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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting

Series/Staff Member: Terry Edmonds

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 17509

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Folder Title:

Little Rock Nine 11/9/99

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. list	Master List The President's Interagency Group on Puerto Rico (partial) (1 page)	06/16/99	P6/b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Terry Edmonds
OA/Box Number: 17509

FOLDER TITLE:

Little Rock Nine 11/9/99

2006-0462-F

ry584

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Subject: little rock

Date: Sun, 7 Nov 1999 10:39:46 EST

From: SamA8@aol.com

To: aedmonds1@home.com

Hey Terry,

I am not as far along on the Little Rock remarks as I thought I might be at this point. Can we talk about a draft later today--say around 7 or 8? You can e-mail, call or page me. Thanks. Sam

202.333.5029

Teachers

Min. Wage - ~~Departure~~

How many pieces of 1st class mail

VA E-mail traffic

Budget & min wage

Revised Final 11/9/99 11:00 am
Sam Afridi/Terry Edmonds

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE

LITTLE ROCK NINE

THE WHITE HOUSE

November 9, 1999

Acknowledge: Speaker Hastert; Leader Gephardt;
Leader Daschle; Senator Hutchinson; Senator Lincoln;
Secretary Riley and Members of the Cabinet; sponsors of
the legislation Senator Bumpers and Congressman
Thompson; John and Susan Eisenhower...President
Eisenhower sent the troops of the 101st Airborne to Little
Rock to enforce the constitution...just signed legislation
to designate the Old Executive Office Building the
Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building; the
many other distinguished national leaders here, including:
Coretta Scott King; Martin Luther King III; Dorothy
Height; Ann Jordan; Thurgood Marshall, Jr; and, of
course, all of the Members of Congress here today for
selecting the Little Rock Nine for this high honor.

I want to thank the speakers for their moving, eloquent words. I also want to echo what was said about Daisy Bates. She was a dear friend to Hillary and me for many years. We were privileged to work with her and see the spirit and determination she brought to every cause she took on. She made America better for our children and will be sorely missed. Secretary Slater is representing our Administration today at her funeral.

This week marks the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. So it seems only fitting that we honor nine brave Americans who did so much to tear down the walls of bigotry and injustice in our own land. They did it by a single, simple act. They went to school.

But when they marched up those steps, these foot soldiers for freedom took our nation to higher ground. When they walked through the doors of Central High, the Little Rock Nine changed America for good.

The ordeal was a national drama that had a profound personal impact on me. I was just 11 years old, living 50 miles away in Hot Springs where I attended a segregated school. Growing up, my grandparents taught me through their example about equality and treating people with respect and dignity. But for most of our neighbors, segregation was just the way things were. It wasn't questioned. It wasn't challenged. It was life.

But when these nine children, not much older than me, stood their ground, they forced us to ask as a society: What do we believe? Where do we stand? How do we want to live? And for their courage, they paid a price—day after day after day.

They endured what Daisy Bates called a “volcano of hate”. But rather than erupting in anger, or melting from the heat—they were like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (*Daniel 3*). The Little Rock Nine went in the fire and came out unbroken and unburned. They taught us how to turn our cheeks from violence without turning our eyes from injustice.

We have come a long way. I was proud to welcome these nine leaders to the Governor's mansion for the 30th anniversary of the integration of their school. As President ten years later, I will always remember holding open the door as they returned to Central High—a school with a diverse student body and faculty, one of the best records of academic excellence in the state, and an African-American student body President.

Now I am proud to open the doors of this house, America's house, as they receive the highest civilian honor awarded by the people of the United States through their representatives in Congress.

Above all, this is a story of faith. Of a nation's faith in its constitution, of parents faith in their children, of children's faith in the future. Today, we recognize the Little Rock Nine for keeping that faith. But we also recognize, we must do more--by taking all they taught us and building One America for the 21st century.

The Little Rock Nine taught us education shouldn't be a racial issue. After all, they didn't enter Central High School to make a political statement. They did it to get the best education they could get. And with their success, they proved that when you give children a quality education, you empower them to not only lift themselves, but to lift our nation.

Today, we have the largest, most diverse student body in history. We can honor the Little Rock Nine and build One America by giving every child the chance to live out their dreams. Every child in America deserves a world-class education.

The Little Rock Nine taught us the better more of us do, the better all of us do. I just returned from a New Markets tour to focus a spotlight on the people and places that are not yet a part of our strong economy. Speaker Hastert joined me in Chicago. I was in Arkansas in the kind of communities where these nine people and their families grew up. It's clear that tearing down the legal pillars of segregation wasn't enough.

We cannot declare victory until every citizen in every community is sharing in our prosperity. We can honor the Little Rock Nine and build One America by closing the opportunity gaps—in education, in health care, in economic development. That must be the great civil rights challenge of the 21st century.

