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ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES
CRIME AND VIOLENCE

"The Administration has got to examine everything we can do to . . . challenge every community in this country and every organization in this country and every individual in this country to make a contribution with us in restoring the conditions in which civilized life can go on. . . . There are millions of people in this country who literally are not even playing by the same set of rules that all the rest of us take for granted. And we have learned in this country to accept many things that are unacceptable. . . .

"What you will see from us over the next several months is a sustained, organized, disciplined approach. . . . What I think I have to do is to mobilize every person in my government to do what can be done to address these problems."

President Clinton
News Conference, November 10, 1993

Our long-term challenge as a nation is to restore the conditions of civilized life: work, family, community, order, personal security, and a common set of rules and values on what is acceptable and what is wrong. Our immediate challenge is to restore order in the streets and safety in our schools, and to help Americans take back their neighborhoods, community by community.

A sustained, organized, disciplined approach to this challenge should stick to clear, well-defined themes:

1. Personal security has become the most pressing concern in the everyday lives of millions of Americans and their families. People have a right to feel safe, and the first duty of government is to keep them safe.

2. The old debate between prevention and punishment is a false choice; we need both. We are in the midst of an epidemic of violence in this country. It is time to put politics and ideology aside and start providing real answers to the real fears of real people. We need more cops, more boot camps, and relief for an overloaded criminal justice system. We also need stronger families, better schools, and more work in our communities.

But there is no debate about our attitude toward crime, violence, and those who commit it. **As President Clinton said in his campaign, "We need to prevent crime and punish criminals, not excuse away their behavior."**

3. **It's not enough to change laws -- we have to change behavior.** We must do everything we can to prevent crime and violence, but government cannot solve this problem on its own. We have to change "from the inside out," as the President said recently in Memphis.

Families need to take responsibility for their children. Individuals need to take personal responsibility for their own actions. And communities need to challenge their citizens to stand up for common decency, and refuse to accept the unacceptable anymore. **Together, we must confront what the President called "the great crisis of the spirit" that is gripping America today.**

4. **We will use every tool at our disposal to break the epidemic of violence and keep people safe:**

* **Community Policing:** Congress is on the verge of passing a crime bill that will help communities put 100,000 new police officers on the street.

* **Gun Violence:** Congress is also close to enacting the Brady Bill and a ban on handguns for minors. The Senate should pass an assault weapons ban. Federal firearms licensing reform is also possible.

* **Boot Camps / State Prisons:** The crime bill includes a major expansion of boot camps for young offenders -- an idea the President pioneered in Arkansas -- as well as other measures to help states deal with their overcrowded criminal justice systems.

* **Drugs:** The crime bill provides substantial funds for drug courts and drug treatment for criminal addicts. The health reform benefits package covers some drug treatment. Congress will take up more extensive drug legislation next year.

* **Safe Schools:** In addition to banning handguns for children, Congress is close to passing Safe Schools legislation to help schools reduce violence through the use of metal detectors, additional police, etc.

* **Other Justice Department Initiatives:** The Justice Department is working with state officials to convene state law enforcement summits. The Department has also undertaken anti-gang initiatives and efforts to restore healthy neighborhoods through Weed n' Seed and other programs.

* **National Service:** Public safety is one of four priorities for service in the President's national service program. The National Service Corporation will be working with police departments and community organizations to develop innovative public safety, law enforcement, and crime prevention programs for young people. The Senate crime bill also includes the Police Corps, which provides college scholarships in return for police service.

* **The Health Care Costs of Violence:** The President and the First Lady have devoted considerable attention to the impact of violence on the health care system. We spend an estimated $4 billion a year on health care for the victims of violence.

* **Work and Economic Opportunity:** Later this year, the Community Enterprise Board, chaired by the Vice President, will announce selection criteria for Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. Public safety will be an important component. The Administration has several other initiatives aimed at improving economic opportunity and self-sufficiency, including community development banks, microenterprise, and welfare reform.

* **Values:** The President will continue to use the Bully Pulpit to call attention to crime, violence, and the collapse of social institutions essential to civilized life: family, community, work.

GRAND LODGE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

520 SOUTH HIGH STREET, SUITE 205 • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-5685 • (614) 221-0180 • FAX (614) 221-0815

DEWEY R. STOKES
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

March 28, 1994

Honorable Jack Brooks
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
United States Congress
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police -- Grand Lodge, which represents 248,000 rank-and-file law enforcement professionals throughout the country, I must express my profound disappointment that the House of Representatives was not allowed to consider a comprehensive crime bill prior to the Easter recess.

It is virtually inconceivable to me that, in the face of a growing public outcry against violent crime, certain partisan factions in the House were unable to put the welfare of Americans first by permitting this measure to move forward.

In my judgment, a reasonable rule governing the nature and order of amendments which could be offered to the crime bill during floor consideration was crafted which afforded the House every opportunity for a full and open debate. If 60 amendments and 12 hours of debate does not provide enough opportunity for reasonable consideration of this issue by the House, then something is very wrong with certain partisan Members -- not the rule governing floor debate.

Those of us who put our lives on the line daily against the forces of lawlessness are confused. It seems that the same partisans in the House who blather on incessantly about the need for crime control initiatives are again the same ones who continue to erect procedural roadblocks which prevent legislation in this area from moving forward. Particularly galling to me is the fact that while these same partisan Members posture for political advantage, police officers are being threatened, wounded and even killed by a rising tide of lawlessness. The bottom line remains that Americans everywhere need to have a meaningful and strong crime bill that will send an unmistakable message to the criminal element which currently preys upon our society.

Chairman Brooks, my members recognize that the House crime legislation is not perfect. There are many amendments in the proposed rule which we believe should be passed by the House. Moreover, we look forward to working the upcoming conference to further improve the comprehensive package. We support your efforts to move this legislative process along and we will continue to speak out against those who seem more intent on making headlines than helping us fight crime.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Dewey R. Stokes
National President

cc: President William Clinton
House Speaker Thomas Foley
House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

(202)737-3400
(202)737-3405 - fax

FAX REPORT

Date: 3/29/94
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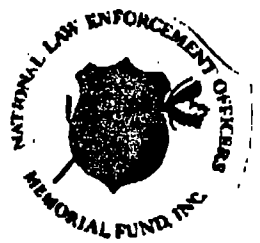

Please stop by our new Visitors Center located at 605 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

Sunday, May 15 continued:

U.S. Capitol to bring wreath + turn over to MPD by Labor Bldg. Wreath will be walked to the Mem.

2 p.m. -midnight	Honor Guard Vigil at Memorial and "Thin blue line" laser display.
4 p.m. - Sunset Church Service	
7 p.m.- 9 p.m.	Reception for Survivors, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Alexandria, VA.
Monday, May 16: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.	Second day of National Police Survivors' Seminars, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Alexandria, VA. Sponsored by COPS.
6 p.m.- 9 p.m.	"Picnic In The Park", Ft. Hunt Park, Alexandria, VA. Sponsored by COPS.
Tuesday, May 17:	Official Departure Day.

Concerns of Police Survivors is coordinating the surviving families' participation in all of the above-listed activities. Questions concerning the coordination of National Police Week 1994 activities can be directed to COPS at 314-346-4911.

Inquiries regarding the Candlelight Vigil may be directed to NLEOMF at 202-737-3400.

Inquiries regarding the May 15th Memorial Service may be directed to 202-547-8189.

Inquiries regarding the National Police Survivors' Seminars may be directed to COPS at 314-346-4911.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Release March 29, 1994

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO,
SECRETARY OF HUD HENRY CISNEROS,
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY LEE BROWN,
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TREASURY RON NOBLE

The Briefing Room

10:00 A.M. EST

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Our National Violent Crime Initiative is underway with a federal prosecutor now designated to coordinate our efforts in every one of the 94 districts in the country, with joint local, federal strategies for attacking violent crime already underway in many of the districts. I have had an opportunity to visit districts, to talk with state and local law enforcement, to talk with federal officials who are working with them. And I'm advised that we have not seen such cooperation in many years.

We have further to go, however. Our Weed and Seed program is reaching more communities now, up to 20 sites from 10 last year, apprehending more criminals, and developing more prevention programs that have proven to be successful. Our PAC program is working with local officials to bring new direction and energy to community crime prevention efforts.

As I travel across the country I hear real enthusiasm for these combined state and federal efforts that bring a focus on law enforcement, on the violent criminals, on what the federal government can do to assist local government in terms of law enforcement. I also see us coming together with cities and communities across this nation in crime prevention efforts, using the Office of Justice Programs, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Weed and Seed to work with them as true partners in providing monies that are truly needed.

But I'm not here to be a Pollyanna or to pretend that the crime problem is being solved. We've made some headway, but we've got more to do. The crime bill is now pending in the House and it has many helpful provisions. One of the refrains I hear as I travel across this nation is the need for more support for state prison systems to make sure that they are able to house the violent criminals for the length of time the judges are sentencing them. The bill will provide $3 billion in grant money to state and local governments to operate prisons and to make sure that we have truth in sentencing for violent offenders.

Programs to deal with youthful and drug offenders are in the crime bill, and they are critically important. Community after community have had the chance to visit our local drug court in Miami and want to replicate it but don't have the resources. Those resources would be provided in the crime bill.

And prevention programs that give kids something to say yes to. Our youth employment skills program, keeping schools open later are all in the crime bill and I think are critical provisions.

We have announced a plan to restore funding for burn grant* multijurisdictional task forces, which so many sheriffs have pointed out is so critical to their efforts.

But the one aspect of our crime bill that I think is so critically important is the provision for the $100,000 police officers for community policing. In every community I have been to police departments either want to start it or have started it on a very small scale and want to expand it. Right now at the Department of Justice we are halfway through our police hiring grants program, a program designed to make a down payment on the 100,000 police officers. Four months ago we gave out our first grant; to date we have passed out $75 million for over 100 cities and towns to hire 1,000 new police officers. And those that got the first grants tell me they're making a difference. By the end of April when the program is complete we will have put 2,000 police officers on the streets in about 200 communities.

But for each jurisdiction we will have been able to help under this program, 15 more have applied. Three thousand cities, towns, counties and states have applied for this program. Some came in late and are not eligible, which brings the total to more. And we will only be able to assist approximately 200.

Everywhere I travel local officials say they need this help. The crime bill presents an unprecedented effort to tackle this problem. Its 100,000-use street-level police officers -- a 40-percent increase in the current national force of 250,000 street-level law enforcement officers -- is a vital effort.

We have much to do. I think the American people want us all to work together in a nonpartisan, thoughtful way to get this crime bill passed, that focuses on punishment that's fair and that fits the crime and that provides prevention alternatives that can make a difference.

I'd now like to introduce Secretary Henry Cisneros of HUD to talk about the work -- the really excellent work that's being done in Safe Home.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Thank you very much, General. I was pleased to be here a month ago with the Attorney General, with Secretary Bentsen, and with Dr. Brown to discuss the initiation of an administrative initiative announced by the Vice President entitled Operation Safe Home. The thrust is to bring together the resources of multiple federal agencies and focus on those environments where people live with federal assistance; that is to say, public housing environments -- which, unfortunately, are seed beds for much crime in our central cities -- and assisted housing.

There was some skepticism raised at that time as to whether this was just an announcement or whether we intended to really put muscle behind it. I'm pleased to be here today to give you a sense of what the first month's results are on Operation Safe Home.

Our interagency approach to Operation Safe Home has led to 24 arrests and 14 indictments and the recovery of more than 25 weapons and $300,000 in drugs and cash. The white collar portion of Operation Safe Home, which deals with equity skimming and diversion of funds destined for housing repairs or other housing needs, has yielded six indictments and a guilty plea. The multifamily skimming effort has led to four civil settlements, with $9.9 million in repayments to multifamily projects, and $2.1 million to HUD, a double damages judgment of $1.6 million.

Let me give you an example of how Operation Safe Home works on the ground. On March 16th, as part of a task force effort

in the city of New Haven, Connecticut, a team of 60 federal agents and police officers, DEA, FBI, HUD Office of Inspector General, and state and local law enforcement agencies arrested 12 individuals and seized drugs and firearms at and near public housing developments. The individuals were charged with selling and distributing drugs, firearms and risking injury to children.

Today HUD is announcing the availability of $232 million under a program known as Drug Elimination grants, the public housing drug elimination program, which will be available to local housing authorities to control and prevent drug use, drug trafficking and drug-related crime in these communities. Since 1989, when this program began, over 1,700 grants, totaling over $500 million, have been awarded to housing authorities. So you can see if we've awarded over $500 million from 1989 to the present, and this year, today, we're making available $232 million, almost half of the total, we have increased the amount of money available for this program. It goes directly to housing authorities for their use in attempting to get a handle on these problems.

HUD has also made available $75 million for what are called family assistance centers. These are family living environments in public housing where young people can have access to educational opportunities, recreational opportunities, and employment opportunities. And we tie those carefully into our anticrime strategies.

All of this will tie into the President's $6 billion anticrime initiative. One step in which HUD is involved is the encouragement of police residency in public housing and in central city settings, and I'm very pleased to say we're having tremendous success in persuading housing authorities to give up units so that police officers can come in at discounted or no rents and live in public housing development. It does seem to make a substantial difference.

So my message today is, in summary, threefold: First, when we work together this way we can produce results. And the last month has proven results already in public housing and housing settings. Secondly, a key is that the federal agencies work together in unprecedented ways. I want to thank the Attorney General because of the Justice Department entities involved in this effort -- DEA and the FBI, the U.S. Attorneys -- and the Treasury because of the role of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and the Secret Service, which gets involved in money laundering investigations -- all of which have collaborated to produce these successes and many more that we believe will be coming. It is reinventing government at its best when agencies can cross territorial lines, jurisdictional lines, and work together for results.

Finally, I pledge to join the Attorney General in her efforts over the next month -- over the next several weeks, I should say -- to do everything we can to pass the crime bill. That means going around the country talking to citizens who, in turn, can express their opinions to their legislators, and working as part of the White House team to pass this important measure which will build upon the successes as additional funds are available for both prevention and enforcement and punishment phases.

It's my pleasure now to introduce my esteemed colleague, Dr. Lee Brown, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

DR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

I also appreciate the opportunity to be here this morning to participate in the update on the administration's efforts to combat crime and violence and drug abuse.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy supports this nation's criminal justice efforts by coordinating and overseeing both the international and domestic antidrug abuse programs for all executive branch agencies. Additionally, the office serves to ensure that federal antidrug efforts support those of state and local governments through collaborative initiatives.

While the results of these initiatives may overlap with those of my colleagues here with me today, it is a coordination and a funding role played by ONDCP which is so very vital to success. The office has made some major inroads toward advancing President Clinton's goal to institute a sustained, organized, disciplined approach to combat crime, drugs, and violence. I want to briefly describe some of the initiatives that highlight the ONDCP's efforts toward achieving that goal.

ONDCP fosters collaborative federal, state and local antidrug efforts through its high-intensity drug trafficking area, or a program we call the HIDA program. During the past year, ONDCP provided funding to five HIDA regions around the country. This funding supports over 150 federal, state and local initiatives which include multiagency task force operations, intelligence-sharing networks, and investigative support centers. These HIDA programs target what we call gateway areas for drugs entering this country by working toward dismantling significant drug trafficking or money laundering organizations in Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Houston, and along the southwest border.

Last year, these major task force operations seized more than 17 tons of cocaine and over $241 million in drug-related assets. While these statistics may reflect the outstanding efforts of several law enforcement agencies, it's significant to stress that it was through the HIDA program that federal, state and local agencies came together to conduct these joint operations.

I have been involved in law enforcement over 30 years at the local level, and during that time I've seen the conflict and the lack of cooperation between state and -- particularly state and local and the federal agencies. That is not the case today. Never in the history of my career have I seen a better working relationship between federal, state and local agencies than is the case now.

