

FOIA MARKER

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

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Records Management - SUBJECT FILE
Series/Staff Member: Subject Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 23366
Scan ID: 306715SS
Document Number:

Folder Title:
HU010

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	85	1	4	2

CS

306715 SS

HUOIO

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

6-7-99

June 4, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: BEN JOHNSON

SUBJECT: OFFICE ON THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE FOR ONE AMERICA
WEEKLY REPORTACTIONS

Minority Businesses: I attended a brainstorming session with Weldon Latham and several minority business leaders regarding Med-Week, an upcoming government sponsored minority business conference. On the eve of the 30th Anniversary of the 8-A program, they plan to celebrate the growth of business opportunities in the public sector and explore ways to expand into the private sector marketplace. Some in the meeting complained that you have not participated in any minority business conferences during your tenure in office.

They were quick to point out that although your minority business record is 10 times better than Presidents Bush and Reagan, your visuals are horrible. They specifically want you to follow in the Reagan/Bush tradition, by hosting an awards ceremony the third week of September in the Rose Garden.

Africa/African American Summit: As part of our follow-up to the African/African American Summit, I have had conversations with Kweisi Mfume of the NAACP, members of the US Conference of Mayors (including Mayors Webb and Archer), Reverends Sullivan and Jackson and others, who continue to express increasing concern about US commitment to the fight against AIDS in Africa. Among the many AIDS related recommendations coming out of the Summit was a dramatic increase in funding, for AIDS related activities and debt relief (sub-Saharan African nations are currently spending four times more on debt service than they do on health). These recommendations are consistent with the report you recently received from Sandy Thurman who was on the delegation to Ghana.

Racism, Stop It! Your anti-racism statement for the Canadian tolerance campaign, "Racism, Stop It! Action 2000", is prepared and will join those from British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien on their website. We will be meeting with Canadian Embassy representatives next week to present your message. Please see a copy of your statement attached to this memorandum.

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

CABINET RACE INITIATIVE WEEKLY

Department of Agriculture

Field Station Wins Award: USDA's Natural Conservation Resources Service (NRCS) South Carolina state office won a Hammer Award for its work with SC State University in establishing the Savannah River Environmental Sciences Field Station -- unique for its role in recruiting and training minority graduates in environmental sciences.

Department of Commerce

Native American Technology: In mid-June, the Economic Development Administration is scheduled to issue a report assessing the technology infrastructure needs of Native American and Alaskan communities. The report will be part of your initiative to improve the economic situation of the country's Native American population.

Minority Business Coordinating Council: DOC's Minority Business Development Agency will hold its third Minority Business Coordinating Council meeting on June 29. The council, which focuses on issues facing Minority Business Enterprises, comprises of over 40 U.S. minority business organization presidents and representatives.

Native American Associate Office: On Friday, June 4, Assistant Secretary Marquez will participate in the grand opening of the first Native American "Associate Office" in Highland, California.

General Services Administration

One America Initiative Discussions on Race: GSA is proud to have held numerous One America Discussions on Race with its employees. GSA has developed its own discussion guide and has held discussions that have included the Administrator, Deputy Administrator and all of the GSA leadership in DC and all regional offices and representatives from the employee unions.

This summer GSA will kick off discussions with employees in NY and CA and then will travel to other regional offices. Next week, Chief of Staff Johnson will travel to NY to facilitate 4 separate discussions. Later this summer, Deputy Chief of Staff Dodds will travel to CA to host discussions with GSA employees. The reaction to the discussions has been very favorable and positive.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Bias Charge Settled in Milwaukee: Liberty Mutual, a large national insurance firm, agreed to pay \$4.5 million over the next two years to settle a charge of housing discrimination against central-city homeowners in Milwaukee. Funded under the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council

(FHC) joined with other FHIP-funded organizations in Washington, D.C., Richmond, Virginia, and Toledo, Ohio, to charged the insurer with routinely offering homeowners in older and predominately minority neighborhoods less desirable and more expensive insurance than was offered to homeowners in predominantly white neighborhoods.

The Milwaukee FHC brought its discrimination complaint to HUD in 1997 after undercover testers found that Liberty Mutual agents offered different policies for houses of similar age, size, construction and market values for African Americans homeowners in black neighborhoods, from whites seeking to insure houses in white neighborhoods. As part of the settlement, Liberty Mutual has changed its underwriting criteria so that it now offers the same range of policies to all homeowners, regardless of the age of the house. The insurer is agreeing to similar settlements in each of the other cities where FHIP-funded agencies conducted tests.

Shared Visions--Pine Ridge Building Summit II: The week of July 6-8 is the week scheduled for the Shared Visions: Pine Ridge Building Summit II. Notices of the summit are being mailed this week to all Tribes, Tribally designated housing entities, lenders, federal partners and other interested groups of the industry. The summit will be 2 1/2 days of intense networking and team building designed to address housing and community development needs of Indian Country. The summit will be held in Rapid City, SD and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Oglala Sioux Reservation in Pine Ridge is one of five new rural Empowerment Zones announced by the Vice President in January.

