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MEMORANDUM TO SENIOR STAFF

FROM: MARK GEARAN *mg*
RE: YEAR-END ACCOMPLISHMENTS
DATE: DECEMBER 1, 1993

The following memorandum on the administration's major legislative accomplishments was prepared by the Communications Department and distributed to the press last week. I thought you might find it helpful. We are preparing a longer document that will summarize all of our accomplishments for distribution later this month. If you have any suggestions for that project, please do not hesitate to call me.

THE 1993 CONGRESSIONAL SESSION : A WRAP-UP

"If we work hard and if we work together, if we re-dedicate ourselves to creating jobs, to rewarding work, to strengthening our families, to reinventing our government, we can lift our country's fortunes again. Tonight I ask everyone in this chamber and every American to look simply into your own heart, to spark your own hopes, to fire your own imagination. There's so much good, so much possibility, so much excitement in this country now that if we act boldly and honestly as leaders should, our legacy will be one of prosperity and progress. This must be America's new direction. Let us summon the courage to seize it." -- President Clinton in his Joint Session Address on February 17, 1993.

- **ENDING GRIDLOCK.** From day one, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked with Congress to break the gridlock that paralyzed Washington, D.C. for years. In one year, they have accomplished many of the President's main priorities:

The Economic Package. Signed into law on August 10, 1993

National Service. Signed into law on September 21, 1993

Family and Medical Leave Act. Signed into law on February 5, 1993

NAFTA. Passed both Houses by November 20, 1993

Campaign Finance. Passed both Houses by November 22, 1993

Crime Bill. Passed both Houses by November 19, 1993

The Brady Bill. Passed both Houses by November 22, 1993

Health Care Reform. Introduced on October 22, 1993

- **LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS:** Even before the tough vote on the NAFTA, studies showed that the president had a remarkable legislative record. **Congressional Quarterly** found that legislation on which the president took a stand passed 88.6 percent of the time, the highest first-year success rate since Eisenhower in 1953. A Fordham University study found that the president won tough votes at a higher rate: 91.3 percent of the tough votes in the House and 92.6 percent in the Senate, better than the record of President Johnson in 1965.
- **BI-PARTISANSHIP, NO VETOES, MORE DEBATE, OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION.** Republicans have delivered crucial support for National Service, the NAFTA, the Family and Medical Leave Act and flood relief. For only the second time in 60 years, there has been no Presidential veto. Important legislation that had fallen to President Bush's vetoes -- the Family and Medical Leave Act, Motor-Voter -- was signed into law. Congress has spent 40 percent more time -- 1,920 hours -- considering legislation than during Reagan's first year. In the spirit of open communication, the president has made 15 trips to Capitol Hill this year.

November 23, 1993

REBUILDING THE ECONOMY

"Our nation needs a new direction. Tonight, I present to you a comprehensive plan to set our nation on that new course. I believe we will find our new direction in the basic old values that brought us here over the last two centuries, a commitment to opportunity, to individual responsibility, to community, to work, to family, and to faith. We must now break the habits of both political parties and say there can be no more something for nothing, and admit, frankly, that we are all in this together." -- President Clinton in his Joint Session Address on February 17, 1993.

