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11405 Columbia Pike
Apartment B1
Silver Spring, MD 20904
Telephone: H. (301) 681-1482
 W. (202) 606-4821
February 4, 1993

Eli J. Segal
Assistant to the President
Office of National Service
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Segal,

Congratulations on your appointment by President Clinton to head the White House Office of National Service. Those of us who have worked in the field of national and community service and volunteerism eagerly anticipate the new administration's change from a passive to an active role for the office, from mere recognition of good works to the implementation and expansion of programs which offer opportunities for citizen participation in community service.

In 1969, when you first met Mr. Clinton, I was joining the War on Poverty's VISTA staff in Atlanta, Georgia, with the words of John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you . . .," still fresh on my mind. Since 1972, I have been in a variety of positions in Washington, D.C., including Chief of Operations for VISTA and Project Manager for a National Service Demonstration Program. The importance of the latter experience recently became apparent to me when I was interviewed by a consultant to the Commission on National Service who was assisting them in the design and implementation of their educational voucher system. The educational voucher was a important feature of the stipended-volunteer, Youth Community Service Project, in which some 3500 young people 16-21 served.

I have enclosed a brief description of the YCS Project. Inside the back cover you will find highlights of the project as of February, 1980.

I welcome the opportunity to serve in this administration in whatever way I can make a contribution.

Sincerely,

Joseph Bass

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Youth Community Service