Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. paper	re: client personal story (1 page)	07/26/1999	b(6)
002. paper	re: client personal story (1 page)	07/26/1999	b(6)
003. paper	re: client personal story (1 page)	07/26/1999	b(6)
004. email	Tina McDaniel to Katherine Button re: LSC Client Stories (3 pages)	07/23/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20041

FOLDER TITLE:

Legal Services [Folder 3] [2]

2013-0534-S
rc1689

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1999

RECEPTION IN HONOR OF THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

DATE:	**Tuesday, July 27, 1999**
TIME:	**5:00 p.m.**
LOCATION:	**East Room**
FROM:	**Melanne Verveer**

I. PURPOSE

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation, which has been providing access to justice for all Americans since 1974.

II. BACKGROUND

As you know, Legal Services Corporation (LSC) is a private, non-profit corporation established by Congress to ensure equal access to justice under the law for all Americans by providing legal assistance in civil matters to low-income individuals. LSC was created in 1974 with bi-partisan congressional support to ensure that at least a minimum level of access to justice was available everywhere in the United States. LSC is headed by an 11-member board of directors, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. No more than six of the board members may be of the same political party.

The Legal Services Corporation currently provides grants to 258 local programs – chosen through a competitive system – serving every county and congressional district in the nation. LSC's grantees leverage the $300 million in federal funds to raise nearly $230 million annually in other government and private funding to help support local legal programs. Last year, LSC programs served more than 1 million people who needed legal assistance with matters involving domestic violence, housing, employment, or disability claims. More than two-thirds of LSC programs' clients were women, mostly mothers with children.

In 1996, Congress restructured the legal services delivery system by placing a series of new restrictions on the types of ways LSC lawyers can represent their clients. The restrictions addressed Congress' determination that federal funds should go to programs that focus on individual cases, leaving to others the broader efforts to address the problems of the client community. Yet, the need for legal services is overwhelming.

Almost one in every five Americans is potentially eligible for LSC-funded services. Because of limited resources, local legal services programs are forced to turn away tens of thousands of people with critical legal needs.

Currently, LSC faces yet another budget battle in Congress. Last week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary voted for the fourth year in a row to cut in half funding for the Legal Services Corporation. Chaired by Cong. Harold Rogers (R-KY), the Subcommittee elected to appropriate only \$141 million for FY 2000, roughly half of LSC's FY 99 budget of \$300 million. The full Senate, however, approved \$300 million for FY 2000. The Administration's request was \$340 million.

During the event, **YOU**, The First Lady and the Attorney General will be presented with LSC's Award for "Outstanding Commitment to Justice." The award honors individuals who have supported access to justice in the past 25 years and recognizes each recipient's support of legal services and the broader concept of equal justice under the law as stated in the Constitution. Other recipients of the award are: Senator Kennedy, Senator Rudman, Senator Domenici, Rep. Berman, Rep. Ramstad and the American Bar Association.

III. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Scenario to be forwarded from Office of the Social Secretary.

IV. PARTICIPANTS

<u>Blue Room Meet and Greet</u>
The President
The First Lady
Attorney General Janet Reno
Cong. Berman
Cong. Ramstad
John McKay, President, Legal Services Corporation (bio attached)
Doug Eakeley, LSC Board of Directors
Lucy Johnson, client (bio attached)
Karen Brown, Legal Services lawyer
Mary Saunders, client
Robert Walton (Ms. Saunders son)
Edith Hernandez, client

Speaking Program
The President
The First Lady
Attorney General Janet Reno
Cong. Berman
Cong. Ramstad
Lucy Johnson, client

200 invited guests, including Members of Congress, members of the legal community, legal services clients and lawyers (see attached list)

V. PRESS

Open Press

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by Jordan Tamagni.

LSC

For 25 years, America's Partner For Equal Justice

"Equal access to the justice system is the cornerstone upon which our democracy and the rule of law rest."

~ Justice Barbara Durham, Washington State Supreme Court

"Without adequate funding for Legal Services, our poorest, most vulnerable citizens will be unable to have legal representation in civil matters. 'Equal Justice Under the Law,' a statement seen by Americans every day on the Supreme Court building, will be empty words."

– Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-MN)

"He [her attorney from Legal Aid of Western Michigan] fought for me to keep my home. Now, with the equity from that, I can afford to relocate us."

~ Evelyn V., mother of four, after 13 years in an abusive marriage

LSC: A Private, Non-Profit Corporation that Ensures Equal Access to Our Justice System

Legal Services Corporation (LSC) is a private, non-profit corporation established by Congress to ensure equal access to justice under the law for all Americans by providing legal assistance in civil matters to low-income individuals. Congress created LSC because it recognized that federal funding was necessary to ensure that at least a minimum level of access to the system of justice was available everywhere in the United States. For 25 years, LSC has continued its commitment to equal justice as an indispensable component of America's justice system.

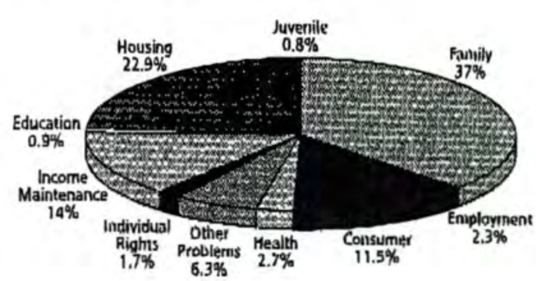
Nonpartisan Institution Serving Americans

LSC was created in 1974 with bipartisan congressional sponsorship and the support of the Nixon Administration. It is headed by an 11-member board of directors, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. By law, the board is bipartisan: no more than six members may be of the same political party.

LSC Programs Funded Through Grants, Public-Private Partnership

LSC provides grants to independent local programs chosen through a system of competition. With its FY 1999 budget of $300 million, LSC currently funds 258 local programs, serving every county and congressional district in the nation. LSC distributes 97 percent of the funds it receives to these programs. Working as an exemplary model of public-private partnership, LSC grantees leverage federal funds to raise nearly $230 million annually in other government and private funding to help support their activities. In addition, LSC-funded programs maximize and promote pro bono service from private attorneys. LSC provides the education and the structure that enable volunteer private attorneys to serve clients effectively.

1998 Case Closures, By Type of Case
Source: 1998 Grant Activity Report



"We the People of the United States, In order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

– Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

"LSC serves as a safety net for the poor in that it gives them the ability to pursue their rights as American citizens, irregardless of economic status. Without such a safety net, these Americans would not be able to petition the courts for a remedy for the wrongs they have suffered. For these Americans, their rights would be no rights at all."

– Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)

"I had, literally, run for my life. I was battered and bruised. I had taken my two kids and myself and fled to a women's shelter. We had nothing... I was in fear for my life. Who would help a woman that had nothing but two kids? That's when I found Legal Aid."

– Client, Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma

Restoring Economic Independence

For millions of Americans, legal services is the only resource available to access the justice system. Legal services' clients are as diverse as the nation, encompassing all races, ethnic groups, and ages. They include the working poor, veterans, family farmers, people with disabilities, and victims of natural disasters. Many were formerly middle class, and became poor because of age, unemployment, illness, or the breakup of a family. LSC-funded programs help people restore their economic independence by giving them the tools they need to help themselves.

Often, the best way to help clients is to provide them with important legal information. LSC programs instruct clients on both their rights and their responsibilities under the law. With this information, clients can work within the justice system to re-establish economic independence. With LSC's help, families can maintain their incomes, homes, health benefits, and their dignity.

Millions Benefited, Civil Cases Resolved

In 1998, LSC handled more than a million civil cases, benefiting twice as many individuals. The most common types of cases that people bring to LSC-funded program offices are related to family law, housing, employment, government benefits, and consumer matters.

More than two-thirds of LSC clients are women — most of them mothers with children. The legal problems faced by those living in poverty can have serious, long-term consequences for children, and as a result, for society as a whole.

Continued Funding Ensures Continued Service

The need for legal services is overwhelming. Almost one in every five Americans is potentially eligible for LSC-funded services. Because of limited resources, local legal services programs are forced to turn away tens of thousands of people with critical legal needs. The future of LSC depends on continued federal funding to ensure the justice system does not exist just for those who can pay the price of admission.

