

WEEKLY REPORTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 11, 2000:

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8-16-00

August 11, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed
Barbara Chow

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

*Copied
Reed
Chow
Podesta
p.2 to HRC*

✓ **1. Children and Families -- Paid Leave:** Last week, prior to end of the final legislative cycle in Massachusetts, their State Legislature passed a supplemental budget that included a pilot program for allowing unemployment insurance to be used to provide paid leave after the birth or adoption of a child. Massachusetts is the first state to pass such a proposal. Consistent with your UI initiative, this two-year pilot program would allow parents caring for an infant or newly adopted child to collect up to 12 weeks of unemployment benefits and is estimated to provide qualifying working parents with benefits checks of \$431 a week. Unfortunately, Governor Celluci line item vetoed this important legislation today. In vetoing the legislation, Celluci indicated his willingness to support paid leave as long as it was not through the unemployment insurance system. He sent the bill back to the legislature with an amendment that would provide a 50 percent tax credit to employers who provide paid leave after the birth or adoption of a child; estimated to cost \$30 million.

2. Crime -- Prison Study: This week, the Justice Department released a new study showing that, in 1999, the nation's prison population rose at the lowest rate since 1979 and recorded the smallest absolute increase since 1988. Since 1990, the prison population has increased by 77 percent -- an increase of almost 600,000 inmates. However, the report also shows that the prison population growth slowed to 3.4 percent in 1999 -- nearly half the average annual increase of 6.5 percent during the 1990-1999 period. At the end of 1999, there were more than two million people incarcerated in the United States, including 1.28 million in state and federal prisons, 605,943 in local jails and 105,790 in juvenile facilities. At the end of 1999, African-Americans constituted 46 percent of all inmates with sentences of one year or more, white inmates accounted for 33 percent and Hispanics 18 percent. We are working with the Departments of Justice and Labor to highlight and secure funding contained in your FY 01 budget to provide heightened supervision and services, such as job training and drug treatment, for ex-offenders.

3. Labor - -Workforce Investment Act Final Rule: Last week marked the two-year anniversary of the signing of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). All 50 states have now developed plans meeting Department of Labor approval, and there are now 1,200 One-Stop Career Centers established around the country. Last March, Thomas Friedman, the *New York Times* foreign affairs columnist, praised WIA as "one of the best but most underreported, bipartisan achievements of the Clinton Era." With Friday's publication of the **final implementing regulation**, you issued a statement to celebrate the successful effort to get this **important** initiative up and running and to urge Congress to fully fund your budget request for WIA activities.

4. Children and Families - HHS Report on Child Welfare Outcomes: On Wednesday, Secretary Shalala released a new report showing that fewer children are in the child welfare system today than at the start of your Administration. The report, which compiled national and state data on children who are abused and neglected, in foster care, adopted, or waiting to be adopted, showed positive signs with fewer incidence of child abuse and neglect and an increase in the number of adoptions. The data collected for the report and required by the Adoption and Safe Families Act that you signed in 1997, will be used to hold states accountable for services to at-risk children. Wednesday's *New York Times* reported that this data demonstrates a stark contrast to the prediction of child advocates at the time of the welfare reform debate who believed that the pressures of moving welfare to work would drive up child abuse and increase the number of children entering foster care.

5. Education - - Desegregated Schools Promote Tolerance: A study released Monday by the Harvard Civil Rights Project found that students who attend racially mixed schools say they are more willing to live and work in a multiracial society. The study surveyed 1,164 students in Louisville, KY, all who attend high schools with a black student population of 20 to 50 percent. Gary Orfield, head of the Civil Rights Project, concluded that, "The Louisville students' opinions on race are very different and very much more optimistic than what you see in other surveys about race." Of those surveyed, 90 percent indicated that they were comfortable or very comfortable talking about controversial issues related to race, and 80 percent said that their school experience had aided them in getting along better with students of different racial backgrounds.

6. Education - - Bilingual Education Battles: Colorado's efforts to terminate bilingual education failed after advocates missed an August 7 deadline to collect 62,000 signatures to put the proposed amendment in the state constitution to a vote this fall. They intend to try for the next election in 2002. In Arizona a ballot measure modeled on California's Proposition 227, which ended most bilingual education programs in that state, was approved last week and will be voted on in November. Under the proposed law, all public school instruction would have to be conducted in English, and children still learning English would be placed in one-year English-immersion programs. Parents could get waivers if their children already know English, are older than 10, or have special needs that demand a different approach to learning.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

8-16-00

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August 11, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

CC: JOHN PODESTA

FROM: GEORGE T. FRAMPTON, JR. *GTF*

SUBJECT: CEQ WEEKLY REPORT

*Copied
Frampton
Podesta
P.1 to HRC*

*Don't forget to
bring this report
in tomorrow*

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

National Monument Transmittal

Secretary Babbitt sent you recommendations late today for the creation of a new **national** monument and for the expansion of an existing monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906. The proposed new monument, referred to as the Vermilion Cliffs, is 293,000 acres in northern Arizona near the Utah border. The recommendation is based on the area's unique geologic, historic, and cultural features, including the Paria Plateau and some of the earliest rock art in the Southwest. The monument recommended for expansion is Craters of the Moon in central Idaho, created by President Coolidge in 1924 and expanded by presidential proclamation several times since. The recommended addition would be 661,000 acres added to the existing 54,440 acres. The recommendation is based on the unique volcanic features of the area, and the addition would bring the entire lava field into the monument. The Secretary has discussed monument proposals in these areas with local officials and citizens and with the relevant congressional delegations in recent months. We will review the recommendations and provide you with additional information shortly.

New York/New Jersey Dredging

Earlier this week, Congressman Pallone requested that you appoint an independent mediator to help resolve disputes involving interpretations of a 1996 agreement that was intended to settle problems associated with dredging operations in the New York/New Jersey harbor and the placement of certain dredged materials off the coast of New Jersey. Environmentalists and Congressman Pallone believe EPA and the Corps are misapplying the current standards to allow harmful dredging to be approved for delivery at the off-shore site and fault EPA for not yet developing newer, stricter standards. Labor, port interests, and Congressman Menendez support the 1996 agreement but believe it is being properly applied.

CEQ

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This week, the Corps not only approved three controversial dredging contracts in the harbor but has actually begun dredging operations for completion by the end of September. They are opposed as being unsafe for off-shore deposit and increase the pressure to find a solution to competing environmental and economic interests.

Tulloch Rule

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This week, the Administration announced proposed new protections for tens of thousands of acres of wetlands nationwide. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers are proposing to address a major regulatory loophole – known as the “Tulloch Loophole” – by requiring Clean Water Act wetlands permit for ditching and draining activities that can destroy wetlands. Traditionally, these permits have been used primarily for the filling of wetlands, rather than the draining of wetlands. Since the loophole was created by a court decision in 1998 it has led to the destruction of nearly 20,000 acres of wetlands – primarily in NC and VA. While this proposal will allow the Administration to go as far as it can to close the loophole, a legislative fix is necessary to fully protect America's wetlands.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Japan Whaling

Japan launched its whaling fleet last week to hunt additional whale species, despite strong warnings from Secretaries Albright and Mineta. CEQ has begun working with NSC, NEC, USTR, Commerce, State and Interior to consider whether certification under the Pelly Amendment is warranted. We anticipate another working group meeting the week after next. The first step in such a process would be a certification by the Secretary of Commerce that Japan is undermining an international conservation measure. If such a certification occurs, you would be required to review it and report to Congress on whether or not to apply a potentially broad array of sanctions. We will be reviewing all options this coming week and be making recommendations on whether to begin the certification process.

