



## Willow Creek Community Church

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN  
9-5-96

September 3, 1996

President Clinton  
c/o Nancy Herrreich  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington DC 20500-2000

CC: Greeley article / HRC  
to GS / Ban / Willy / A. K. K. K. K.

D. Randall

Dear Bill:

Congratulations on a fantastic convention! Your talk was superb—the "Building a Bridge to the Future" was brilliant.

Enclosed is a good piece by Greeley. You'll enjoy it.

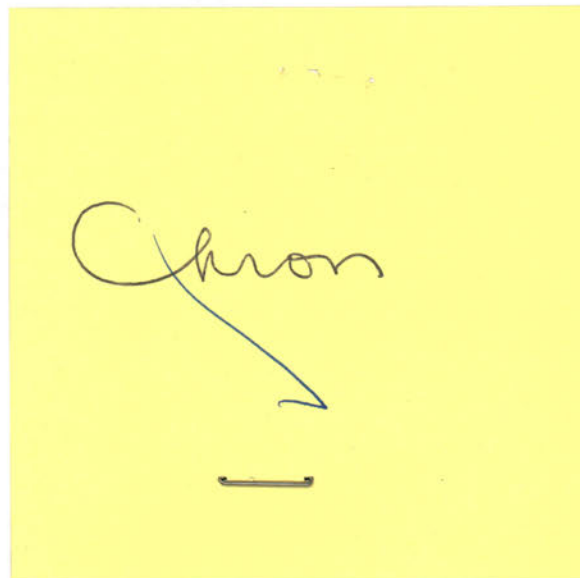
I hope we can get back on track with our meetings soon. I'll have Jean call your office.

God's best. . .

Your friend,

Bill Hybels

P.S. While you were working, I was sailing (see article).



In most churches, Sunday school lessons are prepared for people who have been in such classes since childhood, not for youth never exposed to church, she said. "Kids like that are just lost," Marler said. "What religious education they've got is from pop media. That's an issue churches are going to have to grapple with."

For the 35-and-under group, who are very often children of divorced parents, Marler's studies are showing that glitzy, media savvy worship is not what they seem to want.

"They were interested in a small church like their grandparents went to, where they can have personal relationships," Marler said. "That kind of surprised us. We thought they would have been interested in entertainment. They've got entertainment. It doesn't help them with life problems."

More churches are moving toward intensifying the visual experience in their worship services, along the lines of Willow Creek Community Church, which plans sermons out a year ahead and has original dramas and music written to supplement the message, Hose said.

He points to the movie "Sister Act," in which a dull church was infused with new energy. "That had a real message to the churches of today," he said.

Most churches are a foreign world to youths who didn't grow up in a church culture, Hose said. There's a certain language spoken, songs are sung that were written 100 years ago and organ music is played. "There is definitely a generational issue the church must deal with," he said.

But he said churches must have faith in what got them started and hope they can recapture it.

"The power of the gospel is still relevant," he said. "The truth of the gospel cuts through."

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## COMMENTARY:

### How the press bears false witness against the president

By ANDREW M. GREELEY

c.1996 Religion News Service

August 30, 1996

*(Andrew M. Greeley is a Roman Catholic priest, best-selling novelist and a sociologist at the University of Chicago National Opinion Research Center. His home page on the World Wide Web is at <http://www.agreeley.com>. Or contact him via e-mail at [agreeel\(at\)aol.com](mailto:agreeel(at)aol.com).)*

(UNDATED) You read it here first: President Clinton will be elected by roughly the same margin as he was in 1992, somewhere between 6 and 9 percentage points. Democrats will regain control of Congress, though by smaller majorities than they enjoyed before 1994. Nothing much will have changed since 1992. The Republican revolution will be dead, and gridlock will be alive and well. Again. Still. Maybe always.

I also predict that Hillary Rodham Clinton will be indicted sometime next year. The charge will be dubious and probably would not stand up in court under ordinary circumstances. But Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr has to show something for the millions of dollars of taxpayer's money he has spent on the Whitewater investigation. Clearly, he hasn't found anything yet or he would have indicted the president and/or Mrs. Clinton by now.

The so-called "Clinton scandals" will someday be judged one of the great disgraces in American history -- not the scandals themselves, but the fact that they were in large part created by the national media, who set out to destroy the president.

I base this assertion on Gene Lyons' remarkable new book, "Fools for Scandal: How the Media Created Whitewater" (Franklin Square Press). Lyons, an Arkansas political columnist, was a prime critic of Clinton when he was governor. He does not so much defend the president as he defends his state against sloppy reporting on Arkansas in the national media.

His thesis is simple and sweeping: The national press created Whitewater through incompetent, mendacious reporting. One need only compare the long memos sent to New York Times correspondent Jeff Gerth by Arkansas Securities Commissioner Beverly Bassett-Schaffer with the articles Gerth had written on the subject to conclude that Gerth was either stupid, incompetent or willfully distorted the truth in his stories. Moreover, Lyons' description of Congressional hearings on Whitewater, when compared with what was reported in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Time, Newsweek and other national media, show that a "get Clinton" mindset had blinded the press to the facts and to the most elementary ethics of reporting.