This year this administration has taken another important step in combatting drug abuse by integrating treatment services into the HIDA program. Last month I designated the Washington-Baltimore region a high-intensity drug trafficking area. The primary focus of this HIDA, which is expected to be a prototype for future initiatives, will be to reduce hardcore drug use through the region by coordinating treatment services with law enforcement programs.

I think we all know that jails around the country are filled with nonviolent criminals who commit minor crimes so they can buy their daily doses of crack or heroin. This HIDA will not only work to reduce the amount of drugs available to those chronic hardcore drug users, but it will also work to minimize the impact of the heroin addict who steals the carton of cigarettes from the 7-11 by treating the cause or the problem of his addiction. The logic is quite clear. We have to not only deal with the problem itself, that is the crime; but also try to stop the problem by dealing with the addiction. And that's consistent with the strategy the President released, the national drug control strategy the President released a few weeks ago.

This will, in turn, free up jail space and other law enforcement resources which can be used to investigate and also incarcerate violent offenders. To be successful, this program will

require the coordination of not only federal, state and local law enforcement, but also the treatment community and the courts. I've allocated $3 million in initial funding for this year toward the development and implementation of specific programs which will facilitate this coordination.

Through its role as a policy development and coordination office, ONDCP serves to integrate the many functions of the more than 50 federal agencies involved in the nation's antidrug efforts with those of state and local governments. We feel very strongly that this coordination, this working together, will be the process by which we can take back the streets of our cities block by block. And that's the objective; to make sure that this country is a safer country.

I also join the Attorney General and Secretary Cisneros in saying that the passage of the crime bill is extremely important. I'm particularly interested in seeing the 100,000 more police officers be made available to the police departments throughout this country, primarily to implement the concept of community policing. I know community policing works. It worked when I served as police chief in Houston, Texas. It worked when I was the police commissioner of New York City. In fact, in New York City, after only one year we saw crime go down in every major index category, and that had not occurred in the 36-year history of that department.

So it's important that we get about the business of passing the crime bill, working together as partners with state and local and federal agencies and the American public in order to make a difference.

Now I'm pleased to introduce the Assistant Secretary of Treasury Ron Noble.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Good morning. This Thursday, March 31st, is the 13th anniversary of the attempted assassination of President Reagan and the wounding of former White House Press Secretary James Brady, someone who many of you knew. And therefore, in our view, it is fitting to discuss the impact of the Brady Law.

We all recall the challenges and the complaints many people had about how ineffective Brady would be. But if we look at this chart, we see the impact it's already had. In Houston, there were 2,183 forms processed and 199 denials. In Dallas, we see 48 denials. In Ohio, we see 41 denials and 8 were for fugitives. So we see the impact Brady is having. We're making it more costly, more expensive for people to purchase firearms. Convicted felons are trying to do it; fugitives are trying to do it; it's having a very real impact. And but for the work of the Attorney General and my colleagues up here and the President, Brady probably -- would not have been passed.

Also in the area of federal firearms licensing reform, prior to this year, there were only 240 inspectors at ATF processing federal firearms license applications. And the process was so rubber-stampish, if you will, that even dogs were receiving federal firearms licenses. And early this last year the New York City Police Department, in conjunction with ATF, embarked on a pilot project that, during last year, resulted in a 94-percent reduction of those people who received federal firearms licenses.

Now, why is that important? It's important because with 284,000 federal firearms license holders, which we currently have, it's impossible to regulate; it's impossible to do the sort of tracing that you need to go. Again, this will cost money, and the Secretary and the President are supporting an increase in licensing cost to cover the cost of doing the background inspections that you

and I would want before giving someone the privilege of selling firearms.

Also, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, we continue to pursue what Treasury calls Achilles Project, where we target armed career criminals -- people who have had three serious violent felony convictions or drug trafficking convictions -- where if they're convicted of being in possession of a firearm after having these three violent felony convictions on their record or drug trafficking convictions, they go away for a minimum of 15 years -- in another important initiative that we're working in conjunction with the Department of Justice as well as the initiatives with HUD and with ONDCP.

So while I agree with the Attorney General and everyone else who says it's difficult to highlight in a very brief period what differences we've made, we are making differences. The cooperation which has been referred to is more difficult to quantify, but it's a spirit that makes all the difference in successful investigations versus unsuccessful turf battles.

One other area that I'd like to highlight is the Treasury Department has the ability to reclassify certain weapons as destructive devices if they don't satisfy any legitimate sporting purpose. The Secretary did that on February 28th; he reclassified an item called the Street Sweeper, which looks like the old tommy gun, but discharges shotgun shells instead of bullets, and discharges 12 shotgun shells within three seconds. The same weapon was found fully loaded and operational at the residence of one of the people who is suspected to have been involved in the shooting of the Hasidic Jews on the Brooklyn Bridge this year.

So in conjunction with the Department of Justice, HUD and with ONDCP, we at Treasury are committed to a coordinated effort to try to make a difference in the crime problem confronting this country. Thank you.

Q Is there any hang-up in passage of the crime bill? Are you running into a problem?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't see any hang-up in the passage of it. I think it's just important that we focus on it as soon as Congress returns and that we all work together to fashion a balanced bill that punishes the dangerous and that does -- develops prevention programs with our communities that can keep kids from crime.

Q General Reno, you might say that this briefing may have been called because the administration wants to present this united front. You may have seen this report, report out of U.S. News and World Report in particular, which says that the working group report on crime which is not being released by the White House suggests that that report is, in a sense, too soft compared with what the public mood might be right now. Could you respond to that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't know -- I didn't see the article so I can't respond to the article.

Q It says that the --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: One of the things I learned never to do is to respond to articles that I haven't read. But I'll be happy to read it and have Carl give you a response.

Q Well, have you seen the working group report?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I haven't.

Q It's like an 89-page report.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I haven't.

Q Are you advocating the truth in sentencing as part of the prison grants?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I think what we've got to do is to work with states to get dollars to them in ways that count so that they can begin to achieve truth in sentencing. I think it's important that we have -- work with them to set standards that they can meet and that end up ultimately making sure that these dangerous offenders get the sentence they deserve, and then actually serve it. Nothing is so frustrating for the American people than to see somebody out in 20 to 30 percent of the sentence when they were dangerous offenders.

Q You were using the figure, 100,000 new cops. In New York, Mayor Giuliani says that doesn't meet the truth in packaging provisions and that actually it's funding of 20,000 cops for five years and only 75 percent funding. So it's really only 15,000 cops. Is that accurate or is that unfair?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I haven't heard his comment. What we have tried to do is to work with mayors throughout the country to make sure that what is provided for is something that is actually delivered. As a prosecutor on the streets of Miami, I used to get frustrated when I would hear federal promises that didn't materialize. And we want to make sure that there's funding in the crime bill to provide support for 100,000 police officers. We've always talked about developing a match. For those communities that can't provide the match there would be waiver programs. But we're dead-set and determined to make sure that when we promise something we deliver it.

Q But is it 20,000 times five years, or is it 100,000 for a period?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It's 100,000 cops developed within the next five years.

Q So it is 20,000 -- funding for 20,000 each year?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We would hire 100,000 over the next five years. Whether it was 20,000 for five years -- I'm not sure where he's coming from. But I'll be happy to contact his office and --

Q What I'm trying to understand is whether -- is it 100,000 different people or 20,000 people --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It would be 100,000 different people is the aim.

Q I understand you said that you put the money out for the first 1,000 --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Yes.

Q -- and you've had good results. What were the good results?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I am told -- I visited in Orlando, for example, and I am told in their community policing initiative that they are having an impact. I have not gotten the statistics from them, but in all those that have received the grants and have had time to see them begin to be implemented or enhanced, I am told that they are making a difference.

Q Ms. Reno, at one point months ago you said that just having more police officers may not be the answer for all police departments, that some police chiefs felt that they really couldn't absorb more police officers. Are you certain that these 100,000 new officers will be utilized properly?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I have never been so certain of it after talking with police chiefs around the country, visiting community policing initiatives, talking to citizens in the community. The desperate need that police departments have around the country to have police officers and this additional support that will permit them to transition to community policing is echoed everywhere I go. It's gotten so if I go to a community that's applied for a grant I can barely get out of the community without everybody saying, where is my money; why haven't you given me a grant?

I am absolutely convinced that the monies will be used wisely. I am absolutely convinced that just money for policing won't work, but money for sound community policing that focuses on targets in the community where priorities are developed with citizens in the community, where citizens are involved, and prevention efforts are implemented again with citizens can make a difference.

Q If I might follow, you paid some attention to the crime problem here in Washington. And the District has about 50 percent more police officers per capita than the next largest city, yet clearly it's got a big crime problem nonetheless. What is the problem here, do you suppose, if it's not -- obviously it's not just more police officers -- I mean, not more police officers certainly the sole answer.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Well, as I have suggested, I don't think just more police officers. I think they have to be used the right way. I've obviously not made a close analysis of the District's issues, but I have asked Eric Colder*, the United States Attorney, to work with the Chief of Police and work with public officials to do what is -- anything the federal government can appropriately do to address the problem of focusing on the bad guys, the career criminals, taking steps to identify them and proactively go after them and make the arrest, apprehend the fugitives, get them sentenced to appropriate sentences, while at the same time developing appropriate prevention programs.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: General, if I may say a quick word on the District, because I think that sometimes that's trotted out as -- and it's not exactly a good comparison. And Lee Brown, as a police chief, may want to add a word.

The District of Columbia bears a different burden than any other city of 650,000 people, or so, as a result of the fact that it's the Nation's Capital. So it must allocate police officers to everything from traffic control to coordination with Executive Protective Services in the embassy areas and so forth; unusual number of parades and other civic gatherings and so forth. My guess is that while that number stands out, 50 percent more per capita, it really is because it's the District, because it's the Nation's Capital. And those police officers are not assigned to -- the presumption in the question is not as accurate as one might thing.

Q Secretary Cisneros, do you have any idea how many police officers have taken up this offer to move into the public housing?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: I don't have an exact number for you, but it's happening in more communities and faster than I might have imagined. And if you are interested, I could actually take you to people who are doing that right here in the District of Columbia.

We have several police officers who have now moved into housing developments.

But I would say, in many communities across the country it is happening. We're also now taking the next logical step which is to find ways to provide discounted housing for officers who want to live in central city neighborhoods, not public housing but in neighborhoods, by making HUD-owned homes, the so-called HUD homes that we take by foreclosure, available on some discounted basis to police departments for officers who want to live in the city.

Q Are they told if they move in there with these discounts that if trouble breaks out it's assumed that they'll try to do something about it?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: A police officer, of course, is never truly off duty, carry weapons even when they're off duty in most jurisdictions. And so the assumption is, first of all, that their very presence, the fact that they drive a cruiser home, the fact that -- in many communities -- that they arrive in a uniform, that people know that they're there makes a difference.

Now, will they come out in the middle of a disturbance? Many will do that because it's their perception of their role as a police officer.

Lee, you might want to say a word on this concept -- in his role as a former police chief.

DR. BROWN: It's very consistent with the concept of community policing. It gives the police officer an ownership of a geographical area. I visited those locations myself, particularly one in Elgin, Illinois, and talked to the residents of the public housing community there. And they told the story of a dramatic and drastic and significantly important change for the better in the living conditions there as a result of having the police officers there.

And that is one of the reasons that the administration is so high, the President is so high on the concept of community policing, because it represents, if you would, a new way of thinking about police work, a new way of delivering police services. It involves a partnership between the police and the people to identify problems that are of concern to the residents -- not so much how the police see the problems but how the people see the problems -- and then jointly coming together to determine what are the best solutions to address the problem. And then using the resources of the police, other governmental agencies, the private sector and individuals to solve the problem.

And that's what's exciting about seeing this really quiet revolution take place in law enforcement today, supported by -- will be supported by the resources provided by the crime bill when passed by the Congress.

The additional police officers are important for community policing. An example being when I went to New York as the police commissioner -- the police officers spend 95, 96, 97 percent of their time just answering 911 calls. You can imagine that you can't really take the time to know the problems, to know the people to solve the problems if you're spending your eight-hour tour of duty just running 911 calls. You can also imagine there's not much job satisfaction in doing that.

In the community policing, officers will have the time to work on solving problems; thus, having a better utilization of the resource of the police department. So it's important to have the police officers, the bodies, to do community policing. And as I

said, you can't solve problems if you have no time to do so. And you end up going back to the same locations over and over again. And so that's the reason you find that there's such great support throughout the policing field as well as the administration for the concept of community policing.

Q Is the death penalty posing an obstacle --

Q Could I -- I'm sorry, I have a question about the Treasury chart. These numbers -- are they handguns? In other words, in Houston, do we read that 199 people were told they could not buy a handgun?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Yes.

Q So that means that 2,183 people were told that, yes, they could buy a handgun. Does that mean the sale went ahead necessarily, probably?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: If forms were processed, assuming they had the money, the sales went ahead.

Q Does that -- I mean, if you look at that, since February 28th, which is -- what -- three or four weeks ago, 2,183 handguns were bought in Houston. I mean, looking at these numbers another way, do you feel like maybe -- to me that's kind of stunning, to think --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: To me it's stunning that there are over 200 million handguns in the U.S. That's stunning, but what's more stunning is that there are people with records trying to buy these handguns and that we're able to catch them and stop them.

Q Clearly, that's a good thing, but I just wondered if it makes you think about taking this a step farther, to banning handguns or --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: No. No.

Q Why not?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Because the problem that we're trying to address with Brady and that we have addressed with Brady is we're trying to address the problem of the wrong people having handguns. Now, a law-abiding American citizen who wishes to own a firearm should not be prevented from owning a firearm. That's a --

Q Why should they have one?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: First of all, there's a constitutional right to bear arms we hear about time and time again.

Q There is?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I think there's a constitutional right to bear arms. And I also think there's a right, an individual right to protect himself or herself or one's family. So from my perspective, I don't do anything and wouldn't suggest anything that would impinge upon a U.S. citizen's right to purchase a firearm.

Q Are you a member of the NRA?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: One might think so in light of my answer, right?

Q Are you?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I am not.

Q Under Brady, the local law enforcement --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I just want to respond. I am a college professor, law professor on leave. I may be returning more quickly than I'd like but -- (laughter.) That's my individual position. That's my individual position, just for the record.

Q You have not at this point ruled on --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Okay. It's my individual position, please.

Q Brady requires the local law enforcement establishment to make a reasonable effort. There are more and more reports that many of these law enforcement agencies don't have the resources to make that reasonable effort, and that some even disagree with having to do it under Brady. My question is, has Treasury tried to force and follow up, and do you have the authority?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: We've tried to work cooperatively with state and local law enforcement officers. The starting point -- we worked very closely with the Justice Department -- was deciding who ought to be the chief law enforcement officer for each state. Ought it be one central locale like a state police department where they might have the resources to do the kind of comprehensive check? Or ought it be a local police chief who would know when an application came through with a false address that it was a false address? We try to work cooperatively with state and local law enforcement officers.

We believe one of the biggest controls or checks to make sure that Brady is followed is if that chief of police in some town in the U.S. doesn't do a Brady check, and that convicted felon purchases a firearm and hurts someone you know or someone in the town or someone in the community, that's a tremendous chilling effect, a tremendous check, a tremendous encouragement to make sure that people follow Brady. But beyond that, the law, as I understand it -- and I've just been reading memos recently; there's a question as to what action, if any, can be taken if a law enforcement officer in a particular state says I just don't want to do a check, I don't want to take reasonable steps or reasonable efforts --

Q You mean you don't have the authority?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Authority in terms of we have authority at Treasury over the federal firearms licence dealer. That's who we have control over. So at Treasury we don't have authority over the particular chief of police requiring him or requiring her to do it. But you can see that a lot of people are doing it. So if there's a possibility that one police officer or one county isn't doing it, I guess that's theoretically possible.