Contact: Legal Services Corporation, 750 First St., NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 • 202-336-8800 202-336-8959 (fax) • www.lsc.gov

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION (LSC)
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is LSC?

LSC is a private, non-profit corporation established in 1974 by Congress during the Nixon administration in 1974 to help provide low-income Americans with civil legal services. For 25 years, LSC has maintained its commitment to equal justice as an indispensable component of America's justice system.

How does it work?

LSC receives funds from Congress, and makes grants to local legal aid offices run by independent boards of directors. Local boards are comprised of community leaders, client representatives and local leaders. For the past 25 years, legal services' attorneys have helped millions of low-income people address basic civil legal issues that make a difference in their lives. Legal services' attorneys teach people their rights and responsibilities, provide legal advice, and help resolve cases, most often without even going to court. These attorneys work to help clients stay in safe and secure homes, make sure children receive financial support, protect women from domestic violence and ensure our justice system works for all Americans.

Who benefits from LSC programs?

There are currently 40 million Americans at or below the poverty level. LSC's clients are as diverse as our nation, encompassing all races, ethnic groups, and ages. They include the working poor, veterans, family farmers, people with disabilities, and victims of natural disasters. Many were formerly middle income and became poor because of age, unemployment, illness, or the breakup of a family. Left unresolved, the problems clients bring to LSC-funded programs can end up costing society far more than the funding invested in providing legal services.

How does LSC help low-income Americans?

LSC funding helps people get their lives back together. At an average cost of around $150 per client, legal services' attorneys have, for example:

- Enforced child support orders saving thousands of taxpayer dollars by keeping whole families off welfare;
- Helped thousands of family farmers during the farm crisis of the 1980s by preventing more than 250,000 illegal farm foreclosures;
- Established a mine safety project in Kentucky, resulting in reinstatement of dozens of coal miners to their jobs and the expansion of miner's rights to a safe work place;
- Prevented homelessness by enforcing laws against housing discrimination toward families with children;
- Represented battered women seeking orders of protection, child support enforcement and divorces from abusive spouses.

How are LSC cases typically resolved?

Most legal services' cases are resolved rapidly and out of court. Many times, legal advice, a referral or a few letters or phone calls are enough to solve a problem, which, if not addressed, could require even more serious action and public expense.

Only 9.6 percent of the cases closed in 1998 were resolved through the courts, and in many of these cases, the other party initiated the litigation.

How are LSC and its programs funded?

LSC receives annual funding from Congress and makes grants to local programs that provide civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. Funds are distributed to programs on a per capita basis, according to census reports of the number of low-income people in the area. In 1998, LSC-funded programs handled more than one million civil cases, benefiting more than two million individuals, mostly children living in poverty. LSC grantees spent around $150 per client, costing each American a mere $1.10 to ensure that millions of our poorest citizens had access to justice.

LSC is model public-private partnership. LSC currently funds 258 local legal aid programs, serving every county and congressional district in the nation. LSC's grantees leverage the $300 million in federal funds to raise nearly $230 million annually in other government and private funding to help support local legal programs.

In addition, LSC-funded programs maximize and promote pro bono service from private attorneys. LSC provides the education and the structure that enable 150,000 volunteer private attorneys to serve clients effectively.

When did the idea for equal access to justice begin?

More than 200 years ago as espoused by the founders of this nation. In articulating their rationale for forming a united nation from the 13 independent states, the founders, in the preamble to the Constitution, listed "to establish justice" as the first specific function of the new government. Justice is not simply another government entitlement; it is the historic mandate of a free society.

Why do we need LSC?

LSC provides justice to people who could otherwise not afford it, ensuring America lives up to the mandate of a free society.

LSC provides a measure of fairness to those in our complex and rapidly changing society who are too often forgotten or turned away.

###

JOHN MCKAY
PRESIDENT
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

John McKay was appointed president of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) by its bipartisan board of directors in the spring of 1997. His tenure has been characterized by a bipartisan approach to working with Congress, driven by his deeply held commitment to the principle of equal justice.

LSC provides civil legal aid to low-income individuals with critical legal needs by administering federal grants to its 258 local programs around the country. As past chair of the Equal Justice Coalition, a bipartisan coalition of nearly 100 community leaders and 50 organizations in Washington state, Mr. McKay spearheaded the state's effort to preserve federal funding for LSC.

Mr. McKay worked on Capitol Hill in the late 1970s as a legislative aide to the late Representative Joel Pritchard (R-WA). In the 1980s, President George Bush named him a White House Fellow, and he returned to the nation's capital, where he served as special assistant to FBI Director William Sessions.

Mr. McKay also has taken on leadership responsibilities with both the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Washington State Bar Association. He was a member of both the ABA Board of Governors and House of Delegates, as well as the state bar association's task forces on Opportunities for Minorities in the Legal Profession and on Governance. From 1988 to 1989, he was president of the Washington State Young Lawyers Division, and in 1995 the Washington State Bar Association named Mr. McKay *Pro Bono* Lawyer of the Year.

During his tenure as LSC president, the corporation has maintained its bipartisan support in Congress, despite threats to eliminate LSC. Mr. McKay has logged thousands of miles visiting legal services programs around the country, encouraging programs to improve the delivery of services to clients, by becoming more efficient technologically proficient. He also has urged local and state bar associations to recruit volunteer attorneys to help meet the overwhelming need for civil legal aid to the poor.

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Legal Services Corporation
LSC

750 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4250
202-336-8800 202-336-8959 (Fax)
www.lsc.gov

DATE: July 26

TO: Katy Button

FROM: Tina McDaniel

RE: LSC materials

PAGES TO FOLLOW:

COMMENTS:

Here are the materials you requested.

Legal
Services
Corporation
LSC

750 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4250
202-336-8800 202-336-8959 (Fax)
www.lsc.gov

July 22, 1999
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kim Dixon
(202) 336-8939

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE SLASHES LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FUNDING AGAIN

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary today voted for the fourth year in a row to cut in half funding for Legal Services Corporation (LSC). Chaired by Representative Harold Rogers (R-KY), the Subcommittee elected to appropriate only $141 million for FY 00, roughly half of LSC's FY 99 budget. Last year, the Subcommittee also voted to fund LSC at $141 million, a decision that was overridden by amendment on the House floor. The full Senate is expected to approve $300 million for LSC in FY 00.

"I am very disappointed to find after several years of working with Representative Rogers and his staff to implement the congressional restrictions imposed on LSC, the Subcommittee would once again vote to less than adequately fund the legal services program," said LSC President John McKay, a Republican. "The Subcommittee seems to have overlooked our existing strong bipartisan support."

LSC currently receives funding of $300 million to provide grants to nearly 260 local programs that help low-income persons resolve their civil legal problems. Last year, LSC programs served more than 1 million people who needed assistance with matters involving domestic violence, housing, employment, or disability claims. More than two-thirds of LSC programs' clients were women, mostly mothers with children.

In 1996, Congress restructured the legal services delivery system by placing a series of new restrictions on the types of ways LSC attorneys can represent their clients. The restrictions addressed Congress' determination that federal funds should go to programs that focus on individual cases, leaving to others the broader efforts to address the problems of the client community.

-30-

LSC is a private, non-profit corporation established by Congress in 1974 to seek to ensure equal access to justice for all low-income persons.

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U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Policy Development

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

FROM: Katia Garrett
Chief of Staff
Office of Policy Development
Phone: 202/514-2253
FAX: 202/514-2424

Robin
338-8700

TO: Katie Button

FAX NUMBER: 456-6244

DATE: July 23, 1999

NUMBER OF PAGES: ______4___ (including this cover sheet)

MESSAGE: Hi Katie - here are the remarks prepared for the AG for Tuesday's event for the Legal Services Corporation. After today, the POC from our office is Lisa Graves (616-2004). Before then, let me know if you have any questions!
Thanks.

