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**Folder Title:**

Americans with Disabilities Act

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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                                                 | DATE       | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 001. profile             | Roundtable Discussion on the Fifth Anniversary of the ADA; RE:<br>Personal [partial] (1 page) | 07/26/1995 | b(6)        |

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
Public Liaison  
Deborah Fine  
OA/Box Number: 8752

### FOLDER TITLE:

Americans with Disabilities Act

2007-0143-F

db4537

### RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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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.

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

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March 7, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL RASCO, HAROLD ICKES AND KEN APFEL

FROM: Debbie Fine

SUBJECT: Rescission Briefing for Disability Community

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 1995

TIME: 4:00PM

LOCATION: Room 324, OEOB

**I. PURPOSE**

The purposes of this briefing are to:

- underscore the administration's opposition to the rescission package,
- give a brief overview of the impact of the rescission package with a disability focus,
- mobilize further activity in the community in opposition to the package.

**II. MESSAGE**

The message running throughout the briefing and discussion should be consistent with our broader message points:

- These cuts are part of a larger attack on children and families in order to fund a tax cut for the wealthy,
- These cuts are part of a broader attack on laws related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and programs that make the ADA a reality.
- The President is taking a strong leadership role fighting against these cuts and advocating that the federal government has an important role to play.

**III. BACKGROUND**

Although the disability community tends to be bi-partisan in that its agenda is more important than any political alignment, they lean Democratic and have been very loyal to this Administration. The leaders in the community feel that they have been at the table for policy decisions more than during any other administration. As a result, they have provided the ground troops fighting on our behalf for various initiatives, particularly health care reform.

The current political climate, and specifically the Contract with America, threatens to eliminate many programs and laws that this community has fought hard to achieve over the years. The issues they have fought the hardest on most recently are the Balanced Budget Amendment, SSI reform under welfare reform, and the rescission package. They have been actively lobbying against these cuts and reforms on the Hill, and educating and activating their memberships in the states against them. (Attached is an example of an alert on the Rescission package.)

#### Impact of Rescissions and other Reforms on the Disability Community

It is important to make the point to participants that cuts in the Rescission package and other reforms currently being proposed that are not disability-specific, still impact people with disabilities. (For example, programs like WIC nutrition services and food packages serve people with disabilities and their families.)

In addition to the cuts that the White House has been highlighting in our talking points, the cuts that impact people with disabilities in particular include the following:

#### **HUD**

- 63,000 households, including people with disabilities and people with AIDS, will become homeless because they will not receive Section 8 Incremental Rental Assistance certificates -- possibly resulting in inappropriate institutionalization of people with disabilities.
- \$349.2 million will be cut from Community Development Block Grants. These funds are used to fund compliance with the ADA.

#### **Labor**

- There is a 30% cut from Pilots and Demonstrations (P&D). P&D funds are used to cultivate customer-driven workforce development systems, evaluate projects to improve services to disadvantaged adults and youth, and develop skill standards. **They are also used for programs that serve the needs of targeted groups, including people with disabilities.** Note: Goodwill Industries, represented at this briefing, has a grant funded by P&D.
- Cuts in JTPA Adult Training Grants Program, Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, and Youth Training Grants Program also impact the disability community. (There is a possibility that persons with disabilities would be disproportionately impacted by program reductions because they are more expensive to serve.)

#### **Education**

- \$1.5 million will be cut from Gallaudet University. (A representative from Gallaudet will probably attend.)
- \$.5 million will be cut from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in New York.

## SSI

Although reform of SSI falls under welfare reform rather than the rescissions, I think it is important to tie this in because (1) it fits into the message of a Republican attack on children and families that is short-sighted and mean-spirited, and (2) it is currently the most important issue to this community.

## **IV. AGENDA**

- Carol Rasco will open the meeting, make brief comments on the purpose of this meeting and introduce Harold Ickes.
- Harold Ickes will make brief remarks reenforcing the overall administration message and strategy. (Harold must leave by 4:15.)
- Ken Apfel will give a brief overview on the Rescissions (mentioning SSI.)
- We will open up the discussion for questions and answers. (Larry Pearl from HUD and Richard Sorrien from HHS will be available to help answer questions.)
- Carol will underscore the President's commitment to this community and to the ADA, and the need for participants to continue to be active on these issues. She will close the meeting.

## **V. PARTICIPANTS**

Participants in this briefing are generally supportive activists in the disability community. (There may be additions to the following list.)

