



Artist
Valentir
Zubiri

312-944-7492
WWW.VALZUBIRI.COM
333 E. ONTARIO



ARTIST VAL ZUBIRI WWW.VALZUBIRI.COM
333 E. ONTARIO #512-B, CHICAGO, IL 60611 312-944-7492

Ms. Betty Currie
Personal Secretary to the President
The White House Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Currie:

I am writing to ask for your cooperation in directing this letter to President Gore and Senator Lieberman. Your close proximity to the President is a luxury I don't have. You can keep the pin if you want. You could be a part of my own special way. I'm also worried about the timing of wearing it, as the pin is on September 10 for the Primetime Emmys and a week later for the Presidential Inauguration. In time I'm still hoping for the President to decide to use the symbol. In time I'm still hoping for the symbol to be the help with this mission of AIDS Awareness for the public.

9-5-00

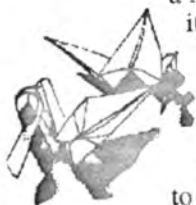
To VP's office?

Yes ☒ No ☐

B.

Dear Vice President Gore and Senator Lieberman:

I am Asian visual artist Val Zubiri. I am writing to share with you the concept of a New York p.r. firm, would "snowball into a public relation" it is definitely something which other parties cannot duplicate. because several mnemonic theories of advertising and visual communication carefully consider it.



Asia has an ancient legend which states that your wish will come to pass when you make a thousand paper cranes. I am the artist who conceptualized the "AIDS Crane." I attached the AIDS Ribbon to the paper crane's beak - the dove with an olive twig, but with a needed Millennium twist. "I look forward to the finding of the cure for HIV/AIDS." The media coverage and support that resulted has prompted me to pursue it on a global scale. Sectors like the advertising and paper industries and a few celebrities already have knowledge of this project. I will be comprehensively sending letters to celebrities next month, for them to wear and be photographed with the AIDS Crane Pin in public. I also have four book projects.

Then it dawned on me that you could reap the benefits of wearing the Pin!
Here are some points that can be discussed with staff and advisors:

1. **You QUADRUPLE your exposure time** Where your voice can't be heard, on still magazine/newspaper photos and silenced television (like bars and night clubs) the symbol "speaks" for you 24-7.
2. **You add a new topic of discussion** People will start asking, what's that on his lapel? Why aren't the other parties wearing it? People have already heard and debated your key points all this time. But not AIDS Awareness. Wearing the Pin now is new, positive, surprising and unimitatable move.
3. **Others wearing the pin reinforces your leadership** An acknowledgement of unity. Opponents would wish they wore it first because at this point in the campaign, a symbol like this is hard to come by. Be the first for all time.
4. **Celebrities follow suit.** It would be a great, strategic move if you wear the pin before the Primetime Emmys on September 10 and the Latino Grammys a week later. Lead the celebrities! They're hoping you go first, but we would all respect your decision.
5. **You balance the Playboy Mansion fundraising publicity.** By exemplifying responsibility.
6. **You will add a visible Asian dimension to the Democratic Party** The Asian origami pin intensifies diversity. Imagine Jesse Jackson wearing an Asian Origami AIDS Crane pin! I'll pass out!



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Ms. Betty Currie
Personal Secretary to the President
The White House Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

00 SEP 5 16:00

Dear Ms. Currie:

I am writing to ask for your cooperation in directing this letter to President Clinton, and if possible, Vice President Gore and Senator Lieberman. Your close proximity to the President and the Vice President is a luxury I don't have. You can keep the pin if you want. You could be a crucial influence to this mission in your own special way. I'm also worried about the timing of wearing it, as some celebrities are now planning to wear the pin on September 10 for the Primetime Emmys and a week later for the Latino Grammys. If you don't mind, I would still appreciate asking the President for a personal letter of endorsement whether or not his party decides to use the symbol. In time I'm still hoping for the symbol to be used all over the world. Thank you for the help with this mission of AIDS Awareness for the public.

Dear Vice President Gore and Senator Lieberman:

I am Asian visual artist Val Zubiri. I am writing to share with you the *AIDS Crane Project*, which, quoting a New York p.r. firm, would "*snowball into a public relations phenomenon*." It is meaningful and it is definitely something which other parties cannot duplicate. This project has been well thought of, because several mnemonic theories of advertising and visual arts are in use, so I hope that you would carefully consider it.



Asia has an ancient legend which states that your wish will come to pass when you make a thousand paper cranes. I am the artist who conceptualized the "*AIDS Crane*." I attached the AIDS Ribbon to the paper crane's beak - the dove with an olive twig, but with a needed Millenium twist. "*I look forward to the finding of the cure for HIV/AIDS*." The media coverage and support that resulted has prompted me to pursue it on a global scale. Sectors like the advertising and paper industries and a few celebrities already have knowledge of this project. I will be comprehensively sending letters to celebrities next month, for them to wear and be photographed with the *AIDS Crane Pin* in public. I also have four book projects.

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Here are some points that can be discussed with staff and advisors:

1. **You *QUADRUPLE* your exposure time** Where your voice can't be heard, on still magazine/newspaper photos and silenced television (like bars and night clubs) the symbol "speaks" for you 24-7.
2. **You add a new topic of discussion** People will start asking, what's that on his lapel? Why aren't the other parties wearing it? People have already heard and debated your key points all this time. But not AIDS Awareness. Wearing the Pin now is new, positive, surprising and unimitatable move.
3. **Others wearing the pin reinforces your leadership** An acknowledgement of unity. Opponents would wish they wore it first because at this point in the campaign, a symbol like this is hard to come by. Be the first for all time.
4. **Celebrities follow suit.** It would be a great, strategic move if you wear the pin before the Primetime Emmys on September 10 and the Latino Grammys a week later. Lead the celebrities! They're hoping you go first, but we would all respect your decision.
5. **You balance the Playboy Mansion fundraising publicity.** By exemplifying responsibility.
6. **You will add a visible Asian dimension to the Democratic Party** The Asian origami pin intensifies diversity. Imagine Jesse Jackson wearing an Asian Origami AIDS Crane pin! I'll pass out!

7. **You get international endorsement!** Other countries will talk about the pin because it will affect them as well. You will represent an international, long-term mission which will empower you domestically.
8. **You represent everyone else's mission** The mind tends to generalize and form abstract concepts from the persistent reinforcement of representing something as specific as AIDS Awareness.
9. **You become the new ACTIVIST** You even gain the respect and votes of violent but obviously caring demonstrators.
10. **You visually represent the Arts** Another classic mnemonic theory in arts and advertising in use: Two old familiar symbols juxtaposed would convey a new but extremely memorable message. Another stand of mine is that people like to be seen with athletes, actors and musicians. What happened to painters?
11. **The better leader shares the spotlight** With a mission and an artist who has no political ambition.
12. **You are the more alert, in touch, and approachable candidate** Val can approach you, so can everyone else. No selfish conditions of waiting for you to be elected President to get results.
13. **The AIDS Crane is NEW and NOW** It's a new dimension to the old AIDS Awareness movement. Wearing the 1980's red ribbon would date the campaign. However, the Pin would have an opposite effect.
14. **AIDS Awareness is a SAFE ISSUE** It's been proven and done. It has its own machineries which need a jump-start, BUT funding has gone down and people are still getting sick! All AIDS Activists, The Centers for Disease Control, The Department of Health & Human Services, South Africa and other NATIONS, Voters will all appreciate you!
15. **You are the Global Candidate who acts locally** Everyone is globalizing. Individuals, businesses, missions. So are you. You are on a mission of peace and health for the world. You are the world's ambassador - there's no need to claim the military's self esteems is stupidly low.

The AIDS Crane has the potential of letting you reach your critical TIPPING POINT
(based on by Malcolm Gladwell's book, The Tipping Point) to get the majority to your side.

Even if you don't use the symbol, Vice President Gore and Senator Lieberman, I still have plans to request for letters of endorsement from you as the Vice President and Senator, from other senators and congressmen, and from President and Mrs. Clinton. People - the youth! - are still getting sick. I still would need your endorsements even if it wasn't an election year. But I would be honored to see you as the first influential person to wear the pin with international coverage.

I'm still hoping for the AIDS Crane to jump-start the movement again. I am hoping that the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies and governments not only in the United States, but other countries as well will use the symbol on their HIV/AIDS-related brochures. I'm still hoping for AIDS Crane postage stamps soon.

I am available to come to Washington any minute you ask me to, if you need to have a better grasp of the AIDS Crane Project or if you need me to help spread the word around. I am ready to volunteer and help integrate this into your campaign. You might want to check my website as well. It showcases the AIDS Crane project and has instructions on how to make paper cranes.

Ask your security to clean the safety pin, make sure it's safe. Then, face a mirror and wear the Pin.

Sincerely Yours,



Artist Val Zubiri



PARVATI KHAN

00 SEP 5 1990

Betty Currie
Personal Secretary,
President WJ Clinton,
White House.
30th August 2000.

URGENT ATTN BETTY CURRIE. PS PRESIDENT CLINTON.

Dear Betty,

How are you? I am writing to appeal for an issue with which I write.

I have been in communication with President Clinton Vajpayee, at the official lunch hosted in the President's last. My communications concerned requesting the President by giving me a hearing at the White House and in seeking a heads of state hearing of this song at the UN. I am sure that you will be aware that the President was in personally acknowledging my work towards this 9 years of efforts and asked for a copy of the song, which Social Secretary informing me that my song was an opportunity arose my song could get a hearing at the opportunity to materialize before President Clinton leave. I taking you in confidence because I know you are President.

I have been in New York for a month and I have written to the President on two occasions since with regard to the UN Summit and as I have had no response I was concerned. The Summit begins in a few days. I also wrote to him requesting that I may please be included on the guest list concerning the banquet coming up in honor of PM Vajpayee. Both PM Vajpayee and the President are aware of my work and commitment towards the cause and I thought it would be a blessing if I got to be part of the affair. It would be glorious indeed if you were to please invite me?

I am hoping you would have seen my communications concerning this matter of promoting global peace and that hopefully the President would have had the moment to browse through my matter. I am extremely distressed at the moment as time is running out as far as the UN Summit is concerned. President Clinton's support is all my hope, all I can rely upon. I know this sounds odd but this is a purely humanitarian request, toward a gigantic global cause! Mr. Kofi Annan's office keeps saying that time is a problem even though my request could go as low as ten- fifteen seconds if I should recite the poem at the opening of the Summit.

This message of humanity and unity being heard before a heads of state meet has been the very concept of my song. This message is purely and divinely a universal prayer, which promotes peace for each and every country, for global unity! I want to stay clear of any projection of representing a single country, because it defeats the whole concept of global humanity and unity universally! I am sure you will see what I am saying.

America is the country where the individual could be heard, as told to the world by President Clinton and Mr. Kofi Annan.

9-5-00

Is Cohen for reply?
Yes ☒ No ☐

Coordinate with

Social office? ☒ N
NSC ☒ Y ☒ N

B.

PARVATI KHAN

00 SEP 5 4:00

Betty Currie,
Personal Secretary,
President WJ Clinton,
White House.
30th August 2000.

URGENT ATTN BETTY CURRIE. PS PRESIDENT CLINTON.

Dear Betty,

How are you? I am writing to appeal for your kind support and response on the issue with which I write.

I have been in communication with President Clinton since I met with him through our PM Vajpayee, at the official lunch hosted in the President's honor during his visit to India March last. My communications concerned requesting the President for his support of global peace by giving me a hearing at the White House and in supporting my nine year old efforts in seeking a heads of state hearing of this song at the UN.

I am sure that you will be aware that the President was magnanimous and extremely gracious in personally acknowledging my work towards this global cause. He commended the long years of efforts and asked for a copy of the song, which was sent. I received a letter from his Social Secretary informing me that my song was enjoyed and that when the appropriate opportunity arose my song could get a hearing at the White House. I am hoping for this opportunity to materialize before President Clinton leaves office?

I taking you in confidence because I know you are a trusted and special person to the President.

I have been in New York for a month and I have written to the President on two occasions since with regard to the UN Summit and as I have had no response I was concerned. The Summit begins in a few days. I also wrote to him requesting that I may please be included on the guest list concerning the banquet coming up in honor of PM Vajpayee. Both PM Vajpayee and the President are aware of my work and commitment towards the cause and I thought it would be a blessing if I got to be part of the affair. It would be glorious indeed if you were to please invite me?

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America is the country where the individual could be heard, as told to the world by President Clinton and Mr. Kofi Annan.

And there is no doubt about the immense good the individual could do if given he/she is supported or is given the chance, and the immense damage the negative individual brings to the world over! I truly need the support of the highest authorities!

The spirit at this Summit must emphasize the human factor and I could be the first example! The UN is the correct platform from which such a human appeal for global unity ought to be heard. But getting a consensus on this from all heads of the world is impossible.

So, it is within the jurisdiction and the prerogative of the President of America, on humanitarian grounds, through Mr. Holbrooke, to approve and relevantly recommend that two minutes be given to my presentation at the Summit, purely on merit! Tons of people do horrible things out there, creating so much of disharmony in the world. And here I am going through the entire drill for nine years now. And, I never gave up, all because I believe in this cause. But I truly need support from the highest authorities of the world to be able to put across this message at the right place?

The President is himself such a real promoter of global peace and such a kind person as well! His positive action on this matter could really be good for him as well, because he would have initiated a true gesture of humanity and concern for all countries, crossing all barriers and boundaries! Since he is leaving office soon, especially with the entire trauma he is facing at the moment, doing this, would be immensely uplifting in every sense! America would appreciate it. The whole world would as well!

My credibility as an artiste and as a person, I hope would suffice or I would certainly would not have been recognized by PM Vajpayee when I invited to be his guest and was introduced to President Clinton at the official lunch hosted in honor of the President. And I'd like to think that President Clinton most certainly showed some regard for me as a being and as an artiste who's struggling to promote a big cause all by myself for over so many years, when he graciously responded to my letter of request!

I believe this is a divine calling and it is a message from god to the President. This great service to mankind must be accomplished especially during his rough period, as he bows out of office!

As I mentioned to the President that one person may have brought great harm to him but I am confident that god has his ways of balancing things out... he's paid a heavy price already. God sends another with a divine and uplifting opportunity for the President. Or why else would I be persistently and transparently making these appeals over and over? Nothing happens without a reason in this world. This is a great spiritual mission coming from my soul! The President is the only person to permit this universal human appeal, the opportunity to be heard at the UN! After all there is only good to offer. And good never hurt? I believe Mr. Clinton must listen to the spiritual messages, which I have been conveying to him all these months. He must do as much good as possible. I pray you Betty, see me for who I am and help by supporting a positive action. Please personally hand over my letter enclosed/ attached to the President, which has been faxed as well in order to save time.

I am depending on your personal harmony to help a great thing to happen? May I also please once again request to be invited to the banquet please?

Would greatly appreciate a prompt acknowledgement of my letter to you and to the President at the phone number: 9144256541 or e-mail pkhan@hotmail.com please Betty?

The President's letter was sent about half-hour ago. I am re-attaching the copy along with this letter. I will also send it by mail.

Sincerely,


PARVATI KHAN.

(attachment continuing)

PARVATI KHAN

President W.J. Clinton
The White House
30th August 2000.

(ATTN: P-S. BETTY CURRIE.)

URGENT ATTN PRESIDENT WJ CLINTON.

THIS IS A SPECIAL LETTER IN CONTINUATION WITH MY COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT.

Dear President Clinton,

Welcome home! How are you? Hope you have had an enjoyable tour? I am once again reaching out to you, please do not throw my letter in the garbage bin? This is important! I have written to you with regard to possibly being invited to attend the banquet you intend to host, in honor of Mr. Vajpayee; as a prominent artiste recognized by Mr. Vajpayee himself and also by yourself since we met. You are aware of my background and complete commitment towards promoting global unity.

I am not discouraged by not receiving a response on this request yet from you, because I am aware of all the pressures you are continually facing. For some uncanny reason, I seem to honestly care enough; and it actually hurts when I listen to the news everyday carrying some new stuff about you! And I know that it hurts deep within you too. But you have been a courageous man and you can't let them pull you down. When we experience such difficult times, the impact is tremendous! But, the key is, no matter what, stick to positive thinking no matter how hard it feels at the time. Know that there are hundreds of thousands of people out there all over the globe who understand your predicament and understand and sympathize! Believe me this is true! I am one of them!

And this is the amazing lesson I learnt back a couple years. I learnt that no matter where you were born, no matter which race or religion you belonged to, the human reality is that we are all connected we all belong to each other! And this is why I believe in global unity so. I know that everything that happens in the world no matter where it happens affects us all. It is just that when it happens to us, we come to realize it.

The love for you out there beyond America forms a strong circle of spiritual good force especially throughout the last few years this is where your strength comes from, from all the positive and well wishing thoughts around the world going out to you. Please see the sense in what I say. Things could have been a lot worse but god has a way of balancing things. God knows that you've been through an ordeal and you paid a heavy price as well. Think of only positive actions and consequences. Think of doing good personally. Think of going out there and actually feeding the poor, tend to the feelings of the loneliness of the orphans, go out there and visit the crippled. Help as many as you can directly with your heart and hands and watch the magic of god!

You must realize I have been constantly communicating spiritually lifting thoughts to you, because god connected us for a good purpose. If one person became the cause to bring you down, well god sent another positively charged soul to convey and guide you to a meaningful way with these good and uplifting messages. Take heed of them. Nothing happens in this world without a reason President Clinton, everything has a clear purpose. Yes even the big mistakes as well! They have huge blessings hidden in them. You must see what they are.

I became connected to you since March when we met in India. I immediately requested you to support a noble cause, to support an individual of the world community, for great reasons. I needed your one word of support to Mr. Richard Holbrooke so that my unity song of a couple minutes could be heard at the opening of the Summit. I requested to be heard at the White House before you would leave. I requested only things with which, if you associated yourself, would be definitely fulfilling and noble. You are a kind man. That was all the opportunity on purely human grounds to promote peace before the heads of state for us all in the world.

I WAS clear that there was no sense in talking about global unity if I was to project a single nationality image. I truly hoped that this point would be grasped and be welcomed.

This love that connects us all to the universe is the basis of humanity, which makes us feel about others no matter where we are in the world! We all do not realize it. Please trust me something like this is rare!

The very fact that no other artiste in the world has ever persevered by himself/herself to promote peace for so long, unrelenting and unflinching in commitment, totally by his or her own earnings in life hopefully says something for my determination and sincerity? And to still keep such a passionate interest alive after the entire let downs and lack of support, don't you thing there could be something genuine here?

The fact remains is that it is you alone who could cause me to be granted a minute even to recite the poem at the opening of the Summit, or at any point of the Summit. America is the backbone of the UN. The UN seemed lazy (a nice request) to get a consensus from all the countries to allow me to appear for a minute to pertinently recite this poem of unity and peace. I hoped a sincere individual with a background, someone committed totally to global unity and not projecting a country, would be granted this opportunity by the most important Head of the world, yes you President Clinton! (which would be Mr Richard Holbrooke's direct support) purely on humanitarian grounds and also relevantly to the Summit and platform of peace promotion! This would be a hugely good thing for all! It would simply demonstrate your boundless humanity! Your ability to rise above all barriers and support the most important thing of the world... world peace, world unity! I am aware that your advisors would see this matter quite differently and justifiably so, but please see through the fog and mist see the divine mission involved here. I would never struggle this way for so many years otherwise!

The time has come and it is you who is the angel now and you must see the messages coming to you for so long now. Besides, this is a perfectly noble gesture from whichever angle you look at it. You will be blessed for supporting this cause I am certain. This is the same unity that bring us to a meaningful understanding of how the world works in spite of all that's going on. Support is true unity and we both need support. This is a good cause you must spiritually support this effort please. I cannot do much more to reach out to you. I am just an ordinary and simple person but I persevere because I care. Support is so necessary to all of us in life!

I wish I could be there to talk about all the good things that hidden in pain, about all the blessings that are hidden in these difficult times. You have done a magnificent job for America and that's why Mr. Gore will win this elections!

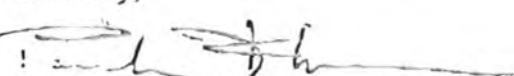
But YOU are in office today and TODAY is important. You can help to make this world a better place by also supporting my request. Once you leave office there will be no President Clinton to whom I could ask for a fair support? Another President (as an individual) may not be concerned! This is one good action, which will be hugely meaningful. Trust that you are guided now.

May I also please request once again to please be allowed to be part of the banquet? It would be the moment of my whole life. I hope my background and my standing towards the cause etc which you are aware of may help me make it? And please do not forget that your social secretary promised an opportunity for me to sing at the White House when the opportunity arises. Please definitely let it be before you leave office?

Well, I must sign off now and I am really, really hoping for a telephonic response from your secretary or something positive from you this time? I thank you for all your patience and understanding. I am looking forward to seeing you at the banquet and at the Summit! (smile)

Stay good and all will be well. Until...

Sincerely,


PARVATI KHAN.



00 SEP 5 PM 6:00

William J. Hybl
President

August 25, 2000

Mr. William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the Games of the XXVIIth Olympiad in Sydney, Australia, quickly approach, I write on behalf of the United States Olympic Committee to express our support for the universal observance of the Olympic Truce.

In his letter of August 9, 2000, International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch respectfully called on you as President of the United States to make "a solemn appeal to the leaders and political parties of countries engaged in armed conflict to observe the Olympic Truce." Traditionally, the United States has been at the forefront of promoting peace throughout the world, and your Administration, in particular, has been highly visible in its efforts to broker greater harmony among peoples.

On this eve of the first Olympic Games of the new millenium, the USOC could not agree more with President Samaranch. The Olympic Truce, if only for the duration of the Games, should be fully embraced for the sake of encouraging peace and security for the many whom remain at risk.

Sincerely,

William J. Hybl

9-5-00

To Cohen for reply?
Yes ☒ No ☐

Coordinate with NSC?
Yes ☒ No ☐

S.

Lieutenant JG Gregory P. Malandrino
Building 2700
1140 Moffett Avenue
Kingsville, TX 78363-5021

00 SEP 5 PM 6:00

Dear Lieutenant Malandrino:

I wish to convey my sincere congratulations on the occasion of your receiving your wings as a Naval Aviator. You should be justifiably proud of this very significant accomplishment. You clearly have met the many challenges of this very demanding program head-on and with outstanding results. Well done!

It seems like only yesterday that I presented you with your diploma from the United States Naval Academy which launched your career as a Navy Officer.

My very best wishes for continued success in the service of our country as a Naval Aviator.

Sincerely,

9-5-00

Carolyn -

State/Protocol
asked us for this
letter to be done.
Important to 1 p/b

9-5-00

Is Cohen for letter?

Yes ☒ No ☐

3.

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY**

Washington Dulles International Airport → P.O. Box 17045 → Washington, DC 20041-0045

DULLES AIRPORT OPERATIONS

(703) 572-2730 VOICE

(703) 572-5718 FAX

This transmission consists of 3 Pages including this cover.

To: MARIA SOTIROPOULOSOrganization: STATE DEPARTMENTFax #: 202-647-3980☐ For approval☐ For your action☐ For review & Comment☐ As requested☐ For you information

HARD COPY BEING SENT VIA

☐ Mail☒ Not Being Sent ..

Remarks: MARIA:

ENCLOSED ARE PROPOSED LETTERS FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON AND SECRETARY ALBRIGHT.

I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP. THE LETTERS WILL MEAN A LOT TO MY SON.

PRESIDENT CLINTON PRESENTED GREG WITH HIS DIPLOMA WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM THE NAVAL ACADEMY IN 1998. GREG GETS HIS AVIATOR (PILOT) WINGS ON JUL 14TH

THANK YOU MARIA - PAUL

From PAUL MALANDRINO Title OPS MANAGER

Martha Trego
522 Washington Street
Salisbury MD 21804
Tel: 410-860-0770
August 25, 2000

Ms. Betty Currie
Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Currie:

00 SEP 5 PM 6:00

I am enclosing a letter and poem book for President Clinton. My daughter and I were at the Korean War ceremony on June 25th and were very moved by his speech. Many of the poems in this book were inspired by what my daughter observed that day and by the President's wonderful speech.

Since I wasn't certain of how to get this to the President, I thought that it might be best to address it to you. I would be grateful if you would see that President Clinton receives this book and letter. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Martha Trego

Martha Trego

*Recommend sending
to Gift Unit.*

*Can we do
"nice" TX?*

*Yes ✓
No _____*

9-5-00

*To Cohen for
acknowledgment?*

Yes ✓ No _____

B.

Martha Trego
522 Washington Street
Salisbury, MD 21804
Tel: 410-860-0770
August 25, 2000

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On June 25th of this year, my daughter and I attended the 50th anniversary ceremony honoring veterans of the Korean War. I want to thank you for your participation and for the dignity and respect that you have shown to our veterans.

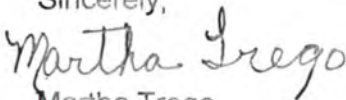
I was nearly eight years old when I lost my favorite uncle on Thanksgiving of 1950. Days later, my family received word that my brother Thomas had been seriously wounded in Korea. Less than two months later, on January 8th, my mother died. Then my brother Thomas was killed in Korea on March 2, 1951. Just three weeks later, I lost my favorite grandmother. Four deaths in less than four months is a lot for a child to understand and accept. But of those I lost, the loss of my brother has been the hardest. For me, it has been a wound that never healed.

In August of 1999, at a family reunion, my daughter watched as my youngest brother Dick (who was thirteen when Thomas died) and I cried on each other's shoulders. We never believed that Thomas had been brought home. We had heard so many stories of bodies buried in mass graves, the cold and the hunger. It was that day, that she decided to find Thomas and try to answer our questions. For a year, she has struggled to find information. Unfortunately, most of Thomas' service records were either destroyed or misplaced in the fire at the archives. In March of this year, we finally received his personal death file. You can not imagine the comfort that it has brought to us. We know that there is no doubt that Thomas is home, for we now have copies of the identification records. We also are comforted to know that Thomas was buried in the United Nations Cemetery by a chaplain. Finally knowing some of the answers, started the healing process.

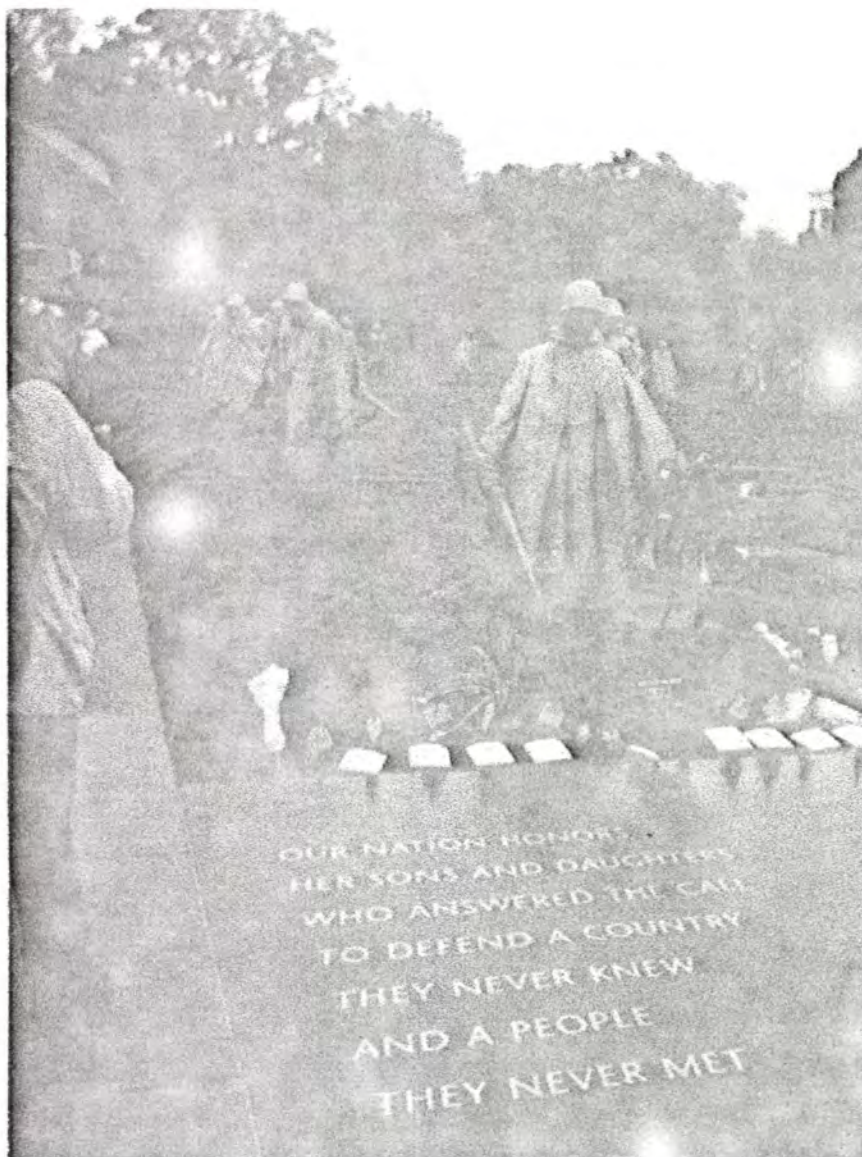
On June 25th, as I sat among the veterans and listened to you speak, I found closure. For too long, our Korean veterans were forgotten. For me, I felt that my brother's death had no reason, no purpose. But as I listened to you that day, I felt proud of my brother and the other veterans who served. I know that my brother was a hero. Thank you for your compassion.

We have just received information on the 50th anniversary ceremony that is being held in Norfolk, September 15-17 from the widow of a Korean veteran. My daughter and I were very pleased to see your name listed as a speaker and we look forward to seeing you again.

Although I can never thank you enough for your compassion and your commitment to helping our veterans, I wanted you to have this poem book as a symbol of my daughter and my gratitude. These poems were written by my daughter, Amanda, as a tribute to the uncle she never knew and to the veterans that have helped guide her through this year. Many of them were inspired by the stories veterans told her June 25th, by the ceremony and by your words. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Martha Trego

Reflections of the Korean War



Fifty years later

Amanda C. Trego



Stanley K. Sheinbaum

THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN
9-5-00

✓ cc
Sealy
Baker
Kucinich
CIS
RFP
Loren

Fax

To: Nancy Hernreich

From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum

Fax:

Pages: 7

Phone:

Date: 08/29/00

Nancy,

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Kate Green

Patricia Sheinbaum

Stanley
Vietnam

to go

2. Gus.

— put in pen for
— I want a group
+ I think we should
let him take him
and L Sanchez—

Ex

Copied
personal file
(original)
Street
NSC WW Desk
Berger
Tramontano
Rosen



Stanley K. Sheinbaum

29 August, 2000

President Bill Clinton
The White House—West Wing
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500-2000

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We returned home by way of Saigon which itself was a not good experience. My brother Gilbert, a Foreign Service Officer, was Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker's Special Assistant, and as is easily imaginable the relationship between Gilbert and myself was worse than ice. After all, he argued, we had to stop the Commies.

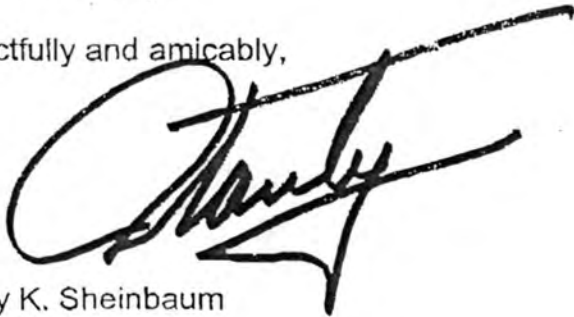
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The point is that I would dearly love to go back to Vietnam and to do it with you. It would be at a specific closing phase of your current career and at mine as well. What say?

Respectfully and amicably,

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Stanley K. Sheinbaum
SKS/kc
enclosures

PS By the way, my brother Gilbert's son, Neil Sheinbaum, a Seaman from the carrier the USS Constellation, has just been assigned to the White House military attachment. I have told Bruce Lindsay about this, and I hope at some point you can just say hello. Fear not, he is not like me.

★ ★ ★
AJCongress
★ ★ ★

American Jewish Congress
Stephen Wise Congress House
15 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
212 879-4500 • Fax 212 249-3672

Office of the President

August 23, 2000

Via Facsimile: (202) 456-2883

Ms. Nancy Hennreich
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Director of Oval Office Operations
Executive Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
1st Floor, West Wing
Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

Dear Nancy:

President Clinton asked that I contact you to try to schedule a meeting in New York City with the leadership of the Jewish community. He seemed anxious to have such a meeting take place and thought there would be an opportunity during his visit at the upcoming UN session.

The American Jewish Congress would be pleased to host such a meeting. We would invite the members of the Conference Of Presidents Of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Sincerely,


JACK ROSEN

copied
Streett
Currie
Hennreich
Podesta

9-5-00
Stephane
cc Not

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jy1 -
Wt
Need to do this
when in NYC this
week if at all poss-
ible. See another.



Stanley K. Sheinbaum

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
9-5-00

Fax

To: Nancy Hernreich

From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum

Fax:

Pages: 7

Phone:

Date: 08/29/00

Nancy,

This letter and attachments that Stanley mentioned is being sent overnight today—herewith the letter.

Kate Cerin

Peter S. ...

Carolyn-

Return for

Per file

- put in per for*
- I want a group*
- I think we should*
- I'd like to take him*
- and L. Sanchez—*

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NSC
Podesta
Personal file*

*✓ cc
Early Burger
Bob Brubaker
Kucinich
(for CDS rep)
Lito Rose*

*Stanley want
Vietnam*

to go

2. Gus.



Stanley K. Sheinbaum

29 August, 2000

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The White House—West Wing
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Washington, DC 20500-2000

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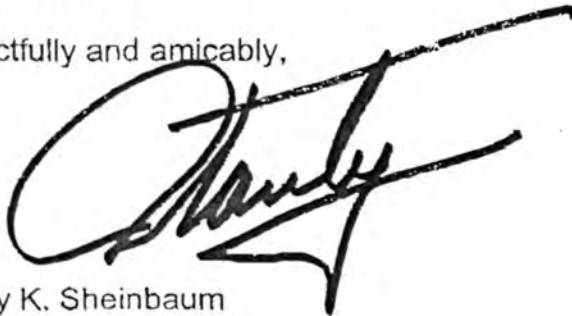
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Jacqueline O. Delgado

00 SEP 5 AM 10:05

2888 Camellia Drive

Alexandria, Va. 22306

(703) 765-3029

* Arlete's Daughter
Arletes husband is Emilio

Tax # 912-6130!

