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National Assoc. of Towns and Townships 9/6/91 [OA 6036]

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G	26	17	2	7

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
SEPTEMBER 6, 1991
HYATT REGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THANK YOU BUTCH [LOTHAR WOLTER -- PRESIDENT OF
N.A.T.A.T.] FOR THAT INTRODUCTION. IT A PLEASURE TO
HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND
TOWNSHIPS.

YOU KNOW, THIS WEEK DOESN'T MARK THE END OF SUMMER
JUST FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN ACROSS THIS COUNTRY. I'M BACK
AT MY DESK TOO. BUT I WON'T BORE YOU WITH A SPEECH
TITLED "WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION." \\ WELL,
OKAY: I WILL TELL YOU MY REACTION WHEN I RECEIVED A
PHONE CALL ON AUGUST 19TH SAYING: "IT'S A CRISIS!" I
RESPONDED: "I'VE ALREADY HEARD ENOUGH ABOUT BARBARA'S
GOLF GAME."

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH YOU TODAY. YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER TALKED OF "THE GREAT AND PRICELESS PRIVILEGE OF BEING RAISED IN A SMALL TOWN." I UNDERSTAND BECAUSE I, TOO, HAD THAT PRIVILEGE. THE TOWNS OF MY YOUTH AND OF MY CHILDREN'S YOUTH WERE ALL VERY DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER -- FROM THE TREE-LINED STREETS OF GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT TO THE SALT AIR OF KENNEBUNKPORT TO THE DUSTY, OIL-PATCH PLAINS OF ODESSA AND MIDLAND, TEXAS. BUT THEY ALSO HAD MUCH IN COMMON.

OUR TOWNS NURTURE DREAMS AND NOURISH VALUES. THINK OF THE IDEALS OF INTEGRITY, HARD WORK, AND CARING FOR OTHERS INSTILLED IN A YOUNG BOY GROWING UP IN PINPOINT, GEORGIA. TODAY, THAT MAN STANDS READY TO SERVE ON THE HIGHEST COURT IN THIS LAND. CLARENCE THOMAS EMBODIES THE VIRTUES AMERICA -- AND ALL HER TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS -- HOLD DEAR.

I'M GLAD TO BE HERE WITH PEOPLE FROM THE TOWNS THAT FORM THIS NATION'S BACKBONE. YOU KNOW WHAT THOMAS JEFFERSON MEANT WHEN HE SAID AMERICAN TOWNSHIPS "HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES THE WISEST INVENTION EVER DEvised BY THE WIT OF MAN FOR THE PERFECT EXERCISE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT, AND FOR ITS PRESERVATION."

YOU UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS THAT CHALLENGE OUR COUNTRY. YOU UNDERSTAND THEM NOT FROM A BUREAUCRAT'S SAFE DISTANCE, BUT FROM THE EMBATTLED POSITION OF PUBLIC SERVANTS WHOSE NEIGHBORS CALL TO COMPLAIN ABOUT SERVICES -- OR THE LACK THEREOF. YOU UNDERSTAND THE REAL BASICS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE AND OUR COUNTRY'S HOPE.

OUR DOMESTIC POLICY BEGINS WITH YOU -- THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND. HERE IN WASHINGTON AND IN THE STATES, POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS HAVE LEARNED THAT WE CAN'T JUST HURL MONEY AT PROBLEMS. WE TAKE ENOUGH OF PEOPLE'S MONEY AS IT IS: IF WE WANT TO DO OUR JOBS, WE MUST MAKE BETTER USE OF THE VAST SUMS ALREADY AT OUR DISPOSAL.

MORE FUNDAMENTALLY, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE GENIUS OF OUR OWN PEOPLE. WE MUST TRUST THEM -- TRUST YOU -- TO FIND ANSWERS, TO DO GOOD THINGS, TO MAKE AMERICA WORK. WE MUST MAKE OUR GOVERNMENT MORE RESPONSIVE, MORE LOCAL. AND WE MUST LEARN FROM THE REAL PROFESSIONALS -- YOU, THE N.A.T.A.T. REPRESENTATIVES. YOU'RE THE VOICE OF SMALL-TOWN AMERICA.

THAT'S A CONSIDERABLE VOICE, OF COURSE. EIGHT OF TEN GOVERNMENTAL BODIES IN THIS NATION REPRESENT COMMUNITIES WITH 5,000 OR FEWER RESIDENTS. AND YOU WILL HAVE TO TEACH THE OTHER 20 PERCENT HOW TO LIVE WITHIN THEIR MEANS.

YOUR STRENGTHS BEGIN WITH YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE AMERICAN IDEA OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY. MANY OF YOU ARE PART-TIME OFFICIALS, VOLUNTEERS. YOU GIVE YOUR TIME TO YOUR COMMUNITIES.

YOU EMPHASIZE CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION -- WHAT FOLKS IN MY BIRTHPLACE OF MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS WOULD CALL "OLD-FASHIONED YANKEE INGENUITY." SOMETIMES, YOU EXHAUST YOUR INGENUITY JUST TRYING TO ESCAPE REGULATORY HANDCUFFS PLACED UPON YOU BY FEDERAL AND STATE MANDATES. I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE MANDATES, AND I BELIEVE STRONGLY IN THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION AMONG ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

OUR ADMINISTRATION ALSO REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE COMMON-SENSE APPROACH OF THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT -- ONE THAT LETS YOU USE YOUR COMMON SENSE TO SOLVE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS -- AND I WILL DIRECT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO FOLLOW THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER OF THAT LAW. \\\

SPEAKING OF CREATIVITY, I WANT TO ADD MY CONGRATULATIONS TO BILL HERMAN OF WEARE [WHERE], NEW HAMPSHIRE. BILL WON YOUR GRASSROOTS GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AWARD BY PRODUCING IDEAS FOR CUTTING COSTS WITHOUT SLASHING SERVICES. \\ MAYBE I SHOULD CALL ON BILL'S HELP IN SOLVING A BIG PROBLEM -- BECAUSE WHEN I ASKED MY STAFF HOW WE COULD IMPROVE OUR CRISIS MANAGEMENT, THEY SAID: "HOW ABOUT A CALENDAR THAT DOESN'T HAVE AUGUST ON IT." \\\

ALL OF YOU HERE HAVE HELPED DEVELOP PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS -- A CRUCIAL CONCEPT AS WE GEAR UP FOR THE UNIQUE PROBLEMS OF THE 21ST CENTURY. THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN YOUR NATIONAL CENTER FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES AND PRIVATE SECTOR SOURCES LIKE THE KELLOGG FOUNDATION SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW.

BECAUSE OF YOUR STRENGTHS, YOUR SUCCESSES AND YOUR LEADERSHIP -- TODAY I ASK YOU TO LEAD ONE OF OUR GREATEST BATTLES: MAKING OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS THE WORLD'S BEST.

OUR ADMINISTRATION INTRODUCED AN EDUCATION STRATEGY FIVE MONTHS AGO. WE CALL IT "AMERICA 2000," AND IT INVOLVES FOUR DIFFERENT TRACKS: ACCOUNTABLE SCHOOLS FOR TODAY; A NEW GENERATION OF SCHOOLS FOR TOMORROW; A NATION OF STUDENTS COMMITTED TO A LIFETIME OF EDUCATION; AND COMMUNITIES WHERE LEARNING CAN HAPPEN.

YOU PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN MAKING THE ENTIRE STRATEGY WORK -- AND ESPECIALLY TRACK FOUR: BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT VALUE, SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE AND ADVANCE EDUCATION. IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT WE HISTORICALLY HAVE ENTRUSTED THIS FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY -- EDUCATION -- TO COMMUNITIES. WE NOW CALL UPON YOU TO ENLIST IN OUR NATIONAL CRUSADE TO IMPROVE EDUCATION COMMUNITY-BY-COMMUNITY.

FIRST, YOU MUST ADOPT THE EDUCATION GOALS ESTABLISHED 18 MONTHS AGO FOLLOWING THE EDUCATION SUMMIT WITH THE NATION'S GOVERNORS. THEN YOU CAN BEGIN TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY PLAN TO REACH THE GOALS -- TO DESIGN A REPORT CARD TO MEASURE YOUR PROGRESS -- AND TO CREATE YOUR OWN "BREAK THE MOLD SCHOOL" -- ONE THAT BUILDS UPON YOUR UNIQUE STRENGTHS AND TAKES INTO ACCOUNT YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES. \\\

AS WE IMMERSE OURSELVES IN THE CHALLENGES OF THE 90'S, OUR ADMINISTRATION ALSO WILL LOOK TO YOU FOR LEADERSHIP IN OTHER AREAS. FOR INSTANCE, CONGRESS IS DEBATING THE FIVE-YEAR RE-AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATION'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. WE NEED YOUR HELP IN GETTING A SYSTEM THAT SPENDS MONEY TO ADDRESS NEEDS -- AND NOT JUST SUPPORT POLITICIANS' CAREERS.

