

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1998

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached are the following weekly information items:

- (A) Weekly Economic Briefing
- (B) Interest Rates and the Stock Market
- (C) DPC Report
- (D) NEC Report
- (E) CEQ Report
- (F) Emanuel Report
- (G) Communications Report
- (H) Race Initiative Report
- (I) Public Liaison Report
- (J) Intergovernmental Affairs Report
- (K) Cabinet Affairs Report
- (L) OSTP Report
- (M) Political Report

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Tab F:
Emanuel/COS

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Phil Caplan *PC*
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Phil Caplan *PC*
Sean Maloney *SM*

JAN - 9 1998 5:35 pm

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

1-12-98

January 9, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan

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Reed
Kagan
COS-

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

1. Child Care -- Response to Announcement: We are pleased with the response so far to your child care initiative. Children's advocates and child care experts are overjoyed at both the level of funding and the composition of the package (e.g., the ratio of subsidies to tax cuts). Hill Democrats and some moderate Republicans are enthusiastic about the package, as you heard at Thursday's congressional meeting. Governors -- including a few Republicans -- have praised the extent of state flexibility in the plan. Even conservative Republicans in Congress had a hard time attacking your proposal. Rep. Pryce, whom Speaker Gingrich asked to respond to the proposal for the House Republican leadership, admitted that you had "resisted the urge to have the federal government control child care." Some Republicans alternated between accusing you of spending too much money and trying to claim that they had spent even more for child care in the past.

The most serious criticism, which we knew we would face, is that the package does little to help parents who want to stay at home to care for their children. (A similar point was made in the opinion piece by David Blankenhorn appearing in the New York Times that you recently asked us about; as you recall, he criticizes tax cuts for child care and supports expanding the child tax credit to help parents of young children stay at home.) As you know, we can blunt this charge somewhat by coming out for an expansion of the FMLA in the State of the Union to allow more workers to stay at home for longer periods with their newborns. We are also open to discussing with members of Congress an expansion of the child tax credit, although we found such proposals too expensive to incorporate into our package. Most important, we cannot let anyone forget your consistent record of providing families with real opportunity and choices -- for example, through the child tax credit, FMLA, EITC, minimum wage, and CHIP.

2. Health -- Response to Medicare Buy-in Announcement: Your Medicare buy-in proposal provoked a great deal of comment. Some Republicans, including Senator Gramm and Rep. Bill Thomas, were extremely critical of the proposal, arguing that it would exacerbate Medicare's financial problems. (Gramm compared Medicare to the Titanic and warned about putting extra passengers on board.) The base Democrats were very pleased with the proposal -- particularly after Republicans strongly opposed it. Though liberal groups also were pleased that we are addressing this issue, they believe we must include some kind of subsidy for low-income Americans. Elite validators gave this policy mixed reviews: while uniformly recognizing the

1-12-98
need of this population for affordable insurance, some (including the New York Times) praised the self-financing feature of the program, while others expressed concern that the proposal would create the demand for further, less fiscally responsible subsidization.

✓ **3. Drugs -- Substance Abuse and Prisoners:** The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse released a study on Thursday finding that drug or alcohol use helped lead to the incarceration of 80 percent of all inmates in the nation's prisons and jails. According to the report, 1.4 million prisoners (out of a total 1.7 million) were high on drugs or alcohol when they committed their crimes, stole property to buy drugs, and/or had a history of drug and alcohol abuse.

As you know, the 1994 Crime Law mandates that 100 percent of all federal prisoners defined as eligible receive substance abuse treatment by 1997. According to the Bureau of Prisons, the federal prison system has met this requirement. Since 1994, we have made some form of substance abuse treatment available in every federal prison facility, tripled the total number of inmates treated in the federal system, and increased the number of residential treatment centers in federal prisons by 30 percent (from 32 to 42). In addition, legislation you offered requires states to submit comprehensive plans of testing, sanctions, and treatment by March 1998 as a condition of receiving prison construction funding.

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To build on these efforts, we are preparing a directive from you to the Attorney General to: (1) require states, as part of their testing and treatment plans, to estimate current drug use in prisons and measure progress yearly; (2) draft legislation to allow states to use prison construction funds to implement their testing and treatment plans; and 3) draft legislation to require states to enact increased penalties for smuggling drugs into prisons as a condition of receiving prison construction monies. An event focusing on this directive is tentatively scheduled for Monday.

4. Drugs -- Anti-Drug Media Campaign: The anti-drug media campaign began on Thursday in Washington, D.C. -- the first city in the 12-city pilot. Anti-drug advertisements have started to air in the District during prime-time network television shows, with radio and Internet ads to commence next week. ONDCP will roll out the media campaign in the remaining pilot cities throughout the month of January. The other 11 pilot cities and rollout dates are as follows: Atlanta (1/20), Baltimore (1/13), Boise (1/13), Denver (1/16), Hartford (1/23), Houston (1/15), Milwaukee (1/21), Portland (1/22), San Diego (1/9), Sioux City (1/20), and Tucson (1/15).

5. Crime -- Brady Checks: As you know, Arkansas remains the only state that is not conducting background checks prior to handgun sales. Although Attorney General Winston Bryant issued an opinion saying that state police have the legal authority to conduct checks, Governor Huckabee has ordered the police not to do so. In response, Bryant has asked the Treasury and Justice Departments to make him (rather than the state police) the designated chief law enforcement officer for the entire state; under this scheme, federally licensed dealers would refer the names of potential handgun purchasers to the AG's office, and employees of that office

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would check the names in the FBI's NCIC (rather than the state police's) database. Justice and Treasury are currently inclined to grant Bryant's request later this month. This action may provoke a strong response from Huckabee, who is currently not aware of Bryant's request.

6. Crime -- Slain Officers: The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) reported last week that the number of officers killed in the line of duty increased by nearly 40% in 1997, from 116 in 1996 (the lowest number since 1959) to 159 last year. The 1997 figure exceeds the 1990s average of 151 line-of-duty deaths per year. NLEOMF attributes the rise in deaths to: (1) an increase in firearms-related deaths (70 in 1997, as compared to 56 in 1996); (2) an unusually high number of traffic fatalities; and (3) 10 multiple-death incidents, in which a total of 22 officers were killed.

7. Welfare -- Child Support Computer Systems: We are working closely with a House-Senate group convened by Rep. Clay Shaw's staff on the child support computer systems issue you discussed with Senator Feinstein this fall. Our goal is to put in place a new system of penalties that are large enough to ensure that states develop effective computer systems, but not so large as to disrupt states' child support collection efforts. As you know, current law requires us to withhold all federal child support funds from a state without a statewide child support computer system -- a penalty we intend to retain in the legislation (at least as a threat) for egregious cases. Shaw's initial proposal, which we think makes sense, would impose an initial penalty of 4 percent of federal child support funds in the first year, with higher penalties in later years. Once a state's system is complete, it could earn back a portion of the penalty. Shaw wants to introduce legislation the first day of Congress and move it through the House by the second week of February. As always, the Senate is expected to move more slowly, but could pass the legislation by April. By then, HHS expects nine states to remain without statewide computer systems: California, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Hawaii, Oregon, and New Mexico.

8. Welfare -- Welfare Recipients in College: You recently asked us about a report in the Washington Post that some college students on welfare are dropping out of school to meet new work requirements. As you know, the welfare law does not count education that is not directly related to a job toward the work participation rates. States, however, have significant flexibility to excuse college students from work, given that the required participation rate is now at 30 percent and peaks at 50 percent. In addition, welfare recipients can combine work with their studies (as most college students do), particularly if work-study jobs are available. To encourage this result, we asked Secretaries Riley and Shalala to write to the nation's college presidents in September to explain the law and stress the importance of providing work-study jobs to welfare recipients enrolled in their schools. (Most work-study jobs are only 10 hours per week, but the letter explained that this is not a legal requirement.)

9. Welfare -- Delaware Evaluation: Governor Carper released on Monday an evaluation of the state's welfare reform waiver program called A Better Chance (ABC). The program began in 1995 as one of the first comprehensive statewide waivers granted by the

Administration. Initial results are encouraging: by the fourth quarter after the program started, program participants had 24 percent higher employment, 16 percent higher earnings, and 18 percent lower average benefits than the participants in the control group. The evaluation found a fairly high rate of sanctioning: 49 percent of the participants were sanctioned at least once for failing to comply with the program's employment or family responsibility (immunization, school attendance) requirements. It is interesting to note in evaluating these results that Delaware's caseloads have not gone down as dramatically as those of many other states; the decline since January 1993 has been 21 percent. This relatively low decline may result from ABC's "make work pay" incentive that allows recipients to keep more earnings and still remain eligible for welfare.

10. Education -- California Math Standards: Proposed new math standards in California have provoked a heated debate in the last few months, pitting educators who emphasize problem solving against those who favor a more basic skills approach. The California State Board of Education last month adopted the more conservative view, over the objection of Superintendent Delaine Eastin. The head of the Education Directorate at the National Science Foundation subsequently sent a letter to the Chair of the California State Board strongly criticizing the decision and implying that it would jeopardize continued NSF funding for six Urban Systemic Improvement sites in California. The letter upset conservatives (and others), who viewed it -- in our view, correctly -- as an example of inappropriate federal intrusion in state curriculum matters. Diane Ravitch warned us immediately that it could give Bill Bennett a pretext for withdrawing his support of your national testing initiative. As a result, we worked with NSF this week to draft a letter from NSF Director Lane to the California State Board clarifying that NSF would not second-guess state standards and emphasizing the importance of basic skills. Based on recent conversations with Ravitch, we believe this step has been sufficient to prevent Bennett's reversal.

11. Education -- Urban Education Report: Education Week issued its annual report on education reform in the 50 states on Thursday, focusing on the plight of urban school districts. The study noted that approximately 40 percent of students in urban districts reached the basic level on the most recent NAEP 4th grade reading and 8th grade math and science exams in 1994 and 1996, compared to over 60 percent in each of these subjects in non-urban areas. The study also found discrepancies in resources, with urban districts spending about \$500 less per child annually than non-urban districts. The Education Week issue also detailed a dozen promising reform strategies to raise achievement in districts around the nation -- e.g., setting high standards; holding schools accountable for results and giving schools greater flexibility; creating small, more intimate schools or schools-within-schools; recruiting well-prepared teachers and providing them with continuing training and support; training principals to be effective school leaders; and promoting school choice. Your existing and planned initiatives -- including the new Education Opportunity Zones proposal that you previewed in December -- match up very well with these reform prescriptions.

1-12-98

12. Education -- Life-long Learning Card: You recently asked us about Bob Reich's idea of a life-long learning card -- essentially a bank card consolidating all federal education benefits (Pell, IRAs, education tax credits and deductions, and job-training funds), against which education expenses could be deducted. DPC and NEC staff have begun to look into this proposal, but we do not yet have a specific recommendation. The Education Department is currently intending to begin a pilot project by October 2000 to use bank cards to disburse federal aid to post-secondary students. Our instinct is that bank cards may be effective to deliver grants and loans, but less useful for tax credits and deductions. We will continue to explore this issue.

→ This is an exciting
possibility - we are
not sure if it will
return this money

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JAN - 9 1998
10:10 pm

January 9, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: GENE SPERLING
RE: NEC Weekly Report
CC: ERSKINE BOWLES

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

1-12-98

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Sperling/COS
page 1 - HRC

Capital Budget Commission: Shortly before Christmas, I spoke at the beginning of the first meeting of the Capital Budget Commission. As you know, the purpose of the Commission is to review the appropriate role of capital investments in both current and future federal budgeting. As I mentioned to them, the debate over how to use surpluses will make their findings even more interesting than we initially thought. Two of the best people from OMB, Barry Anderson and Joe Minarik will be assisting them. The Commission will report to the NEC within one year from the date of the recent meeting. I found the group excited and ready to be engaged in this effort. The members include Laura Tyson, Herb Stein, Steven Rattner, Richard Leone and others, in addition to the impressive co-chairs, Jon Corzine and Kathleen Brown.

School-College Partnerships: I have been speaking with Eugene Lang about applying his model to our college-school mentoring initiative. He is very enthusiastic. Indeed, he says it is close to the new direction he has been working on. Before Christmas, I invited him to meet with us, Education and DPC, which proved to be a very productive meeting. He indicated he would be interested in helping with both the design and roll-out of proposal. He has recommended a group of people who could serve as a brain trust of sorts who might meet after we announce this effort to work with us on next steps.

Minimum Wage: As you know, Senator Kennedy has put forward a proposal to increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 by 2003. We have discussed the Senator's proposal with Larry Katz (a former Chief Economist at Labor and a professor at Harvard), Alan Krueger (a former Chief Economist at Labor and a professor at Princeton), and Ceci Rouse (soon to be on the NEC staff). The consensus view among these three economists was that more time was needed to evaluate the impact of the 1996/1997 increase. Working with Janet Yellen and the staff at CEA, we are going to study the pros and cons of increasing the minimum wage again. We will work to develop recommendations for you as soon as possible.

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On the first point, we emphasized that while mitigating climate change would produce benefits for the country as a whole, and while we had structured our policies to ensure that changes were gradually phased in, we were eager to work together with them on ways to cushion any transition problems that could arise along the way. On the second point, we emphasized that you would not be submitting the treaty for ratification until we had obtained meaningful developing country participation, and we agreed that we (including Janet Yellen and Larry Summers) would meet again with them to discuss the empirical evidence concerning environmental regulations and plant location decisions (which generally suggests that such decisions are not strongly affected by differences in environmental regulations). The union representatives also expressed an interest in meeting again on the related topic of electricity restructuring, about which they have some concerns. We agreed to meet on that issue also.

Katie and I also met with Erskine about our internal structure for moving forward on climate change. We will be calling several prominent outsiders -- including Norm Augustine, John Deutch, Charlie Curtis, and others -- to explore their interest in helping us to improve energy efficiency and work with industries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Medicare Buy-In Roll-Out: Myself, Chris Jennings and Jeanne Lambrew of the NEC have initiated efforts to solidify the already-positive support for our policies to help people ages 55 to 65 access health insurance. The night before the event, we had a conference call with our Medicare Commission members to educate them about the policies and their rationale. The Commissioners were enthusiastic, especially Drs. Altman and Vladeck who think that this a solid, defensible policy. Last Tuesday, we met with all of the major aging and advocacy groups to present the policies and answer questions. We brought in the key validators, like Robert Reichauer, Henry Aaron, and Judy Feder, to explain the details and design of the proposals. Again, they were generally positive. We plan to continue this education effort next week by meeting with key groups like the business community and women's groups as well as start Congressional staff briefings.

