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**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13492  
**Folder ID Number:** 13492-006

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**Folder Title:**  
New York Partnerships 6/22/89 [2]

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

JUNE 20, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *tw*

FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*

SUBJECT: JUNE 22 NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP SPEECH

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, June 22, at 12:30 p.m., you will address members of the New York Partnership at Manhattan's Hilton Hotel. About 1,500 people are expected to attend, mostly leaders from business, labor, civic, non-profit, religious, and education groups.

II. DISCUSSION

The enclosed remarks (20 minutes, teleprompter) unveil your Administration's "Points of Light Initiative" -- including the Foundation that you will lead. The text includes a call to national service, describes how the Foundation will work, and explains how this movement can "expand volunteerism into every corner of America."

(Smith/Blessey)  
June 20, 1989  
Draft Eight  
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate your generous reception. And let me salute that magnificent film. It was a moving call to action.

It is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been described as "the noblest of the American symbols" and, yes, "the capital of the world."

And let me also add that it is indeed an honor to address the members of the New York Partnership and the Association for a Better New York. For already, you have enriched fields from business and labor to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: To join hands, and link hearts, to light the American sky.

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . Think of that.

I have just come from a place which embodies that statement -- Covenant House -- a mirror of how, as Lincoln said, we can "bind up the Nation's wounds."

Twenty-two years ago, having moved to the East Village of New York to help the urban poor, Father Bruce Ritter opened his

door one night to see six children. Amazingly, in a land as rich as ours, they were asking for a place to stay.

As word spread, every night young people of every race and creed came to this small apartment. And eventually, Father Ritter founded Covenant House to provide a shelter for abandoned and runaway kids.

I urge you to visit Covenant House. And others like it -- in Alabama, in Chicago, on the farmlands of Ohio. For there you will find the quiet Americans, the selfless Americans, giving of their time and of themselves.

Last year, such Americans contributed an estimated 19.5 billion volunteer hours. They work at day-care centers, inner-city schools, homes for the elderly. Anywhere there is a need. Anytime they are needed. Volunteers make a difference in the lives of those for whom the American Dream seems an Impossible Dream.

Already, this involvement -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped countless Americans find self-respect and dignity. Today, America is prosperous and at peace. Even so, many who have secured material success know there must be something more in their lives: The opportunity to do good.

They know the job is far from complete. For another group of Americans still endures a living nightmare of want and isolation. That must stop. Ladies and gentlemen: We must bring in those who feel unwelcome. We must reawaken their hope for the future.

But how?

We know that government can't rebuild a family, or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. We know that government can't buy understanding and love. We know that during the past two decades we have spent more money, on more social programs, than at any time in our history. And some problems aren't better. In fact, they're worse.

Most Americans realize that. They know that the key to constructive change is building relationships, not bureaucracies. And they know that those who say, "It's government's problem," are really part of the problem themselves.

My friends, all my life I've believed that government could not substitute for "do unto others." Barbara and I tried to do our small part. In Midland, with the YMCA and United Way. I remember digging ditches for a Little League ball field, helping to build a theatre. And dating back to my days at Yale, a cause I love: Raising funds for the United Negro College Fund.

Like so many others, I found joy and a sense of inner peace in helping others. For I was also fulfilling myself. Learning that we are not what we drive, or where we live, or what kind of clothes we wear. Rather, I learned that America is great because America is good.

These beliefs are beyond any individual, for they are timeless. Today, more than ever, we need community service to help drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDS victims. The hungry and illiterate. Often

disadvantaged as their communities disintegrate around them, they become disconnected from society.

Our challenge, then, is to raise their spirits and their expectations, and we must. Not by more government -- but by more caring. Not by more programs -- but by more people. And by engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most successful people in America. Well, to you I say: A life of ease is a life without reward. From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

The great English statesman, Edmund Burke, once wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals, helping each other. He was defining successful lives. And so am I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy of voluntary associations of people and institutions working together to solve problems in their own back yard.

My friends, these "thousand points of light" can extend national service into every corner of America. By asking that all branches and all levels of government -- and both sectors, public and private -- enlist in our crusade.

I am here today to outline that crusade. First: A call to action, and to share others' burdens. Next: A catalyst to energize "a thousand points of light." Finally: An initiative to find, and train, leaders to help their fellow man. And to reward those who do. Let's be clear about one thing, though --

this is not a program, or another bureaucracy. It is a movement -- bold, and unprecedented.

First, our call to action, and, even more, to claim society's problems as our own. Our call is individual, and collective. And it begins this afternoon, with you.

Today, I ask leaders of Congress, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and each State and municipality to devise programs which involve themselves and their employees in community service. I commend all business leaders who promote and reward volunteerism. I ask non-profit and service groups to open your doors to all those who want to help, irrespective of age, background, or level of experience. And leaders of high schools and colleges, respectively -- I thank those of you who promote volunteerism through curricula, and as a criteria for admittance.

But there's more. To every corporation, large and small, I say: Begin a literacy program that teaches each employee how to read. And to every member of a body of higher learning: Start a Big Brother or Big Sister program for kids in your neighborhood. Of every church and synagogue, I ask: Become an around-the-clock community center. And of every restaurant and grocery store: Distribute surplus food to soup kitchens and local shelters.

And to the youth of America, I issue a special appeal.

Today, as part of our call to action, I propose the YES Initiative -- or "Youth Engaged in Service" to America. I challenge every young American to fight against self-absorption.

And to emulate those leaders who have shown that there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

Leaders like Sean Fox, 20, who began the Toledo Community Food Bank to feed the hungry of his town. Or Eileen Cole, 17, of Washington, D.C., who works as a candy striper and aid to a cerebral palsy patient. Or Carissa Griesinger of Florida, a former drug user and seller, who now, at 15, devotes hours each week to counseling troubled teenagers and tutoring handicapped children.

These young leaders know that what we are matters more than what we have. And they can help reach three of our movement's goals. First: By 1992, we want to double the number of kids engaged in volunteerism. Second: We want to double the number of adults involved in youth mentoring projects. And, third: We want to triple the number of institutions engaged in youth development through community service.

Yesterday, on the South Lawn of the White House, we held a kickoff rally for the "Yes" Initiative, attended by thousands of kids -- some of those points of light I like to talk about. And their presence reminded me of the saying, "Life is not a state of time -- life is a state of mind." So is our call to volunteerism. Does it summon the young, and old? You bet. Will Americans listen to that call? I believe they will. The poet Emerson once said, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself." Well, today, across our fifty States, groups, and individuals are giving of, not to, themselves.