WE'VE CALLED IN OUR BILL FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT IN INFRA-STRUCTURE. SOME THINK SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY IS THE ONLY ANSWER. NOT SO -- WE NEED MORE SENSIBLE PROGRAMS. MORE THAN HALF OF ALL CONGRESSIONALLY-MANDATED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS DON'T EVEN SHOW UP ON STATE PRIORITY LISTS. YOU MIGHT LIKE SOME OF THE PROGRAMS YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS SLIPS INTO LEGISLATION, BUT IN THE END, CONGRESS USURPS LOCAL POWER FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES -- MAKING DECISIONS IN WASHINGTON THAT AFFECT THE LIVES AND POCKETBOOKS OF PEOPLE IN BEREAS, KENTUCKY, OR MOUNT WOLF, PENNSYLVANIA.

SO: IF CONGRESS SENDS ME A TRANSPORTATION BILL WITH A GASOLINE TAX, I WILL VETO IT. WE MUST NOT LET CONGRESS RAISE THE GAS TAX FOR PROJECTS TOWNS DON'T EVEN NEED. WE WON'T LET IT RAISE A TAX THAT WILL DO NOTHING EXCEPT SQUEEZE LOCAL ECONOMIES AND LIGHTEN WORKERS' ALREADY-THIN POCKETBOOKS.\\ MY HIGHWAY BILL WILL INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE WITHOUT RAISING TAXES OR BUSTING BUDGET CAPS.\\

WE BELIEVE IN LETTING COMMUNITIES SHAPE THEIR OWN FUTURES -- AND THIS BELIEF LIES AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY ACT. THIS PROPOSAL INVITES COMMUNITIES TO THINK OF NEW WAYS TO SOLVE OLD PROBLEMS -- AND IT LETS ALL OF US ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO DOMESTIC SOCIAL PROGRAMS. IT PUTS THE EMPHASIS ON RESULTS, AND NOT ON PROCEDURES COOKED UP IN WASHINGTON. AFTER ALL, WHEN SOMEONE WANTS FOOD OR SHELTER OR SCHOOLING, WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT, THE SERVICE -- OR THE GOVERNMENT PAPERWORK?

THIS COMMON-SENSE APPROACH, GIVING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS GREATER FLEXIBILITY, LED US TO PROPOSE TURNING OVER \$15 BILLION IN FEDERAL MONEY TO THE STATES NO STRINGS ATTACHED. THIS INITIATIVE WILL GIVE DECISION-MAKING POWER TO THE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES THOSE DECISIONS WILL AFFECT. QUITE SIMPLY -- THAT'S THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE ON WHICH THIS ADMINISTRATION FUNCTIONS.

THIS "TURNOVER PROPOSAL," AND THE ACT ITSELF, GROW OUT OF THE BASIC ASSUMPTION THAT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SHOULD LEAD PEOPLE TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY. THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO DO THIS THAN BY REBUILDING THESE PROGRAMS FROM THE BOTTOM UP: BASED ON PLANS DEVELOPED RIGHT AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL.

I TALKED ABOUT JEFFERSON EARLIER: IF WE WANT TO
REMAIN TRUE TO THE SPIRIT OF HIS PHILOSOPHY, WE MUST
EMPOWER COMMUNITIES TO CONTROL THEIR OWN FUTURES.\\ OUR
DOMESTIC POLICY ISN'T A SPENDING POLICY -- IT'S
DESIGNED TO INCREASE PERSONAL FREEDOM AND TO PRODUCE
RESULTS -- NOT JUST EXPENSIVE RHETORIC. THIS IS THE
WAY TO APPROACH ALL THIS COUNTRY'S CHALLENGES -- IT'S
AN EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY AND IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT WE
GET IT ENACTED AND IN USE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK AND YOUR EXAMPLE. EVEN
WITH WHATEVER PROBLEMS OUR TOWNS MAY FACE, I KNOW WE'D
ALL AGREE WITH WRITER CATHARINE SEDGWICK, WHO LOVED HER
TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS. SOMEONE ONCE TOLD
HER THAT SHE SPOKE ABOUT STOCKBRIDGE AS IF IT WERE
HEAVEN. "WELL," SHE REPLIED, "I EXPECT NO VERY VIOLENT
TRANSITION." \\\

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU -- AND MAY GOD BLESS THE
TOWNS TO WHICH YOU RETURN.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 09/05/91 91 SEP 5 A8:46

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: -----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
(09/04 5:00 p.m. draft five)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☐	☒
SUNUNU	☐	☐	PETERSMEYER	☐	☒
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☐	☒
DARMAN	☐	☒	ROGICH	☐	☒
BRADY	☐	☒	SMITH	☐	☒
BROMLEY	☐	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
CARD	☐	☒	SNOW	☒	☒
DEMAREST	☐	☒	KAUFMAN	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒	ANDERSON	☐	☒
GRAY	☐	☒		☐	☐
HOLIDAY	☐	☒		☐	☐

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 E-2 3702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

91 SEP 4 P 6:04

September 4, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS

On Friday, September 6, at 10 a.m., in the Hyatt Regency in Washington, you will address an audience of approximately 1,000 people from across the country who are attending the National Association of Towns and Townships conference.

Your remarks (10 minutes, teleprompter) focus on major Administration initiatives having a direct impact on American towns -- particularly transportation and education.

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
September 4, 1991 5 p.m.
NATAT.TS Draft Five

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
September 6, 1991
Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.

You know, this week doesn't mark the end of summer just for schoolchildren across this country. I'm back at my desk too. But I won't bore you with a speech titled "What I did on my summer vacation." \\ Well, okay: I will tell you my reaction when I received a phone call on August 19th saying: "It's a crisis!" I responded: "I've already heard enough about Barbara's golf game."

Thank you for giving me the chance to meet with you today. You know, President Eisenhower talked of "the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town." I understand because I, too, had that privilege. The towns of my youth and of my children's youth were all very different from each other -- from the treelined streets of Greenwich, Connecticut to the salt air of Kennebunkport to the dusty, oil-patch plains of Midland, Texas. But they also had much in common.

Our towns nurture dreams and nourish values. Think of the ideals of integrity, hard work, and caring for others instilled in a young boy growing up in Pinpoint, Georgia. Today, that man stands ready to serve on the highest court in this land. Clarence Thomas embodies the virtues America -- and all her towns and townships -- hold dear.

I'm glad to be here with people from the towns that form this nation's backbone. You know what Thomas Jefferson meant when he said American townships "have proved themselves the

wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government, and for its preservation."

You understand the problems that challenge our country. You understand them not from a bureaucrat's safe distance, but from the embattled position of public servants whose neighbors call to complain about services -- or the lack thereof. You understand the real basics of local government, and that's why you're our country's future and our country's hope.

Our domestic policy begins with you -- the people of this land. In Washington and in the states, politicians and officials have learned that we can't just hurl money at problems. We take enough of people's money as it is: If we want to do our jobs, we must make better use of the vast sums already at our disposal.

More fundamentally, we must recognize the genius of our own people. We must trust them -- trust you -- to find answers, to do good things, to make America work. We must make our government more responsive, more local. And we must learn from the real professionals -- you, the NATAT representatives. You're the voice of small-town America.

That's a considerable voice, of course. Eight of ten governmental bodies in this nation represent communities with 5,000 or fewer residents. And you will have to teach the other 20 percent how to live within their means.

Your strengths begin with your commitment to the American idea of civic responsibility. Many of you are part-time officials, volunteers. You give your time to your communities.

You emphasize creativity and innovation -- what folks in my birthplace of Milton, Massachusetts would call "old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity." Sometimes, you exhaust your ingenuity just trying to escape regulatory handcuffs placed upon you by federal and state mandates. I'm concerned about those mandates, and I believe strongly in the importance of cooperation among all levels of government.

Our Administration also remains committed to the common-sense approach of the Regulatory Flexibility Act -- one that lets you use your common sense to solve your own problems -- and I will direct federal departments and agencies to follow the spirit and the letter of that law. \\

Speaking of creativity, I want to add my congratulations to Bill Herman of Weare, New Hampshire. Bill won your Grassroots Government Leadership Award by producing ideas for cutting costs without slashing services. \\ Maybe I should call on Bill's help in solving a big problem -- because when I asked my staff how we could improve our crisis management, they said: "How about a calendar that doesn't have August on it." \\

All of you here have helped develop public/private partnerships -- a crucial concept as we gear up for the unique problems of the 21st Century. The alliance between your National Center for Small Communities and private sector sources like the Kellogg Foundation sets an example for others to follow.

Because of your strengths, your successes and your leadership -- today I ask you to lead one of our greatest

battles: Making our nation's schools the world's best.

