

*file*  
*Carl Anthony*

CARL SFERRAZZA ANTHONY

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June 5, 1997

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to the First Lady  
Office of the First Lady  
The White House

Dear Melanne:

Hope this note finds you well. I want to briefly outline some ideas which I hope we can sit down and talk about in the next few weeks.

1. HRC 50th Birthday: The Chicago Historical Society is planning an autumn of interviews with prominent native Chicagoans, with "politics" as the theme for the coming year. I thought that perhaps a forum similar in style to the one conducted at Louisville between HRC and myself might be done here--in honor of her 50th birthday at the end of October. In informal discussion with them, I bandied about the notion that a walking tour of Park Ridge and some of the sites associated with the First Lady's childhood and high school years might be arranged, perhaps a booklet with pictures of the sites, even an oral history tape by her guiding visitors. Perhaps a panel of her teachers and schoolmates could kick off an "HRC Day" in Chicago (which the Mayor could officially declare), and a speech by the First Lady recalling her very own "village." The half-century mark is important, this person is important--I just think the non-partisan but civic institution of Chicago Historical could be a great setting to "bring her home, to where it all began." Perhaps even Mrs. Rodham and her sons could participate with anecdotes, memories and reflections. Perhaps in the evening, a birthday party could be held in the city, with proceeds going to various organizations which she might want helped. This could be an important and historic event honoring not only the First Lady and her own "village."

2. book of speeches by HRC: I have envisioned this as an edited volume of perhaps two dozen of the most important speeches made by the First Lady, delivered within the parameters of the first term (approximately 6 from each year), and addressing issues not only topical to American life in the early 1990's, but of great personal interest to HRC, as well as her most "famous" speeches. While she would certainly have delivered many speeches on any one subject, perhaps you could guide me to what is considered to be her "best" one on particular subjects. Some of the speeches I have in mind include: the need for universal health care--opening testimony before Congress (1993), self-responsibility and education in individual's maintaining their physical health, the "politics of meaning" speech in Austin (1993), adoption policy in America, breast cancer awareness, early childhood development, micro-loans to women starting small businesses in developing communities, Gulf War syndrome, the modern role of First Lady, civil rights and the fight for racial tolerance and equality in America, the diversity of Americans in the military-

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Bosnia speech (1995), 1996 Democratic National Convention speech.

3) A Hillary Clinton Foundation: Although the exact timing might not be just right, it is never too early to begin thinking about building a base for a private, non-profit foundation under HRC's direction for the post-White House years which would focus its mission and energy on the issue or issues which she might forecast as being life-long. Mrs. Reagan did this while she was in the White House for anti-drug use educational grants, and Mrs. Bush did so also, with her family literacy foundation, which is run out of Washington. Such an organization might be run out of the future Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, and could serve as a base for HRC's work and activities after 2001.

Anyway, lots to think about, but I did want to get these to you before we sit down again.

If I could further indulge in a sort-of second thank-you to the First Lady for the April 29 event: please tell her that for me, it was as if a childhood dream had been granted--I was "president-for-two-hours," being honored to walk down the state hall with her as a Marine boomed my name with her's, was introduced by the First Lady, spoke on the podium in the East Room, and shook the hands of the guests by her side. As a child, I often read late into the night about Presidents, First Ladies and the White House and from my tiny room in Bayside, New York would look out onto 215th Street thinking that the road in front of our house, if followed just right, connected directly to the road in front of the White House; and that maybe, someday, I would lucky enough to visit, dine--perhaps even live--there. It was the most important day of my life and of my family's. And it was all, absolutely, simply because of her personal kindness and generosity.

Regards -  
Carl

*file Carl  
Anthony*

CARL SFERRAZZA ANTHONY  
202-223-4503 (OFFICE)  
202-833-3061 (FAX)  
202-667-3270 (HOME)

To: Mrs. Clinton, Neel Lattimore, Maggie Williams, fax 456-7805

Fr: Carl Anthony

Re: Questions for next week, other information on GW "President's Spouse" session

Total Number of Pages Including This: 5

Enclosed are 24 questions which serve as a basis for next week's session. They are not engraved in stone and I will neither ask every single one of them, nor ask them as specifically as I have written them. These are only to provide you all with a sense of the program's format and content. Also, I will not ask any other questions or refer to any other specific subjects or general topics that are not enclosed, unless previously receiving your approval. Feel free to submit questions you might want.

