

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

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Folder Title:

[Response to Clinton Campaign Volunteer] [loose]

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2

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Friend of Eli
Wants note from Clinton congrats
on student essay

January 25

Coder: MK
Date: 4.10.88

I. Purpose of Letter:

- ☐ Wants to Participate
 - ☐ Summer of Service
 - ☐ National Initiative
- ☐ General Commentary
 - ☐ Pro
 - ☐ Con
- ☐ Suggestions for Programs
- ☐ Requesting General Information
 - ☐ Summer of Service
 - ☐ General Program
- ☐ Offering their Services
 - ☐ Volunteer
 - ☐ Internships
 - ☐ White House
 - ☐ National Service (Jim)
 - ☐ Employment

specific Request

II. Writer Information:

- A. Age (Circle One):
Under 17 17-25 Over 25 Unspecified
- B. Education Level (Circle One):
 - 1. Student:
 - ☐ Elementary
 - ☐ Secondary
 - ☐ College
 - ☐ Graduate
 - 2. Non-Student (Level Completed):
 - ☐ Secondary
 - ☐ College
 - ☒ Graduate

III. Re-route to Other Departments

- ☐ Commission
(Personal, service organizations,
or business proposals)
- ☐ Scheduling/Gloria
- ☐ Other _____

IV. Certified Mail

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

Old Albany Post Road Hyde Park, New York 12538

(914) 229-8114 Fax (914) 229-0872

Office of the Director

January 25, 1993

**Mr. Eli Segal
Assistant to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500**

Dear Eli:

I am enclosing the winning essay in our Memorandum to the President written by Matthew Davis, a very thoughtful student (and a Clinton campaign volunteer). The contest drew a large number of responses. John Mack, whose grandfather placed FDR's name into nomination four times, was one of the judges.

It would be awfully nice if you could arrange for a response.

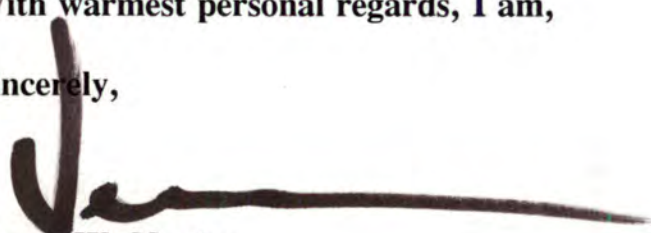
By the way, I seem to recall that when I got a note from you on the Hopkins film, you returned your copy of the film to me. Whether or not you did, given Hopkins's dedication to public service, you of all people should have a copy (I think it should be required viewing for all political appointees).

I am also enclosing the piece I did for the *Times* on Hopkins.

I send along too, my best wishes for your success and, of course, for the President's. Please let me know if there is anything I can do from here.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,


**Verne W. Newton
Director**

Enclosures

He soared above circumstances that held others earthbound.



Mr. Eli Segal
January 25, 1993

Page 2

Matthew D. Davis
RD 1, Box 124 John Drive
Goshen, NY 10924

(914) 294-9289

STUDENT: Matthew D. Davis

TEACHER: Mr. Lawrence Risdal

HIGH SCHOOL: Goshen High School

STUDENT'S ADDRESS: RD1 Box 124 John Drive
Goshen, N. Y. 10924

STUDENT'S PHONE NUMBER: 914-294-9289

MEMORANDUM

To: President Bill Clinton

From: Matthew Davis

In the past, people have ignored the threat of global warming, the depletion of the earth's ozone layer, and the destruction of our wetlands, among other environmental problems. We the people of this great country should lead the world in fighting for environmental protection. Our previous and current policies are not very effective. This must change. What America needs is an environmental policy that will be effective and work along side of business to help better our environmental and economic conditions.