9-5-00

To Support for
Condolence
Letter ✓

Betty
Thanks!
Lapto size too
I had to go
Rev. Andrew

Condolence ltr should
be send to Jacqueline
O. Delgado

(from Betty Currie)

In Memoriam



Emilio Sanchez
a.k.a. Don Mel "Mother Goose"
July 14, 1927 to August 27, 2000

SERVICES

Viewing:

Tuesday, September 5, 2000

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM*

*Recitation of Rosary

Jefferson Funeral Chapel

5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia *

(703) 971-7400

*(So. VanDorn St./cross Franconia Rd./left on Castlewellan at first light)

Mass of Christian Burial

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

11:00 AM

St. Louis Catholic Church

2907 Popkins Lane, Alexandria, Virginia

(703) 765-4421

Burial immediately following
Arlington National Cemetery

A reception will be held following the burial at the St. Louis Church Hall

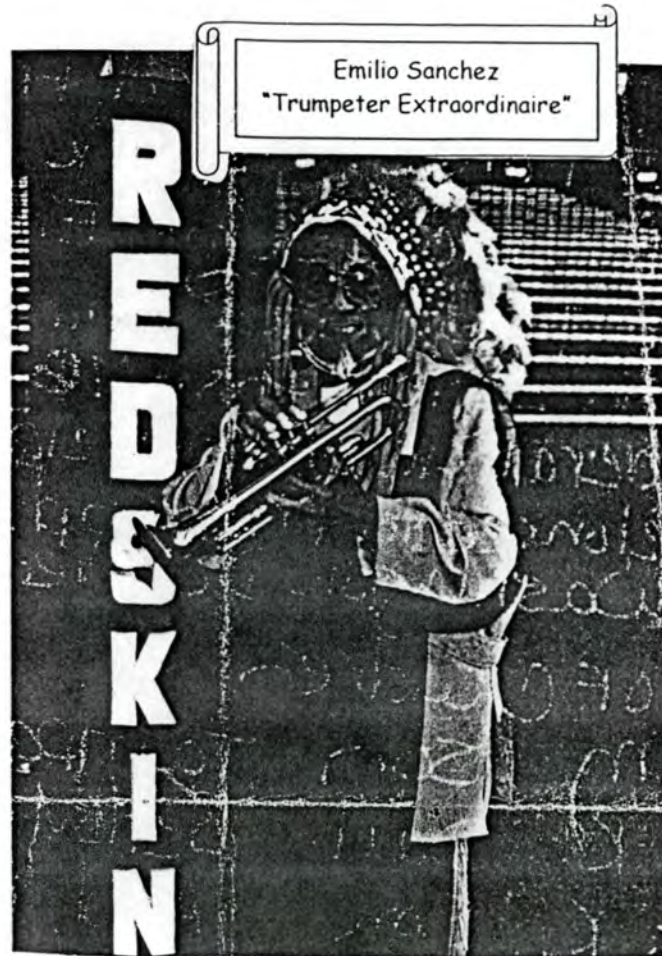
The family of Emilio Sanchez greatly appreciates the kind expressions of sympathy shown by their friends and neighbors.

Emilio Sanchez Better Known to his Friends as Don Mel "Mother Goose"
 Emilio played Trumpet for the Redskins Band and The KENA Temple Band
 Emilio was ~~a~~ Retired From the US Air Force, where he was a E-6 Technical Sgt. Emilio was Retired Proprietor of Nauman Photo Studio American Legion, Post 76, Metropolitan DC Federation of Musicians Local 161-210 also belonged to Photographers Ass. of the Greater Washington DC Area.

Names of Children

David M	Son	Tampa, FL
Linda K	Dau.	Beltsville, MD
Bryan K	Son	Add. not ^{un} Known
Mark A	Son	Roslindale, MA MA
Michelle	dau.	Huntingtown, MD
Arlete	Spouse	Alex. VA
Jacqueline	Step-d.	Alex. VA
Marga Di Agostino	ex spouse	Huntingtown MD
Granddaughter	Dr. Kristina Darnell	Huntingtown
	Dr. Candace Darnell	Huntingtown
Clyde Sanchez	Huntingtown MD	Florida
Jason Sanchez		Florida
Haley Jones		Huntingtown MD
Kelsey Jones		Huntingtown MD
Chrisa K. Toledo and	Maximus Sheeb	Alex. VA

In Memoriam
Emilio Sanchez
July 14, 1927 to August 27, 2000



Prayer for the Departed

"O my God! O Thou forgiver of sins! Bestower of
gifts! Dispeller of afflictions!

Verily, I beseech Thee to forgive the sins of such
as have abandoned the physical garment
and have ascended to the spiritual world.

O my Lord! Purify them from trespasses,
dispel their sorrows

and change their darkness into light.

Cause them to enter the garden of happiness.

Cleanse them with the most pure water, and
grant them to behold

Thy splendors on the loftiest mount."

He will always live in our hearts.

The Sanchez & Delgado Families

Bond

9/5/00

Charles Farnes
wants me to appear
Nat'l Comm. on Equity
in School Finance -
Say 36 states now
litigating - You or
Riley Michael Owen
w/ him, get back to
me w/ a recommendation

copied
Reed
Podesta

BC

9-5-00

DRAFT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

DRAFT

9-5-00

copied
Podesta

MEMORANDUM FOR

FROM:

SUBJECT: Additional Steps on Home Heating Oil

DATE: August 31, 2000

This memo provides a base program and additional options to reduce the risk of home heating oil shortages and price spikes this winter. We recognize the risk that natural gas shortages this winter may affect a wider section of the country, and think any response should be framed in the context of your overall energy security efforts (and the extent the Congress has failed to support them). Nonetheless, this memo focuses on home heating oil, primarily on the options discussed in our draft from last week.

BASE PROGRAMS

All of your advisers (DOE, Treasury, OMB, CEA, NEC, OVP, NSC) believe that any program should go beyond Federal actions, to encourage and involve state and local governments and private institutions, who can by their early actions build up stocks and mitigate any possible shortages. Building upon the regional home heating reserve, we recommend a base program that includes:

1. Meeting with refiners and encouraging them to keep refineries operating at high utilization rates after gasoline demand drops;
2. Encouraging federal, state and local governments to begin filling their heating oil tanks early and to enter into firm contracts for the purchase of heating oil for the winter;
3. Initiating now a substantial release of LIHEAP funds, tied with a direction that states use the funds to encourage the early purchases of, and early fixed price contracting for, heating oil in low income households;
4. Working with state public utility commissions to encourage or require natural gas customers with interruptible contracts to obtain physical stock on premises or on account for use if their gas service is interrupted; and,
5. Direct EPA to work with states to help them find ways to permit use of higher sulfur home heating oil. Last year some states used existing flexibility in state implementation plans to allow higher sulfur home heating oil, achieving SO₂ requirements in other ways. EPA believes it could help other states to do so, in a way that minimizes environmental consequences. This would allow

greater production of domestic heating oil, as well as production by some foreign refineries that cannot meet current state sulfur limits. EIA and industry representatives believe this could increase production by more than 1.5 million barrels of heating oil a month.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL STEPS

Your advisors recognize there may be a need to take additional steps. They have prepared three options that would be seen as more aggressive. These are listed in order of increasing consequence, moving from an expansion of the current home heating oil reserve to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve swap, which could affect all petroleum markets.

Option 1: Double the Regional Home Heating Oil Reserve

We could direct DOE to double the size of the home heating oil reserve, and to obtain the product from refineries outside the United States that are not operating at capacity so as not to divert current domestic production. DOE probably would have to pay an above market price to obtain such heating oil. Further, we would have to address the absence of effective criteria for the use of the reserve, because until Congress authorizes a reserve with a workable trigger, the trigger for the reserve is an energy supply emergency, the same as the crude oil reserve. Enlarging the reserve runs the risk of discouraging private stockpiling and of underscoring our dependence on foreign production. Nonetheless, it would build on and support a program that we have already begun, one that clearly helps us to cushion the effects of shortages or price spikes.

If you decide to go beyond the base program, your economic advisers prefer this approach to either of the next two options.

Option 2: Tax Incentive to Purchase Heating Oil Early in Season

We can design a tax credit to reward home heating wholesalers for purchasing heating oil early in the season and either storing it themselves or selling it to customers. This would be a clear incentive to build private stocks. However, it could be expensive (depending on the design, Treasury estimates up to \$500 million) and difficult to administer. Most critical, however, is that although a defensible policy, it would be difficult to get enacted; it might serve to shift responsibility to the Congress, but not provide actual relief.

Option 3. Initiate an Exchange of SPR Crude Oil

Secretary Richardson recommends using providing 30 million barrels of oil from the SPR in September and October in exchange for commitments to return slightly more oil to the SPR next year. He hopes that putting additional crude oil on the market now will reduce the current price relative to the future price and encourage near term production, including of home heating oil (about 2.5 million barrels total). There is not

consensus among the agencies whether this would actually happen, but the move would nonetheless be seen as an attempt to increase supply and reduce prices. Your economic advisers have opposed this because it is the clearest attempt to intervene in world commodity markets, because it is a clear departure from the basic national security rationale of the SPR, and because its effects may be negligible or (if OPEC reacts) negative.

The NSC is concerned that this action might provoke a response from the Saudis (or other producing states), who could unilaterally reduce production by an even larger amount and completely undermine the action. NSC believes that any consideration of this approach should be deferred until, or done in conjunction with, your consultation with the Saudis next week and perhaps the OPEC meeting in Vienna September 10th. NSC and the economic advisers are also concerned that using the SPR for economic purposes would limit our ability to use it as a response to actual production cuts (e.g., by Iraq).

* * *

Your economic advisers (Treasury, CEA) recommend you defer considering any of these options until after we have a better sense of the likely OPEC actions next month. [Your other WH advisers believe that action on the home heating oil reserve is appropriate now.] DOE recommends authorizing the SPR swap immediately[, as well as _____].

9-5-00

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 29, 2000

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Brain
Lew
Matthews

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: JOHN D. PODESTA

FROM: CHARLES M. BRAIN
JACOB J. LEW
SYLVIA M. MATHEWSRE: CONVERSATION WITH SPEAKER HASTERT DURING TRIP TO
COLOMBIA

We anticipate that at some point during the trip to Colombia the Speaker will engage you in a discussion of "what we can get done in the remainder of this Congress." This memo suggests a structure and an outline of how this discussion should unfold, going into some detail concerning the status of specific items. Also, attached is a set of talking points which is based on the analysis in this memo.

Part One: Your Priorities

Before Speaker Hastert engages you on items that he wants to complete so that the Republicans can get out of town, you should raise legislative items that you want to enact and which you are willing to push fairly forcefully. The first three items are also very important to the Speaker.

New Markets

Status: The House passed H.R. 4923, The Community Renewal and New Markets Act of 2000, on July 25th by the overwhelming vote of 394 to 27. The bill includes the Administration's "New Markets Tax Credit," extension of the existing empowerment zones and the designation of nine new empowerment zones, new tax incentives for "renewal communities," and an increase in the low-income housing tax credit. The Speaker was instrumental in moving the bill to the floor in spite of the inability of Chairman Archer (R-TX) and Rep. Rangel (D-NY) to resolve their differences regarding whether the increase in the low-income housing tax credit was immediate or phased-in over six years. The Speaker also agreed to work with Rep. Rangel to ensure that the final bill contains provisions acceptable to Rep. Rangel. In addition, the Speaker promised to provide a \$200 million increase in appropriations for empowerment zones. This funding has not yet been included in the House bill. We were disappointed that the Speaker could not get Chairman Archer to accept the final terms of the deal we negotiated with the Speaker's office, but we thought it was wiser to move the bill forward with the Speaker's commitment to fix the bill in conference.

In addition, our agreement with the Speaker included extending the existing tax incentives for the District of Columbia, currently due to expire in 2002, through 2009. (The House bill does not provide this, but rather would provide that D.C. would receive priority for designation as a "renewal community.") The Speaker's office has also agreed to work with us on this, though they are less committed to one of the incentives, a tax credit for first time home-buyers in the District.

The only controversy during House consideration of the bill involved the "charitable choice" provisions in the bill, which allows religious groups that offer drug and alcohol treatment to receive federal funds. Rep. Scott (D-VA) took time in opposition to the bill on the basis of these provisions, especially arguing that religious organizations receiving federal funds should not be able to retain their exemption from Title VII that allows them to favor members of their own religion in hiring practices.

In the Senate, Senators Santorum (R-PA) and Lieberman (D-CT) have introduced their version of the legislation. Although the Santorum-Lieberman bill contains the version of the low-income housing tax credit and private activity bond cap which Rep. Rangel supports, the bill also contains broader "charitable choice" language that would explicitly allow religious organizations to compete for federal funding in nearly all federal grant programs. In addition to the broad scope, the "charitable choice" language raises several problematic issues for civil liberties groups. For example, it allows religious organizations to require employees to adhere to religious tenets, teaching, and rules forbidding alcohol or drug use; and provides weaker protections for beneficiaries using vouchers.

Senator Robb (D-VA) has introduced an alternative to the Santorum-Lieberman legislation with a much more narrowly tailored "charitable choice" provision that also avoids the Title VII issue. The Robb bill is generally more acceptable to us, but we expect to work with all of the key Senators on a final bill. Both the Santorum-Lieberman bill and the Robb bill contain additional tax provisions that were not part of the House-passed bill. Treasury has concerns about some aspects of these new provisions.

Prognosis: Majority Leader Lott is much less committed to moving New Markets legislation than the Speaker is. The bill has been referred to the Finance Committee and there is some indication that Chairman Roth (R-DE) might take the bill up in the middle of September. However, given the crowded Senate calendar and the short legislative schedule, there is no guarantee that this bill will be able to move through the regular legislative session. You should discuss with the Speaker how we can work with him to ensure enactment of New Markets this year. You should get his reaction to the possibility of including New Markets in the reconciliation bill. (See Reconciliation section below.) In addition, you should raise inclusion in this bill of the authorization of the Delta Regional Authority, which is part of the Robb bill (but was not part of the original negotiation with Speaker Hastert), but which is not likely to move independently. Funding for the Delta Regional Authority contained in the Senate Energy and Water appropriation bill is made contingent on authorization.

Minimum Wage

Status: On Monday, August 28th, the Speaker sent to you a letter proposing that you work together to pass a minimum wage increase “with strong bipartisan majorities in the House and the Senate.” His offer included a \$1.00 increase over two years (\$.50 on January 1st, 2001, and \$.50 on January 1st, 2002). This is similar to what the House had passed on March 9th, 2000, though the effective dates in that bill were April 1st, 2000, and 2001. Speaker Hastert has also offered to drop the objectionable estate tax and pension provisions. However, he proposes including other tax provisions which will have a revenue impact of \$24 billion over five years and \$76 billion over ten years and several FLSA amendments. Some of these proposals are very objectionable and potentially could be the basis of a veto. The provisions are being reviewed now by the Departments of Treasury and Labor (and by the House Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Gephardt, Rep. Bonior, and Senator Kennedy as well). In the Senate, a three-year, \$1.00 increase is currently attached to the attached bankruptcy bill and is pending in conference. In his letter, Speaker Hastert says that he has spoken with Majority Leader Lott about this. We have asked for Senator Daschle to ask Senator Lott where he is on this offer.

Prognosis: The House and Senate Democrats fully expected the House Republicans to come forward with a minimum wage increase proposal, so only the timing of Speaker Hastert’s letter is a surprise. As noted above, some concern may be raised about a few of the tax provisions, specifically the health expense above-the-line deduction and repeal of the FUTA surtax. But those concerns can probably be worked out and should not prohibit an ultimate agreement. But you should not embrace the Speaker’s offer totally until we can consult in more depth with House and Senate Democrats.

Patients’ Bill of Rights

Status: The formal conference is completely stalled but Speaker Hastert continues to work to get a bill. Rep. Norwood (R-GA) came close to forging a compromise with the Speaker, the AMA, Senator Kennedy (D-MA) and Rep. Dingell (D-MI) prior to the August recess, but it became at least temporarily sidetracked when it became too public too soon. The Hastert-Norwood-Kennedy-Dingell “tentative compromise” reportedly included a fairly significant right to sue provision, a much more constrained and perhaps acceptable Medical Savings Account (MSA) compromise, and the elimination of all other problematic “access” tax provisions. All of these developments were generally quite encouraging. However, the enforcement provisions appear to include a problematic cap on non-economic damages for certain violations of the new Patients’ Bill of Rights that, under limited circumstances, come under Federal jurisdiction. In addition, if the MSA language gets re-visited or other problematic so-called access provisions get reinstated, it will be difficult to work out an agreement with the Democrats in the Congress, particularly if it doesn’t include your provisions (e.g., your CHIP parents’ policy) that truly would expand coverage. Finally, because the House Republicans continue to signal their great desire to pass their private long-term care insurance tax deduction, we believe there is a real opportunity to leverage your \$3,000 tax credit proposal and private insurance consumer protections against this provision. Because of his desire to pass PBOR before Congress adjourns, Speaker Hastert’s office informs us that he has been quietly lobbying Senator Lott to urge his cooperation and to bypass Senator Nickles’ opposition. We will be receiving an update early this week from his office about his perception of the state-of-play immediately after recess and will be forwarding any relevant new information through John prior to your departure.

Prognosis: In the aftermath of the Democratic convention and the summer recess, there is even greater interest by the Speaker in passing a signable Patients' Bill of Rights. The Speaker's lobbying of Senate Republicans may actually work toward softening the Senate's opposition to passing out an acceptable bill. Although some Democrats would be completely satisfied with no action on this issue this year, there appears to be growing acceptance that a good bill is unstoppable, particularly if it is supported by Rep. Dingell and for which Democrats can take sufficient credit. Your strategy with the Speaker should be to reiterate your desire for a strong bill to be enacted, welcome the reports that he is working with Rep. Norwood, the AMA, and Rep. Dingell to that end, AND to restate your willingness to work hard to get an acceptable package through the Congress and around Senator Nickles. You need to advise him, however, that you are wary of provisions that could weigh down the chances of the bill becoming law – such as an unacceptable MSA provision or a flawed enforcement provision. (We would advise against going into too many details here.) Moreover, we would suggest that you reiterate your desire for real coverage expansions, like your CHIP parents' policy, your Medicare buy-in, your 19-20 year-old CHIP expansion, your small business purchasing coalition tax incentives, and your proposal to extend Medicaid coverage for uninsured women who have been screened and found to have breast cancer. You could also advise him of your willingness to accept their tax deduction for private long-term care insurance (which the Treasury Department believes is unwarranted and ill-advised), but only if the compromise includes adequate consumer protections AND your \$3,000 tax credit for the currently chronically ill population.

Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA/Lands Legacy)

Status: The House passed CARA on May 11th, 2000, by a vote of 315–102. After months of negotiations, the Senate Energy Committee reported a Bingaman/Murkowski compromise bill on July 25th. All Democrats and Senators Murkowski (R-AK), Bunning (R-KY), Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Fitzgerald (R-IL) supported the bill. The Senate bill is actually “greener” than the House passed version. For example, the House bill does not provide effective oversight for the \$1 billion in coastal impact assistance and includes restrictions on federal land acquisitions. The Senate bill does provide oversight of coastal monies and does not restrict federal land acquisition. Neither bill provides permanent or protected funding for all programs. The Senate bill basically provides discretionary funding while the House bill includes mandatory funding except for federal land acquisition funding which is discretionary.

Prognosis: Enactment of CARA would be a major achievement for all those involved and should be a priority for the Speaker. It would be a lasting source of funds to preserve natural resources and to support state and local efforts to protect urban parks and farmland. You should stress with the Speaker that this is an issue that has strong bipartisan support and that we could work on together to get accomplished. It would also be politically helpful for some of his Members looking for a good environmental vote. Unfortunately, it seems very unlikely that Majority Leader Lott will bring the bill up on the Senate floor given the strong opposition of “property rights” Republicans. You should solicit his views on how to best to get this done this year -- whether it's keeping pressure on the Senate to move the bill or pre-conferencing the House bill and the Senate Energy Committee-passed bill or providing some form of dedicated or permanent funding as part of the appropriations process, similar to your Lands Legacy initiative.

Latino Immigrant Fairness Provisions (Late Amnesty, NACARA Parity, and 245 (i))

Status: As you know the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) is pushing three immigration issues very strongly. These issues include: 1. Changing the registry cutoff date so that established undocumented immigrants who have been residing in the country since before 1986 would qualify to remain here permanently; 2. Parity for Central Americans to correct for unequal treatment among different groups of similarly-situated Central American and Caribbean refugees and allow them to adjust to permanent resident status; and, 3. Restoration of Section 245(i) of the Immigration Act, allowing immigrants who are already here in the U.S. to remain in the U.S. to complete the immigration process. These issues have been raised in the context of H1-B legislation and have been used by House Republicans to mask internal disagreements on how to deal with H1-B extension and reform. Members of your Administration have met recently with Senate and House Democratic Leadership and members of the CHC to work on a strategy for passage of these three issues. The consensus was that we should continue to raise these issues on the H1-B bill until we can successfully move it on another bill, most probably the Commerce-Justice-State appropriation bill. (The Senate C-J-S bill already contains the 245 (i) extension.)

Prognosis: You should make it clear to the Speaker that this is an important issue to you, Congressional Democrats, and Hispanics nationwide. In addition, you can express the view that this need not be a high profile, contentious political issue and that passage of these provisions would actually be politically helpful to many Republicans.

Hate Crimes

Status: On June 20th the Senate passed (57-42) Senator Kennedy's Hate Crimes bill as an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization bill. (Senator Byrd was the only Democrat to oppose the amendment). The amendment would expand the federal Hate Crimes law to include crimes committed because of the victim's gender, sexual orientation, or disability. In addition, the amendment would create a federal grant and technical assistance program under which states and municipalities could receive aid in their investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

Prognosis: Despite our victory in the Senate, the ultimate prospects for the Hate Crimes bill are uncertain. The Hate Crimes language is not part of the House Defense Authorization bill, and given the probable conferees on this measure, it is unlikely that the Kennedy amendment will be included in the Conference Report. The House Democrats (led by Rep. Conyers and Mr. Gephardt) are, therefore, attempting to get a floor vote on a bill that mirrors the Kennedy amendment. It remains unclear, however, whether they will be successful. And regardless whether there is a successful House floor vote, it is unlikely that the Republican Leadership will allow for another Senate vote on the Kennedy language as a stand-alone bill.

You should impress upon the Speaker that this is an important issue to you and your Administration and that you will be looking for any opportunity to include it in moving legislation, possibly in one of the final appropriations bills.

Part Two: Appropriations Bills

Status: Of the thirteen bills, only two have been enacted. While the House has only one bill remaining (D.C.), the Senate has yet to consider five of the remaining eleven bills. There are veto threats on eight of the remaining bills. The Republicans did, however, attempt to pass several conference reports, outside of the regular order, in the days prior to the recess. Efforts to move the Labor-HHS bill and the Legislative Branch and Treasury/Postal bills together with the repeal of the telephone excise tax did not succeed. Both attempts were premised on very little Democratic support and neither of these attempts had sufficient support within the House Republican Conference to ensure passage. Consequently, no action was taken on either package. It should also be noted that the Republicans were more than willing to add additional dollars to the Labor HHS bill in order to come closer to our aggregate numbers for this bill. However, the additional funds did not fully fund our priorities and we would have opposed them as being inadequate. (Note: Speaker Hastert may say that they invited us to negotiate. However, he deferred to his appropriations "Cardinals" to follow through with specific meetings, which they never did.)

Prognosis: The Republicans will be hard pressed to finish all of the appropriations bills prior to October 1st. It will be even more difficult if any of these bills are vetoed. An increasing appreciation of this reality has led to some speculation regarding the length of a possible Continuing Resolution which would be necessary to fund those agencies which will not have their FY01 appropriations enacted. You should express an interest in enacting acceptable bills as soon as possible when Congress returns. To this end, you should stress that your budget team is ready to meet beginning in early September and throughout the month. The Speaker needs to appreciate that, while we are willing to work with them on a bipartisan basis to produce acceptable bills, this will not be easy. In this regard, you should note that you have received a memo from Jack Lew that discusses the numerous problems that we have with the remaining bills. These problems include both inadequate funding for your initiatives and core government as well as numerous objectionable riders. Finally, you should point out to the Speaker that you will only be willing to sign short-term Continuing Resolutions; the Republicans will not be allowed to get out of town without completing the appropriations process.

Part Three: Reconciliation

Status: The FY01 Budget Resolution provides for two separate reconciliation bills to consider tax reduction legislation. (The first was the vetoed marriage penalty bill.) The second of the two bills must be reported from the Committees on Ways and Means and Finance on or before September 13th. The protection of reconciliation for considering tax bills is especially important in the Senate since it provides time limits and tight restrictions on the type of amendments that can be offered. The Budget Resolution provides that the reconciliation bill can include tax cuts of \$11.6 billion in FY01 and \$150 billion over five years. These amounts can be increased to reflect increases in the on-budget surplus.

Prognosis: The Finance Committee anticipates marking up a reconciliation bill on September 7th. It is currently expected that the bill will be limited to a modified version of the House passed Portman-Cardin pension bill. However, a final decision has yet to be made. It is even less clear how the House will proceed. You should ask the Speaker what the House will include in its reconciliation bill. You should stress that, if objectionable provisions (some of which may have

already been vetoed) are included, then another veto will be sustained and nothing will be signed into law. An acceptable reconciliation bill could include a modified version of Portman-Cardin, possibly including Administration backed progressive savings package that includes Retirement Savings Accounts (RSA's), New Markets, and strong lock boxes for Social Security and Medicare. You can suggest to the Speaker that the Republicans already have a record on tax bills, which they can use for political purposes but that this bill provides an opportunity to meet his desire of "getting something accomplished."

While there were many provisions in Portman-Cardin that we supported, we opposed the overall bill because it contains several provisions that may harm retirement security for rank and file workers and it does little or nothing for the 75 million workers not covered by the pension system. We understand that modifications in the Senate could include a progressive savings package modeled after the Retirement Savings Accounts (RSAs) and the small business tax credits in your budget. The RSA proposal, however, is unlikely to include refundability. They may add other modifications as well that could be troubling to us, such as raising (or removing) income eligibility thresholds for IRAs, Roth IRAs, and conversions to Roth IRAs.

Part Four: Medicare/Medicaid

Status: Because of differences amongst the two parties on policy, willingness to invest, and politics on the Medicare prescription drug issue, it is difficult to see how an acceptable bill can pass and be signed into law in this Congress. As of this writing, the House Republicans appear comfortable defending their flawed, private insurance prescription drug benefit. This suits the House Democrats just fine since they want to run against the Republicans' approach and run on a Medicare prescription drug benefit that mirrors -- or is very similar to -- your proposal. The Senate represents the wild card as it hosts two forums where action could occur -- Senator Roth's Finance Committee and, more likely, the Senate floor. Senators Daschle, Graham, Robb, and Kennedy will almost inevitably look for every opportunity and legislative vehicle to offer a Medicare prescription drug benefit amendment. If something actually passes (not likely, but not impossible to imagine), new pressure on the House right before an election could change the current outlook.

Unlike the prescription drug issue, the initiative that seems virtually certain to pass this year is the BBA health care provider "give-back" legislation. Your midsession review proposal, to dedicate \$40 billion over ten years to address payment deficiencies and other shortcomings of the BBA, was obviously well received by the providers and the Congress. We specified only about \$21 billion of the \$40 billion for hospital, teaching hospital, home health, nursing home payment increases, as well as about \$500 million for full funding of the Ricky Ray Trust Fund and \$300 million for an extension in enhanced diabetes research. We only specified about half in order to leave more time for better policy, get greater investment by the Congress in the package, and to create an environment in which all providers believed they were in the running for the funds you proposed. Congressman Thomas is now using your \$40 billion figure for the amount he is considering for the development of his own Medicare payment enhancement package. There is little doubt that the Senate will find a provider "give-back" vehicle as well. Recognizing this, Senators Daschle and Moynihan are working on their own initiative that would double our investment to over \$80 billion over ten years. They want to make certain that the Republicans don't outbid them.

Prognosis: You should express your interest in working with the Speaker to keep the Medicare "giveback bill" to a manageable size, avoiding a bidding war between all parties. This could jeopardize enactment of the bill since it would undermine the future solvency of the program. For example, even our \$40 billion restoration package would take off about two years of Medicare HI solvency if it were not netted out with our reforms and our Medicare Trust Fund dedication. You should also make certain that he understands that you will have certain policy priorities in this package (including Ricky Ray, diabetes, and certain provider groups – like teaching hospitals, and certain beneficiary groups – like legal immigrants) that you will need to have. In addition, you should point out to the Speaker that you have not given up on the enactment of a Medicare prescription drug benefit and that the passage of provider give-backs without a drug benefit is a shaky proposition, one that risks alienating a great many seniors and their advocates. While the Speaker can avoid a vote on Medicare prescription drugs in the House, Majority Leader Lott cannot and he is likely to face a vote for which Vice President Gore and Senator Lieberman would be happy to miss a day of campaigning.

TALKING POINTS FOR CONVERSATION WITH SPEAKER HASTERT DURING TRIP TO COLOMBIA

Part One: Your Priorities.

- I believe we share the view that there are some important issues which we can deal with when Congress returns. First on the list is **New Markets**. You did a great job of getting it through the House but I'm concerned that Senator Lott might leave it behind in the rush to adjourn. Do you have any thoughts on how we should proceed? **Is there any chance to include New Markets in the Reconciliation bill?** Do you think you could be helpful in keeping to the House passed "charitable choice" provisions? What would you think about including the authorization for the **Delta Regional Authority**?
- (Note: Mr. President, we have problems with the FLSA and tax provisions so please be careful not to lean too forward into this.) I appreciated very much your letter on Monday proposing that we work together to increase the minimum wage. I agree that we surely can find common ground and get this done. For a long time we have looked toward a \$1.00 increase over two years. **We need to review the specifics of the tax and FLSA provisions, at first glance, there are some problems.** I think if we work together we can work this out.
- You've been working on a **Patients' Bill of Rights** longer than anyone else has and it's time to get it done. This is another one where the Senate appears to be the biggest obstacle we face. I am pleased to learn that you have been trying to reach an agreement with Reps. Norwood and Dingell and the AMA that would be more palatable to the Senate and some of your Members who previously opposed Norwood-Dingell. I welcome and encourage your work. We must make certain, however, that compromises on enforcement and access provisions strengthen – not lessen – the chances for passage and enactment. **I would like to review the specifics as soon as possible and advise you on ideas that are non-starters.** Also, if we are going to include some dollars for health insurance coverage and long-term care expansions, we must carefully draft them to avoid unintended consequences. **As you know, I have some of my own ideas that have broad bipartisan support, including my parents of CHIP policy and my \$3,000 long-term care tax credit.** I can not see supporting other initiatives in these areas without having some of these policies included as well. Having said this, I am increasingly confident that we can get a bill passed and enacted into law. **I am heartened that you are working to reach out to some of the sensible Senate Members.**
- Another priority should be the **CARA** bill, which Reps. Don Young and George Miller got through the House with over 300 votes. Senators Murkowski and Bingaman just moved a similar bill through the Energy Committee. This bill would provide a permanent funding source to support state and local efforts to protect urban parks and farmlands. It would be a great victory to get this signed into law but I fear that Senator Lott is going to let it languish. **I think we should work together to get this done; I'm sure it would be useful for some of your Members to have a good environmental victory.**

- There are also a couple of issues that I don't think we agree on but that I want you to be aware that I'm going to push. The first is the **Latino Immigrant Fairness package, NACARA Parity, and Late Amnesty**. These are huge issues within the Hispanic Community and I hope that they wouldn't be controversial. They've gotten tied up with H1-B and Rep. David Dreier has taken offense at some things that have been written. I hope we can work together to get both H1-B and these immigration changes done. **I want you to know that I'll be looking to the appropriations bills, if necessary to get the Fairness provisions done.**
- **Hate Crimes** is another one where we don't see eye to eye. The Senate passed an amendment to the DoD Authorization to cover gender, orientation and disability under the federal hate crimes law. I don't know what will happen in conference, **but I'm going to keep pushing on this, right up until the final day of this Congress.**

Part Two: Appropriations Bills

- I don't want to be an impediment to your getting all thirteen bills done before October 1st. It's not going to be easy, however. Of the eleven bills left to pass, I've got veto threats on eight of them! Jack Lew sent me a memo listing all the problems in these bills, and it's over fifty pages long. But my budget team is ready to meet with the appropriators, Republicans and Democrats, as soon as they're back in town; let's roll up our sleeves and get to work. If we're successful, I think you can count on significant Democratic support, so you don't have to get 100 percent agreement within your Conference. I want you to know, however, that I'm not going to sign a long-term Continuing Resolution that would push decisions off until the next Congress. **I don't want to keep you here, so let's see what we can get done in September.**

Part Three: Reconciliation

- I think that Reconciliation might be the one opportunity for us to get something done on taxes. The Senate looks like it's going to do a version of Portman-Cardin as reconciliation. **What are you thinking about?** What do you think about including **New Markets**, perhaps along with Social Security and Medicare lockboxes?

Part Four: Medicare Givebacks/Prescription Drugs

- In my mid-session review, I proposed to invest \$40 billion over ten years to address payment deficiencies and other shortcomings of the BBA. I believe we should do this in the context of other Medicare reforms, including a Medicare lockbox and a new prescription drug benefit. If we don't, we need to understand that a bidding war could significantly undermine the financial well being of the Medicare Trust Fund and take years off of solvency. **We need to work together to keep this under control; you and I also need to ensure that each of our funding priorities is addressed.** I have some relatively small items I want to see in this package, including full funding of the Ricky Ray Trust Fund, enhanced diabetes research, and some other provider and beneficiary items like teaching hospitals and legal immigrants. **I also want you to know that I'm going to keep pushing for a Medicare prescription drug benefit.** I don't think it is wise for our only success in Medicare to be provider givebacks; at some point, the seniors and their representatives may start believing – with some degree of accuracy – that their providers have more clout than they do. I am going to work

as hard as I can to get the Senate to act. I know that the Vice President and Senator Lieberman would love to cast votes in support of a good bill. If we succeed, I will be giving you a call to see if we can work out an agreement.

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Pockets of high unemployment dot USA

Overall rate's low, but in some ag areas, 36% of people are out of work

By George Hager
USA TODAY

Despite an economic boom that has made jobs easy to get, there are still places — mostly agriculture-dependent areas that have yet to lure high-tech companies — where the jobless rate is double or triple the national average.

And then there's Yuma, Ariz.

Yuma's unemployment rate in July was a staggering 36.2% — almost nine times as high as the 4.2% national average, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (The BLS announced Friday that the seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate rose to 4.1% in August from 4.0% in July; the 4.2% figure BLS uses for metro area comparisons is not seasonally adjusted.)

There's serious disagreement over whether Yuma's unemployment number is accurate, and even the BLS concedes

there may be some measurement issues that critics say have much to do with the seasonal farm workers who move through the area, which is close to the Mexican border.

