

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 1997

'97 MAY 27 PM 7:43

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

SAMUEL R. BERGER
KITTY HIGGINS
JACK GIBBONS
MELANNE VERVEER

SUBJECT:

Transmittal of the Supplemental Letter Report of
the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War
Veterans' Illnesses

On May 15, 1997, the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board (PGVCB), comprised of the Secretaries of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs, forwarded the April 30, 1997 Supplemental Letter Report of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (PAC). The letter report addresses the adequacy of the ongoing investigations and the significance of recently-declassified documents. The transmittal document includes both the letter report and a joint response by the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The April 30, 1997 PAC letter report was quite critical of past efforts of both DOD and CIA. In your February 1997 memorandum to the PAC, you asked them to help us understand the significance of recently-released declassified documents with respect to two questions: (1) "When did we have sufficient evidence to conclude chemical munitions were present at Khamisiyah...?"; and (2) "What actions were taken by whom to investigate... and were those actions sufficient?" The PAC observed that the government had enough information to conclude chemical weapons were present at Khamisiyah by December 1991, and that prior to late 1995, no serious efforts to investigate the incident had been undertaken. DOD and CIA generally concur with the PAC's assessments. Their joint response also elaborates recent DOD/CIA progress in correlating operational events and intelligence information not reflected in the PAC report.

The PAC noted that all of the investigative efforts taken together can provide the answers needed to determine what happened and recommend corrective actions. However, they also

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

point out that no one has been formally tasked with integrating the outcomes of the various governmental investigations. The PAC suggested the need for a presidential-level entity to accomplish this integrating task. To meet that need, DOD and CIA have asked former Senator Rudman to advise them on the adequacy of ongoing investigations, and to integrate relevant "lessons learned" -- especially with respect to the intelligence community. Once completed, all of this will be reviewed through the normal interagency process chaired by NSC.

The PAC asked for clarification of the term "sufficiency" in your memorandum. While we remain focused on finding out the truth, we have emphasized that the overall approach of current Gulf War illnesses programs is two-fold: provide the best possible care and benefits for Gulf War veterans who are sick; and promote improved health preparedness for future deployments. Moreover, the inspectors general and other investigative personnel will document any evidence of wrongdoing for appropriate disposition at the agency level.

With respect to the modeling process, the PAC believes that DOD/CIA should do a "worst case" exposure model which would assume all chemical warfare agents were released in the pit demolition. Based on UN inspection reports, we know that not all CW agents were released. DOD and CIA are gathering additional data through ground testing. They will develop a model that reflects for the veterans as accurately as possible what happened in the pit taking into account all remaining uncertainty. Moreover, all veterans are regularly encouraged to register for health screening and have the same eligibility for medical care and compensation regardless of exposure or location in theater. We concur with DOD/CIA's approach.

In response to the PAC concern that overly rigorous courtroom standards of evidence were being used to evaluate possible detection or exposure incidents, DOD asserts that it is using a "common sense" standard. Once any determination of possible exposure is made, DOD will ensure all Gulf War veterans involved are notified individually. We will continue to monitor this issue to ensure that DOD's "common sense" standard remains satisfactory for the PAC.

The PAC asserts that DOD used the Privacy Act as a "shield" to withhold information. When the PAC requested information in Privacy Act-protected files, DOD determined that it could not provide the information without the consent of the individuals concerned. In reaching this conclusion, DOD consulted with the NSC staff, and through the NSC, OMB experts on the Privacy Act, to verify its interpretation of the law. DOD is taking the necessary steps to obtain the consent of the individuals

concerned and is also seeking a regulatory exception that would permit the sharing of the information in question with the PAC without consent. DOD will continue to meet with the PAC to confirm that access is not a problem. In short, while resolving the relevant Privacy Act issues should have been handled better initially, we believe the matter is now being addressed appropriately and will monitor.

Our overall assessment of the PAC report, viewed in the light of the DOD/CIA response and our own observations, is that there are two general criticisms: (1) the inadequacy of previous governmental efforts -- which have already been acknowledged and are the subject of systematic "lessons learned" efforts by DOD, CIA and OSTP through a Presidential Review Directive; and (2) the inadequacy of more recent process issues -- which have been addressed by DOD/CIA and are being monitored by NSC.

The next major milestone in terms of the PAC calendar is their October 30, 1997 deadline for the Supplemental Final Report. Given DOD and CIA's current posture, as well as the overall government-wide efforts being coordinated by the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board, we are reasonably confident that the October report will prove much more favorable.

Attachment

Tab A PGVCB Transmittal Letter

Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board



Department of Defense



Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Veterans Affairs



MAY 15 1997

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs appreciate the effort expended by the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses in formulating its interim Supplemental Letter Report of April 30, 1997. We have reviewed the report and are transmitting it to you as an enclosure to this letter. In addition, the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency have prepared joint comments on the Supplemental Letter Report which are also provided as an enclosure.

We continue to implement our March 7, 1997 action plan with respect to the recommendations in the Committee's Final Report.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM S. COHEN
Secretary of Defense

DONNA E. SHALALA
Secretary of Health and
Human Services

JESSE BROWN
Secretary of
Veterans Affairs

Enclosures: Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans'
Illnesses Supplemental Letter Report of April 30, 1997
Department of Defense and Central Intelligence Agency
Response of May 14, 1997 to the Supplemental Letter
Report of The Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf
War Veterans' Illnesses dated April 30, 1997



Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses

Chair

Joyce C. Lashof, M.D.

John Baldeschwieler, Ph.D.
Arthur Caplan, Ph.D.
Major Thomas P. Cross
David A. Hamburg, M.D.
James A. Johnson
Major Marguerite Knox, M.N.
Philip Landrigan, M.D.
Elaine L. Larson, Ph.D.
Rolando Rios, Esq.
Andrea Kidd Taylor, Dr.P.H.

Executive Director
Robyn Y. Nishimi

Deputy Director/Counsel
Holly L. Gwin

TO: Secretary William Cohen, Department of Defense
Secretary Donna Shalala, Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Jesse Brown, Department of Veterans Affairs

FR: Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses

RE: Supplemental letter report

DA: April 30, 1997

On January 30, 1997, the President issued Executive Order 13034 (attachment A), which extended the tenure of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses and charged it with two tasks: continued oversight of the government's investigations related to possible chemical and biological warfare agent exposure incidents and implementation of the recommendations of our *Final Report*. On February 26, 1997, the President specifically asked the Committee to evaluate the adequacy of the government's response to his concerns about the implications of recently declassified documents associated with chemical munitions at the Khamisiyah storage depot (attachment B).

This supplemental letter report provides the Committee's response to the President's requests. It first addresses issues related to the President's February 1997 directive. A status report on the tasks specified by Executive Order 13034 follows.

THE PRESIDENT'S MEMORANDUM

The concerns expressed by the President in his February 1997 memorandum centered on recently declassified documents pertaining to the Khamisiyah Ammunition Storage Depot and U.S. troop demolition activities at this site. He posed the following questions:

- What is the significance of recently declassified documents regarding February 1991 warnings to the U.S. Army about chemical warfare agents (CW) at Khamisiyah and November 1991 suspicions of CW exposure of U.S. troops at Khamisiyah?
- When did we have sufficient evidence to conclude that chemical munitions were present at Khamisiyah and that U.S. forces conducting demolition activities may have been exposed to chemical warfare agents?
- Once we had that information, what actions were taken by whom to investigate this alarming possibility, and were those actions sufficient?

Beyond the Department of Defense's (DOD) broad inquiry into Gulf War illnesses via the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses (OSAGWI), the Committee identified five ongoing investigations by various government entities that pertain to these questions. Attachment C summarizes the scope and nature of these five efforts; a later section of this report discusses the Committee's oversight of OSAGWI-related matters.

Based on its review of existing documents (classified and unclassified), briefings, and interviews, the Committee makes several findings regarding the adequacy of the government's response and answers to the President's questions.

The Evidence and Its Significance

- The recently declassified documents indicate substantial mismanagement and lack of communication among elements of the military and intelligence communities, but have no substantial impact on the findings and recommendations of the Committee's *Final Report*. We concluded that the evidence of chemical agent release at Khamisiyah was overwhelming. The documents do not alter that finding.
- The intelligence community (including CIA and DOD-based entities) clearly possessed information prior to and during the Gulf War that constituted reasonable cause for concern that Khamisiyah was a chemical munitions storage facility. Current evidence indicates this knowledge was obtained at least as early as the mid-1980s, during the Iran-Iraq war.
- Operational records reveal that concerns about the presence of chemical munitions at Khamisiyah were conveyed to some level of the military services prior to the March 1991 ground-based demolition activities. It is not clear whether the appropriate commanders were aware of the heightened concern about Khamisiyah compared to other storage depots. Currently, it appears the information did not pass from one command to another when responsibility for the Khamisiyah site changed hands.
- No later than December 1991, the intelligence community, military services, and any other U.S. government entity concerned about followup to the Gulf War had, or should have had, possession of classified and/or public documents that establish reasonable cause for concern that U.S. forces conducting ground-based demolition activities at Khamisiyah could have been exposed to chemical warfare agents. The U.S. government acquired additional information that substantiated those reasons for concern during 1992.
- Executive Branch departments and agencies made no serious effort to examine the possibility of chemical warfare agent exposure to U.S. troops at Khamisiyah until late 1995, despite inquiries prior to that time by Congress and DOD's Defense Science Board Task Force.
- In the face of substantial, credible evidence to the contrary, DOD's consistent denials to June 1996 of the possibility of exposure of U.S. troops to chemical warfare agents cannot be justified. Initially DOD forfeited opportunities to gain information with potential military significance and ultimately undermined its credibility with much of the American public.

Adequacy of Ongoing Activities

- The activities of the Inspectors General for the U.S. Army and Central Intelligence Agency, alone, cannot provide answers to the questions posed by the President.

- The effort of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Intelligence Oversight) is likely to gather the data necessary to answer the questions posed by the President—up to the question of sufficiency. However, no entity has the clear action on integrating the data to provide a comprehensive assessment of the government-wide response to Khamisiyah and actions needed for the future.
- The scope of the question of sufficiency in the President's third question needs to be clarified—i.e., is the goal to ensure accountability by individuals and institutions responsible for chemical and biological warfare safety and service members' health, or is the goal to establish and to ensure implementation of more effective policies and procedures? Fulfilling the latter goal requires a means of integrating the multiple efforts.
- Presidential-level policy councils, such as the National Security Council or the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, should be well suited to the task of integrating the results of the multiple efforts into a comprehensive government policy. This Committee is not the appropriate entity to address this matter.

OVERSIGHT OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGENT INVESTIGATIONS

With respect to the Committee's mandate to oversee the government's chemical and biological warfare agent investigations, we address three issues in this letter report: exposure modeling of demolitions at the Khamisiyah pit area, the Committee's access to information held by DOD, and standards for assessing the credibility of reported detection or exposure incidents.

Modeling for the Khamisiyah Pit Area

Since Summer 1996, the Committee has requested exposure modeling of March 1991 demolition activities conducted by U.S. troops at the Khamisiyah pit area. CIA and DOD have testified to the Committee on multiple occasions about technical and logistical complications they believe are responsible for the lack of progress in this area.

The Committee fully appreciates the complexities of this issue, but it appears the passage of time has done nothing to improve the data inputs for the computer simulation of events at the pit. The expert review process (underway since November 1996) might help to establish a baseline for data collection to assist with future modeling efforts, but appears only to exacerbate problems with the lack of data from the pit (e.g., introducing a requirement for far more weather data than was collected at Khamisiyah). On April 18, 1997, DOD and CIA informed the Committee that modeling results for the Khamisiyah pit area will not be available until July 21 (attachment D) because they plan to conduct demolition tests to collect additional data on the amount and rate of agent release. According to a letter from DOD and CIA to the Committee, the small-scale tests are not designed to replicate conditions at Khamisiyah and will not eliminate uncertainties about agent release.

The Committee notes federal law requires civilian sector industries working with hazardous materials to perform exposure modeling as a routine matter to evaluate potential accidents and emergency responses. In particular, both the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), Title III, Emergency Preparedness and Community Right to Know (42 U.S.C. 11003) and the Clean Air Act reauthorization of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 7412), have mandated this practice for at least a decade. Clearly, it is impossible to predict the exact nature of a large unintended release or when it might occur; such hazardous material modeling relies on the most general estimates of weather and amounts of material released. The Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA), which administers the laws, allows wide flexibility on which model to use. Under EPA rules, industries must model a range of scenarios, including a worst-case possibility. Modeling results are publicly available, enabling citizens to evaluate possible risks. The Committee believes veterans deserve a similar, though retrospective, opportunity.

Hence the Committee finds:

- None of the barriers raised to date by CIA and DOD presents insurmountable obstacles or in any way warrants the delay in completing modeling for the Khamisiyah pit. Uncertainties—including the number of demolition incidents, the number of rockets involved, or the stability of the agent and other characteristics of the chemical agent under specific demolition conditions—can be accommodated through modeling a range of scenarios, including a worst-case scenario.

Access to Information

Shortly after the President extended the term of this Committee and asked us to oversee the government's investigations of possible chemical exposure incidents, DOD raised the Privacy Act as a shield against the Committee's unfettered access to information held by DOD related to CBW incidents. Regulations published to implement the Act, including regulations published in December 1995 after this Committee's inception, have the effect of limiting our ability to oversee, monitor, or independently evaluate the quality of DOD's investigation of possible chemical or biological warfare agent exposures. We note for the record that the Committee's interpretation of the law and regulations is that ample ambiguity exists to allow us full access immediately. In April 1997, following our repeated requests, DOD finally took action that may eventually remove some barriers to the Committee's oversight activities. Currently we remain guarded in our assessment of DOD's willingness to provide access to information critical to our work.

Standards for Evaluating Detection or Exposure Incidents

OSAGWI has yet to articulate clear standards for determining the credibility of reported detection or exposure incidents, other than to assert reliance on the "best evidence" rule and to establish "preponderance of the evidence" as the standard of proof. The Committee believes that for matters involving the health of veterans, adherence to courtroom standards of evidence is inappropriate. As the Committee said in its *Final Report*, "In the face of credible evidence of the presence or release of chemical warfare agents, low-level exposure of U.S. personnel at the affected site must be presumed while efforts to develop more precise measures of exposure continue. . . . Troops within the presumptive exposure area should be notified and encouraged to enroll in the CCEP or Registry." Hence the Committee notes that

- DOD should move as quickly as possible toward conclusions about the incidents under investigation and, when in doubt, err in favor of targeted notification of troops about possible health risks and the availability of free diagnosis and treatment programs established by the government.

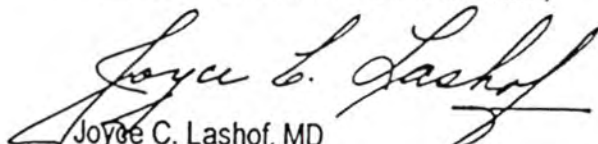
IMPLEMENTATION

The Committee appreciates the departments' efforts to develop and transmit their responses to the recommendations of our *Final Report* regarding outreach, medical and clinical issues, research, and chemical and biological warfare investigations. Over the coming months, we will monitor the implementation of these responses and report any new findings and recommendations related to them in the supplemental final report (hereinafter referred to as *Special Report*).

NEXT STEPS

The Committee will continue assessing the government's chemical and biological weapons investigations, chiefly the activities of DOD's OSAGWI, and implementation of the *Final Report's* recommendations in outreach, clinical issues, and research. In particular, we feel it important that we assess certain key detection incidents including, but not limited to, case reports under development by OSAGWI (attachment E). We believe this letter report addresses the President's tasks to the Committee in his February 26, 1997 memorandum, though the *Special Report* will summarize any new information derived from reports of the CIA Inspector General, DOD Inspector General, Army Inspector General, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Intelligence Oversight), and Director of Central Intelligence Persian Gulf War Illnesses Task Force. If—due to delays in resolving problems with the Committee's access to information—we foresee a need to request an extension of the *Special Report's* delivery date beyond October 31, 1997, we will of course inform you at the first opportunity.

Transmitted on behalf of the Committee,



Joyce C. Lashof, MD
Committee Chair

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 30, 1997

EXECUTIVE ORDER

EXTENSION OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GULF
WAR VETERANS' ILLNESSES

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Extension. The Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (the "Committee"), established pursuant to Executive Order 12961 of May 26, 1995, is hereby extended for the purposes set forth herein. All provisions of that order relating to membership and administration shall remain in effect. All Committee appointments, as well as the President's designation of a Chairperson, shall remain in effect. The limitations set forth in section 2 (c) - (e) and section 4 (a) of Executive Order 12961 shall also remain in effect. The Committee shall remain subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Committee shall report to the President through the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) The Committee shall have two principal roles:

(1) Oversight of the ongoing investigation being conducted by the Department of Defense with the assistance, as appropriate, of other executive departments and agencies into possible chemical or biological warfare agent exposures during the Gulf War; and

(2) Evaluation of the Federal Government's plan for and progress towards the implementation of the Committee's recommendations contained in its Final Report submitted on December 31, 1996.

(c) The Committee shall provide advice and recommendations related to its oversight and evaluation responsibilities.

(d) The Committee may also provide additional advice and recommendations prompted by any new developments related to its original functions as set forth in section 2 (b) of Executive Order 12961.

(e) The Committee shall submit by letter a status report by April 30, 1997, and a final supplemental report by October 31, 1997, unless otherwise directed by the President.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. (a) The Committee shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final supplemental report.

(b) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and it is not intended to create any right, benefit or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE
January 30, 1997.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON GULF WAR VETERANS' ILLNESSES

SUBJECT: GULF WAR DOCUMENTS

I've made it very clear from the early days of my Administration that the welfare of Gulf War veterans is a national priority. My strong and continuing commitment, reflected in the establishment and recent extension of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, is to leave no stone unturned on behalf of those who served in the Persian Gulf theater. This commitment entails ensuring both that sick Gulf War veterans receive the medical care they require and that all relevant information that may help us understand the risks they faced is brought to light.

As you are aware, the Central Intelligence Agency, working in cooperation with the Department of Defense, has recently declassified several documents relating to the ongoing investigation of possible chemical warfare agent exposure of U.S. forces during demolition operations at Khamisiyah after the Gulf War. These documents indicate that: (1) U.S. Army units were warned of the possibility that there were chemical munitions at the Khamisiyah ammunition depot prior to seizing that objective during the ground war in February 1991; and (2) in November 1991, the Central Intelligence Agency prepared a classified message documenting the possibility that U.S. forces conducting demolition operations at the Khamisiyah facility were exposed to chemical warfare agents.

While the many issues related to Gulf War illnesses are complex and entail consideration of massive quantities of information, there must be no question of this Nation's commitment to protecting its soldiers on the battlefield and then ensuring that they receive the care they require upon returning home. This is a joint bipartisan responsibility that my Administration and the Congress take very seriously.

Accordingly, in conducting your oversight of the ongoing investigation being undertaken by the Department of Defense, with the assistance of other executive departments and agencies, into possible chemical or biological agent exposures during the Gulf War, I am directing your attention to the recently declassified documents. You have a vital role in assisting me, the Congress, and the American public in understanding their full significance.

These documents have been provided to the Inspectors General of the United States Army and the Central Intelligence Agency, both of whom are conducting investigations relating to Khamisiyah. There are two important questions raised by these recently declassified documents that must be resolved by these investigations: (1) When did we have sufficient evidence to conclude that chemical munitions were present at Khamisiyah and that U.S. forces conducting demolition activities may have been exposed to chemical warfare agents; and (2) Once we had that information, what actions were taken by whom to investigate this alarming possibility and were those actions sufficient.

Your oversight efforts should take full account of the evidence disclosed by these ongoing investigations, as well as the information being developed by the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses at the Department of Defense. Your preliminary assessment relating to the adequacy of the investigations concerning these issues should be provided as soon as possible within the next 60 days, and no later than April 30, 1997, the date specified in Executive Order 13034 for your interim status report.

Thank you for your continuing efforts and those of your fellow members and supporting staff. Your Committee's dedicated efforts are truly indispensable to ensuring that no stone is left unturned on behalf of Gulf War veterans.

William J. Clinton

EFFORTS ADDRESSING THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERNS IN FEBRUARY 26, 1996 MEMORANDUM

Army Inspector General

- Inquiry initiated 9/25/96 by Deputy Secretary of Defense John White in memo to the Secretary of the Army Togo West, followed by taskers to AIG on 9/25/96 and 10/18/96.
- Taskers focused on these issues: 1) was the presence of chemical munitions detected when the ammunition was destroyed [at Khamisiyah]; 2) was this presence reported, and to what level; 3) were appropriate force protection measures taken during the ammunition demolition operations; and 4) identify any other sites where the same or similar operations were conducted.
- Staffed by four full-time equivalents (FTE) conducting interviews and reviewing documents.
- Final report scheduled for delivery 5/31/97; expects to provide answers to all questions in taskers; until work completed, AIG is uncertain about the extent of recommendations.

CIA Inspector General

- Initiated 10/31/96 by former Director of Central Intelligence John Deutch.
- Scope focusing on four allegations made by former CIA employees Pat and Robin Eddington: 1) CIA has hidden, and continues to hide, evidence of the exposure of U.S. forces to CW agents during the Gulf War; 2) CIA officials sought to hinder the Eddingtons' inquiry about the exposure of U.S. forces to CW agents during the Gulf War; 3) CIA employees sought to avoid reviewing honestly the evidence the Eddingtons uncovered concerning the exposure of U.S. forces to CW agents during the Gulf War; and 4) the Eddingtons' careers with CIA effectively were destroyed because of their insistence on pursuing an inquiry about the exposure of U.S. forces to CW agents during the Gulf War.
- Following the President's February 1997 memorandum to the Advisory Committee, is reviewing the handling of Khamisiyah-related information in conjunction with the assessment of allegation 1.
- Nine FTEs conducting interviews and reviewing documents.
- No deadline for final report—data gathering complete on allegations 2, 3, and 4 but ongoing on 1; analysis incomplete; no conclusions currently available.

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Intelligence Oversight) (ATSD(IO))

- Initiated 9/25/96 by Deputy Secretary of Defense John White, followed by 9/27/96 data call from ATSD(IO) to the military departments and 11 additional entities.
- Questions to be addressed: 1) what information was available to DOD concerning Iraqi CW facilities, including Khamisiyah; and 2) what use was made of this information?
- Conducted chiefly via a \$2 million contract initiated on 12/2/96 with MITRE, principally for document review.
- Final classified report to be delivered by MITRE on 5/31/97; unclassified summary by MITRE planned; ATSD(IO) will review the report and forward his recommendations for any follow-up action and/or correction of procedures.

Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) Persian Gulf War Illnesses Task Force

- Initiated 2/27/97 by George Tenet, then Acting Director of Central Intelligence.
- Tasked to develop a strategy to: 1) provide intelligence support for inquiries from the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, DOD, National Security Council (NSC), and congressional oversight committees; 2) review previous search criteria used to identify intelligence related to possible CW and biological weapons incidents and conduct additional searches as necessary; 3) review all classified holdings to ensure timely and maximum declassification of documents related to such incidents; 4) ensure transmission of relevant material to all parties in task 1; 5) implement communications process to keep DOD, the Advisory Committee, NSC, appropriate congressional committees, the public, and the media informed; and 6) support modeling efforts.
- Staffed by 50 personnel from CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, National Imagery and Mapping Agency, and other DOD units.
- Duration intended to be 60 days, no reporting requirements specified, but *Khamisiyah: A Historical Perspective on Related Intelligence* released on 4/8/97—intelligence and operational failures are analyzed, and lessons to be learned regarding multiple databases, information sharing, "tunnel vision," and thoroughness in information retrieval are reported.

DOD Inspector General

- Initiated 3/3/97 by Deputy Secretary of Defense John White (following previous investigations by other DOD offices).
- Tasks: 1) follow all leads that can be developed on the location of the original CENTCOM Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical log or copies—both electronic or hard copy versions; 2) gather all originals and copies that can be located; and 3) if a full copy of the log cannot be located, explain why.
- IG has been instructed to use all resources necessary to get the job done quickly.
- Final report due as soon as possible.

Timeline

Khamisiyah Modeling Work

	<u>Projected Completion</u>
Transport rockets to DPG, Utah	28 Apr 97
Assembled, filled, & prepared rockets	15 May 97
Procure, construct, assemble test apparatus	30 May 97
Complete demolition tests	16 Jun 97
Incorporate test data and run models	7 Jul 97
Evaluate troop exposure and publish results	21 Jul 97



Chem/Bio Matrix

"INCIDENTS"

"ISSUES"

	Khamisiyah	Camp Monterey	Marine Breaching	Czech/French	Mustard Exposure	Al Jubayl	11th Marines	ASP/Orchard	Kuwaiti Girl's School	Tallil AB	Al Jaber	Post War Use on Iraqis
Fox Vehicle Cap.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
MOPP Guidance	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
M8 Alarm Cap.	X			X		X			X			X
SCUD Chem/Bio Cap.						X	X				X	

First Interim Report
to be Published

5/15*

5/30

6/30

7/30

First Interim Report
to be Published

2/21

5/15*

5/30*

5/30*

5/30*

5/30

6/30

6/30

6/30

7/31

9/30

11/30

*per DOD, 4/28/97



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AND
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
RESPONSE**

MAY 14 1997

TO

**THE SUPPLEMENTAL LETTER REPORT FROM

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
GULF WAR VETERANS' ILLNESSES (PAC)**

DATED APRIL 30, 1997

Introduction

The supplemental letter report from the Presidential Advisory Committee (PAC) on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses restated the PAC's findings previewed on March 18, 1997 at its hearing in Salt Lake City. However, since that time, DoD and CIA have made significant progress in our efforts related to Persian Gulf War operational events and intelligence information, which may in turn shed light on potential causes of Gulf War veterans' illnesses. Our efforts include the release of 41 DoD and intelligence documents and a detailed Intelligence Community paper on Khamisiyah which was very candid in its self assessment identifying areas where the Intelligence Community performed well, and those where it did not. These efforts also included quick DoD responses to personal information requested by the PAC. In its letter, the PAC made little reference to the recent DoD and Intelligence Community accomplishments.

DoD and CIA have worked closely with the PAC on several issues. We will continue to apprise the PAC, as well as veterans, the public and relevant government agencies of our progress.

Adequacy of Government Activities

The PAC notes several findings, with which we generally concur, regarding the adequacy of previous government efforts. In its discussion of the adequacy of ongoing activities, the PAC noted that Inspector General and DoD oversight efforts together could answer the President's questions about the significance of warnings and when we had sufficient evidence to determine possible exposure. However, on the issue of addressing the sufficiency of actions for the safety and health of service members in the future, the PAC notes the need for a single entity to integrate "multiple efforts into a comprehensive government policy."

We concur with the PAC's observation that no entity has clear action on integrating the data to provide a comprehensive assessment of the government-wide response to Khamisiyah. Both DoD and the Intelligence Community are developing recommendations drawn from the lessons learned through their efforts. We will work independently and jointly to evaluate the recommendations. Former Senator Warren Rudman has recently been asked by the SECDEF to provide outside review of the findings and the results of the many investigations, soon to become available, to further government efforts to learn the causes and cures of Gulf War Illnesses. In addition, Secretary Cohen and the Acting Director of Central Intelligence have asked Senator Rudman to suggest ways to improve the provision, handling and use of intelligence during wartime. We have high regard for the expertise and outside perspective that Senator Rudman will bring to this issue.

Once the recommendations are developed, they will be merged with others in the government into a comprehensive package. At that time, an interagency team will meet to do as the PAC

recommends—to integrate the multiple efforts into a comprehensive, more effective set of policies and procedures for the future.

Modeling for the Khamisiyah Pit Area

DoD and CIA are co-chairing a team of experts to settle issues over meteorology, the number and dates of explosions in the pit at Khamisiyah, uncertainties about release of chemical agent at the demolition and of appropriate models. Both DoD and the CIA have done this openly with the PAC although the responsibility to conduct experiments and select the models to use is jointly DoD's and CIA's. The PAC has been advised that a final report will be issued by 21 July 1997. Logistics for testing are complicated but the goal of the two departments has been to find what most likely happened. Neither DoD nor the CIA want to needlessly alarm those veterans not affected by the demolition at Khamisiyah.

The PAC mentions that government-administered guidelines for evaluating potential accidents and emergency responses should be used. DoD and CIA believe those guidelines are appropriate if facing an accident and determining evacuation needs. Evacuation is not the issue; determining a best estimate of what happened is. Ground testing is essential for this determination. One of the PAC's reasons for recommending a worst-case model is to warn veterans who were located further from Khamisiyah. Since all participants in the Gulf have been invited by DoD and CIA to come forward and indicate their concerns, a worst-case plume, other than being inaccurate and alarming veterans, does not add to that invitation. Once additional information becomes available as a result of modeling the plume, DoD and VA will ensure that any additional veteran notifications required will be made as appropriate. DoD and VA will continue to emphasize the availability of medical care to all Gulf War veterans regardless of their proximity to a suspected CW agent event.

Access to Information

The PAC's inference that the Privacy Act was used by DoD as a shield to prevent access to information is incorrect. The Privacy Act was established to protect individuals against unwarranted invasion of privacy. Within the constraints imposed by law, DoD has acted quickly to respond to the PAC's requests for personal information protected by the Privacy Act. DoD has also identified the specific legal prohibitions preventing it from sharing all information with the PAC and acted to carry out the procedural steps to remove them. We have conducted a thorough review to ensure maximum openness consistent with the law and intend to meet with the PAC staff to confirm that access is not a continuing problem. We will continue to apprise the PAC, as well as veterans, the public and relevant government agencies on our progress openly and forthrightly.

Standards for Evaluating Detection or Exposure Incidents

The DoD is moving as quickly as possible toward conclusions about the incidents under investigation. DoD is not using a courtroom standard of evidence. Rather, on a case by case basis it applies the common sense approach taken by a reasonable person to determine who might have been exposed. The DoD routinely informs all veterans about the availability of free diagnosis and treatment programs, established by the government, through its various outreach programs such as by publishing information on GulfLINK (its world-wide web), discussing available programs during nation-wide townhall meetings, communicating to veterans and other interested parties through correspondence and two-way electronic mail, publishing brochures and hand-outs, and publishing a new bi-monthly newsletter, GulfNEWS. Targeted notification, as accomplished by the Khamisiyah survey, will be conducted once we have confirmed reports, those with corroborating evidence, of possible chemical exposure. For any other exposures that may be identified in the future and for any other service members who may have been exposed, similar steps will be taken with respect to notification, evaluation, care and research. We note, however, that this issue of notification has no bearing on the eligibility of veterans for physical examinations, health care and compensation. DoD and VA continue to encourage all Gulf War veterans to take full advantage of the government's health care services.

Implementation and Next Steps

DoD and the Intelligence Community will continue investigation and analysis efforts. We will keep the staff of the Committee, as well as the veterans, the public and other elements of the government apprised of our findings and actions. Our purpose is to support government efforts looking into potential causes of Gulf War veterans' illnesses, and to use the information gained to improve our policies for use in the future.

We remain committed to the men and women who served this country in the Persian Gulf. We owe them a full and accurate accounting of what happened during and after Desert Storm. To that end, we will continue to release information that gives the veterans and American citizens a clearer understanding of this issue and how we used intelligence material to prepare, warn, and support our forces. We stand behind our contributions to national security and are working to enhance our support for the future.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

May 22, 1997

219500
'97 MAY 22 PM 6:09

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Franklin D. Raines
Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Memorandum Entitled "Use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction Projects"

SUMMARY: This memorandum forwards for your consideration a proposed memorandum that was prepared by the White House Counsel's Office. The proposed memorandum would encourage Executive departments and agencies, where appropriate, to enter into Project Labor Agreements in Federal construction projects.

BACKGROUND: Project Labor Agreements ("Agreements") are collective bargaining agreements, reached at the start of a project, between a contractor and the unions representing all the project's workers. The Agreements set wages and working conditions and create procedures to settle disputes, thereby avoiding strikes or lockouts. On February 18, 1997, Vice President Gore announced that you would issue a directive encouraging Federal agencies to consider using Agreements for construction projects. The proposed memorandum would carry out that commitment.

The proposed memorandum would permit Executive departments and agencies during this Administration to use Agreements in the construction of large and significant projects to be owned by the agencies, (a) where the Agreement would advance the Government's procurement interest in obtaining economical and high quality project performance and in promoting labor-management stability and (b) where no laws preclude the use of such Agreements.

Large and significant projects are defined in the memorandum as Federal construction projects with a total cost to the Federal Government of more than five million dollars. The memorandum would not require an agency to use an Agreement on any project nor would it require contractors to enter into an Agreement with any particular labor organization.

None of the affected agencies objects to the proposed memorandum.

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you sign the proposed memorandum.

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction Projects

The National Performance Review and other Executive Branch initiatives have sought to implement rigorous performance standards, minimize costs, and eliminate wasteful and burdensome requirements. This Presidential Memorandum continues those efforts, by encouraging departments and agencies in this Administration to consider project labor agreements as another tool, one with a proven record in governmental contracting, to achieve economy and efficiency in federal construction projects.

Therefore, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including 40 U.S.C. § 486(a) and 3 U.S.C. § 301, and to ensure the economical and efficient administration and completion of Federal Government construction projects, it is hereby directed as follows:

Section 1. Executive departments or agencies during this Administration authorized to award a contract for the construction of a facility to be owned by a federal department or agency may, on a project-by-project basis, use a project labor agreement on a large and significant project, (a) where a project labor agreement will advance the government's procurement interest in receiving the best value, in obtaining economical, efficient, timely, and high quality project performance and in promoting labor-management stability as well as compliance with applicable legal requirements governing safety and health, equal employment opportunity, labor standards and other matters, and (b) where no laws applicable to the specific construction project preclude the use of the proposed project labor agreement.

Section 2. If an executive department or agency during this Administration determines that use

of a project labor agreement will serve the goals set forth in section 1(a) of this Memorandum on a large and significant project, and that no law precludes the use of a project labor agreement on the project, the executive department or agency may require that every contractor or subcontractor on the project agree, for that project, to negotiate or become a party to a project labor agreement with one or more appropriate labor organizations. The executive department or agency has discretion whether to include such a requirement.