SAVER Implementation. As you know, the SAVER Act, which you signed on November 20, mandates that you convene a retirement savings income summit by July 15, 1998 (subsequent summits are to be held in 2001 and 2005) to discuss private pension and individual retirement savings issues. The Labor Department is charged by statute with planning and conducting the summit in consultation with the American Savings Education Council, a coalition including AARP, labor unions and trade associations. There will be 200 participants, which need to be named by January 31 -- 100 are to be nominated by you in consultation with the Congressional Democratic leadership and 100 by the Congressional Republican leadership (half by the Speaker of the House and half by the Senate Majority Leader).

I held a meeting with John Podesta, Legislative Affairs, OMB, Presidential Personnel, Public Liaison and others to ensure that the process of naming participants proceeds smoothly. We will be working with Labor and others in the White House to get a joint list with Congressional Democrats. We think this summit provides an excellent opportunity to build support for your proposals on pensions to spur higher private savings.

Next Steps
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& Mandatory
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Information Technology Worker Shortage: Tom Kalil, on our staff, is working with the Departments of Education, Labor, Commerce on a conference on the information technology workforce that will be held on January 12th-13th in Berkeley, California. The industry is growing so rapidly that many companies are complaining that they can't find enough workers with the necessary skills. The conference is being jointly sponsored by industry and the Department of Commerce. We will be announcing steps to help meet the growing need for workers with IT skills -- such as upgrading the skills of the existing workforce and getting high-tech companies more involved in school-to-work.

The entire high tech sector (information, communications, electronics) now employs over 4 million Americans at wages that are 73 percent higher than the private sector average. There are a few members of Congress (e.g., Rep. John Dingell) who believe that the IT industry is raising this issue primarily to loosen restrictions on immigration. We have made it clear to the industry that our interest is in upgrading the skills of the U.S. workforce.

Japanese Economy: We continue to privately press Japanese officials for (1) additional fiscal stimulus to boost Japanese economic growth and (2) greater clarity on measures they will take to address their banking problems. Treasury, the Federal Reserve, the IMF and financial markets believe that the fiscal measures announced by Prime Minister Hashimoto last month are insufficient to restore healthy economic growth in Japan (98 budget remains contractionary).

In meetings this week with a close Hashimoto advisor (his Deputy Chief of Staff) and Japan's Minister of Economic Planning, I made clear our view that additional fiscal contraction this year will impede economic recovery in Japan and Asia as a whole and that while we had been encouraged by the size of their tax cut, we were disappointed to hear that, on the whole, their budget was contractionary. They responded that Hashimoto will consider additional measures as necessary, but cannot publicly announce any new proposals until the current proposals are enacted (late March, early April) because it could hurt Hashimoto, who has made a strong political commitment to balancing the budget. I replied that it was important that additional fiscal steps be taken as soon as possible particularly because of Japan's importance to helping to energize the region at this critical time. I assured them we would not mention publicly that they were considering such measures but stressed because of the current situation, timing could be critical.

They clearly were looking for positive public signals from us on their fiscal plan, but we made clear that we could not back off privately or publicly from our consistent position of the need for stronger, demand-led growth. I also indicated that we were very sensitive to the possible market consequences of public criticism by the USG, and, given the close relationship between you and the Prime Minister, are sensitive to Hashimoto's political situation. It will be helpful for you to discuss these issues further with Hashimoto early next week.

Need to press for clear conference on IT workforce
clearly state
reiterate

Boeing: Dan Tarullo and Dorothy Robyn worked with Boeing officials this week in response to the recent announcement that Airbus is launching two derivatives of the A340, which will compete with the 747 and 777. France and Germany have committed to provide launch aid for the A340 (under the 1992 U.S.-EU bilateral, the EU can subsidize up to one-third of development costs), but the UK is apparently wavering. After Dan talked to Boeing CEO Phil Condit (Condit also talked to Charlene Barshefsky), NEC worked with USTR, State and Commerce to draft a demarche to the UK urging them to avoid any further entrenchment of government subsidies to the aircraft industry.

Roswell, NM: Last November, when Levi-Strauss announced that it was closing 11 plants, the NEC decided to undertake a pilot project in Roswell, New Mexico, one of the affected communities, to test our Community and Economic Adjustment Initiative. This initiative, which you announced as part of Fast Track, borrows a page from our successful base closure adjustment effort. The pilot project is proceeding well. A project manager from DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment, Tom Shea, has been detailed to the Economic Development Administration and in turn assigned to Roswell. Shea has been instrumental in getting Roswell set up a single, representative group to plan for redevelopment (previously, organizational schisms had impeded progress), using a \$40,000 planning grant from EDA as a carrot. Shea and Dorothy Robyn have also been coordinating the response of other federal agencies. In addition to Roswell, we are considering undertaking a second pilot project in El Paso, Texas.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

JAN - 9 1998

9:25 pm

January 9, 1998

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
1-12-98

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

CC: ERSKINE BOWLES

FROM: KATHLEEN A. McGINTY

SUBJECT: CEQ WEEKLY REPORT

copied
Mc Ginty
LOS
page 2 - Bunkhardt

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM TOXICS

Salton Sea Initiative

The late Representative Sonny Bono (R-CA) had worked in Congress on the restoration of the Salton Sea in southern California. His recent death has launched a congressional push to further the cause and revitalize this ecosystem. In fact, Erskine received a call from Speaker Gingrich seeking our cooperation in dedicating an initiative to Mr. Bono.

The environmental quality of the Salton Sea has been deteriorating for several years. It's salinity is 25 percent greater than that of the oceans, causing several fish and wildlife kills. Recreational use of the Sea has been declining as a result.

The Salton Sea Authority was formed by the State in 1993 to focus efforts to restore the Salton Sea ecosystem. In mid-December, Secretary Babbitt traveled to the Salton Sea and met with Federal agency officials, the State of California, the Torres-Martinez tribe, the Salton Sea Authority and the Congressional delegation to discuss the need for a more coordinated approach to Salton Sea issues. This group agreed to work together to identify the mitigation efforts that can be implemented as soon as possible to reverse the deterioration the Sea. They agreed that more research is necessary to understand the causes of deterioration and to identify the steps necessary to reverse the decline. A representative of the Secretary's office will be in California on Monday to continue the dialogue.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

American Heritage Rivers

As you know, we received 126 nominations from communities across the country for the American Heritage Rivers initiative. The nominations continue to generate very positive local press in communities, as well as galvanizing citizens and elected leaders around river issues (see attached Minneapolis Star Tribune article and Chicago Tribune commentary).

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Right-wing Republicans have continued to criticize the initiative and various nominations. Most recently, Representative Charles Taylor (R-NC) has threatened to oppose the nomination of the French Broad River supposedly over concern for private property rights, despite the support of Governor Hunt, elected officials, and more than 3,500 citizens and local organizations. As a consequence, Congressman Taylor is taking a great deal of heat for this position (see attached editorial from the Enterprise Mountaineer).

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Climate Change

Both the auto industry and the consumer electronics industry demonstrated their commitment this week to the type of energy-saving advances encouraged by your climate change policy. In both cases, these advances were spurred by public-private partnerships forged by the Administration.

At the Detroit auto show, the Big Three automakers showcased new models more than twice as fuel-efficient as those now on the road. Many of the cutting-edge technologies employed in these cars, which could be ready for the market as early as 2001, were developed through our Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles. The announcements drew heavy media coverage, including front-page stories in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

On Wednesday, the Vice President announced partnerships between EPA and 11 leading manufacturers to promote energy-efficient televisions and VCR's that will bear the ENERGY STAR label. Americans now spend \$1 billion a year on electricity "leaked" by TVs and VCRs when they are turned off. The new models will cut that leakage up to 75%. The Vice President's announcement, delivered via satellite to the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, was reported in the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times.

On the science front, NOAA released data confirming that 1997 was the warmest year of this century, strengthening the evidence that human activity is influencing the climate. The announcement received widespread newspaper coverage and was carried by all three network nightly news shows.

Also attached for your information is an article by William F. Buckley, Jr. and an article by Stephen Wolf, President and Chief Executive Officer of U.S. Airways. Both peices are supportive of our climate change policy.

Attachments

DAN BURKHARDT:

please coordiante the
reply.

Shirley
Do letter to
back of memo

December 31, 1997, Metro Edition

HEADLINE: The Mississippi;
Fireworks hail more than New Year

BODY:

Riverfront fireworks in both St. Paul and Minneapolis tonight will exuberantly consign 1997 to history and welcome in 1998. But, symbolically, the fireworks also will send a message: These communities, their backs once turned to the Mississippi, now are making the river their front door again. And soon that front door will open wider if President Clinton designates the river's 72-mile metropolitan path as an American Heritage River. That would justify even bigger fireworks.

American Heritage Rivers is a Clinton initiative announced a year ago to improve public access to rivers, revitalize riverfronts, increase private investment, and preserve history and cultures. Ten winners will be selected, probably in late January or early February, to get extra federal help, mostly through advice and technical assistance but also through redirected federal resources. The Twin Cities, we believe, are a strong contender.

Coordinated by the Metropolitan Council, the Twin Cities application relates ambitious efforts to embrace and protect the river - more than \$ 1 billion in Minneapolis and St. Paul riverfront infrastructure investments alone, along with \$ 600 million invested in metropolitan water treatment and \$ 332 million in central-city separation of storm and sanitary sewers. The result: dozens of fish species where virtually none existed three decades ago. And a regional goal by 2015 of water leaving the Twin Cities as clean as when it arrives.

The application lists numerous other river-oriented accomplishments, such as St. Paul's emphasis on the Mississippi in its planning processes, its new Science Museum with an interpretative center in partnership with the National Park System, riverside reforestation, and river-based events and celebrations.

In Minneapolis the Mississippi is celebrated by the St. Anthony Falls Historic District, by the refurbished Stone Arch Bridge, by the Weisman Art Museum on the University of Minnesota's East Bank, by the new Federal Reserve Bank on the west shore just north of Hennepin Avenue, by new housing projects further north of Hennepin, and more.

Although some of those accomplishments have enjoyed federal support, "We need more federal agencies at the table as full partners if we are to realize the Mississippi's potential in our community," the Twin Cities' application for heritage river status says. Results would be better and faster, it says, and it lists 59 ways a federal role could help implement 60 local action steps.

Particularly important would be having a federal official assigned as liaison to federal agencies and to keep Minnesotans informed about federal programs and services.

Poet T.S. Eliot once asked: "At what point in its course does the Mississippi become what the Mississippi means?". The answer, says the application, "is right here" - where the Mississippi first combines natural beauty and commercial importance, and where it flows through urban neighborhoods and cultures before flowing south to help define North America. It's here that tonight's fireworks stand for more than one year's passing into the next.

Commentary

The 'invasion' of Illinois' waterways

Hear about the secret plan to federalize the Chicago River? How about the plot to hand over the Skokie Lagoons to the United Nations? Or to deliver the Des Plaines River into the clutches of the pointy-headed bureaucrats from Washington?

Welcome to 1998. It's an election year—time for the true-believers to roll out their conspiracy theories, time for those citizens who get their news from talk radio to TAKE ACTION BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

Citizens, for instance, like the directors of the Illinois Farm Bureau. And the county commissioners of downstate Adams, Greene, Henderson, Mercer, Pike and Scott Counties.

Alerted to the latest assault by Washington on individual freedom, these patriots have come out in opposition to the inclusion of the Illinois River and its tributaries in President Clinton's American Heritage Rivers Initiative. With 126 major rivers around the country vying for just 10 slots in this new program, their opposition may be enough to kill Illinois' chances.

Good riddance, say the patriots. Stop scaring us, they say, with

those environmental studies showing the Illinois is silting-in at an alarming rate, and is well on its way to becoming North America's longest mud flat. Our ingenious central and western Illinois farmers, they say, will find another way to move their corn and beans down to the Mississippi River and out to world markets.

Alas, I too was among those duped when Bill Clinton first announced the Heritage Rivers Initiative in last winter's State of the Union Address. I fell for his promise that it would be a voluntary program aimed at targeting 10 historic-but-troubled waterways for special study and governmental attention. I bought Clinton's claim that there would be no new federal regulations or encumbrances on private property; and that the federal "navigator"

assigned to each of the chosen rivers would serve mainly to shepherd local initiatives, like grant applications, through the bureaucracy.

No doubt my judgment was blurred by the fact that Illinois's nomination is being spearheaded by Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra, a known moderate who has worked for years on the Illinois River problem. And that a fellow Republican, U.S. Rep. Ray LaHood of Peoria, leads a unified Illinois congressional delegation in support of the nomination. Perhaps I should have become suspicious when Mayor Richard Daley, a government sympathizer if ever there was one, joined Kustra as co-nominator, but only after it was agreed to add the Chicago River. (The Chicago, you may recall, became tributary to the Illinois with the opening in 1900 of another Big Government tax-and-spend scheme, the Sanitary & Ship Canal.)

Then I began to read up on the *real* story behind Clinton's American Heritage Rivers Initiative.

There are press releases from U.S. Rep. Helen Chenoweth (R-Idaho), a flame-throwing conservative with a fondness for well-armed militias. She denounces it

as a massive federal land-grab. The program, she warns, "would literally allow federal bureaucrats and Gore extremists to take away YOUR private property (even if it's not close to a river!) and transform it into government-controlled "communities."

The full enormity of the "federal land use scheme" is spelled out on one of those always-right web sites (www.libertymatters.org). There you'll learn that "aerial photography and satellite surveillance will be used to police and expand the program."

Then there are the letters-to-the-editor (always a source of reliable information) which have been popping up in local papers around the country. Several have linked Clinton's river initiative to the United Nation's World Heritage Sites program, a multi-national attempt to preserve and protect sites significant in world history. "The UN wants our river," wrote one of the vigilant ones to a California paper, "Don't let America's land rights be stolen."

