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TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS AT DISABILITY NETWORK

September 21, 2000

The technologies on display at the Disability Network for the President's visit illustrate both how mainstream technologies can be made accessible to and usable by people with disabilities, as well as how specialized assistive technologies can enable people with various disabilities to take greater advantage of mainstream technologies. Some of the technologies are cross-disability in nature, while others are targeted toward a specific type of disability.

Video Teleconferencing

Message: Technologies that enable people with various disabilities to communicate over distances can enhance learning, employment opportunities, and health care quality.

Eye Gaze, LC Technologies. Eye Gaze is a communication and control system for people with complex physical disabilities, such as Lou Gehrig's disease. By looking at control keys displayed on a screen, a person can synthesize speech, control the environment (lights, appliances, etc.), type, operate a telephone, run computer software, and access the Internet and e-mail. As a user sits in front of the Eyegaze monitor, a video camera mounted below the computer observes one of the user's eyes. The Eyegaze software continually analyzes the video image of the eye and determines where the user is looking on the screen.

Message: People with complex and seemingly very limiting disabilities can fully participate in the Information Age

Web Accessibility & Accessible Distance Learning, Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) and WGBH's National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM). Accessibility features developed by NCAM and WAI include captioning of audio for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, description of video for people who are blind or who have low vision, and Web design that makes navigation easier for people with physical or cognitive disabilities. These can be applied in the context of entertainment as well as educational materials. For example, NCAM has partnered with MIT to create the MIT PIVOT Project (Physics Interactive Video On-Line Tutor), which makes an introductory physics class accessible on-line by using captions and video descriptions.

Message: Web sites and distance learning through the Internet can readily be designed to be accessible to people with disabilities, including individuals with visual and hearing impairments.

Electronic Books (DAISY), American Foundation for the Blind and Time-Warner. Time-Warner Trade Publishing and the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) will demonstrate the first commercial title ever to be released to the general reading public using an exciting, new,

innovative electronic book technology. Developed in the blindness community, this new publishing technology promises to revolutionize reading and literacy for all people worldwide, including people who are blind or otherwise print disabled. The first publication, Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech, will be demonstrated using both software on a PC and specialized portable reading appliances. Readers can see the text of the book displayed on screen (or in braille) fully synchronized with a narrated recording; use next-generation web technologies to surf directly to any page, chapter, index entry, topic, or subsection in the book; and annotate the text with their own bookmarks and study notes.

Message: Technologies designed to benefit people with disabilities often have broader applications for the general public, including assistance to people learning English as a Second Language.

JAWS for Windows. Jaws for Windows (JFW) is a screen reader that speaks everything on the computer screen for a person who is blind. It will read everything from web pages and email to Excel spread sheets. The Braille Window works with JFW to provide the user the ability to read the screen in Braille. This gives the user a true representation of the screen and allows for better editing of documents, quicker access to information, and is the only way for a deaf-blind person to access the computer.

Message: Effective integration of third-party peripherals and mainstream technologies enable people with disabilities to command popular software applications with equal dexterity.

Cyberlink Interface, Brain Actuated Technologies. The Cyberlink Interface is a communication link between humans and machines. The Cyberlink Interface enables hands-free control of computers and electrical devices. Brain and body signals detected by the sensors in a headband are amplified, digitized and transmitted to the computer as multiple Brainfingers to affect feedback displays, control a mouse or an interactive video game, navigate a productivity or business application, use a web browser, control almost any Windows application, play musical synthesizers or sound cards, activate peripheral devices, adjust environmental controls, etc. Cyberlink Interface is based on a breakthrough technology that senses and responds to the minute surface electrical signals that result from brain and subtle muscle activity. Twelve different biological signals derived from the forehead control the location and left/right functions of the mouse. Individual control formats and adjustments are easily made through the user-friendly graphical interface.

Message: Technologies developed by the military can effectively be applied in the private sector to benefit people with disabilities.

Scan-able, Coded Electronic Books, Intacta Technologies. A new application of Intacta.code technology, in partnership with IDEAL at NCR, allows virtually any document or computer file to be converted into compact, printed, 2D codes. When the printed 2D code is run through a

standard scanner, the original file is decoded on a PC. The technology can provide persons who are blind and dyslexic electronic access to the audio or electronic version of any printed document, without having to access the original electronic version of the document. A demonstration can show how a purposely damaged and crumpled paper, printed with Intacta.Code, can be run through a scanner rendering a computer-based, screen-readable, version of a 200-page book, "Equality of Opportunity: The Making of the Americans with Disabilities Act." With this technology, a wealth of documents can be stored, for easy retrieval, on a simple piece of paper.

Message: Mainstream commercial products often can be used to increase access to information for people with disabilities if engineers are sufficiently aware of the needs and potential of people with disabilities.

Clinton – Gore Administration Accomplishments in Creating Digital Opportunity for People with Disabilities Draft September 19, 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to ensure that people with disabilities will be full participants in the Information Age. Creating digital opportunity for people with disabilities is particularly important, since it increases their ability to work, gain new skills using online learning, tap in to the rapidly growing universe of electronic information, and improve their quality of life by exchanging e-mail with people with shared interests. Below are just some of the steps that President Clinton and Vice President Gore have taken to help create digital opportunity for Americans with disabilities.

- **Ensuring that the Telecommunications Revolution Benefits All.** President Clinton and Vice President Gore fought for the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires that telecommunications equipment and services be accessible to individuals with disabilities. In 1999, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules implementing Section 255 of the Telecom Act, which will ensure that people with disabilities have access to telephones, cell phones, pagers, call waiting, and operator services.
- **Ensuring the Federal Government Provides Accessible Technology and Information.** In August 1998, the President signed into law the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which included in the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The revised "Section 508" requires that when Federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, they must ensure that it is accessible to people with disabilities. Because the federal government is a large purchaser of information technology, this law will accelerate the development of accessible technologies.
- **Signing the Assistive Technology Act.** With the support of the Clinton-Gore Administration, Congress passed the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (ATA). The ATA supports state efforts such as training, technical assistance, alternative loan programs, demonstration centers, information and referral hotlines, web sites, technology expos, and the development of informational materials.
- **Proposing a More Than Seventeen-Percent Increase in Assistive Technology Initiatives for FY 2001.** The Administration's FY 2001 budget includes \$100 million (a \$13.5 million increase) for disability and technology research at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and \$41 million (a \$7 million increase) for Assistive Technology Act funds to States:
 - NIDRR would launch a comprehensive technology initiative that includes technical assistance and training to elementary and secondary schools adopt accessible technology for students with disabilities.
 - The Administration's request also includes \$15 million to support grants that establish or maintain alternative loan financing programs. Many people with disabilities do not have the private financial resources to purchase the assistive technologies they need. If approved, this increase would significantly enhance opportunities for individuals with disabilities to take advantage of assistive technology.
- **Developing a Strategy for the Development and Transfer of Assistive Technology and Universal Design.** In July 2000, President Clinton directed the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) to work with the disability and research communities to identify priority areas for the advancement of assistive technologies and universal design capabilities, and to publish this information within 120 days. Following issuance of the report, each major research agency must develop a strategy for enhancing the transfer of technology that can contribute to the needs and requirements identified by the ICDR.
- **Creating the Access America for People with Disabilities Website.** On the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the President announced a new website, Access America for People with Disabilities -- www.disAbility.gov -- which will serve as a "one-stop" electronic link to an enormous range of useful information available throughout the Federal government for people with disabilities and their families.
- **Advancing the state-of-the-art of assistive technology:** As part of the Administration's proposed increase for the National Science Foundation, the Administration has proposed increases in R&D that will benefit people with disabilities, such as a "seeing eye" computer that could help people who are blind, or technologies that could automatically turn speech into text for people who are deaf.

Draft August 15, 2000

Dear Mr. President:

As the Presidents of a number of America's leading research universities, we are writing to express our support for your efforts to make information and communications technologies more accessible for people with disabilities, and to describe what our universities are prepared to do to support this objective.

This is an important goal. If we design information and communications technologies so that they are accessible, people with disabilities will find it much easier to live, learn and work as we enter the Information Age. If we fail to do this, people with disabilities could become increasingly isolated from the economic and social mainstream.

As universities with strong programs in engineering and computer science, we believe that we can make a significant contribution to this national goal. We educate the next generation of IT professionals and entrepreneurs, and provide continuing education for IT experts that are already in the workforce. Our faculty conducts the long-term research that often shapes and influences future developments in the information and communications industry, and which could lead to breakthroughs in accessibility. Each of our universities has unique assets that we can bring to bear on this problem, but we are all committed to taking concrete steps in this area. We will work to:

- Make "universal design" and accessibility part of the education that we provide to computer scientists and engineers at all levels -- undergraduate, graduate and continuing education;
- Ensure that our Web sites and on-line resources are accessible to people with disabilities;
- Look for ways to increase support for research to improve the state-of-the-art in this area by seeking federal, state, private sector and foundation funding -- and providing internal "seed funding" to new or existing faculty that wish to pursue this as a research topic;
- Contribute to efforts by the federal government to develop a comprehensive research agenda in this area;
- Help train experts who can serve as a national resource on this issue by participating in standards-setting efforts that incorporate accessibility, evaluating the accessibility of IT products and services, and providing technical assistance to companies seeking to enhance the accessibility of their products and services;
- Develop a strategy for increasing participation of people with disabilities in our computer science and engineering programs; and
- Encourage our faculty who are developing cutting-edge applications of IT to consider accessibility concerns.

Thank you for your leadership in this important area.

NEXT STOP ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S "DIGITAL DIVIDE" TRIP: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

Draft September 19, 2000

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL CONTINUE HIS "DIGITAL DIVIDE" TRIP IN FLINT MICHIGAN, WITH A FOCUS ON CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES: President Clinton will visit Flint, Michigan as part of his ongoing initiative to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity for all Americans. The President will visit a center that will offer access to cutting-edge technology for people with disabilities and other members of the community. He will see demonstrations of advanced technologies such as an "EyeGaze" system that allows people with disabilities to operate a computer and send e-mail using only their eyes, and an online physics course that is accessible to people with disabilities.