Section 3. Any project labor agreement reached pursuant to this Memorandum:

- (a) shall bind all contractors and subcontractors on the construction project through the inclusion of appropriate clauses in all relevant solicitation provisions and contract documents;
- (b) shall allow all contractors and subcontractors wishing to compete for contracts and subcontracts on the project to do so, without discrimination based on union or non-union status;
- (c) shall provide for the recruitment and participation of employees without discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, or union membership or non-membership;
- (d) shall contain guarantees against strikes, lockouts, and similar work disruptions;
- (e) shall set forth effective, prompt and mutually binding procedures for resolving labor disputes arising during the project;
- (f) shall provide other mechanisms for labor-management cooperation on matters of mutual interest and concern, including

productivity, quality of work, safety, and health; and

(g) shall fully conform to all applicable statutes, regulations and

Executive orders.

Section 4. This Memorandum does not require an executive department or agency to use a project labor agreement on any project, nor does it preclude use of a project labor agreement in circumstances not covered here, including leasehold arrangements and federally funded projects. This Memorandum also does not require contractors to enter into a project labor agreement with any particular labor organization.

Section 5. The heads of executive departments or agencies covered by this Memorandum, in consultation with the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, shall establish, within 120 days of the date of this Memorandum, appropriate procedures and criteria for the implementation of this Memorandum.

Section 6. This Memorandum is not intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by a nonfederal party against the United States, its departments, agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Section 7. (a) "Construction" as used in this Memorandum shall have the same meaning it has in section 36.102 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(b) "Executive department or agency" as used in this Memorandum means any federal entity within the meaning of 40 U.S.C. § 472 (a).

(c) "Labor organization" as used in this Memorandum shall have the same meaning it has in 42 U.S.C. § 2000e(d).

(d) "Large and significant project" as used in this Memorandum shall mean a federal construction project with a total cost to the federal government of more than \$5 million.

Section 8. This Memorandum shall be effective immediately, and shall govern all solicitations issued after establishment of the procedures and criteria required under section 5 of this Memorandum.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

FROM: Mac Reed *MR*
Assistant General Counsel

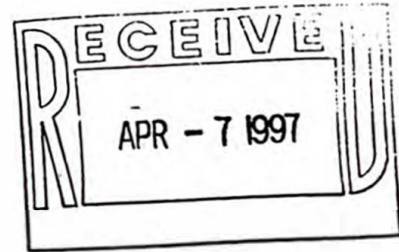
5-20-97

SUBJECT: Proposed Memorandum Entitled "Use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction Projects"

The following Executive departments and agencies do not object to the proposed memorandum:

1. Department of State J. Norton (647-4463)
2. Department of the Treasury R. Carro (622-1146)
3. Department of Defense S. Brick (703-697-1305)
4. Department of Agriculture G. Broadway (720-1272)
5. Department of Housing and Urban Development J. Lischer (708-1793)
6. Department of Justice R. Hart (514-2027)
7. Department of Commerce M. Levitt (482-3151)
8. Department of Transportation T. Herlihy (366-4687)
9. Department of the Interior J. Leshy (208-6193)
10. Department of Labor D. Crone (219-8106)
11. Department of Education J. Kristy (401-6267)
12. Department of Health and Human Services J. White (619-2155)
13. Department of Energy M. Shebek (586-1522)
14. Department of Veterans Affairs P. Hagle (273-6666)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



April 4, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR FRANK RAINES

FROM: Charles F.C. Ruff 
RE: Executive Order on Project Labor Agreements

Attached is a draft executive order on the use of project labor agreements for federal and federally funded construction projects. I would appreciate it if you would initiate the process for adoption of this order.

Project labor agreements are collective bargaining agreements, reached at the start of a project, between a contractor and the unions representing all the project's workers. They set wages and working conditions, and create procedures to settle disputes, thereby avoiding strikes or lockouts. On February 18, 1997, Vice President Gore announced that President Clinton would issue an Executive Order encouraging federal agencies to consider using project labor agreements for construction projects. This draft order fulfills that commitment.

The proposed order will encourage federal agencies to learn from the private sector companies and governments which have benefitted from project labor agreements. However, it will not require such agreements.

Tentatively, we are considering a date between April 14 and April 17 for the President to sign the order.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

52160



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

April 29, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR DESIGNATED AGENCY HEADS
(SEE ATTACHED DISTRIBUTION LIST)

FROM: Robert G. Damus *RGD*
General Counsel

SUBJECT: Revised Proposed Executive Order Entitled "Use of
Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction
Projects"

Attached is a revised proposed Executive order entitled "Use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction Projects." It was revised based on agency comments received pursuant to the April 8, 1997 circulation of the order.

On behalf of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, I would appreciate receiving any comments you may have concerning this proposal. If you have any comments or objections, they should be received no later than 12:00 noon Friday, May 9, 1997. Please be advised that agencies that do not respond by the May 9, 1997 deadline will be recorded as not objecting to the proposal.

Comments or inquiries may be submitted by telephone to Mr. Mac Reed of this office (Phone: 395-3563; Fax: 395-7294).

Thank you.

Attachments - Distribution List
Revised Proposed Executive Order

cc: Jack Lew
John Koskinen
Gordon Adams
T.J. Glauthier
Joe Minarik
Ken Apfel
Nancy-Ann Min
Sally Katzen
Steve Kelman
Ed DeSeve
Michael Deich
Bill Halter
Rebecca Culberson
Jill Blickstein

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Honorable Madeleine K. Albright
Secretary
Department of State

Honorable Robert E. Rubin
Secretary
Department of the Treasury

Honorable William S. Cohen
Secretary
Department of Defense

Honorable Daniel R. Glickman
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development

Honorable Janet Reno
United States Attorney General

Honorable William M. Daley
Secretary
Department of Commerce

Honorable Rodney Slater
Secretary
Department of Transportation

Honorable Bruce Babbitt
Secretary
Department of the Interior

Honorable Cynthia A. Metzler
Acting Secretary
Department of Labor

Honorable Richard W. Riley
Secretary
Department of Education

Honorable Donna E. Shalala
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services

Honorable Federico Pena
Secretary
Department of Energy

Honorable Jesse Brown
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Honorable Carol M. Browner
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

Honorable George Tenet
Acting Director
Central Intelligence Agency

Honorable David J. Barram
Administrator
General Services Administration

Honorable Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

Honorable Charles Ruff
Counsel to the President

Honorable Todd Stern
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary

Honorable Ron Klain
Chief of Staff to the Vice President

Executive Order No. _____ of May __, 1997

Use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction Projects

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including 40 U.S.C. § 486(a) and 3 U.S.C. § 301, to ensure the economical and efficient administration and completion of Federal Government construction projects, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Executive departments or agencies authorized to award a contract for the construction of a facility to be owned by a federal department or agency may, on a project-by-project basis, use a project labor agreement on a large and significant project, (a) where a project labor agreement will advance the government's procurement interest in economical, efficient, timely, and high quality project performance and promote labor-management stability as well as compliance with applicable legal requirements governing safety and health, equal employment opportunity, labor standards and other matters, and (b) where no laws applicable to the specific construction project preclude the use of the proposed project labor agreement.

Section 2. If an executive department or agency determines that use of a project labor agreement will serve the goals set forth in section 1(a) of this order on a large and significant project, and that no law precludes the use of a project labor agreement on the project, the executive department or agency may require that every offeror on the project agree, for that project, to negotiate or become a party to a project labor agreement with one or more appropriate labor organizations. The executive department or agency has discretion whether to include such a

requirement.

Section 3. Any project labor agreement reached pursuant to this order:

(a) shall bind all contractors and subcontractors on the construction project through the inclusion of appropriate specifications in all relevant solicitation provisions and contract documents;

(b) shall allow all contractors and subcontractors wishing to compete for contracts and subcontracts on the project to do so, without the imposition of substantial burdens based on union or non-union status;

© shall provide for the recruitment and participation of employees without discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, and union membership or non-membership;

(d) shall contain guarantees against strikes, lockouts, and similar work disruptions;

(e) shall set forth effective, prompt and mutually binding procedures for resolving labor disputes arising during the project;

(f) shall provide other mechanisms for labor-management

cooperation on matters of mutual interest and concern, including productivity, quality of work and safety and health; and

(g) shall fully conform to all applicable statutes, regulations and executive orders.

Section 4. This order does not require an executive department or agency to use a project labor agreement on any project. Nor does it require contractors to enter into a project labor agreement with any particular labor organization.

Section 5. The heads of executive departments or agencies covered by this order, in consultation with the Administrator of the General Services Administration, shall establish, within 120 days of the date of this order, appropriate procedures and criteria for the determinations set forth in Section 1.

Section 6. This order is not intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by a nonfederal party against the United States, its departments, agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Section 7. (a) "Construction" as used in this order shall have the same meaning it has in § 36.102 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(b) "Executive department or agency" as used in this order means any federal entity within the meaning of 40 U.S.C. § 472 (a).

© "Labor organization" as used in this order shall have the same meaning it has in 42 U.S.C. § 2000e(d).

(d) "Large and significant project" as used in this order shall mean a federal construction project with a total cost to the federal government of more than \$5 million.

Section 8. This order shall be effective immediately, and shall govern all solicitations issued after the effective date.

William J. Clinton

The White House
May __, 1997

(X)

RM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 29, 1997

6-3-97

MR. PRESIDENT:

The attached is a memo from Ellen Lovell on White House leadership for activities celebrating the Millennium. The only decision she is seeking from you is an OK to move forward on the planning process. I understand that the First Lady may wish to discuss this with you on the way back from Europe.

After briefly reviewing historical precedents and other Millennium activities already underway in federal cultural agencies, other countries, and the private sector, the memo turns to the development of a White House Millennium plan. Ellen discusses possible themes, objectives and ways to use the White House as a venue, setting forth a wide variety of ideas.

She also discusses a structure for organizing the White House effort, recommending that a small White House Working Group be established immediately to get started on planning. She recommends against creating a formal commission, though she raises the possibility of a small group of outside "President's Advisors on the Millennium" to advise on goals, raise resources for White House activities, etc.

We have circulated this memo to relevant senior staff.

Approve going forward ___ Disapprove ___ Discuss ___

Todd Stern

219665

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1997

'97 MAY 26 PM3:47

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Ellen McCulloch Lovell

CC: Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Melanne Verveer

SUBJECT: Planning for White House Leadership for the Millennium

Year 2000 Celebration in the State of the Union Address

On February 4, 1997, you said, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit." You challenged "our artists, musicians, and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community - a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded."

Your State of the Union statement sets the themes of "celebrating our common culture" and "remaining the world's beacon of liberty and creativity" for a national millennium celebration.

A Once in a Thousand Years Opportunity

Your second term extends into the milestone year of 2001. At the convergence of a new millennium and the next century, America will reflect on its past and imagine the future. The inevitable turn of the calendar offers a moment in history when humankind reassesses our progress and thinks about the legacy we leave to the next generations, while at the same time envisaging the time to come. As you lead our nation into the next era, you have a unique opportunity to educate and to lead a celebration that engages all Americans. Beginning in 1997, through the year 2000, the White House can provide special leadership of a national Millennium Initiative for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

The overarching goals of the White House Millennium Initiative should include:

- ▶ Stimulating, through White House leadership, a sense of optimism and renewal and the faith that Americans can build a better future;
- ▶ Setting some concrete, attainable objectives to marshal our collective will and resources, such as

preserving our cultural heritage for the next generation, or renewing our great tradition of philanthropy.

- ▶ Recognizing the creativity and inventiveness of Americans and our gifts to the world.
- ▶ Valuing the diversity of our peoples and forging greater unity as Americans as we enter the 21st Century.

By July 14, 1997, the White House will develop a plan for its Millennium leadership, addressing themes, goals, structure, events and the ways we will involve citizens, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other levels of government. This memorandum describes the thinking that has been devoted to the Millennium, the factors that need to be considered and a planning process that will result in decisions for our directions over the next three and a half years. (See Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium)

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents - such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, or the opening of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 1897, or the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - demonstrate that anniversaries and ambitious projects can both affect the popular imagination and leave lasting marks on the nation's cultural landscape. The Chicago Exposition, for example, commissioned new works by America's leading artists and architects and convened an international congress of scholars which influenced design and intellectual exploration for decades.

The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the White House as the President's home. John and Abigail Adams first occupied the White House in 1800, the first peaceful transition of government in the United States after an election. In 1900 President McKinley was President and the official turn-of-century celebration was focussed on the White House, its history and expansion.

Other national commemorations offer lessons to learn. The 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1987 - 1991 Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 1992 Columbus Quincentenary all provided occasions for national and local events, and for educational and media projects. Each was led by a commission formed years in advance which drew on both a Congressional appropriation and private funds. The 1976 Bicentennial commission had an elaborate endorsement procedure, whereby events and projects got designated as 'official' and were allowed to use the official logo.

President's Committee Recommendations

Several Administration leaders and advisors have been exploring what opportunities this milestone offers. At the same time, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, of which Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair and John Brademas the Chairman, spent over a year writing a report on the contributions of the arts and the humanities to society and how America's cultural life can be preserved and supported. This report, *Creative America*, was released at a press conference in February 1997, at which Mrs. Clinton spoke. *Creative America* describes the United States as a "country of creators and innovators," with a spirit of inquiry and discovery unleashed by our democratic system and amalgam of peoples.

Arguing that this century deserves no less a commitment to the future than past commemorations have provided, the main recommendation of the President's Committee is that the President lead a national Millennium Initiative to explore human thought and expression, to help unify us as a people and to reveal

the future in all its possibilities. By calling on individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector partners to create millennium programs, the President can set the themes and goals of this momentous time of change. (See Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations)

Other Millennium Activities

Because the year 2000 looms so large and so soon, many millennium activities in the U.S. and other countries are already under way. The following are samples of initiatives we know of that illustrate the focus and ferment of this time of endings and beginnings:

Federal Cultural Agencies:

- ▶ The National Endowment for the Arts has a millennium grants program and just awarded more than four million dollars to projects such as reviving American operas, a public TV series on the American novel, and a tour of the Boys Choir of Harlem.
- ▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities is funding films which may include "Millennium Moments," great moments in history to be aired as TV spots.
- ▶ The Kennedy Center plans to be the focal point for millennium celebrations, increasing educational outreach and acting as a site for White House programs. Recently the Kennedy Center opened the "Millennium Stage" - free events every night in the foyer.
- ▶ The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. Among other events, it will produce the "Reach of Ideas," gatherings of great thinkers to examine the state of knowledge in at least twenty disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

International:

- ▶ The United Kingdom created a Millennium Commission to fund projects funded by the lottery. Millennium projects include all kinds of capital improvement projects, and The Millennium Exhibition and Festival in Greenwich. The Arts Council of Great Britain has declared 2000 the "Year of the Artist." U.K. millennium projects are required to attract wide public support as well as private funding; they will also create lasting monuments. By 2000, an estimated \$4 billion will go into grants. Sample projects are: a new building for the Tate Gallery on the south bank of the Thames; the University of the Highlands and Islands - a new university for life-long learning; Millennium Greens - at least 250 new greens designed by local communities; 21st Century Halls - around 180 new rural community centers; and Ringing in the Millennium - bell-ringing in 100 churches and civic buildings, restoring old bells and hanging new church bells.
- ▶ The Vatican is celebrating its Jubilee of the Year 2000 in Rome for the 2000th anniversary of Christianity.
- ▶ Germany is hosting the Expo 2000, a world's fair in Hanover, featuring themes of culture, the end of the Cold War, and the millennium. The U.S. is one of the few countries not participating in the Hanover fair.
- ▶ Australia will host the Olympics in year 2000, including a Cultural Olympiad at the site in Sydney.
- ▶ At least fifteen other European countries are planning Millennium festivities. Other regions, even those that do not use the Christian calendar, will be planning events to attract tourism.

Private:

- ▶ Times Square 2000, Inc., the nonprofit which plans the New Year's celebrations, is planning

documentaries to be shown on December 31, 1999 on the themes of international cultures and understanding.

- ▶ ABC and Hallmark Corporation announced they will jointly commission new works from American playwrights for broadcast on the network.
- ▶ There is a Millennium Institute in Arlington, VA., that has created a web site to collect millennium ideas and discuss the meaning of this time.

Congress:

- ▶ Last year members of both the House and Senate submitted legislation to designate a private organization in Chicago, The Millennium Society, as the official organization to celebrate the achievements of the second millennium, and raise funds. The legislation never passed, but Congressional interest in official celebrations might reappear.

Developing a White House Millennium Plan

By July 14, we hope to develop a White House plan for the Millennium Initiative addressing the following elements:

Themes - What overall theme and purposes are conveyed to the public? If we articulate clear themes, and illustrate them with our events, appearances and speeches, then White House leadership could unleash the creativity of other leaders at the state and community levels, stimulating thousands of activities across the country. Some suggested themes are: harnessing American optimism for the age of renewal; promoting American creativity and innovation - recognizing our cultural and scientific accomplishments; and celebrating a world at peace and the spread of democratic values.

Objectives - What do we want to accomplish for the Millennium, through 2000 and beyond? What lasting results, monuments, and public attitudes do we hope to leave as a result of our leadership and national commemoration? Should we define and announce four to six projects that will become our lasting legacy for the 21st century?

Possible objectives include:

- ▶ Engaging citizens at the community level in some shared projects and activities such as collecting and preserving their family stories; creating new civic spaces such as town greens and community centers; and producing plays and pageants based on local history or shared concerns;
- ▶ Identifying the White House with high-level scholarship and art; showcasing new work commissioned for the new era;
- ▶ Preserving the White House and the President's Park area, and improving it for future First Families and Administrations;
- ▶ Increasing philanthropy and reinforcing the ethic of giving as a great American tradition, perhaps setting a measurable goal;
- ▶ Creating a permanent funding stream to support the arts and the humanities, exploring the creation of an "American Cultural Trust;"
- ▶ Convening a world leaders' teleconference on January 1, 2000 to express the world's hope for peace;
- ▶ Inviting leaders of religious communities to discuss faith at this time of reflection and change.

Structure - Do we need an additional structure, beyond government agencies and administration committees, to provide advice and leadership and to raise the necessary resources? The former directors of other commemorative events have advised against creating a Commission; such groups are easily captured by a few strong personalities. Plus, there is the practical problem of appointing one, even by Executive Order, with enough time and resources to be active. Another option is a small group of President's Advisors on the Millennium - a prestigious, nonpartisan group of citizens who would advise on the goals, raise resources for White House activities, designate "official" events and products, and publish materials that would help states and communities plan their celebrations. Our planning process should explore whether the millennium advisors could work with a 501(c)3 organization to give them greater flexibility.

Planning a structure will include organizing for the Millennium inside the White House to promote consistency and communication. We recommend a small White House Working Group be established immediately to advise on the planning phase over the next month and beyond. Outside experts will be consulted regularly. We could develop an interagency working group as well.

The White House as a Venue - How do we use the White House? How do we set an example for State Houses, cities, towns and for other civic organizations? The key is to sequence the events so there is a lead-up to the Millennium, an appropriate New Year's 1999 celebration, and a more intense year of accomplishments and celebrations in 2000. The White House as a venue and a catalyst prompts many creative possibilities:

- ▶ A White House Lecture Series and "conversations" with opinion leaders, to be televised or down-linked to sites which will organize their own forums;
- ▶ Cultural events which showcase our nation's "best" in many genre, culminating in a 1999 New Year's Gala at the White House of "New Masters," our most promising talent;
- ▶ Highlight "new works for the new era," commissioned by cultural organizations, foundations, and the national endowments;
- ▶ Use federal programs to preserve and create new monuments, incorporate art in public buildings, improve federal design, and commission new compositions for armed forces music ensembles;
- ▶ Add to the White House collections, pursue renovations, continue installations in the First Lady's Sculpture Garden, and conduct a televised tour of the Clinton White House;
- ▶ Launch Millennium projects of federal agencies, such as "Reach of Ideas" with the Library of Congress, films of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and national tours with the NEA.
- ▶ Ask the Smithsonian Institution to organize a National Folk Festival of traditions from all 56 states and territories on the Mall in 1999 or 2000; organize a National Science Fair for youth and adults, as well as amateurs and professionals;
- ▶ With federal or private institutions, organize the "Ten Great American Ideas" exhibition, book and television show to celebrate U.S. innovations and contributions to the world. Examples: The Declaration of Independence, modern dance, jazz, the semi-conductor chip;
- ▶ Host a White House Forum on international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ Use a White House forum and speeches to renew the great tradition of American philanthropy;
- ▶ Create a Millennium Children's Festival.

Participation of the Principals - How will the appearances and speeches of the President and Mrs. Clinton be used to highlight the themes and events and to build a lasting legacy? You must decide how big a priority this is, how many Presidential activities can be framed by the Millennium and incorporated as part of our themes and goals, how much time you want to devote to Millennium activities, and what

you want to accomplish as their lasting legacy.

Partnerships - How can we attract the resources needed to create a significant and dignified Millennium celebration, without it appearing to be too commercial or unfocussed? We must consider the tone we want to set as well as the resources that will be needed to support White House leadership on the Millennium. Fund-raising and the commercial possibilities for the Millennium will be part of the planning process.

A White House Millennium Group - Will begin meeting to develop a plan addressing these issues and will submit it to you by July 14, 1997. Recommended members: Maria Echaveste, Rahm Emanuel, Ann Lewis, John Podesta, Melanne Vermeer, Ellen Lovell, Steve Silverman, Ann Stock and Susan Liss.

Planning time-line

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 22-June 6 | - Research the 1976 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and Columbus Quincentenary Commissions.
- Explore the possibilities of a cultural endowment fund.
- Research Millennium programs of other countries for models; search U.S. databases for Millennium projects. Identify state and local initiatives being planned.
- Meet with White House Working Group and Mark Penn; discuss structure, recommend themes, develop ideas with national impact; meet with Social Office to develop sequence of White House events.
- Consult with private foundations on willingness to supplement efforts. Consult with outside experts.
- Continue to convene federal cultural agencies, to develop programs that reinforce themes, discuss logo; plan joint projects. |
| June 6 - 20 | - Examine possible structures with White House Working Group, outside experts.
- Develop budget, examine revenue sources.
- Recommend White House projects that both illustrate our themes and that can capture the national imagination, perhaps in these categories: youth, preservation, international, cultural awareness, technology, philanthropy, White House bicentennial.
- Ask federal agencies (beyond cultural) for ideas of how they might participate. Meet with interagency group.
- Explore possible partnership with non-profit organization to expand both citizen participation and resources.
- Consult with state and local organizations to develop plans for grassroots activities.
- Consult with supportive members of Congress to advise on structure and whether there will be a congressional Millennium effort. |
| June 20 - 30 | - Develop concrete recommendations on themes, goals and lasting legacy, structure and resources, White House leadership activities and events, Federal Agency involvement, the extent of state and local participation, partnership with other organizations, Presidential announcement, and 1997 events. |

- Review recommendations with the President and the First Lady.
- July 1 - 14
 - Revise recommendations.
 - Draft Executive Order or other vehicle necessary for structure.
 - Develop announcement, speech, or event to establish White House leadership and themes, and call for participation.
 - Final decisions by the President and the First Lady.

We recommend initiating the Millennium planning process.

_____ Approve

_____ Discuss

_____ Disapprove

Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium

A millennium is a period of a thousand years. The end of the second millennium, as measured by the Christian calendar, will be reached on January 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, The Greenwich Observatory, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *World Almanac*. The calendar by which we reach this date was created in 526 A.D. (*Anno Domini*, Year of Our Lord) by Dennis the Diminutive, the head of a Roman monastery who forged a common calendar from the divergent dating systems of the Eastern and Western Churches. Rather than starting at zero, this calendar began with the date of January 1, 1 A.D., not 0 A.D. Thus on January 1, 2 A.D. the calendar system was one year old, not two. Despite the fact that the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001, the world will celebrate on December 31, 1999 as the calendars flip to the year 2000. But "when our 20th Century reaches midnight ... it will have yet the 366 days of (leap) year 2000 to close out its hundredth year." (Hillel Schwartz)

For some Christians, the millennium refers to the prophecy in the Book of Revelations, the time of judgement, followed by a "a new heaven and a new earth." "Millennial" or "millenarian" also has a darker connotation as a time of apocalyptic expectations. Hillel Schwartz, historian and author of *Century's End*, points out the myth of the "panic terror" in the year 999, when Christians supposedly waited in churches for the world to end, people gave away their possessions and went on pilgrimages, a comet appeared, and storms raged. Historians disagree with this description of events, but not with the metaphor that persists. Some countries are referring to their millennium activities as "Year 2000" or "Jubilee" celebrations.

The millennium is a historical divide; the end of a century and an epoch, the start of the next generation for which one hopes a future brighter than ever. The anticipation of the new millennium brings a sense of urgency, a need to take stock, to enlist people in a new program, and to "take into serious account the host of highly contradictory tendencies at century's end: to retreat/ to go on treks and quests; to retrench/ to be bold; to look out for one's immediate family/ to look toward the well-being of future generations." Schwartz' analysis tells us that people become fascinated with metaphors that express the interrelatedness of things, such as the Internet. People also require rituals to "rehearse the passage from an old to a new century." The anxiety that the human race is degenerating, nature losing its vitality, that things are out of control is countered by the broader perspective of time that encourages renewal of all kinds.

As we consider what rituals to enact in this time of possibility, it is important to remember that many peoples and nations still mark time by the Jewish, Muslim, Chinese and other calendars. Still, most countries will recognize the powerful meaning inherent in the Western calendar changing to 2000.

Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations

The report of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Creative America*, reminds us that the 20th century has witnessed a burst of American creativity and our nation now stands as the world leader in cultural as well as scientific, economic and political realms. Our democratic system and amalgam of people unleashed a spirit of inquiry and discovery; the resulting cultural and scientific gifts benefit us and the world. Our cultural heritage defines us as Americans. The history of each American is America's history. We are a "nation of nations" - a people of peoples from different backgrounds who have forged common bonds. The millennium provides an opportunity to ensure the continued greatness of our national cultural life, to preserve our achievements for future generations, and to increase cultural understanding among groups within our country and with other nations.

The main recommendations that ask for White House involvement are as follows:

- ▶ A call by the President to individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies, and private sector partners to create Millennium programs that reflect upon and present our unique cultural heritage;
- ▶ Showcasing outstanding examples of American art, scholarship and heritage at the White House;
- ▶ An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy, including the involvement of creative commercial enterprises and of individuals;
- ▶ The creation of a massive new public-private partnership to ensure that cultural resources are made available through the new technologies, in concert with the President's and Vice-President's goal of connecting all school rooms and libraries by 2001;
- ▶ A national initiative to increase philanthropic giving;
- ▶ A White House forum on enhancing international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ An investment in the public role, by identifying a dedicated revenue to supplement funding for the arts, humanities, museums and libraries, and an increase in appropriations.

Additional recommendations incorporate Administration goals, such as the adoption of national educational standards for teaching the disciplines of the humanities and the arts, but do not call for further specific government action. Many of the other recommendations in the report are directed toward private foundations, corporations and individual donors, and cultural institutions themselves.

At the release of *Creative America*, Mrs. Clinton said,

"...The President and I are very excited about the Millennium Initiative described in this report. The approach of a new millennium and a new century presents us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the past two centuries of our collective American journey, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.... The President is eager to lead this initiative and will call upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector

partners to create Millennium programs that reflect and celebrate our cultural heritage. As we have over the past four years with performances, new art acquisitions, and rotating sculpture exhibits, the President and I will continue to showcase outstanding examples of American art and scholarship at the White House....

One element of our planning will be to determine which of their recommendations the President's Committee is willing to implement and which this Administration wants to embrace as part of our Millennium initiative.

British Catching Millennium Fever

New bridge on Thames among schemes to ring in 21st century

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

London

The rest of the world may not be racing to build theme parks, festival halls, sports complexes, amusement rides and other grandiose monuments in honor of the next millennium.

But the rest of the world does not see things quite the way people do in the United Kingdom, where they are planning to construct the world's largest dome on a toxic waste dump, erect a giant Ferris wheel across from Big Ben and build a new "living bridge" across the storied Thames — all in the name of the dawning of the year 2000.

Millennium fever is spreading here faster than the most recent outbreak of bad '60s fashion. There seems no project too outlandish and no site too remote to be considered for the century-ending celebrations that have become the talk of the tabloids.

The British government is planning to spend up to 1.6 billion

pounds (about \$2.8 billion) — most of it raised by the nation's new lottery — to ring in the third millennium, a date that is supposed to celebrate the anniversary of Christ's arrival on Earth but is being treated more like a secular excuse to string together a bunch of massive parties.

MCDONALD'S HEIRESS IS ANGEL OF FLOOD



McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to

flood victims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

STORY, PAGE A3

Much of the fanfare is focused on the planned construction of the world's largest dome in Greenwich to stage the Millennium Exhibition, which would focus largely on the city's fame as the birthplace of time. The exhibition, expected to open on New Year's Day 2000, would last for one year — until the day sticklers note is the actual start of the third millennium, Jan. 1, 2001. British officials have said the huge expense is justified because the event will probably attract more than 30 million visitors.

"It's a celebration of the birth date of our civilization, and that's very significant," said Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times of London and a member of the country's Millennium Commission. "We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them."

But the planned festivities have generated political fireworks because of spiraling costs and the

BRITAIN: Page A7 Col. 1

Britain in Frenzy to Host Biggest Party Ringing In Mille

From Page 1

fact that needy social services such as the nation's transportation and health systems have seemingly been overlooked in the frenzy to build new monuments and symbols for the millennium.

New Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun injecting a note of caution into the debate, saying the Labor government could not approve a blank check for all the planned celebrations. But much of the funding has already been approved, and the big question now remains whether the new government will have to inflict significant cuts on the many projects being offered to open the next century.

"A few celebrations are fine, but the way they're going about it is as if they're suffering from mad cow disease," said Underground worker Chris Sims. "They're going to spend a couple of billion quid and build a giant dome when we've got schools and hospitals falling apart. Can someone please tell me why?"

The century-end rush has also touched off rivalries with other countries that are trying to capitalize on Europe's growing obsession with the millennium.

Fracas Over Ferris Wheel

A private plan to build the largest Ferris wheel in the world on the bank of the Thames near Westminster Abbey was recently met with an announcement from the

'We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them'

— SIMON JENKINS, British Millennium Commission

French that they would construct a similar ride at least one meter higher.

The Ferris wheel war escalated when Marcel Campion, backer of the French project, began suggesting that if the British went ahead with the 500-foot-high wheel, it had a good chance of collapsing.

The French further enraged their English counterparts by saying that their attraction would resemble a giant transparent alarm clock — Le Chronos — which the British claimed was a direct rip-off of their whole Greenwich time-origin theme. Paris Mayor Jean Tiéber said the wheel would be like a "second Eiffel Tower."

The millennium hype also triggered a competition between Birmingham and Greenwich over the right to hold the national festival in 2000. Although Birmingham, England's second-largest city, has first-rate transportation facilities and a number of complexes to hold the celebrations, Greenwich was recently awarded the festival — even though there are no major roads leading to the town and its planned millennium site is a 130-

acre toxic waste area that will require millions to be cleaned up.

The award to Greenwich was largely the work of former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Hazeltine, who lobbied for it as a way to fix up the poisoned and neglected docklands in the region. But the move will be costly because it will require construction of new highways to get into Greenwich and a whole slew of parking lots to meet the expected crush of cars.

The selection of Greenwich was largely symbolic since the London borough is the prime meridian of the earth — located on 0 degrees longitude — and the place picked by astronomers more than 100 years ago to measure time zones for the world.

But Hazeltine, who suffered a heart attack after Labor's big victory May 1, insisted that it was economy, not astronomy, that fueled his desire for the project. He contended the money was well spent because it would produce a minimum of 2.6 billion pounds (about \$4.4 billion) for the British economy. "There are no ways to

deny the economic potential," he said. "It would have been a denial of faith in our abilities if the Millennium Commission had not decided to embody, in one bold, defining statement, our pride and confidence in this country."

Commission members, seeking to stave off more criticism, decided to fund several other millennium-related projects that have high public support. Among the projects being funded by the commission are the refurbishing of Scotland national football area at

Hampden Park, and making improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in Wales and the Earth Centre in Doncaster, a scientific and environmental research center.

Plans for the Thames

Planners also are considering a new bridge over the Thames — the first in more than 100 years in history-proud Britain. There has been much discussion of reviving the "living bridge" concept, which would string together shops, apartments and hotels, an idea not seen

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/26 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/31SUBJECT: White House Millennium Initiative

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☐
BOWLES	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
MATHEWS	☒	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
RAINES	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
BAER	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	LEWIS	☒	☐
EMANUEL	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	SPERTING	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	HAWLEY	☐	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
HILLEY	☐	☐	RADD	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	TARULLO	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐		☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please advise

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1997

97 MAY 26 PM 3:47

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Ellen McCulloch Lovell

CC: Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Melanne Verveer

SUBJECT: Planning for White House Leadership for the Millennium

Year 2000 Celebration in the State of the Union Address

On February 4, 1997, you said, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit." You challenged "our artists, musicians, and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community - a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded."

Your State of the Union statement sets the themes of "celebrating our common culture" and "remaining the world's beacon of liberty and creativity" for a national millennium celebration.

A Once in a Thousand Years Opportunity

Your second term extends into the milestone year of 2001. At the convergence of a new millennium and the next century, America will reflect on its past and imagine the future. The inevitable turn of the calendar offers a moment in history when humankind reassesses our progress and thinks about the legacy we leave to the next generations, while at the same time envisaging the time to come. As you lead our nation into the next era, you have a unique opportunity to educate and to lead a celebration that engages all Americans. Beginning in 1997, through the year 2000, the White House can provide special leadership of a national Millennium Initiative for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

The overarching goals of the White House Millennium Initiative should include:

- ▶ Stimulating, through White House leadership, a sense of optimism and renewal and the faith that Americans can build a better future;
- ▶ Setting some concrete, attainable objectives to marshal our collective will and resources, such as

preserving our cultural heritage for the next generation, or renewing our great tradition of philanthropy.