But even Yuma's staunchest boosters don't deny the small city has problems. "We do have a relatively high unemployment rate," says Susan Flowers, director of communications for the Yuma Chamber of Commerce. After adjusting the numbers to reflect the city's permanent population, the real jobless rate runs between 12% in the winter (when Northern snowbirds flock to the desert climate) and 15% in the summer, Flowers says.

Whatever the real number, Yuma is representative of the handful of U.S. metro areas with jobless rates above 10%. Of the eight areas, six are in California's agriculture-heavy Central Valley, and two lie on the U.S.-Mexican border: one is Yuma, and the other is McAllen-Edinburg-Mission in Texas, where the unemployment rate in July was 13.6%, BLS figures show.

Typically, these cities' economies are heavily dependent on agriculture, which

offers mostly seasonal work. Farm-belt cities in the Midwest have managed to broaden their economies by attracting other industries, such as credit card companies and computer makers. But not these cities, so far.

Yuma is scrambling to diversify, and ironically, its high jobless rate can lure companies that have trouble finding workers.

"They look at that as a plus," says Paige Webster, CEO of the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corp., which recruits companies to the area. "We've got the labor pool."

Unlike high-employment cities, such as Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with its 1.2% July unemployment rate, Yuma is not picky. Cedar Rapids turned down a telemarketing center, fearful that all those \$9 an hour jobs would put too much strain on the low end of a job market that is already tight as a drum, says Joe Drahozal of the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

By contrast, Yuma has welcomed three new call centers in the last three years and was delighted to get them.

Aging Tanks, Planes May Eclipse Debate Over U.S. Readiness

By GREG JAFFE

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON—Much as Ronald Reagan 20 years ago turned a spotlight on a military that he said had become a "hollow force," George W. Bush today decries a "military in decline" that if called tomorrow wouldn't be ready to fight.

In truth, there is a serious long-term question about the state of the military. But it isn't what's being debated on the campaign trail.

Defense experts generally agree that despite the rhetoric of recent days, the military is ready for immediate needs. The deeper concern lies elsewhere: While spending heavily to stay ready now, the military hasn't been buying the equipment it will need five or 10 years from now—when the planes, tanks and ships acquired during the Reagan buildup begin to hit the end of their useful life.

Not only is today's equipment old, but it is also ill-suited to fight the kind of battles the military will most likely face in the future, which will require advanced technology to ensure rapid deployment to hot spots around the globe and greater stealth.

A senior Pentagon official warns of an impending "death spiral" of declining capabilities and rising defense budgets; a nonpartisan think tank says procurements of new weapons could soar as much as 50% above this year's \$60 billion. Even some of Mr. Bush's advisers agree that the long-term worries are far more troubling. "It is irresponsible if you are putting all of your money into shoring up readiness and not investing in the future," said retired Gen. Colin Powell, an adviser to the Bush campaign. "I don't think we have invested in modernization as we should. Sooner or later that bill will have to be paid."

That, though, is a different issue than the narrow "readiness" debate that has

dominated the stump speeches of the campaign—and which defense analysts say is beside the point. "Who is out there that is more ready than we are?" asks Lawrence Korb, former assistant secretary of defense for readiness in the Reagan administration. "The Democrats have bent over backwards to make sure there are no readiness problems. They recognize the political saliency of this particular issue."

But the very obsession with short-term readiness by the Clinton administration—spending on things like spare parts, training and pay—has shortchanged the accounts used to buy new equipment to replace the Pentagon's rapidly aging arsenal and maintain a state-of-the-art fighting force.

The bill could be staggering. The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a nonpartisan defense think tank, states that the military must spend at least \$80 billion to \$90 billion a year on procurement in the next few years.

Even Mr. Clinton's own appointees see a broader problem developing from the procurement gap. They warn that as the Pentagon's equipment continues to age, maintenance spending to keep old planes, tanks and ships running will continue to rise. In turn, it will be even harder to find money to buy new equipment. Jacques Gansler, the Pentagon's top acquisition official, has warned the military will plunge into a budgetary "death spiral" unless the trend is reversed "quickly and deliber-

ately."

Political pressures serve to keep the focus on immediate readiness, though. Concerns about waning near-term readiness first came to the fore in 1998, when the service chiefs warned that unexpected deployments to places such as Bosnia, Haiti and Somalia were sapping the force. Mr. Clinton responded quickly, proposing an additional \$112 billion in spending during the next six years to fix the problem.

The money was critical to sustaining a force that was being pushed far harder than expected. It also did much to inoculate the Democrats against Republican attacks. So today when Mr. Bush complains of soldiers on food stamps, the Democrats can counter that in the last eight years the number of soldiers collecting the benefits has fallen to about 4,800 from a high of about 20,000 in 1992.

Thanks to increases in pay and retirement benefits, retention and recruiting are improving for nearly all of the services. The Navy, for example, has been able to reduce its crew shortfalls—or "empty sea billets"—to about 6,000, down from about 18,000 two years ago.

The Department of Defense currently spends about \$70,000 a year per troop—30% more than it did a decade ago, adjusting for inflation—on operations and maintenance costs, which covers readiness expenses such as spare parts, training, health care and equipment overhauls. "Overall readi-

ness of our forces is improving," the Pentagon reported to Congress last week.

But there already are clear signs that the Pentagon faces serious problems in the not-too-distant future. "We are starting to see more and more little red flags out there," says Andrew Krepenovich, executive director at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

The Air Force's aging fighter jets—now 20 years old on average—are getting more costly to maintain. As more money is sunk into shoring up the old fleet of planes, there is concern that the Air Force won't have enough money to buy the stealthy fighter jets more suited to the battles of the future. Already defense experts agree that of the three fighter jet programs in production—the F-18 E/F, the F-22 and the Joint Strike Fighter—at least one will have to be scaled back considerably or killed.

Meanwhile the Army has complained bitterly that, under current projected defense budgets, it can't maintain its arsenal of tanks and helicopters while at the same time buying new, lighter equipment that will make it more rapidly deployable to hot spots such as the Balkans.

The political dilemma for Mr. Bush, who wants to make mileage with the military debate today, is that the most dire of these readiness problems are at least five years away. Moreover, not all of the blame for the military's budgetary problems rests with Mr. Clinton.

Despite pleas from the administration and the Pentagon, Congress has been unwilling to give Mr. Clinton the authority to close more than a dozen unneeded bases, a move that could save the military as much as \$5 billion a year that could be pumped into modernization. When Congress has added money to the procurement budget, it has been for Cold War-era weapons, such as F-15 fighter jets and marine amphibious vessels, which the Pentagon didn't ask for.

The problem is compounded by the military services having been loath to give up Cold War-era weapons programs that may not be relevant to future battles. Even as the Army begs for money for its transformation to a lighter force, it continues to support the Crusader artillery system, which would be too heavy to deploy with the new units.

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Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

A Russian Dinosaur

The sinking of the Russian submarine Kursk was a tragic but incredibly illuminating example of the transition the world, and Russia, are now going through from the cold-war system to the globalization system. Unfortunately, there's always some guy down the line who hasn't gotten the word yet. In this case it was Russia's president, Vladimir Putin.

Yo, Putin, this ain't your father's Soviet Union anymore.

In an interview on Russian TV following the Kursk tragedy, Mr. Putin defended his government and laid out his priorities: "I will be with the army. I will be with the fleet. I will be with the people." As Time magazine's Paul Quinn-Judge noted in a commentary from Moscow, Mr. Putin still believes that "the needs of the state always come first; individual concerns come a distant second."

Not in this era. What happens when a country like Russia plugs into globalization — into global free markets, telecommunications, media and the Internet — is that individuals become empowered, even super-empowered. That is, their ability to gather information themselves, earn a living and assert their will directly — as individuals — greatly increases thanks to globalization and the falling of walls everywhere. Moreover, when everyone starts to know how everyone else in the world is living, which also happens in globalization, individuals start to demand the same things. And they get angry when their leaders don't deliver.

The Kursk incident showed just how much the Russian people are starting to get this, and how little Mr. Putin does. Why did Mr. Putin and his generals resist asking for foreign help until it was too late? Because they feared it would sully the honor of Mother Russia's army and puncture Russia's pretense to still being a superpower. But the families of the Russian sailors, who knew foreign help was available, told them: "I don't want to hear about Mother Russia, or Father Russia. I want Yuri, Boris and Oleg off the ocean floor."

The message those parents sent to Russia's leaders was that "until further notice, you better have a good reason to risk a Russian soldier's life," remarked the Israeli political theorist Yaron Ezrahi, whose book, "Rubber Bullets," documents how Israel went through a similar transformation. "They sent a message that while national honor still matters, individual life and individual

aspirations now matter too. They are now viable competitors with national honor — and may matter even more. So it's not only Americans who don't want to die for abstractions anymore. It's also Russians."

Indeed, the Russian newspaper Izvestia ran a front-page picture of the crew of the Kursk, under a remarkable headline: "The Price of National Pride — Human Lives." Such a headline, with such an equation, would have been unthinkable in the cold war, but it is utterly normal in globalization.

Lessons of the Kursk tragedy.

Sure, Mr. Putin can still send Russian soldiers to die in Chechnya, because many Russians still perceive that as a war of no choice against a real internal threat. But with the collapse of the cold-war system, they do not perceive an external threat. Indeed, most Russians would like to emulate America today, not bury it. And vice versa. Americans also prayed for the Kursk to be saved. Because without the cold-war psychological framework, the Kursk disaster was not seen as an enemy loss. It was seen as a human loss.

Does this mean that Russia will now have to fold its army and navy? Of course not. Russian nationalism and national security interests haven't gone away. But they now have a viable competitor in shaping Russian decision-making: the aspiration of individual Russians for personal security and personal fulfillment — which today's globalization system encourages, by giving more Russians the information, connections, power and incentives to act on their own for their own betterment.

So everything is still possible with Russia. It's still possible that an autocratic Russian leader will try to restore Russian military power and provoke a war with the U.S. Yes, that is still possible. But in today's era of globalization it is much less sustainable. Because Russians will not automatically put up with pain and sacrifice anymore just to preserve some national symbols. Not in this world. That was the Kursk's crew's last message — a message Russian leaders ignore at their peril. □

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China Expands Crackdown on Religions Not Recognized by State

85 Members of Christian Sect Indicted Under Law Used to Suppress Falun Gong

By JOHN POMFRET
Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIJING, Sept. 4—A Hong Kong based human rights group said today that China has indicted 85 members of a Christian sect, the China Fang-Cheng Church, in a follow-up to the recent detention of 130 of its members and the expulsion of three American missionaries.

The indictments, which almost guarantee a prison sentence, were seen as a sign that the crackdown on the Buddhist-like Falun Gong

spiritual movement is being widened to suppress other kinds of unofficial religious activity throughout China as well.

The Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Hong Kong said that, of the 130 Fang-Cheng members detained Aug. 23 in the central Chinese province of Henan, 85 were indicted on Aug. 25. The Hong Kong center provided a copy of the indictment of one Fang-Cheng member named Chen Zhouniu, who was charged with "using an evil cult to obstruct justice."

The "evil cult" law was passed last year as part of the crackdown on Falun Gong, during which thousands of Chinese were sent to labor camps or jail.

When the law was announced in October, Chinese officials said they would not use the "evil cult" regulations to suppress China's "house churches," a movement involving millions of people from Catholic and Protestant faiths that is technically illegal. China's constitution protects freedom of religion but only allows Chinese to follow five state-sanctioned faiths—Catholi-

cism, Protestantism, Islam, Buddhism and Taoism—at state-sanctioned facilities.

But in recent months, the government has seemed intent on expanding the boundaries of the Falun Gong crackdown. Since last year the state has branded 14 Christian sects "evil cults" and arrested several religious leaders. It has shuttered a massive monastery in western Sichuan province where

thousands of monks had flocked to follow a charismatic Buddhist lama and intensified suppression of Catholics loyal to Rome.

The Cardinal Kung Foundation, a U.S.-based advocate of the underground Chinese Catholic Church, said today that 24 Catholics—a priest, a seminarian, 20 nuns and two laypersons—were arrested last month in the southeastern province of Fujian. The priest, the Rev. Liu Shaozhang, was severely beaten, it said.

The latest Christian "house

church" crackdown is occurring in Xihua county in Henan. There, a powerful Christian movement has been sweeping across parts of the province, fueled by the collapse of faith in communism and economic woes that turn many people's attention toward spiritual issues.

Three Americans—Henry Chu, his wife, Sandy Lin, and her friend, Patricia Lan, all Taiwan-born U.S. citizens—were detained with the 130 Fang-Cheng followers. They were expelled from China on Aug. 26 after two days in custody.

Rights Group Criticizes Arafat's Administration

By LEE HOCKSTADER
Washington Post Foreign Service

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4—Domestic critics of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority who are summoned by police for short meetings over a cup of coffee frequently are in for an unpleasant surprise: detention without trial that can last for days, weeks or months.

In this manner among others, the Palestinian government in parts of the West Bank and Gaza has imprisoned dozens of professors, journalists, human rights activists, religious figures and even government officials during the six years of its existence.

Those are among the findings in a new report by the human rights organization Amnesty International, to be issued Tuesday in the lead-up to Arafat's target date for declaring establishment of a Palestinian state. Although the date, Sept. 13, is expected to slide, most analysts say for formal Palestinian statehood is likely to be declared in the coming months.

Palestinian officials often pay lip service to human rights or suggest they will be fully honored once Israel ends its occupation of Palestinian land and Arafat has established an independent state.

"I fought for the sake of my people and not to cause suffering for them," Col. Jibril Rajoub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security in the West Bank, told foreign journalists last month. "I personally will fight for the implementation of human

rights."

But the Amnesty International report suggests that the Palestinian Authority has systematically struck back at critics who have spoken or written about corruption, mismanagement and bad government, particularly when it involves Arafat. Arafat's security forces also have arrested critics who have questioned peace negotiations with Israel.

Responding to pressure by the United States and Israel to end Palestinian media "incitement" against the Jewish state, Arafat issued a decree in late 1998 that was used to arrest dissidents who attacked the peace process.

In nearly every case involving limitations on free expression, the detentions were made without arrest warrants, charges, trials or any reference to Palestinian law.

A draft Palestinian "basic law" guarantees liberty and freedom of expression and is even discussed in new Palestinian textbooks. But it has not been signed by Arafat. Other Palestinian laws provide ample leeway for the arrest of critics who, for example, sow "strife."

Often, the targets are journalists, writers and intellectuals. But they also include government officials, according to the Amnesty International report. For example, Abd Fattah Chameh, Arafat's adviser on refugee affairs, was arrested in June after speaking to newspapers about the failure to find a just settlement for Palestinian refugees. He remains in custody.

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The Missing Leader

AS KINGS and presidents jostle for attention at the "Millennium Summit" in New York this week, they ought to devote a few words, or at least a few moments of thought, to one of their number who won't be present. Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's rightful leader, is effectively under arrest, captive of a thuggish military regime that refuses to accept the results of an election she won a decade ago. In the past few days, the generals have tightened the screws on Aung San Suu Kyi and her party, jailing supporters, stealing documents and cutting off telephone connections to her house and those of her associates. Her plight represents, among other things, a failure on the part of the international community that will be celebrating itself with such fanfare at the United Nations beginning tomorrow.

The latest drama in Burma began when Aung San Suu Kyi dared to set out from her house, where the regime keeps her confined even while pretending—with its usual mendacity—that she is free. The generals sent their goons to block her way, let the air out of her car's tires and diverted her to a muddy field on the city's outskirts. There Aung San

Suu Kyi stubbornly camped for nine days, intent on exercising her rights of free movement and association. After nine days, the goons sent 200 soldiers on a midnight raid to return the Nobel Peace laureate to—it is presumed—her house. Even diplomats have been forbidden contact with her.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright strongly condemned the regime's latest bullying, but as usual others send different signals. Big oil companies, including Unocal of the United States and Total of France, continue to bolster the regime. European diplomats plan a December meeting with Southeast Asian officials, including those from Burma. China's gerontocrats, who feel right at home with Burma's generals, keep the drug-tainted junta well supplied with weapons.

Aung San Suu Kyi herself, when last permitted to communicate, made clear that she and her party seek only dialogue with the regime. That international leaders and businesses cannot unite in support of that modest, nonviolent goal is a sad reality that ought to temper any self-satisfied huffery and puffery at the Millennium Summit.

Fair Play for Nuclear Workers

FOR A WHILE it seemed as though help was on the way this year for some of the workers sickened by exposure to radiation in the plants that built the nation's nuclear arsenal. Reversing decades of opposition to such claims, the administration promised to help recoup medical expenses and lost wages for workers who fell ill after laboring among hazardous materials used to design, build and test nuclear weapons. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson announced the new policy in April with an apology on behalf of the president "for the suffering these men and women have been through."

The House pledged action this year; the Senate held hearings and eventually passed a compensation plan as part of its 2001 defense authorization bill. Now the plan is in trouble. The House defense bill doesn't contain a similar provision, and unless conferees can agree on the compensation package, the chance to enact a plan this year almost certainly will be lost.

Although everyone claims to support the basic idea of helping injured workers, House ne-

gotiators have raised objections to the scope and structure of the Senate's compensation package, which in its current form could cost as much as \$2.4 billion over five years. Rep. Lamar Smith, who chairs a House subcommittee with jurisdiction over legislation involving claims against the government, has asked a key House conferee to keep the compensation plan out of the defense bill. He said it would be irresponsible to pass the measure without careful review by the proper House committee and that he wants to hold a hearing this month.

But 104 other House members have called on the conferees to accept the Senate plan. Establishing the compensation program, they wrote, is the least the government can do to address "the tragic consequences borne by 'citizen-soldiers' who have the lasting scars of the Cold War." They are right. The Post's Joby Warrick has reported extensively on the dismal failure to protect workers or even inform them of hazards at the uranium enrichment plant at Paducah, Ky. Similar stories emerged from other facilities. The moral obligation to help is clear.

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A Light Dawns

Laser Weapons Get Lift From New R&D In Targeting Missiles

Better Beams and Low Cost Turn Heads at Pentagon; But No Deployment Soon

A 747 With 7-Ton Telescope

By ANNE MARIE SQUEO
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M.—“Send out the beams.” Mark Kramer sounds a bit like Capt. Kirk of “Star Trek” as he repeatedly intones this order to a team of scientists gathered atop a New Mexico mountain. What the lanky Air Force scientist is orchestrating here would have fit right in on the futuristic television show.

Mr. Kramer and his men are part of a small fraternity that spends long nights on the brush-covered North Oscura Peak, overlooking the crater where the world's first atomic bomb exploded. On most evenings, for the past month or so, the group has wolfed down a microwave meal at sunset at a nearby barracks, piled into cars coated with dust from rutted roads and driven a milelong gravel path to a cinder-block test facility on the peak. Here, in a remote zone rarely visited by civilians or even by other military personnel, they are working with what are now considered one of the U.S. military's most promising weapons: lasers.

Invisible Beams

Their assignment is to test a targeting system that will eventually enable a high-energy laser weapon carried by a customized Boeing 747 to shoot down a ballistic missile from hundreds of miles away—within seconds. At 9 p.m., they start bouncing the invisible beams off a mirror 30 miles away on Salinas Peak, an activity cleared by Apache Indians who consider the mountain sacred. Around 2 a.m., they start firing a nonlethal laser at a Cessna flying over White Sands Missile Range, a 3,200-square-mile expanse of southern New Mexico where the U.S. military tests its most secret weapons.

“There have been significant military developments over the years—gunpowder, air power, thermonuclear weapons,” says Mr. Kramer, a 45-year-old engineer who has been working on lasers for nearly two decades. “Light, as a weapon, is as revolutionary as any of those things.”

That Mr. Kramer can say this without sounding foolish says something about how far the development of a killer laser has come since President Ronald Reagan first proposed his “Star Wars” missile-defense system in the early 1980s. Then, the technology never emerged to zap a Soviet missile from outer space. Now, scientists have made enough advances, helped in part by smaller and faster computers, to put the much-derided concept of laser-firing satellites back on the Pentagon's drawing board.

An Intricate Array

As Mr. Reagan envisioned his Strategic Defense Initiative, known as Star Wars, an intricate array of such satellites and space-based sensors would provide a protective shield over the U.S. But the laser devices available back then were too weak, too heavy and too power-needy to do the job. Although billions of dollars were spent on Star Wars, by the time of the 1990 Gulf War, the Soviet Union had almost dissolved and the White House was much more worried about isolated attacks by a smaller and more daring enemy. It shifted focus to a missile defense system similar to Raytheon Co.'s Patriot, which was used with mixed results against Iraqi Scud missiles.

The development of so-called hit-to-kill systems rely on an interceptor of some kind to smash an incoming enemy missile before it reaches its target. The end result with both hit-to-kill weapons and lasers is largely the same, but the methods differ in terms of finesse and durability. Hit-to-kill is like launching a bullet at a bullet, with bullets destroyed on both sides. The laser weapon fires from a great distance what is, in essence, invisible ammo that damages or destroys without suffering any damage itself.

A decade later, the U.S. still doesn't have a hit-to-kill system as reliable as the brass would like. Although the Army and Navy are spending billions of dollars to develop hit-to-kill technology for the battlefield and the Pentagon is promoting it as the centerpiece of a \$20 billion National Missile Defense plan to protect the U.S., tests of this technology haven't gone well. Out of 29 attempts to shoot down a missile, only 12 have worked. And those tests were conducted under controlled circumstances quite different from real combat. On Friday, President Clinton announced that he wouldn't authorize the first step in building a national missile defense system, saying the technology “still isn't proven.” That leaves the system's fate up to the next president.

The muddled progress of such missile systems is the main reason why the laser work at White Sands has become more relevant. During the past few years scientists here and at nearby Kirtland Air Force Base, where Mr. Kramer and some of his colleagues work, have quietly topped several of the biggest barriers to a workable laser-weapons system. They pumped up the power of a chemical laser, and they reduced the size of its supporting computer systems as new generations of high-speed semiconductors emerged. Perhaps most important, they turned an astrophysics theory dating back to the 1950s into a tangible system enabling laser beams to maintain their strength while overcoming atmospheric disturbances.

Given the relative success rates of each technology, “I'm not sure we could choose hit-to-kill over lasers right now,” says Air Force Col. Mark Rogers of the Pentagon's Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. The unit oversees planning for both the hit-to-kill approach favored by the National Missile Defense Plan and an Air Force program to build a space-based laser not unlike the one originally imagined by President Reagan.

Proponents of lasers are encouraged by recent tests. In June, a ground-based laser being jointly developed by the U.S. and Israeli armies and built by TRW Inc. shot down a Russian-built missile launched by the researchers over New Mexico. (The Russian rocket is very cheap and common on the weapons black market, so it is popular with terrorists and other fringe groups.) And last week, the system successfully took down two in rapid succession. The fact that a ground-based system can work “is like saying, ‘Hey, we're here, we've done it and this system is no longer a pipe dream,’” says Air Force Col. Ellen Pawlikowski, who is overseeing the airborne-laser program that Mr. Kramer is working on.

Today, three laser programs—ground-based, airborne and space-based—are together garnering around \$500 million annually in taxpayer funding, a pittance compared with what's being spent on hit-to-kill systems. But three months ago, the Pentagon set up a special office to oversee the research-and-development efforts after declaring lasers “ready for some of today's most challenging weapons applications” in a report issued to Congress. The Air Force hopes to have seven of the customized laser-armed 747s in the air by 2009 and has already dispatched an airborne 747 to East Asia and the Middle East to collect atmospheric samples for study. The laser beam's strength and accuracy depend on adapting to the atmosphere where it is fired. Testing of a space-based system is currently scheduled for the middle of the next decade.

'Layered' Defense Strategy

To be sure, few defense experts are arguing to dump “hit-to-kill” in favor of lasers. But laser advances have begun to trigger greater debate within the military establishment about the best and cheapest way to protect U.S. citizens on the battlefield and at home. The Pentagon, hedging its bets, officially favors a “layered” defense strategy that uses both. In theory if a laser fails to stop a missile shortly after its take-off, a hit-to-kill interceptor could take it down before it hits its target. And military contractors are happy to oblige their biggest customer since Boeing Co., Lockheed Martin Corp. and TRW are involved in both types of programs.

Proponents of lasers argue that they make more sense than hit-to-kill weapons. They are cheaper per shot, easier to deploy because they are lighter, and they have the benefit of being able to nail enemy missiles soon after takeoff. One of the biggest problems faced by hit-to-kill systems is that they can be easily fooled by decoys as basic as a Mylar balloon, says Prof. Theodore Postol of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Lasers, by contrast, are designed to zap a missile in its earliest stage of flight, before decoys are released and when the warhead is still connected to its booster rocket and moving relatively slowly.

The challenge has always been to build a laser that is powerful enough and small enough. That's precisely what the White Sands scientists have tried to do. There are still big questions about integrating the lasers they have designed with other key components of a workable weapons system such as radar, the computer systems that instantaneously calculate trajectory and the vehicle that carries the laser, whether it be a 747 or a satellite. All the components are developed separately and tested for how they work individually; integration is another phase. But they say they have made great strides when it comes to the power, size and accuracy of the laser and its targeting mechanism. “We've eliminated a lot of the unknowns,” Col. Pawlikowski says.

Strength and Speed

With any laser, even those used for medicinal purposes, the key is to create and maintain a concentrated beam of light. Not unlike a shower stream, a laser starts out with a strong solid beam that becomes increasingly dispersed as it moves further from the power source.

One challenge was to make a laser that could reach an enemy missile and knock it out in less than a minute after the target rocket was launched. The weapon's effectiveness declines once the target reaches a higher altitude than the airborne laser. Older carbon-dioxide lasers, such as those used in the 1980s, didn't have the necessary oomph unless jolted with an enormous amount of electricity. (“You'd have to run a plug from the plane to the Hoover Dam,” jokes an Air Force official.) The New Mexico researchers solved the problem by inventing a chemical laser that mixes hydrogen peroxide with potassium hydroxide and a little chlorine gas. This laser generates power from its own internal combustion, not an external source, and its beam travels farther without breaking up.

Another problem is controlling the way atmospheric disturbances affect a laser beam. To overcome such disturbances, scientists at White Sands have created a system of “adaptive optics” that send out a distorted beam of light that gets straightened by the air. When the aircraft, which will carry a seven-ton telescope in its nose, “sees” an enemy missile break through the clouds, an initial laser

10F2

"reads" the atmosphere as the beam moves toward the target, then bounces off the target and returns to the airplane.

The returning beam tells an onboard computer what distortion pattern is needed to generate a beam that will be "straightened" by the atmosphere. Then, the high-powered beam, with a diameter about equal to a basketball's, is fired in that shape, straightened by the air, and, if successful, rips into the enemy rocket.

A Little Turbulence

On this night, it is the reliability of this system that is being tested here on North Oscura Peak. There are thunderstorms, which present a challenge to the researchers. In reality, the airborne laser won't experience such problems because, flying at 40,000 feet, the laser would function above the weather. Still, as one civilian scientist points out, having a laser travel 30 miles in this weather is probably equivalent to the "turbulence you'd accumulate over the long distances" the airborne laser is intended for.

Tonight's battery of tests involves repeatedly beaming a laser from this three-story, aluminum-domed building to a sensor board attached to the side of a Cessna airplane in flight. The point is to use the sensors to see if the laser arrives at the plane in a concentrated state that can be held for the six seconds believed necessary to make a kill.

The tests are almost entirely orchestrated via computer, making it possible even for a visitor to unleash the lasers simply by clicking the "SEND BEAMS" icon on the computer screen. The result of each test is immediately evident on the half-dozen computers around the room. If the laser kept its focus, the result resembles a yellow-and-orange fried egg sunny-side-up on one computer. If it doesn't, the image looks more like a Rorschach test.

Some of the challenges facing the Air Force are very much apparent. The computer system crashes twice in as many hours. The laser has problems staying on its target. "It's doing weird things tonight and I'm not sure why," Mr. Kramer tells the Cessna pilots via CB radio. Still, he and the other technicians don't appear particularly stressed out. In fact, they keep up a steady stream of jokes and stories—including a recounting of a recent night when a rattlesnake sought to join their ranks. After several weeks of testing, "we've found the performance is better than we expected," says Air Force Capt. Stephen Ford, who heads up the test alongside Mr. Kramer.

He'd better be right, or the test plane now being built by Boeing to carry a new generation laser might end up right next to its 1980s predecessor, developed for Star Wars. The Airborne Laser Lab, as it was called, is now a display at the museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. "If we fail," says Col. Pawlikowski, "it's going to be a long time before the Air Force gets a laser system."

2 of 2

President ☒

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
9-5-00

Both/All ☐

First Lady ☐

Chelsea ☐

HR
62957

DONOR INFORMATION

Name: Kay J Goss (Susan) daughter

Address: 965 Harrison Circle

Alex Va 22304 Phone: _____

PRESENTATION

Date: 8/31/2000 Event: _____

Handed to President ☐ Other Method ☐

Gift Description: Antique Book - Inside History of the White House by Gilson Willets

Copyright 1908 Send Gift and Register to OEOB, Room 457 x7133

DUTY

9-5-00

To Cohen for reply
after you have seen?

Yes - No -

B.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: September 5, 2000

NOTE FOR: **The Honorable Richard W. Riley**
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education

The President has reviewed the attached, and it is forwarded to you
for your:

Information ☒

Action ☐

Thank you.

Staff Secretary
(x6-2702)

cc:

The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
Room 7W301
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Princeton University

Industrial Relations Section

Firestone Library

Princeton, New Jersey 08544-2098

Phone: (609) 258-4046

Fax: (609) 258-2907

Alan B. Krueger

Bendheim Professor of

Economics and Public Affairs

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9-5-00

① Doty
② Board - what are you thinking
at Sunday School?
active?
- cc Riley

August 25, 2000

Mr. Douglas Band
The President's Aide
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

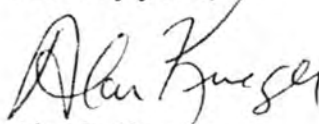
Copied
Read
Sec Riley
Podesta
Cohen (original)

Dear Mr. Band:

When he was in Princeton on behalf of Rush Holt earlier this week, President Clinton asked me to send him via you the enclosed articles I wrote for the *New York Times*. I would appreciate it if you could pass them along to the President.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Alan B. Krueger
Professor

Enc.

Economic Scene | Alan B. Krueger

Vouchers for summer school could help halt the learning slide.

A Gallup poll taken in July discovered the obvious: the Harry Potter books are being read by everyone this summer. Well, almost everyone. Children in low-income families are much less likely to read Harry than their counterparts in middle- and upper-income families.

This finding will not surprise education experts or teachers, who have known for decades that economically disadvantaged children fall behind during the summer months compared with their peers. The problem is that children from low-income families are less likely to read Harry Potter or much else during the summer, which causes their skills to atrophy when school is out of session.

What might be called the "Harry Potter divide" — the depressed level of academic engagement in poor households when school is out — is responsible for a major portion of the gap in achievement between low- and high-income students.

The achievement gap has important economic consequences. Several studies indicate that students who score one standard deviation higher on math and reading tests

This column appears here every Thursday. Alan B. Krueger is the Bendheim Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University and editor of The Journal of Economic Perspectives. Four economic analysts — Professor Krueger, Hal R. Varian, Jeff Madrick and Virginia Postrel — rotate as contributors.

— comparing those at the 15th percentile to those at the 50th percentile, say — earn, on average, 15 to 20 percent more a year as adults. And a new study by Christopher Jencks of Harvard University and Meredith Phillips of the University of California at Los Angeles found that high school is not too late to make a difference: those whose math test scores increased between 10th and 12th grade achieved higher incomes later in life compared with those who started at the same level but did not raise their scores.

Clearly, raising achievement pays off, and it pays off more today than in the past because the information age has increased the demand for skilled workers.

Labor force projections, however, indicate a slowdown in the growth of skilled workers in the next two decades, so the achievement gap between lower-income students and their counterparts from more affluent families could crimp the expansion of the economy. In my view, the summer learning deficit is much more worrisome for economic growth than the trade deficit.

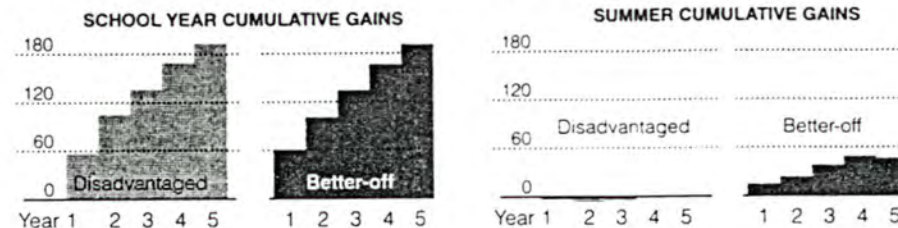
The latest and probably best research on the summer learning gap is in a 1997 book, "Children, Schools and Inequality" (Westview Press) by Doris Entwisle, Karl Alexander and Linda Olson of Johns Hopkins University. The three sociologists have been studying a random sample of 800 Baltimore public school students since they entered first grade in 1982. At the beginning and end of each school year, students took the California Achievement Test.

The researchers examined gains and losses in test scores over the school year and summer break. Students were classified into groups based on their parents' socioeconomic status, which depended on education, occupation and income.

Remarkably, children from families of high and low socioeconomic status made

How They Spent Their Summer Vacations

During the school year, children from economically disadvantaged (■) and better-off families (□) saw almost the same improvement in their reading scores.* But over the summer, the skills of only the better-off children kept improving.



*Cumulative gains on California Achievement Test in reading over elementary school years and summers. Sample consists of Baltimore public school students who entered first grade in 1982. Test "scale scores" are calibrated to measure growth over a student's 12-year school career.

Source: Doris Entwisle, Kurt Alexander, and Linda Olson, "Children, Schools and Inequality"

The New York Times

equivalent gains on math and reading exams during the school year. But the achievement level of children from low-income families either fell or stagnated during the summer, while children from higher income families continued to make progress.

The entire achievement gap between children from low- and high-income families arises from periods when school is out and the period before children enroll in school. This pattern, which also holds in other studies, suggests public schools are doing more to help poor children overcome the obstacles they face in their homes and neighborhoods than is commonly appreciated.

While Republicans and Democrats spar over using vouchers to reform public schools, a potential solution to the achievement gap has been overlooked. Why not give low-income parents a scholarship, or vouch-

er, to send their children to some type of a summer learning program?

The idea of school vouchers, which is frequently attributed to Milton Friedman but dates back at least to Thomas Paine, has become "radioactive" among Democrats, as Jonathan Orszag, a former official for President Clinton's National Economic Council, put it. So call this something else, such as Summer Opportunity Scholarships — S.O.S. for short.

Only 9 percent of students in the United States attend summer school. Unlike other voucher programs, summer school scholarships would supplement, rather than substitute for, the traditional public school system.

The 180-day school year in the United States — a legacy of a bygone era when children were needed to work the farm in

the summer — is short by international standards. By the end of high school, children in Japan, for example, have had the equivalent of four more years of schooling than American children. Although it would be desirable to use the 180-day school year more constructively, one thing is clear: more time on task helps students learn.