Katia

Prepared by: Katia Garrett (OPD) 4-2253
Reviewed by: Eleanor D. Acheson (OPD) 4-4601
July 22, 1999 1:00 p.m.

ATTORNEY GENERAL REMARKS FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

I am honored to celebrate with you the 25th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation. In 1974, President Nixon and the 93rd Congress gave life to a marvelous vision: establishing a non-partisan Corporation dedicated to providing equal access to justice for people who can't afford an attorney. For 25 years, the Legal Services Corporation has reached communities otherwise unserved by lawyers. You have helped people -- mostly women, children, and families -- address the basic legal issues that make a difference in their lives.

You have made justice accessible to millions. People sometimes ask me, "What do you mean by 'justice'?" Surely one key ingredient of justice is having a voice in what happens to you, to your family, to your community:

- Having a voice when you've not been treated fairly, and you want to set things right.
- Having a voice within a system that seems confusing to you because you've never been in it before.
- Having a voice when you need protection from someone who's abusing you.
- Having a voice when you need to make sure that your children will get a secure start in life.

All of you here today have worked hard and long to make sure that the voices of all Americans continue to be heard. That's an important part of "justice."

There's something else pretty important that LSC does for the justice system. The American justice system is one of the pillars of our great democracy. But I have seen first-hand that its effectiveness --its strength -- is tied to the faith and the confidence of the people it serves. We learned from an ABA survey this year that while Americans strongly support our legal system, many think that it favors the wealthy over the poor.

This is where the Legal Services Corporation continues to come in: Twenty-five years ago, Congress said that "for many of our citizens, the availability of legal services has reaffirmed faith in our government of laws." You restore confidence, you true the balance, you reaffirm the all-important faith of our people in the justice system. For this tireless work, I applaud you. And I thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for giving life to the core ideal of equal access to justice.

GREER, MARGOLIS, MITCHELL, BURNS

GMMB&A

& ASSOCIATES, INC.

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: July 23, 1999

To: Laura Schwartz 66771
Katherine Button
Dag Vega
Courtney Manning
Katia Garrett

From: Sarah Williams

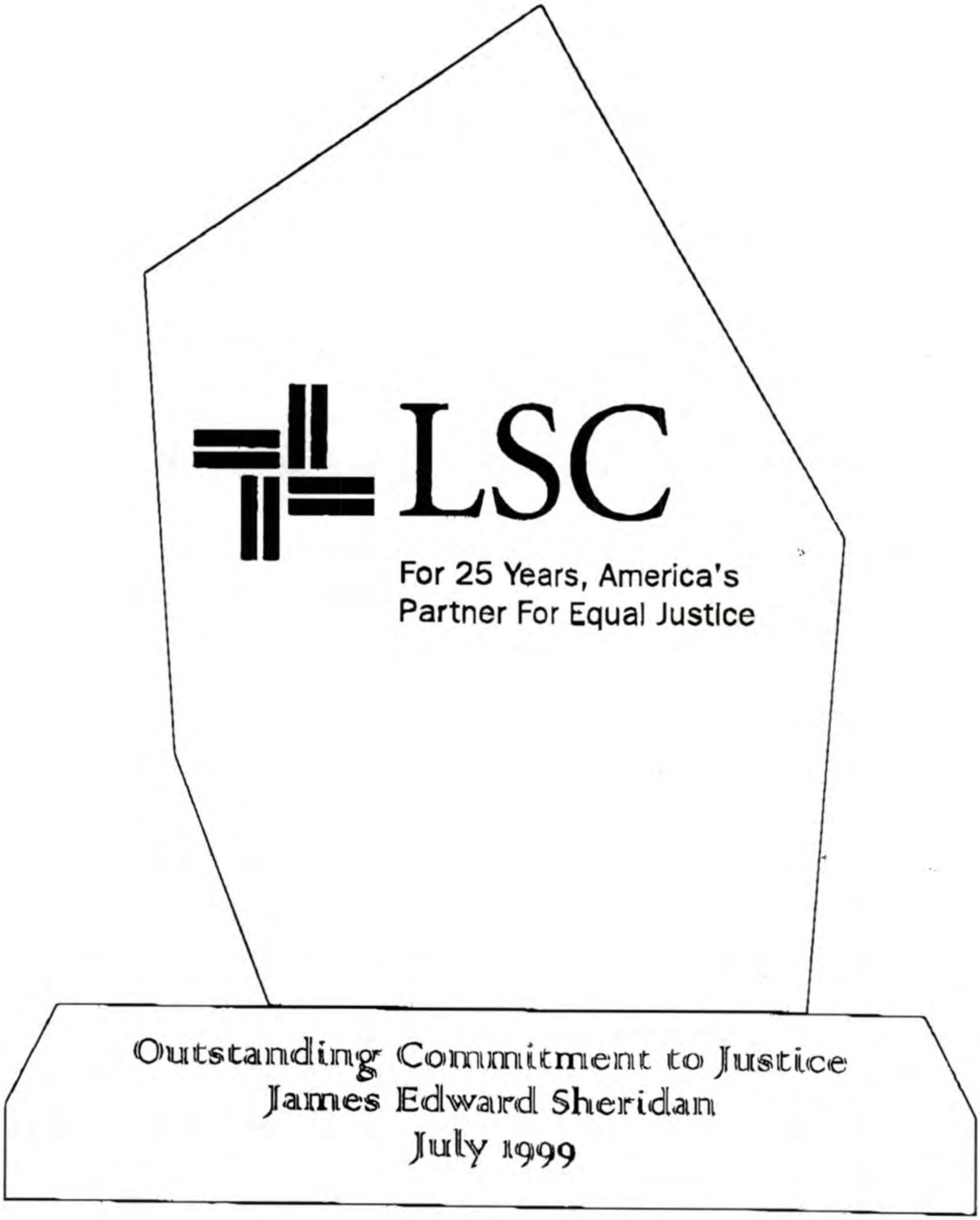
RE: LSC Outstanding Commitment to Justice Awards

The design and list of recipients follows. Robin will send an email with the background on the award this afternoon. Please call us at 338-8700 if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Katy -
Can you share this w/ Laura & Courtney - we don't have their fax#'s.
Thanks!
Sarah

1010 Wisconsin Avenue, NW · Suite 800 · Washington, DC 20007 · (202) 338-8700 · FAX (202) 338-2334
2218 Main Street · Suite 202 · Santa Monica, CA 90405 · (310) 314-4800 · FAX (310) 314-4803


LSC
For 25 Years, America's
Partner For Equal Justice
Outstanding Commitment to Justice
James Edward Sheridan
July 1999

LSC

For 25 Years, America's
Partner For Equal Justice

Outstanding Commitment to Justice
American Bar Association
July 1999

Outstanding Commitment to Justice
President William J. Clinton
July 1999

Outstanding Commitment to Justice
Senator Pete Domenici
July 1999

Outstanding Commitment to Justice
Senator Edward Kennedy
July 1999

Outstanding Commitment to Justice
Senator Warren Rudman
July 1999

Outstanding Commitment to Justice
Congressman Howard Berman
July 1999

Outstanding Commitment to Justice
Congressman Jim Ramstad
July 1999

Outstanding Commitment to Justice
First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
July 1999

Attorney General Janet Reno

robin.schepper@gmmb.com
07/24/99 05:00:01 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Katharine Button/WHO/EOP

cc:
Subject: LSC Award

Katy-
I am sorry, I had your name spelled wrong inthe email. Hopefully you got the fax and here is some additional information.

robin

_______________ Forward Header _______________
Subject: LSC Award
Author: Robin Schepper at GMMB
Date: 7/23/99 3:18 PM

Here is some information about LSC's Award for "Outstanding Commitment to Justice"

Purpose:
To honor individuals who have supported access to justice in the past 25 years. This award recognizes each recipient's support of legal services and at the same time, the broader concept of equal justice under the law as stated in the Constitution.

Recipients:
President Clinton
First Lady
Attorney General Reno
Senator Kennedy
Senator Rudman
Senator Domenici
Rep. Berman
Rep. Ramstad
American Bar Association

Delivery of Awards:
The President, First Lady and Attorney General will be presented the award at teh White House event on Tuesday, July 27th. The Members of Congress and the American Bar Association will receive the Award later that evening at a reception on Capitol Hill.

