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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 4, 1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

The Briefing Room

12:41 P.M. EDT

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to be having a presidential statement on sanctions against Haiti later this afternoon. And there will be a background briefing here at 2:30 p.m. by an official from the State Department and Treasury Department.

Any questions?

Q Is it paper or are we going to see the President?

Q You said presidential statement.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We'll have a paper, the statement, and then we'll do a background briefing.

Q Is that an attempt to try to placate the Congressional Black Caucus?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Not at all, Andrea. Nice try, but, yes, I think the President three or four days ago said that we would be having a statement on Haiti later this week, and this is that statement.

Q Well, what is the President's view about those who feel that he has let them down and that he abandoned their principles in this case?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think he President spoke to that last night. He was standing up for his principles and what he believed in. When it came down to the final decision, he felt that he simply could not go forward with a divisive fight, a fight that would polarize the Senate, a fight that would not help lead to progress in civil rights over writings that he could not in good conscience defend.

Q Let me follow on that. She says that he misinterpreted her writings; and the Attorney General said this morning that she read the writings and no difficulty with them.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think that the President and Professor Guinier went over that last night. They met for an hour and 15 minutes. They had an extended discussion. I don't know how deeply they went into the writings, but I know they did discuss the writings, and they simply have a disagreement here. I don't know that it serves any useful purpose to go back over that ground. We're going to look forward. But if there is a disagreement, that is a disagreement the President feels in his heart. He read the writings. He read the University of Michigan Law Review. And there's simply a difference of opinion.

Q Has the President spoken with, or has anybody on the senior staff spoken with any of the civil rights leaders or

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members of the Congressional Black Caucus since the decision to withdraw her nomination, and can you tell us about that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Yes, the President has spoken with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I'm certain that that will continue today and over the weekend. I also believe that there have been meetings at a staff level and phone calls with members of various civil rights groups. I believe there's a meeting this afternoon, and if I can get a list on that, we'll put it out. I don't --

Q Who will meet --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Staff will meet with various members of civil rights groups. And, again, if I can get a list, I'll put it out.

Q -- put it out?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think so.

Q Staff only?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I believe so, yes.

Q Tell us who in the civil rights, or in the Black Caucus that he spoke to.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I know he spoke to the Chairman, Kweisi Mfume, last night. And I know that he is planning or may have already spoken to some members today. I don't know who else he's spoken to since then.

Q Did he anticipate, having made that decision, the kind of reaction that he got from them?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think that, unfortunately, there were tough politics involved in this issue. But the President felt that he had to go forward with what he believed was right, and that's what he did.

Q George, can you just give us a little blow-by-blow -- first of all, why the decision was made last night instead of the day before when we were getting so many indications that it had been made? And what was the role of David Gergen? If you could just kind of take us step by step --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think that more than anything else the President wanted to make sure that he was as fair as he possibly could be to Professor Guinier. It was a very difficult decision for him. It was a very painful decision for him. He knows that in many ways she was, unfortunately, put through an ordeal through no fault of her own. But he wanted to make sure yesterday that he was completely confident in his decision. And as you know, he spent much of yesterday morning reading her writings. He read the University of Michigan Law Review article. He read some other items. And he wanted to talk to some people during the day. David Gergen was around. He was part of the meetings, but he didn't say all that much, but he was around in part of the meetings.

Q Is there any reason he couldn't have done that the day before? I mean, did he want to wait for her to go on Nightline? I mean, what was the -- why did it take so long?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, again, I think that the President spoke to that yesterday. He wanted to make sure before there was any final decision that he had a complete understanding.

The situation was evolving and he just felt that yesterday morning he wanted to get a full understanding before he made a final decision.

Q Was there a staff failure in not getting those briefs to him earlier?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I think it was unfortunate -- at the beginning the President said himself that had he read the writings beforehand, he probably -- he would not have nominated her. I think that the President may have not been adequately briefed. That's too bad. But he takes responsibility for it.

Q George, you said you want to look forward. Can you tell us specifically what is it that the President's going to be doing to try to focus on different things? Is he going to go certain places, do certain things in the next three, four, five, six, seven days to placate the liberals who are upset, the moderates who want to be reassured, and so forth?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, the President is going to, first of all, do what he can again to continue to make progress on his economic plan. He's going to continue to work with members of the Senate and the House. As I said, he's going to be speaking with members of the Congressional Black Caucus both today and over the weekend, and I would expect that he'll be meeting with them when the Congress returns next week. I think he'll continue to try to make progress on appointing a Supreme Court nominee sometime in the near future. And he'll just be focusing on getting the economic plan passed.

Q A follow-up on the Supreme Court nominee. Is he going to be influenced by concern voiced over the dropping of this nomination on what he does on the Supreme Court nominee? In other words, might that result in a different person being named?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't think so. He's going to pick the person who he thinks can best serve on the Court.

Q When will that come?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Soon.

Q George, will there be any staff changes as a result of this latest nomination problem?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't think so. I think that, as you know, Mack McLarty has said that there will be sometime in the near future some reorganization of some kind, and he'll announce that when he can. But I don't think there's anything directly tied to this.

Q Will that involve Mr. Nussbaum? Will he stay in that position?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I can't comment on any of the changes, but not to my knowledge.

Q George, can you tell us if the President has talked to Bernie Nussbaum about how to vet candidates for these sorts of positions in the future?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I don't know that he's had any direct conversation in the last day or so. But, obviously, this is something we want to pay a lot of attention to. We want to make sure that we have a complete vet, that we catch every conceivable problem and see every conceivable outcome.

Q George, did the President watch Lani Guinier's news conference on television this morning?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't think so.

Q What is your reaction to what she basically had to say, that she still feels that she was hung out to dry?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I think the President feels very badly about this. He feels very sorry for Lani Guinier. He thinks she's a woman of outstanding character, outstanding intellect who's had an outstanding career in the fields of civil rights as a civil rights attorney. He feels badly about what's happened. It was a very painful decision for him.

Q The Attorney General and the President clearly disagree on the impact of her writings. And the Attorney General also said this morning that she has been -- that these things had been flagged to her and she's read them to her satisfaction and felt there was no problem with them. One at a time -- has the President and the Attorney General talked about their differences over interpretation of Ms. Guinier's writings? And, secondarily, who was the person in the White House who she said flagged her about the provocative nature of the writings?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Number one, I don't think so. They did have a good conversation last night and during the day yesterday.

Q -- discuss their disagreements about this --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think what the Attorney General told the President is that she supported his decision and she felt it was time to move on.

On the second question, I don't know who had the contact at the Justice Department. I can try and find out, but I don't know.

Q George, this is the third time that this has happened involving a Justice Department nominee. What are you guys learning about the vetting process and what needs to be systematically done to make sure that this sort of thing doesn't happen again?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I don't know that you can necessarily take different events and say the exact same thing happened because it didn't. I think that obviously this is very complicated and we live in a time when there are an awful lot of attention paid to nominations like this, and you have to try and think of every conceivable political substantive problem that might arise. Generally, we've done a very good job with that. I mean, I think --

Q The exact same thing did happen in this respect, and that's that in both cases -- in all three cases --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I didn't get to finish my sentence.

