

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Ann O'Leary and Heather Howard to Hillary Roham Clinton re: Narrative Accomplishments (partial) (1 page)	08/25/2000	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Erica Morse (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 21191

FOLDER TITLE:

Issues Updates

2011-0619-S

rc275

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]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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August 25, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

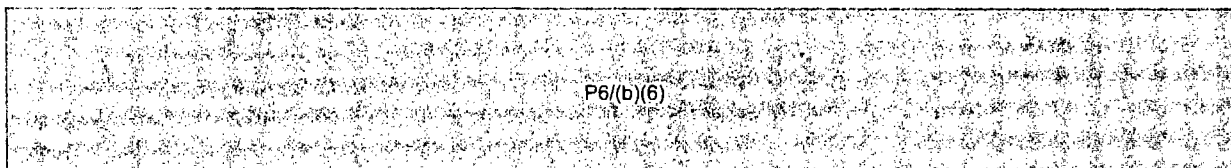
FROM: ANN O'LEARY *A.O.L.*
HEATHER HOWARD *HH*

CC: MELANNE VERVEER
SHIRLEY SAGAWA
LISSA MUSCATINE

SUBJECT: NARRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As Melanne mentioned to you, we are spearheading an effort to write the story of your policy work in the form of narratives that can be used by you and your surrogates to talk about the work you have accomplished both in the White House and in the early part of your career. These documents also should be helpful to set an historical record of your policy work and policy accomplishments during your time as First Lady.

We are attaching the first series of these narratives and hope to get you another batch early next week on the topics of education and children's health. We are also sending copies directly to Neera.



Your entire staff has been engaged in this project. I have noted the names of the primary authors next to each of the narratives for your information. Attached please find the following narratives:

- 1) Adoption and Foster Care – Lissa Muscatine and Erika Batcheller
- 2) Breast Cancer – Heather Howard
- 3) Child Care – Ann O'Leary
- 4) Microenterprise – Ruby Shamir
- 5) Youth – Shirley Sagawa and Ann O'Leary

Please let us know if you have comments or suggestions. Thank you.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO REFORMING FOSTER CARE AND
PROMOTING ADOPTION

The First Lady has worked tirelessly for more than 30 years to reform our nation's foster care system and promote adoption. She has devoted her time to numerous child advocacy groups, including the Carnegie Council on Children, the Children's Defense Fund, and Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, and as an attorney she has represented both prospective parents and foster children. As First Lady, she has been the Administration's most prominent advocate on these issues, and her leadership has been instrumental to the passage of groundbreaking legislation to make it easier for children to move from foster care to permanent homes and to increase the number of adoptions. Her deep commitment to children in foster care also has been key to raising public awareness of the importance and rewards of adoption.

The First Lady's interest in foster care and adoption dates to her first year at Yale Law School. After reading an article in Time magazine about child advocate Marian Wright Edelman and her lobbying group, the Washington Research Project (which later evolved into the Children's Defense Fund), Mrs. Clinton contacted Edelman and secured an internship with the organization for the summer. Her experience there would set the stage for a lifelong commitment to a wide range of children's and family issues.

Returning to New Haven for her second year of law school, Mrs. Clinton volunteered at Yale's Child Study Center and the New Haven Hospital, where she worked with the staff to draft guidelines for the treatment of abused children. She also volunteered at Legal Services, a legal aid group that provided free assistance to the poor.

One of Mrs. Clinton's first legal aid cases left an indelible imprint on her thinking about the needs of children in foster care. The case involved a black child and her low-income, white foster mother, who wanted to adopt the girl. Mrs. Clinton argued successfully that the mother should not be denied permanent custody simply because of racial or financial reasons. She argued that the child's best interest was to stay with her foster mother, who had provided a safe, stable home and family for more than two years. The many foster care cases she handled at Legal Services would give her a deep appreciation for the importance of ensuring the best interests of the child remain paramount during placement proceedings.

During a postgraduate year at Yale's Child Study Center, Mrs. Clinton wrote a chapter for a family law professor's book, *Beyond the Best Interests of the Child*, that documented her conviction that America's judicial system had failed abused and neglected children. She also challenged deeply rooted traditions about the factors that should inform adoption decisions, presenting a legal argument that a child's happiness should outweigh considerations such as wealth, race or birth family.

After her husband was elected governor of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton continued to press forward to protect children from abuse and neglect. In 1977, she founded Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, an organization dedicated to providing parenting skills and health and education services for Arkansas children. She also joined the Board of Directors of the Children's Defense Fund in 1976, and chaired the board from 1986 to 1992.

Throughout her husband's presidency, Mrs. Clinton has used her position as First Lady to champion a host of children's and family issues, focusing on some of our nation's most vulnerable children – those trapped in the foster care system. In the summer of 1995, she convened a meeting of policy experts to examine some of the most pressing issues surrounding adoption, including long-term foster care and institutional barriers within the child welfare system, including cross-racial adoptions.

That year, Mrs. Clinton, together with the President, launched a national public awareness campaign to promote the benefits of adoption and improvements to foster care. During National Adoption Month in 1995, she hosted the first in a series of events on the issue at the White House. She held numerous meetings and public events with adoptive families and children in foster care, and devoted a significant number of speeches and writings to the cause of adoption. Her efforts during this period would culminate in one of her most rewarding achievements, passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, landmark legislation that reformed our nation's child welfare system by putting considerations of children's health and safety first.

Throughout 1995 and 1996, Mrs. Clinton quietly convened a series of meetings with officials at the Department of Health and Human Services, foundation leaders and other policy experts to discuss ideas for reforming foster care and speeding up adoption procedures. Publicly, Mrs. Clinton also pressed for passage of new tax credits for those who adopt and the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, which would remove race or ethnicity as an obstacle to adoption. She also strongly supported an extension of Family and Medical Leave Act benefits to adoptive parents who wished to take time off work to care for their children. Her vocal advocacy helped usher these key bills through Congress.

As a result of her meetings with adoption policy experts, Mrs. Clinton and her staff in 1996 began to formulate specific proposals for legislative reforms. In November, she held a White House forum on adoption that was broadcast live from the Oval Office. At the event, she announced that the President would sign an Executive Order directing his administration to develop a plan to double the number of adoptions by 2002.

Mrs. Clinton was deeply involved in the development of the report and worked closely with Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to craft policies that would ensure the health and safety of the child remained the guiding principles during placement proceedings. The formal report, "Adoption 2002," was unveiled on Valentines Day 1997 and included a series of incentives for states to expedite adoption procedures and limit the amount of time children spend in foster care. The goal was to double the number of children moving into permanent homes from 27,000 a year in 1996 to 54,000 a year by 2002. The report was based on three key principles; that every child deserves a safe, permanent family; that children's health and safety should be the paramount concern; and that foster care is by definition temporary.

With the unveiling of the report, Mrs. Clinton turned to Capitol Hill to pursue legislative reforms. The White House secured bipartisan co-sponsors in the House who introduced a bill based on Mrs. Clinton's recommendations, and she began holding numerous private meetings with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to generate support for the measure. The legislation, backed by Reps. David Camp, R-Mich., and Barbara Kennelly, D-Conn., easily passed the House that summer.

Throughout the fall of 1997, Mrs. Clinton continued to work quietly behind the scenes, holding countless meetings and personally lobbying lawmakers to ensure the bill had bipartisan sponsors in the Senate. She also continued to deliver speeches and hold other events to draw public support for the measure. The First Lady's strong leadership on behalf of the Adoption and Safe Families Act led to its passage on November 14, and it was signed into law four days later. The bill took historic steps to prevent children from languishing in foster care by dramatically speeding up adoption procedures, limiting the amount of time children can spend in foster care to 12 months, removing institutional barriers to adoption and including innovative financial incentives for states to improve adoption rates each year.

Shortly after the signing of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the First Lady traveled to California where she met with young people from the California Youth Connection, a group of current and former foster care children who work to educate the public about the unique needs of Foster Care youth. The First Lady was struck by the unique challenges faced by older, unadopted foster children as they age out of the system and she committed to work on addressing these challenges back in Washington. Mrs. Clinton provided key leadership in the development and enactment of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, a bill designed to assist older teens in foster care as they transition into independent living as adults. She worked very closely with Republican and Democratic sponsors in the House and Senate to shepherd the legislation through Congress. The bill, signed into law in December 1999, will help ensure that young people who leave foster care have the tools they need to succeed, including better educational opportunities, access to health care, training and housing assistance, counseling and other services.

Mrs. Clinton's efforts to make foster care work better, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down barriers to adoption have transformed our nation's child welfare system. Between 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent and is on pace with the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
PROMOTING WOMEN'S HEALTH AS AN ADVOCATE FOR BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS

First Lady Hillary Clinton has long been a champion of breast cancer research, detection, prevention and awareness. Like most women, has been personally touched by breast cancer, having lost friends and family, including the President's mother, Virginia Kelley, to the disease. From her personal experience with the disease and her travels during her work on health care reform, the First Lady understands the need to combat breast cancer on many fronts, and she has worked tirelessly to increase scientific research into the causes of cancer, expand research into technologies to detect and treat breast cancer, improve efforts to provide women with insurance coverage, and increase public awareness of the need for prevention and detection through public-private partnerships.

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Even before President Clinton was elected in 1992, she was meeting with advocates and planning how to improve the federal response to breast cancer. In fact, during the 1992 Presidential campaign, the First Lady had a memorable meeting with representatives of the National Breast Cancer Coalition in Williamsburg, Virginia. The bus the advocates took to meet with her broke down, and they had to hitchhike, getting rides in sheriff's cars and trucks, to make it to the meeting. That meeting left an indelible impression of the commitment and resiliency of breast cancer survivors. Since that first meeting, the First Lady has developed a close working relationship with the National Breast Cancer Coalition, has twice been honored by them for her efforts to eradicate breast cancer, and has participated almost annually in their events.

DEVELOPING A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER

In October 1993, setting the tone for the aggressive efforts the Administration would take against breast cancer, the First Lady and President met with 300 advocates from the National Breast Cancer Coalition in the East Room of the White House. The Coalition presented a petition with 2.6 million signatures – one for every woman afflicted with breast cancer. At that meeting, the President and First Lady discussed actions the Administration had already taken to increase the federal commitment to combating breast cancer – including the creation of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the largest increase ever in funding for breast cancer research. They committed to a National Action Plan on Breast Cancer, which would bring together health professionals, activists and government officials to develop a comprehensive strategy to eradicate breast cancer.

At that meeting, the President and First Lady also discussed how the Administration's health reform efforts were designed to change the fight against breast cancer, by making sure that women were no longer treated as second class citizens, and emphasizing disease prevention and detection. The Health Security plan's comprehensive benefits package would have covered, at no cost to the patient, routine clinician visits, including clinical breast exams. The mammography benefit – based on the consensus scientific evidence at the time – would have covered mammograms every two years – also at no cost to the patient – for all women over 50,

and more frequent mammograms for women of high risk at any age. The plan itself even provided flexibility for updating the benefits package to reflect new or better studies.

Later that same month, the First Lady met with the President's Cancer Panel Special Commission on Breast Cancer to receive their final report and recommendations for battling breast cancer, which would provide part of the basis of the National Action Plan. In 1995, the First Lady attended the first meeting of the steering committee for the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer, which included consumer advocates, government officials and scientists, and was chaired by Fran Visco, President of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, and Dr. Susan Blumenthal, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health. She and her staff remained involved in the planning and execution of the Action Plan, which has been implemented through HHS's Office on Women's Health.

INCREASING AWARENESS OF MAMMOGRAMS AND MEDICARE COVERAGE

During her health care reform efforts, the First Lady traveled the country meeting with patients, health professionals, and providers to discuss America's health care needs. She learned that even though a mammography benefit was added to Medicare in 1991, fewer than 40 percent of women on Medicare used the benefit. And, sadly, it was estimated that 30 percent of breast cancer related deaths among Medicare-age women could have been prevented by early detection and treatment. Thus, she committed herself to studying the barriers to mammography among older women and to increasing awareness of the benefit. During 1995, she traveled to numerous senior centers and hospitals, conducting "listening sessions" on the Medicare mammography benefit -- meeting and listening to many older women. During these sessions, she learned that some women were reluctant to get screened because they were afraid the procedure would be painful or embarrassing; others didn't realize the test was covered under Medicare; still others had never been told by their doctors that a mammogram was one of the most effective ways of detecting malignant breast lumps. After learning about the barriers women faced to getting mammograms, she dedicated herself to developing strategies for outreach and education on prevention and detection of breast cancer.

She and her staff began working with the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a public-private campaign to encourage women to get mammograms, as well as to highlight the Medicare benefit that far too few women took advantage of. She hosted a meeting in March 1995 with government officials, public relations specialists, and corporate representatives to discuss the structure for the campaign and ways to develop public and private support for it. About this time, a new report from the New England Journal of Medicine confirmed that fewer than half the eligible women over 65 were getting mammograms despite Medicare coverage, underscoring the need to encourage and educate older women about the both benefits of mammograms and Medicare coverage.

Her work culminated in a national campaign urging older women to obtain mammograms for early detection of breast cancer and increasing public awareness of the Medicare benefit. Corporations across the country joined the campaign, creating a powerful partnership between private industry and the government. In a May 1995 White House event, she kicked off the Medicare Mammography Awareness Campaign with participants from the listening sessions,

corporate sponsors of the campaign, public relations professionals, officials from HHS, and representatives of consumer groups. Called the “Mama-gram” campaign, it included a number of promotion efforts centering around Mother’s Day, such as greeting and floral card inserts, department store and drug store billing inserts, store displays, grocery store bags, and public service announcements (PSA’s). At the event, the First Lady unveiled two new public service announcements – one voiced by her and another by President Clinton – with the slogan “Get a mammogram. It’s a picture that can save your life.”

This event marked just the beginning of the First Lady’s commitment to raising breast cancer awareness. The campaign continued after Mother’s Day with additional PSA’s and outreach efforts through Medicare carriers and state health departments, local aging agencies, and advocacy and professional groups. The campaign has continued to be a top priority for the First Lady: she continued to tape PSA’s for the campaign, and has used her newspaper column to promote awareness. Later that May in 1995, the First Lady participated in a forum on Medicare and Mammography as part of the White House Conference on Aging, a listening session designed to educate the conference attendees about the Medicare benefit and encourage them to take the mammography campaign back to their communities.

In May 1996, one year after kicking off the successful mammography campaign, the First Lady hosted a White House meeting to highlight the efforts of the campaign and amplify the public-private partnership. The meeting included advocates, government officials, and corporate representatives, and featured renewed commitments from the campaign’s corporate partners, including worksite mammography initiatives, new PSA’s, and retail messages.

In February 1997, the First Lady again continued her support for the Medicare Mammography Campaign, inviting corporate representatives to the White House to meet and discuss increased private sector support for the campaign. During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, in October 1997, the First Lady joined the President in his weekly radio address to launch another year of the Medicare Mammography Campaign, including new PSA’s and new outreach to communities with low mammography utilization rates. She and the President also announced new regulations to ensure the safety and quality of mammograms. In July 1998, she again met with corporate sponsors of the Medicare Mammography Campaign to encourage their ongoing support for the campaign and their worksite efforts to encourage employees to get mammograms.

Throughout her efforts to increase public awareness, she has been inspired by the memory of the women across the country she met and listened to, and White House volunteer Miriam Alpert, who, before she lost her life to breast cancer, continually encouraged others to get mammograms.

INCREASING RESEARCH

The First Lady has continually championed significant increases for the National Cancer Institute and other agencies to support research on breast cancer detection, treatment, and to seek a cure for the disease. From fiscal years 1993 to 2001, discretionary funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment at the Department of Health and Human Services has more than doubled – from \$283 million to a projected \$660 million in Fiscal Year 2001. Investment in

research has led to historic advances, including the identification of new breast cancer genes and promising new treatments.

In October of 1998, to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the President and Mrs. Clinton hosted an East Room event with advocates and survivors to announce significant increases in breast cancer research and to announce new efforts in the fight, including a major clinical trial of two new drugs with the potential to reduce the risk of breast cancer, and an expanded mammography outreach and education campaign, building on the public-private efforts the First Lady launched in 1995.

