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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New Brunswick, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN NATIONAL SERVICE ADDRESS

Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

1:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, Nakia Tomlinson for that fine introduction. I wish I could take you with me everywhere. We'd make a great duo there. Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

I'd like to thank President Frank Lawrence for his - Francis Lawrence -- for his fine speech. Does anybody call him Frank? I should have asked. (Laughter.) I want to compliment Professor Benjamin Barber for his leadership and service here. (Applause.) And I want to thank all of you here in the Rutgers community for coming out for what I hope will be a truly historic moment in our nation's history. (Applause.)

In addition to the people who have been introduced here, there are a host of mayors and members of the Assembly and county officials here from your state. We have two former governors, both of whom I served with -- Brendan Byrne and Tom Kean who are out there. I'm glad to see them. (Applause.) My friends. We have a distinguished array of members of the House from New Jersey -- Herb Klein, Bob Manendez, Frank Pallone, Donald Payne -- (applause).

But you have some members of the Congress from all over America here and I want to introduce them, too, because they have taken a lot of trouble to come to Rutgers and because without them and without the people who represent you, the proposal I make today has no hope of passage.

Many members of the Congress for years have believed we ought to do more in national service and some of them are here today. I'd like to begin by introducing your Senator Bill Bradley, who's behind me. (Applause.) I must say, when I walked into this arena, I turned around and asked Bill Bradley if he'd ever shot any baskets in here. I'd be intimidated to be the opposing team in here. (Applause.) Senator Bradley sponsored legislation to establish neighborhood corps and self-reliance scholarships, things that are forbearers of the proposal I came to make.

I'd like to recognize the presence on the platform of Senator Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts -- (applause) -- who chairs the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education, which shepherded the pilot national and community service bill through the Congress in the last session, along with his counterpart who is out here in the audience somewhere. I'd like to ask him to stand up. The Chairman of the House Committee, Congressman Bill Ford, who came all the way from Michigan to be with us. Congressman, would you stand up. (Applause.)

I'd like to recognize in the audience the presence of Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut, who was one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in the United States. (Applause.)

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The member of Congress who introduced many, many years ago, the first piece of national service legislation ever introduced, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Clairborne Pell from Rhode Island is here. (Applause.)

I'd also like to introduce the only person in this audience, at least of our crowd, who doesn't have to look up to Senator Bradley, Senator Jay Rockefeller from West Virginia, an early VISTA volunteer in the United States. (Applause.)

And finally I would like to recognize two other people, one, a member of the United States Senate and one a distinguished American citizen, the first boss of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver, who's up here with me. (Applause.) And his deputy, Senator Harris Wofford, from Pennsylvania. (Applause.) And Mrs. Wofford, I'm glad to see you. (Applause.)

Now, I was involved before I became President in a group called the Democratic Leadership Council, and we made one of the central parts of our platform to reclaim a new majority of Americans for our party the establishment of a system of national service to help people to finance education. And one of our founding members and guiding lights is here, Representative Dave McCurdy from Oklahoma. I'd like for him to stand up. (Applause.)

Let me make this last point, if I might, by way of beginning. None of these things happen at the national level. We empower them to happen and then people have to do things here at the grassroots. And I want to say a special word of thanks to your Governor for supporting the New Jersey Youth Corps and several other projects like it around the state, because if nobody's here to believe in this, it can't happen. And I thank Governor Florio for his support for these things. (Applause.)

I came here to ask all of you to join me in a great national adventure, for in the next few weeks I will ask the United States Congress to join me in creating a new system of voluntary national service -- something that I believe in the next few years will change America forever and for the better.

My parents' generation won new dignity working their way out of the great Depression through programs that provided them the opportunity to serve and to survive. Brave men and women in my own generation waged and won peaceful revolutions here at home for civil rights and human rights, and began service around the world in the Peace Corps and here at home in Vista. Now, Americans of every generation face profound challenges in meeting the needs that have been neglected for too long in this country -- from city streets plagued by crime and drugs to classrooms where girls and boys must learn the skills they need for tomorrow, to hospital wards where patients need more care. All across America we have problems that demand our common attention.

For those who answer the call and meet these challenges, I propose that our country honor your service with new opportunities for education. National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity, and rewarding responsibility. National service is a challenge for Americans from every background and walk of life, and it values something far more than money. National service is nothing less than the American way to change America. (Applause.)

It is rooted in the concept of community: the simple idea that none of us on our own will ever have as much to cherish about our own lives if we are out here all alone as we will if we work together. That somehow a society really is an organism in which the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. And every one of us, no matter how many privileges with which we are born, can still be enriched by the contributions of

the least of us. And that we will never fulfill our individual capacities until, as Americans, we can all be what God meant for us to be. (Applause.)

If that is so -- if that is true, my fellow Americans, and if you believe it, it must therefore follow that each of us has an obligation to serve. For it is perfectly clear that all of us cannot be what we ought to be until those of us who can help others -- and that is nearly all of us -- are doing something to help others live up to their potential. The concept of community and the idea of service are as old as our history. They began the moment America was literally invented.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor." In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln signed into law two visionary programs that helped our people come together again and build America up. The Morrill Act helped states create new land grant colleges. This is a land grant university. The university in my home state was the first land grant college west of the Mississippi River.

In these places, young people learn to make American agriculture and industry the best in the world. The legacy of the Morrill Act is not only our great colleges and universities like Rutgers, but the American tradition that merit and not money should give people a chance for a higher education. (Applause.)

Mr. Lincoln also signed the Homestead Act that offered 100 acres of land for families who had the courage to settle the frontier and farm the wilderness. Its legacy is a nation that stretches from coast to coast. Now we must create a new legacy that gives a new generation of Americans the right and the power to explore the frontiers of science and technology and space. The frontiers of the limitations of our knowledge must be pushed back so that we can do what we need to do. And education is the way to do it, just as surely as it was more than 100 years ago.

Seven decades after the Civil War in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave 2.5 million young people the opportunity to support themselves while working in disaster relief and maintaining forests, beaches, rivers, and parks. Its legacy is not only the restoration of our natural environment, but the restoration of our national spirit. Along with the Works Projects Administration -- the WPA -- the Civilian Conservation Corps symbolized government's effort to provide a nation in depression with the opportunity to work, to build the American community through service. And all over America today, you can see projects -- even today in the 1990s -- built by your parents or your grandparents with the WPA plaque on it -- the CCC plaque on it -- the idea that people should be asked to serve and rewarded for doing it.

In the midst of World War II, President Roosevelt proposed the GI Bill of Rights, which offered returning veterans the opportunity for education in respect to their service to our country in the war. Thanks to the GI Bill, which became a living reality in President Truman's time, more than eight million veterans got advanced education. And half a century later, the enduring legacy of the GI Bill is the strongest economy in the world and the broadest, biggest middle class that any nation has ever enjoyed.

For many in my own generation, the summons to citizenship and service came on this day 32 years ago, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps with Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps. With Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans, he enabled thousands of

young men and women to serve on the leading edge of the new frontier, helping people all over the world to become what they ought to be, and bringing them the message by their very lives that America was a great country that stood for good values and human progress.

At its height, the Peace Corps enrolled 16,000 young men and women. Its legacy is not simply goodwill and good works in countries all across the globe, but a profound and lasting change in the way Americans think about their own country and the world.

Shortly after the Peace Corps, Congress, under President Johnson, created the volunteers and service to America. Senator Jay Rockefeller, whom I introduced a moment ago, and many thousands of other Americans went to the hills and hollows of poor places, like West Virginia and Arkansas and Mississippi, to lift up Americans through their service.

The lesson of our whole history is that honoring service and rewarding responsibility is the best investment America can make. And I have seen it today. Across this great land, through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which took the children who lived in the neighborhoods where the riots occurred and gave them a chance to get out into nature and to clean up their own neighborhoods and to lift themselves and their friends in the effort; in Boston with the City Year program -- with all these programs represented here in this room today, the spirit of service is sweeping this country and giving us a chance to put the quilt of America together in a way that makes a strength out of diversity; that lifts us up out of our problems; and that keeps our people looking toward a better and brighter future. (Applause.)

National service recognizes a simple but powerful truth -- that we make progress not by governmental action alone, but we do best when the people and their government work at the grassroots in genuine partnership. The idea of national service permeates many other aspects of the programs I have sought to bring to America. The economic plan that I announced to Congress, for example, will offer every child the chance for a healthy start through immunization and basic health care and Head Start. (Applause.) But still it depends on parents doing the best they can as parents and children making the most of their opportunities.

The plan can help to rebuild our cities and our small communities through physical investments that will put people to work. But Americans still must work to restore the social fabric that has been torn in too many communities. Unless people know we can work together in our schools and our offices, in our factories, unless they believe we can walk the streets safely together, and unless we do that together, governmental action alone is doomed to fail. (Applause.)

The national service plan I propose will be built the same principles as the old GI Bill -- when people give something of invaluable merit to their country, they ought to be rewarded with the opportunity to further their education. National service will challenge our people to do the work that should and indeed must be done and cannot be done unless the American people voluntarily give themselves up to that work. It will invest in the future of every person who serves.

And as we rekindle the spirit of national service, I know it won't disappoint many of the students here to know that we also have to reform the whole system of student loans. (Applause.) We should begin by making it easier for young people to pay back their student loans and enabling them to hold jobs -- (applause) -- enabling them to hold jobs that may accomplish much, but pay little.

Today, when students borrow money for an education, the repayment plan they make is based largely on how much they have to repay, without regard to what the jobs they take themselves pay. It is a powerful incentive, therefore, for young college graduates to do just the reverse of what we might want them to do; to take a job that pays more even it is less rewarding because that is the job that will make the repayment of the loans possible. It is also, unfortunately, a powerful incentive for some not to make the payments at all, which is unforgivable.

So what we seek to do is to enable the American students to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their own income over time. This is especially important after a decade in which the cost of a college education has gone up even more rapidly than the cost of health care. (Applause.) Making a major contribution to one of the more disturbing statistics in America today, which is that the college dropout rate in this country is now 2.5 times the high school dropout rate. We can do better than that through national service and adequate financing. (Applause.)

The present system is unacceptable, not only for students, but for the taxpayers as well. It's complicated and it's expensive. It costs the taxpayers of our country about \$4 billion every year to finance the student loan program because of loan defaults and the cost of administering the program. And I believe we can do better.

Beyond reforming this system for financing higher education, the national service program more importantly will create new opportunities for Americans to work off outstanding loans or to build up credits for future education and training opportunities.

We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young who want to further their college education to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors in reading and mathematics. We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new police corps that will walk beats and work with neighborhoods and build the kind of communities ties that will prevent crime from happening in the first place so that our police officers won't have to spend all their time chasing criminals. (Applause.)

We'll ask young people to work, to help control pollution and recycle waste, to paint darkened buildings and clean up neighborhoods. (Applause.) To work with senior citizens and combat homelessness and help children in trouble get out of it and build a better life. (Applause.)

And these are just a few of the things that you will be able to, for most of the decisions about what you can do will be made by people like those in this room, people who run the programs represented by all of those wearing these different kinds of tee-shirts. We don't seek a national bureaucracy. I have spoken often about how we need to reinvent the government to make it more efficient and less bureaucratic, to make it more responsive to people at the grassroots level.

And I want national service to do just that. I want it to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people. (Applause.)

And as you well know, that's what's happening all across America today. People are already serving their neighbors in their neighborhoods. Just this morning, I was inspired to see and to speak with students from Rutgers serving their community, from mentoring young people as Big Sisters, to helping older people learn new skills.

I met a lady today who has 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who dropped out of school the year before I was born -- is about to become a high school graduate shortly because of the efforts of this program. (Applause.) Is she back there? Stand up. (Applause.)

I'm impressed by the spirit behind the Rutgers civic education and community service program: the understanding that community service enriches education, that students should not only take the lessons they learn in class out into the community, but bring the lessons they learn in the community back into the classroom. (Applause.)

And that spirit, during this academic year alone, more than 800 students from Rutgers are contributing more than 60,000 hours of community service -- in New Brunswick, in Camden, in Newark, throughout this state. (Applause.)

This morning I also met with members of the New Jersey Youth Corps. Here they are. (Applause.) Stand up. (Applause.) Young people who are looking for a second chance at school, and who when coming back to finish their high school degrees, also serve in their communities. Through this program, more than 6,500 young adults have contributed over 900,000 hours of service to the state of New Jersey. (Applause.)

They've done everything from paint senior citizens' homes, to tutor and mentor children in after-school programs. For the future of our state and nation, we need more young people like those in the New Jersey Youth Corps who exemplify the spirit of service.

That spirit also moves people all across the nation. In my state, there's a young woman named Antoinette Jackson, who's a senior in a small community called Gauld, Arkansas. She's a member of the Delta Service Corps. The rural Mississippi Delta is still the poorest place in America. And in that area, she works with a "Lend a Hand" program which runs a thrift shop to provide hungry and homeless people with food and clothing. And in return, the Delta Four is going to help her attend college so that she can make an even greater contribution. (Applause.)

The spirit of service also moves a young man I met about a year ago named Stephen Spalos, who works with a City Year program in Boston. At age 23, he's had some hard times in his life. But as he puts it, City Year gave him a place and the tools to be able to start over. He works as a team leader, a mentor, a tutor, a project manager for a bunch of young people who restore senior citizens' homes.

Last year when I visited his project, he literally took his sweatshirt off his back and gave it to me so that I would never forget the kids at City Year. And I still wear it when I go jogging, always remembering what they're doing in Boston to help those kids. (Applause.)

The spirit of service moves Orah Fireman, a graduate of Wesleyan College. As a sophomore in high school, she worked with disadvantaged children in upstate New York. That experience changed her life. And during her high school and college years, she continued to work with children. And now that she is out of college, she has begun what will probably be a lifetime of service by working at a school for emotionally disturbed children in Boston. She wants other people to have the opportunity to serve, and she wrote this: Service work teaches responsibility and compassion. It fights alienation by proving to young people that they can make a difference. There is no lesson more important than that.

Well, there are stories like this in this room and all across America. And we're going to create thousands of more of them through national service. We'll work with groups with

proven track records to serve their community, giving them the support they need. And if you have more good ideas, if you're entrepreneurs of national service, we'll let you compete for our form of venture capital -- develop new programs to serve your neighbors. That's how we want the national service program to grow every year -- rewarding results, building on success, and bubbling up from the grassroots energy and compassion and intellect of America.

I don't want service to wait while this potential is wasted. That's why I want to make this summer a summer of service, when young people can not only serve their communities, but build a foundation for a new national effort. I've asked Congress to invest in and I'm asking young people to participate in a special effort in national service and leadership training just this summer. We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer.

Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential. Some of them will tutor. Some will work on programs to immunize young children from preventable childhood diseases. Some will help to develop and run recreational centers or reclaim urban parks from dealers and debris. Some will counsel people a few years younger than themselves to keep them out of gangs and into good activities. And everyone will learn about serving our country and helping our communities.

At the end of this summer, we'll bring all these people together for several days of debriefing and training, and then they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting and I expect to listen a lot more than I talk. I'll ask leaders from Congress, from business, labor, religious, and community groups to attend the youth service summit, too. We'll give those who serve the honor they deserve, and we'll learn a lot more about how to build this national service program. And from the thousand pioneers of this summer, I want the national service to grow 100-fold in the next four years. (Applause.)

But even when hundreds of thousands are serving, I want to maintain the pioneer spirit of this first few months, because national service can make America new again. It can help solve our problems, educate our people, and build our communities back together. So if anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech by radio or television or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it national service. We're going to pick them. And I can't promise you'll be selected, but I promise you'll be considered. I want to engage the energies of America in this effort. (Applause.)

I also want to say that you shouldn't wait for the summer or for a new program. We need to begin now. We are going to be looking for the kinds of ideas that we ought to be funding. This is Monday. I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you think you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers, to join the effort to renew our community, and to rebuild our country; and to write to me about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood -- time to return to our roots an excitement, an idealism, and an energy. (Applause.)

I have to tell you that there are some among us who do not believe that young Americans will answer a call to action, who believe that our people now measure their success merely in the accumulation of material things. They believe this call to service will go unanswered. But I believe they are dead wrong. (Applause.)

And so, especially to the young Americans here, I ask you to prove that those who doubt you are wrong about your generation. And today I ask all of you who are young in spirit -- whether you are a 10-year-old in a service program in our schools who reads to still younger children, or a 72-year-old who has become a foster grandparent -- I ask you all to believe that you can contribute to your community and your country. And in so doing, you will find the best in yourself.

You will learn the lessons about your life that you might not ever learn any other way. You will learn again that each of us has the spark of potential to accomplish something truly and enduringly unique. You will experience the satisfaction of making a connection in a way with another person that you could do in no other way. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is exceeded only by the joy of helping someone else do the same thing. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or what you earn or what position you hold, but just because of what you have given to someone else. (Applause.) You will understand in personal ways the wisdom of the words spoken years ago by Martin Luther King who said "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." (Applause.)

I ask you all, my fellow Americans, to support our proposal for national service and to live a proposal for national service; to learn the meaning of America at its best, and to recreate for others America at its best. We are not just another country. We have always been a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities, and bound together, not by bloodlines, but by beliefs. At an age in time when people all across the world are being literally torn apart by racial hatreds, by ethnic hatreds, by religious divisions, we are a nation, with all of our problems, where people can come together across racial and religious lines and hold hands and work together, not just to endure our differences, but to celebrate them. I ask you to make America celebrate that again. (Applause.)

I ask you, in closing, to commit yourselves to this season of service because America needs it. We need every one of you to live up to the fullest of your potential, and we need you to reach those who are not here and who will never hear this talk, and who will never have the future they could otherwise have if not for something that you could do. The great challenge of your generation is to prove that every person here in this great land can live up to the fullest of their God-given capacity. If we do it, the 21st century will be the American century. The American Dream will be kept alive if you will today answer the call to service.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

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Mr. Lincoln also signed the Homestead Act that offered 100 acres of land for families who had the courage to settle the frontier and farm the wilderness. Its legacy is a nation that stretches from coast to coast. Now we must create a new legacy that gives a new generation of Americans the right and the power to explore the frontiers of science and technology and space. The frontiers of the limitations of our knowledge must be pushed back so that we can do what we need to do. And education is the way to do it, just as surely as it was more than 100 years ago.

Seven decades after the Civil War in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave 2.5 million young people the opportunity to support themselves while working in disaster relief and maintaining forests, beaches, rivers, and parks. Its legacy is not only the restoration of our natural environment, but the restoration of our national spirit. Along with the Works Projects Administration -- the WPA -- the Civilian Conservation Corps symbolized government's effort to provide a nation in depression with the opportunity to work, to build the American community through service. And all over America today, you can see projects -- even today in the 1990s -- built by your parents or your grandparents with the WPA plaque on it -- the CCC plaque on it -- the idea that people should be asked to serve and rewarded for doing it.

