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April 12, 1994

Greetings to everyone gathered in Washington, D.C., with the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. I am delighted to join you in extending warm congratulations to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros as he is honored for his tremendous contributions to our nation.

All of you can take great pride in your mission to renew and heal America's inner-city neighborhoods. Your dedication to developing innovative solutions to urban problems has helped to create new housing, provide financial security, ensure electoral representation, and enhance safety for millions of your fellow citizens.

As a champion of the rights of low income Americans, Secretary Cisneros has consistently demonstrated a deep and personal understanding of the difficulties our cities face. Working in conjunction with groups like ACORN, his efforts have been instrumental in improving the lives of people across our country. By honoring him, you are paying special tribute to the kind of leadership and compassion that will restore our communities and build a brighter future for the generations to come.

Best wishes to all for a memorable evening and for every future success.

BC/SEM/DNP/ps (Corres. #1441569)
(4.acorn.msg)

(Event: 1441569)

cc: Presidential Messages, 91 OEOB

SENT TO:
Ms. Maude Hurd
President
ACORN
739 Eighth Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

DO NOT MAIL -- RETURN TO CARMEN FOWLER, 91 OEOB, FOR DISPATCH

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FW

April 12, 1994

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As a champion of the ^{rights}~~needs~~ of low income Americans, Secretary Cisneros has consistently demonstrated a deep and personal understanding of the difficulties our cities face. Working in conjunction with groups like ACORN, his efforts have been instrumental in improving the lives of people across our country. By honoring him, you are paying special tribute to the kind of leadership and compassion that will restore our communities and build a brighter future for the generation^s to come. ✓

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APR 12 1994

DRAFT OF BC MESSAGE

INITIALS: BC / sem / *inf*

DOCUMENT TITLE: /slr/pm/acorn.sem

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Apr 11 1994 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 1441569

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

CC: SEND TO: President
Maude Hurd
ACORN
739 Eighth Street,
Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20003

Chief of Staff's ofc.

ENCLOSURES AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

here in Washington, D.C.
~~Greetings to everyone gathered here in Washington, D.C.~~
~~I am delighted to join the members of the Association of Community~~
~~Organizations for Reform Now. as you gather to pay tribute to Secretary~~
~~of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, as he is honored for his~~
~~tremendous contributions to our nation.~~

can take great pride in mission
~~All of you deserve to be proud of your work to bring renewal and~~
~~healing to America's inner-city neighborhoods. Your dedication to~~
~~developing innovative solutions to urban problems has helped to create~~
~~new housing, provide financial security, ensure electoral~~
~~representation, and enhance safety for millions of your fellow~~
~~citizens. I am pleased to commend you for your demonstrated~~
~~commitment to these and other vital tasks.~~

As a champion of the needs of low-income Americans,
~~I am glad that you have chosen to honor Secretary Cisneros. He has a~~
demonstrated a
~~deep and personal understanding of the difficulties our cities face.~~
ing
~~and he has worked hard in conjunction with groups like ACORN to~~
instrumental in
~~improve the lives of people across our country. By honoring him, you~~
ing
~~are paying special tribute to the sort of devotion and compassion that~~
kind leadership
~~will restore our communities and restore America's ability to build a brighter~~
future for the generations to come.
~~can heal our nation and bring our people together.~~

APR 11 1994

Best wishes ^{to all} for a memorable evening and ^{for} every future success.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO:

Ms. Maude Hurd
President
ACORN

~~523 West 15th Street~~ 739 Eighth St., S.E.
~~Little Rock, Arkansas 72202~~ Washington, D.C. 20003

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
THOMAS "MACK" MCLARTY

AND

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF
PHILIP LADER & HAROLD ICKES

DATE:

4/8

NUMBER OF PAGES (w/cover)

4

TO:

Carmen

FROM:

Janine Stanzione

x6-6798

FAX NUMBER:

x6-2806

COMMENTS:

Mr. McLarty has asked
that we try and accommo-
date this group.

Thanks. ☺

PLEASE DELIVER TO JANINE STANZIONE

FAX TRANSMITTAL

ACORN

523 W 15th St
Little Rock, AR 72202
(501) 376-7151
(501) 376-2423 (FAX)

TOTAL # OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET) 3

DATE: 4/8/94

TO: Janine Stanzone, White House Office of the Chief of Staff (202-456-1121)
FROM: Zach Polett, Director of Political Operations

RE: Request for Note from President Clinton to ACORN President Maude Hurd in Honor of HUD Secretary Cisneros to Be Read at Thursday, April 14 ACORN Testimonial Dinner in Honor of Cisneros

As we discussed this morning, we seek your assistance in arranging a brief note from President Clinton commending Secretary Henry Cisneros to be read at the Thursday, April 14 ACORN Testimonial Dinner in Honor of Secretary Cisneros.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters will be giving the keynote address. Secretary Bentsen and several other political leaders from Texas are sending similar notes to the one we seek from the President. After reading those, President Hurd would like to read a "surprise" note from a bordering state -- a note from President Clinton.