Michael Allen, Bazelon Center for Mental Health  
Lizbet Boroughs, National Mental Health Association  
Jay Colbourne, AIDS Action Council  
Justin Dart  
Allen Dinsmore, American Foundation for the Blind  
Mike Gaul, Goodwill Industries  
Charlie Harles, I Neighbor  
Anne Marie Hughey, Executive Director of the National Council on Independent Living  
Paul Marchand, Chair of the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities and Director of  
Government Affairs at the Arc  
Kathy McGinley, The Arc and Co-Chair CCD Housing Task Force  
Celane McWhorter, United Cerebral Palsey Association  
Katy Beh Neas, National Easter Seal Society  
Gary Rose, National Association of People With AIDS  
Patti Smith, National Parent Network on Disabilities  
Andrew Sperling, Co-Chair CCD Housing Task Force and National Community Mental  
Healthcare Council  
Kimberley Turner, Howard University Research and Training Center  
Sylvia Walker, Howard University Research and Training Center  
Julie Ward, Epilepsy Foundation

Staff

Carol Rasco

Harold Ickes

Ken Apfel

Larry Pearl, Director of Office of Program Standards and Evaluations, HUD Office of Fair  
Housing

Diana Fortuna, DPC

Richard Sorrien, HHS and Office of National AIDS Policy

Debbie Fine

July 26, 1995

**Roundtable Discussion On the Fifth Anniversary of the ADA  
Biographies of Participants and Suggested Follow-Up**

**FOR PARTICIPANTS WITH A SPEAKING ROLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING:**

**DIANE LIPTON; Richmond, California**

Diane will tell you about her daughter, Chloe, who is 23 years old and who has cerebral palsy. She will describe Chloe's education history leading up to her current living situation: she now has her own apartment (with a personal assistant), takes classes at the community college, and through a community integration program she works at the YMCA and participates in other local activities. Diane will describe how Chloe and her family increasingly rely on the ADA to enable her to participate in community activities and programs now that she has finished high school.

**Possible Comments/Questions for Diane:**

- You mention the limited possibilities that would have existed for your daughter without the ADA. Can you talk more about what that has meant in real terms both for you, your daughter, and your family?
- Do you think that as we begin to see new generations of people with disabilities grow up under the ADA, in addition to IDEA, we will see an increase in employment levels for people with disabilities?

**DANNY DELCAMBRE; Seattle, Washington**

Danny is the owner and chef of Delcambre's Ragin' Cajun Restaurant in Seattle. He employs 6 deaf and 2 hearing individuals. He will tell you how, when he graduated from culinary school in Seattle, everyone in his class had gotten a job but him because he is deaf-blind. As a result, he started his own business. He will tell you how the ADA has helped him, but he will also tell you that it is not perfect yet. Danny may raise his concern that, although the ADA is helping, you don't see a lot of employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

**Potential Comments/Questions for Danny:**

- I share your concern. The fact that 68% of working age people with disabilities are unemployed, compared to 19% of people without disabilities, indicates that we need to do more. The fact that 79% of Americans with disabilities between the ages of 16 and 65 who are not working say that they would prefer to work demonstrates that we can do more.

**MISS AMERICA 1995, HEATHER WHITESTONE; Birmingham, Alabama**

Heather Whitestone has been deaf since she was 18 months old; she is the first Miss America with a disability. She will tell you about why she thinks the ADA is so important and about what she has learned from her national speaking tour since last September, concentrating on the importance of our youth setting high goals and working hard to achieve them.

**Possible Questions/Comments for Heather:**

- As you've traveled around talking to youth all over the country, have you heard many young people with disabilities talk about the impact they have felt since the telephone relay system was enacted into law two years ago?

**RONNIE PULLIAM; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Ronnie will discuss how after years of living in rural North Carolina, where he was not very involved in the community, he has become active in his community in Philadelphia through his university and through Americorps. He is a member of Americorps through the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, which receives Americorps funding to sponsor three National Service projects in Alabama, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. One of Ronnie's projects through Americorps is to support Speaking for Ourselves, a self-advocacy group of people with mental retardation.

He credits Americorps with teaching him a tremendous amount about working with people and revealing to him all of the options that exist for him, and others like him who have a disability.

**Possible Questions/Comments for Ronnie:**

- Ronnie, your program is one that I feel strongly about, and one that I proposed before I became President. And I am now fighting cuts in the budget of both Americorps and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. These projects enable people to serve their communities by providing personal assistance services to individuals with disabilities and their families -- helping them become more independent and productive members of their communities, giving them an alternative to living in a nursing home or an institution.
- I'd like to make another point here about personal assistance services. I have included in my budget framework funding for long term and home and community-based services. And as most of you know, I fought for this last year under health care reform. Without these kinds of services, the vision of the ADA cannot become a reality.