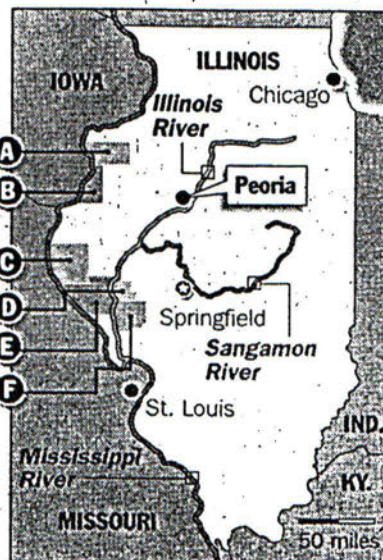
So you wonder, after reading all this, how some 200 of Illinois' most respected civic, business and governmental organizations could have been hoodwinked into submitting letters of support for the

Illinois River nomination. From Openlands Project to the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago, from Caterpillar Inc. to the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, these naifs probably couldn't spot a black helicopter full of blue helmets if it landed on their front lawns.

Thanks, however, to the vigilance of the Illinois Farm Bureau and those six agrarian counties, Illinois may be spared yet another invasive program by the federal government. Indeed, a recent study by the Northeast-Midwest Institute found that Illinois ranks with the top states at avoiding federal monetary intrusion. We placed 48th in the amount (75 cents) of federal spending here for every dollar we send to Washington in taxes.

Idaho, by way of comparison, gets \$1.16 for every greenback they send away in federal taxes. Sounds like socialism to me. Somebody had better alert Rep. Chenoweth.

Then I noticed in another of her press releases that, just before introducing her bill to block Clinton's rivers initiative, Chenoweth sponsored another bill called the Coeur d' Alene River Basin Environmental Restoration Act of 1997.



Illinois counties:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| A Mercer | D Scott |
| B Henderson | E Pike |
| C Adams | F Greene |

Chicago Tribune

It would "provide for the stabilization, enhancement, restoration and management" of that Idaho river.

Oh Helen, you sneak.

Helping the district?

Taylor's vote to knock French Broad out of American Heritage Rivers Initiative a blow for the region

As many in this region suspected, a proposal that may have infused communities in the French Broad River Basin with publicity and federal money for projects long dreamed about is dead, thanks to the action of our congressman and some help from our local county commissioners.

For Rep. Charles Taylor's part, we suspect his opposition was 99 percent partisan, for he has trouble ever siding with a Democratic initiative. For our own commissioners, we fear the decision was made in ignorance.

A group of residents from Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe and Madison counties spent thousands of hours over the past year readying their proposal to have the French Broad River selected as one of the 10 American Heritage River sites. The rivers would, according to President Clinton, receive already budgeted federal money to revitalize blighted waterfronts, build greenways and even restore passenger rail service between Asheville and Knoxville.

But the plan came under attack from groups who began to spread rumors that the initiative would trample on personal property rights. It is yet to be detailed how that would occur, but the message found a soft spot among those who see the federal government in all its forms as the enemy.

The river initiative was launched with a catch for all those who wanted the designation

— if the local congressman opposed it, the project would be turned down. And Taylor announced last week he would do just that. He said he wanted the proposal to come before Congress before he would approve it. Unfortunately, what this likely means is that other communities will win the designation while the French Broad gets left behind.

For those who don't remember, our own commissioners opposed the designation because they were told by one person it could harm Champion. Trouble is, Champion has no problem with the initiative or the designation. The woman who convinced the commissioners to oppose the designation had not even talked to mill officials.

Taylor's opposition to this measure should have been made public earlier, before so many regional leaders spent so much time working on the project. His concerns and those of other congressmen should have been presented to the president and the administration months ago. Instead, GOP leaders in Congress are as preoccupied with killing administration initiatives as they are concerned with helping their own constituents.

Many times elected leaders make unpopular decisions and defend them by saying they are voting their constituents' desires. This time, Taylor voted against his constituents based on his own philosophy of government. Is this the kind of leadership voters want?

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The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)

December 16, 1997, Tuesday, POST AND COURIER EDITION

HEADLINE: Kyoto or bust?
Greenhouse gas protocol costly but necessary

BYLINE: William F. Buckley Jr.

BODY:

Concerning the Kyoto Protocol, a few observations:

Although the shape of the thing instinctively repels conservatives, they should resist spastic denunciations. Yes, it sounds like big-think contra naturam enterprises such as the League of Nations and the off-and-on disarmament conventions that fizzled and were flouted by such as Nazi Germany and Tojo's Japan. The proceedings gave off the smell of nonstop sweat conferences at which from time to time the real objective dissipates, and bureaucratic fantasies take its place. The famous Club of Rome group in 1968, however momentarily, had the activist civic elite convinced that we should do away with cigarette lighters.

But the Kyoto Protocol has dealt with very serious problems. Nature isn't able comfortably to assimilate the greenhouse gases the world is merrily programmed to produce.

The conference hit upon, argued for and narrowly prevailed on an absolutely central mechanism, which is the usefulness of money in maneuvers such as projected.

Many years ago a geographer at the University of Arizona came up with a graphic model, useful to describe cosmic enterprises even though sketched by a cartoonist's pen. He observed that the great skies above the earth provide us with a considerable bin into which refuse can be disposed - up to a point. The American Indians could be pretty informal in disposing of 17th-century detritus. All you had to do was, well, toss it all into the river and forget about it.

But when the bin overflows, there are instant ecological repercussions. What needs to be done is to discourage people from causing that bin to overflow, and the indispensable approach to doing this rationally and within the framework of liberal procedures is pricing policy.

An example: Imagine the air above the continental United States can absorb without aggressive side effect 1 trillion horsepower automobile hours per year. The correct approach, then, is not to forbid any one automobile from having more than X horsepower of engine power. It is to tax progressively the incremental horsepower unit until the consumer effects his own moderation, under his own impulses.

The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC), December 16, 1997

The Kyoto people have adopted that approach wonderfully well by the concept of salable quotas. If one country uses up less than its allotted share of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, then it has a surplus - which can be sold to a country threatened with excess consumption. It is a quite brilliant application of the idea: putting a cash price on inordinate consumption, which is very different from forbidding it, the mistake of successive administrations in regulating the size of Detroit engines.

The absence of stories from Japan on the use of nuclear energy is astonishing. When nuclear energy is discussed, one is supposed to think about Jane Fonda or Chernobyl, and maybe Three Mile Island. All that our experience with nuclear energy has certified is that inattentive care can cause frightful damage.

But for every thousand references to Chernobyl, there is only one to the success of nuclear power in France, where 75 percent of electrical energy is generated year after year by quiet nuclear engines that emit not any heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

The Kyoto commentary has been heavy with references to wind power. Yes, wind power is terrific, as anybody who has spent any time windless at sea on a sailboat will attest. But we are thought ages removed from cars that can be moved by little propellers on the roof. And there is talk of fuel cells - more power to them if indeed they can efficiently convert natural gas and other fuels to electricity.

But the superstitious refusal to go nuclear must be an awful aggravation to the gods that dispose such great beneficences upon our world, as if the atom were forbidden fruit.

Conservatives must not dig in on the assumption that any great program about which Bill Clinton is enthusiastic is flighty or dangerous or both. The Kyoto Protocol will be very costly and very inconvenient in ways not even discerned. But this is the moment at which conservatives should exhibit two traits: the one being fortitude; the other, optimism.

We can reasonably hope that 50 years from now we can still remain cool in summer, warm in winter and fuel up the jalopy when we want to go joyriding. Displays of fortitude aren't any fun. But we can do it, is one guess.

Buckley is a columnist for Universal Press Syndicate.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

GLOBAL PORTENT

Climatic change threatens every facet of our lives. It is time for positive leadership. BY STEPHEN M. WOLF

IS IT POSSIBLE, as leading scientists suggest, that sometime in the next century global climatic conditions could change enough that rising ocean waters will cover some 9,000 square miles of land in Florida, Louisiana, and other coastal areas?

Is it possible that much of the agriculturally rich Midwest will be subject to severe drought?

Is it possible that mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever will surge in now-temperate zones of the United States?

The thoughts are so frightening, or so seemingly unrealistic, that it is tempting to dismiss them out of hand. Unfortunately, thousands of leading scientists say we cannot brush them away so easily, because these are the all-too-realistic potential results of the severe increase in global warming that we face in the next hundred years.

This is an issue many of us find difficult to understand because it is often presented in the technical language of the scientific world or simply because it involves developments that occur slowly over many years or even decades. Leading scientists at a recent White House conference, however, put the consequences of global warming in terms we can all grasp.

Listen to Prof. Jane Lubchenko, past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as she describes the future of the southern part of the United States if the trend toward higher temperatures is not reversed:

"Salt marshes in Louisiana are already being submerged. Climatic change would exacerbate this problem as the sea level rises between six inches and three feet. The loss of salt marshes would result in the loss of nursery areas, which are natural hatcheries for important fish and shellfish. We would also lose the system's ability to detoxify pollutants, trap sediments...and protect the shores against the battering of waves."

Expand that thought to cover thou-

sands of miles of coastline not only in this country but wherever there are oceans, and you can see the potential for loss of life, property, and sustenance.

Nor are low-lying coastal areas the only place where we would be vulnerable, as pointed out by Dr. Robert Shope, a leading expert on health and the environment: If there is an increase of six degrees in average temperatures—the upper range currently projected for the next century—"the heat alone in North American cities... will result in an excess of deaths, especially in elderly people who do not adapt well to severe warmth."

Dr. Shope, who headed research at Yale University into mosquito-borne diseases from 1975 to 1995, also warned that dengue fever—which causes high temperatures, severe muscle aches and pains and, in its most severe form, death—is spreading as the hard-freeze line, which controls mosquitos, moves north. "In the last decade, we've seen a steady increase in the numbers of cases of dengue in tropical America, including Mexico," he told the White House meeting. "This disease now is literally on our southern border. I cannot tell you whether dengue epidemics will occur in the United States, but with a climate change and warming, the mosquito will thrive farther north."

In light of the consequences, it would seem that thoughtful people would be putting their energies toward seeking solutions. Yet, we still see many special interest groups pleading their own cases instead of looking at the long-term public good.

The ecological clock is ticking toward disaster and too many of us are content

to point fingers instead of tackling the hard issues.

We do have a pretty good idea about what causes the problem: human activities that generate excess carbon dioxide, methane, and a few other gases which cause a "greenhouse effect," trapping solar radiation in the Earth's atmosphere and leading to global warming. Carbon dioxide from the burning of oil, gas, and coal is responsible for more than half the warming effect.

These emissions have tripled in the last 40 years and are expected to rise by

another 40 percent by the year 2010. Between 1950 and 1990, the United States and Canada accounted for 47 percent of industrial carbon-dioxide emissions. Other parts of the world may be catching up, but there is no avoiding the fact that this country's great wealth has come at a cost that future generations may find difficult if not impossible to

repay unless action is taken now.

We will hear much talk about this issue in the coming months and there will be many proposed remedies—from world leaders, from scientists, from environmental groups. These proposals will, in turn, spark debate about whether it is enough, or who is a "winner" or a "loser" in economic terms.

The former—whether the proposed solutions are sufficient to the task—is a debate we ought to have. The latter—who gains or loses in economic terms—misses the point. Yes, we ought to have solutions that do not penalize workers and families in one area while others gain. But in the long term, if we do not address this issue forcefully today, we and our children and our children's children will be penalized in ways we do not even want to contemplate. ★



US Airways Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Stephen M. Wolf

11:45am
JAN 10 1998

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
1-12-98

January 9, 1998

Copied
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MEMORANDUM TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF
FROM RAHM EMANUEL
SUBJECT WEEKLY REPORT

CRIME/DRUGS: The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) has just released a report on the serious drug problem in our state prisons. This Administration has a good record on building our coerced abstinence policy, it is a signature initiative of the President's. This report provides the President the opportunity to highlight that policy and continue those efforts.

On Monday the President is planning on signing a directive that will require states to establish a baseline on a drug testing program. In order to develop press interest in the signing, I have provided an exclusive to the *New York Times* on the directive. All three networks ran stories on the Califano report and will cover the signing of the directive.

Good **STATE OF THE UNION:** After a week of budget stories on new spending I think it is important to announce some value-based policies. We too often take our eye off the values part of the President's agenda. In the State of the Union we need to strengthen our appeal for a juvenile crime bill that counters gangs and guns. The focus should not be any program, but on kids killing kids and kids organized to kill other kids.

WEEKEND: This weekend E.J. Dionne is writing a story on how this week was a great week for the White House. His premise is that the President presented an aggressive agenda and that it is the official beginning of his third term. It is my impression that he will write that the President has failed on trade but changed the party on values, deficit reduction and investment. His piece may not be completely inaccurate.

US News and World Report is planning on a big SOTU issue. Ron Brownstien envisions the issue as his inauguration issue. I think he is headed in the right direction on defining Clintonism. They are very interested in the baseline memo Tom Freedman organized on the administration's executive orders and directives.

Good **CAMPAIGN FINANCE:** I met with Chairman Kennard and believe that he will be receptive to the President announcing that he will ask the FCC to formally look into ruling on free tv for candidates.

✓ **EDUCATION:** Congressman Paxon has announced his support and legislation for 100,000 teachers. We now have bi-partisan support for the 100,000 teachers initiative. Here again, we need to emphasize the class-room size reduction not the just new money.

We need to figure out how to position ourselves in relation to Senator Coverdell's amendment. This is going to pass this session and we cannot be behind the curve. We need to figure out what we want to trade for it.

PRESS: I just finished reading the book *Mutual Contempt* about President Johnson and Senator Kennedy's disdain for each other. The author quotes President Johnson and his feelings towards the press and his anger at the double standard applied in comparison to President Kennedy. It struck me that the reason President Kennedy had such positive relations with his press corp is that he himself leaked stories to individual reporters and charmed them. There is a lesson to be learned here when we think about the best use of the President's time.

aggy

JAN - 9 1998 8:10 pm

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 9, 1998

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

1-12-98

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COS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ANN LEWIS Ann

SUBJECT:

COMMUNICATIONS WEEKLY REPORT

✓
Good
This week we launched a new, reinvigorated daily talking points process. The talking points are distributed through our outreach offices (Political Affairs, Cabinet Affairs, IGA, and OPL), our friends and other support networks. This first week's talking points focused on:

Monday: the New Year, our accomplishments, and the work ahead*;

Tuesday: your Medicare proposal;

Wednesday: your Child Care initiative;

Thursday: your commitment to fiscally responsible policies that give American families the tools they need to make the most of their lives;

Friday: your Work-Study announcement.

