

Sandy B.

Son's friend

would to say -

should have a get

together of Canada

folks, in the school

upon State Union

COS

Scheduling

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4-30-97

Chen —

SUSIE TOMPKINS BUELL

APRIL 10, 1997

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON

Since the issue of China has assumed such a prominent place in our foreign policy discussions and since I know that you are deliberating on the best way to handle the visits to Washington of Martin Li from Hong Kong and His Holiness the Dalai Lama I thought this recent 60 Minutes piece would be of interest

Moreover, I thought it would be a good time for you to at last meet my old friend Orville Schell. As I am sure you are aware, Orville has a unique and most credible knowledge and understanding of the political, economical and social environment of China. He has as fine an understanding as can be had of the psyche of China and its leaders. Orville has recently taken the position of Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at U.C. Berkeley.

This responsibility coupled with his knowledge of China makes him most valuable in the greatest sense.

I am also enclosing the Newsweek China After Deng issue for your convenience. Orville's piece, page 20, is a taste of his comprehension.

President Clinton, as you know, I have the very utmost respect and confidence for you and your capacity to make our world a better place. Orville Schell could be an authoritative mind for you to turn to at this weighty moment and it would give me satisfaction to have introduced you.

As always I send you and Hillary my fondest wishes.

As ever, with great respect

Julie



EMBASSY OF TUNISIA
1515 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

'97 APR 30 PM4:26

FAX TRANSMITTAL

No. of pages including this cover sheet: 4

Date: *April 29, 1997*

To: *The Office of Protocol
Fax: (202)647 1560*

From: *Ambassador's Office
Embassy of Tunisia
Tel: (202) 862-1850
Fax: (202) 862-1858*

Re: *A message addressed by President Ben Ali to President Clinton .*

4130197

Phil,
Send to

NSC?

Yes ☒

No ☐

C



EMBASSY OF TUNISIA
1515 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

The Embassy of Tunisia presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honor to forward a message addressed by President Ben Ali to President Clinton in response to his message on the occasion of "Aid El Idha".

The Embassy of Tunisia would appreciate the transmission of this message to the President. An unofficial translation is also enclosed.

The Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of State the assurances of its highest consideration

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "D." or similar, located at the end of the third paragraph.



Washington, D.C. April 29, 1997

*The Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520*

رئاسة الجمهورية
الدائرة الملهو ماسية

فخامة الرئيس ويليام ج. كلنتون
رئيس الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية
البيت الأبيض - واشنطن

لقد تلقيت ببالح السرور تهانيكم بمناسبة الإحتفال بعيد الإضحى المبارك.

وإذ أشكر لكم ما عبّرتم عنه من نبيل المشاعر نحوي شخصيًا ونحو الشعب التونسي، فإني أعتنم هذه الفرصة لأؤكد لكم مجددًا حرصنا الثابت على مواصلة التعاون معكم لما فيه مصلحة شعبينا المشتركة وإسهاما في إشاعة ما نؤمن به سويًا من قيم نبيلة وفي إحلال السلام والرفاه في العالم.

وتقبلوا سيادة الرئيس خالص تمنياتي لكم بموفور الصحة والسعادة وللشعب الأمريكي الصديق بدوام التقدم والإزدهار.

مع فائق عبارات تقدير.

زين العابدين بن علي
رئيس الجمهورية التونسية

Unofficial Translation

*His Excellency President William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.*

I have received with great pleasure your congratulations for "Aïd El Idha".

While thanking you for the warm feelings you extended to me and to the Tunisian people, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you, once again, of our commitment to continue working with you for our peoples' mutual benefit and spreading our common beliefs in world peace and prosperity.

With my personal wishes for your good health and happiness and for the continued prosperity and progress of the friendly American people.

Best regards,

*Zine El Abidine Ben Ali
President of the Republic of Tunisia*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Date 4-30-97

To: John Podesta
Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan

From: The Staff Secretary

For your information.

216165

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

*Silver - sent to
Gale - sent to
97 APR 26 PM 3:25*

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES

FROM:

SM
SYLVIA MATHEWS AND ANDREW MAYOCK *AM*

SUBJECT:

UNITY PLAN

In his State of the Union address, the President reaffirmed that one of his top priorities was bringing the citizens of the United States together as "One America." To help fulfill this priority, we are developing and implementing a comprehensive plan that focuses on uniting Americans. This memorandum outlines the following two items for implementing the plan: 1) recent and future activities; and 2) developing issues and events. In addition to these components, we will continue to develop policies and events to address this issue. (Also, I continue my bi-weekly minority issues meeting, which proactively addresses issues of unity and equality as they arise.)

