

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Swanee Hunt to Melanne Verveer (1 page)	12/10/1992	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 10255

FOLDER TITLE:

Hunt/Ambassador [2]

2013-0534-S

rc1622

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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Boulder 6A champs

Panthers beat Pomona 10-9.
Pueblo Centennial wins 5A,
beating Sierra 30-12.
Pages 69, 84, 93, 94



Best-loved ballet

100-year-old "Nutcracker"
still captures the childhood
wonder of Christmas.
Spotlight, Page 57



White man's son

Can a black man raised by
whites belong to either world?
Ask Bronco Mike Croel.
Colorado People magazine



Rocky Mountain News

★★

\$1.00 in Designated Areas

DENVER, COLORADO 134th year, No. 228

SUNDAY

December 6, 1992 / 5¢

Revolt rocks college football

Player rebellions, firing of CSU's Bruce end era of old-school coaching. **Page 69**

Colorado's \$1 MILLION Day



Rocky Mountain News

Something remarkable happened on Oct. 8, 1992.
Merle Chambers, Swanee Hunt and 150 other women wrote checks totaling
\$1 million to win a voice in the White House. Why did they do it? **Page 8**

Women dig deep to make political voices heard

Two Denver millionaires tap into economic power, become major resource for Clinton campaign

By Rebecca Jones

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Denver philanthropist Swanee Hunt gasped when her friend and fellow millionaire Merle Chambers hit her up for a donation to the Clinton campaign last summer.

Even the heiress to the Texas Hunt fortune was uncomfortable with the amount she was being asked to pitch in: \$250,000.

"She asked me what I was willing to do, and I said \$100,000," said Hunt, 42. "She said, 'I'm doing \$250,000, and you should, too.'"

"I just blanched."

Chambers, 46, owner of Axem Resources Inc., a Denver oil and gas company, talked her into it. And between the two of them, they hatched a plan to mine a tremendous and largely untapped reservoir of money for the Democrats: women.

In the process, they became major players in Bill Clinton's bid for the presidency, claiming spots on the top of the list of biggest contributors in the nation.

More importantly, they harnessed the economic political power of Colorado women for the first time by offering them something they were willing to pay dearly for — a day-long issues forum with Hillary Clinton and Tipper Gore.

The result: Colorado's Million Dollar Day.

They pulled off the impossible by getting out their Rolodexes and calling well-to-do women here and all over the country. They asked them to contribute significantly more than they'd ever given to politics before — \$10,000 or more. Two women chipped in \$25,000 apiece. Chambers' mother, Evelyn Chambers of Chicago, gave \$100,000. Twenty women gave at least \$10,000.

The largest contributors fell into three categories: women who inherited their money, women who earned it themselves and women who married rich husbands, Hunt said. Many of them were connected to the Women's Foundation of Colorado, a non-partisan organization that promotes economic self-sufficiency for women.

The two Colorado millionaires also asked less affluent but no less committed women to give \$1,000.

"By asking \$1,000, we hoped to reach people who would normally give \$100," Hunt said.

Many of the women said they decided to contribute far more than ever before because of their anger over a number of things: lagging social programs; rhetoric they heard at the Republican National Convention in August; and the way Anita Hill was treated by members of the Senate after she accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment.

Also invited to the event were women for whom \$1,000 was con-



Frank Murray/Rocky Mountain News

Key players in Colorado's Million Dollar Day: Swanee Hunt, seated, with Rosemary Rodriguez, standing left, and Merle Chambers

DEEP POCKETS

- Profiles in contribution: Women tell what they gave and why/26
- Major campaign donors subject to scrutiny over motives/27
- Candidates' wives not just stand-ins, supporters say/27

pletely out of the question but who had ideas that needed sharing.

"We decided we wouldn't do the event unless it cut through ethnic, economic lines," Hunt said. "We created sponsorships. We asked people to give \$1,000 for themselves and another \$500 or \$200 for another woman to come. Some sent \$5,000 and couldn't come but said, 'Send five women in my place.'"

"We wanted students, women on welfare, Asian women, Hispanic, African-American women."

The event Oct. 8 at the Radisson Hotel was not your typical high-ticket fund-raiser with ladies in fancy ballgowns engaging in polite cocktail conversation with the elite.

The theme of the day: "Serious women, serious issues, serious money."

These women dug into their pocketbooks to make sure their voices would be heard all the way to the White House. They brought their daughters, their mothers and their friends.

"This was about the power of women to influence politics in this country," said Chambers.