Our Administration introduced an education strategy five months ago. We call it "America 2000," and it involves four different tracks: accountable schools for today; a new generation of schools for tomorrow; a nation of students committed to a lifetime of education; and communities where learning can happen.

You play a critical role in making the entire strategy work -- and especially Track Four: building communities that value, support, encourage and advance education. It's no coincidence that we historically have entrusted this fundamental responsibility -- education -- to communities. We now call upon you to enlist in our national crusade to improve education community-by-community. First, you must adopt the education goals established 18 months ago following the education summit with the nation's governors. Then you can begin to develop a community plan to reach the goals -- to design a report card to measure your progress -- and to create your own "break the mold school" -- one that builds upon your unique strengths and takes into account your special needs and circumstances. \\\

As we immerse ourselves in the challenges of the 90s, our Administration also will look to you for leadership in other areas. For instance, Congress is debating the five-year reauthorization of the nation's surface transportation system. We need your help in getting a system that spends money to address needs -- and not just support politicians' careers.

We've called in our bill for increased investment in infra-

structure. But, frankly, simply spending more money isn't the answer -- we need more sensible programs. More than half of all Congressionally-mandated transportation projects don't even show up on state priority lists. You might like some of the programs your member of Congress slips into legislation, but in the end, Congress usurps local power for its own purposes -- making decisions in Washington that affect the lives and pocketbooks of people in Berea, Kentucky, or Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania.

So: If Congress sends me a transportation bill with a gasoline tax, I will veto it. We must not let Congress raise the gas tax for projects towns don't even need. We won't let it raise tax that will do nothing except squeeze local economies and lighten workers' already-thin pocketbooks.\\ My highway bill will invest in infrastructure without raising taxes or busting budget caps.\\

We believe in letting communities shape their own futures - - and this belief lies at the heart of our Community Opportunity Act. This proposal invites communities to think of new ways to solve old problems -- and it lets all of us adopt a more flexible approach to domestic social programs. It puts the emphasis on results, and not on procedures cooked up in Washington. After all, when someone wants food or shelter or schooling, what's more important, the service -- or the government paperwork?

This common-sense approach, giving local governments greater flexibility, led us to propose turning over \$15 billion in federal money to the states. This initiative will give decision-making power to the people whose lives those decisions will

affect. Quite simply -- that's the fundamental principle on which this Administration functions.

This "turnover proposal," and the Act itself, grow out of the basic assumption that government assistance programs should lead people to self-sufficiency. There's no better way to do this than rebuilding these programs from the bottom up: based on plans developed right at the community level.

I talked about Jefferson earlier: If we want to remain true to the spirit of his philosophy, we must empower communities to control their own futures. \\ Our domestic policy isn't a spending policy -- it's designed to increase personal freedom and to produce results -- not just expensive rhetoric. This is the way to approach all this country's challenges -- it's an extraordinary opportunity and it's essential that we get it enacted and in use.

Thank you for your work and your example. Even with whatever problems our towns may face, I know we'd all agree with writer Catharine Sedgwick, who loved her town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Someone once told her that she spoke about Stockbridge as if it were heaven. "Well," she replied, "I expect no very violent transition." \\\

Good luck to all of you -- and may God bless the towns to which you return.

#

NATAT Acknowledgements

Lothar "Butch" Wolter - Pres. of NATAT will intro. POTUS
and the board of directors
and members of NATAT.

turn over \$156 in fed. money
w/ much greater flexibility -

make real our commitment

have offered an mtd. to give ^{state bank} ~~them~~
(lot of money)

Margaret
Frank Hotzel
X6190

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9/5/91

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

91 SEP 4 P 6:04

September 4, 1991

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TONY SNOW TS

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5 is the only answer. Not so -- we need it

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Thank you for your work and your example. Even with whatever problems our towns may face, I know we'd all agree with writer Catharine Sedgwick, who loved her town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Someone once told her that she spoke about Stockbridge as if it were heaven. "Well," she replied, "I expect no very violent transition." \\

Good luck to all of you -- and may God bless the towns to which you return.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/3/91ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., SEPT. 4PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
SEPTEMBER 6, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☐	PETERSMEYER <i>N/C</i>	☒	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	~~REPORTER~~ <i>John Herman 2814</i>	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	ROGICH <i>N/C</i>	☒	☐
BRADY	☐	☒	SMITH	☒	☐
BROMLEY	☐	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
CARD	☐	☒	SNOW	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☒	☐	KAUFMAN <i>2135 N/C</i>	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒	ANDERSON	☒	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HOLIDAY <i>N/C</i>	☒	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to this office, NO LATER THAN NOON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4. Thank you.

RESPONSE: _____

- MASTER -

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

91 SEP -2 PM 2:48

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
August 30, 1991 5 p.m.
NATAT.TS Draft Five

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
September 6, 1991
Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.

Call Stacy at x6597 for Acknowledgments.

You know, this week doesn't mark the end of summer just for school ^(OMB) children across this country. I'm back at my desk, too. But I won't bore you with a speech titled "What I did on my summer vacation." \ Well, okay: I will tell you my reaction when I received a phone call on August 19th saying: "It's a crisis!" I responded: "I've already heard enough about Barbara's golf game."

President Eisenhower talked of "the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town." I understand because I, too, had that privilege. The towns of my youth and of my children's youth were very different from each other -- from the ~~tree-lined~~ ^(D) ~~bustling~~ streets of Greenwich, Connecticut to the salt air of Kennebunkport to the dusty, oil-patch plains of Midland, Texas. But they also had much in common.

Our towns nurture dreams and nourish values. Think of the ideals of integrity, hard work, and caring for others instilled in a young boy growing up in Pinpoint, Georgia. Today, that man stands ready to serve on the highest court in this land. Clarence Thomas embodies the virtues America -- and all her towns and townships -- hold dear.

I'm glad to be here with people from the towns that form this nation's backbone. You know what Thomas Jefferson meant when he said American townships "have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect

exercise of self-government, and for its preservation."

You understand the problems that challenge our country. You understand them not from a bureaucrat's safe distance, but from the embattled position of public servants whose neighbors call to complain about services -- or the lack thereof. You understand the real basics of local government, and that's why you're our country's future and our country's hope.

Our domestic policy begins with you -- the people of this land. In Washington, and in the states, politicians and officials have learned that we can't just hurl money at problems. We're taking enough of people's money as it is: If we want to do our jobs, we must make better use of the vast sums already at our disposal.

More fundamentally, we ought to recognize the genius of our own people. We must trust them -- trust you -- to find answers, to do good things, to make America work. We must make our government more responsive, more local. And we must learn from the real professionals -- you, the NATAT representatives. You're the voice of small-town America.

That's a considerable voice, of course. Eight of ten governmental bodies in this nation represent communities with 5,000 or fewer residents. And you will have to teach the other 20 percent how to live within their means.

Your strengths begin with your commitment to the American idea of civic responsibility. Many of you are part-time officials, volunteers. You give your time to your communities.

You emphasize creativity and innovation -- what folks in my birthplace of Milton, Massachusetts would call "old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity." Sometimes, you exhaust your ingenuity just trying to escape regulatory handcuffs placed upon you by federal and state mandates. I'm concerned about those mandates, and I believe strongly in the importance of cooperation between all levels of government.

Our Administration also remains committed to the common-sense approach of the Regulatory Flexibility Act -- one that lets you use your common sense to solve your own problems -- and I will direct federal departments and agencies to follow the spirit and the letter of that law. \\

[Speaking of creativity, I want to add my congratulations to one of your members, Bill Herman of Weare, New Hampshire. Bill won your Grass-roots Leadership award by producing ideas for cutting costs without slashing services. \\ Maybe I should call on Bill's help in solving a big problem. I asked ^{my staff (D2)} ~~an advisor~~ how we could improve our crisis management. ^{They (D2)} ~~He~~ said: "How about a calendar that doesn't have August on it."]

All of you here have helped develop public/private partnerships -- a crucial concept as we gear up for the unique problems of the 21st ^(OMB) Century. The alliance between your National Center for Small Communities and private sector sources like the Kellogg Foundation set an example for others to follow.

Because of your strengths, your successes and your leadership -- I ask you to lead one of our greatest battles:

As you know, our Administration introduced an education strategy five months ago. We call it "America 2000," and it involves four different tracks: accountable schools for today; a new generation of schools for tomorrow; a nation of students committed to a lifetime of education; and communities where learning can happen.