Summer school bolsters achievement if it is focused on specific academic goals, says Harris Cooper of the University of Missouri. Professor Cooper, who just published a review of 93 evaluations of separate summer school programs, said the effect of summer school on student achievement was "clearly positive" when performance was compared either with participants' pre-summer scores or with a randomly selected control group of nonparticipants.

But summer school runs into a roadblock. Many families and teachers do not want to be in school year round. Mandated summer school attendance also carries a stigma, as such programs typically cater to older children who are already far behind.

Summer scholarships offer a solution. Families could be given a refundable tax credit or cash grant if they sent their children to a competent academic enrichment program during the summer. A range of options already exist, including public school-sponsored summer schools, private tutoring organizations like the Sylvan Learning Center, Kumon learning centers, and education-oriented camps.

Too many children are forced to endure summers like the mythical Harry Potter Privet Drive. No books, no trips, no visits to the library; only a television and loyal dog for company. Giving low-income families scholarships to send their children to summer enrichment programs could help narrow the achievement gap and better prepare the work force of tomorrow.

Economic Scene

Alan B. Krueger

A study backs up what
George Foreman already
said: the Job Corps works.

WHEN the Job Corps, an original antipoverty program from Lyndon Johnson's Great Society, was on the ropes and facing deep budget cuts in the mid-1990's, George Foreman came to its defense. "Job Corps took me from the mean streets and out of a nightmare lifestyle into a mode where the most incredible of dreams came true," Mr. Foreman, the two-time heavyweight boxing champion, said. More scientific evidence is in a study by Mathematica Policy Research quietly released last week. The study finds that the Job Corps measurably improves the education and job prospects of disadvantaged youth. It also offers clues as to why. The Job Corps is the most intensive and expensive of the dwindling number of government programs for disadvantaged youth. The \$1.3 billion cost last year amounts to about \$20,000 for each participant. Although critics mistakenly argue that the Job Corps is as expensive as a year at Harvard — ignoring the public subsidy and endowment spending that raise Harvard's true costs for each student well above \$50,000 a year — the costs are high.

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The stakes are also high. Each year, the program serves more than 60,000 mostly poor, urban high school dropouts who are 16 to 24 years old. A third of the male participants had been arrested at least once before joining the program; two-thirds of all participants had never held a full-time job. If the Job Corps does not improve the prospects of disadvantaged youths, then less-intensive programs are unlikely to help either.

The Job Corps is expensive because 90 percent of students are sent from their neighborhoods to one of 116 residential campuses in 46 states. There they stay for about eight months of academic education, vocational training, counseling, health education and job placement assistance. Students train for jobs in the new and old economy, from Jiffy Lube to Cisco Systems.

Mathematica's "National Job Corps Study" (www.ttrc.doleta.gov/opr/FULLTEXT/jobcorps/Outcomes/), financed by the Labor Department, presents initial results of the most scientifically rigorous evaluation of the program ever done. Researchers followed 9,409 applicants to the Job Corps between November 1994 and December 1995 who were randomly selected for the program, and another 6,000 applicants who were randomly assigned to a control group that was excluded from the Job Corps services for three years. Applicants were surveyed 12 and 30 months after they applied; almost 80 percent responded.

The study compares the self-reported employment, earnings and criminal activity of the participant and control groups in the 30 months after students applied to the program. By the last survey, participants had typically lived on their own, away from the Job Corps, for a year and a half.

The participants received about 1,000 more hours of education and job training than members of the control group. For high

Measuring the Benefits

The Job Corps, one of the few remaining government programs for disadvantaged youth, may be expensive, but a recent study suggests it is beneficial. The program takes about 60,000 high school dropouts a year from poor neighborhoods for eight months of intensive study, counseling and job placement assistance. The research compared thousands of randomly selected participants with a control group of randomly selected applicants who were excluded from the program.

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS	PERCENT EMPLOYED	PERCENT ARRESTED	PERCENT EARNING G.E.D.	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS
Job Corps participants	\$184	68.0	22.0	40.0	\$2,215
Non-participants	\$166	65.2	28.1	15.9	\$2,639

Notes: Average weekly earnings and employment are for the most recent quarter; other figures are for the 30 months after applying to the Job Corps. Figures are based on a comparison of those admitted to the Job Corps and the control group, and are adjusted to take into account that 27 percent of those admitted did not participate.

Source: "National Job Corps Study: The Short-Term Impacts of Job Corps on Participants' Employment and Related Outcomes," by Peter Z. Schochet, John Burghardt and Steven Glazerman.

school dropouts, attending the Job Corps raised the percentage who earned a General Equivalency Development degree to 40 percent from 16 percent.

Two and a half years after applying to the Job Corps, the average applicant selected for the program earned 8 percent more each week than the average control group member. Because only three-quarters of the selected applicants actually attended the Job Corps, the Mathematica analysts figured that the program raised the average participant's earnings by 11 percent. This increase is about what labor economists expect for every year of schooling.

Program participants also had slightly higher employment rates, average weekly

work hours and hourly earnings. For 16- to 17-year-old males — a group whose prospects are notoriously difficult to improve with other employment training — earnings increased, according to Peter Z. Schochet, co-author of the study, by an impressive 20 percent. Extrapolating from the most recent quarter, the Job Corps appears to raise the average participant's earnings by almost \$1,000 a year, to \$9,563 from \$8,642. Participants also received about \$425 less in public assistance during the study period.

A striking finding is that participants were about 20 percent less likely to be arrested, charged or convicted of a crime, and if convicted, they served less jail time.

Except for women with children, students

slotted for a nonresidential Job Corps program had no statistical improvement relative to comparable control group members. Evidently, by sending young people to residential campuses, the program overcomes the distraction of gangs, drugs and poverty that plague their normal neighborhoods.

Some social scientists, like Lisbeth Schorr of Harvard, have argued that complex, multipronged social interventions cannot be evaluated with scientific treatment and control methods. The National Job Corps Study proves them wrong. Orley Ashenfelter, a Princeton economist, commented that the methods used in the study have made labor economics a "powerful science."

Mathematica will wait to complete a 48-month follow-up survey before performing cost-benefit analysis of the Job Corps next year. Nonetheless, the short-term results are similar to those found in an earlier evaluation of the program by Charles Mallar, then at Mathematica. That study, conducted in 1982 without the benefit of random assignment, concluded that every dollar spent on the Job Corps returned more than a dollar in benefits for society.

Had the new study shown the Job Corps to be a bust, the program surely would be on the ropes again. Instead, the program works for the same reasons it helped George Foreman: it takes troubled youth out of "the mean streets" and places them in a safe, constructive and disciplined environment where they learn employment and social skills.

Yet the number of the Job Corps slots has been stable for decades, while the number of disadvantaged youth has exploded. President Clinton's latest budget proposal requests only a small increase. Why not set a loftier goal? Why shouldn't the Job Corps be able to accommodate every eligible youngster in the country?

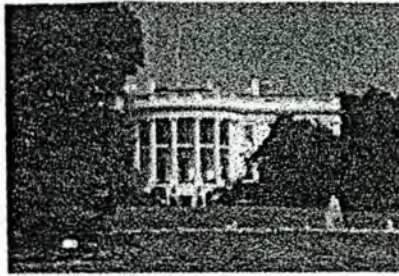
1 to Eugenic for
Yes ☒ No ☐
B.

cc: Capricia

Mr. President

Do not know
Ref. to his letter to
Capricia - please
write him to pay
at home
Pep

9-5-00



THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN
9-5-00

Dear Mr. President:

Happy, Happy Birthday!!! I hope you enjoyed your day and took some time off—especially if it's to golf!! It was so great to see you when you landed in Barrington, RI a few weeks ago. Everyone in the room was counting the minutes till you arrived along with me—I couldn't wait to see you and say hi! That was awesome seeing you get off your helicopter and give your salute.

I really hope to see you at the White House this Christmas, since it will be your last one there. I really wish you didn't have to leave office since you've gotten the whole country back on track and deserve to keep it going. I'm sure, though, we will still be hearing great things about you after January. Maybe I can even get to hear you play your saxophone! My mom told me about a video that was on TV that I missed in April that you had made and she loved it! Maybe you can get them to play it again because I would really get a charge out of seeing you with Stewart!!

I just played the other day in Stonnington, CT at the estate of Eva Franchi, who is the wife of the late Sergio Franchi. This was the tenth year she has had a memorial concert in honor of Sergio who died in 1990. It was all classical music with tenors and sopranos from all over the country, and there were over 5,000 people there! I got a great response from the audience, and she told me I would definitely be back next year. Not exactly the White House playing for the President of the United States, but it wasn't a bad gig!

Well, Mr. President, I hope everything is great with you and Mrs. Clinton, and Chelsea. I've never met Chelsea, maybe some day I will get the chance. I hope to see you or talk to you soon!

Your friend,

Cory Pesaturo
Cory Pesaturo



LIFE IS LIKE MUSIC...



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
9-5-00



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

00 SEP 5 PM 12:26

THE DIRECTOR

September 5, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM

Jacob J. Lew

SUBJECT

United Nations Peacekeeping Funding - - INFORMATIONAL

When you are in New York at the United Nations Millennium Summit, there may be discussions of our payments to the United Nations for international peacekeeping activities. This memorandum provides a status report on your funding request for fiscal year 2001 and on our efforts this year to make payments for arrearages in conjunction with reforms to be undertaken by the United Nations (UN).

The low levels of funding for peacekeeping assessments contained in the House-passed and Senate Committee-reported versions of the Commerce/Justice/State Appropriations bill for FY 2001 will risk our not being able to support major UN peacekeeping missions and substantially add to United States arrearages. Both the House and Senate versions of the bill are subject to veto threats based on a broad range of issues, including UN Peacekeeping funding. For example, both the House and Senate seriously underfund your Lands Legacy initiative, COPS, Digital Divide, the Legal Services Corporation, civil rights programs such as the EEOC and funding of Federal tobacco litigation. The House terminates the Advanced Technology program. And we may try to move the hate crime legislation and Nicaraguan and Central American immigration reform (NACARA) on this bill.

Given that funding decisions for UN Peacekeeping can only be resolved in the context of broader discussions of the many issues in the Commerce/Justice/State bill, I would urge you in your discussions with Richard Holbrooke to focus his efforts on ensuring that the Hill understands our policies in each of the areas, rather than on specific appropriations issues. Negotiations on CJS should be done by your budget team in a way that represents all the interests in the bill.

A summary of your FY 2001 request and House and Senate action, our latest estimates of funding requirements and a brief status report on UN reforms follows.

Cajun
Berg
NSC WW Desk
Lew
Padesta

Status of FY '01 funding of Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA)

The current status of CIPA funding is \$350 to \$500 million short of our requirements, and will require a substantial effort in the endgame to reach an acceptable funding level. One problem is that there is less leverage than last year in one major way. Unlike last year, underfunding peacekeeping and running up new arrearages to the UN does not put the US at risk of loss of our vote in the General Assembly, due to the peculiarities of the loss-of-vote calculation. Underfunding would nonetheless be very deleterious. It would undermine our ability to assert leadership on a number of peacekeeping missions, particularly in Africa, and it would pull the rug out from our efforts to achieve much needed reforms in the UN, including a reduction in the US assessment rate, in return for the US paying much of its previously incurred arrearages.

Your FY 2001 budget request for CIPA is \$739 million, compared with \$498 million appropriated in FY 2000 and \$219 million appropriated in FY 1999. In addition, you requested a supplemental of \$107 million in FY 2000, to be available over two years for missions in Kosovo and East Timor, which was not approved by Congress.

Our current estimate of total FY 2001 CIPA funding requirements necessary to pay all anticipated assessments is \$835 million. The increase over FY 2000 and over the original FY 2001 budget request of \$739 million is due to several factors: the new Ethiopia/Eritrea peacekeeping missions, the expanded Sierra Leone mission currently being debated in the UN (which was just notified to Congress on August 31), the expansion of the mission in Lebanon, and the decisions made by the UN earlier this summer to delay assessments for a number of missions (Kosovo, Bosnia, East Timor, and Sierra Leone) from FY 2000 to FY 2001. However, this total assumes that the mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo is stalled, and if the situation turns around there, it could add significantly to the requirement, as could any other new mission, such as Burundi.

Thus far, the House has provided \$498 million in the House-passed Commerce-Justice-State bill, and the Senate has provided \$500 million in the Senate-reported bill. However, the Senate bill also contains a rescission of \$213 million from FY 2000 funding, and otherwise assumes that \$45 million of FY 2000 funding will not be spent to pay FY 2000 peacekeeping bills; in essence providing a bottom line of \$242 million for peacekeeping in FY 2001. It's probably fair to say the House Subcommittee Chairman (Rogers) is opposed to the overall rapid expansion of peacekeeping costs, very opposed to the UN taking on peace enforcement missions involving ongoing hostilities, and believes that the overall funding level should serve as a limit on the number of missions the US supports. The Senate Subcommittee (Gregg and Hollings) views peacekeeping as a very low priority in terms of allocating funds within the CJS bill, and has little stake in facilitating the U.S. role in UN peacekeeping, except for Sen. Gregg having become directly involved in the discussions over the shape and direction of the Sierra Leone mission.

Status of UN Reform

The FY 2000 Omnibus appropriations act put into place the authorization/appropriation legislation that provides \$926 million for payment of arrearages in three tranches provided that certain conditions are met. So far, \$100 million in arrearages was paid to the UN at the end of 1999. The next tranche of \$682 million has not yet been paid, and is dependent upon a number of conditions being met. The three key ones are reduction of the US regular budget assessment from 25% to 22%; reduction of the US peacekeeping assessment rate from 31% to 25%; and a Secretary of State certification that a contested arrearages account has been created to essentially take any remaining US arrearages to the UN off the books. This last condition is difficult, and there is a waiver provision in the legislation to get around that condition, but that too has a threshold that is difficult to meet. This provision and the waiver was the result of extended negotiation; Congress likely will pay close attention to our actions on it. So the outlook on payment of the second tranche is still unsettled. The Senate appropriations bill for FY 2001 includes, somewhat inexplicably, an additional \$102 million for payment of arrearages in conjunction with conditions that are impossible to meet. Some in the State Department see that as an opportunity to reopen the arrearage deal agreed to last fall, but that would be an extremely difficult undertaking, and any evaluation of whether that is even possible to consider would have to wait until we have a better idea of how the overall priorities in the Commerce/Justice/State bill are faring as further Congressional consideration unfolds.

cc: Samuel R. Berger

are currently chronically ill because they cannot purchase long-term care insurance at any price. The only way to provide assistance to this population is to provide a direct tax credit or service administered by a public program.

Recommendation: We would recommend that you advise the Speaker that we cannot sanction or support their proposed tax deduction for private long-term care insurance unless it has adequate long-term care protections and includes the \$3,000 tax credit. You may wish to remind him that there is strong bipartisan support for both proposals in both the House and the Senate, and this vehicle provides him with the best opportunity to get this done.

THE
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

AS SEC
9-5-00

August 31, 2000

MR. PRESIDENT:

Once you have seen Neal's memo
and the attached report, we
will execute an acknowledgement
letter to Task Force Chair Janice
Lachance on your behalf.

Adam Rosman

AR

~~Good~~
How can this be
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Lane

Padesta

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 23, 2000

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: NEAL LANE *A. Bienenstock for N. Lane*

SUBJECT: Report of the Task Force on Federal Training Technology

Summary: Last year you signed Executive Order 13111 that established a Presidential Task Force on Federal Training Technology. As requested in the Executive Order, the Task Force has completed its report to you—*Technology: Transforming Federal Training*. OSTP and NEC will work with stakeholders to develop a response to the Task Force's five recommendations (see below). In the short-term, I recommend that you send the attached acknowledgment to the Task Force Chair, Janice Lachance.

Background: Part of the Administration's strategy to promote life-long learning is to ensure that the Federal government is making adequate investments in the training of its own employees, and to make appropriate use of new instructional technologies. These technologies can allow Federal workers to acquire new skills "anytime, anywhere" -- at a time, place, and pace that is convenient for them.

The Presidential Task Force on Federal Training Technology, chaired by OPM Director Janice Lachance, recently completed the attached report on transforming Federal training through the effective use of learning technologies. The Federal government must accelerate its use of technology in order to ensure the availability of readily accessible and high quality training to its workforce. Public expectations for services from government agencies are now higher. At the same time, the breadth of Federal training needs is ever increasing—ranging from training in basic reading and math skills, information technology, leadership and management to complex defense training scenarios. To be sure, the Federal government has been increasing its use of and investment in learning technology. To meet all these needs, however, more must be done to move aggressively toward using learning technology to provide anytime and anyplace training opportunities to its workforce.

The Task Force found two necessary precursors to successful use and integration of training technology: (1) the adoption of common software and system standards across the public and private sectors to enable interoperability and reusability on a large scale, and (2) cultural change in the agencies that encourages more interagency collaborations and private sector partnerships to aggressively promote training technology.

The Task Force makes the following recommendations to spur the integration of these precursors in the Federal government.

- Establish a One-Stop-Shop for Federal Training
- Make Training a Strategic Planning Priority for All Agencies
- Establish a Government-wide Fund for Learning Technology Innovation Grants
- Launch a Campaign to Educate Decision-Makers on the Advantages of Using Learning Technology
- Develop a Program to Promote Existing Procurement Flexibilities for Agency Acquisitions of Learning Technology

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON FEDERAL TRAINING TECHNOLOGY



Report to the President

Technology: Transforming Federal Training

July 2000

PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON FEDERAL TRAINING TECHNOLOGY
REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT



Technology: Transforming Federal Training

July 2000

July 28, 2000

The President of the United States
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

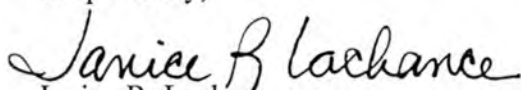
We are pleased to present our final report *Technology: Transforming Federal Training*. This report describes how the Task Force on Federal Training Technology implemented your Executive Order 13111: *Using Technology to Improve Opportunities for Federal Government Employees*. It also presents our research findings, our accomplishments, and our recommendations for accelerating the use of learning technology across the Federal Government.

The Task Force members and their agencies are excited about your emphasis on training as an investment in Federal government employees. They firmly believe that the public's ever-changing demand for government services makes accessible training for Federal employees a priority if we are going to have a skilled and responsive workforce. Technology is a key element in our ability to provide more training opportunities for all federal employees.

We now need your support to translate these recommendations into initiatives that will make e-Learning a reality for the Federal workforce. Our proposed recommendations will help assure that Federal employees are prepared to meet the complex demands of the American public in the growing e-Society.

Thank you for bringing focused attention to the need for the Federal Government to aggressively seek ways to incorporate e-Learning into the training of its workforce. We look forward to discussing this report with you, with members of your Administration, and with the members of Congress.

Respectfully,


Janice R. Lachance
Chairperson

President's Task Force on Federal Training Technology

List of Members

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Office of Personnel Management

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Assistant Secretary, Administration and Management
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President's Task Force on Federal Training Technology

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PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON FEDERAL TRAINING TECHNOLOGY

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Reinvention Associate
National Partnership for Reinventing Government

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Department of Commerce

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Department of Justice

Thomas Sullivan
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Environmental Protection Agency

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Department of Health and Human Services

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*“America’s competitiveness and the prosperity of our people
in a changing economy depend increasingly on
high-skill high-wage jobs.*

*Realizing our potential will require investing in
education and learning for all of our people
throughout their lifetimes.”*

Al Gore, Vice President of the United States
Summit on 21st Century Skills for 21st Century Jobs
January 12, 1999

Executive Summary

As we cross the threshold to the new millennium, the way we live, work, and conduct business is being radically changed by the e-society. Private sector companies are constantly being forced to redefine their business model to meet customer demand for products and services provided via the Internet and other forms of e-commerce. This has produced a continuous need for skills enhancement and retraining that can only be efficiently addressed by using technology-based training. Public expectations for services from government agencies are now higher. To meet this new level of expectation, we need to ensure that Federal employees take full advantage of these new learning technologies and that they acquire the skills and learning needed to succeed in a rapidly changing workplace. Access to training is the key to a competent and responsive workforce. The Federal government will need to evolve with the Internet age and move aggressively toward using learning technology to provide “anytime” and “anyplace” training opportunities to its workforce.

Executive Order 13111

On January 12, 1999, President William J. Clinton moved to establish a coordinated effort to access and promote the use of technology to train the Federal workforce when he issued *Executive Order 13111, Using Technology to Improve Training Opportunities for Federal Government Employees*. This directive established the President’s Task Force on Federal Training Technology with membership from a multidisciplinary cadre of senior-level representatives of the Federal government. The cadre’s principal charge was to develop a policy to “make effective use of technology to improve training opportunities for Federal government employees.”

Task Force Interim Accomplishments

During the course of its work, the Task Force achieved several interim accomplishments that included:

- **Implementing 13 Agency Individual Learning Account (ILA) Pilot Programs** — These pilots will provide the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) with the empirical data necessary to determine the viability of establishing ILA programs government-wide.
- **Establishing a Joint OPM and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Initiative to Help Agencies to Better Plan the Allocation of Training Resources** — This OPM and OMB alliance is working to produce a requirement in the FY-2002 OMB Budget Circular A-11 to direct agencies to annually develop specific training goals and measures aligned with mission requirements. In support of this initiative, OPM will publish guidance to help agencies strategically plan training.
- **Developing Consensus Standards for e-learning** — As a result of extensive cooperative efforts across the public and private sectors, on January 31, 2000, the Department of Defense (DOD), in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, released the *Sharable Courseware Reference Model (SCORM)*. This pivotal work provides specifications and guidelines that will be the foundation for how organizations will use learning technologies to build and operate the e-learning systems of the future. DOD also established the Advanced Distributive Learning (ADL) Co-Laboratory to foster collaborative research, development, and assessment of the common tools, standards, content, and guidelines for the Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative.

- **Administering the First Government-wide Electronic Survey on Learning Technology** — The data gathered via a web-based survey from 349 respondents in 33 different agencies provided the most comprehensive benchmarking of Federal efforts to implement learning technology ever documented.
- **Establishing the Training Technology Implementation Group (TTIG)** — This interagency group of more than 40 project leaders was formed to help promote collaborations and share information about agency learning technology implementations among agencies.

These interim accomplishments, as impressive as they were, only highlighted the tremendous challenges the Task Force faced in finding ways to accelerate the acceptance and effective use of learning technology by Federal agencies.

Findings and Recommendations

The Task Force divided its work into six focus areas and established sub-groups to conduct research and provide recommendations to address the President's charge. Using a consensus approach, the full Task Force agreed that the President should be asked to support the following slate of recommendations:

- 1. Create a Steering Committee and One-Stop-Shop for Federal Training Technology** — Agencies have recognized the tremendous payoffs that come with providing technology-based training opportunities to their employees. The Task Force found isolated examples of successful learning technology implementations. However, the lack of a coordinated government-wide effort to promote interagency collaborations and information sharing inhibits the widespread adoption of effective learning technologies. A Federal Learning Technology Steering Committee charged with establishing government-wide strategies to accelerate these implementations is critically needed. This interagency body would be responsible for an annual report to the President on the status of the Federal government's efforts to use learning technology. It would also provide coordination for a Federal Learning Technology Resource Center that will serve as the "one-stop-shop" for agencies seeking assistance and information on implementing technology-based training.
- 2. Make Training a Strategic Planning Priority for All Agencies** — Several recent studies in both the private and public sectors have shown that integrating and aligning training needs with corporate strategic goals positively impact the bottom line. A review of Federal strategic plans revealed that training is usually not an integral part of agency plans. The Task Force, therefore, recommends that OPM and OMB issue a requirement and guidance for all agencies to establish specific training goals and measures as a part of their Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Annual Performance Plans.
- 3. Establish a Government-wide Fund for Learning Technology Innovation Grants** — Agencies identified a lack of funds for research and development (R&D) and start-up costs as a major barrier to implementing technology-based learning. The Task Force recommends that an OPM-managed Innovation fund be created to fund agency requests for assistance. The funds will offset the research and start-up costs associated with an effort to implement technology-based training. OPM would convene a blue-ribbon panel to review agency grant requests and give priority to proposals that involve interagency collaborations and external partnerships.

4. Launch a Campaign to Educate Decision-Makers on the Advantages of Using Learning Technology — Senior agency officials who have the authority to approve learning technology implementations often do not fully understand or appreciate the potential of learning technology. This predicament is exacerbated by a skills gap among human resource development professionals who are not prepared to make a compelling business case to support an investment in learning technology. The Task Force recommends that the deterrent effects of these problems be addressed via a multifaceted awareness and skills-building campaign. This effort should be initiated and coordinated by OPM and should be targeted at senior-level decision-makers and human resource development professionals charged with agency efforts to implement learning technology.

5. Develop a Program to Promote Existing Procurement Flexibilities for Agency Acquisitions of Learning Technology — Research affirms that procurement mechanisms currently available are more than capable of supporting agencies' transition to technology-based learning systems. Many, however, perceive the procurement process as too inflexible to efficiently service their needs. The Task Force's analysis showed that these perceptions are fueled by a general lack of understanding of the current flexibilities in the Federal procurement system. It is, therefore, recommended that a coordinated¹ government-wide awareness campaign be initiated for decision-makers and other stakeholders involved with selecting various options and methods for buying and sharing learning technology.

Conclusions

The Federal government's ability to provide the services and products that the American public expects depends on the talents and skills of the Federal workforce. Federal workers cannot meet the complex challenges of the e-society without continuous learning and development. Using technology to fulfill a growing need for retraining and new skills is no longer an option; it is a necessity. The recommendations of the Task Force, if accepted by the President, will create the foundation needed to accelerate the use of learning technology in the Federal government and strengthen the growth of a world-class Federal workforce.

¹ The General Services Administration (GSA), the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) should join forces with representatives of the Procurement Executive, Human Resources Development, Chief Information Officers, and Chief Financial Officers Councils.

PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON
FEDERAL TRAINING TECHNOLOGY

Report of Final Recommendations

July 2000

Report of Final Recommendations

Introduction:

Technology – Transforming Federal Learning

The explosion of technological innovations and the Internet are positively affecting all sectors of our society. One concrete example is the private sector's acceptance of technology-based learning as a viable method for delivering training. Private sector employers are using distributed learning systems to provide employees with "just-in-time" training to satisfy the rapidly changing demands of the marketplace. This transition has made them more competitive and improved their responsiveness to customers.

The public's increasing desire to get services on-line is radically changing the way it wants to interact with its government. The flexibilities of the e-society bring with it a continuous need for employee retraining and skills upgrades. The Federal government must accelerate its use of technology to ensure the availability of readily accessible and high quality training to its workforce.

A wide divergence exists in the training needs of Federal employees. These needs range from training in basic literacy and math skills, information technology, leadership, and management to complex defense training scenarios. To be responsive to these needs, training must be delivered using a combination of traditional and nontraditional means. Technology-based training affords employees access to training that fits their schedule, allows them to proceed at their own pace, and lets them decide when to proceed after having mastered a topic. Research also shows that when training is provided using a "just-in-time" model, the efficiency and value of the training are enhanced.

Toward these ends, the Federal government is increasing its use of and investment in learning technology. A variety of independent initiatives, such as training delivered through CD-ROMs using computer-based training (CBT), satellite down-links, expert systems, Internet/Intranet based systems, and sophisticated 3-D virtual simulations, represent a monumental attempt to integrate technology into the way training is delivered. However, more needs to be done to accelerate and coordinate learning technology integration so that new technology-based training opportunities are available more broadly to Federal employees.

Two key elements will play a major role in facilitating this integration. First, common software and system standards need to be adopted across the public and private sectors to enable programs to be exchanged and reused on a large scale. Second, agencies must undergo a cultural change that encourages more interagency collaborations and private sector partnerships to aggressively promote e-learning systems.

Task Force Formation

To address this critical need for change, President William J. Clinton, on January 12, 1999, issued Executive Order (E.O.) 13111: *Using Technology to Improve Training Opportunities for Federal Government Employees*. This groundbreaking directive established the President's Task Force on Federal Training Technology, composed of senior-level representatives of the Federal government, and charged them with developing a policy to "make effective use of technology to improve training opportunities for Federal government employees." The E.O. specifies that the focus of the Task Force should go beyond training and should encompass the broader concept of learning:

"A coordinated Federal effort is needed to provide flexible training opportunities to employees and to explore how Federal training programs, initiatives, and policies can better support lifelong learning through the use of learning technology."

OPM Director Janice Lachance serves as the Chair, and Assistant Secretary for the Office of Administration and Management at the Department of Labor, Patricia W. Lattimore, serves as Vice Chair of the Task Force. Emzell Blanton Jr., a senior advisor to the Director of OPM, serves as the Executive Director.

The 63 Task Force members and alternates were appointed from a cadre of senior-level representatives from 25 Federal agencies and four interagency councils. Having representatives from the Human Resources Development (HRD), Chief Financial Officers (CFOs), Chief Information Officers (CIOs), and Human Resource/Personnel (HR) councils makes this one of the most professionally diverse groups ever assembled to address training in the Federal government.

The work of the Task Force and its sub-groups are highlighted in the following sections.

Methods and Research

Given the high number of deliverables in the Executive Order, the work of the Task Force was broken into six focus areas and sub-groups established for each. The focus areas were:

- Individual Learning Accounts
- Learning Technologies
- Financial Investments
- Training Technology Implementation
- Procurement Options
- Standards

Each Task Force representative was assigned to one of the six sub-groups using a self-nomination process. After more than a year of conducting research using a variety of methods, which included focus groups, surveys, and personal interviews, each sub-group issued a comprehensive report of its findings with draft recommendations. The sub-group reports provide detailed information on the strategies and methods used to gather information and formulate recommendations.

Each report is catalogued on the President's Task Force on Federal Training Technology web-site at www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

These reports will serve as historical benchmarks for the Federal government's efforts to implement learning technology at the beginning of the new millennium. They will also be an invaluable resource for agencies seeking information on strategies, resources, and pitfalls of initial ventures into implementing technology-based learning systems.

Recommendations and Findings

Together the Task Force reviewed all draft recommendations and consolidated them into five final recommendations, which are detailed in the next section. These recommendations are presented in the following manner: (1) the text of the recommendation

with a short narrative explanation, (2) a suggested agency or group of agencies that should be tasked with implementing the recommendation, and (3) a suggested timeframe for completing the actions required in the recommendation.

Recommendation from the Individual Learning Account Report: Establish Pilots for Individual Learning Accounts

The Individual Learning Account (ILA) Sub-Group submitted its report² on the feasibility of establishing ILAs for Federal employees to the Task Force in early June 1999. The report indicated that ILAs have great potential as tools for Federal agencies to allocate training resources and to ensure employee input, and they deserved further study.

On July 12, 1999, the Task Force sent the President a recommendation calling for a series of OPM-coordinated agency ILA program pilots. These programs would provide the empirical data to access the value added by ILAs and give OPM the information it needs to establish government-wide guidance.

In November 1999, after the President's approval of the ILA recommendations, OPM issued guidance for agencies to establish 17 ILA pilots among 13 agencies. Initial reports are due to OPM in October 2000. During the latter part of FY-2001, OPM will share "lessons learned" from the pilots and provide government-wide implementation guidelines.

Recommendation 1: Create a Steering Committee and One-Stop-Shop for Federal Training Technology

The Learning Technology Sub-Group was chartered to make recommendations on integrating the effective use of current and emerging training/learning technologies into the Federal government's efforts to provide more accessible and cost-effective training opportunities for its employees. Its survey identified four primary types of technology in use by the Federal government: (1) computer-based training (CBT), (2) the Internet/Intranet, (3) satellite television, and (4) videocassettes. Of these delivery venues, the majority of the technology-based training in use was noninteractive and considered low-tech by today's standards.

This Sub-Group also recognized the value and potential of establishing external partnerships with the private sector, academia, and other nonfederal stakeholders in the e-learning community. The Sub-Group, in conducting a study to determine their use by Federal agencies, found very few external partnerships and concluded that the Federal government is bypassing a constructive opportunity as a result.

² Individual Learning Accounts Focus Area Sub-Group Report — www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

The Sub-Group also was asked to review current agency on-line training information systems to determine whether a likely candidate exists for a government-wide training information repository. After reviewing scores of agency specific systems, the Sub-Group recommended the adoption of the Department of Labor's (DOL) on-line Federal Learning Exchange (FLX). This system met all of the evaluation criteria. DOL is now working with the Task Force and other interested stakeholders to continually update and refine the system.

The *Learning Technology Sub-Group Report*³ also indicates that agencies have recognized the tremendous payoffs that come with providing technology-based training opportunities to their employees. Several examples of successful learning technology implementations were found. In general, however, the lack of a coordinated government-wide effort to promote interagency collaborations and information sharing inhibits the widespread adoption of effective learning technologies.

A Federal Learning Technology Steering Committee charged with establishing government-wide policies and strategies to accelerate learning technology implementations is critically needed. This interagency body would be responsible for an annual report to the President on the status of the Federal government's efforts to use learning technology. It could also provide coordination for a Federal Learning Technology Resource Center. The Resource Center would serve as the "one-stop-shop" for agencies seeking assistance and information on implementing technology-based training in the Federal government.

Tasking:

OPM, in coordination with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, should prepare an Executive Order to:

- Establish the Steering Committee and outline its responsibilities, and
- Define the structure, funding, and staffing of the Resource Center.

The Training Technology Steering Committee should have six standing member agencies and five rotating member agencies each serving two-year terms. The six standing agencies should be:

Office of Personnel Management

For its role as the agency responsible for establishing government-wide training policy;

Department of Labor

For its leadership in the creation and use of Internet-based training databases as a part of its America's Career Kit, which includes the America's Learning Exchange and the Federal Learning Exchange;

Department of Defense

For its leadership in the creation of a consensus-based standard for learning technology software and systems, and sponsors of the Advanced Learning Distributive (ALD) Co-Laboratory;

Department of Commerce

For its leadership in promoting more commercial and intellectual collaboration between the Federal government and the private sector to accelerate the use of technology in training;

³ Learning Technology Focus Area Sub-Group Report — www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

General Services Administration

For its role as the leading procurement source for agencies seeking hardware acquisitions, and off-the-shelf learning technology software and learning-management systems; and

Office of Management and Budget

For its ability to ensure that agency budget submissions reflect and support investments in training technology.

The Steering Committee should determine the rotating agencies based on the value they add to the continuing effort to promote technology-based training solutions.

Timeframe:

Target Date for Issuance of Executive Order - October 16, 2000.

Recommendation 2: Make Training a Strategic Planning Priority for All Agencies

The **Financial Investments Sub-Group** was chartered to provide guidance to agencies on integrating training goals and measures into annual planning and budget processes. The Sub-Group's research showed that leading private sector companies view training as an investment that must be strategically and continually planned, budgeted, and evaluated. In contrast, its review⁴ of the Federal process showed that training is usually not an integral part of agency strategic planning processes.

