

Ideas generally

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IDEAS IN PROGRESS AND STATUS

April 4, 1997

1. **Sexual predators.** Thousands of sexual offenders against children are released every year. One state, Arizona, has enacted lifetime supervision for these crimes. In addition, the National Institute of Justice released a report this year titled "Managing Adult Offenders" that describes using lie detector tests (as part of a "containment" model) coupled with lifetime supervision to control recidivism. Proposal: the President should call for lifetime supervision and condition state money on this. We should point out the success of lie detector tests. There is also an upcoming release of grant funds scheduled by NIJ. If taken nationwide, this would make Megan's law truly effective and give concerned neighbors someone they can call. Pro: Obvious. Con: Police state, cost, federalism. Next steps: Follow on grants. Assign.

Don/JP

2. **War Against Heart Attacks.** Topic: 350,000 people die of heart attacks a year. Response times are crucial: deaths diminish by 50% if proper technology is given within 8 minutes. The American Heart Association predicts the proper distribution of new easy to use devices, defibrillators, can save 100,000 people a year. Proposal: AHA has a bill, "Cardiac Arrest Survival Act," to create model state legislation and encourage defibrillator use. American Airlines is putting the devices on overseas flights voluntarily. The bill is being unveiled in two weeks at an AHA conference here (4/17). We should endorse, bully pulpit states, and encourage private sector to follow American Airline's lead. Pro: Saves lives. Con: Government meddling. Liability. Training. Next steps: Assign. Further meetings with AHA.

1/1/97

EA/JP

3. **Hand held alarms for women who are being stalked.** Key problem for women who are being stalked is getting isolated where they can't call for help. Proposal: expand the nascent program already in many cities to give judges the ability to lend an ADT personal alarm (they can be worn around the neck) so she can simply press a button and call the police. The program is already credited with saving 24 women across the country. There is also a similar cell phone effort in some places. Pro: Help combat domestic violence. Could be done as a public-private partnership. Con: "small bore", already being done, will deluge the system. Next steps: Assign

Leanne

4. **Computer Access in the Inner City.** Topic: In the last year, HUD has helped create, at no cost to the federal taxpayer, 100 "Neighborhood Networks" in public or assisted housing to train people in use of computers and give them a chance to get on the machines. Old people use

VP - Kahlenbach

it to find health information, young ones to look for jobs or play on after school. A Presidential visit could encourage their expansion and sustain this public-private partnership. For example there is a successful program in Virginia where FBI does mentoring and private companies have helped construct the facility. These are locally driven projects. Pro: Bold 21st century vision of connected America and world. Con: Costly boondoggle filled with people using the equipment for illegal purposes and then stealing it. Next Steps: look into? I suggest we look to make this bi-partisan and encourage the relevant Committee Chair, Jerry Lewis (R-CA), who likes the project, to participate. Clips attached.

5. Hand held weapons detectors that scan people for guns. Topic: technology has been developed in connection with the Justice Department for hand held gun detector devices. This means police could potentially scan people in public places without their knowledge. Proposal: Federal guidelines to allow officers to scan liberally, particularly in airports, train stations and traffic stops. There is a converted military base in Rome NY where these tests are being successfully carried out. Visit and grant announcement. Pro: we should use every tool to discourage those with guns. Con: This is overkill and carrying concealed weapons is legal in many places. Next step: TF NIJ meeting and assign.

D

6. Schools that drug test. Topic: It has been suggested that schools experiment with competing to have the lowest drug test scores. In some places merchants give awards/credits/coupons to students who have "drug free" cards. Contact who does hair testing is willing to do 10 schools for free. Proposal: Endorse such efforts. Pro: a weapon to make drugs seem undesirable and bring peer pressure on kids. Con: Overkill and 1984esque. Next steps: This is already being done in some places, we should have someone check its efficacy and downsides.

Tam
M

7. Reinstitutionalization of mentally ill homeless. Topic: experts agree that a large percentage of the homeless are mentally ill and deserve better than to be left on our streets. Deinstitutionalization was supposed to provide decentralized care and more liberties for patients. Instead, partially because of budget cuts, these people have been left on their own-- diminishing their quality of life and those around them. Proposal: new federal guidelines to encourage localities to adopt laws which make it easier to institutionalize those on the streets who cannot take care of themselves for reasons of mental health, rather than simply if they are a danger to themselves. Alternative: investigate community commitment, whereby a hospital can recommit on evidence a patient has stopped taken medication and is not capable of caring for themselves. Pro: Improve life for the mentally ill; improve quality of life of cities. Con: Cost, where will the money come from? Civil liberties, who and how will we decide who should lose their freedom?

Chris J.

8. **Boot camps for drug rehab.** Topic: Use physically removed federal property to create intense rehabilitation sites. Pro: Practical and symbolic way of concentrating resources on one of America's key problems. Con: Unwieldy, science is uncertain of efficacy.

TW

9. **Fair Housing Act Hearings.** Hearings coming up on HUD attacks on alleged violations of FHA. DOJ apparently is continuing to enforce. Investigate.

10. **Child Care Task Force.** There is not enough of it, what there is not good enough, and what is good enough is too expensive. Studies show 72% of women are in the workforce, 20%-35% of children are in developmentally negative or unsafe situations, the average child care worker earns \$12,500 a year (average turnover in staff is 67%). Families earning less than \$25,000 a year pay an average of 23% of their income on child care. Proposal: Create a Task Force and charge it with creating: a multi-bank development corporation that will provide private loans and other financial assistance to child care providers; initiate a refundable child care income tax credit to assist families in paying for licensed child care; a model resource guide for businesses and child care employee options; develop policies to provide for utilization of public educational buildings for child care programs.

CD/FI??