In Gaston County, North Carolina, where one out of five adults is illiterate, Olna Daves has founded a Literacy Council. And in Tucson, Kathleen Clark runs a nursery for up to 150 abused children per month. In Mississippi, Dr. Anne Brooks set up practice in an indigent Delta town. Her care is, literally, priceless -- many patients can't afford to pay.

Americans like these are missionaries, and they are heroes. Our mission is to achieve, nationally, what they are doing, locally. To complete it will require a catalyst. And I am proud to announce it now: A new effort to identify volunteer programs that work -- and carry them to America.

We call this catalyst the "Points of Light Initiative" -- and it includes a Foundation I will lead. Not as a figure-head. But daily, actively, with the full power of the Presidency.

I will soon ask Congress for funds to support this Initiative, with matching funds from the private sector. But I will also name an advisory committee to get the ball rolling while we await Congressional action.

"The Points of Light Initiative" will be a strategy center and a clearinghouse for volunteerism's best ideas, and brightest programs. It will seek out, and find, successful efforts -- the elementary school, for instance, whose students "adopt" a senior citizens' home and visit it regularly; or the consortium where banks, unions, and developers bring decent housing to the homeless. And by bringing success stories to other communities, we will spread them across the Nation.

Our foundation will be bi-partisan: It will ask each governor -- and, through them, the mayors of all municipalities -- to form State and local Points of Light working groups composed of outstanding private sector leaders. And, at its core, will be our request -- I submit, your obligation -- to donate the services of the talented and the enterprising.

These people -- your employees -- will come from all institutions: Civic to corporate, union to educational. And they will act as peer-to-peer counselors: to wit, journalist-to-journalist, or one clergyman to another [PAUSE] . . . after all, both professions need prayers to thrive.

Think of it: Through "Points of Light," a lawyer in Chicago can help another local law firm devise a pro bono program for the low-income and handicapped. Or in Wilmington, an experienced mentor can help show a nearby district what works, and what doesn't.

This technical assistance and counseling network will work through a variety of forms. And over time, the Foundation will use technology to link volunteer supply, and community demand. Imagine, for instance, a service where you can call a hot-line phone number, and have that call automatically routed to a staff member of an existing organization -- the Goodwill or March of Dimes; the corner YMCA.

Like the Foundation itself, these acts can help individuals -- and institutions -- lift Americans from despair. Well, so can yet another constellation in "a thousand points of light": Our

initiative to find potential leaders of every age in every State and locality. And to train them to devote their talents and energies to national service. And then, to honor those who excel.

Through the Foundation, I will annually select two college-aged youth from every State as "President's National Service Youth Representatives." They will spend one year traveling their regions as volunteer ambassadors -- urging other kids to get involved. And "Points of Light" will convene youth and regional "Presidential Leadership Forums," uniting young people, educators, and community activists.

From such action will come achievement. And such achievement should be rewarded. We will ask media of every sort to profile volunteerism's brightest stars. And our Foundation will also recognize excellent community programs and leaders. Specifically, through the "President's National Service Youth Leadership Awards" -- given each year to individuals. And the "President's Build A Community Awards" -- honoring "partnerships" which work together to "build" surrogate families and rebuild decaying areas.

Yes, a call to action, and to share others' burdens. "A thousand points of light." An initiative to develop the leaders of tomorrow. Not a program, or another bureaucracy. But a movement -- bold, unprecedented.

All of this will test us as Americans. And challenge us to combat problems like hunger and disease, drug abuse and

homelessness. We cannot afford to fail, and won't. For as Americans, we know what is at stake.

We know, for instance, that volunteerism can help those free-falling through society. And that it ranks among the highest planes of patriotism.

We recognize that as Americans, life is measured not by the sum of our possessions -- but by the sum of how we conduct ourselves.

We know that as citizens, and institutions, we can use "one-on-one" caring to truly "love thy neighbor." And that prosperity without purpose means nothing. And we must resolve to carry these beliefs to every person in the land.

Two centuries ago last year, Alexander Hamilton sent a letter urging General Washington to seek the Presidency. He wrote him: "The point of light in which you stand will make an infinite difference in the respectability in which the government will begin its operations."

My friends, national service will work. For it is as honored as our history. National service can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" can light the lives of a people, and a Nation.

I say to you, then: Join up, link hands, and march in our crusade. Today, there is no problem that is not being solved somewhere in America.

God bless you -- we need your help, and God bless the United States of America.

(Smith/Blessey)  
June 20, 1989  
Draft Seven  
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate your generous reception. And let me salute that magnificent film. It was a moving call to action, ~~and to us~~.

It is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been described as "the noblest of the American symbols" and, yes, "the capital of the world."

And let me also add that it is indeed an honor to address the members of the New York Partnership. <sup>& bitter?</sup> For already, you have enriched fields from business and labor to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: To join hands, and link hearts, to light the American sky.

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE]

. . . There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . Think of that.

I have just come from a place which embodies that statement -- Covenant House -- a mirror of how, as Lincoln said, we can "bind up the Nation's wounds."

Twenty-two years ago, having moved to the East Village of New York to help the urban poor, Father Bruce Ritter opened his

door one night to see six children. Amazingly, in a land as rich as ours, they were asking for a place to stay.

As word spread, every night young people of every race and creed came to this small apartment. And eventually, Father Ritter founded Covenant House to provide a shelter for abandoned and runaway kids.

I urge you to visit Covenant House. And others like it -- in Alabama, in Chicago, on the farmlands of Ohio. For there you will find <sup>the quiet</sup> millions ~~of~~ Americans <sup>the selfless Americans</sup> quietly, passionately giving of their time and of themselves.

Last year, such Americans contributed an estimated 19.5 billion volunteer hours. ~~And more than 21 million volunteered 5 hours or more per week.~~ They work at day-care centers, inner-city schools, homes for the elderly. Anywhere there is a need. Anytime they are needed. Volunteers ~~are selfless.~~ They make a difference in the lives of those for whom the American Dream seems an Impossible Dream.

Already, this involvement -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped <sup>countless</sup> ~~more~~ Americans ~~than ever~~, find self-respect and dignity. ~~This month marks the 78th straight month of economic growth -- the longest peacetime expansion in our history.~~ Paraphrasing Churchill: Never have so many enjoyed so much for so long.

And yet the job is far from complete. Millions of Americans still endure a living nightmare of want and isolation. ~~That~~ <sup>It</sup> must

stop. Ladies and gentlemen: We must bring in those who feel unwelcome. We must reawaken their hope for the future.

But how?

We know that government can't rebuild a family, or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. We know that government can't buy understanding<sup>and</sup> and love. We know that during the past two decades we have spent more money, on more social programs, than at any time in our history. And some problems aren't better. In fact, they're worse.

