

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: National Economic Council
Series/Staff Member: Gene Sperling
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19259
FolderID:

Folder Title:
National Information Infrastructure

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	17	2	6	2

NEC STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 1/17 Action/Concurrence/Comment Due By: 1/21

Subject: Charter for The National Information Infrastructure Council

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
Gene Sperling	☐	☐	Elaine Mitsler	☐	☐
Dan Tarullo	☐	☐	Kristen Panerali	☐	☐
Tom O'Donnell	☐	☐	Dorothy Robyn	☐	☐
Pauline Abernathy	☐	☐	Ellen Seidman	☐	☐
Lael Brainard	☐	☐	Kevin Varney	☐	☐
Paul Dimond	☐	☐	Helen Walsh	☐	☐
Chris Dorval	☐	☐	Michael Warren	☐	☐
Wendy Einhellig	☐	☐	Dena Weinstein	☐	☐
Melissa Green	☐	☐			
Jason Goldberg	☐	☐			
Elgie Holstein	☐	☐			
Gay Joshlyn	☐	☐			
Tom Kalil	☒	☐			
Bob Kyle	☐	☐			
Malcolm Lee	☐	☐			
Sonyia Matthews	☐	☐			
Mark Mazur	☐	☐			

Remarks: Have you seen This? Should Gene? Please advise.

Response: _____

Michael Warren
456-5807

Draft January 14, 1996

*proposed
circulation of this?*

Charter for National Information Infrastructure Council

"We live in an age of possibility. A hundred years ago, we moved from farm to factory. Now we move to an age of technology, information, and global competition. These changes have opened vast new opportunities for our people, but they have also presented them with stiff challenges."

President Clinton
January 1996

The power of information and communications technology is exploding. Today's \$200 video games have more computing power than a 1976 \$20 million supercomputer. Fiber optics technology will soon allow us to transmit all of the phone traffic on Mother's Day on a single strand of glass. The Internet, which connected a few thousand computers in 1985, connected 12.8 million computers in 1996, and is continuing to double in size each year. Satellites and other forms of wireless communication are giving us the ability to send and receive information "anytime, anywhere."

The implications of this technology on the U.S. economy are profound. This sector accounts for a large and growing percentage of U.S. GDP. Even more importantly, all firms are embracing these technologies to increase productivity, provide "just-in-time" training for their workers, form closer relationships with customers and suppliers, and slash the time required to develop new products and services.

These technologies will have broad social implications as well. Information and communications technologies can change the way teachers teach and students learn, make government more efficient and responsive, improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, and expand access to health care, particularly in rural areas. Information and communications technologies also have potential downsides as well, including the possibility of erosion of personal privacy, job dislocation, and a polarization of American society between information "haves" and "have-nots."

The President and Vice President are both acutely aware of the importance of these technologies. President Clinton believes that we are in the midst of the transition from an industrial society to an information society, and that the Administration's policies must empower people to make the most of their lives in this "age of possibilities." Vice President Gore has been a leader in this area since in the late 1970's, when he articulated a vision of an "information superhighway."

Because information and communications issues cut across all policy areas and agency responsibilities, there is a compelling need for a high-level, White House coordinating mechanism to develop and advance the Administration's agenda -- a **National Information Infrastructure Council**.

Responsibilities of the NII Council:

This council would not seek to coordinate all information and communications issues within the federal government. It is likely that specific initiatives or policy decisions would be coordinated through other White House policy councils or inter-agency mechanisms. For example, the government's R&D investment in information and communications will be coordinated through the National Science and Technology Council.

The Council would have the following responsibilities:

1. **Help establish the overall NII/GII agenda and vision:** In 1993-1994, the Administration released the "NII Agenda for Action" and "GII Agenda for Cooperation." Although many of the principles expressed in these documents remain valid, they need to be updated. For example, many of the specific policy initiatives set forth in 1993-94 have been completed, the President and Vice President have articulated new challenges, and the market/technology have changed considerably.
2. **Provide policy advice to the Vice President and President:** Some of the NII/GII issues will be sufficiently important to require the involvement of the Vice President and President. For example, during the first term, the Vice President was involved in many of the strategic decisions concerning the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The NII Council would be responsible for advising and briefing the Vice President and President.
3. **Propose new Administration NII-related policies or initiatives:** Recent examples of new proposals include the President's Educational Technology Initiative and the Next Generation Internet initiative.
4. **Delegate authority and responsibility to agencies or groups of agencies:** Once the Council has identified a particular NII policy or initiative, the Council may delegate responsibility and authority for implementation to an agency, or a new or existing inter-agency process. The Council would be responsible for maintaining an accurate picture of "who's doing what" within the federal government. This will improve communication within the federal government, and between the government and the outside world.
5. **Identify ways in which information and communications technologies can support other White House initiatives** such as welfare-to-work, literacy, rural development, or the fight against crime.
6. **Encourage agencies to leverage NII technologies to carry out their mission, and to adopt policies that will promote the NII and its applications:**

Structure:

Chair: Vice President Gore.