In the midst of World War II, President Roosevelt proposed the GI Bill of Rights, which offered returning veterans the opportunity for education in respect to their service to our country in the war. Thanks to the GI Bill, which became a living reality in President Truman's time, more than eight million veterans got advanced education. And half a century later, the enduring legacy of the GI Bill is the strongest economy in the world and the broadest, biggest middle class that any nation has ever enjoyed.

For many in my own generation, the summons to citizenship and service came on this day 32 years ago, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps with Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps. With Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans, he enabled thousands of

young men and women to serve on the leading edge of the new frontier, helping people all over the world to become what they ought to be, and bringing them the message by their very lives that America was a great country that stood for good values and human progress.

At its height, the Peace Corps enrolled 16,000 young men and women. Its legacy is not simply goodwill and good works in countries all across the globe, but a profound and lasting change in the way Americans think about their own country and the world.

Shortly after the Peace Corps, Congress, under President Johnson, created the volunteers and service to America. Senator Jay Rockefeller, whom I introduced a moment ago, and many thousands of other Americans went to the hills and hollows of poor places, like West Virginia and Arkansas and Mississippi, to lift up Americans through their service.

The lesson of our whole history is that honoring service and rewarding responsibility is the best investment America can make. And I have seen it today. Across this great land, through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which took the children who lived in the neighborhoods where the riots occurred and gave them a chance to get out into nature and to clean up their own neighborhoods and to lift themselves and their friends in the effort; in Boston with the City Year program -- with all these programs represented here in this room today, the spirit of service is sweeping this country and giving us a chance to put the quilt of America together in a way that makes a strength out of diversity; that lifts us up out of our problems; and that keeps our people looking toward a better and brighter future. (Applause.)

National service recognizes a simple but powerful truth -- that we make progress not by governmental action alone, but we do best when the people and their government work at the grassroots in genuine partnership. The idea of national service permeates many other aspects of the programs I have sought to bring to America. The economic plan that I announced to Congress, for example, will offer every child the chance for a healthy start through immunization and basic health care and Head Start. (Applause.) But still it depends on parents doing the best they can as parents and children making the most of their opportunities.

The plan can help to rebuild our cities and our small communities through physical investments that will put people to work. But Americans still must work to restore the social fabric that has been torn in too many communities. Unless people know we can work together in our schools and our offices, in our factories, unless they believe we can walk the streets safely together, and unless we do that together, governmental action alone is doomed to fail. (Applause.)

The national service plan I propose will be built the same principles as the old GI Bill -- when people give something of invaluable merit to their country, they ought to be rewarded with the opportunity to further their education. National service will challenge our people to do the work that should and indeed must be done and cannot be done unless the American people voluntarily give themselves up to that work. It will invest in the future of every person who serves.

And as we rekindle the spirit of national service, I know it won't disappoint many of the students here to know that we also have to reform the whole system of student loans. (Applause.) We should begin by making it easier for young people to pay back their student loans and enabling them to hold jobs -- (applause) -- enabling them to hold jobs that may accomplish much, but pay little.

Today, when students borrow money for an education, the repayment plan they make is based largely on how much they have to repay, without regard to what the jobs they take themselves pay. It is a powerful incentive, therefore, for young college graduates to do just the reverse of what we might want them to do; to take a job that pays more even it is less rewarding because that is the job that will make the repayment of the loans possible. It is also, unfortunately, a powerful incentive for some not to make the payments at all, which is unforgivable.

So what we seek to do is to enable the American students to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their own income over time. This is especially important after a decade in which the cost of a college education has gone up even more rapidly than the cost of health care. (Applause.) Making a major contribution to one of the more disturbing statistics in America today, which is that the college dropout rate in this country is now 2.5 times the high school dropout rate. We can do better than that through national service and adequate financing. (Applause.)

The present system is unacceptable, not only for students, but for the taxpayers as well. It's complicated and it's expensive. It costs the taxpayers of our country about \$4 billion every year to finance the student loan program because of loan defaults and the cost of administering the program. And I believe we can do better.

Beyond reforming this system for financing higher education, the national service program more importantly will create new opportunities for Americans to work off outstanding loans or to build up credits for future education and training opportunities.

We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young who want to further their college education to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors in reading and mathematics. We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new police corps that will walk beats and work with neighborhoods and build the kind of communities ties that will prevent crime from happening in the first place so that our police officers won't have to spend all their time chasing criminals. (Applause.)

We'll ask young people to work, to help control pollution and recycle waste, to paint darkened buildings and clean up neighborhoods. (Applause.) To work with senior citizens and combat homelessness and help children in trouble get out of it and build a better life. (Applause.)

And these are just a few of the things that you will be able to, for most of the decisions about what you can do will be made by people like those in this room, people who run the programs represented by all of those wearing these different kinds of tee-shirts. We don't seek a national bureaucracy. I have spoken often about how we need to reinvent the government to make it more efficient and less bureaucratic, to make it more responsive to people at the grassroots level.

And I want national service to do just that. I want it to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people. (Applause.)

And as you well know, that's what's happening all across America today. People are already serving their neighbors in their neighborhoods. Just this morning, I was inspired to see and to speak with students from Rutgers serving their community, from mentoring young people as Big Sisters, to helping older people learn new skills.

I met a lady today who has 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who dropped out of school the year before I was born -- is about to become a high school graduate shortly because of the efforts of this program. (Applause.) Is she back there? Stand up. (Applause.)

I'm impressed by the spirit behind the Rutgers civic education and community service program: the understanding that community service enriches education, that students should not only take the lessons they learn in class out into the community, but bring the lessons they learn in the community back into the classroom. (Applause.)

And that spirit, during this academic year alone, more than 800 students from Rutgers are contributing more than 60,000 hours of community service -- in New Brunswick, in Camden, in Newark, throughout this state. (Applause.)

This morning I also met with members of the New Jersey Youth Corps. Here they are. (Applause.) Stand up. (Applause.) Young people who are looking for a second chance at school, and who when coming back to finish their high school degrees, also serve in their communities. Through this program, more than 6,500 young adults have contributed over 900,000 hours of service to the state of New Jersey. (Applause.)

They've done everything from paint senior citizens' homes, to tutor and mentor children in after-school programs. For the future of our state and nation, we need more young people like those in the New Jersey Youth Corps who exemplify the spirit of service.

That spirit also moves people all across the nation. In my state, there's a young woman named Antoinette Jackson, who's a senior in a small community called Gauld, Arkansas. She's a member of the Delta Service Corps. The rural Mississippi Delta is still the poorest place in America. And in that area, she works with a "Lend a Hand" program which runs a thrift shop to provide hungry and homeless people with food and clothing. And in return, the Delta Four is going to help her attend college so that she can make an even greater contribution. (Applause.)

The spirit of service also moves a young man I met about a year ago named Stephen Spalos, who works with a City Year program in Boston. At age 23, he's had some hard times in his life. But as he puts it, City Year gave him a place and the tools to be able to start over. He works as a team leader, a mentor, a tutor, a project manager for a bunch of young people who restore senior citizens' homes.

Last year when I visited his project, he literally took his sweatshirt off his back and gave it to me so that I would never forget the kids at City Year. And I still wear it when I go jogging, always remembering what they're doing in Boston to help those kids. (Applause.)

The spirit of service moves Orah Fireman, a graduate of Wesleyan College. As a sophomore in high school, she worked with disadvantaged children in upstate New York. That experience changed her life. And during her high school and college years, she continued to work with children. And now that she is out of college, she has begun what will probably be a lifetime of service by working at a school for emotionally disturbed children in Boston. She wants other people to have the opportunity to serve, and she wrote this: Service work teaches responsibility and compassion. It fights alienation by proving to young people that they can make a difference. There is no lesson more important than that.

Well, there are stories like this in this room and all across America. And we're going to create thousands of more of them through national service. We'll work with groups with

proven track records to serve their community, giving them the support they need. And if you have more good ideas, if you're entrepreneurs of national service, we'll let you compete for our form of venture capital -- develop new programs to serve your neighbors. That's how we want the national service program to grow every year -- rewarding results, building on success, and bubbling up from the grassroots energy and compassion and intellect of America.

I don't want service to wait while this potential is wasted. That's why I want to make this summer a summer of service, when young people can not only serve their communities, but build a foundation for a new national effort. I've asked Congress to invest in and I'm asking young people to participate in a special effort in national service and leadership training just this summer. We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer.

Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential. Some of them will tutor. Some will work on programs to immunize young children from preventable childhood diseases. Some will help to develop and run recreational centers or reclaim urban parks from dealers and debris. Some will counsel people a few years younger than themselves to keep them out of gangs and into good activities. And everyone will learn about serving our country and helping our communities.

At the end of this summer, we'll bring all these people together for several days of debriefing and training, and then they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting and I expect to listen a lot more than I talk. I'll ask leaders from Congress, from business, labor, religious, and community groups to attend the youth service summit, too. We'll give those who serve the honor they deserve, and we'll learn a lot more about how to build this national service program. And from the thousand pioneers of this summer, I want the national service to grow 100-fold in the next four years. (Applause.)

But even when hundreds of thousands are serving, I want to maintain the pioneer spirit of this first few months, because national service can make America new again. It can help solve our problems, educate our people, and build our communities back together. So if anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech by radio or television or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it national service. We're going to pick them. And I can't promise you'll be selected, but I promise you'll be considered. I want to engage the energies of America in this effort. (Applause.)

I also want to say that you shouldn't wait for the summer or for a new program. We need to begin now. We are going to be looking for the kinds of ideas that we ought to be funding. This is Monday. I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you think you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers, to join the effort to renew our community, and to rebuild our country; and to write to me about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood -- time to return to our roots an excitement, an idealism, and an energy. (Applause.)

I have to tell you that there are some among us who do not believe that young Americans will answer a call to action, who believe that our people now measure their success merely in the accumulation of material things. They believe this call to service will go unanswered. But I believe they are dead wrong. (Applause.)

And so, especially to the young Americans here, I ask you to prove that those who doubt you are wrong about your generation. And today I ask all of you who are young in spirit -- whether you are a 10-year-old in a service program in our schools who reads to still younger children, or a 72-year-old who has become a foster grandparent -- I ask you all to believe that you can contribute to your community and your country. And in so doing, you will find the best in yourself.

You will learn the lessons about your life that you might not ever learn any other way. You will learn again that each of us has the spark of potential to accomplish something truly and enduringly unique. You will experience the satisfaction of making a connection in a way with another person that you could do in no other way. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is exceeded only by the joy of helping someone else do the same thing. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or what you earn or what position you hold, but just because of what you have given to someone else. (Applause.) You will understand in personal ways the wisdom of the words spoken years ago by Martin Luther King who said "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." (Applause.)

I ask you all, my fellow Americans, to support our proposal for national service and to live a proposal for national service; to learn the meaning of America at its best, and to recreate for others America at its best. We are not just another country. We have always been a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities, and bound together, not by bloodlines, but by beliefs. At an age in time when people all across the world are being literally torn apart by racial hatreds, by ethnic hatreds, by religious divisions, we are a nation, with all of our problems, where people can come together across racial and religious lines and hold hands and work together, not just to endure our differences, but to celebrate them. I ask you to make America celebrate that again. (Applause.)

I ask you, in closing, to commit yourselves to this season of service because America needs it. We need every one of you to live up to the fullest of your potential, and we need you to reach those who are not here and who will never hear this talk, and who will never have the future they could otherwise have if not for something that you could do. The great challenge of your generation is to prove that every person here in this great land can live up to the fullest of their God-given capacity. If we do it, the 21st century will be the American century. The American Dream will be kept alive if you will today answer the call to service.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:50 P.M. : : :

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

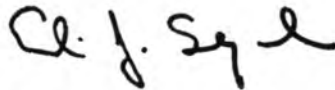
11 March 1993

Dear Colleague,

In the next week the staff of the Office of National Service and the Domestic Policy Council will be organizing meetings to discuss an outline of a bill to establish President Clinton's national service program. President Clinton, in his speech at Rutgers on March 1, made it clear that national service is a high priority. We are moving on a fast track toward introduction of legislation, and would like to have the benefit of your ideas as the program develops.

I would especially appreciate your response to this outline. Please note that although the outline focuses solely on student financial aid issues and national service connected to the proposed National Service Trust Fund, we are also considering ways in which we can promote service more broadly, particularly among school-age youth and older Americans. Please send your comments to the attention of Jack Lew, our General Counsel.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eli J. Segal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Eli J. Segal
Assistant to the President and
Director, Office of National Service

EJS:ss

National Service — Now

By Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON

Apathy is dead. Of everything I've learned in my first few weeks in the White House, that's the thing that's made me the happiest. Whether or not the people I've met outside the capital support the changes I have proposed, they're all saying they're ready to rebuild our country.

But they know, as I do, that no economic plan can do it alone. A plan can make vaccines available to children, but alone it will not administer the shots to all of them. It can put security guards in the schools, but alone it will not take gangs off the streets. And it can provide more aid for college, but alone it will not make the costs of college less daunting for the middle class.

That's why I believe we need national service — now.

If Congress acts quickly enough, just months from now more than 1,000 young people will start serving our country in a special summer effort. In four years, the successors to these pioneers will multiply a hundredfold. Imagine: an army of 100,000 young people restoring urban and rural communities and giving their labor in return for education and training.

National service is an idea as old as America. Time and again, our people have found new ways to honor citizenship and match the needs of changing times.

Lincoln's Homestead Act rewarded those who had the courage to settle the frontier with the land to raise a family. Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Act insured that Americans who work a lifetime can grow old with dignity. Harry S. Truman's G.I. Bill rewarded the service of my father's generation, transforming youthful veterans into an army of educated civilians that led our nation into a new era.

For my generation, the reality of national service was born 32 years ago tomorrow, when President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps. At its peak, the Peace Corps enrolled only 16,000 volunteers yet it changed the way a generation of Americans look at themselves and the world.

Today the spirit of our people once again can meet head on the troubles of our times.

The task is as complex as our chal-

lenge is great. We must combine the intensity of the post-World War II years with the idealism of the early 1960's — and help young people afford a college education or job training.

In 1993, we'll restore the spirit of service by asking our people to serve here at home. We won't reflight the wars we won, but we'll tackle the growing domestic dangers that threaten our future.

Our new initiative will embody the same principles as the old G.I. Bill. It will challenge our people to serve our country and do the work that should — and must — be done. It will give those who serve the honor and rewards they deserve. It will invest in the future of the quiet heroes who invest in the future of others.

The national service legislation that I will send to Congress shortly will give our people the chance to serve in two basic ways:

First, it will make it easier for young people to hold low-paying public service jobs and still pay off their student loans.

Under our program, Americans will be able to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their income over time. By giving graduates the chance to repay loans on an affordable, reasonable schedule, this "income-contingent" program will allow our people to do the work that our communities really need.

Second, our legislation will create new opportunities for Americans to serve our country for a year or two —

and receive financial support for education or training in return.

We'll offer people of different ages and educational levels different ways to serve. And to focus our energies and get the most for our money, we'll direct special attention to a few areas:

• We'll ask thousands of young people to serve in our schools — some as teachers, others as youth mentors, reading specialists and math tutors. They'll join the effort to insure that our schools offer the best education in the world.

Federal seed money, but local management.

• We'll send people into medical clinics to help immunize the nation's 2-year-olds. Some participants will be qualified to give the shots, but thousands of others can provide essential support, contacting parents and following up to make sure children get the shots they need.

• We'll help police forces across the

country through a new Police Corps trained to walk beats. We'll also organize others in our communities to keep kids out of gangs and off drugs.

• We'll put still others to work controlling pollution and recycling waste, to help insure that we pass on to our children a nation that is clean and safe for years to come.

Our national service program will offer more than benefits to individuals. We'll help pay operating costs for community groups with proved track records, providing the support they'll need to grow. And we'll let entrepreneurs compete for venture capital to develop new service programs.

While the Federal Government will provide the seed money for national service, we are determined that the participants — the individuals who serve and the groups that sponsor their service — will guide the process. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy

would be self-defeating; it would squash the spirit of innovation that national service demands.

By design, our national service program will not happen overnight. Instead, it will grow year by year, with funding reaching \$3 billion in 1997. And as I've said many times, I believe it will be the best money we ever spend.

If Congress gives us the chance, this summer we'll create an eight-week leadership training program. We'll recruit more than 1,000 young people for special projects to meet the needs of children at risk — and to train the first class of full-year participants.

In the first full year of our initiative, we'll launch our flexible loan program and aim to put tens of thousands of people to work. By 1997, more than 100,000 citizens could be serving our country, getting education and training benefits in return. And hundreds of thousands more people could be



doing invaluable work because college loans no longer block the way.

But the best planning and the most ambitious design won't make this vision of national service a reality. That responsibility ultimately rests with the American people.

I am convinced that after 12 years of drifting apart instead of working together we are ready to meet the challenge. From a 14-year-old boy in North Dakota who sent us \$1,000 to help pay off the deficit, to a 92-year-old widower in Kansas who followed his example, people are demonstrating that they want to give something back to their nation.

National service will exercise our talents and rebuild our communities. It will harness the energy of our youth and attack the problems of our time. It will bring together men and women of every age and race and lift up our nation's spirit. And for all of

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 20, 1993

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON,
42ND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC

12:01 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: My fellow citizens, today we celebrate the mystery of American renewal. This ceremony is held in the depth of winter, but by the words we speak and the faces we show the world, we force the spring -- a spring reborn in the world's oldest democracy that brings forth the vision and courage to reinvent America.

When our Founders boldly declared America's independence to the world and our purposes to the Almighty, they knew that America to endure would have to change; not change for change sake, but change to preserve America's ideals: life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness.

Though we marched to the music of our time, our mission is timeless. Each generation of Americans must define what it means to be an American.

On behalf of our nation, I salute my predecessor, President Bush, for his half-century of service to America. (Applause.) And I thank the millions of men and women whose steadfastness and sacrifice triumphed over depression, fascism and communism.

Today, a generation raised in the shadows of the Cold War assumes new responsibilities in a world warmed by the sunshine of freedom, but threatened still by ancient hatreds and new plagues. Raised in unrivaled prosperity, we inherit an economy that is still the world's strongest, but is weakened by business failures, stagnant wages, increasing inequality and deep divisions among our own people.

When George Washington first took the oath I have just sworn to uphold, news traveled slowly across the land by horseback and across the ocean by boat. Now, the sights and sounds of this ceremony are broadcast instantaneously to billions around the world. Communications and commerce are global. Investment is mobil. Technology is almost magical. And ambition for a better life is now universal.

