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Democratic Ethnic Strategy Meeting - 10/09/1995

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George, Here is the meeting I was bugging you about. Also note, your Mother will be there.

October 9, 1995

Thanks for your help. It would be great if you could drop by.

Marilyn x 62721

BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM

FROM: MARILYN DIGIACOBBE

SUBJECT: DEMOCRATIC ETHNIC STRATEGY MEETING

Monday, October 9, 1995
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Roosevelt Room

Peter Ujvagi (Hungarian-American Democratic City Council member from Toledo, OH) and Jim Rosapepe (Italian-American Maryland Legislature Delegate and Coordinator of the Italian American Democratic Leadership Council) have taken the initiative to organize a day long strategy session with key Democratic ethnic leaders. A group of 20 ethnic leaders, representing the majority of the white ethnic communities, are in town for a day long session focused on addressing ways in which they can most effectively help the President as individual ethnic groups and as a broader ethnic community.

All of the 20 participants are here because they want to help the President in his re-election. They all have worked with the Office of Public Liaison over the past 2 1/2 years and many played key roles in organizing ethnic support for the President's election in 1992. Prior to our 3:00 p.m. meeting, they will have had a morning strategy session and will have had lunch with Bobby Watson and Minyon Moore at the Democratic National Committee. At the DNC meeting, the group plans to emphasize the importance of acknowledging white ethnics as a core constituency and backing that up with the resources to support a grassroots effort. In simple terms, they will ask once again for the DNC to hire a staff person to do outreach to white ethnics. (Note that since Jay Footlik left the DNC, there has been no DNC ethnic liaison counterpart to build on the work done by the Office of Public Liaison.)

At the 3:00 p.m. Roosevelt Room meeting, the group will want to exchange ideas on the role that ethnic Americans will play in the 1996 elections, particularly in critical target states. They will expect to have a discussion that covers both the message to ethnic Americans as well as the grassroots mechanisms. They will bring ideas, knowledge and experience to the table. They are ready to work, but they need to get the feeling from this White House meeting, that we have a real commitment to ethnic Americans as a core constituency and that it is a priority for both the White House and the Re-elect.

Please see attached list of participants and background on the meeting. Thank you for your help!

DEMOCRATIC ETHNIC STRATEGY MEETING
Monday, October 9, 1995

PARTICIPANTS

Irish-Americans

Hon. Bruce A. Morrison
Chairman, Americans for a New Irish Agenda
Washington, DC

Mr. Brian O'Dwyer
Chairman, Emerald Isle Immigration Center
New York, New York

Mr. Joseph Jamison
Director, Irish American Labor Coalition
New York, New York

Italian-Americans

Mr. Arthur Gajarsa
Vice Chairman, National Italian American Foundation
Washington, DC

Hon. James Rosapepe
Delegate, Maryland Legislature
National Coordinator, Italian American Democratic Leadership Council
College Park, Maryland

Dr. Philip R. Piccigallo
National Executive Director, Order Sons of Italy in America
Washington, DC

Polish-Americans

Mr. Thomas Wojslawowicz
Chairman, New York Pulaski Day Parade
Polish American Congress, New Jersey-Bayonne
Bayonne, New Jersey

Hungarian-Americans

Hon. Peter S. Ujvagi
Member, Toledo City Council
Organizing Committee, Hungarian American National Democratic Leadership Caucus
Toledo, Ohio

Lithuanian-Americans

Dr. Elona Vaisnys
Yale University
North Haven, Connecticut

Greek-Americans

Mrs. Nikki Stephanopoulos
Public Relations Officer, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America
New York, New York

Ms. Christine Warnke
Government Affairs Advisor, Hogan and Hartson
Washington, DC

Ukrainian-Americans

Mr. Julian E. Kulas
Boardmember, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America
President, 1st Security Federal Savings Bank
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Andrew Fedynsky
Director, Ukrainian Museum Archives
Rocky River, Ohio

Arab-Americans

Dr. James Zogby
President, Arab American Institute
Washington, DC

Mr. Tony Haddad
Vice-President, Lebanese American Council of Detroit
Troy, Michigan

Armenian-Americans

Mr. Mourad Topalian
Chairman, Armenian National Committee of America
Warrensville Heights, Ohio

Mr. Set Momjian
Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania

Croatian-Americans

Mr. Steve Rukavina
National President, National Federation of Croatian Americans
Washington, DC

Resource

Ms. Vicki Mongiardo
Former Director of Ethnic Affairs, Carter White House
Washington, DC

GOALS FOR THE DEMOCRATIC ETHNIC STRATEGY MEETING

- 1. To encourage support for, and the strengthening of the White House effort in the Office of Public Liaison in reaching out to the ethnic communities, and to expand that effort to other White House and Administration offices.**
- 2. Utilize this meeting to get to know each other, learn from each other, and determine whether, by working together, we can be taken more seriously by the DNC, The White House, and the Re elect Committee.**
- 3. Explore if there are common, cross cutting issues that bring our communities together, and as a result generates greater political power.**
- 4. Begin to develop an outline of what we believe an effective Democratic strategy should be for 1996 and beyond.**
- 5. Meet with staff of the DNC and the White House to hear their plans for our communities, and hopefully, to begin a dialogue.**
- 6. Make a determination at the end of the day whether together we can be more effective than working as individual groups, and deciding if and how we want to continue this process.**

DRAFT AGENDA

DEMOCRATIC ETHNIC STRATEGY MEETING

Monday October 9, 1995
9:00 A.M.