Dimensions: The Award is made of crystal and stands seven inches tall. The Incription: LSC For 25 years, America's Partner of Equal Justice. the base has the inscription: Outstanding Commitment to Justice and the name of the Recipient and the date.

This is the first time the award has been given. It has not been decided whether this will become an annual award.

Let me know if you need any more information on this award. We will bring the awards with us for the White House event on Tuesday.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

12-30-97

HRC/McCurry

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

'97 NOV 20 PM2:12

copied
Melanne
Emanuel
Smith
Bowles

November 20, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JOHN HILLEY John Hilley

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 105th CONGRESS

I. Measures Enacted Into law

1. Balanced Budget Agreement

Balanced Budget: After months of negotiations, the Administration produced an agreement leading to the first balanced budget since 1969. The budget contains roughly $900 billion in net 10 year deficit savings while making the largest investment in higher education since the G.I bill in 1945 and the largest single investment in health care for children since 1965. The deficit you inherited in 1993 was $290 billion and projected to grow to over one-half trillion dollars in 2002. In conjunction with the 1993 economic plan, the 1997 balanced budget agreement is expected to produce a budget surplus no later than 2002. Strict, enforceable appropriations caps, coupled with critical long-term entitlement reforms will ensure that the budget will stay in balance over the next decade.

Ten year Medicare savings of between $400 million to $450 billion will extend the life of the Medicare trust fund for at least a decade at the same time new preventive benefits are added and while protecting the premium of low-income Medicare beneficiaries. Longer term reforms (particularly those with substantial and complex impacts on beneficiaries) will be considered in the context of the Medicare Commission.

Critical domestic appropriation priorities including funding for education, training, environment, and crime are protected under the budget agreement. Key investments in entitlement programs, including welfare to work and restoration of benefits for legal immigrants are also included.

2. Middle Class Tax Relief

Tax Relief: The tax cut legislation also enacted as part of the balanced budget agreement includes all of the elements contained in your proposed Middle Class Bill of Rights and subsequent tax proposals made in 1995/96. The major provisions of the legislation include:

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5. Environment

Climate Change: The FY98 Energy and Water Appropriations bill provides a $35 million funding increase for the alternative energy programs of DOE that help save money, create jobs, and reduce the emission of climate change gases. This increased funding is consistent with your climate change proposal and includes such programs as solar power and alternative fuel research. In the Senate Robert Byrd (D-WVA) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) sponsored a Sense of the Senate Resolution, S. Res. 98, which passed 95 - 0 and warns the Executive Branch that any treaty establishing targets and timetables for the United States must include a commitment from developing countries before ratification.

Headwaters Forest: The Administration worked to protect funding for several key Administration priorities in the Interior Appropriations bill, including $250 million for the purchase of the Headwaters forest in California. The purchase of this forest eliminates the risk of environmental damage by commercial timber operations to the largest privately held stand of ancient redwoods in northern California.

New World Mine: The Administration also worked to secure $65 million for the purchase of the New World Mine near Yellowstone, Montana. The purchase of this land eliminates the opportunity for commercial mining operations which would have had a devastating environmental impact on this historic and nationally significant area.

Everglades Restoration: The Administration more than doubled funding ($156 million) for the Everglades Restoration project which supports our efforts to restore this rare and delicate ecosystem through wildlife replenishment and environmental clean-up.

Brownfields: The FY98 Interior Appropriations bill provides $25 million in direct funding for Brownfields clean-up projects. The Administration worked vigorously to secure the Brownfields tax incentive within the Tax Relief package. This three year tax incentive will reduce the cost of cleaning up numerous contaminated and abandoned sites in economically distressed areas by permitting clean-up costs to be deducted immediately for tax purposes.

Dolphin-Safe Tuna: The Congress passed legislation amending the Marine Mammal Protection Act to lift the embargo against countries fishing for tuna by encircling purse seine nets around dolphins, as long as they fish in the prescribed manner. The bill also changes the definition of the label "dolphin safe." The legislation implements the Panama Declaration, an international agreement signed by the United States and 11 other countries who fish for tuna in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

Wildlife Refuge Bill: You signed legislation amending the National Refuge System Administration Act to include a strong conservation mission, a new process for determining compatible uses of refuges and a requirement for preparing comprehensive conservation plans. The legislation recognizes that wildlife-dependent recreational uses involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education are priority public uses of the Refuge System.

GLOBE: Despite opposition to the GLOBE program, the Administration was able to prevent it's elimination and secure $5 million for FY98. However, this amount is still $2 million below your request. The program provides students throughout the world with an opportunity to discuss various environmental issues with renowned scientists.

6. Child Initiatives

Children's Health: The balanced budget agreement provides $24 billion in additional Medicaid funding to supply health care coverage to as many as five million of the nation's ten million uninsured children. This measure guarantees that states use this money to cover uninsured children and not replace existing public or private spending, and provides adequate cost-sharing protections for families. The measure also ensures that 30,000 disabled children losing SSI benefits because of tighter eligibility criteria keep their Medicaid coverage.

Adoption: The Congress passed H.R. 867, the Adoption Promotion Act providing states with financial incentives to increase the number of children who are adopted, make changes in federal law that will make it easier for local authorities to permanently remove children from abusive homes, and move children more rapidly out of foster care and into permanent adoptive homes. The compromise version authorizes $100 million over five years, including $60 million for the Family Preservation Program and rewards states for increased adoptions with a bonus of $3,000 for each adoption of a foster care child and $6,000 for each adoption of a special-needs child.

Youth Opportunity Grants: The Administration ensured an advance appropriation of $250 million for employment programs for out-of-school youth in selected high-poverty urban and rural areas, including designated empowerment zones and enterprise communities in the FY98 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill.

Community Learning Center: The FY98 Labor/HHS/Education bill dramatically expands support for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, providing $40 million to support hundreds of after-school centers in rural and urban schools across the country that will provide academic enrichment, tutoring, and other learning opportunities while giving students a safe haven during the often-dangerous after-school hours.

Trigger Locks: While no legislative action was taken on this initiative, the introduction of your Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Act of 1997 led to a consensus agreement between Smith and Wesson, the world's largest gun manufacturer, and the Master Lock Company, to voluntarily install child safety locks on all handguns sold for commercial use. The Administration continues to work vigorously to get all federally-licensed gun dealers to provide safety locks with every handgun sold.

7. Economic Opportunity

Welfare Tax Credit: The Middle Class Tax Relief legislation provides a credit equal to 35% of the first $10,000 in wages in the first year of employment and 50% of the first $10,000 in the second year paid to new hires who have received welfare for an extended period.

Welfare to Work: The balanced budget agreement included your proposal to create the $3 billion Welfare to Work Jobs Challenge which moves long-term welfare recipients into lasting, unsubsidized jobs. These funds can be used for job creation, job placement and retention efforts, including wage subsidies to private employers, and other critical post-employment support services. The Labor Department will provide oversight but the dollars will be placed in the hands of the localities who are on the front lines of the welfare reform effort.

Community Development Financial Development: The FY98 Interior Appropriations bill provides $80 million for Community Development Financial Institutions representing a significant increase over FY97 levels.

Drug Free Communities Act: The Office of National Drug Control Policy and White House Legislative Affairs worked to perfect and ultimately enact this legislation which will make federal grants available to community-based coalitions working to reduce substance abuse. In addition to passing this authorizing legislation, adequate funding for the measure was successfully obtained in the current appropriations cycle.

Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Conference Report: The Congress passed legislation restoring the bank's authorization, which expired September 30, until September 30, 2001.

Small Business Administration Reauthorization: The Administration worked vigorously to ensure that Congress passed legislation reauthorizing the Small Business Administration. The legislation authorizes small business loans which assist thousands of small businesses each year, programs include the Section 504 Development Company Loan, the Microloan program, and the National Women's Business Council which funds Women's Business Centers.