You play a critical role in making the entire strategy work -- and especially Step Four; building communities that ^{value (IGA)} ~~support,~~ ^{support (IGA)} encourage and advance education. It's no coincidence that we historically have entrusted ^{such a fundamental responsibility} ~~our most important social service,~~ ⁽⁰²⁾ education, to communities. We now call upon communities to ^{you to enlist in our} ~~seize~~ the opportunity to make their schools better: to adopt the ^{national crusade to improve education community-by-community} ~~the opportunity to make their schools better: to adopt the~~ educational goals established ^(IGA) ~~two years ago at the educational~~ ^{following (IGA)} ~~months ago with the nation's gov's (Parks)~~ ^(IGA) ~~summit in Charlottesville, Virginia;~~ ^{strategy} ~~to develop a community plan~~ ^(IGA) to reach the goals; ^(IGA) ~~to~~ design a report card to measure your progress; and ^(IGA) ~~to~~ create your own "break the mold school" -- ^{unique (IGA)} something that builds upon your ~~special~~ strengths and takes into account your special needs and circumstances.

Our Administration also will look to you for leadership in other areas. For instance, Congress soon will begin debating the five-year re-authorization of the nation's transportation system. We need your help in getting a system that spends money to address local needs -- and not just support politicians' careers. ~~We don't need more money; we need more sensible programs.~~ More than half of all ~~Congressional~~ transportation projects don't

We've called in our bill for increased investment in infrastructure. But, frankly...

Tom
Seaver
5178

40 is too high
(Porter)

* () = McClure
pork barrel → earmarked
Almost = OMB

5 (OMB)
even show up on state and local priority lists. ~~Over 40 percent~~
~~a proposed 5d gas tax would be earmarked~~
~~of the current gas tax already goes for Congressional pork-~~
~~barrel projects.~~ You might like some of the programs your member
of Congress slips into the ^{legislation} budget, but in the end, Congress
usurps local power for its own purposes -- making decisions in
Washington that affect the lives and pocketbooks of people in
Berea, Kentucky, or Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania.

So: If Congress sends me a transportation bill with a
gasoline tax, I will veto it. We must not let Congress raise the
gas tax for projects communities don't even want. ^{need (Porter)} We will not let
them raise a tax that will do nothing except squeeze local
economies and lighten workers' already-thin pocketbooks.

* We believe in letting communities shape their own futures,
and this belief lies at the heart of our Community Opportunity
Act. This proposal invites communities to think of new ways to
solve old problems -- and it lets all of us adopt a more flexible
approach to domestic social programs. It puts the emphasis on
results, and not on procedures cooked up in Washington. After
all, when someone wants food or shelter or schooling, what's more
important, the service -- or the government paperwork? ^{In addition,}

The Act grows out of the basic assumption that government
assistance programs should lead people to self-sufficiency.
There's no better way to do this than to rebuild these programs
from the bottom up -- based on plans developed right at the
community level.

^{OMB (turning money back → states) #156}
I talked about Jefferson earlier: If we want to remain true

Is this our turnover proposal?
If so - let's say so. If not - we
need to mention it. (D2)

* My highway bill will invest in
infrastructure we raising taxes
or busting budget caps. (OMB)

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#

This will take a little to sink in. (DZ)



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

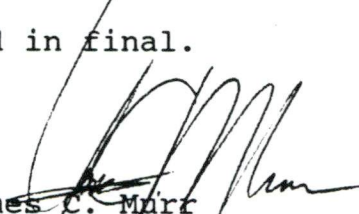
91 SEP 4 P1:38

SEP 4 1991

NOTICE:

Enclosed are comments from staff members of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Such comments do not necessarily represent the official position of the Director of OMB or of the Office of Management and Budget. If you wish to have the Director's personal comments, please let me know -- and contact me if you have any questions.

If our proposed substantive changes are not made, please let us know before the material is prepared in final.


James C. Mirr
Associate Director for
Legislative Reference
and Administration

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/3/91ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., SEPT. 4PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
SEPTEMBER 6, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
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RESPONSE: See comments

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
August 30, 1991 5 p.m.
NATAT.TS Draft Five

91 SEP -2 PM 2:48

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
September 6, 1991
Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.

one word
Scully
45178
You know, this week doesn't mark the end of summer just for school children across this country. I'm back at my desk, too. But I won't bore you with a speech titled "What I did on my summer vacation." \ Well, okay: I will tell you my reaction when I received a phone call on August 19th saying: "It's a crisis!" I responded: "I've already heard enough about Barbara's golf game."

President Eisenhower talked of "the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town." I understand because I, too, had that privilege. The towns of my youth and of my children's youth were very different from each other -- from the bustling streets of Greenwich, Connecticut to the salt air of Kennebunkport to the dusty, oil-patch plains of Midland, Texas. But they also had much in common.

Our towns nurture dreams and nourish values. Think of the ideals of integrity, hard work, and caring for others instilled in a young boy growing up in Pinpoint, Georgia. Today, that man stands ready to serve on the highest court in this land. Clarence Thomas embodies the virtues America -- and all her towns and townships -- hold dear.

I'm glad to be here with people from the towns that form this nation's backbone. You know what Thomas Jefferson meant when he said American townships "have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect

exercise of self-government, and for its preservation."

You understand the problems that challenge our country. You understand them not from a bureaucrat's safe distance, but from the embattled position of public servants whose neighbors call to complain about services -- or the lack thereof. You understand the real basics of local government, and that's why you're our country's future and our country's hope.

Our domestic policy begins with you -- the people of this land. In Washington, and in the states, politicians and officials have learned that we can't just hurl money at problems. We're taking enough of people's money as it is: If we want to do our jobs, we must make better use of the vast sums already at our disposal.

More fundamentally, we ought to recognize the genius of our own people. We must trust them -- trust you -- to find answers, to do good things, to make America work. We must make our government more responsive, more local. And we must learn from the real professionals -- you, the NATaT representatives. You're the voice of small-town America.

That's a considerable voice, of course. Eight of ten governmental bodies in this nation represent communities with 5,000 or fewer residents. And you will have to teach the other 20 percent how to live within their means.

Your strengths begin with your commitment to the American idea of civic responsibility. Many of you are part-time officials, volunteers. You give your time to your communities.

You emphasize creativity and innovation -- what folks in my birthplace of Milton, Massachusetts would call "old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity." Sometimes, you exhaust your ingenuity just trying to escape regulatory handcuffs placed upon you by federal and state mandates. I'm concerned about those mandates, and I believe strongly in the importance of cooperation between all levels of government.

Our Administration also remains committed to the common-sense approach of the Regulatory Flexibility Act -- one that lets you use your common sense to solve your own problems -- and I will direct federal departments and agencies to follow the spirit and the letter of that law. \\\

[Speaking of creativity, I want to add my congratulations to one of your members, Bill Herman of Weare, New Hampshire. Bill won your Grass-roots Leadership award by producing ideas for cutting costs without slashing services. \\\ Maybe I should call on Bill's help in solving a big problem. I asked an advisor how we could improve our crisis management. He said: "How about a calendar that doesn't have August on it."]

All of you here have helped develop public/private partnerships -- a crucial concept as we gear up for the unique problems of the 21st Century. The alliance between your National Center for Small Communities and private sector sources like the Kellogg Foundation set an example for others to follow. Scully
45178

Because of your strengths, your successes and your leadership -- I ask you to lead one of our greatest battles:

Making our nation's schools the world's best.

As you know, our Administration introduced an education strategy five months ago. We call it "America 2000," and it involves four different tracks: accountable schools for today; a new generation of schools for tomorrow; a nation of students committed to a ^(one word) lifetime of education; and communities where learning can happen.

Scall/4
x5178

You play a critical role in making the entire strategy work -- and especially Step Four; building communities that support, encourage and advance education. It's no coincidence that we historically have entrusted our most important social service, education, to communities. We now call upon communities to seize the opportunity to make their schools better: to adopt the educational goals established two years ago at the educational summit in Charlottesville, Virginia; to develop a community plan to reach the goals; to design a report card to measure your progress; and to create your own "break the mold school" -- something that builds upon your special strengths and takes into account your special needs and circumstances.

Our Administration also will look to you for leadership in other areas. For instance, Congress ^{is} ~~soon will begin debating the~~ ^{Grant} five-year re-authorization of the ^{Federal Highway and Mass Transit Programs.} ~~national's transportation system.~~ We need your help in getting a system that spends money to address ^{National} ~~local~~ ^{just} needs -- and not just support politicians' careers.

X3120
Hale
3120

We don't need more money; we need more sensible programs. More than half of all ^{earmarked} Congressional transportation projects ^{in the House version of} don't ^{the bill}

We've called in our bill for increased investment in infrastructure. But, frankly

Shady
x4844

even show up on state and local priority lists. ^{Almost} over 40 percent of the ^{five cent per} ~~current~~ gas tax ^{increase proposed in that bill would go} ~~already goes~~ for Congressionally ^{earmarked} ~~perk-~~ barrel projects. You might like some of the programs your Member of Congress slips into the budget, but in the end, Congress usurps local power for its own purposes -- making decisions in Washington that affect the lives and pocketbooks of people in Berea, Kentucky, or Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania.

So: If Congress sends me a transportation bill with a gasoline tax, I will veto it. We must not let Congress raise the gas tax for projects communities don't even want. We will not let them raise a tax that will do nothing except squeeze local economies and lighten workers' already-thin pocketbooks.