1828 L. Street, N.W.
Suite 1010
Washington, D.C. 20005

- | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------|
| I. | Welcome & Introductions | 9:00 - 12:00 |
| II. | Outline Goals for the Day | |
| III. | Status of the Democratic Party / President
with our various constituencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Experiences with the DNC- Experiences with the White House- Outlook for 1996 election. | |
| IV. | Strengths of the Ethnic Constituencies <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Voter strength in target states- Organizational resources- Ethnic elected officials- Financial resources | |
| V. | Key Issues & Concerns for 1996 Election <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Democratic Message that needs to resonate
with our constituencies.- Organizational needs. | |
| VI. | Strategy for meeting w. DNC <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What do we bring to the table.- What can we deliver.- What we expect of the DNC. | |
| VII. | Strategy for meeting w. White House | |
| VIII. | Lunch and meeting with DNC <ul style="list-style-type: none">- At Rosapepe & Spanos | 12:00 - 2:00 |
| IX. | Meeting at the White House <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Roosevelt Room | 3pm 2:30 - 4:30 |
| X. | Debriefing & Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">- OEOB | 4:30 - 5:30 |

Hon. Peter S. Ujvagi
One Government Center
Toledo, Ohio 43623
419-693-4781 O.
419-693-4035 F.

September 28, 1995

Mr. Doug Sosnik
Assistant to the President
Director, Political Affairs
The White House
Washington D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Sosnik,

In many states, ethnic Americans, a historically core constituency of the Democratic Party, played a pivotal role in the election of President Bill Clinton in 1992.

Over the last three years, many of us have worked hard to assure that this key constituency would have an integral role in the development of public policy in the Clinton administration.

We appreciate the exceptional efforts of the Office of Public Liaison in insuring that the views and concerns of ethnic Americans were represented in the decision making processes of this administration. We can certainly say with confidence, that the ethnic American communities have enjoyed an unprecedented access to the White House during the last three years.

As we look forward to the critical activities of next year, it is important that we strengthen our contacts with the Office of Political Affairs.

We hope that you also share our conviction that an effective strategy for securing the ethnic constituency in support of President Clinton must be an integral part of any successful effort for the 1996 elections.

A small group of ethnic American leaders with a strong background in practical Democratic politics will be meeting in Washington on Monday, October 9 to talk about a Democratic ethnic strategy for 1996 and beyond.

All of the participants will be people who have developed a strong relationship with the White House over the last three years and are strongly committed to the reelection of President Clinton.

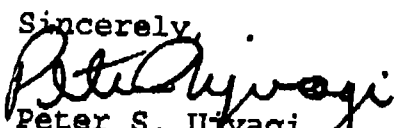
We believe it is essential that we have the opportunity to meet with you and other senior members of the Administration, including Ms. Alexis Herman, Director of the Office of Public Liaison, and Mr. Leon Panetta, Chief of Staff, to exchange ideas on the critical and pivotal role that ethnic Americans will play in the 1996 elections particularly in critical target states.

Specifically, we would request the opportunity to meet with you on the afternoon of October 9, anytime between 2:30 and 4:30 that your schedule would allow. We hope your schedule will enable you to participate in what we feel is an extremely important opportunity to develop an effective ethnic strategy.

Please contact us if you have any questions. Ms. Marilyn DiGiacobbe of the Office of Public Liaison is helping to facilitate this meeting.

We look forward to working together for victory in 1996.

Sincerely,


Peter S. Urvagi
Toledo City Council

Hungarian American
National Democratic
Leadership Caucus


Hon. Jim Rosepepe
Maryland House of Delegates

Italian American Democratic
Leadership Council

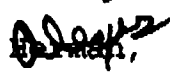
cc: Hon. Jim Rosepepe
Marilyn DiGiacobbe

Hon. Peter S. Ujvagi
One Government Center
Toledo, Ohio 43623

September 26, 1995

Ms. Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
Director, Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington D.C. 20002

Attn: Ms. Marilyn DiGiacobbe

Dear Ms.  Herman,

In many states, ethnic Americans, a historically core constituency of the Democratic Party, played a pivotal role in the election of President Bill Clinton in 1992.

Over the last three years, many of us have worked hard to assure that this key constituency would have an integral role in the development of public policy in the Clinton administration.