8. Immigrant Issues

SSI and Medicaid Benefits for Legal Immigrants: The Administration worked to correct several unacceptable provisions of the Welfare Reform bill of 1996, particularly the restoration of Medicaid and SSI benefits for legal immigrants. The balanced budget agreement provided $12 billion for the restoration of disability and health benefits for

350,000 legal immigrants in 2002 who are currently receiving assistance or become disabled, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise helpless.

Central Americans: During the last week of this session Congress passed legislation largely based on an Administration proposal designed to avert the deportation of certain Central Americans and others who fled their homes during civil unrest. The measure passed by Congress allows Guatemalans, El Salvadorians and refugees from the former Eastern Bloc countries to have their cases heard by an immigration judge under the more lenient standards that were in effect prior to last year's immigration law. Additionally, Congress upped the ante on the Administration's original bill by granting Nicaraguan refugees and certain Cuban refugees amnesty. Unfortunately, Congress refused to extend Administration-proposed relief to Haitians and other certain non-Central Americans. We anticipate work on the Haitian relief legislation early in the second session.

Immigration and Naturalization Act: Section 245(I) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act allows immigrants with pending applications for permanent visas to remain in the country while awaiting approval of the visa. While the Senate had approved an Administration-backed permanent extension of Section 245(I), House Republicans were determined to kill the provision. The Administration won provisions that will provide a two month extension of the program and grandfather all currently eligible immigrants. These provisions will provide a more orderly phase out of the program and allow many more families to use 245(I) to remain together during the visa application process.

Refugees and Asylees: The balanced budget agreement extends the SSI and Medicaid eligibility period for refugees and asylees from 5 years after entry to 7 years to give these residents more time to naturalize.

9. Transportation

Amtrak: The Administration reached a compromise with Republicans in the House and Senate who were insisting on their extreme labor and liability reforms. The measure places an aggregate $200 million cap on the civil settlements with passengers after any accident. Second, the passage of the reform bill triggered the release of $2.3 billion in capital funding provided for in the tax portion of the balanced budget agreement. Third, the bill solidified the collective bargaining agreement reached by Amtrak management and labor. Under this new labor-management agreement the following provisions were repealed: the ban on outside contracting of jobs and services; and the statutory guarantee which required Amtrak to provide 6-years of severance to any employee who looses their position due to a route change/elimination or a frequency reduction 3 times week. Finally, the measure contains compromise language on the Amtrak Reform Board. The Reform Board will consist of seven members to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Airport and Airway Trust Fund: The Congress passed legislation reinstating the three aviation taxes: (i) the 10% excise tax on domestic air passengers tickets; (ii) the $6-per-person international air passenger departure tax; and (iii) and the 6.25% domestic air freight excise tax. The $2.7 billion that would be raised would replenish the Airport and Airway Trust fund, which pays for such construction and aviation safety projects as new airport runways and improved radar systems.

10. Foreign Policy

Chemical Weapons Convention: The Administration gained Senate passage of the CWC Treaty to prevent production, stockpiling and distribution of chemical weapons. The Treaty took effect in April and awaits further congressional action on it implementation legislation.

Mexico Drug Certification: The Senate reaffirmed the President's decision to certify Mexico as an ally in combating drug trafficking.

China MFN: On Tuesday, June 24, the House rejected (173--259) H.J.Res. 79, a resolution which would overturn your May 29 decision to extend most-favored-nation trading status for China. Thirty-five members who voted no in a similar 1996 vote (141--286) switched to yes, while seven members switched from yes to voting with the Administration. Congress has agreed to extend the trading status, which applies to all but a handful of renegade nations, for 16 years in a row.

Foreign Operations Appropriations: The Administration increased funding in the bill by about $900 million over 1997 levels. The following programs received increased funding under the measure: Foreign military financing loans and grants are $18 million above the $3,340 million request, primarily to allow for an increase in grants to Jordan; AID developmental assistance is $26 million above the $1,698 million requested; and Export-Import Bank subsidies are increased by $51 million above the request to $683 million. In addition, the bill includes language effectively extending key elements of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act by giving you 12 month waiver authority.

11. Science and Technology

NASA: The FY98 VA/HUD Appropriations bill provides full funding for NASA's science and aeronautics programs, Mission to Planet Earth, aeronautics and space transportation research and mission support services. The measure provides a total of $2.351 billion for the International Space Station program, which includes $230 million of the $430 million additional funding needed in FY98 to ensure the Station effort remains on schedule. The additional funds are necessary because of the Russian

Federation's default on their Mir obligations.

Technology Innovation Challenge Grants. The FY98 Labor/HHS/Education bill includes $106 million--an 86 percent increase over last year's level of $57 million--to support up to 30 new projects, including 15 focused specifically on delivering the most effective training for teachers in using educational technologies, as well as 62 existing projects involving a wide range of innovative strategies for improving teaching and learning and increasing student access to technology.

Technology Literacy Challenge Fund. The FY98 Labor/HHS/Education bill provides $425 million, more than twice as much as the $200 million appropriated last year, to help States, communities, and schools acquire hardware, software, and connectivity linkages; provide professional development in the integration of technology into the curriculum; and apply technology to support school reform efforts and opportunities for all students.

12. Other Legislative Affairs Activities

Nominations: In 1997, the Senate confirmed 75% of all Presidential nominees (362 out of 484) including 41 judicial nominees. This represents a 30 percentage point increase from 45% in 1996 (154 out of 342--22 Judicial). In 1995, the Senate confirmed 71% of your nominees (327 out of 461--62 Judicial). The Administration was also successful in confirming nine Cabinet Secretaries in often contentious confirmation processes (Secretaries Pena, Slater, Herman, Cuomo, Daley, Barshefsky, Richardson, Cohen, Albright).

Legislative Correspondence: Our Correspondence office continues to develop substantive Presidential responses to Congressional inquiries, author letters stating official Administration legislative policy and track Cabinet-level response to Congressional inquiries. Throughout the session, this office was directed to consolidate Administration opinion and develop Presidential letters to the House and Senate leadership regarding pending legislative matters. During an average week while in session, Congressional receipts are as follows:

1. Substantive policy letters requiring response - 100
2. Member requests for Presidential event messages - 50
3. Member requests for Presidential greeting letters - 350

This office also provides requesting Members with redline copies of bills signed into law, monitors the distribution of signing pens to designated Members and regularly generates thank-you letters to Members who support the Administration on major votes.

Scheduling: Since January 1997, you have had over 70 meetings with Members of Congress, more than nine of these were with the House and Senate Leadership. You have also met with the Senate Democratic Caucus, the House Democratic Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Women's Caucus, and are scheduled to meet with the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus before the end of the year.

In addition to these meetings, there have been eight public signing ceremonies for major bills, such as the Balanced Budget Act and Taxpayer Relief Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Adoption Promotion Act, and a ceremony is scheduled for the and the Food and Drug Administration Modernization and Accountability Act. Additionally, Members have been prominent in all four of the White House conferences held this year. Members have also been involved in a great majority of your official travel in 1997, including four of the five foreign trips.

II. Unacceptable Republican Provisions That Were Successfully Contested

1. Education

D.C. Appropriations Voucher Proposal Defeated: This proposal would have appropriated $7 million to be used to create 2,000 vouchers valued at $3,200 each to attend public, private or religious schools. It would also would have authorized $500 after-school tutoring vouchers. The House approved the D.C. Appropriations bill with this provision by a vote of 203 to 202 on October 9, 1997. However, when an identical provision supported by Senators Liebermann and Coats was included in the Senate D.C. Appropriation bill, the Senate failed to invoke cloture by a vote of 58 to 41. The provision was eventually dropped from the final bill.

Coverdell/Archer K-12 IRA Proposal Defeated: This proposal would have not only allowed taxpayers to make tax-free withdrawals from education individual retirement accounts to pay for elementary and secondary school expenses but it would have also increased the maximum annual contribution from $500 to $2,500 per beneficiary. The withdrawals could have been used to pay for tuition, fees, tutoring, special needs services, books, supplies, equipment, transportation and supplementary expenses required for the enrollment or attendance at a public, private religious, or private nonsectarian school, or for home schooling. This provision was removed from the tax portion of the balanced budget agreement after the President threatened to veto the entire tax bill if it remained. Later, the full House approved H.R. 2646, a newer version of the "Coverdell" provision. However, the Senate failed to invoke cloture by a vote of 56 to 44.

