

MEMORANDUM TO DPC STAFF

FROM: JEREMY BEN-AMI

SUBJECT: CABINET WEEKLY REPORTS FROM KITTY HIGGINS

Starting with this report (June 12-17), each DPC staff member will be receiving weekly summaries that relate to his or her specific issue(s). We have modified the distribution system to avoid burdening the staff with excess information.

Attached to this memo are the updates that relate to your issues. If no relevant updates were in the weekly, there won't be any attachments.

I hope this is helpful. Please let me know if you have suggestions. Thanks.

agencies until the federal government provides funding. Michigan is allowing voters to register by mail and at motor vehicle offices.

- **US Conference of Mayors:** On Sunday, June 18, Secretary Reno addresses the US Conference of Mayors in Miami, Florida.

Department of Health and Human Services

- **Decision on Vermont's Medicaid Demonstration Expected this Week:** HHS hopes to reach agreement with the State of Vermont this week on the final budget and structure of its Medicaid demonstration proposal. The plan would implement Medicaid managed care, expand eligibility to approximately 25,000 additional individuals with incomes below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, and provide a prescription drug benefit to low income Medicare beneficiaries. HHS expects to make a decision of Vermont's proposal by mid-June.
- **Implementation of New Nursing Home Survey Procedures:** On July 1, HHS will implement new nursing home survey procedures which encourage nursing home facilities to provide quality care to their residents and provide new remedies against those facilities that fail to meet certain standards. These new remedies include civil money penalties and denial of payment for new patients. Associations representing nursing facilities have been campaigning to delay implementation of the new regulatory provisions because of concern that many facilities may not meet the new requirements. The Department will continue to work closely with the associations to address their concerns. These regulations have been developed over 8 years and are the final action needed to implement Nursing Home Reform legislation enacted in 1987.
- **Gene Discovered for Rare Childhood Disease:** After a 13-year search, researchers with an NIH grant have identified and cloned a gene that causes a rare, neurological, childhood disorder called ataxia-telangiectasia (A-T). A-T is characterized by destruction of brain cells, with progressive loss of motor coordination and immune system deterioration. Scientists have also found that people who do not have the disease but carry the gene have a four-fold increase in risk for cancer compared to the general population. Women who carry the gene have a five-fold increase in risk for breast cancer. This study will be published in the June 23 issue of *Science* magazine.
- **Settlement Reached with Caremark:** At a press conference on June 15, Attorney General Reno and HHS Inspector General June Gibbs Brown announced a \$156 million settlement with Caremark, Inc. to resolve part of a major national investigation by the Office of Inspector General. The primary focus of the investigation involved Caremark's practice of providing illegal remuneration to physicians for the referral of Medicare and Medicaid patients in its home infusion business.

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- **Medicare/Medicaid Fraud Hotline:** During the week of June 26, the Department will announce a national hotline to collect reports of health care fraud involving the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The toll-free hotline (1-800-HHS-TIPS) will facilitate voluntary fraud disclosure and will be staffed and maintained by officials in the Office of the Inspector General. This outreach is another element in the first phase of "Operation Restore Trust," an initiative that targets Medicare and Medicaid fraud in five key states.

Home Health Fraud: HHS will issue a Special Fraud Alert about the home health industry, putting providers on notice that the Department will investigate and prosecute certain abusive practices. These alerts, issued over the past several years, educate the public about fraudulent practices and put the industry on notice about HHS' resolve to investigate potential violations.

- **GAO Report Critical of Federal Oversight of Medicare HMOs:** In late June, GAO is expected to release a report that is highly critical of federal oversight of HMOs that enroll Medicare beneficiaries, characterizing federal oversight as "watching and waiting." The report cites problems that existed during prior Administrations and fails to report and significant changes during this Administration that have resulted in more effective HMO monitoring, oversight and better quality care. HHS will send formal comments to GAO regarding its concerns with the report.

- **Mammography Initiative with Fannie Mae:** This week, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) expects to announce a partnership with Fannie Mae to provide information about breast cancer screening to the corporation's 2,000 female employees.

- **Outreach Meetings on Welfare Reform:** As part of her continuing outreach meeting on welfare reform, Secretary Shalala will meet with Sens. Packwood and Kassebaum on Monday, June 19.