Q -- there were items that somebody in the White House knew about and alerted somebody about and still no action was taken.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I resist making any exact comparisons. I mean, these are different cases. What I was trying to say is that, generally, we've had a lot of appointments and, generally, the vetting process has worked. Our nominees have gotten through with good speed, at a faster pace than our two predecessors, President's Reagan and Bush, and we've generally avoided serious problems. These things do happen in the course of making a lot of

nominations where you have wholesale change in government. There are going to be problems that arise. You can't catch everything. You can't have perfection. Obviously, we would like to do better. We will do better.

Q George, a month ago, a conservative group said that they were going to go after Guinier, they were going to try to defeat her. They knew about the University of Michigan Law Review article. They knew about some of the other -- quote, unquote -- "controversial things" she had written about. Are you saying that in the last month that the President was not told about the writings and there was no communication with him on that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: First of all, to take it in two parts. Number one, I think the President still strongly disagrees with the mischaracterizations of Professor Guinier's work by a lot of those conservative groups. They took things out of context. They made charges that are simply not true. To my knowledge, Professor Guinier's explicitly rejected the notion of quotas. And they go forward and try and make charges about quotas. I think that was wrong; I think the President thinks it was wrong.

I think the President also did speak to it a couple of weeks ago. I mean, he believed that this job is essentially the job to enforce the civil rights laws and that Lani Guinier could and should be judged largely on the character of her work as a civil rights attorney and her overall career. Unfortunately, the focus of the nomination became her writings and that the President believed would be very divisive, would be very polarizing and it was not something that he could, if that was going to be the basis of the nomination, not something that he could in good conscience defend.

Q Can I follow up on that?

Q If she doesn't believe in quotas, can you summarize what she does believe in?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't think it's for me to summarize what Professor Guinier believes in. The President has expressed his view. The President has made his decision.

Q What did he read that he didn't agree with?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, the President spoke to that last night. He said her views in the University of Michigan Law Review article on proportional interest representation could lead to kind of sweeping remedies that he just couldn't support. But he spoke to that last night.

Q Isn't that quotas, though?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No, it's not quotas.

Q Can you define why not?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, it's not about quotas at all. It's about setting up different procedures in legislatures on minority voting.

Q George, on that issue, why is Jesse Jackson not right then in that the President has made perhaps --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: That's quite a lead-in. I can't wait for the second half. (Laughter.)

Q -- in choosing the architect of Reaganomics as one of his senior advisors, and yet has decided to cut loose Ms. Guinier

for an academic writing when her commitment would be to enforce Congress's civil rights law anyway?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: What the President said was that he -- that this fight would be polarizing, would be divisive, would tear the Senate apart in a debate over ideas that he could not defend. That is why he chose not to go forward.

Q But her job would be to enforce civil rights laws passed by Congress.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Yes. I mean, it would, and it also would -- she also would be in charge of day-to-day enforcement of the civil rights laws. That involves dozens of decisions every day which would -- which could have an effect in state and local jurisdictions. And he felt that he just could not go forward with the nomination.

Q But, George, in a political sense, I guess the question is, why didn't the President or his advisors see the train coming? I mean, if this is going to be a big fight, a huge fight, divisive, why didn't they see that coming?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think it's something that built up over time. I mean, Professor Guinier did go forward and meet with the senators. It appeared that the opposition did not lessen, and it also appeared that the writings were becoming the focus of the debate.

Q Why couldn't you let the Senate debate that? That's what advise and consent is all about. There was some suggestion that the administration was trying to let some of the Democrats off the hook on this so that they wouldn't have to vote against Lani Guinier. How do you respond to that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: What the President was trying to do was to avoid, as I've said before and as he said last night, a divisive, polarizing battle which would not serve the purpose of bringing people together, which would not serve the interests which he expounded in his campaign of healing racial divisions, instead it would tear people apart. That was a fight he felt he could not go forward with in good conscience.

Q Well, how will this heal racial divisions?

Q Does avoiding that battle improve the chances for the budget reconciliation bill in the Senate?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know about that. I do know that the President is going to do everything he can in the coming days and weeks to make sure that we get a consensus behind that plan, that we get a majority behind that plan and we get it passed as quickly as possible.

Q If you had had the battle, would that have created problems potentially for the budget reconciliation battle?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I suppose that's possible. I suppose it would have been -- it could have been a diversion. But the President is going to focus on the economic plan.

Q George, a couple of weeks ago out in the Rose Garden press conference, the President said that, when Brit raised the question about her writings, he said that the Attorney General and the President would set civil rights policy for the country, implying that he didn't have to necessarily agree with every last speck of her writings. What happened to that notion that since policy would be set by General Reno and the President it wasn't necessarily that important that they --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think it became clear that that wasn't the basis upon which the Senate debate would take place. And the Senate debate was going to be about Lani Guinier's writings and about -- and that's what it was going to focus on.

Q It was clear that the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee didn't feel as though he could, in good conscience, defend her writings, either. Did you all ever take a head count or try and find a Democratic rabbi for Ms. Guinier in the Judiciary Committee?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, as you know Professor Guinier did meet with several members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and several other senators. Obviously, we're in contact with members of the Senate every day and the President did have discussions with members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and other senators. I don't think there was a formal head count in that sense at all, but there was serious consultation.

Q George, here in this case as in the jobs stimulus package you kind of let your adversaries define the debate, you didn't define the debate. How do you go forward from here and go on the offensive in cases like this to let your issues be the battleground that the President spoke about last night?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think that's what we're going to try to do every day and we're going to try and bring it back to the important issues that he got elected on, bring it back to reviving this nation's economy, bring it back to getting our health care plan through, bringing it back to the issues that elected the President, the issues the American people expect him to focus on.

I mean, in that regard, one of the things the President was pleased to note this morning was the lowering of the unemployment rate for the first time, I believe, in 18 months, the first time that it was below seven percent. Obviously, this is something we take great heart in and we're going to continue to focus on the economy.

Q George, do you concede that you failed to define the debate in your terms that were favorable to you?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, again, I think that part of the problem was that in the end there was a disagreement over the nature of the writings and that was inescapable.

Q You defined this whole dispute a little while ago as a question of her confirmability, in essence. The dispute over the writings was going to make her unconfirmable in the Senate. How then -- do you disagree with that characterization?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Yes, I guess I do disagree with that characterization. In the end the President also could not -- I mean, the President had substantive disagreements in principle over those writings.

Q As I understand it, but the way you said it just a few minutes ago when you were asked about consultations and head counting, you said there was a basic question of whether -- that you had obviously consulted with members of the Senate, as the President said he would do, and obviously you did not get good messages back from them about this, which helped to reinforce what the President's ultimate decision was. But assuming for a case that that's so, how could Vice President Gore say there was no politics in this decision?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think that in the end the final decision was about the writings. There's no question about that. I mean, that's why the President chose to withdraw the

nomination. He felt that he could not move forward defending writings which he did not believe in. As he said last night, and he said it very, very clearly, if this were an attack on her character, if this were an attack on her legal career, he would move forward even if there were only one senator supporting it. That is not what this was about. In the end he felt that he could not go forward because her writings were not writings that he could defend through this debate.