In addition to working within the White House to ensure that the Administration's budget included increases for vital breast cancer research, the First Lady has also worked to garner support for privately-funded research, hosting a White House event in 1996 for the Nina Hyde Center for Breast Cancer Research, and participating in fundraisers for breast cancer research, including serving as Honor Chair of the Fashion Footwear Association of New York "Shoes on Sale," which has raised over \$1 million for the Virginia Clinton Kelley Research Center Foundation, in honor of the President's mother.

In July 1998, the First Lady launched the new Breast Cancer Research stamp, the first "semipostal" stamp in U.S. history, a stamp from which the net proceeds above the cost of postage are earmarked for breast cancer research. She continues to support the stamp, which she uses for all her personal correspondence.

LEGISLATION TO PROTECT BREAST CANCER PATIENTS

The First Lady has been a strong advocate for legislation to ensure that women who have mastectomies are entitled to sufficient hospital stays from their HMO's, an issue the President championed in his 1997 State of the Union Address. In February 1997, she hosted a White House event with breast cancer advocates, survivors, and Members of Congress and their staff to bring attention to the problem and build support for the legislation. She invited a Connecticut physician and a breast cancer survivor to talk about the problems of women who were forced to endure mammograms on an outpatient basis, or sent home from the hospital too soon, still groggy from anesthesia, in pain, and with drainage tubes still in place. She also announced, with Secretary Shalala, steps that Medicare was taking to protect Medicare patients and ensure that a doctor, not a Medicare managed care plan, decides what is appropriate care after surgery.

In addition, the First Lady was a strong advocate behind the scenes within the Administration for inclusion in the President's FY 2001 budget of a new initiative to cover more low-income, uninsured women. The initiative would provide a new Medicaid option to the thousands of uninsured women whose breast and cervical cancer is detected through federally-supported screening programs.

NEW MEDICARE BENEFIT

In 1997, the Administration proposed expanding the Medicare benefit to cover annual mammograms, without copay. Until that time, there was significant disagreement about whether

to recommend mammograms for women under 50. In February 1997, The National Cancer Advisory Board formed a subcommittee to develop a clear recommendation for the National Cancer Institute. After a consensus conference on the issue, the National Cancer Institute announced recommendations that women aged 40 to 50 receive regular mammograms. As soon as there was consensus on screening for women under 50, the First Lady worked for an expansion of Medicare coverage, which was enacted in the balanced budget. The new benefit, which went into effect in 1998, now covers annual mammograms for all Medicare beneficiaries age 40 and over, without deductible.

The First Lady has received numerous awards for her efforts to fight breast cancer:

July 16, 1993 – **Iris Cantor Humanitarian Award**, which recognizes contributions to women's health. HRC was the first recipient of the award. The award luncheon supported the Iris Cantor Center for Breast Imaging at UCLA Medical Center.

October 2, 1995 – **Government Leadership Award from the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Board of Sponsors and Zeneca Pharmaceuticals** for her "outstanding initiative in launching efforts to educate all women about mammography, especially women eligible for Medicare." (From press release)

October 20, 1997 – **SELF Magazine's Pink Ribbon Award**. Awarded to both the President and First Lady, "in recognition of extraordinary contributions and dedication to the fight against breast cancer." (From the invitation).

September 28, 1999 – **Public Leadership Award from the National Breast Cancer Coalition** for her work to eradicate breast cancer.

March 28, 2000 – **"Woman of Courage" Award from Cedars-Sinai Research for Women's Cancers and Saks Fifth**. The First Lady was honored for her commitment to eradicating women's cancers, including breast and ovarian.

August 2000 – **National Breast Cancer Coalition Honoree** at Democratic Convention Reception for her efforts to eradicate breast cancer.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
PROMOTING ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE QUALITY CHILD CARE

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton knows the importance of providing access to affordable, quality child care to working families from her 30 years of work on behalf of America's children and families and from her own experience as a working mother. The First Lady's dedication and hard-work to improve child care has meant that funding for child care has more than doubled in the past seven years, hundreds of thousands of children have been able to participate in enriching and safe after-school opportunities, and businesses better understand that child care makes good economic sense. Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, one of the Senate's greatest advocates for children, summed up Hillary Rodham Clinton's support for children by saying that when he wants help to improve programs for children, "I don't call the President, I don't call the Office of Management and Budget, I don't call the chief of staff, I call the First Lady." Mrs. Clinton is the Administration's most prominent advocate for children and working parents.

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The First Lady began her work on children's issues during her first year at Yale Law School. After reading an article in Time magazine about child advocate Marian Wright Edelman and her lobbying group, the Washington Research Project (which later evolved in to the Children's Defense Fund), Mrs. Clinton contacted Edelman and secured an internship with the organization for the summer. After finishing law school, Mrs. Clinton spent an additional year at Yale studying children's development and laws that affect children at the Yale Child Development Center. Her experience in these early years would set the stage for a lifelong commitment to a wide range of children and family issues, including the importance of quality child care both to working families and for the healthy development of children.

While she was First Lady of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Children's Defense Fund, served on the Board of Directors for the Child Care Action Campaign in New York, and worked closely with the Carnegie Council on Children. Through each of these efforts she worked to raise awareness about the growing need for quality child care in the country as the percentage of women in the workforce continued to climb. She also played a leadership role in Arkansas on behalf of children, founding Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, serving as president of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund Program, and bringing to Arkansas the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters.

These professional experiences in the early part of her career were critical to her later child care accomplishments as First Lady, but no lesson taught her more about child care than being a working mother. While Mrs. Clinton was fortunate to have better options than most mothers did, she still worried about the care Chelsea was receiving as a young child. She was a working mother juggling her law career, help with her husband's career and a young child and, like all families, her child care arrangements occasionally broke down. At those times, she relied on friends and neighbors, but was always struck by the difficulties so many women face in finding reliable care for their children.

In 1989, while serving as the Board Chair for the Children's Defense Fund, Mrs. Clinton traveled to France as part of a study group to learn more about the French child care system and draw possible lessons for improvement of the American child care system. The trip demonstrated to the study group the high-priority France places on preparing children for school and life by ensuring that all French children between 3-5 years old can attend free or inexpensive pre-schools and by ensuring that early childhood educators are well-prepared to help children develop critical social and cognitive skills. This trip highlighted for Mrs. Clinton the importance of improving the access, affordability and quality of the American child care system.

When Hillary became First Lady, her work as an advocate for child care intensified. In the first budget presented by President Clinton, Mrs. Clinton pushed for a greater investment in pre-school with an increase in Head Start. She also recognized that much more needed to be done to fund and improve child care for working families.

In 1994, the First Lady helped to promote the Department of Labor's "Working Women Count" survey. This survey of 250,000 working women of all backgrounds highlighted the critical concerns that working women wanted policy makers to address. At a White House event, the First Lady was joined by the Vice President to present the results. They found that working women struggled most with integrating their work and family lives and with finding and paying for decent child care. Woman after woman gave testimonial to the difficulty of finding good, affordable care for their children where the women would feel comfortable and confident that their children were safe and nurtured while they were at work.

The year of 1994 also brought the Carnegie Council on Children together to release their seminal report on the needs of young children, "Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children." Mrs. Clinton had supported Carnegie's initial work on this report when they established a task force on the needs of young children in 1991 and in 1994 she joined the Carnegie Council to release the report. The report was very clear on the issue of child care – America's working parents needed better access to quality child care.

Throughout 1995, Mrs. Clinton traveled the country learning about the struggles working families face in providing quality child care for their children. In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she heard from a group of low-income women who were struggling to move from welfare to work and were benefiting from federally-supported, subsidized child care. They urged her to listen to them and take back the message to Washington that families needed help with child care in order to move successfully transition to independence in the workforce. This visit became one of many where Mrs. Clinton learned of the critical support that child care provides as families move from welfare into the workforce. In March of 1995, the First Lady addressed the Child Welfare League of America where she urged Congress to provide families moving from welfare to work with the safety net of job training, job placements, Medicaid benefits, Food Stamps, and child care. She clearly recognized that families needed support in order to meet success in the work force and Hillary became one of the Administration's strongest advocates speaking publicly and working behind the scenes to ensure that child care was included in the welfare reform proposal. In August of 1996, the President signed the welfare reform bill into law, which included child care guarantees for families moving from welfare to work.

In 1996, Mrs. Clinton spent time writing her book, *It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us*, where she wrote extensively about her experiences working on behalf of children and families, current research about children's development, and quality programs that help children grow into responsible and resourceful adults. Each year, Mrs. Clinton donates all proceeds from her book to organizations that work directly to support the growth and development of children and youth. In 1996, she also spent time helping to re-elect her husband and raising awareness of what he had accomplished for children and what more he could do. From Denver to Pittsburgh to Kansas City, Mrs. Clinton met with families, children, and youth to hear about what they wanted done in the second-term of the Clinton Administration and, resoundingly, they said more on child care.

In 1997, Mrs. Clinton took these messages to heart and began planning for the first-ever White House Conference on Child Care. Leading up to the conference, Mrs. Clinton and her domestic policy staff extensively researched what needed to be improved in child care and hosted numerous meetings with child care experts and key constituents on what could be done to improve child care. She also traveled around the country learning about the work of different sectors in the area of child care. In Miami, Florida, she held a child care roundtable with business leaders to discuss corporate responsibility for child care. She visited the Marine base at Quantico, Virginia, where she learned about the tremendous strides the military had made to reform and improve their child care system. At the University of Maryland, she gave a major address on child care stressing the importance of quality care for the intellectual and emotional development of children, the inadequate child care system, and the changing nature of the workforce that was leading to a greater demand for child care. During the speech, she also announced that Department of Health and Human Services was awarding a half-million dollar grant to assist States in develop private-public partners for child care and she announced that the Department of Defense would be providing guidance to the private sector on improving child care based on their success.

In October, the President and First Lady hosted the White House Conference on Child Care. Mrs. Clinton's work had focused attention on three goals for the conference: (1) call national attention to the issue of child care, an issue often ignored by political leaders and policy makers; (2) begin to develop a child care initiative for the next budget; and (3) urge the public and private sector to address the significant challenge of ensuring working families have access to safe, affordable child care. At the conference, the President and Mrs. Clinton announced several steps: the President would appoint a child care working group to report to Secretary Rubin on the role that businesses should play in providing child care; the Administration would begin an outreach effort to child care workers to urge them to take advantage of existing education loans and federal benefits in order to improve their education and training; the President transmitted to Congress the "National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact," which would enable states to share criminal history information for limited purposes, including background checks on child care workers; and, they released a "how to" manual describing how to integrate community-service and school-age after school care.

The main goal of the conference was clearly met – the nation was paying attention to the issue of child care. In the 1998 State of the Union and budget, the Administration, under the leadership of Mrs. Clinton, rolled out a major child care initiative. On January 7, the President and the First

Lady were joined by the Vice President and Mrs. Gore in the East Room of the White House to announce this initiative. The initiative includes several major pieces that would: increase the investment in the budget to double the number of children receiving child care subsidies to more than 2 million by the year 2003; provide after-school opportunities for up to half a million children per year by expanding the 21st Century Community program by \$800 million over 5 years; improve the coordination of existing Federal after-school efforts so that communities could access existing resources; invest more in research on child care; establish a national hotline so that parents could call to get information about how to find child care in their communities; increase the investment in Head Start to reach one million children by 2002; improve tax breaks for investments in child care; and improve the quality of child care by establishing an Early Learning Fund.

After the 1998 State of the Union, Mrs. Clinton worked hard to promote this initiative. With Lifetime television, she kicked-off public service announcements on the importance of the child care initiative. She visited and engaged quality child care organizations from the YMCA to Zero to Three. She held panel discussions on child care with working families in Hartford, Connecticut; Chicago; and, Milwaukee. During this time, Mrs. Clinton's domestic policy staff worked with staff members on Capitol Hill to garner support for the Administration's Child Care initiative. They held weekly calls and frequent strategy sessions, regularly reporting to Mrs. Clinton and receiving guidance on next steps.

In June 1998, the President and Mrs. Clinton hosted an event in the Rose Garden to applaud the House Democratic Caucus on Child Care, where the House Democrats unveiled their child care legislation which incorporated much of the Administration's proposals. At this event, Mrs. Clinton reflected on her travels and her work on behalf of child care, "As I have traveled around the country, I have spoken with hundreds – if not thousands – of parents. And, everywhere I go, finding safe, affordable and available child care is a concern that is universally shared."

In the Fall of 1998, Mrs. Clinton went on the road again to campaign for Democratic candidates who would work on a children's agenda if elected. In Portland, Oregon, Mrs. Clinton told a crowd at Portland State University that she hoped candidate for Congress, David Wu, would be elected to continue his work on behalf of better child care for working parents. Congressman Wu is now doing just that in the Congress. She traveled to California to support Proposition 10, California's Children and Families Act, that would add a 50 cent tax to cigarette purchases for the purpose of funding health, education, and nutrition programs to support the early development of young children. That Fall, California voters passed Proposition 10 and these funds are now providing nearly \$700 million annual to improve early childhood development.

In early 1999, Mrs. Clinton joined the President and the Gores on a "Family Agenda" tour where she spoke on the issues of balancing family and work, improving child care, and improving support for long-term care givers. This tour brought her to Buffalo, New York; Norristown, Pennsylvania; and Brooklyn, New York. Later that spring, Mrs. Clinton visited "Just Us Kids" child care center in DC where she announced a study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission on how to identify and correct hidden hazards that exist in child care centers. She also launched Lifetime's "Caring for Kids" child care campaign. Both of these efforts were aimed at empowering parents with vital information on child care.

This hard work paid off. Today, many of the goals of the child care initiative have been met and exceeded. This year, Congress is expected to approve the President's request for \$2 billion in child care subsidies to serve 2.2 million children in 2001 combined with child care funds in welfare reform; funding for Head Start has nearly doubled since the start of the Administration and is well on its way to meeting the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002; the after-school program has already served 850,000 children and with the President's budget request of \$1 billion could serve over 2 million children next year; the White House led an interagency task force to better coordinate afterschool resources and created afterschool.gov as an information resource for communities on after-school funds and best practices; last year's budget included \$10 million for research on child care; the Department of Health and Human Services has established a national hotline for parents on child care information; and, the 1998 crime bill passed by Congress improved systems to conduct background checks on child care workers.

The First Lady has not stopped her work on child care, however. She continues to write columns and speak out on the effort. This year, she held a conference call with child care advocates at the beginning of the year to discuss what more we need to get done. She is still fighting for the expansion of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, as well as a tax break for businesses that offer child care. Mrs. Clinton also continues to work hard with Members of Congress to promote the Early Learning Fund in order to improve the quality of child care. This year, a bipartisan group of senators – Senators Stevens, Kennedy and Jeffords – re-introduced the “Early Learning Opportunities Act” based on the Administration's proposal to improve the quality of child care. This legislation is currently pending in the Senate.

Just recently, Mrs. Clinton was joined at the White House by members of the law enforcement community, as well as Senator Dodd and Congressman Cardin to release a study entitled, “America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Strategy.” This study, developed by Fight Crime/Invest in Kids, casts the importance of investing in child care as a crime prevention strategy. At this event, Mrs. Clinton highlighted the findings of the study and called for Congress to act on the child care budget, as well as pass the Early Learning Fund quality child care initiative and tax breaks to support child care.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WORKING TO BRING THE TOOLS OF PROSPERITY TO ALL

Hillary Rodham Clinton has long believed that equipping people with the tools of opportunity, will enable them to gain a stake in the mainstream economy and develop the means to strengthen their families and build up their communities. One important way to unlock the potential of impoverished communities is by making available small loans – with microloans or microcredit – thereby extending access to capital and training to non-traditional, underserved borrowers, especially women, who lack the collateral for traditional small business loans. That is why for over 15 years, Mrs. Clinton has worked to develop community lending institutions and the innovative policies to support them in the U.S. and abroad. Microcredit is such a powerful concept because it is a pragmatic approach to poverty alleviation that gives its beneficiaries the tools to improve their lives by building their own microenterprises; or as Mrs. Clinton had said, a helping hand, as opposed to a handout.