8-16-00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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August 11, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROGER BALLENTINE *[Signature]*
RE: OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES WEEKLY

*Copied
Ballentine
Podesta*

Climate Change

The U.S. Postal Service's airport facility in Anchorage, AK, will operate five fuel cells producing about 1 million watts of electricity-- one of the largest commercial fuel cell projects in the world (*Anchorage Daily News* 8/7). The project is a product of a partnership between several government agencies and Chugach Electric Association in Anchorage.

The number of city buses powered by natural gas in the United States is growing, but 93 percent of the nation's 50,000 transit buses still run on diesel, according to a study by an environmental research group (*AP/San Francisco Chronicle* 8/ 9). The study also reported that many cities, including New York City, Atlanta, Los Angeles and Sacramento, have said they will no longer purchase diesel buses. At your request, we are continuing to work on helping the District of Columbia use cleaner fuel and bus options.

I'd like to get them to buy a few

Parts of Alaska and northern Eurasia have warmed by nearly 11 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter months over the past 30 years, according to climate data in a study by the University of Colorado's National Snow and Ice Data Center. No comparable warming has been documented using tree rings, ice cores or any other method.

Secretary Richardson and Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) announced the launch of a DOE partnership with private industry to develop geothermal energy in the West (*Las Vegas Review-Journal* 8/10). The goal of the program is to have geothermal energy account for 10 percent of the West's power supply within 20 years--primarily from Nevada, California, Utah and New Mexico. Funds will help develop new geothermal plants and advanced geothermal technology.

cc: John Podesta
Steve Ricchetti
Sandy Berger
Robert Lawrence
Chuck Brain
Charles Burson
George Frampton
Neal Lane



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT 8-16-00
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

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August 11, 2000

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Podesta

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: NEAL LANE *Neal*
CC: JOHN PODESTA
SUBJECT: OSTP WEEKLY REPORT

National Assessment of U.S. Climate Impacts

On Thursday (8/10), Exxon/Mobil took a quarter page ad in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* to attack the National Assessment. The ad asserts that the Assessment is a political document produced by the Administration to gain support for unsound climate-change mitigation policies. In fact the Assessment has been written by an independent outside advisory committee, and has already been through an intensive, multi-round peer review process. Its current posting for public comment, which ends tomorrow (8/12), has been undertaken as a courtesy to Congress. Although only 200 comments have been received to date, we expect a huge spate in these final days; e.g., today, the American Petroleum Institute sent in 100 pages of comments. The document will now be revised one last time and reviewed by the National Science and Technology Council before being submitted to you and the Congress as mandated by the Global Change Act of 1990.

Progress Cargo Spacecraft Docks With ISS

The International Space Station (ISS) grew in size and capability once again with the first Progress supply craft docking with the ISS on Tuesday, bringing the Station to 143 feet in length and 67 tons. The automatically-piloted supply ship carried 1,356 pounds of supplies, including clothing, food, computers and other equipment that will be unloaded by seven astronauts and cosmonauts who will arrive at the ISS in September on the Shuttle Atlantis. The Progress also carried a load of fuel that will be automatically transferred to both the Zvezda and Zarya modules. Additionally, the Progress will use its rocket engines to boost the altitude of the ISS later this month.

Virtual Education and the Future Role of the University Symposium

OSTP and the Naval Post-Graduate School co-sponsored a symposium to identify and explore the significant and pervasive implications of web-based education on the future of higher education. More and more universities and colleges now engage in delivering virtual education – approximately 84% of four-year colleges are expected to offer distance learning courses and more than 2.2 million students are expected to be enrolled in distributed courses in 2002. This development raises challenging issues such as ownership of content, financing of tuition, funding of R&D for high quality, interactive content delivery, and redefining the role of the professor and the campus in this new learning environment. Two recommendations emerged that relate to the Federal role in facilitating the emergence of distributed, online learning: (1) expansion of the eligibility for student aid for enrollment in online courses, and (2) the need for a DARPA-like R&D program in the Department of Education. OSTP will continue to work closely with other WH offices to ensure that Federal policies, programs, and initiatives promote the development and use of learning technologies for higher education.

Inaugural Meeting of Your Advisory Committee on Training Opportunities

Your Advisory Committee on Expanding Training Opportunities met for the first time last week. The Committee (comprised of leaders from the IT, finance, education, and workforce training communities) is focused on issues of access. Their goal is to ensure that all our adult citizens, including those who currently have less education and less work experience, are able to participate in our 21st Century workforce. The Committee also will assess the report of the Task Force on Federal Training Technology's, *Technology: Transforming Federal Training*, which was delivered this week by the Task Force's chair, Janice Lachance.

The Task Force report lays the foundation for accelerating the use of learning technology in the Federal government and strengthening the growth of a world-class Federal workforce. The Task Force makes the following five recommendations: (1) establish a one-stop-shop for federal training technology; (2) make training a strategic planning priority for all agencies; (3) establish a government-wide fund for learning technology innovation grants; (4) launch a campaign to educate decision-makers on the advantages of using learning; and (5) develop a program to promote existing procurement flexibility's for agency acquisitions of learning technology. OSTP and NEC will work with the Federal stakeholders and with your newly appointed Advisory Committee on Expanding Training Opportunities to provide you with options for responding to these recommendations.

10 New Planets Discovered – The Search for Spock Takes Major Leap Forward

Astronomers announced this week that they have discovered 10 new planets orbiting nearby stars, including one so close to our solar system that it could become the first such world astronomers will study directly. Astronomers first found a planet around a Sun-like star only five years ago. However, the count of planet-bearing stars has now passed 40, including the 10 that will be discussed this week at the 24th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union.



Instead of by direct observation, all of these extrasolar planets have been discovered indirectly – their gravitational pull causes their parent stars to wobble back and forth, inducing a slight variation in the wavelength of light they emit. Recently, this method has allowed scientists to discover several multiplanet systems, leading astronomers at the University of California at Berkeley to suggest that where there is one planet around a star, there are likely to be more; possibly including planets that may have more Earth-like properties than the gas giants currently identified. Unfortunately no photos are available yet, and images may be hard to come by since the nearest among the newly discovered planets is about 10 light years away, or about 60 trillion miles.



Possibly the most exciting discovery to be presented at the conference is the identification, by researchers at the University of Texas, of a planet around a star only 10.5 light years from Earth. The planet orbits the star Epsilon Eridani b – located in the constellation Eridanus – which is incidentally one of the first that Frank Drake, the founder of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, looked at when the project started 40 years ago. Current researchers at SETI point out that the fact that one of the nearest stars to the Sun has a planet, is highly encouraging to those looking for alien life or even civilization, because it suggests that “planets are as common as cheap hotels.” *Star Trek* aficionados are also excited about the discovery, because Epsilon Eridani b is considered the home of the fictional planet Vulcan, where Mr. Spock was born.

8-16-00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2000

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Mickey Ibarra *Wiley*

SUBJECT: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Weekly Report

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Ibarra
Podesta

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

IGA staff will attend the Convention to assist the hundreds of current and former elected officials expected to be in Los Angeles. We will cover over 40 events sponsored or attended by local and state elected officials.

WOODROW WILSON BRIDGE

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Governor Glendening (D-MD) is concerned about the deadlock between Congress, Maryland and Virginia over the funding shortfall for the replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Congress, with the Administration's support, has authorized \$900 million in special federal funds, and the two States each committed to an additional \$200 million. Because the estimated total cost is \$1.9 billion, a \$600 million shortfall remains. Last month, in an effort to jump-start the process, Governor Glendening unilaterally initiated the bid process in order to begin construction this fall. The Governor has asked for the Administration's support in working with Congress to make-up the \$600 million shortfall. IGA and OMB staff met with Maryland officials, and the Governor intends to discuss this issue with John Podesta in Los Angeles next week.

IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION

IGA hosted a conference call yesterday with Latino elected officials from across the country and Maria Echaveste to discuss our H-1B Plus legislative strategy. The response was positive, and the participants were grateful for the update and your commitment to fight for correcting injustices in the immigration system.

SOUTHERN GOVERNORS

On August 10, the Vice President and Senator Lieberman conducted a meeting in Atlanta with Governors Barnes (D-GA), Siegelman (D-AL), Hunt (D-NC) and Patton (D-KY). After the meeting, the four governors participated in a public event with the candidates.

WEST NILE EPIDEMIC

IGA participated in a conference call conducted by Maria Echaveste to address the West Nile River epidemic in the northeastern part of the country. New York has been hardest hit; more than 125 dead birds have been sited in 20 New York counties including several new locations, such as Niagara, Broom, Bigamton, Jamaica Plains and New York City. On July 20th, the first human case was discovered in Stanton Island where a man was hospitalized with encephalitis (a virus that causes internal tissue swelling). IGA is working with HHS to provide the National Association of Counties (NACO) and the National League of Cities (NLC) with information on the status of the epidemic.

INSULAR AREAS

Medicaid: The governors of all five territories wrote to ask you to try to get the Medicaid caps lifted for the territories.

Puerto Rico Presidential Vote: Governor Pedro Rossello (D) criticized the Justice Department for opposing a request that a Federal judge determine that the islands have electoral votes. The judge had previously held that Puerto Ricans as citizens have a right to vote in U.S. presidential elections. Leaders of Puerto Rico's legislature have said that they will put the presidential candidates on the election ballot. A spokesman for the Bush campaign welcomed the idea.

Vieques: Defense Secretary Cohen told Defense Authorization bill conferees that the Senate provisions on Vieques are unacceptable. Unlike the House version, the Senate provisions fail to transfer the western part of Vieques to local ownership as called for in your agreement with Governor Rossello.

Guam Tourist Arrivals: Governor Carl Gutierrez (D) requested our help in getting the INS on Guam staffed to process tourists arriving by air more efficiently. The expiration of visa waiver programs has increased the time it takes INS to process tourists, prompting complaints from both INS workers and the tourism industry. At our request, INS began to work with the Governor to address the problem.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. T.M.
KRIS M. BALDERSTON

SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
August 5 - 11, 2000

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Marshall
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pp. 12-13 to HRC

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

- **India:** On August 7, Secretary Summers met with U.S.-India Business Council Chairman Wisner and Executive Director Clark to discuss the upcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee to the U.S. and to express concern about recent tax disputes between U.S. firms and the Indian tax authorities. In recent months, U.S. firms have had numerous complaints about aggressive interpretations of the U.S.-India bilateral tax treaty by the Indian tax authorities. Secretary Summers acknowledged the importance of a predictable and transparent tax regime for U.S. investors in India. Ambassador Wisner also advocated Indian membership in APEC as a means to upgrade Indian economic and financial policies through adherence to APEC standards. There is a moratorium on new APEC members until 2007.
- **Foreign Sales Corporation Taxes:** On August 7, Deputy Secretary Eizenstat met with a group of business leaders to discuss legislation to replace the U.S. foreign sales corporation (FSC) tax regime, which the House Ways and Means Committee approved on July 27. The legislation is necessary because the WTO Appellate Body ruled that the FSC constituted an illegal export subsidy under the WTO Subsidies Agreement. In response, the WTO set an October 1 deadline by which the U.S. must change this provision or face retaliatory actions from the EU. The legislation provides an exclusion from tax for certain extraterritorial income; is not export-contingent as it treats all foreign sales alike regardless of whether the goods were manufactured in the U.S. or abroad; reduces incentives to use low or no-tax jurisdictions; eliminates administrative pricing rules; and ensures that the U.S. business community will not be disadvantaged. Eizenstat updated the business leaders about the steps that the U.S. is pursuing following the Committee's vote and the EU's initial reaction. Following some early comments criticizing the proposal, the EU's public position is that it has not made any judgments

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and expects to comment on the proposal after Labor Day. The business leaders expressed concerns about some aspects of the proposal, such as the domestic content requirement. Deputy Secretary Eizenstat pledged to continue discussing these matters with them. The full House is expected to vote on this legislation in September.

- **Deposit Insurance:** On August 9, the FDIC released an options paper on reforming the deposit insurance system. Existing restrictions on FDIC authority have resulted in over 90 percent of banks and thrifts currently paying no premiums. If the insurance funds, however, fall below the required reserve level during difficult economic times, then these institutions may have to pay high premiums. This could contribute to curtailed lending at a time when loans are most needed. The FDIC paper does not make recommendations, but discusses alternative approaches for how the FDIC should set premiums for each bank and thrift based on its risks and how deposit insurance losses should be funded. It also raises the question of whether the current insurance coverage limit of \$100,000 should be increased, which Secretary Summers and Chairman Greenspan have argued strongly against. The FDIC will be soliciting comments on the paper throughout the Fall and has stated that it hopes to offer recommendations for reform at the end of the year.
un should try to fix this before I leave
- **Panama:** On August 7, Deputy Secretary Eizenstat and Under Secretary for Enforcement Johnson met with Panamanian Vice Foreign Minister Arias, Panamanian Ambassador Ford, other Government of Panama representatives, and lawyers representing the Panamanian banking sector to discuss removal of Panama from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) list of non-cooperative anti-money laundering jurisdictions. Eizenstat emphasized Panama's need to enact and implement FATF-compliant legislation in order to be removed from the FATF list. Arias affirmed that Panama is dedicated to modernizing its anti-money laundering approach and intends to enact legislation in September. Eizenstat offered Treasury's technical assistance.
- **Student Loans:** As part of a Congressional mandate to study alternatives for setting lender rates of return on federally guaranteed student loans, Treasury's Office of Economic Policy continues to analyze how market mechanisms might be used. The group studying this issue includes representatives from schools, who have expressed concerns about the potential for market mechanisms to disrupt school-lender relationships under the current program. Treasury has identified a number of ways to minimize the potential disruptions to relationships while gaining the benefits of competitive markets. One example might be auctioning the right to appear on a list of authorized loan providers for a group of schools, without having to specify the quantities of loans to be provided. Schools could indicate in advance how many providers they wanted on their list, limiting the chance that a single aggressive bidder would displace existing lenders at a large number of schools. Although this study may have implications for the direct student loan program, your August 10 announcement regarding the direct program does not specifically apply.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **Militia Member Sentenced:** On July 28, an individual was sentenced to five years in Federal prison and three years of supervised release following his guilty plea to conspiracy charges. The defendant, who was the leader of a militia organization known as the Southeastern State Alliance, was arrested after an investigation by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force determined that he was planning to burglarize National Guard Armories in Central FL and to steal explosives that would be used to destroy power transmission towers and lines.
- **Campaign Finance Case:** On August 3, the DOJ filed a *certiorari* petition in a case presenting the issue of whether a political party has a First Amendment right to make unlimited campaign expenditures in coordination with the party's congressional candidates, notwithstanding the limits on such coordinated expenditures imposed by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971. The case arises out of an FEC enforcement action against the Colorado Republican Campaign Committee, the gravamen of which was that the Committee's payment for an advertisement attacking the voting record of a candidate for the Democratic nomination to the Senate was an "expenditure" within the meaning of FECA. The committee contested the enforcement action, and asserted in a counterclaim that FECA violates the First Amendment.
- **Victim Notification System:** On August 1-2, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys sponsored a kickoff meeting for the automated crime Victim Notification System. The project is the joint effort of the FBI, the U.S. Attorneys, and the Bureau of Prisons to implement a shared system for notifying victims of crime regarding the status of Federal cases moving through the criminal justice process.
- **Firearms Trafficking Report:** During the week of August 14, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) plans to release *Reducing Illegal Firearms Trafficking: Promising Practices and Lessons Learned*. This monograph addresses the goals, lessons learned, and promising practices of demonstration sites funded under BJA's Firearms Trafficking Program. A common element among the projects discussed is the collaborative arrangement between state or local law enforcement agencies and the ATF.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- **Guam Land Bill:** Under legislation that passed the House last week, Guam would be better able to claim some of the Federal land purchased after World War II for military purposes. The Guam Omnibus Opportunities Act also would lower the tax rate for foreign investors in Guam and set a process leading to additional Federal assistance for the social, health, and educational impacts of immigration. It would give Guam the right of first refusal to take back those Federal lands declared "excess" by the government as

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we should
be on the
ground
help

long as the land is used for public purposes. Currently, such land is first offered to other Federal agencies to use. The U.S. government controls about a third of Guam, about 44,000 acres. DOI supports the basic premise of the bill, but has concerns over certain provisions.