Pundits have chewed on this notion of women empowering themselves politically for more than a year. In 1992, dubbed



Glenn Asakawa/Rocky Mountain News file photo

The Million Dollar Day fund-raiser brought Hillary Clinton, right, and Tipper Gore to Denver in October for a women's forum.

"Year of the Woman," more women were elected to office than ever before.

Emily's List, the Washington-based organization dedicated to raising money for pro-choice Democratic women candidates, was the No. 1 political fund-raising group in the country, collecting and distributing more than \$6 million to dozens of candidates. That's four times what the organization raised two years ago.

"In two years, you saw women saying not only are we going to be big players in electing women to the Senate and House, you saw women saying we'll be big players in putting someone in the White House," said Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colo.

Yet to fully integrate the inner circle of political power-brokers, women must do more than stuff campaign envelopes and pass out leaflets.

They must get out their checkbooks and give big money, no matter how uncomfortable that may make them feel, says Marjorie Seawell, a longtime Democratic activist who contributed \$6,000.

"Politics is run on women's time. They've already been coming to the table with their time. Now they're realizing that making financial contributions is exciting. It's helping them feel a part of the process, empowering them to participate in the change that's happening. And that's new."

Rosemary Rodriguez, 37, presi-

dent of the Hispanic League, was among those who attended Million Dollar Day on a sponsorship. She left feeling confident that "women really mastered the game this year," she said.

Rodriguez told of watching as Marguerite Salazar, a woman running a poorly funded campaign for commissioner in Alamosa County, spoke of her plight. "During the day, people kept coming up to her giving her checks," she said.

Women historically have not given huge sums of money or made outright power plays to gain entrance into political power circles, Hunt said.

Until now, politics was removed from many women's lives, even wealthy women.

"Women thought it didn't matter much in their lives, that whoever won wouldn't pay much attention to them anyway, that it was a male game," said Schroeder. "And it *has* been male. The appointments were male. ... They couldn't be major players, and if you were a minor player, you wouldn't count for much."

"Overnight, we started putting our money where our mouth is," said the congresswoman, who personally contributed more than \$10,000 to various political campaigns and stumped across the country for candidates this year.

"I tell women to contribute at least as much as you spent on your last outfit — and boy, they did."

Hunt says women must view themselves as "funders."

"They're used to writing \$50 and \$100 checks, not \$5,000 and \$10,000 checks. And they can afford it," she said.

COLORADO'S MILLION DOLLAR DAY

SWANEE HUNT, 42, Denver philanthropist, heiress to Texas Hunt fortune



Past high contribution: \$5,000
1992 contribution: \$250,000
Motivation: To replace "unresponsive" Republican administration with Democrats interested in social issues

Viewpoint: My work is in human services — homeless, mental health, public education. I was very, very concerned about this election. For 12 years, my primary concern has been damage control. I began my calls to women by saying I'd never done presidential politics before. This is the first time I decided a race is important enough to put in a huge amount. I'd like you to consider doing something very dramatic, to get Bill Clinton elected, and in doing so, to make a statement about women and what we're about.

MERLE CHAMBERS, 46, owner, Axem Resources Inc., Denver oil-gas company; director, Clipper Express, Chicago transportation company



Past high contribution: \$5,000
Contribution: \$250,000
Motivation: To leverage social change
Viewpoint: I run an oil and gas company. I come from a longtime concern about the economy — the failure of the last 12 years to face up to how we build jobs in this country. For me, it was a life-changing experience to write a check for a quarter of a million dollars. We were offering something women really wanted — a chance to hear two women they admired, particularly in a campaign they wanted to help. My sense is that these women will not go back to their normal lives. It's important that they took something away with them.

JUDI WAGNER, 49, Denver investment management counselor



Past high contribution: \$1,000
1992 contribution: \$10,000
Motivation: To elect people whose values match her own
Viewpoint: I did it because I really think we need to step up to the plate and demonstrate that we're serious as voters about electing people who are capable of serving as role models and dynamic leaders. As women, we often have been reluctant to put forward the kind of dollars that are significant and really have a message behind them. We can serve as role models for other women to loosen their purse strings to elect people whose values match what my own are. This is 10 times more than I've ever given. Would I have given this much four years ago? Nobody ever asked me.

MARLA WILLIAMS, 40, lawyer in Denver firm of Holme Roberts and Owen



Past high contribution: \$300
1992 contribution: \$1,000
Motivation: Anger at the treatment of Anita Hill in the Clarence Thomas hearings
Viewpoint: I realized that women who are as fortunate as I am to make good money do have some responsibility. I think women have been reluctant to open their checkbooks in the past. As a result, even though we're 51% of the population, we have not translated those numbers into political gain. We do earn less as a gender, but I think we write checks more reluctantly. There's still a lot of women who see politics as a male undertaking. More women getting into it is going to make it better. We needed to put our money where our mouth is.