Mrs. Clinton first heard about microcredit over 15 years ago when she and then Governor Clinton were looking for ways to create economic opportunity in the poorest sections of what was then one of the poorer states in the U.S. Mrs. Clinton had heard about the groundbreaking work of both the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh and the Shore Bank in Chicago, and reached out to representatives of both to learn about the impressive impacts small loans could make on communities. As she learned about microcredit, she envisioned it as a way of developing the economy from the “inside-out” rather than looking to the outside to make investments in poor regions.

In 1986, Mohammed Yunus, an economist who received his Ph.D. in the United States and later founded the Grameen Bank, met with the Clintons to offer advice on how such loan funds operate. By 1988, Mrs. Clinton helped create, and served on the board of, the Southern Development Corporation and its non-profit affiliate, the Arkansas Enterprise Group (AEG). AEG developed the Good Faith Fund – one of the first rural microenterprise funds in the United States. Modeled after the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, the Good Faith Fund provides small loans, training and technical assistance to low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs in rural communities in Arkansas. Several U.S. foundations have partnered with the Good Faith Fund. Mrs. Clinton was one of the first and only policy makers in the United States who recognized the powerful impact microcredit – a concept that was working in third world countries – could have on improving domestic economic development and alleviating poverty in this country.

Mrs. Clinton’s successful implementation of a microenterprise fund in Arkansas inspired one of the key platforms of the 1992 Clinton campaign – to establish a nationwide network of small community development banks. In 1994, the President proposed and signed into law the Community Development Financial Institutions fund (CDFI fund), which, through grants, loans, and equity investments, is helping to create a network of community development institutions in distressed areas across the United States

Microcredit became a major element of the Administration's community empowerment and development agenda, and served as a catalyst for the Administration's subsequent domestic and international microcredit initiatives including the Administration's New Markets Initiative. In addition to her work behind the scenes to promote the microcredit agenda within the White House, Mrs. Clinton also visited a number of microcredit programs throughout the country and made several public announcements of the Administration's microcredit agenda, including the unveiling of the Administration's microcredit legislation on Capitol Hill.

As a lead Administration proponent for domestic microcredit programs, Mrs. Clinton additionally sought to promote the concept of microcredit throughout the world. In her travels to impoverished communities in South and Central America, Africa, Southeast Asia, and newly independent states in Eastern Europe, Russia and central Asia, Mrs. Clinton met with small lending groups and their beneficiaries, as well as government officials to promote the efficacy of microloans, announce grants to many of these programs, and to encourage the governments of these countries to develop an infrastructure that would support these programs.

INTERNATIONAL MICROCREDIT

Mrs. Clinton has long recognized and promoted microcredit as an effective means towards empowering women. This is especially true in developing nations where women have not traditionally enjoyed the same rights as men, or worse, have been doubly oppressed by a political system that does not support them, and an economy that does not enable them to support themselves. Microcredit gives women world-over the tools they need to be self sufficient, self respecting and able to build futures for themselves and their families. Throughout her travels, Mrs. Clinton made an effort to meet with women who had benefited from microcredit programs in their countries and to then to bring their stories and concerns to the international stage as well as to government officials. Whether in small, undeveloped villages in developing nations, or at renown venues including the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Mrs. Clinton always impressed upon her listeners that the economic well-being of women in developing nations was an essential priority to ensuring the social and economic health of emerging democracies.

Mrs. Clinton repeatedly met with women microentrepreneurs and loan agents worldwide, heard their stories, and then shared those stories with others. Some highlights include the following:

- In March 1995, Mrs. Clinton visited the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India and the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh to highlight these important microcredit programs enabling poor women to become self-sufficient. In India she met women who had gained a stake in their economies, as well as political force in their communities, because microcredit programs had given them the economic means to band together and have an impact. In Bangladesh, she only had time in her schedule to visit one site, a Hindu women's bank, however, Muslim women also

wanted to have the opportunity to meet with her. Rather than remain divided because of their historic cultural animosity, the Muslim women joined the Hindu women for the session, and each woman there learned that despite their cultural differences, they shared much in common in their quest to improve the lives of their families and communities.

- In September 1995, Mrs. Clinton spoke in Beijing, China, at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) panel discussion on "Women's Economic Empowerment."
- In October 1995, Mrs. Clinton visited a FINCA bank, "Mothers United," in Nicaragua (which was subsequently re-named "Mothers United *with Hillary*"), and an Accion microenterprise project, "PenaSol," in Santiago, Chile. Both projects serve very poor women and have been successful in providing economic opportunity. The women she met in Nicaragua told her that they had seen pictures of her microcredit events in India, and asked her for tips they could learn from the Indian women. In Chile, she met a seamstress who told her that the small loan she received enabled her to buy a sewing machine, and that she felt like a caged bird set free.
- In December 1996, Mrs. Clinton visited BancoSol in La Paz, Bolivia -- Bolivia's largest commercial bank and the world's only commercial bank dedicated solely to micro lending. (The BancoSol borrowing group that Mrs. Clinton met with re-named itself the "Hillary" group in honor of her.)
- In March 1997, Mrs. Clinton met with borrowers from the Zambuko Trust Microfinance Program, a microenterprise institution supporting 4,000 Zimbabwean businesses -- 75% of them owned by women. There she announced a USAID grant to the Zambuko Trust. Also in March 1997, Mrs. Clinton visited a FINCA microenterprise borrowing group outside Kampala, Uganda.
- In May 1997, Mrs. Clinton visited with indigenous and peasant women involved in various microenterprises in Mexico, who displayed their products and discussed their work. Mrs. Clinton also participated in a roundtable in Costa Rica with microcredit entrepreneurs and Mrs. Figueres, the First Lady of Costa Rica. Eight microentrepreneurs from throughout Costa Rica spoke with the First Lady and displayed their merchandise. Mrs. Clinton spoke to the Regional Consultative Forum on Microenterprise Development in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Forum brought together 70 entrepreneurs from Central America to exchange ideas, share best practices, and ask for support from the region's political leadership. Mrs. Clinton participated in the Caribbean Regional Microenterprise Forum in Bridgetown, Barbados. The event was sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Caribbean Development Bank. Mrs. Clinton announced \$500,000 in assistance for microenterprise assistance to the four Windward Islands of St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, and Dominica.
- February 2, 1998 Mrs. Clinton made remarks at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where she discussed the need for corporate responsibility and her support for microcredit as a development tool.
- In March 1998, Mrs. Clinton and the President traveled to a FINCA program in Uganda with Yoweri Museveni, the President of Uganda. Mr. Museveni noted that he had not even heard of the program in his own country until Mrs. Clinton drew his attention to it.

- In October 1998, Mrs. Clinton attended the Central and Eastern Europe Regional Forum on Women in the 21st Century in Sofia, Bulgaria, where she encouraged the cultivation of women as business leaders.
- In December 1998, Mrs. Clinton announced USAID grant recipients at the Women's Empowerment Center in Beach Camp, Gaza. In March 1999, Mrs. Clinton toured the Enda Inter-Arabe Urban Development Center in Tunisia. In November 1999, Mrs. Clinton and Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan presented the first annual Jordan Microenterprise Awards in Amman, Jordan.

DOMESTIC MICROCREDIT

At the fourth United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, where Mrs. Clinton delivered a groundbreaking address on the rights of women worldwide and held a summit on microcredit, the First Lady highlighted the international and domestic community development commitments the United States was undertaking. Mrs. Clinton announced that through the CDFI Fund, the Administration would establish a new Presidential awards program to honor outstanding microlending organizations. These awards provide challenging benchmarks for microenterprise programs throughout the nation, they raise public awareness of the importance of such programs, and enable many in the private financial marketplace to see markets in places they never looked for them.

Mrs. Clinton also promoted microcredit as a means of lifting people out of the welfare system and giving them an opportunity to contribute to the economy. In her remarks at the first Presidential Awards Ceremony, Mrs. Clinton talked about the importance of microcredit: "These micro-lending networks and the small businesses they create can be important tools in our efforts to move Americans off welfare and to give working but poor Americans more of a chance to realize their own potential. The loans represent not only an infusion of cash into a business but also an infusion of confidence in a recipient's ability to succeed. Whether it is a beauty salon in Albuquerque or a child care center in San Diego or a small restaurant right here in the District of Columbia, small neighborhood businesses created with micro-loans can bring much-needed jobs, goods, services, and opportunities to low-income areas." [1/30/97]

The Administration has demonstrated a solid record of creating new initiatives and expanding existing initiatives to promote community and economic development by working with the private sector, states, and localities to help revitalize America's communities by bringing capital, jobs, and opportunity to distressed areas and cleaning up the urban environment. Mrs. Clinton and her staff have been particularly involved in the development of the domestic microcredit agenda which includes: developing and announcing the microenterprise awards; introducing the PRIME Act, under which the CDFI Fund will provide microenterprise technical assistance through competitive grants to microenterprise development organizations that focus on low-income entrepreneurs; a doubling of support for technical assistance in SBA's Microloan Program and a doubling of support for SBA lending to leverage new microlending; and new funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and for SBA's One-Stop Capital Shops.

The First Lady and her staff were deeply involved in the development of the Administration's domestic microcredit policies and Mrs. Clinton made several public announcements of the Administration's proposal in this area. In May 1996, Mrs. Clinton and Secretary Rubin announced the details of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development via video to the Association for Enterprise Opportunity Conference in Rhode Island. In January 1997, Mrs. Clinton, Secretary Rubin and USAID Administrator Brian Atwood held a press conference on the microenterprise awards, which was followed by a ceremony in which the President, First Lady and Secretary Rubin presided over the Inaugural Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development at the White House. In July 1997, Mrs. Clinton made remarks at the launching of a new Microenterprise Development Initiative on Capitol Hill and in June 1998 Mrs. Clinton joined Senators Kennedy and Domenici on Capitol Hill to announce the PRIME Act of 1998. The "Program for Investment in Micro-Entrepreneurs Act" provides grants to organizations that aid microentrepreneurs. In February 1999, Mrs. Clinton and the President presented the 1998 Microenterprise Awards at the White House.

Mrs. Clinton visited a variety of microcredit lending institutions throughout the United States. In July 1995, Mrs. Clinton visited Mi Casa, a program in Denver, Colorado, promoting microenterprise development, which has received support from the Small Business Administration. She also spoke to the Women's Foundation of Colorado Conference on microenterprise as a tool of opportunity. In December 1996, the First Lady addressed the Community First Bank in Washington, D.C. where she applauded the efforts of HUD, HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, and the Bank for all their efforts for community empowerment. In February 1997, Mrs. Clinton visited a Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA) borrowing group in Washington, D.C.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT

Hillary Clinton brought to the White House her own significant expertise on supporting children and youth in their development and a commitment to use her position as First Lady to advance the position of young Americans, particularly those in need. As a result, she has worked behind the scenes and before the public on such issues as youth violence, national service, after school care, and teen pregnancy. She has been a key player in legislation in these and other areas affecting youth, and by organizing or appearing at hundreds of public events on these issues, she has helped to raise their visibility and make positive youth development a national priority.

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The First Lady began her work on the development of children and youth during her first year at Yale Law School. After reading an article in Time magazine about child advocate Marian Wright Edelman and her lobbying group, the Washington Research Project (which later evolved in to the Children's Defense Fund), Mrs. Clinton contacted Edelman and secured an internship with the organization for the summer. Her experience there would set the stage for a lifelong commitment to a wide range of children and family issues.

While she was First Lady of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Children's Defense Fund, and as a board member of other influential national organizations concerned with youth, including the "I Have a Dream" Foundation, Children's Television Workshop, and Public/Private Ventures, whose mission is to improve the effectiveness of social policies, programs and community initiatives, especially as they affect youth and young adults. She also played a leadership role in Arkansas on behalf of youth, founding Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, serving as president of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund Program and as a board member of the Arkansas Children's Hospital and New Futures for Little Rock Youth.

In 1988, Mrs. Clinton served on the William T. Grant Foundation Commission on Work, Family and Citizenship, best known for its seminal report, *The Forgotten Half*. This report was widely circulated on Capitol Hill, and brought to the attention of Congress the situation faced by the more than 50 percent of youth who do not go on to college. The report advocated for family leave policies, school-to-work programs, expanded youth service opportunities, increased student aid, Job Corps expansion, and the development of mentoring programs. These recommendations all became significant policy achievements of the Clinton administration, often with the First Lady as the most prominent advocate working to make these recommendations into national policy.

She also served on the board of directors of the National Center on Education and the Economy and as co-chair for implementation of the Center's Commission on Skills of the American Workforce. In this position, she worked closely with a bipartisan group of prominent experts, including former Reagan Secretary of Labor Bill Brock, calling for changes in the way America trained its workforce to prepare for a rapidly evolving global economy. After she and her

colleagues traveled across the country advocating for the recommendations in the Commission's report, "America's Choice: High Skills or Low Wages!", and with the help of the new Clinton Administration, many states and the federal government adopted the report's proposals. Federal legislation included the Workforce Investment Act, creating one-stop shops for job training, the National Skills Standards Board, which established training standards in major industries, and the School to Work Partnership Act of 1994, designed to help students make the transition into the work force. This legislation provided \$1.6 billion to states for school-to-work pilot programs.

After President Clinton's election, Hillary Clinton continued her work on behalf of youth. She encouraged work to begin during the transition period on the national service initiative that would become AmeriCorps. Once she became First Lady, she asked her policy staff to help design the national service bill in a way that would allow young people of all backgrounds to participate, including the assurance of child care and health care benefits for AmeriCorps members. She helped to shepherd the legislation through Congress, playing an important behind the scenes role. Once the legislation was signed into law in September 1993, she monitored its implementation, ensured that it received continued White House attention, and continued to appear at events that would raise the program's visibility. In 1999, she encouraged the planning of a fifth anniversary celebration of AmeriCorps and helped launch an effort to endow City Year, a flagship national service program. Her domestic policy council staff is currently handling the AmeriCorps reauthorization legislation.

Mrs. Clinton was an early voice concerned about youth violence. In August of 1994 she spoke at the National Conference on Youth Violence, speaking about the "culture of violence" facing youth in the media and on the streets. In 1998 and 1999, she hosted a White House Conference on School Safety, wrote three columns on the topic, and spoke at more than a dozen events relating to youth violence. Following the Columbine High School shootings, Mrs. Clinton met with victims' families, hosted a strategy session at the White House on Children, Violence, and Responsibility, and stepped up her long-standing efforts to promote handgun control. Mrs. Clinton also worked with the President to launch the National Campaign Against Youth Violence, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about youth violence and working with local communities to prevent youth violence. The First Lady was an early supporter of the Million Moms March and joined the thousands of women who marched on Washington this year to call for sensible gun control laws.

Preventing teen pregnancy has also been a priority for Mrs. Clinton. In 1997, she encouraged the creation of a bipartisan Campaign for the Prevention of Teen Pregnancy, hosted the Campaign's first honors ceremony in the East Room of the White House, and participated in several key events to build support for the effort. She encouraged those concerned about teen pregnancy to work together toward the goal they shared, even if they disagreed on the means to the goal, helping to unite liberal and conservative organizations to advance the cause. These efforts to promote abstinence and personal responsibility, have provided more teens with mentors and access to college or jobs, and developed local prevention strategies reaching out to both girls and boys. With Mrs. Clinton's leadership, a third of all communities now have HHS-funded teen pregnancy prevention activities – exceeding the goal of 25 percent set in the 1996 welfare reform law. These activities include strong partnerships with states, communities, families, religious

leaders, the media, and teens themselves. This year, Mrs. Clinton has been a vocal advocate for the Administration's proposal to support second-chance homes, an innovative approach to help teen parents who cannot live at home. These adult-supervised living arrangements offer parenting skills, job counseling, education and other referrals that help reduce repeat pregnancies and improve the prospects for young mothers and their children, and many also involve young fathers in parenting and employment activities. In 1998, the rate of teen pregnancy reached a record low, with a particularly large drop in births to African American girls.

Mrs. Clinton's longstanding work on behalf of children in foster care led her to focus on youth who leave foster care when they become eighteen with limited supports to help them make the transition to independence. Few of these youth go on to college and a significant number become homeless after they lose important benefits they had received before they turned eighteen. Legislation developed by Mrs. Clinton and her staff and signed into law in 1999 provided for these young people to remain on Medicaid until the age of 21, and gives them extra help in finishing high school, going to college, and finding work and a place to live.