Recent and Future Confirmed Activities

- **Radio Address on Racial Harmony:** On March 29, the President delivered a radio address on racial reconciliation and understanding in which he asked the American people to reaffirm their commitment to the idea that "we are many people, but one nation, bound together by shared values."
- **Women's Leadership Conference:** On April 3-5, the White House Women's Office and the Center for Policy Alternatives hosted "The Women's Economic Leadership Summit" which brought together over eighty women leaders. On April 4, the President addressed the summit. The conference will produce an action plan on such issues as family, child care and health, and the Administration will review its recommendations.
- **Prop. 209:** On April 3, a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a district court injunction staying implementation of Proposition 209 and ruled that the proposition was constitutional. In a press conference on April 3, the President stated his disappointment with the panel's decision. The U.S. is a party to the case as amicus curiae and had argued forcefully at the preliminary injunction stage that Prop. 209 was unconstitutional. The Department of Justice is considering what next steps can be taken by the U.S. in its role as amicus in the case.
- **Disability and the Internet:** On April 7, a letter from the President was read to the participants of an event launching the Web Accessibility Initiative. This initiative is an effort to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the Internet's World Wide Web. The Department of Education will provide funding for the initiative, which was launched by computer industry sponsors and the Yuri Rubinski Foundation.

- **AIDS czar:** On April 8, the President announced the appointment of Sandra Thurman as the new director of the Office of National AIDS Policy. Sandra's appointment was generally well-received by the AIDS community, including the gay and lesbian community.
- **National Council on Disability:** On April 10, the President announced his intention to nominate Yerker Anderson, Gina McDonald, Bonnie O'Day and Shirley Welsh Ryan to the National Council on Disability. The council is responsible for promoting the integration, independence and productivity of individuals with disabilities into the community, schools and the workplace.
- **Jackie Robinson:** On April 15, the President attended the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in major league baseball. At the ceremony in New York, the President stated, "We have achieved equality on the playing field, but we need to establish equality in the boardrooms of baseball and throughout corporate America. And we need to make sure...[that] even more of our young people from all walks of life get their master's degrees and help to make more of their lives in this country." On April 5, the President taped an interview with Peter Maer of NBC radio which was part of a commemoration program. The program was available to program commemoration. The program was available to over 2000 radio affiliates. Additionally, segment's of the President's interview were used as part of NBC radio news broadcasts on this issue on April 15. On April 15, NBC made the President's interview available to the other major radio networks.
- **FDR Memorial:** On April 23, President Clinton announced his intention to send legislation to Congress to modify the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial to reflect President Roosevelt's disability. White House staff has been working with disability groups, members of the Roosevelt family and Members of Congress to determine the best way to bring these sides together. This position will be incorporated into the President's remarks at the memorial's dedication on May 2.
- **ENDA Announcement:** On April 24, the President hosted an event at the White House with the co-sponsors of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, commonly known as "ENDA." The event highlighted the President's support of the bill which would ban discrimination in the workplace (e.g. hiring, firing, promotions) on the basis of sexual orientation.
- **Tuskegee Announcement:** On May 16, the President will announce a formal apology to the victims and families of the Tuskegee syphilis experiment. This announcement will be accompanied by federal efforts to repair the breach between the African-American community and research community that was created by the Tuskegee incident.

- **Commencement Address:** On May 18, the President will give the commencement address at Morgan State University, a historically black college. We do not plan to announce the race initiative here. This speech will most likely address science or religious issues as it relates to the President's unity theme.
- **New \$50 Bill:** On June 12, the Treasury Department is scheduled to unveil its new \$50 bill, which has low-vision features for the sight-impaired. In developing the \$50 note, Treasury worked closely with disability groups on creating the low-vision features of the design. The \$50 bill will go into circulation this fall.
- **Radio Message:** In early June, as part of our video/audio recordings, a recorded message by the President will be aired on the American Urban Radio Network (AURN). AURN has over 500 national affiliates which reach ninety percent of the African-American population in the U.S. The recorded message will be played for a telethon hosted by "100 Black Men of America." The telethon is to raise money for this group which encourages economic development and provides mentoring to youths.