Executive Director: Special Assistant to the President for Information Infrastructure -- reporting jointly to the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and the Office of the Vice President.

Membership:

- all comers or more limited?
need to define level of membership*
1. Representatives from all interested White House agencies (e.g. OVP, NEC, NSC, DPC, OMB, OSTP, CEA) plus the Commerce Department would serve on an Executive Committee.
 2. All interested Cabinet agencies would designate a point of contact at the Chief of Staff, Deputy or Undersecretary level. This point of contact would:
 - Identify NII/GII policies of particular importance to the agency
 - Respond to specific requests from the NII Council.
 - Provide staff for Council working groups.

Operation

- who?*
- don't you want to give him assignment explicitly to someone?*
1. It is anticipated that the Executive Committee or their representatives would meet once/month. Meetings with the Vice President would occur at least 3 times/year, or on an as needed basis. The full Council (e.g. all agency reps) would not meet without some compelling need to do so.
 2. Most of the work of the Council would be done through:
 - Working groups on specific issues;
 - An agreement between the White House and a specific agency, similar to an NPR performance agreement;
 - A request to an existing inter-agency fora to address a particular issue.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
MEMORANDUM

To: Gene Sperling
Kathy Wallman

From: Tom Kalil *TAK*

Re: NII Council

Date: March 7, 1997

One of the questions you had asked is how the proposed NII Council [see attached] would relate to Ira Magaziner's working group on electronic commerce. Below are a few observations that will hopefully shed some light on this issue:

- The point of the NII Council is not to try to centralize all aspects of decision-making on information and communications policy. This would be impossible, given the pervasive nature of information and communications within the federal government. To name just a few:
 - There is a Presidential Commission on the protection of critical infrastructure that is looking at physical and "cyber" threats to infrastructure such as telecommunications, utilities, air traffic control, and the financial system;
 - An OMB/NSC-led group is responsible for developing and executing the Administration's encryption policy;
 - The National Performance Review and the CIO Council have the lead on using information technology to make government "work better and cost less" and
 - The National Science and Technology Council is responsible for coordinating federal R&D investments, including information and communications.
- My view is that if there is already a process underway that is effectively addressing one or more of the NII/GII issues, we would not want to duplicate it. There is, however, a need to tie together the different strands of the Administration's NII/GII policy into a coherent framework. This is what the "NII Agenda for Action" and "GII Agenda for Cooperation" accomplished in the first term, but these agendas need to be updated.

- The Magaziner working group is focused on the international dimensions of electronic commerce. While this is a critical issue, the Administration has identified 14 different applications we want to promote -- including health care, life-long learning, improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, community networking, law enforcement/public safety, telecommuting, digital libraries, environmental monitoring, delivery of government services, etc.
- You should also know that the Magaziner paper will go through an NEC Deputies process before it becomes an official statement of Administration policy.

Please let me know whether you need any additional information.

Draft January 14, 1996

Charter for National Information Infrastructure Council

"We live in an age of possibility. A hundred years ago, we moved from farm to factory. Now we move to an age of technology, information, and global competition. These changes have opened vast new opportunities for our people, but they have also presented them with stiff challenges."

President Clinton
January 1996

The power of information and communications technology is exploding. Today's \$200 video games have more computing power than a 1976 \$20 million supercomputer. Fiber optics technology will soon allow us to transmit all of the phone traffic on Mother's Day on a single strand of glass. The Internet, which connected a few thousand computers in 1985, connected 12.8 million computers in 1996, and is continuing to double in size each year. Satellites and other forms of wireless communication are giving us the ability to send and receive information "anytime, anywhere."

The implications of this technology on the U.S. economy are profound. This sector accounts for a large and growing percentage of U.S. GDP. Even more importantly, all firms are embracing these technologies to increase productivity, provide "just-in-time" training for their workers, form closer relationships with customers and suppliers, and slash the time required to develop new products and services.