Q George, can you explain why when she went to the Hill --

Q Wasn't there even one senator on the Judiciary Committee who you knew you could count on?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't have a head count in the Senate.

Q George, can you explain why when she went to make her calls, she went by herself without anyone from the White House staff accompanying her, according to reports from the Hill?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know that that's true. I mean, I would defer to Ricki, but I think that she had a team as all conferees have a team.

Q The reports we're getting from the Hill is that she did not have a team, she went by herself.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I just don't think that's true. I can get more information for you later.

Q Was anyone from the White House with her?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: First of all, I know that Ricki worked very closely on this whole --

MS. SEIDMAN: Howard Paster accompanied her on the meetings --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: She said Howard Paster also accompanied her on meetings.

Q Can you take that question and check?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Sure, absolutely.

Q We were told he did not.

Q George, the First Lady yesterday told labor groups that she expects to have a December 24th signing of the health plan. How is that possible given that the earliest you're going to get it up there is the end of this month?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think that -- hopefully, we will have quick consideration by the congressional committees. And we'll be able to just push hard throughout the fall.

Q Do you really think that's realistic?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Sure, it is.

Q What's your message to the civil rights leaders that you're reaching out to? And what was the President telling those members of the Black Caucus that he talked to who accused him of cowardice and --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, what he said, first of all, is that we have a disagreement over principle. I'm sorry about that, but that's the way it is. I hope you'll understand. I hope you'll also know that I remain committed to civil rights, committed to the strong enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and the other civil rights laws, committed to making progress. And I'm committed to getting a nominee now as we move forward who's committed to those same goals. And I look forward to working with you. I understand your strong feelings about this. You're going to have to understand mine, and let's move forward.

Q George, is he going to consult any of those civil rights groups for a name or names for the next nominee?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I'm certain there will be consultations.

Q Were they consulted on Lani Guinier, or did that just come from his own acquaintance with her?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think, clearly, the President's acquaintance with her and her work had a lot to do with the nomination. But I also believe that they were consulted and were obviously very pleased with the original nomination.

Q A quick economics question, to give you a break. With the job figures out, does this mean that -- a few extra jobs now, does the administration plan to modify or maintain its view of the jobless recovery?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, obviously, we're pleased by the drop in the unemployment rate. We want to continue -- we want to see that continue. We want to see the unemployment rate continue to go down, and that's -- we're going to continue to push for the President's economic package.

Q Does that change your view that there is a jobless recovery?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, the only thing we've seen this month is improvement. And we hope to see more in the coming months.

Q George, may I follow up on the economy for a second? Secretary Bentsen this morning suggested in an interview on CNN -- (laughter) --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: By whom?

Q -- he suggested that you might be willing to reconsider the increase in the income tax rate so it wouldn't be retroactive to January 1st, '93, but would be active January 1st, '94, depending on the state of the economy. Is that now open to consideration, as Secretary Bentsen has suggested?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I didn't see the interview, so I don't think I should comment on that directly. What the President has said is that as we move through the Senate we expect to have fewer taxes and more spending cuts. The exact composition of that at this time I don't know, but we're going to continue to look at a variety of options.

Q Do you know why he --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No, the explanation is just some technical problems, but I don't have anything more on that.

Q He also suggested in a Wall Street Journal interview that maybe you're willing to cut the Btu tax by 25 to 33 percent as part of a compromise with the senators.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: As I say to answer again, I think that we're looking at fewer taxes and more spending cuts. The exact composition I don't know.

Q George, just to follow up on the economic question. I realize that you all are pleased about the drop in the unemployment rate, but there's also some renewed speculation that the Federal Reserve may be forced to raise interest rates. Would the administration oppose that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Obviously, we're always -- we're watching that closely and we share the same goals of promoting growth while restraining inflation. But I'm not going to comment directly.

Q George, it sounds like the next potential crisis coming at you, the next train coming in your direction -- (laughter) --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks for the warning.

Q -- is the Congressional Black Caucus has said they might exact revenge for what Clinton did on this nomination and thus vote against the economic package when it comes up for final approval. I have a couple of question on that. One, does he think that that is an appropriate or even patriotic stance to take, to use revenge to get the budget package, \$500 billion or whatever it is.

Q It's certainly not patriotic. (Laughter.)

Q What is he doing to convince them not to do that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, the President's talking to members of the Black Caucus and he continues to believe that his economic package is in the best interest of the country. And he's going to continue to reach out support from every quarter, Democrats and Republicans alike. And we're going to do everything we can to get support. The President is sensitive to their concerns, and he's going to talk to them about it and listen to what they have to say.

Q To follow up on that idea, it seems in the last week the President has been whipsawed from one side to the other in dealing with Congress. If he's not trying to beg for votes from conservatives and moderates and making promises about -- on the energy tax or whatever, now he's trying to placate the Congressional Black Caucus. Why hasn't he been able to show more leadership in dealing with these --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think that's upside down. The President showed leadership last week in the House when he stood before and asked members of the House for a very tough vote on a package to reduce the deficit. One of the toughest votes in a generation and he got it passed. He stood up for what he believed in and it worked.

I think he did the same thing this week and this was a very painful decision for him. It was a very difficult decision for him, but in the end he had to stand up for what he believed in, despite the political consequences either way. He had to say, this is what I think is right, this is what I must do. And that's what he did.

Q George, so many senators were opposed to Lani's nomination. Have any of those who were opposed to her called the

President to congratulate him and express support for the decision, to say, hey, we'll work with it --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know about calling the President. It's my understanding that Senator Mitchell put out a statement last night. I believe that Senator Breaux is putting out a statement today. I think others are probably doing that as well.

Q What is your response to Republican senators who say that Professor Guinier deserved her day, deserved her hearing?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The same response I gave here.

Q I'm sorry, I don't see the relationship.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The relationship --

Q Do you feel that they're not being honest in that or what?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No, I think that the President felt that this would be a divisive battle, one that he would -- that he did not think it was in the best interest of civil rights or the best interest of the country. That's why he chose not to go forward.

Q George, when is the first meetings going to be taking place with senators on the budget bill? Is there going to be anything this weekend or Monday, Tuesday?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know about any formal meetings this weekend. I mean, obviously, the President and other members of the staff have been talking to senators straight through this process. That will continue. I don't know of any scheduled meetings at this time.

Q How about the meeting with Boren? Has anything been set up yet?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No.

Q Okay. Let me follow up on specifics. Is the President or the White House prepared to come to the table with its ideas for additional spending cuts, anticipating that this is where we're going to end up or are you waiting for members to come to you?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think we're going to just work with the Senate and work with the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Mr. Moynihan; and other members of the Senate Finance Committee; and the majority leader, Senator Mitchell; and continue to work with them on the best package. But those consultations are continuing now.

Q What did Secretary Bentsen mean when he was talking about a new mechanism to collect Medicare from the elderly?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know. I didn't see the statement.