The concentration of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases is so large, that just stabilizing them at current levels would require a significant change in our technology and the way we live our lives. The most significant cause of this change in the Earth's atmosphere is the one that began last century: the Industrial Revolution. We started using coal and then oil, thus raising the CO₂ level, which traps more heat in the atmosphere and slowly warms the Earth. The raising of CO₂ levels has been so widespread that even in the Arctic ice cap the CO₂ level has been increasing. Global warming is expected to push temperatures up much more rapidly in the polar regions than elsewhere. As the polar ice warms, the ice will thin. Since the polar cap plays such an important role in the world's weather system, the

consequences of a thinning cap could be disastrous. In just the last decade the polar cap has thinned by two percent.

As that problem continues to grow there is another problem that we must attend to: the disturbing fact of the vast and continual destruction of our wetlands for development. The wetlands play a vital role in regulating the hydrological cycle. Since the 1960's research has shown that wetlands are critical to the avoidance of flooding, the maintenance of groundwater supplies, and the cleansing of nitrates, phosphates, and other farm wastes from water. They also stabilize and conserve soil, and provide the most prolific habitats for living species of any part of the Earth's land surface. As a result, when we destroy the wetlands, we also destroy the living species that depend on them. Seventy five percent of our bird species depends on wetlands, along with sixty seven percent of our commercial fish and shellfish.

We lose, in the United States, about 290,000 acres of wetlands per year. This must stop. Not only does this affect CO₂ levels and living species, but it also raises the cost for flood control and the cost of water purification.

Another major environmental problem is the depletion of ozone in the atmosphere. For every one percent decrease in ozone, there is a two percent increase in the amount of ultraviolet radiation striking the Earth, and a four percent increase in skin cancers. Also, as ozone declines, the extra ultraviolet radiation striking the Earth interacts

with local air pollution to increase the amount of smog.

We must deal with these problems now, not ten years from now. That's what we've been doing for years: putting off the inevitable. If we continue to put off dealing with our environmental problems, the entire world will be dramatically affected.

How do we go about solving this problem? First, there should be an American environmental summit to discuss the problems and attempt to come up with consensus solutions. We must act now. The United States must take the lead, because either no other country wants to or no other country can. We must have a highly focused and well financed program to help develop appropriate technologies that are environmentally sound, while at the same time being economically practical. These technologies must be quickly brought not only to the United States, but to the nations that are incapable of developing them on their own.

These new technologies will be critical to our success in protecting our environment. We must create quickly, but not too quickly, so we can deal with any unforeseen problems that the technology may cause. We can do this by establishing a rigorous and sophisticated technological assessment procedure. At the same time, we can not completely forget the economic side of things.

Governments must play a big role in this. There should be tax incentives for the new technologies and we should penalize those who continue to use the old technologies.

The government should encourage the development of these programs for early marketability. We should show businesses that they are able to be profitable in markets that are certain to emerge as older technologies are phased out.

The government should also encourage banks to negotiate debt for nature swaps. This will encourage other countries to protect environmentally important lands such as rain forests. Protecting these lands will help reduce the amount of CO₂ emissions.

Regarding wetlands, we must stringently enforce our laws and regulations protecting them. We must recognize that development is not more important than the vital role wetlands play.

Once we do this, the government should improve the amount of information and the accuracy of information regarding environmental matters that is provided to the citizens. We must make sure our citizens are adequately educated on the environment. The bully pulpit of the presidency should be used to encourage citizens and businesses to follow sound environmental practices.

Unless the United States comes to a better understanding of ~~both~~ the potential dangers of our current technologies, we will continue to speed up the rate of destruction of our environment. Unless we better understand our relationship to the environment, developing new technologies and using them throughout the world will not be enough. The crisis will continue to grow. We must better

define our relationship to the environment. We must use every possible means to bring the Earth back into balance. We must do this for the sake of our children, and our future. If we do not, our civilization will come to an unhappy end at our own hands.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gore, Albert. Earth in the Balance. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1992.

Steinhart, Peter. "Mud Wrestling." Sierra, January/February 1993, pp. 55-59, 148-150.