Education Block Grants: The Administration successfully forced the removal of an education block grant proposal which sought to consolidated $2.5 billion worth of programs currently run by the Department of Education, including Goals 2000, school-to-work programs, educational technology programs, and the Safe and Drug-Free School program into block grants to the states.

2. Environment

Native American Riders: The Administration worked to removed or denude many anti-environmental and anti-Native American riders from the Interior bill, including amendments weakening tribal sovereignty and prohibiting tribal compacts.

Nuclear Waste Legislation: While the bill was not stopped, the Senate provided enough votes to sustain the President's veto.

Ethanol: Administration efforts prevented Ways and Means Chairman Archer from reducing the tax benefits available to ethanol producers.

3. Foreign Policy

Bosnia: The Administration successfully prohibited Congress from legislating a date certain for troop withdrawal from Bosnia. Troops withdrawal amendments restricting troops to remain in Bosnia past June 1998 were resolved in the Defense Appropriations Bill and the Defense Authorization Bill Conferences by granting the President with a National Security waiver for troop withdrawal.

Religious Persecution: The Administration helped prevent the House International Relations Committee from reporting out H.R.2431, Freedom from Religious Persecution Bill sponsored by Senator Specter and Representative Wolf. The bill included restrictions on exports, visas, foreign assistance and international financial institution voting. The bill would create a confusing bureaucratic structure for dealing with religious freedom that would fragment foreign policy decision-making. We can expect to see an effort to move this bill as soon as Congress returns

Mexico City: The Administration successfully stopped enactment of Mexico City policy and removed the obligation delay in the 1997 bill and kept the funding at 1997 levels.

4. Social Issues

Partial Birth Abortion Veto Override: As a result of Administration efforts, final action was delayed because the Senate could not muster a veto-proof majority. Such a Majority already exists in the House. Despite significant defection (Senator's Leahy, Daschle, Specter, Hollings changed their votes) the Administration, in conjunction with the women's community, was able to thwart Republican efforts to gain veto-override strength in the Senate.

Tabling Affirmative Action Legislation: Earlier this month the House Judiciary Committee voted to table H.R. 1909, legislation by Congressman Canady (R-FL) that would eliminate all federal affirmative action programs. All the Committee Democrats and four Committee Republicans, led by George Gekas (R-PA), voted to table the measure in large part because of the Administration's work with Committee Democrats, and outside interest groups, to successfully portray the measure as extremist. It is almost certain that House Republican leadership will have to significantly narrow the scope of this legislation to appease Republican moderates if they want to move it forward. However, such a move could cause conservative Republicans to abandon the efforts altogether.

Legal Services Corporation: The Administration successfully prevented Republican opponents of the Corporation from significantly limiting its funds in the FY98 appropriations bill. The Administration achieved an increase in the funding level for the

Legal Services Corporation from the $141 million level proposed in the House Committee passed bill to $283 million, which is identical to last year's level.

5. Additional Legislative Items

Balanced Budget Amendment: The Administration defeated the balanced budget constitutional amendment in the Senate by a vote of 34 to 66.

Decennial Census: Under an agreement reached as part of the FY98 Commerce/Justice/State Appropriations bill, the Census Bureau would be allowed to proceed with a test next year on the use of statistical sampling. The agreement promotes an expedited Supreme Court review of the use of sampling. Funds are appropriated for an expanded dress rehearsal to test direct enumeration techniques in the event of Supreme Court decision banning the use of certain forms of sampling. The agreement also calls for an eight member monitoring board to review the dress rehearsal and the Census Bureau plans for 2000, including sampling. The board, split equally between Republicans and Democrats, would need a quorum of five.

Beck Provisions: Earlier this fall Senate Democrats successfully filibustered Senate Republican campaign finance legislation to require that all union members affirmatively permit the use of their dues for political campaign spending. By working with reformers, Senate Democrats and by adroitly positioning the Administration, Senate Republicans, not Senate Democrats, were largely blamed for the defeat of campaign finance reform this fall. Additionally, Senate Democrats were able to successfully sustain a subsequent filibuster and win a commitment for further consideration of campaign finance legislation by next March.

Curios and Relics: Twice during the past several months pro-gun Congressmen have attempted to enact legislation that would require the Administration to approve applications for the importation of certain guns known as curios and relics. This legislation would have allowed back into the U.S. millions of semi-automatic rifles and pistols (many of which would be easily convertible to fully automatic weapons) that were given by the U.S. to foreign military forces. The Administration worked closely with Congressional allies to kill this legislation by defeating both attempts to attach this legislation to pending appropriations bills.

cc: The Vice-President
Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Sylvia Mathews

M4

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

12-30-97

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

'97 NOV 20 P2:12

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Melanne
Emanuel
Smith
Bowles

November 20, 1997

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FROM: JOHN HILLEY

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Medicare Commission: As the Administration worked to strengthen and preserve the Medicare program, it successfully established a 17-member Medicare Commission containing eight Democrats and eight Republicans and a Chair who will be selected jointly by the President and the Congressional leadership. The Commission will release a report in 1999 on the long-term performance and solvency of the Medicare system. The Commission is required to have an 11 of 17 majority to ensure that its recommendations are bipartisan.

5. Environment

Climate Change: The FY98 Energy and Water Appropriations bill provides a $35 million funding increase for the alternative energy programs of DOE that help save money, create jobs, and reduce the emission of climate change gases. This increased funding is consistent with your climate change proposal and includes such programs as solar power and alternative fuel research. In the Senate Robert Byrd (D-WVA) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) sponsored a Sense of the Senate Resolution, S. Res. 98, which passed 95 - 0 and warns the Executive Branch that any treaty establishing targets and timetables for the United States must include a commitment from developing countries before ratification.

Headwaters Forest: The Administration worked to protect funding for several key Administration priorities in the Interior Appropriations bill, including $250 million for the purchase of the Headwaters forest in California. The purchase of this forest eliminates the risk of environmental damage by commercial timber operations to the largest privately held stand of ancient redwoods in northern California.

New World Mine: The Administration also worked to secure $65 million for the purchase of the New World Mine near Yellowstone, Montana. The purchase of this land eliminates the opportunity for commercial mining operations which would have had a devastating environmental impact on this historic and nationally significant area.

Everglades Restoration: The Administration more than doubled funding ($156 million) for the Everglades Restoration project which supports our efforts to restore this rare and delicate ecosystem through wildlife replenishment and environmental clean-up.

Brownfields: The FY98 Interior Appropriations bill provides $25 million in direct funding for Brownfields clean-up projects. The Administration worked vigorously to secure the Brownfields tax incentive within the Tax Relief package. This three year tax incentive will reduce the cost of cleaning up numerous contaminated and abandoned sites in economically distressed areas by permitting clean-up costs to be deducted immediately for tax purposes.

Dolphin-Safe Tuna: The Congress passed legislation amending the Marine Mammal Protection Act to lift the embargo against countries fishing for tuna by encircling purse seine nets around dolphins, as long as they fish in the prescribed manner. The bill also changes the definition of the label "dolphin safe." The legislation implements the Panama Declaration, an international agreement signed by the United States and 11 other countries who fish for tuna in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

Wildlife Refuge Bill: You signed legislation amending the National Refuge System Administration Act to include a strong conservation mission, a new process for determining compatible uses of refuges and a requirement for preparing comprehensive conservation plans. The legislation recognizes that wildlife-dependent recreational uses involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education are priority public uses of the Refuge System.

GLOBE: Despite opposition to the GLOBE program, the Administration was able to prevent it's elimination and secure $5 million for FY98. However, this amount is still $2 million below your request. The program provides students throughout the world with an opportunity to discuss various environmental issues with renowned scientists.