Q The President was supposed to take a trip early next week; it's been canceled. The question is does he plan to spend more time here trying to get things in order at least in the foreseeable future, or does he plan to travel as much as ever?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Before we weren't traveling enough. I think that he'll probably travel, I mean, just continue to have a mix, come out every week or two. This week -- next week he's going to be focusing on the reconciliation plan. He's got a lot of work to do and he's going to stay here and focus on it.

Q George, it's not clear from what you said or what the President said last night that he was specifically warned about the problems with Guinier's writings. Was he ever specifically warned by anybody in the White House staff that there might be a problem here?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: What he was told was that there -- just that some people thought there might be a controversy with the writings, but that it shouldn't be a big deal, not worry about it. And obviously, the briefing could have been more full, but the President takes responsibility for that.

Q Was that prior to nomination?

Q When did that take place?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know.

Q Was that prior to nomination -- that conversation?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: What?

Q Prior to her nomination or after her nomination that he was warned about possible controversy?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think it was at the time.

Q George, have any other nominees or appointments been judged on the basis of their writings? Is this the first one? Have any -- has the President gone over past writings of any other appointments?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Not to my knowledge. I think it would obviously come into play with the Supreme Court at some level. I mean, this is similar with Judge Bork. I don't think -- but I couldn't swear, I mean, there are so many appointments, I couldn't speak to every single one.

Q Whose job is that to send up a red flag about controversial writing?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think that, obviously the vetting process is supposed to be sensitive to all the different concerns. I mean, it's something that we're striving for. In this case, it didn't work adequately, but we're going to move forward.

Q Whose job is it to send up that flare? Is that the Personnel Office? Is that the Counsel's Office? Is that somebody else? Whose responsibility was it here?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The Counsel's Office is responsible -- has overall responsibility for the vetting.

Q And who warned the President?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know what the nature of the conversations were. I don't know who was there at the time.

Q -- he characterizes it as unfortunate. But is the President -- I mean, isn't he a little upset with the way the staff handled this whole thing?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President is sorry about this whole thing.

Q George, it's been written that maybe one of the reasons that he didn't get a strong warning is because the President

and the First Lady are good friends with Ms. Guinier. Do you think that was indeed a factor in why they didn't warn him more strongly about these writings?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't really know. And I would -- the President made a statement last night. I don't know that it serves much more purpose to go back over that. It's hard to reconstruct the events exactly or what was in people's minds exactly. But for whatever reason, the process didn't work as well as it could have worked and we're going to do better.

Q George, after the nomination, whose job was it to see the train coming and then whose job was it to tell the President that there was a serious problem here and he should reconsider?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I don't know that this kind of finger-pointing is going to serve any purpose. What we do know is that in this case it didn't work as well as it could have worked.

Q -- going on --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, as you know, Mack is doing a review -- is planning on announcing an overall -- some changes in the staff structure to make it work better over time. We're looking to strengthen. We've had a lot of people stretched very thin for the past several months.

Q This has nothing to do with --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No. I just said -- we know overall we can be doing a better job, and we're going to continue to try to improve that.

Q George, you were asked a question about Jesse Jackson earlier. I'd like to hear a little bit more of your response. What the Reverend was saying late last night -- and it's the quote that's used in the paper this morning and he amplified on it further there -- was the implication of a double standard. He was suggesting that Lani Guinier was being judged on the basis of her past writings and statements. And his question was, if that's the case, then why is David Gergen being hired at the White House at all? Would you address the issue of --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, you have to look at the President's reasoning for not going forward. In this case, those writings were becoming the focus of a divisive, polarizing debate in the Senate. They were not -- and that debate would not serve a constructive purpose. It would not advance the cause of civil rights. It would not help bring people together. The President felt that he can -- that that debate, under those circumstances, would not be helpful, would not be good for the country. And that's why he chose not to go forward.

Q -- coincidentally --

Q May I follow up?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Sure.

Q -- threaten the economic program?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: What I said was that it would not help the cause of civil rights, it would be polarizing, it would be divisive. It would not be helpful in any way.

Q Why would that be the case? Why wouldn't the public be served by an open public discussion about race?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: In this case, it would have been a discussion focused on ideas that in the end he could not defend. That's why the President could not go forward.

Q George -- excuse me -- could I just follow up on my original question?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Sure.

Q Would you agree or disagree then with the other part of Reverend Jackson's statement last night in which he suggested that it would seem to him that Mr. Clinton would feel closer to the writings and ideas of Lani Guinier than he would to those of David Gergen?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I'm not going to get into that kind of a comparison. I'm just not going to do that. What I would say is that in this case, which is the case the President had to deal with this week, he felt he could not go forward.

Q George, could you tell us what Gergen's been doing on his first day and a half?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: He hasn't really officially started yet. He's sort of getting the lay of the land.

Q Meeting with staff to get --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think he has been meeting with staffers, sure.

Q Where is his office going to be?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't think that's been settled yet.

Q In the hallway, in the corridor? Is he going to have a telephone? (Laughter.)

Q Are you going to stay in your office?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know what the final decisions are yet.

Q George, are you going to continue briefing for a while yet?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know. (Laughter.)

Q He means like next week, not today.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I know what he means. (Laughter.)

Q On scaling back the Btu tax, one of the CEOs at the luncheon on Wednesday, said that the President gave a very clear message that even though he would want that energy tax broad-based domestically, that internationally, he feels there should be some protection granted. Along that line, he was given the clear impression that the President was willing to support the exemption from the Btu tax for energy intensive exports.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We're in consultations with the Senate on all this right now. We've made some decisions; we'll let you know.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

1:16 P.M. EDT
#80-06/04

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

June 4, 1993

THE CHAIRMAN
MEMORANDUM FOR WHITE HOUSE SENIOR STAFF

03 JUN 4 A 8:58

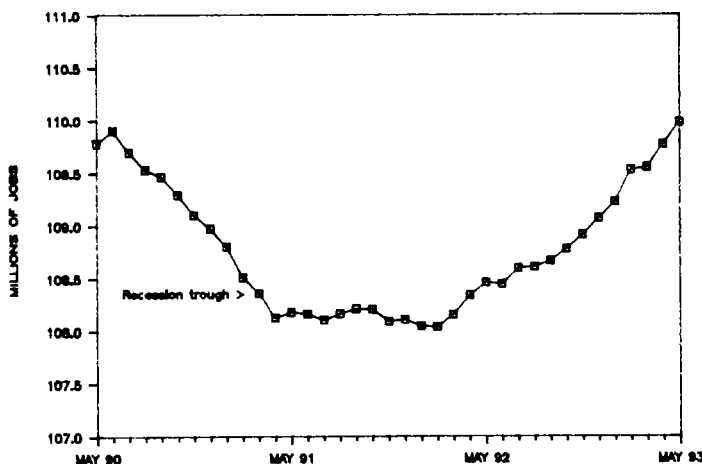
FROM: LAURA D. TYSON *LD*

SUBJECT: Employment and Unemployment in May, Labor
Department Release, This Morning, 8:30 a.m.