- **HISTORIC DEFICIT REDUCTION.** Working with Congress, we have taken bold and serious steps to bring down the federal budget deficit. We passed a budget bill that will reduce the deficit by nearly \$500 billion over five years, the largest deficit cutting plan in history.
- **TARGETED INVESTMENTS.** Congress provided nearly 70 percent of the President's investment proposals for Fiscal Year 1994, including funding for new programs such as National Service, Goals 2000, and School to Work. These included a 66 percent increase for the Ryan White Act; a 12 percent increase for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) feeding program; a 20 percent increase for Head Start, an 11 percent increase for highways; a 116 percent increase for dislocated worker assistance; and a 58 percent increase for immunization grants.
- **LARGE SPENDING CUTS AND A SPENDING FREEZE.** The deficit reduction package that Congress passed included \$255 billion in spending cuts and an unprecedented "hard freeze" -- a 12 percent real reduction -- on all discretionary spending. The House also passed the President's additional spending reduction bill that will cut \$37 billion in spending.
- **HELPING SMALL BUSINESS.** The economic package increases by 75 percent the maximum expensing of investment and provides a new targeted capital gains cut for long-term investments in small businesses -- tax incentives that will create hundreds of thousands of jobs in the next five years.
- **EXPANDING MARKETS FOR US EXPORTS.** The President has worked with Congress to expand markets for US exports, exports that support high-paying American jobs. The President has worked with Congress to relax export controls on \$37 billion worth of American goods.
- **MORE JOBS.** Job creation is up in the first year of the administration -- more than 1.2 million new private sector jobs, 200,000 more than were created during the entire four years of the Bush administration.
- **LOWER INTEREST RATES.** American consumers are benefitting from historically low interest and mortgage rates that make buying a home easier and easing the burden on those who already pay their mortgages.
- **UNEMPLOYMENT DROPPING.** Unemployment has dropped to just 6.8 percent in October, down from an average 7.4 percent last year.

November 23, 1993

SAFE STREETS

"I ask you to help to protect our families against the violent crime which terrorizes our people and which tears our communities apart. We must pass a tough crime bill. ... I support ... an initiative to put 100,000 more police officers on the street -- to provide boot camps for first-time non-violent offenders, for more space for the hardened criminals in jail and I support an initiative to do what we can to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. I will make you this bargain. If you'll pass the Brady Bill, I'll sure sign it." -- President Clinton in his Joint Session Address on February 17, 1993.

- **THE BRADY BILL.** The President is ready to sign the Brady Bill, which will make it more difficult for criminals to purchase handguns.
- **100,000 NEW POLICE OFFICERS.** The President will sign Congress' tough, new crime bill that will help put 100,000 police officers on the street and give local and state officials the tools they need to stop crime.
- **MORE PRISONS.** The crime bill will fund the construction of new prisons to make sure that criminals stay behind bars.
- **SAFE SCHOOLS.** The President proposed and the Senate passed strong new measures as part of the crime bill to make our nation's schools safer.

HELPING FAMILIES

- **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.** The President signed the Family and Medical Leave Act. That law gives American workers job security by providing them with up to 13 weeks per year of unpaid leave for child-birth, adoption, a personal illness or an illness in the family. Thanks to Congress and the President, Americans no longer have to face the difficult choice between caring for their families or keeping their jobs.
- **MAKING STUDENT LOANS MORE AFFORDABLE.** Congress passed and the President signed the Student Loan Reform Act, which will make college more affordable, lower interest rates and save taxpayer money through direct federal lending.
- **NATIONAL SERVICE.** Congress passed and the President signed a National Service Act that will enable over 100,000 young Americans to serve their communities and to earn credit toward higher education.
- **TAX CUTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES WITH INCOMES BELOW \$27,000.** The tax plan Congress passed was fair. It asked wealthy Americans to pay their fair share, while giving more than 20 million American families a tax cut through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC.)

November 23, 1993

REFORMING GOVERNMENT

"I think it is clear to every American including every member of Congress of both parties that the confidence of the people who pay our bills and our institutions in Washington is not high. We must restore it. We must begin again to make government work for ordinary taxpayers, not simply for organized interest groups ... I believe lobby reform and campaign finance reform are a sure path to increased popularity for Republicans and Democrats alike because it says to the voters back home, 'This is your House, this is your Senate. We're your hired hands and every penny we draw is your money.'" -- President Clinton in his Joint Session Address on February 17, 1993.

