed. In less than two years, over 60,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers were turned away by gun shop owners.

Senator Dole, by comparison, filibustered the Brady Bill in 1991 and 1992, and he voted against it in 1993. When the Brady Bill passed, Dole stated, "We lost one."

***Assault Weapons Ban.*** The President's Crime Bill bans 19 of the deadliest assault weapons.

- Because these banned assault weapons are capable of firing dozens of rounds without reloading, they are the weapon of choice of drug dealers and gang members.
- Accounting for only 1 percent of all privately-owned firearms, assault weapons were used in the deaths of over one-third of all police officers killed by guns in the nine-months prior to the Assault Weapons Ban's passage.

Senator Dole opposed the Assault Weapons Ban in 1994. In 1995, Dole promised the National Rifle Association that repealing the "ill-conceived" Assault Weapons Ban was "one of my legislative priorities." Now Dole now says he would "probably" veto a repeal of the ban.

### ***The President's Anti-crime Initiatives Are Working.***

- 44,000 new police officers have been funded and 20,000 are already on the street.
- Violent criminals are serving longer sentences. Criminals convicted of firearm-related or violent crimes are serving 13.5 months more time than under President Bush.
- Crime rates have dropped each year under President Clinton.

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