**JUSTIN DART; Washington D.C.**

As you know, Justin is a long-time civil rights and disability rights activist. He will discuss the ADA in historical terms, briefly discuss some of his current concerns about myths and misinformation on the ADA, in addition to addressing the impact of the current budget proposals.

**Possible Comments/Questions for Justin:**

- Justin, I agree with you on the vital importance of this legislation, the good that it has done, and the potential it has to further empower people with disabilities and benefit our nation as a whole.
- Comment on the budget.

July 26, 1995

## Roundtable Discussion On the Fifth Anniversary of the ADA

### POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP TO DISCUSS:

1. Right now, there is a lot of talk in Washington; there are a lot of myths and misinformation on the ADA, whether it is truly effective, and about whether it is too burdensome.

Addressed to Marca Bristo:

Marca, you and the National Council on Disability just concluded a 50-state tour of town hall meetings on the ADA. Can you tell us what you heard -- is the same debate going on outside of the Beltway?

(She will give you a summary report of their findings.)

2. How do you think we can more effectively dispel these myths?

3. I would like to return to a point that Danny Delcambre made earlier in this discussion. We have all acknowledged the many ways that the ADA has been good for people with disabilities and for our nation as a whole. We also know that there are many barriers that continue to prevent people with disabilities from becoming economically self-sufficient -- with the result a disproportionately low level of employment for people with disabilities. I'd like to hear your thoughts on what some of these barriers, and what we can do to remove them?

4. Because of the ADA, more children with disabilities are dreaming about a future. They are studying harder and taking greater responsibility for their own lives. We have seen over the past 20 years significant numbers of children with disabilities effectively included in regular education settings. What makes a successful program, and what can we do to help assure greater success for these children?

5. What are the priority budget areas that represent the investments necessary to achieve the goals of the ADA?

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July 26, 1995

## **Roundtable Discussion on the Fifth Anniversary of the ADA**

### **PROFILES OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS:**

#### **JULIE CLARK; Springfield, Virginia**

When filling out the application form for a Virginia state law license, Julie Clark encountered a question inquiring into her history of treatment or counseling for mental, emotional, or nervous conditions. Although several years prior she had been diagnosed with depression and was treated for 13 months, she refused to answer the question because she felt it was a private matter and that it did not focus on her current ability to practice as a lawyer.

Ms. Clark filed a suit against the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners challenging the question as an unnecessarily broad inquiry into past mental health treatment, and one that was in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Department of Justice filed an amicus brief in her favor. The Federal court ordered the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners to remove or rephrase this question to comply with the ADA. The Virginia Board has appealed the case.

Two years later, Julie still does not have her law license, although she passed the state's bar examination. Her case was the first in a wave of litigation nation-wide challenging inquiries about mental health on licensing applications for lawyers, doctors, nurses, and other professionals.

#### **R. SCOTT HITT, M.D.; Los Angeles, California**

Dr. Hitt practices with Pacific Oaks Medical Group, one of the country's largest and most aggressive private practice health care providers for patients with HIV disease. He was also just appointed as the Chair of the President's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council.

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**LAURIE POWERS, Ph.D.; Hanover, New Hampshire**

Dr. Powers is Associate Director of the Hood Center for Family Support at Dartmouth Medical School and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. For the last ten years she has conducted national research, model demonstrations, and training activities in partnership with schools, youth, families and business. Her work focuses on promoting self-determination and empowerment, transitions to independent living and employment, and building collaborative partnerships between people with disabilities, employers, families, and professionals. She has a neurological disorder and uses a walker.

**RUDD TURNBULL; Lawrence, Kansas**

Mr. Turnbull is Co-Director of the Beach Center on Families and Disability, Professor of Special Education and Courtesy Professor of Law at the University of Kansas. He is the father of a 27-year old man with mental retardation and autism.

**PAT YATES; Little Rock, Arkansas**

Pat Yates is currently a special education teacher at Hall High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she has taught a self-contained class of moderate to severely disabled children for four years. She teaches a community-based instruction program, so that the kids get out into the community in order to learn functional skills; for example, they go to the grocery store to learn about groceries and shopping or to a vocational setting to learn job skills. Prior to this, she was a case manager and advocate for people of all ages with disabilities.