GOOD LIFE

IN THE MID-HUDSON VALLEY

In Bill's footsteps

Matthew Davis, a Goshen High School senior, received a \$500 Savings Bond from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library's "Memorandum to the President" essay contest.



Davis

The finalists were: Erin Harris of Roosevelt High School; Francesca Livermore of New Paltz High School; Lori Newman of Spackenkill High School; and Anna Piskoz of Kingston High School.

High school students in Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties wrote to Bill Clinton about a pressing issue facing our country, explained John Ferris, library education director. Davis, whose essay

was selected by judges from about 100 entries, focused on the environment.

"We must better define our relationship to the environment," he wrote. "We must use every possible means to bring the Earth back into balance. We must do this for the sake of our children, and our future." The essay is being sent to President Clinton.

Just as John Kennedy inspired Bill Clinton to a life of public service, so too has Bill Clinton inspired Matt Davis. Someday he wants to run for office.

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80 cents

A Model Public Servant

By Verne W. Newton

BETHESDA, Md. — In his haste to accumulate wealth, the former White House aide-turned-lobbyist Michael K. Deaver may have displayed poor judgment or worse. If so, however, his excesses are a matter of degree. For the past 25 years, no right has been more inalienable than the right of White House aides to cash in on proximity to power. Some decorate corporate boards, some are given instant Wall Street partnerships, some remain in Washington on big-buck retainers.

It is thus worth recalling that things were not always this way — recalling, specifically, Harry Hopkins, one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's most trusted aides. To the modern breed of White House advisers, Mr. Hopkins must seem a pathetic loser. He arrived in Washington at the age of 43 and for the next 12 years his salary was lower than it had been before he came. He once unsentimentally described his love of his country to students at Grinnell College, his alma mater.

"Nothing must happen to it," he said, "and those of us who get a chance, and many of us will because of the things this nation has done for us, should and will be motivated when the time comes to serve it well."

He did serve it well and no one

Verne W. Newton is working on a documentary about Harry Hopkins.

since — not Mr. Deaver, Henry A. Kissinger, Hamilton Jordan, Bill Moyers — was as close to a President as Mr. Hopkins was from 1937 to 1945. He was deputy president, chief of staff and national security adviser all rolled into one.

It was common knowledge that as a father of four, he lived on the margin. Even so, he never tried to trade on his great power or his friendship with the President. It seems never to have occurred to him. Instead of bailing out and hanging up his shingle when he could have been a hot property, he

Hopkins, an F.D.R. aide, didn't cash in

stayed on and literally helped save the world.

He was not only F.D.R.'s eyes and ears but also his legs. His crucial visits to Winston Churchill in January 1941 and to Stalin the following July helped forge the Grand Alliance. So complete was Mr. Roosevelt's trust in him that when Mr. Hopkins embarked on his London and Moscow missions he carried no written instructions. When the plane carrying him to see Churchill landed, Mr. Hopkins, his body depleted from malnutrition, was too weak to unfasten his

seat belt. Because of a strange, still undiagnosed intestinal disorder, he received no nourishment from food he ate and was kept alive only by painful and difficult injections and transfusions.

After F.D.R.'s death, Mr. Hopkins dragged his emaciated body into retirement. He wanted only to write a book about Mr. Roosevelt. He had no agent, no big advances, no package deals. He did not collect directors' fees or retainers. He never wrote the book, but followed the President to the grave nine months later. Gen. George C. Marshall, himself an Olympian figure, said of him: "The country will never even vaguely appreciate the service he rendered."

Prime ministers and presidents from around the world had sought him out when they were in Washington. The titans of American industry were impressed with his cool, clear thinking. He could have named his job and salary. He could have had the British Commonwealth account, the Latin American account, even the Soviet Union account.

Instead, he died virtually penniless. The estate's tiny cash assets included \$2 Mr. Roosevelt had sent him after he had managed to put two pounds on his ravaged body and 32 Canadian dollars he had won playing backgammon with Churchill. He cherished these mementoes as he cherished his friendship with these two great men. He would never have tried to cash in on either one. □