The First Lady has also been a leader within the Administration in support of afterschool care. Knowing that high quality afterschool programs can both lower risk behaviors and increase school success, she pushed for funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center program and has visited afterschool programs around the country. Funding for afterschool has provided nearly 850,000 children with after school opportunities.

Mrs. Clinton, who led the planning of the White House Conference on Philanthropy, ensured that the conference included a focus on teaching young people the giving tradition. As a result of that conference, a group of foundations are now working together to create a national initiative that will give young people of all backgrounds the opportunity to contribute to funds in their own communities, and to make decisions about what local organizations will receive these resources.

Most recently, Mrs. Clinton initiated and her staff planned and implemented the May 2, 2000 White House Conference on Teenagers. This historic event brought together parents, teens, policy makers and other experts to discuss the importance of the teenage years in the social and intellectual development of children. Like the White House Conference on Early Learning and Childhood Development in 1997, the teen gathering underscored some of the common misconceptions that parents have about the teenage years and offered strategies for raising responsible and resourceful youth. Initiatives that emerged from the conference included a "Time with Teens Campaign," a public awareness campaign about the importance of adult-teen interaction; a website to provide teenagers with information available through the federal government – americasteens.gov; a focus on improving media resources for teenagers and their parents; and, a call for more after-school and community service opportunities for teenagers.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

AUG - 1 2000

Memorandum for the Director and Deputy Director

Through: John T. Spott

From: Katherine K. Wallman

Subject: *Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being* - Heads Up

On August 10, the Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics (Forum) will release its first report on the status of the Nation's older population, entitled *Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being*. The report presents 31 indicators on important aspects of the lives of older Americans and their families, grouped in five broad areas (population, economics, health status, health risks and behavior, and health care). *Older Americans 2000* is the first in a continuing series planned by the Forum. It is modeled after the highly acclaimed *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being* reports.

Like the principal economic indicators, data on each of the indicators included in this report are prepared and released by a statistical agency. To ensure that there can be no perception of political manipulation, neither OMB nor the parent departments "clear" the statistical data. The Forum, a consortium of nine Federal agencies including OMB (represented by the Chief Statistician), is responsible for determining which indicators will be included and for releasing the report.

The release of *Older Americans 2000* is being handled in a manner similar to that used for *America's Children*. As with that report, we anticipate a fair amount of media coverage; calls about specific indicators will be fielded by the statistical agencies responsible for their production.

The agencies participating in the Forum should be congratulated on producing this new compendium. I anticipate that *Older Americans 2000* will be a valuable tool for tracing the conditions of those who are age 65 and older, and for making policy decisions that will affect this fast-growing sector of our population. The Forum anticipates publishing additional volumes of the chartbook on a periodic basis, every three to five years.

I have taken the liberty of attaching highlights from *Older Americans 2000*, a background piece on the history of the Forum, and the Forum's press release that provides specific information about many of the indicators presented in the report. As you will see, there is much positive news about the status of the Nation's older population. Please note that the official release time is 12:01 a.m., August 10. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sally Katzen
Joshua Gotbaum
Barbara Chow
Jeanne Lambrew
Michael Deich
Wesley Warren
Linda Richi
Joe Minarik
Chuck Keiffer
Karen Tramontano
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Devorah Adler
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Highlights

The indicators assembled in this chart-book show the results of decades of progress. At the beginning of a new century, older Americans are living longer and enjoying greater prosperity than any previous generation. Despite these advances, persistent inequalities between the sexes, income classes, and racial and ethnic groups continue to exist. The rapid growth of the older population over the next 50 years will intensify the need for policymakers, researchers, and community leaders to better understand the health and economic needs of older Americans.

Population

The demographics of aging continue to change dramatically. The older population is growing rapidly, and the aging of the "baby boomers," born between 1946 and 1964, will accelerate this growth. Both the number and the proportion of older people relative to the rest of the population are increasing. This increase in the size of the older population is accompanied by rapid growth in the population age 85 and older, as well as increasing racial and ethnic diversity among all older people.

- In 2000, there are an estimated 35 million persons age 65 or older in the United States, accounting for almost 13 percent of the total population. The older population is expected to double over the next 30 years to 70 million by the year 2030. Over the next 50 years, the population age 85 and older is expected to grow faster than any other age group. (See Indicator 1.)
- Women make up 58 percent of the population age 65 and older and 70 percent of the population age 85 and older. Older women are less likely than older men to be currently married and are more likely to live alone. In 1998, about 41 percent of older women were living alone, compared with 17 percent of older men. (See Indicators 1, 3, and 5.)
- The older population will become more racially and ethnically diverse during the

next 50 years. Non-Hispanic whites make up 84 percent of the population age 65 and older in 2000, and this is expected to decline to 64 percent by 2050. (See Indicator 2.)

- The current generation of older Americans is more highly educated than previous cohorts of older persons, and this trend will continue. In 1998, about 11 percent of older women and 20 percent of older men were college graduates. (See Indicator 4.)

Economics

Generally, the economic status of older people has improved markedly over the past few decades. Poverty rates have declined and there has been a substantial increase in net worth for many older Americans. Still, major disparities exist, with older blacks and older women reporting fewer financial resources.

- The percentage of older persons living in poverty declined from about 35 percent in 1959 to 11 percent in 1998. (See Indicator 6.)
- In 1998, Social Security provided over 80 percent of income for older Americans with the lowest levels of income. For those in the highest income category, Social Security accounted for approximately 20 percent of total income. (See Indicator 8.)
- Between 1984 and 1999, the median net worth of households headed by older persons increased by about 70 percent. But there are large disparities in net worth. Households headed by older black persons had median net worth of about \$13,000 in 1999, compared with \$181,000 among households headed by older white persons. (See Indicator 9.)
- Between 1963 and 1999, labor force participation rates for men ages 62 to 64 declined from 76 percent to 47 percent, but participation rates increased from 29 percent to 34 percent for women in this age group. (See Indicator 10.)

- The burden of housing costs relative to all expenditures declines as income increases. In 1998, low-income households headed by persons age 65 or older allocated an average of 36 percent of all expenditures to basic housing, compared with high-income households, which spent an average of 26 percent. (See Indicator 11.)

Health Status

The increase in life expectancy during the 20th century has been a remarkable achievement. Older age, however, is accompanied by increased risk of certain diseases and disorders. Significant proportions of older Americans suffer from a variety of chronic health conditions such as arthritis or hypertension. Despite these and other conditions, the rate of disability among older people has declined in recent years.

- Americans are living longer than ever before. If mortality rates remain constant, persons age 65 in 2000 are expected to live another 18 years, on average, compared with persons age 65 in 1900 who had a remaining life expectancy of 12 years. Life expectancy at age 65 is almost 2 years greater for whites than for blacks. (See Indicator 12.)
- The leading causes of death for older Americans are heart disease, cancer, and stroke (respectively). Mortality rates for heart disease and stroke have declined by about a third since 1980. The mortality rates for cancer have risen slightly over the same period. (See Indicator 13.)
- In 1995, about 58 percent of persons age 70 or older reported having arthritis, 45 percent reported having hypertension, and 21 percent reported having heart disease. (See Indicator 14.)
- In 1998, the percentage of older Americans with moderate or severe memory impairment ranged from about 4 percent among persons ages 65 to 69 to about 36 percent among persons age 85 or older. About 23 percent of persons age 85 or older reported severe symptoms of depression. (See Indicators 15 and 16.)
- The percentage of older Americans with a chronic disability declined from 24 percent in 1982 to 21 percent in 1994. In 1994, about 25 percent of older women reported disabilities, compared with 16 percent of older men. (See Indicator 18.)

Health Risks and Behaviors

The social and behavioral aspects of life for older Americans can make a difference in health and well-being. Most older people report being socially active, which may contribute to their emotional and physical health. However, other measured aspects of social and health behaviors may threaten health, including the failure of many older adults to engage in physical activity, to have healthy diets, or to be vaccinated against influenza and pneumococcal disease.

- The majority of persons age 70 or older reported engaging in some form of social activity during a two-week period. About two out of every three persons age 70 or older reported that they were satisfied with their level of social activities. (See Indicator 19.)
- In 1995, about one third of older Americans reported a sedentary lifestyle (i.e., no leisure-time physical activities in a two-week period). (See Indicator 20.)
- From 1994 to 1996, a higher proportion of the population age 65 and older (21 percent) had diets that were rated "good" compared with persons ages 45 to 64 (13 percent). Even so, a majority of older persons reported diets that were poor (13 percent) or needed improvement (67 percent). (See Indicator 23.)
- Older persons are much less likely to be victims of both violent and property crime than persons ages 12 to 64. (See Indicator 24.)

Health Care

Health care expenditures and use of services among older people are closely associated with age and disability status. There are large differences, for example, in health expenditures and use of services between persons ages 65 to 69 and persons age 85 or older. Older persons of all ages are generally satisfied with their health care and report few difficulties in obtaining health care services.

- In 1996, the average annual expenditure on health care (both out-of-pocket expenditures and expenditures covered by insurance) was \$5,864 among persons ages 65 to 69, compared with \$16,465 among persons age 85 or older. (See Indicator 25.)

- Although dollar expenditures increase with income, the relative burden of health care costs is much higher among lower- and middle-income households compared with higher income households. (See Indicator 27.)
- Among Medicare beneficiaries not enrolled in HMOs (82 percent of all beneficiaries in 1998), the rate of hospital admissions during the year increased from 307 per 1,000 in 1990 to 365 per 1,000 in 1998. However, the average length of stay in a hospital declined from 9 days to 6 days during the same time period. (See Indicator 29.)
- In 1997, about 1.5 million older persons (4 percent of the population age 65 or older) resided in nursing homes. This represents a decline since the mid-1980s in the proportion of older people living in nursing homes. Three-fourths of nursing home residents were women in 1997. Though a smaller proportion of older people were residents of nursing homes in 1997 compared with 1985, those who were in nursing homes were more likely to have serious functional limitations, such as incontinence, difficulty eating, or mobility limitation. (See Indicator 30.)
- The percentage of older Americans living in the community and receiving home care for disabilities declined from 18 percent in 1982 to 15 percent in 1994. Of those who received care in 1994, 64 percent relied exclusively on informal (unpaid) care, 8 percent received only formal care, and 28 percent received a combination of informal and formal care. (See Indicator 31.)

August 10, 2000

Background

The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics

The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics (the Forum) was established in the mid-1980s to encourage cooperation and collaboration among federal agencies to improve the quality and utility of data on the aging population. The Forum, made up of nine Federal agencies that produce or use statistics on aging, provides these agencies with a venue to discuss data issues and concerns that cut across agency boundaries; facilitates in development of new databases; improves mechanisms currently used to disseminate information on aging-related data; invites researchers to report on cutting-edge analyses of data; and encourages international collaboration.

The specific goals of the Forum are to improve both the quality and use of data on the aging population by:

- widening access to information on the aging population through periodic publications and other means;
- promoting communication among data producers, researchers, and public policymakers;
- coordinating the development and use of statistical databases among Federal agencies;
- identifying information gaps and data inconsistencies;
- investigating questions of data quality;
- encouraging cross-national research and data collection on the aging population; and
- addressing concerns regarding collection, access, and dissemination of data.

In 1986, the National Institute on Aging, in cooperation with the National Center for Health Statistics and the Census Bureau, established the initial, smaller Forum. Over a period of several years, the Forum played a key role in improving aging-related data by encouraging cooperation and data sharing among different agencies, furthering professional collaboration across different fields, and compiling aging-related statistical data in a centralized location. The meetings of the Forum helped promote a number of

important developments -- the establishment of the Health and Retirement Study and the Study of Asset and Health Dynamics Among the Oldest Old; the comparison of disability measures across national surveys; the acceptance of more standardized age categories; and the collection and presentation of statistics on more narrowly defined age and race categories.

In response to changes in the federal statistical system, the Forum was reorganized in 1998. As part of this reorganization, the original three members were joined by the Administration on Aging, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Health Care Financing Administration, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (Department of Health and Human Services), Office of Management and Budget, and Social Security Administration as organizing members of the reconfigured group.

The inaugural meeting of the "new" Forum was held in March 1999. At this meeting, the organizing members agreed that the Forum should focus its efforts on developing an indicators chartbook, exploring opportunities to integrate data for research applications, and initiating projects to improve measurement methods and data quality.

The Forum's first chartbook was issued on August 10, 2000. The National Center for Health Statistics provided overall leadership and coordination for the production of the chartbook with important staff and administrative contributions from Forum agencies. The Social Security Administration, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (Department of Health and Human Services), and the National Institute on Aging provided financial support for this report.

The overall work of the Forum is currently funded by the Office of Demography of Aging, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health. Valuable staff support is provided by all members of the Forum.

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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
August 10, 2000

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Well-Being Improves for Most Older People, But Not For All, New Federal Report Says

Older Americans are living longer and living better than ever before. But many of those age 65 and older face disability, chronic health conditions, or economic stress, according to a new federal indicators report that describes the status of the nation's older population. This is the first in a continuing series planned by the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, a consortium of U.S. government agencies working together to improve the quality and usefulness of data on older Americans.

The global population is aging at a rate unprecedented in history. In the U.S., the population age 65 and older is expected to double by 2030. The Forum developed the report, "Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being," to regularly track trends as society and individuals look for ways to address the aging boom. Today's report, which brings together information from more than a dozen national data sources for the first time, will serve as a baseline for future updates.

"Americans age 65 and older are an important and growing segment of our population. While many federal agencies provide data on this diverse population, it is sometimes difficult to understand how this group is faring. For the first time, the federal statistical system has come together to provide a unified picture of the overall health and well-being of older Americans," says Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistician, U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The 128-page report covers 31 key indicators carefully selected by the Forum to portray aspects of the lives of older Americans and their families. The report is divided into five subject areas: population, economics, health status, health risks and behaviors, and health care. Highlights include:

Population -- The number and proportion of older people in the U.S. population have grown and generally will continue to grow at a very rapid pace. Aging in the 21st century will be characterized by a steep rise in the population age 85 and older and increased racial and ethnic diversity.

- The number of older people in the U.S. has increased ten-fold since 1900. Today, an estimated 35 million people, 13 percent of the population, are age 65 and older. By 2030, 20 percent of Americans, about 70 million, will have passed their 65th birthday. The population age 85 and above is currently the fastest growing segment of the older population; its growth is particularly important for anticipating health care and assistance needs, because these individuals tend to be in poorer health and require more services than people below age 85.
- The racial and ethnic makeup of the U.S. is changing, and the older population is no exception. In 2000, an estimated 84 percent of the population age 65 and older is non-Hispanic white, 8 percent non-Hispanic black, 6 percent Hispanic, 2 percent non-Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander, and less than 1 percent non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native. By 2050, those proportions are projected to be substantially different: 64 percent of the older population is expected to be non-Hispanic white, 16 percent Hispanic, 12 percent non-Hispanic black, and 7 percent non-Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander, with the non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native populations remaining at less than 1 percent.
- Today's older Americans are better educated than their counterparts 50 years ago, a factor that can positively influence socioeconomic status and health. In 1998, a high school diploma was held by some 67 percent of older Americans, compared with just 18 percent in 1950. About 15 percent of older Americans had earned at least a bachelor's degree in 1998, increasing from 4 percent in 1950.

Economics -- The economic picture for most older Americans is improving. But there are also significant disparities in income and wealth. Poverty has dropped dramatically, but rates are still very high for some groups. Social Security benefits and pensions have taken on greater importance. Overall, the net worth of older Americans also has increased over time.

- In 1998, 11 percent of older Americans had incomes below the poverty threshold, compared to 35 percent in 1959. The proportions of the older population in poverty vary, however, by age, gender, and race and ethnicity. For example, the poverty rate is highest at older ages -- 14 percent for people age 85 and older, compared with 9 percent for people ages 65 through 74. It is higher among older women (13 percent) than older men (7 percent). And it is higher for minorities than non-Hispanic whites; for example, divorced black women ages 65 through 74 had a poverty rate of 47 percent in 1998, among the highest for any subset of older people. On the other end of the income spectrum, almost two-thirds of the older population experienced medium and high incomes in 1998, compared with about half in 1974.
- The importance of Social Security to the lowest-income elderly cannot be overestimated. It accounts for some 80 percent of income for people in the lowest two-fifths of the income spectrum.