- BOR Power Operations:** As the heat wave continues in the western U.S., demands for hydroelectric power have increased. In the Great Plains Region, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) requested an increase in power generation from BOR projects to meet unusually high power demands. To respond to this request, WAPA has been given additional flexibility for scheduling power generation in the upper portion of the North Platte reservoir system, allowing more flexibility in scheduling generation on a daily basis to meet varying needs. On several recent days, the CA transmission system has declared power emergencies, seeking voluntary load reductions. BOR continues to assist in meeting the demands of the power system, scheduling all available hydroelectric generators to be online during critical peak demand periods. Hot summer weather in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest has stressed the Power system emergencies have not significantly affected the low flow test below Glen Canyon Dam in AZ. To date, Lower CO River Region hydro-generating facilities have not been stressed by the summer heat.
- Park Air Quality Protection:** DOI has asked EPA to develop a rulemaking to restore and protect air quality-related values in national parks and wilderness areas. At the request of NPS officials at Great Smoky Mountains, Shenandoah, and Blue Ridge Parkway, the letter also asks EPA for more immediate action to mitigate the adverse impacts and to reverse deteriorating air quality trends at those units. EPA received a similar resource protection request from several northeastern states. EPA will solicit public input regarding these requests and then decide on a course of action.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- WI E. Coli Outbreak:** On August 7, the Milwaukee Health Department released the latest figures on an outbreak of E. coli infections. As of that date, the outbreak had caused 64 laboratory-confirmed infections, including 22 hospitalizations and one death. (Two persons remain hospitalized.) Of those infected, 57 had eaten at a Milwaukee Sizzler restaurant, and another two had eaten at a Waswatosa, WI, Sizzler. USDA and FDA are working with state and local authorities.
- Infected Sheep:** On August 4, the Belgian Ministry of Agriculture requested that USDA return 65 sheep exported to the U.S. in 1996, some of which later proved to carry Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy. In subsequent consultations, Belgian officials indicated a preference to have all of their exported sheep back for monitoring and testing. On August 7, the owner of one of the flocks at issue appealed a decision denying his request for a preliminary injunction. Under the terms of the decision, the

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parties had until August 7 to establish an agreement for the removal of the sheep. Because USDA was unable to establish such an agreement, it filed a motion to order the parties involved to comply with Secretary Glickman's order.

- **Commodity Markets:** An expected large spring wheat crop and lagging export demand sent wheat prices lower for the week. Slow farmer selling lifted cash corn prices, but futures dropped in anticipation of record production. Favorable weather in growing areas pushed soybean prices lower. Rice cash prices held steady, but futures weakened on sluggish exports and prospects for high new-crop supplies. Cotton prices were almost unchanged in very light trading, as many await USDA's first survey-based crop estimate released on August 11. Cattle prices fell, following wholesale beef prices down. Lower slaughter sent hog prices lower. Brisk food service demand helped boost broilers. Cheese prices moved lower as large supplies loomed over the market. Butter rose slightly on a brief pickup in demand; buyers continue to buy only to meet current needs.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **Horseshoe Crab Restrictions:** On August 8, Secretary Mineta joined DE Governor Carper in announcing a proposed Federal preserve to protect horseshoe crabs in state and Federal waters off the mouth of Delaware Bay. The proposed preserve would provide additional protection for local horseshoe crabs by prohibiting their harvest in a prime spawning area. Overfishing of horseshoe crabs has caused a regional decline of the 350-million-year-old species, which provides medical benefits, food for migratory birds, and bait for fishermen. If adopted, the closure would take effect by October 30.
- **ACCESS-Mexico:** On July 27, DOC officials met with the President of the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce to discuss progress on the ACCESS-Mexico Project, which will help abolish a non-tariff trade barrier by making all Mexican environmental laws and regulations, both Federal and municipal, available in an online database in Spanish and English. Completion of the database is expected by January 2001, at which time the database will be made available to the public by subscription. This will be the first time Mexico's environmental laws will be made available electronically.

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USS Monitor Recovery: The recovery and restoration mission for Civil War vessel USS Monitor concluded on August 3. During the mission, DOC scientists and divers, along with their Navy counterparts, recovered a large beam that supported the Monitor's propeller shaft and rudder. Earlier in the mission, a ten-foot section of the vessel's propeller shaft was recovered, clearing a pathway into the engine room. The massive artifacts were delivered on August 2 to The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, VA, for preservation.

8-16-00

- **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Protocol:** The latest round of negotiations on a BWC Protocol ended on August 5 virtually deadlocked. Export controls, on-site activities at declared and undeclared sites, and procedures to investigate alleged violations of the BWC are the major sticking points. This development may mean that the BWC Protocol will not be ready for consideration by the Review Conference scheduled for November 2001. While the nations of the Western and Others Group (that includes the U.S.) continue to show flexibility in the negotiations, the non-aligned members have failed to reciprocate. The next scheduled round of negotiations begins November 13.
- **Chemical Weapons Destruction in China:** DOC's Bureau of Export Administration (BXA) recently met with a U.S. exporter to discuss U.S. participation in the destruction of World War II-era Japanese chemical weapons in China. BXA has encouraged U.S. firms interested in participating in the project to seek BXA's advice on the license requirements applicable to the export of items needed for chemical weapons destruction.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- **Verizon Strike:** On August 6, 85,000 employees of Verizon Communications (formerly Bell Atlantic) went on strike, affecting 25 million business and residential customers in states from VA to ME. 72,500 of the workers are represented by the Communications Workers of America, with the remaining 12,500 are represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Negotiations continue on unionization of the company's growing wireless division, staffing levels, job security, and pensions.
- **DOL Conferences:** During the week of August 7, DOL held H-1B Technical Skill Grant Program conferences in Santa Clara, CA, and Alexandria, VA. It also held Training Strategies for Minority Colleges and Universities bidders' conferences in NC and VA.
- **National Bar Association:** On August 5-12, DOL's Office of Small Business Programs participated in the 75th Annual National Bar Association Convention. As an exhibitor, DOL made available literature on small business compliance assistance, small business procurement opportunities, and other DOL programs and accomplishments.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Covering Kids:** On August 8, Secretary Shalala spoke at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Covering Kids public education campaign event kicking-off the back-to-school health-care coverage enrollment effort. Secretary Shalala also appeared on *Fox Morning News* and MSNBC to highlight the education campaign.