To address this critical shortfall, a recently formed alliance among the Task Force, OPM, and representatives of the OMB needs to complete the work it has underway to get agencies to integrate specific training goals and measures into the FY-2002 Annual Agency Performance Plans. Once in place, these new goals and measures would be governed by the same strictures of content and timeframe currently required of Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Agency Performance Plans.

Tasking:

OMB should establish a requirement for integrated training goals and measures as a principal element of an agency's Annual Performance Plan. Appropriate language should be added to the FY-2002 Budget Circular A-11.

OPM should publish guidelines for agencies seeking to strategically align training resources with mission requirements.

Timeframe:

OMB should complete revisions to its Budget Circular A-11 in time for agencies to include goals and measures in its FY-2002 Annual Performance Plans. OPM should publish its guidelines no later than October 1, 2000.

⁴ Financial Investments Focus Area Sub-Group Report — www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

Recommendation 3: Establish a Government-Wide Fund for Learning Technology

The Training Technology Implementation Group (TTIG) was established to facilitate more agency collaborations and information sharing. The Sub-Group has established four platform-specific focus areas, each having a lead agency, to promote interagency exchanges of ideas centered on a common implementation strategy. The group holds frequent meetings, that are usually highlighted by agency demonstrations of efforts to implement learning technology. With support from OPM, this Sub-Group will continue as a principal interagency forum for information sharing and dialogue associated with the implementation of technology-based learning systems.

A principal finding of this group was that a lack of funds for Research & Development and start-up costs is a major barrier to implementing technology-based learning. The Task Force recommends that an OPM-managed, competition-based Innovation Fund be created to fund agency requests for assistance. Assistance may also offset the research and start-up costs associated with efforts to implement technology-based training. OPM would convene a blue-ribbon panel to review agency grant requests and give priority to proposals that promote interagency collaborations and external partnerships.

Tasking:

OPM, working with the OMB, should develop a budget proposal to establish a Training Technology Innovations Grant Fund.

Timeframe:

The proposal should be completed in time for the FY-2002 budget appropriation.

Recommendation 4: Launch a Campaign to Educate Decision-Makers on the Advantages of Using Learning Technology

Senior agency officials who have the authority to approve innovative uses of learning technology for training often do not fully understand or appreciate the potential of learning technology. This is exacerbated by a skills gap among human resources development professionals who subsequently fail to make the compelling business case that is needed to support an investment in learning technology. The Task Force recommends that the deterrent effects of these problems can best be addressed via a multifaceted awareness and skills-building campaign.

Tasking:

Under its responsibility for government-wide training policy, OPM will work in partnership with the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC). It should design specific curricula to increase management knowledge with respect to learning technology. Additionally, the curricula could address the skills gap that exists among HRD professionals, who could then make a compelling business case for the integration of learning technology into agency training programs.

Successful programs would include information provided using a wide assortment of methods including the Internet, classroom, special forums, seminars, and written materials/brochures.

Timeframe:

Initial interventions (courses, seminars, etc.) should be targeted for the first quarter of FY-2001.

Recommendation 5: Develop a Program to Promote Existing Procurement Flexibilities for the Acquisition of Learning Technology

The **Procurement Options Sub-Group** was chartered to assess the viability and flexibility of the Federal procurement system as the principal means for acquiring technology-based training solutions. Its findings⁵ showed that the current system can do the job; however, it seems that many users of the system lack a fundamental awareness of the flexibilities currently available to them. This lack of awareness promotes a belief that the current system is a barrier to the efficient acquisition and implementation of learning technology. It is, therefore, recommended that GSA create an extensive awareness campaign for decision-makers and other stakeholders about the many procurement options and methods available for acquiring learning technology.

Tasking:

The General Services Administration (GSA), the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), and OPM should work with representatives of the Procurement Council, Human Resources Development Council, Chief Information Officer Council, and Chief Financial Officer Council, to develop an on-line, interdisciplinary training program on using the Federal procurement system to acquire learning technology. This program would be used to mount an aggressive awareness campaign for managers, human resource development professionals, budget professionals, and employees about the way the procurement system can be used to efficiently acquire technology-based training and learning-management systems.

A successful program would use a broad spectrum of approaches, thereby, reaching as many stakeholders as possible. These approaches would include programs based on the Internet, formal course offerings, forums/seminars, and specific literature/brochures.

Timeframe:

Initial procurement interventions (courses, seminars, etc.) should be targeted for the 2nd quarter of FY-2001.

⁵ Procurement Options Focus Area Sub-Group Report — www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

Emerging Issues and Future Directions

The overwhelming embrace of the e-society brings with it many new issues never faced by the Federal government. These issues include equity of access, privacy, and intellectual property rights. The Task Force believes that these issues will be the focus of many public policy debates over the next five years and that a serious dialogue needs to be started to address them. Two issues that need immediate attention are intellectual privacy rights and Federal employee access to the Internet.

Agencies contracting for e-learning systems in the future will need special contract language to ensure that the products they acquire may operate and be shared across locations and agencies. Restrictive contract language that does not vest ownership and distribution rights of the final product to the government will defeat efforts to significantly reduce costs through inter-agency sharing of learning technology products. The Learning Technology Steering Committee, once it is established, should prioritize the development of a government-wide policy to address the issue of intellectual property rights with respect to learning technology software and related systems.

Statistical survey information gathered on the Internet revealed the existence of an "Internet digital divide" in some Federal agencies. Specifically, several agencies still have in place very restrictive policies on who has access to the Internet. These policies, in many instances, contribute to the lack of acceptance of web-based training as a viable and more cost-effective alternative to traditional training methods. The "anytime" and "anyplace" advantage offered by web-based learning technology will not be available to those employees whose agencies have decided that they have no need for access to the Internet.

The President's Management Council supports making preparations for all Federal employees to be web-competent and to prepare them for the transition to an environment using more on-line services. Having a Federal workforce where all are proficient in the use of the Internet is in keeping with the President's goals to address the social and economic issues posed by the e-society. The Learning Technology Steering Committee should include this as a priority issue on its agenda once it is established.

Conclusions:

The recommendations in this report, supported by the research codified in the Focus Area Sub-Group Reports, form the basis for a coordinated government-wide approach to implementing e-learning for the Federal workforce. These recommendations should be considered as an integrated package of tools, all of which address specific weaknesses in the current Federal effort to use technology to enhance the skills of its workforce. If the initiatives in these recommendations are successfully implemented, the Administration will have put in place the foundation of an e-learning environment that will grow exponentially and provide the universal access to the knowledge resources needed to fuel a nation of highly skilled, competitive, and adaptive lifelong learners.

The President charged the Task Force with finding ways to make training more accessible through the use of learning technology. The Task Force believes that having Innovation Grants, targeted awareness raising programs, and the Training Technology Steering Committee to serve as a centralized coordinating body, will accelerate the acceptance and use of learning technology in the Federal government.

Appendices

Learning Technologies Focus Area Sub-Group Report -
www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

Financial Investments Focus Area Sub-Group Report -
www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

Training Technology Implementation Group Report -
www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

Procurement Options Focus Area Sub-Group Report -
www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

Standards Focus Area Sub-Group Report -
www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

Individual Learning Account Focus Area Sub-Group Report -
www.technology-taskforce.gov/reports.html

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9-5-00

**Delta Air Lines Should Be Awarded
A New China Route**

BC JP
Marty Permutian
B

- The DOT has the unique opportunity to designate the first new U.S. passenger carrier to China in nearly two decades. An award to Delta will have a profound effect on U.S.-China air service and trade relationship.
- Delta submitted a bold proposal to maximize the use of the new China opportunity by creating **two new nonstop gateways** to China at New York (JFK) and Cincinnati.

✓ Delta will operate ten weekly nonstop flights with state of the art Boeing 777 aircraft: seven weekly flights between New York (JFK) and China (each flight originating at Delta's Atlanta hub) and three weekly flights between China and Delta's second largest hub at Cincinnati.

- Delta's service will produce over **\$622 million** in annual recurring benefits to the United States in increased jobs, trade and commerce, of which \$602 million results from Delta's Atlanta-New York-China flights. Delta estimates that the New York area will accrue over \$434 million in annual recurring economic benefits from this flight.

✓ New York is by far the largest U.S.-China market without nonstop China service, more than double the size of the next largest U.S. city (Chicago).

- Delta's nonstop New York-China flight will reduce roundtrip elapsed travel time by over seven hours.
- An award to Delta will produce greater service and competitive benefits than American (who is proposing service from Chicago), the only other passenger carrier applying for the new designation to serve China.

- New York-China is twice as large as Chicago.

✓ Chicago will already receive daily nonstop service to China by United, and is located near Detroit, where Northwest already operates daily nonstop China service from its hub. Thus, American will bring no new benefits.

- An award to American at Chicago would do nothing to alleviate the critical East Coast service gap.
- American already has access to Beijing and Shanghai through its marketing relationship with China Eastern. Delta has no access to either of China's two most important cities.

- Delta will benefit nearly 230,000 nonstop U.S.-China passengers, more than twice as many as any other applicant.
- Only Delta will fill a huge gap in China air service by creating two new nonstop gateways to China. All current U.S.-China gateways are located on the West Coast or in the Midwestern region of the country. Delta's service will remedy this critical gap by establishing the first and only East Coast U.S.-China nonstop gateway at New York and direct single plane service from Atlanta serving the burgeoning southeast region.
- Many communities in the Northeast and Southeast that do not currently have effective access to China will receive significantly improved China service by virtue of the extensive array of connecting opportunities that are available at Delta's JFK, Atlanta and Cincinnati hubs.
- It is absolutely critical that the DOT select a new passenger carrier for service to China. There has not been an opportunity for a new passenger carrier to serve China in nearly two decades. It is astounding that a market as large and important as China receives competitive passenger service from just two U.S. carriers (United and Northwest).
- By contrast, the cargo market is extremely well served. 27 companies (U.S. carriers, foreign carriers, air freight forwarders) currently compete in the U.S.-China cargo market. The U.S. secured an all-cargo opportunity to China in 1992, which was awarded to FedEx as recently as 1995.
- UPS is already a major China incumbent and competitor providing 17 weekly nonstop flights between the United States and China's largest gateway at Hong Kong, serving over 30 China cities including Beijing and Shanghai.
- By contrast, Delta is the only applicant in the case that does not have access to Beijing and Shanghai, China's largest cities. Every other applicant currently offers service to those two major China cities. Delta has only very limited presence in China (via a codeshare to only Guangzhou).
- The incumbents (United, FedEx, and Northwest) already received 17 frequencies last year and should not receive any more frequencies.
- Only an award to Delta will maximize the service and competitive benefits of this valuable route opportunity.

Nigerians embrace Clintons

NEWS WIRE SERVICES

USHAFA, Nigeria — President Clinton and daughter Chelsea received a rapturous welcome from Nigerian villagers yesterday after he donned a flowing white robe, grasped a rough-hewn hoe and strolled through this tiny hamlet.

Schoolchildren flooded the streets and surrounded Clinton and the First Daughter. "We are happy, we are happy, we are happy to welcome you," the children sang as the Clintons ambled to the village square, where a masked dancer dressed in a grass skirt, anklets and necklace gave a whirling performance.

The visit was designed to give Clinton, who arrived in Nigeria on Saturday, a firsthand look at how the vast majority of the country's more than 110 million people live.

The President pointedly skipped Nigeria when he made his first trip to sub-Saharan Africa two years ago because of the brutal reign of former dictator Sani Abacha but has returned to support President Olusegun Obasanjo, elected last year after 15 years of military rule.

"It is historic to have you here. Nothing like this has ever happened before," village chief Mohammadu Baba told Clinton through an interpreter.

Chelsea Clinton received a swath of black cloth, which village women wrapped around her waist, and a matching top, which they draped over her shoulders.

"I want to thank your chief for making me feel so welcome," Clinton said. "I came to Nigeria to express the support of the people of the United States. We support your democracy. We want to help you build your economy, educate your children and build a better life in all the villages of the country."

Before his visit to the village, Clinton toured a health center in the capital city of Abuja and urged all of Africa to "break the silence" about AIDS. The administration is ponying up more than \$20 million in U.S. aid to fight AIDS, malaria and other diseases devastating Africa.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 13 million children have lost a parent to AIDS, and the disease is reducing life expectancies and dimming development hopes across the continent.

"Is it harder to talk about these things than to watch a child die of AIDS?" Clinton asked. "We have to break the silence about how this disease spreads and how to prevent it."

Clinton also met with business leaders to discuss the country's debt and efforts to attract new investment.

Clinton will visit Tanzania today to meet former South African President Nelson Mandela, who is working to broker a peace deal to end seven years of civil war in neighboring Burundi.

After a few hours in Tanzania, Clinton will fly to Cairo to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who has joined the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Joel

9-5-00

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HAILED President Clinton receives warm welcome from villagers in Ushafa, Nigeria. Clinton and daughter Chelsea (photo-l.) also tried on robes given them.

Bill to visit Colombia amid aid debate

By KENNETH R. BAZINET
DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — There's no rest for President Clinton this week as he makes a high-stakes visit to Colombia just a day after tomorrow's stop in Cairo to discuss Israeli-Palestinian peace prospects. Clinton is visiting Colombia on Wednesday after deciding to fork over \$1.3 billion in U.S. aid to help battle the country's notorious cocaine cartels.

The U.S. infusion of taxpayer cash has been compared with the early days of Vietnam, putting the administration on the defensive over costs, manpower and the political dangers of battling

drugs in the Colombian jungles.

"It will not become, turn into or look like a Vietnam," said Thomas Pickering, undersecretary of state for political affairs, ahead of Clinton's visit.

Still, Clinton's visit has fired up feuding left-wing and right-wing groups in Colombia. As if on queue, gunmen yesterday killed at least 17 people in two separate massacres, one of which officials tied to a right-wing paramilitary group.

"The Vietnamization of South America is the story of the day in Latin America," said Bronx-born Al Giordano, publisher of the Latin America-based

NarcoNews.com, which covers drug policy.

Clinton's "Plan Colombia" — with backing from Republican House Speaker Dennis Hastert — has a \$7.5 billion price tag. Colombian President Andres Pastrana's government is to fund the balance.

The plan includes deploying U.S. military advisers to train Colombian forces and delivering 18 Black Hawk helicopters and 42 Huey 2 helicopters.

To free up the \$1.3 billion already approved by Congress, Clinton had to waive Colombia's record of human rights violations, which angered some

Democrats.

"The administration has put us in a Catch-22 position," said Sen. Pat Leahy (D-Vt.). "They . . . promised real reforms to protect human rights in order to get more than a billion dollars in taxpayer funds. Then when they get the money, they say they cannot meet the conditions."

Four decades of civil war between the Colombian government and rebel forces, believed to number 20,000, has killed tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides, as well as innocent men, women and children.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9-5-00

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THE AMERICAN PROSPECT

online

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Saying It Don't Make It So

Sean Wilentz

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In a pathbreaking study of the mass media and modern culture, *The Image*, first published in 1961, the historian Daniel J. Boorstin coined the term "pseudo-event." A pseudo-event, Boorstin wrote, is "not spontaneous . . . but planned, planted, or incited"-an event whose "occurrence is arranged for the convenience of the reporting or reproducing media," and whose "relation to the underlying reality of the situation is ambiguous."

The latest metamorphosis of Boorstin's pseudo-event is the pseudo-scandal, an ambiguous or outright false scandal that acquires the appearance of the real thing in the media through the dogged repetition of charges and investigations. Genuine scandals, such as the Iran-Contra affair and the pilfering by former Democratic Congressman Dan Rostenkowski, have touched members of both major parties in recent years. But likewise, both parties, aided by the media, have helped to perpetuate pseudo-scandals related to campaign finance or other matters of alleged behind-the-scenes financial favoritism. The 1991-1992 pseudo-scandal over the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro and President George Bush's alleged illicit dealings with Saddam Hussein (promoted by, among others, New York Times columnist William Safire and vice presidential candidate Al Gore); the 1992 uproar over the House Bank overdrafts (promoted by, among others, Newt Gingrich); the false Whitewater, Travelgate, and Filegate scandals (promoted by observers and operatives all across the political spectrum, from Jerry Falwell to Christopher Hitchens)-each has exemplified the exploitation, for ideological or partisan purposes, of justified public concerns about the modern nexus of money and political influence.

Of course, negative propaganda stories have been a staple of American politics from the early years of the republic, when

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Federalist editors denounced the Democratic-Republican Thomas Jefferson as a Jacobin atheist and traitor. Today's pseudo-scandal retains traits of classic mudslinging; above all, it involves distortion of an opponent's record and public statements. As in the past, many of today's partisan peddlers of pseudo-scandals spread them around through friendly journalists and pundits-modern equivalents of press lords like William Randolph Hearst and vicious columnists like Westbrook Pegler.

But there are also crucial differences. Recent pseudo-scandals have relied on the manipulation of the courts, congressional committees, and the now-defunct Independent Counsel Act in to order to harass elected and appointed officials with flimsy accusations. And the pseudo-scandal masters have managed to gain the subtle and often unwitting but crucial complicity of the independent mainstream news media. Without the credibility provided by law and journalism, the new style of pseudo-scandal might simply be dismissed as partisan maneuvering. Coated with a gloss of objectivity, however, pseudo-scandals gain a respectful hearing, vastly reinforcing the blatant tub-thumpers, fake inside-dopesters, and latter-day Peglers who appear on the cable networks and talk-radio shows as well as in the newspapers.

Although the focus of today's pseudo-scandals is primarily political money, the direct historical antecedent is the media-friendly demagoguery pioneered by Senator Joseph McCarthy. McCarthy, Boorstin wrote, showed "it is possible to build a political career almost entirely out of pseudo-events." It is nearly forgotten today that McCarthy worked gleefully and sometimes woozily, during and after hours, cultivating "the boys" of the press over drinks and gossip. News-hungry reporters, in turn, developed a fascination for McCarthy: Love him or hate him, he was great copy. "Newspapermen were his most potent allies, for they were the co-manufacturers of pseudo-events," Boorstin observed. "They were caught in their own web. Honest newsmen and the unscrupulous McCarthy were in separate branches of the same business."

Despite the chastening experience of McCarthyism, the media have now become both more scandal-hungry and more vulnerable to pseudo-scandals, thanks to the vast expansion of cable television, talk radio, and the Internet, and the consequent radical shortening of news cycles. Apart from technological innovations, the pseudo-scandal owes its emergence to three disastrous developments of the 1980s and 1990s: the growth of antipolitical media sensationalism, the post-Watergate tendency to criminalize political differences, and the development of an absurd and degrading soft money campaign finance system that has widened opportunities for genuine corruption and pseudo-scandals alike.

Traditional political corruption, from the Credit Mobilier scandal of the Grant years to the Teapot Dome affair during

the Harding administration, involved straightforward bribery. The role of money in politics today is typically more indirect. Given the enormous costs of running modern televised political campaigns and the soft money loopholes in our financing laws, politicians are compelled to be full-time fundraisers. Contributors, in turn, normally expect special access, which can lead both to corruption and to something that is nearly as damaging, the appearance of corruption.

In this year's presidential race, the appearance of corruption has dogged one candidate, Al Gore. Between April and June 2000, according to a survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 76 percent of the media coverage of Gore focused on two negative themes: his alleged lies and exaggerations and his alleged scandals. (Over the same period, the survey found, the bulk of the coverage of George W. Bush involved his putative move to the center and elaborations of "compassionate conservatism.") In the past year, painstaking articles in several publications have exposed the emptiness of the allegations against Gore. Nonetheless, the charges linger in the public mind as commonplace knowledge, and the repeated depiction of Gore as scandal-tainted could prove important, perhaps even decisive, in November. If it does, it will be the ultimate triumph of the pseudo-scandal.

Tempest over the Temple

The oldest and grandest of the Gore pseudo-scandals is the Buddhist temple affair. On March 15, 1996, Vice President Gore had a 10-minute social visit in the White House with Master Hsing Yun, the head of the Taiwan-based Fo Kwang Shan Buddhist order. The meeting was arranged by John Huang, who for four months had been working as a fundraiser at the Democratic National Committee (DNC), with the assistance of Maria Hsia, a Democratic fundraiser who was also an immigration counselor for Master Hsing's order.

Hsing's chief American branch, the International Buddhist Progress Society, was one of the largest Chinese community organizations in southern California, and Gore agreed to visit the society's 15-acre Hsi Lai Temple complex in Hacienda Heights at some future date. Gore had already been scheduled to address some fundraising events in the Los Angeles area the following month. With Huang in charge of planning, arrangements were set for a fundraising luncheon in Monterey Park on April 29, followed by a goodwill visit to the temple. On March 23, Maria Hsia confirmed these arrangements in a letter to Gore.

As often happens with public officials' schedules, this one got revised. In early April, members of Gore's staff advised Huang that the vice president lacked the time to appear at two separate functions on April 29. Huang duly canceled the Monterey Park fundraiser. Gore ended up giving a ceremonial five-minute speech at the Hsi Lai Temple on

tolerance and world brotherhood, then attended a luncheon at the temple dining hall.

Gore's briefing materials, since made public, listed the temple visit merely as a "luncheon." If the event had been a planned fundraiser, it would have been essential for the briefing notes to say so to keep Gore on cue. The briefing notes for a fundraiser later that day in San Jose, for example, explicitly mentioned fundraising, while the notes for the temple event did not. Nor, the Los Angeles Times later reported, did any of the familiar trappings of a fundraiser appear at the Hsi Lai Temple: the usual campaign materials, the table for soliciting contributions, the candidate's coy thank-yous to his generous audience. It seems to have been a typical campaign gathering, commonly held in churches, synagogues, and other places of worship, and familiar to Republicans and Democrats alike-doubtless designed to curry favor with past and potential future supporters, but not directly to raise cash. Don Knabe, a Republican Los Angeles county supervisor who attended the event, told the Times that "if it was a fund-raiser, it wasn't like any fund-raiser I've ever been to."

But Huang and Hsia did, in fact, try to raise some campaign money directly out of the event. Prior to Gore's cancellation, Huang had already sold tickets to the Monterey Park fundraiser. He had also promised his superiors at the DNC that Gore's sojourn in Los Angeles would produce anywhere from \$250,000 to \$350,000 for the party. Apparently, Huang did not want to lose his donors' contributions; nor did he want to disappoint the DNC. Instead of doing what he should have done-return the money-he invited the Monterey Park ticket-buyers to have lunch with Gore at the temple instead. Moreover, immediately after the event, he and Hsia stepped up their solicitations, gathering 42 checks totaling about \$100,000. Only 15 of the checks came from the 100 or so people who had attended the temple luncheon, and no checks were collected at the luncheon itself. Still, Huang-in defiance of explicit instructions given to him by former DNC Finance Director Richard Sullivan, in early April, not to hold a fundraiser at the temple-blurred a crucial distinction and thereby quietly turned the temple event into a quasi-fundraiser, albeit, the evidence shows, unknown to Gore.

Worse, as part of the recouping effort, Hsia did things that a federal jury later decided were criminal. First she solicited a \$55,000 contribution from the temple-a tax-exempt organization legally barred from making such political donations. Then she tried to cover her tracks by having the donation come in the form of \$5,000 checks written by temple monastics, who were in turn reimbursed by the temple, a scheme that plainly violated campaign finance law. To make matters even worse, Huang, adopting his own "don't ask, don't tell" policy, did not inquire about the provenance of the suspicious checks when Hsia handed them over to him for delivery to the DNC.

In October, with the election less than a month away, The Washington Post learned from one of the donors, Charlie Woo, that Huang had told him there was a charge to attend the temple event, and that he had accordingly arrived with a check in his pocket. Some months later, under questioning by Senate staffers, Woo clarified his story, explaining that Huang had originally invited him to the Monterey Park fundraiser but, when that event was canceled, redirected him to the Hsi Lai Temple. Woo also said he found it "weird" that, at the temple event, there was "no mention of money." But by the time Woo gave his full explanation, alarmist reports in the Post, The Wall Street Journal, and other newspapers, helped along by damning press releases from the Republican National Committee (RNC), had turned the story into an all-out assault on Gore's campaign ethics.

When questioned about the allegations, Gore himself replied that he had thought at the time it was a community event, not a fundraiser. Had he left matters there, the story might have lost some of its steam. Rogue fundraising by overambitious partisans, unbeknownst to the candidates and their staffs, is, after all, not unheard of, in either party, especially in the modern era of soft money financing frenzies. Indeed, during the very same month when the alleged temple scandal story broke, the vice chairman of Republican presidential nominee Robert Dole's campaign, Simon Fireman, pleaded guilty to charges that he had illegally laundered \$120,000 in federal campaign contributions, including \$69,000 to the Dole campaign. Yet no one jumped to the conclusion that Dole himself knew anything of the scheme.

But Gore, trying to go the extra mile to be helpful to the press, acknowledged that funds had been sent in "too soon after the [temple] event" to escape the appearance of impropriety, while asserting his own ignorance of what happened at the time. By telling what he thought to be the whole truth, Gore only further incited a scandal-hungry press and his political adversaries. Seven days later, Senator John McCain and four House committee chairmen demanded that Attorney General Janet Reno appoint an independent counsel to investigate Gore. Seven days after that, the Clinton-Gore ticket trounced Bob Dole and Jack Kemp.

Could Gore Fall Too?

Despite the election results, and perhaps even because of them, Republicans seized upon the Buddhist temple incident. In 1997 Newt Gingrich speculated to reporters that various scandals might topple Gore as well as Clinton from office, by resignation if not by impeachment. Three years earlier, prior to the 1994 elections, Gingrich had told a group of lobbyists that, if the Republicans took control, the Congress would have 20 task forces or subcommittees investigating the White House and the Clinton administration. After losing the 1996 presidential election, they kicked that strategy into high gear, launching 30 new congressional investigations in 1997 alone.

President Clinton had, of course, long been beleaguered by investigations of what later turned out to be phony scandals, beginning with Whitewater and his alleged involvement in the death of his oldest friend, Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster. But with the reports about the Buddhist temple and other alleged financing irregularities, Republicans believed that Gore, too, was vulnerable. When the Monica Lewinsky story broke in January 1998, public attention focused on Clinton's potential removal from office. GOP true believers, however, saw the possibility of a twofer that could elevate Gingrich from the speaker's chair to the presidency.

The Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, chaired by Senator Fred Thompson, held hearings on campaign finance irregularities, focusing nearly its entire effort on Democrats. In its final report, the Republican majority included a long chapter on "The Hsi Lai Temple Fundraiser and Maria Hsia," as if the facts clearly established that was the nature of the event. The chapter dismissed exculpatory testimony and ignored published reports about the original Monterey Park event and ensuing mix-up and asserted that the DNC had, from the outset, planned a fundraiser at the temple. A few individual Republicans raised doubts. "I'm willing to stipulate that the vice president did nothing wrong in attending the temple," Senator Robert Bennett of Utah said in committee hearings. "I'm prepared to believe the vice president on that subject," Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania said on Face the Nation. But the RNC would not back down from the temple allegations.

Artfully exploiting the media, the Republicans also developed several mini-pseudo-scandals about Gore, further impugning his character. Reports appeared that Gore had used his office telephone to solicit hard as well as soft money contributions in violation of the 1883 Pendleton Act and that he had given false statements to investigators about his knowledge of the use of hard money in the 1996 campaign. Four years after the fact—after prolonged and exacting investigations by Republican-controlled congressional committees and the Department of Justice, as well as by the press—no evidence has come to light to support the charge of Pendleton Act violations. The second charge, regarding Gore's alleged false statements, is based on an ambiguous statement by former White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, that Gore had "listened attentively" during a private meeting in which hard money use in the campaign's media fund was discussed. Gore, once again trying too hard to explain everything, later reportedly claimed to an investigator that he might have missed the hard money talk because he drank a lot of iced tea at the meeting and took frequent bathroom breaks. After reviewing the evidence, Attorney General Reno advised the United States Court of Appeals in December 1997 that she had concluded that the allegation that Gore solicited hard money was "insubstantial" and "depends so heavily on conjecture and speculation" that

it didn't merit appointment of a special prosecutor.

As recently as last month, Attorney General Reno continued to decline requests from Justice Department officials to appoint special prosecutors to look into various allegations against Gore. Her decisions have led some commentators to charge that she is protecting Gore with an eye to the 2000 elections. But the known facts about these episodes support her judgments.

The Bottom of the Case

Early this year, the first careful appraisals of the finance-related Gore pseudo-scandals began to appear. An article by Roger Parloff in *The American Lawyer* demolished the original charges about Gore's alleged temple shakedown, the bogus claims about his Pendleton Act violations, and other related matters. One prominent analyst hostile to Gore, Stuart Taylor, Jr., of the *National Journal*, retracted an earlier statement, conceding that "the suggestions that [Gore] has been dishonest about the Buddhist temple and his fund-raising phone calls seem like a bum rap." And a close reading of the reports and documents released by the Fred Thompson and Dan Burton committees, as well as Gore's testimony to Justice Department officials on April 18, 2000, shows that the case against Gore in the all-important Buddhist temple affair now rests on nothing more than a willfully negative reading of the evidence.

Here is what the case amounts to: On March 15, 1996, Gore's scheduler, Kimberly Tilley, sent an e-mail to Gore, mentioning planned fundraisers on April 29 in Los Angeles and San José (Thompson Committee Exhibit # 17-160). On April 11, 1996, after DNC Finance Director Sullivan told John Huang that a fundraiser could not be held at the temple, Huang sent a memo to Tilley (Thompson Committee Exhibit # 17-113) that described the temple as the site of an upcoming "proposed event" and also mentioned the earlier discussions with Sullivan. But the memo's subject line read "Fundraising lunch for Vice President Gore 6/29/96 in Southern California." (Plainly, the date was a typo; the memo concerned April 29, not June 29.) An April 10 e-mail from another Gore scheduler, Jackie Dycke, refers to DNC fundraising events in San José and Los Angeles on April 29 (Thompson Committee Exhibit # 17-171). Undated notes from an unnamed Gore scheduler mention a "DNC Luncheon in LA/Hacienda Heights: 1000-5000 head/150-200 people" (Thompson Committee Exhibit # 17-172). On April 15, John J. Norris, of Gore's national security staff, wrote an e-mail to Robert Suettinger of the National Security Council (Thompson Committee Exhibit # 17-162) asking about the propriety of Gore's attending an event at the temple; Norris referred in passing to this event as a "fundraising lunch." Finally, two general spreadsheet fundraising memos from former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Harold Ickes to, among others, President Clinton and Vice President Gore, dated April 10 and April 25 (Thompson Committee exhibits

17-168 and # 17-169), stated that the DNC expected to raise somewhere between \$250,000 and \$350,000 as a result of Gore's visit to the Los Angeles area.

Supposedly, these materials prove that the DNC and Gore's staff (and, by inference, Gore himself) knew all along that the Hsi Lai Temple event was a fundraiser. But this interpretation is as tendentious as those presented in the Thompson report. The March 15 e-mail from Kimberly Tilley, for example dated from before the temple visit, was added to Gore's itinerary. As for the April 11 Huang memo, Tilley has testified that she paid no special attention to the subject line, chiefly because there was (and is) a certain looseness of talk in the hurried day-to-day operations of any campaign, conflating formal fundraising events with other DNC events for past and prospective donors. Dycke's e-mail and the undated schedulers' notes reflect the same looseness of talk. Norris, the national security aide, was concerned strictly with the diplomatic ramifications of any appearance by Gore at the temple. The Ickes memos contain no mention of the temple as a fundraiser site, only figures, given him by the DNC, of expected returns from Gore's trip to Los Angeles. And contrary to the assertions of the Thompson Committee majority report, Gore has testified that he never read these memos from Ickes and has explained why he didn't. Indeed, there is no evidence that Gore read any of the e-mails or memos in question.

The case against Gore also flies in the face of the testimony by John Huang at the Maria Hsia trial last February, describing his role in quietly devising the temple fundraising scheme. Most important, it ignores the briefing notes that Gore actually did see in connection with the temple event. Unperturbed by contrary evidence or the journalists' challenges, the RNC has continued sending out its attack-blast faxes about the temple incident. What Stuart Taylor has called the "bum rap" has become the gospel truth among pundits and political correspondents, as an emblem of Gore's supposed sleaziness.

Liar, Liar

A wave of new stories about Gore's supposed propensity to lie began appearing in March 1999, almost immediately after the Senate cleared President Clinton of impeachment charges. Old false charges about the 1996 campaign mingled with new false charges that, though quickly disproven, took on a life of their own. First came the Internet smear. On March 9, 1999, questioned by CNN's Wolf Blitzer about what distinguished him from his Democratic primary opponent, Bill Bradley, Gore remarked: "During my service in the United States Congress, I took the initiative in creating the Internet." In fact, beginning with his sponsorship of the Supercomputer Network Study Act in 1986 and the High-Performance Computing Act in 1991 (which Gore first introduced in Congress in 1989), Gore had been a leader in legislative initiatives to develop the Internet. (Vint on Cerf,

sometimes called the "father of the Internet," has remarked that "the Internet would not be where it is in the United States without the strong support given to it and related research areas" by Gore.) And Gore kept at it as vice president, spearheading the administration's efforts to develop "the information superhighway."

Upon viewing the Blitzer interview, though, a lazy reporter from Wired magazine picked up the story, sarcastically mischaracterized Gore in the Web pages of Wired News as claiming he was "the father of the Internet," and pointed out that research leading to the Internet began as early as the late 1960s. "Vice President Gore tells a reporter the Internet was his idea," Wired News concluded, inaccurately, adding the kicker, "Nice try, Al."

The next day, RNC Chairman Jim Nicholson faxed a selection from the Wired News piece to editors and reporters. Within a few days, RNC faxes had further distorted matters, saying that Gore "claimed to have invented the Internet," as if Gore had tried to pass himself off as a scientific genius. Soon thereafter, the canard was all over the news media and the late-night shows, along with the first stories about Gore's supposed penchant for exaggerating his own accomplishments. Instead of expressing outrage, Gore chose to regret his choice of words in the Blitzer interview. Months later, he was still apologizing, citing the Internet remark as a big political mistake, which only made the false charge seem more credible.

Journalists, prompted by the RNC, were also instrumental in publicizing other Gore pseudo-scandals. In one of these, Gore supposedly fabricated a personal connection to Erich Segal's weepy best-seller (and later hit movie) *Love Story*. At least as early as March 1999, the RNC faxes began reviving the story, first reported by Time in December 1997. And on January 28, 2000, a Boston Globe piece titled "Gore Record Scrutinized for Veracity" claimed that "[Gore] has also said that he and his wife, Tipper, were the models for the movie 'Love Story,' only to be contradicted by author Eric Segal." On February 17, The New York Times repeated the charge, in passing, in an article entitled "Questions Over Veracity Have Long Dogged Gore."