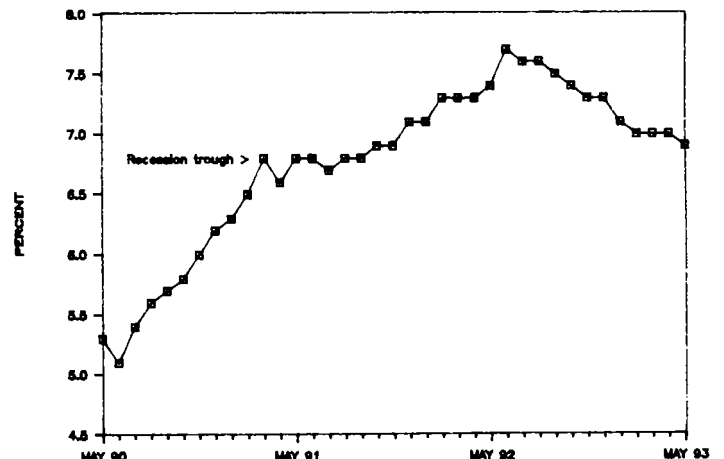
The May employment report came in much stronger than anticipated, showing a decline in the unemployment rate and a strong increase in payroll employment to a record level.

- o The unemployment rate fell to 6.9 percent in May from 7.0 percent in April. Private analysts had expected the unemployment rate to be unchanged at 7 percent. This was the first decline in the unemployment rate in 3 months and the first time in 18 months that it was below 7 percent.
- o Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 209,000 in May to a record-high level of nearly 110 million--exceeding the peak level that existed prior to the recession. Private analysts had expected a smaller increase of 150,000. Also, payroll employment growth in April was revised up sharply.
- o Aggregate production worker hours increased strongly in May. Through May, aggregate hours are up 4.7 percent at an annual rate from the first quarter, suggesting that the pace of economic growth has picked up during the second quarter.
- o Average hourly earnings increased by 0.6 percent in May. This increase may feed concerns about increasing inflation pressures in the economy. Over the last 3 months, hourly earnings increased by 0.3 percent on average each month.
- o The strong increases in aggregate hours and hourly earnings indicate that income increased significantly in May.

NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT



CIVILIAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



George,

We are releasing a Presidential Statement on new sanctions against Haiti this afternoon. We would like you to make the following announcement at your briefing:

This afternoon we will be releasing a Presidential Statement on Sanctions Against Haiti. A background briefing will be given in this room at 2:30 by State (Mike Kozack) and Treasury (Rick Newcomb) officials.

[A draft (it is with Podesta for clearance) of the statement is attached. Secretary Christopher outlined this story for the Baltimore Sun yesterday; it appeared in today's edition.]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 4, 1993

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
ON SANCTIONS AGAINST HAITI**

One of the cornerstones of our foreign policy is to support the global march toward democracy and to stand by the world's new democracies. The promotion of democracy, which not only reflects our values but also increases our security, is especially important in our own Hemisphere. As part of that goal, I consider it a high priority to return democracy to Haiti and to return its democratically-elected President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to his office.

We should recall Haiti's strides toward democracy just a few years back. Seven years ago, tired of the exploitative rule that had left them the poorest nation in our Hemisphere, the Haitian people rose up and forced the dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier to flee. In December 1990, in a remarkable exercise of democracy, the Haitian people held a free and fair election -- and two-thirds of them voted for President Aristide.

Nineteen months ago, however, that progress toward democracy was thwarted when the Haitian military illegally and violently ousted President Aristide from office. Since taking office in January, the United States Government has worked steadily with the international community in an effort to restore President Aristide and democracy to Haiti. The OAS and United Nations Special Envoy, Dante Caputo, has demonstrated great dedication and tenacity. To support Mr. Caputo's effort, Secretary of State Christopher in March named U.S. Ambassador Lawrence Pezzullo as our Special Adviser for Haiti.

We and the international community have made progress. The presence of the International Civilian Mission has made a concrete contribution to human rights in Haiti. Mr. Caputo's consultations with all the parties indicated that a negotiated solution is possible.

Unfortunately, the parties in Haiti have not been willing to make the decisions or take the steps necessary to begin democracy's restoration. And while they seek to shift responsibility, Haiti's people continue to suffer.

In light of their own failure to act constructively, I have determined that the time has come to increase the pressure on the Haitian military, the de facto regime in Haiti and their supporters.

The U.S. has been at the forefront of the international community's efforts to back up the UN/OAS negotiations with sanctions and other measures. Beginning in October 1991, we

froze all Haitian government assets in the United States and prohibited unlicensed financial transactions with Haitian persons. Today, I am acting to strengthen those existing provisions in several ways.

First, I have signed a Proclamation pursuant to Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act prohibiting the entry into the U.S. of Haitian nationals who impede the progress of negotiations designed to restore constitutional government to Haiti and of the immediate relatives of such persons. The Secretary of State will determine the persons whose actions are impeding a solution to the Haitian crisis. These people will be barred from entering the United States.

Second, pursuant to the authority of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the Executive Orders on the Haiti emergency, I have directed the Secretary of the Treasury to designate as "Specially Designated Nationals" those Haitians who act for or on behalf of the Junta, or who make material, financial or commercial contributions to the de facto regime or the Haitian Armed Forces. In effect, this measure will freeze the personal assets of such persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction from conducting any transactions whatsoever with the individuals and entities named.

Third, I have directed Secretary Christopher to consult with the OAS and its member states on ways to enhance enforcement of the existing OAS sanctions program. And I have directed Secretary Christopher and Ambassador Albright to consult with the UN and member states on the possibility of creating a worldwide sanctions program against Haiti.

Sanctions alone do not constitute a solution. The surest path toward the restoration of democracy in Haiti is a negotiated solution that assures the safety of all parties. We will therefore strongly support a continuation and intensification of the negotiating effort. We will impress on all parties the need to take seriously their own responsibilities for a successful resolution to this impasse.

Our policy on Haiti is not a policy for Haiti alone. It is a policy in favor of democracy everywhere. Those who seek to derail a return to constitutional government -- whether in Haiti or Guatemala -- must recognize that we will not be swayed from our purpose.

At the same time, individuals should not have to fear that supporting democracy's restoration will ultimately put their own safety at risk. Those who have opposed President Aristide in the past should recognize that, once President Aristide has returned, we and the rest of the international community will defend assiduously their legitimate political rights.

It is my hope that the measures we have announced today will encourage greater effort and flexibility in the negotiations to restore democracy and President Aristide to Haiti.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE -- 12:00 PM
FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1993

Ukrainian Nuclear Weapons

Q: What do you make of Prime Minister Kuchma's statement that Ukraine should become a nuclear weapon state?

A:-- The reports of Kuchma's statement to a closed meeting of the Ukrainian parliament have not been confirmed. If they are true, his position would not be consistent with the existing commitment of Ukraine to become a non-nuclear weapons state.

-- This policy has been repeatedly confirmed by the Ukrainian government. President Kravchuk, Foreign Minister Zlenko and Defense Minister Morozov have all reconfirmed it in recent days.

Q: What can you say about reports that Ukraine is actively trying to gain control of the nuclear weapons on its territory?

A: -- We have had an ongoing concern about the evident wish of some Ukrainians to retain nuclear weapons in Ukraine. For that reason, we are working closely with the Ukrainian government at the highest level, both to make the leadership aware of our concern and to cooperate with them on developing initiatives to improve their overall security environment.