Developing Issues and Events

- **Race Initiative:** We are working on developing a comprehensive race initiative for the President, which may include a commission, to address building a strong and united America for the 21st Century.
- **White House Conference on Hate Crimes:** We are working on developing a White House Conference on Hate Crimes, possibly this fall. The conference would provide a broad umbrella for addressing our opposition to violence against those who may be different from others, and bring key constituencies together to identify commonalities and possible solutions. (This week, we plan to submit a decision memorandum to the President.)
- **Procurement reform:** This week, we will send the President a memorandum that outlines the proposed Administration announcement on procurement reform regulations. We have taken a number of steps in our roll-out of the Administration's proposed regulation that changes the Federal Acquisition Regulations to conform to the Justice Department's procurement reform proposal. We have resolved all outstanding legal issues concerning the regulation and are prepared to send the regulation to Office of Federal Procurement Policy, which is the final step prior to publication. We have conducted briefings for members of the Congressional Black Caucus and House and Senate staff members informing them of the imminent publication of the proposed regulation.
- **National Gay and Lesbian Leaders:** As part of our unity efforts, we are considering a scheduling request for a meeting between the President and national gay and lesbian leaders sometime this summer (possibly June which is "Gay Pride" month). The President last met with them in spring 1993.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 28, 1997

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-30-97

MR. PRESIDENT:

Erskine wanted you to see this
this evening.

Phil Caplan

Back to SB

Copied
Boles

4-30-97

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7010

April 28, 1997

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

APR 28 PM 7:31

Dear Mr. President,

Before our phone conversation tomorrow, I want to describe to you how things look from my perspective. The better we understand each other's viewpoints, the more likely we are to reach an agreement that is in the best interests of the American people.

The economy is strong.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects 1997 nominal GDP growth of 4.6 percent. Unemployment is barely above five percent, and inflation is still holding steady. While I would like to see much higher GDP growth, the current economic conditions are favorable. We both know it is easier to balance the budget when the economy is strong.

The deficit is at a low point. It will only go up from here.

The latest data suggests a 1997 deficit of \$92 billion. At 1.2 percent of GDP, the deficit is at its lowest point in the past two decades. Yet historical comparisons are not as important as future projections. Beginning the year after next, entitlement spending trends will cause steady and permanent increases in the deficit.

There is no better time than the present to reach an agreement to balance the budget and cut taxes. Each year we wait, the task will only get harder.

The political timing is ideal right now.

You are in the first year of your second term. We are 19 months from the next Congressional election, and over three years from the next Presidential election. The country is strongly in favor of bipartisan solutions. We have demonstrated our ability to cooperate on a major national security issue.

Yet we do not have all year to reach an agreement, as you have recently suggested. Factions are coalescing in Congress, and they are drawing lines in the sand. In a week or two, we will be over-constrained (if we are not already). I believe that if we fail tomorrow, the chances for a later agreement will decline rapidly.

We must continue to cooperate, Mr. President. If we succeed, the Nation will thank us, and we can foster an environment of bipartisan cooperation and problem-solving. If we fail, I believe the environment in Washington could descend into one of bitter partisanship. I would like to spend the next two years getting things done, rather than fighting pitched appropriations battles and struggling to avoid another government shutdown. Do you think our Nation is better off with an agreement, or without one?

We have moved almost as far as we can.

It is not my intent to negotiate in this letter. While specific details can wait until tomorrow, I see two critical issues remaining.

The first, and most important, is the Consumer Price Index (CPI). We have both listened to the experts. We both know that the political challenges are formidable. Conservatives are telling me that if we follow the advice of the technical experts, we will be raising taxes. Two years ago your party drafted fund-raising letters for the DNC about "Republicans cutting Social Security," and labor unions have talked about spending hundreds of millions on an advertising blitz against Republicans.

Without your leadership, we cannot follow the advice of the experts. Republicans will not legislate a change in the CPI. Doing so would be both bad policy and bad politics. I tried to reach out to you in March with my suggestion for a commission, only to be brushed away. I now believe that the only way we can achieve the right policy goal (correcting the inaccuracies in the CPI as a measure of increases in the cost of living) is for you to make such changes administratively.

The second critical issue is your set of proposals to increase new spending. Many Republicans believe that they were coerced into \$8 billion of extra non-defense discretionary spending just to return home to campaign for the 1996 elections. This amount is now built into the baseline for future spending, meaning the additional cost over the next five years is \$40 billion.

Now, over and above that, your latest proposal includes \$83 billion of additional non-defense discretionary spending, and \$54 billion of new entitlements. Mr. President, we can't stop the car by stepping on the gas. I understand your desire for increased "investments," but there are many in Congress who believe that we are already spending too much. You said in 1996 that the era of big government was over, and yet your negotiators insist on \$5 billion new *mandatory* spending for school construction grants! The Trustees just told us again that medicare part A will be bankrupt in four years, yet your negotiators still propose to increase medicare spending with \$12 billion of new benefit spending over the next five years.

I will face enormous difficulties getting Republican support for increases in non-defense discretionary spending. If you continue to insist on new entitlement spending, my task becomes impossible.