We earn our livelihood in America today in peaceful competition with people all across the Earth. Profound and powerful forces are shaking and remaking our world. And the urgent question of our time is whether we can make change our friend and not our enemy.

This new world has already enriched the lives of millions of Americans who are able to compete and win in it. But when most people are working harder for less; when others cannot work at all; when the cost of health care devastates families and threatens to bankrupt our enterprise great and small; when the fear of crime robs law-abiding citizens of their freedom; and when

MORE

millions of poor children cannot even imagine the lives we are calling them to lead, we have not made change our friend.

We know we have to face hard truths and take strong steps, but we have not done so; instead, we have drifted. And that drifting has eroded our resources, fractured our economy and shaken our confidence. Though our challenges are fearsome, so are our strengths. Americans have ever been a restless, questing, hopeful people. And we must bring to our task today the vision and will of those who came before us.

From our Revolution to the Civil War, to the Great Depression, to the Civil Rights Movement, our people have always mustered the determination to construct from these crises the pillars of our history.

Thomas Jefferson believed that to preserve the very foundations of our nation, we would need dramatic change from time to time. Well, my fellow Americans, this is our time. Let us embrace it. (Applause.)

Our democracy must be not only the envy of the world but the engine of our own renewal. There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America. (Applause.) And so today we pledge an end to the era of deadlock and drift, and a new season of American renewal has begun. (Applause.)

To renew America we must be bold. We must do what no generation has had to do before. We must invest more in our own people, in their jobs and in their future, and at the same time cut our massive debt. And we must do so in a world in which we must compete for every opportunity. It will not be easy. It will require sacrifice, but it can be done and done fairly. Not choosing sacrifice for its own sake but for our own sake, we must provide for our nation the way a family provides for its children.

Our Founders saw themselves in the light of posterity. We can do no less. Anyone who has ever watched a child's eyes wander into sleep knows what posterity is. Posterity is the world to come -- the world for whom we hold our ideals; from whom we have borrowed our planet; and to whom we bear sacred responsibility.

We must do what America does best: offer more opportunity to all and demand more responsibility from all. (Applause.) It is time to break the bad habit of expecting something for nothing from our government or from each other. Let us all take more responsibility not only for ourselves and our families but for our communities and our country.

To renew America, we must revitalize our democracy. This beautiful Capitol, like every capitol since the dawn of civilization, is often a place of intrigue and calculation. Powerful people maneuver for position and worry endlessly about who is in and who is out, who is up and who is down, forgetting those people whose toil and sweat sends us here and pays our way. (Applause.)

Americans deserve better. And in this city today there are people who want to do better. And so I say to all of you here, let us resolve to reform our politics so that power and privilege no longer shout down the voice of the people. Let us put aside personal advantage so that we can feel the pain and see the promise of America. Let us resolve to make our government a place for what Franklin Roosevelt called bold, persistent experimentation -- a government for our tomorrows, not our yesterdays. Let us give this Capitol back to the people to whom it belongs. (Applause.)

To renew America we must meet challenges abroad as well as at home. There is no longer a clear division between what is

foreign and what is domestic. The world economy, the world environment, the world AIDS crisis, the world arms race -- they affect us all. Today, as an old order passes, the new world is more free but less stable. Communism's collapse has called forth old animosities and new dangers. Clearly, America must continue to lead the world we did so much to make.

While America rebuilds at home, we will not shrink from the challenges nor fail to seize the opportunities of this new world. Together with our friends and allies, we will work to shape change, lest it engulf us. When our vital interests are challenged or the will and conscience of the international community is defied, we will act -- with peaceful diplomacy whenever possible, with force when necessary.

The brave Americans serving our nation today in the Persian Gulf, in Somalia, and wherever else they stand are testament to our resolve. But our greatest strength is the power of our ideas, which are still new in many lands. Across the world, we see them embraced and we rejoice. Our hopes, our hearts, our hands are with those on every continent who are building democracy and freedom. Their cause is America's cause.

The American people have summoned the change we celebrate today. You have raised your voices in an unmistakable chorus. You have cast your votes in historic numbers. And you have changed the face of Congress, the presidency and the political process itself. Yes, you, my fellow Americans, have forced the spring.

Now, we must do the work the season demands. To that work, I now turn with all the authority of my office. I ask the Congress to join with me. But no President, no Congress, no government can undertake this mission alone.

My fellow Americans, you, too, must play your part in our renewal. I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service; to act on your idealism by helping troubled children; keeping company with those in need; reconnecting our torn communities. There is so much to be done -- enough, indeed, for millions of others who are still young in spirit to give of themselves in service, too.

In serving, we recognize a simple, but powerful truth. We need each other, and we must care for one another. Today, we do more than celebrate America. We rededicate ourselves to the very idea of America, an idea born in revolution and renewed through two centuries of challenge; an idea tempered by the knowledge that, but for fate, we, the fortunate, and the unfortunate, might have been each other; an idea ennobled by the faith that our nation can summon from its myriad diversity the deepest measure of unity; an idea infused with the conviction that America's long, heroic journey must go forever upward. (Applause.)

And, so, my fellow Americans, as we stand at the edge of the 21st century, let us begin anew with energy and hope, with faith and discipline. And let us work until our work is done. The Scripture says, "and let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." From this joyful mountaintop of celebration we hear a call to service in the valley. We have heard the trumpets. We have changed the guard. And now each in our own way, and with God's help, we must answer the call.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

12:16 P.M. EST

National Service — Now

By Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON

A path is dead. Of everything I've learned in my first few weeks in the White House, that's the thing that's made me the happiest. Whether or not the people I've met outside the capital support the changes I have proposed, they're all saying they're ready to rebuild our country.

But they know, as I do, that no economic plan can do it alone. A plan can make vaccines available to children, but alone it will not administer the shots to all of them. It can put security guards in the schools, but alone it will not take gangs off the streets. And it can provide more aid for college, but alone it will not make the costs of college less daunting for the middle class.

That's why I believe we need national service — now.

If Congress acts quickly enough, just months from now more than 1,000 young people will start serving our country in a special summer effort. In four years, the successors to these planners will multiply a hundredfold. Imagine: an army of 100,000 young people returning to cities and rural communities and giving their labor in return for education and training.

National service is an idea as old as America. Time and again, our people have found new ways to honor citizenship and match the needs of changing times.

Lincoln's Homestead Act rewarded those who had the courage to settle the frontier with the land to raise a family. Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Act insured that Americans who work a lifetime can grow old with dignity. Harry S. Truman's G.I. Bill rewarded the service of my father's generation, transforming youthful veterans into an army of educated civilians that led our nation into a new era.

For my generation, the reality of national service was born 32 years ago tomorrow, when President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps. At its peak, the Peace Corps enrolled only 16,000 volunteers yet it changed the way a generation of Americans look at themselves and the world.

Today the spirit of our people once again can meet head on the troubles of our times.

The task is as complex as our chal-

lenge is great. We must combine the intensity of the post-World War II years with the idealism of the early 1960's — and help young people afford a college education or job training.

In 1963, we'll restore the spirit of service by asking our people to serve here at home. We won't reflight the wars we won, but we'll tackle the growing domestic dangers that threaten our future.

Our new initiative will embody the same principles as the old G.I. Bill. It will challenge our people to serve our country and do the work that should — and must — be done. It will give those who serve the honor and rewards they deserve. It will invest in the future of the quiet heroes who invest in the future of others.

The national service legislation that I will send to Congress shortly will give our people the chance to serve in two basic ways:

First, it will make it easier for young people to hold low-paying public service jobs and still pay off their student loans.

Under our program, Americans will be able to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their income over time. By giving graduates the chance to repay loans on an affordable, reasonable schedule, this "income-contingent" program will allow our people to do the work that our communities really need.

Second, our legislation will create new opportunities for Americans to serve our country for a year or two —

and receive financial support for education or training in return.

We'll offer people of different ages and educational levels different ways to serve. And to focus our energies and get the most for our money, we'll direct special attention to a few areas:

• We'll ask thousands of young people to serve in our schools — some as teachers, others as youth mentors, reading specialists and math tutors. They'll join the effort to insure that our schools offer the best education in the world.

Federal seed money, but local management.

• We'll send people into medical clinics to help immunize the nation's 2-year-olds. Some participants will be qualified to give the shots, but thousands of others can provide essential support, contacting parents and following up to make sure children get the shots they need.

• We'll help police forces across the

country through a new Police Corps trained to walk beats. We'll also organize others in our communities to keep kids out of gangs and off drugs.

• We'll put still others to work controlling pollution and recycling waste, to help insure that we pass on to our children a nation that is clean and safe for years to come.

Our national service program will offer more than benefits to individuals. We'll help pay operating costs for community groups with proved track records, providing the support they'll need to grow. And we'll let entrepreneurs compete for venture capital to develop new service programs.

While the Federal Government will provide the seed money for national service, we are determined that the participants — the individuals who serve and the groups that sponsor their service — will guide the process. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy

would be self-defeating; it would squash the spirit of innovation that national service demands.

By design, our national service program will not happen overnight. Instead, it will grow year by year, with funding reaching \$3 billion in 1997. And as I've said many times, I believe it will be the best money we ever spend.

If Congress gives us the chance, this summer we'll create an eight-week leadership training program. We'll recruit more than 1,000 young people for special projects to meet the needs of children at risk — and to train the first class of full-year participants.

In the first full year of our initiative, we'll launch our flexible loan program and aim to put tens of thousands of people to work. By 1997, more than 100,000 citizens could be serving our country, getting education and training benefits in return. And hundreds of thousands more people could be



doing invaluable work because college loans no longer block the way.

But the best planning and the most ambitious design won't make this vision of national service a reality. That responsibility ultimately rests with the American people.

I am convinced that after 12 years of drifting apart instead of working together we are ready to meet the challenge. From a 14-year-old boy in North Dakota who sent us \$1,000 to help pay off the deficit, to a 92-year-old widower in Kansas who followed his example, people are demonstrating that they want to give something back to their nation.

National service will exercise our talents and rebuild our communities. It will harness the energy of our youth and attack the problems of our time. It will bring together men and women of every age and race and lift up our nation's spirit. And for all of

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New Brunswick, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN NATIONAL SERVICE ADDRESS

Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

1:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, Nakia Tomlinson for that fine introduction. I wish I could take you with me everywhere. We'd make a great duo there. Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

I'd like to thank President Frank Lawrence for his - Francis Lawrence -- for his fine speech. Does anybody call him Frank? I should have asked. (Laughter.) I want to compliment Professor Benjamin Barber for his leadership and service here. (Applause.) And I want to thank all of you here in the Rutgers community for coming out for what I hope will be a truly historic moment in our nation's history. (Applause.)

In addition to the people who have been introduced here, there are a host of mayors and members of the Assembly and county officials here from your state. We have two former governors, both of whom I served with -- Brendan Byrne and Tom Kean who are out there. I'm glad to see them. (Applause.) My friends. We have a distinguished array of members of the House from New Jersey -- Hero Klein, Bob Manendez, Frank Pallone, Donald Payne -- (applause).

But you have some members of the Congress from all over America here and I want to introduce them, too, because they have taken a lot of trouble to come to Rutgers and because without them and without the people who represent you, the proposal I make today has no hope of passage.

Many members of the Congress for years have believed we ought to do more in national service and some of them are here today. I'd like to begin by introducing your Senator Bill Bradley, who's behind me. (Applause.) I must say, when I walked into this arena, I turned around and asked Bill Bradley if he'd ever shot any baskets in here. I'd be intimidated to be the opposing team in here. (Applause.) Senator Bradley sponsored legislation to establish neighborhood corps and self-reliance

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scholarships, things that are forbearers of the proposal I came to make.

I'd like to recognize the presence on the platform of Senator Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts -- (applause) -- who chairs the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education, which sheparded the pilot national and community service bill through the Congress in the last session, along with his counterpart who is out here in the audience somewhere. I'd like to ask him to stand up. The Chairman of the House Committee, Congressman Bill Ford, who came all the way from Michigan to be with us. Congressman, would you stand up. (Applause.)

I'd like to recognize in the audience the presence of Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut, who was one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in the United States. (Applause.)

The member of Congress who introduced many, many years ago, the first piece of national service legislation ever introduced, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Clairborne Pell from Rhode Island is here. (Applause.)

I'd also like to introduce the only person in this audience, at least of our crowd, who doesn't have to look up to Senator Bradley, Senator Jay Rockefeller from West Virginia, an early VISTA volunteer in the United States. (Applause.)

And finally I would like to recognize two other people, one, a member of the United States Senate and one a distinguished American citizen, the first boss of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver, who's up here with me. (Applause.) And his deputy, Senator Harris Wofford, from Pennsylvania. (Applause.) And Mrs. Wofford, I'm glad to see you. (Applause.)

Now, I was involved before I became President in a group called the Democratic Leadership Council, and we made one of the central parts of our platform to reclaim a new majority of Americans for our party the establishment of a system of national service to help people to finance education. And one of our founding members and guiding lights is here, Representative Dave McCurdy from Oklahoma. I'd like for him to stand up. (Applause.)

Let me make this last point, if I might, by way of beginning. None of these things happen at the national level. We empower them to happen and then people have to do things here at the grassroots. And I want to say a special word of thanks to your Governor for supporting the New Jersey Youth Corps and several other projects like it around the state, because if nobody's here to believe in this, it can't happen. And I thank Governor Florio for his support for these things. (Applause.)

I came here to ask all of you to join me in a great national adventure, for in the next few weeks I will ask the

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United States Congress to join me in creating a new system of voluntary national service -- something that I believe in the next few years will change America forever and for the better.

My parents' generation won new dignity working their way out of the great Depression through programs that provided them the opportunity to serve and to survive. Brave men and women in my own generation waged and won peaceful revolutions here at home for civil rights and human rights, and began service around the world in the Peace Corps and here at home in Vista. Now, Americans of every generation face profound challenges in meeting the needs that have been neglected for too long in this country -- from city streets plagued by crime and drugs to classrooms where girls and boys must learn the skills they need for tomorrow, to hospital wards where patients need more care. All across America we have problems that demand our common attention.

For those who answer the call and meet these challenges, I propose that our country honor your service with new opportunities for education. National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity, and rewarding responsibility. National service is a challenge for Americans from every background and walk of life, and it values something far more than money. National service is nothing less than the American way to change America. (Applause.)

It is rooted in the concept of community: the simple idea that none of us on our own will ever have as much to cherish about our own lives if we are out here all alone as we will if we work together. That somehow a society really is an organism in which the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. And every one of us, no matter how many privileges with which we are born, can still be enriched by the contributions of the least of us. And that we will never fulfill our individual capacities until, as Americans, we can all be what God meant for us to be. (Applause.)

If that is so -- if that is true, my fellow Americans, and if you believe it, it must therefore follow that each of us has an obligation to serve. For it is perfectly clear that all of us cannot be what we ought to be until those of us who can help others -- and that is nearly all of us -- are doing something to help others live up to their potential. The concept of community and the idea of service are as old as our history. They began the moment America was literally invented.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor." In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln signed into law two visionary programs that helped our people come together again and build America up. The

Morrill Act helped states create new land grant colleges. This is a land grant university. The university in my home state was the first land grant college west of the Mississippi River.

In these places, young people learn to make American agriculture and industry the best in the world. The legacy of the Morrill Act is not only our great colleges and universities like Rutgers, but the American tradition that merit and not money should give people a chance for a higher education. (Applause.)

Mr. Lincoln also signed the Homestead Act that offered 100 acres of land for families who had the courage to settle the frontier and farm the wilderness. Its legacy is a nation that stretches from coast to coast. Now we must create a new legacy that gives a new generation of Americans the right and the power to explore the frontiers of science and technology and space. The frontiers of the limitations of our knowledge must be pushed back so that we can do what we need to do. And education is the way to do it, just as surely as it was more than 100 years ago.

Seven decades after the Civil War in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave 2.5 million young people the opportunity to support themselves while working in disaster relief and maintaining forests, beaches, rivers, and parks. Its legacy is not only the restoration of our natural environment, but the restoration of our national spirit. Along with the Works Products Administration -- the WPA -- the Civilian Conservation Corps symbolized government's effort to provide a nation in depression with the opportunity to work, to build the American community through service. And all over America today, you can see projects -- even today in the 1990s -- built by your parents or your grandparents with the WPA plaque on it -- the CCC plaque on it -- the idea that people should be asked to serve and rewarded for doing it.

In the midst of World War II, President Roosevelt proposed the GI Bill of Rights, which offered returning veterans the opportunity for education in respect to their service to our country in the war. Thanks to the GI Bill, which became a living reality in President Truman's time, more than eight million veterans got advanced education. And half a century later, the enduring legacy of the GI Bill is the strongest economy in the world and the broadest, biggest middle class that any nation has ever enjoyed.

For many in my own generation, the summons to citizenship and service came on this day 32 years ago, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps with Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps. With Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans, he enabled thousands of young men and women to serve on the leading edge of the new

frontier, helping people all over the world to become what they ought to be, and bringing them the message by their very lives that America was a great country that stood for good values and human progress.

At its height, the Peace Corps enrolled 16,000 young men and women. Its legacy is not simply goodwill and good works in countries all across the globe, but a profound and lasting change in the way Americans think about their own country and the world.

Shortly after the Peace Corps, Congress, under President Johnson, created the volunteers and service to America. Senator Jay Rockefeller, whom I introduced a moment ago, and many thousands of other Americans went to the hills and hollows of poor places, like West Virginia and Arkansas and Mississippi, to lift up Americans through their service.

The lesson of our whole history is that honoring service and rewarding responsibility is the best investment America can make. And I have seen it today. Across this great land, through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which took the children who lived in the neighborhoods where the riots occurred and gave them a chance to get out into nature and to clean up their own neighborhoods and to lift themselves and their friends in the effort; in Boston with the City Year program -- with all these programs represented here in this room today, the spirit of service is sweeping this country and giving us a chance to put the quilt of America together in a way that makes a strength out of diversity; that lifts us up out of our problems; and that keeps our people looking toward a better and brighter future. (Applause.)

National service recognizes a simple but powerful truth -- that we make progress not by governmental action alone, but we do best when the people and their government work at the grassroots in genuine partnership. The idea of national service permeates many other aspects of the programs I have sought to bring to America. The economic plan that I announced to Congress, for example, will offer every child the chance for a healthy start through immunization and basic health care and Head Start. (Applause.) But still it depends on parents doing the best they can as parents and children making the most of their opportunities.

The plan can help to rebuild our cities and our small communities through physical investments that will put people to work. But Americans still must work to restore the social fabric that has been torn in too many communities. Unless people know we can work together in our schools and our offices, in our factories, unless they believe we can walk the streets safely together, and unless we do that together, governmental action alone is doomed to fail. (Applause.)