In fact, Gore never made the claim, and Segal never contradicted him. Schmoozing one night about the movies with two Time reporters, Gore had mentioned an interview, reported in the Nashville Tennessean, in which Segal claimed that Gore and Tipper were the models for his story. There was such an interview, but the Nashville reporter misquoted Segal, who actually said that Al, and not Tipper, had served as one of his models. Gore had no way of knowing that Segal had been misquoted. And so Segal, when contacted by Time, did not "contradict" Gore but instead corrected the Tennessean's mistake. Segal later observed that "Al attributed [the story] to a newspaper. Time thought it was more piquant to leave that out." Yet supposedly objective

reporters and commentators, as well as Republican officials, continued to cite the Love Story pseudo-scandal as yet another example of Gore "bragging" and "inflating his past."

The Love Story chicanery was followed by the Love Canal hoax. On November 30, 1999, visiting Concord High School in New Hampshire, Gore urged the students to take an active interest in politics. Thanks to a letter from a student, he said, he had been alerted to the dangers of toxic waste in the student's home town of Toone, Tennessee; in turn, he found out about Love Canal, New York, and went to work on the toxic waste problem. "Had the first hearing on that issue, and Toone, Tennessee-that was the one you didn't hear of. But that was the one that started it all."

Plainly, Gore, in his talk to the students, cited the story of Toone as an exemplary case of how an individual young citizen influenced public policy-"the one that started it all." While taking credit for holding hearings, he did not claim that he was the first official to discover Love Canal, which had already been evacuated; rather, he listed it as the most famous of the disasters discussed at the hearings prompted by the student's letter from Toone.

But the next day, The Washington Post reported that "Gore boasted about his efforts in Congress 20 years ago publicizing the dangers of toxic waste." Without mentioning Toone or the student's letter, the Post dispatch continued: "'I found a little place in upstate New York called Love Canal,' he said, referring to the Niagara homes evacuated in August 1978 because of chemical contamination. 'I had the first hearing on this issue. . . .' Gore said his efforts made a lasting impact. . . . 'I was the one that started it all.'" The New York Times also reported the false quotation: "I was the one that started it all."

The ever-alert Republicans spread the alarm via fax. "Al Gore is simply unbelievable-in the most literal sense of that term," RNC Chairman Nicholson proclaimed. And inside the media echo-chamber, the usual group of pundits-including Chris Matthews on CNBC, Ceci Connolly in The Washington Post, George Stephanopoulos, William Kristol, and Cokie Roberts on ABC-repeated the Love Canal slur as if it were true.

Soon enough, the truth came out; but, as Robert Parry has shown in The Washington Monthly, the Post, and the Times ran corrections that were both half-hearted and misleading. Thereafter, the story resurfaced, in its original form, in the National Journal and The Washington Times, as well as in various local newspapers. One of the main features of the pseudo-scandal is that it carries on willy-nilly, impervious to facts. The day after Gore accepted his party's presidential nomination in mid-August, Bush reminded reporters about "the Buddhist temple event"-an event, The New York Times observed, "that symbolized the ethical questions raised after Mr. Gore's aggressive fund-raising" in 1996. Bush and other

Republicans have given every sign that they hope to ride the Gore pseudo-scandals all the way to the White House. If that happens, our entire political system, and not just Vice President Gore, will be the loser-for future candidates and advisers, of all parties, will be bound to reflect on the 2000 elections, and go on to master and refine the pseudo-scandal playbook.

One long-term response to the pseudo-scandal phenomenon would be genuine campaign finance reform. A concrete step in that direction would be the enactment of the McCain-Feingold bill, which Gore, though not Bush, has pledged to support. But repairing the campaign finance system will take time and cannot, in itself, break the vicious cycle of pseudo-scandal promotion by political partisans and a gullible, scandal-hungry press corps.

Besides, long-term solutions will come too late to affect the current presidential election. What remains to be seen in 2000 is whether responsible journalists will expose the pseudo-scandal syndrome for the deformation that it is. Only when that happens will the responsible media be able to do justice to the presidential campaign-and to their own profession. □

Click here for information on the author
[Sean Wilentz](#)

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T A P A U T H O R D A T A B A S E

Sean Wilentz

Sean Wilentz is Dayton-Stockton Professor of History and director of the Program in American Studies at Princeton University.

Articles by Sean Wilentz from *The American Prospect*:

- *Issue 40: The Rise and Fall of Racialized Liberalism*

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August 23, 2000

9-5-00

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I would like your help in honoring our mutual friend, Marian Wright Edelman. I don't have to tell you about Marian and her work for children, since you are very familiar with it. What I would like to do is tell you a little bit about Marian as a child and what we plan to do to honor her and why.

Marian was born in Bennettsville, South Carolina, where her father was a minister. Her father's church and the manse where they lived are about 100 yards from what I can only call the McColl compound. This included the original home of my great grandfather, D. D. McColl, and the homes of his daughter and three sons. While only 100 yards separated us, we were light-years apart. The street between our homes was the demarcation line above which blacks were not allowed to go after 7:00 p.m. on Saturday night. As a child, Marian could not go in the public library, as access was denied to people of color. While I am more than ten years older than she, I knew her father and remember her as a child. My father liked Reverend Wright, and we occasionally stopped and spoke. Both Marian and I have restored our family homes, which are still 100 yards apart.

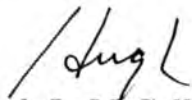
My goal, and that of other people in Bennettsville, is to build a new community library at a site located between the two homes on the site of the demarcation line that belonged to the African-Americans. We want it to be a library for all the people. We want to name it after Marian Wright Edelman, and we plan to put "Open to Everyone" or "Everyone is Welcome" across the door. We are raising money from the private sector, from our state, from our county and from our community. We could use some federal help. The project will cost about \$5,000,000. We want it to be a state-of-the-art library, including computer labs and Internet connections. As an aside, Marlboro County, of which Bennettsville is the

The Honorable William J. Clinton
August 23, 2000
Page Two

county seat, is approximately 55% African-American. It is a poor community now. When cotton was king, it was a very wealthy town; however, the African-Americans never participated in that wealth. The white leadership today is working hard to bring jobs to the community and to help lift the people. The new library would go a long way to help with that goal. Can you help us make this happen? Thank you for reading this letter.

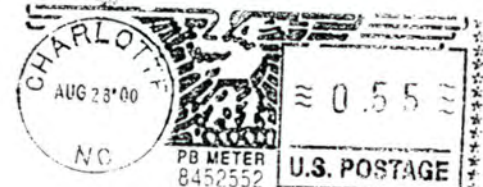
Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh L. McColl, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Hugh L. McColl, Jr.

pah



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INSIDE

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A homeowner with a project can find someone to do it, without paying a finder's fee.

By Jay Romano

5

If You're Thinking of Living In Mahopac and Mahopac Falls, N.Y.

The proper pronunciation is Ma-HOE-pac, not MAY-o-pac. The Putnam County hamlets are growing, but they're keeping a watchful eye on development.

By Lisa Prevost

5

Streetscapes

An 1891 Fortress.

The Terminal Stores, from 27th to 28th Street and 11th Avenue to the river, are in a trendy area but are largely used for ministorage.

By Christopher Gray

7

Baltimore

Hotel for the Harbor

A 32-story Marriot is the linchpin in the renewal of a 32-block industrial area.

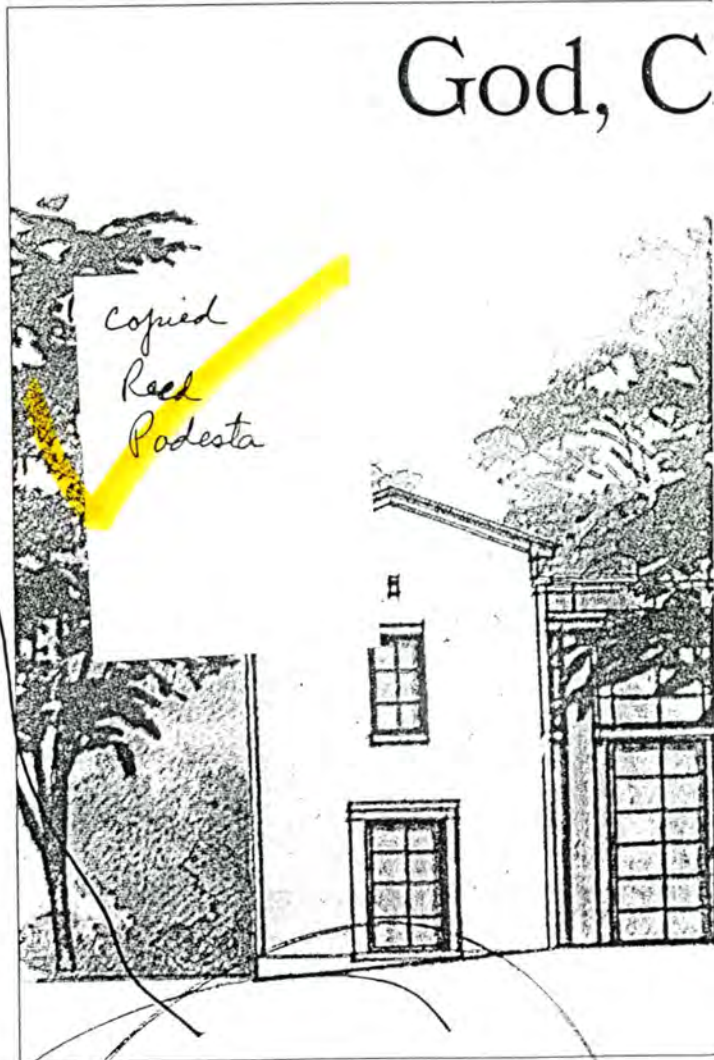
By Charles Belfoure

7

Habitats/170 E. Second St.

Allen Ginsberg Lived Here

PHOTO



New legislation easing land-use rules for religious groups alarms planners and officials.

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

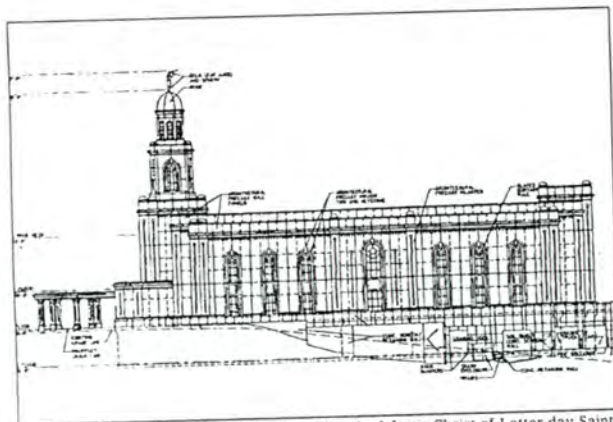
WITH unanimity and astonishing speed — 16 minutes elapsed from introduction to passage in the House of Representatives — Congress has acted to exempt religious institutions from land-use rules that excessively burden religious exercise.

President Clinton is expected to sign the bill next month, said Jake Siewert, a White House spokesman.

With that, some of the most vexatious issues in land-use regulation will be open for new debate: Do zoning and landmarks laws pose special hardships for religious institutions? Are land-use objections sometimes raised by opponents whose true motive is bigotry? Do communities have the right to ask religious institutions to abide by the same land-use rules that apply to everyone else?

Such questions typically come to the fore when a congregation seeks either to tear down or alter a designated landmark, as St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church on Park Avenue did in 1984, or to build a new structure that requires a zoning variance or other land-use review.

For example, strong opposition has met a plan by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to build a temple in Harrison, N.Y., on a 24-acre site at Westchester Avenue and Kenilworth Road where zoning imposes a 30-foot height limit. The main body of the temple would be almost 45 feet high, not counting a tower and cupola.



Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is seeking variances to build temple in Harrison, N.Y., to the ire of some neighbors.



James Estrin/The New York Times

"Everybody needs to conform to the same rules, which are there to protect the community," said Kathy Gurfein, who lives across the street. That, she said, means a 30-foot height limit. Period.

Her words are echoed in New Rochelle, N.Y., by Edward D. Ryan, who lives next door to a 0.8-acre site at 1149 North Avenue where Young Israel of New Rochelle, an Orthodox congregation, plans to build a new synagogue. "If they do it in accordance with current land-use laws, there's absolutely no objection," Mr. Ryan said.

But the congregation is seeking variances because it needs more than zoning allows: a synagogue, social hall and study hall with 36,885 square feet, almost three times the floor area permitted on the site. It would also be more than eight feet higher. There would only be three parking spaces on site, compared with the requirement for 122. (Two nearby parking lots would be used instead.)

Opponents look at the social hall and see a prospective catering facility that would generate heavy traffic and commercialize their neighborhood, despite Young Israel's assurances that it would do no such thing.

For its part, the congregation cannot conceive of a synagogue without space to accommodate sit-down meals after Sabbath services, circumcision ceremonies, receptions following bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs and the overflow crowd of worshippers during holidays.

"It's like saying you can have the building provided it doesn't meet your requirements," said Meyer G. Koplow, the former president of Young Israel. The congregation has faced one land-use issue after another, the latest being

the requirement for an exhaustive environmental impact statement since the site abuts wetlands.

"We seem to be in a high-hurdles race," said Michael Turek, who is in charge of community relations for Young Israel. "As we run down the lane, the hurdles get higher. And the finish line is but a transient dream."

The new legislation would not necessarily eliminate the hurdles, its supporters say, but would compel the government to make a good case for raising them.

Among the bipartisan co-sponsors was Senator Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut, the Democratic vice presidential candidate. The bill was endorsed by religious leaders, civil libertarians and property-rights advocates.

But the bill alarmed planners, preservationists and local officials, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York most prominent among them. He warned New York's senators on July 25 that the bill would allow religious institutions "to exempt themselves from reasonable local regulation, potentially allowing them to ignore density, height and setback, parking and other zoning requirements, as well as historic preservation statutes."

"There is no clear justification for federal intervention in the administration of our system of land-use regulation," Mayor Giuliani wrote. "Facilities built and developed by religious institutions can produce the same kind of noise, traffic, visual and other impacts common to other uses which affect the quality of life."

More bluntly, Kent L. Barwick, the president of the

Continued on Page 4

God, Caesar and Zoning: New F

Continued From Page 1

Municipal Art Society and former chairman of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, said the bill is a "hunting license to tear down landmarks, circumvent zoning and thwart established environmental standards."

Working with preservationists, New York's Democratic senators, Charles E. Schumer and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, managed at the last moment to specify in the legislative history of the bill that it "does not provide religious institutions with immunity from land-use regulation."

Tony Bullock, the chief of staff to Mr. Moynihan, one of the most preservation-minded senators, said concerns about the bill "may be somewhat overstated." And he speaks as a former local official, having been town supervisor of East Hampton, N.Y., for eight years. "Most zoning regulations will continue as they have," Mr. Bullock said, "but if someone feels they've been discriminated against, they have some basis for bringing a federal action."

Specifically, the bill prohibits governments from imposing land-use regulations that create a "substantial burden" on religious exercise — whether or not that exercise is "compelled by, or central to, a system of religious belief" — unless such rules are the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling governmental interest.

"At the core of religious freedom is the ability for assemblies to gather and worship together," said Senator Orrin G. Hatch, Republican of Utah, on introducing the bill July 13. "Finding a location to do so, however, can be quite difficult when faced with pervasive land-use regulations."

His bill, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, also covers those confined to jails and hospitals, based on testimony that prisoners had been denied matzo at Passover, for example, or were prevented from taking communion

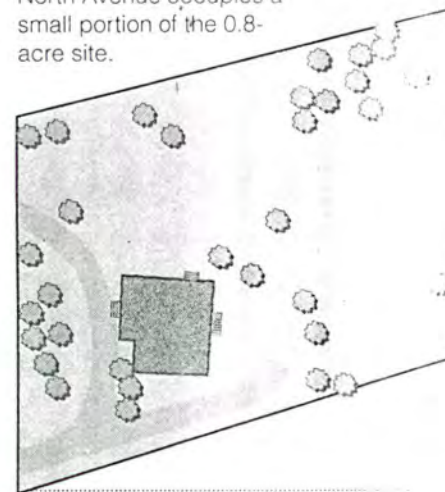
Zoning Rules and a Synagogue's Building Plans

The map shows the site in New Rochelle, N.Y., where Young Israel of New Rochelle proposes a new synagogue. The diagram compares the existing and planned structure.



AS IT IS NOW

The 2 1/2-story frame house at 1148 North Avenue occupies a small portion of the 0.8-acre site.



AS PROPOSED

The 36,885-square foot Young Israel synagogue, study hall and social hall would have almost three times as much floor area as zoning rules allow. A variance is being sought.



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THIS is not the first time Congress has grappled with the issue. In 1993, it passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which also prohibited government from substantially burdening religious exercise.

That year, St. Peter Roman Catholic Church of Boerne, Tex., in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, applied for permission to expand its Mission Revival sanctuary, which is in a historic district.

The application was turned down by the Landmark Commission and City Council of Boerne (BER-nie). Archbishop Patrick F. Flores sued, citing the religious freedom act. In response, Boerne claimed that the act itself was unconstitutional.

The United States Supreme Court agreed, ruling in 1997 that Congress had exceeded its authority in passing the legislation.

The first effort to draft a measure that would overcome the constitutional objections was the Religious Liberty Protection Act, at which some civil-rights groups balked. The more narrowly focused Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act passed the Senate by unanimous consent on July 27. At 6:08 p.m. that day, it was received in the House. At 6:24 p.m., it was passed without objection.

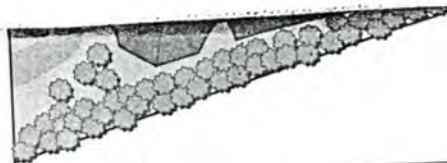
Critical of the bill's "midnight passage," Mr. Barwick of the Municipal Art Society said, "There has been a thundering silence which, in the end, will inevitably be broken by the toppling of 18th-century steeples."

Actually, the silence is more likely to be broken by the sound of gavels, when the first claims are made under the law and the first constitutional challenges follow.

Meanwhile, the law may have a pre-emptive effect, said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In a letter to the Senate, he said it would "place tremendous pressure on local municipalities to minimize the risk of litigation by simply approving construction or demolition plans by religious institutions —



Source: Young Israel of New Rochelle Draft Environmental Impact Statement



The New York Times

regardless of whether those plans are compatible with local land-use laws — or by exempting churches from local zoning and landmarking altogether."

It is too early to say whether the bill, once signed by the president, would be invoked in New Rochelle or Harrison because neither government has given its final answer. On Sept. 7, the Zoning Board of Appeals in Harrison is to consider the variances sought for the Mormon temple.

Given the volatile nature of the case, a spokesman in Salt Lake City said that church officials could not comment on the Harrison temple project at this time. (The rendering reproduced on page 1 came from an application filed by the church and was furnished by the opponents.)

Even the basic measurements of the proposed temple are a source of contention. In its application, the church is seeking permission to build a 44.7-foot structure in a 30-foot zone. And zoning rules customarily except belfries, cupolas, domes and steeples from height calculations.

But neighborhood opponents question how much of the 106-foot tower, which would be topped by a statue of the angel Moroni, is cupola and how much is usable building space. They also note that because the temple would occupy a sloping site, the tower could be measured as 123 feet tall.

Or it could be measured from the Hutchinson River Parkway, which passes about 100 feet below the site. "If you look up in the air from there, the top of the spire will sit 25 stories above you," said Jeffrey D. Grant of Grant, Weinhaus, lawyers for the opponents.

"It's certainly going to be dominant on the skyline," even more so if illuminated at night, said Ms. Gurfein, one of the neighbors. "It is taller and bigger overall than the Sphinx. When you think of lighting a structure that huge, common sense would dictate that the impact would be enormous."

The opponents said their concerns were about the size of the structure, not who would use it. "There is no spirit of anti-



A 1993 religious land-use law was over case involving St. Peter Roman Cathol

Federal Legislation

Mormonism whatsoever," Mr. Grant said.

Whether deliberately or coincidentally, however, it seems that zoning cases involve Mormons, Jews, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses and other members of smaller denominations more than the larger Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations.

"At least in the area of land use, minority religions are apparently carrying a much heavier load as they deal with so-called 'generally applicable' and 'neutral' laws," said Von G. Keetch, counsel to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Citing a 1997 study by Brigham Young University and the Chicago law firm Mayer, Brown & Platt, Mr. Keetch said that "minority religions" accounted for 49 percent of cases regarding the right to locate a religious building at a given site.

What this means is "only the rich and powerful can afford to form churches," said Marc D. Stern, assistant executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

CERTAINLY the members of Young Israel of New Rochelle discern a more implacable opposition underlying the land-use debate.

"There are a lot of sentiments against Orthodox Jews that lie just below the surface," said Rabbi Reuven Fink of Young Israel. "To me, that's the most painful aspect. We're always saying different things — parking spaces, noise, aesthetics — when we mean something else."

Mr. Koplow, the former president of the congregation, said, "You have to ask yourself whether the polite form of discrimination is better than people showing up and saying, 'Prevent the Brooklynization of New Rochelle' — as one opponent did in 1994. 'At least you can address overt discrimination for what it is.'"

Young Israel did itself no political favor by the manner in which it acquired the property in 1993. After the synagogue was rebuffed as a buyer, Mr. Koplow's sister-in-law purchased the house in her own name and then sold it to the congregation.

Rabbi Fink acknowledged the moral quandary involved in accepting this deal. "This was a heart-wrenching decision for us," he said. "We pride ourselves in being ethical. Meta-ethical. But we can't be nihilistic, either. If you're encountering bigotry and prejudice, every so often you have to counter it with a bit of ingenuity."

Councilman Noam Bramson, a Democrat whose district includes the proposed synagogue site, said he did not doubt that "some portion of the opposition is motivated by anti-Orthodox or anti-Semitic sentiment."

"But I think it's a distinct minority," he said. "Most people who are concerned about the project are confining their objections to serious and legitimate land-use questions."

"As a general proposition, religious observance is an extremely important value,"

he said. "And cities and towns ought to be welcoming to communities of faith. But I don't think it's an absolute value. Religious observance ought to be placed in the context of a wide variety of values, such as the character of neighborhoods, traffic management and environmental protection."

The opponents, organized as Neighbors of New Rochelle, said in a flyer that the issue was solely one of "converting an otherwise residential neighborhood into a commercial, heavily trafficked area," compromising public safety with the addition of hundreds of cars parking on surrounding streets.

What is sometimes lost in the debate, said leaders of Young Israel, is that all but one of its 240 families live within walking distance of the synagogue. It is currently housed in a 103-year-old former Methodist church at 1228 North Avenue, not far from the proposed building site, which the congregation acquired in 1967 and long ago outgrew.

"These are the neighborhoods in which we live," said Mr. Koplow, a partner in the law firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, who was a key negotiator for the tobacco industry in its settlement talks with the state attorneys general. "The idea that we would do anything that would destroy the value of our homes or the safety of our streets is incredible."

The synagogue planned to furnish the required 120 parking spaces by purchasing part of an adjoining city-owned parcel. But in 1998, the city decided not to sell. "At least a majority of the property was wetland," said Mayor Timothy C. Idoni. "From an environmental standpoint, we've paved over way too much wetland." The mayor then tried to broker parking arrangements between Young Israel and Wykagyl Country Club next door or Christ United Methodist Church across the street, to no avail.

Last year, the congregation was notified that it would have to compile an environmental impact statement. "We're not by any means trying to block the synagogue nor to destroy a neighborhood," said David H. Abrahams, chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals of New Rochelle. "We've determined that an E.I.S. is required because it's our belief that there will be a significant impact on the environment."

Mr. Koplow described the scope of the impact statement as "burdensome in the extreme," although the congregation prepared what turned out to be a 2¼-inch-thick document that even assesses prehistoric archaeological significance. "How many people who are building a suburban building can tell you what happened on the site 14,000 years ago?" Mr. Koplow asked.

New Rochelle's planning consultants, Ferrandino & Associates, have responded with 16 pages of comments and criticisms that Young Israel must address.

Once the environmental impact statement is certified as complete, the zoning board can take up the submission itself.



Edward A. Ornelas for The New York Times

reverted by the Supreme Court in a Catholic Church in Boerne, Tex., above.

board can take up the... Designed by Graham Gund Architects of Cambridge, Mass., the building would have three parts. "It helps break down the mass of the building into singular elements in scale with single-family homes," said John A. Prokos, a principal in the Gund office.

The most distinctive element, facing North Avenue, would be an octagonal study hall, or beit midrash, with a peaked roof. Along one side would be a narrow wing with offices and multipurpose rooms. At the back, under a gently bowed roof, would be the main sanctuary, with 607 seats, above the 5,688-square-foot social hall.

"We're talking about a social hall that would seat about 325 people and have a dance floor for line and ring dancing," Mr. Koplow said. "The argument that this is somehow going to commercialize a residential neighborhood is a bit much."

In trying to chart a fair course, Mr. Abrahams allowed that the zoning board would probably be portrayed as obstructionist by the synagogue and not tough enough by the neighborhood opponents. "We have caught flak from both sides," he said, "and I expect this is just the beginning."

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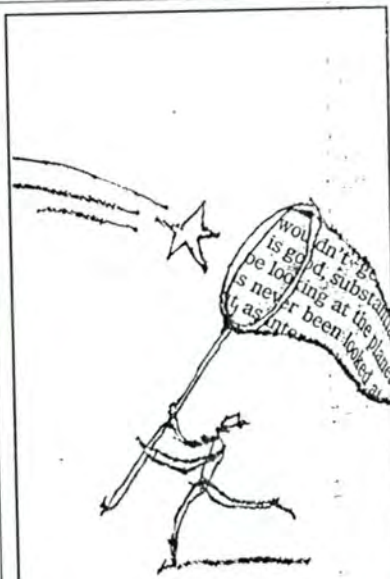
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July 28, 2000

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MEMORANDUM FOR LISEL LOY
ADAM ROSMAN

FROM: TIM SAUNDERS
DAVID KALBAUGH

SUBJECT: Receipt of Senate Resolution - S.Res. 329

We have received the attached simple Senate Resolution, S. Res. 329. The resolution expresses the sense of the Senate in regards to the July 1994, attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The resolution also recommends the President sponsor bilateral discussions with Argentine officials and to underscore the U.S. concern regarding the 6-year delay in the resolution of this case. This resolution further encourages the President to direct United States law enforcement agencies to provide support and cooperation to the Government of Argentina for purposes of the investigation of this terrorist attack.

We recommend that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to NSC. We will retain the original resolution in our files.

In the Senate of the United States

July 19, 2000

Whereas on July 18, 1994, 86 innocent persons were killed and 300 were wounded when the AMIA Jewish Community Center was bombed in Buenos Aires, Argentina;

Whereas the United States welcomes Argentine President Fernando de la Rúa's political will to pursue the investigation of the bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center to its ultimate conclusion;

Whereas circumstantial evidence attributes the attack to the terrorist group Hezbollah, based in Lebanon and sponsored by Iran;

Whereas the investigation indicates that this bombing could not have been carried out without assistance from elements of local security forces at the time;

Whereas additional evidence indicates that the tri-border area where Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet was used to channel resources for the purpose of carrying out the bombing attack;

Whereas Argentine officials have acknowledged that there was negligence in the initial phases of the investigation and that the institutional and political conditions must be created to advance the investigation of this terrorist attack;

Whereas on March 17, 1992, terrorists bombed the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, killing 29 persons and injuring more than 200 others, and the Government of Argentina has issued an arrest warrant against a leader of the Islamic Jihad but has not yet brought anyone to justice for that act of terrorism;

Whereas failure to duly punish the culprits of these acts serves to reward these terrorists and help spread terrorism throughout the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the Government of Argentina was successful in enacting a law on cooperation from defendants in terrorist matters, a law that will be helpful in pursuing full prosecution in this and other terrorist cases;

Whereas the democratic leaders of the Western Hemisphere issued mandates at the 1994 and 1998 Summits of the Americas that condemned terrorism in all its forms and that committed governments to combat terrorist acts anywhere in the Americas with unity and vigor; and

Whereas it is the long-standing policy of the United States to stand firm against terrorist attacks wherever and whenever they occur and to work with its allies to ensure that justice is done: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate (1) reiterates its condemnation of the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, and remembers the victims of this heinous act; (2) strongly urges the Government of Argentina to fulfill its international obligations and other commitments by pursuing the local and international connections to this act of terrorism, wherever they may lead, and to duly punish all those who were involved; (3) urges the Government of Argentina to pursue and prosecute any person with ties to Hezbollah or any other terrorist organization; (4) calls on the President to raise this issue in bilateral discussions with Argentine officials and to underscore the United States concern regarding the 6-year delay in the resolution of this case; (5) recommends that the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States should seek support from the countries comprising the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to assist, if requested by the Government of Argentina, in the investigation of this terrorist attack; (6) encourages the President to direct United States law enforcement agencies to provide support and cooperation to the Government of Argentina, if requested, for purposes of the investigation into this and other terrorist activities in the tri-border area; and (7) desires a lasting and positive relationship between the United States and Argentina based on a mutual commitment to the rule of law and democracy in the Western Hemisphere and mutual abhorrence of terrorism.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President and the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States.

Attest:



Secretary.



9-5-00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 1, 2000

copied
Reed
Chow
Podesta

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed
Barbara Chow

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

✓ **1. Health Care -- New Reports on health insurance coverage to be released:** Next Tuesday, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (Bob Greenstein's group) and the Council of Economic Advisors will release two reports that strongly validate the policy approaches to health insurance coverage expansion proposed by you and the Vice President. The first will validate that policies covering parents efficiently expand coverage, as well as significantly increase coverage rates of uninsured children. Specifically, it demonstrates that Medicaid expansions that include parents, increase enrollment among children already eligible but unenrolled in the program by nearly 25 percent. CEA's report provides analytical information illustrating that tax approaches such as those advocated by the Republican leadership and George W. Bush are highly inefficient, expensive, and ineffective mechanisms to expand coverage. The report concludes that the direct provision of health insurance, such as the proposal to insure parents of children in the CHIP, effectively reaches the uninsured at rates that are one third to over one-half the cost of tax incentive proposals. These reports will be leaked out for Tuesday's papers, prior to a Press Club briefing on them later that morning. You will have the opportunity to reference them in the Democratic Leadership event that day. The information released will bolster our negotiating hand in our ongoing discussions on the access provisions on the Patients' Bill of Rights.

✓ **2. Health Care -- Bush prescription drug benefit:** Next Tuesday, Governor Bush will announce the details of his prescription drug policy for Medicare beneficiaries. We anticipate that the proposal will largely mirror the Breaux-Frist private insurance prescription drug benefit, which is very similar to the House Republican passed initiative that has been widely criticized as an unworkable policy that will leave millions of currently uninsured seniors without coverage. Alternatively, he may propose a state based, CHIP-like low-income program. It is also conceivable that he may suggest that the Congress should pass the low-income proposal this year and build on it in subsequent years through unspecified bipartisan reforms so that he does not have to specify significant budgetary investments for this policy. Regardless of which approach he takes, it may have a significant impact on the direction the Senate Republicans take this fall.

3. Health Care -- Update on privacy regulation: Following the New York Times article on the status of the development of our privacy regulation, you asked whether we could move more aggressively to expand the consent requirements. Subsequent to the initial release of our privacy regulation, the physician community advocated for more frequent required consent signatures on medical records in physician's offices. Next week, HHS will be meeting with AMA to determine if they can agree on a workable consent initiative that would actually provide additional protection to patients without imposing paperwork burdens in excess of what the AMA has already imposed.

4. Welfare -- Final rule for TANF high performance bonuses: On August 30th, HHS published the final rule establishing the criteria for high performance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) bonus program. The final rule adds new measures to the work measures currently in effect. States have the option to compete on any or all of the following : 1) Work: job placement, job success (measured by retention and earnings), 2) Critical supports for working families: participation by low-income working families in the Food Stamp Program, participation of former TANF recipients in the Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program; receipt of child care subsidies for eligible families, the affordability and quality of that care; and 3) A measure of family formation and stability.

5. Housing -- Section 8 Vouchers: On Thursday, HUD awarded \$347 million in FY 2000 funds for new housing vouchers to help 60,000 families find affordable housing. The vouchers will help families move closer to a new job, reduce a long commute, or secure more stable housing so they can perform better on the job. These "fair share" vouchers were awarded to communities in all fifty states to help address the large unmet need for affordable housing. As you know, we have proposed 120,000 new vouchers in the FY 2001 budget that the House appropriations bill does not fund. (The Senate has not completed work on the bill yet.) These new vouchers build on the 110,000 new vouchers secured in the past two years -- 50,000 welfare to work vouchers in FY 1999 and 60,000 "fair share" vouchers for FY 2000.

6. Child Support -- Medical Child Support: On August 15, HHS and DOL transmitted to Congress a report by the Medical Child Support Working Group, which contains recommendations to expand health coverage for children eligible for child support. These recommendations would require noncustodial parents to include their children under employment-based health insurance plans. It is estimated that 21 million children currently eligible for child support enforcement services are without any health care coverage. Earlier this month, HHS published a study of noncustodial fathers' access to employment-based health care coverage in 1993, showing that the number of custodial families without private health coverage could be reduced by 2 to 18 percent through greater use of medical child support orders. However, about half of noncustodial fathers who do not provide health care coverage to their children do not have access to dependent coverage.

7. Crime -- COPS Evaluation: Next Wednesday, the Urban Institute will release a four-year study of the Administration's COPS Program sponsored by the Justice Department. The evaluation found that by May 1999, COPS had funded the hiring and redeployment of 100,500 officers. This will raise the level of policing on the street by an estimated 62,700 to 83,900 full-time officers by 2003. The COPS Office believes the estimated range is overly conservative due

in part to incomplete data as well as recent COPS Office efforts to address both retention and redeployment issues.

Other key findings of the study include: (1) COPS grants helped police departments accelerate the transition to community policing; (2) Most COPS funds went to high-crime areas: of more than 8,000 agencies that received COPS grants through 1997, one percent of the grantees with the largest murder counts received over 30% of all COPS funds; and (3) COPS facilitated innovations in policing and represented the largest effort to bolster law enforcement technology in decades. As currently planned, the Attorney General will discuss the evaluation in her regular press conference next Thursday along with the importance of reauthorizing the COPS program. In addition, next week Justice will announce \$70 million to help communities hire approximately 700 officers in schools, and \$1 million in new grants to 5 police departments to support model practices that build trust between law enforcement and local communities.

8. Drugs -- 1999 National Household Survey: On Thursday, HHS and ONDCP released the 1999 National Household Survey, the primary source of national data on illicit drug, alcohol and tobacco use for persons ages 12 and older.