Q Does Justice have any authority over that?

Q Is the death penalty posing an obstacle to passage of the crime bill? That has been true traditionally. I guess the death penalty is in the Senate bill. There's opposition to it in the House.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I don't think so. I think everybody understands that there are provisions that they may oppose, but we are trying to work together to fashion a balanced bill that meets both the desires and appropriate aims for punishment and prevention.

In answer to your question, we are working -- want to work with state and local law enforcement to make sure that the Brady Bill is enforced as appropriate. And I think working together, explaining what can be done when you identify the number of people who are denied weapons, we can have an impact.

Q Will expansion of the death penalty, though, wind up being part of this compromise? What will happen to it?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Yes, I believe it will.

Q Can you just explain -- there were 50 denied in Dallas for reasons other than criminal history. What are the reasons? Are these all drug addicts?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: No, there are a number of reasons. You can be mentally unstable. You could have been --

Q I know, but you don't know what they are?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I don't have it for you, but I can provide it to you later, okay. Thank you.

Q General, in view of yesterday's action by the Supreme Court on the insanity defense, what's your position on that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: One thing I learned long ago is to never comment on a Supreme Court opinion until I've read it, and I haven't had a chance to read it.

Q -- it wasn't even a statement, it was just they wouldn't take the case. They let the Montana court ruling stand.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, the dumbest thing anybody can do is comment on a case when they haven't read it.

Q Is the Justice Department involved in the Colosio investigation at all? Can you answer that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I can't.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 10:40 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 29, 1994

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE MICKEY KANTOR

The Briefing Room

3:33 P.M. EST

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Let me begin by reiterating on behalf of the United States government what the President and Ambassador Mondale indicated in the last two days -- that we are deeply saddened at the tragic murder of two students in Los Angeles this past weekend, one a Japanese American and the other a Japanese citizen. Our hearts go out to their families. We deplore the continuing violence in our cities that have taken the lives of so many of our people.

The government of Japan issued a package of economic reform measures yesterday -- macroeconomics, sectoral and structural. We have reviewed these measures and they do not meet the concerns the President raised on February 11 during his meeting with Prime Minister Hosokawa. We agree with Japan's Chamber of Commerce, the Japanese Federation of Bankers, and the Japanese press, that the package of measures is of limited substance and appears to be half-finished work. There appears to be agreement in Japan that the plan does not present concrete steps toward resolving the issues raised by President Clinton.

We are not discouraged. The government of Japan has described this as a first step, and we see it as a work in progress. We had indicated that an enhanced package would be a necessary step to reopening discussions under the framework. This was not that package.

However, as the President has said, our door remains open. We will continue to work closely with Japan at the GATT and in APEC and on other economic issues. We also look forward to continuing close cooperation on security and strategic issues.

I'd be happy to take questions.

Q Did the President express his views directly to the Prime Minister?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: They spoke, and the President indicated, of course, that at that point we had not reviewed the package and that, of course, we would review it carefully and closely.

Q How are you getting word back to Japan? And what -- does that mean, is the ball still in Japan's court to move forward?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: I think the Japanese government itself has indicated that the ball remains in that court by saying this is just a first step. As I said, we're not discouraged. Our door remains open. However, I would only indicate that the Japanese press and business community seems to be united in believing that this step is not enough to reopen these talks.

Q There was a speech at the Chamber of Commerce today by Assistant Secretary Len Moy* in which he suggested that the administration was looking at the possibility of selective MFN sanctions, only on state-owned industries, to try to hold harmless private enterprises and Taiwan and Hong Kong. Is there any way of sorting out what would be state-owned industries and what would not? Is there any --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: There are a number of approaches that could be taken in that regard. In the main, we're trying to make sure that, of course, obligations under the President's executive order are met by the due date, meaning June 3rd. And we're continuing to look at that process.

Q What do you now think is the likelihood that the sanctions can be avoided, given the lack of any kind --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: I'd be unable to speak to that at this point. Obviously, you have to look at it at the time the executive order calls for a review.

Q Can you say what would be sufficient to start the talks again?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Well, let me mention four or five things: First of all, there needs to be a commitment to the framework agreement itself. The goal of substantially increasing market access of foreign competitive goods and services. Tangible progress towards that goal, including opening up key sectors. Using objective criteria, quantitative or qualitative or both, in order to measure the success or failure of the deregulation efforts. A movement in regulatory reform. And a significant new commitment towards macroeconomic stimulus. That would be an outline of what we're looking for.

Q Could you comment on the commitments by the Japanese auto companies this week to increase more parts -- increase their purchase of foreign-made parts? Is that the kind of thing that the United States is looking for? And could you describe, if we're looking for something else, what it is that --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: It's a step, but much of it, of course, was already committed to in the 1992 plan. Therefore, it is not as large as we might have expected. And, of course, we are concerned that the government of Japan is not involved in these so-called voluntary efforts.

Q When you say the door is open, would you accept any sort of Japanese official as negotiator to sort of sort out the difference between the two elements until or before June?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Well, it depends what happens. And, of course, we're always open for new proposals and the steps beyond step one. The Japanese government has made it clear there are other steps to come, and we will look at those and review those carefully when and if they are offered.

Q What about the negotiator? If they so wish to send negotiators to talk to your government --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Well, they have not indicated that and we will meet that when, of course, that occurs, if and when it does occur. But we have no indication from the Japanese government in that regard.

Q Do you have any comment on the Japanese decision to lift -- to remove the -- further strains on oil exports --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Well, this is, of course, a unilateral decision, as it always has been, on the part of Japan. Therefore, it's been up to Japan each year to either reinitiate what we call VERs, voluntary restraints on automobile and truck imports into the United States or not. As I understand at least the public statements by Mr. Kumagai, they've decided not to do that. I would only indicate that, of course, their sales -- our imports into the United States have been much lower than the VER over the past two years.

Q What did you find most promising? Is there anything -- the deregulation insurance that's promising, or can you give us some --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: There were some steps forward in the government procurement area. However, other than reiterating some of the positions that were taken just prior to February 11, and up to 4:00 a.m. in the morning on February 11 in the auto insurance sectors, there was no movement.

Q And what about the stimulus package? Is that still to iffy and still too based on political developments yet to come?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: There were no significant new commitments in the stimulus area.

Q What about on regulatory reform? You mentioned that as one of the criteria. There's a lot of mention of regulatory reform in what's in the package that was put out in Tokyo.

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: It's broad and general and doesn't come down to the specific areas in which we have as you know initial concern; that is, in the government procurement area, medical technology and telecommunications, auto and auto parts and insurance in other areas. So we look forward to more specifics.

And as has been stated, frankly, the Japan Chamber of Commerce who said -- and industry chairman, Mr. Anaba, who said the program contains little substance. And the Federation of Bankers Association Chairman Akuto, said that the package just set out the directions for further steps and must be fleshed out quickly.

So this is something where I think there's general agreement that the package falls short.

Q Ambassador Kantor, aren't you worried that -- this is only a first step for Japan -- and aren't you worried you're going to discourage the Japanese government from trying anything else?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: No, we're not discouraged, and we said our door is open and we're prepared to work with our ally on this.

Q You didn't mention any redeeming qualities of the package. Do the Japanese get any points for trying, or does this just fall so flat that you don't even feel they deserve that much?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: I think we welcome any step towards trying to address these issues. However, this does not address our concerns. It's not a matter of points, this is not about winning or losing. It's about trying to address a mutually difficult issue which has been the subject of conversations for a long time between these two countries. We, of course, are determined that both countries should live up to their obligations under the framework agreement, and that's what we're going to insist upon.

Q If they can't come up with some new initiatives in the areas that you outlined, would you welcome other types of

measures like strong yen policy, interest rate changes, other types of fiscal stimulus or the extension of the tax --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Well, on that, let me just say, we welcome significant new commitments in the macroeconomic area which were not forthcoming. Second, of course, we are, of course, serious and committed in terms of opening up the Japanese economy to foreign competitive goods and services -- not just U.S. goods and services. So we're looking for both, and that's what the framework, of course, calls upon both countries to accomplish.

Q You don't want any window dressing with foreign exchange --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: As the President said on February 11, we don't want cosmetic agreements. We're not going to paper over our differences. We want to have agreements that are going to make a real difference.

Q Have you made any arrangement with the Japanese to go back and do you expect the Japanese to make another proposal? Are there any negotiations scheduled? Can you give us any sense of --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: No.

Q -- what the next step is?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: No.

Q I want to make sure I understand. Are you convinced that the Japanese put forward this package believing that it would be acceptable?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: You'd have to ask the Japanese government. Obviously, I can't speak for them in this regard, I can only speak for the government of the United States. But it's clear that this package is not acceptable to the five leading newspapers in the Japanese area -- in the Tokyo area -- as well as the Japanese business community, and it has not met our concerns here in the United States as well.

Q But Mr. Hosokawa has known through negotiations what would be acceptable. So --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: As I said, I would be not qualified to speak for the Japanese government on this subject. I would suggest you ask the Japanese government that question.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 3:45 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Dallas, Texas)

For Immediate Release March 26, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE POOL

Scottish Rites Hospital
Dallas, Texas

8:22 A.M. CST

Q Mr. President, what's the message from this part of the visit?

THE PRESIDENT: Did you see the people we saw outside?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: The people we saw outside either don't have coverage, or they're afraid of losing it. These children got this care because this hospital is open to all children, and gives all children great care, without regard to their income. But not all children have access to hospitals like this.

So the message is that all families with children should have some insurance coverage so they can get health care; and so they can be well like this. It was great.

Q How are the wedding preparations going?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. We're excited.

END 8:25 A.M. CST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Dallas, Texas)

For Immediate Release March 26, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION

Scottish Rites Hospital
Dallas, Texas

9:06 A.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This morning I'm speaking to you from Dallas, Texas, courtesy of station KRLD in Dallas, and from the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children -- one of the finest pediatric medical centers in America. Today in the audience we have parents and children who have been patients here. I want to thank the president of the hospital, J.C. Montgomery, and Dr. Tony Herring and all the others who gave Hillary and me such a wonderful tour today.

Places like Scottish Rite don't ask children with severe disabilities or serious illnesses, can you pay? They just ask, how can I help? The wonderful team of doctors, nurses and other hospital workers here take all children in need. That's what we want for all of America.

Last Wednesday at the White House, Sister Bernice Coreil, a member of the Sisters of Charity -- the religious order that runs the largest nonprofit hospital system in America -- spoke about health care in a way seldom heard in the nation's capital. She pushed all the politics and complex arguments aside and said health care is about basic human values, about honoring the intrinsic value of every person.

She knows, as so many health professionals do, that if we don't do something now, the future of health care is in trouble in America, because more Americans are losing their health coverage or can't get it because someone in their family has been sick; because more people with coverage are losing the right to choose their doctors or their health plans; because more of our hospitals are in trouble.

Without change, the future of health care will include less choice and bigger bills and maybe lower quality, too. Instead of health care being available to all Americans, more Americans are losing their health coverage every month.

How can we change? How can we keep what's best about our system -- our wonderful caregivers, our wonderful medical research system -- and fix what's wrong -- the fact that there aren't enough places like this Scottish Rite Hospital, that too many people are losing their coverage, that the financing system is a bureaucratic nightmare full of unfairness? I think we can do better simply by building on what works in the current system -- using the workplace to guarantee private insurance for every American. It is the foundation of our plan.

Just a few days ago, the first of many committees considering health care reform in Congress approved a plan like ours, covering every American. In spite of all the special interest and t.v. ads, the committee made an important statement. After 60 years of gridlock, the American people are being heard. They want us to take care of their important business, like health care reform; and now we're beginning to do that.

MORE

The administration's approach to health care reform is straightforward -- guarantee private insurance for every American that can never be taken away. And we want to be careful to base our approach on the best of American values. Guaranteed private insurance, making sure everyone has good health care -- not only those who can pay whatever it costs -- is the ticket to opportunity.

When our plan passes, and your health care can never be taken away, that means you'll be able to change jobs, move, start a small business without worrying that your health care or your family's health will be threatened. Just this morning I met a fine couple here with twin boys. The boys have some undiagnosed medical difficulties, but they cannot get any health insurance because of that. The father and the mother have been under great stress and great difficulty. If it weren't for this hospital, and others like it, I don't know what families like that would do. We can do better.

In addition to guaranteed private insurance, we want the freedom for all Americans to make choices in the American tradition -- guaranteeing the right to choose a doctor and an insurance plan. We trust the American people with the freedom to choose every year rather than leaving that choice to an employer or an insurance company.

Third, health reform in our plan is about fairness, correcting abuses in the insurance practices today. No more denying people insurance because they are sick; no more lifetime limits that cut off coverage when you need it the most; no more higher rates for the elderly, or for small employers, or self-employed people and farmers. These things aren't fair, and Americans deserve fairness.

Fourth, health care reform is about keeping faith with those who came before us. We preserve and protect Medicare without reservation or exception. Older Americans simply must be able to continue to rely on Medicare and to choose their own doctor. We do want to cover prescription drugs under Medicare for the first time, and provide the elderly and chronically ill children or disabled Americans of all ages the chance to get some long-term care in their home or in their community if they need it.

Finally, health care is about responsibility, about rewarding those who work. Under our approach, you get your insurance through work. Most jobs already have health care, why shouldn't all of them? Eight out of ten Americans without insurance belong to working families. We should always reward work in America, and the right to health care should be part of that reward. Opportunity, freedom and fairness; honoring the senior citizens and those who take responsibility -- these are the values that have helped to build America, and they are at the heart of our health care proposal.

This weekend marks the arrival of Palm Sunday and Passover. It's a special week of reflection for everyone of the Jewish and Christian faiths. A time when we step back from the concerns of daily life and think more deeply about our religious traditions and the values they teach us.

Sitting in this wonderful hospital for children, I'm reminded that providing health care and the peace of mind that comes with it is also a practical expression of our deepest faith and ideals. The wonderful doctors and nurses and volunteers here at Scottish Rite Hospital for Children take in every child. No family has been charged; they live our best values. But they'd be the first to tell you that more than 9 million American children have no health insurance and most don't have access to a hospital like this.

That's not right, and health care reform is about doing what's right; about having compassion and bestowing dignity

on each of us as God's children. These are enduring values, the source of the moral authority that has made our nation great. And they are the lessons each of us, in our own way, can take from Easter and Passover. With these values to guide us, I know we'll succeed.

Thank you for listening.

END 9:12 A.M. CST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

March 26, 1994

INTERVIEW OF GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS
BY PAUL COHEN OF CNN

The Roosevelt Room

Q You wake up this morning, you open your newspaper and there's your name splashed along the headlines. What was your reaction?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I mean, it wasn't pleasant. I would have preferred to sleep in this morning and maybe go out and just relax this afternoon. But, you know, it's part of the game.

Q Are you concerned?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Not particularly. I mean, I'm just going to do my job. That's what I was sent here to do and that's what I'm doing.

Q Let's go through just a few of the charges that were listed in a few news magazines and the newspaper. Did you or Mr. Ickes ever try to influence the RTC to get rid of Jay Stevens?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Let me tell you what happened that day. First of all, it was a very busy day here at the White House. I don't know if you remember, but it was the day of the Hebron massacre, and we were having congressional meetings on Aldrich Ames and congressional meetings on health care. I was in many meetings that day. I had lots of phone calls on the fly. It was very hectic.

What I do remember is that at some point during that afternoon I had a conversation with Josh Steiner. In the course of that conversation he told me that Roger Altman had decided to recuse himself from the RTC matter and had told that to The New York Times. During the course of that conversation I also asked Josh Steiner how Jay Stevens, a political opponent of the President, had come to be retained by the RTC. I was very puzzled by this decision and I blew off steam because I thought it was unfair. Jay Stevens was an outspoken political opponent of the President. He was considering running for the Republican Senate nomination in Virginia. But once I got the facts from Josh about the retention, that ended the matter as far as I was concerned.