Most Americans realize that. They know that the key to change is building relationships<sup>not</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>ineffective</sup> programs. And they know that those who say, "It's government's problem," are really part of the problem themselves.

My friends, all my life I've believed that government could not substitute for "do unto others." Barbara and I tried to do our small part. In Midland, with the YMCA and United Way. I remember digging ditches for a Little League ball field, helping to build a theatre. And dating back to my days at Yale, a cause I love: Raising funds for the United Negro College Fund.

~~All the while, I believed in the capacity of groups, and individuals, to realize great and generous deeds. Deeds that could supplement, not supplant, the role of government.~~ Like so many others, I found joy and a sense of inner peace in helping others. For I was also fulfilling myself. Learning that we are not what we drive, or where we live, or what kind of clothes we

wear. Rather, I learned that America is great because America is good.

These beliefs are beyond any individual, for they are timeless. ~~And yet as timely as 1989,~~ <sup>Today,</sup> More than ever, we need community service to <sup>help</sup> ~~assist Americans like~~ drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDS victims. The hungry and illiterate. Often disadvantaged, <sup>as their communities disintegrate around them,</sup> ~~they feel~~ -- far <sup>they become</sup> ~~worse~~ -- disconnected from society, ~~with no hope for a better tomorrow.~~

<sup>Our challenge is to</sup>  
We can raise their spirits and their expectations, and we <sup>but by more caring not by</sup> ~~must~~. Not by more government, ~~and capital~~ -- but by more people, <sup>more</sup> and caring. And by engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most successful people in America. Well, to you I say: From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

In his book, Democracy in America, ~~Alexis de Tocqueville~~ <sup>?</sup> wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals, helping each other. He was defining successful lives. And so am I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy of voluntary associations of people and institutions working together to solve problems in their own back yard.

My friends, these "thousand points of light" can extend national service into every corner of America. By asking that all branches and all levels of government -- and both sectors, public and private -- enlist in our crusade.

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First, our call to action, and, even more, to claim society's problems as our own. Our call is individual, and collective. And it begins this afternoon, with you.

Therefore, today I ask leaders of Congress, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and each State and municipality to devise programs which involve themselves and their employees in community service. I commend all business leaders who consider <sup>reward</sup> volunteerism in <sup>their</sup> ~~their~~ decisions. Non-profit organizations and ~~service groups~~ <sup>open your doors to</sup> -- I ask you to utilize all those who want to help, irrespective of age, background, or level of experience. And leaders of high schools and colleges, respectively -- I thank those of you who <sup>promote</sup> ~~are using~~ volunteerism in your curricula, and as a criteria for admittance.

<sup>But there's more.</sup> To every corporation, large and small, I say: Begin a literacy program that teaches each employee how to read. And to every member of a body of higher learning: Start a Big Brother or Big Sister program for kids in your neighborhood. Of every church and synagogue, I ask: Become an around-the-clock

community center. And of every restaurant and grocery store:  
Distribute surplus food to soup kitchens and local shelters.

And to the youth of America, I issue a special appeal.


Today, as part of our call to action, I propose the YES Initiative -- or "Youth Engaged in Service" to America -- ~~challenging the young to man the front lines in the~~ <sup>I</sup> ~~fight~~ <sup>every American</sup> against self-absorption. And to emulate those leaders who have shown that there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

Leaders like Sean Fox, 20, who began the Toledo Community Food Bank to feed the hungry of his town. Or Eileen Cole, 17, of Washington, D.C., who works as a candy-striper, a ~~Sunday school teacher~~, and aid to a cerebral palsy patient. Or Carissa Griesinger of Florida, a former drug user and seller, who now, at 15, devotes hours each week to counseling troubled teenagers and tutoring handicapped children.

These <sup>youth</sup> leaders <sup>know</sup> ~~show~~ that what we are matters more than what we have. And they can help reach three of our movement's goals. For by 1992, we want to double the number of kids engaged in volunteerism; to double the number of adults involved in youth mentoring projects; and to triple the number of institutions engaged in youth development through community service.

Yesterday, on the South Lawn of the White House, we held a kickoff rally for the "Yes" Initiative, attended by thousands of kids -- some of those points of light I like to talk about. And their presence reminded me of the saying, "Life is not a state of

time -- life is a state of mind." So is our call to volunteerism. Does it summon the young, and old? You bet. Will Americans listen to that call? I believe they will. The poet Emerson once said, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself." Well, today, across our fifty States, groups, and individuals are giving of, not to, themselves.

In Gaston County, North Carolina, where one out of five adults is illiterate, Olna Daves has founded a Literacy Council. And in Tucson, Kathleen Clark runs a nursery for up to 150 abused children per month. In Mississippi, Dr. Anne Brooks set up practice in an indigent  delta town. Her care is, literally, priceless -- many patients can't afford to pay. "Hope is a gift that has been given me," Anne says. "I want to pass it on."

Americans like these are missionaries, and they are heroes. Our mission is to achieve, nationally, what they are doing, locally. To complete it will require a catalyst. And I am proud to announce it now: A new effort to identify volunteer programs that work -- and carry them to America.

We call this catalyst the "Points of Light Initiative" -- and it includes a Foundation I will lead. Not as a figure-head. But daily, actively, with the full power of the Presidency.

I will soon ask Congress for funds to support this Initiative, with matching funds from the private sector. ~~But~~ until Congress acts, I will also name an advisory committee to get the ball rolling. *while we await Congressional action*

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Our foundation will be bi-partisan: It will ask each governor -- and, through them, the mayors of all municipalities -- to form State and local Points of Light working groups composed of outstanding private sector leaders. And, at its core, will be our request -- I submit, your obligation -- to donate the services of the talented and the enterprising.

These people -- your employees -- will come from all institutions: Civic to corporate, union to educational. And they will act as peer-to-peer counselors: to wit, journalist-to-journalist, or one clergyman to another [PAUSE] . . . after all, both professions need prayers to thrive.

Think of it: Through "Points of Light," a lawyer in Chicago can help another local law firm devise a pro bono program for the low-income and handicapped. Or in Wilmington, an experienced mentor can help show a nearby district <sup>what</sup> ~~which programs work~~ and <sup>what doesn't</sup> ~~which~~ do not.

This technical assistance and counseling network will work through a variety of forms. ~~Each community will be asked to~~

~~create a "volunteer center": Here, anyone can learn what~~  
~~volunteer opportunities exist in his or her locality to help~~  
~~others.~~ And over time, the Foundation will use technology to  
link volunteer supply, and community demand. Imagine, for  
instance, a service where you can call a hot-line phone number,  
and have that call automatically routed to a staff member of an  
existing organization -- the Goodwill or March of Dimes; the  
corner YMCA.