- Net worth (the value of real estate, stocks, bonds, and other assets minus outstanding debts), an important measure of economic security, has increased in recent years. Estimates of the amount of the increase vary, but in one survey, median net worth among households headed by older people jumped 69 percent between 1984 and 1999. However, there is a large disparity in net worth between older black and white households.

Health Status – Older Americans are living longer and feeling better. An overwhelming majority rate their health as good or excellent. Men and women report comparable levels of well-being. But large numbers of older people find their health threatened by memory impairments, depression, chronic conditions, and disability, especially at very advanced ages, which can substantially diminish quality of life.

- Americans born at the beginning of the 21st century are expected to live almost 30 years longer than those born at the turn of the 20th century. In 1997, a newborn baby girl could expect to live 79 years and a boy 74 years, compared to 51 years for a girl and 48 years for a boy born in 1900. Life expectancy varies by race, however. The average life expectancy for a white baby born in 1997 was 6 years higher than for a black baby born in the same year.
- Chronic disease, memory impairment, and depressive symptoms affect large numbers of older people, and the risk of such problems often increases with age. In 1995, almost 60 percent of people age 70 and older report having arthritis, up slightly from the proportion reporting arthritis in 1984. The prevalence of arthritis and other chronic diseases, such as hypertension, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and stroke are also reported, and vary by race and ethnicity. Increases in memory impairment and depressive symptoms occur with advancing age: one-third or more of men and women age 85 and older have moderate or severe memory impairment and 23 percent of this group experience severe depressive symptoms.
- Despite the prevalence of illness or chronic conditions, the proportion of Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older with a chronic disability was 21 percent in 1994, down from 24 percent in 1982. During this time period, the older population grew significantly, and the number of older people estimated to have functional limitations increased by 600,000. This was considerably fewer, however, than the 1.5 million increase projected had disability rates not declined.

Health Risks and Behaviors -- Social and behavioral aspects of life can make a difference in health and well-being. Most older people describe themselves as socially active, which may enhance their physical and emotional health. But others report choices and behaviors, such as the failure to engage in physical activity or to keep up with vaccinations, that could interfere with health and independence.

- A large majority of older people report social contacts with friends, neighbors, and relatives or engaging in activities, such as going out to restaurants. The proportion of older Americans engaged in physical activity is increasing: between 1985 and 1995 the percentage who were sedentary decreased from 34 percent to 28 percent for men and 44 percent to 39 percent for women.
- From 1989 through 1995, the proportion of older people who were vaccinated against influenza and pneumonia increased, but reached the 60 percent coverage target set by Healthy People 2000 for only one group, non-Hispanic whites vaccinated against influenza. An increasing trend also holds true for older women getting mammograms; 55 percent of older women in 1994 reported having had a mammogram in the previous two years, compared with 23 percent in 1987.

Health Care — Older people report being generally satisfied with health care quality and access. Average costs have not risen steeply during the 1990s. The cost of health care and use of services is closely associated with age and institutional status, with higher expenditures incurred by the oldest Americans and those living in long-term care facilities.

- Between 1992 and 1996, there was a slight increase in average inflation-adjusted annual health care expenditures (both public and private) for older Americans. In 1996, the average annual expenditure was \$5,864 for people age 65 through 69, rising to \$16,465 at age 85 and older. In 1996, 69 percent of noninstitutionalized Medicare beneficiaries had some type of private or public coverage for prescription drugs, while 31 percent did not. Out-of-pocket expenditures for prescription drugs were 83 percent higher for those not covered than for those with coverage.
- People age 85 and older are the most likely Americans to live in nursing homes. In 1997, only 11 people per 1,000 age 65 through 74 lived in a nursing home, compared with 192 people per 1,000 among those age 85 and older. About three-fourths of nursing home residents are women, roughly equal to their representation in the population age 85 and older. People in nursing homes today are more functionally impaired than their counterparts in previous years. The percentage of nursing home residents who were incontinent, who needed help with eating, or who were dependent on others for mobility increased slightly between 1985 and 1997.
- For those who receive home care, the nature of assistance may be changing. Most home care is provided informally by family, friends, and the community, as it has been for quite some time. But since the 1980s, the use of informal support as an exclusive means of help appears to be declining. The percentage of older people receiving only informal care dropped from 74 percent in 1982 to 64 percent in 1994, while the use of combined formal and informal care increased from 21 percent to 28 percent during the same time period.

Beyond the specific indicators, the Forum's report also examines areas where research and data efforts need to be improved. Among the recommendations are

extending age reporting categories to more specifically incorporate upper age ranges in federal data collection efforts, improving the way data are collected to measure income and wealth, strengthening measures of disability, and gathering information to understand the reasons for improvements in life expectancy and function.

The Federal Forum on Aging-Related Statistics was established in 1986 to foster collaboration among federal agencies that produce or use data on the older population. The Forum is made up of nine federal agencies -- the Administration on Aging, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Census Bureau, the Health Care Financing Administration, the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute on Aging, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (Department of Health and Human Services), the Office of Management and Budget, and the Social Security Administration. Other agencies contributing to "Older Americans 2000" are the Bureau of Justice Statistics (Department of Justice), the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration (Department of Transportation), and the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (Department of Agriculture).

The public may view copies of the report on the web site www.agingstats.gov. Single printed copies of "Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being" are available from the National Center for Health Statistics, at (301) 458-4636 or by sending an e-mail request to nchsquery@cdc.gov. Anyone wishing multiple printed copies of the report should contact Forum Staff Director Kristen Robinson at (301) 458-4460 or by sending an e-mail request to kgr4@cdc.gov.

News media may view the report prior to the embargo date on a special web site sponsored by the Forum. Please call media contacts to obtain more information about access to that website or to get a printed copy of the embargoed report.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 18, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. **T.M.**
KRIS M. BALDERSTON

SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
August 12 - 18, 2000

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

- **Colombia:** On August 29, Under Secretary for Enforcement Johnson and his counterparts in Aruba, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama expect to sign a multilateral directive, which will establish a working group of experts to examine the Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE) system with a view toward reporting its findings and developing recommendations for participating governments to consider. The BMPE system launders billions of narcotics dollars each year by placing the dollars in U.S. and Mexican banks and then using those dollars to finance the export of trade goods from the U.S. to Colombia. It is expected that you and Colombian President Pastrana will announce the signing of the Directive on August 30 in Cartagena.
- **Mexico:** On July 27, Under Secretary for Enforcement Johnson met with several transition team leaders for Mexican President-elect Fox, including the two men heading up justice and security transition efforts. The transition team's visit to the U.S. included meetings with officials from State, DOD, DOJ, and ONDCP. Discussions focused on past cooperation on money laundering and drug interdiction between the U.S. and Mexico. Under Secretary Johnson emphasized Treasury's intention to continue its good working relationship with its Mexican counterparts, but also mentioned ongoing concern regarding Mexico's efforts to combat money laundering. On August 18, Secretary Summers sent you a memo discussing Mexico's economic situation in preparation for your August 24 meeting with President-elect Fox.
- **HIPC:** As you depart for Africa, more countries are moving forward in the HIPC process. During the week of August 21, the Executive Boards of the World Bank and IMF will have preliminary discussions on Malawi's eligibility for HIPC debt reduction.

In addition, the Boards are scheduled to make a decision on the start of enhanced HIPC debt reduction for Mali in early September. Mali would represent the eighth African country, and the tenth overall, to qualify for enhanced HIPC debt reduction this year. As many as six to eight additional African countries could qualify before the end of the year, including Rwanda, Guinea, and Cameroon.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** On August 11, the Office of the Solicitor General filed a brief defending the constitutionality of private suits against States under the ADA. The ADA expressly abrogates the States' Eleventh Amendment immunity to private suits in Federal courts and the brief urges the Court to affirm the Eleventh Circuit's holding that this abrogation was a proper exercise of Congress's power under Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment. The brief highlights that Congress exhaustively studied the history of discrimination against persons with disabilities and found enduring discrimination by state and local governments in employment, education, voting, public transportation, law enforcement, institutionalization, and many other public services.
- **Former Narcotics Officer Sentenced for Possession of Bombs:** On July 20, a former Tupelo, MS, narcotics officer was sentenced to seven years in prison for possession of bombs, explosives, hand grenades, detonators, and semi-automatic and automatic weapons. The defendant pleaded guilty, admitting that he stole these items from the MS National Guard and a Tupelo Police Department evidence locker because he had plans to rob a bank. Officers found digital photos of the bank on the defendant's computer.
- **Public Corruption Seminar:** On August 1-4, in Columbia, SC, approximately 100 attorneys from U.S. Attorneys' offices, DOJ divisions, and other Federal agencies attended the Public Corruption Seminar. Topics included an overview of prosecuting public corruption, administrative rules, statutory overview, predication of targets, new developments, charging decisions, undercover operations, and planning a take-down. The program also included panel discussions on handling confidential informants and election crimes.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- **Demand on BOR's Power Facilities Remains Stable:** Despite higher-than-normal temperatures in southern CA, no additional power has been requested from the Hoover (NV-AZ), Davis (AZ) and Parker (AZ) Dam power plants on the lower CO River. The dams continue to meet seasonal power demand, functioning primarily as peaking facilities to help customers meet heavy afternoon power needs. One 130-MW unit at Hoover Dam is out of service, but the outage has not affected the dam's ability to meet

power demand, as no additional power has been requested from Hoover. The unit is scheduled to return to service soon.

- **MT Mining Investigation Settlement:** A three-year fraud investigation of a Billings, MT mining company and its former CEO has resulted in a settlement of more than \$400,000. BLM investigators responded to complaints that the American Gem Corporation USA was overstating claims and incorrectly setting others. Investigators found that the company had a pattern of fraudulent practices, nearly 2,000 Federal mining claims encompassing more than 40,000 acres that had been inaccurately staked. American Gem established “dummy” associations to file their claims as a single unit for a reduced fee, making thousands of acres unavailable for lawful mining practices. BLM worked with the U.S. Attorney’s office to settle the case.
- **Subsistence Appeal:** A Federal appeals court will reconsider the *Katie John* ruling, in which a Federal judge found that “the definition of public lands includes those navigable waters in which the U.S. has an interest by virtue of the reserved water rights doctrine.” AK Governor Knowles has stated the appeal is intended to protect AK’s right to manage its waters. The Federal government assumed responsibility for management of subsistence taking of wildlife on Federal public lands in AK in 1990 when AK could no longer comply with Title VIII of the AK National Interest Lands Conservation Act. In 1995, a landmark ruling named for Athabaskan elder Katie John, who was denied a subsistence fish camp on the Copper River, established that the Federal government also had authority on most waters in AK to ensure subsistence rights for rural residents. The decision resulted in the Federal government taking over management of subsistence fishing on rivers and lakes within and alongside more than 200M acres of NPS lands, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other Federal conservation lands, representing about 60 percent of AK’s waters.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **Western Wildfires:** Two firefighters have died during operations in the Western U.S. To date, 66,123 wildfires (compared with a ten-year average year of 56,242) have burned more than 4.8M acres, double the ten-year average of 2,415,704 acres. A total of 20,713 personnel are now involved in fire fighting operations, including three battalions of U.S. troops, 11 Canadian aircraft, 15 Canadian fire fighting crews, and one Mexican fire fighting crew. Seventy-eight firefighters from Australia and New Zealand are also expected for deployment in the Northern Rockies. Weather forecasts predict dry conditions and heavy lightning activity over the Northern Rockies for the next several weeks, exacerbating the fire threat.

- **FIRE S.T.O.P.:** USDA is increasing its wildfire response capability in the Pacific southwest by providing additional highly flexible aviation resources through the FIRE S.T.O.P. program. During the week of August 13, USDA will activate four high-capacity helicopters, each capable of carrying a fully equipped 18-person fire fighting crew, available seven days a week, and strategically deployed to cover the region. This marks the first time USDA has fielded initial attack resources that can deploy full fire crews of this size with the speed of a helicopter.
- **VT Sheep Infection:** On August 9, an agreement was signed allowing USDA to continue quarantine of sheep infected with Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy, while a Federal Court rehears the case. On August 2, the court had ruled that USDA could buy and slaughter the imported sheep, after which the owners of one of the infected flocks filed an appeal.
- **Supply and Demand Forecasts:** The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) issued its first survey-based 2000-2001 production forecasts for cotton, corn, sorghum, rice, soybeans, sugarcane, and sugar beets in the August 11 *Crop Production* report. In addition, new survey-based production forecasts were issued for winter wheat, durum, other spring wheat, barley, and oats. USDA's projections of U.S. and global supply, use, and prices for 2000-2001 were published at the same time by the OCE's World Agricultural Outlook Board, in the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report.
- **Commodity Markets:** A large spring wheat harvest and tepid exports pressured wheat prices for the week. Improved export demand helped corn cash prices, but futures dropped on good crop conditions and expectations that USDA would forecast a record crop. Short-term weather concerns and brisk exports boosted soybean prices. Rice cash prices held steady, but futures fell on expectations of burdensome supplies. Combined heat and drought in the Mississippi Delta sent cotton prices sharply higher. Cattle prices rose in thin trade. Hog prices fell as several plants saw limited production and wholesale pork prices dropped. Broiler prices were almost unchanged. Low prices attracted cheese buyers, raising prices. Butter prices were little changed as high butter stocks offset declining production.
- **Biodiesel Goal Exceeded:** Following your signing of the Executive Order on developing and promoting biobased products and bioenergy, Secretary Glickman announced USDA's commitment to using 20,000 gallons of B20 biodiesel fuel over FY2000. This commitment and the successful use of biodiesel fuel at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and Black Hills National Forest have allowed the use of 67,000 gallons of B20 biodiesel fuel in USDA vehicles over the past year, more than triple the goal.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **Nuclear Cities Initiative:** On August 10, an Interagency Working Group for the Nuclear Cities Initiative (NCI) attended by Bureau of Export Administration staff identified access to formerly closed cities as a key issue for the November meeting of the Joint Steering Committee on the NCI to be held in Moscow. The U.S. will seek to have the current 45 day notification period for visits to these cities reduced to 14 days. The purpose of the Nuclear Cities Initiative is to convert Russian nuclear weapons facilities, located in a series of previously closed nuclear cities, to useful civilian production activities.
- **China Virtual Trade Mission:** Secretary Mineta has videotaped welcoming remarks for the China Computerworld Expo, which opens on August 21. Fifteen firms have been recruited for this virtual mission, which was announced by former Secretary Daley and his Chinese counterpart in April. This 2000 Virtual Trade Mission to China will provide a cost-effective, Web-based presence for 15 small U.S. computer-related firms at China's largest IT show. The Virtual Trade Mission is a website based on DOC's "E-Expo" platform that displays participants' company information in Chinese at a "virtual" booth. DOC will operate four computer terminals on the floor of the show for participants to view the website.
- **Western Wildfires:** Thirteen Western Region (WR) incident meteorologists (IMETS) and eight IMETS from other regions are currently deployed onsite at many of the largest and most dangerous wildfires. National Weather Service Weather Forecast Offices are also providing forecasts tailored specifically to individual wildfires since over 100 smaller wildfires do not have IMETS.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- **Airline Industry:** On August 11, the Air Line Pilots Association and United Airlines called off talks to reach a new amended contract by September 4. United officials stated they were ready to negotiate around-the-clock, but the pilots charged that management negotiators were "stonewalling." A key part of the talks involves job security provisions in light of United's planned \$11.6B purchase of US Airways. The union has countercharged that they warned United management that it was understaffed and needed to hire more pilots.
- **Verizon Strike:** The strike by 87,200 Verizon workers represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) entered its ninth day on August 14. The parties have struggled over language on mandatory overtime, job security, and workplace stress. The strike affects operations for 25 million customers in 13 states from ME to VA. Verizon, a

company formed in June by the merger of Bell Atlantic and GTE Corp., claims it needs flexibility in the distribution of service on a coast-to-coast basis. The unions argue that it could move work to areas where work is cheaper and the union presence is less a factor. The walkout is the second strike in two years following the creation of Verizon. As a result of this currently ongoing strike, in accordance with the Wagner-Peyser Act regulations, and upon the advice of the Solicitor's office, the workforce development system has ceased all job referral activities under the DOL/ETA-Verizon New Hire Partnership until negotiations between Verizon and union management have been resolved.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Findings on Drug Abuse:** During the week of August 28, HHS's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration plans to release the findings from the 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. This annual report provides national estimates of rates of use, number of users, and other measures of illicit drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and other forms of tobacco by the population twelve years and older. The report includes national estimates on the trends in the new use of substances and the extent of drug dependence and drug treatment in the country. For the first time the report also contains estimates of illicit drug, alcohol and cigarette use by age group and by state. SAMHSA also plans to release findings from the 1999 Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) survey of hospital emergency departments. The survey provides data on emergency department visits that are induced by or related to the use of an illegal drug or the non-medical use of a legal drug.
- **Progress toward Guinea Worm Eradication:** In 1986, an estimated three million persons were infected with the parasite, *Dracunculus medinensis*, commonly known as the Guinea worm, and more than 120 million persons were at risk of infection in three Asian and 17 African countries. The World Health Assembly resolved to eradicate dracunculiasis globally and established a target date of December 1995. By 1995, a multipartner campaign had reduced the annual incidence of dracunculiasis by approximately 95 percent. This report gives the status of the eradication program as of June 2000, which indicates that dracunculiasis has been eliminated from seven of the countries where it was endemic; however, in parts of Africa, particularly Sudan, dracunculiasis remains a serious public health problem.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **AR Landlords Racially Discriminating:** HUD has charged the owners and managers of a North Little Rock, AR, apartment complex with housing discrimination for refusing to rent to a biracial couple. The complaint was filed by the couple against the owners and managers of a high-rise complex. The woman, who is white, said that she called the

Lakewood House Apartments' rental office in July 1998 and was told that a three-bedroom unit was available. When she and her spouse, who is African-American, went to see the apartment the next day, however, they were told that there were no such units available. With her suspicions raised, the woman called the rental office a few hours later without identifying herself and was told that a three-bedroom apartment was available.