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS AS PART OF 5 KEY GOALS TO EMPOWER AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE INFORMATION AGE: At a speech at Mott Community College, the President will announce concrete actions by the Administration, companies, universities and non-profits to help ensure that people with disabilities are full participants in the Information Age by:

- Increasing the accessibility and usability of existing information and communication products and services for people with disabilities;
- Improving the state-of-the-art of assistive technology;
- Ensuring that existing efforts to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity are accessible to people with disabilities;
- Using information technologies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities; and
- Increasing access to technologies for people with disabilities who cannot currently afford it.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGIES:

Ensuring that information and communications technologies are usable by the 54 million Americans with disabilities is critical, since it can increase their ability to participate in the workforce, allow them to gain new skills using online learning, and improve their quality of life:

- Only 23.9 percent of people with disabilities had access to a computer at home, compared to 51.7 percent of those without disabilities (Department of Education, July 2000)
- Only 31 percent of Americans with so-called "severe" disabilities are working (Census Bureau, June 2000)
- 48 percent of adults with disabilities believe that the Internet has significantly improved their quality of life, compared to just 27 percent of adults without disabilities (Harris Poll, June 2000)

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL ANNOUNCE COMMITMENTS BY GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO CREATE "DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY" FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

- Over x high-tech CEOs will pledge to adopt "best practices" on accessibility, such as training their workers to develop accessible products and services, and identifying and fixing accessibility problems in new versions of their hardware and software.
- Presidents of more than x of the nations top research universities will agree to expand research and education on accessibility.
- President Clinton will create a task force to examine Medicare/Medicaid coverage of assistive technology.
- Americorps will provide \$9 million in grants to support 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide, including projects that help people with disabilities.
- The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will provide 5 years of funding to the Web Accessibility Initiative to help ensure that the Web is accessible to people with disabilities.
- The Department of Education will fund an initiative by the National Center for Accessible Media and industry to develop standards for accessible online learning.
- The Mott Foundation will help establish a blue-ribbon commission to develop additional policy recommendations for expanding access to assistive technologies.
- Microsoft, Community Options, and other partners will create a New Jersey-based business incubator with an emphasis on the needs of entrepreneurs with disabilities.
- Sun Microsystems will create a lab to make free, "open source" desktop software accessible for people with disabilities.
- The President's Committee on Employment of Disabilities will expand their High School High Tech program to 4 new cities and 3 new states, including Michigan. This program allows students with disabilities to explore high-tech careers through site visits, mentoring and internships.

A LIST OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INITIATIVES TO CREATE DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- **Leading high-tech CEOs pledge to develop a corporate-wide policy on accessibility:** In a letter to President Clinton, the CEOs of leading high-tech companies, including 3Com, Adobe, AOL, AT&T, Bell South, Compaq, eBay, Global Crossing, Handspring, Hewlett-Packard, Macromedia, Microsoft, NCR, PeoplePC, Qualcomm, Red Hat, Sun Microsystems, and Zenith have committed to develop a corporate-wide policy within six months. Currently, very few high-tech companies have such a policy. These policies will include "best practices" such as:
 - Training their workers to develop accessible products and services;
 - Giving their developers adequate resources to design accessible products and services;
 - Identifying and fixing accessibility problems in new versions of their hardware and software; and
 - Supporting research and development to improve the state-of-the-art of assistive technology.
- **Presidents of 20 of the nation's top research universities agree to expand research and education on accessibility:** In a letter to President Clinton, the presidents of [20] of the nation's top research universities including XXXX, XXXX, XXXX have agreed to take a number of important steps to expand research and education on accessibility, including: ensuring that computer scientists and engineers receive training on accessibility; expanding the number of faculty who conduct research on accessibility; and ensuring that university online resources are accessible to people with disabilities. For example, the College of Engineering of the University of Wisconsin will create a new educational program on design and human disability that will involve the creation of additional tenure track faculty positions.
- **President Clinton will direct his Cabinet to create a task force on Medicare/Medicaid coverage of assistive technology:** President Clinton will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and other members of his Cabinet to form an interagency Task Force on Health Care Coverage of Assistive Technologies. Currently, the Medicare and Medicaid programs provide essential health coverage to nearly 12 million people with disabilities. The task force will be charged with examining existing Medicare and Medicaid coverage of assistive technologies, and making recommendations on how to best enhance such coverage in order to support independent living and employment for people with disabilities. This review is particularly important and timely because the historic Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act signed by President Clinton allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare and Medicaid coverage even after they return to work.
- **AmeriCorps will today award provide \$9 million in grants to support 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide, including people with disabilities:** AmeriCorps grants will support efforts by 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide. AmeriCorps volunteers will be helping teachers learn how to use technology, staffing Community Technology Centers, and giving at-risk youth the skills they need to become technologically literate. Several of the projects focus on the needs of people with disabilities, such as a project in North Carolina that will give 300 blind and visually impaired students of all ages computer and Internet skills.
- **National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will invest \$2.5 million to expand partnership with industry to make World Wide Web accessible for people with disabilities:** The Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) will provide \$2.5 million in funding over the next 5 years to the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative at MIT. This initiative will develop guidelines to ensure that Web content and Web software is accessible for people with disabilities, and will educate developers about the importance of implementing these guidelines. This work is critical because the Web now provides access to over 2 billion pages of information, and is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, for electronic commerce, and for government services.

- **Department of Education will fund new partnership to make online learning accessible to people with disabilities:** The Department of Education will provide a grant under the Administration's Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnership to a new initiative that will help make online learning accessible for people with disabilities. The project will be led by the WGBH National Center for Accessible Media and the IMS Global Learning Consortium. Industry partners include Blackboard, Inc., Educational Testing Service, Pearson Education, Sun Microsystems, PeopleSoft, and Saba Software. The project will impact the accessibility of online resources in all learning environments, including K-12 education, post-secondary education, and workplace training.
- **The C.S. Mott Foundation will fund a "Task Force on Equal Access to Technology and Opportunity."** With funding from the Mott Foundation, the Disability Network of Flint, Michigan, will create a one-year blue-ribbon commission that will bring together diverse sectors of society to address long-term challenges in the accessibility of information technologies. First, the Task Force will address the problem of affordability. Many people with disabilities are unable to afford basic computer technology and Internet access, let alone high-end and costly specialized assistive devices. The Task Force will explore financing mechanisms and strategies for building on the foundation of the Tech Act Projects. Second, the Task Force will focus on education and outreach to colleges and universities to help with improve the integration of accessibility and usability into academic curricula and university services. The Task Force will consist of 15-20 members representing industry, colleges and universities, technology experts, disability advocates, and government. It will meet four times over the coming year, issue a report, and develop model action plans for dissemination to different sectors of society.
- **Microsoft, Community Options, and other public and private partners will create a business incubator - with special emphasis on entrepreneurs with disabilities:** Microsoft, Community Options, the New Jersey Community Loan Fund, the New Jersey Technology Council, the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners and other partners will create a business incubator targeted to low-income individuals, with priority given to people with disabilities. The New Jersey-based incubator will provide low-cost office space, customized technology support, and business planning expertise.
- **Sun Microsystems will partner with GNOME Foundation to make open source desktop software accessible for people with disabilities:** Sun Microsystems will create a new accessibility lab that will make GNOME software accessible for people with disabilities. Sun is also committed to establishing a fund that will be able to accept contributions from companies and individuals to make open source software accessible for people with disabilities. GNOME is a free, open-source desktop environment that makes it easier for people to use Linux and other similar operating systems. Open source software may be freely distributed and modified by end-users.
- **President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will announce expansion of High School/High Tech program to 4 new cities and 3 new states:** The High School/High Tech provides opportunity for students with disabilities to explore exciting careers in science and technology. The program uses site visits, mentoring, shadowing, and paid summer internships to allow students to prepare for careers in scientific, engineering and technology-related fields. The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities has identified local partners that will expand High School/High Tech in 4 urban areas (Atlanta, Los Angeles, Orlando, Chicago) and 3 states (Col., Wisc., and Michigan).
- **CompTIA will partner with Compaq and National Cristina Foundation to provide scholarships and training for certification in IT jobs, with some resources targeted to people with disabilities:** CompTIA, the Computing Technology Industry Association, will dedicate \$1 million to create scholarships for the general population, including people with disabilities, to provide training for IT service and support positions. Compaq will match this commitment with \$100,000 for scholarships

targeted specifically to people with disabilities. In conjunction with these commitments, CompTIA is partnering with the National Cristina Foundation to develop a National Computer Re-Utilization Network to provide training organizations that serve teens, veterans, people with disabilities, and other under-served communities with re-furbished technology.

- **Department of Education will award a \$2 million grant to strengthen Community Technology Centers, make them more accessible for people with disabilities:** The Department of Education will award a \$2 million grant to the "America Connects Consortium" to help create, improve and sustain Community Technology Centers through technical assistance. These centers provide access to technology and the skills needed to use it, typically to low-income families that do not have computers and Internet access. One of the consortium partners, the Alliance for Technology Access, will help the centers ensure that they are accessible to people with disabilities and are meeting their needs. The Department of Education is already supporting or expanding 595 CTCs; President Clinton has proposed a \$100 million budget initiative in FY2001 to create an additional 1,000 centers.
- **NCR will provide free training on benefits of accessibility from a business perspective:** NCR is partnering with IDEAL at NCR and EASI (Equal Access to Software and Information) to create a workshop, "The Global Business Benefits of Designing Accessible and Usable Electronic and Information Technology." This workshop will be offered on-line to 400 participants free of charge.
- **Department of Commerce will help small community-based organizations provide Web-based services to people with disabilities:** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Technology Opportunities Program will provide a grant to the Pangea Foundation, based in San Diego, California. The foundation will create Web-based templates that will make it easy for organizations to enter information in a format that is accessible to people with disabilities. People with disabilities will be able to find information on local services through a central clearinghouse on the Web in a format that they can use. The Administration has proposed tripling the budget for the Technology Opportunities Program from \$15 million to \$45 million so that the government can support creative uses of information technology for underserved communities.
- **Center for Applied Special Technology will develop improved version of Web accessibility tool with private sector support:** CAST will upgrade its freely available tool for improving the accessibility of Web sites. The new version will have an improved ability to analyze the accessibility of web sites, and the ability to interactively repair problems that are found. Current sponsors include IBM, Microsoft, Mitsubishi Electric Foundation, Sun Microsystems, and HalfthePlanet.com.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Access to computers, the Internet, and other information and communications technologies are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political, and social life. If technology is designed to be usable by people with disabilities, it can increase their ability to participate in the workforce and lead independent lives. Examples of technologies that empower people with disabilities include:

- "Screen readers" for people who are blind;
- Voice recognition for people who cannot readily use a keyboard due to physical disabilities;
- Web sites that follow the guidelines of the Web Accessibility Initiative;
- Captioning of audio and video for people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing;
- Video description for people who are blind and visually-impaired; and
- Computers that can be operated by eye movement for people who are unable to speak.