Astonishingly, the most accurate reporting of Watergate has been in the news pages of the Wall Street Journal, whose editorial pages, which are separate from the news division, routinely attack the president.

Lyons shows how Nightline correspondent Jeff Greenfield twisted the meaning of one of Hillary Clinton's statements on Whitewater by editing out 39 crucial words. He points out a falsehood in James Stewart's recent book, "Blood Sport," in which Stewart accuses the Clintons of failing to "abide by financial requirements in obtaining mortgage loans," which Stewart said was a crime. In fact, Lyons writes, if Stewart had merely turned over the page in the application he would have seen that Mrs. Clinton had supplied all the information he had accused her of fudging.

"Fools for Scandal" is filled with such stories. Anyone who reads it with an open mind will wonder why it has not been refuted, why the national media continue to pretend even to themselves that Whitewater (and all related scandals) are the real thing instead of diseased fantasy.

Thus they spread the story early in the Clinton administration that the president had closed down Los Angeles International Airport for an hour so that he might get a haircut as his plane waited on the runway. The story turned out to be false, but only Newsweek backed off from it. To me, that was the tipoff that accuracy and ethics would not stop the national media from trying to destroy Clinton's presidency.

One can understand Lyons' rage. Whenever the national media try to cover my hometown of Chicago, they almost always get it wrong. The New York Times informed its readers last week that Mayor Richard Daley had "festooned" the city with signs that say "This is Daley Country" -- a total falsehood.

The reader of "Fools for Scandal" will conclude that the media have been guilty, in effect, of a big lie. They have borne false witness against Bill and Hillary Clinton, badly tarnishing their own reputations in the process. And they show no sign of stopping. The book is scary: it proves how much power the media have to distort the truth beyond recognition.

There is more opportunity for distortion in recent revelations about former Clinton advisor Dick Morris, who resigned Thursday after a supermarket tabloid reported Morris' involvement with a Washington prostitute. Many in the press have concluded that the Morris scandal made the Democratic convention a failure. I don't think so.

However much damage the press may have done to the president and the presidency, it has not destroyed him. Not yet. He will probably have the last laugh. Clinton should bear in mind the old Irish political proverb: "Half the lies they tell about us aren't true."

###

## COMMENTARY: It's morality, stupid

By CHARLES W. COLSON

c.1996 Religion News Service

August 30, 1996

*(Charles W. Colson, former special counsel to Richard Nixon, served a prison term for his role in the Watergate scandal. He now heads Prison Fellowship International, an evangelical Christian ministry to the imprisoned and their families. Contact Colson via e-mail at 71421.1551(at)compuserve.com.)*

(UNDATED) Despite the urgent need for a campaign on moral issues, it will be, indeed, the economy, stupid, that will drive Bill Clinton and Bob Dole in their quest for the presidency. Anyone who believed the 1996 presidential campaign would focus on anything else could, at best, be considered naive.

Clearly, the Democrats and the Republicans have decided to fight one another over whether America would be better off with a 15 percent across-the-board tax cut or "targeted" cuts, despite Dole's sensible assertion in his acceptance speech that Clinton's 1992 rallying cry -- "It's the economy, stupid" -- was an insult to Americans.

Is this strategy smart for the GOP? No. And it's clearly bad for the country.

I would not for a second suggest that a strong economy is not vital. Yet by choosing to fight the Democrats primarily on the economy, the GOP is illustrating the strategy of playing their weakest card.

The economy under Bill Clinton has performed steadily, if not dynamically. Historically speaking, presidents who preside over stable economies are difficult to oust. On other economic matters, such as free trade, there is little difference between the parties, so if the economy is the only issue, voters can be excused for staying on the horse that has brought them this far.

End of story? It needn't be. Moral issues -- none more so than abortion -- are what truly separate the parties, yet the GOP leadership treats moral issues as if they were cancer. Mentioning them might -- heaven forbid -- suggest that the religious right were still alive and well.

To my mind this strategy is shortsighted, cowardly and stupid.

Yes, Clinton has presided over an economy that provides plenty of bread -- that is, material comforts -- but this does not ensure victory. Why? Because we are living in the midst of a great paradox. While many Americans enjoy relative material comfort, a majority, according to polls I've seen, believe the country is on the wrong track. They worry about crime and the effects of popular culture, illegitimacy and drugs. Ordinary Americans know, even if their politicians don't, that we do not live by bread alone.

We are, in short, back at that most basic question, posed in the Old Testament and found at the root of Aristotle's definition of politics: How shall we live? Here is where the debate should be joined. The GOP should ask this question: Have some of our public policies, which seem acceptable on a personal level, actually polluted the cultural environment?

