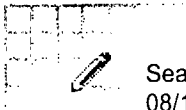


Clinton Administration History:
Submission Materials & Correspondence Checklist

Name of Agency National Economic Council

Date:	Description of Submission or Correspondence:	Contact Information:
8/15/00	History outline	Sen. Dabson 456- 2806
9/12/00	Progress Report	"



Sean R. Dobson
08/15/2000 04:03:45 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Edward L. Widmer/WHO/EOP@EOP, Anne W. Bovaird/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: David Tseng/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: Draft Outline of NEC Contribution to the Administration History Project



NECoutline000814.doc

I believe the deadline for this was today. Please let me know how the attached NEC outline can be improved and please bear in mind that we will probably change it in the weeks ahead as we continue the research process. Thanks

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF NEC SUBMISSION TO ADMINISTRATION HISTORY PROJECT

I. 50-Page Summary

A. Introduction (3 pages)

- a. Genesis of Project
- b. Definition of Task Noting Limiting Parameters
- c. Method
- d. Discussion of the Types of Primary Documents Used

B. Summary of NEC History (45 pages)

Chronological narrative of the NEC from 1993 to 2000, pausing to describe key milestones in its history; i.e., when major policies were developed or organizational and personnel changes took place. The narrative will be highly condensed, focusing on the NEC's role in internal executive branch policy-making, not on wider discussions about economic policy in the media, Congress and academe. The following represent the major milestones in NEC history that will serve to organize the summary and guide the selection of primary documents in the appendix:

- Emergence of the Administration's basic economic strategy during '92 campaign: (a) fiscal discipline, (b) investing in people, (c) increasing trade.
- Creation of NEC
- Mini-bio of Rubin
- deficit reduction plan of 1993
- Technology for America's Economic Growth initiative
- National Information Infrastructure Agenda initiative
- largest expansion ever of the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) (passed 93, implemented 94)
- "Middle Class Bill of Rights"
- establishment of the Direct Student Loan Program
- Empowerment Zones initiative
- Mini-bio of Tyson
- Welfare-to-Work initiative
- Educational Technology Initiative
- increased funding for school construction
- creation of HOPE scholarships for college tuition
- BBA of 1997

- Mini-bio of Sperling
- Asian/Russian/Brazilian financial contagion
- Decision to use budgetary surpluses to strengthen Social Security, Medicare, and to pay down federal debt
- GEAR UP
- Digital Divide initiative
- New Markets initiative
- Cologne Debt Initiative
- Reform of international financial architecture, June 1999
- Southeast Europe Stability Pact, July 1999
- Financial Modernization
- College Opportunity Tax Cut
- China-PNTR Agreement

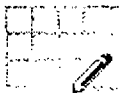
C. Conclusion (2 pages)

Very short. Should avoid self-congratulation in terms of policy outcomes and instead seek to answer questions more related to organization and process, such as:

- How did NEC evolve organizationally over time?
- How did policy priorities evolve over time?
- Did NEC accomplish its mandate as laid out in the 1993 EO?

II. Appendix of Primary Documents

Should be quite long and include administration documents (e.g., internal policy memos, public press paper etc.) that best illuminate the bulleted issues listed above.



Sean R. Dobson
09/13/2000 11:54:21 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Edward L. Widmer/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: David Tseng/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: DRAFT NEC progress report on Admin History Project



MemoWidmer000912.do

Ted, thanks for all your guidance so far. As you'll see when opening the document, others in NEC are also reviewing the progress report, so it might be revised. In the meantime, here's a draft.
thanks

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

TO: Ted Widmer

CC: Gene Sperling; David Tseng, NEC; Sarah Rosen Wartell, NEC

FR: Sean Dobson, NEC

RE: First Progress Report on NEC Contribution to Administration History Project

DT: 9/12/00

The NEC has agreed on a list of the 29 major milestones in its history, beginning with its creation and running through China-WTO-PNTR. In an ideal world, I would focus on one milestone at a time, moving chronologically, collecting relevant primary documents (with a focus on memos to Potus), then use those primary documents to write the "overview" section for that milestone, before moving to the next milestone.

I say "in an ideal world" because the primary documents are not readily available in chronological order. The early records of the NEC (i.e., through 1995) were archived away long ago with Records Management. However, I believe there is a way to access these early records even more efficiently than if they were at hand in paper form: i.e., by using the powerful search tools in Records Management. Allow me to explain. Every Potus-memo now with Records Management gets electronically scanned and stored digitally. That makes possible digital key-word searches for these documents – potentially a far more efficient way to locate them than rummaging through paper files. I have been working with Lee Johnson of Records Management over the past couple of weeks. He believes I can search for documents in this way, but first he must work out uniform procedures in case others in the Administration History Project ask him to search this way as well.

In the meantime, I have been moving forward down other avenues, including:

- Nexis searches to construct a rough chronology for each milestone so that I will know its key dates. Knowing these dates will help me search for that milestone's landmark documents, especially decision memos to Potus. For example, regarding the President's 1993 economic plan (arguably the most crucial economic initiative of this Administration), I learn from the New York Times that on 2/14/93, three days before he submitted his plan to Congress, the President met with his top economic advisers to decide on the precise size of the deficit reduction package. This information helps narrow my search enormously, because now I can add the key-word "February 14, 1993" to the more obvious key-words of "Bentsen", "Rubin", etc.
- The NEC still has in its possession and in accessible, paper form some of its most important memos – including Potus memos – from the period after 1997 (and a few earlier than that). I am going through these by hand, searching for key memos – especially Potus memos -- pertaining to post-1997 milestones.
- I have begun to write the overviews of those milestone for which I have collected enough primary documentation.

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

I have also uncovered important documents from the transition that pertain to the 1993 economic plan. Of course, these documents, because they were generated by a private organization, do not belong to the U.S. government. They belong to Gene Sperling. Because some of them are sensitive in nature, I would be reluctant to include them in the appendix if they did not receive the same protection from public scrutiny as official, U.S. government documents. I spoke with Nancy Smith of the National Archives about this. She was confident that these transition documents, because they had a direct impact on official, U.S. government business, would receive official-level protection under the Presidential Records Act. For a final answer, she referred me to Anne Bushmiller in Counsel's office. Anne agreed with Nancy's assessment and faxed me written confirmation to that effect. As to whether the NEC will include these transition documents in its final submission, the decision rests with Gene Sperling because the documents belong to him.

Ted, this project is a great idea. As a former professional historian, I have no doubt it will help future scholars exploit more effectively the holdings of the Clinton Library. Of course, one cannot write a rounded, interpretive history of an event relying on the documents of only one office: such a history necessarily leaves out the perspective of other agencies, Congress, the media etc. But writing a comprehensive history is not our aim: our goal is to make available to future historians some of the key primary documents that shaped major decisions, and in this way help them to achieve a more comprehensive perspective when they write the history of our times.