

1-28-99

99 JAN 27 4:56

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 22, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: JOHN PODESTA *John Podesta*
CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: CHARLES F.C. RUFF
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

AMY COMSTOCK *Amy Comstock*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Request For Conflict-Of-Interest Waiver

We have received a request for a conflict-of-interest waiver from Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. As you know, the conflict-of-interest statute prohibits federal employees from participating personally and substantially in a particular matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on, among other things, the financial interests of the future employer. 18 U.S.C. 208(a). You have the authority to grant a waiver of this provision if you determine that the interest to be affected is not so substantial as to affect the integrity of the employee's services.

Ms. Jackson has agreed to accept the Presidency of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), effective July 1, 1999. RPI holds a license from NRC and is a contractor with that agency. Ms. Jackson seeks a waiver that would allow her to work on rulemaking and other policy matters that affect NRC licensees and grantees, such as RPI, but would not permit her to work on particular matters involving specific parties, such as licensing or contract matters, affecting RPI specifically or uniquely. Without such a waiver, Ms. Jackson would be unable to participate in general policy matters affecting RPI.

We recommend that you grant the waiver based upon a determination that the effect on RPI's financial interests of any actions Ms. Jackson might take under this waiver would not be so substantial as to be deemed to likely to affect the integrity of the services the Government can expect from her. The General Counsel and Designated Agency Ethics Official at the NRC concurs in this recommendation, and the Office of Government Ethics has approved the request.

copied
Ruff
Comstock
Podesta

If you approve this request, please sign the attached waiver. If you deny the request or need additional information, please indicate below.

Waiver denied.

Need additional information.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

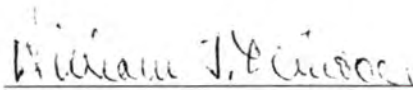
CONFLICT OF INTEREST WAIVER FOR SHIRLEY ANN JACKSON, CHAIR, U.S.
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 208(a), you are prohibited from participating personally and substantially in a particular matter in which, to your knowledge, you or an organization with which you have an arrangement concerning future employment has a financial interest. Subsection (b)(1) of that section provides that the person responsible for your appointment may waive that restriction upon a determination that the financial interest in the matter is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the services you would provide the Government in that matter.

In your request for this determination, you have indicated that you have agreed to serve as the President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute ("RPI"), beginning July 1, 1999. RPI currently has a criticality reactor licensed by the NRC and a contract with the NRC for development of mechanistic modeling capabilities for computer simulations of reactor components and systems. Accordingly, the NRC has matters before it that could have a direct and predictable effect on RPI's financial interests. Thus, section 208(a) would prohibit you from acting on any matter that would have a direct and predictable effect on RPI's financial interests as well as any matter that would directly and predictably affect your personal financial interests, particularly any affecting your employment agreement.

You have also indicated to me that, prior to your leaving the Commission, you may be called upon to act on a variety of general matters that could affect RPI. General matters would include rulemaking and policy issues, but do not include licensing matters, contractual actions, inspections, or any other specific party matter. You are not aware of any circumstances in which your employment agreement with RPI could be affected by these general matters. You have also indicated that it is extremely unlikely that any Commission action on a general matter would have a significant financial impact on RPI.

Based on the information that you have provided me and the advice of counsel, I have determined that RPI's financial interest in general matters that come before the NRC, such as rulemaking and policy matters, is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect your services as the Chairman. This determination does not extend to matters that may arise in which you find you have a personal financial interest, such as matters affecting your employment agreement, or matters involving RPI as a specific party or that would uniquely affect RPI.



William J. Clinton



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

January 5, 1999

Amy Comstock, Esq.
Associate Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Request for Presidential Waiver

Dear Ms. Comstock:

This is to request that the President issue a waiver under 18 U.S.C. 208(b)(1) to allow me to participate in general matters that could affect Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). Under 18 U.S.C. 208(a), I cannot participate in any particular matter directly and predictably affecting RPI, which has a license and contract from the NRC, because I have agreed to become the president of RPI after my term as Chairman expires on June 30, 1999. To my knowledge, I have not participated in any particular matter, including general matters, affecting RPI since I began discussions with RPI about possibly serving as its president.

My responsibilities as Chairman include reviewing, recommending, and acting on a myriad of general matters, such as rules or policy statements, that affect a substantial number of entities, such as RPI. Requiring me to recuse myself from involvement in such general matters would be very detrimental to my ability to serve effectively as the head of the agency for the next six months.