The national service plan I propose will be built on the same principles as the old GI Bill -- when people give something of invaluable merit to their country, they ought to be rewarded with the opportunity to further their education. National service will challenge our people to do the work that should and indeed must be done and cannot be done unless the American people voluntarily give themselves up to that work. It will invest in the future of every person who serves.

And as we rekindle the spirit of national service, I know it won't disappoint many of the students here to know that we also have to reform the whole system of student loans. (Applause.) We should begin by making it easier for young people to pay back their student loans and enabling them to hold jobs -- (applause) -- enabling them to hold jobs that may accomplish much, but pay little.

Today, when students borrow money for an education, the repayment plan they make is based largely on how much they have to repay, without regard to what the jobs they take themselves pay. It is a powerful incentive, therefore, for young college graduates to do just the reverse of what we might want them to do; to take a job that pays more even it is less rewarding because that is the job that will make the repayment of the loans possible. It is also, unfortunately, a powerful incentive for some not to make the payments at all, which is unforgivable.

So what we seek to do is to enable the American students to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their own income over time. This is especially important after a decade in which the cost of a college education has gone up even more rapidly than the cost of health care. (Applause.) Making a major contribution to one of the more disturbing statistics in America today, which is that the college dropout rate in this country is now 2.5 times the high school dropout rate. We can do better than that through national service and adequate financing. (Applause.)

The present system is unacceptable, not only for students, but for the taxpayers as well. It's complicated and it's expensive. It costs the taxpayers of our country about \$4 billion every year to finance the student loan program because of loan defaults and the cost of administering the program. And I believe we can do better.

Beyond reforming this system for financing higher education, the national service program more importantly will create new opportunities for Americans to work off outstanding loans or to build up credits for future education and training opportunities.

We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young who want to further their college

education to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors in reading and mathematics. We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new police corps that will walk beats and work with neighborhoods and build the kind of communities ties that will prevent crime from happening in the first place so that our police officers won't have to spend all their time chasing criminals. (Applause.)

We'll ask young people to work, to help control pollution and recycle waste, to paint darkened buildings and clean up neighborhoods. (Applause.) To work with senior citizens and combat homelessness and help children in trouble get out of it and build a better life. (Applause.)

And these are just a few of the things that you will be able to, for most of the decisions about what you can do will be made by people like those in this room, people who run the programs represented by all of those wearing these different kinds of tee-shirts. We don't seek a national bureaucracy. I have spoken often about how we need to reinvent the government to make it more efficient and less bureaucratic, to make it more responsive to people at the grassroots level.

And I want national service to do just that. I want it to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people. (Applause.)

And as you well know, that's what's happening all across America today. People are already serving their neighbors in their neighborhoods. Just this morning, I was inspired to see and to speak with students from Rutgers serving their community, from mentoring young people as Big Sisters, to helping older people learn new skills.

I met a lady today who has 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who dropped out of school the year before I was born -- is about to become a high school graduate shortly because of the efforts of this program. (Applause.) Is she back there? Stand up. (Applause.)

I'm impressed by the spirit behind the Rutgers civic education and community service program: the understanding that community service enriches education, that students should not only take the lessons they learn in class out into the community, but bring the lessons they learn in the community back into the classroom. (Applause.)

And that spirit, during this academic year alone, more than 800 students from Rutgers are contributing more than 60,000 hours of community service -- in New Brunswick, in Camden, in Newark, throughout this state. (Applause.)

This morning I also met with members of the New Jersey Youth Corps. Here they are. (Applause.) Stand up. (Applause.) Young people who are looking for a second chance at school, and who when coming back to finish their high school degrees, also serve in their communities. Through this program, more than 6,500 young adults have contributed over 900,000 hours of service to the state of New Jersey. (Applause.)

They've done everything from paint senior citizens' homes, to tutor and mentor children in after-school programs. For the future of our state and nation, we need more young people like those in the New Jersey Youth Corps who exemplify the spirit of service.

That spirit also moves people all across the nation. In my state, there's a young woman named Antoinette Jackson, who's a senior in a small community called Gauld, Arkansas. She's a member of the Delta Service Corps. The rural Mississippi Delta is still the poorest place in America. And in that area, she works with a "Lend a Hand" program which runs a thrift shop to provide hungry and homeless people with food and clothing. And in return, the Delta Four is going to help her attend college so that she can make an even greater contribution. (Applause.)

The spirit of service also moves a young man I met about a year ago named Stephen Spalos, who works with a City Year program in Boston. At age 23, he's had some hard times in his life. But as he puts it, City Year gave him a place and the tools to be able to start over. He works as a team leader, a mentor, a tutor, a project manager for a bunch of young people who restore senior citizens' homes.

Last year when I visited his project, he literally took his sweatshirt off his back and gave it to me so that I would never forget the kids at City Year. And I still wear it when I go jogging, always remembering what they're doing in Boston to help those kids. (Applause.)

The spirit of service moves Orah Fireman, a graduate of Wesleyan College. As a sophomore in high school, she worked with disadvantaged children in upstate New York. That experience changed her life. And during her high school and college years, she continued to work with children. And now that she is out of college, she has begun what will probably be a lifetime of service by working at a school for emotionally disturbed children in Boston. She wants other people to have the opportunity to serve, and she wrote this: Service work teaches responsibility and compassion. It fights alienation by proving to young people that they can make a difference. There is no lesson more important than that.

Well, there are stories like this in this room and all across America. And we're going to create thousands of more of them through national service. We'll work with groups with

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proven track records to serve their community, giving them the support they need. And if you have more good ideas, if you're entrepreneurs of national service, we'll let you compete for our form of venture capital -- develop new programs to serve your neighbors. That's how we want the national service program to grow every year -- rewarding results, building on success, and bubbling up from the grassroots energy and compassion and intellect of America.

I don't want service to wait while this potential is wasted. That's why I want to make this summer a summer of service, when young people can not only serve their communities, but build a foundation for a new national effort. I've asked Congress to invest in and I'm asking young people to participate in a special effort in national service and leadership training just this summer. We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer.

Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential. Some of them will tutor. Some will work on programs to immunize young children from preventable childhood diseases. Some will help to develop and run recreational centers or reclaim urban parks from dealers and debris. Some will counsel people a few years younger than themselves to keep them out of gangs and into good activities. And everyone will learn about serving our country and helping our communities.

At the end of this summer, we'll bring all these people together for several days of debriefing and training, and then they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting and I expect to listen a lot more than I talk. I'll ask leaders from Congress, from business, labor, religious, and community groups to attend the youth service summit, too. We'll give those who serve the honor they deserve, and we'll learn a lot more about how to build this national service program. And from the thousand pioneers of this summer, I want the national service to grow 100-fold in the next four years. (Applause.)

But even when hundreds of thousands are serving, I want to maintain the pioneer spirit of this first few months, because national service can make America new again. It can help solve our problems, educate our people, and build our communities back together. So if anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech by radio or television or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it national service. We're going to pick them. And I can't promise you'll be selected, but I promise you'll be considered. I want to engage the energies of America in this effort. (Applause.)

I also want to say that you shouldn't wait for the summer or for a new program. We need to begin now. We are going to be looking for the kinds of ideas that we ought to be funding. This is Monday. I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you think you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers, to join the effort to renew our community and to rebuild our country; and to write to me about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood -- time to return to our roots an excitement, an idealism, and an energy. (Applause.)

I have to tell you that there are some among us who do not believe that young Americans will answer a call to action, who believe that our people now measure their success merely in the accumulation of material things. They believe this call to service will go unanswered. But I believe they are dead wrong. (Applause.)

And so, especially to the young Americans here, I ask you to prove that those who doubt you are wrong about your generation. And today I ask all of you who are young in spirit -- whether you are a 10-year-old in a service program in our schools who reads to still younger children, or a 72-year-old who has become a foster grandparent -- I ask you all to believe that you can contribute to your community and your country. And in so doing, you will find the best in yourself.

You will learn the lessons about your life that you might not ever learn any other way. You will learn again that each of us has the spark of potential to accomplish something truly and enduringly unique. You will experience the satisfaction of making a connection in a way with another person that you could do in no other way. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is exceeded only by the joy of helping someone else do the same thing. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or what you earn or what position you hold, but just because of what you have given to someone else. (Applause.) You will understand in personal ways the wisdom of the words spoken years ago by Martin Luther King who said "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." (Applause.)

I ask you all, my fellow Americans, to support our proposal for national service and to live a proposal for national service; to learn the meaning of America at its best, and to recreate for others America at its best. We are not just another country. We have always been a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities, and bound together, not by bloodlines, but by beliefs. At an age in time when people all across the world are being literally torn apart by racial hatreds, by ethnic hatreds, by religious divisions, we are a nation, with all of our problems, where people can come together across racial and religious lines and hold hands and work together, not just to endure our differences, but to celebrate

them. I ask you to make America celebrate that again.
(Applause.)

I ask you, in closing, to commit yourselves to this season of service because America needs it. We need every one of you to live up to the fullest of your potential, and we need you to reach those who are not here and who will never hear this talk, and who will never have the future they could otherwise have if not for something that you could do. The great challenge of your generation is to prove that every person here in this great land can live up to the fullest of their God-given capacity. If we do it, the 21st century will be the American century. The American Dream will be kept alive if you will today answer the call to service.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:50 P.M. EST

**THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE
NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICE**

March 3, 1993

Contact: Diana Aldridge
(202) 456-6444

THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NATIONAL SERVICE AT RUTGERS:

On the 32nd anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps, President Clinton spent a day in New Jersey challenging young people to serve their country by meeting pressing national needs.

Before his address at Rutgers University, the President visited the New Brunswick Public Schools Adult Learning Center, and spoke to participants from both Rutgers and the community about their outstanding service work.

Then speaking before what the **New York Times** termed a "wildly enthusiastic" crowd at Rutgers, the President challenged America's young people to "make America new again" by serving their country.

The President also detailed his national service plan and issued his challenge to young people in a taped interview with MTV. Excerpts aired Monday and Tuesday in a half-hour MTV special, "Bill Clinton: His Plan, Your Future."

**The VICE PRESIDENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION PRINCIPALS
ENCOURAGE SERVICE:**

Also on Monday, March 1:

Vice President Gore visited the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and gave a speech at the University of Wisconsin on national service and the environment.

Mrs. Gore visited a Richmond emergency shelter for families, and spoke to student service providers at the University of Richmond.

Five Cabinet Secretaries highlighted service on Monday: Secretary Babbitt worked with the Durham Conservation Corps in Durham, North Carolina; Secretary Pena specifically addressed service in a speech to the National Association of County Organizations; Secretary Reich visited YouthBuild in Boston; and Secretary Shalala visited the Sick Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C. On Tuesday, Secretary Espy gave a speech on national service at Howard University.

(more)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S RUTGERS ADDRESS:

- "National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity and rewarding responsibility.
- "We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young ... to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors ... to help our police forces across the nation ... to help control pollution and waste ... to work with senior citizens and combat homelessness..."
- "I want [national service] to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people."
- "I want to make this summer a summer of service.... We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer. Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential.... At the end of this summer... they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting..."

The President specifically **challenged young people** to serve:

- "If anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech ... or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it National Service."
- "I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers; to join the effort to renew our community and to rebuild our country; and to write to be about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood..."

(more)

Page Three

PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST:

Public and press interest in the President's national service plans was wide-spread.

Extensive coverage of the President's speech included front page stories in **USA Today**, the **Los Angeles Times**, and the **Philadelphia Inquirer**, among others. ABC News' "**American Agenda**" highlighted successful service programs and young people exemplifying the President's national service message in Washington State.

MTV produced its broadcast to encourage young people to examine and respond to the President's plans for national service. In addition to the interview with President Clinton, the special included footage of h's speech as he issued his "challenge to serve" to young people, and President Kennedy announcing the Peace Corps 32 years ago.

###

INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE:

- o **Timing:** The President will submit legislation for his national service program to Congress this spring.
- o **Two Components of the Program:** The President's program will have two primary components: 1) The program will create national service opportunities for young people to serve their country and receive money for college or training in return; 2) The program will enable all young people to go to college or receive training to pay back their student loans as a small percentage of their income over time ("income contingent" loans) -- enabling them to hold essential public service jobs that accomplish much but sometimes pay relatively little.

Detail on The First Component:

- o **Funding:** The President has requested \$7.4 billion over the next four years for his national service program. The funding level will rise each year, to \$3.4 billion in 1997. Funding starts at \$400 million for the first year.
- o **Number of Participants:** The number of participants for the first year is estimated at 25,000. By 1997, it is expected that more than 100,000 young people will be paying for their education or training by serving their country and communities.
- o **Eligibility and Benefits:** Students before, during and after college will be eligible to serve for a year or two, and in return receive a small stipend, health and child care benefits where necessary, and an educational benefit to pay for college or job training (or discharge loans incurred for those purposes).
- o **Focus of Service Activities:** The program objectives will be to meet unmet needs in critical areas. For example, young people will be able to serve as teachers in schools where children need extra help; in clinics in areas where people need medical care; in the police force, keeping criminals off the streets and kids out of gangs; and in an environmental corps, recycling waste and fighting pollution.
- o **Administration:** The program will be non-bureaucratic, using venture capital to support entrepreneurs and public-private partnerships to support growing programs. States and local organizations will be given the opportunity to design innovative ways to meet identified national priorities.
- o **Nondisplacement:** The legislation will include strict nondisplacement and nonduplication provisions. National service will only meet needs that are not otherwise being met.

INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S "SUMMER OF SERVICE" PROJECT:

o **Project Overview:** With national service a high priority for the President, he will be organizing a summer project even as his proposed legislation will be making its way through Congress. The project will focus on 4 to 10 communities around the country, involving a diverse group of more than 1,000 young people involved in special efforts to help children at risk.

o **Funding:** The project will be funded with a portion of a \$15 million appropriation in the FY 93 stimulus package. (Additional challenge-grant funding for service corps; for expanding teacher training in service learning; and for re-establishing VISTA's Summer Associates program are also included in the package.)

o **Objectives:** The program has two major goals: To show what national service can accomplish, meeting critical needs and bringing people together; and to develop a leadership corps for future years of national service. National service is such a priority of the President, he wouldn't let it wait for the full program to pass Congress.

o **Targeted Needs:** The programs in the "Summer of Service" will focus on **children-at-risk** in the areas of education, health, crime prevention, and environmental protection. For example, some participants will tutor; some will help bring families into medical clinics; some will develop recreational centers; some will counsel youths to keep them out of gangs.

o **Leadership Training:** The summer project will be designed to develop the leadership skills of the young participants. For several days at the beginning and end of the summer, the participants will gather to share their experiences and complete intensive leadership training.

o **Post-program/Ongoing Benefits:** All participants interested in continuing to serve through the next year will receive placement assistance. Participants with ideas to design their own programs to fight community problems will be able to receive modest Service Entrepreneurial Awards for Change (SEA Change) to realize their plans.

o **Administration:** The Commission on National and Community Service will administer a competitive process to determine what programs participate. The programs will select the participants. The Commission is working quickly to ensure that programs are developed rapidly and effectively to succeed for this summer.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New Brunswick, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN NATIONAL SERVICE ADDRESS

Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

1:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, Nakia Tomlinson for that fine introduction. I wish I could take you with me everywhere. We'd make a great duo there. Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

I'd like to thank President Frank Lawrence for his - Francis Lawrence -- for his fine speech. Does anybody call him Frank? I should have asked. (Laughter.) I want to compliment Professor Benjamin Barber for his leadership and service here. (Applause.) And I want to thank all of you here in the Rutgers community for coming out for what I hope will be a truly historic moment in our nation's history. (Applause.)

In addition to the people who have been introduced here, there are a host of mayors and members of the Assembly and county officials here from your state. We have two former governors, both of whom I served with -- Brendan Byrne and Tom Kean who are out there. I'm glad to see them. (Applause.) My friends. We have a distinguished array of members of the House from New Jersey -- Herb Klein, Bob Manendez, Frank Pallone, Donald Payne -- (applause).

But you have some members of the Congress from all over America here and I want to introduce them, too, because they have taken a lot of trouble to come to Rutgers and because without them and without the people who represent you, the proposal I make today has no hope of passage.

Many members of the Congress for years have believed we ought to do more in national service and some of them are here today. I'd like to begin by introducing your Senator Bill Bradley, who's behind me. (Applause.) I must say, when I walked into this arena, I turned around and asked Bill Bradley if he'd ever shot any baskets in here. I'd be intimidated to be the opposing team in here. (Applause.) Senator Bradley sponsored legislation to establish neighborhood corps and self-reliance scholarships, things that are forerunners of the proposal I came to make.

I'd like to recognize the presence on the platform of Senator Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts -- (applause) -- who chairs the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education, which shepherded the pilot national and community service bill through the Congress in the last session, along with his counterpart who is out here in the audience somewhere. I'd like to ask him to stand up. The Chairman of the House Committee, Congressman Bill Ford, who came all the way from Michigan to be with us. Congressman, would you stand up. (Applause.)

MORE

I'd like to recognize in the audience the presence of Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut, who was one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in the United States. (Applause.)

The member of Congress who introduced many, many years ago, the first piece of national service legislation ever introduced, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Clairborne Pell from Rhode Island is here. (Applause.)

I'd also like to introduce the only person in this audience, at least of our crowd, who doesn't have to look up to Senator Bradley, Senator Jay Rockefeller from West Virginia, an early VISTA volunteer in the United States. (Applause.)

And finally I would like to recognize two other people, one, a member of the United States Senate and one a distinguished American citizen, the first boss of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver, who's up here with me. (Applause.) And his deputy, Senator Harris Wofford, from Pennsylvania. (Applause.) And Mrs. Wofford, I'm glad to see you. (Applause.)

Now, I was involved before I became President in a group called the Democratic Leadership Council, and we made one of the central parts of our platform to reclaim a new majority of Americans for our party the establishment of a system of national service to help people to finance education. And one of our founding members and guiding lights is here, Representative Dave McCurdy from Oklahoma. I'd like for him to stand up. (Applause.)

Let me make this last point, if I might, by way of beginning. None of these things happen at the national level. We empower them to happen and then people have to do things here at the grassroots. And I want to say a special word of thanks to your Governor for supporting the New Jersey Youth Corps and several other projects like it around the state, because if nobody's here to believe in this, it can't happen. And I thank Governor Florio for his support for these things. (Applause.)

I came here to ask all of you to join me in a great national adventure, for in the next few weeks I will ask the United States Congress to join me in creating a new system of voluntary national service -- something that I believe in the next few years will change America forever and for the better.