Department of Interior

NY Indian Land Claims: Pursuant to court-ordered mediation, DOI has made significant progress in its efforts to reach settlement of longstanding claims against NY brought by the Cayuga and Oneida Indian Nations. The claims seek to invalidate conveyances of land from the Indian tribes to NY between 1790 and 1850. New York's liability has been established. The Cayuga and Oneida claims encompass 64,000 and 250,000 acres of land respectively.

Consistent with established historical practice, the settlements would include a federal financial contribution. The federal monetary share of the Cayuga claim would be \$50M, and the federal share of the Oneida claim would be significantly more. Conclusion of Settlements in Principle is possible for both cases in the next few months. If settlement fails, the cases are scheduled for litigation in federal district court this fall.

Alaska Tribal Technology Access Program: DOI was awarded \$646K by GSA's Information Technology Innovation Fund Committee to complete the final stage of the AK Tribal Technology Access Program. The goal of this project is to supply all 227 AK Native Tribes with personal computing equipment, training, E-mail, and communications access to the AK Regional Telecommunications Network and the Internet.

On December 1, 1998, phase one was approved for \$565K and provided the resources to begin connecting 100 tribes. This project is being coordinated through BIA's regional office in Juneau and with the President of the AK Inter-Tribal Council.

Department of Justice

Trial to Begin in Indian Trust Fund Case: On June 10, the first of two anticipated trials is set to begin before Judge Lamberth in Cobell v. Babbitt (D.D.C.), a class action lawsuit challenging the United States' efforts to reform Indian trust fund management and seeking an accounting of historic account balances. On February 22, Judge Lamberth found the Secretary of Treasury and the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Interior in contempt of court for failing to comply with broad discovery orders entered in the case. The first trial, on claims for prospective relief, is expected to last several weeks.

Race, Ethnicity and the Law: Challenges Facing the Legal Profession: On Tuesday, June 8, Deputy Attorney General Holder, Associate Attorney General Fisher and Attorney General Reno will attend, moderate and present remarks to various sessions of the day long conference at Georgetown University Law Center.

Department of Labor

New Markets: On June 1, Secretary Herman traveled to her home state of Alabama and dedicated a new Job Corps Center in Montgomery. She also hosted a child-care roundtable and made a historic address to a joint session of the Alabama legislature -- the first ever by an African-American woman. Her message at all of these events was a strong pitch for your New Markets Initiative with a focus on investing in out-of-school youth living in distressed areas.

Youth Opportunity Grants: This week, DOL announced the availability of \$250 million to be distributed through a Youth Opportunity grant competition. The grants will support projects that will substantially increase the employment rate of out-of-school youth living in selected high-poverty neighborhoods. Congress authorized this quarter-billion dollar investment last year as part of the Workforce Investment Act.

These grants emphasize placing youth in private-sector jobs, and include complementary efforts to keep youth in school, increase their enrollment in college, and provide work experience in community-service projects. This competition will award grants of up to \$12 million each to new recipients. The grant announcement was published in the Federal Register on June 2, with the competition closing September 30, 1999.

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Representative Roybal-Allard: On Wednesday, June 9, Director McCaffrey will meet with Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. She is a member of ONDCP's Appropriations Subcommittee (Treasury/Postal), and is a co-author of the amendment to include alcohol in the Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. Topics of discussion for the meeting will include the Media Campaign and the reach and penetration of its message to the Hispanic Community, the Los Angeles HIDTA, and the Southwest Border.

Social Security Administration

Peer Leadership Program: On June 18, Commissioner Apfel will recognize individuals at SSA who serve as mentors in the Peer Leadership Program. The Peer Leadership Program is a cooperative effort between the American Federation of Government Employees Local 1923, the 100 Black Men of Maryland, Inc., the Baltimore City School System and the Social Security Administration that provides mentoring for urban youth. The objectives of the program are to provide positive role models, balance negative environmental influences, instill values that develop self-worth and build self-confidence by raising self-esteem.

Over the last five years, SSA's 150 volunteers have mentored ore than 1,500 students from 6 different schools through this program. The Peer Leadership Program has received numerous awards including the Governor's Citation for "Mentoring Program of the Year".

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 1, 1999

As we stand at the dawn of the 21st century, it is crucial that we embrace the energy, creativity, and vitality that every person has to offer. Only when we know that people everywhere have the opportunity to live up to their full potential and to make their own unique contributions to our society can we truly say that we are prepared to face the challenges of the future.

Forging a community in which every individual enjoys equal rights and opportunities has been among my highest priorities as President of the United States. I am pleased that the people of Canada are also setting a powerful example in this endeavor through the *Racism. Stop It! Action 2000* project. This new initiative sends an important message to people across the globe -- particularly young people -- that racism has no place in the world of the 21st century, and that we all must finally learn to respect our differences, build on our shared values, and celebrate our diversity.

I applaud the many young people taking part in the activities of the *Racism. Stop It! Action 2000* initiative. By serving as positive role models for your peers and promoting the principles of tolerance and understanding, you are helping to forge a brighter future for us all.

Bill Clinton