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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 2, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR MACK MCLARTY
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

FROM: HOWARD PASTER *HP*

SUBJECT: LUNCH TODAY WITH BOB MCGLOTTEN, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE AFL-CIO

1. Lane Kirkland is due back in his office Tuesday, December 7, and Bob will press him on a time to come and see the President. Bob feels, correctly I think, that the meeting should be after the NAFTA bill signing, which means the 9th or 10th.

2. Kirkland will probably ask the President to designate a single high-level individual who will be the AFL-CIO's principal point of contact in the White House. The correct answer from the President would be: "I think that is a good idea. I will ask George to play that role." This would not change the regular practice of Alexis and Joan dealing with labor on a daily basis at a different level. But, it would give the top leadership confidence that there is someone close to the President with whom they can deal.

3. Kirkland is not expected to make striker replacement a major test of renewed friendship, because of the impracticality of getting 60 votes in any case. However, Kirkland may well mention OSHA, and the President needs to be aware of Bob Reich's recommendation that the Administration support Chairmen Kennedy and Ford's initiatives at an incremental cost of \$100-150 million. I will argue strenuously at the budget table that we do this.

4. The President may also hear from Kirkland the concern at the AFL-CIO that an early start on welfare will hurt the push for health care reform. Labor has recognized, as have many in the White House, the inherent difficulty in launching welfare until we have made real progress on health care.

5. The general message is that there is a readiness to move past NAFTA, and to have things well on track prior to the annual Bal Harbour meeting in late January and early February.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR MACK MCLARTY
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

FROM: HOWARD PASTER 

SUBJECT: ORGANIZED LABOR

It is important to bear in mind, in the face of the upcoming fundraiser for the Democratic Leadership Council, that the DLC and Al From seriously worsened relations between the Administration and the AFL-CIO by proclaiming the passage of NAFTA was further evidence of the decline of the AFL-CIO. I cannot stress too strongly the delicacy that should be attached to the DLC relationship and the comments at any DLC event.

cc: Joan Baggett

*Paster
Correspondence*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 1993

Mr. William Cunningham
Legislative Representative
AFL-CIO
815 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Bill:

While I appreciate your note of October 8, you are wrong in your interpretation of my role in NAFTA. Like many others who care very much about working people, I believe sincerely that NAFTA will do more good over the long run for union and non-union workers than would its defeat.

I do not know what event you refer to, but I want to stress you are NOT accurate as you claim in the second paragraph of your letter. I have refrained from quoting labor leaders who acknowledge to me that some unions have overdone their opposition to NAFTA. Since I do not characterize the feeling of those with whom I disagree, I felt it important not to let your mistaken view of my attitude go unanswered.

Sincerely,

Howard Paster
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

cc: Robert McGlotten

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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October 8, 1993

Mr. Howard Paster
The White House
West Wing, 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Howard:

There was some concern expressed about my quote on your participation in the NAFTA debate that appeared in yesterday's Wall Street Journal.

The reporter was doing a story on labor and environmental "traitors" on NAFTA and believed you should be included in that group. When asked specifically about you, I went to great lengths to stress that you were doing your job - not trying to hurt working men and women. Indeed I said that you had done the same thing in your private career. Perhaps my comment was a little flip - but I believe accurate - as I saw you ease into your first public NAFTA meeting.

I know that you and Bob have a good working relationship and hope that my comments will not strain it. As you know, we in the labor movement want Bill Clinton's presidency to succeed. We have fought hard with his team on job stimulus, budget and in the future, health reform. On NAFTA we disagree.

Good luck except on NAFTA.

Sincerely,

William Cunningham
Legislative Representative