My parents' generation won new dignity working their way out of the great Depression through programs that provided them the opportunity to serve and to survive. Brave men and women in my own generation waged and won peaceful revolutions here at home for civil rights and human rights, and began service around the world in the Peace Corps and here at home in Vista. Now, Americans of every generation face profound challenges in meeting the needs that have been neglected for too long in this country -- from city streets plagued by crime and drugs to classrooms where girls and boys must learn the skills they need for tomorrow, to hospital wards where patients need more care. All across America we have problems that demand our common attention.

For those who answer the call and meet these challenges, I propose that our country honor your service with new opportunities for education. National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity, and rewarding responsibility. National service is a challenge for Americans from every background and walk of life, and it

values something far more than money. National service is nothing less than the American way to change America. (Applause.)

It is rooted in the concept of community: the simple idea that none of us on our own will ever have as much to cherish about our own lives if we are out here all alone as we will if we work together. That somehow a society really is an organism in which the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. And every one of us, no matter how many privileges with which we are born, can still be enriched by the contributions of the least of us. And that we will never fulfill our individual capacities until, as Americans, we can all be what God meant for us to be. (Applause.)

If that is so -- if that is true, my fellow Americans, and if you believe it, it must therefore follow that each of us has an obligation to serve. For it is perfectly clear that all of us cannot be what we ought to be until those of us who can help others -- and that is nearly all of us -- are doing something to help others live up to their potential. The concept of community and the idea of service are as old as our history. They began the moment America was literally invented.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor." In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln signed into law two visionary programs that helped our people come together again and build America up. The Morrill Act helped states create new land grant colleges. This is a land grant university. The university in my home state was the first land grant college west of the Mississippi River.

In these places, young people learn to make American agriculture and industry the best in the world. The legacy of the Morrill Act is not only our great colleges and universities like Rutgers, but the American tradition that merit and not money should give people a chance for a higher education. (Applause.)

Mr. Lincoln also signed the Homestead Act that offered 100 acres of land for families who had the courage to settle the frontier and farm the wilderness. Its legacy is a nation that stretches from coast to coast. Now we must create a new legacy that gives a new generation of Americans the right and the power to explore the frontiers of science and technology and space. The frontiers of the limitations of our knowledge must be pushed back so that we can do what we need to do. And education is the way to do it, just as surely as it was more than 100 years ago.

Seven decades after the Civil War in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave 2.5 million young people the opportunity to support themselves while working in disaster relief and maintaining forests, beaches, rivers, and parks. Its legacy is not only the restoration of our natural environment, but the restoration of our national spirit. Along with the Works Projects Administration -- the WPA -- the Civilian Conservation Corps symbolized government's effort to provide a nation in depression with the opportunity to work, to build the American community through service. And all over America today, you can see projects -- even today in the 1990s -- built by your parents or your grandparents with the WPA plaque on it -- the CCC plaque on it -- the idea that people should be asked to serve and rewarded for doing it.

In the midst of World War II, President Roosevelt proposed the GI Bill of Rights, which offered returning veterans the opportunity for education in respect to their service to our country in the war. Thanks to the GI Bill, which became a living reality in President Truman's time, more than eight million veterans got advanced education. And half a century later, the enduring legacy of the GI Bill is the strongest economy in the world and the broadest, biggest middle class that any nation has ever enjoyed.

For many in my own generation, the summons to citizenship and service came on this day 32 years ago, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps with Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps. With Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans, he enabled thousands of young men and women to serve on the leading edge of the new frontier, helping people all over the world to become what they ought to be, and bringing them the message by their very lives that America was a great country that stood for good values and human progress.

At its height, the Peace Corps enrolled 16,000 young men and women. Its legacy is not simply goodwill and good works in countries all across the globe, but a profound and lasting change in the way Americans think about their own country and the world.

Shortly after the Peace Corps, Congress, under President Johnson, created the volunteers and service to America. Senator Jay Rockefeller, whom I introduced a moment ago, and many thousands of other Americans went to the hills and hollows of poor places, like West Virginia and Arkansas and Mississippi, to lift up Americans through their service.

The lesson of our whole history is that honoring service and rewarding responsibility is the best investment America can make. And I have seen it today. Across this great land, through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which took the children who lived in the neighborhoods where the riots occurred and gave them a chance to get out into nature and to clean up their own neighborhoods and to lift themselves and their friends in the effort; in Boston with the City Year program -- with all these programs represented here in this room today, the spirit of service is sweeping this country and giving us a chance to put the quilt of America together in a way that makes a strength out of diversity; that lifts us up out of our problems; and that keeps our people looking toward a better and brighter future. (Applause.)

National service recognizes a simple but powerful truth -- that we make progress not by governmental action alone, but we do best when the people and their government work at the grassroots in genuine partnership. The idea of national service permeates many other aspects of the programs I have sought to bring to America. The economic plan that I announced to Congress, for example, will offer every child the chance for a healthy start through immunization and basic health care and Head Start. (Applause.) But still it depends on parents doing the best they can as parents and children making the most of their opportunities.

The plan can help to rebuild our cities and our small communities through physical investments that will put people to work. But Americans still must work to restore the

MORE

social fabric that has been torn in too many communities. Unless people know we can work together in our schools and our offices, in our factories, unless they believe we can walk the streets safely together, and unless we do that together, governmental action alone is doomed to fail. (Applause.)

The national service plan I propose will be built on the same principles as the old GI Bill -- when people give something of invaluable merit to their country, they ought to be rewarded with the opportunity to further their education. National service will challenge our people to do the work that should and indeed must be done and cannot be done unless the American people voluntarily give themselves up to that work. It will invest in the future of every person who serves.

And as we rekindle the spirit of national service, I know it won't disappoint many of the students here to know that we also have to reform the whole system of student loans. (Applause.) We should begin by making it easier for young people to pay back their student loans and enabling them to hold jobs -- (applause) -- enabling them to hold jobs that may accomplish much, but pay little.

Today, when students borrow money for an education, the repayment plan they make is based largely on how much they have to repay, without regard to what the jobs they take themselves pay. It is a powerful incentive, therefore, for young college graduates to do just the reverse of what we might want them to do; to take a job that pays more even it is less rewarding because that is the job that will make the repayment of the loans possible. It is also, unfortunately, a powerful incentive for some not to make the payments at all, which is unforgivable.

So what we seek to do is to enable the American students to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their own income over time. This is especially important after a decade in which the cost of a college education has gone up even more rapidly than the cost of health care. (Applause.) Making a major contribution to one of the more disturbing statistics in America today, which is that the college dropout rate in this country is now 2.5 times the high school dropout rate. We can do better than that through national service and adequate financing. (Applause.)

The present system is unacceptable, not only for students, but for the taxpayers as well. It's complicated and it's expensive. It costs the taxpayers of our country about \$4 billion every year to finance the student loan program because of loan defaults and the cost of administering the program. And I believe we can do better.

Beyond reforming this system for financing higher education, the national service program more importantly will create new opportunities for Americans to work off outstanding loans or to build up credits for future education and training opportunities.

We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young who want to further their college education to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors in reading and mathematics. We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new police corps that will walk beats and work with neighborhoods and build the kind of communities ties that will prevent crime from happening in the

first place so that our police officers won't have to spend all their time chasing criminals. (Applause.)

We'll ask young people to work, to help control pollution and recycle waste, to paint darkened buildings and clean up neighborhoods. (Applause.) To work with senior citizens and combat homelessness and help children in trouble get out of it and build a better life. (Applause.)

And these are just a few of the things that you will be able to, for most of the decisions about what you can do will be made by people like those in this room, people who run the programs represented by all of those wearing these different kinds of tee-shirts. We don't seek a national bureaucracy. I have spoken often about how we need to reinvent the government to make it more efficient and less bureaucratic, to make it more responsive to people at the grassroots level.

And I want national service to do just that. I want it to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people. (Applause.)

And as you well know, that's what's happening all across America today. People are already serving their neighbors in their neighborhoods. Just this morning, I was inspired to see and to speak with students from Rutgers serving their community, from mentoring young people as Big Sisters, to helping older people learn new skills.

I met a lady today who has 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who dropped out of school the year before I was born -- is about to become a high school graduate shortly because of the efforts of this program. (Applause.) Is she back there? Stand up. (Applause.)

I'm impressed by the spirit behind the Rutgers civic education and community service program: the understanding that community service enriches education, that students should not only take the lessons they learn in class out into the community, but bring the lessons they learn in the community back into the classroom. (Applause.)

And that spirit, during this academic year alone, more than 800 students from Rutgers are contributing more than 60,000 hours of community service -- in New Brunswick, in Camden, in Newark, throughout this state. (Applause.)

This morning I also met with members of the New Jersey Youth Corps. Here they are. (Applause.) Stand up. (Applause.) Young people who are looking for a second chance at school, and who when coming back to finish their high school degrees, also serve in their communities. Through this program, more than 6,500 young adults have contributed over 900,000 hours of service to the state of New Jersey. (Applause.)

They've done everything from paint senior citizens' homes, to tutor and mentor children in after-school programs. For the future of our state and nation, we need more young people like those in the New Jersey Youth Corps who exemplify the spirit of service.

That spirit also moves people all across the nation. In my state, there's a young woman named Antoinette Jackson, who's a senior in a small community called Gauld, Arkansas. She's a member of the Delta Service Corps. The rural Mississippi

Delta is still the poorest place in America. And in that area, she works with a "Lend a Hand" program which runs a thrift shop to provide hungry and homeless people with food and clothing. And in return, the Delta Four is going to help her attend college so that she can make an even greater contribution. (Applause.)

The spirit of service also moves a young man I met about a year ago named Stephen Spalos, who works with a City Year program in Boston. At age 23, he's had some hard times in his life. But as he puts it, City Year gave him a place and the tools to be able to start over. He works as a team leader, a mentor, a tutor, a project manager for a bunch of young people who restore senior citizens' homes.

Last year when I visited his project, he literally took his sweatshirt off his back and gave it to me so that I would never forget the kids at City Year. And I still wear it when I go jogging, always remembering what they're doing in Boston to help those kids. (Applause.)

The spirit of service moves Orah Fireman, a graduate of Wesleyan College. As a sophomore in high school, she worked with disadvantaged children in upstate New York. That experience changed her life. And during her high school and college years, she continued to work with children. And now that she is out of college, she has begun what will probably be a lifetime of service by working at a school for emotionally disturbed children in Boston. She wants other people to have the opportunity to serve, and she wrote this: Service work teaches responsibility and compassion. It fights alienation by proving to young people that they can make a difference. There is no lesson more important than that.

Well, there are stories like this in this room and all across America. And we're going to create thousands of more of them through national service. We'll work with groups with proven track records to serve their community, giving them the support they need. And if you have more good ideas, if you're entrepreneurs of national service, we'll let you compete for our form of venture capital -- develop new programs to serve your neighbors. That's how we want the national service program to grow every year -- rewarding results, building on success, and bubbling up from the grassroots energy and compassion and intellect of America.

I don't want service to wait while this potential is wasted. That's why I want to make this summer a summer of service, when young people can not only serve their communities, but build a foundation for a new national effort. I've asked Congress to invest in and I'm asking young people to participate in a special effort in national service and leadership training just this summer. We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer.

Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential. Some of them will tutor. Some will work on programs to immunize young children from preventable childhood diseases. Some will help to develop and run recreational centers or reclaim urban parks from dealers and debris. Some will counsel people a few years younger than themselves to keep them out of gangs and into good activities. And everyone will learn about serving our country and helping our communities.

MORE

At the end of this summer, we'll bring all these people together for several days of debriefing and training, and then they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting and I expect to listen a lot more than I talk. I'll ask leaders from Congress, from business, labor, religious, and community groups to attend the youth service summit, too. We'll give those who serve the honor they deserve, and we'll learn a lot more about how to build this national service program. And from the thousand pioneers of this summer, I want the national service to grow 100-fold in the next four years. (Applause.)

But even when hundreds of thousands are serving, I want to maintain the pioneer spirit of this first few months, because national service can make America new again. It can help solve our problems, educate our people, and build our communities back together. So if anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech by radio or television or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it national service. We're going to pick them. And I can't promise you'll be selected, but I promise you'll be considered. I want to engage the energies of America in this effort. (Applause.)

I also want to say that you shouldn't wait for the summer or for a new program. We need to begin now. We are going to be looking for the kinds of ideas that we ought to be funding. This is Monday. I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you think you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers, to join the effort to renew our community and to rebuild our country; and to write to me about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood -- time to return to our roots an excitement, an idealism, and an energy. (Applause.)

I have to tell you that there are some among us who do not believe that young Americans will answer a call to action, who believe that our people now measure their success merely in the accumulation of material things. They believe this call to service will go unanswered. But I believe they are dead wrong. (Applause.)

And so, especially to the young Americans here, I ask you to prove that those who doubt you are wrong about your generation. And today I ask all of you who are young in spirit -- whether you are a 10-year-old in a service program in our schools who reads to still younger children, or a 72-year-old who has become a foster grandparent -- I ask you all to believe that you can contribute to your community and your country. And in so doing, you will find the best in yourself.

You will learn the lessons about your life that you might not ever learn any other way. You will learn again that each of us has the spark of potential to accomplish something truly and enduringly unique. You will experience the satisfaction of making a connection in a way with another person that you could do in no other way. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is exceeded only by the joy of helping someone else do the same thing. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or what you earn or what position you hold, but just because of what you have given to someone else. (Applause.) You will understand in personal ways the wisdom of the words spoken years ago by Martin Luther King who said "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." (Applause.)

I ask you all, my fellow Americans, to support our proposal for national service and to live a proposal for national service; to learn the meaning of America at its best, and to recreate for others America at its best. We are not just another country. We have always been a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities, and bound together, not by bloodlines, but by beliefs. At an age in time when people all across the world are being literally torn apart by racial hatreds, by ethnic hatreds, by religious divisions, we are a nation, with all of our problems, where people can come together across racial and religious lines and hold hands and work together, not just to endure our differences, but to celebrate them. I ask you to make America celebrate that again. (Applause.)

I ask you, in closing, to commit yourselves to this season of service because America needs it. We need every one of you to live up to the fullest of your potential, and we need you to reach those who are not here and who will never hear this talk, and who will never have the future they could otherwise have if not for something that you could do. The great challenge of your generation is to prove that every person here in this great land can live up to the fullest of their God-given capacity. If we do it, the 21st century will be the American century. The American Dream will be kept alive if you will today answer the call to service.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:50 P.M. EST

Summer of Service Program Design

To demonstrate the power of national service to change both communities served and individuals serving, the President has asked Congress to appropriate \$15 million in the economic stimulus package for a Summer of Service.

The Summer of Service initiative will involve more than 1,000 young people in programs in a limited number of urban and rural areas that will (1) meet the unmet needs of children at risk in the areas of education, health, public safety and environment; and (2) train the young people to become leaders of the full-year national service program.

The Commission on National and Community Service will select programs for funding based on the statutory authority contained in the National and Community Service Act of 1990. Current matching requirements will leverage additional funding to support the funding contained in the economic stimulus package. The following activities indicate examples of services that programs in the Summer of Service might provide:

- assisting health care providers in implementing immunization programs for very young children;
- individualized literacy programs;
- educational enrichment and recreational activities for children at risk of dropping out of school;
- projects to test an entire neighborhood for lead paint.

Building on Existing Models

Existing not-for-profit organizations (service providers, schools, higher education institutions, youth corps, and/or, public agencies) will be invited to submit program proposals to the Commission. Programs that are funded will be required to reflect the following components, among others:

- a detailed plan showing measurable outcomes from the services to be rendered (e.g., how many children immunized or tutored; how many parks cleaned up or established);
- a minimum of eight weeks of service during the summer of 1993, not including the national training and related activities described below;
- a proven track record of running community service programs of the type proposed;

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1993 A21

Colman McCarthy

Clinton's Call to Service

No speech in the Clinton campaign was more inspirational than the candidate's remarks at the University of Notre Dame last September. As president, Clinton didn't match it until his March 1 speech at Rutgers University. At both campuses, he issued calls for national service for college students.

At Notre Dame: "If we are truly to practice what we preach, Americans of every faith and viewpoint should come together to promote the common good." It was similar at Rutgers: "National service is nothing less than the American way to change America."

Clinton's effort to rally the young to altruism has created a debate that pits idealism against realism, as if the two are forever locked in conflict. Where's the money, ask realists, for the tuition-for-service program that Clinton is proposing: \$389 million in scholarships for 25,000 students the first year and \$3.4 billion for 100,000 by 1997. Realists say that Clinton's sweet talk ignores sour facts: There's no money for a new social program.

From that negative, despairing argument, Clinton is supposed to get the message: Don't even try. That means don't lead, just preside. The past 12 years witnessed two presidents in the White House. Most first-year college students today were in kindergarten when Ronald Reagan was elected and in fourth grade when reelected. They came into adolescence under a politician who tried nothing by way of linking government with national service. Instead of selflessness to others, he extolled self-enrichment.

Evidence suggests that the young weren't seduced either by Reagan's message of contempt for government or his disdain for altruism. The 1980s saw a surge in campus community-service programs, such as the ones Clinton praised at Notre Dame and Rutgers. Amnesty International chapters increased on campuses, as did those of Oxfam USA. Applications to Peace Corps remained high, as they did for such private domestic programs as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and

Yet Clinton's philosophy of service represents intellectual newness to many in high school and college. John F. Kennedy's appeals to national service are seen as historical relics, known from books but not live on MTV as are Clinton's. It wasn't a politician's celebrityhood that created support for the president at Notre Dame and Rutgers. Students saw in him someone with a positive message—put community interest above self-interest—that many professors and counselors at their schools had been exposing them to all along: If you can't teach the illiterate, comfort the sick and handicapped, or mend whatever and whoever is broken during your college years, you're receiving a limited education.

Clinton deserves to be honored for taking a risk that he'll be able to raise the money for his program of national service. Critics in Congress with no greater agenda than carping about ideas they were too dull-witted or timid to propose themselves now lie in wait for the president when he comes in with specifics. They will say Clinton's ideas are dangerous because they are romantic and utopian, a charge that ignores the thought of James Madison in 1788: "No theoretical checks—no form of government, can render us secure. To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people is a chimerical idea."

Some critics charge that Clinton is into bribery: tuition money for service. While the details are being worked out on how much money for what service, who complains that the U.S. Army entices recruits with as much as \$20,000 toward a college education. Why isn't it bribery when ROTC programs pay students to shine their boots occasionally and take gut courses in military lore. Nor is much alarm expressed over the most lavish enticement of all: a free ride at the military academies in exchange for a few years in uniform after graduation.

Clinton's Rutgers speech marked the 32nd anniversary of the Peace Corps. Kennedy's spirited message was repeated by Clinton: "Answer the call to service." In "The Bold Experiment," a history of the Peace Corps by Gerard Rice, one of those who responded to Kennedy's call explained why: "I'd never done anything political, patriotic or unselfish because nobody ever asked me to. Kennedy asked."

