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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1993

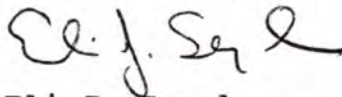
Dear Member of Congress:

As you know, on Monday, March 1, the President gave a major address at Rutgers University on his national service vision and plans.

The attached provides details on the President's national service initiative and summer project entitled "Summer of Service." Please feel free to use these materials in response to constituent inquiries.

We look forward to working with you this spring as we prepare to submit the President's national service legislation. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact me or Jack Lew, our legislative counsel, if we can provide you with any additional information at (202) 456-6444.

With Best Wishes,

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

ES:da

THE WHITE HOUSE

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THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE
NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICE

On Monday, March 1, the 32nd anniversary of the Peace Corps, President Clinton travelled to Rutgers University for a major address on national service where he discussed his national service initiative, and announced his plans for a special summer project entitled "Summer of Service."

The following offers excerpts from the President's speech as well as detailed information on the initiative and the summer project.

SPEECH EXCERPTS 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."

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- "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..."

INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE:

- **Timing:** The President will submit legislation for his national service program to Congress this spring.

- **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.

Details on The First Component:

- **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.

- **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.

- **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).

- **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.

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- **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.
- **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:

- **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.
- **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.)
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

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● **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.

● **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.

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 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 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.

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 us, it will rekindle the excitement of being Americans.

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National Service

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Excerpts from September 11, 1992 Notre Dame Speech

Throughout this campaign I've talked about my plan to open the doors of college to every American. To offer every American in this country the opportunity to borrow the money to go to college and then require them to pay it back, either as a small percentage of their paychecks after they go to work or even better, by going back home and serving their community.

Frankly, I would much rather see everyone, whether they are rich, or poor, or middle class, pay back that debt by going home and working for two years in a peace corps here in America, to rebuild America. Just think of it. Millions of energetic young men and women serving their country by teaching the children, policing the streets, caring for the sick, working with the elderly, or people with disabilities, building homes for the homeless, helping children to stay off of drugs and out of gangs -- giving us all a new sense of home and real limitless possibilities.

I have offered this plan to help more young people go to college, but I have also offered it because I want America to send the message that our society values and honors service to community, just as Harry Truman's GI Bill honored the service of my father's generation, who fought and won World War II, just as the Peace Corps, which President Kennedy created with the help of your former president, Father Hesburgh and Senator Wofford, sent that message to my generation. Just as millions of Americans from all backgrounds and every walk of life are waiting for a summons to service and citizenship, not just for young people that are going on to college but for young people in our high schools and people of all ages who want to do something for their communities and for their country.

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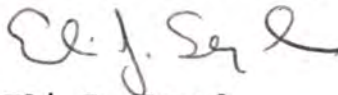
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 8, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ASSISTANTS TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ELI J. SEGAL
 THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE

SUBJECT: BEST ADDRESS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE
 FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

While mail has been arriving without any delay in response to the President's challenge, here is some new information which will help us as the volume of mail increases. This is the best address for speeding mail delivery.

Individuals wishing to respond to the President's challenge should write to:

National Service
The White House
OEOB Room 145
Washington D.C.
20500-0145

Please disseminate this information to all of your constituents.