We believe in letting communities shape their own futures, and this belief lies at the heart of our Community Opportunity Act. This proposal invites communities to think of new ways to solve old problems -- and it lets all of us adopt a more flexible approach to domestic social programs. It puts the emphasis on results, and not on procedures cooked up in Washington. After all, when someone wants food or shelter or schooling, what's more important, the service -- or the government paperwork?

The Act grows out of the basic assumption that government assistance programs should lead people to self-sufficiency. There's no better way to do this than to rebuild these programs from the bottom up -- based on plans developed right at the community level.

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file
13120

Scully
45178

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO:

Tony Snow

FROM:

LANNY GRIFFITH
Special Assistant to the President for
Intergovernmental Affairs
Room 160
Extension 7170

The attached is for:

☐ Information

☐ Review & Comment

☐ Direct Response

☒ Appropriate Action

☐ Draft Reply

☐ Per Request

☐ File

☐ Signature

Comments:

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/3/91ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., SEPT. 4PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
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DATE: 9/3/91ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., SEPT. 4PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
SEPTEMBER 6, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☐	PETERSMEYER	☒	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	ROGICH	☒	☐
BRADY	☐	☒	SMITH	☒	☐
BROMLEY	☐	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
CARD	☐	☒	SNOW	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☒	☐	KAUFMAN	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒	ANDERSON	☒	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HOLIDAY	☒	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to this office, NO LATER THAN NOON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

pg. 4. note.
for Acknowledgements - call Stacey
@ 6597
Thanks.

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

91 SEP -2 PM 2:48

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
August 30, 1991 5 p.m.
NATAT.TS Draft Five

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
September 6, 1991
Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.**

You know, this week doesn't mark the end of summer just for school-children across this country. I'm back at my desk, too. But I won't bore you with a speech titled "What I did on my summer vacation." \ Well, okay: I will tell you my reaction when I received a phone call on August 19th saying: "It's a crisis!" I responded: "I've already heard enough about Barbara's golf game."

President Eisenhower talked of "the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town." I understand because I, too, had that privilege. The towns of my youth and of my children's youth were very different from each other -- from the bustling streets of Greenwich, Connecticut to the salt air of Kennebunkport to the dusty, oil-patch plains of Midland, Texas. But they also had much in common.

Our towns nurture dreams and nourish values. Think of the ideals of integrity, hard work, and caring for others instilled in a young boy growing up in Pinpoint, Georgia. Today, that man stands ready to serve on the highest court in this land. Clarence Thomas embodies the virtues America -- and all her towns and townships -- hold dear.

I'm glad to be here with people from the towns that form this nation's backbone. You know what Thomas Jefferson meant when he said American townships "have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect

exercise of self-government, and for its preservation."

You understand the problems that challenge our country. You understand them not from a bureaucrat's safe distance, but from the embattled position of public servants whose neighbors call to complain about services -- or the lack thereof. You understand the real basics of local government, and that's why you're our country's future and our country's hope.

Our domestic policy begins with you -- the people of this land. In Washington, and in the states, politicians and officials have learned that we can't just hurl money at problems. We're taking enough of people's money as it is: If we want to do our jobs, we must make better use of the vast sums already at our disposal.

More fundamentally, we ought to recognize the genius of our own people. We must trust them -- trust you -- to find answers, to do good things, to make America work. We must make our government more responsive, more local. And we must learn from the real professionals -- you, the NATaT representatives. You're the voice of small-town America.

That's a considerable voice, of course. Eight of ten governmental bodies in this nation represent communities with 5,000 or fewer residents. And you will have to teach the other 20 percent how to live within their means.

Your strengths begin with your commitment to the American idea of civic responsibility. Many of you are part-time officials, volunteers. You give your time to your communities.

You emphasize creativity and innovation -- what folks in my birthplace of Milton, Massachusetts would call "old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity." Sometimes, you exhaust your ingenuity just trying to escape regulatory handcuffs placed upon you by federal and state mandates. I'm concerned about those mandates, and I believe strongly in the importance of cooperation between all levels of government.

Our Administration also remains committed to the common-sense approach of the Regulatory Flexibility Act -- one that lets you use your common sense to solve your own problems -- and I will direct federal departments and agencies to follow the spirit and the letter of that law. \\\

[Speaking of creativity, I want to add my congratulations to one of your members, Bill Herman of Weare, New Hampshire. Bill won your Grass-roots Leadership award by producing ideas for cutting costs without slashing services. \\ Maybe I should call on Bill's help in solving a big problem. I asked an advisor how we could improve our crisis management. He said: "How about a calendar that doesn't have August on it."]

All of you here have helped develop public/private partnerships -- a crucial concept as we gear up for the unique problems of the 21st century. The alliance between your National Center for Small Communities and private sector sources like the Kellogg Foundation set an example for others to follow.

Because of your strengths, your successes and your leadership -- I ask you to lead one of our greatest battles:

Making our nation's schools the world's best.

As you know, our Administration introduced an education strategy five months ago. We call it "America 2000," and it involves four different tracks: accountable schools for today; a new generation of schools for tomorrow; a nation of students committed to a life-time of education; and communities where learning can happen.

You play a critical role in making the entire strategy work -- and especially Step Four; building communities that support, encourage and advance education. It's no coincidence that we historically have entrusted our most important social service, education, to communities. We now call upon communities to seize the opportunity to make their schools better: to adopt the educational goals established two years ago at the educational summit in Charlottesville, Virginia; to develop a community plan to reach the goals; to design a report card to measure your progress; and to create your own "break the mold school" -- something that builds upon your special strengths and takes into account your special needs and circumstances.

Our Administration also will look to you for leadership in other areas. For instance, Congress soon will begin debating the five-year re-authorization of the nation's transportation system. We need your help in getting a system that spends money to address local needs -- and not just support politicians' careers.

We don't need more money; we need more sensible programs. More than half of all Congressional transportation projects don't

even show up on state and local priority lists. Over 40 percent of the current gas tax already goes for Congressional pork-barrel projects. You might like some of the programs your member of Congress slips into the budget, but in the end, Congress usurps local power for its own purposes -- making decisions in Washington that affect the lives and pocketbooks of people in Berea, Kentucky, or Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania.

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The Act grows out of the basic assumption that government assistance programs should lead people to self-sufficiency. There's no better way to do this than to rebuild these programs from the bottom up -- based on plans developed right at the community level.

I talked about Jefferson earlier: If we want to remain true

to the spirit of his philosophy, we must empower communities to control their own futures. Our domestic policy isn't a spending policy; it's designed to increase personal freedom, and to produce results -- not just expensive rhetoric. This is the way to approach all this county's challenges -- it's an extraordinary opportunity and it's essential that we get it enacted and in use.

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Good luck to all of you -- and may God bless the towns to which you return.

#

Document No: 26716955

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 SEP 4 A9:14

DATE: 9/3/91ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., SEPT. 4PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
SEPTEMBER 6, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

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VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
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RESPONSE:

see comments
ADS

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)

August 30, 1991 5 p.m.

91 SEP -2 PM 2:48

NATAT.TS Draft Five

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September 6, 1991
Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.

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President Eisenhower talked of "the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town." I understand because I, too, had that privilege. The towns of my youth and of my children's youth were very different from each other -- from the ~~tree-lined~~ ^{tree-lined} streets of Greenwich, Connecticut to the salt air of Kennebunkport to the dusty, oil-patch plains of Midland, Texas. But they also had much in common.

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I'm glad to be here with people from the towns that form this nation's backbone. You know what Thomas Jefferson meant when he said American townships "have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect

2

exercise of self-government, and for its preservation."

You understand the problems that challenge our country. You understand them not from a bureaucrat's safe distance, but from the embattled position of public servants whose neighbors call to complain about services -- or the lack thereof. You understand the real basics of local government, and that's why you're our country's future and our country's hope.

Our domestic policy begins with you -- the people of this land. In Washington, and in the states, politicians and officials have learned that we can't just hurl money at problems. We're taking enough of people's money as it is: If we want to do our jobs, we must make better use of the vast sums already at our disposal.

More fundamentally, we ought to recognize the genius of our own people. We must trust them -- trust you -- to find answers, to do good things, to make America work. We must make our government more responsive, more local. And we must learn from the real professionals -- you, the NATAT representatives. You're the voice of small-town America.

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4

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would you believe it? been in Berea Ky? (DD)

Is this an turnover proposal? If so - let's say so - let's not let need to mention it.

6

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This will take a
little to sink in.

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RESPONSE:

No comment. Thanks.

Elizabeth Luttig
09/04/91

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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91 SEP -2 PM 2:48

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
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#

✓

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

91 AUG 3 P4:42

September 3, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

Deputy Assistant to the President for
Communications and Director of Speechwriting

FROM:

JANET REHNQUIST *gr*
Associate Counsel to the President

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks -- National Association of
Towns and Townships

At your request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter. We have no legal objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter

cc: Phil Brady

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
August 30, 1991 1 p.m.
NATAT Draft Two

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
September 6, 1991
Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.