# Big names win regatta

By Gary Brower  
The Grand Rapids Press

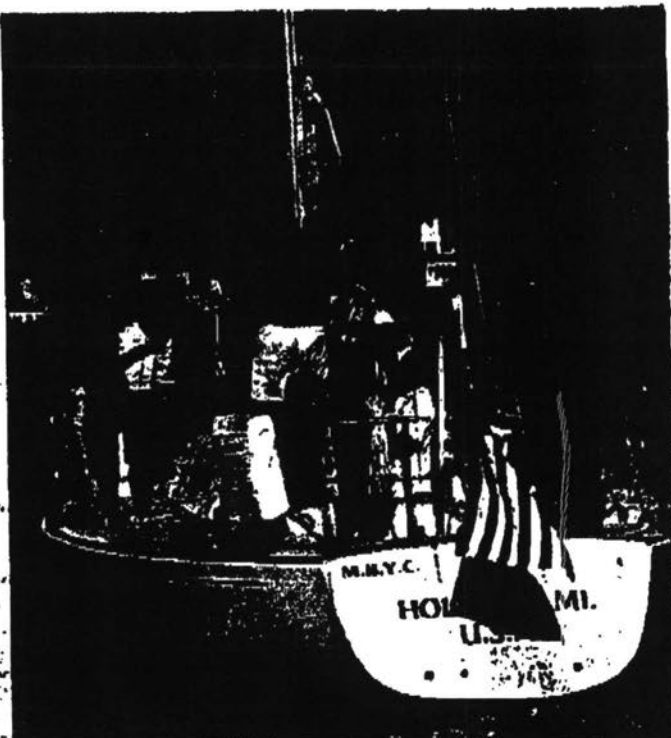
The Reverend Bill Hybels, captain of Crisis Mode, brought in the big gun for the Eighth Annual Great Lakes J-35 Championship and John Bertrand shot six bullets.

Bertrand, a former America's Cup crew member and Olympic silver medalist in yachting, lent his expertise to Hybels and the crew of Crisis Mode over the weekend and the boat won six of seven races to easily win the title of the one-design regatta hosted by the Macatawa Bay Yacht Club.

Crisis Mode won all three races on Friday and two on Saturday before slipping to second in the first race on Sunday. Hybels and crew regrouped to win the second race Sunday afternoon.

"I've been playing at a pretty high level in this game, but coming back to this regatta is just a treat for me because it's what yachting is all about," Bertrand said. "It's about getting a bunch of people together, having a great time and great racing. This is more fun."

In the seven-race, 10-boat regatta the boats keep their six lowest scores, throwing out their worst finish. Hybels and Crisis Mode threw out their second-place finish and ended up with 4 1/2 points, in essence, a perfect score.



Setting sail: The crew of Heartbreaker heads out to Lake Michigan.

A boat earns three-quarters of a point for a first-place finish - a bullet - two points for second place, three points for third on down to 19th.

"It was a great experience. It's the kind of thing that you dream about when you get into sailing," said Hybels, the minister at Will-

ow Creek Community Church in suburban Chicago. "To actually experience it is a wonderful thing."

The J-35 class is a one-design class in which all the boats and riggings are identical. The premium is put on the captain and crew, and Hybels said Bertrand's presence was instrumental in his boat's success.

"The reason I like the class is because it is so competitive and on any given day a half-dozen boats can win," Hybels said. "I think everybody in our entire fleet knows that our having John Bertrand as a tactician put us a clear leg up on the fleet in terms of experience."

Heartbreaker, of Holland, captained by Bob Hughes, ended up in second with 20 1/2 points, winning the first race on Sunday to give Crisis Mode its lone second-place finish.

While Crisis Mode won the battle on Sunday, Heartbreaker won the summer-long war. Its second-place finish this weekend gave Hughes and crew enough points to earn the Lake Michigan Sailing Federation's Best of Lake Michigan Series.

The five-event series, of which the Great Lakes J-35 Championship is the final leg, is comprised of 23 races over the summer. Hughes said that has been his focus all summer and he and his crew raced accordingly this weekend.

"We are disappointed to finish second (this weekend), but to win the season championship was more important," Hughes said. "We have been really focused on the season championship, that has been our big thing."

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 09/06/96

NOTE FOR: David Kendall

The President has reviewed the attached, and it is forwarded to you  
for your:

Information ☒ ~~XX~~  
Action ☐

Mr. David Kendall  
Williams and Connolly  
725 12th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20005

Thank you.

Staff Secretary  
(x6-2702)

cc:

THE WHITE HOUSE

September 4, 1996

Ms. Clouse,

Please address your  
correspondence to:

President Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

This address assures that  
your letters will go directly  
to Personal Correspondence.