All I remember about the conversation with Mr. Altman was that we asked Mr. Altman to explain his decision to recuse himself from all of the matters, and I suggested that as a courtesy to the President he write the President a note explaining the decision. That's all I remember about the conversation.

Q You say you talked to Mr. Steiner about Mr. Stevens. Did you also talk to Mr. Altman about Mr. Stevens?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't remember talking to Mr. Altman about Mr. Stevens. It was, as I said, a very hectic day. That's what I remember about the conversation.

Q You know, you're quoted saying that Stevens was an outrageous choice and asking whether -- quote -- "anything can be done about that." Is that accurate?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know if I'm quoted saying that. What I remember about the conversations is what I told you.

Q Did you initiate the calls yourself or did the President ask you to make the calls?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President did not ask me to make any phone calls. As far as initiating the phone calls, I really don't remember who called who.

Q Weren't you concerned, though, that they might appear to be improper even if the President didn't authorize them?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I was called -- or was talking, first of all, about Mr. Altman's recusal, which had already been conveyed to The New York Times. In the course of that conversation I asked how Jay Stevens had been retained. Do I wish now that I hadn't have gotten angry, that I hadn't blown off steam? Of course, I do. I wish I hadn't gotten angry. But I was just trying to get information.

Q What do you believe is behind all of this? Why are these reports surfacing now?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I wish I knew. That's a question for you to find out. I'm just going to go on and do my job.

Q Is it possible that Republican holdovers at the RTC are somehow trying to damage the President by either leaking information or by hiring somebody like Mr. Stevens?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, that's a good question for investigative reporters, for you to go answer. I think you should. And we'll see what happens.

Q Have they informed you that you're part of an investigation?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No.

Q So you learned of this when -- of these reports?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: When I got the press calls yesterday.

Q Any possibility that you might consider stepping down?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No.

Q That's basically all I had to ask. Anything else you want to add?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No. Thanks a lot.

Q Thanks for your time. Appreciate it.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks, Paul.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 25, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE

The South Lawn

11:30 A.M. EST

Q Mr. President, why are you going to Fort Bragg?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm going down there because it was a very, very serious accident. A lot of our servicepeople lost their lives; many, many others were quite seriously injured. And I just want to go down there and visit the hospital and express my concerns to the people who are still hospitalized and to their families and all the people at Fort Bragg for the losses they suffered. I think it's an appropriate thing to do.

Q How do you feel about last night, Mr. President? Do you think you put some of this Whitewater business behind you?

THE PRESIDENT: I just tried to answer the questions, and I felt good about it. I did my best to answer the questions. I feel good about it.

Q -- Mr. President, how you could have forgotten about a $20,000 loan and check to your mother to buy a --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think what happened was -- keep in mind, all this happened in the heat of the '92 campaign. And they just said is there any way any of these checks from Madison could have come from some -- been about something else. I said, I don't think so. And what happened was, when I read my mother's autobiography, I said, you know, that's right, I did help her buy that place. And then -- so Hillary and I were talking, so we asked for the checks. And when I saw the check, then I realized that that's where it had come from.

But when Jim McDougal said that, that he was sure that it didn't have anything to do with Madison, that's what got me to thinking about it. Then I saw it in the book. Then we asked for the check stub; that's how we verified it. So it just happened that way.

You know, keep in mind, keep in mind, when I was first asked about this back in '92, just off the top of my head, I said we lost money, but I don't think it was a great deal. I thought -- I think I'm quoted in '92 saying I thought we'd lost about $25,000, just from memory. So apparently, we lost quite a bit more than that.

Q Are you positive the tax returns that are being released today will clear the air on this matter?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they certainly ought to. Like I said, I always did what I think most Americans do, I gave all my records every year to my accountant. They were normally very simple returns. I didn't have a lot of complicated things on them. And we've given them out, all the way back to '77 now. So you guys have got them; you can do what you want to with them.

Q Why were you so reluctant to release them, Mr. President?

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 11:35 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Air Force One)

For Immediate Release March 25, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE

Womack Army Medical Center
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

2:36 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I'd like to thank General Shelton and General Steele and General Davis for welcoming me here and for giving me an opportunity, not only to review the site of the crash, but also to go into this hospital and to see, not only a good number of the soldiers who were injured, but also the people who have been up virtually non-stop for the last two days caring for them.

I found it deeply moving. In the first place, the morale of the people who have been burned and injured is high. Their pride in their work and in their country is very strong. And what everybody said about the quality of care they've gotten and the outpouring of effort that has been made to help them deal with their problems has been very moving. Person after person after person said, you know, I just can't wait to get back to my work. I'm ready to serve again.

It was a deeply moving thing. I'm very grateful to them for their service, and to all of those who have cared so well for them.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us what you talked about, or what you said to some of those who you saw today?

MR. PRESIDENT: A lot of times we just made small talk. I asked them where they were from, how long they had been in the army, what happened. They talked about it a little bit.

I was especially moved -- I met a man and his wife who were both in the incident, both in the service, both injured. The man was injured because he was putting the fire out on his wife. And a lot of these young people were injured because they,

instead of taking themselves to safety, were trying to help others who were being burned.

It was a very -- I wish everyone in America could have seen the faces, the eyes, the spirit of these people, they would realize how fortunate we are to be served by men and women like this who are both brave and selfless, and with no concern other than just to get back to their lives and to their duty. I mean, it is very, very moving. I'm very glad I came; I'm glad I had the opportunity to see this, and again, profoundly grateful to the people in this fine hospital who are taking such good care of them.

Q Is this one of the worst incidents you've seen?

MR. PRESIDENT: It was a serious problem, but they've handled it magnificently, I think.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 2:39 P.M. EST

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release: March 25, 1994

The President signed the following Passover message today.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PASSOVER, 1994

Heartfelt greetings to all who are gathered to celebrate Passover.

This joyous festival of liberation reminds all of us of the importance of freedom. The Passover seder, filled with its symbols of confinement and liberty, of pain and joy, has served as a means of teaching each new generation the story of the Jews' liberation from slavery in Egypt. As children learn the ancient account, they understand that freedom is something for which we must continuously struggle and that we must always cherish.

Human history is filled with chronicles of peoples throwing off the shackles of their oppressors to embrace the causes of justice and equality. As new nations begin their journeys to a "promised land," the lessons of Passover echo in every corner of the Earth. They teach us that while we must be thankful for the freedom we have, we must also remember all those in the world who still yearn to know its many gifts. This year, let us rededicate ourselves to extending the blessings of liberty to all who seek it.

During this historic season of renewal and peace, Hillary and I extend warm wishes for a memorable and meaningful Passover.

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 25, 1994

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 1994

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In voicing support of the Greek battle for independence, President Monroe expressed the American sense of fellowship that endures to this day, "A strong hope has been entertained, founded on the heroic struggle of the Greeks . . . that Greece will become again an independent nation. That she may obtain that rank is the object of our most ardent wishes."

Throughout the history of our sovereign nations, the unique bond that exists between the peoples of the United States and Greece has grown from the knowledge that we share a common cause -- our profound devotion to advancing the ideals of democracy. Drawing on the wisdom of Hellenic philosophy, America's Founding Fathers crafted a Nation that realizes the early promise of representative government. From the gleaming white columns of ancient Athens to the shining monuments of Washington, D.C., the spirits and symbols of our capital cities reflect our deeply-held commitment to promoting individual freedom and human dignity.

This year, as Americans and Greeks rejoice in witnessing the formation of new democracies where old adversaries once stood, the traditional celebration of Greek Independence Day reveals the true legacy of Greek and American liberty. To mark both the triumph of freedom and the coming of spring in their rich land, one custom prescribes that Greek children remove the "March-thread" they have worn on their wrists throughout the month. As the swallows return from their winter in the South, the children hang the threads on a tree, an offering to the birds for their nests. These ties, once a reminder of the bleakness of winter, become the seeds of springtime's rebirth.

In much the same way, brave young nations around the world are throwing off the last vestiges of authoritarian rule and awakening to the rich possibilities of freedom's spring. They are emerging from their own fierce campaigns for independence and modeling their governments on the steady examples we have set. Encouraged by the triumphs of our histories and the continuity of our friendship, Greeks and Americans everywhere join today in wishing the world's newest democracies a future worthy of our past -- one of great prosperity and lasting peace.

In recognition of the close bond that has been forged between the nations of the United States and Greece, and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which they draw their strength, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 162, has designated March 25, 1994, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 25, 1994, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy. I call upon all Americans to observe this day, the 173rd anniversary of the beginning of the Greek revolution against the Ottoman Empire, with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of the Greek people and Greek independence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 25, 1994

EXECUTIVE ORDER

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TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and section 135(c)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2155(c)(1)) ("Act"), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established in the Office of the United States Trade Representative ("Trade Representative") the "Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee" ("Committee").

Sec. 2. Membership. (a) The Committee shall consist of not more than 35 members, including, but not limited to, representatives from environmental interest groups, industry (including the environmental technology and environmental services industries), agriculture, services, non-Federal government, and consumer interests. The Committee should be broadly representative of the key sectors and groups of the economy with an interest in trade and environmental policy issues.

(b) The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee from among its members. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Trade Representative, in consultation with the Cabinet secretaries described in section 2155(c)(1) of title 19, United States Code, for a term of 2 years and may be reappointed for any number of terms. Appointments to the Committee shall be made without regard to political affiliation. Any member may be removed at the discretion of the Trade Representative.

Sec. 3. Functions. (a) The Committee shall provide the Trade Representative with policy advice on issues involving trade and the environment.

(b) The Committee shall submit a report to the President, to the Congress, and to the Trade Representative at the conclusion of negotiations for each trade agreement referred to in section 102 of the Act. The report shall include an advisory opinion on whether and to what extent the agreement promotes the interests of the United States.

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(OVER)

(c) The Committee may establish such subcommittees of its members as it deems necessary, subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the approval of the Trade Representative, or his designee.

(d) The Committee shall report its activities to the Trade Representative, or his designee.

Sec. 4. Administration. (a) The Trade Representative, or his designee, with the advice of the Chairman, shall be responsible for prior approval of the agendas for all Committee meetings.

(b) The Trade Representative, or his designee, shall be responsible for determinations, filings, and other administrative requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

(c) (1) The Trade Representative shall provide funding and administrative and staff support for the Committee.

(2) The Committee shall have an Executive Director who shall be a Federal officer or employee designated by the Trade Representative.

(d) Members of the Committee shall serve without either compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

(e) The Committee shall meet as needed at the call of the Trade Representative or his designee, depending on various factors such as the level of activity of trade negotiations and the needs of the Trade Representative, or at the call of two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

Sec. 5. General. The Committee shall function for such period as may be necessary. In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Committee shall terminate after 2 years from the date of this order unless otherwise extended.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
March 25, 1994.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release **March 25, 1994**

PRESIDENT NOMINATES THREE U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

The President has nominated three individuals to serve on the U.S. District Court. They are: R. Samuel Paz for the Central District of California; Paul D. Borman for the Eastern District of Michigan; and Denny Chin for the Southern District of New York.

"I am pleased to nominate these distinguished individuals to serve on the federal bench," the President said. "Each has demonstrated a strong commitment to equal justice for all Americans."

R. Samuel Paz, 51, has been in private practice under the firm name of Law Offices of R. Samuel Paz since 1987. Prior to the formation of that firm, he was a partner with the law firm of Romero, Paz, Rodriguez & Sanora. He has also been an Adjunct Professor at Loyola Law School since 1990. Paz received a B.A. degree from the University of California at Los Angeles and a J.D. degree from the University of Southern California. He resides in Alhambra, California, with his wife Angela Weimer.

Paul D. Borman, 55, has served as the Chief Federal Defender with the Legal Aid & Defender Association of Detroit since 1979. Previously, he was an Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, a Professor of Law and Assistant Dean at Wayne State University Law School, and an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. He has also served as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Michigan Law School since 1981. Borman received a B.A. degree from the University of Michigan, a J.D. degree from the University of Michigan Law School, and an LL.M. degree from Yale Law School. He resides in West Bloomfield, Michigan, with his wife Carolyn Fried Borman.

Denny Chin, 39, has been in the practice of law with the firm of Valdeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard since 1990. Prior to joining that firm, he was a partner in the law firm of Campbell, Patrick & Chin and worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law since 1986. Chin received a B.A. degree from Princeton University and a J.D. degree from Fordham University School of Law. He resides in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Kathy Hirata Chin.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 25, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

In light of a decision of the United States Court of Appeals that the recordkeeping status of the National Security Council (NSC) must now, for the first time, be addressed, the Justice Department today filed a brief in federal district court demonstrating that the NSC is a Presidential entity not appropriately considered an "agency" subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). At the same time, the President directed the NSC to establish procedures for access by the public to appropriate NSC records.

The brief was filed in federal district court in the District of Columbia in the case Armstrong v. Executive Office of the President. In August 1993, the Court of Appeals remanded the case to the district court to determine the NSC's status under federal records statutes. The Court of Appeals noted that this question had not been determined by the courts.

As explained in the government's brief, the answer to this question is straightforward. The structure and functions of the NSC as set forth in the National Security Act of 1947, and the duties that every President has assigned to the Council through Presidential Directives and Executive Orders, demonstrate that the NSC and its staff exist solely to advise and assist the President in the discharge of his core constitutional responsibilities.

The President directed Anthony Lake, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and William Itoh, Executive Secretary of the NSC, to continue voluntarily the practice of making appropriate NSC documents available to the public. The President noted that he "strongly support(s) the policy of past Administrations of permitting public access to certain NSC records, and of leaving certain NSC records to the incoming Administration in order to ensure a smooth transition on national security matters".

The Administration's actions today will thus permit the NSC to continue the tradition of treating most NSC records as Presidential, while at the same time permitting the NSC to subject other records to public access requests under standards similar to the FOIA.

# # #

The White House

Office of The Press Secretary

For Immediate Release
Contact:

March 25, 1994
Lorrie McHugh
202-456-2566

Cabinet-level Health Care Activity
March 25 -- April 9

The following Cabinet-level officials will be traveling across the country to discuss the President's approach to health care reform.

As of March 24, thirty-five senior Administration officials will participate in more than seventy Health Care Events during the Congressional recess. This list will be updated as information becomes available.

Attached, please find a comprehensive Health Care travel schedule for the Cabinet and other senior Administration officials.

Reporters wishing to cover these events should call the respective contacts and confirm event times and sites. This schedule is subject to change and is not meant to be comprehensive.

DAYBOOK EDITORS NOTE: Please list the contact name and number for each event separately.