JANE RAGLE, 41, owns Colorado Springs music store and restaurant



Past high contribution: \$2,000
1992 contribution: \$10,000
Motivation: Reagan/Bush administration gave "short shrift" to social issues
Viewpoint: My awakening as a donor came with the Women's Foundation (an organization that promotes economic self-sufficiency for women). That certainly changed my life. I learned to think a lot bigger than the normal \$60 or \$100 gifts. When Swanee Hunt first approached me about giving \$10,000 to the Democrats, I said I couldn't do it — \$10,000 was five times as much as I'd ever given to a campaign. It was really just a matter of me figuring out for myself how I could come up with that much. It was a stretch. But I did it and I'm proud of it.

DENA KAYE, Aspen writer and daughter of performers Danny Kaye and Sylvia Fine Kaye

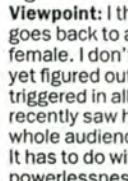


Past high contribution: Unknown
1992 contribution: \$9,000
Motivation: Realizing in her "stomach and heart" importance of participation in political process
Viewpoint: I think this election was probably a watershed for the whole country, particularly for those of us in our 40s. On the first anniversary of my mother's death, I was in New York City. There was to be a women's march for (Clinton) that day, and I debated whether to go. Being a Boomer, you grew up on the crest of every innovation there was, whether it was the pill or protest or whatever. I went because I realized that if every person said, "Oh well, it won't matter, if I don't go," the whole country could wind up saying that.

SUSAN LENFESTY, Minneapolis freelance writer and self-described "political hack"

Past high contribution: \$500
1992 contribution: \$10,000
Motivation: GOP convention and Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas hearings
Viewpoint: I think probably it goes back to a lifetime of being female. I don't think anyone has yet figured out what Anita Hill triggered in all of us exactly. I recently saw her speak, and the whole audience began weeping. It has to do with the feeling of powerlessness. When I was first asked to give the amount I did, I said no thanks, I'm not getting into that league. (But then) I began to think it's now or never. I felt empowered. It's one of the biggest decisions I ever made in my life, and I made it very much from my feminine gut, and I made it very much on my own. My husband was appalled — he didn't think we could afford to give away \$10,000. I said, "No, I've talked to the bank, and we can do it."

ARLENE HIRSCHFELD, 48, volunteer and player in Denver social and charitable events



Past high contribution: \$100
1992 contribution: \$1,000
Motivation: Abortion-rights issue
Viewpoint: I've always been involved, supportive, talking up the candidates, going to their functions and all of that. But this was different. I felt that as a woman I needed to speak up. My husband's family has been involved in politics. His grandfather was a state senator. Barry has been involved, and I've been involved through him, but never myself stepping out in front. The choice issue was the driving force for me. The idea of taking away someone's human rights. I felt it was time to put your money where your mouth is. I've never felt such a personal stake in how the election went.

SERIOUS WOMEN, SERIOUS ISSUES, SERIOUS MONEY

Major contributors to Clinton's campaign tell what they gave and some reasons why



William Thach/Special to the Rocky Mountain News
Hillary Clinton, left, and Tipper Gore, right, pose with millionaires Merle Chambers, second from left, and Swanee Hunt during the Million Dollar Day. Chambers and Hunt each donated \$250,000.

MARJORIE SEAWELL, 45, nurse, longtime "FOB" — Friend of Bill Clinton



Past high contribution: Major Colorado political contributor
1992 contribution: \$6,000
Motivation: Excitement about the role model Hillary Clinton presents for political spouses
Viewpoint: The women who were asked to give large donations had never really felt part of the process before. Women tended to dig deep, to give the most they could. I wasn't able to give as much as Swanee asked, but in addition to my \$6,000 I offered to coordinate the day's events. Swanee never asks for anything small. If she calls, you know she's going to be talking big numbers. She really believes in the concept of asking people to stretch — particularly in a way that empowers women.

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COLORADO'S MILLION DOLLAR DAY

Hillary and Tipper made money roll

Clearly, it was women giving to women

You'd think for a million bucks you could get the candidates themselves, not just their wives.

Swanee Hunt bristles when she hears that charge leveled at Million Dollar Day, the fund-raiser that brought Hillary Clinton and Tipper Gore to Denver in October for a daylong women's forum — without their husbands.