Moreover, we will ask every bank, credit card issuer,  
telephone, and utility company to include in billing and  
statement envelopes information about where help is needed.

Like the Foundation itself, these acts can help individuals  
-- and institutions -- lift Americans from ~~the Death Valley of~~  
despair. Well, so can yet another constellation in the "Points  
of Light Initiative": Our effort to find potential leaders of  
every age in every State and locality. And to train them to  
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My friends, national service will work. For it is as honored as our history. National service can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" ~~can~~ <sup>it</sup> light the lives of -- how many? -- million citizens.

I say to you, then: Join up, link hands, and march in our crusade. Today, there is no problem that is not being solved somewhere in America.

God bless you -- we need your help, and God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

89 JUN 19 P4:30

DATE: 6/19/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/20/89 9:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 9:00 AM, Tuesday, June 20, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

*all comments*

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

(Smith/Blessey)  
June 16, 1989  
Draft Six  
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate those words of welcome. And let me thank you for your generous reception.

Thirty-five years ago, the City of St. Louis held a "Yogi Berra Day" for its native son and baseball great. And as usual, the noted philosopher proved equal to the occasion.

Yogi began his acceptance speech by saying, "My friends, I want to thank all the people who made this night necessary." Well, my friends, this afternoon I want to thank all of you for making this day necessary.

It is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been described as "the noblest of the American symbols" and, yes, "the capital of the world."

And let me also add that it is indeed an honor to address the members of the New York Partnership. For already, you have enriched fields from business, labor, and religion to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: To discuss, specifically, how we can join hands, and link hearts, to build a better America for all.

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] .

. . Think of that. *Repeat it*

Today, millions of Americans are giving of their time, and of themselves -- at a day-care center, the corner library, their inner-city school. They are selfless. They make a difference.

*bold* [ They know that prosperity without purpose means nothing.

Already, their involvement -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped more Americans than ever find self-reliance and self-worth. This month marks the 78th straight month of economic growth -- the longest peacetime expansion in our history. Paraphrasing Churchill: Never have so many enjoyed so much for so long.

And yet it's not enough. For millions of Americans still endure a living nightmare of isolation and despair. Ladies and gentlemen: *reawaken their pride and their spirit* ~~we must~~ We must end that nightmare. Those who feel left out, *we must help to bring in, we must write them into our hearts.* *bold*

You know, the story is told of how Tallylah Bankhead once dropped a fifty-dollar bill into a tambourine held out to her by a Salvation Army player. Of course, he was grateful. But she waved aside his thanks. "Don't bother to thank me," she said. "I know what a perfectly ghastly season it's been for you Spanish dancers."

My friends, today such concern can assist the most vulnerable among us. ~~the~~ *the* Americans like drop-outs, ~~the~~ *the* pregnant teens, ~~the~~ *the* and drug abusers. The homeless and ~~the~~ *the* AIDs victims. The hungry and

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illiterate. Often disadvantaged, ~~they feel~~ <sup>it is</sup> far worse ~~to~~ <sup>than that</sup> they are  
disconnected from society. ~~Above all,~~ they ~~lack the~~ hope that  
tomorrow <sup>won't be worse</sup> will be better than today.

We can help ~~these Americans~~, and we must: Not by capital  
alone, but by caring and sacrifice. And by engaging each  
citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service  
organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most  
successful people in America. Well, to you I say: From now on,  
the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

In his book, Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville  
wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals,  
helping each other. He was defining successful lives. And so am  
I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy  
of voluntary associations of people and institutions working  
together to combat, and outlast, problems in their own backyard.

This belief -- in service to Nation, and neighbor -- led us  
to create the Office of National Service, which is heading our  
Administration's community and national service program.

Last year, Americans contributed \_\_ billion volunteer hours.  
I come to you today to build on that beginning. And to sound a  
clarion call to further swell the ranks of those who give of, not  
to, themselves.

Our call to action is individual, and collective. It  
commences here, and now. For our goal is to propel national  
service into every corner of America. And to see that all

branches and levels of government -- and both sectors, public and private -- enlist in our crusade.

Soon, for example, as our part of the movement, I will sign <sup>National Service</sup> ~~an~~ Executive Order. <sup>TO</sup> ~~directing~~ the members of my Cabinet and the heads of all other Federal departments and agencies <sup>I will direct that they</sup> ~~to~~ devise programs <sup>to</sup> ~~which~~ involve themselves and their employees in community service. Direct, not ask. This Order will also recognize, and award, the most outstanding Federal volunteers.

All well and good: But this call must go beyond the Federal branch. Therefore, I ask leaders of Congress, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and each State and municipality to take action similar to our Executive Order. ~~And~~ <sup>PP</sup> I call upon each Governor to work with State and local education boards to include community service in primary- and high-school curricula.

~~Therefore, too:~~ <sup>PP</sup> Today, I urge all college and university presidents to require admissions officers to weigh community service as a criteria for admittance. <sup>PP I urge</sup> ~~And~~ all business leaders to consider volunteerism in hiring, compensation, and promotion decisions. And non-profit organizations and service groups -- I ask you to utilize all those who want to help, irrespective of age, background, or level of experience.

To every corporation, large and small, ~~I say~~: Begin a literacy program that teaches each employee how to read. And to every member of a body of higher learning: Start a Big Brother or Big Sister program for kids in your neighborhood. Of every church and synagogue, I ask: Become an around-the-clock

community center. And of every restaurant and grocery store:

Distribute surplus food to soup kitchens and local shelters.

*My friends,* A clarion call? You bet. Will America <sup>listen?</sup> ~~heed it?~~ ~~Why not?~~

The poet Emerson once observed: "There is nothing closer to God than the act of giving." Well, today, across our fifty States, groups, and individuals, are already illuminating the heavens.

My friends, there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere. *And reason why we can't solve all of our problems - everywhere*

In Gaston County, North Carolina, where one out of five adults is illiterate, Olna Daves has founded a Literacy Council. And in Tucson, Kathleen Clark runs a nursery for up to 150 abused children per month. In Mississippi, Dr. Anne Brooks set up practice in an indigent delta town. She treats everything from rat bites to heart attacks. And her care is, literally, priceless -- many patients can't afford to pay. "Hope is a gift that has been given me," Anne says. "I want to pass it on."

Americans like these are missionaries, and they are heroes. Our mission is to achieve, nationally, what they are doing, locally. To complete it will demand an instrument to sound our call to action. Well, today I announce that vehicle: A new effort to identify volunteer programs that work -- and carry them to America.