DRUGS: There was significant good news in the report on drug use. While overall drug use remained level, drug use by youth ages 12-17 fell for the second year in a row, and has now fallen by 21% since 1997. In addition, youth marijuana use, while remaining the most popular illicit drug, has declined 26 % since 1997. However, the report reveals problems with young adult drug use. The rate of drug use for young adults ages 18-25 is up 28% since 1997, and a trend which is expected to continue. The report also contains new state-by-state data which shows that drug use varies widely among states, ranging from a low of 4.7 % in Virginia to a high of 10.7 % in Alaska for all ages, and from a low of 8.0 % in Utah to a high of 18.3% in Delaware for youth ages 12-17. The state-by-state data suggest that states in the Western region of the country have higher rates of drug use and that southern states have among the lowest rates.

TOBACCO: In addition, the report showed that after a period of escalating youth smoking rates earlier in the 1990's, smoking among young people has begun to decline from 19.9 % in 1997 to 18.2 % in 1998 to 15.9 % in 1999. The report also contains new data on cigarette brands and shows that Marlboro, Newport and Camel remain the brands of choice for adolescents.

9. Crime/Fatherhood -- Reentry Initiatives: (1) Study on Incarcerated Parents. This week, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics released a new report showing that 1.5 million children under 17 have a parent in prison. The study shows that 721,500 federal and state prisoners are parents, 93% of which are fathers. Over 45% of all parents in prison were living with their children prior to their admission to prison, and 40% of fathers and 60% of mothers reported weekly contact with their children while in prison. The study also reports that nearly 60% of parents in state prisons reported drug use and 25% had a history of alcohol dependence. (2) Administration's Reentry Initiative. Your FY 2001 budget includes a \$145 million reentry initiative to promote public safety by providing assistance to offenders such as drug treatment, family therapy and job training, as well as funding for law enforcement supervision to facilitate a successful "reentry" back into the community. Due largely to Senator Specter's interest, the

Labor/HHS conference will likely provide \$30 million of our requested \$75 million for DOL, and SAMHSA funding levels should be sufficient to dedicate \$10 million for drug treatment to this initiative. The Senate has only provided \$7 million of the \$60 million we requested for DOJ, and the House has provided nothing. We are working with the Departments of Justice, Labor, and Health and Human Services on strategies to increase the visibility of these items and funding levels in the final budget negotiations, including a possible Cabinet-level press event with the Attorney General, and Secretaries Herman and Shalala in early September.

10. Education -- SAT Scores: The College Board released the new national average SAT scores on Tuesday -- math is up three points from last year to 514 (up 13 points since 1990), the highest since 1969, and the verbal score remained unchanged from last year at 505. The College Board attributed the gains in math to the fact that more students -- including more female and minority students -- have been taking tougher courses such as pre-calculus, calculus, and physics. The positive trends are especially noteworthy considering that SAT test-takers have become increasingly diverse over the years -- racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically. Unfortunately the gaps in average scores of white students and most other students have grown -- the gap between African American test takers and their white counterparts increased from 91 to 94 points on the verbal section and from 96 to 104 points on the math section over the past decade. Again, this is mitigated by the growing numbers of minority students taking the exam.

11. Education -- Voucher Study: A new study shows black students who were given vouchers to attend private school in D.C., New York City and Dayton, Ohio scored at least 6 percentile points higher in reading and math as based on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) than those who stayed in public schools. The study was based on a small sample of 1,470 students in second through eighth grades who were given up to \$1,700 in vouchers from private funds allocated by lottery. The study is unusual because it compares public and private school students who have similar motivations and family backgrounds significant difference. The authors of the study, from Harvard, Georgetown and the University of Wisconsin, expressed confidence that vouchers could help close the achievement gap, but were puzzled that vouchers only seemed to produce benefits for black students and no other ethnic group showed any significant difference. Some scholars have expressed skepticism of the validity of the study because one of the study's authors and some of its funders have been accused of bias in favor of vouchers.

12. Education -- Response to Radio Address: In response to last week's radio address announcing an on-line teacher recruitment clearinghouse, the website has since received 1.2 million hits and the partnering organization, Recruiting New Teachers, received 70,000 phone call inquiries by Tuesday morning.

13. Children and Families -- FTC Report on Media and Violence: In June of last year, you called on the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Justice Department to jointly study the marketing of violence to children and, specifically, to evaluate the effectiveness and enforceability of the various rating systems (movies, television, video games, and music). The FTC is in the final stages of completing their report and plan to work with us to release it the week of September 10th. As you know, the *Washington Post* ran a front-page story last Sunday outlining some of the findings of the report from a leaked account of the report.

The report set out to answer two central questions: Does the media and entertainment industry inappropriately advertise to children younger than the age suggested by the rating, e.g. are “R” movies being advertised to children under 17 years of age? And, if so, does the industry do it intentionally? The report provided a definitive “yes” to both of these questions supported by extensive and explicit documentation that laid out industry leaders advertising strategies to young children. In each and every sector of the industry, the report found that the industry was overwhelmingly targeting young audiences – two-thirds of movies are targeted to inappropriate audiences; 80 percent of television programming is heavily targeted to children younger than the suggested viewing age; and, even in video games where the industry sets specific guidelines prohibiting the advertisement of violent video games to young children, the report found that industry members largely ignored these guidelines.

One important conclusion of the report not included in the *Post* account is that parents find these ratings very confusing and that many consumer and parent advocates would like one system for the entire industry. Also not reported by the *Post* is the fact that the report includes a summary of research studies on whether there is a connection between watching or participating in violence through the media and committing real-life acts of violence. The majority of such studies did find a definite connection. In fact, four national health associations (the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry) recently released a statement directly linking violence in television, music, video games and movies to increasing violence among children.

9-5-00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 1, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROGER BALLENTINE

RE: OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES WEEKLY

UP
I wish we could
do more about
this
[Signature]

Copied
 Podesta
 Ballentine

Climate Change

Press, Science and Industry

This week, the Business Roundtable (BRT) convened more than fifty leaders from corporations, research labs, universities and government agencies to explore how the public and private sector can harness technology to address climate change. BRT will release a report this fall on the recommendations from the two-day "National Summit on Technology and Climate Change". The conference was divided into three segments: "Guiding Public R&D Investment and Policies", "Encouraging International Technology Transfer", and "Creating Public-Private Technology Partnerships". Officials from the White House, DOE, EPA, and AID participated. The dialogue was very positive, especially considering that BRT has been less than supportive in the past of strong efforts to combat climate change.

Increasingly clear signs that the Arctic ice sheet is melting prompted a flood of high profile press, including a feature article in Time magazine (9/4) ("The BIG Meltdown" - see attached). Prompted by the news from the Arctic, USA Today editorialized in favor of strong action to combat global warming (8/25). The editorial noted that "controlling greenhouse gases through the use of new technologies and alternative fuels is essential". The New York Times ran a front-page story on the Arctic ice melt (8/20). The Times article has generated some controversy, as many scientists think the story overplayed the rarity of the arctic melting and was too quick to link it to global warming.

Seventy-two percent of Americans believe CO2 emissions cause global warming, according to a new Harris poll (8/25). In addition, 85 percent of those surveyed consider global warming a "very serious" or "somewhat serious" problem. These numbers are generally higher than those in similar polling done last year, suggesting that global warming is of increasing concern to the public.

NASA scientist James Hansen, a leader since the late 1980's in bringing global warming to the attention of government officials, released a study suggesting that it may be more practical to slow global warming than is sometimes assumed by focusing in the short term on cutting greenhouse gases other than CO2. The study has attracted widespread media attention, including stories and Op-eds in The New York Times (8/20, 8/28), and a Washington Post editorial (8/28). Many have used this study to criticize our climate policy as too focused on energy and CO2, and say that a focus on other gases would be less costly to the economy. We have responded by pointing out that we do address other greenhouse gases (in fact it was the U.S. that insisted that the Kyoto Protocol include all greenhouse gases), and that reducing carbon emissions through increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy will in fact benefit the economy while generating other environmental and health benefits.

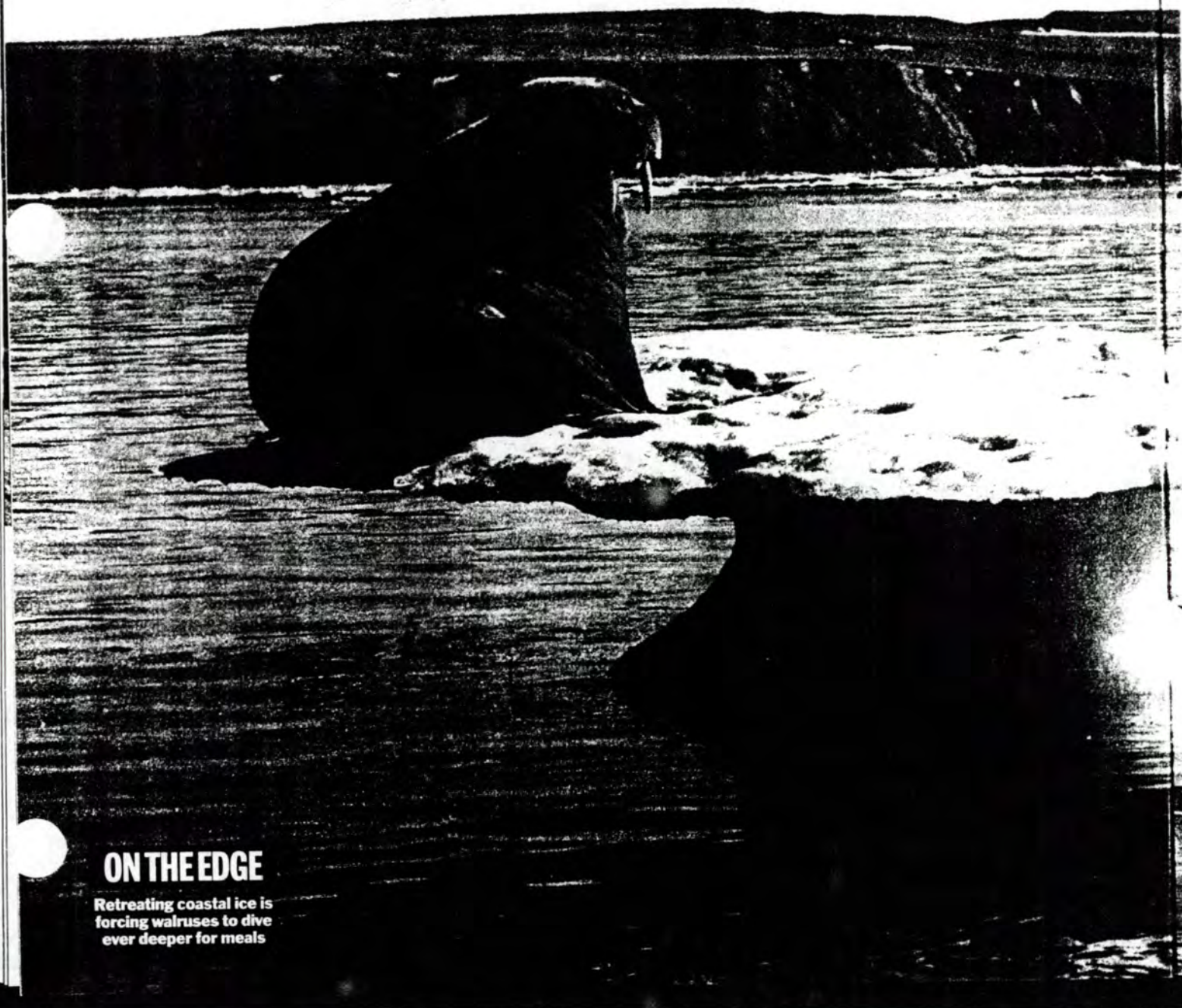
Initiatives

We are making progress in our efforts to get the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to purchase natural gas buses. WMATA will likely vote on this issue next Thursday, and we are working with the Mayor's office, the D.C. Council, Governor Glendening and others to push for a successful outcome. We have continued to work with members of the WMATA board, Washington Gas, and NGOs to facilitate the efforts of those on the board who support the procurement of CNG buses for the WMATA fleet. We understand that the board will be considering this question at its September 7th meeting.

cc: The Vice President
John Podesta
Steve Ricchetti
Sandy Berger
Martin Baily
Chuck Brain
Charles Burson
George Frampton
Neal Lane
Robert Lawrence

The BIG

As the temperature rises in the Arctic, it sends a chill around



ON THE EDGE

Retreating coastal ice is forcing walrus to dive ever deeper for meals

Meltdown

the planet

By EUGENE LINDEN CHURCHILL

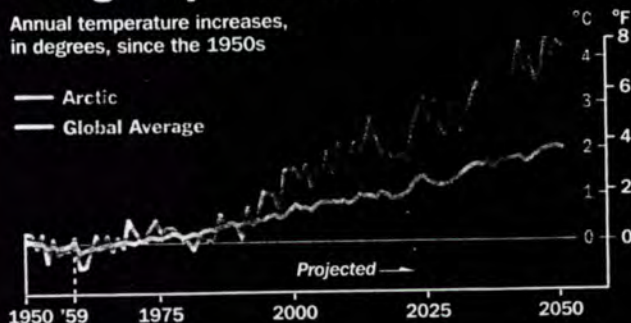
HERE'S A TIP FOR ANYONE TRYING to figure out when and whether global warming might arrive and what changes it will bring: hop a plane to the Arctic and look down. You'll see that climatic changes are already reworking the far-north landscape. In the past two decades, average annual temperatures have climbed as much as 7°F in Alaska, Siberia and parts of Canada. Sea ice is 40% thinner and covers 6% less area than in 1980. Permafrost—permanently frozen subsoil—is proving less permanent. And even polar tourists are returning with less than chilling tales, one of which was heard around the world last week.

Back from a cruise to the North

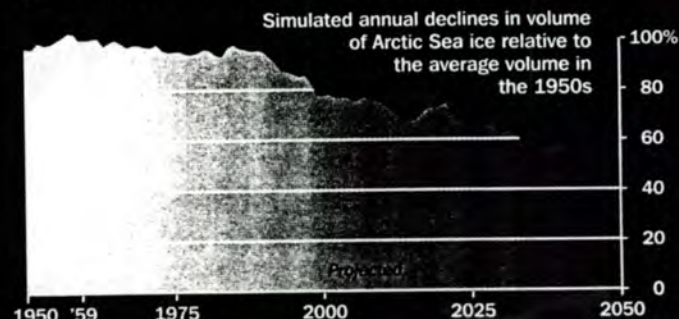
NELSON ASTRAND—GREENPEACE

Rising temperatures...

Annual temperature increases, in degrees, since the 1950s



... will cause more ice to melt...



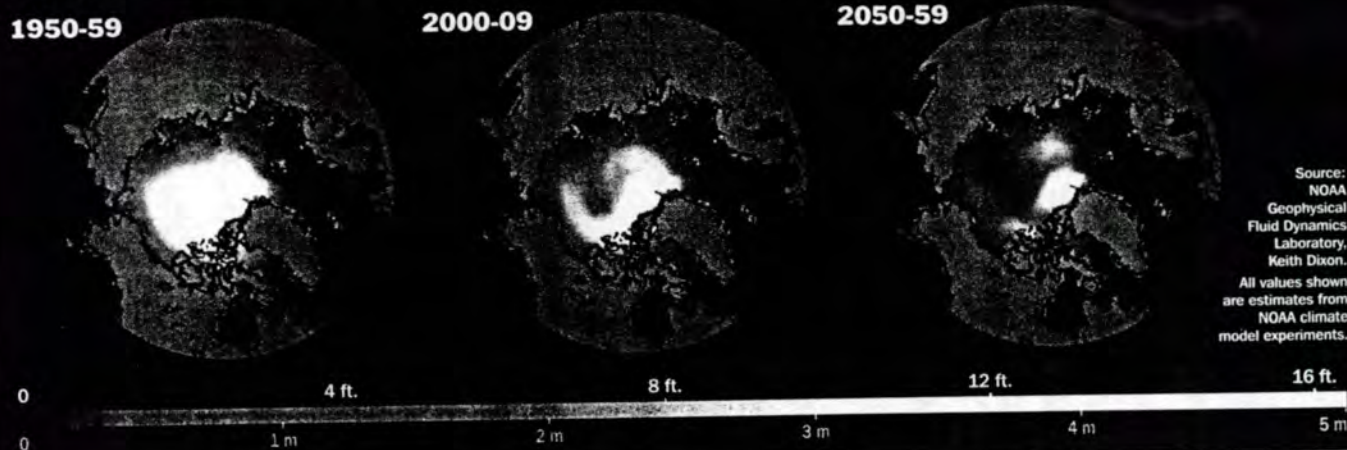
... and the Arctic ice cap to shrink

Polar sea-ice thickness (see color scale below)

1950-59

2000-09

2050-59



Pole aboard the Russian icebreaker *Yamal*, tourists told the *New York Times* that a mile-wide lake had opened up at 90° north, with gulls fluttering overhead, and they had the pictures to prove it. The newspaper declared that such an opening in polar ice was possibly a first in 50 million years, though that claim was dismissed by scientists who nonetheless see other serious signs of Arctic warming (see box, page 56).

ON A LESS COSMIC LEVEL, MIKE Macri, who runs nature tours in Churchill, on the western shores of Hudson Bay in Canada's Manitoba province, has had to rewrite his brochures. The old ones encouraged tourists to arrive at Churchill in mid-June to see beluga whales, which migrate up the mouth of the Churchill River following the spring ice breakup. The new brochure encourages visitors to arrive as early as May.

The ice also forms as much as two weeks later in the autumn than it used to in

Hudson Bay, creating a bewildering situation for some of the local wildlife. Polar bears that ordinarily emerge from their summer dens and walk north up Cape Churchill before proceeding directly onto the ice now arrive at their customary departure point and find open water. Unable to move forward, the bears turn left and continue walking right into town, arriving emaciated and hungry. To reduce unscheduled encounters between townspeople and the carnivores, natural-resource officer Wade Roberts and his deputies tranquilize the bears with a dart gun, temporarily house them in a concrete-and-steel bear "jail" and move them 10 miles north. In years with a late freeze—most years since the late 1970s—the number of bears captured in or near town sometimes doubles, to more than 100.

Humans are feeling the heat too. In Alaska, melting permafrost (occasionally hastened by construction) has produced "roller coaster" roads, power lines tilted at crazy angles and houses sinking up to their

window sashes as the ground liquefies. In parts of the wilderness, the signal is more clear: wetlands, ponds and grasslands have replaced forests, and moose have moved in as caribou have moved out. On the Mackenzie River delta in Canada's Northwest Territories, Arctic-savvy Inuit inhabitants have watched with dismay as warming ground melted the traditional freezers they cut into the permafrost for food storage. Permafrost provides stiffening for the coastline in much of the north; where thawing has occurred, wave action has caused severe erosion. Some coastal Inuit villages are virtually marooned as the ground crumbles all around them. And as the ice retreats farther from the coast, Inuit hunters are finding that prey like walrus has moved out of reach of their boats.

These isolated dramas play out far from the mid-latitudes of the planet, where the vast majority of people live, but they could soon have serious implications for all of us. What is really at risk in the Arctic is part of the thermostat of the



FORCED DIET

Early thaws and late freezes have cut short the polar bear's feeding time

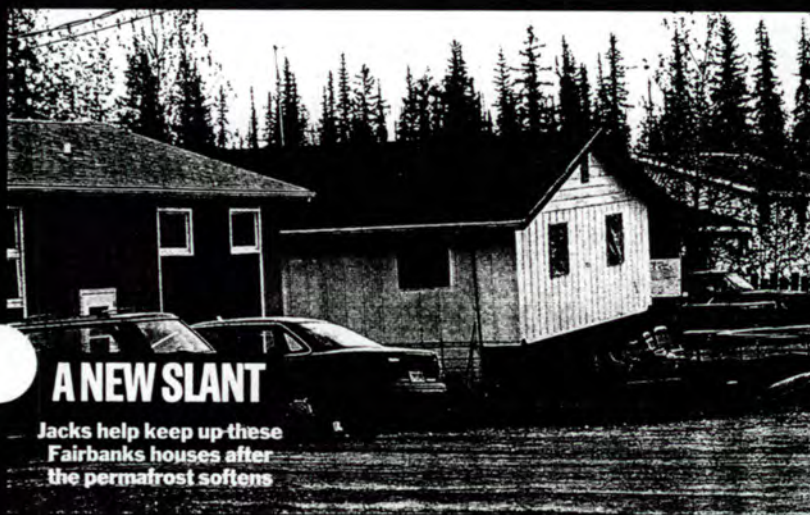
DANIEL BELTRA—GREENPEACE



GARY BRASCH 121

BREAKING UP

A permafrost meltdown played havoc with this north-country road



A NEW SLANT

Jacks help keep up these Fairbanks houses after the permafrost softens

earth itself. The difference in temperatures between the tropics and the poles drives the global climate system. The excess heat that collects in the tropics is dissipated at the poles, about half of it through what has been nicknamed the ocean conveyor, a vast deepwater current equivalent to 100 Amazon Rivers. Much of the rest of the heat is conveyed as energy in the storms that move north from the tropics. If the poles continue to warm faster than the tropics, the vigor of this planetary circulatory system may diminish, radically altering prevailing winds, ocean currents and rainfall patterns. One consequence: grain production in the breadbaskets of the U.S. and Canada could be in jeopardy if rainfall becomes less steady and predictable. Already, severe and unpredictable storms across the northern hemisphere may be a sign that a global system is changing.

Even greater climate change could be on the way. Growing numbers of scientists fear that the warming trend will so disrupt

ocean circulation patterns that the Gulf Stream, the current that warms large parts of the northern hemisphere, could temporarily shut down. If that happens, global warming would, ironically, produce global cooling—and bring on a deep freeze.

Such a calamity could be self-inflicted. Many scientists believe that the current warming is related to the increased burning of fossil fuels, such as gasoline and coal, which overloads the atmosphere with carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. That's why 160 countries signed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which requires industrial nations to reduce their greenhouse emissions to an average of 5.2% below 1990 levels between the years 2008 and 2012. But even that weak treaty remains controversial, and governments have made little progress toward implementing the pact. The U.S. Senate hasn't even considered ratifying it. Opponents seize on the possibility that the warming we're seeing may not be our doing but just part of the natural variation in climate.

Partly in response to this deadlock, NASA climatologist James Hansen last week unveiled an alternative strategy. Instead of pursuing the politically unpopular goal of drastically reducing consumption of fossil fuels, he suggests going after other greenhouse gases, such as methane, which he thinks has accounted for as much warming as carbon dioxide in the past century, even though it is present in the atmosphere in much smaller quantities.

WITHOUT ACTION, MAJOR changes appear inevitable. Should surface water temperatures in the high Arctic rise just a few degrees, the sea ice could disappear entirely, but even a partial melting could devastate the northern hemisphere's climate. A combination of melting ice, increased precipitation and runoff from melting glaciers on land could leave a layer of buoyant freshwater floating atop the denser salt water, at a point in the North

Atlantic where water ordinarily cools and sinks. The lighter freshwater wouldn't sink, interrupting the vertical circulation at a crucial point in the cycling of heat through the ocean—as if you're grabbing a conveyor belt and slowing it down.

SO HOW WOULD THAT PRODUCE cooling? Ordinarily the conveyor is propelled by the pull created by masses of water sinking in the North Atlantic. When this pull diminishes, the movement of warm water north in the Gulf Stream could slow or stall, driving down temperatures in Europe and North America, and possibly elsewhere.

It has happened before. Roughly 12,000

precipitation could be even more damaging. Colder air is dryer air, and Alley points out that during the Younger Dryas, the monsoon weakened in Asia and the Sahara expanded. Harvey Weiss, a Yale archaeologist who has studied the role of climate in human history, notes that it's not changes in temperature that bring down civilizations but changes in precipitation.

Protecting civilization is the goal of the Kyoto Protocol, but the treaty allows 12 more years for implementation, on the assumption that climate change will be gradual. That assumption looks shaky. Studies of deep underground ice layers in Greenland, which reveal a record of climate changes over hundreds of thousands of

years, show that major climate shifts, like the onset of the Younger Dryas, can come very abruptly—within a few decades.

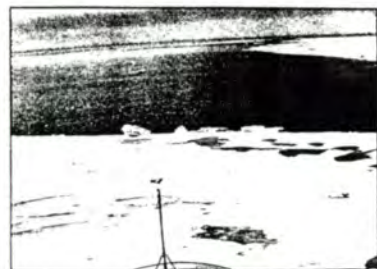
It probably won't be possible to avoid some climate change this century, up or down—and there's still a chance that the earth's systems will compensate for any that occurs—but the possibility that climate turns rapidly and unpredictably should spur us into doing whatever is practical to turn from fossil fuels—fast. If done right it

can be a boon. Energy conservation usually increases profits. In developing nations it's often cheaper to use alternatives like wind power to electrify new areas.

At the entrance to the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, a base for investigations of regional climate change, a rusting rocket is a mute reminder of the complex's earlier life as part of defenses against Soviet nuclear attack. That threat never materialized, and now, belatedly, scientists venture from the base to study a threat that has materialized but against which no adequate defense has been mounted. Despite the danger that climate change poses, the resources currently devoted to studying this problem—and combatting it—are inconsequential compared with the trillions spent during the cold war. Twenty years from now, we may wonder how we could have miscalculated which threat represented the greater peril.

POLAR NOTES

The Hole at 90°N



ARCTIC "LAKE": Not all that unusual

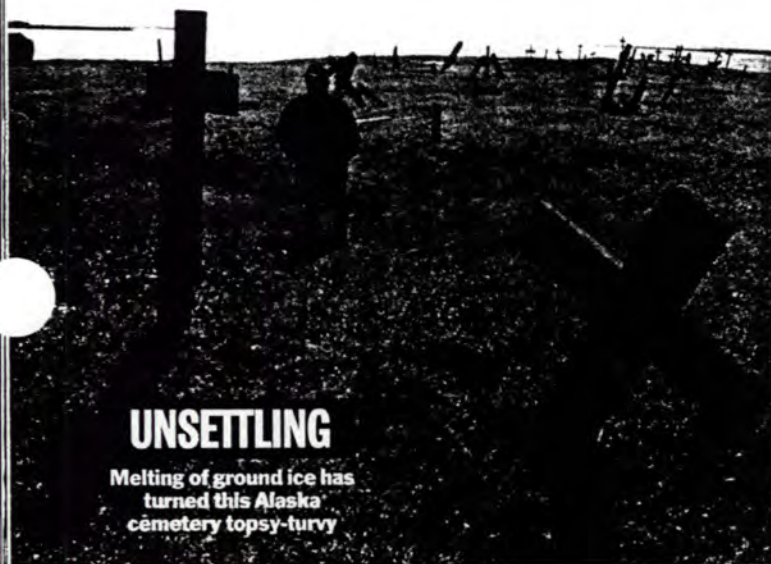
For the tourists and their scientific guides aboard the Russian icebreaker *Yamal*, it was an astonishing sight. Just as they approached the North Pole, they spotted a mile-wide hole in the ice. "It was totally unexpected," Harvard oceanographer James McCarthy, one of the scientists on board, later told the *New York Times*. Paleontologist Malcolm McKenna, of New York City's American Museum of Natural History, said, "I don't know if anybody in history ever got to 90° north to be greeted by water, not ice." Even more surprising, they saw ivory gulls soaring blithely overhead. The *Times* itself commented that the last time anyone could be certain the pole was awash in water was more than 50 million years ago.

Telling evidence of global warming, right? Not necessarily, climatologists quickly pointed out. Thanks to wind and waves, without any help at all from rising temperatures, fissures often form in the polar ice, especially in the warmer summer months. "In fact," says Claire Parkinson of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, whose satellites have long kept an eye on the polar ice cap, "it happens many, many times every year." Sometimes the openings can be hundreds of miles long, explains the Jet Propulsion Lab's Ronald Kwok, another Arctic observer.

Even so, the scientists did not dispute the many other signs of warming in the Arctic. It's just that one opening in the ice, even at the pole itself, doesn't mean a polar meltdown. But what about those ivory gulls? Aren't they pretty rare birds in a locale known more for fauna like polar bears? Not really, explains the Audubon Society's John Bianchi, who points out that the tough gulls are regular inhabitants of the Arctic Ocean. "If you've got open water at the pole or anywhere else up there," he says, "you're going to find these birds, because that's where they eat."

—By Frederic Golden.

Reported by Sora Song/New York



UNSETTLING

Melting of ground ice has turned this Alaska cemetery topsy-turvy

years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age, a natural warming sent freshwater from melting glaciers flowing out of the St. Lawrence River into the North Atlantic, all but shutting down the Gulf Stream and plunging Europe into a 1,300-year deep freeze. The more that becomes known about this period, named the Younger Dryas (after a tundra plant), the more scientists fear that the rapid melting of sea ice could cause the same catastrophe again. Only next time, writes geophysicist Penn State's Richard Alley in a forthcoming book, *Two-Mile Time Machine*, the effects would be much greater, "dropping northern temperatures and spreading droughts far larger than the changes that have affected humans through recorded history." Would this be "the end of humanity?" he asks rhetorically. "No," he replies. "An uncomfortable time for humanity? Very."

A sudden chill would shorten growing seasons, and the resulting changes in pre-



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

9-5-00

September 1, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: NEAL LANE

Neal Lane (DTM)

CC: JOHN PODESTA

SUBJECT: OSTP WEEKLY REPORT

JP
Amazing stories!
copied
Podesta
Lane.

Robots Beget Robots

After 25 years of using algorithms based on evolutionary biological processes to develop computer-simulated prototypes, scientists have successfully linked simulations with a simple automated manufacturing process to create viable, physical prototypes. This advance increases the potential for more economic design of robotic systems, which are used in areas such as manufacturing, industrial processing, and environmental clean-up. Fine tuning robot designs to meet specialized or customized capabilities would be less costly using the automated computer system, rather than human engineers, and the "fittest" design evolved by the system could then be piped directly into fabrication.

Reports suggesting that this is the first step towards "artificial life" that reproduces and evolves on its own may be overstating the case. The evolutionary nature of the technique is confined to the design process; the robots themselves do not contain any feedback mechanisms that would allow them to improve their performance or adapt to their environments, as one would expect from "intelligent systems." The announcement does not have immediate implications for intelligent systems, which are one of the priority research areas in your FY2001 IT R&D request. Fundamental research into intelligent machines and networks of robots will help agencies such as NASA, which hopes to develop space probes that are smart, adaptable, curious, self-sufficient in unpredictable environments, and capable of operating in groups. Other agencies, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology have established themselves as world-class centers for research in manufacturing applications of intelligent robots and are now working with industry to develop intelligent robots that cooperate with one another. Yesterday's announcement will most likely spur new inquiries into the extent to which computer algorithms can evolve and fabricate robots with these "intelligence" characteristics.

Killer Germ Sequenced

This week's *Nature* magazine contains the complete genetic sequence of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a microorganism responsible for most of the deaths in cystic fibrosis sufferers, and for the deaths of many burn victims and AIDS patients. Scientists from the University of Washington Genome Center report that the *P. aeruginosa* genome contains 5,570 genes, many of which offer promising targets for the development of drugs to combat deadly infections. This project, which represents the largest pathogen genome sequenced to date, was funded in part by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and is freely available to all scientists.

The NSTC recently established an interagency Microbe Genome Working Group. The Working Group is reviewing and coordinating Federal microbial genomics research programs. At the working

group's first meeting, DOE announced that September is "Microbe Month" in which the genomes of up to 17 microorganisms will be sequenced by the DOE Joint Genome Institute in Walnut Creek, California.

Cloned Cow Shows Simpler, Quicker Technique for Cloning

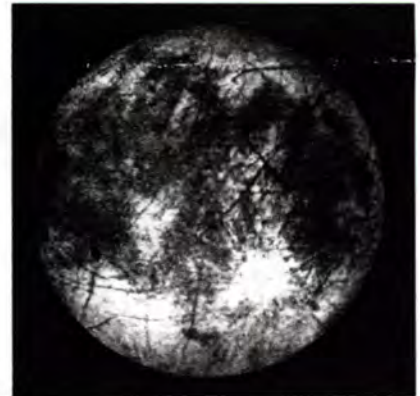
Until recently, scientists thought that the critical step in creating Dolly the sheep was forcing the udder cell from which she was cloned to go into a quiescent (inactive) phase. However, University of Tennessee researchers were able to produce a Jersey cow using a simpler version of the somatic cell nuclear transfer method employed in Scotland to create Dolly. Born on August 23, Millie (pictured above) is a clone of Teresa, the highest Jersey milk-producer in Tennessee. An electric shock fused the nucleus of one of Teresa's ovary cells with an egg cell from a different cow to form a single



cell that began to divide in a glass dish. After a few days, the embryo was implanted in the uterus of a Black Angus cow, chosen to ensure that a Jersey clone would be visually identifiable. The technique was more efficient than that used to produce Dolly: 95 embryos were implanted in surrogate mother cows, resulting in the live birth of one calf, compared to the 277 embryos that gave us Dolly.

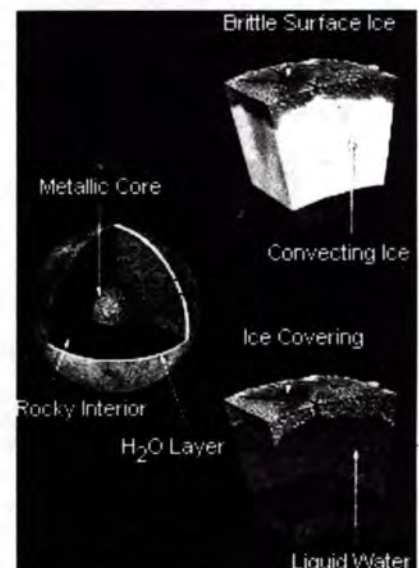
New Evidence for an Alien Ocean

NASA researchers have the strongest evidence yet that one of Jupiter's most mysterious moons hides an ocean of water underneath its icy coat. This evidence comes from magnetic readings by NASA's Galileo spacecraft, which began orbiting Jupiter in 1995. Europa, the fourth largest satellite of Jupiter, has long been suspected of harboring vast quantities of water. Since life as we know it requires water, this makes the moon a prime target for the search of exobiology (life beyond Earth).



Researchers found that a magnetic compass on Europa would indicate erratic changes in direction in a way that's best explained by the presence of a layer of electrically conducting liquid, such as saltwater, beneath the ice. Pictures from Galileo show patterns that scientists see as evidence of a hidden ocean. In some, rafts of ice appear to have shifted position by floating on fluid below. In others, fluid appears to have risen to the surface and frozen. Although those features could be explained by a past ocean that has subsequently frozen solid, the magnetometer data indicate an ocean there now, rather than in the geological past.

The case for liquid water on Europa is still not clinched. A definitive answer could come from precise measurements of gravity and altitude to check for effects of tides during NASA's planned Europa Orbiter mission that will carry instruments capable of providing that information. The Europa Orbiter's proposed launch date is 2003, with an expected arrival date at Europa of 2007.