So has Clinton.

National Service — Now

The New York Times
2/28/93

By Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON

A path is dead. Of everything I've learned in my first few weeks in the White House, that's the thing that's made me the happiest. Whether or not the people I've met outside the capital support the changes I have proposed, they're all saying they're ready to rebuild our country.

But they know, as I do, that no economic plan can do it alone. A plan can make vaccines available to children, but alone it will not administer the shots to all of them. It can put security guards in the schools, but alone it will not take gangs off the streets. And it can provide more aid for college, but alone it will not make the costs of college less daunting for the middle class.

That's why I believe we need national service — now.

If Congress acts quickly enough, just months from now more than 1,000 young people will start serving our country in a special summer effort. In four years, the successors to these pioneers will multiply a hundredfold. Imagine: an army of 100,000 young people restoring urban and rural communities and giving their labor in return for education and training.

National service is an idea as old as America. Time and again, our people have found new ways to honor citizenship and match the needs of changing times.

Lincoln's Homestead Act rewarded those who had the courage to settle the frontier with the land to raise a family. Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Act insured that Americans who work a lifetime can grow old with dignity. Harry S. Truman's G.I. Bill rewarded the service of my father's generation, transforming youthful veterans into an army of educated civilians that led our nation into a new era.

For my generation, the reality of national service was born 32 years ago tomorrow, when President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps. At its peak, the Peace Corps enrolled only 16,000 volunteers yet it changed the way a generation of Americans look at themselves and the world.

Today, the spirit of our people once again can meet head-on the troubles of our times.

The task is as complex as our chal-

President Clinton will deliver a speech on national service tomorrow at Rutgers University.

lenge is great. We must combine the intensity of the post-World War II years with the idealism of the early 1960's — and help young people afford a college education or job training.

In 1993, we'll restore the spirit of service by asking our people to serve here at home. We won't rekindle the wars we won, but we'll tackle the growing domestic dangers that threaten our future.

Our new initiative will embody the same principles as the old G.I. Bill. It will challenge our people to serve our country and do the work that should — and must — be done. It will give those who serve the honor and rewards they deserve. It will invest in the future of the quiet heroes who invest in the future of others.

The national service legislation that I will send to Congress shortly will give our people the chance to serve in two basic ways:

First, it will make it easier for young people to hold low-paying public service jobs and still pay off their student loans.

Under our program, Americans will be able to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their income over time. By giving graduates the chance to repay loans on an affordable, reasonable schedule, this "income-contingent" program will allow our people to do the work that our communities really need.

Second, our legislation will create new opportunities for Americans to serve our country for a year or two — and receive financial support for education or training in return.

We'll offer people of different ages and educational levels different ways to serve. And to focus our energies and get the most for our money, we'll direct special attention to a few areas:

- We'll ask thousands of young people to serve in our schools — some as teachers, others as youth mentors, reading specialists and math tutors. They'll join the effort to insure that our schools offer the best education in the world.

- We'll send people into medical clinics to help immunize the nation's 2-year-olds. Some participants will be qualified to give the shots, but thousands of others can provide essential support, contacting parents and following up to make sure children get the shots they need.

- We'll help police forces across the country through a new Police Corps trained to walk beats. We'll also organize others in our communities to keep kids out of gangs and off drugs.

- We'll put still others to work controlling pollution and recycling waste, to help insure that we pass on to our children a nation that is clean and safe for years to come.

Our national service program will offer more than benefits to individuals. We'll help pay operating costs for community groups with proved track records, providing the support they'll need to grow. And we'll let entrepreneurs compete for venture capital to develop new service programs.

While the Federal Government will provide the seed money for national service, we are determined that the participants — the individuals who serve and the groups that sponsor their service — will guide the process. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy

would be self-defeating; it would squash the spirit of innovation that national service demands.

By design, our national service program will not happen overnight. Instead, it will grow year by year, with funding reaching \$3 billion in 1997. And as I've said many times, I believe it will be the best money we ever spend.

If Congress gives us the chance, this summer we'll create an eight-week leadership training program. We'll recruit more than 1,000 young people for special projects to meet the needs of children at risk — and to train the first class of full-year participants.

In the first full year of our initiative, we'll launch our flexible loan program and aim to put tens of thousands of people to work. By 1997, more than 100,000 citizens could be serving our country, getting education and training benefits in return. And hundreds of thousands more people could be doing invaluable work because college loans no longer block the way.

But the best planning and the most ambitious design won't make this vision of national service a reality. That responsibility ultimately rests with the American people.

I am convinced that after 12 years of drifting apart instead of working together we are ready to meet the challenge. From a 14-year-old boy in North Dakota who sent us \$1,000 to help pay off the deficit, to a 92-year-old widower in Kansas who followed his example, people are demonstrating that they want to give something back to their nation.

National service will exercise our talents and rebuild our communities. It will harness the energy of our youth and attack the problems of our time. It will bring together men and women of every age and race and lift up our nation's spirit. And for all of us, it will rekindle the excitement of being Americans. □

**THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE
NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICE**

March 3, 1993

Contact: Diana Aldridge
(202) 456-6444

THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NATIONAL SERVICE AT RUTGERS:

On the 32nd anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps, President Clinton spent a day in New Jersey challenging young people to serve their country by meeting pressing national needs.

Before his address at Rutgers University, the President visited the New Brunswick Public Schools Adult Learning Center, and spoke to participants from both Rutgers and the community about their outstanding service work.

Then speaking before what the *New York Times* termed a "wildly enthusiastic" crowd at Rutgers, the President challenged America's young people to "make America new again" by serving their country.

The President also detailed his national service plan and issued his challenge to young people in a taped interview with MTV. Excerpts aired Monday and Tuesday in a half-hour MTV special, "Bill Clinton: His Plan, Your Future."

**The VICE PRESIDENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION PRINCIPALS
ENCOURAGE SERVICE:**

Also on Monday, March 1:

Vice President Gore visited the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and gave a speech at the University of Wisconsin on national service and the environment.

Mrs. Gore visited a Richmond emergency shelter for families, and spoke to student service providers at the University of Richmond.

Five Cabinet Secretaries highlighted service on Monday: Secretary Babbitt worked with the Durham Conservation Corps in Durham, North Carolina; Secretary Pena specifically addressed service in a speech to the National Association of County Organizations; Secretary Reich visited YouthBuild in Boston; and Secretary Shalala visited the Sick Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C. On Tuesday, Secretary Espy gave a speech on national service at Howard University.

(more)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S RUTGERS ADDRESS:

- "National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity and rewarding responsibility.
- "We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young ... to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors ... to help our police forces across the nation ... to help control pollution and waste ... to work with senior citizens and combat homelessness..."
- "I want [national service] to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people."
- "I want to make this summer a summer of service.... We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer. Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential.... At the end of this summer... they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting..."

The President specifically **challenged young people** to serve:

- "If anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech ... or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it National Service."
- "I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers; to join the effort to renew our community and to rebuild our country; and to write to be about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood..."

(more)

Page Three

PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST:

Public and press interest in the President's national service plans was wide-spread.

Extensive coverage of the President's speech included front page stories in **USA Today**, the **Los Angeles Times**, and the **Philadelphia Inquirer**, among others. ABC News' "**American Agenda**" highlighted successful service programs and young people exemplifying the President's national service message in Washington State.

MTV produced its broadcast to encourage young people to examine and respond to the President's plans for national service. In addition to the interview with President Clinton, the special included footage of h's speech as he issued his "challenge to serve" to young people, and President Kennedy announcing the Peace Corps 32 years ago.

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INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE:

- o **Timing:** The President will submit legislation for his national service program to Congress this spring.
- o **Two Components of the Program:** The President's program will have two primary components: 1) The program will create national service opportunities for young people to serve their country and receive money for college or training in return; 2) The program will enable **all** young people to go to college or receive training to pay back their student loans as a small percentage of their income over time ("income contingent" loans) -- enabling them to hold essential public service jobs that accomplish much but sometimes pay relatively little.

Detail on The First Component:

- o **Funding:** The President has requested \$7.4 billion over the next four years for his national service program. The funding level will rise each year, to \$3.4 billion in 1997. Funding starts at \$400 million for the first year.
- o **Number of Participants:** The number of participants for the first year is estimated at 25,000. By 1997, it is expected that more than 100,000 young people will be paying for their education or training by serving their country and communities.
- o **Eligibility and Benefits:** Students before, during and after college will be eligible to serve for a year or two, and in return receive a small stipend, health and child care benefits where necessary, and an educational benefit to pay for college or job training (or discharge loans incurred for those purposes).
- o **Focus of Service Activities:** The program objectives will be to meet unmet needs in critical areas. For example, young people will be able to serve as teachers in schools where children need extra help; in clinics in areas where people need medical care; in the police force, keeping criminals off the streets and kids out of **gangs**; and in an environmental corps, recycling waste and fighting pollution.
- o **Administration:** The program will be non-bureaucratic, using venture capital to support entrepreneurs and public-private partnerships to support growing programs. States and local organizations will be given the opportunity to design innovative ways to meet identified national priorities.
- o **Nondisplacement:** The legislation will include strict nondisplacement and nonduplication provisions. National service will only meet needs that are not otherwise being met.

INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S "SUMMER OF SERVICE" PROJECT:

o **Project Overview:** With national service a high priority for the President, he will be organizing a summer project even as his proposed legislation will be making its way through Congress. The project will focus on 4 to 10 communities around the country, involving a diverse group of more than 1,000 young people involved in special efforts to help children at risk.

o **Funding:** The project will be funded with a portion of a \$15 million appropriation in the FY 93 stimulus package. (Additional challenge-grant funding for service corps; for expanding teacher training in service learning; and for re-establishing VISTA's Summer Associates program are also included in the package.)

o **Objectives:** The program has two major goals: To show what national service can accomplish, meeting critical needs and bringing people together; and to develop a leadership corps for future years of national service. National service is such a priority of the President, he wouldn't let it wait for the full program to pass Congress.

o **Targeted Needs:** The programs in the "Summer of Service" will focus on **children-at-risk** in the areas of education, health, crime prevention, and environmental protection. For example, some participants will tutor; some will help bring families into medical clinics; some will develop recreational centers; some will counsel youths to keep them out of gangs.

o **Leadership Training:** The summer project will be designed to develop the leadership skills of the young participants. For several days at the beginning and end of the summer, the participants will gather to share their experiences and complete intensive leadership training.

o **Post-program/Ongoing Benefits:** All participants interested in continuing to serve through the next year will receive placement assistance. Participants with ideas to design their own programs to fight community problems will be able to receive modest Service Entrepreneurial Awards for Change (SEA Change) to realize their plans.

o **Administration:** The Commission on National and Community Service will administer a competitive process to determine what programs participate. The programs will select the participants. The Commission is working quickly to ensure that programs are developed rapidly and effectively to succeed for this summer.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New Brunswick, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN NATIONAL SERVICE ADDRESS

Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

1:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, Nakia Tomlinson for that fine introduction. I wish I could take you with me everywhere. We'd make a great duo there. Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

I'd like to thank President Frank Lawrence for his - Francis Lawrence -- for his fine speech. Does anybody call him Frank? I should have asked. (Laughter.) I want to compliment Professor Benjamin Barber for his leadership and service here. (Applause.) And I want to thank all of you here in the Rutgers community for coming out for what I hope will be a truly historic moment in our nation's history. (Applause.)

In addition to the people who have been introduced here, there are a host of mayors and members of the Assembly and county officials here from your state. We have two former governors, both of whom I served with -- Brendan Byrne and Tom Kean who are out there. I'm glad to see them. (Applause.) My friends. We have a distinguished array of members of the House from New Jersey -- Herb Klein, Bob Manendez, Frank Pallone, Donald Payne -- (applause).

But you have some members of the Congress from all over America here and I want to introduce them, too, because they have taken a lot of trouble to come to Rutgers and because without them and without the people who represent you, the proposal I make today has no hope of passage.

Many members of the Congress for years have believed we ought to do more in national service and some of them are here today. I'd like to begin by introducing your Senator Bill Bradley, who's behind me. (Applause.) I must say, when I walked into this arena, I turned around and asked Bill Bradley if he'd ever shot any baskets in here. I'd be intimidated to be the opposing team in here. (Applause.) Senator Bradley sponsored legislation to establish neighborhood corps and self-reliance scholarships, things that are forerunners of the proposal I came to make.

I'd like to recognize the presence on the platform of Senator Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts -- (applause) -- who chairs the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education, which shepherded the pilot national and community service bill through the Congress in the last session, along with his counterpart who is out here in the audience somewhere. I'd like to ask him to stand up. The Chairman of the House Committee, Congressman Bill Ford, who came all the way from Michigan to be with us. Congressman, would you stand up. (Applause.)

MORE

I'd like to recognize in the audience the presence of Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut, who was one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in the United States. (Applause.)

The member of Congress who introduced many, many years ago, the first piece of national service legislation ever introduced, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Clairborne Pell from Rhode Island is here. (Applause.)

I'd also like to introduce the only person in this audience, at least of our crowd, who doesn't have to look up to Senator Bradley, Senator Jay Rockefeller from West Virginia, an early VISTA volunteer in the United States. (Applause.)

And finally I would like to recognize two other people, one, a member of the United States Senate and one a distinguished American citizen, the first boss of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver, who's up here with me. (Applause.) And his deputy, Senator Harris Wofford, from Pennsylvania. (Applause.) And Mrs. Wofford, I'm glad to see you. (Applause.)

Now, I was involved before I became President in a group called the Democratic Leadership Council, and we made one of the central parts of our platform to reclaim a new majority of Americans for our party the establishment of a system of national service to help people to finance education. And one of our founding members and guiding lights is here, Representative Dave McCurdy from Oklahoma. I'd like for him to stand up. (Applause.)

Let me make this last point, if I might, by way of beginning. None of these things happen at the national level. We empower them to happen and then people have to do things here at the grassroots. And I want to say a special word of thanks to your Governor for supporting the New Jersey Youth Corps and several other projects like it around the state, because if nobody's here to believe in this, it can't happen. And I thank Governor Florio for his support for these things. (Applause.)

I came here to ask all of you to join me in a great national adventure, for in the next few weeks I will ask the United States Congress to join me in creating a new system of voluntary national service -- something that I believe in the next few years will change America forever and for the better.

My parents' generation won new dignity working their way out of the great Depression through programs that provided them the opportunity to serve and to survive. Brave men and women in my own generation waged and won peaceful revolutions here at home for civil rights and human rights, and began service around the world in the Peace Corps and here at home in Vista. Now, Americans of every generation face profound challenges in meeting the needs that have been neglected for too long in this country -- from city streets plagued by crime and drugs to classrooms where girls and boys must learn the skills they need for tomorrow, to hospital wards where patients need more care. All across America we have problems that demand our common attention.

For those who answer the call and meet these challenges, I propose that our country honor your service with new opportunities for education. National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity, and rewarding responsibility. National service is a challenge for Americans from every background and walk of life, and it

values something far more than money. National service is nothing less than the American way to change America. (Applause.)

It is rooted in the concept of community: the simple idea that none of us on our own will ever have as much to cherish about our own lives if we are out here all alone as we will if we work together. That somehow a society really is an organism in which the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. And every one of us, no matter how many privileges with which we are born, can still be enriched by the contributions of the least of us. And that we will never fulfill our individual capacities until, as Americans, we can all be what God meant for us to be. (Applause.)

If that is so -- if that is true, my fellow Americans, and if you believe it, it must therefore follow that each of us has an obligation to serve. For it is perfectly clear that all of us cannot be what we ought to be until those of us who can help others -- and that is nearly all of us -- are doing something to help others live up to their potential. The concept of community and the idea of service are as old as our history. They began the moment America was literally invented.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor." In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln signed into law two visionary programs that helped our people come together again and build America up. The Morrill Act helped states create new land grant colleges. This is a land grant university. The university in my home state was the first land grant college west of the Mississippi River.

In these places, young people learn to make American agriculture and industry the best in the world. The legacy of the Morrill Act is not only our great colleges and universities like Rutgers, but the American tradition that merit and not money should give people a chance for a higher education. (Applause.)

Mr. Lincoln also signed the Homestead Act that offered 100 acres of land for families who had the courage to settle the frontier and farm the wilderness. Its legacy is a nation that stretches from coast to coast. Now we must create a new legacy that gives a new generation of Americans the right and the power to explore the frontiers of science and technology and space. The frontiers of the limitations of our knowledge must be pushed back so that we can do what we need to do. And education is the way to do it, just as surely as it was more than 100 years ago.

Seven decades after the Civil War in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave 2.5 million young people the opportunity to support themselves while working in disaster relief and maintaining forests, beaches, rivers, and parks. Its legacy is not only the restoration of our natural environment, but the restoration of our national spirit. Along with the Works Projects Administration -- the WPA -- the Civilian Conservation Corps symbolized government's effort to provide a nation in depression with the opportunity to work, to build the American community through service. And all over America today, you can see projects -- even today in the 1990s -- built by your parents or your grandparents with the WPA plaque on it -- the CCC plaque on it -- the idea that people should be asked to serve and rewarded for doing it.

MORE

In the midst of World War II, President Roosevelt proposed the GI Bill of Rights, which offered returning veterans the opportunity for education in respect to their service to our country in the war. Thanks to the GI Bill, which became a living reality in President Truman's time, more than eight million veterans got advanced education. And half a century later, the enduring legacy of the GI Bill is the strongest economy in the world and the broadest, biggest middle class that any nation has ever enjoyed.

For many in my own generation, the summons to citizenship and service came on this day 32 years ago, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps with Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps. With Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans, he enabled thousands of young men and women to serve on the leading edge of the new frontier, helping people all over the world to become what they ought to be, and bringing them the message by their very lives that America was a great country that stood for good values and human progress.

At its height, the Peace Corps enrolled 16,000 young men and women. Its legacy is not simply goodwill and good works in countries all across the globe, but a profound and lasting change in the way Americans think about their own country and the world.

Shortly after the Peace Corps, Congress, under President Johnson, created the volunteers and service to America. Senator Jay Rockefeller, whom I introduced a moment ago, and many thousands of other Americans went to the hills and hollows of poor places, like West Virginia and Arkansas and Mississippi, to lift up Americans through their service.

The lesson of our whole history is that honoring service and rewarding responsibility is the best investment America can make. And I have seen it today. Across this great land, through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which took the children who lived in the neighborhoods where the riots occurred and gave them a chance to get out into nature and to clean up their own neighborhoods and to lift themselves and their friends in the effort; in Boston with the City Year program -- with all these programs represented here in this room today, the spirit of service is sweeping this country and giving us a chance to put the quilt of America together in a way that makes a strength out of diversity; that lifts us up out of our problems; and that keeps our people looking toward a better and brighter future. (Applause.)