Unfortunately, people with disabilities are often on the wrong side of the "digital divide," as reflected in rates of computer ownership and access to the Internet. When information and communications technologies are not designed to be accessible to and usable by people with disabilities, isolation from the economic and social mainstream is intensified. The following statistics illustrate the magnitude of the challenge.

There are 54 million Americans with disabilities

- According to 1994-95 Census data, 54 million Americans had some level of disability and 26 million have a disability identified as "severe." [Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, "Americans with Disabilities: 1994-95," August 1997.]

People with disabilities are half as likely to have a computer as people without disabilities

- December 1998 Census data found that 23.9 percent of people with disabilities had access to a computer at home, compared to 51.7 percent of those without disabilities. [Department of Education, Disability Statistics Abstract, "Disability and the Digital Divide," H. Stephen Kaye, July 2000.]

The Internet is more likely to improve the quality of life for adults with disabilities than adults without disabilities

- According to a recent poll, 48 percent of adults with disabilities believe that the Internet has significantly improved their quality of life, compared to just 27 percent of adults without disabilities. People with disabilities report that the Internet allows them to be better informed and more connected to the world around them, and that it puts them in touch with people who have similar interests and experiences. [The Harris Poll #30, "How the Internet is Improving the Lives of Americans With Disabilities," June 7, 2000.]

Only 31 percent of Americans with "severe" disabilities are working

- In 1997, 50.2 percent of the estimated 27.7 million Americans ages 21-64 with disabilities were employed. Of those 17.3 million Americans in this age group with severe disabilities, employment reached only 31.1 percent. Nationally, 78.3 percent of all Americans 21-64 were employed. ["Employment, Earnings, and Disability – 1991/92, 1993/94, 1994/95 and 1997 Data From the Survey of Income and Program Participation", John M. McNeil, Census Bureau, June 2000.]

Roughly half of those with work disabilities earn less than \$25,000 annually

- 51.0 percent of households with a disabled family member 15 years old and over, have family incomes of below \$25,000 per year, as compared to only 26.9 percent of households with no disabilities. [Census Bureau, 1997 Data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation.]

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION RECORD TO HELP CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Draft September 19, 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have a strong record of working to bridge the digital divide by ensuring that every child is technologically literate. In 1994, President Clinton and Vice President Gore set the goal of connecting every classroom and library to the Internet. In 1996, President Clinton unveiled his Technology Literacy Challenge -- and has made a major commitment of resources to connect every classroom to the Internet, expand access to modern, multimedia computers; make high-quality educational software an integral part of the curriculum; and enable teachers to effectively integrate technology into their instruction

President Clinton succeeded in increasing educational technology funding by over 3,000 Percent -- from \$23 million in FY94 to \$766 million in FY2000. This includes:

- \$425 million for the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund which helps states and local communities meet all four "pillars" of the President's educational technology initiative (computers, Internet access, teacher training, educational software).
- \$197 million for partnerships between local school districts and the private sector to develop innovative approaches to using technology in the classroom.
- \$75 million to help train all new teachers to use technology.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore also fought for the \$2.25 billion "E-rate" to connect schools and libraries to the Internet.

- The e-rate is providing 20 percent – 90 percent discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet, with the deepest discounts going to the poorest schools that need it most.
- By the end of 2000, the e-rate will have funded \$6.25 billion of telecommunications infrastructure and services to schools and libraries. In 1999, 82 percent of public schools (over 78,000) and 51 percent of public libraries received public funding.

Major progress has been made in reaching the goals of the President's Educational Technology Initiative.

- The number of classrooms connected to the Internet has increased from 3 percent in 1994 to 63 percent in 1999.
- The number of schools connected to the Internet has increased from 35 percent in 1994 to 95 percent in 1999.
- Grants supported by the Department of Education are training 400,000 new teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are building on their past achievements through a number of new and expanded proposals this year. In February 2000, the President and Vice President announced specific proposals in their FY2001 budget to help create digital opportunity for more Americans, including:

- \$2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers.
- \$150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce to use technology effectively.

- \$100 million to create 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods.
- \$50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families.
- \$45 million to promote innovative applications of information and communications technology for underserved communities.
- \$25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in underserved urban and rural communities.
- \$10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in Information Technology and other technical fields.

President Clinton successfully mobilized major public and private efforts bridge the digital divide in his April 2000 trip to East Palo Alto, California; Shiprock, New Mexico; Chicago, Illinois; and Rural North Carolina

- Over 400 companies and non-profit organizations signed a "National Call To Action" to bring digital opportunity to youth, families, and communities. The call to action set goals such as ensuring that every child is technologically literate, and making home access to the Internet as ubiquitous as the telephone.
- Companies such as AOL, HP, Qualcomm and Gateway invested over \$100 million in new initiatives to bridge the digital divide.
- The Kaiser Family Foundation committed to a media campaign to motivate young people to "get connected," with Public Service Announcements starring Magic Johnson and Rebecca Lobo.
- The Federal Communications Commission agreed to expand the Lifeline program so that members of Indian tribes could get phone service for as little as \$1 per month.
- The deans of over 200 hundred colleges of education pledged to meet the President's goal of ensuring that all new teachers will be able to use technology effectively in the classroom, and to benchmark their progress using a self-assessment tool developed by the CEO Forum.
- Telecommunications companies agreed to provide high-speed Internet access to all businesses and citizens of North Carolina within 3 years.
- The Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service committed to expand its \$670 million telecommunications loan program to companies that provide high-speed Internet access to rural America.

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Only 31 percent of Americans with "severe" disabilities are working

- In 1997, 50.2 percent of the estimated 27.7 million Americans ages 21-64 with disabilities were employed. Of those 17.3 million Americans in this age group with severe disabilities, employment reached only 31.1 percent. Nationally, 78.3 percent of all Americans 21-64 were employed. ["Employment, Earnings, and Disability – 1991/92, 1993/94, 1994/95 and 1997 Data From the Survey of Income and Program Participation", John M. McNeil, Census Bureau, June 2000.]

Roughly half of those with work disabilities earn less than \$25,000 annually

- 51.0 percent of households with a disabled family member 15 years old and over, have family incomes of below \$25,000 per year, as compared to only 26.9 percent of households with no disabilities. [Census Bureau, 1997 Data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation.]

AN OPEN LETTER ON ACCESSIBILITY FROM TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVES

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

September 21, 2000

Dear Mr. President:

As the CEOs of a number of America's leading high-tech companies, we strongly support your efforts to promote the accessibility of information and communications products and services for people with disabilities.

We believe that there are two compelling reasons to do so. First, accessible information technology can be a powerful tool for expanding opportunity in the emerging information society. If our products and services are designed to be accessible, people with disabilities will find it easier to work, access a growing universe of electronic information and services, and lead more independent lives. If we fail to do this, people with disabilities could be further isolated from the mainstream of our economy and our society. Second, there are sound economic and commercial incentives to make our products more accessible. Globally, there are over 750 million people with disabilities, and there are 54 million in the United States alone. Making our products accessible will also make it easier for us to serve the rapidly growing population of seniors. Moreover, increasing the accessibility of our products can often improve their functionality for everyone, not just for people with disabilities. Designing products and services that can give customers a choice of input and output mechanisms will help people with disabilities, but it will also help the mobile professional trying to access the Web on a handheld wireless device.

This issue requires private sector leadership. The federal government can help create the right policy environment, but it is ultimately companies that must design, develop and market accessible products and services. To make concrete progress on this issue, and to elevate its importance within our companies, all of us are committed to developing a corporate-wide policy on accessibility within the next six months. The specifics of our policies will vary because of the different markets that we serve, but all of us will seek to include the following private sector "best practices" as appropriate:

- Raise the level of awareness of accessibility issues within our company, and provide our employees with the training they need to design accessible products and services;
- Develop accessibility guidelines for products and services, and hold product development groups accountable for implementing these guidelines where technically and economically feasible;

- Involve people with disabilities in the development of our accessibility guidelines, or in the design and testing of our products and services;
- Devote sufficient product development and engineering resources to identify and rapidly address known accessibility problems, in future products and upgrades;
- Make it easier for our developer community to create accessible products and services by making available training, guidelines, and technology solutions;
- Document the accessibility features of our products and publicly-available services;
- Support internal and external (e.g. university-based) research and development that will improve the state-of-the-art of accessible technology that is relevant to our products and services; and
- Support implementation of standards that advance accessibility, such as the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) guidelines on accessible browsers, Web content and authoring tools.

As an industry, we will also commit to establishing a Web site that will collect private sector policies on accessibility as a way of encouraging the rapid dissemination and adoption of best practices. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

John Warnock
CEO
Adobe Systems, Inc.

Meg Whitman
President & CEO
eBay, Inc.

Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs
Chairman of the Board
Qualcomm

Stephen M. Case
Chairman & CEO
America Online, Inc.

Leo J. Hindery, Jr.
CEO
Global Crossing

Scott A. McNealy
Chairman & CEO
Sun Microsystems, Inc.

C. Michael Armstrong
Chairman & CEO
AT&T

Carly S. Fiorina
President & CEO
Hewlett-Packard Company

Eric A. Benhamou
Chairman & CEO
3Com Corporation

Duane Ackerman
Chairman & CEO
BellSouth

Rob Burgess
Chairman & CEO
Macromedia, Inc.

James C. Morgan
Chairman & CEO
Applied Materials, Inc.