Think of
what it's to
place this
house. As
it stands, it
refuses because
it doesn't tell
what it is
until the next
class.

Thank you. You know, [like it does for school-children all over the country,] this week marks my return from the beach -- but I won't bore you with a speech titled "What I did on my summer vacation." \\ I will tell you my reaction when I received a phone call on August 19th saying: "It's a crisis!" I responded: "I've already heard enough about Barbara's golf game." \\\

Washington
joke?
a rich class?
how?

I'm glad to have the chance to be here today with all of you who have come from the towns that are the heart of this country. Many people don't realize 8 out of 10 local governments represent populations less than 5,000: 8 out of 10. This shows we still appreciate townships, which Jefferson said "have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government, and for its preservation."

You know, President Eisenhower talked of "the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town." I understand because I, too, had that privilege. The towns of my youth and of my children's youth were very different from each other -- from the snowbound streets of Greenwich, Connecticut to the salt air of Kennebunkport to the dust-blown plains of Midland, Texas. But they also had much in common. To me, our towns sum up the deepest core of this nation -- they are places where you can dig in your roots, live your values, make a difference.

if so, why
did he move
so much?
Small towns can
be shockingly transient,
especially between
generations.

And they ~~are places that~~ nurture dreams. Think of the ideals

of integrity, hard work, and caring for others instilled in a young boy growing up in Pinpoint, Georgia. Today, that man stands ready to serve on the highest court in this land, ~~and I know that Clarence Thomas will make us proud because he~~ embodies the virtues America -- and all her towns and townships -- hold dear.

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overseer? { Your strengths begin with your commitment to the American idea of civic responsibility. Many of you are part-time officials, volunteers, giving your time as a gift back to the places where you have chosen to spend your lives.

sounds like
bureaucratic { Your strengths also include creativity and innovation -- what folks in my birthplace of Milton, Massachusetts would call "old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity." You devise means to finance local services -- ways to realize economic development -- and workable solutions to comply with stringent state and federal mandates. By the way, I'm keenly aware of the restrictions these mandates place on you -- and of the importance of intergov-
ernmental cooperation ^{between} among federal, state and local governments. I want to tell you today in no uncertain terms that I'm committed to regulatory relief, ^{at} -- that I support the Regulatory Flexibility Act -- and that I will direct federal departments and agencies to follow the spirit and the letter of that law. \\\

which does
what? {

Speaking of creativity, I want to add my congratulations to

one of your members, who's ^{shown} ~~set an example~~ of how hometown leadership can help communities come up with innovative ideas and reduce costs on their own. I understand he was honored last night, but it's worth ^{recognizing again the winner of} ~~giving more recognition to the recipient of~~ the Grassroots Leadership Award: Bill Herman of Weare, N.H.

Maybe I should call on Bill to help me solve a problem. I asked an advisor if he had an idea to improve crisis management. He said: "How about a calendar that doesn't have August on it."

All of you here are also leaders in **public/private partnerships** -- a crucial concept as we confront the challenges of the 21st century. This approach brings fresh perspectives and resources to local problems. You've made a significant contribution by the alliance between your National Center for Small Communities and private sector sources like the Kellogg Foundation -- this is terrific work, this is the future, we need more of it.

Because of your strengths, your successes and your leadership, I call on you to respond to one of our greatest challenges. Thanks to some gifted leaders here in Washington, and to the immeasurable creativity of grass-roots leaders like yourselves across this land, our nation has begun an exciting renaissance of excellence in our schools. Five months ago we introduced "America 2000" -- a challenge to reinvent American education. This program sketched out a national education strategy made up of 4 elements: accountable schools for today -- a new generation of schools for tomorrow -- a nation of students committed to a lifetime of education -- and communities where ~~all our children can learn.~~

learning can happen

Yankee ingenuity

clique

⁴
You play a critical role in making the entire strategy work; end esp. Step Four
~~It's the 4th step where you play a critical role.~~ People who

want Washington to solve all problems are missing the point.

What happens here doesn't matter half as much as what happens in each local community. Every person, every school, every town is a player in a special national army -- an army undertaking the most important crusade of all -- the crusade to prepare our children and ourselves for our country's future. You can -- you must -- make our communities places where learning can happen.\\

Today I'm proud to share with you details of our proposed ~~new~~ Community Opportunity Act. ~~It's an exciting and important innovation, because~~ it recognizes that we need more solutions -- not more money. It challenges our communities to think of new ideas -- and it lets us all, together, be more flexible in how we handle domestic social programs.

The Act grows out of the basic assumption that government assistance programs should lead people to self-sufficiency -- not just deliver money. There's no better way to do this than to rebuild these programs from the bottom up -- based on plans developed right at the community level, by the people in need. — ?

What does this mean to you? If it's enacted, you could go home and get your neighbors brainstorming about how you'd really like to see your towns work. Do you want to take over the administration of welfare? Create financial incentives to keep kids from dropping out of school? The possibilities are limitless. You'd be empowered to control your own communities -- your own future. This is the way we should approach all this

this seems a bit bright-eyed & naïve. Just how do we hand power to people who don't have legal control over dollars, rules & reqs?

county's challenges -- it's an extraordinary opportunity and it's essential that we get it enacted and in use. \\\

Thank you for your work and your example. Even with our towns' problems, I know we'd all agree with writer Catharine Sedgwick, who loved her town of Stockbridge, MA. Someone once told her that she spoke about Stockbridge as if it were heaven. "Well," she replied, "I expect no very violent transition".

Good luck to all of you -- and may God bless the towns to which you return.

#

Transportation

Am 2000 people

You understand the problems that challenge our country. You understand them first-hand, not from a bureaucrat's safe distance -- that's why you're our country's future and our country's hope.

Our domestic policy begins with you -- the people of this land. It begins with trusting you to come up with answers, to do good things, to make America work. We must make our government ~~smaller~~, more responsive, more local. *And federal authorities must take the time to* ~~That means~~ learning from you -- the NATaT representatives. [You're the voice of small-town America -- the voice of the real America. And you meet with special strength the challenges of being community leaders.]

Your strengths begin with your commitment to the American idea of civic responsibility. Many of you are part-time officials, volunteers, giving your time as a gift back to the places where you have chosen to spend your lives. I know the special challenges of being a community leader -- and you do a great job.

Your strengths also include creativity and innovation -- what folks in my birthplace of Milton, Massachusetts would call "old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity." By the way, I'm keenly aware of the restrictions stringent federal and state mandates place on you -- and of the importance of cooperation between all levels of government. I'm committed to the common-sense approach of the Regulatory Flexibility Act -- I will direct federal departments and agencies to follow the spirit and the letter of that law. \\\

[Speaking of creativity, I want to add my congratulations to one of your members, who's shown an example of how hometown leadership can help communities come up with innovative ideas and

reduce costs on their own. I understand he was honored last night, but it's worth recognizing again the winner of the Grass-roots Leadership Award: Bill Herman of Weare, N.H. \\ Maybe I should call on Bill's Yankee ingenuity to help with a problem. I asked an advisor if he had an idea to improve crisis management. He said: "How about a calendar that doesn't have August on it."]

All of you here are also leaders in **public/private partnerships** -- a crucial concept as we gear up for the unique problems of the 21st century. You've made a significant contribution by the alliance between your National Center for Small Communities and private sector sources like the Kellogg Foundation -- this is terrific work -- this is the future -- we need more of it.

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You play a critical role in making the entire strategy work ^{long} -- and especially Step Four. People who want Washington to solve all their problems are missing the point. What happens here

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
August 30, 1991 3 p.m.
NATAT Draft Four

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
September 6, 1991
Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.

You know, this week doesn't mark the end of summer just for school-children across this country. I'm back at my desk, too. But I won't bore you with a speech titled "What I did on my summer vacation." \ I will tell you my reaction when I received a phone call on August 19th saying: "It's a crisis!" I responded: "I've already heard enough about Barbara's golf game." \\\

You know, President Eisenhower talked of "the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town." I understand because I, too, had that privilege. The towns of my youth and of my children's youth were very different from each other - - from the snowbound streets of Greenwich, Connecticut to the salt air of Kennebunkport to the dust-blown plains of Midland, Texas. But they also had much in common. Our towns are places that nurture dreams. ^{And nourish values.} [Think of the ideals of integrity, hard work, and caring for others instilled in a young boy growing up in Pinpoint, Georgia. Today, that man stands ready to serve on the highest court in this land. Clarence Thomas embodies the virtues America -- and all her towns and townships -- hold dear.