Friday, March 25

WHO: U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell

WHAT: Health Care Event with Older Americans

WHERE: Metro Manor
1523 Quitman Street
Denver, CO

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Mark Doyle
202/586-7161

-more-

Saturday, March 26

WHO: U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Jesse Brown
Congressman Mike Synar

WHAT: Oklahoma Veterans Leaders Conference

WHERE: Oklahoma Veterans Center
3001 W. Bluestar
Claremore, Oklahoma

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Kathy Jurado
202/535-8159

Monday, March 28

WHO: U. S. Department of Labor Secretary Robert Reich

Representative Robert Andrews

WHAT: Health Care Town Hall Meeting

WHERE: Seminar Room
Chandler County Community College
Little Gloucester Road
Blackwood, NJ

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

CONTACT: Beverly Barnes
202/219-8211

WHO: U.S. Department of Education
Secretary Richard Riley

Congressman Dale E. Kildee

WHAT: Tour of Childrens Health Care Center

WHERE: AJA Stepanski Early Childhood Center
6010 Hatchery Road
Waterford, MI

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Kay Kahler
202/401-2571

-more-

Tuesday, March 29

WHO: Small Business Administration
Administrator Erskine Bowles
Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard

WHAT: Health Care Town Hall Meeting
"The Impact of The President's Health Plan on Small Business"

WHERE: City of Commerce Council Chamber
5655 Jillson Street
Commerce, CA 90040

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Nicole Elkon
202/205-6905

WHO: Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Donna Shalala
Senator Herbert H. Kohl, Cong. Gerald Kleczka

WHAT: Health Care Forum

WHERE: 16th Street Community Health Center
16th Street
Milwaukee, WI

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

CONTACT: Avis Lavelle
202/690-7850

-more-

Tuesday, March 29

WHO: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Jesse Brown
Congresswoman Lynn Schenk

WHAT: Health Care Forum With Veterans and Veterans Service Organizations

Tour of VA Medical Center

WHERE: San Diego VAMC
3350 La Jollo Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Kathy Jurado
202/535-8159

WHO: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Jesse Brown
Congressman Robert Filner

WHAT: Veterans Health Care Event

WHERE: Veterans Memorial Center Balboa Park
San Diego, CA

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

CONTACT: Kathy Jurado
202/535-8159

WHO: U.S. Department of Treasury Secretary Bentsen
Senator Harris Wofford

WHAT: Visit to Community Health Clinic

WHERE: TBD, Pennsylvania

TIME: Morning Event

CONTACT: Howard Schloss
202/622-0136

-more-

Tuesday, March 29

WHO: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Secretary Mike Espy

WHAT: Visit to nutrition feeding center

WHERE: TBD

TIME: TBD, Missouri

CONTACT: Steve Kinsella
202/720-4623

Wednesday, March 30

WHO: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Jesse Brown
Congressman J.J. Pickle

WHAT: Health Care Reform Speech to Veterans

WHERE: VFW Post 8787
500 VFW Drive
Austin, TX

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Kathy Jurado
202/535-8159

WHO: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Donna Shalala
Congressman Jim Slattery

WHAT: Tour of Onaga Community Hospital

WHERE: Onaga Community Hospital
120 West 8th Street
Onaga, KS

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

CONTACT: Avis Lavelle
202/690-7850

-more-

Thursday, March 31

WHO: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Donna Shalala
Congressman Dan Glickman

WHAT: Health Care Reform Town Hall Meeting

WHERE: Winfield High School Auditorium
Winfield, KS

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Avis Lavelle
202/690-7850

WHO: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Donna Shalala
Senator Barbara Feinstein

WHAT: Tour and Health Care Reform Discussion

WHERE: San Francisco General Hospital
San Francisco, CA

TIME: 9:45 a.m.

CONTACT: Avis Lavelle
202/690-7850

- Also on March 31, Vice President Al Gore will travel to Philadelphia, PA and participate in a Health Care Reform Event with older Americans.

- Small Business Administration Administrator Erskine Bowles - Congresswoman Blanche Lambert. Health Care Event in Arkansas.

-more-

Friday, April 1

WHO: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Donna Shalala
Congressman Vick Fazio

WHAT: Rural Health Care Town Hall Meeting

WHERE: Woodland Opera House
Maine Street
Woodland, CA

TIME: 12:55 p.m.

CONTACT: Avis Lavelle
202/690-7850

-more-

The following is a list of Cabinet-level officials who are scheduled to travel from April 1 to April 9 on Health Care Reform. Further detail on the events will be available at a later date.

Friday, April 1

- Transportation Secretary Federico Pena - Congressman Barcia. Health Care Discussion with Employees at the GM Plant in Saginaw, Michigan.

Monday, April 4

- Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala - Congressman Mike Synar. Health Care Event in Oklahoma.

- Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala - Congressman Ralph Hall. Health Care Event in Texas.

Tuesday, April 5

- Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala - Congressman William Jefferson & Congressman Cleo Fields. Health Care Event in Louisiana.

Wednesday, April 6

- Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt - Congressman Sam Farr. Health Care Event in California.

- Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown - Senator Paul Wellstone. Tour a Veteran Affairs Medical Center and Health Care Discussion with Veteran Service Organizations in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

- Labor Secretary Robert Reich - Congressman Gerald Kleczka. Health Care Event in Wisconsin.

- Deputy Secretary Roger Altman - Congressman Jake Pickle. Health Care Event in Austin, Texas.

Thursday, April 7

- Deparment of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala - Congressman Frank Pallone. Health Care Event in New Jersey.

-more-

Friday, April 8, 1994

- Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown - Congressman Paul Kanjorski. Tour Wilkes-Barre Veteran Affairs Medical Facility and Health Care Discussion with Veteran Service Organizations in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

- Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown - Senator Harris Wofford. Tour Scranton New Veterans Home and Health Care Discussion with Local Veteran Service Organizations in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

- Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros. Health Care Event to be determined.

- Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary. Health Care Event in Los Angeles, California.

- Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. Health Care Reform Speech at Hunter College in New York, NY.

- Transportation Secretary Federico Pena - Congresswoman Maria Cantwell. Health Care Discussion with Fisherman in Seattle, Washington.

- Education Secretary Richard Riley - Senator Jeff Bingaman. Health Care Event in New Mexico.

Saturday, April 9

- Commerce Secretary Ron Brown - Congressman Xavier Becerra. Health Care Event in California.

-more-

The following senior Administration officials will be traveling across the country to discuss the President's approach to health care reform.

Monday, March 28, 1994

- Dena Puskin - Congressman Larry LaRocco. Satellite Health Care reform event on telemedicine: Boise, Idaho.

Tuesday, March 29, 1994

- Richard Veloz - Congressman Esteban Torres. Health Care Town Hall Meeting.

- Marilyn Yeager - Massachusetts Hospital Association. Addressing this years annual New England Chapter's Healthcare Financial Management Association.

- Walter Zelman - Participating Hospitals of Long Island Physicians Forum at Franklin General Hospital: New York.

- Bruce Vladek - HRSA Colloqium. Speaking on Health Care Reform from the perspective of HCFA. Audience consists of Physicians, nurses, psychologists, sociologists and public health administrators: Rockville, MD.

Wednesday, March 30, 1994

- Ira Magaziner - Senator David Boren. Health Care Reform Town Hall Meeting: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

- Bo Cutter. Joint Labor Management Executive Committee of the Retail Food Industry: Washington, DC.

- Risa Lavisso-Mourey - Odessa Brown Children's Clinic: Seattle, Washington.

- Elaine Weiss - WBEZ FM radio station. Live media presentation on Health Care: Chicago, IL.

- Larry Levitt - San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Conference on HIV/AIDS and Health Care Reform.

- Arnie Epstein - Health Care Forum with Congressman Ron Klink: Jeanette,Pennsylvania.

-more-

Thursday, March 31, 1994

- Glenn Hutchins - Congressman Clay Shaw. Health Care Reform Discussion with 100 business, community and health care leaders: Miami, Florida.

- Fernando Torres Gill - Congressman Esteban Torres. Health Care Town Hall Meeting: La Puente, California.

- Dr. Phil Lee - Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey. Attending a business community Health Care Forum: Petaluma, California.

- Bob Van Hook - Congressman Stenholm. Speaking at a forum sponsored also by Joe Barton and John Bryant. Health Care Reform event: Dallas, Texas

- Walter Zelman - Chesapeake General Hospital, The Virginian-Pilot and The Ledger-Star, WTKR-TV 3. Speaking at a Healthcare Reform Town Meeting: Norfolk, Virginia.

- Bruce Vladek - New England Healthcare Assembly. Speaking on HCFA's agenda and health care reform. Audience consists of executives and managers from six New England states.

- Bruce Vladek - Massachusetts Health Data Consortium. Speaking on HCFA's data capabilities and health care reform. Audience consists of Board members. 5:00-6:00 pm: Boston, Massachusetts.

- Judy Feder - Senator Murray. Roundtable discussion with leaders on Washington State health care reform at Senator Murray's office. 8:45-10:45 am: Seattle, Washington.

Friday, April 1, 1994

- Bob Van Hook - Congressman Green. Health Care Forum: Houston, Texas.

Monday, April 4, 1994

- Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober - Congressman Gibbons. Visit the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. Health Care Reform Forum for Local Veteran Service Organizations: Tampa, Florida.

-more-

- Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober - Congresswoman Thurman. Veterans Health Care Forum: Tampa, FL.

- Jonathan Silver - Congressman Jim Chapman. Town Hall meeting: East Texas.

- Judy Feder - Brookings Institution seminar on US policymaking and issues in national and international affairs for 40 senior executives enrolled in advanced management program at MIT.

Tuesday, April 5, 1994

- Judy Feder - Senator Daschle. Charles Hall Dillon Lecture at the University of South Dakota Law School.

- Judy Feder - Senator Daschle. Health Care Reform Town Hall Meeting (site TBD).

Wednesday, April 6, 1994

- Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman - Congressman Pickle. Health Care Reform Event: Austin, Texas.

Thursday, April 7, 1994

- Christine Heenan - MCET The Mass Learn Pike. Satellite program to participate in a live broadcast consisting in 5 sessions which familiarize students with the federal legislative process through participation in testifying, researching, interviewing, debating, lobbying and amending: Washington, DC.

- Susan Blumenthal - Congressman Kleczka's. Health Care Town Hall Meeting: Wisconsin.

- Fernando Torres Gill - Congressman Bilirakis. Health Care Reform Forum: Tampa. Florida.

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Friday, April 8, 1994

- Bob Hattoy - Women of Color AIDS Council. Speaking for the first annual summit called, "Breaking the Silence: Voices of HIV Positive Women of Color Living the Reality"
- Jocelyn Elders - Women of Color AIDS Council.
- Bruce Vladek - Congressman Amo Houghton. Health Care Reform Forum: Corning, New York.

Saturday, April 9, 1994

- Arnie Epstein. Northern Neck Health Action Group. Forum on National Health Care Reform: Kilmarnock, Virginia.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 25, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON NOMINATES 8 MEMBERS TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

President Clinton today named the following 8 members to the National Council on the Arts: Trisha Brown, Ronald Feldman, Barbara Grossman, Kenneth Jarin, Leo O'Donovan, Judith Rubin, Colleen Jennings-Roggensack and Rachel Worby.

The National Council for the Arts is responsible for advising the Chairperson to the Council with respect to the policies, programs and procedures necessary for the operation of the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition, the Council shall review applications to the Endowment for grants and make recommendations thereon to the Chairperson.

TRISHA BROWN of New York
Ms. Brown is President of the Trisha Brown Dance Company, which she founded in 1970. She is the recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and an Honorary Doctorate from Oberlin College. In addition, she has received the Laurence Olivier Award for "Most Outstanding Achievement in Dance," and the Mac Arthur Foundation Fellowship for her contributions to the field of dance field.

RONALD FELDMAN of New York
Mr. Feldman is President of Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, Inc., which he has operated since 1971. The company represents 32 artists and has presented over 170 exhibitions featuring more than 250 artists. Mr. Feldman serves on the boards of numerous arts-related organizations and has served on National Endowment for the Arts review panels. In addition, he co-authored "The Future of the National Endowment for the Arts" Transition Report in 1992.

BARBARA GROSSMAN of Massachusetts
Ms. Grossman is currently an Assistant Professor of Drama at Tufts University. She was previously the owner and marketing director of The Old Cambridge Company, a framing firm catering to museums, galleries, corporations, and collectors. In addition, Ms. Grossman was previously an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Boston University and is a board member of the American Repertory Theatre, the Harvard Theatre Collection, and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. She is also active with the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Newton Choral Society, the Anti-Defamation League, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, and the Jewish Fund for Justice.

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KENNETH M. JARIN of Pennsylvania
Mr. Jarin is a partner in the Philadelphia-based law firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads. He is also president of the Board of Directors of the Concerto Soloists Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, chairman of the City of Philadelphia Recreation Coordinating Board, a member of the Mayor's Committee on Development of the Avenue of the Arts and a member of the board of the Theatre School, Inc. His firm has represented numerous arts institutions, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

LEO J. O'DONOVAN of the District of Columbia
Father O'Donovan is the President of Georgetown University where he also serves as a professor of theology. In addition to being an art critic, he has authored and edited numerous books about religion and its role in society. Father O'Donovan was a Fulbright Scholar, a Danforth Fellow, and President of the Catholic Theological Society of America.

RACHEL WORBY of West Virginia
Ms. Worby is the First Lady of the State of West Virginia and Conductor of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra. She is a committed advocate of excellence in the arts and has earned music degrees from the State University of New York and Brandeis University.

JUDITH O. RUBIN of New York
Ms. Rubin is currently a member of the New York State Council on the Arts and the Mayor's Commission for Protocol in the City of New York. She is also a past President and current Board Member of the 92nd Street YM-YWHA, a nationally known cultural and community center. She is Chairman of the Board of Playwrights Horizons, an acclaimed not-for-profit theatre and has served on several review panels for the National Endowment for the Arts.

COLLEEN JENNINGS-ROGGENSACK of Arizona
Ms. Jennings-Roggensack is Executive Director of Public Events at Arizona State University and President of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. She is also a member of the Board of Arizonans for Cultural Development, the American Arts Alliance and has served on the Consortium of Black Organizers for the Arts and the Black Caucus of the American Association of Higher Education.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 25, 1994

March 25, 1994

Presidential Determination
No. 94-19

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
UNITED STATES ENRICHMENT CORPORATION

SUBJECT: Authorization to Make an Advance Payment for the Purchase of Highly Enriched Uranium from Russia

On February 18, 1993, the Government of the United States and the Government of the Russian Federation entered into an agreement to arrange the safe and prompt disposition for peaceful purposes of highly enriched uranium extracted from nuclear weapons as a result of the reduction of nuclear weapons in accordance with existing agreements in the area of arms control and disarmament. On January 14, 1994, the United States Enrichment Corporation, as Executive Agent of the United States, entered into the initial implementing contract pursuant to the February 18, 1993, agreement for the purchase of low-enriched uranium derived from highly enriched uranium extracted from nuclear weapons.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and section 3324(b)(2) of title 31 of the United States Code, and having decided that an advance of public money is necessary to carry out both the duties of the disbursing official promptly and faithfully and the obligation of the United States Government pursuant to the initial implementing contract executed on January 14, 1994, I authorize an advance of public money to be made to the disbursing official for the purpose of providing payment to the Government of the Russian Federation or its designated agent, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the initial implementing contract.

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the Federal Register.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release: March 25, 1994

Washington attorney Alan Kriegel received a subpoena on behalf of White House Staff Secretary, John Podesta, to testify before the Grand Jury being conducted by Special Counsel Robert Fiske.

"I look forward to fully cooperating with Mr. Fiske's inquiry," said Mr. Podesta.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 25, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Vice President Gore met with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti today to discuss the situation in Haiti. The Vice President reiterated to President Aristide the President's and Administration's unwavering commitment to the restoration of democracy in Haiti and to President Aristide's return to his country. The Vice President also reaffirmed our and the international community's commitment to provide assistance to President Aristide and the constitutional government in their difficult task of reconciling the Haitian people and rebuilding the country's economy.

The Vice President and President Aristide reviewed our diplomatic approach, which combines the maintenance and enforcement of strong sanctions with promotion of a political process involving all legitimate Haitian political elements.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 24, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE

(The South Lawn)

12:06 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Hello. I just wanted to make a brief statement. This morning, I called General Shelton at Fort Bragg and General Floyd at Pope Air Force Base to personally express my sorrow and condolences because of the tragedy yesterday, and to thank them, and through them, the members of our armed services who do the work that they do.

As I said in my statement yesterday, it's sometimes easy for those of us who enjoy the protection of the United States military to forget that it is a dangerous business, even in peace time, because of the training which must be carried out. And I think the hearts and thoughts and prayers of all Americans go out to the families of those who were killed yesterday, those who were injured, and all of those who were involved in this tragedy. We wish them only the best, and we are all thinking of them.