Michael D. Capellas
President & CEO
Compaq Computer Corp.

Steve Ballmer
CEO
Microsoft Corporation

Donna Dubinsky
CEO
Handspring

John Keane
Chairman & CEO
Keane, Inc.

Peter Hering
President
PST, Inc.

Amardeep Lamba
President
Absolute Solutions, Inc.

Larry L. Petersen
President
Advanced Network
Technologies, Inc.

David Lane
General Partner
Alpine Technology
Ventures

Mark Hill
President
Baker Hill Corp.

David Westin
President & CEO
Channel Automation, Inc.

Hani MN Alaouie
President
Dearborn Technical
Institute

Scott A. Martin
President
diCarta, Corp.

Paul Lippe
CEO
e-SKOLAR

Brad Beckman
CEO
JTBS, Inc

Nick Grouf
CEO & Founder
PeoplePC, Inc.

Elaine M. Verna
President/Acting CEO
IsSound Corporation

Curt M. Vinson
President
Lyme Computer Systems

Lalit J. Chabria
President
Micropower Business
Solutions

Marc Ostrofsky
President
Multimedia Venture
Partners

Lars Nyberg
Chairman & CEO
NCR Corporation

George F. Adam, Jr.
Chairman & CEO
NEON New Era Networks

Rick Dutta
CEO
Nexgenix

Tim O'Reilley
Founder
O'Reilley & Associates

Jimmy Edwards
President & CEO
Premier Computing
Training

Bob Young
Chairman
Red Hat, Inc.

Lucia Klebar
President
ProMentor

LaWanda Armstrong
President & CEO
QuesTech
Communications

Ariel Kleckner
President & Founder
Red Gorilla

Sterling Ledet
President
Sterling Ledet &
Associates, Inc.

Gregory M. Avis
Managing Partner
Summit Partners

Frank J. Ponzio, Jr.
President & Founder
Symbolic Systems, Inc.

Paul Okoye Chukwudi
President & CEO
Synergistic Software
Solutions

William M. Nelson
CEO
Will Nelson Computer
Services, Inc.

Arthur R. Rippey
President
World Technology
Computer Learning
Center, Inc.

A LIST OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INITIATIVES TO CREATE DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- **Leading high-tech CEOs pledge to develop a corporate-wide policy on accessibility:** In a letter to President Clinton, the CEOs of leading high-tech companies, including 3Com, Adobe, AOL, AT&T, Bell South, Compaq, eBay, Global Crossing, Handspring, Hewlett-Packard, Macromedia, Microsoft, NCR, PeoplePC, Qualcomm, Red Hat, Sun Microsystems, and Zenith have committed to develop a corporate-wide policy within six months. Currently, very few high-tech companies have such a policy. These policies will include "best practices" such as:
 - Training their workers to develop accessible products and services;
 - Giving their developers adequate resources to design accessible products and services;
 - Identifying and fixing accessibility problems in new versions of their hardware and software; and
 - Supporting research and development to improve the state-of-the-art of assistive technology.
- **Presidents of 20 of the nation's top research universities agree to expand research and education on accessibility:** In a letter to President Clinton, the presidents of [20] of the nation's top research universities including XXXX, XXXX, XXXX have agreed to take a number of important steps to expand research and education on accessibility, including: ensuring that computer scientists and engineers receive training on accessibility; expanding the number of faculty who conduct research on accessibility; and ensuring that university online resources are accessible to people with disabilities. For example, the College of Engineering of the University of Wisconsin will create a new educational program on design and human disability that will involve the creation of additional tenure track faculty positions.
- **President Clinton will direct his Cabinet to create a task force on Medicare/Medicaid coverage of assistive technology:** President Clinton will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and other members of his Cabinet to form an interagency Task Force on Health Care Coverage of Assistive Technologies. Currently, the Medicare and Medicaid programs provide essential health coverage to nearly 12 million people with disabilities. The task force will be charged with examining existing Medicare and Medicaid coverage of assistive technologies, and making recommendations on how to best enhance such coverage in order to support independent living and employment for people with disabilities. This review is particularly important and timely because the historic Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act signed by President Clinton allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare and Medicaid coverage even after they return to work.
- **AmeriCorps will today award provide \$9 million in grants to support 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide, including people with disabilities:** AmeriCorps grants will support efforts by 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide. AmeriCorps volunteers will be helping teachers learn how to use technology, staffing Community Technology Centers, and giving at-risk youth the skills they need to become technologically literate. Several of the projects focus on the needs of people with disabilities, such as a project in North Carolina that will give 300 blind and visually impaired students of all ages computer and Internet skills.
- **National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will invest \$2.5 million to expand partnership with industry to make World Wide Web accessible for people with disabilities:** The Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) will provide \$2.5 million in funding over the next 5 years to the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative at MIT. This initiative will develop guidelines to ensure that Web content and Web software is accessible for people with disabilities, and will educate developers about the importance of implementing these guidelines. This work is critical because the Web now provides access to over 2 billion pages of information, and is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, for electronic commerce, and for government services.

- **Department of Education will fund new partnership to make online learning accessible to people with disabilities:** The Department of Education will provide a grant under the Administration's Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnership to a new initiative that will help make online learning accessible for people with disabilities. The project will be led by the WGBH National Center for Accessible Media and the IMS Global Learning Consortium. Industry partners include Blackboard, Inc., Educational Testing Service, Pearson Education, Sun Microsystems, PeopleSoft, and Saba Software. The project will impact the accessibility of online resources in all learning environments, including K-12 education, post-secondary education, and workplace training.
- **The C.S. Mott Foundation will fund a "Task Force on Equal Access to Technology and Opportunity."** With funding from the Mott Foundation, the Disability Network of Flint, Michigan, will create a one-year blue-ribbon commission that will bring together diverse sectors of society to address long-term challenges in the accessibility of information technologies. First, the Task Force will address the problem of affordability. Many people with disabilities are unable to afford basic computer technology and Internet access, let alone high-end and costly specialized assistive devices. The Task Force will explore financing mechanisms and strategies for building on the foundation of the Tech Act Projects. Second, the Task Force will focus on education and outreach to colleges and universities to help with improve the integration of accessibility and usability into academic curricula and university services. The Task Force will consist of 15-20 members representing industry, colleges and universities, technology experts, disability advocates, and government. It will meet four times over the coming year, issue a report, and develop model action plans for dissemination to different sectors of society.
- **Microsoft, Community Options, and other public and private partners will create a business incubator - with special emphasis on entrepreneurs with disabilities:** Microsoft, Community Options, the New Jersey Community Loan Fund, the New Jersey Technology Council, the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners and other partners will create a business incubator targeted to low-income individuals, with priority given to people with disabilities. The New Jersey-based incubator will provide low-cost office space, customized technology support, and business planning expertise.
- **Sun Microsystems will partner with GNOME Foundation to make open source desktop software accessible for people with disabilities:** Sun Microsystems will create a new accessibility lab that will make GNOME software accessible for people with disabilities. Sun is also committed to establishing a fund that will be able to accept contributions from companies and individuals to make open source software accessible for people with disabilities. GNOME is a free, open-source desktop environment that makes it easier for people to use Linux and other similar operating systems. Open source software may be freely distributed and modified by end-users.
- **President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will announce expansion of High School/High Tech program to 4 new cities and 3 new states:** The High School/High Tech provides opportunity for students with disabilities to explore exciting careers in science and technology. The program uses site visits, mentoring, shadowing, and paid summer internships to allow students to prepare for careers in scientific, engineering and technology-related fields. The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities has identified local partners that will expand High School/High Tech in 4 urban areas (Atlanta, Los Angeles, Orlando, Chicago) and 3 states (Col., Wisc., and Michigan).
- **CompTIA will partner with Compaq and National Cristina Foundation to provide scholarships and training for certification in IT jobs, with some resources targeted to people with disabilities:** CompTIA, the Computing Technology Industry Association, will dedicate \$1 million to create scholarships for the general population, including people with disabilities, to provide training for IT service and support positions. Compaq will match this commitment with \$100,000 for scholarships

targeted specifically to people with disabilities. In conjunction with these commitments, CompTIA is partnering with the National Cristina Foundation to develop a National Computer Re-Utilization Network to provide training organizations that serve teens, veterans, people with disabilities, and other under-served communities with re-furbished technology.

- **Department of Education will award a \$2 million grant to strengthen Community Technology Centers, make them more accessible for people with disabilities:** The Department of Education will award a \$2 million grant to the "America Connects Consortium" to help create, improve and sustain Community Technology Centers through technical assistance. These centers provide access to technology and the skills needed to use it, typically to low-income families that do not have computers and Internet access. One of the consortium partners, the Alliance for Technology Access, will help the centers ensure that they are accessible to people with disabilities and are meeting their needs. The Department of Education is already supporting or expanding 595 CTCs; President Clinton has proposed a \$100 million budget initiative in FY2001 to create an additional 1,000 centers.
- **NCR will provide free training on benefits of accessibility from a business perspective:** NCR is partnering with IDEAL at NCR and EASI (Equal Access to Software and Information) to create a workshop, "The Global Business Benefits of Designing Accessible and Usable Electronic and Information Technology." This workshop will be offered on-line to 400 participants free of charge.
- **Department of Commerce will help small community-based organizations provide Web-based services to people with disabilities:** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Technology Opportunities Program will provide a grant to the Pangea Foundation, based in San Diego, California. The foundation will create Web-based templates that will make it easy for organizations to enter information in a format that is accessible to people with disabilities. People with disabilities will be able to find information on local services through a central clearinghouse on the Web in a format that they can use. The Administration has proposed tripling the budget for the Technology Opportunities Program from \$15 million to \$45 million so that the government can support creative uses of information technology for underserved communities.
- **Center for Applied Special Technology will develop improved version of Web accessibility tool with private sector support:** CAST will upgrade its freely available tool for improving the accessibility of Web sites. The new version will have an improved ability to analyze the accessibility of web sites, and the ability to interactively repair problems that are found. Current sponsors include IBM, Microsoft, Mitsubishi Electric Foundation, Sun Microsystems, and HalfthePlanet.com.