- ▶ Recognizing the creativity and inventiveness of Americans and our gifts to the world.
- ▶ Valuing the diversity of our peoples and forging greater unity as Americans as we enter the 21st Century.

By July 14, 1997, the White House will develop a plan for its Millennium leadership, addressing themes, goals, structure, events and the ways we will involve citizens, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other levels of government. This memorandum describes the thinking that has been devoted to the Millennium, the factors that need to be considered and a planning process that will result in decisions for our directions over the next three and a half years. (See Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium)

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents - such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, or the opening of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 1897, or the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - demonstrate that anniversaries and ambitious projects can both affect the popular imagination and leave lasting marks on the nation's cultural landscape. The Chicago Exposition, for example, commissioned new works by America's leading artists and architects and convened an international congress of scholars which influenced design and intellectual exploration for decades.

The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the White House as the President's home. John and Abigail Adams first occupied the White House in 1800, the first peaceful transition of government in the United States after an election. In 1900 President McKinley was President and the official turn-of-century celebration was focussed on the White House, its history and expansion.

Other national commemorations offer lessons to learn. The 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1987 - 1991 Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 1992 Columbus Quincentenary all provided occasions for national and local events, and for educational and media projects. Each was led by a commission formed years in advance which drew on both a Congressional appropriation and private funds. The 1976 Bicentennial commission had an elaborate endorsement procedure, whereby events and projects got designated as 'official' and were allowed to use the official logo.

President's Committee Recommendations

Several Administration leaders and advisors have been exploring what opportunities this milestone offers. At the same time, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, of which Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair and John Brademas the Chairman, spent over a year writing a report on the contributions of the arts and the humanities to society and how America's cultural life can be preserved and supported. This report, *Creative America*, was released at a press conference in February 1997, at which Mrs. Clinton spoke. *Creative America* describes the United States as a "country of creators and innovators," with a spirit of inquiry and discovery unleashed by our democratic system and amalgam of peoples.

Arguing that this century deserves no less a commitment to the future than past commemorations have provided, the main recommendation of the President's Committee is that the President lead a national Millennium Initiative to explore human thought and expression, to help unify us as a people and to reveal

the future in all its possibilities. By calling on individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector partners to create millennium programs, the President can set the themes and goals of this momentous time of change. (See Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations)

Other Millennium Activities

Because the year 2000 looms so large and so soon, many millennium activities in the U.S. and other countries are already under way. The following are samples of initiatives we know of that illustrate the focus and ferment of this time of endings and beginnings:

Federal Cultural Agencies:

- ▶ The National Endowment for the Arts has a millennium grants program and just awarded more than four million dollars to projects such as reviving American operas, a public TV series on the American novel, and a tour of the Boys Choir of Harlem.
- ▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities is funding films which may include "Millennium Moments," great moments in history to be aired as TV spots.
- ▶ The Kennedy Center plans to be the focal point for millennium celebrations, increasing educational outreach and acting as a site for White House programs. Recently the Kennedy Center opened the "Millennium Stage" - free events every night in the foyer.
- ▶ The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. Among other events, it will produce the "Reach of Ideas," gatherings of great thinkers to examine the state of knowledge in at least twenty disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

International:

- ▶ The United Kingdom created a Millennium Commission to fund projects funded by the lottery. Millennium projects include all kinds of capital improvement projects, and The Millennium Exhibition and Festival in Greenwich. The Arts Council of Great Britain has declared 2000 the "Year of the Artist." U.K. millennium projects are required to attract wide public support as well as private funding; they will also create lasting monuments. By 2000, an estimated \$4 billion will go into grants. Sample projects are: a new building for the Tate Gallery on the south bank of the Thames; the University of the Highlands and Islands - a new university for life-long learning; Millennium Greens - at least 250 new greens designed by local communities; 21st Century Halls - around 180 new rural community centers; and Ringing in the Millennium - bell-ringing in 100 churches and civic buildings, restoring old bells and hanging new church bells.
- ▶ The Vatican is celebrating its Jubilee of the Year 2000 in Rome for the 2000th anniversary of Christianity.
- ▶ Germany is hosting the Expo 2000, a world's fair in Hanover, featuring themes of culture, the end of the Cold War, and the millennium. The U.S. is one of the few countries not participating in the Hanover fair.
- ▶ Australia will host the Olympics in year 2000, including a Cultural Olympiad at the site in Sydney.
- ▶ At least fifteen other European countries are planning Millennium festivities. Other regions, even those that do not use the Christian calendar, will be planning events to attract tourism.

Private:

- ▶ Times Square 2000, Inc., the nonprofit which plans the New Year's celebrations, is planning

documentaries to be shown on December 31, 1999 on the themes of international cultures and understanding.

- ▶ ABC and Hallmark Corporation announced they will jointly commission new works from American playwrights for broadcast on the network.
- ▶ There is a Millennium Institute in Arlington, VA., that has created a web site to collect millennium ideas and discuss the meaning of this time.

Congress:

- ▶ Last year members of both the House and Senate submitted legislation to designate a private organization in Chicago, The Millennium Society, as the official organization to celebrate the achievements of the second millennium, and raise funds. The legislation never passed, but Congressional interest in official celebrations might reappear.

Developing a White House Millennium Plan

By July 14, we hope to develop a White House plan for the Millennium Initiative addressing the following elements:

Themes - What overall theme and purposes are conveyed to the public? If we articulate clear themes, and illustrate them with our events, appearances and speeches, then White House leadership could unleash the creativity of other leaders at the state and community levels, stimulating thousands of activities across the country. Some suggested themes are: harnessing American optimism for the age of renewal; promoting American creativity and innovation - recognizing our cultural and scientific accomplishments; and celebrating a world at peace and the spread of democratic values.

Objectives - What do we want to accomplish for the Millennium, through 2000 and beyond? What lasting results, monuments, and public attitudes do we hope to leave as a result of our leadership and national commemoration? Should we define and announce four to six projects that will become our lasting legacy for the 21st century?

Possible objectives include:

- ▶ Engaging citizens at the community level in some shared projects and activities such as collecting and preserving their family stories; creating new civic spaces such as town greens and community centers; and producing plays and pageants based on local history or shared concerns;
- ▶ Identifying the White House with high-level scholarship and art; showcasing new work commissioned for the new era;
- ▶ Preserving the White House and the President's Park area, and improving it for future First Families and Administrations;
- ▶ Increasing philanthropy and reinforcing the ethic of giving as a great American tradition, perhaps setting a measurable goal;
- ▶ Creating a permanent funding stream to support the arts and the humanities, exploring the creation of an "American Cultural Trust;"
- ▶ Convening a world leaders' teleconference on January 1, 2000 to express the world's hope for peace;
- ▶ Inviting leaders of religious communities to discuss faith at this time of reflection and change.

Structure - Do we need an additional structure, beyond government agencies and administration committees, to provide advice and leadership and to raise the necessary resources? The former directors of other commemorative events have advised against creating a Commission; such groups are easily captured by a few strong personalities. Plus, there is the practical problem of appointing one, even by Executive Order, with enough time and resources to be active. Another option is a small group of President's Advisors on the Millennium - a prestigious, nonpartisan group of citizens who would advise on the goals, raise resources for White House activities, designate "official" events and products, and publish materials that would help states and communities plan their celebrations. Our planning process should explore whether the millennium advisors could work with a 501(c)3 organization to give them greater flexibility.

Planning a structure will include organizing for the Millennium inside the White House to promote consistency and communication. We recommend a small White House Working Group be established immediately to advise on the planning phase over the next month and beyond. Outside experts will be consulted regularly. We could develop an interagency working group as well.

The White House as a Venue - How do we use the White House? How do we set an example for State Houses, cities, towns and for other civic organizations? The key is to sequence the events so there is a lead-up to the Millennium, an appropriate New Year's 1999 celebration, and a more intense year of accomplishments and celebrations in 2000. The White House as a venue and a catalyst prompts many creative possibilities:

- ▶ A White House Lecture Series and "conversations" with opinion leaders, to be televised or down-linked to sites which will organize their own forums;
- ▶ Cultural events which showcase our nation's "best" in many genre, culminating in a 1999 New Year's Gala at the White House of "New Masters," our most promising talent;
- ▶ Highlight "new works for the new era," commissioned by cultural organizations, foundations, and the national endowments;
- ▶ Use federal programs to preserve and create new monuments, incorporate art in public buildings, improve federal design, and commission new compositions for armed forces music ensembles;
- ▶ Add to the White House collections, pursue renovations, continue installations in the First Lady's Sculpture Garden, and conduct a televised tour of the Clinton White House;
- ▶ Launch Millennium projects of federal agencies, such as "Reach of Ideas" with the Library of Congress, films of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and national tours with the NEA.
- ▶ Ask the Smithsonian Institution to organize a National Folk Festival of traditions from all 56 states and territories on the Mall in 1999 or 2000; organize a National Science Fair for youth and adults, as well as amateurs and professionals;
- ▶ With federal or private institutions, organize the "Ten Great American Ideas" exhibition, book and television show to celebrate U.S. innovations and contributions to the world. Examples: The Declaration of Independence, modern dance, jazz, the semi-conductor chip;
- ▶ Host a White House Forum on international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ Use a White House forum and speeches to renew the great tradition of American philanthropy;
- ▶ Create a Millennium Children's Festival.

Participation of the Principals - How will the appearances and speeches of the President and Mrs. Clinton be used to highlight the themes and events and to build a lasting legacy? You must decide how big a priority this is, how many Presidential activities can be framed by the Millennium and incorporated as part of our themes and goals, how much time you want to devote to Millennium activities, and what

you want to accomplish as their lasting legacy.

Partnerships - How can we attract the resources needed to create a significant and dignified Millennium celebration, without it appearing to be too commercial or unfocused? We must consider the tone we want to set as well as the resources that will be needed to support White House leadership on the Millennium. Fund-raising and the commercial possibilities for the Millennium will be part of the planning process.

A White House Millennium Group - Will begin meeting to develop a plan addressing these issues and will submit it to you by July 14, 1997. Recommended members: Maria Echaveste, Rahm Emanuel, Ann Lewis, John Podesta, Melanne Verveer, Ellen Lovell, Steve Silverman, Ann Stock and Susan Liss.

Planning time-line

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| May 22-June 6 | - | Research the 1976 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and Columbus Quincentenary Commissions. |
| | - | Explore the possibilities of a cultural endowment fund. |
| | - | Research Millennium programs of other countries for models; search U.S. databases for Millennium projects. Identify state and local initiatives being planned. |
| | - | Meet with White House Working Group and Mark Penn; discuss structure, recommend themes, develop ideas with national impact; meet with Social Office to develop sequence of White House events. |
| | - | Consult with private foundations on willingness to supplement efforts. Consult with outside experts. |
| | - | Continue to convene federal cultural agencies, to develop programs that reinforce themes, discuss logo; plan joint projects. |
| June 6 - 20 | - | Examine possible structures with White House Working Group, outside experts. |
| | - | Develop budget, examine revenue sources. |
| | - | Recommend White House projects that both illustrate our themes and that can capture the national imagination, perhaps in these categories: youth, preservation, international, cultural awareness, technology, philanthropy, White House bicentennial. |
| | - | Ask federal agencies (beyond cultural) for ideas of how they might participate. |
| | - | Meet with interagency group. |
| | - | Explore possible partnership with non-profit organization to expand both citizen participation and resources. |
| | - | Consult with state and local organizations to develop plans for grassroots activities. |
| | - | Consult with supportive members of Congress to advise on structure and whether there will be a congressional Millennium effort. |
| June 20 - 30 | - | Develop concrete recommendations on themes, goals and lasting legacy, structure and resources, White House leadership activities and events, Federal Agency involvement, the extent of state and local participation, partnership with other organizations, Presidential announcement, and 1997 events. |

- Review recommendations with the President and the First Lady.
 - July 1 - 14
 - Revise recommendations.
 - Draft Executive Order or other vehicle necessary for structure.
 - Develop announcement, speech, or event to establish White House leadership and themes, and call for participation.
 - Final decisions by the President and the First Lady.
-

We recommend initiating the Millennium planning process.

_____ Approve

_____ Discuss

_____ Disapprove

Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium

A millennium is a period of a thousand years. The end of the second millennium, as measured by the Christian calendar, will be reached on January 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, The Greenwich Observatory, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *World Almanac*. The calendar by which we reach this date was created in 526 A.D. (*Anno Domini*, Year of Our Lord) by Dennis the Diminutive, the head of a Roman monastery who forged a common calendar from the divergent dating systems of the Eastern and Western Churches. Rather than starting at zero, this calendar began with the date of January 1, 1 A.D., not 0 A.D. Thus on January 1, 2 A.D. the calendar system was one year old, not two. Despite the fact that the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001, the world will celebrate on December 31, 1999 as the calendars flip to the year 2000. But "when our 20th Century reaches midnight ... it will have yet the 366 days of (leap) year 2000 to close out its hundredth year." (Hillel Schwartz)

For some Christians, the millennium refers to the prophecy in the Book of Revelations, the time of judgement, followed by a "a new heaven and a new earth." "Millennial" or "millenarian" also has a darker connotation as a time of apocalyptic expectations. Hillel Schwartz, historian and author of *Century's End*, points out the myth of the "panic terror" in the year 999, when Christians supposedly waited in churches for the world to end, people gave away their possessions and went on pilgrimages, a comet appeared, and storms raged. Historians disagree with this description of events, but not with the metaphor that persists. Some countries are referring to their millennium activities as "Year 2000" or "Jubilee" celebrations.

The millennium is a historical divide; the end of a century and an epoch, the start of the next generation for which one hopes a future brighter than ever. The anticipation of the new millennium brings a sense of urgency, a need to take stock, to enlist people in a new program, and to "take into serious account the host of highly contradictory tendencies at century's end: to retreat/ to go on treks and quests; to retrench/ to be bold; to look out for one's immediate family/ to look toward the well-being of future generations." Schwartz' analysis tells us that people become fascinated with metaphors that express the interrelatedness of things, such as the Internet. People also require rituals to "rehearse the passage from an old to a new century." The anxiety that the human race is degenerating, nature losing its vitality, that things are out of control is countered by the broader perspective of time that encourages renewal of all kinds.

As we consider what rituals to enact in this time of possibility, it is important to remember that many peoples and nations still mark time by the Jewish, Muslim, Chinese and other calendars. Still, most countries will recognize the powerful meaning inherent in the Western calendar changing to 2000.

Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations

The report of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Creative America*, reminds us that the 20th century has witnessed a burst of American creativity and our nation now stands as the world leader in cultural as well as scientific, economic and political realms. Our democratic system and amalgam of people unleashed a spirit of inquiry and discovery; the resulting cultural and scientific gifts benefit us and the world. Our cultural heritage defines us as Americans. The history of each American is America's history. We are a "nation of nations" - a people of peoples from different backgrounds who have forged common bonds. The millennium provides an opportunity to ensure the continued greatness of our national cultural life, to preserve our achievements for future generations, and to increase cultural understanding among groups within our country and with other nations.

The main recommendations that ask for White House involvement are as follows:

- ▶ A call by the President to individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies, and private sector partners to create Millennium programs that reflect upon and present our unique cultural heritage;
- ▶ Showcasing outstanding examples of American art, scholarship and heritage at the White House;
- ▶ An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy, including the involvement of creative commercial enterprises and of individuals;
- ▶ The creation of a massive new public-private partnership to ensure that cultural resources are made available through the new technologies, in concert with the President's and Vice-President's goal of connecting all school rooms and libraries by 2001;
- ▶ A national initiative to increase philanthropic giving;
- ▶ A White House forum on enhancing international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ An investment in the public role, by identifying a dedicated revenue to supplement funding for the arts, humanities, museums and libraries, and an increase in appropriations.

Additional recommendations incorporate Administration goals, such as the adoption of national educational standards for teaching the disciplines of the humanities and the arts, but do not call for further specific government action. Many of the other recommendations in the report are directed toward private foundations, corporations and individual donors, and cultural institutions themselves.

At the release of *Creative America*, Mrs. Clinton said,

"...The President and I are very excited about the Millennium Initiative described in this report. The approach of a new millennium and a new century presents us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the past two centuries of our collective American journey, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.... The President is eager to lead this initiative and will call upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector

partners to create Millennium programs that reflect and celebrate our cultural heritage. As we have over the past four years with performances, new art acquisitions, and rotating sculpture exhibits, the President and I will continue to showcase outstanding examples of American art and scholarship at the White House....

One element of our planning will be to determine which of their recommendations the President's Committee is willing to implement and which this Administration wants to embrace as part of our Millennium initiative.

British Catching Millennium Fever

New bridge on Thames among schemes to ring in 21st century

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

London

The rest of the world may not be racing to build theme parks, festival halls, sports complexes, amusement rides and other grandiose monuments in honor of the next millennium.

But the rest of the world does not see things quite the way people do in the United Kingdom, where they are planning to construct the world's largest dome on a toxic waste dump, erect a giant Ferris wheel across from Big Ben and build a new "living bridge" across the storied Thames — all in the name of the dawning of the year 2000.

Millennium fever is spreading here faster than the most recent outbreak of bad '60s fashion. There seems no project too outlandish and no site too remote to be considered for the century-ending celebrations that have become the talk of the tabloids.

The British government is planning to spend up to 1.6 billion

pounds (about \$2.8 billion) — most of it raised by the nation's new lottery — to ring in the third millennium, a date that is supposed to celebrate the anniversary of Christ's arrival on Earth but is being treated more like a secular excuse to string together a bunch of massive parties.

MCDONALD'S HEIRESS IS ANGEL OF FLOOD



McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to flood victims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

STORY, PAGE A3

Much of the fanfare is focused on the planned construction of the world's largest dome in Greenwich to stage the Millennium Exhibition, which would focus largely on the city's fame as the birthplace of time. The exhibition, expected to open on New Year's Day 2000, would last for one year — until the day sticklers note is the actual start of the third millennium, Jan. 1, 2001. British officials have said the huge expense is justified because the event will probably attract more than 30 million visitors.

"It's a celebration of the birth date of our civilization, and that's very significant," said Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times of London and a member of the country's Millennium Commission. "We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them."

But the planned festivities have generated political fireworks because of spiraling costs and the

BRITAIN: Page A7 Col. 1

Britain in Frenzy to Host Biggest Party Ringing In Millennium

on Page 1

that needy social services such as the nation's transportation and health systems have seemingly been overlooked in the frenzy to build new monuments and symbols for the millennium.

New Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun injecting a note of caution into the debate, saying the Labour government could not approve a blank check for all the planned celebrations. But much of the bidding has already been approved, and the big question now remains whether the new government will have to inflict significant cuts on the many projects being offered to open the next century.

"A few celebrations are fine, but the way they're going about it is as if they're suffering from mad cow disease," said Underground worker Chris Sims. "They're going to spend a couple of billion quid to build a giant dome when we've got schools and hospitals falling apart. Can someone please tell me why?"

The century-end rush has also touched off rivalries with other countries that are trying to capitalize on Europe's growing obsession with the millennium.

Race Over Ferris Wheel

A private plan to build the largest Ferris wheel in the world on the bank of the Thames near Westminster Abbey was recently met with an announcement from the

'We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them'

— SIMON JENKINS, British Millennium Commission

French that they would construct a similar ride at least one meter higher.

The Ferris wheel war escalated when Marcel Campion, backer of the French project, began suggesting that if the British went ahead with the 500-foot-high wheel, it had a good chance of collapsing.

The French further enraged their English counterparts by saying that their attraction would resemble a giant transparent alarm clock — Le Chronos — which the British claimed was a direct rip-off of their whole Greenwich time-origin theme. Paris Mayor Jean Tiéber said the wheel would be like a "second Eiffel Tower."

The millennium hype also triggered a competition between Birmingham and Greenwich over the right to hold the national festival in 2000. Although Birmingham, England's second-largest city, has first-rate transportation facilities and a number of complexes to hold the celebrations, Greenwich was recently awarded the festival — even though there are no major roads leading to the town and its planned millennium site is a 130-

acre toxic waste area that will require millions to be cleaned up.

The award to Greenwich was largely the work of former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Hazeltine, who lobbied for it as a way to fix up the poisoned and neglected docklands in the region. But the move will be costly because it will require construction of new highways to get into Greenwich and a whole slew of parking lots to meet the expected crush of cars.

The selection of Greenwich was largely symbolic since the London borough is the prime meridian of the earth — located on 0 degrees longitude — and the place picked by astronomers more than 100 years ago to measure time zones for the world.

But Hazeltine, who suffered a heart attack after Labor's big victory May 1, insisted that it was economy, not astronomy, that fueled his desire for the project. He contended the money was well spent because it would produce a minimum of 2.6 billion pounds (about \$4.4 billion) for the British economy. "There are no ways to

deny the economic potential," he said. "It would have been a denial of faith in our abilities if the Millennium Commission had not decided to embody, in one bold, defining statement, our pride and confidence in this country."

Commission members, seeking to stave off more criticism, decided to fund several other millennium-related projects that have high public support. Among the projects being funded by the commission are the refurbishing of Scotland national football area at

Hampden Park, and making improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in Wales and the Earth Centre in Doncaster, a scientific and environmental research center.

Plans for the Thames

Planners also are considering a new bridge over the Thames — the first in more than 100 years in history-proud Britain. There has been much discussion of reviving the "living bridge" concept, which would string together shops, apartments and hotels, an idea not seen

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/26 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/27SUBJECT: White House Millennium Initiative

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☐
BOWLES	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
MATHEWS	☒	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
RAINES	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
BAER	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	LEWIS	☒	☐
EMANUEL	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	HAWLEY	☐	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
HILLEY	☐	☐	RADD	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	TARULLO	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐		☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please advise

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1997

97 MAY 26 PM 3:47

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Ellen McCulloch Lovell

CC: Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Melanne Verveer

SUBJECT: Planning for White House Leadership for the Millennium

Year 2000 Celebration in the State of the Union Address

On February 4, 1997, you said, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit." You challenged "our artists, musicians, and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community - a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded."

Your State of the Union statement sets the themes of "celebrating our common culture" and "remaining the world's beacon of liberty and creativity" for a national millennium celebration.

A Once in a Thousand Years Opportunity

Your second term extends into the milestone year of 2001. At the convergence of a new millennium and the next century, America will reflect on its past and imagine the future. The inevitable turn of the calendar offers a moment in history when humankind reassesses our progress and thinks about the legacy we leave to the next generations, while at the same time envisaging the time to come. As you lead our nation into the next era, you have a unique opportunity to educate and to lead a celebration that engages all Americans. Beginning in 1997, through the year 2000, the White House can provide special leadership of a national Millennium Initiative for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

The overarching goals of the White House Millennium Initiative should include:

- ▶ Stimulating, through White House leadership, a sense of optimism and renewal and the faith that Americans can build a better future;
- ▶ Setting some concrete, attainable objectives to marshal our collective will and resources, such as

preserving our cultural heritage for the next generation, or renewing our great tradition of philanthropy.

- ▶ Recognizing the creativity and inventiveness of Americans and our gifts to the world.
- ▶ Valuing the diversity of our peoples and forging greater unity as Americans as we enter the 21st Century.

By July 14, 1997, the White House will develop a plan for its Millennium leadership, addressing themes, goals, structure, events and the ways we will involve citizens, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other levels of government. This memorandum describes the thinking that has been devoted to the Millennium, the factors that need to be considered and a planning process that will result in decisions for our directions over the next three and a half years. (See Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium)

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents - such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, or the opening of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 1897, or the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - demonstrate that anniversaries and ambitious projects can both affect the popular imagination and leave lasting marks on the nation's cultural landscape. The Chicago Exposition, for example, commissioned new works by America's leading artists and architects and convened an international congress of scholars which influenced design and intellectual exploration for decades.

The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the White House as the President's home. John and Abigail Adams first occupied the White House in 1800, the first peaceful transition of government in the United States after an election. In 1900 President McKinley was President and the official turn-of-century celebration was focussed on the White House, its history and expansion.

Other national commemorations offer lessons to learn. The 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1987 - 1991 Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 1992 Columbus Quincentenary all provided occasions for national and local events, and for educational and media projects. Each was led by a commission formed years in advance which drew on both a Congressional appropriation and private funds. The 1976 Bicentennial commission had an elaborate endorsement procedure, whereby events and projects got designated as 'official' and were allowed to use the official logo.

President's Committee Recommendations

Several Administration leaders and advisors have been exploring what opportunities this milestone offers. At the same time, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, of which Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair and John Brademas the Chairman, spent over a year writing a report on the contributions of the arts and the humanities to society and how America's cultural life can be preserved and supported. This report, *Creative America*, was released at a press conference in February 1997, at which Mrs. Clinton spoke. *Creative America* describes the United States as a "country of creators and innovators," with a spirit of inquiry and discovery unleashed by our democratic system and amalgam of peoples.

Arguing that this century deserves no less a commitment to the future than past commemorations have provided, the main recommendation of the President's Committee is that the President lead a national Millennium Initiative to explore human thought and expression, to help unify us as a people and to reveal

the future in all its possibilities. By calling on individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector partners to create millennium programs, the President can set the themes and goals of this momentous time of change. (See Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations)

Other Millennium Activities

Because the year 2000 looms so large and so soon, many millennium activities in the U.S. and other countries are already under way. The following are samples of initiatives we know of that illustrate the focus and ferment of this time of endings and beginnings:

Federal Cultural Agencies:

- ▶ The National Endowment for the Arts has a millennium grants program and just awarded more than four million dollars to projects such as reviving American operas, a public TV series on the American novel, and a tour of the Boys Choir of Harlem.
- ▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities is funding films which may include "Millennium Moments," great moments in history to be aired as TV spots.
- ▶ The Kennedy Center plans to be the focal point for millennium celebrations, increasing educational outreach and acting as a site for White House programs. Recently the Kennedy Center opened the "Millennium Stage" - free events every night in the foyer.
- ▶ The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. Among other events, it will produce the "Reach of Ideas," gatherings of great thinkers to examine the state of knowledge in at least twenty disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

International:

- ▶ The United Kingdom created a Millennium Commission to fund projects funded by the lottery. Millennium projects include all kinds of capital improvement projects, and The Millennium Exhibition and Festival in Greenwich. The Arts Council of Great Britain has declared 2000 the "Year of the Artist." U.K. millennium projects are required to attract wide public support as well as private funding; they will also create lasting monuments. By 2000, an estimated \$4 billion will go into grants. Sample projects are: a new building for the Tate Gallery on the south bank of the Thames; the University of the Highlands and Islands - a new university for life-long learning; Millennium Greens - at least 250 new greens designed by local communities; 21st Century Halls - around 180 new rural community centers; and Ringing in the Millennium - bell-ringing in 100 churches and civic buildings, restoring old bells and hanging new church bells.
- ▶ The Vatican is celebrating its Jubilee of the Year 2000 in Rome for the 2000th anniversary of Christianity.
- ▶ Germany is hosting the Expo 2000, a world's fair in Hanover, featuring themes of culture, the end of the Cold War, and the millennium. The U.S. is one of the few countries not participating in the Hanover fair.
- ▶ Australia will host the Olympics in year 2000, including a Cultural Olympiad at the site in Sydney.
- ▶ At least fifteen other European countries are planning Millennium festivities. Other regions, even those that do not use the Christian calendar, will be planning events to attract tourism.

Private:

- ▶ Times Square 2000, Inc., the nonprofit which plans the New Year's celebrations, is planning

documentaries to be shown on December 31, 1999 on the themes of international cultures and understanding.

- ▶ ABC and Hallmark Corporation announced they will jointly commission new works from American playwrights for broadcast on the network.
- ▶ There is a Millennium Institute in Arlington, VA., that has created a web site to collect millennium ideas and discuss the meaning of this time.

Congress:

- ▶ Last year members of both the House and Senate submitted legislation to designate a private organization in Chicago, The Millennium Society, as the official organization to celebrate the achievements of the second millennium, and raise funds. The legislation never passed, but Congressional interest in official celebrations might reappear.

Developing a White House Millennium Plan

By July 14, we hope to develop a White House plan for the Millennium Initiative addressing the following elements:

Themes - What overall theme and purposes are conveyed to the public? If we articulate clear themes, and illustrate them with our events, appearances and speeches, then White House leadership could unleash the creativity of other leaders at the state and community levels, stimulating thousands of activities across the country. Some suggested themes are: harnessing American optimism for the age of renewal; promoting American creativity and innovation - recognizing our cultural and scientific accomplishments; and celebrating a world at peace and the spread of democratic values.

Objectives - What do we want to accomplish for the Millennium, through 2000 and beyond? What lasting results, monuments, and public attitudes do we hope to leave as a result of our leadership and national commemoration? Should we define and announce four to six projects that will become our lasting legacy for the 21st century?

Possible objectives include:

- ▶ Engaging citizens at the community level in some shared projects and activities such as collecting and preserving their family stories; creating new civic spaces such as town greens and community centers; and producing plays and pageants based on local history or shared concerns;
- ▶ Identifying the White House with high-level scholarship and art; showcasing new work commissioned for the new era;
- ▶ Preserving the White House and the President's Park area, and improving it for future First Families and Administrations;
- ▶ Increasing philanthropy and reinforcing the ethic of giving as a great American tradition, perhaps setting a measurable goal;
- ▶ Creating a permanent funding stream to support the arts and the humanities, exploring the creation of an "American Cultural Trust;"
- ▶ Convening a world leaders' teleconference on January 1, 2000 to express the world's hope for peace;
- ▶ Inviting leaders of religious communities to discuss faith at this time of reflection and change.

Structure - Do we need an additional structure, beyond government agencies and administration committees, to provide advice and leadership and to raise the necessary resources? The former directors of other commemorative events have advised against creating a Commission; such groups are easily captured by a few strong personalities. Plus, there is the practical problem of appointing one, even by Executive Order, with enough time and resources to be active. Another option is a small group of President's Advisors on the Millennium - a prestigious, nonpartisan group of citizens who would advise on the goals, raise resources for White House activities, designate "official" events and products, and publish materials that would help states and communities plan their celebrations. Our planning process should explore whether the millennium advisors could work with a 501(c)3 organization to give them greater flexibility.

Planning a structure will include organizing for the Millennium inside the White House to promote consistency and communication. We recommend a small White House Working Group be established immediately to advise on the planning phase over the next month and beyond. Outside experts will be consulted regularly. We could develop an interagency working group as well.

The White House as a Venue - How do we use the White House? How do we set an example for State Houses, cities, towns and for other civic organizations? The key is to sequence the events so there is a lead-up to the Millennium, an appropriate New Year's 1999 celebration, and a more intense year of accomplishments and celebrations in 2000. The White House as a venue and a catalyst prompts many creative possibilities:

- ▶ A White House Lecture Series and "conversations" with opinion leaders, to be televised or down-linked to sites which will organize their own forums;
- ▶ Cultural events which showcase our nation's "best" in many genre, culminating in a 1999 New Year's Gala at the White House of "New Masters," our most promising talent;
- ▶ Highlight "new works for the new era," commissioned by cultural organizations, foundations, and the national endowments;
- ▶ Use federal programs to preserve and create new monuments, incorporate art in public buildings, improve federal design, and commission new compositions for armed forces music ensembles;
- ▶ Add to the White House collections, pursue renovations, continue installations in the First Lady's Sculpture Garden, and conduct a televised tour of the Clinton White House;
- ▶ Launch Millennium projects of federal agencies, such as "Reach of Ideas" with the Library of Congress, films of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and national tours with the NEA.
- ▶ Ask the Smithsonian Institution to organize a National Folk Festival of traditions from all 56 states and territories on the Mall in 1999 or 2000; organize a National Science Fair for youth and adults, as well as amateurs and professionals;
- ▶ With federal or private institutions, organize the "Ten Great American Ideas" exhibition, book and television show to celebrate U.S. innovations and contributions to the world. Examples: The Declaration of Independence, modern dance, jazz, the semi-conductor chip;
- ▶ Host a White House Forum on international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ Use a White House forum and speeches to renew the great tradition of American philanthropy;
- ▶ Create a Millennium Children's Festival.

Participation of the Principals - How will the appearances and speeches of the President and Mrs. Clinton be used to highlight the themes and events and to build a lasting legacy? You must decide how big a priority this is, how many Presidential activities can be framed by the Millennium and incorporated as part of our themes and goals, how much time you want to devote to Millennium activities, and what

you want to accomplish as their lasting legacy.

Partnerships - How can we attract the resources needed to create a significant and dignified Millennium celebration, without it appearing to be too commercial or unfocused? We must consider the tone we want to set as well as the resources that will be needed to support White House leadership on the Millennium. Fund-raising and the commercial possibilities for the Millennium will be part of the planning process.

A White House Millennium Group - Will begin meeting to develop a plan addressing these issues and will submit it to you by July 14, 1997. Recommended members: Maria Echaveste, Rahm Emanuel, Ann Lewis, John Podesta, Melanne Verwee, Ellen Lovell, Steve Silverman, Ann Stock and Susan Liss.

Planning time-line

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| May 22-June 6 | - | Research the 1976 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and Columbus Quincentenary Commissions. |
| | - | Explore the possibilities of a cultural endowment fund. |
| | - | Research Millennium programs of other countries for models; search U.S. databases for Millennium projects. Identify state and local initiatives being planned. |
| | - | Meet with White House Working Group and Mark Penn; discuss structure, recommend themes, develop ideas with national impact; meet with Social Office to develop sequence of White House events. |
| | - | Consult with private foundations on willingness to supplement efforts. Consult with outside experts. |
| | - | Continue to convene federal cultural agencies, to develop programs that reinforce themes, discuss logo; plan joint projects. |
| June 6 - 20 | - | Examine possible structures with White House Working Group, outside experts. |
| | - | Develop budget, examine revenue sources. |
| | - | Recommend White House projects that both illustrate our themes and that can capture the national imagination, perhaps in these categories: youth, preservation, international, cultural awareness, technology, philanthropy, White House bicentennial. |
| | - | Ask federal agencies (beyond cultural) for ideas of how they might participate. |
| | - | Meet with interagency group. |
| | - | Explore possible partnership with non-profit organization to expand both citizen participation and resources. |
| | - | Consult with state and local organizations to develop plans for grassroots activities. |
| | - | Consult with supportive members of Congress to advise on structure and whether there will be a congressional Millennium effort. |
| June 20 - 30 | - | Develop concrete recommendations on themes, goals and lasting legacy, structure and resources, White House leadership activities and events, Federal Agency involvement, the extent of state and local participation, partnership with other organizations, Presidential announcement, and 1997 events. |

- Review recommendations with the President and the First Lady.
 - July 1 - 14
 - Revise recommendations.
 - Draft Executive Order or other vehicle necessary for structure.
 - Develop announcement, speech, or event to establish White House leadership and themes, and call for participation.
 - Final decisions by the President and the First Lady.
-

We recommend initiating the Millennium planning process.