I also enclose copies of written questions submitted by students last week. This is customary for the other three First Ladies' appearances. On the day of the event, the other three First Ladies' offices informed me whether they would take open questions from the students or prefer to have pre-selected questions read. Mrs. Reagan chose the latter method.

I have prepared some notes on my introduction, but the final version is now depending on whether we are able to get several slides of Mrs. Clinton to illustrate my short introduction of her, and a short video clip of either her afternoon remarks on entertaining before the Mandela state dinner or her remarks at last May's Botanical Gardens Tribute to the First Ladies (I have a clip of her health care Congressional testimony and would like to pair it with either one of these two listed above). If the White House can easily obtain a 30-second clip of either of these two events, it would be of tremendous help.

I am available to meet or discuss anything regarding the event, at home or the office, from now until the event, even in the evening. I will be out of town only on Thanksgiving. Finally, the primary contact for any logistical or other questions about the event is Anne Grist at GW, 973-1102. Mike Freedman at GW is handling the press. Below is the schedule, according to what we have done with Mrs. Reagan, Mrs. Bush and Mrs. Carter:

6:30-7:00 arrival at small reception (about 125)  
7:00-7:04 welcoming remarks by Fran Tractenberg, wife of president of GWU  
7:04-7:15 introduction and historical context of Mrs. Clinton by Carl Anthony  
7:15-8:30 "conversation" interview between Mrs. Clinton and Carl Anthony  
8:30-8:45 questions from students to Mrs. Clinton

Hope this information helps for now--and looking forward to the 29th.

1. Throughout history, the First Lady has often exerted both publicized and unpublicized influence. Other than the obvious example of Eleanor Roosevelt, were you aware of this precedent? What were your expectations about the role of the First Lady prior to your tenure? Have your expectations been met? What has been the most unexpected aspect of the role of First Lady? As a young woman did you ever look to the First Lady as a figure of emulation? Did history or predecessors like Mrs. Carter guide your choices?
2. Do you feel that your public role generated so much debate because you are unelected or because you are a woman?
3. You once described yourself as a "lightening rod." What is it that you believe that First Lady Hillary Clinton symbolizes to people?
4. In terms of the Administration's health care policy, are there things in retrospect that you might have approached differently? Were you aware of the high degree of resistance you would encounter from public interest groups on health care and from political critics of your personal role in it? Do you believe a less public role might have changed the outcome of health care reform; did critics of health care reform just find it more convenient to criticize a First Lady taking a public role?
5. What is the biggest misconception about Hillary Clinton? Do you believe the media, and hence the public, has a full and honest perception of you truly are and what you stand for?
6. Have the characteristics of the American changed since your coming of age in the Sixties or do you believe there is an unchanging, consistent American character? (Are violence and bigotry part of that character, along with generosity and genius for enterprise? Do we take less responsibility for our own individual well-being?) If you had been granted three wishes for improvement in American life today, what would those three specific changes be?
7. Do you believe that Bill Clinton could have become President without Hillary Clinton?
8. In the last election, only 33% of the electorate turned out to vote? From your personal observations and conversations with Americans, why do you feel there is so

much apathy among the electorate? Do you believe that the average American truly understands how their government works or has just a vague notion? What might be the overall general reasons for a lack of interest or knowledge of government in American society today? What realistic solutions can be provided by a government--and what solutions cannot?

9. If your husband had not gone into politics, would you have considered a political career--or, had you not "followed your heart" to Arkansas, might you have run for political office?

10. How much did your religious background and sense of social responsibility influence your pursuits of public service? How important is it to your carrying out the role of First Lady as you have defined it?

11. How would you characterize your influence on the President and your professional role within your relationship with him? As one of many advisors, as a primary advisor? Do you offer advice only on those issues with which you have expertise? Traditionally, many First Ladies have weighed in on personnel issues--Nancy Reagan, Rosalynn Carter, Lady Bird Johnson, Barbara Bush, Bess Truman, even Mamie Eisenhower. How much do you weigh in on personnel?