Clinton – Gore Administration Accomplishments in Creating Digital Opportunity for People with Disabilities Draft September 19, 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to ensure that people with disabilities will be full participants in the Information Age. Creating digital opportunity for people with disabilities is particularly important, since it increases their ability to work, gain new skills using online learning, tap in to the rapidly growing universe of electronic information, and improve their quality of life by exchanging e-mail with people with shared interests. Below are just some of the steps that President Clinton and Vice President Gore have taken to help create digital opportunity for Americans with disabilities.

- **Ensuring that the Telecommunications Revolution Benefits All.** President Clinton and Vice President Gore fought for the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires that telecommunications equipment and services be accessible to individuals with disabilities. In 1999, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules implementing Section 255 of the Telecom Act, which will ensure that people with disabilities have access to telephones, cell phones, pagers, call waiting, and operator services.
- **Ensuring the Federal Government Provides Accessible Technology and Information.** In August 1998, the President signed into law the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which included in the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The revised "Section 508" requires that when Federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, they must ensure that it is accessible to people with disabilities. Because the federal government is a large purchaser of information technology, this law will accelerate the development of accessible technologies.
- **Signing the Assistive Technology Act.** With the support of the Clinton-Gore Administration, Congress passed the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (ATA). The ATA supports state efforts such as training, technical assistance, alternative loan programs, demonstration centers, information and referral hotlines, web sites, technology expos, and the development of informational materials.
- **Proposing a More Than Seventeen-Percent Increase in Assistive Technology Initiatives for FY 2001.** The Administration's FY 2001 budget includes \$100 million (a \$13.5 million increase) for disability and technology research at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and \$41 million (a \$7 million increase) for Assistive Technology Act funds to States:
 - NIDRR would launch a comprehensive technology initiative that includes technical assistance and training to elementary and secondary schools adopt accessible technology for students with disabilities.
 - The Administration's request also includes \$15 million to support grants that establish or maintain alternative loan financing programs. Many people with disabilities do not have the private financial resources to purchase the assistive technologies they need. If approved, this increase would significantly enhance opportunities for individuals with disabilities to take advantage of assistive technology.
- **Developing a Strategy for the Development and Transfer of Assistive Technology and Universal Design.** In July 2000, President Clinton directed the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) to work with the disability and research communities to identify priority areas for the advancement of assistive technologies and universal design capabilities, and to publish this information within 120 days. Following issuance of the report, each major research agency must develop a strategy for enhancing the transfer of technology that can contribute to the needs and requirements identified by the ICDR.
- **Creating the Access America for People with Disabilities Website.** On the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the President announced a new website, Access America for People with Disabilities -- www.disAbility.gov -- which will serve as a "one-stop" electronic link to an enormous range of useful information available throughout the Federal government for people with disabilities and their families.
- **Advancing the state-of-the-art of assistive technology:** As part of the Administration's proposed increase for the National Science Foundation, the Administration has proposed increases in R&D that will benefit people with disabilities, such as a "seeing eye" computer that could help people who are blind, or technologies that could automatically turn speech into text for people who are deaf.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION RECORD TO HELP CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Draft September 18, 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have a strong record of working to bridge the digital divide by ensuring that every child is technologically literate. In 1994, President Clinton and Vice President Gore set the goal of connecting every classroom and library to the Internet. In 1996, President Clinton unveiled his Technology Literacy Challenge -- and has made a major commitment of resources to connect every classroom to the Internet, expand access to modern, multimedia computers; make high-quality educational software an integral part of the curriculum; and enable teachers to effectively integrate technology into their instruction

President Clinton succeeded in increasing educational technology funding by over 3,000 Percent -- from \$23 million in FY94 to \$766 million in FY2000. This includes:

- \$425 million for the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund which helps states and local communities meet all four "pillars" of the President's educational technology initiative (computers, Internet access, teacher training, educational software).
- \$197 million for partnerships between local school districts and the private sector to develop innovative approaches to using technology in the classroom.
- \$75 million to help train all new teachers to use technology.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore also fought for the \$2.25 billion "E-rate" to connect schools and libraries to the Internet.

- The e-rate is providing 20 percent – 90 percent discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet, with the deepest discounts going to the poorest schools that need it most.
- By the end of 2000, the e-rate will have funded \$6.25 billion of telecommunications infrastructure and services to schools and libraries. In 1999, 82 percent of public schools (over 78,000) and 51 percent of public libraries received public funding.

Major progress has been made in reaching the goals of the President's Educational Technology Initiative.

- The number of classrooms connected to the Internet has increased from 3 percent in 1994 to 63 percent in 1999.
- The number of schools connected to the Internet has increased from 35 percent in 1994 to 95 percent in 1999.
- Grants supported by the Department of Education are training 400,000 new teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are building on their past achievements through a number of new and expanded proposals this year. In February 2000, the President and Vice President announced specific proposals in their FY2001 budget to help create digital opportunity for more Americans, including:

- \$2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers.
- \$150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce to use technology effectively.

- \$100 million to create 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods.
- \$50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families.
- \$45 million to promote innovative applications of information and communications technology for underserved communities.
- \$25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in underserved urban and rural communities.
- \$10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in Information Technology and other technical fields.

President Clinton successfully mobilized major public and private efforts bridge the digital divide in his April 2000 trip to East Palo Alto, California; Shiprock, New Mexico; Chicago, Illinois; and Rural North Carolina

- Over 400 companies and non-profit organizations signed a "National Call To Action" to bring digital opportunity to youth, families, and communities. The call to action set goals such as ensuring that every child is technologically literate, and making home access to the Internet as ubiquitous as the telephone.
- Companies such as AOL, HP, Qualcomm and Gateway invested over \$100 million in new initiatives to bridge the digital divide.
- The Kaiser Family Foundation committed to a media campaign to motivate young people to "get connected," with Public Service Announcements starring Magic Johnson and Rebecca Lobo.
- The Federal Communications Commission agreed to expand the Lifeline program so that members of Indian tribes could get phone service for as little as \$1 per month.
- The deans of over 200 hundred colleges of education pledged to meet the President's goal of ensuring that all new teachers will be able to use technology effectively in the classroom, and to benchmark their progress using a self-assessment tool developed by the CEO Forum.
- Telecommunications companies agreed to provide high-speed Internet access to all businesses and citizens of North Carolina within 3 years.
- The Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service committed to expand its \$670 million telecommunications loan program to companies that provide high-speed Internet access to rural America.

NEXT STOP ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S "DIGITAL DIVIDE" TRIP: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

Draft September 19, 2000

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL CONTINUE HIS "DIGITAL DIVIDE" TRIP IN FLINT MICHIGAN, WITH A FOCUS ON CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES: President Clinton will visit Flint, Michigan as part of his ongoing initiative to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity for all Americans. The President will visit a center that will offer access to cutting-edge technology for people with disabilities and other members of the community. He will see demonstrations of advanced technologies such as an "EyeGaze" system that allows people with disabilities to operate a computer and send e-mail using only their eyes, and an online physics course that is accessible to people with disabilities.

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS AS PART OF 5 KEY GOALS TO EMPOWER AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE INFORMATION AGE: At a speech at Mott Community College, the President will announce concrete actions by the Administration, companies, universities and non-profits to help ensure that people with disabilities are full participants in the Information Age by:

- Increasing the accessibility and usability of existing information and communication products and services for people with disabilities;
- Improving the state-of-the-art of assistive technology;
- Ensuring that existing efforts to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity are accessible to people with disabilities;
- Using information technologies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities; and
- Increasing access to technologies for people with disabilities who cannot currently afford it.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGIES:

Ensuring that information and communications technologies are usable by the 54 million Americans with disabilities is critical, since it can increase their ability to participate in the workforce, allow them to gain new skills using online learning, and improve their quality of life:

- Only 23.9 percent of people with disabilities had access to a computer at home, compared to 51.7 percent of those without disabilities (Department of Education, July 2000)
- Only 31 percent of Americans with so-called "severe" disabilities are working (Census Bureau, June 2000)
- 48 percent of adults with disabilities believe that the Internet has significantly improved their quality of life, compared to just 27 percent of adults without disabilities (Harris Poll, June 2000)

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL ANNOUNCE COMMITMENTS BY GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO CREATE "DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY" FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

- Over x high-tech CEOs will pledge to adopt "best practices" on accessibility, such as training their workers to develop accessible products and services, and identifying and fixing accessibility problems in new versions of their hardware and software.
- Presidents of more than x of the nations top research universities will agree to expand research and education on accessibility.
- President Clinton will create a task force to examine Medicare/Medicaid coverage of assistive technology.
- Americorps will provide \$9 million in grants to support 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide, including projects that help people with disabilities.
- The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will provide 5 years of funding to the Web Accessibility Initiative to help ensure that the Web is accessible to people with disabilities.
- The Department of Education will fund an initiative by the National Center for Accessible Media and industry to develop standards for accessible online learning.
- The Mott Foundation will help establish a blue-ribbon commission to develop additional policy recommendations for expanding access to assistive technologies.
- Microsoft, Community Options, and other partners will create a New Jersey-based business incubator with an emphasis on the needs of entrepreneurs with disabilities.
- Sun Microsystems will create a lab to make free, "open source" desktop software accessible for people with disabilities.
- The President's Committee on Employment of Disabilities will expand their High School High Tech program to 4 new cities and 3 new states, including Michigan. This program allows students with disabilities to explore high-tech careers through site visits, mentoring and internships.