____ Approve

____ Discuss

____ Disapprove

Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium

A millennium is a period of a thousand years. The end of the second millennium, as measured by the Christian calendar, will be reached on January 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, The Greenwich Observatory, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *World Almanac*. The calendar by which we reach this date was created in 526 A.D. (*Anno Domini*, Year of Our Lord) by Dennis the Diminutive, the head of a Roman monastery who forged a common calendar from the divergent dating systems of the Eastern and Western Churches. Rather than starting at zero, this calendar began with the date of January 1, 1 A.D., not 0 A.D. Thus on January 1, 2 A.D. the calendar system was one year old, not two. Despite the fact that the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001, the world will celebrate on December 31, 1999 as the calendars flip to the year 2000. But "when our 20th Century reaches midnight ... it will have yet the 366 days of (leap) year 2000 to close out its hundredth year." (Hillel Schwartz)

For some Christians, the millennium refers to the prophecy in the Book of Revelations, the time of judgement, followed by a "a new heaven and a new earth." "Millennial" or "millenarian" also has a darker connotation as a time of apocalyptic expectations. Hillel Schwartz, historian and author of *Century's End*, points out the myth of the "panic terror" in the year 999, when Christians supposedly waited in churches for the world to end, people gave away their possessions and went on pilgrimages, a comet appeared, and storms raged. Historians disagree with this description of events, but not with the metaphor that persists. Some countries are referring to their millennium activities as "Year 2000" or "Jubilee" celebrations.

The millennium is a historical divide; the end of a century and an epoch, the start of the next generation for which one hopes a future brighter than ever. The anticipation of the new millennium brings a sense of urgency, a need to take stock, to enlist people in a new program, and to "take into serious account the host of highly contradictory tendencies at century's end: to retreat/ to go on treks and quests; to retrench/ to be bold; to look out for one's immediate family/ to look toward the well-being of future generations." Schwartz' analysis tells us that people become fascinated with metaphors that express the interrelatedness of things, such as the Internet. People also require rituals to "rehearse the passage from an old to a new century." The anxiety that the human race is degenerating, nature losing its vitality, that things are out of control is countered by the broader perspective of time that encourages renewal of all kinds.

As we consider what rituals to enact in this time of possibility, it is important to remember that many peoples and nations still mark time by the Jewish, Muslim, Chinese and other calendars. Still, most countries will recognize the powerful meaning inherent in the Western calendar changing to 2000.

Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations

The report of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Creative America*, reminds us that the 20th century has witnessed a burst of American creativity and our nation now stands as the world leader in cultural as well as scientific, economic and political realms. Our democratic system and amalgam of people unleashed a spirit of inquiry and discovery; the resulting cultural and scientific gifts benefit us and the world. Our cultural heritage defines us as Americans. The history of each American is America's history. We are a "nation of nations" - a people of peoples from different backgrounds who have forged common bonds. The millennium provides an opportunity to ensure the continued greatness of our national cultural life, to preserve our achievements for future generations, and to increase cultural understanding among groups within our country and with other nations.

The main recommendations that ask for White House involvement are as follows:

- ▶ A call by the President to individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies, and private sector partners to create Millennium programs that reflect upon and present our unique cultural heritage;
- ▶ Showcasing outstanding examples of American art, scholarship and heritage at the White House;
- ▶ An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy, including the involvement of creative commercial enterprises and of individuals;
- ▶ The creation of a massive new public-private partnership to ensure that cultural resources are made available through the new technologies, in concert with the President's and Vice-President's goal of connecting all school rooms and libraries by 2001;
- ▶ A national initiative to increase philanthropic giving;
- ▶ A White House forum on enhancing international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ An investment in the public role, by identifying a dedicated revenue to supplement funding for the arts, humanities, museums and libraries, and an increase in appropriations.

Additional recommendations incorporate Administration goals, such as the adoption of national educational standards for teaching the disciplines of the humanities and the arts, but do not call for further specific government action. Many of the other recommendations in the report are directed toward private foundations, corporations and individual donors, and cultural institutions themselves.

At the release of *Creative America*, Mrs. Clinton said,

"...The President and I are very excited about the Millennium Initiative described in this report. The approach of a new millennium and a new century presents us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the past two centuries of our collective American journey, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.... The President is eager to lead this initiative and will call upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector

partners to create Millennium programs that reflect and celebrate our cultural heritage. As we have over the past four years with performances, new art acquisitions, and rotating sculpture exhibits, the President and I will continue to showcase outstanding examples of American art and scholarship at the White House....

One element of our planning will be to determine which of their recommendations the President's Committee is willing to implement and which this Administration wants to embrace as part of our Millennium initiative.

British Catching Millennium Fever

New bridge on Thames among schemes to ring in 21st century

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

London

The rest of the world may not be racing to build theme parks, festival halls, sports complexes, amusement rides and other grandiose monuments in honor of the next millennium.

But the rest of the world does not see things quite the way people do in the United Kingdom, where they are planning to construct the world's largest dome on a toxic waste dump, erect a giant Ferris wheel across from Big Ben and build a new "living bridge" across the storied Thames — all in the name of the dawning of the year 2000.

Millennium fever is spreading here faster than the most recent outbreak of bad '60s fashion. There seems no project too outlandish and no site too remote to be considered for the century-ending celebrations that have become the talk of the tabloids.

The British government is planning to spend up to 1.6 billion

pounds (about \$2.8 billion) — most of it raised by the nation's new lottery — to ring in the third millennium, a date that is supposed to celebrate the anniversary of Christ's arrival on Earth but is being treated more like a secular excuse to string together a bunch of massive parties.

MCDONALD'S HEIRESS IS ANGEL OF FLOOD



McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to

flood victims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

STORY, PAGE A3

Much of the fanfare is focused on the planned construction of the world's largest dome in Greenwich to stage the Millennium Exhibition, which would focus largely on the city's fame as the birthplace of time. The exhibition, expected to open on New Year's Day 2000, would last for one year — until the day sticklers note is the actual start of the third millennium, Jan. 1, 2001. British officials have said the huge expense is justified because the event will probably attract more than 30 million visitors.

"It's a celebration of the birth date of our civilization, and that's very significant," said Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times of London and a member of the country's Millennium Commission. "We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them."

But the planned festivities have generated political fireworks because of spiraling costs and the

BRITAIN: Page A7 Col. 1

Britain in Frenzy to Host Biggest Party Ringing In Millennium

on Page 1

that needy social services such as the nation's transportation and health systems have seemingly been overlooked in the frenzy to build new monuments and symbols for the millennium.

New Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun injecting a note of caution into the debate, saying the Labour government could not approve a blank check for all the planned celebrations. But much of the funding has already been approved, and the big question now remains whether the new government will have to inflict significant cuts on the many projects being offered to open the next century.

"A few celebrations are fine, but the way they're going about it is as if they're suffering from mad cow disease," said Underground worker Chris Sims. "They're going to spend a couple of billion quid to build a giant dome when we've got schools and hospitals falling apart. Can someone please tell me why?"

The century-end rush has also touched off rivalries with other countries that are trying to capitalize on Europe's growing obsession with the millennium.

Race Over Ferris Wheel

A private plan to build the largest Ferris wheel in the world on the bank of the Thames near Westminster Abbey was recently met with an announcement from the

'We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them'

— SIMON JENKINS, British Millennium Commission

French that they would construct a similar ride at least one meter higher.

The Ferris wheel war escalated when Marcel Campion, backer of the French project, began suggesting that if the British went ahead with the 500-foot-high wheel, it had a good chance of collapsing.

The French further enraged their English counterparts by saying that their attraction would resemble a giant transparent alarm clock — Le Chronos — which the British claimed was a direct rip-off of their whole Greenwich time-origin theme. Paris Mayor Jean Tiéberli said the wheel would be like a "second Eiffel Tower."

The millennium hype also triggered a competition between Birmingham and Greenwich over the right to hold the national festival in 2000. Although Birmingham, England's second-largest city, has first-rate transportation facilities and a number of complexes to hold the celebrations, Greenwich was recently awarded the festival — even though there are no major roads leading to the town and its planned millennium site is a 130-

acre toxic waste area that will require millions to be cleaned up.

The award to Greenwich was largely the work of former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Hazeltine, who lobbied for it as a way to fix up the poisoned and neglected docklands in the region. But the move will be costly because it will require construction of new highways to get into Greenwich and a whole slew of parking lots to meet the expected crush of cars.

The selection of Greenwich was largely symbolic since the London borough is the prime meridian of the earth — located on 0 degrees longitude — and the place picked by astronomers more than 100 years ago to measure time zones for the world.

But Hazeltine, who suffered a heart attack after Labor's big victory May 1, insisted that it was economy, not astronomy, that fueled his desire for the project. He contended the money was well spent because it would produce a minimum of 2.6 billion pounds (about \$4.4 billion) for the British economy. "There are no ways to

deny the economic potential," he said. "It would have been a denial of faith in our abilities if the Millennium Commission had not decided to embody, in one bold, defining statement, our pride and confidence in this country."

Commission members, seeking to stave off more criticism, decided to fund several other millennium-related projects that have high public support. Among the projects being funded by the commission are the refurbishing of Scotland national football area at

Hampden Park, and making improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in Wales and the Earth Centre in Doncaster, a scientific and environmental research center.

Plans for the Thames

Planners also are considering a new bridge over the Thames — the first in more than 100 years in history-proud Britain. There has been much discussion of reviving the "living bridge" concept, which would string together shops, apartments and hotels, an idea not seen

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/26 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/27SUBJECT: White House Millennium Initiative

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☐
BOWLES	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
MATHEWS	☒	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
RAINES	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
BAER	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	LEWIS	☒	☐
EMANUEL	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	HAWLEY	☐	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
HILLEY	☐	☐	RADD	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	TARULLO	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐		☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please advise

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1997

97 MAY 26 PM3:47

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Ellen McCulloch Lovell

CC: Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Melanne Verveer

SUBJECT: Planning for White House Leadership for the Millennium

Year 2000 Celebration in the State of the Union Address

On February 4, 1997, you said, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit." You challenged "our artists, musicians, and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community - a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded."

Your State of the Union statement sets the themes of "celebrating our common culture" and "remaining the world's beacon of liberty and creativity" for a national millennium celebration.

A Once in a Thousand Years Opportunity

Your second term extends into the milestone year of 2001. At the convergence of a new millennium and the next century, America will reflect on its past and imagine the future. The inevitable turn of the calendar offers a moment in history when humankind reassesses our progress and thinks about the legacy we leave to the next generations, while at the same time envisaging the time to come. As you lead our nation into the next era, you have a unique opportunity to educate and to lead a celebration that engages all Americans. Beginning in 1997, through the year 2000, the White House can provide special leadership of a national Millennium Initiative for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

The overarching goals of the White House Millennium Initiative should include:

- ▶ Stimulating, through White House leadership, a sense of optimism and renewal and the faith that Americans can build a better future;
- ▶ Setting some concrete, attainable objectives to marshal our collective will and resources, such as

preserving our cultural heritage for the next generation, or renewing our great tradition of philanthropy.

- ▶ Recognizing the creativity and inventiveness of Americans and our gifts to the world.
- ▶ Valuing the diversity of our peoples and forging greater unity as Americans as we enter the 21st Century.

By July 14, 1997, the White House will develop a plan for its Millennium leadership, addressing themes, goals, structure, events and the ways we will involve citizens, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other levels of government. This memorandum describes the thinking that has been devoted to the Millennium, the factors that need to be considered and a planning process that will result in decisions for our directions over the next three and a half years. (See Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium)

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents - such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, or the opening of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 1897, or the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - demonstrate that anniversaries and ambitious projects can both affect the popular imagination and leave lasting marks on the nation's cultural landscape. The Chicago Exposition, for example, commissioned new works by America's leading artists and architects and convened an international congress of scholars which influenced design and intellectual exploration for decades.

The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the White House as the President's home. John and Abigail Adams first occupied the White House in 1800, the first peaceful transition of government in the United States after an election. In 1900 President McKinley was President and the official turn-of-century celebration was focussed on the White House, its history and expansion.

Other national commemorations offer lessons to learn. The 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1987 - 1991 Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 1992 Columbus Quincentenary all provided occasions for national and local events, and for educational and media projects. Each was led by a commission formed years in advance which drew on both a Congressional appropriation and private funds. The 1976 Bicentennial commission had an elaborate endorsement procedure, whereby events and projects got designated as 'official' and were allowed to use the official logo.

President's Committee Recommendations

Several Administration leaders and advisors have been exploring what opportunities this milestone offers. At the same time, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, of which Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair and John Brademas the Chairman, spent over a year writing a report on the contributions of the arts and the humanities to society and how America's cultural life can be preserved and supported. This report, *Creative America*, was released at a press conference in February 1997, at which Mrs. Clinton spoke. *Creative America* describes the United States as a "country of creators and innovators," with a spirit of inquiry and discovery unleashed by our democratic system and amalgam of peoples.

Arguing that this century deserves no less a commitment to the future than past commemorations have provided, the main recommendation of the President's Committee is that the President lead a national Millennium Initiative to explore human thought and expression, to help unify us as a people and to reveal

the future in all its possibilities. By calling on individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector partners to create millennium programs, the President can set the themes and goals of this momentous time of change. (See Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations)

Other Millennium Activities

Because the year 2000 looms so large and so soon, many millennium activities in the U.S. and other countries are already under way. The following are samples of initiatives we know of that illustrate the focus and ferment of this time of endings and beginnings:

Federal Cultural Agencies:

- ▶ The National Endowment for the Arts has a millennium grants program and just awarded more than four million dollars to projects such as reviving American operas, a public TV series on the American novel, and a tour of the Boys Choir of Harlem.
- ▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities is funding films which may include "Millennium Moments," great moments in history to be aired as TV spots.
- ▶ The Kennedy Center plans to be the focal point for millennium celebrations, increasing educational outreach and acting as a site for White House programs. Recently the Kennedy Center opened the "Millennium Stage" - free events every night in the foyer.
- ▶ The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. Among other events, it will produce the "Reach of Ideas," gatherings of great thinkers to examine the state of knowledge in at least twenty disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

International:

- ▶ The United Kingdom created a Millennium Commission to fund projects funded by the lottery. Millennium projects include all kinds of capital improvement projects, and The Millennium Exhibition and Festival in Greenwich. The Arts Council of Great Britain has declared 2000 the "Year of the Artist." U.K. millennium projects are required to attract wide public support as well as private funding; they will also create lasting monuments. By 2000, an estimated \$4 billion will go into grants. Sample projects are: a new building for the Tate Gallery on the south bank of the Thames; the University of the Highlands and Islands - a new university for life-long learning; Millennium Greens - at least 250 new greens designed by local communities; 21st Century Halls - around 180 new rural community centers; and Ringing in the Millennium - bell-ringing in 100 churches and civic buildings, restoring old bells and hanging new church bells.
- ▶ The Vatican is celebrating its Jubilee of the Year 2000 in Rome for the 2000th anniversary of Christianity.
- ▶ Germany is hosting the Expo 2000, a world's fair in Hanover, featuring themes of culture, the end of the Cold War, and the millennium. The U.S. is one of the few countries not participating in the Hanover fair.
- ▶ Australia will host the Olympics in year 2000, including a Cultural Olympiad at the site in Sydney.
- ▶ At least fifteen other European countries are planning Millennium festivities. Other regions, even those that do not use the Christian calendar, will be planning events to attract tourism.

Private:

- ▶ Times Square 2000, Inc., the nonprofit which plans the New Year's celebrations, is planning

documentaries to be shown on December 31, 1999 on the themes of international cultures and understanding.

- ▶ ABC and Hallmark Corporation announced they will jointly commission new works from American playwrights for broadcast on the network.
- ▶ There is a Millennium Institute in Arlington, VA., that has created a web site to collect millennium ideas and discuss the meaning of this time.

Congress:

- ▶ Last year members of both the House and Senate submitted legislation to designate a private organization in Chicago, The Millennium Society, as the official organization to celebrate the achievements of the second millennium, and raise funds. The legislation never passed, but Congressional interest in official celebrations might reappear.

Developing a White House Millennium Plan

By July 14, we hope to develop a White House plan for the Millennium Initiative addressing the following elements:

Themes - What overall theme and purposes are conveyed to the public? If we articulate clear themes, and illustrate them with our events, appearances and speeches, then White House leadership could unleash the creativity of other leaders at the state and community levels, stimulating thousands of activities across the country. Some suggested themes are: harnessing American optimism for the age of renewal; promoting American creativity and innovation - recognizing our cultural and scientific accomplishments; and celebrating a world at peace and the spread of democratic values.

Objectives - What do we want to accomplish for the Millennium, through 2000 and beyond? What lasting results, monuments, and public attitudes do we hope to leave as a result of our leadership and national commemoration? Should we define and announce four to six projects that will become our lasting legacy for the 21st century?

Possible objectives include:

- ▶ Engaging citizens at the community level in some shared projects and activities such as collecting and preserving their family stories; creating new civic spaces such as town greens and community centers; and producing plays and pageants based on local history or shared concerns;
- ▶ Identifying the White House with high-level scholarship and art; showcasing new work commissioned for the new era;
- ▶ Preserving the White House and the President's Park area, and improving it for future First Families and Administrations;
- ▶ Increasing philanthropy and reinforcing the ethic of giving as a great American tradition, perhaps setting a measurable goal;
- ▶ Creating a permanent funding stream to support the arts and the humanities, exploring the creation of an "American Cultural Trust;"
- ▶ Convening a world leaders' teleconference on January 1, 2000 to express the world's hope for peace;
- ▶ Inviting leaders of religious communities to discuss faith at this time of reflection and change.

Structure - Do we need an additional structure, beyond government agencies and administration committees, to provide advice and leadership and to raise the necessary resources? The former directors of other commemorative events have advised against creating a Commission; such groups are easily captured by a few strong personalities. Plus, there is the practical problem of appointing one, even by Executive Order, with enough time and resources to be active. Another option is a small group of President's Advisors on the Millennium - a prestigious, nonpartisan group of citizens who would advise on the goals, raise resources for White House activities, designate "official" events and products, and publish materials that would help states and communities plan their celebrations. Our planning process should explore whether the millennium advisors could work with a 501(c)3 organization to give them greater flexibility.

Planning a structure will include organizing for the Millennium inside the White House to promote consistency and communication. We recommend a small White House Working Group be established immediately to advise on the planning phase over the next month and beyond. Outside experts will be consulted regularly. We could develop an interagency working group as well.

The White House as a Venue - How do we use the White House? How do we set an example for State Houses, cities, towns and for other civic organizations? The key is to sequence the events so there is a lead-up to the Millennium, an appropriate New Year's 1999 celebration, and a more intense year of accomplishments and celebrations in 2000. The White House as a venue and a catalyst prompts many creative possibilities:

- ▶ A White House Lecture Series and "conversations" with opinion leaders, to be televised or down-linked to sites which will organize their own forums;
- ▶ Cultural events which showcase our nation's "best" in many genre, culminating in a 1999 New Year's Gala at the White House of "New Masters," our most promising talent;
- ▶ Highlight "new works for the new era," commissioned by cultural organizations, foundations, and the national endowments;
- ▶ Use federal programs to preserve and create new monuments, incorporate art in public buildings, improve federal design, and commission new compositions for armed forces music ensembles;
- ▶ Add to the White House collections, pursue renovations, continue installations in the First Lady's Sculpture Garden, and conduct a televised tour of the Clinton White House;
- ▶ Launch Millennium projects of federal agencies, such as "Reach of Ideas" with the Library of Congress, films of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and national tours with the NEA.
- ▶ Ask the Smithsonian Institution to organize a National Folk Festival of traditions from all 56 states and territories on the Mall in 1999 or 2000; organize a National Science Fair for youth and adults, as well as amateurs and professionals;
- ▶ With federal or private institutions, organize the "Ten Great American Ideas" exhibition, book and television show to celebrate U.S. innovations and contributions to the world. Examples: The Declaration of Independence, modern dance, jazz, the semi-conductor chip;
- ▶ Host a White House Forum on international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ Use a White House forum and speeches to renew the great tradition of American philanthropy;
- ▶ Create a Millennium Children's Festival.

Participation of the Principals - How will the appearances and speeches of the President and Mrs. Clinton be used to highlight the themes and events and to build a lasting legacy? You must decide how big a priority this is, how many Presidential activities can be framed by the Millennium and incorporated as part of our themes and goals, how much time you want to devote to Millennium activities, and what

you want to accomplish as their lasting legacy.

Partnerships - How can we attract the resources needed to create a significant and dignified Millennium celebration, without it appearing to be too commercial or unfocused? We must consider the tone we want to set as well as the resources that will be needed to support White House leadership on the Millennium. Fund-raising and the commercial possibilities for the Millennium will be part of the planning process.

A White House Millennium Group - Will begin meeting to develop a plan addressing these issues and will submit it to you by July 14, 1997. Recommended members: Maria Echaveste, Rahm Emanuel, Ann Lewis, John Podesta, Melanne Verveer, Ellen Lovell, Steve Silverman, Ann Stock and Susan Liss.

Planning time-line

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 22-June 6 | - Research the 1976 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and Columbus Quincentenary Commissions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Explore the possibilities of a cultural endowment fund.- Research Millennium programs of other countries for models; search U.S. databases for Millennium projects. Identify state and local initiatives being planned.- Meet with White House Working Group and Mark Penn; discuss structure, recommend themes, develop ideas with national impact; meet with Social Office to develop sequence of White House events.- Consult with private foundations on willingness to supplement efforts. Consult with outside experts.- Continue to convene federal cultural agencies, to develop programs that reinforce themes, discuss logo; plan joint projects. |
| June 6 - 20 | - Examine possible structures with White House Working Group, outside experts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop budget, examine revenue sources.- Recommend White House projects that both illustrate our themes and that can capture the national imagination, perhaps in these categories: youth, preservation, international, cultural awareness, technology, philanthropy, White House bicentennial.- Ask federal agencies (beyond cultural) for ideas of how they might participate. Meet with interagency group.- Explore possible partnership with non-profit organization to expand both citizen participation and resources.- Consult with state and local organizations to develop plans for grassroots activities.- Consult with supportive members of Congress to advise on structure and whether there will be a congressional Millennium effort. |
| June 20 - 30 | - Develop concrete recommendations on themes, goals and lasting legacy, structure and resources, White House leadership activities and events, Federal Agency involvement, the extent of state and local participation, partnership with other organizations, Presidential announcement, and 1997 events. |

- Review recommendations with the President and the First Lady.
 - July 1 - 14
 - Revise recommendations.
 - Draft Executive Order or other vehicle necessary for structure.
 - Develop announcement, speech, or event to establish White House leadership and themes, and call for participation.
 - Final decisions by the President and the First Lady.
-

We recommend initiating the Millennium planning process.

_____ Approve

_____ Discuss

_____ Disapprove

Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium

A millennium is a period of a thousand years. The end of the second millennium, as measured by the Christian calendar, will be reached on January 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, The Greenwich Observatory, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *World Almanac*. The calendar by which we reach this date was created in 526 A.D. (*Anno Domini*, Year of Our Lord) by Dennis the Diminutive, the head of a Roman monastery who forged a common calendar from the divergent dating systems of the Eastern and Western Churches. Rather than starting at zero, this calendar began with the date of January 1, 1 A.D., not 0 A.D. Thus on January 1, 2 A.D. the calendar system was one year old, not two. Despite the fact that the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001, the world will celebrate on December 31, 1999 as the calendars flip to the year 2000. But "when our 20th Century reaches midnight ... it will have yet the 366 days of (leap) year 2000 to close out its hundredth year." (Hillel Schwartz)

For some Christians, the millennium refers to the prophecy in the Book of Revelations, the time of judgement, followed by a "a new heaven and a new earth." "Millennial" or "millenarian" also has a darker connotation as a time of apocalyptic expectations. Hillel Schwartz, historian and author of *Century's End*, points out the myth of the "panic terror" in the year 999, when Christians supposedly waited in churches for the world to end, people gave away their possessions and went on pilgrimages, a comet appeared, and storms raged. Historians disagree with this description of events, but not with the metaphor that persists. Some countries are referring to their millennium activities as "Year 2000" or "Jubilee" celebrations.

The millennium is a historical divide; the end of a century and an epoch, the start of the next generation for which one hopes a future brighter than ever. The anticipation of the new millennium brings a sense of urgency, a need to take stock, to enlist people in a new program, and to "take into serious account the host of highly contradictory tendencies at century's end: to retreat/ to go on treks and quests; to retrench/ to be bold; to look out for one's immediate family/ to look toward the well-being of future generations." Schwartz' analysis tells us that people become fascinated with metaphors that express the interrelatedness of things, such as the Internet. People also require rituals to "rehearse the passage from an old to a new century." The anxiety that the human race is degenerating, nature losing its vitality, that things are out of control is countered by the broader perspective of time that encourages renewal of all kinds.

As we consider what rituals to enact in this time of possibility, it is important to remember that many peoples and nations still mark time by the Jewish, Muslim, Chinese and other calendars. Still, most countries will recognize the powerful meaning inherent in the Western calendar changing to 2000.

Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations

The report of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Creative America*, reminds us that the 20th century has witnessed a burst of American creativity and our nation now stands as the world leader in cultural as well as scientific, economic and political realms. Our democratic system and amalgam of people unleashed a spirit of inquiry and discovery; the resulting cultural and scientific gifts benefit us and the world. Our cultural heritage defines us as Americans. The history of each American is America's history. We are a "nation of nations" - a people of peoples from different backgrounds who have forged common bonds. The millennium provides an opportunity to ensure the continued greatness of our national cultural life, to preserve our achievements for future generations, and to increase cultural understanding among groups within our country and with other nations.

The main recommendations that ask for White House involvement are as follows:

- ▶ A call by the President to individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies, and private sector partners to create Millennium programs that reflect upon and present our unique cultural heritage;
- ▶ Showcasing outstanding examples of American art, scholarship and heritage at the White House;
- ▶ An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy, including the involvement of creative commercial enterprises and of individuals;
- ▶ The creation of a massive new public-private partnership to ensure that cultural resources are made available through the new technologies, in concert with the President's and Vice-President's goal of connecting all school rooms and libraries by 2001;
- ▶ A national initiative to increase philanthropic giving;
- ▶ A White House forum on enhancing international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ An investment in the public role, by identifying a dedicated revenue to supplement funding for the arts, humanities, museums and libraries, and an increase in appropriations.

Additional recommendations incorporate Administration goals, such as the adoption of national educational standards for teaching the disciplines of the humanities and the arts, but do not call for further specific government action. Many of the other recommendations in the report are directed toward private foundations, corporations and individual donors, and cultural institutions themselves.

At the release of *Creative America*, Mrs. Clinton said,

"...The President and I are very excited about the Millennium Initiative described in this report. The approach of a new millennium and a new century presents us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the past two centuries of our collective American journey, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.... The President is eager to lead this initiative and will call upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector

partners to create Millennium programs that reflect and celebrate our cultural heritage. As we have over the past four years with performances, new art acquisitions, and rotating sculpture exhibits, the President and I will continue to showcase outstanding examples of American art and scholarship at the White House....

One element of our planning will be to determine which of their recommendations the President's Committee is willing to implement and which this Administration wants to embrace as part of our Millennium initiative.

British Catching Millennium Fever

New bridge on Thames among schemes to ring in 21st century

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

London

The rest of the world may not be racing to build theme parks, festival halls, sports complexes, amusement rides and other grandiose monuments in honor of the next millennium.

But the rest of the world does not see things quite the way people do in the United Kingdom, where they are planning to construct the world's largest dome on a toxic waste dump, erect a giant Ferris wheel across from Big Ben and build a new "living bridge" across the storied Thames — all in the name of the dawning of the year 2000.

Millennium fever is spreading here faster than the most recent outbreak of bad '60s fashion. There seems no project too outlandish and no site too remote to be considered for the century-ending celebrations that have become the talk of the tabloids.

The British government is planning to spend up to 1.6 billion

pounds (about \$2.8 billion) — most of it raised by the nation's new lottery — to ring in the third millennium, a date that is supposed to celebrate the anniversary of Christ's arrival on Earth but is being treated more like a secular excuse to string together a bunch of massive parties.

MCDONALD'S HEIRESS IS ANGEL OF FLOOD



McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to

flood victims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

STORY, PAGE A3

Much of the fanfare is focused on the planned construction of the world's largest dome in Greenwich to stage the Millennium Exhibition, which would focus largely on the city's fame as the birthplace of time. The exhibition, expected to open on New Year's Day 2000, would last for one year — until the day sticklers note is the actual start of the third millennium, Jan. 1, 2001. British officials have said the huge expense is justified because the event will probably attract more than 30 million visitors.

"It's a celebration of the birth date of our civilization, and that's very significant," said Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times of London and a member of the country's Millennium Commission. "We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them."

But the planned festivities have generated political fireworks because of spiraling costs and the

BRITAIN: Page A7 Col. 1

Britain in Frenzy to Host Biggest Party Ringing In Millennium

on Page 1

that needy social services such as the nation's transportation and health systems have seemingly been overlooked in the frenzy to build new monuments and symbols for the millennium.

New Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun injecting a note of caution into the debate, saying the Labour government could not approve a blank check for all the planned celebrations. But much of the planning has already been approved, and the big question now remains whether the new government will have to inflict significant cuts on the many projects being offered to open the next century.

"A few celebrations are fine, but the way they're going about it is as if they're suffering from mad cow disease," said Underground worker Chris Sims. "They're going to spend a couple of billion quid to build a giant dome when we've got schools and hospitals falling apart. Can someone please tell me why?"

The century-end rush has also touched off rivalries with other countries that are trying to capitalize on Europe's growing obsession with the millennium.

Accas Over Ferris Wheel

A private plan to build the largest Ferris wheel in the world on the bank of the Thames near Westminster Abbey was recently met with an announcement from the

'We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them'

— SIMON JENKINS, British Millennium Commission

French that they would construct a similar ride at least one meter higher.

The Ferris wheel war escalated when Marcel Campion, backer of the French project, began suggesting that if the British went ahead with the 500-foot-high wheel, it had a good chance of collapsing.

The French further enraged their English counterparts by saying that their attraction would resemble a giant transparent alarm clock — Le Chronos — which the British claimed was a direct rip-off of their whole Greenwich time-origin theme. Paris Mayor Jean Tiberi said the wheel would be like a "second Eiffel Tower."

The millennium hype also triggered a competition between Birmingham and Greenwich over the right to hold the national festival in 2000. Although Birmingham, England's second-largest city, has first-rate transportation facilities and a number of complexes to hold the celebrations, Greenwich was recently awarded the festival — even though there are no major roads leading to the town and its planned millennium site is a 130-

acre toxic waste area that will require millions to be cleaned up.

The award to Greenwich was largely the work of former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Hazeltine, who lobbied for it as a way to fix up the poisoned and neglected docklands in the region. But the move will be costly because it will require construction of new highways to get into Greenwich and a whole slew of parking lots to meet the expected crush of cars.

The selection of Greenwich was largely symbolic since the London borough is the prime meridian of the earth — located on 0 degrees longitude — and the place picked by astronomers more than 100 years ago to measure time zones for the world.

But Hazeltine, who suffered a heart attack after Labor's big victory May 1, insisted that it was economy, not astronomy, that fueled his desire for the project. He contended the money was well spent because it would produce a minimum of 2.6 billion pounds (about \$4.4 billion) for the British economy. "There are no ways to

deny the economic potential," he said. "It would have been a denial of faith in our abilities if the Millennium Commission had not decided to embody, in one bold, defining statement, our pride and confidence in this country."

Commission members, seeking to stave off more criticism, decided to fund several other millennium-related projects that have high public support. Among the projects being funded by the commission are the refurbishing of Scotland national football area at

Hampden Park, and making improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in Wales and the Earth Centre in Doncaster, a scientific and environmental research center.

Plans for the Thames

Planners also are considering a new bridge over the Thames — the first in more than 100 years in history-proud Britain. There has been much discussion of reviving the "living bridge" concept, which would string together shops, apartments and hotels, an idea not seen

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

97 MAY 30 PM 1:19

DATE: 5/26 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/27SUBJECT: White House Millennium Initiative

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☐
BOWLES	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
MATHEWS	☒	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
RAINES	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
BAER	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	LEWIS	☒	☐
EMANUEL	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	HAWLEY	☐	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
HILLEY	☐	☐	RADD	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	TARULLO	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐		☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please advise

RESPONSE:

I'm for sending to the President over weekend
TPP

Staff Secretary
 Ext 6-2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1997

97 MAY 26 PM8:47

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Ellen McCulloch Lovell

CC: Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Melanne Verveer

SUBJECT: Planning for White House Leadership for the Millennium

Year 2000 Celebration in the State of the Union Address

On February 4, 1997, you said, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit." You challenged "our artists, musicians, and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community - a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded."

Your State of the Union statement sets the themes of "celebrating our common culture" and "remaining the world's beacon of liberty and creativity" for a national millennium celebration.