Of course we hope that Mack will still be able to come and say a few words, but in case (as you've warned us) his schedule prevents this, a note from President Clinton would effectively represent the White House at this testimonial dinner honoring Cisneros.

I realize that this is a short timeline to get such a note, but we would greatly appreciate it if you could move the process to get it done.

The note should be sent to:

Mack would like this to be done if possible

**President Maude Hurd
ACORN
739 8th Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003**

**and/or faxed to 202-546-2483 to arrive by the early afternoon of
Thursday, April 14 so it can be read at the testimonial starting at 6:30
p.m. that evening.**

**For your records, the testimonial is being held in the Undercroft of
All Souls Episcopal Church, 2300 Cathedral Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C.**

Attached, per your request, is a sample draft for the note.

-- DRAFT --

The White House

April 14, 1994

**President Maude Hurd
ACORN
739 8th St. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003**

Dear Maude:

It is with great pleasure that I join you in honoring a great leader in the struggle to rebuild America's cities and its low-to-moderate income neighborhoods, HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

With Cabinet members like Secretary Cisneros and community groups like ACORN working together to develop and implement solutions to the housing and other problems that beset our inner-city neighborhoods, I am convinced that we will bring these neighborhoods back from despair and neglect.

I wish I could be here with you and Secretary Cisneros tonight. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet
from

ACORN

Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now

D.C. National Office
739 8th Street S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Phone: 202-547-2500
Fax: 202-546-2483

From: *Zack Polett + Carolyn Carr*
Date: *April 11, 1994*
To: *Laura Abrams*
Fax #: *202-456-2806*
Phone #:

Pages Including Cover:

2

Note:

*Please call Carolyn Carr at
(202-547-2500) if you need
additional information.*

ACORN

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now

What is Acorn? ACORN is the largest low income membership organization in the country. ACORN'S more than 75,000 black, white and latino families in 28 states are active members, not just contributors or newsletter readers. Each belongs to one of more than 400 neighborhood chapters working on local, citywide and national campaigns.

Purpose: ACORN'S first priority is building organizations in low income communities. Organizers are on the streets every day, knocking on doors and recruiting new members. Major campaigns mobilize the unorganized majority of poor people to win specific benefits through membership effort.

Structure: ACORN'S low income members-- not staff, lawyers or politicians--speak for and lead the organization. Many are new to community activism when they join, but leadership development is at the core of ACORN'S organizing. On the job and through formal training, ACORN members develop the skills and confidence to chart the organization's course. From neighborhood groups to national board, ACORN members call the shots.

FINANCES: ACORN'S membership pays for the organization. ACORN has always been committed to financial self-sufficiency. The organization is now 80% self-sufficient. Of the 80%, about 10% comes from the staff-run canvass. The rest comes from members' dues, rallies, ad sales, dinners, dances and small businesses run by the organization.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Housing--Created or upgraded homesteading programs that turn over vacant houses to low income residents in Philadelphia, Detroit, Brooklyn, Bridgeport, Phoenix, Little Rock, St Louis and Washington, D.C. Won passage of a national homesteading bill.

Banking--Negotiated landmark community reinvestment agreements with banks in St. Louis, Baton Rouge, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Brooklyn, Denver, Washington, D.C. and Atlanta making over \$200 million a year available for loans in low income neighborhoods. Won lifeline bank services for low income consumers in 15 cities.

Voting--Registered over 250,000 new voters since 1980. Struck down barriers to voter registration in Bridgeport, Pine Bluff, Little Rock, Atlanta, Grand Rapids and Pittsburgh.

Rape Prevention--Made neighborhoods safer with better lighting, by boarding up or tearing down vacant houses and by holding local police and prosecutors responsible for enforcement of rape laws. Won passage of the Federal Sexual Assault Act and sponsorship for the National Neighborhood Rape Prevention Act.

The Washington Post called ACORN "short on radical rhetoric and long on pavement pounding in local communities." Your contribution supports ACORN'S twenty-three year history of organizing for the rights of low income Americans.

THE LOAN COUNSELING SERVICE

A new client will receive loan counseling similar to the loan review by a bank. An ACORN loan counselor will review the client's sources of income and establish whether they are adequate to support the loan. If the income is inadequate, ACORN will work with the client to get cosigners, to increase available household income or to locate a more affordable house. The counselor will review the client's total debt to determine if the client will be overextending him or herself. If the debt exceeds normal lending limits, ACORN will work with people to pay off loans, refinance loans, or increase household income.