You can reach Betty Currie or  
Nancy Hernreich at:  
202-456-2990

Sincerely,

*Betty Currie*  
Betty Currie/  
Nancy Hernreich



THE PRESIDENT  
9-4-96

Liz — Please for the gift and the  
even greater pleasure of seeing you after  
so long — Please let us know if you're  
coming to be so you can come by for a  
visit — see Betty Currie or Nancy Hernreich —

Best,  
Bill Clinton

Liz Clouse  
600 South McKinley  
310 Doctors Plaza  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

cc: Stacy Forster  
Original dispatched  
by Stf Sec Ofc.  
copy of POTUS Note  
+ original backup  
to Nancy Hernreich  
RM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9-4-96

Supp file

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600 So. McKinley • 310 Doctors Plaza • Little Rock, AR 72205

Bill-

I would  
love to say 'hi.'  
I also have a  
little gift for  
you.

Love,  
Liz Wiese  
Clouse

Also, book  
to be inscribed  
→  
CC Bob Clark

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

Lester S. Hyman  
3826 Van Ness Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Les:

Thanks so much for your letter and your desire to further serve the Administration. I'm grateful for your offer and for all the good work you have already done with the FDR Memorial Commission.

Also, I'm happy to sign the book for you. After all, you've done a lot to help make history and bring more hope for America.

Meanwhile, keep up the drumbeat.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

copy to  
BME

LESTER S. HYMAN

3826 Van Ness St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20016  
30 August 1996

Maurice  
Leyland  
attach  
book  
JLS

Dear Mr. President -

In 1957 John F. Kennedy signed  
his book "Profile in Courage" for me.

Today I enclose a copy of your  
book "Between Hope and History" which  
I would much appreciate you inscribing  
for me.

Spanning a period of almost 40  
years, these two books serve as "book-  
ends", if you will, of my political in-  
volvement... with JFK representing  
"the promise" and you representing the  
"fulfillment of the promise".

Many thanks, Mr. President.  
Warmest regards -

Yes

P.S. Your Convention speech was superb!  
After the election, I so much want to help  
you make your second term an historic  
period for America. I've enjoyed  
being your appointee to the FDI2 Memorial  
Commission, but I want to do more so  
I hope we can discuss your allowing me  
to represent the country in a tough full-  
time Ambassadorial appointment.

*Between*

Lester S. Hyman  
3826 Van Ness Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20016

AMERICA'S  
CHALLENGES  
FOR THE  
21ST CENTURY

*President*  
BILL CLINTON

BETWEEN  
HOPE AND HISTORY

To Lester Hyman  
with Maule  
Bill Clinton  
9-4-96

# The Arkansas Reporter

## Volunteers for America

*AmeriCorps at work in Arkansas.*

BY JUDITH M. GALLMAN

**J**ACKSONVILLE—Sara Follin of Austin, Texas, was watching late-night television when she saw a recruiting advertisement for AmeriCorps.

Ditto for Tim Tweed of Logan, Va., who was a social worker moonlighting as a security guard when an AmeriCorps ad flashed a toll-free number on a television screen.

Today, both are part of a 14-member

### THE VOLUNTEERS, SO FAR, HAVE AVOIDED A CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET CUT

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps team, Red 5, which took on two service projects in Jacksonville.

The volunteers, who came from Florida and New Mexico and points in between, worked on rebuilding the shoreline at Jacksonville's Paradise Lake Park, an undertaking that included moving massive boulders with backhoes to re-establish the shoreline, filling in remaining holes with gravel, heaping big mounds of dirt on top and then planting grass. They also brought structured activities to the Jacksonville Boys and Girls Club, ranging from swimming lessons at the Jacksonville Recreation Center to "Girl Talk" for young teen-age girls.

Their home "campus" is Charleston, S.C., one of four in the country. Arkansas is on the

edge of the southeast region, which includes states from Maine to Florida. Part Civilian Conservation Corps, part Peace Corps, part Vista and part military, AmeriCorps seeks young people between the ages of 18 to 24 to take part in a residential community service volunteer program. They generally live at active or closed-down military installations. The team that worked in Jacksonville slept at Camp Robinson but ate at the Little Rock Air Force Base.

(The National Civilian Community Corps is one of several programs that grew out of President Clinton's community service initiative. Other projects originate in the states; about a dozen are operating through Arkansas currently.)

AmeriCorps takes care of volunteers' room and board, and volunteers receive about \$215 a week during their 10 months of service. They can serve a maximum of two years, and each year must include 1,700 hours of community service. A major attraction is an additional \$4,725 they earn for education.

The team leader in Jacksonville was 24-year-old Ed Wire, a Youngstown, Ohio, native and construction wizard.

Doing good is not enough to guarantee survival in days of federal budget balancing. Conceived by the Bush administration

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9-6-96

*Chrisso Fgi  
cc: (Hami Wafford)*

*Bze*

SHERI WALKER

TEAM LEADER: Ed Wire and volunteers worked on the Paradise Lake Park shoreline.

AmeriCorps was brought to life by President Clinton, but the Republican majority in Congress has been hankering to cut the program. So far, the program has survived.

Follin, 19, a high school graduate who was active in her community in the areas of AIDS, teen issues and the homeless, was attracted to AmeriCorps because she wanted to see the country and earn college money.