- **AK Salmon Disaster:** Governor Knowles declared a disaster emergency based on the catastrophically poor return of salmon in the Yukon River drainage area. Continually low salmon runs have led to food and fuel shortages and imminent threats to health and safety for the people and communities of the area. HUD is participating in an interagency task force led by FEMA Director Witt in putting together a package of Federal assistance. HUD's Special Action Office and Office on Native American Programs will provide training and technical assistance to existing grantees in the regions on how to revise their Indian Housing Plans and options to address activities that could be undertaken to assist families in the disaster area.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Airline Industry Complaints:** During the week of August 21, Secretary Slater will meet with the heads of the major airlines and their unions in Washington, DC to discuss delays and other passenger service problems at all the major carriers.
- **Bridgestone-Firestone Tire Recall:** On August 9, Bridgestone-Firestone (Firestone) and Ford jointly announced that Firestone will recall all Firestone ATX tires manufactured from 1991 to the present, regardless of manufacturing plant, and all Wilderness AT tires manufactured from 1996 to the present at Firestone's Decatur, IL, plant. The recall was announced due to possible tire tread separation. Firestone produced approximately 14.5M tires covered by the recall and estimates that approximately 6.5M of these are still on the road. Firestone plans to replace the defective tires with new Wilderness tires from other plants. Due to the limited number of replacement tires currently available, Firestone plans to prioritize the recall, beginning with owners in those states where most incidents have occurred (TX, FL, CA, and AZ). The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will monitor the recall to assure that it is performed expeditiously and that the remedy is adequate. NHTSA will also continue its investigation to ascertain whether the scope of the recall is appropriate.
- **Vandalism of Nigerian Pipelines:** DOT is working with DOE, NSC, and other Federal agencies regarding the frequent vandalism of Nigerian pipelines that has resulted in thousands of civilian fatalities during the last five years. DOT is capable of providing technical support, training, and referrals to companies specializing in intrusion detection. This effort supports the Administration's Africa Initiatives and your upcoming trip to Nigeria.

- **Unsafe Motor Carriers:** During the week of August 21, Secretary Slater will announce a major change to the impact on motor carrier companies of unsatisfactory safety ratings issued by DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Previously established motor carrier safety regulations provided shutdown procedures only for passenger and hazardous material carriers with unsatisfactory ratings. Under the amended rule, FMCSA will consider an unsatisfactory rating a determination that a carrier is unfit, thereby prohibiting that carrier from operating commercial motor vessels in interstate commerce. This strong enforcement tool, provided for by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, will improve safety and help reduce truck and bus-related deaths by half in the next ten years.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **Travel to Russia and Kazakhstan:** On August 28-September 3, Secretary Richardson will travel to Kazakhstan and Russia. In Kazakhstan, Richardson will meet with President Nazerbayev and Minister Shkolnik to discuss Caspian Energy Development and Non-proliferation efforts. He will also meet with oil industry representatives. The Secretary will travel to Sarov, Russia, with the Minister of Atomic Energy. He will be the first Cabinet member to visit territory formerly part of the Avangard nuclear weapons production facility at the closed nuclear city. With the help of DOE's Nuclear Cities Initiative, commercial production will begin at this site in the near future. Richardson will also travel to Vladivostok and Kamchatka in the Russian Far East to commission two Russian Navy sites where joint nuclear non-proliferation efforts have been completed in cooperation with the Russian Navy, and travel to Sakhalin Island to meet with the Energy Minister and oil executives and visit an operational oil platform run by a consortium that includes U.S. companies.
- **Truck Initiative:** Secretary Richardson announced the selection of research and development teams that will develop the technology for increasing the fuel efficiency of heavy-duty trucks on the nation's highways. Known as Class 7 and 8 trucks, these vehicles and their cargo (weighing from 26,000 pounds to 80,000 pounds) are the workhorses of the American economy. One of the goals of the partnership between DOE and the industry is doubling the fuel efficiency of the Class 8 long-haul truck by 2010. DOE anticipates that it will contribute more than \$4M to these research and development projects over a four-year period. Industry will contribute a similar amount during the life of the project. Specific award amounts are still being negotiated.
- **Gasoline Prices Down, Stocks Lower:** Price changes in gasoline spot and futures prices rose strongly last week, closely following a similar gain in crude oil prices driven by low stocks and continued delays in promised production increases. Apparent OPEC support for current price levels, along with a tropical storm approaching the TX coast were seen as factors. The New York Harbor spot price for conventional regular gasoline

rose 8.43 cents on August 14 to 86.18 cents per gallon, while the Los Angeles CARB RFG spot price increased 9.50 cents to 119.50 cents per gallon. (The spot price for West Texas Intermediate crude oil at Cushing, OK went from \$28.93 per barrel to \$31.92 per barrel during the same time period.) The U.S. average retail price for regular gasoline fell for the eighth straight week, dropping 1.5 cent to 144.7 cents per gallon as of August 14. The average has declined by 23.4 cents per gallon since June 19, to its lowest level since May 1, but stands 21.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. Prices declined for most regions, but showed slight increases on the West Coast and for RFG in the Midwest.

- **Emergency Management Exercise:** "Bright Sun," the Nevada Test Site's annual emergency management exercise, involving hazardous material, will take place on August 23. Participants will include DOE as well as Las Vegas Fire and Rescue. Response organizations will demonstrate their capabilities to classify, notify, and provide resources and technical input to responding field units. Mutual Aid Agreements with Las Vegas will also be exercised.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **Building Better Schools Week:** From August 21-26, DOEd will launch its first-ever Building Better Schools Week, a new initiative to promote safe, healthy, and modern schools for America's children. This initiative supports the Administration's Plan to Modernize America's Schools by helping communities respond to the challenges of modernizing their schools. To highlight the need for school modernization, renovation, and repair, DOEd will work with local schools and educators, parents and community leaders to bring attention to the unique needs facing many school districts as they accommodate growing numbers of students.
- **Baby Boom Echo Report:** On August 21, as part of Building Better Schools Week, Secretary Riley will release the fifth annual Baby Boom Echo Report on the impact of the baby boom echo, the 25 percent increase in the nation's birthrate that began in the mid-1970s and reached its peak in 1990 with the birth of 4.1 million children. The report focuses on the pressures that the resulting enrollment increase is placing on the nation's education system and the need for school construction in high growth areas, highlighting the needs of six metropolitan areas: Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles, CA; Chicago, IL; Miami, FL; Washington, DC; and Las Vegas, NV.
- **NAEP Report:** On August 24, Secretary Riley will announce the release of the *National Assessment of Educational Progress 1999: Trends in Academic Progress* report. The report provides a broad examination of 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds' performance in reading, mathematics, and science.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **CA Power Shortage:** On August 11, largely to help CA address its needs during its current power shortage, EPA released guidance which will allow the use of diesel generators in “emergency” situations. Because these diesel units emit high levels of air pollutants, they will only be allowed at the last stage of alert in order to avoid a power blackout. This last stage begins when operating reserves fall to 1.5 percent. Well before this point, CA will have already asked consumers to implement conservation measures and required businesses with specified rate structures to curtail usage. CA’s current problems arise from a combination of factors, including hot weather and the transition to a deregulated electricity market that some analysts have blamed for a lack of new generation capacity.

U.S. MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- **Iraq:** Informal consultations were scheduled for August 17 to discuss the issue of missing Kuwaiti POWs dating back from the Gulf War. This is part of a series of reports that are scheduled every four months. USUN does not expect any progress to be reported, as Iraq continues to refuse to cooperate.
- **Congo:** Informal consultations are scheduled on August 18 to consider the Democratic Republic of the Congo. USUN expects to table a six-week technical extension of the mandate for the UN Mission on the Congo, currently set to expire on August 31.
- **Afghanistan:** Informal consultations are scheduled August 23 to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. USUN will reemphasize the need for the Taliban to comply with UNSCR 1267 and expects the discussion to address the humanitarian situation, including the plight of refugees, the current severe drought, and the recent tightening of the ban on women working.
- **Ethiopia-Eritrea:** Following Congressional notification, USUN will introduce a draft resolution establishing the 4420-person UN Mission in Ethiopia-Eritrea.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- **Breaking the Cycle Program:** ONDCP and DOJ created the Breaking the Cycle program to demonstrate the effectiveness of a system-wide approach in addressing the problem of treating drug addicts in the criminal justice system. The programs feature four components: drug testing of all defendants at the time of arrest; placing all drug-using defendants in appropriate treatment programs; judicial oversight and monitoring for compliance with court-imposed treatment conditions; and imposition of graduated sanctions against defendants who violate treatment conditions. There are three Breaking

the Cycle sites serving adult offenders (Birmingham, AL; Tacoma, WA; and Jacksonville, FL) and one serving juvenile offenders (Eugene, OR).

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

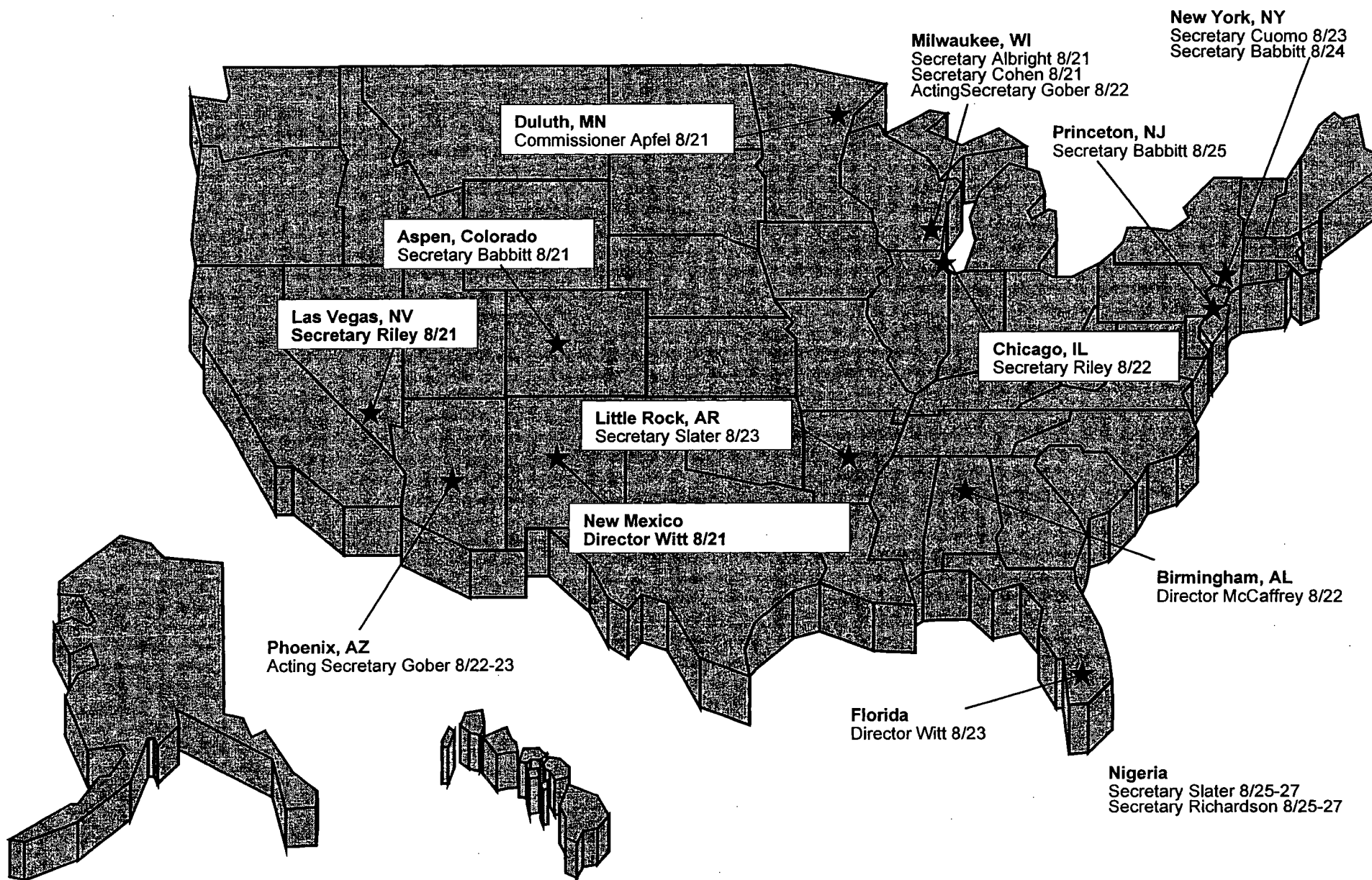
- **New Markets/Digital Divide:** SBA met with Wesley R. Buford, Founder, Chairman & CEO of Freedom Card, Inc. (FCI). FCI is a minority business enterprise that offers quality financial services targeted to several key markets: urban consumers, multi-ethnic populations, large financial institutions interested in fulfilling their Community Reinvestment Act requirements and commitments, and minority institutions lacking capital. The purpose of the FreedomCard is to improve and enhance the quality of life for the urban consumer and small business owner in need of credit services. FreedomCard offers credit products for the non-traditional market and low- to moderate-income urban consumer and will help to establish new credit for previously non-creditworthy consumers and restore good credit for credit-troubled consumers from one credit line to another.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

- **Work Incentives Network (WIN) Conference:** On August 24, SSA will hold a WIN conference at the Universidad de Sagrado Corazon in San Juan, PR. WIN is a coalition of representatives from local, state, and Federal agencies and advocacy groups interested in increasing knowledge and use of SSA's work incentive programs. More than 80 agencies will participate in the conference.

Cabinet Affairs Travel

Monday, August 21 - Sunday, August 27, 2000



cc:

The Vice President

John Podesta

Martin Baily

Sandy Berger

Sidney Blumenthal

Chuck Brain

Charles Burson

Mary Beth Cahill

Maria Echaveste

George Frampton

Mickey Ibarra

Ben Johnson

Joel Johnson

Janis Kearney

Neal Lane

Jack Lew

Joe Lockhart

Lisel Loy

Buddy MacKay

Minyon Moore

Bruce Reed

Steve Ricchetti

Gene Sperling

Lauren Supina

Loretta Ucelli

Melanne Verveer

ERIC

PL. get
3 copies of
full report

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, August 8, 2000

6711 - we show
include this
info. in
next update.