8-16-00

- **Elderly Health Report:** On August 10, a report was released announcing older Americans are living longer and living better than ever before. However, many Americans 65 years of age or older face disability, chronic health conditions, or economic stress, according to a new Federal indicators report. CDC's National Center for Health Statistics and other Federal agencies contributed to this report, the first in a continuing series. The report is divided into five subject areas: population characteristics, economics, health status, health risks and behaviors, and health care.
- **West Nile Virus (WNV):** From July 1 to August 7, avian morbidity and mortality surveillance has identified 188 WNV-infected birds from 34 counties in four northeastern states. WNV also has been detected in 38 mosquito pools collected in NY and one mosquito pool from Fairfield County, CT. A cooperative effort between USGS, CDC, and Federal, State, and local government agencies in the 19 surveillance jurisdictions has resulted in the production of interactive, web-based maps to track the spread of WNV. These maps, with data from the WNV surveillance system, are updated weekly on the USGS website.
- **Health Disparities Grants:** In late August, HHS will issue a press release to announce the funding of ten new health disparities research projects. Project titles include: Access and Quality of Care for Vulnerable Black Population; Understanding and Reducing Native Elderly Health Disparities; and Improving the Delivery of Effective Care to Minorities.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Pine Ridge Initiatives:** On August 3, Secretary Cuomo and USDA Deputy Secretary Rominger joined with other Federal officials and tribal leaders for a traditional "ground blessing" at the site of a future Boys and Girls Club Youth Opportunity and Wellness Center on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. As part of your commitment to the Oglala Lakota Sioux people at Pine Ridge, HUD has partnered with USDA and DOI to bring wellness and opportunity programs to the youth on the reservation. Last year, you announced the Administration's commitment to funding a state-of-the-art facility designed to address the needs of Pine Ridge's youth population. While at Pine Ridge, Secretary Cuomo also released a report titled "Shared Visions: Pine Ridge, A Year Later Sharing the Dream," which details progress on the reservation. The report found that the partnership has resulted in increased mortgage lending, rehabilitation and construction of homes, improved education facilities, corporate commitments to the reservation, increased economic development opportunities, and more educational opportunities.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Airline Service Concerns:** During the week of August 7, DOT contacted representatives from major airlines and airline labor groups to address the growing problem with airline delays. The effort is part of an active outreach strategy intended to address the factors contributing to delays and educate the general public about the causes of delays, particularly severe weather and substantial increases in passenger air travel driven by a healthy and growing economy. FAA continues to provide media tours of the Air Traffic Control Center in Herndon, VA, to help educate the public about the issue. In addition to collaborating with airlines and airports, FAA is using the following three-pronged approach to address growing delays: renewing and modernizing infrastructure, using new tools to increase capacity, and ongoing implementation of their Spring/Summer Plan.
- **Civil Penalty Against Boeing:** On August 2, the FAA proposed civil penalties totaling \$1.2M against the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group for two separate incidents involving quality control violations and failure to report cracks on 737 aircraft. A \$741,000 penalty is for Boeing's alleged failure to ensure that its suppliers and subcontractors adopt and adhere to Boeing's quality control policies and procedures. A \$500,000 penalty is for Boeing's alleged failure to report cracks in critical airplane structures within 24 hours as required by law.
- **USCG Seizes Russian Trawler:** On July 30, Coast Guard Cutter Acushnet observed the Russian fishing vessel Spetak illegally fishing in U.S. waters, 800 yards east of the U.S.-Russia Maritime Boundary in the Bering Sea. Acushnet seized the vessel and escorted it to Dutch Harbor, AK, where the National Marine Fisheries Service took custody.
- **Mesa Verde Fire:** About 25,000 acres of Mesa Verde National Park in CO have been charred from a fire that is still uncontrolled. The fire has shut down the Central Federal Lands Highway Division's (CFLHD) project involving the main entrance slide repair. The fire burned the posts on about 8,000 feet of guardrail on one of the main roads and destroyed the informational signs. The CFLHD is working with the National Park Service to add the replacement of this guardrail and the signs to the current project contract. There is also concern about soil erosion and slope stability now that the land is clear of most vegetation.
- **Mississippi Delta Assistance:** On August 8, following through on the recent conference "Delta Vision, Delta Voices" on conditions in the historically underdeveloped Mississippi Delta region, Secretary Slater addressed by telephone a three-day, multi-agency meeting in Memphis, TN, discussing collaborative efforts that can be taken across agency lines to assist the region, particularly in the area of natural resources. After Secretary Slater addressed the conference, he received questions expressing concerns that budget items for initiatives in the Delta have not received OMB support and concerns about demonstration

projects necessary to support collaboration in the Delta. The multi-agency group meeting will create a significant resource that will work in partnership with the proposed Delta regional authority, a recommendation of the recent conference. The authority would monitor progress in the region, ensure implementation of the commissions recommendations, avoid duplication, provide for cooperative participation by Federal, state, local, private-sector, and other grassroots organizations, and address funding issues. Among Federal agencies represented were DOT, HHS, DOE, USFS, EPA, NPS, TVA, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and SBA. Also participating were state and local officials and representatives of businesses and nonprofit organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **Southern Heat Relief:** On August 1, Secretary Richardson announced that DOE arranged for Sears, Carrier Corporation, Whirlpool Corporation, and Friedrich Air Conditioner Corporation to make more than 49,000 Energy Star-labeled air conditioners available for purchase by local weatherization agencies in TX, TN, and LA at a reduced price for installation in eligible low-income homes. DOE's Energy Star and Weatherization programs also cooperated in this venture. The states are using emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds from HHS to purchase the highly efficient air conditioners, which cost less to operate than conventional models. Since Secretary Richardson's announcement, AR and MS have joined the program.
- **Fissile Material Demonstration:** The Fissile Material Transparency Technology Demonstration originally scheduled to take place last spring has been rescheduled for the week of August 14 at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Russian Government officials and technical personnel from their nuclear research institutes have been invited to attend the demonstration along with DOE, DOD, and State, and the Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratories. The purpose of the demonstration is to show Russian policymakers and technical advisors how to protect classified and sensitive information concerning nuclear weapons design while measuring those attributes characteristic of a component from a dismantled nuclear weapon.
- **Mars Lander Mission:** NASA has announced selection of a Mars lander mission in 2003. NASA also indicated that a second lander is under consideration. The Mars landers may require Radioisotope Heater Units, which would be provided by DOE to keep components on the lander from freezing and malfunctioning. The number of heater units that would be needed is not yet fixed, but is projected at five to seven. DOE will also provide nuclear safety analysis in support of the mission Environmental Impact Statement and the mission launch approval process.

- **Automobile Fuel Economy:** GAO has completed a draft report on the potential effects of increasing the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. During the review and after consulting with experts, GAO found consensus that raising fuel economy standards would reduce future fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; however, its impact on vehicle safety is less certain. Recent studies project that improving the fuel economy of new vehicles would reduce the country's annual fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by between six and 37 percent over a 15- to 18-year period. The effect of increasing CAFE standards on vehicle safety is harder to quantify because it depends on many variables such as the amount of lead time given to manufacturers, the size of the CAFE increase, and the strategies manufacturers use to achieve fuel economy gains. The major concern about safety is that manufacturers might produce smaller, lighter vehicles to meet more stringent CAFE standards and thus sacrifice some level of occupant protection. GAO identified a number of other issues associated with raising CAFE standards. First, automobile manufacturers have had little incentive to improve fuel economy because over the past decade gas prices have been low and consumers have consistently purchased larger, more powerful vehicles that emphasize performance over fuel economy. Second, EPA's more stringent air quality standards may inhibit the use of certain technologies, such as diesel engines that have great potential for improving fuel economy but may not meet these standards. Third, EPA and DOT are concerned that vehicle classification regulations may be outdated, reducing the incentive for manufacturers to increase the fuel economy of their light trucks. Fourth, it is possible that technology-driven fuel economy increases could occur without increasing CAFE Standards. This audit was requested by Senator McCain.
- **Gasoline Prices Mixed, Stocks Down:** Price changes in gasoline spot and futures prices varied widely, despite a steady increase in crude oil prices driven largely by a large draw in crude oil inventories for the week ending July 28. The New York Harbor spot price for conventional regular gasoline fell 8.22 cents on August 7 to 77.75 cents per gallon, while the Los Angeles CARB RFG spot price rose 11.00 cents to 110.00 cents per gallon. (The spot price for West Texas Intermediate crude oil at Cushing, OK went from \$27.50 per barrel to \$28.93 per barrel during the same time period.) The U.S. average retail price for regular gasoline fell for the seventh straight week, dropping 0.9 cent to 146.2 cents per gallon as of August 7, 25.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. Prices declined for all regions except for the Midwest, where they increased for the first time since June 19, increasing by 1 cent per gallon. Despite this slight increase, the Midwest remains the region with the cheapest gasoline for the fourth consecutive week. Total motor gasoline stocks on August 4 were down 1.7 million barrels to 204.6 million barrels but were 0.6 million barrels above the level for the same week last year.
- **Clean Cities Vehicle Rebates:** DOE awarded \$800,000 to 49 Clean Cities coalitions, enabling them to offer rebates for the purchase of alternative fueled vehicles (AFVs). The rebates worth \$2,000 per vehicle can be obtained similarly to rebates that vehicle