6. Child Initiatives

Children's Health: The balanced budget agreement provides $24 billion in additional Medicaid funding to supply health care coverage to as many as five million of the nation's ten million uninsured children. This measure guarantees that states use this money to cover uninsured children and not replace existing public or private spending, and provides adequate cost-sharing protections for families. The measure also ensures that 30,000 disabled children losing SSI benefits because of tighter eligibility criteria keep their Medicaid coverage.

Adoption: The Congress passed H.R. 867, the Adoption Promotion Act providing states with financial incentives to increase the number of children who are adopted, make changes in federal law that will make it easier for local authorities to permanently remove children from abusive homes, and move children more rapidly out of foster care and into permanent adoptive homes. The compromise version authorizes $100 million over five years, including $60 million for the Family Preservation Program and rewards states for increased adoptions with a bonus of $3,000 for each adoption of a foster care child and $6,000 for each adoption of a special-needs child.

Youth Opportunity Grants: The Administration ensured an advance appropriation of $250 million for employment programs for out-of-school youth in selected high-poverty urban and rural areas, including designated empowerment zones and enterprise communities in the FY98 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill.

Community Learning Center: The FY98 Labor/HHS/Education bill dramatically expands support for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, providing $40 million to support hundreds of after-school centers in rural and urban schools across the country that will provide academic enrichment, tutoring, and other learning opportunities while giving students a safe haven during the often-dangerous after-school hours.

Trigger Locks: While no legislative action was taken on this initiative, the introduction of your Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Act of 1997 led to a consensus agreement between Smith and Wesson, the world's largest gun manufacturer, and the Master Lock Company, to voluntarily install child safety locks on all handguns sold for commercial use. The Administration continues to work vigorously to get all federally-licensed gun dealers to provide safety locks with every handgun sold.

7. Economic Opportunity

Welfare Tax Credit: The Middle Class Tax Relief legislation provides a credit equal to 35% of the first $10,000 in wages in the first year of employment and 50% of the first $10,000 in the second year paid to new hires who have received welfare for an extended period.

Welfare to Work: The balanced budget agreement included your proposal to create the $3 billion Welfare to Work Jobs Challenge which moves long-term welfare recipients into lasting, unsubsidized jobs. These funds can be used for job creation, job placement and retention efforts, including wage subsidies to private employers, and other critical post-employment support services. The Labor Department will provide oversight but the dollars will be placed in the hands of the localities who are on the front lines of the welfare reform effort.

Community Development Financial Development: The FY98 Interior Appropriations bill provides $80 million for Community Development Financial Institutions representing a significant increase over FY97 levels.

Drug Free Communities Act: The Office of National Drug Control Policy and White House Legislative Affairs worked to perfect and ultimately enact this legislation which will make federal grants available to community-based coalitions working to reduce substance abuse. In addition to passing this authorizing legislation, adequate funding for the measure was successfully obtained in the current appropriations cycle.

Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Conference Report: The Congress passed legislation restoring the bank's authorization, which expired September 30, until September 30, 2001.

Small Business Administration Reauthorization: The Administration worked vigorously to ensure that Congress passed legislation reauthorizing the Small Business Administration. The legislation authorizes small business loans which assist thousands of small businesses each year, programs include the Section 504 Development Company Loan, the Microloan program, and the National Women's Business Council which funds Women's Business Centers.

8. Immigrant Issues

SSI and Medicaid Benefits for Legal Immigrants: The Administration worked to correct several unacceptable provisions of the Welfare Reform bill of 1996, particularly the restoration of Medicaid and SSI benefits for legal immigrants. The balanced budget agreement provided $12 billion for the restoration of disability and health benefits for

350,000 legal immigrants in 2002 who are currently receiving assistance or become disabled, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise helpless.

Central Americans: During the last week of this session Congress passed legislation largely based on an Administration proposal designed to avert the deportation of certain Central Americans and others who fled their homes during civil unrest. The measure passed by Congress allows Guatemalans, El Salvadorians and refugees from the former Eastern Bloc countries to have their cases heard by an immigration judge under the more lenient standards that were in effect prior to last year's immigration law. Additionally, Congress upped the ante on the Administration's original bill by granting Nicaraguan refugees and certain Cuban refugees amnesty. Unfortunately, Congress refused to extend Administration-proposed relief to Haitians and other certain non-Central Americans. We anticipate work on the Haitian relief legislation early in the second session.

Immigration and Naturalization Act: Section 245(I) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act allows immigrants with pending applications for permanent visas to remain in the country while awaiting approval of the visa. While the Senate had approved an Administration-backed permanent extension of Section 245(I), House Republicans were determined to kill the provision. The Administration won provisions that will provide a two month extension of the program and grandfather all currently eligible immigrants. These provisions will provide a more orderly phase out of the program and allow many more families to use 245(I) to remain together during the visa application process.

Refugees and Asylees: The balanced budget agreement extends the SSI and Medicaid eligibility period for refugees and asylees from 5 years after entry to 7 years to give these residents more time to naturalize.

9. Transportation

Amtrak: The Administration reached a compromise with Republicans in the House and Senate who were insisting on their extreme labor and liability reforms. The measure places an aggregate $200 million cap on the civil settlements with passengers after any accident. Second, the passage of the reform bill triggered the release of $2.3 billion in capital funding provided for in the tax portion of the balanced budget agreement. Third, the bill solidified the collective bargaining agreement reached by Amtrak management and labor. Under this new labor-management agreement the following provisions were repealed: the ban on outside contracting of jobs and services; and the statutory guarantee which required Amtrak to provide 6-years of severance to any employee who looses their position due to a route change/elimination or a frequency reduction 3 times week. Finally, the measure contains compromise language on the Amtrak Reform Board. The Reform Board will consist of seven members to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Airport and Airway Trust Fund: The Congress passed legislation reinstating the three aviation taxes: (i) the 10% excise tax on domestic air passengers tickets; (ii) the $6-per-person international air passenger departure tax; and (iii) and the 6.25% domestic air freight excise tax. The $2.7 billion that would be raised would replenish the Airport and Airway Trust fund, which pays for such construction and aviation safety projects as new airport runways and improved radar systems.

10. Foreign Policy

Chemical Weapons Convention: The Administration gained Senate passage of the CWC Treaty to prevent production, stockpiling and distribution of chemical weapons. The Treaty took effect in April and awaits further congressional action on it implementation legislation.

Mexico Drug Certification: The Senate reaffirmed the President's decision to certify Mexico as an ally in combating drug trafficking.

China MFN: On Tuesday, June 24, the House rejected (173--259) H.J.Res. 79, a resolution which would overturn your May 29 decision to extend most-favored-nation trading status for China. Thirty-five members who voted no in a similar 1996 vote (141--286) switched to yes, while seven members switched from yes to voting with the Administration. Congress has agreed to extend the trading status, which applies to all but a handful of renegade nations, for 16 years in a row.

Foreign Operations Appropriations: The Administration increased funding in the bill by about $900 million over 1997 levels. The following programs received increased funding under the measure: Foreign military financing loans and grants are $18 million above the $3,340 million request, primarily to allow for an increase in grants to Jordan; AID developmental assistance is $26 million above the $1,698 million requested; and Export-Import Bank subsidies are increased by $51 million above the request to $683 million. In addition, the bill includes language effectively extending key elements of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act by giving you 12 month waiver authority.

11. Science and Technology

NASA: The FY98 VA/HUD Appropriations bill provides full funding for NASA's science and aeronautics programs, Mission to Planet Earth, aeronautics and space transportation research and mission support services. The measure provides a total of $2.351 billion for the International Space Station program, which includes $230 million of the $430 million additional funding needed in FY98 to ensure the Station effort remains on schedule. The additional funds are necessary because of the Russian

Federation's default on their Mir obligations.

Technology Innovation Challenge Grants. The FY98 Labor/HHS/Education bill includes $106 million--an 86 percent increase over last year's level of $57 million--to support up to 30 new projects, including 15 focused specifically on delivering the most effective training for teachers in using educational technologies, as well as 62 existing projects involving a wide range of innovative strategies for improving teaching and learning and increasing student access to technology.