A Once in a Thousand Years Opportunity

Your second term extends into the milestone year of 2001. At the convergence of a new millennium and the next century, America will reflect on its past and imagine the future. The inevitable turn of the calendar offers a moment in history when humankind reassesses our progress and thinks about the legacy we leave to the next generations, while at the same time envisaging the time to come. As you lead our nation into the next era, you have a unique opportunity to educate and to lead a celebration that engages all Americans. Beginning in 1997, through the year 2000, the White House can provide special leadership of a national Millennium Initiative for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

The overarching goals of the White House Millennium Initiative should include:

- ▶ Stimulating, through White House leadership, a sense of optimism and renewal and the faith that Americans can build a better future;
- ▶ Setting some concrete, attainable objectives to marshal our collective will and resources, such as

preserving our cultural heritage for the next generation, or renewing our great tradition of philanthropy.

- ▶ Recognizing the creativity and inventiveness of Americans and our gifts to the world.
- ▶ Valuing the diversity of our peoples and forging greater unity as Americans as we enter the 21st Century.

By July 14, 1997, the White House will develop a plan for its Millennium leadership, addressing themes, goals, structure, events and the ways we will involve citizens, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other levels of government. This memorandum describes the thinking that has been devoted to the Millennium, the factors that need to be considered and a planning process that will result in decisions for our directions over the next three and a half years. (See Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium)

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents - such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, or the opening of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 1897, or the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - demonstrate that anniversaries and ambitious projects can both affect the popular imagination and leave lasting marks on the nation's cultural landscape. The Chicago Exposition, for example, commissioned new works by America's leading artists and architects and convened an international congress of scholars which influenced design and intellectual exploration for decades.

The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the White House as the President's home. John and Abigail Adams first occupied the White House in 1800, the first peaceful transition of government in the United States after an election. In 1900 President McKinley was President and the official turn-of-century celebration was focussed on the White House, its history and expansion.

Other national commemorations offer lessons to learn. The 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1987 - 1991 Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 1992 Columbus Quincentenary all provided occasions for national and local events, and for educational and media projects. Each was led by a commission formed years in advance which drew on both a Congressional appropriation and private funds. The 1976 Bicentennial commission had an elaborate endorsement procedure, whereby events and projects got designated as 'official' and were allowed to use the official logo.

President's Committee Recommendations

Several Administration leaders and advisors have been exploring what opportunities this milestone offers. At the same time, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, of which Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair and John Brademas the Chairman, spent over a year writing a report on the contributions of the arts and the humanities to society and how America's cultural life can be preserved and supported. This report, *Creative America*, was released at a press conference in February 1997, at which Mrs. Clinton spoke. *Creative America* describes the United States as a "country of creators and innovators," with a spirit of inquiry and discovery unleashed by our democratic system and amalgam of peoples.

Arguing that this century deserves no less a commitment to the future than past commemorations have provided, the main recommendation of the President's Committee is that the President lead a national Millennium Initiative to explore human thought and expression, to help unify us as a people and to reveal

the future in all its possibilities. By calling on individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector partners to create millennium programs, the President can set the themes and goals of this momentous time of change. (See Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations)

Other Millennium Activities

Because the year 2000 looms so large and so soon, many millennium activities in the U.S. and other countries are already under way. The following are samples of initiatives we know of that illustrate the focus and ferment of this time of endings and beginnings:

Federal Cultural Agencies:

- ▶ The National Endowment for the Arts has a millennium grants program and just awarded more than four million dollars to projects such as reviving American operas, a public TV series on the American novel, and a tour of the Boys Choir of Harlem.
- ▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities is funding films which may include "Millennium Moments," great moments in history to be aired as TV spots.
- ▶ The Kennedy Center plans to be the focal point for millennium celebrations, increasing educational outreach and acting as a site for White House programs. Recently the Kennedy Center opened the "Millennium Stage" - free events every night in the foyer.
- ▶ The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. Among other events, it will produce the "Reach of Ideas," gatherings of great thinkers to examine the state of knowledge in at least twenty disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

International:

- ▶ The United Kingdom created a Millennium Commission to fund projects funded by the lottery. Millennium projects include all kinds of capital improvement projects, and The Millennium Exhibition and Festival in Greenwich. The Arts Council of Great Britain has declared 2000 the "Year of the Artist." U.K. millennium projects are required to attract wide public support as well as private funding; they will also create lasting monuments. By 2000, an estimated \$4 billion will go into grants. Sample projects are: a new building for the Tate Gallery on the south bank of the Thames; the University of the Highlands and Islands - a new university for life-long learning; Millennium Greens - at least 250 new greens designed by local communities; 21st Century Halls - around 180 new rural community centers; and Ringing in the Millennium - bell-ringing in 100 churches and civic buildings, restoring old bells and hanging new church bells.
- ▶ The Vatican is celebrating its Jubilee of the Year 2000 in Rome for the 2000th anniversary of Christianity.
- ▶ Germany is hosting the Expo 2000, a world's fair in Hanover, featuring themes of culture, the end of the Cold War, and the millennium. The U.S. is one of the few countries not participating in the Hanover fair.
- ▶ Australia will host the Olympics in year 2000, including a Cultural Olympiad at the site in Sydney.
- ▶ At least fifteen other European countries are planning Millennium festivities. Other regions, even those that do not use the Christian calendar, will be planning events to attract tourism.

Private:

- ▶ Times Square 2000, Inc., the nonprofit which plans the New Year's celebrations, is planning

documentaries to be shown on December 31, 1999 on the themes of international cultures and understanding.

- ▶ ABC and Hallmark Corporation announced they will jointly commission new works from American playwrights for broadcast on the network.
- ▶ There is a Millennium Institute in Arlington, VA., that has created a web site to collect millennium ideas and discuss the meaning of this time.

Congress:

- ▶ Last year members of both the House and Senate submitted legislation to designate a private organization in Chicago, The Millennium Society, as the official organization to celebrate the achievements of the second millennium, and raise funds. The legislation never passed, but Congressional interest in official celebrations might reappear.

Developing a White House Millennium Plan

By July 14, we hope to develop a White House plan for the Millennium Initiative addressing the following elements:

Themes - What overall theme and purposes are conveyed to the public? If we articulate clear themes, and illustrate them with our events, appearances and speeches, then White House leadership could unleash the creativity of other leaders at the state and community levels, stimulating thousands of activities across the country. Some suggested themes are: harnessing American optimism for the age of renewal; promoting American creativity and innovation - recognizing our cultural and scientific accomplishments; and celebrating a world at peace and the spread of democratic values.

Objectives - What do we want to accomplish for the Millennium, through 2000 and beyond? What lasting results, monuments, and public attitudes do we hope to leave as a result of our leadership and national commemoration? Should we define and announce four to six projects that will become our lasting legacy for the 21st century?

Possible objectives include:

- ▶ Engaging citizens at the community level in some shared projects and activities such as collecting and preserving their family stories; creating new civic spaces such as town greens and community centers; and producing plays and pageants based on local history or shared concerns;
- ▶ Identifying the White House with high-level scholarship and art; showcasing new work commissioned for the new era;
- ▶ Preserving the White House and the President's Park area, and improving it for future First Families and Administrations;
- ▶ Increasing philanthropy and reinforcing the ethic of giving as a great American tradition, perhaps setting a measurable goal;
- ▶ Creating a permanent funding stream to support the arts and the humanities, exploring the creation of an "American Cultural Trust;"
- ▶ Convening a world leaders' teleconference on January 1, 2000 to express the world's hope for peace;
- ▶ Inviting leaders of religious communities to discuss faith at this time of reflection and change.

Structure - Do we need an additional structure, beyond government agencies and administration committees, to provide advice and leadership and to raise the necessary resources? The former directors of other commemorative events have advised against creating a Commission; such groups are easily captured by a few strong personalities. Plus, there is the practical problem of appointing one, even by Executive Order, with enough time and resources to be active. Another option is a small group of President's Advisors on the Millennium - a prestigious, nonpartisan group of citizens who would advise on the goals, raise resources for White House activities, designate "official" events and products, and publish materials that would help states and communities plan their celebrations. Our planning process should explore whether the millennium advisors could work with a 501(c)3 organization to give them greater flexibility.

Planning a structure will include organizing for the Millennium inside the White House to promote consistency and communication. We recommend a small White House Working Group be established immediately to advise on the planning phase over the next month and beyond. Outside experts will be consulted regularly. We could develop an interagency working group as well.

The White House as a Venue - How do we use the White House? How do we set an example for State Houses, cities, towns and for other civic organizations? The key is to sequence the events so there is a lead-up to the Millennium, an appropriate New Year's 1999 celebration, and a more intense year of accomplishments and celebrations in 2000. The White House as a venue and a catalyst prompts many creative possibilities:

- ▶ A White House Lecture Series and "conversations" with opinion leaders, to be televised or down-linked to sites which will organize their own forums;
- ▶ Cultural events which showcase our nation's "best" in many genre, culminating in a 1999 New Year's Gala at the White House of "New Masters," our most promising talent;
- ▶ Highlight "new works for the new era," commissioned by cultural organizations, foundations, and the national endowments;
- ▶ Use federal programs to preserve and create new monuments, incorporate art in public buildings, improve federal design, and commission new compositions for armed forces music ensembles;
- ▶ Add to the White House collections, pursue renovations, continue installations in the First Lady's Sculpture Garden, and conduct a televised tour of the Clinton White House;
- ▶ Launch Millennium projects of federal agencies, such as "Reach of Ideas" with the Library of Congress, films of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and national tours with the NEA.
- ▶ Ask the Smithsonian Institution to organize a National Folk Festival of traditions from all 56 states and territories on the Mall in 1999 or 2000; organize a National Science Fair for youth and adults, as well as amateurs and professionals;
- ▶ With federal or private institutions, organize the "Ten Great American Ideas" exhibition, book and television show to celebrate U.S. innovations and contributions to the world. Examples: The Declaration of Independence, modern dance, jazz, the semi-conductor chip;
- ▶ Host a White House Forum on international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ Use a White House forum and speeches to renew the great tradition of American philanthropy;
- ▶ Create a Millennium Children's Festival.

Participation of the Principals - How will the appearances and speeches of the President and Mrs. Clinton be used to highlight the themes and events and to build a lasting legacy? You must decide how big a priority this is, how many Presidential activities can be framed by the Millennium and incorporated as part of our themes and goals, how much time you want to devote to Millennium activities, and what

you want to accomplish as their lasting legacy.

Partnerships - How can we attract the resources needed to create a significant and dignified Millennium celebration, without it appearing to be too commercial or unfocussed? We must consider the tone we want to set as well as the resources that will be needed to support White House leadership on the Millennium. Fund-raising and the commercial possibilities for the Millennium will be part of the planning process.

A White House Millennium Group - Will begin meeting to develop a plan addressing these issues and will submit it to you by July 14, 1997. Recommended members: Maria Echaveste, Rahm Emanuel, Ann Lewis, John Podesta, Melanne Verveer, Ellen Lovell, Steve Silverman, Ann Stock and Susan Liss.

Planning time-line

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 22-June 6 | - Research the 1776 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and Columbus Quincentenary Commissions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Explore the possibilities of a cultural endowment fund.- Research Millennium programs of other countries for models; search U.S. databases for Millennium projects. Identify state and local initiatives being planned.- Meet with White House Working Group and Mark Penn; discuss structure, recommend themes, develop ideas with national impact; meet with Social Office to develop sequence of White House events.- Consult with private foundations on willingness to supplement efforts. Consult with outside experts.- Continue to convene federal cultural agencies, to develop programs that reinforce themes, discuss logo; plan joint projects. |
| June 6 - 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Examine possible structures with White House Working Group, outside experts.- Develop budget, examine revenue sources.- Recommend White House projects that both illustrate our themes and that can capture the national imagination, perhaps in these categories: youth, preservation, international, cultural awareness, technology, philanthropy, White House bicentennial.- Ask federal agencies (beyond cultural) for ideas of how they might participate. Meet with interagency group.- Explore possible partnership with non-profit organization to expand both citizen participation and resources.- Consult with state and local organizations to develop plans for grassroots activities.- Consult with supportive members of Congress to advise on structure and whether there will be a congressional Millennium effort. |
| June 20 - 30 | - Develop concrete recommendations on themes, goals and lasting legacy, structure and resources, White House leadership activities and events, Federal Agency involvement, the extent of state and local participation, partnership with other organizations, Presidential announcement, and 1997 events. |

- Review recommendations with the President and the First Lady.
 - July 1 - 14
 - Revise recommendations.
 - Draft Executive Order or other vehicle necessary for structure.
 - Develop announcement, speech, or event to establish White House leadership and themes, and call for participation.
 - Final decisions by the President and the First Lady.
-

We recommend initiating the Millennium planning process.

_____ Approve

_____ Discuss

_____ Disapprove

Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium

A millennium is a period of a thousand years. The end of the second millennium, as measured by the Christian calendar, will be reached on January 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, The Greenwich Observatory, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *World Almanac*. The calendar by which we reach this date was created in 526 A.D. (*Anno Domini*, Year of Our Lord) by Dennis the Diminutive, the head of a Roman monastery who forged a common calendar from the divergent dating systems of the Eastern and Western Churches. Rather than starting at zero, this calendar began with the date of January 1, 1 A.D., not 0 A.D. Thus on January 1, 2 A.D. the calendar system was one year old, not two. Despite the fact that the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001, the world will celebrate on December 31, 1999 as the calendars flip to the year 2000. But "when our 20th Century reaches midnight ... it will have yet the 366 days of (leap) year 2000 to close out its hundredth year." (Hillel Schwartz)

For some Christians, the millennium refers to the prophecy in the Book of Revelations, the time of judgement, followed by a "a new heaven and a new earth." "Millennial" or "millenarian" also has a darker connotation as a time of apocalyptic expectations. Hillel Schwartz, historian and author of *Century's End*, points out the myth of the "panic terror" in the year 999, when Christians supposedly waited in churches for the world to end, people gave away their possessions and went on pilgrimages, a comet appeared, and storms raged. Historians disagree with this description of events, but not with the metaphor that persists. Some countries are referring to their millennium activities as "Year 2000" or "Jubilee" celebrations.

The millennium is a historical divide; the end of a century and an epoch, the start of the next generation for which one hopes a future brighter than ever. The anticipation of the new millennium brings a sense of urgency, a need to take stock, to enlist people in a new program, and to "take into serious account the host of highly contradictory tendencies at century's end: to retreat/ to go on treks and quests; to retrench/ to be bold; to look out for one's immediate family/ to look toward the well-being of future generations." Schwartz' analysis tells us that people become fascinated with metaphors that express the interrelatedness of things, such as the Internet. People also require rituals to "rehearse the passage from an old to a new century." The anxiety that the human race is degenerating, nature losing its vitality, that things are out of control is countered by the broader perspective of time that encourages renewal of all kinds.

As we consider what rituals to enact in this time of possibility, it is important to remember that many peoples and nations still mark time by the Jewish, Muslim, Chinese and other calendars. Still, most countries will recognize the powerful meaning inherent in the Western calendar changing to 2000.

Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations

The report of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Creative America*, reminds us that the 20th century has witnessed a burst of American creativity and our nation now stands as the world leader in cultural as well as scientific, economic and political realms. Our democratic system and amalgam of people unleashed a spirit of inquiry and discovery; the resulting cultural and scientific gifts benefit us and the world. Our cultural heritage defines us as Americans. The history of each American is America's history. We are a "nation of nations" - a people of peoples from different backgrounds who have forged common bonds. The millennium provides an opportunity to ensure the continued greatness of our national cultural life, to preserve our achievements for future generations, and to increase cultural understanding among groups within our country and with other nations.

The main recommendations that ask for White House involvement are as follows:

- ▶ A call by the President to individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies, and private sector partners to create Millennium programs that reflect upon and present our unique cultural heritage;
- ▶ Showcasing outstanding examples of American art, scholarship and heritage at the White House;
- ▶ An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy, including the involvement of creative commercial enterprises and of individuals;
- ▶ The creation of a massive new public-private partnership to ensure that cultural resources are made available through the new technologies, in concert with the President's and Vice-President's goal of connecting all school rooms and libraries by 2001;
- ▶ A national initiative to increase philanthropic giving;
- ▶ A White House forum on enhancing international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ An investment in the public role, by identifying a dedicated revenue to supplement funding for the arts, humanities, museums and libraries, and an increase in appropriations.

Additional recommendations incorporate Administration goals, such as the adoption of national educational standards for teaching the disciplines of the humanities and the arts, but do not call for further specific government action. Many of the other recommendations in the report are directed toward private foundations, corporations and individual donors, and cultural institutions themselves.

At the release of *Creative America*, Mrs. Clinton said,

"...The President and I are very excited about the Millennium Initiative described in this report. The approach of a new millennium and a new century presents us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the past two centuries of our collective American journey, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.... The President is eager to lead this initiative and will call upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector

partners to create Millennium programs that reflect and celebrate our cultural heritage. As we have over the past four years with performances, new art acquisitions, and rotating sculpture exhibits, the President and I will continue to showcase outstanding examples of American art and scholarship at the White House....

One element of our planning will be to determine which of their recommendations the President's Committee is willing to implement and which this Administration wants to embrace as part of our Millennium initiative.

British Catching Millennium Fever

New bridge on Thames among schemes to ring in 21st century

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

London

The rest of the world may not be racing to build theme parks, festival halls, sports complexes, amusement rides and other grandiose monuments in honor of the next millennium.

But the rest of the world does not see things quite the way people do in the United Kingdom, where they are planning to construct the world's largest dome on a toxic waste dump, erect a giant Ferris wheel across from Big Ben and build a new "living bridge" across the storied Thames — all in the name of the dawning of the year 2000.

Millennium fever is spreading here faster than the most recent outbreak of bad '60s fashion. There seems no project too outlandish and no site too remote to be considered for the century-ending celebrations that have become the talk of the tabloids.

The British government is planning to spend up to 1.6 billion

pounds (about \$2.8 billion) — most of it raised by the nation's new lottery — to ring in the third millennium, a date that is supposed to celebrate the anniversary of Christ's arrival on Earth but is being treated more like a secular excuse to string together a bunch of massive parties.

MCDONALD'S HEIRESS IS ANGEL OF FLOOD



McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to

flood victims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

STORY, PAGE A3

Much of the fanfare is focused on the planned construction of the world's largest dome in Greenwich to stage the Millennium Exhibition, which would focus largely on the city's fame as the birthplace of time. The exhibition, expected to open on New Year's Day 2000, would last for one year — until the day sticklers note is the actual start of the third millennium, Jan. 1, 2001. British officials have said the huge expense is justified because the event will probably attract more than 30 million visitors.

"It's a celebration of the birth date of our civilization, and that's very significant," said Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times of London and a member of the country's Millennium Commission. "We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them."

But the planned festivities have generated political fireworks because of spiraling costs and the

BRITAIN: Page A7 Col. 1

Britain in Frenzy to Host Biggest Party Ringing In Millennium

on Page 1

that needy social services such as the nation's transportation and health systems have seemingly been overlooked in the frenzy to build new monuments and symbols for the millennium.

New Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun injecting a note of caution into the debate, saying the Labour government could not approve a blank check for all the planned celebrations. But much of the funding has already been approved, and the big question now remains whether the new government will have to inflict significant cuts on the many projects being offered to open the next century.

"A few celebrations are fine, but the way they're going about it is as if they're suffering from mad cow disease," said Underground worker Chris Sims. "They're going to spend a couple of billion quid to build a giant dome when we've got schools and hospitals falling apart. Can someone please tell me why?"

The century-end rush has also touched off rivalries with other countries that are trying to capitalize on Europe's growing obsession with the millennium.

Race Over Ferris Wheel

A private plan to build the largest Ferris wheel in the world on the bank of the Thames near Westminster Abbey was recently met with an announcement from the

'We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them'

— SIMON JENKINS, British Millennium Commission

French that they would construct a similar ride at least one meter higher.

The Ferris wheel war escalated when Marcel Campion, backer of the French project, began suggesting that if the British went ahead with the 500-foot-high wheel, it had a good chance of collapsing.

The French further enraged their English counterparts by saying that their attraction would resemble a giant transparent alarm clock — Le Chronos — which the British claimed was a direct rip-off of their whole Greenwich time-origin theme. Paris Mayor Jean Tiéberé said the wheel would be like a "second Eiffel Tower."

The millennium hype also triggered a competition between Birmingham and Greenwich over the right to hold the national festival in 2000. Although Birmingham, England's second-largest city, has first-rate transportation facilities and a number of complexes to hold the celebrations, Greenwich was recently awarded the festival — even though there are no major roads leading to the town and its planned millennium site is a 130-

acre toxic waste area that will require millions to be cleaned up.

The award to Greenwich was largely the work of former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Hazeltine, who lobbied for it as a way to fix up the poisoned and neglected docklands in the region. But the move will be costly because it will require construction of new highways to get into Greenwich and a whole slew of parking lots to meet the expected crush of cars.

The selection of Greenwich was largely symbolic since the London borough is the prime meridian of the earth — located on 0 degrees longitude — and the place picked by astronomers more than 100 years ago to measure time zones for the world.

But Hazeltine, who suffered a heart attack after Labor's big victory May 1, insisted that it was economy, not astronomy, that fueled his desire for the project. He contended the money was well spent because it would produce a minimum of 2.6 billion pounds (about \$4.4 billion) for the British economy. "There are no ways to

deny the economic potential," he said. "It would have been a denial of faith in our abilities if the Millennium Commission had not decided to embody, in one bold, defining statement, our pride and confidence in this country."

Commission members, seeking to stave off more criticism, decided to fund several other millennium-related projects that have high public support. Among the projects being funded by the commission are the refurbishing of Scotland national football area at

Hampden Park, and making improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in Wales and the Earth Centre in Doncaster, a scientific and environmental research center.

Plans for the Thames

Planners also are considering a new bridge over the Thames — the first in more than 100 years in history-proud Britain. There has been much discussion of reviving the "living bridge" concept, which would string together shops, apartments and hotels, an idea not seen

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/26 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/27/97SUBJECT: White House Millennium Initiative

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☐
BOWLES	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
MATHEWS	☒	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
RAINES	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
BAER	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	LEWIS	☒	☐
EMANUEL	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	SPERTING	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	HAWLEY	☐	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
HILLEY	☐	☐	RADD	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	TARULLO	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐		☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please advise

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 26, 1997

'97 MAY 26 PM 3:47

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Ellen McCulloch Lovell

CC: Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Melanne Verveer

SUBJECT: Planning for White House Leadership for the Millennium

Year 2000 Celebration in the State of the Union Address

On February 4, 1997, you said, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit." You challenged "our artists, musicians, and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community - a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded."

Your State of the Union statement sets the themes of "celebrating our common culture" and "remaining the world's beacon of liberty and creativity" for a national millennium celebration.

A Once in a Thousand Years Opportunity

Your second term extends into the milestone year of 2001. At the convergence of a new millennium and the next century, America will reflect on its past and imagine the future. The inevitable turn of the calendar offers a moment in history when humankind reassesses our progress and thinks about the legacy we leave to the next generations, while at the same time envisaging the time to come. As you lead our nation into the next era, you have a unique opportunity to educate and to lead a celebration that engages all Americans. Beginning in 1997, through the year 2000, the White House can provide special leadership of a national Millennium Initiative for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

The overarching goals of the White House Millennium Initiative should include:

- ▶ Stimulating, through White House leadership, a sense of optimism and renewal and the faith that Americans can build a better future;
- ▶ Setting some concrete, attainable objectives to marshal our collective will and resources, such as

preserving our cultural heritage for the next generation, or renewing our great tradition of philanthropy.

- ▶ Recognizing the creativity and inventiveness of Americans and our gifts to the world.
- ▶ Valuing the diversity of our peoples and forging greater unity as Americans as we enter the 21st Century.

By July 14, 1997, the White House will develop a plan for its Millennium leadership, addressing themes, goals, structure, events and the ways we will involve citizens, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other levels of government. This memorandum describes the thinking that has been devoted to the Millennium, the factors that need to be considered and a planning process that will result in decisions for our directions over the next three and a half years. (See Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium)

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents - such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, or the opening of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 1897, or the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - demonstrate that anniversaries and ambitious projects can both affect the popular imagination and leave lasting marks on the nation's cultural landscape. The Chicago Exposition, for example, commissioned new works by America's leading artists and architects and convened an international congress of scholars which influenced design and intellectual exploration for decades.

The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the White House as the President's home. John and Abigail Adams first occupied the White House in 1800, the first peaceful transition of government in the United States after an election. In 1900 President McKinley was President and the official turn-of-century celebration was focussed on the White House, its history and expansion.

Other national commemorations offer lessons to learn. The 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1987 - 1991 Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 1992 Columbus Quincentenary all provided occasions for national and local events, and for educational and media projects. Each was led by a commission formed years in advance which drew on both a Congressional appropriation and private funds. The 1976 Bicentennial commission had an elaborate endorsement procedure, whereby events and projects got designated as 'official' and were allowed to use the official logo.

President's Committee Recommendations

Several Administration leaders and advisors have been exploring what opportunities this milestone offers. At the same time, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, of which Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair and John Brademas the Chairman, spent over a year writing a report on the contributions of the arts and the humanities to society and how America's cultural life can be preserved and supported. This report, *Creative America*, was released at a press conference in February 1997, at which Mrs. Clinton spoke. *Creative America* describes the United States as a "country of creators and innovators," with a spirit of inquiry and discovery unleashed by our democratic system and amalgam of peoples.

Arguing that this century deserves no less a commitment to the future than past commemorations have provided, the main recommendation of the President's Committee is that the President lead a national Millennium Initiative to explore human thought and expression, to help unify us as a people and to reveal

the future in all its possibilities. By calling on individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector partners to create millennium programs, the President can set the themes and goals of this momentous time of change. (See Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations)

Other Millennium Activities

Because the year 2000 looms so large and so soon, many millennium activities in the U.S. and other countries are already under way. The following are samples of initiatives we know of that illustrate the focus and ferment of this time of endings and beginnings:

Federal Cultural Agencies:

- ▶ The National Endowment for the Arts has a millennium grants program and just awarded more than four million dollars to projects such as reviving American operas, a public TV series on the American novel, and a tour of the Boys Choir of Harlem.
- ▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities is funding films which may include "Millennium Moments," great moments in history to be aired as TV spots.
- ▶ The Kennedy Center plans to be the focal point for millennium celebrations, increasing educational outreach and acting as a site for White House programs. Recently the Kennedy Center opened the "Millennium Stage" - free events every night in the foyer.
- ▶ The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. Among other events, it will produce the "Reach of Ideas," gatherings of great thinkers to examine the state of knowledge in at least twenty disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

International:

- ▶ The United Kingdom created a Millennium Commission to fund projects funded by the lottery. Millennium projects include all kinds of capital improvement projects, and The Millennium Exhibition and Festival in Greenwich. The Arts Council of Great Britain has declared 2000 the "Year of the Artist." U.K. millennium projects are required to attract wide public support as well as private funding; they will also create lasting monuments. By 2000, an estimated \$4 billion will go into grants. Sample projects are: a new building for the Tate Gallery on the south bank of the Thames; the University of the Highlands and Islands - a new university for life-long learning; Millennium Greens - at least 250 new greens designed by local communities; 21st Century Halls - around 180 new rural community centers; and Ringing in the Millennium - bell-ringing in 100 churches and civic buildings, restoring old bells and hanging new church bells.
- ▶ The Vatican is celebrating its Jubilee of the Year 2000 in Rome for the 2000th anniversary of Christianity.
- ▶ Germany is hosting the Expo 2000, a world's fair in Hanover, featuring themes of culture, the end of the Cold War, and the millennium. The U.S. is one of the few countries not participating in the Hanover fair.
- ▶ Australia will host the Olympics in year 2000, including a Cultural Olympiad at the site in Sydney.
- ▶ At least fifteen other European countries are planning Millennium festivities. Other regions, even those that do not use the Christian calendar, will be planning events to attract tourism.

Private:

- ▶ Times Square 2000, Inc., the nonprofit which plans the New Year's celebrations, is planning

documentaries to be shown on December 31, 1999 on the themes of international cultures and understanding.

- ▶ ABC and Hallmark Corporation announced they will jointly commission new works from American playwrights for broadcast on the network.
- ▶ There is a Millennium Institute in Arlington, VA., that has created a web site to collect millennium ideas and discuss the meaning of this time.

Congress:

- ▶ Last year members of both the House and Senate submitted legislation to designate a private organization in Chicago, The Millennium Society, as the official organization to celebrate the achievements of the second millennium, and raise funds. The legislation never passed, but Congressional interest in official celebrations might reappear.

Developing a White House Millennium Plan

By July 14, we hope to develop a White House plan for the Millennium Initiative addressing the following elements:

Themes - What overall theme and purposes are conveyed to the public? If we articulate clear themes, and illustrate them with our events, appearances and speeches, then White House leadership could unleash the creativity of other leaders at the state and community levels, stimulating thousands of activities across the country. Some suggested themes are: harnessing American optimism for the age of renewal; promoting American creativity and innovation - recognizing our cultural and scientific accomplishments; and celebrating a world at peace and the spread of democratic values.

Objectives - What do we want to accomplish for the Millennium, through 2000 and beyond? What lasting results, monuments, and public attitudes do we hope to leave as a result of our leadership and national commemoration? Should we define and announce four to six projects that will become our lasting legacy for the 21st century?

Possible objectives include:

- ▶ Engaging citizens at the community level in some shared projects and activities such as collecting and preserving their family stories; creating new civic spaces such as town greens and community centers; and producing plays and pageants based on local history or shared concerns;
- ▶ Identifying the White House with high-level scholarship and art; showcasing new work commissioned for the new era;
- ▶ Preserving the White House and the President's Park area, and improving it for future First Families and Administrations;
- ▶ Increasing philanthropy and reinforcing the ethic of giving as a great American tradition, perhaps setting a measurable goal;
- ▶ Creating a permanent funding stream to support the arts and the humanities, exploring the creation of an "American Cultural Trust;"
- ▶ Convening a world leaders' teleconference on January 1, 2000 to express the world's hope for peace;
- ▶ Inviting leaders of religious communities to discuss faith at this time of reflection and change.

Structure - Do we need an additional structure, beyond government agencies and administration committees, to provide advice and leadership and to raise the necessary resources? The former directors of other commemorative events have advised against creating a Commission; such groups are easily captured by a few strong personalities. Plus, there is the practical problem of appointing one, even by Executive Order, with enough time and resources to be active. Another option is a small group of President's Advisors on the Millennium - a prestigious, nonpartisan group of citizens who would advise on the goals, raise resources for White House activities, designate "official" events and products, and publish materials that would help states and communities plan their celebrations. Our planning process should explore whether the millennium advisors could work with a 501(c)3 organization to give them greater flexibility.

Planning a structure will include organizing for the Millennium inside the White House to promote consistency and communication. We recommend a small White House Working Group be established immediately to advise on the planning phase over the next month and beyond. Outside experts will be consulted regularly. We could develop an interagency working group as well.

The White House as a Venue - How do we use the White House? How do we set an example for State Houses, cities, towns and for other civic organizations? The key is to sequence the events so there is a lead-up to the Millennium, an appropriate New Year's 1999 celebration, and a more intense year of accomplishments and celebrations in 2000. The White House as a venue and a catalyst prompts many creative possibilities:

- ▶ A White House Lecture Series and "conversations" with opinion leaders, to be televised or down-linked to sites which will organize their own forums;
- ▶ Cultural events which showcase our nation's "best" in many genre, culminating in a 1999 New Year's Gala at the White House of "New Masters," our most promising talent;
- ▶ Highlight "new works for the new era," commissioned by cultural organizations, foundations, and the national endowments;
- ▶ Use federal programs to preserve and create new monuments, incorporate art in public buildings, improve federal design, and commission new compositions for armed forces music ensembles;
- ▶ Add to the White House collections, pursue renovations, continue installations in the First Lady's Sculpture Garden, and conduct a televised tour of the Clinton White House;
- ▶ Launch Millennium projects of federal agencies, such as "Reach of Ideas" with the Library of Congress, films of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and national tours with the NEA.
- ▶ Ask the Smithsonian Institution to organize a National Folk Festival of traditions from all 56 states and territories on the Mall in 1999 or 2000; organize a National Science Fair for youth and adults, as well as amateurs and professionals;
- ▶ With federal or private institutions, organize the "Ten Great American Ideas" exhibition, book and television show to celebrate U.S. innovations and contributions to the world. Examples: The Declaration of Independence, modern dance, jazz, the semi-conductor chip;
- ▶ Host a White House Forum on international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ Use a White House forum and speeches to renew the great tradition of American philanthropy;
- ▶ Create a Millennium Children's Festival.

Participation of the Principals - How will the appearances and speeches of the President and Mrs. Clinton be used to highlight the themes and events and to build a lasting legacy? You must decide how big a priority this is, how many Presidential activities can be framed by the Millennium and incorporated as part of our themes and goals, how much time you want to devote to Millennium activities, and what

you want to accomplish as their lasting legacy.

Partnerships - How can we attract the resources needed to create a significant and dignified Millennium celebration, without it appearing to be too commercial or unfocussed? We must consider the tone we want to set as well as the resources that will be needed to support White House leadership on the Millennium. Fund-raising and the commercial possibilities for the Millennium will be part of the planning process.

A White House Millennium Group - Will begin meeting to develop a plan addressing these issues and will submit it to you by July 14, 1997. Recommended members: Maria Echaveste, Rahm Emanuel, Ann Lewis, John Podesta, Melanne Vermeer, Ellen Lovell, Steve Silverman, Ann Stock and Susan Liss.