manufacturers offer for conventional vehicles. The rebates are available through participating Clean Cities coalitions for the purchase of dedicated, light-duty vehicles. Because a dedicated AFV may cost \$3,000-\$5000 more than its conventional counterpart, these simple, easy-to-obtain rebates offer a significant incentive to invest in AFVs.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **Direct Loan Program:** On August 10, DOEd issued a press release about your announcement regarding lower interest rates for some student loan borrowers in the Direct Loan program. The initiative package is expected to save the U.S. government \$5M over five years due to more timely loan repayments from borrowers and an increase in direct loan consolidations. These two benefits will help borrowers enjoy significant savings on the cost of financing their education.
- **Educational Technology:** On September 11-12, DOEd will host its fourth annual conference on Educational Technology, spotlighting schools from all 50 states. The schools will share experiences, evaluation techniques, and untold success stories about the positive impacts technology is having on teaching and learning. Secretary Riley will deliver the keynote speech and discuss the third year of DOEd's e-rate program.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

- **VA Pharmacies Commended:** The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has credited VA with saving millions of dollars through its drug-purchasing programs, while maintaining a quality of care comparable to that of the private sector. IOM recommended that VA keep its current system for maintaining about 1,200 items in its inventory of pharmaceuticals, although it urged a reexamination of VA's policy of not adding new drugs to the inventory until at least one year after FDA approval.
- **Colon Cancer Research:** Researchers at 13 VA medical centers have found that colonoscopy may be superior to sigmoidoscopy, the procedure that is now commonly used in screening for colon cancer. The findings are published in the July 20 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. In the largest study ever on screening the entire colon for cancer in people without symptoms, VA researchers found that 10 percent of the 3,121 apparently healthy people who were screened using colonoscopy had colon cancer or serious precancerous growths. Moreover, they found that at least a third of these lesions would have been missed by sigmoidoscopy, which examines only the lower third of the colon.

8-16-00

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **Wetlands Protection:** EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers are preparing to announce steps to protect thousands of acres of wetlands currently being destroyed under a Clean Water Act regulatory loophole. The proposal would clarify the types of activities that are likely to result in a discharge of dredged material subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act. The proposal would represent an administrative response to enhance wetlands protection within the bounds of a previous court decision, which left certain forms of dredging essentially unchecked. Because the court's decision rested on its interpretation of the Act, Congressional action would be necessary to restore a full measure of wetlands protection.
- **Great Lakes Toxic Chemical Discharge:** To protect public health and help restore the Great Lakes, EPA is preparing final action to ban direct discharges of the most toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes. The chemicals include mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxin, chlordane, DDT, and mirex. This action will finalize the phase-out of discharges of toxic chemicals into "mixing zones," areas of the Lakes where discharges of toxic chemicals are allowed to mix with receiving waters and dilute. This action will prohibit new discharges into mixing zones and phase out the use of existing mixing zones over the next ten years.
- **Air Quality Trends Report:** On August 7, EPA issued its annual report on the status of the nation's air. The report concludes that while levels of all six criteria air pollutants are down over the past 20 years, work must continue to ensure steady improvements in air quality, especially as the economy, the number of vehicle miles traveled, and the population continue to grow. In 1999, over 150 million tons of air pollutants were released and over 125 million Americans lived in areas with unhealthy air. The air quality trends for some areas, including rural locations, have actually worsened. Ozone (smog) levels in some national parks such as Great Smoky Mountains and Shenandoah have increased in recent years. For the second consecutive year, average rural smog levels were greater than the average levels observed for urban sites. The report also finds that sulfur dioxide emissions have fallen below 1995 levels from the slight rise in the intervening years.
- **School Air Quality:** Last week, EPA sponsored the first national symposium about the need for clean indoor air in our nation's schools, and launched a national drive to increase awareness of this issue. At the event, EPA honored ten schools for their outstanding efforts to create healthier indoor environments for students and staff. These schools have adopted the low-cost techniques and suggestions of EPA's *Tools for Schools* kit that is designed to help educators and administrators improve air quality in schools. EPA's goal is to encourage school officials nationwide to protect the health of students and staff and to create more productive learning environments. According to a 1995 GAO report, over

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50 percent of our nation's schools have poor ventilation and significant sources of pollution in their buildings. This situation especially affects children with asthma, which is responsible for ten million missed school days per year and is the leading cause of long-term illness in children. About one in 13 school-age children has asthma, a figure that is increasing.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- **Loan Sale:** SBA completed a \$1.2B sale of loans from its growing small business and disaster loan portfolio. This is the second in a series of sales planned over a four-year period that began in FY1999. The sales are part of an innovative program to reduce the balance of SBA loans by up to \$10B at the end of the four-year period. SBA will use the mechanism established during that period to sell up to \$500M in loans every year thereafter. The sale was the largest Federal credit agency loan sale of its kind ever conducted. Combined with SBA's first sale last year of \$332M, this week's event brings the total loans sold to about \$1.5B. The two sales have generated \$725M in revenues, which SBA has turned over to Treasury, well in excess of what it would have cost SBA to hold on to the loans. The sale established innovative techniques for marketing and other tasks in such sales, including web-casting bidders' conferences and using the Internet to allow bidders to perform over high-speed remote access lines. Both were firsts for SBA and the Federal government.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

- **Presidential Advisory Committee on Expanding Training Opportunities:** Your Executive Order on using technology for training Federal employees established a Presidential Advisory Committee on Expanding Training Opportunities. The Advisory Committee met for the first time on August 1. The morning was devoted to a panel discussion and briefing by key Administration officials. The Committee's focus for the remainder of the day was the development of strategies and plans to complete the Executive Order tasks.
- **Transition Guidance:** OPM is developing operational guidance on appointments and separations for the outgoing and incoming Administrations. They expect to publish the transition guidance and post it on their website by the end of August.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

- **Indian Reservations Outreach:** On July 31, SSA, HCFA, and HHS's Indian Health Service (IHS) signed an interagency agreement to establish a demonstration project for education and outreach activities about SSA and HCFA services on Indian reservations and in AK. The project, funded by SSA and HCFA, will begin in October in four to six locations. IHS will provide the staff to conduct the education and outreach activities.

cc:

The Vice President

John Podesta

Martin Baily

Sandy Berger

Sidney Blumenthal

Chuck Brain

Charles Burson

Mary Beth Cahill

Maria Echaveste

George Frampton

Mickey Ibarra

Ben Johnson

Joel Johnson

Janis Kearney

Neal Lane

Jack Lew

Joe Lockhart

Lisel Loy

Buddy MacKay

Minyon Moore

Bruce Reed

Steve Ricchetti

Gene Sperling

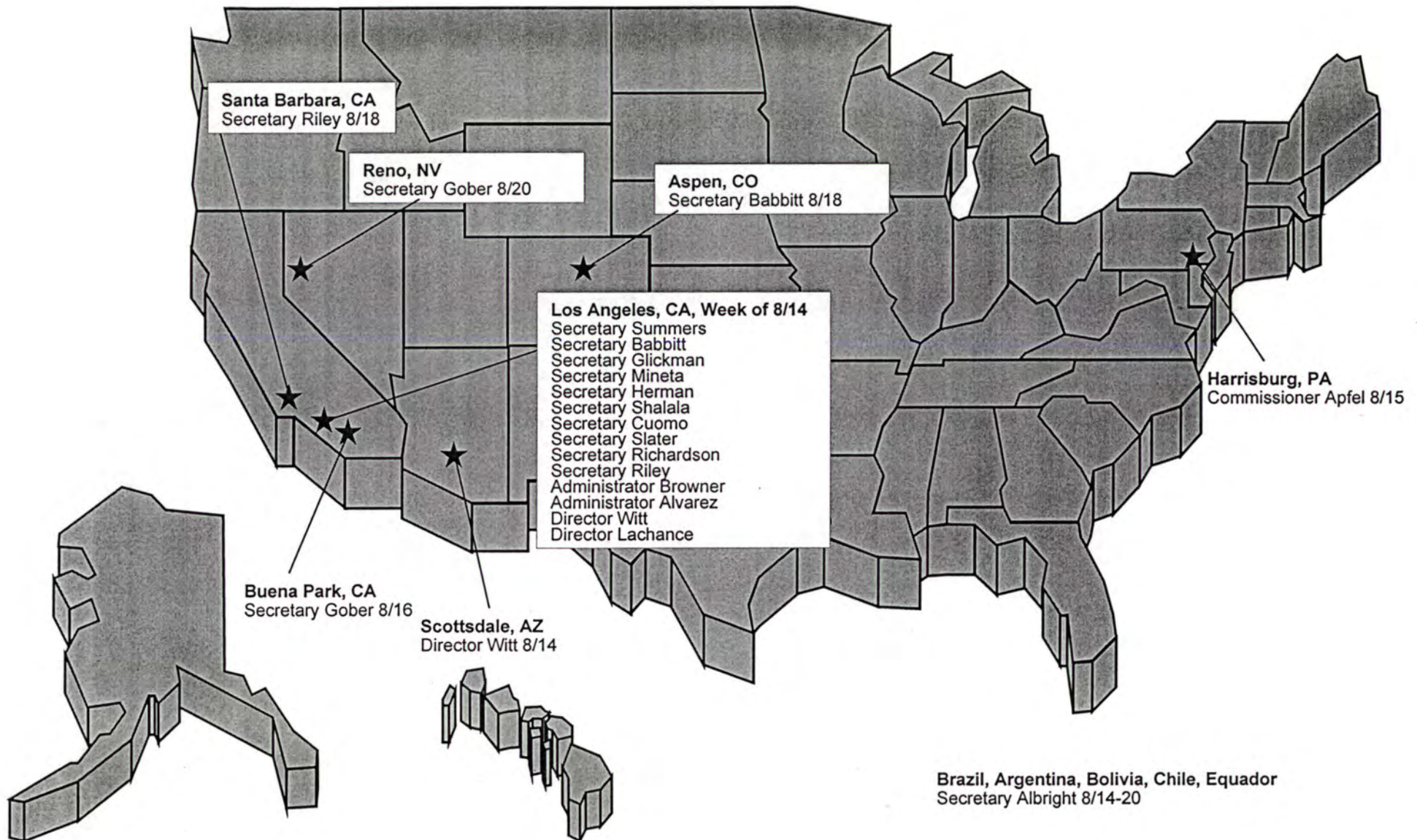
Lauren Supina

Loretta Ucelli

Melanne Verveer

Cabinet Affairs Travel

Monday, August 14 - Sunday, August 20, 2000



8-16-00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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AUGUST 11, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARY BETH CAHILL *mfc*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT (August 5 to August 11)

*copied
Cahill
Podesta*

I. ACTIONS SUPPORTING PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES:

NEW MARKETS INITIATIVE

OPL Hosts Briefing on New Markets Legislation. OPL, NEC and OMB briefed business leaders, NGO's, and community activists on the status of the New Markets legislation. Many are committed to seeing this important legislation passed in the fall and are aware of the positive benefits to the underserved.

II. CONSTITUENT OUTREACH AND OTHER ISSUES:

AFRICAN AMERICAN OUTREACH

African American Religious Leaders Express Support for Administration's Workforce Labor and After School Projects and Initiatives. OPL, along with IGA and OPA hosted a conference call with key First Ladies and other women leaders of the African American Church. Mrs. Serita Jakes (wife of Bishop T.D. Jakes), Dr. Theresa James (wife of Bishop Frederick James), Reverend Dr. Elaine Flake (wife of former Congressman Floyd Flake) and several other African American women religious leaders will follow-up on these initiatives with Secretary Herman who participated on the call. We will continue to host conference calls with key religious organizations and leaders to highlight the Administration's position on several issues concerning the faith community, including hate crimes, education, and social security.

OPL Facilitates Outreach to Prepare for Upcoming Nigeria Trip. OPL, NSC, State, and IGA Hosted a Roundtable and Two Outreach Conference Calls with U.S. Business Representatives, NGO's, and State and Local Elected Officials. Participants expressed their hope that a large component of your trip will highlight the importance and commitment of U.S. private sector partnerships and assistance in environmental programs in the Delta region. Many feel the Nigeria transition is tenuous and delicate and your visit will be key in sending the message that the U.S. is committed to supporting the country's new democracy. NSC and State commented that the passage of the AGOA bill, trade investments, the U.S. commitment on HIV/AIDS, and other health-related initiatives will be a focal point in the President's Trip.

RELIGIOUS OUTREACH

Muslims Express Concern About Selection of Senator Lieberman. As you would expect, reaction has been favorable among Christians, but there is deep concern among Muslims, particularly because of Lieberman's past criticism of you for being "too evenhanded" in your handling of Middle East issues.

8-16-00

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Copied
Johnson
Podesta

AUGUST 11, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: BEN JOHNSON

SUBJECT: OFFICE ON THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE FOR ONE AMERICA
WEEKLY REPORT

CONSTITUENT OUTREACH

Alexis Herman and I met with ten black newspaper to review with them the accomplishments of the administration. While they listened intently to our presentation, they were primarily seeking information on the Vice President and his running mate. We were able to knock down several nasty rumors, including allegations related to Sen. Lieberman's civil rights record and his position on affirmative action. The meeting took place at Bob Johnson's home and was also attended by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Additionally, I arranged for Alexis to do an interview with Tom Joyner on Thursday. Tom has requested the Vice President for next week, and we are in the process of setting up the interview for Monday. I also did an interview with Mary Mason of station WHAT in Philadelphia. She was broadcasting from the front lawn of the White House. We were able to highlight your appointments and many successes, which she raved about on the air.

CABINET RACE INITIATIVE WEEKLY

Department of Agriculture

USDA Approves ME Food Stamp Waiver: During the period from August 2-August 8, USDA approved a request from ME to extend its current waiver to Food Stamp Program work requirements for the Penobscot Indian Reservation, based on insufficient jobs at the reservation.

Department of Commerce

DOC has received some requests for information from reporters with prominent newspapers. Nadie Mustafa of the *Wall Street Journal* requested life expectancy data for Hispanics, African-Americans, and whites. Maurice Tamman of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* requested voting rates for African American men and women in 1998, and

Zeke Mania of the *Hispanic News Service* had questions about the importance of the American Community Survey for the Latino population.