TO: Ann From: Andrew
C'hn's
we plan to do a statement
CDC/NCHS Press Office
(301) 458-4800
focusing on
teen birth
rates.

New CDC Birth Report Shows Teen Birth Rates Continue to Drop Report Also Covers Key Aspects of Maternal and Infant Health

The birth rate for teenagers declined three percent between 1998 and 1999, to reach a rate of 49.6 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 -- the lowest rate in the 60 years data on teen births have been recorded. The teen birth rate is down 20 percent from the most recent high in 1991, according to a new report from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

The preliminary report also found a drop in the number of births to unmarried teens, record high levels of women getting early prenatal care, a rise in the cesarean delivery rate, and no improvement in the percent of infants born at low birthweight. The report presents data for the nation as well as key indicators by state.

During the 1990s, teen birth rates declined for white, black, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic women aged 15-19, with the largest decline a 30-percent drop for black teens. Hispanic teens reported the smallest decline of 13 percent. Between 1998 and 1999, the sharpest decline (six percent) was for American Indian teenagers followed closely by a five-percent drop for black teens.

"In the last few years, we've made remarkable progress in reducing the teen birth rate," said HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala. "Parents, local communities, government and teens themselves have all been part of writing this success story. Everyone benefits when teens postpone pregnancy until they are ready to assume the responsibility and appreciate the wonder of raising children," she said.

The drop in teen births was more pronounced for young teens 15-17, who registered a decline of six percent between 1998 and 1999. In addition, the number of births for the youngest teenage group, ages 10-14, dropped by four percent to just over 9,000 births, the lowest level in 30 years.

The number of births in the United States rose again in 1999 to about 3,958,000 and the fertility rate for women aged 15-44 also increased slightly. Birth rates for women aged 20-24 declined slightly between 1998 and 1999 while the rate for women 25-29 was up slightly. Birth rates for women in their thirties and forties continued their increase, with rates for women in their thirties was the highest in three decades.

The report also shows that prenatal care continues to improve, with a slight increase in the percent of women who received early prenatal care, up from 82.8 percent in 1998 to 83.2 percent in 1999. This measure of prenatal care has shown steady progress during the 1990=s, rising 10 percent since 1989. The increase in early prenatal care was most notable for black women and Hispanic women, with about a 25 percent increase over the past decade.

"Prenatal care--the earlier, the better--means healthier mothers and babies," said CDC Director Dr. Jeffrey Koplan. "In prenatal visits women and their health care providers can focus on the healthy habits and preventive services which are so important to mothers and infants," he said.

The percent of infants born at low birthweight (7.6 percent) in 1999 was unchanged from the previous year. There has been a gradual upward trend in the percent of infants born at low birth weight since the mid-1980s.

The number of births to unmarried women was up about 1 percent due to the continued increase in the number of unmarried women of childbearing age. However, the number of births to unmarried teenagers was 2 percent lower in 1999 than in 1998.

The annual report, which also covers trends in health issues related to births, shows that cesarean delivery rates were up for the third year in a row in 1999, reversing a steady decline between 1989 and 1995. The rate of cesarean delivery increased by 4 percent from 1998 and 1999, up from 21.2 per 100 live births in 1998 to a 1999 rate of 22.0, continuing increases first noted in 1997.

The rise in the total cesarean rate was primarily fueled by an increase in cesareans to women who had not previously had one - up four percent between 1998 and 1999. Another factor contributing to the rise in the total cesarean rate was the marked decline in the rate of VBAC (vaginal birth after cesarean), down 11 percent in the last year and 17 percent since 1996. The rise in the total cesarean rate was widespread--increases were observed among woman of all ages and races and in 45 of the 50 states. However, the preliminary report does not include data on maternal risk factors--which will be available later in the final data for 1999--to fully evaluate the factors involved in the increase.

ABirths: Preliminary Data for 1999^a is based on birth records filed in state vital statistics offices and reported to CDC through the National Vital Statistics System. The report is available to view or download on the CDC/NCHS website at www.cdc.gov/nchs

For weekly



Alexander N. Gertsen
08/11/2000 04:05:58 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT: Workforce Investment Act

THE WHITE HOUSE

**Office of the Press Secretary
(Aboard Air Force One)**

**For Immediate Release
2000**

August 11,

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Two years ago this week, I signed the bipartisan Workforce Investment Act (WIA), launching an historic initiative that Vice President Gore and I first proposed in 1992 as a way to streamline and bring greater accountability to our nation's job training system. Today, with these reforms underway in all 50 states, we reach another key milestone by adopting the final rule implementing the major provisions of this landmark Act. I congratulate our federal partners, Congress, the states, local communities, businesses, and American workers, on how far we have come.

Largely as a result of WIA's reforms, states now have established 1,200 One-Stop Career Centers to provide job seekers and employers in each community with a single, customer-focused point of entry to a wide range of employment services. Developed with extensive input from the many people with a stake in our job training system, the final rule provides additional direction to state and local partners while preserving their planning and operating flexibility. The rule also gives state and local partners guidance on creating Individual Training Accounts that allow workers to choose the training that meets their needs.

Unfortunately, currently proposed Congressional funding for workforce development programs, including the Administration's Fathers Work/Families Win initiative, falls far short of the amount needed both by American businesses to meet the growing demand for skilled workers and by working families to gain access to lifelong

learning. WIA provides broad access to employment opportunities, often for people with disabilities or others who have been excluded, and it should be properly funded. I call on Congress to fully fund the bipartisan program it passed two years ago so that all Americans can participate in today's era of economic opportunity. With WIA up and running across the country, now is the time to invest in the system we built together.

30-30-30

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 18, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. **T.M.**
KRIS M. BALDERSTON

SUBJECT:

Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
August 12 - 18, 2000

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

- **Colombia:** On August 29, Under Secretary for Enforcement Johnson and his counterparts in Aruba, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama expect to sign a multilateral directive, which will establish a working group of experts to examine the Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE) system with a view toward reporting its findings and developing recommendations for participating governments to consider. The BMPE system launders billions of narcotics dollars each year by placing the dollars in U.S. and Mexican banks and then using those dollars to finance the export of trade goods from the U.S. to Colombia. It is expected that you and Colombian President Pastrana will announce the signing of the Directive on August 30 in Cartagena.
- **Mexico:** On July 27, Under Secretary for Enforcement Johnson met with several transition team leaders for Mexican President-elect Fox, including the two men heading up justice and security transition efforts. The transition team's visit to the U.S. included meetings with officials from State, DOD, DOJ, and ONDCP. Discussions focused on past cooperation on money laundering and drug interdiction between the U.S. and Mexico. Under Secretary Johnson emphasized Treasury's intention to continue its good working relationship with its Mexican counterparts, but also mentioned ongoing concern regarding Mexico's efforts to combat money laundering. On August 18, Secretary Summers sent you a memo discussing Mexico's economic situation in preparation for your August 24 meeting with President-elect Fox.
- **HIPC:** As you depart for Africa, more countries are moving forward in the HIPC process. During the week of August 21, the Executive Boards of the World Bank and IMF will have preliminary discussions on Malawi's eligibility for HIPC debt reduction.

In addition, the Boards are scheduled to make a decision on the start of enhanced HIPC debt reduction for Mali in early September. Mali would represent the eighth African country, and the tenth overall, to qualify for enhanced HIPC debt reduction this year. As many as six to eight additional African countries could qualify before the end of the year, including Rwanda, Guinea, and Cameroon.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** On August 11, the Office of the Solicitor General filed a brief defending the constitutionality of private suits against States under the ADA. The ADA expressly abrogates the States' Eleventh Amendment immunity to private suits in Federal courts and the brief urges the Court to affirm the Eleventh Circuit's holding that this abrogation was a proper exercise of Congress's power under Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment. The brief highlights that Congress exhaustively studied the history of discrimination against persons with disabilities and found enduring discrimination by state and local governments in employment, education, voting, public transportation, law enforcement, institutionalization, and many other public services.
- **Former Narcotics Officer Sentenced for Possession of Bombs:** On July 20, a former Tupelo, MS, narcotics officer was sentenced to seven years in prison for possession of bombs, explosives, hand grenades, detonators, and semi-automatic and automatic weapons. The defendant pleaded guilty, admitting that he stole these items from the MS National Guard and a Tupelo Police Department evidence locker because he had plans to rob a bank. Officers found digital photos of the bank on the defendant's computer.
- **Public Corruption Seminar:** On August 1-4, in Columbia, SC, approximately 100 attorneys from U.S. Attorneys' offices, DOJ divisions, and other Federal agencies attended the Public Corruption Seminar. Topics included an overview of prosecuting public corruption, administrative rules, statutory overview, predication of targets, new developments, charging decisions, undercover operations, and planning a take-down. The program also included panel discussions on handling confidential informants and election crimes.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- **Demand on BOR's Power Facilities Remains Stable:** Despite higher-than-normal temperatures in southern CA, no additional power has been requested from the Hoover (NV-AZ), Davis (AZ) and Parker (AZ) Dam power plants on the lower CO River. The dams continue to meet seasonal power demand, functioning primarily as peaking facilities to help customers meet heavy afternoon power needs. One 130-MW unit at Hoover Dam is out of service, but the outage has not affected the dam's ability to meet

power demand, as no additional power has been requested from Hoover. The unit is scheduled to return to service soon.

- **MT Mining Investigation Settlement:** A three-year fraud investigation of a Billings, MT mining company and its former CEO has resulted in a settlement of more than \$400,000. BLM investigators responded to complaints that the American Gem Corporation USA was overstating claims and incorrectly setting others. Investigators found that the company had a pattern of fraudulent practices, nearly 2,000 Federal mining claims encompassing more than 40,000 acres that had been inaccurately staked. American Gem established “dummy” associations to file their claims as a single unit for a reduced fee, making thousands of acres unavailable for lawful mining practices. BLM worked with the U.S. Attorney’s office to settle the case.
- **Subsistence Appeal:** A Federal appeals court will reconsider the *Katie John* ruling, in which a Federal judge found that “the definition of public lands includes those navigable waters in which the U.S. has an interest by virtue of the reserved water rights doctrine.” AK Governor Knowles has stated the appeal is intended to protect AK’s right to manage its waters. The Federal government assumed responsibility for management of subsistence taking of wildlife on Federal public lands in AK in 1990 when AK could no longer comply with Title VIII of the AK National Interest Lands Conservation Act. In 1995, a landmark ruling named for Athabaskan elder Katie John, who was denied a subsistence fish camp on the Copper River, established that the Federal government also had authority on most waters in AK to ensure subsistence rights for rural residents. The decision resulted in the Federal government taking over management of subsistence fishing on rivers and lakes within and alongside more than 200M acres of NPS lands, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other Federal conservation lands, representing about 60 percent of AK’s waters.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **Western Wildfires:** Two firefighters have died during operations in the Western U.S. To date, 66,123 wildfires (compared with a ten-year average year of 56,242) have burned more than 4.8M acres, double the ten-year average of 2,415,704 acres. A total of 20,713 personnel are now involved in fire fighting operations, including three battalions of U.S. troops, 11 Canadian aircraft, 15 Canadian fire fighting crews, and one Mexican fire fighting crew. Seventy-eight firefighters from Australia and New Zealand are also expected for deployment in the Northern Rockies. Weather forecasts predict dry conditions and heavy lightning activity over the Northern Rockies for the next several weeks, exacerbating the fire threat.

- **FIRE S.T.O.P.:** USDA is increasing its wildfire response capability in the Pacific southwest by providing additional highly flexible aviation resources through the FIRE S.T.O.P. program. During the week of August 13, USDA will activate four high-capacity helicopters, each capable of carrying a fully equipped 18-person fire fighting crew, available seven days a week, and strategically deployed to cover the region. This marks the first time USDA has fielded initial attack resources that can deploy full fire crews of this size with the speed of a helicopter.
- **VT Sheep Infection:** On August 9, an agreement was signed allowing USDA to continue quarantine of sheep infected with Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy, while a Federal Court rehears the case. On August 2, the court had ruled that USDA could buy and slaughter the imported sheep, after which the owners of one of the infected flocks filed an appeal.
- **Supply and Demand Forecasts:** The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) issued its first survey-based 2000-2001 production forecasts for cotton, corn, sorghum, rice, soybeans, sugarcane, and sugar beets in the August 11 *Crop Production* report. In addition, new survey-based production forecasts were issued for winter wheat, durum, other spring wheat, barley, and oats. USDA's projections of U.S. and global supply, use, and prices for 2000-2001 were published at the same time by the OCE's World Agricultural Outlook Board, in the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report.
- **Commodity Markets:** A large spring wheat harvest and tepid exports pressured wheat prices for the week. Improved export demand helped corn cash prices, but futures dropped on good crop conditions and expectations that USDA would forecast a record crop. Short-term weather concerns and brisk exports boosted soybean prices. Rice cash prices held steady, but futures fell on expectations of burdensome supplies. Combined heat and drought in the Mississippi Delta sent cotton prices sharply higher. Cattle prices rose in thin trade. Hog prices fell as several plants saw limited production and wholesale pork prices dropped. Broiler prices were almost unchanged. Low prices attracted cheese buyers, raising prices. Butter prices were little changed as high butter stocks offset declining production.
- **Biodiesel Goal Exceeded:** Following your signing of the Executive Order on developing and promoting biobased products and bioenergy, Secretary Glickman announced USDA's commitment to using 20,000 gallons of B20 biodiesel fuel over FY2000. This commitment and the successful use of biodiesel fuel at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and Black Hills National Forest have allowed the use of 67,000 gallons of B20 biodiesel fuel in USDA vehicles over the past year, more than triple the goal.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **Nuclear Cities Initiative:** On August 10, an Interagency Working Group for the Nuclear Cities Initiative (NCI) attended by Bureau of Export Administration staff identified access to formerly closed cities as a key issue for the November meeting of the Joint Steering Committee on the NCI to be held in Moscow. The U.S. will seek to have the current 45 day notification period for visits to these cities reduced to 14 days. The purpose of the Nuclear Cities Initiative is to convert Russian nuclear weapons facilities, located in a series of previously closed nuclear cities, to useful civilian production activities.
- **China Virtual Trade Mission:** Secretary Mineta has videotaped welcoming remarks for the China Computerworld Expo, which opens on August 21. Fifteen firms have been recruited for this virtual mission, which was announced by former Secretary Daley and his Chinese counterpart in April. This 2000 Virtual Trade Mission to China will provide a cost-effective, Web-based presence for 15 small U.S. computer-related firms at China's largest IT show. The Virtual Trade Mission is a website based on DOC's "E-Expo" platform that displays participants' company information in Chinese at a "virtual" booth. DOC will operate four computer terminals on the floor of the show for participants to view the website.
- **Western Wildfires:** Thirteen Western Region (WR) incident meteorologists (IMETS) and eight IMETS from other regions are currently deployed onsite at many of the largest and most dangerous wildfires. National Weather Service Weather Forecast Offices are also providing forecasts tailored specifically to individual wildfires since over 100 smaller wildfires do not have IMETS.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- **Airline Industry:** On August 11, the Air Line Pilots Association and United Airlines called off talks to reach a new amended contract by September 4. United officials stated they were ready to negotiate around-the-clock, but the pilots charged that management negotiators were "stonewalling." A key part of the talks involves job security provisions in light of United's planned \$11.6B purchase of US Airways. The union has countercharged that they warned United management that it was understaffed and needed to hire more pilots.
- **Verizon Strike:** The strike by 87,200 Verizon workers represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) entered its ninth day on August 14. The parties have struggled over language on mandatory overtime, job security, and workplace stress. The strike affects operations for 25 million customers in 13 states from ME to VA. Verizon, a

company formed in June by the merger of Bell Atlantic and GTE Corp., claims it needs flexibility in the distribution of service on a coast-to-coast basis. The unions argue that it could move work to areas where work is cheaper and the union presence is less a factor. The walkout is the second strike in two years following the creation of Verizon. As a result of this currently ongoing strike, in accordance with the Wagner-Peyser Act regulations, and upon the advice of the Solicitor's office, the workforce development system has ceased all job referral activities under the DOL/ETA-Verizon New Hire Partnership until negotiations between Verizon and union management have been resolved.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- ✱ • **Findings on Drug Abuse:** During the week of August 28, HHS's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration plans to release the findings from the 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. This annual report provides national estimates of rates of use, number of users, and other measures of illicit drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and other forms of tobacco by the population twelve years and older. The report includes national estimates on the trends in the new use of substances and the extent of drug dependence and drug treatment in the country. For the first time the report also contains estimates of illicit drug, alcohol and cigarette use by age group and by state. SAMHSA also plans to release findings from the 1999 Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) survey of hospital emergency departments. The survey provides data on emergency department visits that are induced by or related to the use of an illegal drug or the non-medical use of a legal drug.
- **Progress toward Guinea Worm Eradication:** In 1986, an estimated three million persons were infected with the parasite, *Dracunculus medinensis*, commonly known as the Guinea worm, and more than 120 million persons were at risk of infection in three Asian and 17 African countries. The World Health Assembly resolved to eradicate dracunculiasis globally and established a target date of December 1995. By 1995, a multipartner campaign had reduced the annual incidence of dracunculiasis by approximately 95 percent. This report gives the status of the eradication program as of June 2000, which indicates that dracunculiasis has been eliminated from seven of the countries where it was endemic; however, in parts of Africa, particularly Sudan, dracunculiasis remains a serious public health problem.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- ✱ • **AR Landlords Racially Discriminating:** HUD has charged the owners and managers of a North Little Rock, AR, apartment complex with housing discrimination for refusing to rent to a biracial couple. The complaint was filed by the couple against the owners and managers of a high-rise complex. The woman, who is white, said that she called the

Lakewood House Apartments' rental office in July 1998 and was told that a three-bedroom unit was available. When she and her spouse, who is African-American, went to see the apartment the next day, however, they were told that there were no such units available. With her suspicions raised, the woman called the rental office a few hours later without identifying herself and was told that a three-bedroom apartment was available.