We call it the "Points of Light Initiative" -- and it includes a Foundation I will chair. The Foundation will be funded by business in partnership with the Federal government. And act as a strategy center for the best ideas, and brightest

programs, in community service. "Points of Light" will seek out, and find, successful programs --the elementary school, for instance, whose students "adopt" a senior citizens' home and visit it regularly; or the consortium where banks, unions, and developers bring decent housing to the homeless. And by repeating their success in other communities, we will spread them across the Nation.

Will Rogers once said: "I love a dog. He does nothing for political reasons." My friends, neither will the "Points of Light Initiative." Too much is at stake.

Our foundation will be bi-partisan: It will ask each governor -- and, through them, the mayors of all municipalities -- to form President's State and local Points of Light Initiating Committees composed of outstanding private-sector leaders. And at its core will be our request -- I submit, your obligation -- to donate the services of the talented and the enterprising.

These people -- your employees -- will come from all institutions: Civic to corporate, union to educational. And they will act as peer-to-peer counselors: to wit, journalist-to-journalist, or one clergyman to another [PAUSE] . . . after all, both professions need prayers to thrive.

Think of it: Through "Points of Light," a lawyer in Chicago can help a local law firm devise a pro bono program for the low-income and handicapped. Or in Wilmington, having mentored inner-city youths, a teacher can suggest to a nearby district which programs work, and which do not.

We're calling this technical assistance and counseling network ServNet. And it will work through a service dubbed ServLink. Here's how: Any American wishing to serve can call a hot-line phone number, and have that call automatically routed to a staff member of an existing organization -- the Goodwill or March of Dimes; the corner YMCA. The caller will then learn what volunteer opportunities exist in his or her community to help others, and thereby America.

You know, being here reminds me of how that spirit links this community: the City of New York. Well, let me relate a story about a man who embodied it: One of the greatest Mayors in the history of New York.

One bitter, cold day Fiorello LaGuardia was presiding at police court. When in came a trembling old man, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. His family, he said, was starving. "I've got to punish you," mourned the Little Flower. "The law makes no exception." And he sentenced the man to a fine of ten dollars.

But the best was yet to come. For as LaGuardia was passing sentence, he reached into his pocket and added, "Well, here's the ten dollars to pay your fine. And I now I remit it." And then he tossed a ten-dollar bill into his famous fedora.

Furthermore," he continued, "I'm going to fine everybody in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a man has to steal bread in order to eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to this defendant!" The hat was passed.

Charity triumphed. And when the old man left the courtroom he held in his hand what, to him, must have seemed a fortune: forty-seven dollars and fifty cents.

Fiorello LaGuardia was a leader who practiced the larger public good. An entire city loved him. And its kids adored him. Maybe you recall how during a newspaper strike, LaGuardia took to the radio to read them "Dick Tracy" and other comics. Well, I have a hunch that Fiorello, hearing us today by wireless, would especially like one part of the "Points of Light Initiative."

This part will ask kids to man the front lines of the fight against self-absorption. And it will look to leaders who show that there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere. Kids like Sean Fox, 20, who began the Toledo Community Food Bank to feed the hungry of his town. Or Eileen Cole, 17, of Washington, D. C., who works as a candy striper, a CCD teacher, and aid to a cerebral palsey patient. Or Carissa Griesinger of Florida, a former drug user and seller, who now, at 15, devotes hours each week to counseling troubled teenagers and tutoring handicapped children.

Kids like these can help reach three of our Foundation's goals. ~~For~~ <sup>B</sup> 1992, we want to triple the number of institutions engaged in youth development through community service; to double the number of kids engaged in volunteerism; and to double the number of adults and peer groups involved in youth mentoring projects. And you know what? I believe in America's young people. ~~I have no doubt that they will.~~

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9  
~~the~~ Kick-off

Yesterday, we held a ~~pop~~ rally for this program, attended by thousands of young people on the South Lawn of the White House. And their presence reminded me of how, at the age of ninety-one, Oliver Wendell Holmes resigned from the Supreme Court and spent the following summer at his country house in Massachusetts.

As the former Justice told it, old friends from Boston would come to see him. And they'd invariably bring their grandchildren. Which he relished even more. One day, sitting on his porch, he got to discussing life with a 16-year-old. Said Mr. Justice Holmes: "I won't refrain from talking about anything because you're too young, if you won't because I'm too old."

Justice Holmes believed, as the saying goes, that "life is not a state of time -- life is a state of mind." So is volunteerism. It can involve the young, and old. ~~Accordingly,~~ I believe that the "Points of Light Initiative" can ~~become a means to~~ find potential leaders of every age in every State and locality. And ~~to~~ train them to devote their talents and energies to the movement of national service. And then, to honor those who excel. ~~Can, and must.~~

That is why, through the Foundation, I will annually select two college-aged kids from every State as "President's National Service Youth Representatives." They will spend one year traveling their regions as role models for other kids to get involved in community service. And "Points of Light" will convene youth and regional "Presidential Leadership Forums," uniting young people, educators, and community activists.

From such action will come achievement. And such achievement should be rewarded. So I'm pleased to say that our Foundation will recognize talented community programs and leaders. Specifically, through the "President's National Service Youth Leadership Awards" -- given each year to up to 1,000 community leaders. And the "President's Build A Community Awards" -- honoring "partnerships" which work together to "build" surrogate families and rebuild decaying areas.

A call to action. "A thousand points of light." A movement to locate, and repeat, successful programs. To find, and train, leaders who move their fellow man. And to reward those who do.

All of this will test us, challenge us. Test us as Americans. Challenge us to combat issues like hunger and health care, drug abuse and homelessness. We cannot afford to fail, and won't. For as Americans, certain truths unite us.

We know, for instance, that government spending can't rebuild a family or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. No amount of money can buy understanding, or love.

We know that as Americans, we must accept the sacrifices required of us. For life is measured not by what's in our bank account -- but by holding ourselves to account for the well-being of our community.

We recognize that volunteerism can help those free-falling through society. And that it ranks among the highest planes of patriotism. And we must resolve to carry this idea to every person in the land.

Two centuries ago last year, a few blocks away from here, Alexander Hamilton congratulated General Washington on his election as President. And then he told him: "The point of light in which you stand will make an infinite difference in the respectability in which the government will begin its operations."

My friends, national service will work. For it is as honored as our history. National service can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" can light the lives of -- how many? -- million citizens.

I say to you, then: Join up, link hands, and march in our crusade. <sup>Remember</sup> Today, there is no problem that is not being solved somewhere in America. } Through the call to action, ~~and to arms,~~ that is community service, ~~let us forever keep it so.~~ ↓

Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful occasion. God bless you, we need your help, and God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

89 JUN 19 P4:24

DATE: 6/19/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/20/89 9:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 9:00 AM, Tuesday, June 20, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: *OK BSW 6/19*

James W. Cicconi  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
 Ext. 2702

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 6/19/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 89 JUN 19 10:57 6/20/89 9:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>MCCLURE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BATES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>DEMAREST</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
 Ext. 2702

(Smith/Blessey)  
June 16, 1989  
Draft Six  
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP  
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. . Think of that.