* Monday's talking points are included as an example. (summary)

✓
The development of a "Five Years of Accomplishments" card is being coordinated to commemorate the anniversary of the your Inauguration. You will receive a draft for review this weekend. We are also developing an amplification strategy to highlight these accomplishments, integrated with our State of the Union ramp-up efforts.

- We are working with the Press Office and other members of the SoTU team to develop an aggressive ramp-up and amplification plan for the State of the Union. The plan will include surrogate speakers (senior staff and Administration officials, national and local political leaders, and other appropriate friends); television, radio, print and new media efforts; and paper support.

✓
Good
Work continues on the development of a third generation White House Web site for launch in the early Spring. The new site will be more interactive, have better graphics and information, and provide real on-line services that help Americans better access our government. Next week we will provide you with the first design concepts for the site for your review.

OPTIMISM IN THE NEW YEAR: PREPARING FOR THE 21st CENTURY, TOGETHER

"When I came to office I was trying to prove America could work again... I wanted to get the economy going; I wanted to deal with social problems like crime and welfare; and I wanted to pull the country together... Now, I want to see us spend the next three years fleshing out that agenda and working on the nation's long-term challenges... On this occasion, at the end of this year, I think our country is in better shape than it was five years ago, and I believe three years from now, if we continue to work on this agenda, we'll be in better shape still."

President Bill Clinton
December 16, 1997

A YEAR OF ACTION AND ACCOMPLISHMENT. In 1997, the first year of President Clinton's second term, significant progress was made in his agenda to prepare America for the 21st century and make the country work for all our people. Today, America enjoys the strongest economy in a generation. Unemployment and crime are at their lowest levels in 24 years. Welfare rolls have dropped by a record 3.8 million people. And the deficit has been cut by 90 percent. Seizing this unique moment of peace and prosperity, President Clinton will lead the nation in 1998 to address the long-term issues that continue to challenge America's working families.

MOMENTUM FOR GREATER SUCCESS. The accomplishments of the past year create a solid foundation and strong momentum for this continued work. The Clinton Administration enters 1998 with these historic achievements:

- The first balanced budget in a generation.
- A middle class tax cut for 27 million working families with children.
- Crime has gone down for the last 5 years in a row.
- The largest investment in education in 30 years, including support for Head Start, America Reads, charter schools, technology in classrooms.
- The largest increase in college scholarships, Pell Grants, in 20 years.
- The largest investment in children's health care since 1965, ensuring up to 5 million children.
- The expansion of NATO.
- The toughest new air quality standards in a generation.
- Peace Initiative, Pro-Security Screen

The issues and work that lie ahead will be approached with the same determination and commitment that made so much possible in the past year.

BUILDING AN AMERICA FOR THE FUTURE. In 1998 President Clinton will continue his work to build an America for the 21st century. The President will lead with the belief that government's role is to help provide opportunity for those who are willing to take responsibility, and to marshal the forces of all sectors of society to work together to meet our challenges, to:

- Continue the growth of our economy and implement a balanced budget.
- Strengthen families and communities and provide safe neighborhoods for all children.
- Invest in our children's education and expand educational opportunity.
- Keep America engaged as the world's strongest force for peace, freedom and prosperity.
- Work to build One America with the President's Initiative on Race and citizen service.

Copy of document
to be sent to
the President
by 1/12/98

Goodbye to top
tax cuts + best work
likely popular
need work
Return



ONE AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The President's Initiative on Race

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
1-12-98

The New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503
202/395-1010

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Winston
Mathews
COS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JUDITH A. WINSTON *JAW*

THROUGH: ERSKINE BOWLES
SYLVIA MATHEWS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON RACE WEEKLY REPORT --
DECEMBER 20 - JANUARY 9

Make sure we receive just the letters showing the selection about which we are talking

Akron Town Hall Meeting. Attached are some of the letters we received from high school and junior high school students who attended your Town Hall meeting. Also attached are a few news articles about the students' experiences and their on-going efforts to talk about race. (Tab 1)

ADVISORY BOARD ACTIVITIES

Phoenix Advisory Board Meeting. The January 13 - 14 Advisory Board visit to Phoenix will focus on race in the workplace, including disparities in economic opportunity, discrimination, and diversity. On January 13, Advisory Board members along with local leaders will visit one of the promising practice sites highlighted on our website and a few employment and training sites. From 5 - 7 p.m., Advisory Board members and Secretary Alexis Herman will meet with regional leaders of American Indian tribes to discuss areas of concern to them. The meeting will be open to the public.

On January 14, we will hold the Advisory Board meeting. Secretary Herman will give opening remarks and Dr. Janet Yellen will provide an overview on labor market issues and race. There will be seven roundtable participants including Boston University Professor Glen Loury, Ms. Claudia Withers of the Fair Employment Council, Michigan State University Professor Harry Holzer, and UCLA Professor Paul Ong. We will also hold a Corporate and Labor Forum moderated by Secretary Herman in which corporate and labor leaders will discuss the benefits of racial diversity in the workplace, means for achieving such diversity, and challenges to achieving such diversity. The day will

conclude with a community forum in which Board members will listen to the concerns of people living in the Phoenix area. We have already received press coverage in the local newspapers. (Attached is an article from the Mesa Tribune. Tab 2)

Latino Leaders. On January 4, Angela Oh met with a few Latino leaders from the Los Angeles area. The leaders were supportive of the Initiative. One of these leaders expressed an interest in hosting a dialogue in her home.

League of Women Voters. On January 7, Angela Oh spoke at the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters in Pasadena. After she spoke about the goals and recent activities of the Initiative, she then engaged in a 45 minute dialogue. They agreed to send her information on promising practices.

National Urban League. On January 8, Dr. Franklin spoke at the mid-winter meeting of the National Urban League. He addressed 100 Presidents and CEOs from Urban League chapters across the nation. He praised the Urban League for working with the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the Initiative on the Campus/Community Week of Dialogue to be held in April and urged every chapter to participate enthusiastically in that effort.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUTREACH

Public Education Network (PEN). On December 30, we met with representatives of PEN to discuss the Initiative and PEN's new project to create productive conversations on race. We are considering a suggestion raised at the meeting to hold a Town Hall meeting comprised of representatives from organizations working on projects that address issues surrounding race. Participants would share successes and challenges related to their work.

Women Leaders. We are working with White House staff, particularly the Women's Office, to hold a briefing for leaders of women's organizations during the first week of February. In addition to a briefing, we will break into small groups to have One America Conversations on race with these leaders.

Leadership Fairfax. We participated, on January 8, in Leadership Fairfax's Forum on Diversity. The audience consisted of Fairfax community leaders. We urged them to be leaders in promoting improved race relations particularly because there is such a tremendous amount of racial and ethnic diversity in Fairfax.

National Education Association (NEA). On January 9, we met with representatives of the NEA. We discussed ideas for how NEA could become more involved in the work of

the Initiative. We urged them to use their internal communication mechanism to report on Initiative activities and to distribute “how-to-dialogue” packets to their members. They agreed to provide us with contacts in cities where we are planning events.

RESEARCH AND POLICY PLANNING

Data. We now have a data binder on education and employment. It will be distributed to Advisory Board members as background for Advisory Board meetings and when Advisory Board members speak about the Initiative and on race.

Research. In collaboration with the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences and the Council of Economic Advisors, we have developed a research agenda for the remainder of the Initiative year. We plan to produce summaries of current research on race-related issues and to provide background information for your final report.

WORK TEAMS

ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory Board Meetings. Planning for the February 10 - 11 Advisory Board meeting in San Francisco/Oakland planning has begun. We are considering discussing the topic of race and poverty at that meeting.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Advisory Board Town Hall Meeting. The Advisory Board Town Hall meeting planned for Atlanta has been postponed so that it does not interfere with other Atlanta activities previously planned at that time.

YOUTH

Call to Action Letter. We have received close to 500 responses so far. Next week we will send out follow-up letters to all who have responded, offering them additional guidance on steps to take to further the goals of the Initiative.

FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES

One America Conversations. More than 112 "One America Conversations" occurred during the holidays. Through these conversations, we have reached over 500 people. On December 30, Bill Leftwich, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, hosted a conversation with Angela Oh and local leaders which received positive press coverage. (Attached is a news article which appeared on the cover of the Los Angeles Times Metro Section. Tab 3)

Department of Interior

Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance. On January 15, National Park Services Director Stanton will be the guest speaker at the 68th birthday anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr. on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Local schools are invited to bring students to the program, which features a wreath-laying, songs by area choirs and a recording of the "I Have a Dream" speech.

Department of Labor

Initiative Advisory Board Meeting. On January 13-14, Secretary Herman will travel to Phoenix, Arizona to participate in the Initiative Advisory Board Meeting.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Fair Housing Violations. On January 5, HUD announced that the Pinellas County Housing Authority (PCHA) in Florida signed a voluntary compliance agreement to end housing discrimination uncovered by HUD investigators. The agreement commits the housing authority to take a series of actions over a five-year period to ensure that minority and disabled residents receive the same treatment, housing options, and level of services as majority residents. The PCHA has agreed to help move African American residents to predominantly white housing and to reimburse residents with disabilities for physical improvements to housing. This summer, HUD discovered that the PCHA was excluding African American residents from predominantly white developments.

Department of Transportation

Martin Luther King Birthday Addresses. On January 15, in commemoration of Martin Luther Kings Birthday Secretary Slater will address the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, MD. Also, later that day, the Secretary will address the employees of the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore.

One America: Conversations That Bring Us Together. As part of the President's Initiative on Race, Assistant Secretary Charles A. Hunnicutt will conduct a Conversation

with the members of the Anti-Racism Task Force of the National Capital Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA) on January 8 at the University Club.

Department of Energy

Martin Luther King Day Program. Secretary Peña will participate in a Departmental commemorative program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 13. The William B. Powell Elementary School Choir will perform.

Department of Education

One America: Conversations That Bring Us Together. Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Judy Heumann will host a “Conversations that Bring Us Together” event in Berkeley, CA, on January 10. Fifteen to twenty disability and diversity advocates will participate in the event.

Department of Commerce

Affirmative Action Workshop. On January 17, Acting Director of Minority Business Development Agency Courtland Cox will participate in an Affirmative Action Workshop at the Whitney M. Young Memorial Conference, sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania. Over 700 corporate representatives, students, alumni, and community leaders will attend.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Martin Luther King Dinner. Acting Secretary West will travel to Chicago, Illinois, to deliver the Keynote Address at the 26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dinner held by the Minority Economic Resources Corporation.

United States Information Agency

Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program. The Joint Interagency Commemorative Program Committee will host the annual celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 13. This year's theme for the commemoration is: Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off! FEMA is the lead Agency for this program with ongoing requests for strong logistical support from OCR.

Round Table on Race Relations. To support your Initiative, the Washington Foreign Press Center hosted a roundtable conversation on race relations on December 16, at the home of Director Marjorie Ransom. Foreign journalists who participated in the conversation were from the countries of South Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada, and France. The journalists heard from USIA employees on their personal experiences in

America with race. The dialogue was very engaging and lasted approximately four hours. Several of the journalists who participated in the roundtable discussion have expressed an interest in holding another such conversation in the future. The Washington Foreign Press Center will work on organizing this within the next month.

Small Business Administration

Martin Luther King Day. The administrator is planning to participate in a day of service event in Washington, D.C. on Monday, January 19.

JOHN SIMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
218 West Fourth Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44903 - 1798



Phone 525-6348

W. Douglas Castle, Principal
Fred Atwater, Assistant Principal
Gene Bowman, Counselor
Cherie Gage, Counselor

December 8, 1997

Dear Mr. President:

On December 3rd I had the honor of going to Akron University to hear you speak about racism. I would like to say that seeing you in person was a thrill.

Hearing all the people speak about how racism affects their everyday lives was sad. I love to lead people to do the right thing and when you said we should carry on the question about what we can do to stop racism, I was excited -- another leadership opportunity for me.

I can't say that racism has been a big issue in my life. I don't think I have been brutally affected by it but I can say I have seen people who have. I think all the different cultures being raised together has helped my generation have less racism. As the one young man said, I too think it is mostly the older generations, the people in their 30's, 40's and 50's who are racists and have the worst attitudes. But, that doesn't mean people my age can just ignore it. We have to stand up for ourselves and others. And, well, Mr. President, I plan to do that. With your help and the help of the people in my generation maybe we can make a difference in the world.

It is my opinion that racism comes from the home. Children watch their parents and learn from their parents. Parents teach the racism. Maybe one place to start would be by arranging programs to teach the parents about racism and at the same time continue or start programs with children in school. It's not much but it's a start.

Another thing could be to have the teachers help students trace their family tree. Then each one would see that they are a mixture of cultures.

President Bill Clinton
December 8, 1997
Page Two

Having the opportunity to see you was an inspiration. On December 3, 1997, I turned 14. Believe me, it was a birthday I will always remember.

Sincerely,

Megan E. Brown

Megan E. Brown
55 Glenwood Blvd.
Mansfield, OH 44906

12-7-97

Dear President Clinton,

Recently, I attended the Akron Town Meeting where you spoke on Race: One America. I really enjoyed it and I would like to share my thoughts on racial separation.

I'm a 7th grader here at John Simpson Middle School and I'm African American. In my hometown, Mansfield, I see both racial separation and racial discrimination.

For example, during lunch or in the hall, most blacks and whites hang around people who are of the same persuasion. I don't think racial separation is intended, but people are simply more comfortable around those of their own race. There is nothing wrong with this. It becomes a problem when a group starts to think they're superior to another.

An example of discrimination is a few weeks ago my mom was at a department store paying off her account. It took over five minutes before we were waited on, then they left without helping us(we were the only ones in the store). When someone finally did, they had an attitude. I think this was racially provoked.