I'd also like to say a brief word about the tragic murder of Mr. Colosio in Mexico yesterday. As you know, I called President Salinas last night, and we had a conversation about it which was entirely personal. And, again, the United States, all of us, particularly the Vice President and I and Secretary Cisneros and others who had met Mr. Colosio, feel a great sense of loss and feel the pain of the Mexican people and the pain of his family.

The United States has done what we could do today to try to support the people of Mexico and the government by making it clear that we think that the country's institutions are fundamentally strong. There was a brief delay in the trading of Mexican securities today to give the investors the opportunity to find out the facts in the hope that we would avoid any undue movement there. That delay lasted somewhere around 30 minutes or an hour. And I think it did have a good salutary effect to make, just to make sure that the investors has all the facts and were not under any misapprehension about what had occurred. And it appears that things are proceeding normally there. So our best wishes go out to the Mexican people, and our grief and our condolence and our prayers to them in this terrible time of loss.

Q Mr. President, are there steps the United States government can or should take to try to make sure that there's stability in Mexico?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what we can do, and what I think we should have done, first of all, is to take the steps we took on the trading. Secondly, I did talk to Secretary Bentsen last night to make sure that if there was serious trading in Mexican currencies, that we could try to help to stabilize that.

But, as you know, their financial institutions were all close down today. So they took that step, and we'll just have to see whether anything else happens on that regard tomorrow. But I think things will settle down here. And I think fundamentally they are in

sound shape. And I hope that will be the case. We'll have to wait and see what happens tomorrow.

Q Mr. President, what did you tell the American Jewish leaders today about a status of a united Jerusalem?

THE PRESIDENT: I told them that the position -- I told them what I've always told you in public. I'll tell you the exact words I used: I said, my position has not changed on that issue. But my position is also that the United States and other countries should refrain from intervening in these peace talks between the parties themselves. And part of the Declaration of Principles between israel and the PLO was that the disposition of that issue would be a so-called final status issue to be resolved at the end of the talks. And I have respected that process. So I have made it clear that the United States has not changed it's position. The way we handled the resolution on the Hebron massacre in the U.N. gave us the opportunity to make that clear again. But we are trying to get these peace talks going, and we are going to let the parties make their decisions for the future of the Middle East on their own, and we are going to do everything we can to facilitate it.

Q What do you hope to accomplish in your press conference tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: Basically, I'm going to make a report to the American people about what we're trying to do up here; about the work we're doing on the crime bill, on health care, on a number of other important issues. And if I don't get to the Hill now, I'll be behind the curve on health care. So I've got to go.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 12:10 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 24, 1994

PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENT

The East Room

7:30 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Yesterday we were reminded that protecting our democracy and expanding its promise around the world can be costly and dangerous. Here at home we mourn the loss of the servicemen in the tragic aircraft accident at Hope Air Force Base, and we pray for a speedy recovery for those who were injured. This tragedy reminds us that the men and women who serve in the military put their lives at risk in the service of our nation.

In Mexico, an assassin killed Luis Donaldo Colosio, the presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party. We send our condolences and our prayers to his family. And I urge the Mexican people at this difficult time to continue their strides toward economic and political reform and progress.

With the Congress beginning its Easter recess tomorrow, this is a good time to assess the real work we are getting done on behalf of the American people. We're moving forward on our economic plan. The budget now moving through Congress, when passed, will give us three consecutive years of deficit reduction for the first time since Harry Truman was President. In 1995, we'll have the lowest budget deficit as a percentage of our annual income of any of the major industrialized countries. A recovering economy produced two million jobs last year, and we're on track to create two million more in '94.

Around the world America's efforts have helped to bring much needed calm to Sarajevo and led to an important political accord between the Bosnian Muslims and Croats. Our call for restraint has helped to start talks again in the Middle East. We will continue our efforts to stop North Korea's nuclear program, and to seek progress on human rights in China, working to build a more positive relationship with that very important nation.

This Friday, a week ahead of schedule, our troops will return home from Somalia. Because of their courageous efforts, Somalia can now build it own future. A step it made in the right direction today with the accord between the leaders of the two largest factions in that country.

Since we came here, our country has been moving in the right direction. Just today, the House of Representatives passed our legislation to limit the influence of lobbyists. Our administration is completing work on a comprehensive welfare reform proposal. We have presented to the Congress our very important reemployment proposal, to change the unemployment system to provide immediate retraining to those who lose their jobs. In a few days, with bipartisan support, the country will have an education reform law that sets national standards for our public schools. In a few weeks, Congress will pass a crime bill and put more police on the street, tougher gun laws on the books, and make three strikes and your out the law of the land.

Speaker Foley assured me last night that the crime bill will be item number one on the agenda of the House when it returns to work. And in a few months we will succeed in passing health care reform. Just yesterday, the House Subcommittee on Health passed legislation to provide health security for every American. And while there will be lots of twists and turns in the legislative process, this year Congress will pass and I will sign a health reform which guarantees health care security to every American that can never be taken away, with the right to choose a doctor, with a plan that outlaws insurance abuses -- no dropping coverage or cutting benefits; no more lifetime limits; no more raising rates just because someone in your family has been sick or some are older than others. We want to preserve and strengthen Medicare and we believe in this administration that those health benefits should be guaranteed to the workplace, building on what works today.

I know that many people around America must believe that Washington is overwhelmingly preoccupied with the Whitewater matter. But our administration is preoccupied with the business we were sent here to do for the American people. The investigation of Whitewater is being handled by an independent special counsel whose appointment I supported. Our cooperation with that counsel has been total. We have supplied over 14,000 documents, my tax returns dating back to 1978, and made available every administration witness he has sought.

I support the actions of the House and the Senate clearing the way for hearings at an appropriate time that does not interfere with Mr. Fiske's responsibilities. And I will fully cooperate with their work as well. Tomorrow I will make available my tax returns dating back to 1977 when I first held public office. Cooperation, disclosure, and doing the people's business are the order of the day.

This is the best moment we have had in decades to do the hard work on so many issues that affect not only our own progress and prosperity, but the very way we think about ourselves as a nation. The American people should know that I and my administration will not be distracted. We are committed to taking advantage of this rare moment and achieving these important goals.

Q Mr. President, you just said that you would release your taxes -- tax returns back to 1977. Questions also have been raised about whether you made money or lost money in your Whitewater investment. Do you still believe that you lost about $70,000? And do you have any reason to believe that you owe any back taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: I am certain that we lost money. I do not believe we owe any back taxes. If it is determined that we do, of course, we will pay. I am now sure that we lost something less than $70,000, based on an interview I heard on television -- or I heard about on television -- with Jim McDougal with one of the networks, where he said that he felt that one of the loans I had taken from a bank where we also borrowed money for the Land Development Corporation, he said he thought one of those was a personal loan.

And so I started racking my brain to try to remember what that might have been, and by coincidence, I was also rereading the galleys of my mother's autobiography, just fact checking it, and I noticed that she mentioned there something that I had genuinely forgotten, which is that I helped her to purchase the property and what was then a cabin on the place that she and her husband, Dick Kelley, lived back in 1981, and that I was a coowner of that property with her for just a few months. After they married, he bought my interest out.

So that's where that -- I borrowed the money to go into that investment. I paid the money back with interest. That was unrelated to Whitewater. All the other losses that we have documented to date we believe clearly are tied to the investment Hillary and I made in Whitewater. So we, in fact, lost some-$20,700 less than the Lyon's report indicated because that loan came from a different place.

And then -- or came for different purposes. And there was another $1,500 payment I made on it. So whatever the total in the Lyon's report was, you should subtract from that $20,700 and another $1,500. And we believe we can document that clearly.

Tomorrow, my counsel, David Kendall, will brief the press on the evidence that we have, what's in the tax returns. You will see when you see the tax returns that those losses were clearly there. And he will be glad to support it with other information as well.

Q Mr. President, do you know of any funds, any money -- Whitewater seems to be about money -- having gone into any of your gubernatorial campaigns or into Whitewater, particularly federally-insured money? Do you know of any money that could have gone in?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I have no knowledge of that. I have absolutely no knowledge of that.

Q President Clinton, you just mentioned James McDougal, your former business partner. A lot of questions have been raised about his business practices. Can you tell us what drew you to him to begin with, and whether or not you still have faith now that he was -- that he is an honest businessman?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can tell you that when I entered my relationship with him -- let's go back to then and not now -- I knew Mr. McDougal and had known him for many years. I met him in the late '60s when he was running Senator Fulbright's office in Arkansas. I knew that sometime around that time, perhaps later, he got into the real estate business. When I entered into this investment, it was with a person I had known many years who was in the real estate business who had never been in the S&L business or the banking business. That all happened at a later time. He had done quite well.

The reason we lost money on Whitewater is not surprising -- a lot of people did at that time. Interest rates, as you'll remember, went through the roof in the early '80s; people stopped immigrating to my state to retire at least in the numbers they had all during the '70s; and the market simply changed, so we didn't sell as many lots, and the venture was not successful. So we lost the money. Principally, the money I lost was on the interest payments I had to make on the loans, which were never reimbursed because of the venture never turned a profit.

Q Do you still believe in his honesty now and do you think that he --

THE PRESIDENT: All I can tell you, to the best of my knowledge, he was honest in his dealings with me. And that's all I can comment on. As I said, when I heard about his comments on television, since he had -- he's always told you that I had nothing to do with the management of Whitewater, that Hillary had nothing to do with it; we didn't keep the books or the records; that this investment was made, as you know, back in 1978; and that we were essentially passive investors; that none of our money was borrowed from savings and loans and we had nothing to do with a savings and loan. So that's what he has always said. So when he said he didn't think this note that I -- where I borrow money from a bank, not an

S&L, in 1981 had anything to do with Whitewater, I started thinking about it. We talked about it. We couldn't remember what else it could have been until I literally just happened to cross that in reading my mother's autobiography.

Q Mr. President, Congressman Leach made some very dramatic charges today. He said that Whitewater is really about the arrogance of power and he didn't just mean back in Arkansas. He said that federal regulators tried to stop investigators for the Resolution Trust Corporation in Kansas City from putting Whitewater into their criminal referrals. That would amount to a coverup and possibly obstruction of justice. Do you have any knowledge of that?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely not. And it is my understanding -- let me just say this: It's my understanding that Mr. Leach was rather careful in the words that he used and apparently he didn't even charge that any political appointee of our administration had any knowledge of this. So he may be talking about an internal dispute within the RTC from career Republican appointees for all I know.

Keep in mind, until I came here, all the appointees of the RTC were hired under previous Republican administrations. There has never been a Democratic President since there's been an RTC. And I can tell you categorically I had no knowledge of this and was not involved in it in any way, shape or form.

Q Well, in light of all that's happened so far, Mr. President, do you think you made any mistakes in the initial investment and in the way the White House has handled this?

THE PRESIDENT: I certainly don't think I made a mistake in the initial investment. It was a perfectly honorable thing to do, and it was a perfectly legal thing to do. And I didn't make any money, I lost money. I paid my debts. And then later on, as you know, Hillary and I tried to make sure that the corporation was closed down in an appropriate way and paid any obligations that it owed after we were asked to get involved at a very late stage, and after Mr. McDougal had left the S&L. So I don't think that we did anything wrong in that at all. And I think we handled it in an appropriate way. We were like a lot of people -- we invested money and we lost.

I'd be the last person in the world to be able to defend everything we've done here in the sense that whatever we did or didn't do has sparked an inordinate amount of interest in a 16-year-old business venture that lost money. But to suggest -- let me just say again, I have had absolutely nothing to do, and would have nothing to do, with any attempt to influence an RTC regulatory matter. And I think if you look at the actions of the RTC just since I've been President and you examine the facts that everybody that works there was appointed by a previous Republican administration, the evidence is clear that I have not done that.

Q Mr. President, you've been kind of tough at times on people you felt made out during the '80s and didn't pay their fair share. Can you tell us, sir, tonight that you have abided by the very high ethical standards --

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely.

Q -- to which you've sought to hold others? And also, sir, if it turns out that you do owe something in back taxes, will you be prepared perhaps to revise some of those judgments you've made about others?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not at all. I ask you to tell the American people what percentage of my income I paid in taxes in every

year where I reported my tax returns. And let me tell you what my wife and I spent the '80s doing -- I was the lowest-paid governor of any state in the country. I don't complain about it; I was proud of that. I didn't do it for the money. I worked on creating jobs and improving education for the children of my state. Every year I was governor, my wife worked in a law firm that had always done business with the state. She never took any money for any work she did for the state. And, indeed, she gave up her portion of partnership income that otherwise came to the firm; and instead every year gave an enormous percentage of her time to public service work -- helping children and helping education, and doing a lot of other things -- giving up a lot of income.

Now, we did that because we wanted to. The fact that we made investments, some of which we lost money on, some of which we made money on, has nothing to do whatever with the indictment that I made about the excesses of the '80s. And we always made every effort to pay our taxes. I would remind you that we, like most middle class folks, we turned our records over to an accountant. We did every -- I always told the accountant to resolve all doubts in favor of the government. I never wanted any question raised about our taxes.

When it turned out in our own investigation of this Whitewater business that one year we had inadvertently taken a tax deduction for interest payments when, in fact, it was principal payment, even though the statute of limitations had run, we went back and voluntarily paid what we owed to the federal government. And if it turns out we've made some mistake inadvertently, we will do that again. But I have always tried to pay my taxes. And you will see when you look at all the returns that we've always paid quite a considerable percentage of our income in taxes.

Q Mr. President, during the campaign you said your administration would set a higher standard. Yet, in the travel office case last year, your own Chief of Staff found some of your aides used their official position to advance their personal interests; while recently we've seen a senior White House official delinquent in Social Security taxes that disqualified others from serving in your administration, and others in the White House neglecting until recently to undergo a security clearance required of other government officials handling classified information. Why, sir, do you think it's so difficult for members of your staff to live up to your campaign promise?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, let's deal with those things, each in turn. Now, the finding was not that anybody who worked for me sought to advance themselves personally, financially in the travel office issue. That was not the finding. We found that the issue had not been well handled. And I might say, unlike other White Houses that stonewalled, denied or delayed, we did our own internal investigation and admitted what mistakes we made and took some changes -- made some changes there. I'm proud of that.

Secondly, no one was barred from serving in our administration because they hadn't paid Social Security taxes, but people were barred from serving in presidential-appointed positions that required Senate confirmation unless they complied with administration policy. Mr. Kennedy did not do that entirely, and he has been reassigned. He has been under -- he has had a difficult time, and I am convinced that he has done a lot of work that's been very valuable for us. But I think that he should not have done what he did, and I think he should fully pay. He has done that. I think that's what he should have done.

Now, on the White House passes thing, let's just talk about what the facts are. About 90 percent of the people who work here have been through all the clearances. The others are going through the clearances. I learned when I read about this that

apparently previous administrations had had some of the same problems. That is, they'd been lax because of the cumbersome nature of the process. So we've now basically put in rules that say that anybody who comes to work here now has to get all this done in 30 days or is immediately on leave without pay. They can't get paid unless they do it. I asked Mr. McLarty and Mr. Cutler to fix this and make sure it never happens again. So I feel confident that we have.

But since you raised the issue, let me also ask you to report to the American people that we have and we have enforced higher standards against ethical conflicts than any previous administration. When people leave the White House, they can't lobby the White House. If they're in certain positions, they can't lobby the White House for a long time. If they're in certain positions now, they can never lobby on behalf of a foreign government.

I have supported a campaign finance reform bill that I am hoping the Congress will pass, and I believe they will, which will change the nature of financing political campaigns. I have supported a very tough lobby reform bill which will require more disclosure and more restraint on the part of lobbyists and public officials than ever before. And we will comply with those laws.