Most of all, the Little Rock Nine taught us to recognize that our common humanity is the most important thing we share—and we pay a heavy price for ignoring it. Melba Pattillo Beals put it best in her book.

“If my Central High experience taught me one lesson,” she wrote, “it is that we are not separate. The effort to separate ourselves whether by race, creed, color, religion or status is as costly to the separator as to those who would be separated. The task that remains is...to see ourselves reflected in every other human being and to respect and honor our differences.”

A couple of months ago, in this very room, the First Lady hosted one of our nation’s top scientists who is unlocking the mysteries of the human gene.

He said all humanity, genetically, is 99.9 percent the same--and he noted that genetic differences among people of the same group are greater than people of different groups. Think about that.

What the civil rights movement showed us—what these nine brave souls taught us—what the Scriptures call on us to do--is now validated by our most advanced scientific knowledge. Love thy neighbor as thyself.

Think about the lost lives, the spilled blood, the dreams deferred, because of that one-tenth of one-percent.

Let's honor the Little Rock Nine and build One America by rejecting fear, injustice and bigotry and celebrating the diversity that is America's greatest strength.

The Book of Job teaches us about patience, perseverance and faith—the values and qualities embodied by these nine courageous citizens who never gave up on America. “My foot has held fast to his steps,” it reads. “I...have not turned aside. (and)...when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” (*Job 23:10-11*)

For holding fast to their steps, for not turning aside, we now ask these nine humble children of God to come forth for their gold. Commander, please read from the resolution.

#

[following presentation of medals, you will introduce Ernest Green]

Now, speaking on behalf of the Little Rock Nine, the first African-American graduate of Central High—Ernie Green.

#

[following remarks of Ernest Green, you will introduce Reverend Wintley Phipps]

Thank you Ernie. Now to close out our program, we are blessed to have with us the world-renowned vocalist, Reverend Wintley Phipps.

#

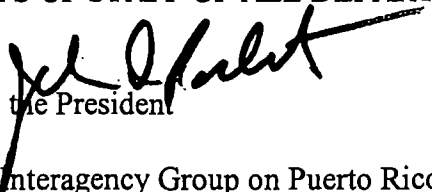
____ Samuel Berger 1FL/WW
____ Sidney Blumenthal GFL/WW
____ Chuck Brain 2FL/WW
____ Charles Burson, 276 OEOB
____ Mary Beth Cahill 122 OEOB
____ Monica Dixon 280 OEOB
____ Maria Echaveste 1FL/WW
____ Terry Edmonds 196 OEOB
____ Josh Gotbaum 254 OEOB
____ Audrey Haynes 200 OEOB
____ Ben Johnson 470 OEOB
____ Jack Lew 252 OEOB
____ Ann Lewis GFL/WW
____ Bruce Lindsey 2FL/WW
____ Eric Liu 2 FL/WW
____ Joe Lockhart 1FL/WW
____ Ellen Lovell 708 Jackson Place
____ Thurgood Marshall, Jr. 2FL/WW
____ Linda Moore 115 OEOB

____ Minyon Moore 2FL/WW
____ Bob Nash 158 OEOB
____ Beth Nolan, 2FL/WW
____ John Podesta 1FL/WW
____ Bruce Reed 2FL/WW
____ Linda Ricci, 253, OEOB
____ Steve Richetti 1FL/WW
____ Dan Sakura, CEQ OEOB 360
____ Doug Sosnik 1FL/WW
____ Gene Sperling 2FL/WW
____ Larry Stein 2FL/WW
____ Karen Tramontano GF/WW
____ Loretta Ucelli GF/WW
____ Melanne Verveer 100 OEOB
____ The Vice President 1FL/WW
____ Morley Winograd 273 OEOB

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 1, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEFS OF STAFF OF ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: John Podesta 
Chief of Staff to the President

SUBJECT: The President's Interagency Group on Puerto Rico

CC: Maria Echaveste
Mickey Ibarra
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Jeff Farrow

The Executive Office of the President has direct responsibility for policy regarding the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. To assist him in fulfilling this responsibility, in 1994 President Clinton directed that a group of senior White House and agency officials be designated to coordinate matters concerning Puerto Rico.

With Fred Duval's departure, Mickey Ibarra, Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, will serve as the co-chair of the President's Interagency Group on Puerto Rico. Jeff Farrow, of the Commerce Department, will continue to serve as the other co-chair.

An interagency group roster is attached for your review. Please report changes that need to be made to Jeff Farrow at 482-0037, or fax them to 482-2337.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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MASTER LIST

As of 6/16/99

THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY GROUP ON PUERTO RICO

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Fax: (202) 273-5717

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[Formerly Shelly Metzenbaum, Associate Administrator for
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Federal Emergency Management Agency:

Lacy Suiter

Executive Associate Director for Response
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to the Commissioner]