From, your commentary, I learned that for us to mature as a nation, we need to become One America. Also, from your panelist, I realized that there was discrimination against all races, not just blacks or whites. I realized that just because a group is titled "Hispanic," that doesn't mean they're the same as another Hispanic group. Example: Puerto Ricans and Mexicans have two different cultures.

Thank you for taking the time out to listen to what I have to say. Once again, I enjoyed your Initiative on Race: One America.

*Sincerely,
Shaylyn Cochran
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December 9, 1997

Dear Mr. President,

I recently attended your Akron Town meeting on race. I personally think that it is a wonderful thing that you and this country have decided to do.

I am an eighth grade student at John Simpson Middle School here in Mansfield, Ohio. The school I attend is very racially integrated. I have many friends of all races and I feel very privileged to have this. Some students cannot experience this and therefore are racially ignorant, so to speak. I don't think that this is there fault, but if they were around other races they could learn of their cultures.

I feel that your meeting has made a huge influence on me. I used to make jokes about different races with my friends, but now I realize that even joking is not necessary.

I am very honored to have attended your town meeting. I will continue on into making this country a "One America". Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Emily Carsey

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Carsey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

'Pebble in the pond'

Clinton finds dialogue on race blunt

By Jim Siegel
News Journal

AKRON — A white University of Akron student admitted that while "The Cosby Show" helped him see blacks as equals, he was scared when he saw a poorly dressed black man approach him on the street.

A biracial student said he tried to deposit his mother's paycheck, only to have the bank place unnecessary holds on it.

A Puerto Rican pre-med student said people treat her differently, often wondering why she doesn't speak and look like actress Rosie Perez.

President Clinton came to the University of Akron on Wednesday looking for blunt discussions on race, and he found it. The visit kicked off a series of town meetings called America One, President Clin-

ton's Initiative on Race.

Clinton stressed that the forum, televised by C-SPAN, is just the beginning.

"When we look at the future, we must find a way to organize a continuing mechanism where people of good will can come together and deal with this," he said. "We want to drop a pebble in the pond and have it reverberate all across the country."

Panel participants for the meeting included authors on race, students from the University of Akron and Akron community leaders.

Clinton urged panel members to speak frankly, although not all stories were negative. Two Akron-area pastors said they worked to bring their all-white and all-black congregations together. They could even joke about their differences.

"We taught them how to

See RACE, page 9A



University of Akron student Aristotie Mosier makes a positive comment about having attended Mansfield Senior High School to President Clinton on Wednesday. Sen. John Glenn looks on during the first in a series of town meetings held on race relations held in Akron. (Dave Polczyn/News Journal)

NAACP: City not hiring enough blacks

By Lisa Loeffler
News Journal

MANSFIELD — About 60 NAACP members and supporters Wednesday sang hymns and fired off accusations of racial discrimination in the city's hiring of black police officers and firefighters.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's local branch President Betty Palmer-Harris led the crowd on a 15-minute march through downtown and a half-hour demonstration outside the city building.

Palmer-Harris responds to ministers' letter, page 1C.

She vowed to the crowd that gathered in a light drizzle that it was not the last of the group's efforts to address racial problems.

"The NAACP are soldiers of justice, and we will fight until right is done," Palmer-Harris said. "The NAACP is only asking for what the court said is fair and just."

The protest was spurred by the city's lack of compliance with a 1990 federal court order to



D.C. Allen holds a sign during a demonstration sponsored by the NAACP on Wednesday to protest alleged discrimination in the city's hiring of black police officers and firefighters. Related photo is on page 1C. (Unit Photos/News Journal)

Area students came to see the president

By Jim Siegel
News Journal

MANSFIELD — John Simpson Middle School eighth-grader Steven Greene went to bed at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday and woke up several times throughout the night before getting dressed at 6:30 a.m.

He even arrived at school extra early.

It's not every day you get to see one of the world's most powerful leaders in person.

"When he first came out, I got all dizzy," Steven, 14, said Wednesday after returning from a trip to watch President Clinton's town meeting on race in Akron. "I heard the music, and I was like, 'Where is he? Where is he?'"

Steven was one of eight

eighth grade students from John Simpson to make the trip to Akron and watch the first of several town meetings, called America One, President Clinton's Initiative on Race. Four students from St. Peter's also attended.

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The town meeting, held at the University of Akron, featured Clinton and a panel of college students, authors and Akron community leaders discussing racial issues in America.

Some Simpson students admitted they first viewed the trip as a way to get out of school. But it turned into much more.

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See STUDENTS, page 9A

Students

From page 1A

basketball team on the bench, with blacks and whites talking to each other," Steven said. "It made me think back to Akron, and I started telling everyone about it."

Some eyes were opened into their own attitudes on race.

"It changed my whole view on the issue," Emily Carsey, 13, said. "I joked around before about things, but now I know that even joking can hurt a person's feelings."

Said Joel Todd, 13, "I used to think it was just black and white. Now I know more cultures are involved in the racism issue."

Students said that, while some racism exists at John Simpson and the city in general, it's not a big problem. They said students often make racial jokes not to be cruel but because they often don't realize what they are saying.

"It's not a problem here,

because we grew up with each other and we are used to it," Amber Frazier, 13, said.

Students said they could relate to some of the stories of racism experienced by members of Wednesday's panel.

Steven, Simpson's Student Council president, said when he attended Lexington schools a few years ago, he was one of only three blacks in his class, and he was teased by some classmates.

"They were young and didn't know any better," he said. "But I was offended."

Amber said some students treat her differently because her complexion is a shade darker than most whites. Her mother doesn't know her cultural history.

Clinton and the panel discussed that, although students at the high school go to class together, blacks and whites are often segregated

in social situations, like lunch time. Simpson Principal Doug Castle and students are quite aware that the John Simpson lunchroom takes on a similar segregation.

"That has always been a very curious point for me," Castle said.

Joel said all the students at his table are black.

"I have white friends, and I talk to them and stuff," he said. "We just don't sit together. There are only six seats at the table, so you have to choose which friends to sit with. If we had a big round table, I guess there would be a mix of friends."

Students said the choice of whom to sit with at lunch often depends on who grew up with you in your neighborhood.

"Most of us grew up in a black or white neighborhood," Emily said. "You grow up around your own race, although you have friends of other races."

Students agreed with a point Clinton and the panel tried to make Wednesday — sitting only

with people of your own race is not so bad as long as you can respect the culture represented at the next table.

"I don't think it's a problem," Emily said. "But if it would change, I think it would be for the better because you could learn about different cultures."

Castle said that now that students have attended the town meeting, their efforts have just begun. He said he hand-picked the students because he expects them, as school leaders, to think hard about what they heard and be a catalyst for changing negative racial views in the district.

"I'll give them a few weeks to think it over," he said. "Then we'll get together after school and brainstorm about where we are, where we need to go and how to get there."

As for seeing the president in person, students said they were impressed with Clinton's down-to-earth personality and ability to speak on their level.

Race

From page 1A

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Responded the Rev. Ronald Fowler, who is black, "Our church needs a lot of help in how to sing. We've never done country music well."

Although she admitted racism exists, author Abigail Thernstrom certainly offered the panel's most optimistic view of the racial situation.

"Despair in this country has become fashionable," she said.

"The truth is, blacks and whites are living, working and dining together. America is outgrowing its racist past."

Her comments were countered by author David Shipler, who said racism today is taking a much more subtle form.

"I believe that in any given community, there are millions of circumstances like this where we are not fully aware of the motivation behind what we do," he said.

Mansfield Senior High School even received a quick plug on national television from graduate Aristotle Mosier, a student at the University of Akron.

Mosier, 21, an Asian-American who was among the panelists, mentioned briefly that he attended a culturally diverse Mansfield Senior High School and supported future meetings where people could openly discuss race issues.

Akron was the president's choice for the event because a series of Pulitzer Prize-winning stories on race by the Akron Beacon Journal spawned the formation of Coming Together, a group that involves more than 5,000 people in activities that promote tolerance.

Clinton hoped the meeting would provide a needed jumpstart to his program for racial reconciliation, which critics have argued he has ignored for several months.

The White House unveiled Tuesday a public-service announcement aimed at getting people age 17-25 involved in Clinton's effort. It shows young people expressing general views on race.

But Clinton said government policies alone can't solve the problem.

St. Peter's moves ahead on race issue

Goal: Bring emotion, dialogue to debate

By Jim Siegel
News Journal

MANSFIELD — St. Peter's High School students who watched the president's town meeting on race are ready to take the next step and bring the dialogue to Richland County.

Elizabeth Castle, guidance counselor at St. Peter's High School, said the four students who attended President Clinton's Initiative on Race will help create a similar panel discussion involving students from all county school districts.

"Any instances of racism here are perpetuated by what students pick up from parents," she said. "We can't change the parents' minds, but we can go after the children."

Senior Lisa Givens, who said she has had several racist

encounters because she is biracial, will spearhead the project. Castle also will work with her daughter, Beth Castle, who serves in Washington, D.C., on Clinton's Initiative on Race.

St. Peter's students had fourth-row seats for Wednesday's town meeting in Akron, where Clinton and a panel of about 60 college students, authors and community leaders held an open discussion about race.

Students agreed the meeting was a good first step.

"It was not supposed to accomplish everything in one town meeting," said senior Jason Wilkes, 17. "As President Clinton said, it's just the beginning."

St. Peter's students hope to bring at least two students from

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every high school together for a similar meeting on race. But they want the local discussion to contain what they said Clinton's town meeting lacked — emotion and real dialogue.

Students said too many adults attended and spoke up at the meeting, which was designed for young peoples' insights into race. They also heard too many memorized stories about encounters with racism, rather than back-and-forth discussion.

"I want to do what they did yesterday, but open up the door more," Givens, 17, said. "I am expecting it to be more back and

forth and actually go into depth with people's opinions about what is happening and what we can do from here.

"That's the only way we can get down and solve some things," she added. "They talked (Wednesday) about effects, but not causes. If you talk back and forth, you can get to the causes."

Wilkes said the local panel, to be organized as soon as possible, will allow students to cross borders and share feelings. The students — from the diverse Mansfield district to rural white areas — will help create better racial understanding.

"Racism still exists, it's just more under cover," he said.

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LOCAL

Page A10

Clinton race-relations advisers to visit Valley

BY DOUG MacEACHERN
THE TRIBUNE

President Clinton's race-relations advisers will pay visits next week to Valley business enterprises with laudable track records regarding race.

A long-awaited itinerary for the Arizona installment of Clinton's national dialogue on race includes visits to a job-training center in Phoenix and a major utility.

The advisory board for The President's Initiative on Race announced late Wednesday some details of its agenda for its meetings here next week. The meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday will include tours of minority-related business ventures, in keeping with the theme of the Valley advisory board meetings, "Race in the Workplace."

Board members will visit the Phoenix Opportunities Industrial Center, a training center for low-skilled, mostly minority workers. The Phoenix center was selected as a meeting site, director Gene Blue said, because it is conducting a joint minority-training project along with Hispanic business-advocacy group Chicanos por la Causa and the Phoenix Indian Center.

"I'm glad there is some initiative at the highest level to deal with race in the workplace," said Blue, responding to concerns by some minority activists that the panel may be avoiding more controversial issues.

The executive director of the President's Initiative on Race said time has been set aside in the

board's schedule here specifically "to hear from members of the community about issues of concern to them."

"We know there are lots of successful minority businesses in the community," said Initiative director Judy Winston. "While we want to know about those successful businesses, it's not because we don't want to know about difficult issues."

The board plans to visit Arizona Public Service offices in Phoenix. The utility operates a training "academy" for minority-owned small-business owners. The academy, APS spokesman Art Othon said, teaches small-business people how to "deal with major corporations like APS in the procurement process."

The board's itinerary also calls for a meeting at the Heard Museum in Phoenix with several tribal leaders, including Gila River Indian Community's Gov. Mary Thomas and Albert Hale, president of the Navajo Nation.

The board will conduct more formal hearings Wednesday at the Phoenix Preparatory Academy auditorium in Phoenix.

Expected to participate at those meetings are Labor Secretary Alexis Herman and Janet Yellen, chairwoman of the Council of Economic Advisers. In addition, Boston University professor of economics Glenn Loury is expected to address the board.

Long identified as a prominent conservative economist, Loury, who is black, broke with many former allies, citing a lack of compassion among white conservatives for minority issues.

METRO

Los Angeles Times

Race Relations Panel Stresses Education

■ **Dialogue:** As part of Clinton initiative, discussion begins with Simpson case but focuses on schools, jobs.

By JIM NEWTON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

President Clinton's much-discussed, oft-maligned and vigorously defended national conversation on race touched down Tuesday in Los Angeles, bringing together a provocative group of Southland leaders and turning immediately to Topic 1A in the city's recent race relations history.

Not affirmative action. Not immigration reform. Not the beating of Rodney G. King or even the 1992 riots. The jumping-off point for Tuesday's discussion at the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance was, instead, the murder trial of O.J. Simpson.

"Race was an issue [in that case], and it shouldn't have been an issue," said Marc Saunders, a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy. "People in the community didn't understand."

Around the horseshoe-shaped ring of desks, some participants nodded and others listened impassively. An ethnically and professionally diverse panel that included Mayor Richard Riordan's chief of staff, the head of the city's human relations agency, hate crime experts, police, several Southern California city managers and a filmmaker included one person who suggested that the murder trial and subsequent civil case illustrated the need for mandatory citizenship classes in schools.

Among other things, she said, such classes would have helped teach more people why Simpson's civil trial did not violate the prohibition against trying a person twice for the same offense.

"Ignorance breeds fear," she said. "Fear breeds violence."

While L.A.'s preoccupation with the Simpson case makes it unusual in the national discussion about the state of race relations, the solutions floated by Tuesday's panelists were for the most part familiar. Education and expansion of economic opportunity topped the lists of most participants. Afterward, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense William E. Leftwich III said those areas are the most frequently mentioned in discussions across the country.

"People see education as doing a couple of things," said Leftwich, who oversees equal opportunity issues for the Defense Department and who moderated Tuesday's panel. "It informs people about their differences, and it positions the child or student to do better in life."