The waiver that I request from the President would be limited to general matters that would not uniquely affect RPI. It would not extend to the current RPI license or contract or any other particular matter specifically involving RPI. It is extremely unlikely that any Commission action on such general matters would have a disproportionate financial impact on RPI. Should such a situation arise, I would not participate in that general matter.

I would appreciate your assistance in the issuance of this waiver. Please call John Szabo in our Office of the General Counsel at (301) 415-1610 if you have any questions or wish to discuss this in more detail.

Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

WATKINS LUDLAM WINTER & STENNIS, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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WILLIAM F. WINTER

WARREN V. LUDLAM, JR.
MARSHA ROSS THOMAS
OF COUNSEL

H. VAUGHAN WATKINS
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ALEEN S. MCNEILL

January 22, 1999

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

Dear Mr. President:

Your State of the Union address was
have heard you give. It reaffirmed the p
which the American people have come to re
nothing but strong support for you after
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I also want to thank you for includi
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that the recommendations of our Advisory Board are right on the money.

I take the liberty of enclosing a piece that Mike Wenger and I
have written arguing for the creation of a Council for One America. I
believe some kind of structure like this would be able to produce some
very visible and affirmative results.

I continue to be grateful for your leadership and your
friendship.

Sincerely,

Bill
William F. Winter

WFW:pd
Enclosure

1-28-99

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ☒

No ☐

RR sig BSC

WATKINS LUDLAM WINTER & STENNIS, P.A.

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January 22, 1999

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

Dear Mr. President:

Your State of the Union address was the best of the many that I have heard you give. It reaffirmed the positive, constructive message which the American people have come to rely on you for. I have heard nothing but strong support for you after that speech, except of course from the crowd that you never have had nor ever will have.

I also want to thank you for including the Initiative on Race in your priorities. I still believe that that is an area that needs continuing strong emphasis, and despite some of the cynics, I think that the recommendations of our Advisory Board are right on the money.

I take the liberty of enclosing a piece that Mike Wenger and I have written arguing for the creation of a Council for One America. I believe some kind of structure like this would be able to produce some very visible and affirmative results.

I continue to be grateful for your leadership and your friendship.

Sincerely,



William F. Winter

WFW:pd
Enclosure

A PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL FOR ONE AMERICA

by William F. Winter and Michael R. Wenger

Obscured to some extent by the impeachment controversy, President Clinton's Initiative on Race has not gained the attention which it deserves. It has, nevertheless, laid the necessary groundwork for the continuing vital task of racial reconciliation that confronts us in this country.

In the next few weeks, in a milestone event of the Initiative, the President is expected to report to the nation on the state of race relations. This report will illuminate the need for racial healing, and it will lay out a roadmap for arriving at One America in the 21st century. This roadmap will chart a course for each sector of our society--business, labor, education, religion, public officials--as we seek to live and function in the world's first truly multi-racial democracy.

By adopting the cornerstone recommendation of the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race--the creation of a President's Council for One America--the President can focus our attention on this roadmap and build on the interest which this initial effort has already generated.

The road to racial reconciliation is fraught with uncertainty. Without the visible commitment and forceful, determined leadership of the President, our different experiences and perspectives will continue to divide us along racial lines as we try to negotiate the inevitable twists and turns in the road. The result will be dashed expectations and, instead of One America there will be many Americas suspicious of and separated from each other.

A President's Council, with prominent, non-governmental members appointed by the President and a small staff lodged in the White House, can be a national vehicle for inspiring us when we falter and guiding us when we confront difficult choices and potential conflict. Much like the President's Council on Physical Fitness or the Council on Environmental Quality, the President's Council for One America can keep us focused on our ultimate destination, and thus, speed our journey to a stronger and more united America in which we respect and honor the differences which make each of us unique while celebrating the common values and aspirations which bind us together.

A primary function of the Council would be to spearhead a sustained and intensive public awareness campaign with three key goals. First, it would make the public more conscious of the common values we all share. Second, it would highlight the racial disparities in educational and economic opportunity and the importance to the future health of our nation of accelerating our progress toward elimination of these disparities. Third, it would underscore and foster ways in which individuals and institutions can make a difference.

For the heart of our society--the economic, religious, educational, communications, civic and community institutions--the Council would act as a catalyst in promoting racial reconciliation activities. As Advisory Board members Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook, Corporate Executive Bob Thomas, and AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez Thompson had the credibility to energize the religious, corporate and labor communities respectively, so Council members would work with these communities and their leaders to insure that the

motivation for racial healing infuses every institution, every community, and every heart.