National service recognizes a simple but powerful truth -- that we make progress not by governmental action alone, but we do best when the people and their government work at the grassroots in genuine partnership. The idea of national service permeates many other aspects of the programs I have sought to bring to America. The economic plan that I announced to Congress, for example, will offer every child the chance for a healthy start through immunization and basic health care and Head Start. (Applause.) But still it depends on parents doing the best they can as parents and children making the most of their opportunities.

The plan can help to rebuild our cities and our small communities through physical investments that will put people to work. But Americans still must work to restore the

MORE

social fabric that has been torn in too many communities. Unless people know we can work together in our schools and our offices, in our factories, unless they believe we can walk the streets safely together, and unless we do that together, governmental action alone is doomed to fail. (Applause.)

The national service plan I propose will be built on the same principles as the old GI Bill -- when people give something of invaluable merit to their country, they ought to be rewarded with the opportunity to further their education. National service will challenge our people to do the work that should and indeed must be done and cannot be done unless the American people voluntarily give themselves up to that work. It will invest in the future of every person who serves.

And as we rekindle the spirit of national service, I know it won't disappoint many of the students here to know that we also have to reform the whole system of student loans. (Applause.) We should begin by making it easier for young people to pay back their student loans and enabling them to hold jobs -- (applause) -- enabling them to hold jobs that may accomplish much, but pay little.

Today, when students borrow money for an education, the repayment plan they make is based largely on how much they have to repay, without regard to what the jobs they take themselves pay. It is a powerful incentive, therefore, for young college graduates to do just the reverse of what we might want them to do; to take a job that pays more even it is less rewarding because that is the job that will make the repayment of the loans possible. It is also, unfortunately, a powerful incentive for some not to make the payments at all, which is unforgivable.

So what we seek to do is to enable the American students to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their own income over time. This is especially important after a decade in which the cost of a college education has gone up even more rapidly than the cost of health care. (Applause.) Making a major contribution to one of the more disturbing statistics in America today, which is that the college dropout rate in this country is now 2.5 times the high school dropout rate. We can do better than that through national service and adequate financing. (Applause.)

The present system is unacceptable, not only for students, but for the taxpayers as well. It's complicated and it's expensive. It costs the taxpayers of our country about \$4 billion every year to finance the student loan program because of loan defaults and the cost of administering the program. And I believe we can do better.

Beyond reforming this system for financing higher education, the national service program more importantly will create new opportunities for Americans to work off outstanding loans or to build up credits for future education and training opportunities.

We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young who want to further their college education to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors in reading and mathematics. We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new police corps that will walk beats and work with neighborhoods and build the kind of communities ties that will prevent crime from happening in the

first place so that our police officers won't have to spend all their time chasing criminals. (Applause.)

We'll ask young people to work, to help control pollution and recycle waste, to paint darkened buildings and clean up neighborhoods. (Applause.) To work with senior citizens and combat homelessness and help children in trouble get out of it and build a better life. (Applause.)

And these are just a few of the things that you will be able to, for most of the decisions about what you can do will be made by people like those in this room, people who run the programs represented by all of those wearing these different kinds of tee-shirts. We don't seek a national bureaucracy. I have spoken often about how we need to reinvent the government to make it more efficient and less bureaucratic, to make it more responsive to people at the grassroots level.

And I want national service to do just that. I want it to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people. (Applause.)

And as you well know, that's what's happening all across America today. People are already serving their neighbors in their neighborhoods. Just this morning, I was inspired to see and to speak with students from Rutgers serving their community, from mentoring young people as Big Sisters, to helping older people learn new skills.

I met a lady today who has 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who dropped out of school the year before I was born -- is about to become a high school graduate shortly because of the efforts of this program. (Applause.) Is she back there? Stand up. (Applause.)

I'm impressed by the spirit behind the Rutgers civic education and community service program: the understanding that community service enriches education, that students should not only take the lessons they learn in class out into the community, but bring the lessons they learn in the community back into the classroom. (Applause.)

And that spirit, during this academic year alone, more than 800 students from Rutgers are contributing more than 60,000 hours of community service -- in New Brunswick, in Camden, in Newark, throughout this state. (Applause.)

This morning I also met with members of the New Jersey Youth Corps. Here they are. (Applause.) Stand up. (Applause.) Young people who are looking for a second chance at school, and who when coming back to finish their high school degrees, also serve in their communities. Through this program, more than 6,500 young adults have contributed over 900,000 hours of service to the state of New Jersey. (Applause.)

They've done everything from paint senior citizens' homes, to tutor and mentor children in after-school programs. For the future of our state and nation, we need more young people like those in the New Jersey Youth Corps who exemplify the spirit of service.

That spirit also moves people all across the nation. In my state, there's a young woman named Antoinette Jackson, who's a senior in a small community called Gauld, Arkansas. She's a member of the Delta Service Corps. The rural Mississippi

Delta is still the poorest place in America. And in that area, she works with a "Lend a Hand" program which runs a thrift shop to provide hungry and homeless people with food and clothing. And in return, the Delta Four is going to help her attend college so that she can make an even greater contribution. (Applause.)

The spirit of service also moves a young man I met about a year ago named Stephen Spalos, who works with a City Year program in Boston. At age 23, he's had some hard times in his life. But as he puts it, City Year gave him a place and the tools to be able to start over. He works as a team leader, a mentor, a tutor, a project manager for a bunch of young people who restore senior citizens' homes.

Last year when I visited his project, he literally took his sweatshirt off his back and gave it to me so that I would never forget the kids at City Year. And I still wear it when I go jogging, always remembering what they're doing in Boston to help those kids. (Applause.)

The spirit of service moves Orah Fireman, a graduate of Wesleyan College. As a sophomore in high school, she worked with disadvantaged children in upstate New York. That experience changed her life. And during her high school and college years, she continued to work with children. And now that she is out of college, she has begun what will probably be a lifetime of service by working at a school for emotionally disturbed children in Boston. She wants other people to have the opportunity to serve, and she wrote this: Service work teaches responsibility and compassion. It fights alienation by proving to young people that they can make a difference. There is no lesson more important than that.

Well, there are stories like this in this room and all across America. And we're going to create thousands of more of them through national service. We'll work with groups with proven track records to serve their community, giving them the support they need. And if you have more good ideas, if you're entrepreneurs of national service, we'll let you compete for our form of venture capital -- develop new programs to serve your neighbors. That's how we want the national service program to grow every year -- rewarding results, building on success, and bubbling up from the grassroots energy and compassion and intellect of America.

I don't want service to wait while this potential is wasted. That's why I want to make this summer a summer of service, when young people can not only serve their communities, but build a foundation for a new national effort. I've asked Congress to invest in and I'm asking young people to participate in a special effort in national service and leadership training just this summer. We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer.

Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential. Some of them will tutor. Some will work on programs to immunize young children from preventable childhood diseases. Some will help to develop and run recreational centers or reclaim urban parks from dealers and debris. Some will counsel people a few years younger than themselves to keep them out of gangs and into good activities. And everyone will learn about serving our country and helping our communities.

MORE

At the end of this summer, we'll bring all these people together for several days of debriefing and training, and then they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting and I expect to listen a lot more than I talk. I'll ask leaders from Congress, from business, labor, religious, and community groups to attend the youth service summit, too. We'll give those who serve the honor they deserve, and we'll learn a lot more about how to build this national service program. And from the thousand pioneers of this summer, I want the national service to grow 100-fold in the next four years. (Applause.)

But even when hundreds of thousands are serving, I want to maintain the pioneer spirit of this first few months, because national service can make America new again. It can help solve our problems, educate our people, and build our communities back together. So if anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech by radio or television or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it national service. We're going to pick them. And I can't promise you'll be selected, but I promise you'll be considered. I want to engage the energies of America in this effort. (Applause.)

I also want to say that you shouldn't wait for the summer or for a new program. We need to begin now. We are going to be looking for the kinds of ideas that we ought to be funding. This is Monday. I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you think you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers, to join the effort to renew our community and to rebuild our country; and to write to me about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood -- time to return to our roots an excitement, an idealism, and an energy. (Applause.)

I have to tell you that there are some among us who do not believe that young Americans will answer a call to action, who believe that our people now measure their success merely in the accumulation of material things. They believe this call to service will go unanswered. But I believe they are dead wrong. (Applause.)

And so, especially to the young Americans here, I ask you to prove that those who doubt you are wrong about your generation. And today I ask all of you who are young in spirit -- whether you are a 10-year-old in a service program in our schools who reads to still younger children, or a 72-year-old who has become a foster grandparent -- I ask you all to believe that you can contribute to your community and your country. And in so doing, you will find the best in yourself.

You will learn the lessons about your life that you might not ever learn any other way. You will learn again that each of us has the spark of potential to accomplish something truly and enduringly unique. You will experience the satisfaction of making a connection in a way with another person that you could do in no other way. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is exceeded only by the joy of helping someone else do the same thing. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or what you earn or what position you hold, but just because of what you have given to someone else. (Applause.) You will understand in personal ways the wisdom of the words spoken years ago by Martin Luther King who said "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." (Applause.)

I ask you all, my fellow Americans, to support our proposal for national service and to live a proposal for national service; to learn the meaning of America at its best, and to recreate for others America at its best. We are not just another country. We have always been a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities, and bound together, not by bloodlines, but by beliefs. At an age in time when people all across the world are being literally torn apart by racial hatreds, by ethnic hatreds, by religious divisions, we are a nation, with all of our problems, where people can come together across racial and religious lines and hold hands and work together, not just to endure our differences, but to celebrate them. I ask you to make America celebrate that again. (Applause.)

I ask you, in closing, to commit yourselves to this season of service because America needs it. We need every one of you to live up to the fullest of your potential, and we need you to reach those who are not here and who will never hear this talk, and who will never have the future they could otherwise have if not for something that you could do. The great challenge of your generation is to prove that every person here in this great land can live up to the fullest of their God-given capacity. If we do it, the 21st century will be the American century. The American Dream will be kept alive if you will today answer the call to service.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:50 P.M. EST

Summer of Service Program Design

To demonstrate the power of national service to change both communities served and individuals serving, the President has asked Congress to appropriate \$15 million in the economic stimulus package for a Summer of Service.

The Summer of Service initiative will involve more than 1,000 young people in programs in a limited number of urban and rural areas that will (1) meet the unmet needs of children at risk in the areas of education, health, public safety and environment; and (2) train the young people to become leaders of the full-year national service program.

The Commission on National and Community Service will select programs for funding based on the statutory authority contained in the National and Community Service Act of 1990. Current matching requirements will leverage additional funding to support the funding contained in the economic stimulus package. The following activities indicate examples of services that programs in the Summer of Service might provide:

- assisting health care providers in implementing immunization programs for very young children;
- individualized literacy programs;
- educational enrichment and recreational activities for children at risk of dropping out of school;
- projects to test an entire neighborhood for lead paint.

Building on Existing Models

Existing not-for-profit organizations (service providers, schools, higher education institutions, youth corps, and/or, public agencies) will be invited to submit program proposals to the Commission. Programs that are funded will be required to reflect the following components, among others:

- a detailed plan showing measurable outcomes from the services to be rendered (e.g., how many children immunized or tutored; how many parks cleaned up or established);
- a minimum of eight weeks of service during the summer of 1993, not including the national training and related activities described below;
- a proven track record of running community service programs of the type proposed;

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1993 A21

Colman McCarthy

Clinton's Call to Service

No speech in the Clinton campaign was more inspirational than the candidate's remarks at the University of Notre Dame last September. As president, Clinton didn't match it until his March 1 speech at Rutgers University. At both campuses, he issued calls for national service for college students.

At Notre Dame: "If we are truly to practice what we preach, Americans of every faith and viewpoint should come together to promote the common good." It was similar at Rutgers: "National service is nothing less than the American way to change America."

Clinton's effort to rally the young to altruism has created a debate that pits idealism against realism, as if the two are forever locked in conflict. Where's the money, ask realists, for the tuition-for-service program that Clinton is proposing: \$389 million in scholarships for 25,000 students the first year and \$3.4 billion for 100,000 by 1997. Realists say that Clinton's sweet talk ignores sour facts: There's no money for a new social program.

From that negative, despairing argument, Clinton is supposed to get the message: Don't even try. That means don't lead, just preside. The past 12 years witnessed two presidencies in the White House. Most first-year college students today were in kindergarten when Ronald Reagan was elected and in fourth grade when reelected. They came into adolescence under a politician who tried nothing by way of linking government with national service. Instead of selflessness to others, he extolled self-enrichment.

Evidence suggests that the young weren't seduced either by Reagan's message of contempt for government or his disdain for altruism. The 1980s saw a surge in campus community-service programs, such as the ones Clinton praised at Notre Dame and Rutgers. Amnesty International chapters increased on campuses, as did those of Oxfam USA. Applications to Peace Corps remained high, as they did for such private domestic programs as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and

Yet Clinton's philosophy of service represents intellectual newness to many in high school and college. John F. Kennedy's appeals to national service are seen as historical relics, known from books but not live on MTV as are Clinton's. It wasn't a politician's celebrityhood that created support for the president at Notre Dame and Rutgers. Students saw in him someone with a positive message—put community interest above self-interest—that many professors and counselors at their schools had been exposing them to all along: If you can't teach the illiterate, comfort the sick and handicapped, or mend whatever and whoever is broken during your college years, you're receiving a limited education.

Clinton deserves to be honored for taking a risk that he'll be able to raise the money for his program of national service. Critics in Congress with no greater agenda than carping about ideas they were too dull-witted or timid to propose themselves now lie in wait for the president when he comes in with specifics. They will say Clinton's ideas are dangerous because they are romantic and utopian, a charge that ignores the thought of James Madison in 1788: "No theoretical checks—no form of government, can render us secure. To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people is a chimerical idea."

Some critics charge that Clinton is into bribery: tuition money for service. While the details are being worked out on how much money for what service, who complains that the U.S. Army entices recruits with as much as \$20,000 toward a college education. Why isn't it bribery when ROTC programs pay students to shine their boots occasionally and take gut courses in military lore. Nor is much alarm expressed over the most lavish enticement of all: a free ride at the military academies in exchange for a few years in uniform after graduation.

Clinton's Rutgers speech marked the 32nd anniversary of the Peace Corps. Kennedy's spirited message was repeated by Clinton: "Answer the call to service." In "The Bold Experiment," a history of the Peace Corps by Gerard Rice, one of those who responded to Kennedy's call explained why: "I'd never done anything political, patriotic or unselfish because nobody ever asked me to. Kennedy asked."

So has Clinton.

National Service — Now

The New York Times
2/28/93

By Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON

Apathy is dead. Of everything I've learned in my first few weeks in the White House, that's the thing that's made me the happiest. Whether or not the people I've met outside the capital support the changes I have proposed, they're all saying they're ready to rebuild our country.

But they know, as I do, that no economic plan can do it alone. A plan can make vaccines available to children, but alone it will not administer the shots to all of them. It can put security guards in the schools, but alone it will not take gangs off the streets. And it can provide more aid for college, but alone it will not make the costs of college less daunting for the middle class.

That's why I believe we need national service — now.

If Congress acts quickly enough, just months from now more than 1,000 young people will start serving our country in a special summer effort. In four years, the successors to these pioneers will multiply a hundredfold. Imagine: an army of 100,000 young people restoring urban and rural communities and giving their labor in return for education and training.

National service is an idea as old as America. Time and again, our people have found new ways to honor citizenship and match the needs of changing times.

Lincoln's Homestead Act rewarded those who had the courage to settle the frontier with the land to raise a family. Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Act insured that Americans who work a lifetime can grow old with dignity. Harry S. Truman's G.I. Bill rewarded the service of my father's generation, transforming youthful veterans into an army of educated civilians that led our nation into a new era.

For my generation, the reality of national service was born 32 years ago tomorrow, when President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps. At its peak, the Peace Corps enrolled only 16,000 volunteers yet it changed the way a generation of Americans look at themselves and the world.

Today, the spirit of our people once again can meet head-on the troubles of our times.

The task is as complex as our chal-

President Clinton will deliver a speech on national service tomorrow at Rutgers University.

lenge is great. We must combine the intensity of the post-World War II years with the idealism of the early 1960's — and help young people afford a college education or job training.

In 1993, we'll restore the spirit of service by asking our people to serve here at home. We won't refight the wars we won, but we'll tackle the growing domestic dangers that threaten our future.

Our new initiative will embody the same principles as the old G.I. Bill. It will challenge our people to serve our country and do the work that should — and must — be done. It will give those who serve the honor and rewards they deserve. It will invest in the future of the quiet heroes who invest in the future of others.

The national service legislation that I will send to Congress shortly will give our people the chance to serve in two basic ways:

First, it will make it easier for young people to hold low-paying public service jobs and still pay off their student loans.

Under our program, Americans will be able to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their income over time. By giving graduates the chance to repay loans on an affordable, reasonable schedule, this "income-contingent" program will allow our people to do the work that our communities really need.

Second, our legislation will create new opportunities for Americans to serve our country for a year or two — and receive financial support for education or training in return.

We'll offer people of different ages and educational levels different ways to serve. And to focus our energies and get the most for our money, we'll direct special attention to a few areas:

- We'll ask thousands of young people to serve in our schools — some as teachers, others as youth mentors, reading specialists and math tutors. They'll join the effort to insure that our schools offer the best education in the world.

- We'll send people into medical clinics to help immunize the nation's 2-year-olds. Some participants will be qualified to give the shots, but thousands of others can provide essential support, contacting parents and following up to make sure children get the shots they need.

- We'll help police forces across the country through a new Police Corps trained to walk beats. We'll also organize others in our communities to keep kids out of gangs and off drugs.

- We'll put still others to work controlling pollution and recycling waste, to help insure that we pass on to our children a nation that is clean and safe for years to come.

Our national service program will offer more than benefits to individuals. We'll help pay operating costs for community groups with proved track records, providing the support they'll need to grow. And we'll let entrepreneurs compete for venture capital to develop new service programs.

While the Federal Government will provide the seed money for national service, we are determined that the participants — the individuals who serve and the groups that sponsor their service — will guide the process. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy

would be self-defeating; it would squash the spirit of innovation that national service demands.

By design, our national service program will not happen overnight. Instead, it will grow year by year, with funding reaching \$3 billion in 1997. And as I've said many times, I believe it will be the best money we ever spend.

If Congress gives us the chance, this summer we'll create an eight-week leadership training program. We'll recruit more than 1,000 young people for special projects to meet the needs of children at risk — and to train the first class of full-year participants.