Planning time-line

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 22-June 6 | - Research the 1976 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and Columbus Quincentenary Commissions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Explore the possibilities of a cultural endowment fund.- Research Millennium programs of other countries for models; search U.S. databases for Millennium projects. Identify state and local initiatives being planned.- Meet with White House Working Group and Mark Penn; discuss structure, recommend themes, develop ideas with national impact; meet with Social Office to develop sequence of White House events.- Consult with private foundations on willingness to supplement efforts. Consult with outside experts.- Continue to convene federal cultural agencies, to develop programs that reinforce themes, discuss logo; plan joint projects. |
| June 6 - 20 | - Examine possible structures with White House Working Group, outside experts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop budget, examine revenue sources.- Recommend White House projects that both illustrate our themes and that can capture the national imagination, perhaps in these categories: youth, preservation, international, cultural awareness, technology, philanthropy, White House bicentennial.- Ask federal agencies (beyond cultural) for ideas of how they might participate. Meet with interagency group.- Explore possible partnership with non-profit organization to expand both citizen participation and resources.- Consult with state and local organizations to develop plans for grassroots activities.- Consult with supportive members of Congress to advise on structure and whether there will be a congressional Millennium effort. |
| June 20 - 30 | - Develop concrete recommendations on themes, goals and lasting legacy, structure and resources, White House leadership activities and events, Federal Agency involvement, the extent of state and local participation, partnership with other organizations, Presidential announcement, and 1997 events. |

- Review recommendations with the President and the First Lady.
 - July 1 - 14
 - Revise recommendations.
 - Draft Executive Order or other vehicle necessary for structure.
 - Develop announcement, speech, or event to establish White House leadership and themes, and call for participation.
 - Final decisions by the President and the First Lady.
-

We recommend initiating the Millennium planning process.

_____ Approve

_____ Discuss

_____ Disapprove

Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium

A millennium is a period of a thousand years. The end of the second millennium, as measured by the Christian calendar, will be reached on January 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, The Greenwich Observatory, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *World Almanac*. The calendar by which we reach this date was created in 526 A.D. (*Anno Domini*, Year of Our Lord) by Dennis the Diminutive, the head of a Roman monastery who forged a common calendar from the divergent dating systems of the Eastern and Western Churches. Rather than starting at zero, this calendar began with the date of January 1, 1 A.D., not 0 A.D. Thus on January 1, 2 A.D. the calendar system was one year old, not two. Despite the fact that the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001, the world will celebrate on December 31, 1999 as the calendars flip to the year 2000. But “when our 20th Century reaches midnight ... it will have yet the 366 days of (leap) year 2000 to close out its hundredth year.” (Hillel Schwartz)

For some Christians, the millennium refers to the prophecy in the Book of Revelations, the time of judgement, followed by a “a new heaven and a new earth.” “Millennial” or “millenarian” also has a darker connotation as a time of apocalyptic expectations. Hillel Schwartz, historian and author of *Century’s End*, points out the myth of the “panic terror” in the year 999, when Christians supposedly waited in churches for the world to end, people gave away their possessions and went on pilgrimages, a comet appeared, and storms raged. Historians disagree with this description of events, but not with the metaphor that persists. Some countries are referring to their millennium activities as “Year 2000” or “Jubilee” celebrations.

The millennium is a historical divide; the end of a century and an epoch, the start of the next generation for which one hopes a future brighter than ever. The anticipation of the new millennium brings a sense of urgency, a need to take stock, to enlist people in a new program, and to “take into serious account the host of highly contradictory tendencies at century’s end: to retreat/ to go on treks and quests; to retrench/ to be bold; to look out for one’s immediate family/ to look toward the well-being of future generations.” Schwartz’ analysis tells us that people become fascinated with metaphors that express the interrelatedness of things, such as the Internet. People also require rituals to “rehearse the passage from an old to a new century.” The anxiety that the human race is degenerating, nature losing its vitality, that things are out of control is countered by the broader perspective of time that encourages renewal of all kinds.

As we consider what rituals to enact in this time of possibility, it is important to remember that many peoples and nations still mark time by the Jewish, Muslim, Chinese and other calendars. Still, most countries will recognize the powerful meaning inherent in the Western calendar changing to 2000.

Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations

The report of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Creative America*, reminds us that the 20th century has witnessed a burst of American creativity and our nation now stands as the world leader in cultural as well as scientific, economic and political realms. Our democratic system and amalgam of people unleashed a spirit of inquiry and discovery; the resulting cultural and scientific gifts benefit us and the world. Our cultural heritage defines us as Americans. The history of each American *is* America's history. We are a "nation of nations" - a people of peoples from different backgrounds who have forged common bonds. The millennium provides an opportunity to ensure the continued greatness of our national cultural life, to preserve our achievements for future generations, and to increase cultural understanding among groups within our country and with other nations.

The main recommendations that ask for White House involvement are as follows:

- ▶ A call by the President to individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies, and private sector partners to create Millennium programs that reflect upon and present our unique cultural heritage;
- ▶ Showcasing outstanding examples of American art, scholarship and heritage at the White House;
- ▶ An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy, including the involvement of creative commercial enterprises and of individuals;
- ▶ The creation of a massive new public-private partnership to ensure that cultural resources are made available through the new technologies, in concert with the President's and Vice-President's goal of connecting all school rooms and libraries by 2001;
- ▶ A national initiative to increase philanthropic giving;
- ▶ A White House forum on enhancing international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ An investment in the public role, by identifying a dedicated revenue to supplement funding for the arts, humanities, museums and libraries, and an increase in appropriations.

Additional recommendations incorporate Administration goals, such as the adoption of national educational standards for teaching the disciplines of the humanities and the arts, but do not call for further specific government action. Many of the other recommendations in the report are directed toward private foundations, corporations and individual donors, and cultural institutions themselves.

At the release of *Creative America*, Mrs. Clinton said,

"...The President and I are very excited about the Millennium Initiative described in this report. The approach of a new millennium and a new century presents us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the past two centuries of our collective American journey, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.... The President is eager to lead this initiative and will call upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector

partners to create Millennium programs that reflect and celebrate our cultural heritage. As we have over the past four years with performances, new art acquisitions, and rotating sculpture exhibits, the President and I will continue to showcase outstanding examples of American art and scholarship at the White House....

One element of our planning will be to determine which of their recommendations the President's Committee is willing to implement and which this Administration wants to embrace as part of our Millennium initiative.

British Catching Millennium Fever

New bridge on Thames among schemes to ring in 21st century

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

London

The rest of the world may not be racing to build theme parks, festival halls, sports complexes, amusement rides and other grandiose monuments in honor of the next millennium.

But the rest of the world does not see things quite the way people do in the United Kingdom, where they are planning to construct the world's largest dome on a toxic waste dump, erect a giant Ferris wheel across from Big Ben and build a new "living bridge" across the storied Thames — all in the name of the dawning of the year 2000.

Millennium fever is spreading here faster than the most recent outbreak of bad '60s fashion. There seems no project too outlandish and no site too remote to be considered for the century-ending celebrations that have become the talk of the tabloids.

The British government is planning to spend up to 1.6 billion

pounds (about \$2.8 billion) — most of it raised by the nation's new lottery — to ring in the third millennium, a date that is supposed to celebrate the anniversary of Christ's arrival on Earth but is being treated more like a secular excuse to string together a bunch of massive parties.

MCDONALD'S HEIRESS IS ANGEL OF FLOOD



McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to flood vic-

tims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

STORY, PAGE A3

Much of the fanfare is focused on the planned construction of the world's largest dome in Greenwich to stage the Millennium Exhibition, which would focus largely on the city's fame as the birthplace of time. The exhibition, expected to open on New Year's Day 2000, would last for one year — until the day sticklers note is the actual start of the third millennium, Jan. 1, 2001. British officials have said the huge expense is justified because the event will probably attract more than 30 million visitors.

"It's a celebration of the birth date of our civilization, and that's very significant," said Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times of London and a member of the country's Millennium Commission. "We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them."

But the planned festivities have generated political fireworks because of spiraling costs and the

BRITAIN: Page A7 Col. 1

Britain in Frenzy to Host Biggest Party Ringing In Millennium

From Page 1

fact that needy social services such as the nation's transportation and health systems have seemingly been overlooked in the frenzy to build new monuments and symbols for the millennium.

New Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun injecting a note of caution into the debate, saying the Labor government could not approve a blank check for all the planned celebrations. But much of the funding has already been approved, and the big question now remains whether the new government will have to inflict significant cuts on the many projects being offered to open the next century.

"A few celebrations are fine, but the way they're going about it is as if they're suffering from mad cow disease," said Underground worker Chris Sims. "They're going to spend a couple of billion quid and build a giant dome when we've got schools and hospitals falling apart. Can someone please tell me why?"

The century-end rush has also touched off rivalries with other countries that are trying to capitalize on Europe's growing obsession with the millennium.

Fracas Over Ferris Wheel

A private plan to build the largest Ferris wheel in the world on the bank of the Thames near Westminster Abbey was recently met with an announcement from the

'We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them'

— SIMON JENKINS, British Millennium Commission

French that they would construct a similar ride at least one meter higher.

The Ferris wheel war escalated when Marcel Campion, backer of the French project, began suggesting that if the British went ahead with the 500-foot-high wheel, it had a good chance of collapsing.

The French further enraged their English counterparts by saying that their attraction would resemble a giant transparent alarm clock — Le Chronos — which the British claimed was a direct rip-off of their whole Greenwich time-origin theme. Paris Mayor Jean Tiéber said the wheel would be like a "second Eiffel Tower."

The millennium hype also triggered a competition between Birmingham and Greenwich over the right to hold the national festival in 2000. Although Birmingham, England's second-largest city, has first-rate transportation facilities and a number of complexes to hold the celebrations, Greenwich was recently awarded the festival — even though there are no major roads leading to the town and its planned millennium site is a 130-

acre toxic waste area that will require millions to be cleaned up.

The award to Greenwich was largely the work of former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Hazeltine, who lobbied for it as a way to fix up the poisoned and neglected docklands in the region. But the move will be costly because it will require construction of new highways to get into Greenwich and a whole slew of parking lots to meet the expected crush of cars.

The selection of Greenwich was largely symbolic since the London borough is the prime meridian of the earth — located on 0 degrees longitude — and the place picked by astronomers more than 100 years ago to measure time zones for the world.

But Hazeltine, who suffered a heart attack after Labor's big victory May 1, insisted that it was economy, not astronomy, that fueled his desire for the project. He contended the money was well spent because it would produce a minimum of 2.6 billion pounds (about \$4.4 billion) for the British economy. "There are no ways to

deny the economic potential," he said. "It would have been a denial of faith in our abilities if the Millennium Commission had not decided to embody, in one bold, defining statement, our pride and confidence in this country."

Commission members, seeking to stave off more criticism, decided to fund several other millennium-related projects that have high public support. Among the projects being funded by the commission are the refurbishing of Scotland national football area at

Hampden Park, and making improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in Wales and the Earth Centre in Doncaster, a scientific and environmental research center.

Plans for the Thames

Planners also are considering a new bridge over the Thames — the first in more than 100 years in history-proud Britain. There has been much discussion of reviving the "living bridge" concept, which would string together shops, apartments and hotels, an idea not seen

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/26 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/27/97SUBJECT: White House Millennium Initiative

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☐
BOWLES	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
MATHEWS	☒	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
RAINES	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
BAER	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	LEWIS	☒	☐
EMANUEL	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	HAWLEY	☐	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
HILLEY	☐	☐	RADD	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	TARULLO	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐		☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please advise

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1997

1997 MAY 26 PM 3:47

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Ellen McCulloch Lovell

CC: Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Melanne Verveer

SUBJECT: Planning for White House Leadership for the Millennium

Year 2000 Celebration in the State of the Union Address

On February 4, 1997, you said, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit." You challenged "our artists, musicians, and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community - a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded."

Your State of the Union statement sets the themes of "celebrating our common culture" and "remaining the world's beacon of liberty and creativity" for a national millennium celebration.

A Once in a Thousand Years Opportunity

Your second term extends into the milestone year of 2001. At the convergence of a new millennium and the next century, America will reflect on its past and imagine the future. The inevitable turn of the calendar offers a moment in history when humankind reassesses our progress and thinks about the legacy we leave to the next generations, while at the same time envisaging the time to come. As you lead our nation into the next era, you have a unique opportunity to educate and to lead a celebration that engages all Americans. Beginning in 1997, through the year 2000, the White House can provide special leadership of a national Millennium Initiative for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

The overarching goals of the White House Millennium Initiative should include:

- ▶ Stimulating, through White House leadership, a sense of optimism and renewal and the faith that Americans can build a better future;
- ▶ Setting some concrete, attainable objectives to marshall our collective will and resources, such as

- preserving our cultural heritage for the next generation, or renewing our great tradition of philanthropy.
- ▶ Recognizing the creativity and inventiveness of Americans and our gifts to the world.
 - ▶ Valuing the diversity of our peoples and forging greater unity as Americans as we enter the 21st Century.

By July 14, 1997, the White House will develop a plan for its Millennium leadership, addressing themes, goals, structure, events and the ways we will involve citizens, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other levels of government. This memorandum describes the thinking that has been devoted to the Millennium, the factors that need to be considered and a planning process that will result in decisions for our directions over the next three and a half years. (See Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium)

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents - such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, or the opening of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 1897, or the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - demonstrate that anniversaries and ambitious projects can both affect the popular imagination and leave lasting marks on the nation's cultural landscape. The Chicago Exposition, for example, commissioned new works by America's leading artists and architects and convened an international congress of scholars which influenced design and intellectual exploration for decades.

The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the White House as the President's home. John and Abigail Adams first occupied the White House in 1800, the first peaceful transition of government in the United States after an election. In 1900 President McKinley was President and the official turn-of-century celebration was focussed on the White House, its history and expansion.

Other national commemorations offer lessons to learn. The 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1987 - 1991 Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 1992 Columbus Quincentenary all provided occasions for national and local events, and for educational and media projects. Each was led by a commission formed years in advance which drew on both a Congressional appropriation and private funds. The 1976 Bicentennial commission had an elaborate endorsement procedure, whereby events and projects got designated as 'official' and were allowed to use the official logo.

President's Committee Recommendations

Several Administration leaders and advisors have been exploring what opportunities this milestone offers. At the same time, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, of which Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair and John Brademas the Chairman, spent over a year writing a report on the contributions of the arts and the humanities to society and how America's cultural life can be preserved and supported. This report, *Creative America*, was released at a press conference in February 1997, at which Mrs. Clinton spoke. *Creative America* describes the United States as a "country of creators and innovators," with a spirit of inquiry and discovery unleashed by our democratic system and amalgam of peoples.

Arguing that this century deserves no less a commitment to the future than past commemorations have provided, the main recommendation of the President's Committee is that the President lead a national Millennium Initiative to explore human thought and expression, to help unify us as a people and to reveal

the future in all its possibilities. By calling on individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector partners to create millennium programs, the President can set the themes and goals of this momentous time of change. (See Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations)

Other Millennium Activities

Because the year 2000 looms so large and so soon, many millennium activities in the U.S. and other countries are already under way. The following are samples of initiatives we know of that illustrate the focus and ferment of this time of endings and beginnings:

Federal Cultural Agencies:

- ▶ The National Endowment for the Arts has a millennium grants program and just awarded more than four million dollars to projects such as reviving American operas, a public TV series on the American novel, and a tour of the Boys Choir of Harlem.
- ▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities is funding films which may include "Millennium Moments," great moments in history to be aired as TV spots.
- ▶ The Kennedy Center plans to be the focal point for millennium celebrations, increasing educational outreach and acting as a site for White House programs. Recently the Kennedy Center opened the "Millennium Stage" - free events every night in the foyer.
- ▶ The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. Among other events, it will produce the "Reach of Ideas," gatherings of great thinkers to examine the state of knowledge in at least twenty disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

International:

- ▶ The United Kingdom created a Millennium Commission to fund projects funded by the lottery. Millennium projects include all kinds of capital improvement projects, and The Millennium Exhibition and Festival in Greenwich. The Arts Council of Great Britain has declared 2000 the "Year of the Artist." U.K. millennium projects are required to attract wide public support as well as private funding; they will also create lasting monuments. By 2000, an estimated \$4 billion will go into grants. Sample projects are: a new building for the Tate Gallery on the south bank of the Thames; the University of the Highlands and Islands - a new university for life-long learning; Millennium Greens - at least 250 new greens designed by local communities; 21st Century Halls - around 180 new rural community centers; and Ringing in the Millennium - bell-ringing in 100 churches and civic buildings, restoring old bells and hanging new church bells.
- ▶ The Vatican is celebrating its Jubilee of the Year 2000 in Rome for the 2000th anniversary of Christianity.
- ▶ Germany is hosting the Expo 2000, a world's fair in Hanover, featuring themes of culture, the end of the Cold War, and the millennium. The U.S. is one of the few countries not participating in the Hanover fair.
- ▶ Australia will host the Olympics in year 2000, including a Cultural Olympiad at the site in Sydney.
- ▶ At least fifteen other European countries are planning Millennium festivities. Other regions, even those that do not use the Christian calendar, will be planning events to attract tourism.

Private:

- ▶ Times Square 2000, Inc., the nonprofit which plans the New Year's celebrations, is planning

documentaries to be shown on December 31, 1999 on the themes of international cultures and understanding.

- ▶ ABC and Hallmark Corporation announced they will jointly commission new works from American playwrights for broadcast on the network.
- ▶ There is a Millennium Institute in Arlington, VA., that has created a web site to collect millennium ideas and discuss the meaning of this time.

Congress:

- ▶ Last year members of both the House and Senate submitted legislation to designate a private organization in Chicago, The Millennium Society, as the official organization to celebrate the achievements of the second millennium, and raise funds. The legislation never passed, but Congressional interest in official celebrations might reappear.

Developing a White House Millennium Plan

By July 14, we hope to develop a White House plan for the Millennium Initiative addressing the following elements:

Themes - What overall theme and purposes are conveyed to the public? If we articulate clear themes, and illustrate them with our events, appearances and speeches, then White House leadership could unleash the creativity of other leaders at the state and community levels, stimulating thousands of activities across the country. Some suggested themes are: harnessing American optimism for the age of renewal; promoting American creativity and innovation - recognizing our cultural and scientific accomplishments; and celebrating a world at peace and the spread of democratic values.

Objectives - What do we want to accomplish for the Millennium, through 2000 and beyond? What lasting results, monuments, and public attitudes do we hope to leave as a result of our leadership and national commemoration? Should we define and announce four to six projects that will become our lasting legacy for the 21st century?

Possible objectives include:

- ▶ Engaging citizens at the community level in some shared projects and activities such as collecting and preserving their family stories; creating new civic spaces such as town greens and community centers; and producing plays and pageants based on local history or shared concerns;
- ▶ Identifying the White House with high-level scholarship and art; showcasing new work commissioned for the new era;
- ▶ Preserving the White House and the President's Park area, and improving it for future First Families and Administrations;
- ▶ Increasing philanthropy and reinforcing the ethic of giving as a great American tradition, perhaps setting a measurable goal;
- ▶ Creating a permanent funding stream to support the arts and the humanities, exploring the creation of an "American Cultural Trust;"
- ▶ Convening a world leaders' teleconference on January 1, 2000 to express the world's hope for peace;
- ▶ Inviting leaders of religious communities to discuss faith at this time of reflection and change.

Structure - Do we need an additional structure, beyond government agencies and administration committees, to provide advice and leadership and to raise the necessary resources? The former directors of other commemorative events have advised against creating a Commission; such groups are easily captured by a few strong personalities. Plus, there is the practical problem of appointing one, even by Executive Order, with enough time and resources to be active. Another option is a small group of President's Advisors on the Millennium - a prestigious, nonpartisan group of citizens who would advise on the goals, raise resources for White House activities, designate "official" events and products, and publish materials that would help states and communities plan their celebrations. Our planning process should explore whether the millennium advisors could work with a 501(c)3 organization to give them greater flexibility.

Planning a structure will include organizing for the Millennium inside the White House to promote consistency and communication. We recommend a small White House Working Group be established immediately to advise on the planning phase over the next month and beyond. Outside experts will be consulted regularly. We could develop an interagency working group as well.

The White House as a Venue - How do we use the White House? How do we set an example for State Houses, cities, towns and for other civic organizations? The key is to sequence the events so there is a lead-up to the Millennium, an appropriate New Year's 1999 celebration, and a more intense year of accomplishments and celebrations in 2000. The White House as a venue and a catalyst prompts many creative possibilities:

- ▶ A White House Lecture Series and "conversations" with opinion leaders, to be televised or down-linked to sites which will organize their own forums;
- ▶ Cultural events which showcase our nation's "best" in many genre, culminating in a 1999 New Year's Gala at the White House of "New Masters," our most promising talent;
- ▶ Highlight "new works for the new era," commissioned by cultural organizations, foundations, and the national endowments;
- ▶ Use federal programs to preserve and create new monuments, incorporate art in public buildings, improve federal design, and commission new compositions for armed forces music ensembles;
- ▶ Add to the White House collections, pursue renovations, continue installations in the First Lady's Sculpture Garden, and conduct a televised tour of the Clinton White House;
- ▶ Launch Millennium projects of federal agencies, such as "Reach of Ideas" with the Library of Congress, films of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and national tours with the NEA.
- ▶ Ask the Smithsonian Institution to organize a National Folk Festival of traditions from all 56 states and territories on the Mall in 1999 or 2000; organize a National Science Fair for youth and adults, as well as amateurs and professionals;
- ▶ With federal or private institutions, organize the "Ten Great American Ideas" exhibition, book and television show to celebrate U.S. innovations and contributions to the world. Examples: The Declaration of Independence, modern dance, jazz, the semi-conductor chip;
- ▶ Host a White House Forum on international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ Use a White House forum and speeches to renew the great tradition of American philanthropy;
- ▶ Create a Millennium Children's Festival.

Participation of the Principals - How will the appearances and speeches of the President and Mrs. Clinton be used to highlight the themes and events and to build a lasting legacy? You must decide how big a priority this is, how many Presidential activities can be framed by the Millennium and incorporated as part of our themes and goals, how much time you want to devote to Millennium activities, and what

you want to accomplish as their lasting legacy.

Partnerships - How can we attract the resources needed to create a significant and dignified Millennium celebration, without it appearing to be too commercial or unfocused? We must consider the tone we want to set as well as the resources that will be needed to support White House leadership on the Millennium. Fund-raising and the commercial possibilities for the Millennium will be part of the planning process.

A White House Millennium Group - Will begin meeting to develop a plan addressing these issues and will submit it to you by July 14, 1997. Recommended members: Maria Echaveste, Rahm Emanuel, Ann Lewis, John Podesta, Melanne Verwee, Ellen Lovell, Steve Silverman, Ann Stock and Susan Liss.

Planning time-line

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 22-June 6 | - Research the 1776 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and Columbus Quincentenary Commissions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Explore the possibilities of a cultural endowment fund.- Research Millennium programs of other countries for models; search U.S. databases for Millennium projects. Identify state and local initiatives being planned.- Meet with White House Working Group and Mark Penn; discuss structure, recommend themes, develop ideas with national impact; meet with Social Office to develop sequence of White House events.- Consult with private foundations on willingness to supplement efforts. Consult with outside experts.- Continue to convene federal cultural agencies, to develop programs that reinforce themes, discuss logo; plan joint projects. |
| June 6 - 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Examine possible structures with White House Working Group, outside experts.- Develop budget, examine revenue sources.- Recommend White House projects that both illustrate our themes and that can capture the national imagination, perhaps in these categories: youth, preservation, international, cultural awareness, technology, philanthropy, White House bicentennial.- Ask federal agencies (beyond cultural) for ideas of how they might participate. Meet with interagency group.- Explore possible partnership with non-profit organization to expand both citizen participation and resources.- Consult with state and local organizations to develop plans for grassroots activities.- Consult with supportive members of Congress to advise on structure and whether there will be a congressional Millennium effort. |
| June 20 - 30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop concrete recommendations on themes, goals and lasting legacy, structure and resources, White House leadership activities and events, Federal Agency involvement, the extent of state and local participation, partnership with other organizations, Presidential announcement, and 1997 events. |

- Review recommendations with the President and the First Lady.
 - July 1 - 14
 - Revise recommendations.
 - Draft Executive Order or other vehicle necessary for structure.
 - Develop announcement, speech, or event to establish White House leadership and themes, and call for participation.
 - Final decisions by the President and the First Lady.
-

We recommend initiating the Millennium planning process.

_____ Approve

_____ Discuss

_____ Disapprove

Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium

A millennium is a period of a thousand years. The end of the second millennium, as measured by the Christian calendar, will be reached on January 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, The Greenwich Observatory, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *World Almanac*. The calendar by which we reach this date was created in 526 A.D. (*Anno Domini*, Year of Our Lord) by Dennis the Diminutive, the head of a Roman monastery who forged a common calendar from the divergent dating systems of the Eastern and Western Churches. Rather than starting at zero, this calendar began with the date of January 1, 1 A.D., not 0 A.D. Thus on January 1, 2 A.D. the calendar system was one year old, not two. Despite the fact that the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001, the world will celebrate on December 31, 1999 as the calendars flip to the year 2000. But "when our 20th Century reaches midnight ... it will have yet the 366 days of (leap) year 2000 to close out its hundredth year." (Hillel Schwartz)

For some Christians, the millennium refers to the prophecy in the Book of Revelations, the time of judgement, followed by a "a new heaven and a new earth." "Millennial" or "millenarian" also has a darker connotation as a time of apocalyptic expectations. Hillel Schwartz, historian and author of *Century's End*, points out the myth of the "panic terror" in the year 999, when Christians supposedly waited in churches for the world to end, people gave away their possessions and went on pilgrimages, a comet appeared, and storms raged. Historians disagree with this description of events, but not with the metaphor that persists. Some countries are referring to their millennium activities as "Year 2000" or "Jubilee" celebrations.

The millennium is a historical divide; the end of a century and an epoch, the start of the next generation for which one hopes a future brighter than ever. The anticipation of the new millennium brings a sense of urgency, a need to take stock, to enlist people in a new program, and to "take into serious account the host of highly contradictory tendencies at century's end: to retreat/ to go on treks and quests; to retrench/ to be bold; to look out for one's immediate family/ to look toward the well-being of future generations." Schwartz' analysis tells us that people become fascinated with metaphors that express the interrelatedness of things, such as the Internet. People also require rituals to "rehearse the passage from an old to a new century." The anxiety that the human race is degenerating, nature losing its vitality, that things are out of control is countered by the broader perspective of time that encourages renewal of all kinds.

As we consider what rituals to enact in this time of possibility, it is important to remember that many peoples and nations still mark time by the Jewish, Muslim, Chinese and other calendars. Still, most countries will recognize the powerful meaning inherent in the Western calendar changing to 2000.

Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations

The report of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Creative America*, reminds us that the 20th century has witnessed a burst of American creativity and our nation now stands as the world leader in cultural as well as scientific, economic and political realms. Our democratic system and amalgam of people unleashed a spirit of inquiry and discovery; the resulting cultural and scientific gifts benefit us and the world. Our cultural heritage defines us as Americans. The history of each American is America's history. We are a "nation of nations" - a people of peoples from different backgrounds who have forged common bonds. The millennium provides an opportunity to ensure the continued greatness of our national cultural life, to preserve our achievements for future generations, and to increase cultural understanding among groups within our country and with other nations.

The main recommendations that ask for White House involvement are as follows:

- ▶ A call by the President to individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies, and private sector partners to create Millennium programs that reflect upon and present our unique cultural heritage;
- ▶ Showcasing outstanding examples of American art, scholarship and heritage at the White House;
- ▶ An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy, including the involvement of creative commercial enterprises and of individuals;
- ▶ The creation of a massive new public-private partnership to ensure that cultural resources are made available through the new technologies, in concert with the President's and Vice-President's goal of connecting all school rooms and libraries by 2001;
- ▶ A national initiative to increase philanthropic giving;
- ▶ A White House forum on enhancing international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ An investment in the public role, by identifying a dedicated revenue to supplement funding for the arts, humanities, museums and libraries, and an increase in appropriations.

Additional recommendations incorporate Administration goals, such as the adoption of national educational standards for teaching the disciplines of the humanities and the arts, but do not call for further specific government action. Many of the other recommendations in the report are directed toward private foundations, corporations and individual donors, and cultural institutions themselves.

At the release of *Creative America*, Mrs. Clinton said,

"...The President and I are very excited about the Millennium Initiative described in this report. The approach of a new millennium and a new century presents us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the past two centuries of our collective American journey, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.... The President is eager to lead this initiative and will call upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector

partners to create Millennium programs that reflect and celebrate our cultural heritage. As we have over the past four years with performances, new art acquisitions, and rotating sculpture exhibits, the President and I will continue to showcase outstanding examples of American art and scholarship at the White House....

One element of our planning will be to determine which of their recommendations the President's Committee is willing to implement and which this Administration wants to embrace as part of our Millennium initiative.

British Catching Millennium Fever

New bridge on Thames among schemes to ring in 21st century

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

London

The rest of the world may not be racing to build theme parks, festival halls, sports complexes, amusement rides and other grandiose monuments in honor of the next millennium.

But the rest of the world does not see things quite the way people do in the United Kingdom, where they are planning to construct the world's largest dome on a toxic waste dump, erect a giant Ferris wheel across from Big Ben and build a new "living bridge" across the storied Thames — all in the name of the dawning of the year 2000.

Millennium fever is spreading here faster than the most recent outbreak of bad '60s fashion. There seems no project too outlandish and no site too remote to be considered for the century-ending celebrations that have become the talk of the tabloids.

The British government is planning to spend up to 1.6 billion

pounds (about \$2.8 billion) — most of it raised by the nation's new lottery — to ring in the third millennium, a date that is supposed to celebrate the anniversary of Christ's arrival on Earth but is being treated more like a secular excuse to string together a bunch of massive parties.

MCDONALD'S HEIRESS IS ANGEL OF FLOOD



McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to flood victims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to flood victims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

STORY, PAGE A3

Much of the fanfare is focused on the planned construction of the world's largest dome in Greenwich to stage the Millennium Exhibition, which would focus largely on the city's fame as the birthplace of time. The exhibition, expected to open on New Year's Day 2000, would last for one year — until the day sticklers note is the actual start of the third millennium, Jan. 1, 2001. British officials have said the huge expense is justified because the event will probably attract more than 30 million visitors.

"It's a celebration of the birth date of our civilization, and that's very significant," said Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times of London and a member of the country's Millennium Commission. "We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them."

But the planned festivities have generated political fireworks because of spiraling costs and the

BRITAIN: Page A7 Col. 1

Britain in Frenzy to Host Biggest Party Ringing In Millennium

On Page 1

that needy social services such as the nation's transportation and health systems have seemingly been overlooked in the frenzy to build new monuments and symbols for the millennium.

New Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun injecting a note of caution into the debate, saying the Labour government could not approve a blank check for all the planned celebrations. But much of the funding has already been approved, and the big question now remains whether the new government will have to inflict significant cuts on the many projects being offered to open the next century.

"A few celebrations are fine, but the way they're going about it is as if they're suffering from mad cow disease," said Underground worker Chris Sims. "They're going to spend a couple of billion quid to build a giant dome when we've got schools and hospitals falling apart. Can someone please tell me why?"

The century-end rush has also touched off rivalries with other countries that are trying to capitalize on Europe's growing obsession with the millennium.

Racism Over Ferris Wheel

A private plan to build the largest Ferris wheel in the world on the bank of the Thames near Westminster Abbey was recently met with an announcement from the

'We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them'

— SIMON JENKINS, British Millennium Commission

French that they would construct a similar ride at least one meter higher.

The Ferris wheel war escalated when Marcel Campion, backer of the French project, began suggesting that if the British went ahead with the 500-foot-high wheel, it had a good chance of collapsing.

The French further enraged their English counterparts by saying that their attraction would resemble a giant transparent alarm clock — Le Chronos — which the British claimed was a direct rip-off of their whole Greenwich time-origin theme. Paris Mayor Jean Tiéberie said the wheel would be like a "second Eiffel Tower."

The millennium hype also triggered a competition between Birmingham and Greenwich over the right to hold the national festival in 2000. Although Birmingham, England's second-largest city, has first-rate transportation facilities and a number of complexes to hold the celebrations, Greenwich was recently awarded the festival — even though there are no major roads leading to the town and its planned millennium site is a 130-

acre toxic waste area that will require millions to be cleaned up.

The award to Greenwich was largely the work of former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Hazeltime, who lobbied for it as a way to fix up the poisoned and neglected docklands in the region. But the move will be costly because it will require construction of new highways to get into Greenwich and a whole slew of parking lots to meet the expected crush of cars.

The selection of Greenwich was largely symbolic since the London borough is the prime meridian of the earth — located on 0 degrees longitude — and the place picked by astronomers more than 100 years ago to measure time zones for the world.

But Hazeltime, who suffered a heart attack after Labor's big victory May 1, insisted that it was economy, not astronomy, that fueled his desire for the project. He contended the money was well spent because it would produce a minimum of 2.6 billion pounds (about \$4.4 billion) for the British economy. "There are no ways to

deny the economic potential," he said. "It would have been a denial of faith in our abilities if the Millennium Commission had not decided to embody, in one bold, defining statement, our pride and confidence in this country."

Commission members, seeking to stave off more criticism, decided to fund several other millennium-related projects that have high public support. Among the projects being funded by the commission are the refurbishing of Scotland national football area at

Hampden Park, and making improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in Wales and the Earth Centre in Doncaster, a scientific and environmental research center.

Plans for the Thames

Planners also are considering a new bridge over the Thames — the first in more than 100 years in history-proud Britain. There has been much discussion of reviving the "living bridge" concept, which would string together shops, apartments and hotels, an idea not seen

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/26 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/27/97SUBJECT: White House Millennium Initiative

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☐
BOWLES	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
MATHEWS	☒	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
RAINES	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
BAER	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	LEWIS	☒	☐
EMANUEL	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	STRETT	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	SPERTING	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	HAWLEY	☐	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
HILLEY	☐	☐	RADD	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	TARULLO	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐		☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please advise

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1997

97 MAY 26 PM 3:47

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Ellen McCulloch Lovell

CC: Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Melanne Verveer

SUBJECT: Planning for White House Leadership for the Millennium

Year 2000 Celebration in the State of the Union Address

On February 4, 1997, you said, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit." You challenged "our artists, musicians, and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community - a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded."

Your State of the Union statement sets the themes of "celebrating our common culture" and "remaining the world's beacon of liberty and creativity" for a national millennium celebration.