-- We remain confident Ukraine does not have independent control over nuclear weapons and does not have the capability to order the use of strategic weapons on its territories.

Q: Is it true that Ukraine is going to fail to ratify START I and accede to the Nonproliferation Treaty?

A: -- In the last days, President Kravchuk and Foreign Minister Zlenko have again confirmed that Ukraine's policy is to see a positive vote for START I ratification and accession to the NPT.

-- They are working closely with the Ukrainian parliament to achieve that vote. We expect a positive outcome.

-- The parliament will began debate on START this month. It is unclear when a vote will take place.

Guatemala

Q: Do you recognize Acting President Espina's claim to the presidency? What is your position on the apparent struggle between Espina, the military and the congress.

A: -- We support the return to constitutional rule. We will not comment or attempt to interpret Guatemala's constitution. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Q: Has the U.S. resumed foreign aid?

A: -- We are monitoring the situation closely. While events seem to be moving in a positive direction, we will not lift our suspension of assistance until democratic, constitutional government has been restored.

-- The firm rejection of Serrano's illegal power grab by the international community played an important role in preventing his consolidation of power and gave hope to Guatemalans seeking to restore democratic, constitutional rule. The strong, unequivocal rejection of Serrano's auto-coup by the OAS and by the governments of the hemisphere is a clear "stop sign" to anti-democratic elements elsewhere.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

June 3, 1993

REMARKS BY
SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER
FOLLOWING THE OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ON GUATEMALA

OAS Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

QUESTION: How do you see events in Guatemala?

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER: Today's statement gave me an opportunity to carry out one of President Clinton's highest priorities and that is the promotion of democracy and human rights. This is an opportunity right here in our own hemisphere to show that the United States stands for democracy. We will support it. We move promptly to support it.

We think the situation is still uncertain, that we felt we are going to keep our sanctions on as we watch it develop. There is a situation there that is still not been clarified and although President Serrano has left, I think our determination is to see full constitutional rule returned to Guatemala. As I said, this is a very good opportunity to carry out one of President Clinton's highest priorities.

QUESTION: Do you believe that Vice President Espina is a return to constitutional rule?

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER: Well, that would really be up to the people of Guatemala. We will have to see how that develops. There is certainly a constitutional argument that he is; there are others in Guatemala who feel otherwise. I think, for us, the main concern is that there be a return to constitutional rule and we will watch that situation develop along with the others in the hemisphere who are close to the scene and expert in the facts.

QUESTION: Who will lead the U.S. delegation to Nicaragua?

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER: Deputy Secretary, Dr. Cliff Wharton, will head our delegation to Managua. Thank you very much.

* * *

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

June 3, 1993

STATEMENT BY RICHARD BOUCHER, SPOKESMAN

SIGNING OF THE BIODIVERSITY CONVENTION

The U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Madeleine Albright, joined by Counselor of the State Department Timothy Wirth, will sign the Convention on Biological Diversity on Friday, June 4. The signing ceremony will be held at the United Nations beginning at 10:30 a.m. in Conference Room Eight.

Following the ceremony, Ambassador Albright and Counselor Wirth will make statements and take questions from the press.

The Biodiversity Convention reflects President Clinton's commitment to protect the diversity of the species of plant and animal life that exist on Earth. As the President said in his Earth Day speech on April 21, "Our Administration has worked with business and environmental groups toward an agreement that protects both American interests and the world environment." "This is an example of what you can do by bringing business and environmentalists together, instead of pitting them against each other. We can move forward to protect critical natural resources and critical technologies."

The Convention was signed by more than 150 nations at the Earth Summit in Rio one year ago. The Convention is open for signature until June 4, 1993.

RESPONSE TO NEWS QUERY

SUBJECT: Major General Campbell Speech at Soesterberg AB, Germany

Statement

Major General Harold N. Campbell was at Soesterberg on 24 May 1993 to speak at the 32nd Fighter Group "Maintainer of the Year Banquet." Some concerns were raised following the speech that during his opening remarks General Campbell may have made statements which could have been construed as disrespectful to the President.

Lieutenant General Dale Thompson, AFMC/CV, has been appointed by General Ronald Yates, AFMC/CC, to investigate the incident. General Thompson will travel to Soesterberg to conduct interviews with individuals who attended the event. He is expected to report his findings to General Yates in mid-June.

Q1. What is General Campbell's job?

A1. He is special Assistant to the AFMC Staff Director at Wright-Patterson AFB OH.

Q2. Was General Campbell not scheduled to take over as Commander, Defense Fuel Supply Center, DLA Cameron Station?

A2. Yes; however, that assignment has been delayed pending the completion of the investigation.

Q3. What are the specific allegations? (and other "detail" Questions)?

A3. There is an ongoing investigation and it would be inappropriate to comment at this time.

NOTE: 32 FG will answer specific questions about the Banquet, number in attendance, etc. They will refer all questions on the allegations/investigation to HQ AFMC/PA. SAF/PA will acknowledge that General Campbell was in Germany to give a speech and refer all questions to HQ AFMC/PA.

Talking Points for AYT item
Pg 1 6/4 by Elaine Scolding

June 3, 1993

AMBASSADORIAL NUMBERS

164 Ambassadors and chiefs of mission

118 are currently filled

Of which: 14 were filled by President Clinton

12 are in positions for which
President Clinton has announced a
replacement

61 are career people whose tours
extend into 1994

26 career people due to rotate in 1993

5 are Bush appointees who were
extended

48 are currently vacant

Of which: 11 are posts for which Ambassadors
have been announced (Canada,
Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador,
Holy See, Ireland, Kenya,
Nicaragua, Peru, USNATO, USOECD)

37 are posts awaiting announcement
(see attached)

Candidates have been selected for
many of these posts and are going
through the regular clearance
process prior to announcement.

We are in active consultation with the White House on the positions remaining to be filled with decisions being made regularly.

--Point out that several other career and non-career appointments are in the works, but cannot be announced until a variety of requirements are met (security and medical clearances, IRS clearance, and agreement).

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. fax	RE: Ambassadorial Numbers [partial] (2 pages)	06/03/1993	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Communications
George Stephanopoulos
OA/Box Number: 553

FOLDER TITLE:

Press Briefing 06/04/93

2011-0582-F
db4265

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]
- 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.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

- c What happened to the 16 who were nominated last year but not confirmed?

- There were actually 17 Chief of Mission (COM) nominations returned by the Senate without confirmation.

- Of those nominated but not confirmed, 7 were resubmitted by President Clinton and confirmed for the same posts (If asked: Gilmore/Armenia; Jackovich/Bosnia; McAfee/Guatemala; Pryce/Honduras; McCallie/Namibia; Johnson/Senegal; Wendt/Slovenia).

(b)(6)

[001]

- Appropriate assignments for the other, affected career officers are under consideration.

(b)(6)

- c What are the ~~34~~ ³⁷ vacant posts for which successors have not been announced?

