

## Clinton promotes tougher school policies to assist teachers

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Offering America's teachers relief from troubled students, President Clinton promoted wider use of school uniforms, tough curfews and anti-gun policies designed to restore "order in our children's lives" and discipline in their schools Monday.

"We either have discipline in the classroom or we have disorder and, quite often, danger," Clinton said in an address to the national convention of the American Federation of Teachers.

Clinton also announced he would lead a White House conference on



CLINTON

school safety Oct. 15, which he will proclaim "national school safety day." Coming just three weeks before Election Day, the conference will put a focus on an issue Democrats see as a winner among voters.

The conference will include educators, law enforcement officials and families touched by school violence.

Citing such measures as stricter curfews and the wider use of school uniforms, Clinton urged the teachers and their school districts to pursue "a new approach to restore discipline in our schools and order in our children's lives."

"Teachers can't teach if they have to fight for respect or fear for their safety," Clinton said.

After his address to the teachers' union, Clinton was attending a fund-raising lunch for Rep. William Jefferson,

D-La., expected to raise \$250,000. Before returning to Washington the president

was to headline a Democratic National Committee fund-raising dinner which, at \$10,000 per person, was expected to collect about \$200,000, DNC officials said.

The speech was designed as a broad-brush defense of Clinton's education proposals, some of which are under attack in Congress, but its focus was on school discipline.

"While we've made great advances in reducing crime overall across the country, the president wants to reinforce the message of how

crucial it is that schools are safe and that discipline is restored," White House spokesperson Joe Lockhart said aboard Air Force One en route to New Orleans from Clinton's three-day weekend stay in Arkansas.

With Washington's powers over education limited, Clinton was promoting successful programs in local communities.

He told the AFT convention he was particularly impressed with a Milwaukee policy that allows police to stop and question youths on the streets during school hours.

Clinton said he has reviewed statistics that showed three students say they have disruptive classmates and that of teachers say undisciplined take up most of their time.

Little that the president was new. But aides said he wanted his school discipline package from the 1996 campaign, which includes suspending students in guns to school.

Clinton arrived in New Orleans Monday after a weekend of golf and fund raising in his home state. While there, he planned two fundraisers for Louisiana Sen. John Breaux, D-La., and party leaders.

**Teachers can't teach if they have to fight for respect or fear of their safety."**

— Bill Clinton  
President of the United States

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## General Motors' Saturn employees vote in favor to authorize strike

SPRING HILL, Tenn. (AP) — Workers at General Motors' only U.S. plant still turning out cars — the Saturn division, where the company boasts of harmonious labor-management relations — voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike.

"We can't continue to live a lie that this partnership is alive and healthy and well when it's not," Mike Bennett, bargaining chair for the union local at Saturn Corp, said.

The strike-authorization vote Sunday was another blow to the strike-crippled automaker. Negotiations have slowed and the United Auto Workers union called a labor summit Monday in Flint, Mich.

Talks between the union and the company resumed Monday at one strikebound Flint parts plant, the Delphi Flint East plant, while talks at the Flint Metal Center will be in recess until today.

Saturn promotes itself as "a different kind of car company." It uses a team approach in the factory and has a reputation for strong management-employee relations.

Of the more than 5,000 Saturn workers who cast ballots, 96 percent voted for strike authorization. A strike technically could be called by the end of the week, though negotiations are sched-

uled to resume today.

The UAW often strikes to put pressure on management during negotiations.

The union has obtained Key Merit rizations in recent months, strikes at an assembly plant and three parts plants in Ohio, and Indianapolis.

to order walkouts there. Saturn President Dan Johnson played down the vote, saying it does not indicate a strike.

He said Saturn will continue its operating schedule and will not be turning out cars.

"We recognize we have issues to work through," he said in a statement. "We will continue to talk through them and resolve issues always done in the past spirit of partnership."

The vote came four months after a referendum on their contract with GM. Workers overwhelmingly voted to stay with GM.

GM has lost more than 100 jobs since workers at the plants in Flint walked out June 5 and 11. More than 100 GM's North American plants have been affected and workers idled.

## Heat-related death toll enters triple-digit figure

DALLAS (AP) — Temperatures climbed toward stifling levels today across most of the country, with no immediate relief in sight as heat wave blamed for at least 113 deaths.

The temperature in Dallas hit 91 by late morning and was expected to top 100 degrees for a 15th straight day. The punishing heat has claimed 79 lives in Texas, including 43 illegal immigrants who crossed the border from Mexico.

"It looks like this trend should continue another week, maybe more from what we can see," said Roland Nunez, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service.

The searing heat has also contributed to at least 22 deaths in Louisiana in Oklahoma — where temperatures also climbed into the 90s fore noon — and one each in California, Arizona and Missouri.

And authorities in Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas were investigating additional deaths to determine if they were heat-related.

"There are probably many more out there that we haven't counted yet," said Dr. Louise McFarland, Louisiana's state epidemiologist.

The humid Northeast was expected to be the next hard-hit region as temperatures expected to rise into the 90s today. Temperatures were predicted again for much of the West, where several records were broken Sunday. Pueblo and Grand Junction, Colo., both reported highs of 104.

Readings also hit 100 Sunday in Altus, Okla.; Jacksonville, Ariz.; Las Vegas, California's Death Valley reached 124 and Lake Havasu, Ariz., made it to 110.

In Texas, it's the worst summer heat wave since 1980, when there had 42 consecutive days of 100-degree temperatures. One utility company on Sunday added extra crews to keep electricity flowing for air conditioners.

"We don't have any choice," said Sandy Smith of Texas Utilities. "The weather like this, the luxury of air conditioning becomes something of a matter of life and death."

People without air conditioning got some help in Dallas, as the city's Health and Human Services unloaded box fans and window air conditioners that were donated to the agency.

For people who have air conditioners but don't use them for high electric bills, the county has created a fund to help.

Demand for water is so high that water systems are strained, and a water main breaks every day. Dallas had 67 ruptured mains in two last week.

In Oklahoma, where heat-related crop losses could cost as much as \$1 billion, churchgoers heeded Gov. Frank Keating's call to pray for rain.

"It's so hot the fields are melting," farmer Jack Musgrove said. Musgrove, 79, said he has seldom seen the lack of rainfall experienced in the state this summer. He said there was little he could do now but wait for rain.

"I did my 50 percent by planting the crop," Musgrove said Sunday. "God has to do the other 50 percent."