Follin's commitment has taken her to St. George, S.C., where her team helped rebuild a house; Hanahan, S.C., where they restored a rundown urban park; Atlanta, where they helped prepare tax returns; Wickliffe, Ky., where they restored Civil War earthworks and lived—all 14 of them—

D.C., where they did "fire code abatement" and graffiti removal at inner city schools, and Myrtle Beach, S.C., where they did landscaping with a technical college.

What Follin likes is the practical experience—from roofing a house and hanging wall board to preparing tax forms and dealing with the media—that she doubts she could gain elsewhere.

The assignments, which last from four to six weeks, are called "spikes," and AmeriCorps projects focus on one of four areas: environmental projects, public safety, unmet human needs and education.

Follin said the diversity of her team, particularly political differences, caused some

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Doing good is not enough to guarantee survival in days of federal budget balancing. Conceived by the Bush administration,

ward worked 11 years as a ranch hand on a spread near Dodge City, Kansas, and then several years as a truckdriver. Then he worked 16 years in the Waterloo Industries factory at Pocahontas, helping manufacture toolboxes for Sears-Roebuck.

He and his (second) wife Pauline have six children between them. And how many grandchildren? "I couldn't tell you," Harris says. "Probably 20."

Harris professes not to remember having made any memorable or sagacious comments or observations during his radio commentaries; he talked more about the O.J. Simpson trial than any other topic, and is glad not to have to opine about it further. Will he vote for Clinton against this year? "I don't know yet," he says. "I couldn't say. But I guess so. He's as good as any of 'em. Tell you the truth, they all got me worried what they're trying to do to the old folks. And what I hate about it is, these children that can't stand up for themselves. Poor little fellers didn't ask to be brought into the world. And you know what else?..."

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Follin's commitment has taken her to St. George, S.C., where her team helped rebuild a house; Hanahan, S.C., where they restored a rundown urban park; Atlanta, where they helped prepare tax returns; Wickliffe, Ky., where they restored Civil War earthworks and lived—all 14 of them—in a double-wide trailer; the Little Rock area, specifically McAlmont and Wrightsville where they repaired buildings for Future Builders, an afterschool program for youths and teens; Washington,

D.C., where they did "fire code abatement" and graffiti removal at inner city schools, and Myrtle Beach, S.C., where they did landscaping with a technical college.

What Follin likes is the practical experience—from roofing a house and hanging wall board to preparing tax forms and dealing with the media—that she doubts she could gain elsewhere.

The assignments, which last from four to six weeks, are called "spikes," and AmeriCorps projects focus on one of four areas: environmental projects, public safety, unmet human needs and education.

Follin said the diversity of her team, particularly political differences, caused some team flare-ups, but a van wreck that injured a couple of team members brought the team closer together. There's education in just living and working with others, the volunteers have learned.

#### *HERO continued from previous page*

attended by nearly 5,000 people that included appearances by Harris and other celebrities, including ukelele falsetto Tiny Tim and now-grown "Eddie Munster." Harris apparently was the hit of the show."

"When they announced 'Delbert and his family is now in the building,'" he says, "that place just went wild. They stood up and 15 minutes hollering 'Delbert! Delbert!' I signed autographs for four hours afterward and never did get to all of them. If I'd knew it was going to be that big of a deal, I never would've went."

The hottest selling novelty item at the event was a "Delbert Rules!" message T-shirt.

Harris says he was born near Pocahontas and grew up on a farm there. "I was put to plowing a team of mules soon as I was big enough to hold the plow handles," he says. He went through eight grades of school but then dropped out to work full time on the family farm. He escaped from the farm into the Army during World War II, and after-

*JUSTICE continued from previous page*  
find out what the civil system costs," Williams said. "There just aren't enough statistics to say. One study showed that product injury awards cost \$2 billion a year nationally. That's less than what Americans spend

### **THE PHRASE "TORT REFORM" IS AS DANGEROUSLY DECEPTIVE AS EVER, THE TRIAL LAWYERS SAY.**

on dog food or cat food or Congress." An Illinois study found that lawsuits between businesses over contracts outnumbered per-

sonal injury lawsuits in that state by more than 7 to 1; big corporations who supported "tort reform" were also the biggest filers of lawsuits.

And it is the big corporations, not small businesses, who are the real beneficiaries of tort reform, Williams says. Even with caps on pain and suffering awards, small businesses can't afford to go to court repeatedly, which means they can't afford to disregard the public safety, he said; the big companies can.

"The big corporations can beat the consumer down in court," Williams said. "With a cap on punitive damages, they'll know exactly how unsafe they can afford to be, and they can figure that into the cost of production. We'll only be exposed this much, so let's not worry about it. It's always a bottom line approach. But the bottom line needs to be left to the jury."

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 9/6/96

NOTE FOR: Harris Wofford

The President has reviewed the attached, and it is forwarded to you for your:

Information ☒

Action ☐

Thank you.