Within the public sector, especially within the Federal Government, the Council would encourage policies and activities that promote racial justice and would monitor progress in implementing those policies and activities. Its laser-like focus will insure that the public sector sets a shining example for the rest of us to follow in our journey.

Led by someone of a stature comparable to that of Dr. John Hope Franklin, chair of our Advisory Board, the Council would have the credibility to engage people who otherwise might not recognize the significance of our racial divisions, the independence to make politically difficult recommendations, and the stature to resist abolition by a future administration. The Council's single-mindedness would help to insure that the nation is not distracted in its journey.

The Council would, of course, have its critics, as does the Initiative. Some believe we have done enough talking. But so much of the talk has been at each other rather than with each other. When we talk at each other, we don't listen to each other and wind up polarized and paralyzed. When we talk with each other, we come to better understand each other's perspectives and find common ground and the will to act.

Some argue that this focus on race simply stirs things up. But unless we recognize and acknowledge the divisions in our society, we can never heal them.

The President has challenged our nation to "lift the heavy burden of race" from our shoulders and build One America in the 21st Century.

To answer that challenge means to understand that our future depends on our willingness to accept people for who they are, not on the basis of what they look like. We must recognize the reflection of our prejudices in our own mirror and learn to accord every other human being the dignity and respect that is his or her God-given right.

No existing agency has sufficient credibility, independence, and single-mindedness to lead us on this journey. A President's Council for One America will keep us focused on the challenge and will give the President--and our nation--a vehicle for insuring that we don't lose our way on the rocky but enormously rewarding road to racial reconciliation.

William Winter, an attorney in Jackson, Mississippi, is the former Governor of Mississippi and was a member of the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race. Michael Wenger, a consultant with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C., was the Deputy Director for Outreach and Program Development for the President's Initiative on Race.

Send to Bushgard?

Yes ☒No ☐cc: Exec Clerk ☒Yes ☐No ☒cc: NSC Yes ☐cc: NSR No ☐ C.

The President
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

EMBASSY OF THE
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Luxembourg
 January 28, 1999

99 JAN 28 PM 4:18

Dear Mr. President:

It has been my great honor to serve you and the people of the United States as Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

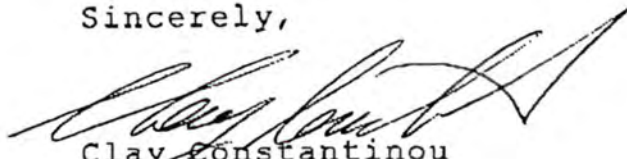
I am deeply grateful for the opportunity you have given me to perform public service. I am especially proud to have served during your presidency, which I am certain history will record as America's golden years.

The time has come for me to return home and resume my endeavors in the private sector. I therefore tender my resignation to be effective at your pleasure.

I leave Luxembourg confident that the ties that bind our two nations are as strong as they have ever been. The people of the Grand Duchy will always hold a warm place in their hearts for Americans who twice liberated Luxembourg in this century.

I look forward to continuing our friendship and to supporting your vision for America.

Sincerely,



Clay Constantinou
 Ambassador

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su

January 28, 1999

99 JAN 28 PM 4:18

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

You have already done more to show that you care for Africa, than any previous President. And judge a man by his words and judge a man by his words heard you speak, they have seen and they have said: Here is a man and trust as a brother.

Africans revered John F. Kennedy, he spoke eloquently and sent them Peace Corps Volunteers. Kennedy never set foot in Africa and enjoyed the personal contact with them and Hillary have experienced this genuinely. He is idealized, yet his humanity is palpable, human. In Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Botswana and many other places you have touched in Africa, you are now part of people's oral histories.

You might do nothing more to burnish your reputation in Africa, yet your legacy would be secure. Indeed, it would be tempting, with so many other demands, to regard your work in Africa as well and truly done. But you have an extraordinary opportunity to make your Presidency a turning point for Africa. Which is why I write this letter.

Africa still looks to the United States for leadership. Africa looks to you personally as someone who understands that Americans and Africa have a special relationship. It is essential that you make the most of this during the final two years of your administration.

There are four areas in which you, as President, and the United States can make a critical contribution:

Send to Bushchmidt?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Coordinate w/USC?