Department of Health and Human Services

National Indian Health Board Annual Consumer Conference: On August 22-24, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) conducts its 18th annual consumer conference in Billings, Montana. The NIHB's membership is composed of 558 federally recognized tribes and advises the Congress and the Administration on health policy that affects American Indians and Alaska Natives. The conference theme is "Spirituality, Traditions, Wisdom and Unity: American Indian and Alaska Native Values for a Healthier Future." Kevin Thurm, Deputy Secretary, and Dr. Trujillo will speak on IHS programs and policies. Approximately 1,000 participants are expected to attend this year's conference.

American Indian and Alaska Native Research Centers: During the week of August 7, The Indian Health Service (IHS) will issue a media advisory on the availability of \$1.5 million in competitive grants to establish five American Indian and Alaska Native research centers in fiscal year 2001. The grants are the result of a partnership initiative between the IHS and NIH to include American Indians and Alaska Natives as participants in and beneficiaries of the research and training supported by the NIH. The initiative has two objectives: to empower tribes to influence research projects relevant to Indian communities and to increase the involvement of American Indian and Alaska Native people in the field of medical research.

AHRQ Awards 10 New Grants on Health Disparities: In late August, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will issue a press release to announce the funding of 10 new research projects as a result of the Agency's Health Disparities Request for Applications. Projects titles include: Access and Quality of Care for Vulnerable Black Population; Understanding and Reducing Native Elderly Health Disparities; and Improving the Delivery of Effective Care to Minorities.

Department of the Interior

The "Red Outline Map" and "Agreement" Referenced in the Mashantucket Pequot Settlement Act: Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General of Connecticut, requested access to the original "red outline map" and "agreement" referenced by the Mashantucket Pequot Settlement Act of 1983. (Note: The Settlement Act established a reservation for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe which included certain "private settlement lands." These lands are defined in the Act as the 800 acres, more or less, of privately held land which are identified by a red outline on a map filed with the Connecticut Secretary of State in accordance with the agreement referred to in section 1751(d) of this title. The Connecticut Secretary of State has no record of ever having received either the original "red outline map" or the "agreement.")

Department of Labor

Bidders' Conferences: Conferences on H1-B Technical Skill Grant Program and Minority Colleges and Universities Workforce Partnerships and Training Strategies to Address Skill Shortages Demonstration Program were held August 8, August 10, and August 11. The H1-B technical skills grant program conferences were held in Santa Clara, California and Alexandria, VA. The Training Strategies' for Minority Colleges and Universities bidders' conference was held in North Carolina and Virginia. Invitees include Presidents of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal and Hispanic Serving Institutions, Workforce Investment Boards and employer associations.

Sexual Harassment: On August 11, the Women's Bureau Region VII will conduct a "Sexual Harassment" training for the staff at Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas. Haskell University is one of three four-year colleges for Indians in the country. They estimate approximately 30 people will participate.

Unity Day: On August 31, the Women's Bureau Region VII will participate in the Unity Day program sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board (FEB). This Unity Day program has been planned by the FEB's Diversity Committee headed by Regional Administrator Rose Kemp, who also serves as a member of the FEB Executive Committee. This program is congruent with the President's One-America theme. The Unity Day planning committee is made up of members of various special emphasis groups including the Disabled Federal Employees Council, the Black Federal EC, Asian American Federal EC, Women's Federal Managers Program Council, and Native American FEC. They estimate 1200 people will attend the event which will include a naturalization ceremony where approximately 100 immigrants will be sworn in.

GI Forum: On August 10, Espiridion "Al" Borrego, Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, will address the national conference of the American G.I. Forum in Denver. He will speak about new employment and training initiatives for veterans, particularly in the high tech area, and how the Department of Labor is improving services to veterans under the Workforce Investment Act. The American G.I. Forum is the nation's largest Hispanic veterans organization.

Drug Abuse Prevention: Dr. Nelba Chavez, Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Representative Edward J. Markey will participate in a community celebration and press conference in Framingham, MA, to announce new materials from SAMHSA designed to enhance the dialogue between Spanish speaking Hispanic/Latino parents and their children about substance abuse.

Department of Justice

Ruby Bridges: At a August 10th reception, Deputy Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. made Ruby Bridges an honorary U.S. Marshal at the Corcoran Gallery of Art where Norman Rockwell's painting "The Problem We all Live With" is now displayed. This famous painting captures the moment where Ms. Bridges integrated an all-white elementary school in New Orleans. Later that evening, Deputy Attorney General Holder also attended a reception Ms. Bridges at the National Black Prosecutors Association annual conference in Washington, DC.

Department of Transportation

Secretary Slater to Address National Medical Association Leadership: On August 12, Secretary Slater will address the House of Delegates for the National Medical Association (NMA) in Washington, DC. NMA has taken a leadership role in carrying the traffic safety message to the African American community. Secretary Slater's remarks will focus on joint efforts to prevent injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes. At the forthcoming NMA Teen Forum on August 15, DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will conduct a "First There, First Care Bystander Care for the Injured" Training program for all the youth in attendance. This program is part of the DOT's public awareness program targeting all Americans of driving age on how to provide emergency roadway assistance. These efforts are part of DOT's campaign to increase seat belt and child safety seat use among African Americans, to reduce injuries related to impaired driving, and to increase pedestrian safety among African Americans.

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA awarded a \$438,235 Wetlands Program grant to the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, for the purpose of Wetlands Performance Partnership Grant increase of funds.

EPA awarded a \$107,000 Non-Point Source Program grant to the Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington, for the purpose of monitoring and repairing damaged non-point source projects and monitoring sites.

EPA awarded a \$120,000 Environmental Capacity Building grant to the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, for the purpose of developing an environmental action plan, tribal utility authority and participate in the regional water quality efforts.

Small Business Administration

Highlight on Native American outreach at Department of Education Conference: On July 31, SBA's Deputy Associate Administrator for Native American Affairs was the keynote speaker at the DOE's Rehabilitation Services Administration's (RSA) Annual Special Projects Conference. The topic was "The Future of SBA with RSA and Native

American Communities.” SBA discussed SBA programs and services that are available to RSA clients and participants expressed interest in future cooperative activities.

Social Security Administration

SSA, Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) and Indian Health Services (IHS) Sign Interagency Agreement: On July 31, SSA, HCFA, and IHS signed an interagency agreement to establish a demonstration project for education and outreach activities about SSA’s and HCFA’s services on Indian reservations and in Alaska. The agreement, initiated by SSA, represents one of the Agency’s major initiatives to provide better service to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The project, funded by SSA and HCFA, will begin in October in four to six locations. IHS will provide the staff to conduct the education and outreach activities.



NATIONAL SECURITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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August 7, 2000



The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Your National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) met on May 16, 2000. We addressed national security and emergency preparedness issues for our nation's telecommunications infrastructure and related information systems. Your attention is requested to effect action on one major issue that surfaced.

To properly protect our critical national infrastructure and respond to attacks in a timely manner, private entities must be able to freely exchange critical infrastructure protection information with each other and the government. Real or perceived, barriers to sharing must be removed. Among those barriers are the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and potential legal liabilities.

In this regard, we understand Congressional action is imminent. Therefore, in advance of our meeting report, we urge you to support legislation similar to the Y2K Information and Readiness Disclosure Act that would protect CIP information voluntarily shared with the Government from disclosure under FOIA and limit liability. Your support will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Van B. Honeycutt
Chairman

8-16-00

To NSC for reply?

Yes ☒ No ☐

cc: Legislative Affairs?

Yes ☒ No ☐

S.

National Security Affairs
urity, Infrastructure Protection, and Counter-terrorism
ications System

Subcommittee Members