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My friends, today such concern can assist the most vulnerable among us. Americans like drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDs victims. The hungry and

illiterate. Often disadvantaged, they feel -- far worse -- disconnected from society. Above all, they lack the hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

We can help these Americans, and must: Not by capital alone, but by caring and sacrifice. And by engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most successful people in America. Well, to you I say: From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

In his book, Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals, helping each other. He was defining successful lives. And so am I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy of voluntary associations of people and institutions working together to combat, and outlast, problems in their own backyard.

This belief -- in service to Nation, and neighbor -- led us to create the Office of National Service, which is heading our Administration's community and national service program.

Last year, Americans contributed \_\_ billion volunteer hours. I come to you today to build on that beginning. And to sound a clarion call to further swell the ranks of those who give of, not to, themselves.

Our call to action is individual, and collective. It commences here, and now. For our goal is to propel national service into every corner of America. And to see that all

branches and levels of government -- and both sectors, public and private -- enlist in our crusade.

Soon, for example, as our part of the movement, I will sign an Executive Order directing the members of my Cabinet and the heads of all other Federal departments and agencies to devise programs which involve themselves and their employees in community service. Direct, not ask. This Order will also recognize, and award, the most outstanding Federal volunteers.

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Justice Holmes believed, as the saying goes, that "life is not a state of time -- life is a state of mind." So is volunteerism. It can involve the young, and old. Accordingly, I believe that the "Points of Light Initiative" can become a means to find potential leaders of every age in every State and locality. And to train them to devote their talents and energies to the movement of national service. And then, to honor those who excel. Can, and must.

That is why, through the Foundation, I will annually select two college-aged kids from every State as "President's National Service Youth Representatives." They will spend one year traveling their regions as role models for other kids to get involved in community service. And "Points of Light" will convene youth and regional "Presidential Leadership Forums," uniting young people, educators, and community activists.

From such action will come achievement. And such achievement should be rewarded. So I'm pleased to say that our Foundation will recognize talented community programs and leaders. Specifically, through the "President's National Service Youth Leadership Awards" -- given each year to up to 1,000 community leaders. And the "President's Build A Community Awards" -- honoring "partnerships" which work together to "build" surrogate families and rebuild decaying areas.

A call to action. "A thousand points of light." A movement to locate, and repeat, successful programs. To find, and train, leaders who move their fellow man. And to reward those who do.

All of this will test us, challenge us. Test us as Americans. Challenge us to combat issues like hunger and health care, drug abuse and homelessness. We cannot afford to fail, and won't. For as Americans, certain truths unite us.

We know, for instance, that government spending can't rebuild a family or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. No amount of money can buy understanding, or love.

We know that as Americans, we must accept the sacrifices required of us. For life is measured not by what's in our bank account -- but by holding ourselves to account for the well-being of our community.

We recognize that volunteerism can help those free-falling through society. And that it ranks among the highest planes of patriotism. And we must resolve to carry this idea to every person in the land.

Two centuries ago last year, a few blocks away from here, Alexander Hamilton congratulated General Washington on his election as President. And then he told him: "The point of light in which you stand will make an infinite difference in the respectability in which the government will begin its operations."

My friends, national service will work. For it is as honored as our history. National service can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" can light the lives of -- how many? -- million citizens.

I say to you, then: Join up, link hands, and march in our crusade. Today, there is no problem that is not being solved somewhere in America. Through the call to action, and to arms, that is community service, let us forever keep it so.

Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful occasion. God bless you, we need your help, and God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/19/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 89 JUN 19 6:20/89 9:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 9:00 AM, Tuesday, June 20, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: *No Comment 6/19/89*

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

(Smith/Blessey)  
June 20, 1989  
Draft Seven  
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate your generous reception. And let me salute that magnificent film. It was a call to action, and to arms.

It is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been described as "the noblest of the American symbols" and, yes, "the capital of the world."

And let me also add that it is indeed an honor to address the members of the New York Partnership. For already, you have enriched fields from business and labor to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: To discuss, specifically, {how we can join hands, and link hearts, to light the American sky.} Gold

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . Think of that.

I have just come from a place which embodies that statement. I refer to Covenant House -- a mirror of how, as Lincoln said, we can "bind up the Nation's wounds."

Twenty-two years ago, having moved to the East Village of New York to help the urban poor, Father Bruce Ritter opened his

door one night to see six children. ~~You know what they wanted?~~  
 Amazingly, in a land as rich as ours, they were asking for a  
 place to stay.

As word spread, every night young people of every race and  
 creed came to this small apartment. And eventually, Father  
 Ritter founded Covenant House to provide a shelter for abandoned  
 and runaway kids.

My friends, how could one visit <sup>to</sup> this house of love <sup>is an inspiration</sup> and leave  
 uninspired? Because of ~~Kindness~~, <sup>helped a</sup> one child has escaped ~~the~~  
 horror of ~~addiction~~. <sup>desire</sup> Generosity has helped another find a warm  
 bed and a meal.

~~Here, and now,~~ I urge you to visit Covenant House. And  
 others like it -- in Alabama, in Chicago, on the farmlands of  
 Ohio. For there you will <sup>see</sup> millions of Americans, <sup>quietly - passionately,</sup> giving of their  
 time ~~x~~ and of themselves.

Last year, such Americans contributed      billion volunteer  
 hours. And more than 23 million volunteered 5 hours or more per  
 week. <sup>They work at</sup> ~~They work at~~ a day-care center, <sup>Anywhere there's need. Anytime.</sup> the inner-city schools, the  
~~local~~ homes for the elderly. <sup>Volunteers</sup> They are selfless. They make a  
 difference. ~~They know that such citizen action can help those~~  
 for whom the American Dream seems an Impossible Dream.

Already, this involvement -- what we term national, or  
 community, service -- has helped more Americans than ever, find  
 self-respect and dignity. This month marks the 78th straight  
 month of economic growth -- the longest peacetime expansion in

our history. Paraphrasing Churchill: Never have so many enjoyed so much for so long.

And yet ~~it's not enough~~. <sup>the job is far from complete.</sup> For millions of Americans still endure a living nightmare of want and isolation. Ladies and gentlemen: <sup>reawaken their hope for the future.</sup> ~~We must end that nightmare.~~ <sup>That must stop</sup> Those who feel ~~left out~~, <sup>we must bring in those we welcome</sup> ~~we must help to bring in.~~ <sup>to</sup>

But how?