12. Do you feel that there are any inherent talents specific to men and women in politics? For example, Nancy Reagan described herself as having a sense about people's motivations in terms of their relationship with Ronald Reagan that he didn't--equally said about Mrs. Truman, Eisenhower, Carter and Harding. Do you believe there is some truth in the idea of women's intuition? Do you believe there are roles in society which are better suited for women or men?

13. It often seems that the media creates caricatures of First Ladies--Jackie Kennedy, Francophile, Nancy Reagan, socialite, Barbara Bush, grandmother. Do you feel that you have been also presented that way? Do you feel you have been treated fairly in the media?

14. Why do you feel you have sometimes been used as a political scapegoat for the Administration's harshest critics and commentators? How do you cope with the challenges presented by people who say they actually "hate" the President and First Lady? Does it effect your efforts?

15. Could you describe your work with The Children's Defense Fund. Are there programs which they or other private organizations support which can be used as the basis for organizing large-scale national programs on behalf of children? In general, what sorts of national efforts are priorities for the well-being of America's children--and which interest you as the most practical and necessary?

16. Had you not played any public role in health care, and not given your opinions on issues when asked and not made speeches--essentially played a very unpublic role, do you believe that the Whitewater barrage of attacks and questions and indeed the Congressional investigation might not have occurred, or have been far less controversial?

17. What do you think the American people want in a First Lady? Do you believe it would ever be possible for a Presidential spouse to declare themselves a complete non-official, private citizen, off-limits to the media and public, playing no political or social role whatsoever?

18. Sensational speculation about all public figures is rampant within the media. Do you feel the media has overstepped its boundaries in its invasion of personal lives? How do you manage to publicly and privately cope with unfounded, misinterpreted, exaggerated or complete lies about your personal life? Is it better for a President's wife to ignore fabrications or defeat them?

19. As one surveys the possible Republican challengers for the 1996 presidential campaign, the professional experiences of an Elizabeth Dole or a Wendy Graham or a Marilyn Quayle or a Lynne Cheney suggest that they might want to not only follow you in the role, but follow your definition of it. Do you feel that you have set a precedent which could facilitate the ability of all spouses--male or female--of any future presidents to have more choices? Do you think it will ever be possible for someone to maintain a professional career while being married to a President?

20. What is your routine daily schedule like as First Lady when you are in town?

21. So far in your tenure as First Lady, what public crisis, achievement or event has had the greatest personal impact on you?

22. The scrutiny and public attention associated with being in the White House would

seem to be destabilizing. How do you maintain your stability? Has your sense of self changed since you became First Lady? What changes have taken place?

23. There is constant debate about American family values, but the face of the "typical" American family from forty years ago--mom, dad, brother and sister--has greatly changed. Barbara Bush thought that American "extended families may not even be related. They may be neighbors, friends." What in your mind constitutes a family?

24. What sort of legacy would you like to leave as First Lady?

11/22/94

TO: Neil Lattimore

FR: Paul Anthony

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Enclosed are the 10 student questions  
chosen for Mrs. Clinton.

The President's Spouse  
Evenings with the First Ladies Question Form

Name HERMAN E. GOODYEAR  
City TAKOMA PARK, MD Full-time Student? No  
Phone(Day) 202.927.0689 (Evening) 301.270.5167

My Question for the First Lady:

The original concept for the terms of elected Federal officials in our early democracy was to prevent a monarchy from taking control of the new republic. The terms for Senators (6 years), Congressman (2 years) and the President (4 years) were established and have never been changed. It does not appear that a monarchy taking over the American government is as much of a threat to the United States in 1994 as it was to our Founding Father's, and the time required for our elected officials to bring about the policies and legislative changes is a more complex and time consuming process than in was in the 1700's. From your vantage point as the current First Lady, do you believe that the American people should revisit these term limitations? If your answer is in the affirmative, would different term limits for the Executive and Legislative branches eliminate many of the problems we currently face in implementing policy at the Federal level?