So I think our record on balance is quite good here. And when we make mistakes, we try to admit them -- something that has not been the order of the day in the past.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. So many things have happened since this Whitewater story broke or resurfaced, depending on your point of view, your counsel has resigned, a number of your top aides have been subpoenaed because of their contacts with Treasury officials in on the investigation. I'm curious -- who do you blame more than anything else for the Whitewater mess that the administration in is now?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't think it's useful to get into blame. I think what's important is that I answer the questions that you have that are legitimate questions; that I fully cooperate with the special counsel, which was requested widely by the press and by the members of the Republican Party, and who is himself a Republican -- that we fully cooperate. And we've done that.

Senator Inouye from Hawaii pointed out today, he said, I've been experienced in these investigations. He said, you folks have claimed no executive privilege. You've fully cooperated. No one can quarrel with that.

And then I get back to the work of getting unemployment down, jobs up, passing a health care bill, passing the crime bill, moving this country forward. I think the worst thing that can happen is for me to sort of labor over who should blame -- who should be blamed for this. There will probably be enough blame to go around. I'm just not concerned about it.

Q To follow up, sir, do you feel ill served in any way by your staff?

THE PRESIDENT: I think on the -- I've told you what I think about these meetings. Now, let's go back to the facts of the meetings. We now know that Mr. Altman's counsel checked with the ethics officer in Treasury before he came over and gave the briefings to the White House. But I have said -- so it appears at least that the counsel thought that Mr. Altman had an ethical clearance to come and do this briefing. We certainly know that no one in the White House, at least to the best of my knowledge, has tried to use any information to in any way improperly influence the RTC or any federal agency.

Would it have been better if those had not occurred? Yes, I think it would have been. Do we have people here who wouldn't do anything wrong, but perhaps weren't sensitive enough to have something -- could look in retrospect by people who are used to having problems in a presidency, or used to having people not telling the truth? I think that we weren't sensitive as we should have been. And I've said before, it would have been better if that hadn't occurred.

But I think the one thing you have to say is you learn things as you go along in this business. None of this, in the light of history, will be as remotely as important as the fact that by common consensus we had the most productive first year of a presidency last year of anyone in a generation. That's what matters; that we're changing people's lives. That's what counts. And I'm just going to keep working on it.

Q Mr. President, you and your wife have both used the phrase, bewildered, confused about why all the interest in Whitewater. Yet, in the Arkansas savings and loan business, your wife represented Madison Savings and Loan before the Arkansas Savings and Loan Board, whose head was a former lawyer who had done work for Madison Savings and Loan. Do you not see any conflicts of interest in your action, or your wife's actions -- which would appear to contradict what you just said about her not doing any work before the state, that would cause people to question your actions?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that's not what I said. I did not say -- I said that when my wife did business, when her law firm represented some state agency itself -- state agencies all over America use private lawyers -- if she did any work for the state, she never took any pay for it. And when the firm got income from state work, she didn't take her partnership share of that income. She gave that up because she wanted to bend over backwards to avoid the appearance of conflict.

Was there anything wrong with her representing a client for a state agency -- and if you go back and look at the facts, basically the firm wrote the securities commissioner a letter saying, is it permissible under Arkansas law to raise money for this S&L in this way? And it showed that she was one of the contacts on it, and the securities commissioner wrote her back and said it's not against the law. That was basically the extent of her representation.

Now, all I can do is tell you that she believed there was nothing unethical about it. And today, in an interview, Professor Steven Geller, of New York University, who is a widely respected national expert on legal ethics, once again said there was nothing at all unethical in doing this. These kinds of things happen when you have married couples who have professions. And the most important thing there is disclosure. There was no sneaking around about this. This was full disclosure.

Professor Geller -- I brought the quote here -- said, "I think this is a bum rap on Mrs. Clinton, and I'm amazed that it keeps getting recirculated." Now, there's a person who doesn't work for us whose job it is to know what the code of professional responsibility requires.

Q Mr. President, one thing that puzzled a lot of people is why, if you did nothing wrong, did you act for so long as if you had something to hide. And now that you're about to release these documents to the public, your tax records and other things, do you think it would have helped if you had released these documents to the public earlier? Would it have stopped this issue from reaching the proportions that it has?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't have any idea. But I don't think I acted as if I had anything to hide. After all, I did volunteer -- I had already given out my tax returns going back to 1980. And then when -- keep in mind, when the furor arose at the request for the special counsel -- even though everybody at the time said, well, we don't think he's done anything wrong; there's no evidence that either he or the First Lady have done anything wrong; we still think there ought to be a special counsel -- I said we would give all this over to the special counsel. It was only after the special counsel had all the information that the people who first wanted the special counsel then decided they wanted the documents as well. So we're making them available.

Perhaps I should have done it earlier, but you will see essentially what I've told you -- and things that you basically already know.

Q Mr. President, you said a few minutes ago that the people in the RTC who are involved in Congressman Leach's allegations are all career Republican officials. But aren't they members of your administration? And do you plan to take any action in speaking to either Mr. Bentsen or Mr. Altman about taking action and investigation Mr. Leach's charges?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the last thing in the world I should do is talk to the Treasury Department about the RTC. (Laughter.) You all have told me that that creates the appearance of impropriety. I don't think we can have a -- it's not just a one-way street, it's a two-way street. Mr. Leach will see that whatever should be done is done. But I can tell you, I have had no contact with the RTC; I've made no attempt to influence them. And you can see by some of the decisions that they have made that that is the furthest thing, it seems to me, that ought to be on your mind.

Q Do you abandon all responsibility for a department, a Cabinet department in your government?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't abandoned all responsibility. You can't have it both ways; either we can talk to them or we can't. I just think this is a matter of public record now. And Mr. Leach will certainly see to it that it's looked into. He's already said that that's his job, and I'm sure he will see that it is.

Q With so many questions swirling around Whitewater and the Rose law firm, there's some concern that the moral authority of the First Lady is eroding as well. Are you reconsidering her role as the point person for health care reform?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely not. Absolutely not. People should not be able to raise questions and erode people's moral authority in this country. There ought to have to be evidence and proof. We live in a time when there is a great deal of question-raising. It seems to be the order of the day. But I know what the facts are, and I'm giving you the facts on this.

Here we just had -- all these questions were raised about whether she was properly or improperly representing a client before a state agency -- to do something, I might add, that the federal government had asked savings and loans to do -- that is, go out and raise more capital to become more solvent. So that's what she was doing in the full light of day in full disclosure.

Now we have, even in retrospect, an imminent national expert saying that she is getting a bum rap. When people ask questions that don't have any basis -- I think you should ask whatever questions you want to ask, and I think that we should do our best to answer them. But I think that the 20-year record she made as a lawyer, never before having her ethics questioned, never before

having her ability questioned, when everybody who knew her knew that every year she was giving up a whole lot of income to do public business -- to advance the cause of children and the to advance the cause of our state. No, I don't think so. I think in the end when all these questions get asked and answered, her moral authority will be stronger than it has ever been, because we will have gone through this process and been very forthcoming, as we are, to the special counsel. And then in the end, people will compare how we did this with how previous administrations under fire handle their business. And I think it will come out quite well.

Q Mr. President, the assassination of Mr. Colosio today has shaken the financial markets in this country, created doubt about the stability of Mexico. Mexico opens its stock market and banks tomorrow. You said you would help Mexico in this. What can the United States do to help Mexico in these trying times?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, let me say, Mexico is a very great country that has made enormous progress economically and politically. There is a lot of ferment and change going on there that is inevitable and that can be very positive. What I think the Untied States can do, first of all, is to tell the rest of the world that we know this about Mexico. They're our neighbors and we think they have a great future. And we don't expect any long-term damage to come from this terrible personal tragedy and political setback.

Secondly, the only business I did last night on this -- and I called President Salinas as a friend, as well as the President of the United States, to express my sorrow -- the only business I did was to talk to the Secretary of the Treasury about what we might be able to do in the event there was some sort of unusual trading against the Mexican currency. And there may be something we can do to step in and stabilize that. As you know, there have been times in the past when our friends have had to come to our aid -- the Germans, the Japanese and others have come to our aid when there was unusual trading against the dollar. And we are prepared to try to help the Mexicans if that is necessary. But we hope it won't be.

Today, we did just a little bit on Mexican securities when we suspended trading here in the United States for a very short time so that the American who would be interested in this would at least be able to verify what the facts were an what they were not about the terrible incident last night. And I think that helped a bit. I certainly hope that it did.

Q Increasingly polls are showing that more and more Americans are unsure whether you acted properly in Whitewater, that maybe you did something wrong. Does that concern you? And when do you think it would be proper for the First Lady to answer questions about Whitewater?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, let's -- does it concern me? Only a little bit. The truth is I am amazed when I read in The New York Times or someplace that there have been three times as much coverage of Whitewater as there had been of health care. I'm amazed that there hasn't been more change in the polls. I think what the American people are really upset about is the thought that this investment that we made 16 years ago that lost money, that did not involve savings and loans, might somehow divert any of us from doing the work of the country -- getting the economy going and dealing with health care and crime and the other issues.

So, in that sense, I think people are right to be concerned. And they want to know that I'm going to answer the questions. A lot of people don't even know, I don't think, that there is a special counsel; that we have fully cooperated; that he has said we have; that the Watergate prosecutor, Sam Dash, contrasted

our conduct with previous Presidents and said we'd been highly ethical. And we're moving forward.

Now, the First Lady has done several interviews. She was out in three different places last week answering questions exhaustively from the press. I think she will continue to do that. And if you have questions you want to ask her about this, I think you ought to ask the questions.

Q Mr. President, you and the First Lady have several times said that you've been amazed and dismayed by the intensity of both the opposition and the scrutiny surrounding Whitewater in particular. Has any of this been instructive for you? Have you taken any lessons from this ordeal, whether it's about the presidency, about the process, about the city or anything?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think I've learned a lot about it. I think one of the things I've learned about it is that it's very important to try to decide what the legitimate responsibility of the President is, to be as forthcoming as possible, and to do it.

It's important for me to understand that there is a level here -- and this is not a blame, this is just an observation -- because of the experiences of the last several decades, of which I was not a part in this city, I think there is a level of suspicion here than is greater than that which I have been used to in the past -- and I don't complain about it, but I've learned a lot about it -- and that my job is to try to answer whatever questions are out there so I can get on with the business of the country.

And I think I've learned a lot about how to handle that. I've also learned here that there may or may not be a different standard than I had seen in the past -- not of right and wrong, that doesn't change -- but of what may appear to be right or wrong. And I think that you'll see that, like everything else, this administration learns and goes on. We always learn from our mistakes, and we have proven that.

Q I wonder if you realize the situation that is developing in Korea, what is expected? What will be the situation in South Africa next month? And do you believe that the former Soviet Union, Russia, has -- that will contribute to peace in the world? How do you respond?

THE PRESIDENT: That's the quickest anybody ever asked me three questions at once. (Laughter.) First of all, the situation in Korea is serious, and we have responded in a serious way. The North Koreans themselves have said they are committed to a nonnuclear Korean peninsula. We want that. We want a good, normal relationship with them. They have terminated the IAEA inspections. We are examining what we can do. We are talking to our South Korean partners as well as to the Chinese, the Japanese, the Russians and others.

We still hope that this can be resolved, and we believe it can be. But the choice is really up to North Korea. Will they be isolated from the world community, or will they be a full partner? They could have a very bright future indeed. They have many contributions to make, indeed, to a united Korea. And we hope that it will work out.

But we did -- I did decide to deploy the Patriots on the recommendation of General Luck as a purely defensive measure in the wake of the difficulties we've had, and we'll make further decisions as we go along.

With regard to South Africa, I am immensely hopeful. I have tried once to encourage Chief Buthelezi to join in the political

process. And I still have some hope that he will. It is not too late, and they have made real efforts to try to accommodate the conflicts between national and local interests. But I think we will be celebrating in late April a great triumph of democracy of the first nonracial or multiracial democratic process in South Africa.

With regard to Russia, I think that on balance, our relationship is still sound. It is based on our perception and their perception of our shared interests, and when we disagree, we will say so. And we will act accordingly. But I do think that the Russians have made a constructive contribution to our efforts in Bosnia which have had a lot of success. We've go a long way to go, but we've had some real success. And I'm hopeful that they will elsewhere. I know they made a suggestion on Korea today, and we'll see what happens there.

Q Mr. President, Congressman Stark's health care bill doesn't do everything that you have proposed. Would you veto it if it reaches your desk?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because it does what I ask. It doesn't solve all the problems. But it does provide universal coverage. It emphasizes the workplace. That is, there is no tax on people unless they elect not to take out insurance. And it provides comprehensive benefits, which I think are very important. And it leaves Medicare alone with the integrity of Medicare.

There are things that it doesn't do that I wish it did. I don't think it's as successful or would be as successful in holding down costs and expanding opportunity as our plan; but certainly if it were to be enacted by the United States Congress I would sign it, because it meets the fundamental criteria I set out of covering all Americans with health care.

One more, then I guess we've got to go. Everybody wants to be watching these ball games, I think -- (laughter). I'm going to make -- nobody's asked me if we're going to tax gambling or anything. (Laughter.) Go ahead.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: This is a set-up -- it's my joke. Only people who bet against my team in the NCAA. (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, I take it that the tax returns you're putting out tomorrow are the ones that have already gone to the special counsel. If the special counsel wanted to question you about that, would you answer a subpoena? Would Mrs. Clinton? And what about congressional hearings -- what would be the protocol on going before Congress to explain it to them?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me answer the first question first. We decided in addition to putting out the '78 and '79 returns, we should go ahead and put out the '77 returns. But that would be an appropriate starting point, because that's the year I first entered public life. I know there's -- it's kind of a moving bar here. None of us are quite sure how far back anybody should go anymore about anything. But we thought that we would do that. And at least you would then have a complete record of the money we earned and the taxes we paid -- Hillary and I together did -- as long as I've been in public life.

In terms of the information, I expect that the special counsel will want to question me and will want to question the First Lady. It's my understanding that typically in the past it's been done in a different way. I mean, I will cooperate with him in whatever way he decides is appropriate.

Similarly, if Congress wants any information direct from us, we will, of course, provide it to them in whatever way seems most appropriate. Again, I understand there are certain protocols which have been followed in the past which I would expect would be followed here. But I intend to be fully cooperative so that I can go back to work doing what I was hired to do.

Thank you very much.

Q -- welfare reform?

THE PRESIDENT: What did you say about --

Q What about welfare reform?

THE PRESIDENT: What about it?

Q -- going to tax --

THE PRESIDENT: No. What I said -- I made a joke about that. I said I was going to try to tax anybody who bet against my team in the basketball finals.

But I have made no decision on the financing of welfare reform. I can tell you this: It's a tough issue because we have to pay for anything we do. And there are all kinds of proposals out there. I know that the Republican welfare reform proposal has a lot of things in it that I like. But I think it's way too hard on financing things -- savings from immigrants. I think it goes too far there. So there are no real easy answers.

But I can say categorically that I have been briefed on a very wide range of options and that nobody in this administration has made any decision, and no one will make a decision except me, about how to fund it. That decision has not been made. We will come forward with that plan. We do think it offers the real promise of ending welfare as we know it, of moving people from welfare to work if we can also guarantee these welfare parents that when they go to work their children will not lose the health care that they have on welfare, so they won't be punished for going to work. That's the key issue.

Thank you very much.

END 8:11 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 24, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am profoundly saddened to learn of the brutal assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio, the Presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in Mexico. I deeply deplore this senseless act of violence and have conveyed my deepest sympathies to the Mexican people and to the family of Mr. Colosio, his wife and two young children.

Mr. Colosio dedicated his life to public service and to the betterment of his nation. It is particularly tragic when an assassin's bullet slays a man who still had so much to contribute to history. It is a great loss not only for Mexico but for all of North America.