~~Not through~~ <sup>another</sup> ~~government~~ <sup>programs</sup> ~~alone.~~ <sup>We know that during the past</sup> For over the past two decades we have spent more money, on more social programs, than at any time in our history. <sup>We know that</sup> Government spending can't rebuild a family, or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. <sup>We know that government</sup> No amount of money can't buy understanding, and love. <sup>And some of our most</sup> <sup>things aren't better, in fact they're worse.</sup>

Most Americans realize that. ~~For~~ <sup>It's</sup> they know the key to change is relationships, not programs. ~~If they saw a man lying on the street -- cold, stripped of pride -- they would say: "Let me take you home, warm you. Lend a hand, tend your wound."~~ They know that those who say, "Let government ~~do~~ <sup>is problem</sup> the job," are really ~~falling down on the job.~~ <sup>part of the problem themselves.</sup>

My friends, all my life I've believed that "Government only" <sup>could not substitute for</sup> ~~is a crutch.~~ <sup>Barbara and I tried to do our small part</sup> "Do unto others" ~~is a ladder.~~ <sup>I remember</sup> In Midland, with the YMCA and United Way. <sup>I remember</sup> Digging ditches for a Little League ball field, helping to build a theatre. And dating back to my days at Yale, a cause I love: Raising funds for the United Negro College Fund.

All the while, I believed in the capacity of groups, and individuals, to realize great and generous deeds. Deeds that

could supplement, not supplant, the promise of government. ~~And meet crises both economic and spiritual.~~ <sup>TP</sup> I loved helping others. For I was also fulfilling myself. Learning that we are not what we drive, or where we live, or what kind of clothes we wear. Rather, <sup>I learned</sup> that America is great because America is good.

These beliefs <sup>are beyond any individual for they are</sup> are timeless. And yet as timely as 1989. For ~~More~~ <sup>more</sup> than ever, we need ~~community service~~ <sup>help</sup> to assist Americans like drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDs victims. The hungry and illiterate. Often disadvantaged, they ~~feel~~ <sup>are</sup> far worse -- disconnected from society. <sup>And while most of us believe hope</sup> Above all, they ~~lack the hope~~ that tomorrow will be better than today, <sup>they hope tomorrow won't be worse than today. raise their spirits and their expectations</sup>

We can ~~lift these Americans~~, and must. Not by more government, and capital -- but by more people, and caring. And by engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most successful people in America. Well, to you I say: From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

In his book, Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals, helping each other. He was defining successful lives. And so am I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy of voluntary associations of people and institutions working together to outlast problems in their own back yard.

((You know, there's an old New England story about a man, stuck in the mud with his car, who was asked by a passing motorist whether he was really stuck. "Well, you could say I was stuck," the fellow said, "if I was really going anywhere."))

My friends, "a thousand points of light" show exactly where we are going, and how.

We are going to propel national service into every corner of America. By asking that all branches and levels of government -- and both sectors, public and private -- enlist in our crusade. I am here today to sound that clarion call: To action, and, even more, to claim society's problems as our own. Our call is individual, and collective. And it commences this afternoon, with you.

Therefore, today I ask leaders of Congress, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and each State and municipality to devise programs which involve themselves and their employees in community service. I ask all business leaders to consider volunteerism in hiring, compensation, and promotion decisions. And non-profit organizations and service groups -- I ask you to utilize all those who want to help, irrespective of age, background, or level of experience. And leaders of high school and college, respectively -- study how to use volunteerism in your curricula, and as a criteria for admittance.

To every corporation, large and small, I say: Begin a literacy program that teaches each employee how to read. And to every member of a body of higher learning: Start a Big Brother

or Big Sister program for kids in your neighborhood. Of every church and synagogue, I ask: Become an around-the-clock community center. And of every restaurant and grocery store: Distribute surplus food to soup kitchens and local shelters.

And to the youth of America, I issue a special appeal.

Today, as part of our call to action, I <sup>propose</sup> announce the YES Initiative -- or "<sup>Engaged in</sup> Youth ~~Entering~~ Service" to America -- challenging the young to man the front lines <sup>in</sup> of the fight against self-absorption. And to <sup>emulate those</sup> ~~look to~~ leaders who <sup>demonstrate have shown</sup> ~~show~~ that there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

Leaders like Sean Fox, 20, who began the Toldeo Community Food Bank to feed the hungry of his town. Or Eileen Cole, 17, of Washington, D.C., who works as a candy striper, a CCD teacher, and aid to a cerebral palsey patient. Or Carissa Griesinger or Florida, a former drug user and seller, who now, at 15, devotes hours each week to counseling troubled teenagers and tutoring handicapped children.

These leaders show that what we are matters more than what we have. And they can help reach three of our movement's goals. For by 1992, we want to double the number of kids engaged in volunteerism; to double the number of adults involved in youth mentoring projects; and to triple the number of institutions engaged in youth development through community service.

Yesterday, we held a kickoff rally for the "Yes" Initiative, attended by thousands of kids on the South Lawn of the White House. And their presence reminded me of how, at the age of

ninety-one, Oliver Wendell Holmes resigned from the Supreme Court and spent the following summer at his country house in Massachusetts.

As the former Justice told it, old friends from Boston would come to see him. And they'd invariably bring their grand-kids. Which he relished even more. One day, sitting on his porch, he got to discussing life with a 16-year-old. Said Mr. Justice Holmes: "I won't refrain from talking about anything because you're too young, if you won't because I'm too old."

? Justice Holmes believed, as the saying goes, that "Life is not a state of mind -- life is a state of mind." So is our call to volunteerism. Does it summon the young, and old? You bet. Will Americans ~~heed it?~~ *listen to the call? I believe they will.* Why not? The poet Emerson once observed, "There is nothing closer to God than the act of giving." Well, today, across our fifty States, groups, and individuals are already illuminating the heavens.

In Gaston County, North Carolina, where one out of five adults is illiterate, Olna Daves has founded a Literacy Council. And in Tucson, Kathleen Clark runs a nursery for up to 150 abused children per month. In Mississippi, Dr. Anne Brooks set up practice in an indigent delta town. Her care is, literally, priceless -- many patients can't afford to pay. "Hope is a gift that has been given me," Anne says. "I want to pass it on." ?

Americans like these are missionaries, and they are heroes. Our mission is to achieve, nationally, what they are doing, locally. To complete it will require a vehicle. And I am proud

to announce it now: A new effort to identify volunteer programs that work -- and carry them to America.

We call this vehicle the "Points of Light Initiative" -- and it includes a Foundation I will chair. Not as a figure-head. But daily, actively, with the full power of the Presidency.