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 - Identifying and fixing accessibility problems in new versions of their hardware and software; and
 - Supporting research and development to improve the state-of-the-art of assistive technology.
- **Presidents of 20 of the nation's top research universities agree to expand research and education on accessibility:** In a letter to President Clinton, the presidents of [20] of the nation's top research universities including XXXX, XXXX, XXXX have agreed to take a number of important steps to expand research and education on accessibility, including: ensuring that computer scientists and engineers receive training on accessibility; expanding the number of faculty who conduct research on accessibility; and ensuring that university online resources are accessible to people with disabilities. For example, the College of Engineering of the University of Wisconsin will create a new educational program on design and human disability that will involve the creation of additional tenure track faculty positions.
- **President Clinton will direct his Cabinet to create a task force on Medicare/Medicaid coverage of assistive technology:** President Clinton will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and other members of his Cabinet to form an interagency Task Force on Health Care Coverage of Assistive Technologies. Currently, the Medicare and Medicaid programs provide essential health coverage to nearly 12 million people with disabilities. The task force will be charged with examining existing Medicare and Medicaid coverage of assistive technologies, and making recommendations on how to best enhance such coverage in order to support independent living and employment for people with disabilities. This review is particularly important and timely because the historic Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act signed by President Clinton allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare and Medicaid coverage even after they return to work.
- **AmeriCorps will today award provide \$9 million in grants to support 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide, including people with disabilities:** AmeriCorps grants will support efforts by 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide. AmeriCorps volunteers will be helping teachers learn how to use technology, staffing Community Technology Centers, and giving at-risk youth the skills they need to become technologically literate. Several of the projects focus on the needs of people with disabilities, such as a project in North Carolina that will give 300 blind and visually impaired students of all ages computer and Internet skills.
- **National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will invest \$2.5 million to expand partnership with industry to make World Wide Web accessible for people with disabilities:** The Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) will provide \$2.5 million in funding over the next 5 years to the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative at MIT. This initiative will develop guidelines to ensure that Web content and Web software is accessible for people with disabilities, and will educate developers about the importance of implementing these guidelines. This work is critical because the Web now provides access to over 2 billion pages of information, and is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, for electronic commerce, and for government services.

- **Department of Education will fund new partnership to make online learning accessible to people with disabilities:** The Department of Education will provide a grant under the Administration's Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnership to a new initiative that will help make online learning accessible for people with disabilities. The project will be led by the WGBH National Center for Accessible Media and the IMS Global Learning Consortium. Industry partners include Blackboard, Inc., Educational Testing Service, Pearson Education, Sun Microsystems, PeopleSoft, and Saba Software. The project will impact the accessibility of online resources in all learning environments, including K-12 education, post-secondary education, and workplace training.
- **The C.S. Mott Foundation will fund a "Task Force on Equal Access to Technology and Opportunity."** With funding from the Mott Foundation, the Disability Network of Flint, Michigan, will create a one-year blue-ribbon commission that will bring together diverse sectors of society to address long-term challenges in the accessibility of information technologies. First, the Task Force will address the problem of affordability. Many people with disabilities are unable to afford basic computer technology and Internet access, let alone high-end and costly specialized assistive devices. The Task Force will explore financing mechanisms and strategies for building on the foundation of the Tech Act Projects. Second, the Task Force will focus on education and outreach to colleges and universities to help with improve the integration of accessibility and usability into academic curricula and university services. The Task Force will consist of 15-20 members representing industry, colleges and universities, technology experts, disability advocates, and government. It will meet four times over the coming year, issue a report, and develop model action plans for dissemination to different sectors of society.
- **Microsoft, Community Options, and other public and private partners will create a business incubator - with special emphasis on entrepreneurs with disabilities:** Microsoft, Community Options, the New Jersey Community Loan Fund, the New Jersey Technology Council, the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners and other partners will create a business incubator targeted to low-income individuals, with priority given to people with disabilities. The New Jersey-based incubator will provide low-cost office space, customized technology support, and business planning expertise.
- **Sun Microsystems will partner with GNOME Foundation to make open source desktop software accessible for people with disabilities:** Sun Microsystems will create a new accessibility lab that will make GNOME software accessible for people with disabilities. Sun is also committed to establishing a fund that will be able to accept contributions from companies and individuals to make open source software accessible for people with disabilities. GNOME is a free, open-source desktop environment that makes it easier for people to use Linux and other similar operating systems. Open source software may be freely distributed and modified by end-users.
- **President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will announce expansion of High School/High Tech program to 4 new cities and 3 new states:** The High School/High Tech provides opportunity for students with disabilities to explore exciting careers in science and technology. The program uses site visits, mentoring, shadowing, and paid summer internships to allow students to prepare for careers in scientific, engineering and technology-related fields. The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities has identified local partners that will expand High School/High Tech in 4 urban areas (Atlanta, Los Angeles, Orlando, Chicago) and 3 states (Col., Wisc., and Michigan).
- **CompTIA will partner with Compaq and National Cristina Foundation to provide scholarships and training for certification in IT jobs, with some resources targeted to people with disabilities:** CompTIA, the Computing Technology Industry Association, will dedicate \$1 million to create scholarships for the general population, including people with disabilities, to provide training for IT service and support positions. Compaq will match this commitment with \$100,000 for scholarships

targeted specifically to people with disabilities. In conjunction with these commitments, CompTIA is partnering with the National Cristina Foundation to develop a National Computer Re-Utilization Network to provide training organizations that serve teens, veterans, people with disabilities, and other under-served communities with re-furbished technology.

- **Department of Education will award a \$2 million grant to strengthen Community Technology Centers, make them more accessible for people with disabilities:** The Department of Education will award a \$2 million grant to the "America Connects Consortium" to help create, improve and sustain Community Technology Centers through technical assistance. These centers provide access to technology and the skills needed to use it, typically to low-income families that do not have computers and Internet access. One of the consortium partners, the Alliance for Technology Access, will help the centers ensure that they are accessible to people with disabilities and are meeting their needs. The Department of Education is already supporting or expanding 595 CTCs; President Clinton has proposed a \$100 million budget initiative in FY2001 to create an additional 1,000 centers.
- **NCR will provide free training on benefits of accessibility from a business perspective:** NCR is partnering with IDEAL at NCR and EASI (Equal Access to Software and Information) to create a workshop, "The Global Business Benefits of Designing Accessible and Usable Electronic and Information Technology." This workshop will be offered on-line to 400 participants free of charge.
- **Department of Commerce will help small community-based organizations provide Web-based services to people with disabilities:** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Technology Opportunities Program will provide a grant to the Pangea Foundation, based in San Diego, California. The foundation will create Web-based templates that will make it easy for organizations to enter information in a format that is accessible to people with disabilities. People with disabilities will be able to find information on local services through a central clearinghouse on the Web in a format that they can use. The Administration has proposed tripling the budget for the Technology Opportunities Program from \$15 million to \$45 million so that the government can support creative uses of information technology for underserved communities.
- **Center for Applied Special Technology will develop improved version of Web accessibility tool with private sector support:** CAST will upgrade its freely available tool for improving the accessibility of Web sites. The new version will have an improved ability to analyze the accessibility of web sites, and the ability to interactively repair problems that are found. Current sponsors include IBM, Microsoft, Mitsubishi Electric Foundation, Sun Microsystems, and HalfthePlanet.com.

Clinton – Gore Administration Accomplishments in Creating Digital Opportunity for People with Disabilities Draft September 19, 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to ensure that people with disabilities will be full participants in the Information Age. Creating digital opportunity for people with disabilities is particularly important, since it increases their ability to work, gain new skills using online learning, tap in to the rapidly growing universe of electronic information, and improve their quality of life by exchanging e-mail with people with shared interests. Below are just some of the steps that President Clinton and Vice President Gore have taken to help create digital opportunity for Americans with disabilities.

- **Ensuring that the Telecommunications Revolution Benefits All.** President Clinton and Vice President Gore fought for the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires that telecommunications equipment and services be accessible to individuals with disabilities. In 1999, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules implementing Section 255 of the Telecom Act, which will ensure that people with disabilities have access to telephones, cell phones, pagers, call waiting, and operator services.
- **Ensuring the Federal Government Provides Accessible Technology and Information.** In August 1998, the President signed into law the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which included in the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The revised "Section 508" requires that when Federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, they must ensure that it is accessible to people with disabilities. Because the federal government is a large purchaser of information technology, this law will accelerate the development of accessible technologies.
- **Signing the Assistive Technology Act.** With the support of the Clinton-Gore Administration, Congress passed the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (ATA). The ATA supports state efforts such as training, technical assistance, alternative loan programs, demonstration centers, information and referral hotlines, web sites, technology expos, and the development of informational materials.
- **Proposing a More Than Seventeen-Percent Increase in Assistive Technology Initiatives for FY 2001.** The Administration's FY 2001 budget includes \$100 million (a \$13.5 million increase) for disability and technology research at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and \$41 million (a \$7 million increase) for Assistive Technology Act funds to States:
 - NIDRR would launch a comprehensive technology initiative that includes technical assistance and training to elementary and secondary schools adopt accessible technology for students with disabilities.
 - The Administration's request also includes \$15 million to support grants that establish or maintain alternative loan financing programs. Many people with disabilities do not have the private financial resources to purchase the assistive technologies they need. If approved, this increase would significantly enhance opportunities for individuals with disabilities to take advantage of assistive technology.
- **Developing a Strategy for the Development and Transfer of Assistive Technology and Universal Design.** In July 2000, President Clinton directed the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) to work with the disability and research communities to identify priority areas for the advancement of assistive technologies and universal design capabilities, and to publish this information within 120 days. Following issuance of the report, each major research agency must develop a strategy for enhancing the transfer of technology that can contribute to the needs and requirements identified by the ICDR.
- **Creating the Access America for People with Disabilities Website.** On the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the President announced a new website, Access America for People with Disabilities -- www.disAbility.gov -- which will serve as a "one-stop" electronic link to an enormous range of useful information available throughout the Federal government for people with disabilities and their families.
- **Advancing the state-of-the-art of assistive technology:** As part of the Administration's proposed increase for the National Science Foundation, the Administration has proposed increases in R&D that will benefit people with disabilities, such as a "seeing eye" computer that could help people who are blind, or technologies that could automatically turn speech into text for people who are deaf.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION RECORD TO HELP CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Draft September 18, 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have a strong record of working to bridge the digital divide by ensuring that every child is technologically literate. In 1994, President Clinton and Vice President Gore set the goal of connecting every classroom and library to the Internet. In 1996, President Clinton unveiled his Technology Literacy Challenge -- and has made a major commitment of resources to connect every classroom to the Internet, expand access to modern, multimedia computers; make high-quality educational software an integral part of the curriculum; and enable teachers to effectively integrate technology into their instruction

President Clinton succeeded in increasing educational technology funding by over 3,000 Percent -- from \$23 million in FY94 to \$766 million in FY2000. This includes:

- \$425 million for the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund which helps states and local communities meet all four "pillars" of the President's educational technology initiative (computers, Internet access, teacher training, educational software).
- \$197 million for partnerships between local school districts and the private sector to develop innovative approaches to using technology in the classroom.
- \$75 million to help train all new teachers to use technology.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore also fought for the \$2.25 billion "E-rate" to connect schools and libraries to the Internet.