I place a high priority, Mr. President, on reaching an agreement. We must also be able to enforce an agreement. Too many times in the past there has been bipartisan consensus, either on deficit targets, or on spending levels, only to have that agreement breached or ignored later in the process. We need a strong enforcement mechanism to ensure that we balance the budget and cut taxes.

Your negotiators have given virtually no ground.

I must compliment you on the skill of your negotiators. John Hilley, Gene Sperling, and Franklin Raines, and Leon Panetta before them, have fought fiercely for your interests over the past two years. They have represented your goals with clarity and strength of purpose.

At the same time, they have given virtually no ground. In 1995, Republicans proposed net tax cuts of \$245 billion. We are now indicating our willingness to accept a net tax cut around \$100 billion. This is, in my opinion, far too little. If our goal were merely to return to the average rate of taxation in the post-World War II era, we would need to cut taxes by almost \$400 billion over the next five years. Instead, we're talking about letting the American people keep an additional 22 cents of every \$100 dollars they earn. The American people need and deserve a larger tax cut.

In 1995 you said your priorities were medicare, medicaid, education, and the environment. While the Balanced Budget Act of 1995 would have saved \$227 billion in medicare over seven years, our latest proposal would save at least \$100 billion less than that. For education and the environment, even a freeze in non-defense discretionary spending would provide \$172 billion more than Republicans proposed in 1995. In response to your stated priorities, our latest proposal added back more than \$1 billion for student loans relative to the Balanced Budget Act.

In contrast, the most recent proposal we have from your negotiators is essentially identical to your original budget proposal from June of 1995. The across-the-board trigger to automatically cut spending and increase taxes is still there. Your medicare and medicaid savings are where they were in 1995. Your latest proposal for non-defense discretionary spending for the next five years is \$58 billion above *your own proposal from last year*.

This year, your budget submission proposed to save \$100 billion (after new benefit addbacks) in medicare using CBO scoring. Your OMB apparently was off by eighteen percent in their estimates, because CBO scored your net medicare savings at only \$82 billion. Before the most recent round of discussions, Erskine Bowles told me privately that we would see movement from the Administration *every single day*. The first day, your negotiators made proposals to bring your medicare savings back up to your original \$100 billion. This was a deft political move. Your negotiators claimed to have made a significant concession, while in reality your original proposal had not changed.

Since then, Pete Domenici and John Kasich have seen virtually no movement. The latest White House proposal still insists on \$83 billion of new non-defense discretionary spending, and on \$54 billion of new entitlement spending. While we have come down this year from a \$200 billion tax cut to one in the neighborhood of \$100 billion, I have seen only about \$12 billion smaller spending increases than in your original budget submission. Our current and future budget problems are driven by too much and unsustainable spending. You exacerbate that by proposing \$137 billion of spending increases. The movement promised by Mr. Bowles has not occurred.

The Nation needs our strong leadership.

Mr. President, I need your help to achieve a balanced budget in 2002. I have Republican Senators telling me that our likely deal is a bad deal. The same phenomenon exists in the House. Mr. Gephardt and liberal Democrats in the Senate are priming their guns in anticipation of a Republican-only budget. Republican leaders are wary of unwarranted attacks on CPI, and the same may be true for medicare. Over the past two years we have tried to propose solutions to the entitlement trends driving our short- and long-term fiscal problems. If the specter of political attacks from the Left prevents us from making needed changes in medicare or medicaid, we will be faced with the unpleasant choice between proposing significant squeezing of non-defense discretionary spending, or abandoning our goal of balancing the budget and cutting taxes. I do not see how in such an environment your proposed "investments" could have any chance of success, nor even how the programs you have initiated over the past several years could be maintained at their current levels. This is not my preferred course of action, but if we cannot reach an agreement, I may be faced with no other alternative. I must choose between these alternatives now.

I believe your decision will define your second term. If you want to continue the cooperative effort we demonstrated last week, then you need to take bold steps to make whatever corrections to the Consumer Price Index your economic advisors tell you are technically correct. You also need to propose a much more modest set of "investments" than those your negotiators have demanded. I believe that, with these two issues resolved, and with a strong enforcement mechanism, we can rapidly reach a budget agreement that is in the best interest of the Nation.

I would really like the next two years to be constructive, Mr. President, and I am trying my hardest to work with you. I hope you agree with me and will do the same. With best wishes, I am

Respectfully yours,



Trent Lott

Chon

4/28
ack
OK

de Salas
know
fresh folks
Bring out
bikes to town
get them to show
so I can do
pictures
them - P

Spinning
letter
(P) per
Pammy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1997

PERSONAL

The Simonian Family
2629 South Clovis Avenue
Fresno, California 93725

Dear Dennis, Bonnie, Stacy, Kimberly, and Ashley:

Thanks for the vintage bicycles, the book, the sign, and the photo album, which Representative Dooley recently forwarded to Hillary and me. It was a pleasure for us to receive these wonderful keepsakes and your kind letter.