I'm glad to be here with people from the towns that ^{form this} ~~are this~~ ^{nation's backbone} ~~country's heart.~~ You know what Thomas Jefferson meant when he said American townships "have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government, and for its preservation."

doesn't matter half as much as what happens in each local community. Every person, every school, every town is a player in a special national army -- an army undertaking the most important crusade of all -- the crusade to prepare our children and ourselves for our country's future. You can -- you must -- make our communities places where learning can happen. \\\

And we're going to turn to you on more fronts than just taking control of your local education. For instance, the 5-year re-authorization of the nation's transportation system is up for debate this month. It's absolutely essential that as an integral part of this we give state and local governments more flexibility -- ore choice -- in how federal dollars are spent.

But this doesn't mean we should give into Congress' threat to impose a 5-cent increase in the gas tax. If they send such a tax bill to me, I will veto it. Look, over half of all Congressional transportation projects don't even show up on state and local priority lists. Over 40% ^{percent} of the current gas tax already goes for Congressional pork barrel projects. Congress usurps local power for their own purposes -- making decisions in Washington that affect the lives and pocketbooks of people in Berea, Kentucky, or Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania.

We will not let them raise the gas tax for projects communities don't even want. We will not let them raise a tax that will do nothing except put an even tighter pinch on local economies.\\

This basic assumption that local decisions should be made by local groups is also at the core of our Community Opportunity

Act. This exciting new proposal recognizes that we need more solutions -- not more money. It challenges our communities to think of new ideas -- and it lets all of us, together, be more flexible in how we handle domestic social programs.

The Act grows out of the basic assumption that government assistance programs should lead people to self-sufficiency -- not just deliver money. There's no better way to do this than to rebuild these programs from the bottom up -- based on plans developed right at the community level.

If it's enacted, you'd be empowered to control your own communities -- your own future. This is the way to approach all this county's challenges -- it's an extraordinary opportunity and it's essential that we get it enacted and in use. \\\

Thank you for your work and your example. Even with whatever problems our towns may face, I know we'd all agree with writer Catharine Sedgwick, who loved her town of Stockbridge, MA. Someone once told her that she spoke about Stockbridge as if it were heaven. "Well" she replied "I expect no very violent transition".

Good luck to all of you -- and may God bless the towns to which you return.

#

AMERICA 2000 Community 4-part challenge

Adopt the goals, develop a community plan to reach them as well as a report card to measure progress, and create your own "break the mold" New American School.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/3/919/3/91 SEP 4 11:41

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DU

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 6, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

COMMENTS FROM
ROGER PORTER'S
OFFICE.

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☐	PETERSMEYER	☒	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	ROGICH	☒	☐
BRADY	☐	☒	SMITH	☒	☐
BROMLEY	☐	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
CARD	☐	☒	SNOW	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☒	☐	KAUFMAN	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒	ANDERSON	☒	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HOLIDAY	☒	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to this office, NO LATER THAN NOON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4. Thank you.

RESPONSE: _____

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 3702

91 SEP -2 PM 2:48

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
August 30, 1991 5 p.m.
NATAT.TS Draft Five

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
September 6, 1991
Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.**

You know, this week doesn't mark the end of summer just for school-children across this country. I'm back at my desk, too. But I won't bore you with a speech titled "What I did on my summer vacation." \\ Well, okay: I will tell you my reaction when I received a phone call on August 19th saying: "It's a crisis!" I responded: "I've already heard enough about Barbara's golf game."

President Eisenhower talked of "the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town." I understand because I, too, had that privilege. The towns of my youth and of my children's youth were very different from each other -- from the bustling streets of Greenwich, Connecticut to the salt air of Kennebunkport to the dusty, oil-patch plains of Midland, Texas. But they also had much in common.

Our towns nurture dreams and nourish values. Think of the ideals of integrity, hard work, and caring for others instilled in a young boy growing up in Pinpoint, Georgia. Today, that man stands ready to serve on the highest court in this land. Clarence Thomas embodies the virtues America -- and all her towns and townships -- hold dear.

I'm glad to be here with people from the towns that form this nation's backbone. You know what Thomas Jefferson meant when he said American townships "have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect

exercise of self-government, and for its preservation."

You understand the problems that challenge our country. You understand them not from a bureaucrat's safe distance, but from the embattled position of public servants whose neighbors call to complain about services -- or the lack thereof. You understand the real basics of local government, and that's why you're our country's future and our country's hope.

Our domestic policy begins with you -- the people of this land. In Washington, and in the states, politicians and officials have learned that we can't just hurl money at problems. We're taking enough of people's money as it is: If we want to do our jobs, we must make better use of the vast sums already at our disposal.

More fundamentally, we ought to recognize the genius of our own people. We must trust them -- trust you -- to find answers, to do good things, to make America work. We must make our government more responsive, more local. And we must learn from the real professionals -- you, the NATAT representatives. You're the voice of small-town America.

That's a considerable voice, of course. Eight of ten governmental bodies in this nation represent communities with 5,000 or fewer residents. And you will have to teach the other 20 percent how to live within their means.

Your strengths begin with your commitment to the American idea of civic responsibility. Many of you are part-time officials, volunteers. You give your time to your communities.

You emphasize creativity and innovation -- what folks in my birthplace of Milton, Massachusetts would call "old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity." Sometimes, you exhaust your ingenuity just trying to escape regulatory handcuffs placed upon you by federal and state mandates. I'm concerned about those mandates, and I believe strongly in the importance of cooperation between all levels of government.

Our Administration also remains committed to the common-sense approach of the Regulatory Flexibility Act -- one that lets you use your common sense to solve your own problems -- and I will direct federal departments and agencies to follow the spirit and the letter of that law. \\\

[Speaking of creativity, I want to add my congratulations to one of your members, Bill Herman of Weare, New Hampshire. Bill won your Grass-roots Leadership award by producing ideas for cutting costs without slashing services. \\\ Maybe I should call on Bill's help in solving a big problem. I asked an advisor how we could improve our crisis management. He said: "How about a calendar that doesn't have August on it."]

All of you here have helped develop public/private partnerships -- a crucial concept as we gear up for the unique problems of the 21st century. The alliance between your National Center for Small Communities and private sector sources like the Kellogg Foundation set an example for others to follow.

Because of your strengths, your successes and your leadership -- I ask you to lead one of our greatest battles:

Making our nation's schools the world's best.

As you know, our Administration introduced an education strategy five months ago. We call it "America 2000," and it involves four different tracks: accountable schools for today; a new generation of schools for tomorrow; a nation of students committed to a life-time of education; and communities where learning can happen.

You play a critical role in making the entire strategy work -- and especially Step Four; building communities that support, encourage and advance education. It's no coincidence that we historically have entrusted our most important social service, education, to communities. We now call upon communities to seize the opportunity to make their schools better: to adopt the educational goals established ^{eighteen months ago with the nation's} ~~two years ago at the educational~~ ^{Governors} ~~summit in Charlottesville, Virginia;~~ to develop a community plan to reach the goals; to design a report card to measure your progress; and to create your own "break the mold school" -- something that builds upon your special strengths and takes into account your special needs and circumstances.

Our Administration also will look to you for leadership in other areas. For instance, Congress soon will begin debating the five-year re-authorization of the nation's transportation system. We need your help in getting a system that spends money to address local needs -- and not just support politicians' careers.

We don't need more money; we need more sensible programs. More than half of all Congressional transportation projects don't

even show up on state and local priority lists. Over 40 percent of the current gas tax already goes for Congressional pork-barrel projects. You might like some of the programs your member of Congress slips into the budget, but in the end, Congress usurps local power for its own purposes -- making decisions in Washington that affect the lives and pocketbooks of people in Berea, Kentucky, or Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania.

So: If Congress sends me a transportation bill with a gasoline tax, I will veto it. We must not let Congress raise the gas tax for projects communities don't even want. We will not let them raise a tax that will do nothing except squeeze local economies and lighten workers' already-thin pocketbooks.

We believe in letting communities shape their own futures, and this belief lies at the heart of our Community Opportunity Act. This proposal invites communities to think of new ways to solve old problems -- and it lets all of us adopt a more flexible approach to domestic social programs. It puts the emphasis on results, and not on procedures cooked up in Washington. After all, when someone wants food or shelter or schooling, what's more important, the service -- or the government paperwork?

The Act grows out of the basic assumption that government assistance programs should lead people to self-sufficiency. There's no better way to do this than to rebuild these programs from the bottom up -- based on plans developed right at the community level.

I talked about Jefferson earlier: If we want to remain true

to the spirit of his philosophy, we must empower communities to control their own futures. Our domestic policy isn't a spending policy; it's designed to increase personal freedom, and to produce results -- not just expensive rhetoric. This is the way to approach all this county's challenges -- it's an extraordinary opportunity and it's essential that we get it enacted and in use.

Thank you for your work and your example. Even with whatever problems our towns may face, I know we'd all agree with writer Catharine Sedgwick, who loved her town of Stockbridge, MA. Someone once told her that she spoke about Stockbridge as if it were heaven. "Well," she replied, "I expect no very violent transition".