The President's Spouse  
Evenings with the First Ladies Question Form

Name JOELLE M. GOODE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
City WASHINGTON, D.C. Full-time Student? FULL TIME STUDENT  
Phone(Day) (202) 885-6606 (Evening) (202) 885-6606

My Question for the First Lady:

1. HOW HAS YOUR ROLE AS FIRST LADY CHANGED NOW, SINCE WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED?
2. WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND?
3. IS IT DIFFICULT TO RETAIN YOUR INDIVIDUALITY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SERVING IN THE ROLE OF "FIRST LADY", BEING A WIFE OF A PRESIDENT, AND A MOTHER TO YOUR CHILD?

The President's Spouse  
Evenings with the First Ladies Question Form

Name Dina Petrucci  
City Fairfax, VA Full-time Student? No  
Phone(Day) 703-591-1575 (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

My Question for the First Lady:

We have seen in this course that the public generally has a very short memory concerning the first lady and her accomplishments. How would you most like to be remembered 25 years from now?

My Question for the First Lady:

The President's Spouse  
Evenings with the First Ladies Question Form

Name ANNE WILCOX

City LEWISTOWN, MD

Full-time Student? NO

Phone(Day) (301) 594-5586

(Evening) (301) 540-1490

My Question for the First Lady:

- ① AS FIRST LADY, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS TERM? AND IN A SECOND TERM? ② DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ON HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEND YOUR POST-WHITE HOUSE YEARS? (LAW FIRM, POLICY MAKING, UNIVERSITY, etc) ③ WHAT IS THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION ABOUT YOU?

The President's Spouse  
Evenings with the First Ladies Question Form

Name Tanet Lekan

City Arlington Va

Full-time Student? No

Phone(Day) 703-697-3675

(Evening) 703-527-9229

My Question for the First Lady:

The attempt to assassinate Ronald Reagan has a great impact on Nancy Reagan, since a sense of fear was constantly with her when the President was out. Was the recent incidents at the White House (obviously aimed at the President) affected your views regarding the security of the President?

insident.

The President's Spouse  
Evenings with the First Ladies Question Form

Name Ura Mahar  
City Vienna VA Full-time Student? No - Part time student  
Phone(Day) (703) 281-0678 (Evening) (703) 281-0678

My Question for the First Lady:

If you could approach the health care  
reform program over again, what would  
you do differently?

The President's Spouse  
Evenings with the First Ladies Question Form

Name Mary Schmor  
City Fairfax Full-time Student? No  
Phone(Day) 703-274-5957 (Evening) 703-280-2524

My Question for the First Lady:

If you were able to relive the first  
hundred days ~~of your~~ following  
the inauguration, what you do  
differently?

The President's Spouse  
Evenings with the First Ladies Question Form

Name MICHAEL JOHN LESKO  
City FAIRFAX VA Full-time Student? NO  
Phone(Day) 202-452-3415 (Evening) 703-471-1839

My Question for the First Lady:

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS TYPE OF  
"CLASS" FORMAT FOR QUESTIONS VS A  
MORE FORMALIZED "NEWS" CONFERENCE?

The President's Spouse  
Evenings with the First Ladies Question Form

Name Judi Wood  
City Alexandria, Va Full-time Student? Full Time Teacher  
Phone(Day) 703 451 2915 (Evening) ✓

My Question for the First Lady:

We have been studying the role of the First Ladies  
this semester, but some<sup>of us</sup> have never seen the  
home of the First Ladies other than the public tour.  
Is it possible to set up a tour which would  
focus on the personal touches of the  
of the furniture on

First Ladies : Perhaps some of the  
architectural or cosmetic changes they have made.  
more...

- Will President Clinton <sup>revise his</sup> ~~make changes~~ to  
health care reform policy?

The President's Spouse  
Evenings with the First Ladies Question Form

Name Cynthia Phillips

City Lorton, VA

Full-time Student? NO

Phone(Day) 703-690-3681

(Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

My Question for the First Lady:

- What is President Clinton's agenda for fiscal Year  
95 and 96? (what issues)
- What will he do differently to gain again his  
momentum?

\* I wish she and her husband much success in the  
next 2 years. more...