I hope you'll extend our gratitude to Bob Rose for his hard work to make the bikes look so beautiful. You have our best wishes.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

wonderful
Frank

copy sent to COS
Betty Currie

White House Gift Record

Presented: 04/21/97
Arrival : 04/21/97
Entered : 04/21/97

Gift ID: 401397/bxw

Donor Information

The ~~Mr. Dennis~~ Simonian *Family*
2629 South Clovis Avenue
Fresno, CA 93725

Acknowledged By: Pending BC Gift Draft

Gift Unit computer printer broken 4/21 - 4/23

Comments:

And family. Possible BC SIG per *Loriat* Nathan. Gifts were delivered to the RDS by Congressman Cal Dooley, who had them stored at his home for some time. Gifts are still in shipping boxes pending Betty Currie's instruction about disposition.

BC sig instructions were set-up several months ago via e-mail from Michelle. Originated w/ Nancy or Betty

Gift Information

Intended: First Family

Disposition: President to Retain

Description:

- 1) Two antique bicycles. One is a 1946 Boys Schwinn Autocycle. The other is a 1947 Girls Schwinn Hollywood.
- 2) Paperback titled "Evolution of the Bicycle, Volume 2."
- 3) Sign personalized for the President and First Lady, mentioning the gift.

Location of Gift:

Held in Gift Unit pending value.

4) Photo Album - not received in Gift Unit

Total Gift Value: \$1790

with
Kathy
4/21/97

Dear Mr. President:

It was Sunday September 8, 1996, when we received a call from the Clinton/Gore Campaign and Cal Dooley's office to participate in the Presidential Motorcade for your upcoming Fresno visit scheduled later that week. We felt privileged and honored to have been chosen for this special assignment.

Memories surfaced of your last visit to Fresno one year ago on September 5, 1995. Your unannounced, surprise visit to our family farm was a major highlight and milestone for us. We are a family that has historically worked together thru good times and bad with many sacrifices along the way, yet with many rewards. We feel, as a family, that we received the ultimate reward and privilege to have been selected to host the President of the United States of America at our family business. However, regrettably with only forty-five minutes notice of your arrival, we were unable to notify our two eldest daughters, Stacy and Kimberly.

The likelihood of meeting the President again with an opportunity for a family photo seemed impossible. This historical, near perfect day was missing something very special to us-our daughters to share the moment. Little did we realize or expect that by accepting the invitation to participate in the Presidential Motorcade the following year September, 1996, would afford us another chance.

We cherish every word of conversation we had with you that warm, summer day at Dailey Elementary School on your second historical visit to the Valley. Your suggestion to find our three daughters in the crowd, after your speech, for a family photo was the ultimate thrill and a dream come true for our family. Fortunately, we were able to locate our daughters just in time to meet you at the airport moments before you boarded Air Force One. The family photo with the President was now complete. This, indeed, was a perfect day for the Simonian Family. We will celebrate that day for the rest of our lives and we thank you.

As we mentioned, in our brief conversation with you at Dailey Elementary School, we are restoring two vintage Schwinn bicycles, for you, Mr. President, and for the First Lady. This matching Boys' and Girls' pair are painted with patriotic red, white, and blue colors, each bike representing your birth years, 1946 and 1947. These vintage Schwinn built bicycles are custom, one-of-a-kind, expertly restored by Bob Rose and appropriately named "Mr. President" and "First Lady." We hope these bicycles may recapture childhood memories for both of you and may you coast down the bridge on your way to the 21st century in style!!!

We are currently communicating with Andrew Friendly and Cal Dooley in planning the necessary shipping procedures for these special bicycles. Our goal is for you to receive them after the election and before Christmas '96.

We would love to have a signed picture of you, Mr. President and the First Lady possibly in front of the White House with your new custom bicycles for our family and one for Bob Rose, director of this restoration project.

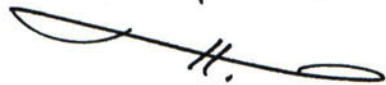
We hope, someday, our family may have the opportunity to meet you at your place of business, The White House, and meet your family. You have helped remind us how proud we are to be "An American."

Once again, from all our family-Thank You! "God Bless America!"

Sincerely,

The Simonian Family

Pennis, Bonnie, Stacy,
Kimberly, and Ashley

A handwritten signature, likely of Dennis, written in cursive script.