Staff Secretary  
(x6-2702)

cc:

Harris Wofford, CEO  
Corporation for National Service  
1201 New York Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20525

September 4, 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: The President

FROM: Nancy Hernreich  
Mildred C. Alston

RE: Recent Correspondence

*C. D. [unclear]*

Rep. M. Dee Bennett, because of your strong support of rebuilding the family unit, writes about family values revival program, entitled Learning Individual Freedom through Empowerment (LIFE) being implemented in the Greater Granite Mountain neighborhood by Greater Friendship, Inc. (GFI). Goal is to help participants avoid violence, crime and substance abuse, and embrace a healthier, more productive approach to life. *Y. [unclear]*

JIM DORSKIND:  
Please coordinate  
the reply.



Representative

**M. DEE BENNETT, Ph.D.**

P.O. Box 17033

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72117

501-374-4423 Business

501-945-7724 Residence/FAX

DISTRICT 59

Part of Pulaski County

STATE OF ARKANSAS

*House of Representatives*

COMMITTEES

MEMBER

Public Transportation  
City, County and Local

Affairs

Joint Committee on  
Children and Youth

August 21, 1996

The Honorable Bill Clinton  
U. S. President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania NW  
Washington, DC 20500-2000

Dear *Bill* President:

This letter comes with belated, yet sincere hopes that your birthday was a blessed day. Our birthdays are just one day apart, as my birthday is August 20. **Happy Birthday late!** Reading about your celebration on Monday gave me the perfect excuse to write.

Some months ago, news reports of your strong support for rebuilding the family unit reminded me that this has been an important issue of yours for some time. They say great minds run together, or maybe we're just thinking alike because our birthdays are so close. At any rate, this year, Greater Friendship, Inc. (GFI), the community based non-profit human resource and community development organization for which I've been a volunteer for several years, launched plans to implement a family values revival program in January of 1997.

The program, entitled Learning Individual Freedom through Empowerment (**LIFE**), is a three-year program which targets families in socio-economically disadvantaged communities, primarily the Greater Granite Mountain neighborhood in Little Rock. GFI is located in the heart of this neighborhood. The LIFE program consists of several major components designed to provide participants (adults and youth) a range of techniques and strategies for recognizing, processing, and coping with controllable and uncontrollable factors in their environment. It is anticipated that the adoption of program skills and principles will help participants (adults and youth) avoid violence, crime, and substance abuse, and embrace a healthier more productive approach to life and living.

President Bill Clinton  
August 21, 1996  
Page Two

Just wanted to let you know we are attempting to do our part back home. God bless you and your developing campaign. If I can be of any special assistance, please don't hesitate to call on me. Give my love to Hillary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Dee".

M. Dee Bennett, Ph. D.

9/5/96

From John Angell

Send to Donskind for reply?

Yes ✓

No         

Q



*Bringing lifetimes of experience and leadership to serve all generations.*

September 4, 1996

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

I was pleased that during your recent interview with Tom Brokaw you reminded him and the viewing public that Social Security is solvent for the foreseeable future and reasonable solutions could eliminate its long-term problems while preserving Social Security's integrity. This point is often overshadowed by the rhetoric of those who portray Social Security in dire terms to justify a fundamental restructuring of the system. As you know, there has been a steady stream of so-called experts calling for privatization of Social Security, which, if adopted, would undermine retirement income security for the vast majority of all Americans.

AARP believes our nation should begin a meaningful discussion about the ways to strengthen Social Security for future generations. Our National Legislative Council, which has visited you twice, has been examining solutions to Social Security's long-term fiscal imbalance. They have developed, and our Board has approved, 12 principles for evaluating solvency proposals. Strengthening Social Security for the long run will require some trade offs and tough choices. But we believe that there must be a careful and deliberate effort to inform and educate the public on the basic issues; a thorough debate -- not a quick fix -- and a genuine effort to help the public (particularly those under age 50) reach a sound judgment. This process should begin now, for it will not be accomplished overnight.

AARP's policy also calls for an examination of proposals to redirect some of Social Security's reserves into alternative investments. Such investments, however, should be made on behalf of the trust funds as pooled resources, not by individuals. Such an approach is more likely to yield a better return on investment than that which would be achieved by most individual investors of such funds.

Any changes to Social Security must take into account the relative health and availability of the other components of the "three-legged stool" of retirement income:

- Social Security, the base, is a social insurance program with a guaranteed, progressive benefit structure, and compulsory, near universal participation;

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- pensions, the second leg, are retirement benefits earned in voluntary, employer-sponsored plans; more highly compensated individuals are more likely to be covered by such plans and tend to accrue higher benefits; and
- savings, the third leg, are individually held assets and investments, which high earners, again, are more likely to accumulate and in far greater amounts.