We appreciate the exceptional efforts of your office and staff in insuring that the views and concerns of ethnic Americans were represented in the decision making processes of this administration. We can certainly say with confidence, that the ethnic American communities have enjoyed an unprecedented access to the White House during the last three years.

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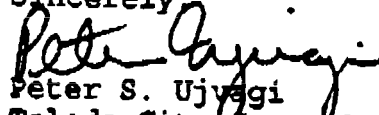
All of the participants will be people who have developed a strong relationship with the White House and the Office of Public Liaison.

We believe it is essential that we have the opportunity to meet with you and other senior members of the Administration, including Mr. Doug Sosnick, Director of Political Affairs and Mr. Leon Panetta, Chief of Staff, to exchange ideas on the critical and pivotal role that ethnic Americans will play in the 1996 elections particularly in critical target states.

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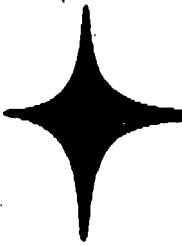
We are looking forward to meeting with you and to working together for victory in 1996.

Sincerely


Peter S. Ujvagi
Toledo City Council


Hon. Jim Rosepepe
Maryland House of Delegates

cc: Hon. Jim Rosepepe
Marilyn DiGiacobbe



CITY OF TOLEDO OHIO

ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER
SUITE 2120
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604
419/248-1080

PETER UJVAGI
COUNCILMAN

RESIDENCE
124 PAINE AVENUE
TOLEDO, OHIO 43606
419/887-0890



September 29, 1997

TO: Mr. Julian E. Kulas
President
1st Security Federal Savings Bank
936 North Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622

FROM: Hon. Jim Rosapepe
National Coordinator
Italian American Democratic
Leadership Council

Hon. Peter Ujvagi
Organizing Committee,
Hungarian American
National Democratic
Leadership Caucus

RE: DEMOCRATIC ETHNIC STRATEGY MEETING

Over the last three years, many of us have been involved with the Clinton Administration, as well as the DNC, in an effort to assure that the concerns and interests of ethnic Americans are understood and included in the policy, as well as, political decision making processes of the Administration.

The White House Offices of Public Liaison and Marilyn DiGiacobbe have done a great job, with extremely limited resources, of keeping our ethnic constituencies engaged with this administration.

While some Democratic ethnic groups have developed a good relationship with the DNC, the reality is that there continues to be no ongoing staff capacity, and little resources being committed by the DNC to our constituencies.

As the process for developing the strategy for the 1996 elections moves forward, it is critical that there be an increased understanding and appreciation of the pivotal role that ethnic American voters will play in the reelection of the President in 1996.

It is important that the DNC, the White House, and the Re-elect Committee clearly understand that a purely symbolic, often last minute, inclusion of ethnic Democrats in the

reelection effort will be insufficient to assure that those ethnic voters who supported the President in 1992 will be there again, hopefully in greater numbers, in next year's election.

Additionally, it is critical that the DNC understand the need to develop a long term strategy and capability to reach out to second and third generation ethnic Americans and to move beyond the traditional, and increasingly ineffective, ethnic politics of the past.

We have a unique opportunity to build on the effective efforts of the Office of Public Liaison and their outreach to the ethnic communities of America during the last three years.

The work of Marilyn DiGiacobbe and of the OPL provided unprecedented access to the White House and the Administration. Now we must make sure to build on that record, and the positive contacts that have been developed in the ethnic communities, as plans are being made for the reelection effort.

We would like to invite you to a meeting to share your experiences and ideas as well as to jointly develop a strategy that will assure that the White House and the DNC will recognize the important role our constituencies will play in next year's election.

Along with spending some time together to learn from each other's experiences, and beginning to develop an effective ethnic Democratic strategy, we would expect to meet with Don Fowler, Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and Minyon Moore, Political Director, Campaign Division, to discuss their progress in developing an ethnic staff capability as well as their plans for targeting the ethnic constituencies in next year's election.

We would also hope to meet with Alexis Herman, Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Liaison and Doug Sosnick, Assistant to the President and Director of Political Affairs at the White House to thank them for their efforts up to now and to stress the need for greater involvement and increased attention and resources during the next year.

We hope you will be able to take the time to join us on the evening of October 8th and for the day on October 9th, 1995.

We would hope to share dinner and get to know each other on the evening of October 8th and to have a full day of discussions and meetings on October 9th, starting with a continental breakfast at Rosapepe & Spanos, 1828 L Street N.W., Suite 1010 at 8:30 A.M.

We anticipate that we would conclude our discussions by no later than 5:30 P.M. Monday evening.

A suggested agenda will be available for your review early next week.

If you have any questions, or would like to share your observations or suggestions with us prior to our get-together, please contact either of us at:

**Jim Rosapepe 202-296-8060 office
296-8068 fax**

**Peter Ujvagi 419-693-4781 office
691-6958 home
693-4035 fax**

We look forward to your participation in a most interesting set of meetings on October 9, 1995.

Please call Colleen Barry at 202-296-8016 to confirm your attendance.