- The e-rate is providing 20 percent -- 90 percent discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet, with the deepest discounts going to the poorest schools that need it most.
- By the end of 2000, the e-rate will have funded \$6.25 billion of telecommunications infrastructure and services to schools and libraries. In 1999, 82 percent of public schools (over 78,000) and 51 percent of public libraries received public funding.

Major progress has been made in reaching the goals of the President's Educational Technology Initiative.

- The number of classrooms connected to the Internet has increased from 3 percent in 1994 to 63 percent in 1999.
- The number of schools connected to the Internet has increased from 35 percent in 1994 to 95 percent in 1999.
- Grants supported by the Department of Education are training 400,000 new teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are building on their past achievements through a number of new and expanded proposals this year. In February 2000, the President and Vice President announced specific proposals in their FY2001 budget to help create digital opportunity for more Americans, including:

- \$2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers.
- \$150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce to use technology effectively.

- \$100 million to create 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods.
- \$50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families.
- \$45 million to promote innovative applications of information and communications technology for underserved communities.
- \$25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in underserved urban and rural communities.
- \$10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in Information Technology and other technical fields.

President Clinton successfully mobilized major public and private efforts bridge the digital divide in his April 2000 trip to East Palo Alto, California; Shiprock, New Mexico; Chicago, Illinois; and Rural North Carolina

- Over 400 companies and non-profit organizations signed a "National Call To Action" to bring digital opportunity to youth, families, and communities. The call to action set goals such as ensuring that every child is technologically literate, and making home access to the Internet as ubiquitous as the telephone.
- Companies such as AOL, HP, Qualcomm and Gateway invested over \$100 million in new initiatives to bridge the digital divide.
- The Kaiser Family Foundation committed to a media campaign to motivate young people to "get connected," with Public Service Announcements starring Magic Johnson and Rebecca Lobo.
- The Federal Communications Commission agreed to expand the Lifeline program so that members of Indian tribes could get phone service for as little as \$1 per month.
- The deans of over 200 hundred colleges of education pledged to meet the President's goal of ensuring that all new teachers will be able to use technology effectively in the classroom, and to benchmark their progress using a self-assessment tool developed by the CEO Forum.
- Telecommunications companies agreed to provide high-speed Internet access to all businesses and citizens of North Carolina within 3 years.
- The Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service committed to expand its \$670 million telecommunications loan program to companies that provide high-speed Internet access to rural America.

Draft September 20, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: GENE SPERLING
TOM KALIL

RE: BACKGROUND ON DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES

Summary: Tomorrow, you are scheduled to do an event in Flint, Michigan that will focus on closing the digital divide and creating digital opportunity for people with disabilities. This is a continuation of the digital divide trip that you launched in April in East Palo Alto. This memo will provide you with some background on this topic.

Importance of the issue:

In your State of the Union, you noted that America had an important choice to make as we entered the Information Age. We can either use IT to widen the circle of opportunity, or we can allow unequal access to IT to further polarize American society along the existing lines of income, education level, race, geography, and disability. The disability community believes that information technology offers a great deal of promise. It could increase their ability to work, expand their access to the growing universe of electronic information, and allow them to lead more independent lives. On the other hand, if information and communications technologies are not designed to be accessible to people with disabilities, they could be further isolated from the economic and social mainstream. The ability of people with disabilities to afford these technologies is also a big issue, especially given that people with disabilities have lower incomes.

The following statistics illustrate the magnitude of the challenge:

- There are 54 million Americans with disabilities.
- People with disabilities are half as likely to have a computer as people without disabilities (23.9 percent vs. 51.7 percent)
- The Internet is much more likely to improve the quality of life for adults with disabilities than people without disabilities. 48 percent of people with disabilities believe that the Internet has significantly improved their quality of life compared to just 27 percent of adults without disabilities.
- Only 31 percent of the 17.3 million Americans with severe disabilities ages 21-64 are employed.

Goals for the trip

After working closely with the disability community and the private sector, we decided to establish 5 overall goals for this trip:

- Increasing the accessibility and usability of existing information and communication products and services for people with disabilities;
- Improving the state-of-the-art of assistive technology;
- Ensuring that existing efforts to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity are accessible to people with disabilities;
- Using information technologies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities; and
- Increasing access to technologies for people with disabilities who cannot currently afford it.

Specific deliverables

- Over 45 high-tech CEOs will pledge to adopt "best practices" on accessibility, such as training their workers to develop accessible products and services, and identifying and fixing accessibility problems in new versions of their hardware and software.
- Presidents of more than 20 of the nation's top research universities will agree to expand research and education on accessibility.
- You will direct your Cabinet to create a task force to examine Medicare/Medicaid coverage of assistive technology. This review is particularly important because the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare and Medicaid coverage after they return to work.
- Americorps will provide \$9 million in grants to support 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide, including projects that help people with disabilities, such as a project in North Carolina that will give 300 blind and visually impaired students of all ages computer and Internet skills.
- The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will provide 5 years of funding to the Web Accessibility Initiative to help ensure that the Web is accessible to people with disabilities. Judy Brewer, the director of this project, will be travelling with you.
- The Department of Education will fund an initiative by the National Center for Accessible Media and industry to develop standards for accessible online learning.
- The Michigan-based Mott Foundation will help establish a blue-ribbon commission to develop additional policy recommendations for expanding access to assistive technologies.

- Microsoft, Community Options, and other partners will create a New Jersey-based business incubator with an emphasis on the needs of entrepreneurs with disabilities.
- Sun Microsystems will commit to making free desktop software (an alternative to Windows) accessible to people with disabilities.
- The President's Committee on Employment of Disabilities will expand their High School High Tech program to 4 new cities and 3 new states, including Michigan. This program allows students with disabilities to explore high-tech careers through site visits, mentoring and internships.

Your record on this issue

You have an excellent record on this issue:

- The Telecommunications Act of 1996 has been called the "ADA for the Information Age" because it requires that telecommunications equipment be accessible to people with disabilities.
- The Workforce Investment Act includes amendments that require that when federal agencies develop, procure or use electronic and information technology -- that it is accessible to people with disabilities. Because the federal government is a large purchaser of IT, this will encourage the private sector to devote more resources to this issue.
- Your FY2001 budget proposes a 17 percent increase in the Department of Education's budget for assistive technology - for research and development and loan programs.
- During the 10th anniversary of the ADA, you directed the science and technology agencies to identify priority areas for the development of assistive technologies, and to transfer technology so that they can be commercialized.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 13, 2000

Dig Divide

Dear Yoshi:

It was a pleasure to meet you in Rambouillet. I want to thank you again for your constructive efforts to help us reach a consensus on the dot force.

We appreciate your work on developing a well-thought out country list. While we thought the proposed list had significant merit, and that these are all close and difficult decisions, we nonetheless had a few recommendations for further strengthening the dot force composition. We agree with France's proposal to substitute Jamaica with Bolivia to fulfill the Chair's suggestion that we have representation from a Spanish-speaking country. We further suggest that Thailand be substituted for Indonesia and that Egypt be substituted for Tanzania, given Egypt's leadership and interest on information and communications technology issues.

We would propose the following for the overall structure and composition of the dot force:

1. As we discussed at Rambouillet, there should be a "core group" composed of solely government representatives from developed and developing countries.
2. The expanded dot force should be composed of the following:
 - Government representatives plus one outside representative from both developed and developing countries. Governments should not feel obligated to select a private sector representative. Governments should also be able to choose whether they wish to nominate an industry or an NGO representative.
 - Eight "at large" outside representatives -- 4 from industry and 4 from NGOs. We should ask GBDe, WEF, GIIC and WITSA to each send one participant, since all of these organizations have been active on the global digital divide and are multinational. Governments could collectively agree on 4 NGOs that have expertise on the importance of IT in promoting economic and social development.
 - We support the Japanese proposal to give a few additional international organizations observer status on the dot force.
 - We do not think we need to add any non-G8 OECD representatives, although some of the "at large" private sector representatives could come from these countries.

As I mentioned at Rambouillet, and as reflected in our proposals above, we continue to believe strongly that non-governmental organizations should also be participants on the dot force. Including representatives of civil society on the dot force will help advance a common agenda, and contribute to the development and eventual implementation of the dot force recommendations.

The official that will be representing the U.S. Government on the dot force is:

Thomas Kalil, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy.

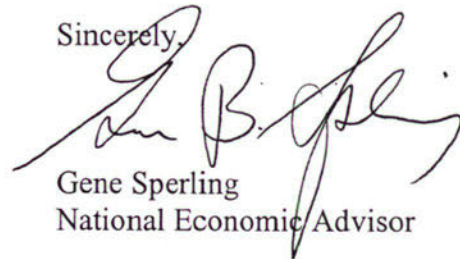
Phone: (202) 456-5366

Fax: (202) 456-2223

e-mail: thomas_kalil@opd.eop.gov

Thanks again for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Sperling", written over the printed name and title.

Gene Sperling
National Economic Advisor

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
TOKYO, JAPAN

Big Divide

20 October, 2000

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful comments on my letter of 6 October. Taking due account of these comments, I now propose the following list of nine countries as developing country representatives in the dot force:

1. China
2. India
3. Indonesia
4. Brazil
5. Bolivia
6. South Africa
7. Senegal
8. Tanzania
9. Egypt

This proposal should be seen in light of the following two considerations.

First, like some colleagues, I am inclined to believe that expanding the format by going beyond nine will not be conducive to an early consensus on this matter. I have therefore replaced Jordan and Jamaica in the original proposal with Egypt and Bolivia, which attracted considerable support among you. I am also withdrawing my proposal to include an ECOSOC Chair.