Although many echoed those themes Tuesday, the issue also sparked some sharp differences. Eugene Volokh, an acting professor of law at UCLA, criticized public schools and suggested government should expand school choice and refocus on basic education.

"The public school system does not do a good job at teaching kids reading, writing and arithmetic," he said. "It's failing a lot of kids."

Across the room, however, Lana Ayeroff-Brody shook her head and retorted that "elitist kind of thought" and criticism of public schools were not going to improve race relations. Instead, she highlighted a program at Palms Middle School, where she is assistant principal, in which sixth- and eighth-graders regularly gather in small groups to talk about issues of race and culture. This helps children understand one another without homogenizing them, she said.

In general, the idea that talk helps bridge racial gaps carried the day. Several panel members effusively praised Clinton for launching the discussion on race. Joe Hicks, a longtime civil rights leader in Los Angeles, called the dialogue "one of the most important things that has happened in this country in a long time." He acknowledged that there was some cynicism about the president's initiative, and other members of the group expressed concern that too few views were being heard.

Hicks suggested that mayors host similar conversations too.

Robin Kramer, Riordan's chief of staff, said she believed that more progress would be made by finding projects that bring communities together. After the discussion, she cited the mayor's Targeted Neighborhood Initiative, which singles out marginal communities and offers small seed grants to organizations that present improvement plans. "You have people working together on their own neighborhood; it creates understanding," she said.

Recommendations from the L.A. panel will be sent to the White House along with those from other sessions across the country, Leftwich said, and used to form policy.

Tab 1

JOHN SIMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
218 West Fourth Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44903 - 1798



Phone 525-6348

W. Douglas Castle, Principal
Fred Atwater, Assistant Principal
Gene Bowman, Counselor
Cherie Gage, Counselor

December 8, 1997

Dear Mr. President:

On December 3rd I had the honor of going to Akron University to hear you speak about racism. I would like to say that seeing you in person was a thrill.

Hearing all the people speak about how racism affects their everyday lives was sad. I love to lead people to do the right thing and when you said we should carry on the question about what we can do to stop racism, I was excited -- another leadership opportunity for me.

I can't say that racism has been a big issue in my life. I don't think I have been brutally affected by it but I can say I have seen people who have. I think all the different cultures being raised together has helped my generation have less racism. As the one young man said, I too think it is mostly the older generations, the people in their 30's, 40's and 50's who are racists and have the worst attitudes. But, that doesn't mean people my age can just ignore it. We have to stand up for ourselves and others. And, well, Mr. President, I plan to do that. With your help and the help of the people in my generation maybe we can make a difference in the world.

It is my opinion that racism comes from the home. Children watch their parents and learn from their parents. Parents teach the racism. Maybe one place to start would be by arranging programs to teach the parents about racism and at the same time continue or start programs with children in school. It's not much but it's a start.

Another thing could be to have the teachers help students trace their family tree. Then each one would see that they are a mixture of cultures.

President Bill Clinton
December 8, 1997
Page Two

Having the opportunity to see you was an inspiration. On December 3, 1997, I turned 14. Believe me, it was a birthday I will always remember.

Sincerely,

Megan E. Brown

Megan E. Brown
55 Glenwood Blvd.
Mansfield, OH 44906

12-7-97

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For example, during lunch or in the hall, most blacks and whites hang around people who are of the same persuasion. I don't think racial separation is intended, but people are simply more comfortable around those of their own race. There is nothing wrong with this. It becomes a problem when a group starts to think they're superior to another.

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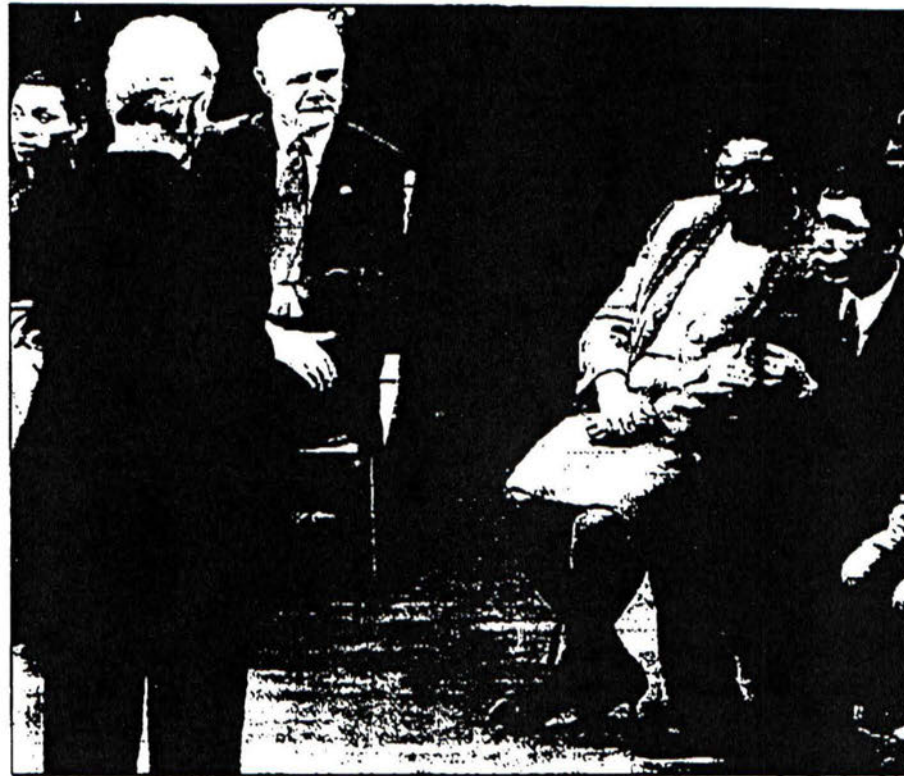
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See RACE, page 9A



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race

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Mosier, 21, an Asian-American who was among the panelists, mentioned briefly that he attended a culturally diverse Mansfield Senior High School and supported future meetings where people could openly discuss race issues.

Akron was the president's choice for the event because a series of Pulitzer Prize-winning stories on race by the Akron Beacon Journal spawned the formation of Coming Together, a group that involves more than 5,000 people in activities that promote tolerance.

Clinton hoped the meeting would provide a needed jumpstart to his program for racial reconciliation, which critics have argued he has ignored for several months.

The White House unveiled Tuesday a public service announcement aimed at getting people age 17-25 involved in Clinton's effort. It shows young people expressing general views on race.

But Clinton said government policies alone can't solve the problem.

St Peter's moves ahead on race issue

Goal: Bring emotion, dialogue to debate

By Jim Siegel
News Journal

MANSFIELD — St. Peter's High School students who watched the president's town meeting on race are ready to take the next step and bring the dialogue to Richland County.

Elizabeth Castle, guidance counselor at St. Peter's High School, said the four students who attended President Clinton's Initiative on Race will help create a similar panel discussion involving students from all county school districts.

"Any instances of racism here are perpetuated by what students pick up from parents," she said. "We can't change the parents' minds, but we can go after the children."

Senior Lisa Givens, who said she has had several racist

encounters because she is biracial, will spearhead the project. Castle also will work with her daughter, Beth Castle, who serves in Washington, D.C., on Clinton's Initiative on Race.

St. Peter's students had fourth-row seats for Wednesday's town meeting in Akron, where Clinton and a panel of about 60 college students, authors and community leaders held an open discussion about race.

Students agreed the meeting was a good first step.

"It was not supposed to accomplish everything in one town meeting," said senior Jason Wilkes, 17. "As President Clinton said, it's just the beginning."

St. Peter's students hope to bring at least two students from

See RACE, page 8A

Race

From page 1A

every high school together for a similar meeting on race. But they want the local discussion to contain what they said Clinton's town meeting lacked — emotion and real dialogue.

Students said too many adults attended and spoke up at the meeting, which was designed for young peoples' insights into race. They also heard too many memorized stories about encounters with racism, rather than back-and-forth discussion.

"I want to do what they did yesterday, but open up the door more," Givens, 17, said. "I am expecting it to be more back and

forth and actually go into depth with people's opinions about what is happening and what we can do from here.

"That's the only way we can get down and solve some things," she added. "They talked (Wednesday) about effects, but not causes. If you talk back and forth, you can get to the causes."

Wilkes said the local panel, to be organized as soon as possible, will allow students to cross borders and share feelings. The students — from the diverse Mansfield district to rural white areas — will help create better racial understanding.

"Racism still exists, it's just more under cover," he said.

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Tab 2

Mesa Tribune
Jan. 8, 1998

Thursday

LOCAL

Page A6

Clinton race-relations advisers to visit Valley

BY DOUG MacEACHERN
THE TRIBUNE

President Clinton's race-relations advisers will pay visits next week to Valley business enterprises with laudable track records regarding race.

A long-awaited itinerary for the Arizona installment of Clinton's national dialogue on race includes visits to a job-training center in Phoenix and a major utility.

The advisory board for The President's Initiative on Race announced late Wednesday some details of its agenda for its meetings here next week. The meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday will include tours of minority-related business ventures, in keeping with the theme of the Valley advisory board meetings, "Race in the Workplace."

Board members will visit the Phoenix Opportunities Industrial Center, a training center for low-skilled, mostly minority workers. The Phoenix center was selected as a meeting site, director Gene Blue said, because it is conducting a joint minority-training project along with Hispanic business-advocacy group Chicanos por la Causa and the Phoenix Indian Center.

"I'm glad there is some initiative at the highest level to deal with race in the workplace," said Blue, responding to concerns by some minority activists that the panel may be avoiding more controversial issues.

The executive director of the President's Initiative on Race said time has been set aside in the

board's schedule here specifically "to hear from members of the community about issues of concern to them."

"We know there are lots of successful minority businesses in the community," said Initiative director Judy Winston. "While we want to know about those successful businesses, it's not because we don't want to know about difficult issues."

The board plans to visit Arizona Public Service offices in Phoenix. The utility operates a training "academy" for minority-owned small-business owners. The academy, APS spokesman Art Othon said, teaches small-business people how to "deal with major corporations like APS in the procurement process."

The board's itinerary also calls for a meeting at the Heard Museum in Phoenix with several tribal leaders, including Gila River Indian Community's Gov. Mary Thomas and Albert Hale, president of the Navajo Nation.

The board will conduct more formal hearings Wednesday at the Phoenix Preparatory Academy auditorium in Phoenix.

Expected to participate at those meetings are Labor Secretary Alexis Herman and Janet Yellen, chairwoman of the Council of Economic Advisers. In addition, Boston University professor of economics Glenn Loury is expected to address the board.

Long identified as a prominent conservative economist, Loury, who is black, broke with many former allies, citing a lack of compassion among white conservatives for minority issues.

Tab 3

METRO

Los Angeles Times

Race Relations Panel Stresses Education

■ **Dialogue:** As part of Clinton initiative, discussion begins with Simpson case but focuses on schools, jobs.

By JIM NEWTON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

President Clinton's much-discussed, oft-maligned and vigorously defended national conversation on race touched down Tuesday in Los Angeles, bringing together a provocative group of Southland leaders and turning immediately to Topic 1A in the city's recent race relations history.

Not affirmative action. Not immigration reform. Not the beating of Rodney G. King or even the 1992 riots. The jumping-off point for Tuesday's discussion at the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance was, instead, the murder trial of O.J. Simpson.

"Race was an issue [in that case], and it shouldn't have been an issue," said Marc Saunders, a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy. "People in the community didn't understand."

Around the horseshoe-shaped ring of desks, some participants nodded and others listened impassively. An ethnically and professionally diverse panel that included Mayor Richard Riordan's chief of staff, the head of the city's human relations agency, hate crime experts, police, several Southern California city managers and a filmmaker included one person who suggested that the murder trial and subsequent civil case illustrated the need for mandatory citizenship classes in schools.

Among other things, she said, such classes would have helped teach more people why Simpson's civil trial did not violate the prohibition against trying a person twice for the same offense.

"Ignorance breeds fear," she said. "Fear breeds violence."

While L.A.'s preoccupation with the Simpson case makes it unusual in the national discussion about the state of race relations, the solutions floated by Tuesday's panelists were for the most part familiar. Education and expansion of economic opportunity topped the lists of most participants. Afterward, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense William E. Leftwich III said those areas are the most frequently mentioned in discussions across the country.

"People see education as doing a couple of things," said Leftwich, who oversees equal opportunity issues for the Defense Department and who moderated Tuesday's panel. "It informs people about their differences, and it positions the child or student to do better in life."

Although many echoed those themes Tuesday, the issue also sparked some sharp differences. Eugene Volokh, an acting professor of law at UCLA, criticized public schools and suggested government should expand school choice and refocus on basic education.

"The public school system does not do a good job at teaching kids reading, writing and arithmetic," he said. "It's failing a lot of kids."

Across the room, however, Lana Ayeroff-Brody shook her head and retorted that "elitist kind of thought" and criticism of public schools were not going to improve race relations. Instead, she highlighted a program at Palms Middle School, where she is assistant principal, in which sixth- and eighth-graders regularly gather in small groups to talk about issues of race and culture. This helps children understand one another without homogenizing them, she said.

In general, the idea that talk helps bridge racial gaps carried the day. Several panel members effusively praised Clinton for launching the discussion on race. Joe Hicks, a longtime civil rights leader in Los Angeles, called the dialogue "one of the most important things that has happened in this country in a long time." He acknowledged that there was some cynicism about the president's initiative, and other members of the group expressed concern that too few views were being heard.

Hicks suggested that mayors host similar conversations too.

Robin Kramer, Riordan's chief of staff, said she believed that more progress would be made by finding projects that bring communities together. After the discussion, she cited the mayor's Targeted Neighborhood Initiative, which singles out marginal communities and offers small seed grants to organizations that present improvement plans. "You have people working together on their own neighborhood; it creates understanding," she said.