"We didn't want them," said Hunt, wearing a "Vote for Hillary's husband" campaign button on her jacket.

"Hillary called later to say thanks for the gift for Bill. I said: 'Oh, it isn't for Bill, and Al. It's for Hillary and Tipper.'"

"We wanted to make a statement: Hillary Clinton and Tipper Gore are not objects of derision."

Marjorie Seawell, a prominent Democratic activist, called it "synergy" between the candidates and their wives.

Hillary and Tipper "sparked the support we got for that day," Seawell said. "It was clearly for (them) that the large majority of this money was raised, because of how women feel about them as role models."

The very fact that prominent Democratic supporters think of Hillary Clinton and Tipper Gore as considerably more than stand-ins for their husbands feeds conservative fears of a "co-presidency."

"What does Hillary want?" Pat Buchanan asked to the cheers of delegates at the Republican National Convention last August.

"There is a religious war going on in our country for the soul of America," he said. "Clinton and Clinton are on the other side, and George Bush is on our side."

Hunt and Chambers have no doubt that when Hillary and Tipper talk, Bill and Al will listen. That's nothing new. Many presidential and vice presidential wives have been key advisers to their husbands.

But unlike previous presidential wives, Hunt said, "this is the first time we've got a first lady who could be president."

— Rebecca Jones



Cyrus McCrimmon/Rocky Mountain News

Tipper Gore applauds as Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., center, introduces Hillary Clinton at a daylong women's forum and Democratic fund-raiser at the Radisson Hotel in October. The theme of the day was "Serious women, serious issues, serious money."

Big giver expects a liberal return

Millionaire knows Clinton won't jump through all her hoops, but hopes he'll listen

By Rebecca Jones

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

A million dollars buys access to the president of the United States, but it doesn't buy a guarantee he'll do what you want, Swanee Hunt says.

For every bit of presidential good will you get, you get a heaping portion of public suspicion and scrutiny in the news media, she says.

As the days of the Bush presidency wind to a close, political observers are keeping a close eye on prominent Clinton supporters.

It's payoff time.

Hunt, who is used to having her life scrutinized, admits she's uncomfortable having people question her motives for personally making a \$250,000 contribution and raising a total of \$1 million for President-elect Clinton.

She denies persistent rumors that she and her husband, Charles Ansbacher, intend to move to Washington to accept posts in the



Frank Murray/Rocky Mountain News

Swanee Hunt, \$250,000 Clinton contributor, squirms when her motives are questioned.

Clinton administration.

"I can't imagine a job I'd move to Washington for," she said. "I never say never, but I'm not looking to move to Washington."

"What I did was not out of context. It was a very natural gift for me," said Hunt, whose fortune is estimated at \$300 million.

"What I did was not out of context. It was a very natural gift for me."

Swanee Hunt
Clinton-Gore contributor

"It's not the money. I do four times this amount every year," she said. In fact, her Hunt Alternatives Fund, which supports 85 groups in Denver, Dallas and New York, is funded solely by contributions from Hunt and sister Helen.

Last year, those contributions amounted to \$2.1 million; in 1990, \$4.4 million.

"But I see my name roll by, and you hear terms like 'campaign abuse' ... 'Why did she do it?' and all of that," Hunt said. "When you give \$250,000 for the inner city, they don't say, 'Oh, what does she get from it?'"

Hunt admits she has an agenda — but it's not profit. It's social change. She believes Bill Clinton and Al Gore share her concern about the homeless, inner city,

children and mental health issues.

"I expect them to act on those things. If at the very start I see that's not true, I'll be on the phone," Hunt said.

"When I call, or when Merle (Chambers) calls, the name will be a familiar name to the White House," she said. "Does that mean there's a better chance the call will get through? Sure it does. Does it mean they're obligated to do what I want? No, it doesn't."

Merle Chambers, president of an oil and gas company and director of a Chicago transportation company, is blunt in her assessment of her newfound influence in Washington: "I'm not looking for any tax breaks," she says.

Just the opposite. She gave a fortune to a president who in all likelihood will raise her taxes.

Like Hunt, Chambers is active in philanthropic activities. She is president and one of the founding members of the Women's Foundation of Colorado, to which she gave \$1 million in 1989.

Like Hunt, she expects her investment to be rewarded by a liberal direction for the country.

"We won't have to go down some 'women's path' to be listened to," Chambers said.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Improving the
Quality of Life
for Denver's
Children and
Families

The 1991 Report

DENVER INITIATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
500 East 8th Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Can Do!



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