Good luck to all of you -- and may God bless the towns to which you return.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/3/91ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., SEPT. 4PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
SEPTEMBER 6, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☐	PETERSMEYER	☒	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	ROGICH	☒	☐
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FITZWATER	☐	☒	ANDERSON	☒	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HOLIDAY	☒	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to this office, NO LATER THAN NOON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4. Thank you.

RESPONSE: _____

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary

91 SEP -2 PM 2:48

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
August 30, 1991 5 p.m.
NATAT.TS Draft Five

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September 6, 1991
Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.

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President Eisenhower talked of "the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town." I understand because I, too, had that privilege. The towns of my youth and of my children's youth were very different from each other -- from the bustling streets of Greenwich, Connecticut to the salt air of Kennebunkport to the dusty, oil-patch plains of Midland, Texas. But they also had much in common.

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Our Administration also will look to you for leadership in other areas. For instance, Congress ^{is now} ~~soon will~~ begin debating the five-year re-authorization of the nation's ^{surface} ~~transportation~~ system. We need your help in getting a system that spends money to address local needs -- and not just support politicians' careers. ^{Simply spending more money isn't the answer; we need more sensible programs.} ~~We don't need more money; we need more sensible programs.~~

^{14-mandated} More than half of all Congressional transportation projects don't

even show up on state and local priority lists. ^{That number is way too high} Over 40 percent of the current gas tax already goes for Congressional pork-barrel projects. You might like some of the programs your member of Congress slips into the budget, but in the end, Congress usurps local power for its own purposes -- making decisions in Washington that affect the lives and pocketbooks of people in Berea, Kentucky, or Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania. ✓

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

91 SEP 5 12:00
September 4, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: National Association of
Towns and Townships

We have reviewed the attached remarks and have noted several suggested changes on the draft.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may help in any other way.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/3/91ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., SEPT. 4PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS
SEPTEMBER 6, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☐	PETERSMEYER	☒	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	ROGICH	☒	☐
BRADY	☐	☒	SMITH	☒	☐
BROMLEY	☐	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
CARD	☐	☒	SNOW	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☒	☐	KAUFMAN	☒	☐
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GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HOLIDAY	☒	☐		☐	☐

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PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 3700

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(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
August 30, 1991 5 p.m.
NATAT.TS Draft Five

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September 6, 1991
Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.**

You know, this week doesn't mark the end of summer just for school-children across this country. I'm back at my desk, too. But I won't bore you with a speech titled "What I did on my summer vacation." \ Well, okay: I will tell you my reaction when I received a phone call on August 19th saying: "It's a crisis!" I responded: "I've already heard enough about Barbara's golf game."

President Eisenhower talked of "the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town." I understand because I, too, had that privilege. The towns of my youth and of my children's youth were very different from each other -- from the bustling streets of Greenwich, Connecticut to the salt air of Kennebunkport to the dusty, oil-patch plains of Midland, Texas. But they also had much in common.

Our towns nurture dreams and nourish values. Think of the ideals of integrity, hard work, and caring for others instilled in a young boy growing up in Pinpoint, Georgia. Today, that man stands ready to serve on the highest court in this land. Clarence Thomas embodies the virtues America -- and all her towns and townships -- hold dear.

I'm glad to be here with people from the towns that form this nation's backbone. You know what Thomas Jefferson meant when he said American townships "have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect

exercise of self-government, and for its preservation."

You understand the problems that challenge our country. You understand them not from a bureaucrat's safe distance, but from the embattled position of public servants whose neighbors call to complain about services -- or the lack thereof. You understand the real basics of local government, and that's why you're our country's future and our country's hope.

Our domestic policy begins with you -- the people of this land. In Washington, and in the states, politicians and officials have learned that we can't just hurl money at problems. We're taking enough of people's money as it is: If we want to do our jobs, we must make better use of the vast sums already at our disposal.

More fundamentally, we ought to recognize the genius of our own people. We must trust them -- trust you -- to find answers, to do good things, to make America work. We must make our government more responsive, more local. And we must learn from the real professionals -- you, the NATAT representatives. You're the voice of small-town America.

That's a considerable voice, of course. Eight of ten governmental bodies in this nation represent communities with 5,000 or fewer residents. And you will have to teach the other 20 percent how to live within their means.

Your strengths begin with your commitment to the American idea of civic responsibility. Many of you are part-time officials, volunteers. You give your time to your communities.

You emphasize creativity and innovation -- what folks in my birthplace of Milton, Massachusetts would call "old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity." Sometimes, you exhaust your ingenuity just trying to escape regulatory handcuffs placed upon you by federal and state mandates. I'm concerned about those mandates, and I believe strongly in the importance of cooperation between all levels of government.

Our Administration also remains committed to the common-sense approach of the Regulatory Flexibility Act -- one that lets you use your common sense to solve your own problems -- and I will direct federal departments and agencies to follow the spirit and the letter of that law. \\\

[Speaking of creativity, I want to add my congratulations to one of your members, Bill Herman of Weare, New Hampshire. Bill won your Grass-roots Leadership award by producing ideas for cutting costs without slashing services. \\\ Maybe I should call on Bill's help in solving a big problem. I asked an advisor how we could improve our crisis management. He said: "How about a calendar that doesn't have August on it."]

All of you here have helped develop public/private partnerships -- a crucial concept as we gear up for the unique problems of the 21st century. The alliance between your National Center for Small Communities and private sector sources like the Kellogg Foundation set an example for others to follow.

Because of your strengths, your successes and your leadership -- I ask you to lead one of our greatest battles:

Making our nation's schools the world's best.

As you know, our Administration introduced an education strategy five months ago. We call it "America 2000," and it involves four different tracks: accountable schools for today; a new generation of schools for tomorrow; a nation of students committed to a life-time of education; and communities where learning can happen.

You play a critical role in making the entire strategy work -- and especially Step Four; building communities that support, encourage and advance education. It's no coincidence that we historically have entrusted our most important social service, education, to communities. We now call upon communities to seize the opportunity to make their schools better: to adopt the educational goals established ^{EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO WITH THE NATION'S} ~~two years ago at the educational~~ ^{GOVERNORS} ~~summit in Charlottesville, Virginia;~~ to develop a community plan to reach the goals; to design a report card to measure your progress; and to create your own "break the mold school" -- something that builds upon your special strengths and takes into account your special needs and circumstances.

Our Administration also will look to you for leadership in other areas. For instance, Congress ^{IS NOW} ~~soon will begin~~ debating the five-year re-authorization of the nation's ^{SURFACE} ~~s~~ transportation system. We need your help in getting a system that spends money to address local needs -- and not just support politicians' careers. ^{SIMPLY SPENDING MORE MONEY ISN'T THE ANSWER, WE NEED MORE SENSIBLE PROGRAMS.} ~~We don't need more money; we need more sensible programs.~~

More than half of all Congressional ^{LY-MANDATED} transportation projects don't

THIS NUMBER IS MUCH
TOO HIGH
↓

even show up on state and local priority lists. ~~Over 40 percent~~ ✓
~~of the current gas tax already goes for Congressional pork-~~
~~barrel projects.~~ You might like some of the programs your member
of Congress slips into the budget, but in the end, Congress
usurps local power for its own purposes -- making decisions in
Washington that affect the lives and pocketbooks of people in
Berea, Kentucky, or Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania.

So: If Congress sends me a transportation bill with a
gasoline tax, I will veto it. We must not let Congress raise the
gas tax for projects communities don't even want. ^{NEED} We will not let
them raise a tax that will do nothing except squeeze local
economies and lighten workers' already-thin pocketbooks. \\ ✓

We believe in letting communities shape their own futures,
and this belief lies at the heart of our Community Opportunity
Act. This proposal invites communities to think of new ways to
solve old problems -- and it lets all of us adopt a more flexible
approach to domestic social programs. It puts the emphasis on
results, and not on procedures cooked up in Washington. After
all, when someone wants food or shelter or schooling, what's more
important, the service -- or the government paperwork?

The Act grows out of the basic assumption that government
assistance programs should lead people to self-sufficiency.
There's no better way to do this than to rebuild these programs
from the bottom up -- based on plans developed right at the
community level.

I talked about Jefferson earlier: If we want to remain true

to the spirit of his philosophy, we must empower communities to control their own futures. Our domestic policy isn't a spending policy; it's designed to increase personal freedom, and to produce results -- not just expensive rhetoric. This is the way to approach all this county's challenges -- it's an extraordinary opportunity and it's essential that we get it enacted and in use.

Thank you for your work and your example. Even with whatever problems our towns may face, I know we'd all agree with writer Catharine Sedgwick, who loved her town of Stockbridge, MA. Someone once told her that she spoke about Stockbridge as if it were heaven. "Well," she replied, "I expect no very violent transition".

Good luck to all of you -- and may God bless the towns to which you return.

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