Social Security is clearly the strongest leg for most current retirees and is likely to remain so in the future. Less than half of current retirees receive pensions, and the average monthly pension benefit is less than \$500. Since pension coverage rates have stagnated at just under 50 percent for the past two decades, it is unlikely that the percentage of future retirees receiving benefits will significantly increase. That is one reason AARP supports initiatives to improve pension coverage and portability. Indeed, we were pleased that earlier in the year you put forward a package of changes intended to strengthen the private pension system.

AARP recognizes the need to increase national savings as a way of enhancing retirement income security. Given the trend towards individual responsibility in private sector plans, the Department of Labor's initiative to improve coverage and promote savings through the private sector is a sensible approach. Such private savings are necessary to supplement the base of income provided by Social Security. For the vast majority, however, such private sector savings can only complement Social Security -- they are not a substitute.

The Association believes a national discussion about Social Security solvency options will help people understand that individually controlled accounts have no place in a social insurance system. Such a change would undermine our national commitment to a foundation of retirement, disability and survivor income for workers and their families through Social Security. The foundation which Social Security provides should not be replaced by one that is less secure. While a few might benefit, those who are lower income, those who make poor investment decisions, or retire during a market downswing would be among those likely to suffer the most.

We encourage you to continue reminding the American people that Social Security can be strengthened for the long-term in a reasonable and non-partisan manner.

Sincerely,



Horace B. Deets

Ready for  
edits

Jim Derski

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OK  
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Don't need to  
see again  
9-6-96  
JMD

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
DURING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FOOD AND DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION RULE ON CHILDREN AND TOBACCO

The Rose Garden

August 23, 1996

Thank you very much. Thank you, Linda, for your courage and your commitment to carry on Victor's legacy and your own crusade. Thank you, Mr. Vice President, Secretary Shalala, General McCaffrey. I'd like to say a special word of thanks to Commissioner Kessler and to Phil Lee, the Assistant Secretary of HHS. In different ways they have a great triumph today. Thank you, Dick Durbin, for being the first member of Congress ever to talk to me about this issue. Thank you, Marty Meehan. Thank you to my former colleagues, the Attorneys General. Mr. Kelly, I know you're retiring this year as the Senior Attorney General of America, and we served together back in the dark ages and I can't imagine a more fitting capstone to your career than the fact that you've been a part of this and we thank you. Thank you, Mark Green.

I thank all the medical professionals who are here. I thank all the young people who are here, including Anna Santiago and Neal Stewart McSpadden, who came out here with us. I want to say a special word of thanks to three members of Congress who are not here, but who deserve to be because of their work on this issue -- Senator Lautenberg of New Jersey, Senator Wellstone of Minnesota, and Congressman Henry Waxman of California. Thank you, Joe Califano, for beating on me about these issues all these years we've been friends and long before I ever became President. Thank you, sir.

Thank you, Dr. Koop, for everything you have done to try to bring some sanity into the health policy of this country. This has been a great week for you -- we had the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill a couple of days ago and this today. Maybe you can design an encore for us over the next month or two. But you have been a great force for good in this country and we're grateful to you.

If I might, I'd like to say just a couple of personal words to some people who really deserve an enormous amount of credit for this decision. The Vice President was altogether too modest and too restrained, but the first time we began to discuss this was about the time the FDA opened their inquiry. And he looked at me and I looked at him and I said, "Well, you know what this might lead to?" And he said, "I certainly hope so." And I said, ~~well, you know~~ -- I shouldn't say this, this is our private conversation -- I said, ~~you know~~, "It really isn't an accident that nobody else has ever tried to do this. It's not an accident. This is not going to be one of those freebies, you know."

And he began to talk about his sister who died of lung cancer, and how much he loved his sister. We've had so many conversations about his sister that -- not just about this, but about her life, the fact that she was one of the very first Peace Corps volunteers -- that I feel almost that I know her personally. And I could see in his eyes this determination to redeem the promise of her wonderful life. And I would also like to thank Nancy Gore Hunger's husband, Frank Hunger, who now serves as our Assistant Attorney General for the civil division. Thank you for being here, Frank. I know this is a great day for you.

I'd like to thank my wife, who has been talking to me about this issue for 20 years; and my wonderful daughter, who convinced my mother to quit smoking on her eighth birthday -- something I was never able to do.

*here* So each of us has a personal journey ~~here~~ that has brought us to this point. But today we are here as a nation, to try to help our parents do a better job in raising their children to be strong and healthy and good citizens, and to do our duty in that regard. We've tried to do a lot of things to help our kids over the last four years, and to help parents raise their children. We've worked hard on cultural issues, supporting things like the V-chip and educational television.

We had a big increase in support for anti-drug programs in our schools and for drug treatment. And we vetoed efforts to reduce those, although we should be investing more. We have a zero tolerance policy to keep guns out of school; we're requiring our states to enforce anti-drinking and driving laws; we defended drug testing cases involving student athletes; we've worked to bring order and discipline into our children's lives by encouraging and giving support to communities that try things like community-based curfews and school uniforms and tougher enforcement of truancy laws.