Yes ☐

No ☐

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AMBASSADOR OUMAROU G.
YOUSSEOUFOU

President:
C. PAYNE LUCAS



Africare

Africare helps Africa, with programs in
food, water, the environment, health and
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400
Su

January 28, 1999

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President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

You have already done more for Africa, and done more to show that you really care about Africa, than any previous President. Africans know and judge a man by his words and deeds. They have heard you speak, they have seen you in their midst, and they have said: Here is a man we can respect and trust as a brother.

Africans revered John F. Kennedy because, as a senator, he spoke eloquently against colonialism and sent them Peace Corps Volunteers. But President Kennedy never set foot in Black Africa. He never enjoyed the personal contact with Africans that you and Hillary have experienced and responded to so genuinely. He is idealized, yet remote. Your image is palpable, human. In Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Botswana and many other places you have touched in Africa, you are now part of people's oral histories.

You might do nothing more to burnish your reputation in Africa, yet your legacy would be secure. Indeed, it would be tempting, with so many other demands, to regard your work in Africa as well and truly done. But you have an extraordinary opportunity to make your Presidency a turning point for Africa. Which is why I write this letter.

Africa still looks to the United States for leadership. Africa looks to you personally as someone who understands that Americans and Africa have a special relationship. It is essential that you make the most of this during the final two years of your administration.

There are four areas in which you, as President, and the United States can make a critical contribution:

President William Jefferson Clinton
January 28, 1999
Page 2

* Ensure passage and effective implementation of the African Trade and Growth Initiative. This is vital to Africa's development and integration into the world economy.

* Strongly support Nigeria in its quest for genuine democratic rule.

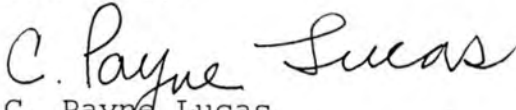
* Do whatever necessary to encourage a comprehensive West African peace initiative. What has happened in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea-Bissau has potentially disastrous implications for the whole of West Africa.

* Help bring real peace to the people of Angola.

* Exert your leadership to prevent the Balkanization of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

You will not succeed in every case, but real progress in two or three will stand among your most important foreign policy achievements. You will also send a clear message that Africa and America have very compelling common interests. And you will be remembered as the first President who understood this, and thus reached out his hands unto Africa.

Sincerely,


C. Payne Lucas
President

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

I want
to see full

cc NH
Scheduling

January 28, 1999

Ron and RhondaLee Machos
184 Gold Street
Manchester, New Hampshire 03103

copied
Scheduling
Hennrich

Dear Ron and RhondaLee:

Thank you so much for your letter. It was great to hear from you.

Congratulations! I know you must be excited that RhondaLee is expecting. Hillary and I are delighted for you and wish you all the best in the coming months.

I do hope to see all of you next month. I've let my schedulers know of this possibility, and I'll be looking forward to it. Please tell Ronnie and Tristan this, and that I said "hello."

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

Thanks for news of the
boys - I can't wait
to see you

Ron and RhondaLee Machos
184 Gold Street
Manchester, New Hampshire 03103

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Fax Number (603) 866-7327

322 Kelley Street

Manchester, NH 03102



Date: 1-26-99	Time: 12:45 PM
Attention: Mary Morrison	Fax:
Phone:	From: Ron Machos Jr.
Number of pages (including this cover): 2	Subject:
Comments: Dear Mary, I was told by your office that you could assure me that this would be delivered to the President. He does like to hear of Little Rennie's progress. I thank you so much in advance for your help. If there is any problems, please call me at any of the above numbers. Thanks again, Ron Machos Jr.	Instructions/message:
Reply requested: ☐ Yes ☒ No	If you did not receive the number of pages stated above, please call the telephone number above.

Ron & RhondaLee Machos

184 Gold Street
Manchester, NH 03103
(603) 647-2038

*Hi Eugene
cc Not
Scheduling
(must do)*

January 26, 1999

Dear Mr. President:

Just a note to say hello and give you an update on what's been going on. First, Little Ronnie is doing exceptionally well. There have been no problems with his heart and it is looking more like he will need no further surgery. We will continue with the prayers. There are two things he asked that we tell you. He scored two goals and got one assist in his last hockey game. The second, well I'll put it in his words: "Mom and Dad, Bill is coming to New Hampshire next month. Can I see him? I am his friend friend you know." From the mouth of babes! He loves you and Hillary very much.