I will soon ask Congress for ~~a specific level of funding~~ *of that initiative* ~~And of you, at least that sum.~~ *acts* ~~Until Congress appropriates, our Foundation will be funded entirely by private donations. And I will~~ *appoint* ~~an announcing an advisory committee to report to me within thirty days on its structure, membership, and suggested legislation.~~ *get the ball rolling.*

"The Points of Light Initiative" will be a strategy center ~~and~~ *and* ~~act as a clearinghouse for the best ideas, and brightest programs, in community service. It will seek out, and find, successful programs --the elementary school, for instance, whose students "adopt" a senior citizens' home and visit it regularly; or the consortium where banks, unions, and developers bring decent housing to the homeless. And by~~ *brings their story of* ~~repeating their success~~ *to* ~~in other communities, we will spread them across the Nation.~~

Will Rogers once said: "I love a dog. He does nothing for political reasons." My friends, neither will the "Points of Light Initiative." Too much is at stake.

Our foundation will be bi-partisan: It will ask each governor -- and, through them, the mayors of all municipalities -- to form President's State and local Points of Light Initiating Committees composed of outstanding private-sector leaders. And

at its core will be our request -- I submit, your obligation -- to donate the services of the talented and the enterprising.

These people -- your employees -- will come from all institutions: Civic to corporate, union to educational. And they will act as peer-to-peer counselors: to wit, journalist-to-journalist, or one clergyman to another [PAUSE] . . . after all, both professions need prayers to thrive.

Think of it: Through "Points of Light," a lawyer in Chicago can help a local law firm devise a pro bono program for the low-income and handicapped. Or in Wilmington, having mentored inner-city youths, a teacher can suggest to a nearby district which programs work, and which do not.

~~We're calling~~ **T**his technical assistance and counseling network ~~ServNet~~. ~~And it~~ will work through a variety of forms. Each community will be asked to create a "volunteer center": Here, anyone ~~can~~ <sup>will</sup> ~~can~~ learn what volunteer opportunities exist in his or her locality to help others, and thereby America. And over time, the Foundation will use technology to link volunteer supply, and community demand. Imagine, for instance, a service ~~dubbed ServLink~~, where you can call a hot-line phone number, and have that call automatically routed to a staff member of an existing organization -- the Goodwill or March of Dimes; the corner YMCA. **P** Moreover, we will ask every bank, credit card issuer, telephone, and utility company to include in billing and statement envelopes information about where services are needed.

Like the Foundation itself, these acts can help individuals -- and ~~the private sector~~ <sup>institutions</sup> -- lift Americans from the Death Valley of despair. Well, so can yet another constellation of the "Points of Light Initiative": Our intent to find potential leaders of every age in every State and locality. And to train them to devote their talents and energies to national service. And then, to honor those who excel.

Through the Foundation, I will annually select two college-aged youth from every State as "President's National Service Youth Representatives." They will spend one year traveling their regions as volunteer ambassadors -- urging other <sup>young Americans</sup> kids to get involved. And "Points of Light" will convene youth and regional "Presidential Leadership Forums," uniting young people, educators, and community activists.

From such action will come achievement. And such achievement should be rewarded. We will ask media of every sort to profile the best and the brightest of community service. And our Foundation will also recognize talented community programs and leaders. Specifically, through annual awards for individuals. And the "President's Build A Community Awards" -- honoring "partnerships" which work together to "build" surrogate families and rebuild decaying areas.

A call to action, and to share others' burden. "A thousand points of light." <sup>Let's be clear about one thing though -- this is it is</sup> Not another program, or bureaucracy. ~~But~~ a movement -- bold, and unprecedented -- to locate, and repeat,

successful ~~programs~~ <sup>efforts</sup>. To find, and train, leaders <sup>to help</sup> who ~~move~~ their fellow man. And to reward those who do.

All of this will test us as Americans. And challenge us to combat issues like hunger and health care, drug abuse and homelessness. We cannot afford to fail, and won't. For as Americans, we know ~~these things~~ <sup>what is at stake</sup>.

We know, for instance, that volunteerism can help those free-falling through society. And that it ranks among the highest planes of patriotism.

We recognize that as Americans, life is measured not by ~~what's in our bank account -- but by holding ourselves to account for the well-being of our community.~~ <sup>the sum of our possessions but by the sum of our decisions: Decisions we make to reweave the fabric of our communities</sup>

We know that as citizens, and institutions, we can use "one-on-one" caring to truly "Love thy neighbor." And that prosperity without purpose means nothing. And we must resolve to carry these beliefs to every person in the land.

Two centuries ago last year, Alexander Hamilton sent a letter urging General Washington to seek the Presidency. He told him: "The point of light in which you stand will make an infinite difference in the respectability in which the government will begin its operations."

My friends, national service will work. For it is as honored as our history. National service can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" can light the lives of -- how many? -- million citizens.

I say to you, then: Join up, link hands, and march in our  
crusade. <sup>{Remember</sup> Today, there is no problem that is not being solved } <sup>Gold</sup>  
somewhere in America. <sup>)</sup> ~~Through the call to action, and to arms,~~  
~~that is community service, let us keep it so.~~

Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful occasion.  
God bless you, we need your help, and God bless the United States  
of America.

# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

89 JUN 20 P1:38

June 20, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: PATRICIA MACK BRYAN *PMB*  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: New York Partnership

Pursuant to James W. Cicconi's staffing memorandum of June 19, 1989, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks. As a preliminary matter, we note that it is our understanding that the President signed a decision memorandum yesterday on various issues that are the subject of these remarks; if that is true, we recommend that these remarks be reviewed in light of the decisions the President made to ensure that they accurately reflect his thinking. Subject to that caveat and the comments noted below, Counsel's Office has no objection to these remarks.

Page 3, Full Paragraph 4, Sentence 1:

Regardless of number inserted into the "\_\_\_\_\_ billion volunteer hours", that statement should be modified by noting that the number is an estimate.

Pages 7-8, Anecdote on Fiorello LaGuardia:

In our view this anecdote is entirely inappropriate in the context of remarks about volunteering. It implies that charity should be forced from people -- that the State must make the well to do pay for those who are less well off. It may have been charity when the Judge reached into his own pocket, but it was robbery when he forced his way into the pocket of those who sat in the courtroom. In fact, the Judge's actions are offensive to our concept of law. Judges have no business (and, even for local Judges, likely no authority for) fining individuals who happen to be sitting in a courtroom in order to fund their particular "charities" -- this is no different than Judges who require municipalities to raise taxes to fund whatever public program they rule in favor of. In our view this anecdote sanctions lawless behavior, is morally offensive and is antithetical to everything for which the Administration stands. Consequently, it must be deleted.

cc: James W. Cicconi