

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Intergovernmental Affairs
Series/Staff Member: John Emerson
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 9107
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Disability

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	27	4	5	1

John Emerson - ~~notes~~

File

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL PERSONNEL

MEMORANDUM

*File
Disability
Community*

TO: Bruce Lindsey
Carol Rasco
Alexis Herman

CC: Marcia Hale
Christine Varney

FROM: Paul Steven Miller (extension 7026)

DATE: July 16, 1993

SUBJECT: The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Disability Community

● INTRODUCTION

- As the result of a consultation with Jan Piercy, Jan felt that you should be aware of these issues affecting the disability community. I tried to meet with Mike Lux from Public Liaison who had been working on these issues, to apprise him, but he was not available today.
- I fear that there is about to be a major crisis with the disability community if a Presidential event it is not arranged around the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1993. I am willing and able to take on responsibility for these issues to assist with any staff shortages. I will follow up with Carol Rasco on these issues.

● ISSUES

- July 26th is the anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the civil rights act for persons with disabilities.
- July 26th also marks the start of the ADA requirement for a national TTD system enabling hearing persons to communicate with Deaf persons.
- **NO EVENT** has been scheduled with the President and the Disability Community to mark the occasion.
- President is traveling to Chicago to attend a reinventing the workplace conference with Secretaries Reich and Brown, thus the President's schedule is

July 16, 1993

Page 2

tight. (Plans are underway to insert some comments about disability issues into his remarks at the conference, but such remarks will be lost on the disability community.)

- There is a desire to keep the President's "message of the day" focused on the President's economic plan.
- OPPORTUNITY:
 - Have an event that allows the President to acknowledge and celebrate the anniversary of the ADA and frame the mission of the White House Office of Consumer Affairs in a way in which it has been conceived without interfering with his travel schedule and "economic message of the day".
- SOLUTION:
 - President should appear on a morning news show, (*i.e.*, Good Morning America or the Today Show) in which he:
 - Places a TTD call to Deaf person (*i.e.* Senator Tom Harkin's brother in Iowa) demonstrating the new TTD system. The call can be placed from the Oval Office while he is surrounded by members of the disability community and Senators Harkin and McCain. Hamp and Carol Rasco are also involved.
 - President announces the White House Office of Consumer Affairs appointments, including the role of that office will play in coordinating disability policy throughout the government. The President identifies a disabled individual as Special Assistant to the President in the White House who will be focusing on disability issues. (Currently there is no disabled person in the White House focusing on disability policy issues.)
 - President signs Executive Order redirecting funds within the Department of Justice for ADA enforcement. (*Carol Rasco is presently reviewing a proposal drafted by Harkin's office.*) *Alternative* -- Janet Reno announces the redirection of Department of Justice funds at a Department of Justice event.
- Goals Achieved

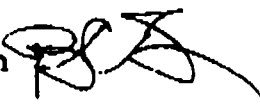
July 16, 1993

Page 3

- Directly acknowledges and celebrates the disability community and the ADA without conflicting with the President's schedule or message. Acknowledges the national Deaf relay system.
- Frames and establishes the concept of the White House Office of Consumer Affairs and establishes a person in the White House who is responsible for disability policy.^{1/}
- Averts snubbing and alienating the disability community and Senator Tom Harkin by recognizing disability issues.
- Responds to the fact that George Bush will be hosting a July meeting with disability community leaders in Maine to discuss ADA issues.

^{1/} Presently, there is no disabled person in White House focusing on disability issues for the President. Bush had Special Assistant to the Vice-President for Disability Issues. I have received calls from the Vice-President's Office asking me what to do with all of the phone calls that come in for that office. The Public Liaison staffer in charge of the disability community recently informed me that he will no longer have the disability community as part of his portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Edgar Bueno
FROM: Bobby C. Simpson 
DATE: August 2, 1993

SUBJECT: GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING USE OF PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANCE BY POTENTIAL APPOINTEES WITH DISABILITIES

Detailed below is information for consideration by the Administration regarding positions on hiring of personal care assistants by potential appointees with disabilities.

Typical potential appointees move freely thru society pursuing professional careers and developing relationship in the community bound only by laws, social customs and self determined actions.

Potential appointees with disabilities resemble the above scenario with one enormous variation-many must rely on a personal care assistant to carry out many of the daily life activities which most take for granted such as: bathing, dressing, personal hygiene activities, food preparation, transportation and often many others. All of these activities or some combination are often performed multiple times daily, seven days per week.

Working adults with disabilities have chosen to become taxpaying, active participants in American society and thus have given up access to any form of financial assistance, tax credits, etc., to subsidize personal care costs. Everyday, persons with disabilities choose to take on the responsibility of finding someone to assure that you get dressed and out of bed in the morning and back into bed in the evening as well the myriad of activities which may take place in between. All for opportunity to live independently and productively in the community. How does an individual arrange such expensive assistance? Options considered often include:

- (a) finding a roommate (or two) and provide them room, board as well as a small amount of pay in return for necessary assistance.
- (b) find one person or several to be available at certain times of the day to provide necessary assistance.
- (c) utilize spouse or family member to provide assistance.

It is very difficult to find competent, honest attendants willing and able to provide very personal assistance; on a widely varying schedule; at a limited rate of pay. Aides from home health agencies etc., cost at least \$20.00 per hour and often a minimum number of hours is required to receive the service. None of my colleagues with disabilities are wealthy enough to afford to hire from an agency. Most end up locating a college student or someone with a low paying job looking for a second job to supplement their income. Often times these individuals aren't willing to work if tax

Edgar Bueno
August 2, 1993
Page Two

deductions are withheld from an already small amount of compensation. It is likely that many do not report receiving such income. Many people with disabilities have not been aware of required tax payments on personal assistant services. I feel that such scenarios are typical because our society has not responded to the need to develop a system focused on the provision of support services to working adults with disabilities who want to live and work in the community. Unfortunately, current support systems for the disabled are based on a institutional, medical model available primarily to those who don't work and receive government assistance.

I hope this information will be considered as the administration reviews its position on the past use of personal care assistants by persons with disabilities.

My situation is somewhat unique in that my wife chose not to pursue outside employment and has met my personal assistance needs for the last several years. As you know I am being considered for nomination as Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

*Ms. d
File (Disability)*



OPERATION PEOPLE FIRST:

TOWARD A NATIONAL DISABILITY POLICY

A REPORT OF

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES'

1993 TELECONFERENCE PROJECT