More startling news! RhondaLee is pregnant with our third child. Yes, this came as a bit of a surprise! We are happy and awaiting the baby's arrival around July 9th. Of course a healthy child is our first concern, however, a little girl would be the icing on the cake. Thankfully this pregnancy has been a lot less eventful than our past pregnancies. One thing we will experience for the first time is Health Insurance and pregnancy. With her other pregnancies we never had health insurance.

Well we couldn't leave Tristan out. He is going to be seven this year. As he would say, "My birthday is August 20th. If I was born 19 minutes earlier than me and Bill could have a birthday party together."

The boys think of you often as do RhondaLee and I. You, Hillary and Chelsea are always in our prayers. If you make it to New Hampshire next month, it would be a real treat, especially for the boys, to see you again. We'll let you know then about Rhonda's progress. (She's having an ultrasound February 9th.)

As always, we will be with you till the last dog dies!

Your New Hampshire Friends,

Ron & RhondaLee Machos

Don Argue, Ed. D.
President

1 - 28 - 99

January 26, 1999

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
FAX 202-456-6703
Washington, DC 20500-2000

*Cc: BNash
in last paragraph
Need to get re-elected
appointments soon
BB*

Dear Mr. President:

Warmest Greetings!

Your State of the Union Address was a home run!

When I was praying this morning, two passages of Scripture came to mind. They are as follows:

Psalms 27:5 "For in the day of trouble, He will keep me safe in His dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock."

Psalms 27:13 "I am still confident of this, I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

The above scriptures will give you strength for today. I believe very good days are ahead.

* The weekend newspapers carried more reports of religious persecution around the world than I have read in so short a period of time in recent months. Buddhist against Muslim, Muslim against Hindu, Hindu against Christian, etc. This is a strategic time for action. The Commission on International Religious Freedom can have a significant leadership role in dealing with this serious problem. If I am appointed to serve on the Commission, I will carry your interests and agenda with my full strength and influence.

Have a great day!

Blessings.

Your friend

*copied
Nash
Podesta*

Don Argue, Ed. D.
President

DHA/mc

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NORTHWEST COLLEGE

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FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

ATTENTION: Betty Currie

BUSINESS: The White House

FAX #: 202-456-6703

FROM: Dr. Don Argue

DATE: 1/26/99

NUMBER OF PAGE(S) (including this one): 3

If all pages are not received, please call the above phone number and ask for Mary
in the President's Office.

REMARKS:

1-28-99

January 26, 1999

1-28-99

After you have seen
we will send to
Eugenie for reply -
~~stop~~

MEMORANDUM

To: The President
From: Nancy Hernreich
Mary Morrison
Re: Support Calls

card

•Rick Silverman called to say that he is thinking of you! He has been calling and writing letters on your behalf - he will always support you!

Do try
send son

Dr. Frederick Silverman
2010 - 46th Ave
F2

Greeley, CO
80634.

Cayetano ltr
1/28/99
pe

cleared by Fred DuVal

send son

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 29, 1999

The Honorable Benjamin J. Cayetano
Governor of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ben:

Thank you so much for your kind letter regarding my Administration's accomplishments. I share your confidence that the economy will continue to improve.

During this challenging time, the most important thing for me to do is to continue doing the work of the American people. I remain committed to bringing our nation together and to moving us all forward. I have done this for six years, and I intend to do it for two more.

As always, I'm grateful for your support. I hope you are well and send my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Bill



STATE OF THE UNION

ADDRESS TO THE 106th CONGRESS



FIRST SESSION

President William J. Clinton

JANUARY 19, 1999 • WASHINGTON, D.C.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR

January 15, 1999

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

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare to deliver your State of the Union address on January 19, 1999, I am writing to compliment you on the accomplishments of your administration to date. Every state, including Hawaii, has benefited from your three part economic strategy of cutting the budget deficit, reducing interest rates and spurring investment.

Although Hawaii's economy is still on the rebound, I am confident that given the economic policies you have put in place together with the state's own initiatives, we will see at least a minimum of fiscal improvement this year.

As I mentioned to you during your stopover in Hawaii on your return from Asia, you have my personal support and that of the people of Hawaii. During what must be a very difficult time for you and your family, I would like you to know that your popularity remains high throughout the State.

I look forward to working with you in completing your agenda during the final two years of your Presidency.