Social Security Administration

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- **Hearing on the Solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund:** On June 27, the Senate Finance Committee, Subcommittee on Social Security and Family Policy will hold a hearing on the solvency of the Social Security trust fund. SSA Commissioner Chater will testify at this hearing.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

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- **Update on the Chicago Housing Authority:** This week, HUD initiated a summertime cleanup effort targeted at five family development sites. On Wednesday, June 21, HUD hopes to announce a security plan that would make changes in the security personnel and leadership, establish police mini-stations, put greater reliance on

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

To: DPC Staff
(F41)

May 1, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

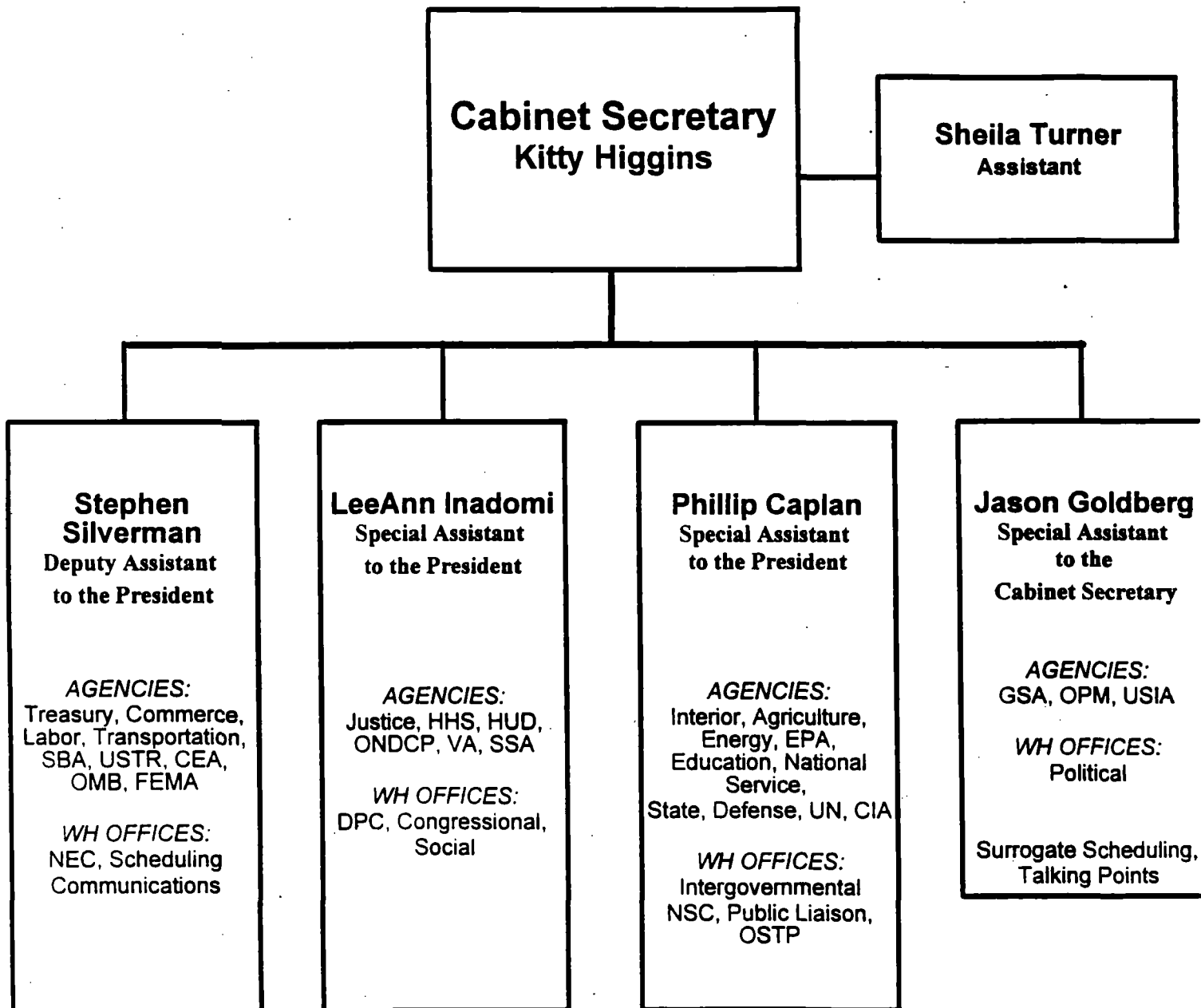
FROM: KITTY HIGGINS *Kitty*
Assistant to the President and
Secretary to the Cabinet

SUBJECT: Cabinet Affairs Responsibilities

Attached is an updated Cabinet Affairs staffing diagram. Please note changes in Agency assignments as well as White House office liaisons.

Office of Cabinet Affairs

5/1/95



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 12, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEFS OF STAFF

FROM: DANA HYDE
Special Assistant to the President for Cabinet Affairs

Subject: Health Care Update

Over the past few months the Administration has been reviewing options and consulting with many of your Secretaries on our approach to health care reform in this new year. Attached is a letter from the President to Minority Leader Gephardt and sample questions and answers which outline the principles important to us in the coming debate.