Australia	Austria	Bahamas	Bahrain
Belgium	Belgium	Burkina Faso	Burundi
Costa Rica	<u>Eritrea</u>	Fiji	Greece
Haiti	Iceland	India	Italy
Jamaica	Korea	Lesotho	Malta
Mauritius	Morocco	Netherlands	Nepal
New Zealand	Norway	Philippines	Poland
Saudi Arabia	Seychelles	<u>Slovakia</u>	Spain
Sweden	Switzerland	US Mission/Geneva	

Handwritten notes: ^{Burma} above Bahamas; ^{Somalia} next to Poland; ^{Zaire} next to US Mission/Geneva; ³⁷ at the end of the list.

- We note, however, that candidates have been selected for many of these posts and are going through the regular clearance process prior to announcement.

-2-

o Do we see a problem in not having Ambassadors at these posts?

- It is to be expected that, with a change in Administrations, the number of COM vacancies will be higher than at other times.

- All vacant posts are led by competent, career Charge d' Affaires.

- We need to fill posts as quickly as possible and have identified candidates for many of them.

- Although some host governments understandably have pressed for early decisions on COMs, none of our bilateral relationships has suffered materially as a result of the interregnums.

(b)(6)

- I am not prepared to discuss the status of individuals other than those for which the White House has announced appointments.

o What about a new Ambassador to Japan?

- Ambassador Armacost is still in Tokyo.

- This is one of our most important posts, and the question of a successor as Ambassador is under careful review at the White House.

U.S.-Japan Trade Policy

Q: The Washington Post reported that the Clinton Administration's trade policy toward Japan includes a call for Japan to cut its worldwide trade surplus in goods and services in half in three years, to about 1.5% of its gross national product. Is this true? Haven't the Japanese already rejected such targets?

- A: -- As you know President Clinton and Prime Minister Miyazawa agreed at their April 16 meeting to develop a new framework to address concretely their economic agenda.
- The Administration is currently formulating its ideas on this framework. I can't comment on the substance of our internal deliberations, but we are busy preparing for these negotiations.
- Before announcing anything officially, we must consult with Congress and the business and labor communities. [FYI only: Consultations with Congress are set to begin today [Friday].]
- We look to meeting with the Japanese next Friday [the 11th] to discuss these and other issues.

IF PRESSED:

- We are concerned about Japan's large surpluses. We are working multilaterally through the G-7 process and the Uruguay Round to re-balance our economic relations with Japan.

Haiti

[Background: The President's remarks during photo op with P.M. Brian Mulroney on June 2: "We thought we had an agreement on Haiti and, of course, it didn't work out, and I'm very disappointed. We worked very, very hard. And I talked to the Prime Minister [Mulroney] about this several occasions. It is time to reexamine our options and consider some other, and I expect the United States will do that."]

Q: Is it true that you are planning to target the leaders of the de facto government in Haiti by freezing their assets and restricting visas? Do you plan to call for additional UN sanctions?

A: -- We will make a formal announcement on this later today [at the 12:30 briefing], a background briefing on the topic of new sanctions against Haiti will be given here in the White House Press Briefing Room this afternoon at about 2:30.

Q: On Tuesday, Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney seemed to suggest sending troops or imposing a naval blockade. What is your reaction?

A: -- Our focus is on the diplomatic process; we are supporting Mr. Caputo's efforts and considering additional sanctions. I don't want to speculate on any other measures that might be taken.

Israeli Spy Case

[Background: Israel disclosed 6/3 that Israeli Major Yossi Amit had been sentenced in March 1987 to 12 years imprisonment for espionage. Some press reports in Israel have indicated he was working on behalf of the United States.]

Q: What is your reaction to the disclosure of the imprisonment of an Israeli officer on espionage charges, allegedly on behalf of the United States?

A: -- We have seen the press reports on the case. I have no comment on the case.

North Korea-U.S. Talks

Q: What can you tell us about the meeting Wednesday between U.S. and North Korean officials.

A: -- The U.S. team, headed by Assistant Secretary of State Bob Gallucci, and the North Korean team, headed by First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok Chu met for seven hours at the U.S. Mission to the UN.

-- No immediate progress was made on the issues. A second meeting is scheduled for today [Friday].

Q: What do we want from the North Koreans?

A: -- Our goal in the talks is to seek a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, by achieving North Korea's commitment to remain in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), to carry out all International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, and to implement fully the North-South denuclearization declaration.

Q: What can we do for the North Koreans?

A: -- We are prepared to give the North Koreans a careful hearing and will seek to respond to any questions they raise about U.S. intentions (which are purely defensive).

Q: Will there be further meetings?

A: There is nothing scheduled beyond today.

Bosnia

Q: Isn't the Safe Areas resolution in serious trouble at the UNSC?

A: -- A French draft resolution on safe areas is circulating at the UNSC. A vote is likely today.

-- We believe it is important for the Council to reach consensus on a Safe Areas resolution and to move forward to adopt the Joint Action Program. It is too soon to speculate on when a vote will take place.

Q: Doesn't the upsurge in fighting show the weakness of the safe havens?

A: -- Safe Areas was approved by UNSC Resolution 824 and is a component of the Joint Action Program, the aim of which is to stop the killing, prevent the conflict from spreading, and bring pressure to bear on the parties to reach a settlement.

-- The upsurge in fighting around Sarajevo and Gorazde indicates the urgent need to implement the Joint Action Program so it can achieve its aims.

-- UNSC members are now working on a resolution which would implement "safe areas" resolution 824. We are part of those discussions.

Q: Would you vote for a resolution lifting the arms embargo?

A: -- We have long supported the idea of lifting the arms embargo to enable the Bosnian government to exercise its right to self-defense.

-- We have not taken a position on a specific resolution in this regard. In fact, no such text is before the UNSC.

Q: Where does the border monitors resolution stand?

A: -- A draft resolution is under consideration by the UNSC. A vote has not been scheduled yet.

-- We support the adoption by the Council of a border monitors resolution.

Cambodia Elections

[Background: UN officials announced that with 90% of the vote counted, FUNCINPEC leads with 45.7% and the government's party, the Cambodian People's Party has 38.1%. 89% percent of registered voters cast ballots. Yesterday [Thursday], Prince Sihanouk issued a statement announcing that he will head a new interim government replacing the existing administration. Prince Ranariddh, head of FUNCINPEC, and Hun Sen, head of the current administration, will be designated deputy prime ministers. Sihanouk later withdrew the announcement of a new government.]

Q: What do you think about the political machinations yesterday in Cambodia? Did the U.S. put pressure on Sihanouk to recant the formation of a new government?

A: -- The U.S. position has consistently been and remains that the Paris Accords should be fully implemented and that the future government of Cambodia should be based on a constitution drafted by the Constituent Assembly on the results of the elections.

Russian Aid Package

Q: Where is the money coming from to pay for the Russian Aid Package?

A: -- \$1.6 billion from Vancouver has already been designated.

-- The detailed breakout of the \$1.8 billion announced in Tokyo follows:

-- FY 1993 Supplemental \$1.6 billion including,

-- \$630 million that is funded within the Foreign Operations budget allocation for FY 93,

-- \$979 million funded from Defense appropriations allocations available from FY 93, and

-- \$200 million from FY 94 regular appropriations.