Second, upon reflection of the comments from some of you on the overall structure of the dot force, I am now convinced that the so-called "Core Group" should assume an informal character although it will be, for the time being, based upon a 9+9 format already agreed, and play a steering role in the taskforce. This in turn means that all the participants in the dot force—government, business, non-profit organisations, international organisations—will enjoy, at least nominally, an equal status as "Members". A Core Group meeting will therefore be a non-meeting.

I am making this proposal in the hope that such an approach will alleviate the difficulties some of you appear to be encountering in restricting the number of the Core Group participant to one government official. It will also allow us to retain flexibility to engage an additional Member (e.g. ECOSOC Chair) in the management

of the taskforce in the future, as and when necessary. Moreover, to institutionalise the Core Group as a quasi-decision-making body seems to carry the danger of impeding the whole process if division should emerge between G8 and developing countries, a contingency which we will, of course, try to avoid but cannot discount entirely.

In light of the foregoing, I am now obliged to make some adjustments to the course of action agreed in Rambouillet. Namely:

Decision on developing country representation:

I must impress upon you, once again, the absolute need to reach an agreement on the list of developing country participants as soon as possible. An invitation for the inaugural meeting, scheduled on 27-28 November, needs to be extended at least one month in advance. It is my firm intention to send out the invitation to the nine countries listed above during the course of the next week unless any of you comes forward with an explicit opposition in the next few days.

Informal G8 meeting on 6 November:

Due to the delay in our decision on developing country representation, it does not appear feasible to organise a Core Group meeting with the participation of developing country representatives on this date, as envisaged in Rambouillet. Our correspondence in the last few weeks, on the other hand, has revealed a considerable divergence of views both on the structure and on the working of the dot force. Financial arrangements of the taskforce also need to be urgently addressed.

For these reasons I now propose to hold an informal consultation among official dot force representatives of G8 members on 6 November in Paris. The Secretariat has offered to make a conference room in the World Bank office available for this meeting. An ice-breaking dinner will be organised by Japan on 5 November.

This meeting will primarily aim to finalise the G8 position on the organisational and working arrangements for the dot force, including its structure and financial arrangements. Preliminary discussions on the deliverables are also anticipated. The Presidency will circulate discussion papers prior to the meeting.

The inaugural meeting:

Our intention to host the inaugural meeting on 27-28 November remains unchanged. We will present a preliminary proposal on the arrangements of the meeting on the occasion of the informal consultation on 6 November.

Your attention in this matter is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,


Yoshiji Nogami

October 19, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR GENE SPERLING

FROM: TOM KALIL

RE: CALL WITH THOMAS DUNLOP, INTEL

TAK Tech Issues/
2 don't think
this is what
he was trying to
me about?
6/1/20/00

Summary: Thomas Dunlop, Intel's general counsel, would like to talk to you briefly to express Intel's support for the bill. Intel supports the legislation for a number of reasons, although they will not benefit from it directly.

- Bandwidth, rather than processor speeds, has become the major limiting factor in the development of new computer applications. Intel feels so strongly about this that they have begun to make investments in companies that compete against the "Baby Bells" -- the so-called Competitive Local Exchange Carriers like Covad.
- Although Intel strongly supports the Telecom Act of 1996, they acknowledge that "unbundling provisions" of the Act make it riskier for local telephone companies to invest in broadband. That's because the Act requires the "Baby Bells" sell pieces of their network to competitors at wholesale prices, which arguably reduces their incentives to invest. Intel believes the tax credit could help offset this effect.
- The bill is temporary, and it is targeted to the kinds of investments that are likely to be the riskiest - investments for rural and low-income areas, and next generation broadband technologies.
- Intel would much rather see inequities in access to broadband addressed through the tax code than through an expansion of Universal Service. Universal service involves a complicated set of subsidies, and the idea of expanding universal service to broadband Internet services is opposed by most computer and Internet companies.

Background on Broadband Internet Access Act

What's new

- Last week, Corning and Intel met with Podesta to discuss the Broadband Internet Access Act. Podesta noted some of Treasury's concerns. Rockefeller heard about this, and is unhappy with Treasury's opposition.
- **Supporters of the bill believe that it will not happen unless we push for it because it has more Democratic support than Republican support.**
- 44 Senators have signed a letter to Lott and Daschle asking that it be passed this year.
- In response to your question of whether there were ways to strengthen the credit for underserved areas, I asked industry supporters to calculate the cost of having an even larger (30

percent) for next-generation broadband investments in low-income and rural areas. This adds \$271 million to the cost of the bill, which is currently \$1.4 billion.

- The President has received letters urging him to support it from NAACP, LULAC, higher education, farm groups, the disabilities community, and the Information Technology Industry Council.
- Consumers Union criticized the bill in passing in a report they did on the digital divide, saying that the emphasis should be on providing PCs to low-income households. However, this is a false choice, both computers and broadband access are important.

Background on the bill

- Designed to stimulate broadband investment, especially in low-income and rural areas. Provides a temporary, two-tiered credit:
 - 10 percent credit for "current generation" broadband services to subscribers in rural and underserved areas;
 - 20 percent credit for "next generation" broadband services in any residential areas. [Note: one option would be to add a 30 percent credit for "next generation" broadband in underserved urban and rural areas: additional cost estimated to be \$271 million.]
- Cost is \$1.4 billion over 10 years.
- "Current generation" is defined as being able to deliver 1.5 megabits/second to subscriber (current DSL, cable modem). "Next generation" is 22 megabits/second - would require technology that is not currently widely deployed. Underserved is any census tract in an EZ, EC, renewal community, or poverty rate > 30 percent.
- Has 54 Senate co-sponsors, 102 House co-sponsors.

Discussion of Treasury concerns (in Talisman memo to Sperling and Kalil)

1. Favors one kind of Internet technology over another:

Comment: Yes, but bill is technologically neutral - could be cable, fiber, wireless, etc. It does favor faster over slower.

2. Administratively difficult to figure out what portion of the equipment is helping rural/underserved areas.

Comment: This is a valid criticism, but companies will only get the credit proportional to the percentage of the targeted population that is served by the equipment.

3. Doesn't solve the fact that the service may not be affordable to low-income subscribers.

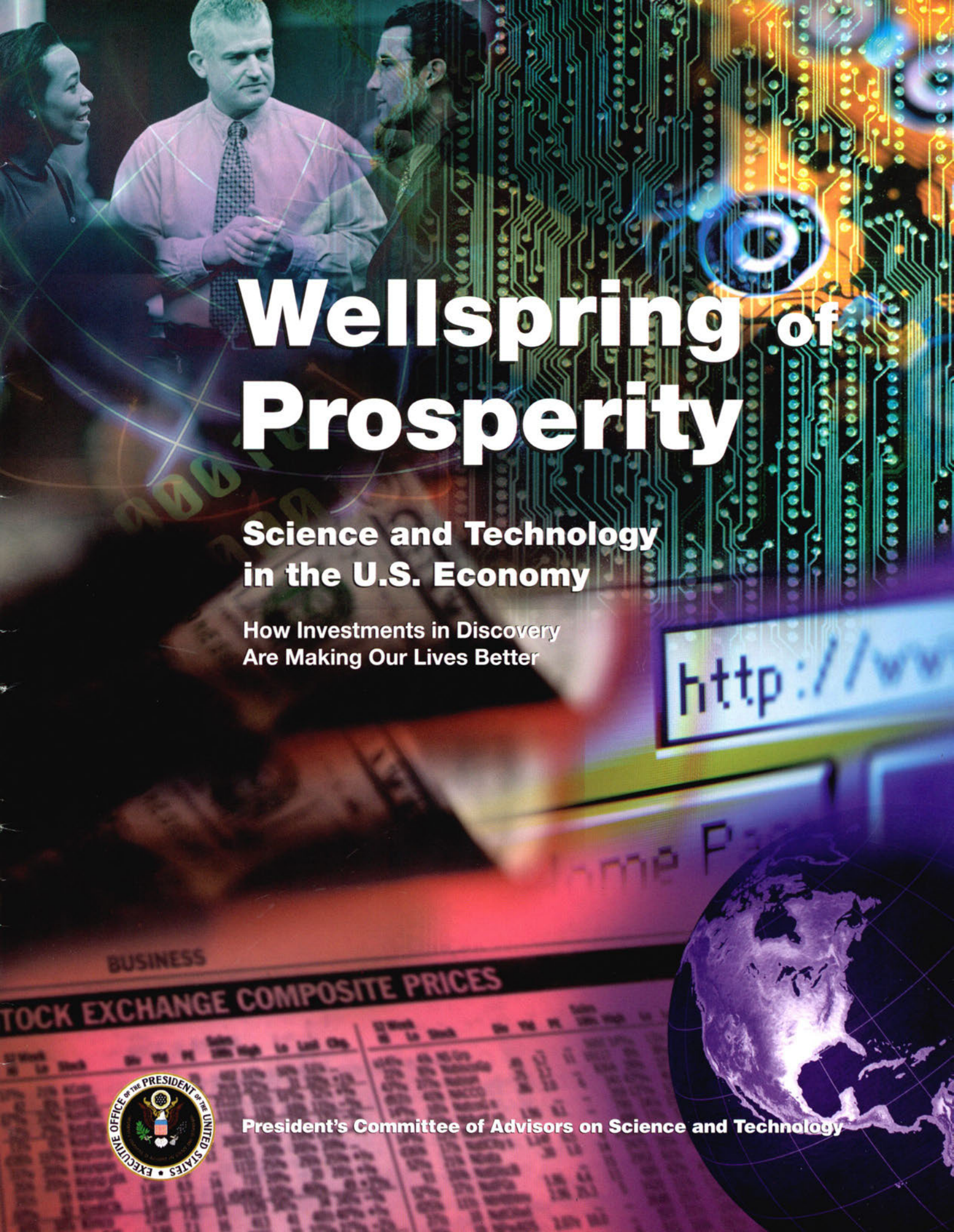
Comment: Yes, but does solve the access problem, which is especially important in rural areas.

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Wellspring of Prosperity

Science and Technology in the U.S. Economy

How Investments in Discovery
Are Making Our Lives Better



President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology

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Digital Economy 2000



U.S. Department of Commerce

June 2000