These technologies will have broad social implications as well. Information and communications technologies can change the way teachers teach and students learn, make government more efficient and responsive, improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, and expand access to health care, particularly in rural areas. Information and communications technologies also have potential downsides as well, including the possibility of erosion of personal privacy, job dislocation, and a polarization of American society between information "haves" and "have-nots."

The President and Vice President are both acutely aware of the importance of these technologies. President Clinton believes that we are in the midst of the transition from an industrial society to an information society, and that the Administration's policies must empower people to make the most of their lives in this "age of possibilities." Vice President Gore has been a leader in this area since in the late 1970's, when he articulated a vision of an "information superhighway."

Because information and communications issues cut across all policy areas and agency responsibilities, there is a compelling need for a high-level, White House coordinating mechanism to develop and advance the Administration's agenda -- a **National Information Infrastructure Council**.

Responsibilities of the NII Council:

This council would not seek to coordinate all information and communications issues within the federal government. It is likely that specific initiatives or policy decisions would be coordinated through other White House policy councils or inter-agency mechanisms. For example, the government's R&D investment in information and communications will be coordinated through the National Science and Technology Council.

The Council would have the following responsibilities:

1. **Help establish the overall NII/GII agenda and vision:** In 1993-1994, the Administration released the "NII Agenda for Action" and "GII Agenda for Cooperation." Although many of the principles expressed in these documents remain valid, they need to be updated. For example, many of the specific policy initiatives set forth in 1993-94 have been completed, the President and Vice President have articulated new challenges, and the market/technology have changed considerably.
2. **Provide policy advice to the Vice President and President:** Some of the NII/GII issues will be sufficiently important to require the involvement of the Vice President and President. For example, during the first term, the Vice President was involved in many of the strategic decisions concerning the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The NII Council would be responsible for advising and briefing the Vice President and President.
3. **Propose new Administration NII-related policies or initiatives:** Recent examples of new proposals include the President's Educational Technology Initiative and the Next Generation Internet initiative.
4. **Delegate authority and responsibility to agencies or groups of agencies:** Once the Council has identified a particular NII policy or initiative, the Council may delegate responsibility and authority for implementation to an agency, or a new or existing inter-agency process. The Council would be responsible for maintaining an accurate picture of "who's doing what" within the federal government. This will improve communication within the federal government, and between the government and the outside world.
5. **Identify ways in which information and communications technologies can support other White House initiatives** such as welfare-to-work, literacy, rural development, or the fight against crime.
6. **Encourage agencies to leverage NII technologies to carry out their mission, and to adopt policies that will promote the NII and its applications:**

Structure:

Chair: Vice President Gore.

Executive Director: Special Assistant to the President for Information Infrastructure -- reporting jointly to the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and the Office of the Vice President.

Membership:

1. Representatives from all interested White House agencies (e.g. OVP, NEC, NSC, DPC, OMB, OSTP, CEA) plus the Commerce Department would serve on an Executive Committee.
2. All interested Cabinet agencies would designate a point of contact at the Chief of Staff, Deputy or Undersecretary level. This point of contact would:
 - Identify NII/GII policies of particular importance to the agency
 - Respond to specific requests from the NII Council.
 - Provide staff for Council working groups.

Operation

1. It is anticipated that the Executive Committee or their representatives would meet once/month. Meetings with the Vice President would occur at least 3 times/year, or on an as needed basis. The full Council (e.g. all agency reps) would not meet without some compelling need to do so.
2. Most of the work of the Council would be done through:
 - Working groups on specific issues;
 - An agreement between the White House and a specific agency, similar to an NPR performance agreement;
 - A request to an existing inter-agency fora to address a particular issue.

INCOMING TO GS

DOC #

DATE

STATUS

1/28/97

Reading

AUTHOR/SENDER

Tom Kail

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Charter, Responsibilities, Structure of proposed National Information
Infrastructure Council

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

GS COMMENTS

FILE 1

FILE 2

FILE 3

Draft January 14, 1996

*proposed
circulation of this?*

Charter for National Information Infrastructure Council

"We live in an age of possibility. A hundred years ago, we moved from farm to factory. Now we move to an age of technology, information, and global competition. These changes have opened vast new opportunities for our people, but they have also presented them with stiff challenges."