In the first full year of our initiative, we'll launch our flexible loan program and aim to put tens of thousands of people to work. By 1997, more than 100,000 citizens could be serving our country, getting education and training benefits in return. And hundreds of thousands more people could be doing invaluable work because college loans no longer block the way.

But the best planning and the most ambitious design won't make this vision of national service a reality. That responsibility ultimately rests with the American people.

I am convinced that after 12 years of drifting apart instead of working together we are ready to meet the challenge. From a 14-year-old boy in North Dakota who sent us \$1,000 to help pay off the deficit, to a 92-year-old widower in Kansas who followed his example, people are demonstrating that they want to give something back to their nation.

National service will exercise our talents and rebuild our communities. It will harness the energy of our youth and attack the problems of our time. It will bring together men and women of every age and race and lift up our nation's spirit. And for all of us, it will rekindle the excitement of being Americans. □

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New Brunswick, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN NATIONAL SERVICE ADDRESS

Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

1:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, Nakia Tomlinson for that fine introduction. I wish I could take you with me everywhere. We'd make a great duo there. Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

I'd like to thank President ~~Frank~~ Lawrence for his - Francis Lawrence -- for his fine speech. Does anybody call him Frank? I should have asked. (Laughter.) I want to compliment Professor Benjamin Barber for his leadership and service here. (Applause.) And I want to thank all of you here in the Rutgers community for coming out for what I hope will be a truly historic moment in our nation's history. (Applause.)

In addition to the people who have been introduced here, there are a host of mayors and members of the Assembly and county officials here from your state. We have two former governors, both of whom I served with -- Brendan Byrne and Tom Kean who are out there. I'm glad to see them. (Applause.) My friends. We have a distinguished array of members of the House from New Jersey -- Hero Klein, Bob Manendez, Frank Pallone, Donald Payne -- (applause).

But you have some members of the Congress from all over America here and I want to introduce them, too, because they have taken a lot of trouble to come to Rutgers and because without them and without the people who represent you, the proposal I make today has no hope of passage.

Many members of the Congress for years have believed we ought to do more in national service and some of them are here today. I'd like to begin by introducing your Senator Bill Bradley, who's behind me. (Applause.) I must say, when I walked into this arena, I turned around and asked Bill Bradley if he'd ever shot any baskets in here. I'd be intimidated to be the opposing team in here. (Applause.) Senator Bradley sponsored legislation to establish neighborhood corps and self-reliance

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scholarships, things that are forbearers of the proposal I came to make.

I'd like to recognize the presence on the platform of Senator Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts -- (applause) -- who chairs the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education, which sheparded the pilot national and community service bill through the Congress in the last session, along with his counterpart who is out here in the audience somewhere. I'd like to ask him to stand up. The Chairman of the House Committee, Congressman Bill Ford, who came all the way from Michigan to be with us. Congressman, would you stand up. (Applause.)

I'd like to recognize in the audience the presence of Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut, who was one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in the United States. (Applause.)

The member of Congress who introduced many, many years ago, the first piece of national service legislation ever introduced, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Clairborne Pell from Rhode Island is here. (Applause.)

I'd also like to introduce the only person in this audience, at least of our crowd, who doesn't have to look up to Senator Bradley, Senator Jay Rockefeller from West Virginia, an early VISTA volunteer in the United States. (Applause.)

And finally I would like to recognize two other people, one, a member of the United States Senate and one a distinguished American citizen, the first boss of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver, who's up here with me. (Applause.) And his deputy, Senator Harris Wofford, from Pennsylvania. (Applause.) And Mrs. Wofford, I'm glad to see you. (Applause.)

Now, I was involved before I became President in a group called the Democratic Leadership Council, and we made one of the central parts of our platform to reclaim a new majority of Americans for our party the establishment of a system of national service to help people to finance education. And one of our founding members and guiding lights is here, Representative Dave McCurdy from Oklahoma. I'd like for him to stand up. (Applause.)

Let me make this last point, if I might, by way of beginning. None of these things happen at the national level. We empower them to happen and then people have to do things here at the grassroots. And I want to say a special word of thanks to your Governor for supporting the New Jersey Youth Corps and several other projects like it around the state, because if nobody's here to believe in this, it can't happen. And I thank Governor Florio for his support for these things. (Applause.)

I came here to ask all of you to join me in a great national adventure, for in the next few weeks I will ask the

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United States Congress to join me in creating a new system of voluntary national service -- something that I believe in the next few years will change America forever and for the better.

My parents' generation won new dignity working their way out of the great Depression through programs that provided them the opportunity to serve and to survive. Brave men and women in my own generation waged and won peaceful revolutions here at home for civil rights and human rights, and began service around the world in the Peace Corps and here at home in Vista. Now, Americans of every generation face profound challenges in meeting the needs that have been neglected for too long in this country -- from city streets plagued by crime and drugs to classrooms where girls and boys must learn the skills they need for tomorrow, to hospital wards where patients need more care. All across America we have problems that demand our common attention.

For those who answer the call and meet these challenges, I propose that our country honor your service with new opportunities for education. National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity, and rewarding responsibility. National service is a challenge for Americans from every background and walk of life, and it values something far more than money. National service is nothing less than the American way to change America. (Applause.)

It is rooted in the concept of community: the simple idea that none of us on our own will ever have as much to cherish about our own lives if we are out here all alone as we will if we work together. That somehow a society really is an organism in which the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. And every one of us, no matter how many privileges with which we are born, can still be enriched by the contributions of the least of us. And that we will never fulfill our individual capacities until, as Americans, we can all be what God meant for us to be. (Applause.)

If that is so -- if that is true, my fellow Americans, and if you believe it, it must therefore follow that each of us has an obligation to serve. For it is perfectly clear that all of us cannot be what we ought to be until those of us who can help others -- and that is nearly all of us -- are doing something to help others live up to their potential. The concept of community and the idea of service are as old as our history. They began the moment America was literally invented.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor." In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln signed into law two visionary programs that helped our people come together again and build America up. The

Morrill Act helped states create new land grant colleges. This is a land grant university. The university in my home state was the first land grant college west of the Mississippi River.

In these places, young people learn to make American agriculture and industry the best in the world. The legacy of the Morrill Act is not only our great colleges and universities like Rutgers, but the American tradition that merit and not money should give people a chance for a higher education. (Applause.)

Mr. Lincoln also signed the Homestead Act that offered 100 acres of land for families who had the courage to settle the frontier and farm the wilderness. Its legacy is a nation that stretches from coast to coast. Now we must create a new legacy that gives a new generation of Americans the right and the power to explore the frontiers of science and technology and space. The frontiers of the limitations of our knowledge must be pushed back so that we can do what we need to do. And education is the way to do it, just as surely as it was more than 100 years ago.

Seven decades after the Civil War in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave 2.5 million young people the opportunity to support themselves while working in disaster relief and maintaining forests, beaches, rivers, and parks. Its legacy is not only the restoration of our natural environment, but the restoration of our national spirit. Along with the Works Products Administration -- the WPA -- the Civilian Conservation Corps symbolized government's effort to provide a nation in depression with the opportunity to work, to build the American community through service. And all over America today, you can see projects -- even today in the 1990s -- built by your parents or your grandparents with the WPA plaque on it -- the CCC plaque on it -- the idea that people should be asked to serve and rewarded for doing it.

In the midst of World War II, President Roosevelt proposed the GI Bill of Rights, which offered returning veterans the opportunity for education in respect to their service to our country in the war. Thanks to the GI Bill, which became a living reality in President Truman's time, more than eight million veterans got advanced education. And half a century later, the enduring legacy of the GI Bill is the strongest economy in the world and the broadest, biggest middle class that any nation has ever enjoyed.

For many in my own generation, the summons to citizenship and service came on this day 32 years ago, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps with Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps. With Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans, he enabled thousands of young men and women to serve on the leading edge of the new

frontier, helping people all over the world to become what they ought to be, and bringing them the message by their very lives that America was a great country that stood for good values and human progress.

At its height, the Peace Corps enrolled 16,000 young men and women. Its legacy is not simply goodwill and good works in countries all across the globe, but a profound and lasting change in the way Americans think about their own country and the world.

Shortly after the Peace Corps, Congress, under President Johnson, created the volunteers and service to America. Senator Jay Rockefeller, whom I introduced a moment ago, and many thousands of other Americans went to the hills and hollows of poor places, like West Virginia and Arkansas and Mississippi, to lift up Americans through their service.

The lesson of our whole history is that honoring service and rewarding responsibility is the best investment America can make. And I have seen it today. Across this great land, through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which took the children who lived in the neighborhoods where the riots occurred and gave them a chance to get out into nature and to clean up their own neighborhoods and to lift themselves and their friends in the effort; in Boston with the City Year program -- with all these programs represented here in this room today, the spirit of service is sweeping this country and giving us a chance to put the quilt of America together in a way that makes a strength out of diversity; that lifts us up out of our problems; and that keeps our people looking toward a better and brighter future. (Applause.)

National service recognizes a simple but powerful truth -- that we make progress not by governmental action alone, but we do best when the people and their government work at the grassroots in genuine partnership. The idea of national service permeates many other aspects of the programs I have sought to bring to America. The economic plan that I announced to Congress, for example, will offer every child the chance for a healthy start through immunization and basic health care and Head Start. (Applause.) But still it depends on parents doing the best they can as parents and children making the most of their opportunities.

The plan can help to rebuild our cities and our small communities through physical investments that will put people to work. But Americans still must work to restore the social fabric that has been torn in too many communities. Unless people know we can work together in our schools and our offices, in our factories, unless they believe we can walk the streets safely together, and unless we do that together, governmental action alone is doomed to fail. (Applause.)

The national service plan I propose will be built on the same principles as the old GI Bill -- when people give something of invaluable merit to their country, they ought to be rewarded with the opportunity to further their education. National service will challenge our people to do the work that should and indeed must be done and cannot be done unless the American people voluntarily give themselves up to that work. It will invest in the future of every person who serves.

And as we rekindle the spirit of national service, I know it won't disappoint many of the students here to know that we also have to reform the whole system of student loans. (Applause.) We should begin by making it easier for young people to pay back their student loans and enabling them to hold jobs -- (applause) -- enabling them to hold jobs that may accomplish much, but pay little.

Today, when students borrow money for an education, the repayment plan they make is based largely on how much they have to repay, without regard to what the jobs they take themselves pay. It is a powerful incentive, therefore, for young college graduates to do just the reverse of what we might want them to do; to take a job that pays more even it is less rewarding because that is the job that will make the repayment of the loans possible. It is also, unfortunately, a powerful incentive for some not to make the payments at all, which is unforgivable.

So what we seek to do is to enable the American students to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their own income over time. This is especially important after a decade in which the cost of a college education has gone up even more rapidly than the cost of health care. (Applause.) Making a major contribution to one of the more disturbing statistics in America today, which is that the college dropout rate in this country is now 2.5 times the high school dropout rate. We can do better than that through national service and adequate financing. (Applause.)

The present system is unacceptable, not only for students, but for the taxpayers as well. It's complicated and it's expensive. It costs the taxpayers of our country about \$4 billion every year to finance the student loan program because of loan defaults and the cost of administering the program. And I believe we can do better.

Beyond reforming this system for financing higher education, the national service program more importantly will create new opportunities for Americans to work off outstanding loans or to build up credits for future education and training opportunities.

We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young who want to further their college

education to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors in reading and mathematics. We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new police corps that will walk beats and work with neighborhoods and build the kind of communities ties that will prevent crime from happening in the first place so that our police officers won't have to spend all their time chasing criminals. (Applause.)

We'll ask young people to work, to help control pollution and recycle waste, to paint darkened buildings and clean up neighborhoods. (Applause.) To work with senior citizens and combat homelessness and help children in trouble get out of it and build a better life. (Applause.)

And these are just a few of the things that you will be able to, for most of the decisions about what you can do will be made by people like those in this room, people who run the programs represented by all of those wearing these different kinds of tee-shirts. We don't seek a national bureaucracy. I have spoken often about how we need to reinvent the government to make it more efficient and less bureaucratic, to make it more responsive to people at the grassroots level.

And I want national service to do just that. I want it to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people. (Applause.)

And as you well know, that's what's happening all across America today. People are already serving their neighbors in their neighborhoods. Just this morning, I was inspired to see and to speak with students from Rutgers serving their community, from mentoring young people as Big Sisters, to helping older people learn new skills.

I met a lady today who has 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who dropped out of school the year before I was born -- is about to become a high school graduate shortly because of the efforts of this program. (Applause.) Is she back there? Stand up. (Applause.)

I'm impressed by the spirit behind the Rutgers civic education and community service program: the understanding that community service enriches education, that students should not only take the lessons they learn in class out into the community, but bring the lessons they learn in the community back into the classroom. (Applause.)

And that spirit, during this academic year alone, more than 800 students from Rutgers are contributing more than 60,000 hours of community service -- in New Brunswick, in Camden, in Newark, throughout this state. (Applause.)

This morning I also met with members of the New Jersey Youth Corps. Here they are. (Applause.) Stand up. (Applause.) Young people who are looking for a second chance at school, and who when coming back to finish their high school degrees, also serve in their communities. Through this program, more than 6,500 young adults have contributed over 900,000 hours of service to the state of New Jersey. (Applause.)

They've done everything from paint senior citizens' homes, to tutor and mentor children in after-school programs. For the future of our state and nation, we need more young people like those in the New Jersey Youth Corps who exemplify the spirit of service.

That spirit also moves people all across the nation. In my state, there's a young woman named Antoinette Jackson, who's a senior in a small community called Gauld, Arkansas. She's a member of the Delta Service Corps. The rural Mississippi Delta is still the poorest place in America. And in that area, she works with a "Lend a Hand" program which runs a thrift shop to provide hungry and homeless people with food and clothing. And in return, the Delta Four is going to help her attend college so that she can make an even greater contribution. (Applause.)

The spirit of service also moves a young man I met about a year ago named Stephen Spalos, who works with a City Year program in Boston. At age 23, he's had some hard times in his life. But as he puts it, City Year gave him a place and the tools to be able to start over. He works as a team leader, a mentor, a tutor, a project manager for a bunch of young people who restore senior citizens' homes.

Last year when I visited his project, he literally took his sweatshirt off his back and gave it to me so that I would never forget the kids at City Year. And I still wear it when I go jogging, always remembering what they're doing in Boston to help those kids. (Applause.)

The spirit of service moves Orah Fireman, a graduate of Wesleyan College. As a sophomore in high school, she worked with disadvantaged children in upstate New York. That experience changed her life. And during her high school and college years, she continued to work with children. And now that she is out of college, she has begun what will probably be a lifetime of service by working at a school for emotionally disturbed children in Boston. She wants other people to have the opportunity to serve, and she wrote this: Service work teaches responsibility and compassion. It fights alienation by proving to young people that they can make a difference. There is no lesson more important than that.

Well, there are stories like this in this room and all across America. And we're going to create thousands of more of them through national service. We'll work with groups with

MORE

proven track records to serve their community, giving them the support they need. And if you have more good ideas, if you're entrepreneurs of national service, we'll let you compete for our form of venture capital -- develop new programs to serve your neighbors. That's how we want the national service program to grow every year -- rewarding results, building on success, and bubbling up from the grassroots energy and compassion and intellect of America.

I don't want service to wait while this potential is wasted. That's why I want to make this summer a summer of service, when young people can not only serve their communities, but build a foundation for a new national effort. I've asked Congress to invest in and I'm asking young people to participate in a special effort in national service and leadership training just this summer. We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer.

Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential. Some of them will tutor. Some will work on programs to immunize young children from preventable childhood diseases. Some will help to develop and run recreational centers or reclaim urban parks from dealers and debris. Some will counsel people a few years younger than themselves to keep them out of gangs and into good activities. And everyone will learn about serving our country and helping our communities.

At the end of this summer, we'll bring all these people together for several days of debriefing and training, and then they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting and I expect to listen a lot more than I talk. I'll ask leaders from Congress, from business, labor, religious, and community groups to attend the youth service summit, too. We'll give those who serve the honor they deserve, and we'll learn a lot more about how to build this national service program. And from the thousand pioneers of this summer, I want the national service to grow 100-fold in the next four years. (Applause.)

But even when hundreds of thousands are serving, I want to maintain the pioneer spirit of this first few months, because national service can make America new again. It can help solve our problems, educate our people, and build our communities back together. So if anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech by radio or television or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it national service. We're going to pick them. And I can't promise you'll be selected, but I promise you'll be considered. I want to engage the energies of America in this effort. (Applause.)

I also want to say that you shouldn't wait for the summer or for a new program. We need to begin now. We are going to be looking for the kinds of ideas that we ought to be funding. This is Monday. I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you think you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers, to join the effort to renew our community and to rebuild our country; and to write to me about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood -- time to return to our roots an excitement, an idealism, and an energy. (Applause.)

I have to tell you that there are some among us who do not believe that young Americans will answer a call to action, who believe that our people now measure their success merely in the accumulation of material things. They believe this call to service will go unanswered. But I believe they are dead wrong. (Applause.)

And so, especially to the young Americans here, I ask you to prove that those who doubt you are wrong about your generation. And today I ask all of you who are young in spirit -- whether you are a 10-year-old in a service program in our schools who reads to still younger children, or a 72-year-old who has become a foster grandparent -- I ask you all to believe that you can contribute to your community and your country. And in so doing, you will find the best in yourself.

You will learn the lessons about your life that you might not ever learn any other way. You will learn again that each of us has the spark of potential to accomplish something truly and enduringly unique. You will experience the satisfaction of making a connection in a way with another person that you could do in no other way. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is exceeded only by the joy of helping someone else do the same thing. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or what you earn or what position you hold, but just because of what you have given to someone else. (Applause.) You will understand in personal ways the wisdom of the words spoken years ago by Martin Luther King who said "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." (Applause.)

I ask you all, my fellow Americans, to support our proposal for national service and to live a proposal for national service; to learn the meaning of America at its best, and to recreate for others America at its best. We are not just another country. We have always been a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities, and bound together, not by bloodlines, but by beliefs. At an age in time when people all across the world are being literally torn apart by racial hatreds, by ethnic hatreds, by religious divisions, we are a nation, with all of our problems, where people can come together across racial and religious lines and hold hands and work together, not just to endure our differences, but to celebrate

them. I ask you to make America celebrate that again.
(Applause.)

I ask you, in closing, to commit yourselves to this season of service because America needs it. We need every one of you to live up to the fullest of your potential, and we need you to reach those who are not here and who will never hear this talk, and who will never have the future they could otherwise have if not for something that you could do. The great challenge of your generation is to prove that every person here in this great land can live up to the fullest of their God-given capacity. If we do it, the 21st century will be the American century. The American Dream will be kept alive if you will today answer the call to service.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:50 P.M. EST