- **REINVENTING GOVERNMENT.** The President and Vice President Gore have launched a major effort to reinvent government. The National Performance Review report was released on September 7, 1993, containing over 1200 recommendations to make government work better and cost less. These initiatives will trim the government's payroll by 250,000 jobs and streamline government operations. NPR will cut red tape, abandon the obsolete, eliminate duplications and end special privileges. The administration has introduced more than 40 of NPR's major proposals: eliminating special interests like the wool and mohair subsidies; moving forward on procurement reform; moving from a paper-based system to an automated-electronic one. The House incorporated some of those recommendations in a rescission bill the President is ready to sign.
- **MOTOR VOTER.** The President signed the National Voter Registration Act, which will make it easier for millions of Americans to register to vote.
- **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM.** Both houses have passed a campaign finance reform bill that will reduce the influence of PACs and level the playing field between challengers and incumbents. The President will sign the toughest campaign finance reform bill Congress can pass.
- **LOBBYING REFORM.** As part of the President's budget package, Congress eliminated the tax deduction for lobbying expenses.

DEMOCRATIC INTERNATIONALISM

- **FREE TRADE.** Congress and the President have worked together to break down trade barriers and to pass the NAFTA, an historic agreement that will create jobs and markets for Americans and protect the environment on both sides of the border. The President looks forward to continued cooperation from Congress as he completes the GATT negotiations in Geneva and the initiatives he began in at the G-7 summit in Tokyo and the APEC conference in Seattle.
- **AID TO DEMOCRATIC STATES.** Congress has supported the President's package of \$2.5 billion in Russian aid to bolster democracy in the former Communist state and to lend stability to the new Russian free market economy.
- **MIDEAST PEACE.** The President appreciates the support Congress has given him as he brokers an agreement that will bring lasting peace to the Mideast.

November 23, 1993

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

"I believe if there is any chance that Republicans and Democrats who disagree on taxes and spending ... could agree on one thing, surely we can all look at these numbers and go home and tell our people the truth. We cannot continue these spending patterns in public or private dollars for health care for less and less and less every year. We can do better." -- President Clinton in his Joint Session Address on February 17, 1993.

- **HEALTH CARE SECURITY.** The President is committed to passing comprehensive health care legislation in the 103rd Congress. For more than 60 years, Presidents and Congress have worked to enact a national health care plan. Next year, Congress and the President will deliver.
- **IMPROVING MEDICAL RESEARCH.** Congress passed and President Clinton signed a National Institutes of Health bill that will help keep America at the forefront of biomedical research in key areas like cancer, heart diseases, women's health, AIDS, and fetal tissue transplantation.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

"Backed by an effective national defense and a stronger economy, our nation will be prepared to lead a world challenged as it is everywhere by ethnic conflict, by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, by the global democratic revolution, and by challenges to the health of our global environment.

"This (economic) plan... provides the most ambitious environmental clean-up in partnership with state and local government of our time to put people to work and to preserve the environment for our future. " -- President Clinton in his Joint Session Address on February 17, 1993.

- **EPA CABINET STATUS.** The President is poised to sign into law legislation that would elevate the Environmental Protection Agency to Cabinet status. This law will strengthen the agency's effectiveness and enhance its ability to execute national and international environmental policy.
- **FOREST PLAN.** After a break-through Forest Conference in Portland, Oregon with groups on both sides of the issue, the President announced a Forest Plan, ending contradictory policies from feuding agencies concerning legislation banning the export of unprocessed timber.

November 23, 1993

SWIFT REACTION TO EMERGENCIES

The President and Congress have moved swiftly this year to address emergencies that affected the lives of millions of Americans.

- **HELPING THE UNEMPLOYED.** Last March, Congress approved and the President signed extended unemployment benefits for up to 26 weeks for victims of the recession. Quick action on the unemployment benefits bill kept 250,000 to 300,000 unemployed Americans from falling through the safety net each week.
- **NATURAL DISASTERS.** Congress and the President moved quickly to provide \$6.3 billion in emergency assistance to victims of the flooding in the Midwest and \$207 million to people affected by hurricanes. The President and Congress also moved quickly to put federal resources in the hands of those fighting the fires in southern California.