President Clinton
January 1996

The power of information and communications technology is exploding. Today's \$200 video games have more computing power than a 1976 \$20 million supercomputer. Fiber optics technology will soon allow us to transmit all of the phone traffic on Mother's Day on a single strand of glass. The Internet, which connected a few thousand computers in 1985, connected 12.8 million computers in 1996, and is continuing to double in size each year. Satellites and other forms of wireless communication are giving us the ability to send and receive information "anytime, anywhere."

The implications of this technology on the U.S. economy are profound. This sector accounts for a large and growing percentage of U.S. GDP. Even more importantly, all firms are embracing these technologies to increase productivity, provide "just-in-time" training for their workers, form closer relationships with customers and suppliers, and slash the time required to develop new products and services.

These technologies will have broad social implications as well. Information and communications technologies can change the way teachers teach and students learn, make government more efficient and responsive, improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, and expand access to health care, particularly in rural areas. Information and communications technologies also have potential downsides as well, including the possibility of erosion of personal privacy, job dislocation, and a polarization of American society between information "haves" and "have-nots."

The President and Vice President are both acutely aware of the importance of these technologies. President Clinton believes that we are in the midst of the transition from an industrial society to an information society, and that the Administration's policies must empower people to make the most of their lives in this "age of possibilities." Vice President Gore has been a leader in this area since in the late 1970's, when he articulated a vision of an "information superhighway."

Because information and communications issues cut across all policy areas and agency responsibilities, there is a compelling need for a high-level, White House coordinating mechanism to develop and advance the Administration's agenda -- a **National Information Infrastructure Council**.

Responsibilities of the NII Council:

This council would not seek to coordinate all information and communications issues within the federal government. It is likely that specific initiatives or policy decisions would be coordinated through other White House policy councils or inter-agency mechanisms. For example, the government's R&D investment in information and communications will be coordinated through the National Science and Technology Council.

The Council would have the following responsibilities:

1. **Help establish the overall NII/GII agenda and vision:** In 1993-1994, the Administration released the "NII Agenda for Action" and "GII Agenda for Cooperation." Although many of the principles expressed in these documents remain valid, they need to be updated. For example, many of the specific policy initiatives set forth in 1993-94 have been completed, the President and Vice President have articulated new challenges, and the market/technology have changed considerably.
2. **Provide policy advice to the Vice President and President:** Some of the NII/GII issues will be sufficiently important to require the involvement of the Vice President and President. For example, during the first term, the Vice President was involved in many of the strategic decisions concerning the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The NII Council would be responsible for advising and briefing the Vice President and President.
3. **Propose new Administration NII-related policies or initiatives:** Recent examples of new proposals include the President's Educational Technology Initiative and the Next Generation Internet initiative.
4. **Delegate authority and responsibility to agencies or groups of agencies:** Once the Council has identified a particular NII policy or initiative, the Council may delegate responsibility and authority for implementation to an agency, or a new or existing inter-agency process. The Council would be responsible for maintaining an accurate picture of "who's doing what" within the federal government. This will improve communication within the federal government, and between the government and the outside world.
5. **Identify ways in which information and communications technologies can support other White House initiatives** such as welfare-to-work, literacy, rural development, or the fight against crime.
6. **Encourage agencies to leverage NII technologies to carry out their mission, and to adopt policies that will promote the NII and its applications:**

Structure:

Chair: Vice President Gore.

Executive Director: Special Assistant to the President for Information Infrastructure -- reporting jointly to the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and the Office of the Vice President.

Membership:

- all comers or more limited?
need to define level of membership*
1. Representatives from all interested White House agencies (e.g. OVP, NEC, NSC, DPC, OMB, OSTP, CEA) plus the Commerce Department would serve on an Executive Committee.
 2. All interested Cabinet agencies would designate a point of contact at the Chief of Staff, Deputy or Undersecretary level. This point of contact would:
 - Identify NII/GII policies of particular importance to the agency
 - Respond to specific requests from the NII Council.
 - Provide staff for Council working groups.

Operation

- who?*
- don't you want to give him assignment explicitly to someone?*
1. It is anticipated that the Executive Committee or their representatives would meet once/month. Meetings with the Vice President would occur at least 3 times/year, or on an as needed basis. The full Council (e.g. all agency reps) would not meet without some compelling need to do so.
 2. Most of the work of the Council would be done through:
 - Working groups on specific issues;
 - An agreement between the White House and a specific agency, similar to an NPR performance agreement;
 - A request to an existing inter-agency fora to address a particular issue.