Technology Literacy Challenge Fund. The FY98 Labor/HHS/Education bill provides $425 million, more than twice as much as the $200 million appropriated last year, to help States, communities, and schools acquire hardware, software, and connectivity linkages; provide professional development in the integration of technology into the curriculum; and apply technology to support school reform efforts and opportunities for all students.

12. Other Legislative Affairs Activities

Nominations: In 1997, the Senate confirmed 75% of all Presidential nominees (362 out of 484) including 41 judicial nominees. This represents a 30 percentage point increase from 45% in 1996 (154 out of 342--22 Judicial). In 1995, the Senate confirmed 71% of your nominees (327 out of 461--62 Judicial). The Administration was also successful in confirming nine Cabinet Secretaries in often contentious confirmation processes (Secretaries Pena, Slater, Herman, Cuomo, Daley, Barshefsky, Richardson, Cohen, Albright).

Legislative Correspondence: Our Correspondence office continues to develop substantive Presidential responses to Congressional inquiries, author letters stating official Administration legislative policy and track Cabinet-level response to Congressional inquiries. Throughout the session, this office was directed to consolidate Administration opinion and develop Presidential letters to the House and Senate leadership regarding pending legislative matters. During an average week while in session, Congressional receipts are as follows:

1. Substantive policy letters requiring response - 100
2. Member requests for Presidential event messages - 50
3. Member requests for Presidential greeting letters - 350

This office also provides requesting Members with redline copies of bills signed into law, monitors the distribution of signing pens to designated Members and regularly generates thank-you letters to Members who support the Administration on major votes.

Scheduling: Since January 1997, you have had over 70 meetings with Members of Congress, more than nine of these were with the House and Senate Leadership. You have also met with the Senate Democratic Caucus, the House Democratic Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Women's Caucus, and are scheduled to meet with the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus before the end of the year.

In addition to these meetings, there have been eight public signing ceremonies for major bills, such as the Balanced Budget Act and Taxpayer Relief Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Adoption Promotion Act, and a ceremony is scheduled for the and the Food and Drug Administration Modernization and Accountability Act. Additionally, Members have been prominent in all four of the White House conferences held this year. Members have also been involved in a great majority of your official travel in 1997, including four of the five foreign trips.

II. Unacceptable Republican Provisions That Were Successfully Contested

1. Education

D.C. Appropriations Voucher Proposal Defeated: This proposal would have appropriated $7 million to be used to create 2,000 vouchers valued at $3,200 each to attend public, private or religious schools. It would also would have authorized $500 after-school tutoring vouchers. The House approved the D.C. Appropriations bill with this provision by a vote of 203 to 202 on October 9, 1997. However, when an identical provision supported by Senators Liebermann and Coats was included in the Senate D.C. Appropriation bill, the Senate failed to invoke cloture by a vote of 58 to 41. The provision was eventually dropped from the final bill.

Coverdell/Archer K-12 IRA Proposal Defeated: This proposal would have not only allowed taxpayers to make tax-free withdrawals from education individual retirement accounts to pay for elementary and secondary school expenses but it would have also increased the maximum annual contribution from $500 to $2,500 per beneficiary. The withdrawals could have been used to pay for tuition, fees, tutoring, special needs services, books, supplies, equipment, transportation and supplementary expenses required for the enrollment or attendance at a public, private religious, or private nonsectarian school, or for home schooling. This provision was removed from the tax portion of the balanced budget agreement after the President threatened to veto the entire tax bill if it remained. Later, the full House approved H.R. 2646, a newer version of the "Coverdell" provision. However, the Senate failed to invoke cloture by a vote of 56 to 44.

Education Block Grants: The Administration successfully forced the removal of an education block grant proposal which sought to consolidated $2.5 billion worth of programs currently run by the Department of Education, including Goals 2000, school-to-work programs, educational technology programs, and the Safe and Drug-Free School program into block grants to the states.

2. Environment

Native American Riders: The Administration worked to removed or denude many anti-environmental and anti-Native American riders from the Interior bill, including amendments weakening tribal sovereignty and prohibiting tribal compacts.

Nuclear Waste Legislation: While the bill was not stopped, the Senate provided enough votes to sustain the President's veto.

Ethanol: Administration efforts prevented Ways and Means Chairman Archer from reducing the tax benefits available to ethanol producers.

3. Foreign Policy

Bosnia: The Administration successfully prohibited Congress from legislating a date certain for troop withdrawal from Bosnia. Troops withdrawal amendments restricting troops to remain in Bosnia past June 1998 were resolved in the Defense Appropriations Bill and the Defense Authorization Bill Conferences by granting the President with a National Security waiver for troop withdrawal.

Religious Persecution: The Administration helped prevent the House International Relations Committee from reporting out H.R.2431, Freedom from Religious Persecution Bill sponsored by Senator Specter and Representative Wolf. The bill included restrictions on exports, visas, foreign assistance and international financial institution voting. The bill would create a confusing bureaucratic structure for dealing with religious freedom that would fragment foreign policy decision-making. We can expect to see an effort to move this bill as soon as Congress returns

Mexico City: The Administration successfully stopped enactment of Mexico City policy and removed the obligation delay in the 1997 bill and kept the funding at 1997 levels.

4. Social Issues

Partial Birth Abortion Veto Override: As a result of Administration efforts, final action was delayed because the Senate could not muster a veto-proof majority. Such a Majority already exists in the House. Despite significant defection (Senator's Leahy, Daschle, Specter, Hollings changed their votes) the Administration, in conjunction with the women's community, was able to thwart Republican efforts to gain veto-override strength in the Senate.

Tabling Affirmative Action Legislation: Earlier this month the House Judiciary Committee voted to table H.R. 1909, legislation by Congressman Canady (R-FL) that would eliminate all federal affirmative action programs. All the Committee Democrats and four Committee Republicans, led by George Gekas (R-PA), voted to table the measure in large part because of the Administration's work with Committee Democrats, and outside interest groups, to successfully portray the measure as extremist. It is almost certain that House Republican leadership will have to significantly narrow the scope of this legislation to appease Republican moderates if they want to move it forward. However, such a move could cause conservative Republicans to abandon the efforts altogether.

Legal Services Corporation: The Administration successfully prevented Republican opponents of the Corporation from significantly limiting its funds in the FY98 appropriations bill. The Administration achieved an increase in the funding level for the

Legal Services Corporation from the $141 million level proposed in the House Committee passed bill to $283 million, which is identical to last year's level.

5. Additional Legislative Items

Balanced Budget Amendment: The Administration defeated the balanced budget constitutional amendment in the Senate by a vote of 34 to 66.

Decennial Census: Under an agreement reached as part of the FY98 Commerce/Justice/State Appropriations bill, the Census Bureau would be allowed to proceed with a test next year on the use of statistical sampling. The agreement promotes an expedited Supreme Court review of the use of sampling. Funds are appropriated for an expanded dress rehearsal to test direct enumeration techniques in the event of Supreme Court decision banning the use of certain forms of sampling. The agreement also calls for an eight member monitoring board to review the dress rehearsal and the Census Bureau plans for 2000, including sampling. The board, split equally between Republicans and Democrats, would need a quorum of five.

Beck Provisions: Earlier this fall Senate Democrats successfully filibustered Senate Republican campaign finance legislation to require that all union members affirmatively permit the use of their dues for political campaign spending. By working with reformers, Senate Democrats and by adroitly positioning the Administration, Senate Republicans, not Senate Democrats, were largely blamed for the defeat of campaign finance reform this fall. Additionally, Senate Democrats were able to successfully sustain a subsequent filibuster and win a commitment for further consideration of campaign finance legislation by next March.

Curios and Relics: Twice during the past several months pro-gun Congressmen have attempted to enact legislation that would require the Administration to approve applications for the importation of certain guns known as curios and relics. This legislation would have allowed back into the U.S. millions of semi-automatic rifles and pistols (many of which would be easily convertible to fully automatic weapons) that were given by the U.S. to foreign military forces. The Administration worked closely with Congressional allies to kill this legislation by defeating both attempts to attach this legislation to pending appropriations bills.

cc: The Vice-President
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