Recommendations from the L.A. panel will be sent to the White House along with those from other sessions across the country, Leftwich said, and used to form policy.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JAN - 9 1998
9:10 pm

January 9, 1998

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

1-12-98

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. *TM*
SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
January 3 - 9, 1997

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DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

- **Southeast Asia:** On January 10, Deputy Secretary Summers and officials from the White House and State will travel to several countries in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, to discuss Indonesia's IMF program and other responses to the financial situation in Southeast Asia. The U.S. delegation will press the Indonesian officials to adhere to the commitments contained in their IMF program and will discuss with other officials ways to restore stability to Southeast Asian financial markets.
- **Korea:** As of January 7, the Korean stock market had strengthened 16 percent since the announcement that financial assistance from the IMF, the U.S. and other "second-line" creditors would be accelerated and that banks are working to rollover Korean debt. The currency has remained fragile due to strong demand for dollars following efforts by the Bank of Korea to stem use of its foreign currency reserves. The current standstill arrangement among foreign banks to roll over maturing Korean loans has significantly slowed the drain on the Korean Central Bank's dollar reserves. The Korean government is discussing with banks several longer-term solutions, particularly turning short-term bank debt into longer-term government obligations.
- **Thailand:** The Thai currency has been battered during the week of January 5, depreciating almost 8 percent. On January 19-21, Thai Finance Minister Tarrin will be in Washington to meet with Secretary Rubin. Treasury is working to examine whether there is any Thai need for additional monies, and will use his visit to press for quicker action on financial market restructuring and bank recapitalization.

- **Customs:** On January 6, Senior Special Agent Manuel Zurita, one of three Customs agents who were seriously injured in a boat accident in the U.S. Virgin Islands, died from his injuries. The agents were assisting the Secret Service protection detail with your arrival on St. Thomas. Under Secretary Kelly and other Treasury officials will represent the Administration at funeral services for the agent. Under Secretary Kelly and Assistant Customs Commissioner Tischler traveled to Puerto Rico on January 2 to visit the agents and their families. Treasury is working with DoD and the NSC to see if Agent Zurita's children can continue attending the military school at Fort Buchanan.
- **FY99 Budget:** Treasury is working on proposals for the tax side of the FY99 budget. Treasury is working on draft budget language, as well as revenue estimates, and is also developing a package of new international tax simplification and anti-abuse proposals.
- **Brady Law:** During the week of January 12-19, ATF Director Magaw will send a letter to the AR Attorney General granting authority to perform background checks on handgun purchases pursuant to the Brady Law. Since the Supreme Court's decision, AR had stopped performing such checks, and the AR Attorney General had asked to be designated as the state's Chief Law Enforcement Officer to assume responsibility. This is the second state (OH being the first) where the federal government has made a voluntary agreement to continue performing Brady background. AR was the only state where no checks were being conducted since the Court's decision.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **RICO:** On December 12, in the Eastern District of AR, three members of a white supremacist group were charged with violations of the RICO statute and violent crimes in aid of racketeering. The defendants were members of a white supremacist group that allegedly committed a murder in ID, three murders in AR, and a kidnapping in WA.
- **Former Nazi Death Camp Guard:** On December 15, an immigration judge ordered former Nazi death camp guard Johann Breyer deported to his native Slovakia on the basis that he had assisted in the perpetration of Nazi-sponsored acts of persecution. Breyer admitted that he served as an armed SS guard at Auschwitz and Buchenwald.
- **Telecommunications Act:** On December 31, a district judge invalidated certain provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The court held that the Special Provisions of the Act were unconstitutional because they were tantamount to a legislative punishment applicable solely to Bell Operating Companies ("BOCs"). The Special Provisions permit the BOCs to provide in-region long distance services after the FCC determines that they have opened up their local markets to competition. The Special Provisions also impose restrictions on the BOCs' entry into alarm monitoring, telecommunications equipment manufacturing, and electronic publishing.

- **Private Casino Gambling:** On December 16, a judge struck down as unconstitutional a federal statute and its corresponding regulation that prohibited the broadcast advertising of private casino gambling. In finding that the statute violated the First Amendment, the court relied on the fact that the statute exempts certain gambling (state-sponsored and that conducted by Indian casinos) from its prohibitions to find that the statute did not advance the policy of reducing the social ills caused by gambling or protecting non-casino states from such advertisements.
- **Cigarette Vending Machine Regulations:** On December 15, twenty-eight cigarette vending machine businesses filed suit in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, seeking \$167 million in just compensation for the recent enactment of regulations by FDA restricting the sale of cigarettes from vending machines to locations where persons younger than 18 years of age are not present. The plaintiffs claim that the regulations deprive them of all economically viable uses of their vending machines.
- **Violence Against Women (VAWA) Act:** The VAWA provides a federal cause of action for victims of gender motivated violence. A plaintiff in VA brought suit against two individuals under the VAWA, alleging forcible rape. The district court held the statute unconstitutional. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed, holding that the statute was a permissible exercise of Congress' Commerce Clause powers.
- **False Claims Act:** Paracelsus Healthcare Corporation has agreed to pay a total of \$3 million to the U.S. and TN to settle potential civil liability under the False Claims Act. Paracelsus operated outpatient drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinics. A former outpatient counselor alleged in a *qui tam* lawsuit that outpatients were treated without any physician involvement and that inpatients received inadequate physician visits under TN Medicaid regulations.
- **Church Arson, Eastern District of AR:** A volunteer firefighter was indicted on three counts of arson for allegedly burning the Freedomia Missionary Baptist Church near Helena, AR and the Church House of the Lord in Helena.
- **Health Care Fraud:** The owner and manager of Freedom Medical, Inc., pled guilty to mail fraud and money laundering. The company hired telemarketers who used scripts provided by the owner to make "cold calls" to persons listed with state motor vehicle bureaus as having handicapped license plates. The telemarketers would sell customers certain kinds of durable medical equipment, but would misrepresent these products in invoices to health insurers as more sophisticated and expensive equipment.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

- **Indian Gaming Procedures Rule:** Within the next few days, OMB is expected to clear a proposed rule that would authorize the Secretary to adopt procedures for the conduct of

casino style gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). The proposed rule would allow tribes to seek relief from the Secretary when states assert sovereign immunity and refuse to consent to suit.

- **Washington Monument Closing:** On January 12, the Washington Monument will be closed to the public for restoration for approximately four months. The closure will allow work to begin on the first phase of a multi-million dollar restoration of the interior and exterior of the monument.
- **Funeral for Rep. Bono:** On January 9, Secretary Babbitt will represent the Administration at Rep. Sonny Bono's funeral in Palm Springs, CA.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **\$1 Billion Credit to Korea:** On December 22, USDA announced a \$1 billion credit guarantee package for the Republic of Korea to facilitate exports of U.S. agricultural products.
- **Guam:** USDA had approved more than 22,500 applications for over \$7 million in emergency food stamp assistance following Typhoon Paka.
- **Meat and Poultry Inspection Rules:** Beginning January 20, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service will operate a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points Hotline to assist large meat and poultry plants to comply with new food safety regulations that go into effect January 26.
- **Food Stamps:** USDA billed NY \$3.4 million for New York City's failure to cut off food stamps to approximately 40,000 immigrants in September as required by statute.
- **American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF):** On January 12, the Secretary will address the AFBF annual meeting in Charlotte, NC.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **Information Technology Worker Shortage Convocation:** On January 12, Secretary Daley will travel to CA to give the keynote address. This Convocation will further examine the issues raised in a report on this topic published last fall by DOC's Technology Administration. The Secretary will also participate in an electronic commerce industry CEO round table hosted by Hewlett Packard. The DOL Deputy Secretary will announce a new grant of \$3 million focused on training in IT occupations and will highlight the \$8 million that is committed to producing a system that integrates America's Job Bank and America's Talent Bank.

- **Economic Development Travel:** On January 15-22, Secretary Daley will travel to the Czech Republic, Greece, and Turkey.
- **Chilean Salmon:** On January 9, DOC announced its final determination on whether Chilean salmon exporters are unfairly competing in the U.S. market. U.S. salmon aquaculture farmers have claimed that Chilean exporters are "dumping" their salmon in the U.S. at below either production costs or prices charged elsewhere. If Chile loses the salmon case, they may appeal to the WTO.
- **Lithuania Bilateral Investment Treaty:** DOC is working with an interagency group to review the bilateral investment treaty with Lithuania to ensure that the annex of exceptions properly expresses U.S. reservations to the national treatment and MFN provisions in the agreement. The group is working to complete its review in time for a signing ceremony when the President of Lithuania will be in Washington on January 15.
- **Wassenaar Regulation:** On January 15, after over two years of negotiations with other agencies, the amendments to the Export Administration Regulations will be published in the *Federal Register*. These amendments will implement the agreements reached with our allies in the Wassenaar Arrangement on export controls. The focus of the regime is on transparency in exports of arms and sensitive dual use equipment.
- **Canada Tariffs:** On January 1, Canada eliminated its remaining tariffs on goods of U.S. origin. This was the last of ten annual reductions since the implementation of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement on January 1, 1989.
- **Export Licensing for Pope's Visit:** DOC is receiving an increasing number of requests for authorization to permit the temporary travel of U.S. aircraft to Cuba to deliver humanitarian goods, participants, news personnel, and equipment in anticipation of the Pope's visit to Cuba later this month. Since you terminated direct flights to Cuba, all such flights are considered on a case-by-case basis and require NSC review.
- **Year of the Ocean:** The UN has declared 1998 to be the "Year of the Ocean." DOC is taking a leading role in promoting public awareness and understanding of the oceans.
- **Grant Competitions for DOC Telecommunications Programs:** On January 5, Notices of Availability of Funds were published in the *Federal Register* for DOC's Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP) and the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP). TIIAP has \$17 million available for matching grants for information infrastructure projects to help promote the widespread availability of advanced telecommunications and information technologies in the public and non-profit sector. PTFP has \$19.5 million available for construction and planning grants to non-commercial organizations to assist in the purchase of telecommunications equipment to be used for educational or cultural purposes.

- **Spectrum Report to OMB:** The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 requires that DOC submit a spectrum reallocation report to the FCC and Congress in February 1998, identifying spectrum that can be transferred from Federal use to the private sector.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- ✓ **Work-Flex Demonstration States:** This week, DOL will designate the states of IA, SD, OR, FL, OH, and TX as "Work-Flex" Demonstration States. The governors of these states will have considerable latitude to remove legislative barriers which prevent them from effectively serving their citizens.
- **Dislocated Workers Grant in AR:** DOL released a grant of \$340,000 to assist 110 workers who were laid off from the Emerson Motors Corporation in Rogers, AR.
- **SAVER Summit:** The Savings are Vital to Everyone's Retirement Act (SAVER Act) requires the President to convene Retirement Summits, the first to be held no later than July 15, 1998. DOL's Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration (PWBA) is coordinating with Congressional leadership to ensure that appointments to the SAVER Summit are made in a timely manner. In addition to certain congressional leadership participation, the law requires that 200 additional participants attend the Summit.
- **Steelworker Strike at Oregon Steel:** On December 30, the union in the strike by the Steelworkers at the CF&I Division of Oregon Steel Mills presented the company with an unconditional offer to return to work. A meeting requested by company officials to discuss the offer and recall procedures is scheduled for January 7. About 1,000 workers struck the company's Pueblo, CO, facility on October 3 after rejecting an offer to replace a contract that expired September 30.
- **Steelworkers Strike at Uniroyal Goodrich:** On December 27, at the Uniroyal Goodrich plant in Woodburn, IN, the Steelworkers approved a three-year local contract, ending their two-month strike.
- **FedEx and Pilots Association:** On December 18, Federal Express and the FedEx Pilots Association announced that they had reached a "conceptual agreement" on an initial four-year contract.
- **Race Advisory Board Meeting:** On January 13-14, Secretary Herman will travel to Phoenix, AZ, to participate in the Race Advisory Board Meeting.
- **Apparel Meeting:** On January 9, the Apparel Industry Partnership will meet in NYC to continue its work to form an association that would oversee independent external monitoring by apparel and footwear companies and develop mechanisms to inform consumers that the goods they purchase are not made in sweatshop conditions.

- **NAO Submission 9701 Public Report:** On May 16, 1997, Human Rights Watch (HRW), the International Labor Rights Fund (ILRF) and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (ANAD) of Mexico filed a complaint to the National Administrative Office (as a part of NAFTA) and was accepted for review by the NAO on July 14, 1997. It raises issues of gender discrimination through the conduct of pre-employment pregnancy screening of female job applicants and post-hire discrimination against pregnant employees in Mexico's export processing (*maquiladora*) industry. The submitters allege that employers frequently require female job applicants to be tested for pregnancy and deny employment to those who are shown to be pregnant so as to avoid payment of Mexico's mandated maternity benefits. In some cases, it is alleged that employers pressure female employees who become pregnant to resign. On January 12, the NAO expects to issue a public report on this complaint.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Avian Influenza:** CDC continues to provide assistance in the public health investigation of avian influenza in Hong Kong. As of January 6, there were 16 confirmed cases in humans and three suspected cases. The mean age of confirmed cases is 17 years, and 50 percent of the cases have occurred in persons five years of age or younger. Four confirmed cases have been fatal, and three other patients remain in intensive care. CDC presently has seven staff members in Hong Kong.
- **"Low-Fat" Milk:** As of January 1, milk products must follow the same criteria as most other foods labeled "low fat." This means that such products as 2-percent milk, which contains about 5 grams of fat per serving, cannot be labeled "low fat" because the fat content is more than 3 grams per serving, the upper limit permitted in food products labeled "low fat." The new rules bring claims for milkfat into consistency with other food products and are based on petitions from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the Milk Industry Foundation and the American Dairy Products Institute.
- **Hemorrhagic Fever in Kenya and Somalia:** An outbreak of hemorrhagic fever is in progress in remote parts of northeastern Kenya and southern Somalia following exceptionally heavy rains. The World Health Organization reports as many as 300 human deaths and significant loss of domestic animals. Preliminary results indicate that Rift Valley fever virus is responsible for many of the cases in both humans and domestic animals. Laboratory testing has excluded Ebola, Marburg, yellow fever, and several other viruses as causes of the outbreak. Diagnostic specimens have been sent to CDC, and HHS has offered to assist Kenya.
- **HIV/AIDS Care:** On January 12, HRSA anticipates awarding \$445 million for HIV/AIDS care. The Ryan White Title I grants will go to 49 eligible metropolitan areas most severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic for primary health care and support services for low-income individuals and their families.