A Once in a Thousand Years Opportunity

Your second term extends into the milestone year of 2001. At the convergence of a new millennium and the next century, America will reflect on its past and imagine the future. The inevitable turn of the calendar offers a moment in history when humankind reassesses our progress and thinks about the legacy we leave to the next generations, while at the same time envisaging the time to come. As you lead our nation into the next era, you have a unique opportunity to educate and to lead a celebration that engages all Americans. Beginning in 1997, through the year 2000, the White House can provide special leadership of a national Millennium Initiative for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

The overarching goals of the White House Millennium Initiative should include:

- ▶ Stimulating, through White House leadership, a sense of optimism and renewal and the faith that Americans can build a better future;
- ▶ Setting some concrete, attainable objectives to marshal our collective will and resources, such as

preserving our cultural heritage for the next generation, or renewing our great tradition of philanthropy.

- ▶ Recognizing the creativity and inventiveness of Americans and our gifts to the world.
- ▶ Valuing the diversity of our peoples and forging greater unity as Americans as we enter the 21st Century.

By July 14, 1997, the White House will develop a plan for its Millennium leadership, addressing themes, goals, structure, events and the ways we will involve citizens, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other levels of government. This memorandum describes the thinking that has been devoted to the Millennium, the factors that need to be considered and a planning process that will result in decisions for our directions over the next three and a half years. (See Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium)

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents - such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, or the opening of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 1897, or the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - demonstrate that anniversaries and ambitious projects can both affect the popular imagination and leave lasting marks on the nation's cultural landscape. The Chicago Exposition, for example, commissioned new works by America's leading artists and architects and convened an international congress of scholars which influenced design and intellectual exploration for decades.

The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the White House as the President's home. John and Abigail Adams first occupied the White House in 1800, the first peaceful transition of government in the United States after an election. In 1900 President McKinley was President and the official turn-of-century celebration was focussed on the White House, its history and expansion.

Other national commemorations offer lessons to learn. The 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1987 - 1991 Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 1992 Columbus Quincentenary all provided occasions for national and local events, and for educational and media projects. Each was led by a commission formed years in advance which drew on both a Congressional appropriation and private funds. The 1976 Bicentennial commission had an elaborate endorsement procedure, whereby events and projects got designated as 'official' and were allowed to use the official logo.

President's Committee Recommendations

Several Administration leaders and advisors have been exploring what opportunities this milestone offers. At the same time, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, of which Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair and John Brademas the Chairman, spent over a year writing a report on the contributions of the arts and the humanities to society and how America's cultural life can be preserved and supported. This report, *Creative America*, was released at a press conference in February 1997, at which Mrs. Clinton spoke. *Creative America* describes the United States as a "country of creators and innovators," with a spirit of inquiry and discovery unleashed by our democratic system and amalgam of peoples.

Arguing that this century deserves no less a commitment to the future than past commemorations have provided, the main recommendation of the President's Committee is that the President lead a national Millennium Initiative to explore human thought and expression, to help unify us as a people and to reveal

the future in all its possibilities. By calling on individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector partners to create millennium programs, the President can set the themes and goals of this momentous time of change. (See Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations)

Other Millennium Activities

Because the year 2000 looms so large and so soon, many millennium activities in the U.S. and other countries are already under way. The following are samples of initiatives we know of that illustrate the focus and ferment of this time of endings and beginnings:

Federal Cultural Agencies:

- ▶ The National Endowment for the Arts has a millennium grants program and just awarded more than four million dollars to projects such as reviving American operas, a public TV series on the American novel, and a tour of the Boys Choir of Harlem.
- ▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities is funding films which may include "Millennium Moments," great moments in history to be aired as TV spots.
- ▶ The Kennedy Center plans to be the focal point for millennium celebrations, increasing educational outreach and acting as a site for White House programs. Recently the Kennedy Center opened the "Millennium Stage" - free events every night in the foyer.
- ▶ The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. Among other events, it will produce the "Reach of Ideas," gatherings of great thinkers to examine the state of knowledge in at least twenty disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

International:

- ▶ The United Kingdom created a Millennium Commission to fund projects funded by the lottery. Millennium projects include all kinds of capital improvement projects, and The Millennium Exhibition and Festival in Greenwich. The Arts Council of Great Britain has declared 2000 the "Year of the Artist." U.K. millennium projects are required to attract wide public support as well as private funding; they will also create lasting monuments. By 2000, an estimated \$4 billion will go into grants. Sample projects are: a new building for the Tate Gallery on the south bank of the Thames; the University of the Highlands and Islands - a new university for life-long learning; Millennium Greens - at least 250 new greens designed by local communities; 21st Century Halls - around 180 new rural community centers; and Ringing in the Millennium - bell-ringing in 100 churches and civic buildings, restoring old bells and hanging new church bells.
- ▶ The Vatican is celebrating its Jubilee of the Year 2000 in Rome for the 2000th anniversary of Christianity.
- ▶ Germany is hosting the Expo 2000, a world's fair in Hanover, featuring themes of culture, the end of the Cold War, and the millennium. The U.S. is one of the few countries not participating in the Hanover fair.
- ▶ Australia will host the Olympics in year 2000, including a Cultural Olympiad at the site in Sydney.
- ▶ At least fifteen other European countries are planning Millennium festivities. Other regions, even those that do not use the Christian calendar, will be planning events to attract tourism.

Private:

- ▶ Times Square 2000, Inc., the nonprofit which plans the New Year's celebrations, is planning

documentaries to be shown on December 31, 1999 on the themes of international cultures and understanding.

- ▶ ABC and Hallmark Corporation announced they will jointly commission new works from American playwrights for broadcast on the network.
- ▶ There is a Millennium Institute in Arlington, VA., that has created a web site to collect millennium ideas and discuss the meaning of this time.

Congress:

- ▶ Last year members of both the House and Senate submitted legislation to designate a private organization in Chicago, The Millennium Society, as the official organization to celebrate the achievements of the second millennium, and raise funds. The legislation never passed, but Congressional interest in official celebrations might reappear.

Developing a White House Millennium Plan

By July 14, we hope to develop a White House plan for the Millennium Initiative addressing the following elements:

Themes - What overall theme and purposes are conveyed to the public? If we articulate clear themes, and illustrate them with our events, appearances and speeches, then White House leadership could unleash the creativity of other leaders at the state and community levels, stimulating thousands of activities across the country. Some suggested themes are: harnessing American optimism for the age of renewal; promoting American creativity and innovation - recognizing our cultural and scientific accomplishments; and celebrating a world at peace and the spread of democratic values.

Objectives - What do we want to accomplish for the Millennium, through 2000 and beyond? What lasting results, monuments, and public attitudes do we hope to leave as a result of our leadership and national commemoration? Should we define and announce four to six projects that will become our lasting legacy for the 21st century?

Possible objectives include:

- ▶ Engaging citizens at the community level in some shared projects and activities such as collecting and preserving their family stories; creating new civic spaces such as town greens and community centers; and producing plays and pageants based on local history or shared concerns;
- ▶ Identifying the White House with high-level scholarship and art; showcasing new work commissioned for the new era;
- ▶ Preserving the White House and the President's Park area, and improving it for future First Families and Administrations;
- ▶ Increasing philanthropy and reinforcing the ethic of giving as a great American tradition, perhaps setting a measurable goal;
- ▶ Creating a permanent funding stream to support the arts and the humanities, exploring the creation of an "American Cultural Trust;"
- ▶ Convening a world leaders' teleconference on January 1, 2000 to express the world's hope for peace;
- ▶ Inviting leaders of religious communities to discuss faith at this time of reflection and change.

Structure - Do we need an additional structure, beyond government agencies and administration committees, to provide advice and leadership and to raise the necessary resources? The former directors of other commemorative events have advised against creating a Commission; such groups are easily captured by a few strong personalities. Plus, there is the practical problem of appointing one, even by Executive Order, with enough time and resources to be active. Another option is a small group of President's Advisors on the Millennium - a prestigious, nonpartisan group of citizens who would advise on the goals, raise resources for White House activities, designate "official" events and products, and publish materials that would help states and communities plan their celebrations. Our planning process should explore whether the millennium advisors could work with a 501(c)3 organization to give them greater flexibility.

Planning a structure will include organizing for the Millennium inside the White House to promote consistency and communication. We recommend a small White House Working Group be established immediately to advise on the planning phase over the next month and beyond. Outside experts will be consulted regularly. We could develop an interagency working group as well.

The White House as a Venue - How do we use the White House? How do we set an example for State Houses, cities, towns and for other civic organizations? The key is to sequence the events so there is a lead-up to the Millennium, an appropriate New Year's 1999 celebration, and a more intense year of accomplishments and celebrations in 2000. The White House as a venue and a catalyst prompts many creative possibilities:

- ▶ A White House Lecture Series and "conversations" with opinion leaders, to be televised or down-linked to sites which will organize their own forums;
- ▶ Cultural events which showcase our nation's "best" in many genre, culminating in a 1999 New Year's Gala at the White House of "New Masters," our most promising talent;
- ▶ Highlight "new works for the new era," commissioned by cultural organizations, foundations, and the national endowments;
- ▶ Use federal programs to preserve and create new monuments, incorporate art in public buildings, improve federal design, and commission new compositions for armed forces music ensembles;
- ▶ Add to the White House collections, pursue renovations, continue installations in the First Lady's Sculpture Garden, and conduct a televised tour of the Clinton White House;
- ▶ Launch Millennium projects of federal agencies, such as "Reach of Ideas" with the Library of Congress, films of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and national tours with the NEA.
- ▶ Ask the Smithsonian Institution to organize a National Folk Festival of traditions from all 56 states and territories on the Mall in 1999 or 2000; organize a National Science Fair for youth and adults, as well as amateurs and professionals;
- ▶ With federal or private institutions, organize the "Ten Great American Ideas" exhibition, book and television show to celebrate U.S. innovations and contributions to the world. Examples: The Declaration of Independence, modern dance, jazz, the semi-conductor chip;
- ▶ Host a White House Forum on international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ Use a White House forum and speeches to renew the great tradition of American philanthropy;
- ▶ Create a Millennium Children's Festival.

Participation of the Principals - How will the appearances and speeches of the President and Mrs. Clinton be used to highlight the themes and events and to build a lasting legacy? You must decide how big a priority this is, how many Presidential activities can be framed by the Millennium and incorporated as part of our themes and goals, how much time you want to devote to Millennium activities, and what

you want to accomplish as their lasting legacy.

Partnerships - How can we attract the resources needed to create a significant and dignified Millennium celebration, without it appearing to be too commercial or unfocused? We must consider the tone we want to set as well as the resources that will be needed to support White House leadership on the Millennium. Fund-raising and the commercial possibilities for the Millennium will be part of the planning process.

A White House Millennium Group - Will begin meeting to develop a plan addressing these issues and will submit it to you by July 14, 1997. Recommended members: Maria Echaveste, Rahm Emanuel, Ann Lewis, John Podesta, Melanne Vermeer, Ellen Lovell, Steve Silverman, Ann Stock and Susan Liss.

Planning time-line

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| May 22-June 6 | - | Research the 1976 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and Columbus Quincentenary Commissions. |
| | - | Explore the possibilities of a cultural endowment fund. |
| | - | Research Millennium programs of other countries for models; search U.S. databases for Millennium projects. Identify state and local initiatives being planned. |
| | - | Meet with White House Working Group and Mark Penn; discuss structure, recommend themes, develop ideas with national impact; meet with Social Office to develop sequence of White House events. |
| | - | Consult with private foundations on willingness to supplement efforts. Consult with outside experts. |
| | - | Continue to convene federal cultural agencies, to develop programs that reinforce themes, discuss logo; plan joint projects. |
| June 6 - 20 | - | Examine possible structures with White House Working Group, outside experts. |
| | - | Develop budget, examine revenue sources. |
| | - | Recommend White House projects that both illustrate our themes and that can capture the national imagination, perhaps in these categories: youth, preservation, international, cultural awareness, technology, philanthropy, White House bicentennial. |
| | - | Ask federal agencies (beyond cultural) for ideas of how they might participate. Meet with interagency group. |
| | - | Explore possible partnership with non-profit organization to expand both citizen participation and resources. |
| | - | Consult with state and local organizations to develop plans for grassroots activities. |
| | - | Consult with supportive members of Congress to advise on structure and whether there will be a congressional Millennium effort. |
| June 20 - 30 | - | Develop concrete recommendations on themes, goals and lasting legacy, structure and resources, White House leadership activities and events, Federal Agency involvement, the extent of state and local participation, partnership with other organizations, Presidential announcement, and 1997 events. |

- Review recommendations with the President and the First Lady.
- July 1 - 14
- Revise recommendations.
 - Draft Executive Order or other vehicle necessary for structure.
 - Develop announcement, speech, or event to establish White House leadership and themes, and call for participation.
 - Final decisions by the President and the First Lady.
-

We recommend initiating the Millennium planning process.

_____ Approve

_____ Discuss

_____ Disapprove

Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium

A millennium is a period of a thousand years. The end of the second millennium, as measured by the Christian calendar, will be reached on January 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, The Greenwich Observatory, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *World Almanac*. The calendar by which we reach this date was created in 526 A.D. (*Anno Domini*, Year of Our Lord) by Dennis the Diminutive, the head of a Roman monastery who forged a common calendar from the divergent dating systems of the Eastern and Western Churches. Rather than starting at zero, this calendar began with the date of January 1, 1 A.D., not 0 A.D. Thus on January 1, 2 A.D. the calendar system was one year old, not two. Despite the fact that the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001, the world will celebrate on December 31, 1999 as the calendars flip to the year 2000. But "when our 20th Century reaches midnight ... it will have yet the 366 days of (leap) year 2000 to close out its hundredth year." (Hillel Schwartz)

For some Christians, the millennium refers to the prophecy in the Book of Revelations, the time of judgement, followed by a "a new heaven and a new earth." "Millennial" or "millenarian" also has a darker connotation as a time of apocalyptic expectations. Hillel Schwartz, historian and author of *Century's End*, points out the myth of the "panic terror" in the year 999, when Christians supposedly waited in churches for the world to end, people gave away their possessions and went on pilgrimages, a comet appeared, and storms raged. Historians disagree with this description of events, but not with the metaphor that persists. Some countries are referring to their millennium activities as "Year 2000" or "Jubilee" celebrations.

The millennium is a historical divide; the end of a century and an epoch, the start of the next generation for which one hopes a future brighter than ever. The anticipation of the new millennium brings a sense of urgency, a need to take stock, to enlist people in a new program, and to "take into serious account the host of highly contradictory tendencies at century's end: to retreat/ to go on treks and quests; to retrench/ to be bold; to look out for one's immediate family/ to look toward the well-being of future generations." Schwartz' analysis tells us that people become fascinated with metaphors that express the interrelatedness of things, such as the Internet. People also require rituals to "rehearse the passage from an old to a new century." The anxiety that the human race is degenerating, nature losing its vitality, that things are out of control is countered by the broader perspective of time that encourages renewal of all kinds.

As we consider what rituals to enact in this time of possibility, it is important to remember that many peoples and nations still mark time by the Jewish, Muslim, Chinese and other calendars. Still, most countries will recognize the powerful meaning inherent in the Western calendar changing to 2000.

Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations

The report of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Creative America*, reminds us that the 20th century has witnessed a burst of American creativity and our nation now stands as the world leader in cultural as well as scientific, economic and political realms. Our democratic system and amalgam of people unleashed a spirit of inquiry and discovery; the resulting cultural and scientific gifts benefit us and the world. Our cultural heritage defines us as Americans. The history of each American is America's history. We are a "nation of nations" - a people of peoples from different backgrounds who have forged common bonds. The millennium provides an opportunity to ensure the continued greatness of our national cultural life, to preserve our achievements for future generations, and to increase cultural understanding among groups within our country and with other nations.

The main recommendations that ask for White House involvement are as follows:

- ▶ A call by the President to individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies, and private sector partners to create Millennium programs that reflect upon and present our unique cultural heritage;
- ▶ Showcasing outstanding examples of American art, scholarship and heritage at the White House;
- ▶ An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy, including the involvement of creative commercial enterprises and of individuals;
- ▶ The creation of a massive new public-private partnership to ensure that cultural resources are made available through the new technologies, in concert with the President's and Vice-President's goal of connecting all school rooms and libraries by 2001;
- ▶ A national initiative to increase philanthropic giving;
- ▶ A White House forum on enhancing international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ An investment in the public role, by identifying a dedicated revenue to supplement funding for the arts, humanities, museums and libraries, and an increase in appropriations.

Additional recommendations incorporate Administration goals, such as the adoption of national educational standards for teaching the disciplines of the humanities and the arts, but do not call for further specific government action. Many of the other recommendations in the report are directed toward private foundations, corporations and individual donors, and cultural institutions themselves.

At the release of *Creative America*, Mrs. Clinton said,

"...The President and I are very excited about the Millennium Initiative described in this report. The approach of a new millennium and a new century presents us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the past two centuries of our collective American journey, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.... The President is eager to lead this initiative and will call upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector

partners to create Millennium programs that reflect and celebrate our cultural heritage. As we have over the past four years with performances, new art acquisitions, and rotating sculpture exhibits, the President and I will continue to showcase outstanding examples of American art and scholarship at the White House....

One element of our planning will be to determine which of their recommendations the President's Committee is willing to implement and which this Administration wants to embrace as part of our Millennium initiative.

British Catching Millennium Fever

New bridge on Thames among schemes to ring in 21st century

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

London

The rest of the world may not be racing to build theme parks, festival halls, sports complexes, amusement rides and other grandiose monuments in honor of the next millennium.

But the rest of the world does not see things quite the way people do in the United Kingdom, where they are planning to construct the world's largest dome on a toxic waste dump, erect a giant Ferris wheel across from Big Ben and build a new "living bridge" across the storied Thames — all in the name of the dawning of the year 2000.

Millennium fever is spreading here faster than the most recent outbreak of bad '60s fashion. There seems no project too outlandish and no site too remote to be considered for the century-ending celebrations that have become the talk of the tabloids.

The British government is planning to spend up to 1.6 billion

pounds (about \$2.8 billion) — most of it raised by the nation's new lottery — to ring in the third millennium, a date that is supposed to celebrate the anniversary of Christ's arrival on Earth but is being treated more like a secular excuse to string together a bunch of massive parties.

MCDONALD'S HEIRESS IS ANGEL OF FLOOD



McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to flood victims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to flood victims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

STORY, PAGE A3

Much of the fanfare is focused on the planned construction of the world's largest dome in Greenwich to stage the Millennium Exhibition, which would focus largely on the city's fame as the birthplace of time. The exhibition, expected to open on New Year's Day 2000, would last for one year — until the day sticklers note is the actual start of the third millennium, Jan. 1, 2001. British officials have said the huge expense is justified because the event will probably attract more than 30 million visitors.

"It's a celebration of the birth date of our civilization, and that's very significant," said Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times of London and a member of the country's Millennium Commission. "We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them."

But the planned festivities have generated political fireworks because of spiraling costs and the

BRITAIN: Page A7 Col. 1

Britain in Frenzy to Host Biggest Party Ringing In Millennium

On Page 1

that needy social services such as the nation's transportation and health systems have seemingly been overlooked in the frenzy to build new monuments and symbols for the millennium.

New Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun injecting a note of caution into the debate, saying the Labour government could not approve a blank check for all the planned celebrations. But much of the funding has already been approved, and the big question now remains whether the new government will have to inflict significant cuts on the many projects being offered to open the next century.

"A few celebrations are fine, but the way they're going about it is as if they're suffering from mad cow disease," said Underground worker Chris Sims. "They're going to spend a couple of billion quid to build a giant dome when we've got schools and hospitals falling apart. Can someone please tell me why?"

The century-end rush has also touched off rivalries with other countries that are trying to capitalize on Europe's growing obsession with the millennium.

Race Over Ferris Wheel

A private plan to build the largest Ferris wheel in the world on the bank of the Thames near Westminster Abbey was recently met with an announcement from the

'We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them'

— SIMON JENKINS, British Millennium Commission

French that they would construct a similar ride at least one meter higher.

The Ferris wheel war escalated when Marcel Campion, backer of the French project, began suggesting that if the British went ahead with the 500-foot-high wheel, it had a good chance of collapsing.

The French further enraged their English counterparts by saying that their attraction would resemble a giant transparent alarm clock — Le Chronos — which the British claimed was a direct rip-off of their whole Greenwich time-origin theme. Paris Mayor Jean Tiéber said the wheel would be like a "second Eiffel Tower."

The millennium hype also triggered a competition between Birmingham and Greenwich over the right to hold the national festival in 2000. Although Birmingham, England's second-largest city, has first-rate transportation facilities and a number of complexes to hold the celebrations, Greenwich was recently awarded the festival — even though there are no major roads leading to the town and its planned millennium site is a 130-

acre toxic waste area that will require millions to be cleaned up.

The award to Greenwich was largely the work of former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Hazeltine, who lobbied for it as a way to fix up the poisoned and neglected docklands in the region. But the move will be costly because it will require construction of new highways to get into Greenwich and a whole slew of parking lots to meet the expected crush of cars.

The selection of Greenwich was largely symbolic since the London borough is the prime meridian of the earth — located on 0 degrees longitude — and the place picked by astronomers more than 100 years ago to measure time zones for the world.

But Hazeltine, who suffered a heart attack after Labor's big victory May 1, insisted that it was economy, not astronomy, that fueled his desire for the project. He contended the money was well spent because it would produce a minimum of 2.6 billion pounds (about \$4.4 billion) for the British economy. "There are no ways to

deny the economic potential," he said. "It would have been a denial of faith in our abilities if the Millennium Commission had not decided to embody, in one bold, defining statement, our pride and confidence in this country."

Commission members, seeking to stave off more criticism, decided to fund several other millennium-related projects that have high public support. Among the projects being funded by the commission are the refurbishing of Scotland national football area at

Hampden Park, and making improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in Wales and the Earth Centre in Doncaster, a scientific and environmental research center.

Plans for the Thames

Planners also are considering a new bridge over the Thames — the first in more than 100 years in history-proud Britain. There has been much discussion of reviving the "living bridge" concept, which would string together shops, apartments and hotels, an idea not seen

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/26 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/27

SUBJECT: White House Millennium Initiative

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☐
BOWLES	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
MATHEWS	☒	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
RAINES	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
BAER	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	LEWIS	☒	☐
EMANUEL	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	HAWLEY	☐	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
HILLEY	☐	☐	RADD	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	TARULLO	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐		☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please advise

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1997

97 MAY 28 PM 8:47

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Ellen McCulloch Lovell

CC: Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Melanne Verveer

SUBJECT: Planning for White House Leadership for the Millennium

Year 2000 Celebration in the State of the Union Address

On February 4, 1997, you said, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit." You challenged "our artists, musicians, and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community - a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded."

Your State of the Union statement sets the themes of "celebrating our common culture" and "remaining the world's beacon of liberty and creativity" for a national millennium celebration.

A Once in a Thousand Years Opportunity

Your second term extends into the milestone year of 2001. At the convergence of a new millennium and the next century, America will reflect on its past and imagine the future. The inevitable turn of the calendar offers a moment in history when humankind reassesses our progress and thinks about the legacy we leave to the next generations, while at the same time envisaging the time to come. As you lead our nation into the next era, you have a unique opportunity to educate and to lead a celebration that engages all Americans. Beginning in 1997, through the year 2000, the White House can provide special leadership of a national Millennium Initiative for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

The overarching goals of the White House Millennium Initiative should include:

- ▶ Stimulating, through White House leadership, a sense of optimism and renewal and the faith that Americans can build a better future;
- ▶ Setting some concrete, attainable objectives to marshall our collective will and resources, such as

preserving our cultural heritage for the next generation, or renewing our great tradition of philanthropy.

- ▶ Recognizing the creativity and inventiveness of Americans and our gifts to the world.
- ▶ Valuing the diversity of our peoples and forging greater unity as Americans as we enter the 21st Century.

By July 14, 1997, the White House will develop a plan for its Millennium leadership, addressing themes, goals, structure, events and the ways we will involve citizens, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other levels of government. This memorandum describes the thinking that has been devoted to the Millennium, the factors that need to be considered and a planning process that will result in decisions for our directions over the next three and a half years. (See Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium)

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents - such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, or the opening of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 1897, or the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - demonstrate that anniversaries and ambitious projects can both affect the popular imagination and leave lasting marks on the nation's cultural landscape. The Chicago Exposition, for example, commissioned new works by America's leading artists and architects and convened an international congress of scholars which influenced design and intellectual exploration for decades.

The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the White House as the President's home. John and Abigail Adams first occupied the White House in 1800, the first peaceful transition of government in the United States after an election. In 1900 President McKinley was President and the official turn-of-century celebration was focussed on the White House, its history and expansion.

Other national commemorations offer lessons to learn. The 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1987 - 1991 Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 1992 Columbus Quincentenary all provided occasions for national and local events, and for educational and media projects. Each was led by a commission formed years in advance which drew on both a Congressional appropriation and private funds. The 1976 Bicentennial commission had an elaborate endorsement procedure, whereby events and projects got designated as 'official' and were allowed to use the official logo.

President's Committee Recommendations

Several Administration leaders and advisors have been exploring what opportunities this milestone offers. At the same time, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, of which Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair and John Brademas the Chairman, spent over a year writing a report on the contributions of the arts and the humanities to society and how America's cultural life can be preserved and supported. This report, *Creative America*, was released at a press conference in February 1997, at which Mrs. Clinton spoke. *Creative America* describes the United States as a "country of creators and innovators," with a spirit of inquiry and discovery unleashed by our democratic system and amalgam of peoples.

Arguing that this century deserves no less a commitment to the future than past commemorations have provided, the main recommendation of the President's Committee is that the President lead a national Millennium Initiative to explore human thought and expression, to help unify us as a people and to reveal

the future in all its possibilities. By calling on individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector partners to create millennium programs, the President can set the themes and goals of this momentous time of change. (See Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations)

Other Millennium Activities

Because the year 2000 looms so large and so soon, many millennium activities in the U.S. and other countries are already under way. The following are samples of initiatives we know of that illustrate the focus and ferment of this time of endings and beginnings:

Federal Cultural Agencies:

- ▶ The National Endowment for the Arts has a millennium grants program and just awarded more than four million dollars to projects such as reviving American operas, a public TV series on the American novel, and a tour of the Boys Choir of Harlem.
- ▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities is funding films which may include "Millennium Moments," great moments in history to be aired as TV spots.
- ▶ The Kennedy Center plans to be the focal point for millennium celebrations, increasing educational outreach and acting as a site for White House programs. Recently the Kennedy Center opened the "Millennium Stage" - free events every night in the foyer.
- ▶ The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. Among other events, it will produce the "Reach of Ideas," gatherings of great thinkers to examine the state of knowledge in at least twenty disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

International:

- ▶ The United Kingdom created a Millennium Commission to fund projects funded by the lottery. Millennium projects include all kinds of capital improvement projects, and The Millennium Exhibition and Festival in Greenwich. The Arts Council of Great Britain has declared 2000 the "Year of the Artist." U.K. millennium projects are required to attract wide public support as well as private funding; they will also create lasting monuments. By 2000, an estimated \$4 billion will go into grants. Sample projects are: a new building for the Tate Gallery on the south bank of the Thames; the University of the Highlands and Islands - a new university for life-long learning; Millennium Greens - at least 250 new greens designed by local communities; 21st Century Halls - around 180 new rural community centers; and Ringing in the Millennium - bell-ringing in 100 churches and civic buildings, restoring old bells and hanging new church bells.
- ▶ The Vatican is celebrating its Jubilee of the Year 2000 in Rome for the 2000th anniversary of Christianity.
- ▶ Germany is hosting the Expo 2000, a world's fair in Hanover, featuring themes of culture, the end of the Cold War, and the millennium. The U.S. is one of the few countries not participating in the Hanover fair.
- ▶ Australia will host the Olympics in year 2000, including a Cultural Olympiad at the site in Sydney.
- ▶ At least fifteen other European countries are planning Millennium festivities. Other regions, even those that do not use the Christian calendar, will be planning events to attract tourism.

Private:

- ▶ Times Square 2000, Inc., the nonprofit which plans the New Year's celebrations, is planning

documentaries to be shown on December 31, 1999 on the themes of international cultures and understanding.

- ▶ ABC and Hallmark Corporation announced they will jointly commission new works from American playwrights for broadcast on the network.
- ▶ There is a Millennium Institute in Arlington, VA., that has created a web site to collect millennium ideas and discuss the meaning of this time.

Congress:

- ▶ Last year members of both the House and Senate submitted legislation to designate a private organization in Chicago, The Millennium Society, as the official organization to celebrate the achievements of the second millennium, and raise funds. The legislation never passed, but Congressional interest in official celebrations might reappear.

Developing a White House Millennium Plan

By July 14, we hope to develop a White House plan for the Millennium Initiative addressing the following elements:

Themes - What overall theme and purposes are conveyed to the public? If we articulate clear themes, and illustrate them with our events, appearances and speeches, then White House leadership could unleash the creativity of other leaders at the state and community levels, stimulating thousands of activities across the country. Some suggested themes are: harnessing American optimism for the age of renewal; promoting American creativity and innovation - recognizing our cultural and scientific accomplishments; and celebrating a world at peace and the spread of democratic values.

Objectives - What do we want to accomplish for the Millennium, through 2000 and beyond? What lasting results, monuments, and public attitudes do we hope to leave as a result of our leadership and national commemoration? Should we define and announce four to six projects that will become our lasting legacy for the 21st century?

Possible objectives include:

- ▶ Engaging citizens at the community level in some shared projects and activities such as collecting and preserving their family stories; creating new civic spaces such as town greens and community centers; and producing plays and pageants based on local history or shared concerns;
- ▶ Identifying the White House with high-level scholarship and art; showcasing new work commissioned for the new era;
- ▶ Preserving the White House and the President's Park area, and improving it for future First Families and Administrations;
- ▶ Increasing philanthropy and reinforcing the ethic of giving as a great American tradition, perhaps setting a measurable goal;
- ▶ Creating a permanent funding stream to support the arts and the humanities, exploring the creation of an "American Cultural Trust;"
- ▶ Convening a world leaders' teleconference on January 1, 2000 to express the world's hope for peace;
- ▶ Inviting leaders of religious communities to discuss faith at this time of reflection and change.

Structure - Do we need an additional structure, beyond government agencies and administration committees, to provide advice and leadership and to raise the necessary resources? The former directors of other commemorative events have advised against creating a Commission; such groups are easily captured by a few strong personalities. Plus, there is the practical problem of appointing one, even by Executive Order, with enough time and resources to be active. Another option is a small group of President's Advisors on the Millennium - a prestigious, nonpartisan group of citizens who would advise on the goals, raise resources for White House activities, designate "official" events and products, and publish materials that would help states and communities plan their celebrations. Our planning process should explore whether the millennium advisors could work with a 501(c)3 organization to give them greater flexibility.

Planning a structure will include organizing for the Millennium inside the White House to promote consistency and communication. We recommend a small White House Working Group be established immediately to advise on the planning phase over the next month and beyond. Outside experts will be consulted regularly. We could develop an interagency working group as well.

The White House as a Venue - How do we use the White House? How do we set an example for State Houses, cities, towns and for other civic organizations? The key is to sequence the events so there is a lead-up to the Millennium, an appropriate New Year's 1999 celebration, and a more intense year of accomplishments and celebrations in 2000. The White House as a venue and a catalyst prompts many creative possibilities:

- ▶ A White House Lecture Series and "conversations" with opinion leaders, to be televised or down-linked to sites which will organize their own forums;
- ▶ Cultural events which showcase our nation's "best" in many genre, culminating in a 1999 New Year's Gala at the White House of "New Masters," our most promising talent;
- ▶ Highlight "new works for the new era," commissioned by cultural organizations, foundations, and the national endowments;
- ▶ Use federal programs to preserve and create new monuments, incorporate art in public buildings, improve federal design, and commission new compositions for armed forces music ensembles;
- ▶ Add to the White House collections, pursue renovations, continue installations in the First Lady's Sculpture Garden, and conduct a televised tour of the Clinton White House;
- ▶ Launch Millennium projects of federal agencies, such as "Reach of Ideas" with the Library of Congress, films of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and national tours with the NEA.
- ▶ Ask the Smithsonian Institution to organize a National Folk Festival of traditions from all 56 states and territories on the Mall in 1999 or 2000; organize a National Science Fair for youth and adults, as well as amateurs and professionals;
- ▶ With federal or private institutions, organize the "Ten Great American Ideas" exhibition, book and television show to celebrate U.S. innovations and contributions to the world. Examples: The Declaration of Independence, modern dance, jazz, the semi-conductor chip;
- ▶ Host a White House Forum on international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ Use a White House forum and speeches to renew the great tradition of American philanthropy;
- ▶ Create a Millennium Children's Festival.

Participation of the Principals - How will the appearances and speeches of the President and Mrs. Clinton be used to highlight the themes and events and to build a lasting legacy? You must decide how big a priority this is, how many Presidential activities can be framed by the Millennium and incorporated as part of our themes and goals, how much time you want to devote to Millennium activities, and what

you want to accomplish as their lasting legacy.

Partnerships - How can we attract the resources needed to create a significant and dignified Millennium celebration, without it appearing to be too commercial or unfocussed? We must consider the tone we want to set as well as the resources that will be needed to support White House leadership on the Millennium. Fund-raising and the commercial possibilities for the Millennium will be part of the planning process.

A White House Millennium Group - Will begin meeting to develop a plan addressing these issues and will submit it to you by July 14, 1997. Recommended members: Maria Echaveste, Rahm Emanuel, Ann Lewis, John Podesta, Melanne Verveer, Ellen Lovell, Steve Silverman, Ann Stock and Susan Liss.