-- Our proposal fits within current budget ceilings

-- The House Foreign Operations Appropriations subcommittee is proposing reductions (over \$1.2 billion from the President's FY 1994 budget request) in other foreign aid programs in response to FY 94 Appropriations Committee budget constraints.

Q: Is the Administration going to ask for a supplemental?

A: -- About \$1.6 billion of the package is being requested by FY 93 supplemental appropriations.

-- This is not considered an emergency supplemental; the supplemental request fits within budget ceilings for FY 93.

Q: Is the Administration taking aid from Israel?

A: -- No. We have a previous commitment to keep present levels in FY 1994.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 3, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION OF LANI GUINIER

The Briefing Room

9:05 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. It is with deep regret that I am announcing tonight the withdrawal of the nomination of Lani Guinier to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Earlier this evening I met with Ms. Guinier to talk through the issues that prompted my decision. I told her that had known all along the intense controversy this nomination would inspire. I would not have asked her to undergo the ordeal and I am sorry that she has suffered as much as she has.

At the time of the nomination I had not read her writings. In retrospect, I wish I had. Today, as a matter of fairness to her, I read some of them again in good detail. They clearly lend themselves to interpretations that do not represent the views that I expressed on civil rights during my campaign and views that I hold very dearly, even though there is much in them with which I agree. I have to tell you that had I read them before I nominated her I would not have done so.

Now, I want to make it clear that that is not to say that I agree with all the attacks on her. She has been subject to a vicious series of willful distortions on many issues, including the quota issue. And that has made this decision all the more difficult.

The Lani Guinier I know is a person of high integrity, great intellect, strong character and a superb civil rights record. That's why I nominated her. I agree with civil rights leaders and members of the Congressional Black Caucus that she is a wonderful lawyer. And I want all of you to know that if this nomination could be fought out on her character or her record as a civil right lawyer, I would stay with it to the end if we didn't get but one or two votes in the Senate.

It is not the fear of defeat that has prompted this decision. It is the certainty that the battle would be carried on a ground that I could not defend. The dilemma with which I have struggled basically comes down to this: Should we have proceeded with a confirmation battle that would give her more ample opportunity to clarify her views but would guarantee a bloody and divisive conflict over civil rights based on ideas that I, as President, could not defend.

Because the controversy over her academic writings includes mischaracterizations, this battle, unfortunately, has already polarized our country. My campaign for the presidency was based on trying to unite Americans on the basis of race, opportunity and responsibility; the idea that we could all work together to reach common solutions. And I regret very much the bitterness and the divisiveness which has occurred already.

MORE

I am well aware that this withdrawal will upset many people in this country who believe in Lani and had hoped that she might be confirmed. I can only pledge to them that I will continue to work, as I have for nearly 20 years, for the cause of civil rights and that I want an administration second to none in its dedication to civil rights.

I will be consulting promptly with the Attorney General and with other members of the Senate and House committees, and with civil rights leaders about a replacement for Lani. I hope to have an announcement in the next few days. In the meantime, I want to again say I take full responsibility for what has happened here. I want to express my sorrow about what has happened to Lani Guinier and to say again I think that she is one of the ablest civil rights lawyers I have ever known and I wish this battle could be fought over that, rather than ideas that I, myself, cannot embrace.

Q Mr. President, Attorney General Reno has been a starch defender of Ms. Guinier. Did she urge you to keep her on, or is she fully on board with your decision to abandon this nomination?

THE PRESIDENT: I believe she is. I would urge you to talk to her about that.

Q Mr. President, could you just give us an idea of what part of her writings you really had trouble with?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I can give you an idea. There was -- in the Michigan Law Review there was an article, Lani analyzed the weaknesses of the present remedies available under the Voting Rights Act -- and many of her analyses I agree with -- but seemed to be arguing for principles of proportional representation in minority veto as general remedies that I think are inappropriate as general remedies and antidemocratic -- very difficult to defend.

Now the Supreme Court has obviously changed the law on that, but the whole thrust of that kind of argument, it seems to me, is inconsistent with the arguments that I tried to make to members of all races all during my campaign.

Q Mr. President, what part did your friendship, yours and Mrs. Clinton's, with Guinier play in your decision to nominate her and perhaps in your decision -- or your neglect of her record at the time that you did nominate her?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Hillary played no role in this nomination or this decision and so deserves no blame or credit for it. But the fact that I have known her since law school and had actually seen her in action as a civil rights practitioner played a very large role in my desire to nominate her. That is I thought it would be not only interesting, but positive to have, for the first time, someone who had been a career civil rights lawyer head that division.

And, frankly, I think the fact that I had known her and cared about her and admired her probably contributed to the way this thing has been handled in a kind of a drawn-out fashion. And it may be the adequacy or inadequacy of the briefings I received about this issue is partly based on the assumption that I must have known everything she'd written about since I knew her as a lawyer. I think that's probably true.

Q Mr. President, there's a perception among some of your critics among the Black Caucus that your move to the center and your desire to have conservative Democratic votes in the Senate for your economic plan and your health plan to come played a large role in this. And they are saying -- Craig Washington said, for instance, today, that he was with you in the House vote on the economic plan,

but won't be with you because of your decision to, in his view, cut and run on Lani Guinier. Can you -- what do you say to those people and how --

THE PRESIDENT: I would say two things. Number one, this is about my center, not about the political center. I will say again, I would gladly fight this nomination to the last moment if nobody wanted to vote her -- nobody -- if it were on the grounds that I could defend. If somebody said, you know, she sued the state of Arkansas and she sued all these other people, and she came out for remedies in her law practice that weren't right, and she ran over this group and that group, I would say, fine, let's fight this thing out. I know that, I have personal knowledge of that. You are wrong. And if everybody in the Senate disagreed with me, I would stay with it to the bitter end.

The problem is that this battle will be waged based on her academic writings. And I cannot fight a battle that I know is divisive, that is an uphill battle, that is distracting to the country if I do not believe in the ground of the battle. That is the only problem. This has nothing to do with a political center, this has to do with my center.

Now, let me say about Craig Washington. Whatever he does for the rest of his life, I'll be grateful to him for what he did and what he said in fighting that economic problem through. I know how strongly he feels about it. I can tell you, I received -- if any -- there's pressure over the issue, I got more pressure to stay with this than to drop it. But in the end, I had to do what I thought was right. Whether I am right or wrong, I tell you tonight, I have done what I think is right.

Q Mr. President, did she agree with you?

Q Did she agree with you?

Q Has she withdrawn or are you withdrawing her?

THE PRESIDENT: I am -- I think you'd better ask her what she said.

Q Well, if she comes -- have you withdrawn her name?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, she's in town and we've -- I think she'll probably have a statement later tonight. I have no idea what she will say.

Q Did she ask you not to withdraw her name, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know what she wanted. She wanted her hearing. But she was surprised that I felt the way I did. You know, this is the first long, detailed conversation we've had about it. It was a very painful thing between two people who have liked and admired each other a long time. This was a very -- this was one of the most difficult meetings I've ever had in my life. But I did what I thought was right.

Q Mr. President, you have people who are supposed to advise you about this.

END

9:15 P.M. EDT