- **Folic Acid:** Starting January 1, manufacturers of enriched breads, flours, and other grain products are required to add the nutrient folic acid to their products, a move to reduce the risk of neural tube birth defects in newborns. Folic acid, when consumed in adequate amounts by women before and during early pregnancy, reduces the risk of such birth defects as spina bifida, a common disabling birth condition resulting from failure of the spinal column to close.
- **Impact of Early Alcohol Use:** On January 14, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism will announce findings from a study titled, "Age at Onset of First Use and Its Association with DSM-IV Alcohol Abuse and Dependence: Results from the National Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiologic Survey." Data from the 1992 National Survey were used to examine the relationship between age at first use of alcohol and the prevalence of lifetime alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence. The study looked at age of first use from 12 through 25+ and found that the odds of dependence decreased by 14 percent with each increasing year of age at onset of use, and the odds of abuse decreased by 8 percent.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **NY Hospitals Merger:** On December 31, HUD approved a merger involving two major medical centers in New York City, Columbia Presbyterian and New York Hospitals. The merger involved approximately a billion dollars in mortgage insurance, the largest transaction in the history of the FHA. The two hospitals, together with a number of smaller affiliated facilities, will form a wide-ranging health care system that will redefine the health care market in New York City.
- **Pinellas County Housing Authority:** On January 5, HUD announced that the Pinellas County Housing Authority (PCHA) in Florida signed a voluntary compliance agreement to end housing discrimination uncovered by HUD investigators. The agreement commits the housing authority to take a series of actions over a five-year period to ensure that minority and disabled residents receive the same treatment, housing options, and level of services as majority residents. The PHA has agreed to help move African American residents to predominantly white housing and to reimburse residents with disabilities for physical improvements to housing.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Passenger Bag Match/CAPS:** On January 1, computer-assisted passenger screening (CAPS) was implemented (at least partially) on all major passenger reservation systems. Pending a final rule, FAA issued a security directive for flights within the US limiting options for securing the checked baggage of passengers selected by CAPS or the manual profile to screening by explosives detection systems or bag match. The FAA also issued

for industry comment a proposed amendment to the Air Carrier Standard Security Program requiring random selection in addition to the selection of passengers on the basis of the factors in the manual profile. Manual profiling will be increasingly replaced by CAPS during 1998.

- **Rose Bowl Charters:** DOT has two investigations underway regarding 1998 Rose Bowl Charters. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Worldwide Sport Travel, which operated Rose Bowl charters in conjunction with Sun Coast Tours, failed to provide game tickets to as many as 300 of the approximately 1100 persons to whom it sold Rose Bowl air tours. Under DOT rules, charter participants who do not receive a ticket as promised are due a refund of the entire price of their tour, including air and land package, if applicable. A second investigation concerns allegations that a number of charter passengers were not provided return transportation to Seattle from the game, as required.
- **City of New York v. Slater:** This case involves a petition filed by the City of New York seeking review of DOT's decision to grant 21 new slots at LaGuardia Airport to Frontier Airlines, Airtran, and Valujet (since merged into Airtran). The City is expected to argue that DOT's decision raises safety and environmental concerns. The City did not request a stay of the decision.
- **Family Assistance Update:** By the end of the month, Secretary Slater will submit to the Vice President a report on recommendations to improve assistance provided by the federal government to families of civilians killed in aviation disasters in government aircraft. This report is required by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security.
- **Coast Guard Academy Inquiry:** In September, after a routine check of academic material required of cadets at the Coast Guard Academy, several concerns were raised regarding what appeared to be widespread collaboration and/or plagiarism, which is a potential violation of the Honor Concept. The Academy implemented a full scale review of the entire issue. Currently, five Coast Guard senior cadets face disciplinary proceedings for allegedly violating the Honor Concept in completing required professional notebooks.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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SE Regional Energy FREE Savings Program Awards: On January 12, six energy service companies will be awarded contracts for work under DOE's Financing Renewable Energy and Efficiency (FREE) Savings Program. The program allows Federal buildings to be retrofitted to reduce energy costs by \$1.5 billion at no cost to the taxpayer. The companies will pay all costs to upgrade or retrofit energy equipment. In return, the companies will receive up to \$750 million from the Government's utility cost savings due to reduced energy consumption.

- **Hemispheric Energy Ministers Meeting:** On January 14-16, Sec. Peña will co-chair the third meeting of the Hemispheric Energy Ministers in Caracas, Venezuela. Ministers from all thirty-four democratic nations in the hemisphere have been invited to participate. The group will evaluate progress on implementing energy commitments from the 1994 Summit of the Americas and work to build momentum toward the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, in April 1998. Among its objectives are a joint declaration on energy integration, actions to address climate change, and a role for the private sector.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **Congressional Town Hall:** On February 4, in Washington DC, Secretary Riley will join Congressional Democrats for a Town Hall meeting highlighting public education successes.
- **Family Friendly Workplace:** On January 12, Secretary Riley, Senator Boxer, and officials from Hewlett-Packard will release a report, cosponsored by DOEd, on family-friendly workplace policies in CA.
- **Low-Performing Schools:** DOEd staff continue to consult with foundations working to improve local schools in preparing the guide to effective approaches for turning around low-performing schools scheduled to be submitted to you on January 26.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

- **Togo West:** On January 2, Togo D. West, Jr., assumed the position of Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has indicated that a hearing for confirmation as Secretary may be scheduled for January 28.
- **Health Care Quality:** Senator Rockefeller released a report criticizing VA for its current health care quality management efforts. The report disputes the VA position that internal oversight activities are sufficient to adequately monitor the quality of care provided at VA medical facilities.
- **Health Care Report:** On January 9, VA will release the findings of the Medical Inspector's report on health care issues involving the Castle Point and Montrose VA Medical Centers in NY. Members of the NY congressional delegation have criticized staff shortages and budget cuts which they believe to be negatively affecting the quality of care at those facilities.
- **Death Rates at VA Medical Center:** On January 7, *ABC's Prime Time Live* aired a story concerning the Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia, MO. The story focused on an unexpectedly high number of deaths that occurred on a single medical ward at the facility during 1992. The matter is also under investigation by the FBI.

- **Veterans Health Administration Reorganization:** On January 9, the *New York Times* interviewed Under Secretary for Health Kizer on the reorganization of the Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Kizer will discuss changes which have been implemented during his tenure, and his vision for the future of VA health care.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **Toxic Air Emissions from Electric Power Plants:** EPA will issue, on February 17, a study on the threats to public health associated with emissions of toxic pollutants from electric power plants. The study identifies mercury as the hazardous air pollutant of greatest concern. The study shows that coal-fired power plants emit approximately 34 percent of all man-made mercury emissions. Thirty-nine states have issued fish health advisories for mercury. EPA will explore a possible regulatory program to curb mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

- **EU Aircraft:** On January 6, Ambassador Barshefsky spoke with Phil Condit, CEO of Boeing, to discuss the U.S. position on Airbus and to consider initiating a Super 301 case against the EU for not living up to the bilateral agreement.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- **Youth Media Campaign:** Phase I of the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign begins this week and will be rolled out in the 12 pilot cities over the next two weeks, with ads starting on January 8 in Washington, D.C., and on January 9 in San Diego, CA. Roll-outs in Baltimore, Boise, Sioux City, Houston, Denver, Tucson, Atlanta, Portland (OR), Milwaukee, and Hartford will follow. On January 8, Director McCaffrey and Secretary Shalala, along with key Congressional members, kicked off the Washington roll-out. Phase II of the campaign will begin with a major event for national markets in June.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- **DOI Rule on Mining:** The SBA General Counsel for Advocacy has filed an *amicus* brief in a court case challenging a DOI rule on hard rock mining. The brief argues that DOI failed to follow appropriate procedures under the Regulatory Flexibility Act.
- **Out Loan Servicing Rights:** The Chairmen of the House and Senate Small Business Committees have written to direct the SBA to follow through on a statutory provision requiring the contracting out of 30 percent of its disaster loan servicing portfolio. SBA had written in September seeking guidance from Congress after preliminary analysis suggested the requirement was not cost-beneficial. The Congressional letter directs SBA to go ahead with the procurement action and requests a response by January 12.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

- **Welfare-to-Work:** Federal agencies, as part of your welfare-to-work initiative, have hired 2,403 former welfare recipients for jobs in their agencies. OPM recently provided information to Rep. Cummings on the Administration's efforts to boost the hiring of former welfare recipients in the Federal Government and in the private sector.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

- **Year-End Editorials in Review:** Year-end editorials overseas offered both high praise and criticism of the U.S. role as the world's only superpower. Analysts were preoccupied with many of the world's trouble spots and expressed little hope that the "disturbing international picture" would improve any time soon. Among those with laudatory assessments of the U.S. role were papers in Denmark and Chile. Pieces in Copenhagen's center-right *Jyllands-Posten* credited the U.S. for ending the Cold War and stabilizing the situation in Bosnia, and judged that "jealousy" was at the root of much "Yankee bashing" in the European media. Chile's leading Catholic University television termed U.S. leadership a "key element" in the Middle East and in checking Saddam Hussein's power, but concluded that the U.S. had been "less effective" in Latin America primarily because of the "failure of fast track." Editorials in Canada's *Toronto Star* charged that the U.S. was "responsible" for "starving" the people of Iraq and North Korea.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

- **Disability Reviews:** Rep. Bunning, Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, requested that the SSA revise and resubmit the FY96 Continuing Disability Report (CDR) to the Congress based on eight Subcommittee recommendations. The revised report will include information on the amount spent on CDRs, including specific detailed information about FY96 and FY97 CDR initiatives, and information on the ratio of savings to cost as a result of the CDR mailer process. CDRs, required under Statute, are periodically scheduled assessments of current disability beneficiaries designed to determine whether their level of disability has improved to the degree they are no longer eligible for benefits. The revised report is due to Congress in mid-January.

cc:

The Vice President
Erskine Bowles
Sidney Blumenthal
Maria Echaveste
Rahm Emanuel
Jack Gibbons
John Hilley
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Ann Lewis
Sylvia Mathews
Michael McCurry
Katie McGinty
John Podesta
Franklin Raines
Bruce Reed
Craig Smith
Doug Sosnik
Gene Sperling
Melanne Verveer

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cyprus, Turkey and Greece: UK Special Representative Hannay was in town this week to coordinate with Dick Holbrooke and others on Cyprus and Turkey's EU prospects. Secretary Albright will talk to Robin Cook on January 15 about both issues. The British are committed to doing what they can to get EU-Turkish relations back on track following the setback at the December 12-13 EU summit. The Secretary will encourage Cook to be proactive in getting Prime Minister Yilmaz to attend the March 12-13 European Conference in London by making the conference play a meaningful role in Turkish EU accession. Yilmaz is taking encouraging steps on human rights, but the key to the puzzle may be the resolution of the Imia/Kardak dispute. The State Department will take yet another shot at the Imia/Kardak issue over the next two weeks. Another issue just over the horizon is the Greek Cypriot purchase of S-300 missiles from Russia. To turn the deal off, we will have to put on a full court press, with Russia in NATO channels and with the Greek Cypriots and Greece following the February presidential elections in Cyprus.

Gelbard Trip: Following up on your Christmas visit to Bosnia, Special Representative Gelbard will travel to the Balkans next week for meetings with Bosnian and Republika Srpska (RS) officials as well as with "FRY" President Milosevic. In Sarajevo, Gelbard will work on a strategy for putting an effective RS government in place, help finalize a currency design and agreement on a flag, and discuss refugee issues, including preparations for the Sarajevo refugee meeting. The situation in Montenegro is increasingly tense and supporters of outgoing President Momir Bulatovic have threatened to take to the streets to protest the January 15 inauguration of the reform-minded, and pro-Dayton, Milo Djukanovic. We have already warned Milosevic about the dangers of violence in Montenegro.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Super Typhoon Paka: In the aftermath of the recent typhoon, DoD has succeeded in moving one thousand eighty displaced personnel into Andersen AFB South Dormitories on Guam. They are expected to stay through mid-February. Electrical power has been restored to forty-four percent of the island, and relief efforts are transitioning from emergency response to long-term recovery.

Gulf War Illnesses Litigation: The Supreme Court has declined to review a Court of Appeals decision in favor of the government in a case brought on behalf of a Gulf War veteran's child born with birth defects. The legal question was whether the Feres doctrine, which disallows personal injury tort suits brought by military members against the government, also disallows suits by children of members who allege birth defects based on a genetic injury to a military member. The Supreme Court's action leaves undisturbed the decision of the lower courts in this case that Feres barred the action. Aside from the legal issue, the government does not believe the scientific evidence to date establishes a link between Gulf War service and birth defects of children to veterans.

Environmental Support to Camp David: On December 2-5, the NSA Office of Occupational Health, Environmental and Safety Services conducted an environmental audit of Camp David. The purpose of the audit was to identify possible areas of noncompliance in preparation for an inspection by the State of Maryland Department of the Environment and to determine progress made in developing an environmental program. The use of NSA expertise saved Camp David over \$125,000 compared to its 1995 use of contractor resources.

Secretary's Schedule: On January 10-22, Secretary Cohen will travel to Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, China, Japan and Korea. He will meet with Heads of State, Chiefs of Defense and Defense Ministers, deliver several major speeches, and sign a Military Maritime Consultation Agreement with China.

UNITED NATIONS

Iraq/UNSCOM: Starting on January 12, UNSCOM will begin a round of intrusive inspections of sensitive Iraqi sites, including "presidential" sites. On January 6, Ambassador Richardson assured UNSCOM Executive Chairman Butler of strong U.S. support for the planned inspections and for Butler's trip to Baghdad on January 19. If Iraq blocks the inspections, and Butler is unable to resolve the issue during his visit, we will seek strong UNSC action, including a possible finding of "material breach." Iraq should resume oil sales under phase III of the "oil-for-food" program (which was renewed on December 6) by the end of the week. (Iraq had refused to pump oil since until its distribution plan was approved by Kofi Annan; Annan approved the plan on January 6.) Annan is expected to recommend an expansion of the "oil-for-food" program in his late January report; State and UN are currently looking at ways to ensure that such an expansion improves the humanitarian situation in Iraq without increasing Iraq's control over the process. Ambassador Richardson will travel to UNSC and other key capitals in the next few weeks to build support for our Iraq strategy.