I telephoned President Carlos Salinas de Gotari shortly after midnight last night to express my sorrow and that of the American people and to offer my condolences to the Colosio family. I told President Salinas that the United States stands ready to assist Mexico in the coming days in any way we can.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 23, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am deeply saddened to learn of the tragic air collision at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina and the resultant loss of life and injuries. Hillary and I join all Americans in expressing our condolences to the families and friends of those killed, and wish a speedy recovery to those injured. This tragedy is a reminder that all those who serve in the military at home and abroad put their lives at risk in the service of their nation and deserve the thanks of all Americans for doing so.

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The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release: March 23, 1994

Statement by Chief of Staff Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty and White House Special Counsel Lloyd Cutler

At his request, Associate Counsel William Kennedy, who has been responsible for vetting the background of presidential appointees and for supervising the issuance of White House passes, has been transferred to other duties within the Counsel's office. His former responsibilities will be assumed by the Associate Counsel Beth Nolan.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 23, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

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After personally reviewing the Jonathan Pollard matter, I have decided to deny his application for executive clemency. I make this decision taking into account the recommendation of the Attorney General and the unanimous views of the law enforcement and national security agencies. My decision is based upon the grave nature of his offense and the considerable damage that his actions caused our nation.

Mr. Pollard's crime is one of the most serious crimes against our country -- placing national security secrets of the United States in the hands of another country. I have considered Mr. Pollard's argument that he is deserving of a shorter prison sentence because he spied for a friendly nation. I nevertheless believe that the enormity of Mr. Pollard's crime, the harm his actions caused to our country, and the need to deter every person who might even consider such actions, warrant his continued incarceration.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 23, 1994

EDUCATION AND SHARING DAY, U.S.A., 1994

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

America's success in the years to come requires a national commitment to providing excellence in education. Our ability to seize the opportunities before us depends on the strength of our scholarship. We must build an educational system that offers our country's vast promise to every citizen. Only when we know that all of our students are receiving the best care and training possible can we say that we are prepared for the challenges of the future.

New innovations in teaching methods and curricula, combined with traditional lessons of ethics and morality, afford students a comprehensive education that will serve them well their entire lives. By sharing our experiences and our beliefs with the next generation of Americans, we can prepare our Nation for the awesome responsibilities and opportunities that lie ahead.

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the leader of the Lubavitch movement, has contributed a great deal to this important endeavor, advancing the ideals of sharing and education over the course of his long and rich life. As Rabbi Schneerson celebrates his 92nd birthday, it is fitting and appropriate that the people of the United States honor his gifts to education and rededicate themselves to the teaching of ethics and morality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 23, 1994, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A. I call upon the people of the United States, Government officials, educators, and volunteers to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release **March 23, 1994**

PRESIDENT CLINTON TO HOLD HISTORIC MEETING WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

President Clinton will hold an historic meeting with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal leaders at the White House April 29, as part of an ongoing effort to work with tribal nations in trying to develop a sound and responsive domestic policy. This is the first such meeting of all the federally recognized tribal leaders and a sitting President.

"I look forward to this historic meeting and to affirming our commitment to strengthening the Nation-to-Nation relationship we have with tribal governments," the President said.

As a demonstration of the President's commitment to American Indians, a White House liaison from the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs has spent the last year meeting with tribal leaders, tribal council members, the National Congress of American Indians, the Navajo Nation and tribal affiliated organizations representing Indian Country.

The President will host representatives from all federally recognized tribes, 545 in total. The meeting will provide an opportunity for tribal leaders to hear directly from the President about his administration's overall commitment to ensuring American Indian sovereignty and about how the Administration's domestic agenda impacts American Indians.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release **March 23, 1994**

PRESIDENT CLINTON NOMINATES JEFFREY RUSH INSPECTOR GENERAL AT USAID

The President today announced his intent to nominate Jeffrey Rush, Jr. to be the Inspector General of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Rush brings 24 years of experience in military and criminal intelligence and law enforcement to the role, which for the first time at USAID has been elevated to a Senate confirmation position. For the past 10 years, he served as the Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Rush began his career as a criminal investigator with the Office of Inspector General at USDA in 1971. In 1975, he was promoted to supervisory criminal investigator in Kansas City, MO. In 1978, he was named Assistant Regional Inspector General in Chicago and in 1980 was named Regional Inspector General for Investigations.

He is a 1968 graduate of Baker University. He earned a graduate degree in the Administration of Justice from George Washington University in 1973 and graduated from George Mason University Law School in 1990.

He and his wife, Dawn, have a 13 year old daughter, Logan, and an 8 year old son, Christopher. The family resides in Springfield, Virginia.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release **March 23, 1994**

PRESIDENT CLINTON NOMINATES 3 MEMBERS TO THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SECURITY BOARD

The President today nominated Roger Hilsman, Stanley Sheinbaum and Robert Shamansky to the National Security Education Board. The National Security Education Board develops criteria for awarding scholarships, fellowships, and grants. In addition, the Board recommends ways to encourage interest in jobs in Government agencies that have a national security role.

Roger Hilsman of New York currently teaches at the Institute for War and Peace Studies at Columbia University. He served as Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs during the Kennedy Administration and is also a prolific author on the subject of international affairs.

Stanley Sheinbaum of California is President of Fairtree Enterprises. He has extensive experience in the field of economics, both as a professor and as a consultant. Mr. Sheinbaum is also a member of the Board of Directors of People for the American Way and Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California. He previously served as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of California, as a Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions and as a Fulbright Economics Fellow in Paris, France.

Robert Shamansky of Ohio is to fill a newly created position. Mr. Shamansky is a former member of Congress from Ohio, where he served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He is a member of the United Nations Association of the U.S.A. and Jewish Relations Committee. Mr. Shamansky is presently a partner in the law firm of Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan and Arnoff in Columbus, Ohio.

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THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release **March 23, 1994**

PRESIDENT CLINTON NOMINATES THOMASINA "TOMMY" ROGERS AS CHAIR TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

The President today announced his intent to nominate Thomasina "Tommy" Rogers as the Chair to the Administrative Conference of the United States.

The Administrative Conference of the United States develops recommendations for improving the procedures by which federal agencies administer regulatory, benefit and other government programs. The Conference reports annually to the President and Congress concerning its activities and the implementation of its recommendations.

After graduating from St. Jude High School, Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and Columbia University School of Law, she went on to government service where she committed much of the ensuing 18 years to addressing issues of discrimination in public schools, colleges, social services and employment.

Her positions in government have included an eight-month detail to the Presidential Personnel Office in the White House, seven years as the Legal Counsel and Deputy Legal Counsel to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and nine years as an attorney with U.S. Department of Education (formerly, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare).

As the EEOC's top career attorney since 1990, Ms. Rogers headed the 70-member Office of Legal Counsel where she had primary responsibility for managing the development of the Americans with Disabilities Act employment regulations and policy. In addition, her expertise covers a wide range of employment law matters as well as government ethics, the civil service system and various benefit programs administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Rogers is a member of numerous bar associations and civic organizations and serves on the Board of Directors of Children's Hospital. She is married to Gregory M. Gill, Vice President and General Counsel of Cassidy & Associates, a government relations firm in Washington, D.C.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release **March 23, 1994**

PRESIDENT CLINTON APPOINTS TWO MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

The President today announced the appointment of Thomas W. Hoog and Y.C.L. Susan Woo to the Advisory Board for the National Air and Space Museum.

The Air and Space Museum is part of the Smithsonian Institution system. The advisory board provides advice to the Institution and the director and reports back to Congress when necessary. The purpose of the museum is to memorialize the national development of aviation and space flight; as well as collect, preserve, and display aeronautical and space flight equipment of historical interest and significance. The museum also serves as a repository for scientific equipment and data pertaining to the development of aviation and space flight; and provides educational material for the historical study of aviation and space flight.

THOMAS HOOG is Chairman of Hill & Knowlton Public Affairs Worldwide and a former naval aviator.

SUSAN WOO, Ph.D. of Tennessee is President and CEO of ERC, Inc., a company specializing in high-tech services. Prior to establishing her own company, Dr. Woo was Professor of Aerospace Engineering at The University of Tennessee Space Institute. She is also a world renowned expert in magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) power generation.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release **March 23, 1994**

PRESIDENT CLINTON NAMES THE CHAIRMAN AND 6 MEMBERS TO SALLIE MAE

President today announced the appointment of William Arceneaux as the Chairman of the Student Loan Marketing Association (Sallie Mae). In addition, he announced his intent to appoint Mitchell Berger, Kris Durmer, Diane Gilleland, Regina Montoya, James Moore, Irene Natividad and Ronald Thayer as members of the Association.

The Student Loan Marketing Association is a government-sponsored, federally-chartered and privately owned enterprise with its principal offices in Washington, D.C. The corporation ensures the orderly flow of education credit through the Federal Family Education Loan Program, the guaranteed student loan program of the federal government. Sallie Mae is a $47 billion corporation with common stock of the corporation listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Sallie Mae has a stand-alone AAA rating by Standard and Poors.

WILLIAM ARCENEAUX of Louisiana - Chair
Mr. Arceneaux is President of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and has been a member of the Board of Sallie Mae since 1979.

REGINA MONTOYA of Texas
Ms. Montoya is a Vice President of Westcott Communications, Inc. She is also the former Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

MITCHELL BERGER of Florida
Mr. Berger is an attorney with the firm of Berger and Shapiro, where he specializes in environmental law. He is a Managing Trustee of the Democratic National Committee, a Member of the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission, a Member of the Broward County Management Review Commission, and a member of the Board of Governors of the Nova University School of Management and Business.

KRIS DURMER of New Hampshire
Mr. Durmer, an attorney, is a Commissioner of the Nashua Housing Authority, and President of the Greater Nashua Housing and Development Foundation. He served as Chairman of the Nashua, NH, Clinton for President primary campaign, the Clinton/Gore general election campaign, and was NH Legal Counsel to the 1988 Gore Presidential campaign.

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DIANE SUITT GILLELAND of Arkansas
Ms. Gilleland is Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, where she directs over $375,000,000 in state appropriations for the operation of Arkansas' institutions of higher education and the University of Arkansas Hospital.

JAMES MOORE of New Jersey
Mr. Moore is Senior Vice President of the Financial Services Division for the Continental Grain Company; President and C.E.O. of the ContiFinancial Services Corporation and the ContiMortgage Corporation; and, Managing Director of the ContiTrade Services Corporation. He is also a Trustee of the Democratic National Committee and a 1968 graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

IRENE NATIVIDAD of Virginia
Ms. Natividad is the Principal in the firm of Natividad and Associates, a Washington, DC, public affairs firm, and the Chair of the National Commission on Working Women. She previously served as Chair of the National Women's Political Caucus and as Director of Continuing Education for William Paterson College. In addition, Ms. Natividad served as Co-Chair of the Women of Color for Change Committee for Clinton/Gore.

RONALD J. THAYER of Michigan
Mr. Thayer serves as Department Executive in the Office of Economic Development for Wayne County, Michigan. He has served as Executive Secretary to Governor Jim Blanchard and as Alumni Fund Director for the University of Detroit.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 22, 1994

PRESIDENT NOMINATES SEVEN FEDERAL JUDGES

The President announced the nominations today of seven individuals to serve on the federal bench. President Clinton nominated Theodore A. McKee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He also announced six U.S. District Court nominees: Paul L. Friedman, Gladys Kessler, Emmet G. Sullivan and Ricardo M. Urbina for the District of Columbia; Vanessa D. Gilmore for the Southern District of Texas; and Raymond L. Finch for the District of the Virgin Islands.

"These seven men and women have outstanding records of achievement in the legal profession and in public service," the President said today. "I am proud to nominate these distinguished individuals to serve as federal judges."

A biography of the appellate court nominee, Theodore A. McKee, is attached. The district court nominees are as follows:

Paul L. Friedman, 50, has practiced with the firm of White & Case since 1976 as an associate and a partner. He also served as an Assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. He has been president of the D.C. Bar Association and chair of the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission. Friedman received his B.A. degree from Cornell University and his J.D. degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law. He and his wife, Elizabeth Ann Friedman, reside in Washington, D.C.

Gladys Kessler, 56, has served on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia since 1977. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was a partner in the law firm of Roisman, Kessler & Cashdan. Kessler has taught courses at Harvard Law School, George Washington University Law School, and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. She received her B.A. degree from Cornell University and her LL.B. from Harvard Law School. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband Arthur M. Mackwell.

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Emmet G. Sullivan, 46, has served since 1992 as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. He previously served as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and as a partner in the law firm of Houston, Sullivan and Gardner. Sullivan received both his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Howard University. Sullivan and his wife, Nan L. Sullivan, reside in Washington, D.C.

Ricardo M. Urbina, 48, has served since 1981 as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Urbina was a Professor of Law and Director of the Criminal Justice Program for Howard University School of Law. He received both his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Georgetown University. Urbina and his wife, Coreen Marie Saxe, live in Washington, D.C.

Vanessa D. Gilmore, 37, has practiced law with the Houston firm of Vickery, Kilbride, Gilmore & Vickery since 1986. She has had a civil litigation practice and has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston College of Law. Gilmore received her B.S. degree from Hampton University and her J.D. degree from the University of Houston College of Law. Gilmore resides in Houston, Texas.

Raymond L. Finch, 53, has served since 1977 on the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands. Prior to that appointment, he served on the Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands, and was in the practice of law with the firm of Hodge & Sheen. Finch received both his undergraduate and law degrees from Howard University. He resides in Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

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THEODORE A. MCKEE

Nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals
for the Third Circuit

Theodore Alexander McKee, 46, is serving in his tenth year on the Court of Common Pleas for the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, which sits in Philadelphia.

Born in Rochester, New York in 1947, McKee earned his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Cortland. After graduation, McKee became Director of Minority Recruitment and Admissions for the State University of New York at Binghamton, and served as chair of the University's newly-created Afro-American Studies Program, coordinating the search for a permanent academic to head the department. In 1972, McKee entered law school at Syracuse University. He graduated magna cum laude in 1975, and was awarded the Order of the Coif.

Upon graduation, McKee practiced law as a litigation associate at the Philadelphia firm of Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis-Cohen. After two years with the firm, McKee left to become an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, where he worked first in the General Crimes Unit, then in Narcotics and Firearms, and finally in the Political Corruption Unit. In his first year as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, McKee was responsible for investigating allegations of police brutality before a special grand jury, as part of a nationwide probe into police brutality by the United States Civil Rights Commission. As a federal prosecutor, McKee also helped secure indictments against six Philadelphia homicide detectives for civil rights violations and won a racketeering conviction against the chief judge of Philadelphia's traffic court.

In 1980, McKee became Deputy City Solicitor for Philadelphia's Law Department, heading the Revenue Unit and the Code Enforcement Unit. In late 1983, McKee was elected to the Court of Common Pleas for the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. As a judge, McKee has heard cases in the felony, homicide and orphans' divisions. In addition, from 1980 to 1991, McKee taught trial advocacy at the Rutgers University School of Law.

In 1986, the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court appointed McKee to the state's Commission on Sentencing, an 11 member committee that develops sentencing guidelines and policies. McKee is currently acting chair of the Commission.

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McKee's life of public service includes significant activities off the bench as well. He has been involved with the "Big Brothers" program since 1969, and still remains in touch with his first "little brother." McKee has served on a number of civic boards, including the Crisis Intervention Network, which combats drug use and gang violence in Philadelphia, the Crime Prevention Association and Concerned Black Men, both of which help direct urban youth away from crime, and New Directions for Women, which provides female offenders with drug rehabilitation, education, and job counseling.

McKee is married to Ana Luisa Pujols, a Philadelphia internist. They have two young daughters.

If confirmed, McKee would become one of fourteen judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, which hears cases from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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