Please circulate these materials to your staff involved in the health care issue. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 456-2572. Thank you.

For Internal Use

Health Care Questions and Answers - January 3, 1995

Q. How is the Administration going to proceed on health care reform?

A. * The President remains firmly committed to providing insurance coverage for every American and containing health care costs for families, businesses and Federal, State and local governments.

* As he stated in his December 27 letter to Congressional leadership and during end-of-the-year interviews last week, he believes that we should work in a step-by-step manner to achieve these goals.

* The President wants this Congress to work with him in taking the first steps by passing measures to address the unfairness in the insurance market, making coverage available and affordable for children and the temporarily unemployed, assuring that the populations served by Medicare and Medicaid are protected and reducing the long-term federal deficit.

Q. What is the Administration's reaction to Senator Daschle's health care proposal?

* Senator Daschle's proposal is consistent with the vision laid out by the President in his December 27 letter to the Congressional leadership. Both the President and Senator Daschle want to work in a bipartisan fashion on health care reform. The nation's health care problems have not gone away and it is imperative that we move forward.

Q. Is the Daschle bill effectively the Administration's bill?

* No, but it shares the vision that the President outlined in his letter to the Congressional leadership last week.

* By including health care in his leadership package, Democrats are sending an important signal that health care reform remains a high priority for the nation. We hope to work with the Republicans in a bipartisan manner to enact health care reform this year.

Q. Did Senator Daschle consult with the President?

* Senator Daschle and his staff informed the Administration of the proposal and outlined the direction that it would take.

Q. Senator Daschle is challenging Senate Republicans to pass his bill within the first 100 days of the 104th Congress. Does the Administration support this challenge?

* Every day, American families are losing health care coverage. This Administration has been working hard to ensure that families have quality, affordable health care. Every day that we wait, more families live in jeopardy of being one job loss or one illness away from losing their coverage. We want to work with Congress to move health care reform forward as quickly as possible.

Q. What specifically does the Administration feel about Senator Daschle's insurance reform proposals (or any other specifics in the bill)?

* We haven't yet analyzed line-by-line every provision proposed. Senator Daschle's bill appears to be consistent with the vision outlined by the President last week. What the Administration feels is important is that both Democrats and Republicans work together to move forward on health care.

* As the President said last week, we can and should work together to take the first steps necessary to put us on the road to achieving health security and containing health care costs.

Q. Last year the Administration said that insurance reform could not really be achieved in the absence of universal coverage. Has the Administration backed away from this claim?

A. * This Administration has not backed away from its commitment to provide Americans with real health security. We believe, however, that this now should be done in a step-by-step approach. We can put America on the road to universal coverage by addressing the unfairness in the insurance market and beginning by expanding coverage to children and working families. But all of this must be done in the broader context of eventually reaching universal coverage.

Q. Last year the Administration said that everyone must be covered by 1997. Now you are saying eventually. What does eventually mean?

A. * We need to focus our energies now on putting America on the road to health security. Let's move forward in a step-by-step fashion to ensure that Americans have quality and affordable health care.

Q. Will health care be in the budget?

A. * There have not been any announcements made on the budget.

Q. Will the President introduce health care legislation?

A. * Everyone knows where the President stands on health care. His goals have not changed. He believes that we must now act in a step-by-step manner to achieve these goals.

* The President is committed to work in a bipartisan fashion to begin putting America on the road to health security. He will work with Congress as Democrats and Republicans develop proposals. If he feels that adequate steps are not being taken, legislation may be introduced. The President has made it very clear that he will NOT give up the fight to for health security and affordable health care. We need to work with Congress and see what develops.

Q. The President says that he believes that we can make a start on expanding coverage. How will he pay for it?

* The Administration wants to work with Congress to expand coverage and ensure that any action taken is paid for and achieved without increasing the deficit.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 27, 1994

Dear Dick:

While we could not achieve broad-based agreement on a health reform initiative last year, there can be little disagreement that we still face the enormous problems of increasing health care costs and decreasing coverage. We need to confront these problems on a bipartisan basis and address the insecurities that too many Americans have about their health care. I am writing to reiterate my strong desire to work with you in this regard.

I remain firmly committed to providing insurance coverage for every American and containing health care costs for families, businesses, and Federal, State, and local governments. In the upcoming session of Congress, we can and should work together to take the first steps toward achieving these goals. We can pass legislation that includes measures to address the unfairness in the insurance market, make coverage more affordable for working families and children, assure quality and efficiency in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and reduce the long-term Federal deficit.

We look forward to talking with you in the upcoming weeks about a bipartisan effort to deliver health care reform to the American public. Hillary and I send our best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Clinton".

The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515