

2-6-98

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 5, 1998

✓
MR. PRESIDENT:

In the attached memo, Gene Sperling seeks your approval of a set of principles for use by those in the Administration speaking publicly on the Social Security reform process. If you approve, you would discuss these principles in your Social Security event on Monday; others (Rubin, Raines, Apfel et. al.) would use the principles in subsequent appearances.

You previously indicated that you did not want to discuss the principles in the State of the Union, but Gene is unclear whether you opposed the principles themselves, or just did not want them in the speech. Gene argues that being able to use a set of principles will allow those in the Administration speaking publicly on the issue to keep the focus on "Social Security First" and avoid specifics on a wide variety of other related questions.

The proposed principles:

- Strengthen and protect Social Security for the 21st Century;
- Maintain universality and fairness;
- Provide a benefit people can count on;
- Continue to give the low-income disabled, retired and survivors financial security;
- Preserve fiscal discipline.

✓ ☒ Approve principles ☐ Disapprove ☐ Discuss

Phil Caplan *Phil*

Copied
Sperling
Bowles

✓
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2-6-98

January 31, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: GENE SPERLING

SUBJECT: Social Security principles

Following up on your Social Security First announcement, which has been extremely well received in the media, many of us will be making public appearances. For example, Larry Summers, Ken Apfel, and I made public appearances on Social Security on Thursday and Friday. Frank Raines has been asked to testify before the Senate Budget Committee's Social Security Task Force in the near future -- as have Ken Apfel and Secretary Rubin.

To allow us to answer a wide variety of questions without being forced into too many specifics, we would strongly support coming out with a set of general principles regarding Social Security reform. You had indicated that you did not want to issue such a set of principles in the State of the Union address. But it was unclear whether you opposed the principles per se, or you just did not want them to be in the speech.

To allow us to give strong presentations over the coming days and weeks -- and to keep the focus on our Social Security First strategy by deflecting a wide variety of possible questions -- we would like you to consider approving the principles given below. We are also concerned that without such principles, the resulting vacuum may inadvertently lead to some Administration official answering a question in a way that is not helpful in the long run.

The principles given below reflect what we have evolved toward. Some of your advisers think that they could be more general, though most think they are about the right level of specificity. All agree that the principles should rule out a radical privatization of Social Security but leave open the possibility of a small individual account within the structure that preserves the basic progressive and universal structure of Social Security. The principles we propose include:

Proposed principles for Social Security reform

- Strengthen and protect Social Security for the 21st century;
- Maintain universality and fairness;
- Provide a benefit people can count on;
- Continue to give the low-income disabled, retired, and survivors financial security;
- Preserve fiscal discipline.

Decision

- Approve the principles for public use by Administration officials
- Do not approve principles for public use by Administration officials
- Discuss further

2-6-98

TO BURKHARDT

FOR REPLY?

YES

NO

*proposed
special
letter*

'98 FEB 6 AM 10:1

Dear Mr. President,

You bring such joy to so many people. I thank you God for the gift you are to them. You inspire many a boy and bring much joy; you show kindness to the poor and lend a helping hand to the elderly - you smile "that special smile" to the children - and laugh "that special laugh" to the entertainers. You are a bright light in the kingdom on earth and I thank the Lord for you. I look forward to meeting with you.

May the year bring a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit to you and your family.

Much love and prayers,

Minister Andrea

Minister Andrea

Dearest First Lady Hillary,

Meeting you again brought me such joy. You are a lover of people and the Lord loves that, you bring a smile to his face. A bright light in the midst of darkness. I honor you this day because you have pleased my Lord's heart. I feel you are moving higher and higher in the spirit realm, and I'm glad we will be seeing each other soon.

Thank you again for all you have done for the country, leaders, children and most of all for you, your family and loved ones. Hillary you are a brave woman, and I am blessed to know you.

Much love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Minister Andrea". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Minister" and the last name "Andrea" clearly distinguishable.

Minister Andrea



Thank You

*"There are those who open
their hearts to others
who never think twice about giving of themselves.
They are the wonderful,
warmhearted people
who make all the difference
in our lives."*

Dear Mr. President & First Lady Hilary
Rest in the arms
of the Lord and seek
him each day. He
will warm your heart.
You two are a joy in
the Kingdom.

Dear Mr. President & First Lady Hilary
Rest in the arms
of the Lord and seek
him each day. He
will warm your heart.
You two are a joy in
the Kingdom.

Thank you
for all the ways
you give so much
of yourself.

God Bless You
Minister
Andrea

February 4, 1998

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500-2000

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
2-6-98

Sandy
worth reading
BC

Dear Bill,

Has been very gratifying to see the overwhelming support of the American people for you demonstrated this last week. I know these have been difficult days for you and your family, but maybe Mr. and Mrs. America's reaction will temper those who are out to get you. As I've said before, I'm with you all the way.

Thanks for the invitation to the PM Blair welcoming ceremony (assuming it isn't rained out). Was hoping to be one of the friendly faces in the crowd, but about two months ago Midshipman Richard Rollins, Jr. invited me to join him and 3,999 other mids for a quiet lunch at the Naval Academy mess hall. For some reason they would not move the start time of lunch -- even for the Commander in Chief. Actually looking forward to it since I haven't had lunch there in over 28 years (though I had supper with Elizabeth a couple of times.)

Been thinking about the Iraq situation. I think it is right that we take action if Saddam forces our hand. However, there are some consequences flowing from the fact that we are (understandably) not bringing in massive ground units to force him ultimately to surrender. One of the consequences that is most dear to my heart is that almost certainly some of our airman will end up behind enemy lines due to aircraft damage or accidents. For those that are captured, we will not be in a position to demand their release after a clear cut coalition victory. They will not only be used as political hostages, they also will probably be positioned at "Palaces" and other sites we want to take care to be sure of a solution to this problem available, but we at least want to be able to look back and know that this possibility was considered in our pre-planning. For example, maybe we want to dedicate some crack special forces units to no mission other than pilot rescue. My experience, unfortunately, is that combat rescue operations were not always pre-planned, and that it sometimes consisted of rounding up the nearest helicopters and sending them into very difficult situations (in Vietnam we lost as many rescuers as recuees). Probably would help that if given the opportunity, you ask some questions about the POW scenario. By the way, though I have been involved in some of the planning associated with the Iraq situation, I have not been exposed to anything related to the above situation -- just something that occurred to me driving to work.

Sorry for the long letter. Wish you all the best. Take care.

Sincerely,

Phil

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Berger
Bowles