We know, however, that in spite of all the things that are going right in this country -- with the economy up and more jobs, with the crime rate down, with fewer people on welfare and food stamps, dramatically higher percentage of our young children immunized -- that we have continued to see substantial rises in tobacco and drug use among our young people. We know that while the scientific evidence is clearly unclear, children who do smoke cigarettes are much more likely to engage in other risky behavior, including the use of marijuana and cocaine.

So we have to keep pressing forward to deal with these challenges, every one of them. And I want to thank General McCaffrey for being willing to give up his four stars and magnificent campaign to take on the drug fight for America's children and America's future. I thank you, sir.

Today we are taking direct action to protect our children from tobacco and especially the advertising that hooks children on a product. I hear from time to time politicians say that they don't really think advertising has much to do with it. And whenever I hear one say that, I say, well, how come we're all spending so much money advertising when we run for office then? If it's immaterial, let's just pull it all off and see what happens to us.

Cigarette smoking is the most significant public health problem facing our people. More Americans die every year from smoking related diseases than from AIDS, car accidents, murders, suicides and fires combined. The human cost doesn't begin to calculate the economic costs -- the thing that galvanized the legal claims of the Attorney General, the absolutely staggering burdens on the American health care system and on our economy in general.

But make no mistake about it, the human cost is by far the most important issue. For every day, even though it's illegal, 3,000 of our young people start smoking, and 1,000 of them will die earlier than they would otherwise die as a result. The vast majority of people who smoke in America today started when they were teenagers. If they don't start smoking when they're on a schoolyard, it's very likely they never will.

This epidemic is no accident. Children are bombarded daily by massive marketing campaigns that play on their vulnerabilities, their insecurities, their longings to be something in the world. Joe Camel promises that smoking will make you cool. Virginia Slims' models whisper that smoking will help you stay thin. T-shirts and sports sponsorships send the message that healthy and vigorous people smoke and that smoking is fun.

A year ago this month, we launched a comprehensive strategy to kick tobacco out of the lives of our children. We proposed strong restrictions on advertising, marketing and sales of cigarettes to children. In the year that followed, the FDA received a torrent of comments from the public -- more than 700,000 -- by far the largest outpouring of public response in the FDA's history. The FDA has heard from doctors, scientists, tobacco companies and tens of thousands of children. We have carefully considered the evidence. It is clear that the action being taken today is the right thing to do, scientifically, legally, and morally.

So today we are acting. First, young people will have to prove their age with an ID to buy cigarettes. Second, cigarette vending machines will be banned from anywhere children and teenagers can go. Third, children will be free of tobacco advertising on billboards near their schools and playgrounds, and billboards in other locations will be restricted to black and white, text-only messages. Fourth, if a tobacco ad is in a publication children and teenagers are likely

to read, it also has to be black and white with no pictures. Fifth, companies will no longer be permitted to target young people with marketing gimmicks like T-shirts and gym bags. Sixth, cigarette companies may no longer use brand names to sponsor tennis tournaments, auto races and other sporting events.

Finally, the FDA will soon take steps to require the tobacco industry to educate our children about the real dangers of smoking. There is abundant evidence of both these troubling trends that a lot of young people simply don't believe there's any risks to their health.

With this historic action we are taking today, Joe Camel and the Marlboro Man will be out of our children's reach forever. ✓

I want to be clear -- we've said it before, let's say it again -- cigarettes are a legal product for adults. They have a perfect right to decide whether to smoke. There are many, many good people who have been farming, growing tobacco for generations in their families. They have a right to make a living for themselves and their families, and they will continue to do so. But let's be honest: We hope that over the long run, if we can dramatically reduce rates of smoking among children, the overall consumption of cigarettes will decline. If that happens, these good people who farmed the land and worked hard should not be left behind. And all of us who have spught this course have a responsibility to help them if they face difficulties.

The cigarette companies still have a right to market their products to adults. But today we are drawing the line on children, fulfilling our obligation as adults to protect them from influences that too often are stronger than they are.

As I said before, I want to say again, this action is a tribute to so many of you who are here today. To the parents, the teachers, the doctors, the public officials. Dr. Bristow, I particularly want to commend the AMA for its writings in its journal, its relentless efforts to educate the American people through the physicians of this country. But I'd like to pay special tribute to the children of America who have joined this crusade, who have organized and led a massive grass-roots movement throughout America to educate and inform people about the dangers of tobacco smoking for children.

They've staged teach-ins and "Kick Butts" days all across the country. They have used positive peer pressure on people who could care less what a lot of us old fogies think, to teach their fellow students that smoking is not cool. So I want to thank these children for the work they have done to save their generation. ✓

A lot of the work we do around here we know will only be fully manifest in people's lives in the future. We know we can't guarantee the success of any individual or family, but we have to guarantee them the tools and conditions that will enable them to make the most

of their own lives. Today we take a real step to make sure that they have those lives in full measure. We have today met our responsibility to help our country protect its values, protect its children, and ensure its future.

Thank you all for what you've done.