With warmest personal regards,

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ben Cayetano".
BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO

JAN 20 1999

LOWENSTEIN SANDLER PC
Attorneys at LawTHE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
1-28-99DOUGLAS S. EAKELEY
Member of the FirmTel 973.597.2348 Fax 973.597.2349
deakeley@lowenstein.com

January 27, 1999

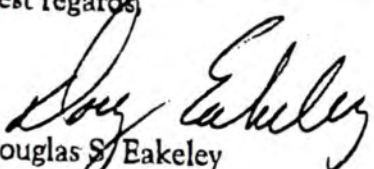
Hon. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
Attn: Ms. Nancy Hernreich
The White House
Washington, DC 20500-2000*Back to Admiral*

Dear Mr. President:

On the extremely remote chance that the schedule has slipped your notice, I thought I would write to remind you that Dennis Blair will be leaving Washington soon to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. The formal change in command is scheduled for February 20.

If you have not already done so, I know that Dennis would welcome a call from you.

Best regards,


Douglas S. Eakeley

P.S. -- Enclosed are two of my recent columns. The State of the Union speech was fantastic!

DSE:cw
Encls.

cc: Ms. Nancy Hernreich

1-28-99

After you have seen,
we will send to
Burkhardt for reply -

OK callTelephone 973.597.2500
Fax 973.597.2400

www.lowenstein.com

FYI -
Eakeley sent
SOTU*Forward to
Congress letter
to Blair**Sew sign*

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99 FEB 1 PM 2:05

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**FROM: Douglas S. Eakeley****Date January 28, 1999****TEL: 973.597.2348 FAX: 973.597.2349 E-MAIL: deakeley@lowenstein.com****TO: Ms. Nancy Hertzreich****FACSIMILE NO.: 202-456-6703**
VOICE NO.: 202-456-6610**TO:****FACSIMILE NO.:**
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VOICE NO.:**TOTAL PAGES (WITH COVER) 4****CLIENT ID/MATTER #: 99999/1****If you have any trouble with this transmittal, please call 973.597.2500 ext. 2808****Message:**

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Ring out old year, ringing in new year

So we are now in the countdown toward the new millennium. The twentieth century has less than a year left. In all probability, 1998 will go down in history as the year a rabidly partisan Congress impeached the President of the United States. And who knows what 1999 has in store?

Two stanzas from Tennyson's familiar poem, "In Memoriam," seem particularly appropriate as an invocation for the new year.

"Ring out the old, ring in the new.

Ring, happy bells, across the snow:

The year is going, let him go;

Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease.

Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;

Ring out the thousand wars of old.

Ring in the thousand years of peace."

But it won't be that easy to put the past behind us and usher in an era of truth, health, altruism and peace. It never has been. Even if



Common Ground

By DOUGLAS S. EAKELEY
Columnist

our motives are laudable, our human fallibility more than likely will lead us astray. And though our actions may be well-intentioned, we often cannot control the events that shape our lives.

Brutal reality intruded on our Christmas festivities this year to remind us of how little we know or understand of life or death. Within a few short days, a high-school classmate committed suicide, a former law partner died of cancer, and the son of a close friend drowned while on a kayak expedition in Ecuador. For those who asked, "Why did this happen?" there was no obvious answer, no explanation for the tragedy.

At the memorial service for my

friend's son, the leader of the service related a story from the Talmud by way of benediction: A simple farmer was working diligently in the fields just before the sabbath and did not notice that the sun was setting. When he finally discovered that the sun has set and that the sabbath had begun, he realized that he could not walk home without violating the law of the sabbath. So he sat in the middle of his field until the sun set the following day, ending the sabbath.

The farmer hurried home and sought out the village rabbi to explain what had happened. The rabbi demanded of him, "Did you

recite the prescribed sabbath prayers?" The farmer answered, "Rabbi, you know I am a simple man. I don't know those prayers by heart." The rabbi inquired, "So what did you do?" And the farmer responded, "I recited the alphabet over and over again, praying that God would take the letters and form them into words, and shape the words into sentences and the sentences into prayers."

The leader concluded the memorial service by urging everyone in attendance to recite his or her particular alphabet, with the prayer that someone, somewhere, would make sense out of what was being offered.

In this, the last year of the millennium, may we all find the words and the prayers that will help make us better, more caring people and the world a better place in which to live.

(Editor's Note: Eakeley, a Democrat, is a lawyer in private practice in New Jersey. He is a former first assistant attorney general of New Jersey. His column appears here the first and third week of the month.)

DATE 1/7/99

SUBJECT OLD YEAR, NEW YEAR

NEWSPAPER THE BERNARDSVILLE NEWS