- **AK Salmon Disaster:** Governor Knowles declared a disaster emergency based on the catastrophically poor return of salmon in the Yukon River drainage area. Continually low salmon runs have led to food and fuel shortages and imminent threats to health and safety for the people and communities of the area. HUD is participating in an interagency task force led by FEMA Director Witt in putting together a package of Federal assistance. HUD's Special Action Office and Office on Native American Programs will provide training and technical assistance to existing grantees in the regions on how to revise their Indian Housing Plans and options to address activities that could be undertaken to assist families in the disaster area.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Airline Industry Complaints:** During the week of August 21, Secretary Slater will meet with the heads of the major airlines and their unions in Washington, DC to discuss delays and other passenger service problems at all the major carriers.
- **Bridgestone-Firestone Tire Recall:** On August 9, Bridgestone-Firestone (Firestone) and Ford jointly announced that Firestone will recall all Firestone ATX tires manufactured from 1991 to the present, regardless of manufacturing plant, and all Wilderness AT tires manufactured from 1996 to the present at Firestone's Decatur, IL, plant. The recall was announced due to possible tire tread separation. Firestone produced approximately 14.5M tires covered by the recall and estimates that approximately 6.5M of these are still on the road. Firestone plans to replace the defective tires with new Wilderness tires from other plants. Due to the limited number of replacement tires currently available, Firestone plans to prioritize the recall, beginning with owners in those states where most incidents have occurred (TX, FL, CA, and AZ). The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will monitor the recall to assure that it is performed expeditiously and that the remedy is adequate. NHTSA will also continue its investigation to ascertain whether the scope of the recall is appropriate.
- **Vandalism of Nigerian Pipelines:** DOT is working with DOE, NSC, and other Federal agencies regarding the frequent vandalism of Nigerian pipelines that has resulted in thousands of civilian fatalities during the last five years. DOT is capable of providing technical support, training, and referrals to companies specializing in intrusion detection. This effort supports the Administration's Africa Initiatives and your upcoming trip to Nigeria.

- **Unsafe Motor Carriers:** During the week of August 21, Secretary Slater will announce a major change to the impact on motor carrier companies of unsatisfactory safety ratings issued by DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Previously established motor carrier safety regulations provided shutdown procedures only for passenger and hazardous material carriers with unsatisfactory ratings. Under the amended rule, FMCSA will consider an unsatisfactory rating a determination that a carrier is unfit, thereby prohibiting that carrier from operating commercial motor vessels in interstate commerce. This strong enforcement tool, provided for by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, will improve safety and help reduce truck and bus-related deaths by half in the next ten years.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **Travel to Russia and Kazakhstan:** On August 28-September 3, Secretary Richardson will travel to Kazakhstan and Russia. In Kazakhstan, Richardson will meet with President Nazerbayev and Minister Shkolnik to discuss Caspian Energy Development and Non-proliferation efforts. He will also meet with oil industry representatives. The Secretary will travel to Sarov, Russia, with the Minister of Atomic Energy. He will be the first Cabinet member to visit territory formerly part of the Avangard nuclear weapons production facility at the closed nuclear city. With the help of DOE's Nuclear Cities Initiative, commercial production will begin at this site in the near future. Richardson will also travel to Vladivostok and Kamchatka in the Russian Far East to commission two Russian Navy sites where joint nuclear non-proliferation efforts have been completed in cooperation with the Russian Navy, and travel to Sakhalin Island to meet with the Energy Minister and oil executives and visit an operational oil platform run by a consortium that includes U.S. companies.
- **Truck Initiative:** Secretary Richardson announced the selection of research and development teams that will develop the technology for increasing the fuel efficiency of heavy-duty trucks on the nation's highways. Known as Class 7 and 8 trucks, these vehicles and their cargo (weighing from 26,000 pounds to 80,000 pounds) are the workhorses of the American economy. One of the goals of the partnership between DOE and the industry is doubling the fuel efficiency of the Class 8 long-haul truck by 2010. DOE anticipates that it will contribute more than \$4M to these research and development projects over a four-year period. Industry will contribute a similar amount during the life of the project. Specific award amounts are still being negotiated.
- **Gasoline Prices Down, Stocks Lower:** Price changes in gasoline spot and futures prices rose strongly last week, closely following a similar gain in crude oil prices driven by low stocks and continued delays in promised production increases. Apparent OPEC support for current price levels, along with a tropical storm approaching the TX coast were seen as factors. The New York Harbor spot price for conventional regular gasoline

rose 8.43 cents on August 14 to 86.18 cents per gallon, while the Los Angeles CARB RFG spot price increased 9.50 cents to 119.50 cents per gallon. (The spot price for West Texas Intermediate crude oil at Cushing, OK went from \$28.93 per barrel to \$31.92 per barrel during the same time period.) The U.S. average retail price for regular gasoline fell for the eighth straight week, dropping 1.5 cent to 144.7 cents per gallon as of August 14. The average has declined by 23.4 cents per gallon since June 19, to its lowest level since May 1, but stands 21.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. Prices declined for most regions, but showed slight increases on the West Coast and for RFG in the Midwest.

- **Emergency Management Exercise:** "Bright Sun," the Nevada Test Site's annual emergency management exercise, involving hazardous material, will take place on August 23. Participants will include DOE as well as Las Vegas Fire and Rescue. Response organizations will demonstrate their capabilities to classify, notify, and provide resources and technical input to responding field units. Mutual Aid Agreements with Las Vegas will also be exercised.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

-  **Building Better Schools Week:** From August 21-26, DOEd will launch its first-ever Building Better Schools Week, a new initiative to promote safe, healthy, and modern schools for America's children. This initiative supports the Administration's Plan to Modernize America's Schools by helping communities respond to the challenges of modernizing their schools. To highlight the need for school modernization, renovation, and repair, DOEd will work with local schools and educators, parents and community leaders to bring attention to the unique needs facing many school districts as they accommodate growing numbers of students.
-  **Baby Boom Echo Report:** On August 21, as part of Building Better Schools Week, Secretary Riley will release the fifth annual Baby Boom Echo Report on the impact of the baby boom echo, the 25 percent increase in the nation's birthrate that began in the mid-1970s and reached its peak in 1990 with the birth of 4.1 million children. The report focuses on the pressures that the resulting enrollment increase is placing on the nation's education system and the need for school construction in high growth areas, highlighting the needs of six metropolitan areas: Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles, CA; Chicago, IL; Miami, FL; Washington, DC; and Las Vegas, NV.
-  **NAEP Report:** On August 24, Secretary Riley will announce the release of the *National Assessment of Educational Progress 1999: Trends in Academic Progress* report. The report provides a broad examination of 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds' performance in reading, mathematics, and science.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **CA Power Shortage:** On August 11, largely to help CA address its needs during its current power shortage, EPA released guidance which will allow the use of diesel generators in "emergency" situations. Because these diesel units emit high levels of air pollutants, they will only be allowed at the last stage of alert in order to avoid a power blackout. This last stage begins when operating reserves fall to 1.5 percent. Well before this point, CA will have already asked consumers to implement conservation measures and required businesses with specified rate structures to curtail usage. CA's current problems arise from a combination of factors, including hot weather and the transition to a deregulated electricity market that some analysts have blamed for a lack of new generation capacity.

U.S. MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- **Iraq:** Informal consultations were scheduled for August 17 to discuss the issue of missing Kuwaiti POWs dating back from the Gulf War. This is part of a series of reports that are scheduled every four months. USUN does not expect any progress to be reported, as Iraq continues to refuse to cooperate.
- **Congo:** Informal consultations are scheduled on August 18 to consider the Democratic Republic of the Congo. USUN expects to table a six-week technical extension of the mandate for the UN Mission on the Congo, currently set to expire on August 31.
- **Afghanistan:** Informal consultations are scheduled August 23 to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. USUN will reemphasize the need for the Taliban to comply with UNSCR 1267 and expects the discussion to address the humanitarian situation, including the plight of refugees, the current severe drought, and the recent tightening of the ban on women working.
- **Ethiopia-Eritrea:** Following Congressional notification, USUN will introduce a draft resolution establishing the 4420-person UN Mission in Ethiopia-Eritrea.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY



Breaking the Cycle Program: ONDCP and DOJ created the Breaking the Cycle program to demonstrate the effectiveness of a system-wide approach in addressing the problem of treating drug addicts in the criminal justice system. The programs feature four components: drug testing of all defendants at the time of arrest; placing all drug-using defendants in appropriate treatment programs; judicial oversight and monitoring for compliance with court-imposed treatment conditions; and imposition of graduated sanctions against defendants who violate treatment conditions. There are three Breaking

the Cycle sites serving adult offenders (Birmingham, AL; Tacoma, WA; and Jacksonville, FL) and one serving juvenile offenders (Eugene, OR).

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



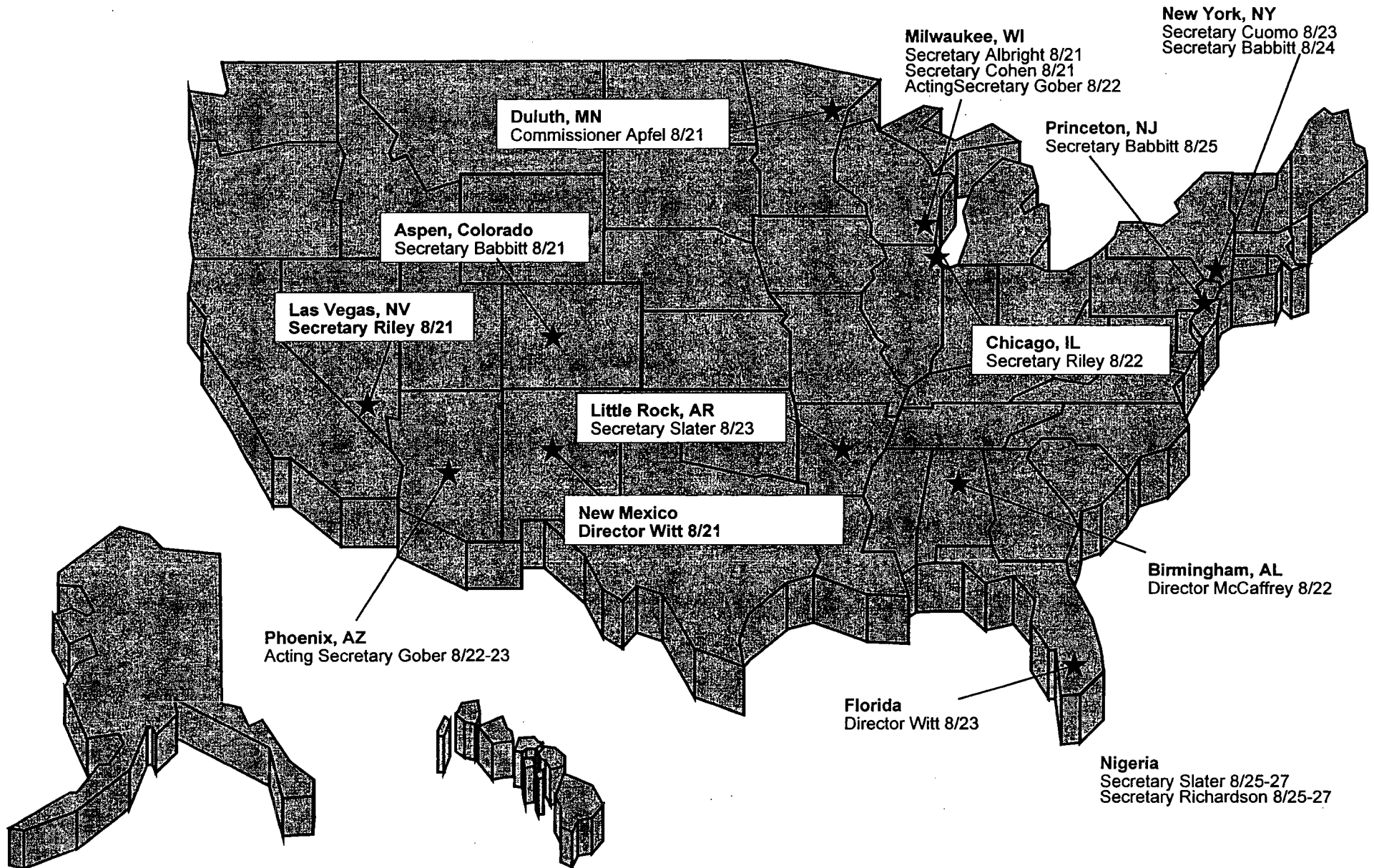
- **New Markets/Digital Divide:** SBA met with Wesley R. Buford, Founder, Chairman & CEO of Freedom Card, Inc. (FCI). FCI is a minority business enterprise that offers quality financial services targeted to several key markets: urban consumers, multi-ethnic populations, large financial institutions interested in fulfilling their Community Reinvestment Act requirements and commitments, and minority institutions lacking capital. The purpose of the FreedomCard is to improve and enhance the quality of life for the urban consumer and small business owner in need of credit services. FreedomCard offers credit products for the non-traditional market and low- to moderate-income urban consumer and will help to establish new credit for previously non-creditworthy consumers and restore good credit for credit-troubled consumers from one credit line to another.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

- **Work Incentives Network (WIN) Conference:** On August 24, SSA will hold a WIN conference at the Universidad de Sagrado Corazon in San Juan, PR. WIN is a coalition of representatives from local, state, and Federal agencies and advocacy groups interested in increasing knowledge and use of SSA's work incentive programs. More than 80 agencies will participate in the conference.

Cabinet Affairs Travel

Monday, August 21 - Sunday, August 27, 2000



cc:

The Vice President

John Podesta

Martin Baily

Sandy Berger

Sidney Blumenthal

Chuck Brain

Charles Burson

Mary Beth Cahill

Maria Echaveste

George Frampton

Mickey Ibarra

Ben Johnson

Joel Johnson

Janis Kearney

Neal Lane

Jack Lew

Joe Lockhart

Lisel Loy

Buddy MacKay

Minyon Moore

Bruce Reed

Steve Ricchetti

Gene Sperling

Lauren Supina

Loretta Ucelli

Melanne Verveer