Planning time-line

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 22-June 6 | - Research the 1976 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and Columbus Quincentenary Commissions.
- Explore the possibilities of a cultural endowment fund.
- Research Millennium programs of other countries for models; search U.S. databases for Millennium projects. Identify state and local initiatives being planned.
- Meet with White House Working Group and Mark Penn; discuss structure, recommend themes, develop ideas with national impact; meet with Social Office to develop sequence of White House events.
- Consult with private foundations on willingness to supplement efforts. Consult with outside experts.
- Continue to convene federal cultural agencies, to develop programs that reinforce themes, discuss logo; plan joint projects. |
| June 6 - 20 | - Examine possible structures with White House Working Group, outside experts.
- Develop budget, examine revenue sources.
- Recommend White House projects that both illustrate our themes and that can capture the national imagination, perhaps in these categories: youth, preservation, international, cultural awareness, technology, philanthropy, White House bicentennial.
- Ask federal agencies (beyond cultural) for ideas of how they might participate. Meet with interagency group.
- Explore possible partnership with non-profit organization to expand both citizen participation and resources.
- Consult with state and local organizations to develop plans for grassroots activities.
- Consult with supportive members of Congress to advise on structure and whether there will be a congressional Millennium effort. |
| June 20 - 30 | - Develop concrete recommendations on themes, goals and lasting legacy, structure and resources, White House leadership activities and events, Federal Agency involvement, the extent of state and local participation, partnership with other organizations, Presidential announcement, and 1997 events. |

- Review recommendations with the President and the First Lady.
- July 1 - 14
- Revise recommendations.
 - Draft Executive Order or other vehicle necessary for structure.
 - Develop announcement, speech, or event to establish White House leadership and themes, and call for participation.
 - Final decisions by the President and the First Lady.
-

We recommend initiating the Millennium planning process.

____ Approve

____ Discuss

____ Disapprove

Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium

A millennium is a period of a thousand years. The end of the second millennium, as measured by the Christian calendar, will be reached on January 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, The Greenwich Observatory, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *World Almanac*. The calendar by which we reach this date was created in 526 A.D. (*Anno Domini*, Year of Our Lord) by Dennis the Diminutive, the head of a Roman monastery who forged a common calendar from the divergent dating systems of the Eastern and Western Churches. Rather than starting at zero, this calendar began with the date of January 1, 1 A.D., not 0 A.D. Thus on January 1, 2 A.D. the calendar system was one year old, not two. Despite the fact that the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001, the world will celebrate on December 31, 1999 as the calendars flip to the year 2000. But "when our 20th Century reaches midnight ... it will have yet the 366 days of (leap) year 2000 to close out its hundredth year." (Hillel Schwartz)

For some Christians, the millennium refers to the prophecy in the Book of Revelations, the time of judgement, followed by a "a new heaven and a new earth." "Millennial" or "millenarian" also has a darker connotation as a time of apocalyptic expectations. Hillel Schwartz, historian and author of *Century's End*, points out the myth of the "panic terror" in the year 999, when Christians supposedly waited in churches for the world to end, people gave away their possessions and went on pilgrimages, a comet appeared, and storms raged. Historians disagree with this description of events, but not with the metaphor that persists. Some countries are referring to their millennium activities as "Year 2000" or "Jubilee" celebrations.

The millennium is a historical divide; the end of a century and an epoch, the start of the next generation for which one hopes a future brighter than ever. The anticipation of the new millennium brings a sense of urgency, a need to take stock, to enlist people in a new program, and to "take into serious account the host of highly contradictory tendencies at century's end: to retreat/ to go on treks and quests; to retrench/ to be bold; to look out for one's immediate family/ to look toward the well-being of future generations." Schwartz' analysis tells us that people become fascinated with metaphors that express the interrelatedness of things, such as the Internet. People also require rituals to "rehearse the passage from an old to a new century." The anxiety that the human race is degenerating, nature losing its vitality, that things are out of control is countered by the broader perspective of time that encourages renewal of all kinds.

As we consider what rituals to enact in this time of possibility, it is important to remember that many peoples and nations still mark time by the Jewish, Muslim, Chinese and other calendars. Still, most countries will recognize the powerful meaning inherent in the Western calendar changing to 2000.

Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations

The report of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Creative America*, reminds us that the 20th century has witnessed a burst of American creativity and our nation now stands as the world leader in cultural as well as scientific, economic and political realms. Our democratic system and amalgam of people unleashed a spirit of inquiry and discovery; the resulting cultural and scientific gifts benefit us and the world. Our cultural heritage defines us as Americans. The history of each American *is* America's history. We are a "nation of nations" - a people of peoples from different backgrounds who have forged common bonds. The millennium provides an opportunity to ensure the continued greatness of our national cultural life, to preserve our achievements for future generations, and to increase cultural understanding among groups within our country and with other nations.

The main recommendations that ask for White House involvement are as follows:

- ▶ A call by the President to individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies, and private sector partners to create Millennium programs that reflect upon and present our unique cultural heritage;
- ▶ Showcasing outstanding examples of American art, scholarship and heritage at the White House;
- ▶ An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy, including the involvement of creative commercial enterprises and of individuals;
- ▶ The creation of a massive new public-private partnership to ensure that cultural resources are made available through the new technologies, in concert with the President's and Vice-President's goal of connecting all school rooms and libraries by 2001;
- ▶ A national initiative to increase philanthropic giving;
- ▶ A White House forum on enhancing international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ An investment in the public role, by identifying a dedicated revenue to supplement funding for the arts, humanities, museums and libraries, and an increase in appropriations.

Additional recommendations incorporate Administration goals, such as the adoption of national educational standards for teaching the disciplines of the humanities and the arts, but do not call for further specific government action. Many of the other recommendations in the report are directed toward private foundations, corporations and individual donors, and cultural institutions themselves.

At the release of *Creative America*, Mrs. Clinton said,

"...The President and I are very excited about the Millennium Initiative described in this report. The approach of a new millennium and a new century presents us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the past two centuries of our collective American journey, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.... The President is eager to lead this initiative and will call upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector

partners to create Millennium programs that reflect and celebrate our cultural heritage. As we have over the past four years with performances, new art acquisitions, and rotating sculpture exhibits, the President and I will continue to showcase outstanding examples of American art and scholarship at the White House....

One element of our planning will be to determine which of their recommendations the President's Committee is willing to implement and which this Administration wants to embrace as part of our Millennium initiative.

British Catching Millennium Fever

New bridge on Thames among schemes to ring in 21st century

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

London

The rest of the world may not be racing to build theme parks, festival halls, sports complexes, amusement rides and other grandiose monuments in honor of the next millennium.

But the rest of the world does not see things quite the way people do in the United Kingdom, where they are planning to construct the world's largest dome on a toxic waste dump, erect a giant Ferris wheel across from Big Ben and build a new "living bridge" across the storied Thames — all in the name of the dawning of the year 2000.

Millennium fever is spreading here faster than the most recent outbreak of bad '60s fashion. There seems no project too outlandish and no site too remote to be considered for the century-ending celebrations that have become the talk of the tabloids.

The British government is planning to spend up to 1.6 billion

pounds (about \$2.8 billion) — most of it raised by the nation's new lottery — to ring in the third millennium, a date that is supposed to celebrate the anniversary of Christ's arrival on Earth but is being treated more like a secular excuse to string together a bunch of massive parties.

MCDONALD'S HEIRESS IS ANGEL OF FLOOD



McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to flood vic-

tims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

STORY, PAGE A3

Much of the fanfare is focused on the planned construction of the world's largest dome in Greenwich to stage the Millennium Exhibition, which would focus largely on the city's fame as the birthplace of time. The exhibition, expected to open on New Year's Day 2000, would last for one year — until the day sticklers note is the actual start of the third millennium, Jan. 1, 2001. British officials have said the huge expense is justified because the event will probably attract more than 30 million visitors.

"It's a celebration of the birth date of our civilization, and that's very significant," said Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times of London and a member of the country's Millennium Commission. "We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them."

But the planned festivities have generated political fireworks because of spiraling costs and the

BRITAIN: Page A7 Col. 1

Britain in Frenzy to Host Biggest Party Ringing In Mille

From Page 1

fact that needy social services such as the nation's transportation and health systems have seemingly been overlooked in the frenzy to build new monuments and symbols for the millennium.

New Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun injecting a note of caution into the debate, saying the Labor government could not approve a blank check for all the planned celebrations. But much of the funding has already been approved, and the big question now remains whether the new government will have to inflict significant cuts on the many projects being offered to open the next century.

"A few celebrations are fine, but the way they're going about it is as if they're suffering from mad cow disease," said Underground worker Chris Sims. "They're going to spend a couple of billion quid and build a giant dome when we've got schools and hospitals falling apart. Can someone please tell me why?"

The century-end rush has also touched off rivalries with other countries that are trying to capitalize on Europe's growing obsession with the millennium.

Fracas Over Ferris Wheel

A private plan to build the largest Ferris wheel in the world on the bank of the Thames near Westminster Abbey was recently met with an announcement from the

'We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them'

— SIMON JENKINS, British Millennium Commission

French that they would construct a similar ride at least one meter higher.

The Ferris wheel war escalated when Marcel Campion, backer of the French project, began suggesting that if the British went ahead with the 500-foot-high wheel, it had a good chance of collapsing.

The French further enraged their English counterparts by saying that their attraction would resemble a giant transparent alarm clock — Le Chronos — which the British claimed was a direct rip-off of their whole Greenwich time-origin theme. Paris Mayor Jean Tiberi said the wheel would be like a "second Eiffel Tower."

The millennium hype also triggered a competition between Birmingham and Greenwich over the right to hold the national festival in 2000. Although Birmingham, England's second-largest city, has first-rate transportation facilities and a number of complexes to hold the celebrations, Greenwich was recently awarded the festival — even though there are no major roads leading to the town and its planned millennium site is a 130-

acre toxic waste area that will require millions to be cleaned up.

The award to Greenwich was largely the work of former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Hazeltine, who lobbied for it as a way to fix up the poisoned and neglected docklands in the region. But the move will be costly because it will require construction of new highways to get into Greenwich and a whole slew of parking lots to meet the expected crush of cars.

The selection of Greenwich was largely symbolic since the London borough is the prime meridian of the earth — located on 0 degrees longitude — and the place picked by astronomers more than 100 years ago to measure time zones for the world.

But Hazeltine, who suffered a heart attack after Labor's big victory May 1, insisted that it was economy, not astronomy, that fueled his desire for the project. He contended the money was well spent because it would produce a minimum of 2.6 billion pounds (about \$4.4 billion) for the British economy. "There are no ways to

deny the economic potential," he said. "It would have been a denial of faith in our abilities if the Millennium Commission had not decided to embody, in one bold, defining statement, our pride and confidence in this country."

Commission members, seeking to stave off more criticism, decided to fund several other millennium-related projects that have high public support. Among the projects being funded by the commission are the refurbishing of Scotland national football area at

Hampden Park, and making improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in Wales and the Earth Centre in Doncaster, a scientific and environmental research center.

Plans for the Thames

Planners also are considering a new bridge over the Thames — the first in more than 100 years in history-proud Britain. There has been much discussion of reviving the "living bridge" concept, which would string together shops, apartments and hotels, an idea not seen

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/26 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/27SUBJECT: White House Millennium Initiative

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☐
BOWLES	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
MATHEWS	☒	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
RAINES	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
BAER	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	LEWIS	☒	☐
EMANUEL	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	HAWLEY	☐	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
HILLEY	☐	☐	RADD	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	TARULLO	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐		☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please advise

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1997

'97 MAY 26 PM8:47

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Ellen McCulloch Lovell

CC: Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Melanne Verveer

SUBJECT: Planning for White House Leadership for the Millennium

Year 2000 Celebration in the State of the Union Address

On February 4, 1997, you said, "Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit." You challenged "our artists, musicians, and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community - a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded."

Your State of the Union statement sets the themes of "celebrating our common culture" and "remaining the world's beacon of liberty and creativity" for a national millennium celebration.

A Once in a Thousand Years Opportunity

Your second term extends into the milestone year of 2001. At the convergence of a new millennium and the next century, America will reflect on its past and imagine the future. The inevitable turn of the calendar offers a moment in history when humankind reassesses our progress and thinks about the legacy we leave to the next generations, while at the same time envisaging the time to come. As you lead our nation into the next era, you have a unique opportunity to educate and to lead a celebration that engages all Americans. Beginning in 1997, through the year 2000, the White House can provide special leadership of a national Millennium Initiative for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

The overarching goals of the White House Millennium Initiative should include:

- ▶ Stimulating, through White House leadership, a sense of optimism and renewal and the faith that Americans can build a better future;
- ▶ Setting some concrete, attainable objectives to marshal our collective will and resources, such as

preserving our cultural heritage for the next generation, or renewing our great tradition of philanthropy.

- ▶ Recognizing the creativity and inventiveness of Americans and our gifts to the world.
- ▶ Valuing the diversity of our peoples and forging greater unity as Americans as we enter the 21st Century.

By July 14, 1997, the White House will develop a plan for its Millennium leadership, addressing themes, goals, structure, events and the ways we will involve citizens, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other levels of government. This memorandum describes the thinking that has been devoted to the Millennium, the factors that need to be considered and a planning process that will result in decisions for our directions over the next three and a half years. (See Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium)

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents - such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, or the opening of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 1897, or the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - demonstrate that anniversaries and ambitious projects can both affect the popular imagination and leave lasting marks on the nation's cultural landscape. The Chicago Exposition, for example, commissioned new works by America's leading artists and architects and convened an international congress of scholars which influenced design and intellectual exploration for decades.

The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the White House as the President's home. John and Abigail Adams first occupied the White House in 1800, the first peaceful transition of government in the United States after an election. In 1900 President McKinley was President and the official turn-of-century celebration was focussed on the White House, its history and expansion.

Other national commemorations offer lessons to learn. The 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1987 - 1991 Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 1992 Columbus Quincentenary all provided occasions for national and local events, and for educational and media projects. Each was led by a commission formed years in advance which drew on both a Congressional appropriation and private funds. The 1976 Bicentennial commission had an elaborate endorsement procedure, whereby events and projects got designated as 'official' and were allowed to use the official logo.

President's Committee Recommendations

Several Administration leaders and advisors have been exploring what opportunities this milestone offers. At the same time, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, of which Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair and John Brademas the Chairman, spent over a year writing a report on the contributions of the arts and the humanities to society and how America's cultural life can be preserved and supported. This report, *Creative America*, was released at a press conference in February 1997, at which Mrs. Clinton spoke. *Creative America* describes the United States as a "country of creators and innovators," with a spirit of inquiry and discovery unleashed by our democratic system and amalgam of peoples.

Arguing that this century deserves no less a commitment to the future than past commemorations have provided, the main recommendation of the President's Committee is that the President lead a national Millennium Initiative to explore human thought and expression, to help unify us as a people and to reveal

the future in all its possibilities. By calling on individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector partners to create millennium programs, the President can set the themes and goals of this momentous time of change. (See Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations)

Other Millennium Activities

Because the year 2000 looms so large and so soon, many millennium activities in the U.S. and other countries are already under way. The following are samples of initiatives we know of that illustrate the focus and ferment of this time of endings and beginnings:

Federal Cultural Agencies:

- ▶ The National Endowment for the Arts has a millennium grants program and just awarded more than four million dollars to projects such as reviving American operas, a public TV series on the American novel, and a tour of the Boys Choir of Harlem.
- ▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities is funding films which may include "Millennium Moments," great moments in history to be aired as TV spots.
- ▶ The Kennedy Center plans to be the focal point for millennium celebrations, increasing educational outreach and acting as a site for White House programs. Recently the Kennedy Center opened the "Millennium Stage" - free events every night in the foyer.
- ▶ The Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial in 2000. Among other events, it will produce the "Reach of Ideas," gatherings of great thinkers to examine the state of knowledge in at least twenty disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

International:

- ▶ The United Kingdom created a Millennium Commission to fund projects funded by the lottery. Millennium projects include all kinds of capital improvement projects, and The Millennium Exhibition and Festival in Greenwich. The Arts Council of Great Britain has declared 2000 the "Year of the Artist." U.K. millennium projects are required to attract wide public support as well as private funding; they will also create lasting monuments. By 2000, an estimated \$4 billion will go into grants. Sample projects are: a new building for the Tate Gallery on the south bank of the Thames; the University of the Highlands and Islands - a new university for life-long learning; Millennium Greens - at least 250 new greens designed by local communities; 21st Century Halls - around 180 new rural community centers; and Ringing in the Millennium - bell-ringing in 100 churches and civic buildings, restoring old bells and hanging new church bells.
- ▶ The Vatican is celebrating its Jubilee of the Year 2000 in Rome for the 2000th anniversary of Christianity.
- ▶ Germany is hosting the Expo 2000, a world's fair in Hanover, featuring themes of culture, the end of the Cold War, and the millennium. The U.S. is one of the few countries not participating in the Hanover fair.
- ▶ Australia will host the Olympics in year 2000, including a Cultural Olympiad at the site in Sydney.
- ▶ At least fifteen other European countries are planning Millennium festivities. Other regions, even those that do not use the Christian calendar, will be planning events to attract tourism.

Private:

- ▶ Times Square 2000, Inc., the nonprofit which plans the New Year's celebrations, is planning

documentaries to be shown on December 31, 1999 on the themes of international cultures and understanding.

- ▶ ABC and Hallmark Corporation announced they will jointly commission new works from American playwrights for broadcast on the network.
- ▶ There is a Millennium Institute in Arlington, VA., that has created a web site to collect millennium ideas and discuss the meaning of this time.

Congress:

- ▶ Last year members of both the House and Senate submitted legislation to designate a private organization in Chicago, The Millennium Society, as the official organization to celebrate the achievements of the second millennium, and raise funds. The legislation never passed, but Congressional interest in official celebrations might reappear.

Developing a White House Millennium Plan

By July 14, we hope to develop a White House plan for the Millennium Initiative addressing the following elements:

Themes - What overall theme and purposes are conveyed to the public? If we articulate clear themes, and illustrate them with our events, appearances and speeches, then White House leadership could unleash the creativity of other leaders at the state and community levels, stimulating thousands of activities across the country. Some suggested themes are: harnessing American optimism for the age of renewal; promoting American creativity and innovation - recognizing our cultural and scientific accomplishments; and celebrating a world at peace and the spread of democratic values.

Objectives - What do we want to accomplish for the Millennium, through 2000 and beyond? What lasting results, monuments, and public attitudes do we hope to leave as a result of our leadership and national commemoration? Should we define and announce four to six projects that will become our lasting legacy for the 21st century?

Possible objectives include:

- ▶ Engaging citizens at the community level in some shared projects and activities such as collecting and preserving their family stories; creating new civic spaces such as town greens and community centers; and producing plays and pageants based on local history or shared concerns;
- ▶ Identifying the White House with high-level scholarship and art; showcasing new work commissioned for the new era;
- ▶ Preserving the White House and the President's Park area, and improving it for future First Families and Administrations;
- ▶ Increasing philanthropy and reinforcing the ethic of giving as a great American tradition, perhaps setting a measurable goal;
- ▶ Creating a permanent funding stream to support the arts and the humanities, exploring the creation of an "American Cultural Trust;"
- ▶ Convening a world leaders' teleconference on January 1, 2000 to express the world's hope for peace;
- ▶ Inviting leaders of religious communities to discuss faith at this time of reflection and change.

Structure - Do we need an additional structure, beyond government agencies and administration committees, to provide advice and leadership and to raise the necessary resources? The former directors of other commemorative events have advised against creating a Commission; such groups are easily captured by a few strong personalities. Plus, there is the practical problem of appointing one, even by Executive Order, with enough time and resources to be active. Another option is a small group of President's Advisors on the Millennium - a prestigious, nonpartisan group of citizens who would advise on the goals, raise resources for White House activities, designate "official" events and products, and publish materials that would help states and communities plan their celebrations. Our planning process should explore whether the millennium advisors could work with a 501(c)3 organization to give them greater flexibility.

Planning a structure will include organizing for the Millennium inside the White House to promote consistency and communication. We recommend a small White House Working Group be established immediately to advise on the planning phase over the next month and beyond. Outside experts will be consulted regularly. We could develop an interagency working group as well.

The White House as a Venue - How do we use the White House? How do we set an example for State Houses, cities, towns and for other civic organizations? The key is to sequence the events so there is a lead-up to the Millennium, an appropriate New Year's 1999 celebration, and a more intense year of accomplishments and celebrations in 2000. The White House as a venue and a catalyst prompts many creative possibilities:

- ▶ A White House Lecture Series and "conversations" with opinion leaders, to be televised or down-linked to sites which will organize their own forums;
- ▶ Cultural events which showcase our nation's "best" in many genre, culminating in a 1999 New Year's Gala at the White House of "New Masters," our most promising talent;
- ▶ Highlight "new works for the new era," commissioned by cultural organizations, foundations, and the national endowments;
- ▶ Use federal programs to preserve and create new monuments, incorporate art in public buildings, improve federal design, and commission new compositions for armed forces music ensembles;
- ▶ Add to the White House collections, pursue renovations, continue installations in the First Lady's Sculpture Garden, and conduct a televised tour of the Clinton White House;
- ▶ Launch Millennium projects of federal agencies, such as "Reach of Ideas" with the Library of Congress, films of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and national tours with the NEA.
- ▶ Ask the Smithsonian Institution to organize a National Folk Festival of traditions from all 56 states and territories on the Mall in 1999 or 2000; organize a National Science Fair for youth and adults, as well as amateurs and professionals;
- ▶ With federal or private institutions, organize the "Ten Great American Ideas" exhibition, book and television show to celebrate U.S. innovations and contributions to the world. Examples: The Declaration of Independence, modern dance, jazz, the semi-conductor chip;
- ▶ Host a White House Forum on international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ Use a White House forum and speeches to renew the great tradition of American philanthropy;
- ▶ Create a Millennium Children's Festival.

Participation of the Principals - How will the appearances and speeches of the President and Mrs. Clinton be used to highlight the themes and events and to build a lasting legacy? You must decide how big a priority this is, how many Presidential activities can be framed by the Millennium and incorporated as part of our themes and goals, how much time you want to devote to Millennium activities, and what

you want to accomplish as their lasting legacy.

Partnerships - How can we attract the resources needed to create a significant and dignified Millennium celebration, without it appearing to be too commercial or unfocused? We must consider the tone we want to set as well as the resources that will be needed to support White House leadership on the Millennium. Fund-raising and the commercial possibilities for the Millennium will be part of the planning process.

A White House Millennium Group - Will begin meeting to develop a plan addressing these issues and will submit it to you by July 14, 1997. Recommended members: Maria Echaveste, Rahm Emanuel, Ann Lewis, John Podesta, Melanne Verveer, Ellen Lovell, Steve Silverman, Ann Stock and Susan Liss.

Planning time-line

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 22-June 6 | - Research the 1976 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, Bicentennial of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and Columbus Quincentenary Commissions.
- Explore the possibilities of a cultural endowment fund.
- Research Millennium programs of other countries for models; search U.S. databases for Millennium projects. Identify state and local initiatives being planned.
- Meet with White House Working Group and Mark Penn; discuss structure, recommend themes, develop ideas with national impact; meet with Social Office to develop sequence of White House events.
- Consult with private foundations on willingness to supplement efforts. Consult with outside experts.
- Continue to convene federal cultural agencies, to develop programs that reinforce themes, discuss logo; plan joint projects. |
| June 6 - 20 | - Examine possible structures with White House Working Group, outside experts.
- Develop budget, examine revenue sources.
- Recommend White House projects that both illustrate our themes and that can capture the national imagination, perhaps in these categories: youth, preservation, international, cultural awareness, technology, philanthropy, White House bicentennial.
- Ask federal agencies (beyond cultural) for ideas of how they might participate. Meet with interagency group.
- Explore possible partnership with non-profit organization to expand both citizen participation and resources.
- Consult with state and local organizations to develop plans for grassroots activities.
- Consult with supportive members of Congress to advise on structure and whether there will be a congressional Millennium effort. |
| June 20 - 30 | - Develop concrete recommendations on themes, goals and lasting legacy, structure and resources, White House leadership activities and events, Federal Agency involvement, the extent of state and local participation, partnership with other organizations, Presidential announcement, and 1997 events. |

- Review recommendations with the President and the First Lady.
 - July 1 - 14
 - Revise recommendations.
 - Draft Executive Order or other vehicle necessary for structure.
 - Develop announcement, speech, or event to establish White House leadership and themes, and call for participation.
 - Final decisions by the President and the First Lady.
-

We recommend initiating the Millennium planning process.

_____ Approve

_____ Discuss

_____ Disapprove

Appendix 1: The Meaning of Millennium

A millennium is a period of a thousand years. The end of the second millennium, as measured by the Christian calendar, will be reached on January 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, The Greenwich Observatory, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *World Almanac*. The calendar by which we reach this date was created in 526 A.D. (*Anno Domini*, Year of Our Lord) by Dennis the Diminutive, the head of a Roman monastery who forged a common calendar from the divergent dating systems of the Eastern and Western Churches. Rather than starting at zero, this calendar began with the date of January 1, 1 A.D., not 0 A.D. Thus on January 1, 2 A.D. the calendar system was one year old, not two. Despite the fact that the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001, the world will celebrate on December 31, 1999 as the calendars flip to the year 2000. But "when our 20th Century reaches midnight ... it will have yet the 366 days of (leap) year 2000 to close out its hundredth year." (Hillel Schwartz)

For some Christians, the millennium refers to the prophecy in the Book of Revelations, the time of judgement, followed by a "a new heaven and a new earth." "Millennial" or "millenarian" also has a darker connotation as a time of apocalyptic expectations. Hillel Schwartz, historian and author of *Century's End*, points out the myth of the "panic terror" in the year 999, when Christians supposedly waited in churches for the world to end, people gave away their possessions and went on pilgrimages, a comet appeared, and storms raged. Historians disagree with this description of events, but not with the metaphor that persists. Some countries are referring to their millennium activities as "Year 2000" or "Jubilee" celebrations.

The millennium is a historical divide; the end of a century and an epoch, the start of the next generation for which one hopes a future brighter than ever. The anticipation of the new millennium brings a sense of urgency, a need to take stock, to enlist people in a new program, and to "take into serious account the host of highly contradictory tendencies at century's end: to retreat/ to go on treks and quests; to retrench/ to be bold; to look out for one's immediate family/ to look toward the well-being of future generations." Schwartz' analysis tells us that people become fascinated with metaphors that express the interrelatedness of things, such as the Internet. People also require rituals to "rehearse the passage from an old to a new century." The anxiety that the human race is degenerating, nature losing its vitality, that things are out of control is countered by the broader perspective of time that encourages renewal of all kinds.

As we consider what rituals to enact in this time of possibility, it is important to remember that many peoples and nations still mark time by the Jewish, Muslim, Chinese and other calendars. Still, most countries will recognize the powerful meaning inherent in the Western calendar changing to 2000.

Appendix 2: List of President's Committee Recommendations

The report of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Creative America*, reminds us that the 20th century has witnessed a burst of American creativity and our nation now stands as the world leader in cultural as well as scientific, economic and political realms. Our democratic system and amalgam of people unleashed a spirit of inquiry and discovery; the resulting cultural and scientific gifts benefit us and the world. Our cultural heritage defines us as Americans. The history of each American is America's history. We are a "nation of nations" - a people of peoples from different backgrounds who have forged common bonds. The millennium provides an opportunity to ensure the continued greatness of our national cultural life, to preserve our achievements for future generations, and to increase cultural understanding among groups within our country and with other nations.

The main recommendations that ask for White House involvement are as follows:

- ▶ A call by the President to individuals, local communities, state governments, federal agencies, and private sector partners to create Millennium programs that reflect upon and present our unique cultural heritage;
- ▶ Showcasing outstanding examples of American art, scholarship and heritage at the White House;
- ▶ An assessment of the nation's preservation needs and a plan to protect our cultural legacy, including the involvement of creative commercial enterprises and of individuals;
- ▶ The creation of a massive new public-private partnership to ensure that cultural resources are made available through the new technologies, in concert with the President's and Vice-President's goal of connecting all school rooms and libraries by 2001;
- ▶ A national initiative to increase philanthropic giving;
- ▶ A White House forum on enhancing international education and cultural exchange;
- ▶ An investment in the public role, by identifying a dedicated revenue to supplement funding for the arts, humanities, museums and libraries, and an increase in appropriations.

Additional recommendations incorporate Administration goals, such as the adoption of national educational standards for teaching the disciplines of the humanities and the arts, but do not call for further specific government action. Many of the other recommendations in the report are directed toward private foundations, corporations and individual donors, and cultural institutions themselves.

At the release of *Creative America*, Mrs. Clinton said,

"...The President and I are very excited about the Millennium Initiative described in this report. The approach of a new millennium and a new century presents us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the past two centuries of our collective American journey, to raise awareness about the importance of the arts and humanities in our lives, and to examine the ideas, values and experiences that can shape our future.... The President is eager to lead this initiative and will call upon all citizens, local communities, state governments, federal agencies and private sector

partners to create Millennium programs that reflect and celebrate our cultural heritage. As we have over the past four years with performances, new art acquisitions, and rotating sculpture exhibits, the President and I will continue to showcase outstanding examples of American art and scholarship at the White House....

One element of our planning will be to determine which of their recommendations the President's Committee is willing to implement and which this Administration wants to embrace as part of our Millennium initiative.

British Catching Millennium Fever

New bridge on Thames among schemes to ring in 21st century

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

London

The rest of the world may not be racing to build theme parks, festival halls, sports complexes, amusement rides and other grandiose monuments in honor of the next millennium.

But the rest of the world does not see things quite the way people do in the United Kingdom, where they are planning to construct the world's largest dome on a toxic waste dump, erect a giant Ferris wheel across from Big Ben and build a new "living bridge" across the storied Thames — all in the name of the dawning of the year 2000.

Millennium fever is spreading here faster than the most recent outbreak of bad '60s fashion. There seems no project too outlandish and no site too remote to be considered for the century-ending celebrations that have become the talk of the tabloids.

The British government is planning to spend up to 1.6 billion

pounds (about \$2.8 billion) — most of it raised by the nation's new lottery — to ring in the third millennium, a date that is supposed to celebrate the anniversary of Christ's arrival on Earth but is being treated more like a secular excuse to string together a bunch of massive parties.

MCDONALD'S HEIRESS IS ANGEL OF FLOOD



McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc was identified yesterday as the person who anonymously gave \$15 million to

flood victims in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn. Kroc flew in Saturday for a tour of the damage.

STORY, PAGE A3

Much of the fanfare is focused on the planned construction of the world's largest dome in Greenwich to stage the Millennium Exhibition, which would focus largely on the city's fame as the birthplace of time. The exhibition, expected to open on New Year's Day 2000, would last for one year — until the day sticklers note is the actual start of the third millennium, Jan. 1, 2001. British officials have said the huge expense is justified because the event will probably attract more than 30 million visitors.

"It's a celebration of the birth date of our civilization, and that's very significant," said Simon Jenkins, former editor of the Times of London and a member of the country's Millennium Commission. "We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them."

But the planned festivities have generated political fireworks because of spiraling costs and the

BRITAIN: Page A7 Col. 1

Britain in Frenzy to Host Biggest Party Ringing In Millennium

on Page 1

that needy social services such as the nation's transportation and health systems have seemingly been overlooked in the frenzy to build new monuments and symbols for the millennium.

New Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun injecting a note of caution into the debate, saying the Labour government could not approve a blank check for all the planned celebrations. But much of the planning has already been approved, and the big question now remains whether the new government will have to inflict significant cuts on the many projects being offered to open the next century.

"A few celebrations are fine, but the way they're going about it is as if they're suffering from mad cow disease," said Underground worker Chris Sims. "They're going to spend a couple of billion quid and build a giant dome when we've got schools and hospitals falling apart. Can someone please tell me why?"

The century-end rush has also touched off rivalries with other countries that are trying to capitalize on Europe's growing obsession with the millennium.

Race Over Ferris Wheel

A private plan to build the largest Ferris wheel in the world on the bank of the Thames near Westminster Abbey was recently met with an announcement from the

'We think it's important for us to celebrate it, and obviously a number of countries feel the same way — even if the United States isn't one of them'

— SIMON JENKINS, British Millennium Commission

French that they would construct a similar ride at least one meter higher.

The Ferris wheel war escalated when Marcel Campion, backer of the French project, began suggesting that if the British went ahead with the 500-foot-high wheel, it had a good chance of collapsing.

The French further enraged their English counterparts by saying that their attraction would resemble a giant transparent alarm clock — Le Chronos — which the British claimed was a direct rip-off of their whole Greenwich time-origin theme. Paris Mayor Jean Tiéberie said the wheel would be like a "second Eiffel Tower."

The millennium hype also triggered a competition between Birmingham and Greenwich over the right to hold the national festival in 2000. Although Birmingham, England's second-largest city, has first-rate transportation facilities and a number of complexes to hold the celebrations, Greenwich was recently awarded the festival — even though there are no major roads leading to the town and its planned millennium site is a 130-

acre toxic waste area that will require millions to be cleaned up.

The award to Greenwich was largely the work of former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Hazeltine, who lobbied for it as a way to fix up the poisoned and neglected docklands in the region. But the move will be costly because it will require construction of new highways to get into Greenwich and a whole slew of parking lots to meet the expected crush of cars.

The selection of Greenwich was largely symbolic since the London borough is the prime meridian of the earth — located on 0 degrees longitude — and the place picked by astronomers more than 100 years ago to measure time zones for the world.

But Hazeltine, who suffered a heart attack after Labor's big victory May 1, insisted that it was economy, not astronomy, that fueled his desire for the project. He contended the money was well spent because it would produce a minimum of 2.6 billion pounds (about \$4.4 billion) for the British economy. "There are no ways to

deny the economic potential," he said. "It would have been a denial of faith in our abilities if the Millennium Commission had not decided to embody, in one bold, defining statement, our pride and confidence in this country."

Commission members, seeking to stave off more criticism, decided to fund several other millennium-related projects that have high public support. Among the projects being funded by the commission are the refurbishing of Scotland national football area at

Hampden Park, and making improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in Wales and the Earth Centre in Doncaster, a scientific and environmental research center.

Plans for the Thames

Planners also are considering a new bridge over the Thames — the first in more than 100 years in history-proud Britain. There has been much discussion of reviving the "living bridge" concept, which would string together shops, apartments and hotels, an idea not seen