9-5-00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 1, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MICKEY IBARRA

Wib

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS WEEKLY REPORT

*Copy to
Ibarra
Podesta*

GOVERNORS

HHS National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: On August 31, Secretary Shalala and General McCaffrey released the 1999 survey on illicit drug, alcohol, and tobacco use in the United States. For the first time, the survey provides state-by-state breakdowns of the types and levels of substance use. The results showed a significant reduction in substance abuse nationally however some states did not fare well. Delaware was found to be in the bottom groupings (the states were ranked in groups of 10) for all measures of illicit drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. This was not welcome news for Governor Carper; HHS and White House IGAs are discussing his concerns with his office.

Governor Tony Knowles: On August 24, Governor Knowles issued a sharply worded open letter to former President Carter, scolding him for his public event in Anchorage during which President Carter urged you to designate monument status for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The Governor told President Carter that he had "abused (his) welcome" in Alaska by using the State as "a media prop and platform" to deliver his message to you. The Governor opposes monument status in ANWR and repeatedly has urged that you not take this action in the remaining months of your Administration.

Governor Gray Davis and the California State Legislature: On August 28, the California State Senate passed a handgun licensing bill. The measure would require Californians to buy a special license in order to purchase a pistol or revolver from a dealer, or to exchange/transfer handguns in private-party transactions after July 1, 2002. Current handgun owners would not be required to obtain licenses, but they would need a license if the gun changes hands. Last year in California, about 245,000 new and used handguns were sold through licensed dealers. The bill's prospects in the State Assembly are uncertain, but it is unlikely to become law anytime soon because Governor Davis has called for a moratorium on any new gun control legislation.

Also this week, both houses of the California Legislature passed a rate-relief bill for electricity consumers in San Diego. This measure would cut the current price of electricity charged to all but the biggest customers of San Diego Gas & Electric, making the average homeowner bill drop to about \$68 from \$128. The Governor has promised to sign the rate relief bill into law.

FEMA Declaration for Montana and Idaho: On August 30, IGA notified Governor Racicot that you had approved his disaster declaration request for the severe wildfires that have burned more than 800,000 acres. Governor Racicot requested that you be informed of his sincere gratitude to you for the quick response. On September 1, IGA notified Governor Kempthorne's office that you had approved his disaster declaration request for the severe wildfires that have burned more than 1,200,000 acres.

CITY/COUNTY OFFICIALS

✓ Nigeria Trip: As a part of the official delegation to Nigeria, the U.S. local delegation (LODEL) of five mayors and two county officials attended a series of separate meetings with the Nigerian Minister of State, Nigerian Press, and more than 40 local government Nigerian officials. The Nigerians shared with the LODEL the strengths and weaknesses of local government in Nigeria. In response, the LODEL provided the Nigerians with best practice solutions to strengthening local government, gaining the trust of constituents and creating better relations with the media. At the conclusion of the trip, the LODEL extended an invitation to the Nigerian officials to tour several cities and attend the US Conference of Mayors winter meeting in January. The LODEL received news coverage on the Nigerian National Television News Media from Sunday - Tuesday. They are very appreciative of your invitation.

INSULAR AREAS

✓ Puerto Rico Presidential Vote: A Federal judge in Puerto Rico ordered the insular government to put the U.S. presidential candidates on the ballot and stated Congress should count electoral votes from the islands. Governor Pedro Rosselló expects to sign enabling legislation by September 10. He also asked that the Justice Department not appeal the decision and that you and the Vice President express your personal support for Puerto Ricans being able to vote for President. The Bush campaign welcomed the court order.

✓ Puerto Rico Poll: In a new poll, Statehood party candidate and Democrat Carlos Pesquera led Commonwealth party candidate Sila Calderon 40% to 35%. Mayor Calderon of San Juan, had a 38% to 32% lead in the same poll in June and a 47% to 31% lead when then Transportation Secretary Pesquera became a candidate a year ago.

FEDERAL JUDGESHIP

✓ State Representative Rene Oliviera, chair of the Hispanic Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives, called August 28 to encourage us to continue our efforts to win Senate confirmation for Mayor Ricardo Morado of San Benito to the Southern Judicial District of Texas. Both recently met with Senator Hutchison who pledged to work hard for Senate action before the Congress adjourns. IGA has briefed the appropriate White House staff.

9-5-00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 1, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

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

SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
August 26 – September 1, 2000

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Balderston
Podesta

AMPLIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

- **Current Fire Report:** As of August 31, 73,966 wildland fires have burned more than 6.48 million acres, more than 230 percent of the ten-year average. In the last week alone, nearly one million acres were lost to fire. Weather predictions indicate warm and dry conditions will continue over the northwest states for the next several weeks. Over 30,000 people, including four military battalions, and two international teams from Australia and Canada are currently battling these fires. There are 820 people from the international community working with federal and local firefighters, including 22 from Mexico, 98 from Australia and New Zealand, and 700 from Canada. USDA and DOI are developing an Action Plan to address the current wildland fire situation, and provide recommendations on minimizing the short and long-term impacts, per your order of August 8. Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman met with Chief of Staff John Podesta and Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste on August 31 to discuss the next steps. You have declared major disasters for the states of MT and ID as a result of wildfires this season.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

- **Pension Legislation:** On September 7, the Senate Finance Committee will consider a package of IRA and pension reforms, a companion bill to the House-passed measure sponsored by Representatives Portman and Cardin. Chairman Roth plans to offer a new tax credit (similar to Retirement Savings Accounts) intended to boost retirement savings among low and moderate income Americans, and thus make the overall package more palatable to the Administration and Congressional Democrats. The progressive tax credit would apply to the first \$2,000 that a taxpayer contributes to an IRA or 401(k)-type pension plan. It would be nonrefundable, and thus of little or no value to the lowest

income earners. Roth has indicated that he wants the bill to have bipartisan support, but has not indicated how far he is willing to go to satisfy the Administration's objections to various Portman-Cardin provisions.

- **Mexico:** On August 31, Mexico officially announced that it has repaid fully its outstanding IMF loans of \$3.2B five years in advance. This development reflects Mexico's strong economic and financial performance and its favorable prospects for continued growth and stability. Moreover, Mexico's early repayment is consistent with Treasury's effort to focus IMF lending to emerging market countries on meeting short-term financing needs until access to capital markets is restored. Secretary Summers will issue a statement in support of Mexico's early repayment.
- **APEC:** On September 9-10, Secretary Summers will attend the 7th APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting in Brunei. Among other objectives, the Finance Ministers meeting will help prepare the way for the November APEC Leaders meeting, also to be held in Brunei. The participants will cover the regional and global economic outlook and developments in the effort to strengthen the international financial architecture. Secretary Summers will discuss priorities for reform of the IMF and World Bank and propose an enhanced role for APEC in the international fight against abuse of the financial system.
- **Colombia:** On September 5, Secretary Summers will meet with Colombian Finance Minister Santos on his first official visit to Washington. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss Colombia's economic challenges. Separately, on August 29, in a ceremony in Bogota, Under Secretary Johnson and senior government officials from Aruba, Colombia, and Panama signed the Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE) Multilateral Working Group Directive. The BMPE, the largest money laundering system in the Western Hemisphere, is used to launder billions of narcotics dollars each year. Dollars are placed in U.S. and Mexican banks and then used to finance the export of trade goods from the U.S. to Colombia.
- **Medicare:** A second package restoring Medicare payment cuts to managed care companies, hospitals, nursing homes, and other Medicare providers is likely to top the health care agenda when Congress returns, according to press reports. These payment cuts were imposed by the 1997 Balanced Budget Act (BBA). Medicare provider advocates claim that last fall's legislation, which restored an estimated \$17B of the BBA's Medicare reductions, did not go far enough. Reports from Capitol Hill are that the House Ways and Means Democratic staff is meeting this week with Gephardt's office to prepare a package of BBA givebacks. The Senate Finance Committee is working on a bipartisan package costing an estimated \$30B over five years.

- **HIPC:** In anticipation of final action on the foreign operations spending bill when Congress returns in September, Treasury staff are working closely with NEC to plan outreach and public events with leaders of business and religious communities to raise awareness about the need for Congress to appropriate the full \$435M requested this year for HIPC funding and to authorize the use of the remaining interest on profits from IMF off-market gold sales to finance HIPC. During the week of September 4, Mali is expected to become the tenth country to qualify for enhanced HIPC, which, combined with original HIPC, would provide \$529M in debt relief for Mali.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **Denaturalization of Former Nazi:** On August 17, a Federal appeals court unanimously affirmed a 1999 decision that revoked the U.S. citizenship of Michael Negele on the basis of his admitted service during World War II as an SS Death Head's Battalion guard and dog-handler at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and the Jewish ghetto at Theresienstadt in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. Negele had been found to have obtained his visa in Stuttgart in 1950 by fraudulently claiming to have served during the war in the German army. The court affirmed that individuals such as Negele who served as SS guards there were barred from immigrating to the U.S. by the "hostile movement" provision of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948.
- **Former Nazi Ordered Deported:** On August 11, Michael Gruber was ordered deported to Austria due to his service during World War II as an armed SS guard at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in. Gruber is an Austrian citizen but immigrated to the U.S. in 1956. The case was tried in June by the Office of Special Investigations (OSI), assisted by INS. OSI cited captured Nazi documents that established that Gruber had served in the SS Death's Head Guard Battalion at the Sachsenhausen camp from January 1943 until September 1944.
- **Juvenile Justice Conference:** DOJ's MT district sponsored a Juvenile Justice Conference during the first week of August. Approximately 40 police and corrections officers attended. workshops on topics including: "The Computer/Internet Scare of 2000"; "Get Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs"; "Crash Course in Classroom Management"; and "Truancy Issues and Assessment Center."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- **Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale:** On August 23, MMS opened bids for OCS oil and gas leases at Western Gulf of Mexico Sale 177. The 60 participating companies submitted 266 bids on 226 offshore tracts near TX and LA. High bids totaled \$154M, 62 percent higher than the comparable amount at last year's sale and the fifth largest amount in the last ten years.

- **MO River Indian Tribes:** BOR and the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition, an organization that represents the water resource interests of 28 Native American tribes in the MO River Basin, will sign an agreement that provides water development assistance in the amount of \$600,000 per year for three years. This assistance will be used by the Coalition to help tribes develop the capability to manage tribal water resources effectively.
- **FWS-USDA Educational Partnership:** FWS and USDA have renewed a 24-year-old partnership as both agencies signed their fifth memorandum of understanding enabling them to continue to work together to develop educational programs about wildlife, fish, and related natural resources for private landowners and managers. The arrangement has produced more than 300 books, brochures, posters, pamphlets, conferences and curricula, and videos since 1977, ranging from the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation program, which helps more than 10,000 young people each year establish a connection to the land, to an award-winning video on urban goose management.
- **Indian Substance Abuse and Violence Summit:** On September 6-7, BIA will co-host the Indian Self-Determination Summit on Tribal Strategies to Reduce Alcohol and Substance Abuse and Violence in Washington, DC. The purpose of the conference is to assist tribal leaders and program administrators with developing prevention and intervention techniques to address the many problems among tribal populations. BIA-funded schools will be an important focus of the meeting. Many of the BIA-funded students come from areas with high incident rates of substance abuse.
- **Issues Vital to Native Peoples:** On September 1-3, USGS scientists, academia, and Navajo Nation representatives will gather in Flagstaff, AZ, to discuss a proposed multi-disciplinary study on climate change and land-use on the Navajo and Hopi Reservations. The Navajo and Hopi people live within the most arid and ecologically sensitive region of the southwest. Rapid population growth among this largest group of native people, coupled with potential climate variability, will increasingly stress the carrying capacity of lands upon which they are dependent for their livelihood.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **TX Drought:** On August 29, Secretary Glickman was joined by Representative Stenholm in touring drought damage North of Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX, in an area which has gone a record 60 days without rainfall. As of the Secretary's trip, 153 TX counties had been declared agricultural disaster areas due to drought, with weather forecasts showing little chance of rain for at least two more weeks. The TX Agricultural Extension Service reported that state cotton yields will be down 30-50 percent from last year, with west TX being hardest hit. The reduction in the cotton crop will impact more than just growers;

gins, small businesses, and the entire economy of the area will suffer. Any rain would now be too late to increase dryland yields, and might even be detrimental by stimulating increased insect problems.

- **MO Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP):** On September 15, Secretary Glickman and Governor Carnahan will sign a recently cleared MO CREP agreement. The \$85M Federal-state initiative is designed to protect MO drinking water by reducing the amount of nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants from farms that enter the streams and reservoirs that supply rural water supplies to over 375,000 people. The CREP partners the Federal Conservation Reserve Program with state programs, to aid cooperation in meeting Federal and state environmental objectives. The project's goal is to retire 50,000 acres of highly erodible and environmentally sensitive cropland laying along streams leading to 83 reservoirs that supply 58 public water supplies in 36 counties.
- **Farm Weather Outlook:** The NWS outlook for August 31-September 4 calls for several major changes in the overall weather pattern. Much cooler air is forecast for areas west of the Rockies, accompanied by precipitation in the Northwest. Very warm conditions are forecast to shift eastward, encompassing areas from the Mississippi Valley eastward. Showers are forecast to become more widespread across the South, including parts of TX.
- **Commodity Markets:** Wheat prices rose modestly on news that wheat exports from the European Union are likely to be limited by quality problems with the French crop. Corn prices showed little change for the week as a slight, but bullish decline in crop conditions was offset by huge supplies overhanging the market. Soybean cash prices dropped on sluggish export news, but worries about the adverse yield effects of hot, dry weather in the South sent futures higher. Rice cash prices held steady, but futures surged following release of a bullish USDA *Rice Stocks* report. Cotton prices surged on weather concerns in TX and the Delta. Cattle prices dropped in slow trade. Hog prices rose as packers scrambled to maintain slaughter schedules ahead of the Labor Day holiday. Retail featuring led broiler prices higher. Cheese prices moved up as buyers tried to beat the expected squeeze at the start of the school year. Butter prices were unchanged.
- **Public Meeting on *Salmonella* Research:** On September 8, USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service and FDA will hold a public meeting in Atlanta, GA, to assess the current status of scientific research required to make decisions about *Salmonella enteritidis* in egg preventive controls, surveillance, and education, based on the Egg Safety Action Plan. A notice about the meeting was published in the *Federal Register* on August 23.
- **Animal Production Food Safety (APFS):** On September 6-7, the National Conference on APFS will be held in St. Louis, MO. The conference will bring together a number of industry and consumer organizations to review the current status of food safety at the

food animal production level. The conference will give industry an opportunity to provide an update on quality assurance activities and review ongoing research in support of animal production food safety practices. There will also be discussion on gaps in research to address food safety at the animal production level and discussions on additional educational efforts needed to improve food safety in animal production.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **Online Privacy Technologies:** On September 19, Secretary Mineta will address a public workshop hosted by DOC's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to examine technological tools that enhance consumer privacy online. In partnership with the Internet Education Foundation, NTIA will also host a technology fair to demonstrate the use and capabilities of a broad spectrum of online privacy technologies.
- **First ARGO Ocean Climate Data Float:** On September 19, NOAA will hold a news conference announcing the first U.S. deployment, off Bermuda, of the ARGO ocean floats to be used to gather climate data, which you announced during the 1998 National Ocean Conference. This broad-scale global array of temperature/salinity profiling floats is planned as a major component of the ocean observing system building on the existing upper-ocean thermal networks, extending their spatial and temporal coverage, depth range and accuracy, and enhancing them through addition of salinity and velocity measurements.
- **NOAA-L Launch Delayed:** The launch of DOC's NOAA-L weather satellite has been rescheduled to September 20 due to leaks in the Titan II rocket's fuel systems quick disconnect couplers during a recent high-pressure test. The replacement of the couplers and subsequent testing should take a few days. The next available launch window to keep NOAA-L out of conflict with the in-orbit operational satellites is September 20-23.
- **Unusually Quiet Tornado Season:** NOAA Weather Partners issued a press release reporting that the first seven months of 2000 have been relatively quiet with only 741 tornadoes reported, the lowest total since 1989.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- **Workforce Investment Act:** On August 11, DOL issued final regulations implementing the Workforce Investment Act. The final rule will become effective on September 11. DOL's programs are available to help dislocated workers find new work and obtain new skills. New worker displacement data show that while most displaced workers find new work, some Americans live in areas where jobs are not plentiful and have difficulty attaining new employment and updating their skills. Others need to upgrade their skills

for the 21st century. Of 7.6 million people dislocated over the last three years, nearly two million were not employed early this year.

- **Verizon Strike:** A strike by 87,000 Verizon employees that began on August 6 ended when a tentative agreement, covering about 37,000 employees, was reached late on August 23. Union members in the NY and New England area, formerly NYNEX, reached agreement about three days earlier, with union members from ME to VA joining those workers. Ratification voting dates have not been announced. The contract reduced the number of overtime hours that workers could be required to work, and required that managers give more notice to workers before requiring overtime hours.
- **United Airlines:** United Airlines and the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) announced on August 26 that they had reached a tentative contract following two days of intensive bargaining. The airline's 10,000 pilots have withheld exact terms of the agreement pending ratification. If ratified the contract will be retroactive to April 12. ALPA has stated that the issues leading to this summer's "work-to-rule," involving slowdowns and flight cancellations, have been resolved.
- **Don Bosco YOG Staff and Youth Recognized:** Lamar Hunt, owner of the Kansas City Chiefs, held and participated in a halftime event at Arrowhead Stadium which recognized 100 Youth Opportunity Grant (YOG) participants on the field. Proceeds from the game are being shared with the Don Bosco Center and the Boys' and Girls' Club of Kansas City. Prior to the football game, Farmland Industries co-sponsored a tailgate party for 300 YOG youth at the Don Bosco YOG Center.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **West Nile Virus (WNV):** On August 29, NY announced a fatal case of WNV in a horse on Staten Island. The horse became ill on August 17, showing signs of muscle tremors and an inability to rise without assistance, all possible signs of equine encephalitis. In addition, the horse had evidence of kidney failure. On August 30, the NY Department of Health confirmed West Nile virus infection in three bats, which is the first time the virus has been isolated from bats. The bats, members of the species called "Big Brown bats," were captured in homes in downtown Albany. Also on August 30, NH officials announced that laboratory results provided by the NH Department of Health and Human Services confirmed the presence of WNV in a crow. The crow, collected by the Manchester Health Department on August 21 in southwest Manchester, is the first positive bird identified in the state. During this transmission season there have been a total of six human cases of WNV identified; all have been in NYC, with five identified on Staten Island and one in Brooklyn.

- **Centers of Excellence Demonstration:** On September 5, the Health Care Financing Administration will restart the Medicare Participating Centers of Excellence Demonstration. Under this demonstration, premier cardiovascular and orthopedic facilities offering beneficiary incentives and reduced costs to the Medicare program will be designated in three states: MI, OH, and IL. The procedures were selected because they are high-cost, high-volume complex procedures where studies have found a positive association between volume and outcomes.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Lead Poisoning Protection:** HUD has announced a comprehensive multi-million dollar program to help communities protect children from the dangers of lead poisoning. HUD will provide \$84M to conduct lead testing in Federally funded, low-income housing and more than \$20M to train additional inspectors and other workers, including maintenance and renovation specialists, to carry out HUD's new lead safety regulations that take effect on September 15. This announcement will help communities expand the necessary infrastructure to comply with the new regulations. The new program will provide the first comprehensive inspection of all housing developments receiving Federal assistance that were built before 1978, the year lead-based paint was banned for residential use. These funds will also help defray the costs of risk assessments and clearance testing in privately owned, low-income units. During the first five years, HUD's new lead safety regulations are expected to protect more than two million children living in Federally funded housing units from lead exposure.
- **HOPE VI Success:** The HOPE VI program was named a finalist for Harvard's Innovations in American Government Award on August 23. This award is one of the most prestigious award programs dedicated to public service.
- **Revitalizing Neighborhoods Near Campuses:** Secretary Cuomo announced \$7.5M in grants to 24 colleges and universities nationwide to help harness their physical and economic resources, as well as the knowledge, creativity, and energy of their faculty and students, to create stronger, healthier neighborhoods near their campuses. Recipients of the Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC) grants are located in: AL, CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, IN, IA, MI, NY, OH, PA, RI, TN, TX, VA, WA, and WI. A total of 115 colleges and universities competed for COPC funding this year, totaling \$36M in requested programs.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Firestone Tire Investigation:** DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is investigating whether additional tires, beyond the 14.4 million already recalled by Firestone, need to be recalled. NHTSA is actively monitoring the recall to

assure that consumers are able to have the defective tires replaced as expeditiously as possible and NHTSA will take appropriate measures if they conclude that Firestone is not taking prompt action. The Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee has scheduled a September 6 hearing on the recall. A formal invitation for NHTSA Administrator Bailey to testify is expected. The House Commerce Committee Oversight and Investigative staff has also scheduled a hearing on September 6 on the recall. The Senate Commerce Committee is expected to schedule a hearing on the recall the week of the September 11.

- **Strategic Plan:** On September 7, Secretary Slater will formally present DOT's 2000-2005 Strategic Plan to DOT's staff, stakeholders, and customers. DOT's 1997 Strategic Plan was rated by Congress as best in government. This new Plan raises the bar of performance through DOT's strategic goals which improve the safety and mobility of the country's transportation system, support the economic growth of the nation, enhance the quality of life of the American people, protect the environment and support national security. It will guide DOT's investments and set benchmarks against which DOT will measure performance.
- **Kennedy Space Center Launch:** On September 7-8, Secretary Slater will visit the Kennedy Space Center. He will observe the launch of a shuttle mission that includes only the second U.S. Coast Guard member to serve as a part of a shuttle crew. While there, Slater will recognize and honor the continued participation of Coast Guard officers in the Astronaut program and also recognize the men and women of the Coast Guard who provide waterside security for each shuttle launch from the Kennedy Space Center facility.
- **MADD 20th Anniversary:** On September 6-10, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary at their National Conference in Washington, DC. Secretary Slater will participate in a national press conference to be held at the Capitol on September 6. On September 7, Secretary Slater will speak to the MADD Conference during a special tribute to Senator Frank Lautenberg in Arlington, VA. As Congress returns, the Conferees on the DOT Appropriations Bill will consider the Senate provision for a national .08 BAC law. Secretary Slater will amplify your support for this provision at both events.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

✓ **Energy Star Savings Demonstration:** On August 21-22 in Boston, MA, DOE and Energy Star manufacturing partner Maytag demonstrated how much energy and water can be saved in Energy Star labeled clothes washers in everyday use. Maytag installed an Energy Star qualified Neptune clothes washer and dryer in each of the 66 units at a private apartment complex in a Boston suburb. The washers' water and energy use will

be monitored during September and announced in October. In a similar demonstration conducted by DOE and Maytag in 1997, residents of Bern, KS, achieved 38 percent water savings and 56 percent energy savings by using Energy Star labeled Neptune clothes washers instead of conventional washing machines.

- **Spectrum 2000:** In cooperation with DOE, the American Nuclear Society is sponsoring Spectrum 2000, an International Conference on Nuclear and Hazardous Waste Management, in Chattanooga, TN, on September 24-28. The conference will explore and exchange information related to emerging, advanced, and deployed technologies with industry leaders from around the world. The objective is to provide new avenues for business development and commercialization of products and services relating to nuclear waste management and processes that generate these wastes.
- **Los Alamos Fire Recovery and Environmental Restoration:** Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Los Alamos Area Office, and the Albuquerque Operations Office continue rehabilitation and erosion control efforts. The major remaining engineering project is the construction of the Pajarito Flood Retention Structure at Pajarito Canyon. Special focus is being placed on monitoring and sampling issues. The Flood Risk Assessment Team continues to meet regularly. EPA and the NM Environment Department have requested financial support from DOE for monitoring and sampling.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **TX Higher Education Desegregation:** On August 24, DOEd met with the TX Governor's office and the TX Higher Education Coordinating Board to discuss in further detail the state's revised recommendations for enhancement of TX's historically black colleges and improvement of minority participation at public universities. During the meeting, TX agreed to submit an "implementation plan" to DOEd for comment by September 10. By October 9, DOEd may file official written comments with TX on the acceptability of the measures contained in the plan.
- **Campus Crime and Athletic Equity Data:** On September 11, DOEd will launch two Internet-based data collections required under the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. DOEd began Campus Crime Security Statistics collection on August 17, and will continue through October 17. DOEd will begin releasing this data on September 11.
- **School Construction Press Conference:** On September 12, DOEd will hold a press conference on school construction with Representatives Charles Rangel and Nancy Johnson, and Secretary Summers in Washington, DC.

- **Blue Ribbon Schools:** On September 21-23, DOEd will host its 17th annual Blue Ribbon Schools effort, which identifies and gives national recognition to a diverse group of public and private schools. Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools that meet rigorous criteria and are selected from those nominated by state departments of education, DOD Schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Council for American Private Education.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

- **Internet Employee Screening:** VA has joined with 14 other Federal agencies in a pilot program that will offer a series of tests on the Internet to determine the technical expertise of potential employees. The program also involves a reclassification of technology jobs by replacing the single category of “computer specialist” with multiple categories, such as “software engineer” and “information security.”

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **UN Motor Vehicle Emissions Agreement:** The UN announced an international agreement, effective August 25, to develop globally uniform environmental regulations for motor vehicles. These regulations will help to provide greater uniform environmental protection, energy efficiency, vehicle safety, and pollution reduction from automobiles in countries that are UN members. Current levels of environmental protection and vehicle safety will not be compromised in order to achieve this regulatory uniformity. The agreement ensures that regulatory activities will be carried out in an open manner and will consider the best available technology, the cost effectiveness of these technologies, as well as the benefits to public health.
- **Animal Testing Alternative:** On August 25, a notice was published in the *Federal Register* announcing the availability of new guidance regarding a hepatitis B virus testing alternative. As part of EPA’s commitment to continue to advance scientific methodologies that will protect the public and also reduce animal testing, EPA has endorsed in vitro duck assay as the appropriate and preferred alternative to animal testing.
- **NAACP Rally against EPA Discrimination:** On August 29, the NAACP held a rally at Freedom Plaza in response to an August 18 federal court ruling in favor of a woman who sued EPA for race and sex discrimination. EPA has reached out to the NAACP to establish a constructive dialogue on how to work together on these important issues. Since 1993, EPA has recommended that ten minority members be nominated as Presidential appointees, including six women and two African-American men. In 1993, minorities represented four percent of the senior management at EPA. Today, 15 percent of the EPA senior managers are minorities. In 1993, 20 percent of EPA senior managers were women. Today, that percentage has grown to 30 percent.

UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- **Iraq:** As part of an overall push to focus the Security Council on the need for Iraq to comply with UNSCR 1284, Ambassador Cunningham was scheduled to make a Security Council presentation on August 31. USUN is also working on an op-ed by Ambassador Holbrooke addressing this issue.
- **Sierra Leone:** The United Kingdom introduced a draft Security Council resolution that would increase the authorized strength of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone from 13,000 to 20,500. The text will be negotiated in the next two weeks, and USUN expects to adopt it on September 14.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- **National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month:** On September 7, Director McCaffrey will speak at a kickoff event launching National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. Dr. Nelba Chavez (Administrator of HHS's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), Dr. Westley Clark (Director of HHS's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment) and Arthur Dean (Chairman of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) will also participate. Additional events will be held across the country over the coming month.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- **Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** Administrator Alvarez will participate in a town hall meeting of the President's Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, which will take place at New York University on September 18. She will announce and sign agreements with five national Asian-Pacific-American organizations, part of SBA's ongoing outreach efforts to the Asian-Pacific-American community.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

- **Western Wildfires:** In support of the western wildfire efforts, GSA to date has provided over 300 different types of items, including clothing, gloves, hoses, tools, sleeping bags, canteens, and field packs. The great demand has reduced available inventory from \$20.4M at the start of the season to \$9.4M, but contracting officers are working with GSA vendors in keeping supplies flowing to the firefighters. GSA has shipped over \$11M in fire supplies. The support for this program is centered in Fort Worth and the Western Distribution Center in Stockton, CA.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

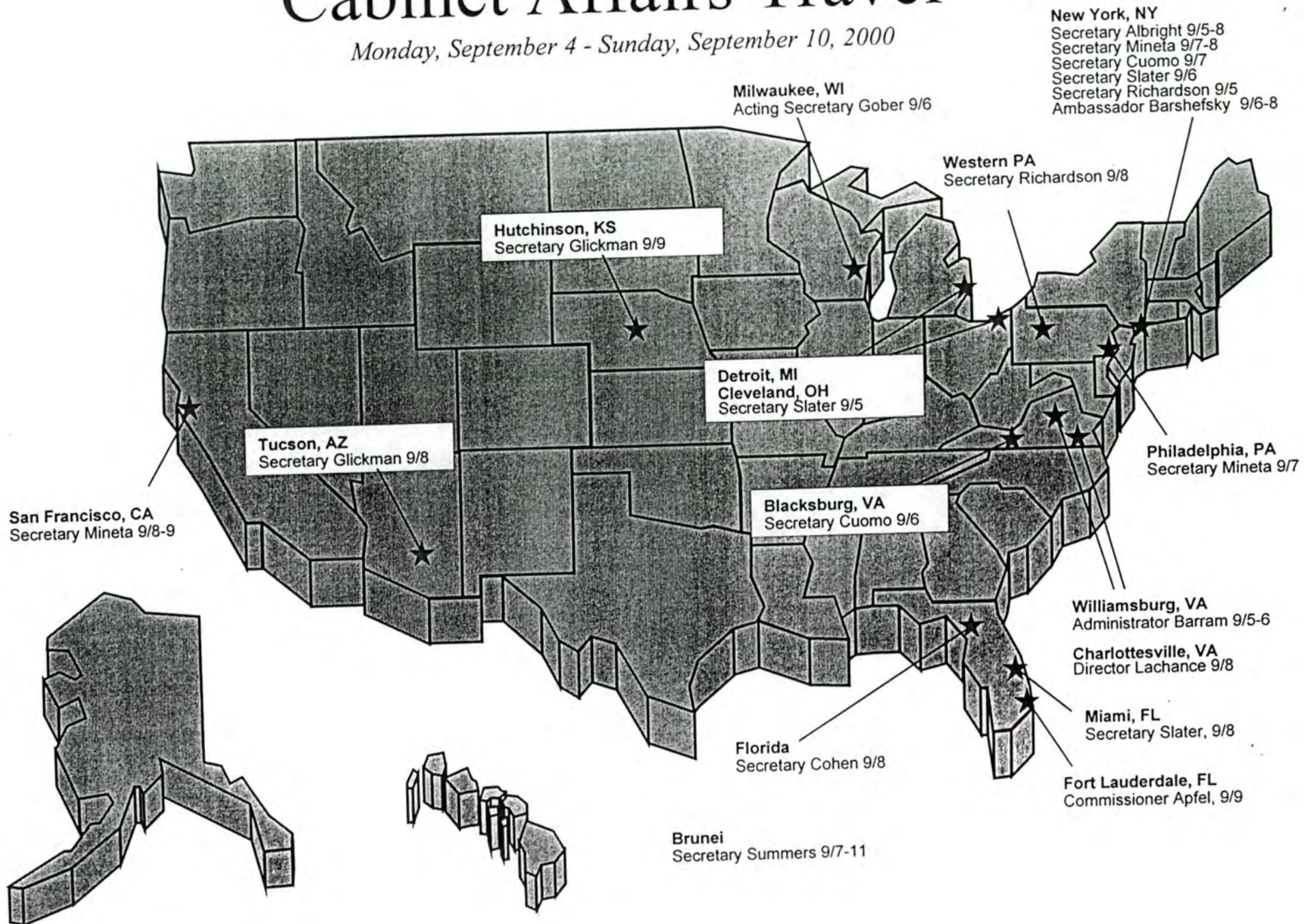
- **U.S.-Australian Social Security Negotiations:** During the week of September 11, SSA will meet with representatives from Australia's Department of Family and Community Services and the Australian Taxation Office for a second round of discussions on a proposed bilateral Social Security agreement. The first negotiating session was held last November in Canberra, and the two sides hope to complete work on a joint draft during the upcoming meeting. The U.S. currently has Social Security agreements in force with 17 countries, including Canada and most of Western Europe, and signed new agreements with Chile and South Korea earlier this year.

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, September 4 - Sunday, September 10, 2000



9-5-00

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

'00 SEP 1 AM 10:45

April 27, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: JOHN PODESTA

FROM: LYNN CUTLER

CC: MARIA ECHAVESTE

SUBJECT: INDIAN COUNTRY

Copied
Cutler
Podesta
Echaveste

WHITE VULCAN MINE

This week, Secretary Babbitt and Secretary Glickman announced an important agreement. The government will purchase the White Vulcan mine, which produces pumice for stone washed blue jeans, for \$1 million. In exchange, the mine will cease operating and will begin clean up of stored pumice piles. The mine is located in the Coconino National Forest in the San Francisco peaks area of Arizona. It is very important to the Navajo and other tribes, because the mountains are sacred sites. The agreement is being applauded by the tribes, the environmental community, the City of Flagstaff and other governmental units.

DIABETES

While the issue received an enormous amount of press this week, due to a new study by the Centers for Disease Control, there was almost no mention of the scope of the problem in Indian country. When I called the lead doctor at CDC for the study, he told me that they didn't include Indians in the study. When the Newsweek cover story ran, they did include the Pimas, who have a 50% rate of diabetes. I called the reporters at the magazine and asked if we could submit a letter that reflects that this administration is acutely aware of the problem, and that you have had special funds for detection and treatment of diabetes in Indian country. Kevin Thurm, Dep. Secy at HHS, is looking into getting that letter sent to Newsweek.

When CDC went back to other data they had, they found an increase of up to 76% in diabetes in Indian country! I rather forcefully conveyed that ignoring this while we are fighting for more money for the Indian Health Service, and when there is a President that cares about this, was a bad idea.

9-5-00

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
PAGE TWO

INDIAN COUNTRY BUDGET INITIATIVE

Several of us from the administration held a briefing on the budget initiative with the House staffers recently. We will schedule one on the Senate side as soon as possible. The request for money for Indian health was endorsed this week by a coalition of over 25 major health groups, including the American Dental Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and many others. Their statement was sent to all Members and Senators. I've asked them to hold a press conference with key Congresspeople as soon as possible.

DELTA REPORT

✓ We received a report from the Worldcom Foundation, which had donated the Marco Polo program that you announced at the Earle, Arkansas High School in December. You will recall that you worked with the program in the computer room of the school. The foundation wrote to tell us that they are rolling out the MarcoPolo Internet classroom program statewide in Arkansas, as well as in Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and seven other states. This translates to free training of over 10,000 teacher trainers this year alone, who in turn will train thousands of other teachers in the use of the multi-grade, multi-subject programming on the Internet.

They closed with this to you: "Because of the few hours you so graciously spent with us back in December, we have been able to introduce tens of thousands of teachers to technology and Internet in the Classroom.....Your influence on the country and in education has been profound in so many important and lasting ways."