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1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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April 16, 2000 Sunday 1ST EDITION

SECTION: PERSPECTIVE; Pg. E-05

LENGTH: 3096 words

HEADLINE: LETTERS, FAXES & E-MAIL

BODY:

COLUMBINE HEALING

Dose of common sense

Re: 'Columbine healing,' March 30 letter by state Reps. Don Lee and Rob Fairbank.

I found this to be one of the most intelligent letters I have read regarding the Columbine tragedy. We must let these souls rest in peace and refrain from using this horrible incident to further someone's personal agenda or special interest.

How long are we going to hear and read of these agendas? It seems that everyone today has become experts regarding the gun issue, presenting all kinds of proposed legislation that will have little effect if any in preventing an atrocity by some deranged person(s) who is determined to commit one. It appears now that if something is wrong in society, we just enact a law and this excuses us from any further responsibility. Seldom today does a person accept responsibility for their actions. We don't need any more firearm legislation; what we need today is a lot of common sense.

FRANK KASKY

Denver

Shameless grandstanding

State Reps. Don Lee and Rob Fairbank claim that certain politicians are shamelessly grandstanding and exploiting the Columbine community's misfortune for their own partisan agenda.

On the contrary, as a Columbine community member whose son was murdered in that 'misfortune,' I applaud political leaders who call attention to our nation's problem with gun violence. Lee and Fairbank seem to only deny the problem.

Lee and Fairbank accuse those politicians of 'demonizing' the Second Amendment, but what Lee and Fairbank are doing is demonizing those politicians in order to provide cover for their own inaction. They failed to support three of the five moderate, common sense gun laws proposed by our Republican

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governor. Lee and Fairbank only supported gun-related bills that were supported by the NRA.

They accuse those politicians of arrogance and extremism, yet Lee and Fairbank arrogantly opposed the bill that would have closed the gun show loophole - an action supported by more than 80 percent of Coloradans! Are 80 percent of Coloradans extremists? Yes, there are extremists in this debate, but they include Lee and Fairbank. They are out of touch with their constituents and apparently only listen to a tiny, vocal minority. If they want to help this community heal, they should quit their own self-serving, shameless and partisan grandstanding.

TOM MAUSER

Littleton

What social value?

It seems that some of our representatives, this time Don Lee and Rob Fairbank, just can't seem to make that rather simple connection between easily accessible guns and dead children/people. Was Lee's and Fairbank's letter to the editor grandstanding? Probably. But Columbine is just a benchmark in the problem of easily accessible guns and irresponsible gun owners and sellers.

People are dying every day in this country because of easy access to guns and carelessly stored or foolishly sold guns. They just don't have the drama of Columbine. Like Lee and Fairbank, I'm also tired of the Columbine media hype and celebration. But I am especially tired of legislators who count their NRA and other gun-lobby money and spout about the Constitution, somehow forgetting that the constitutional rights of dead gun victims are now irrelevant.

We 'extremists' just want common-sense legislation. I believe my right to life, or our children's right to life, is a little more important than the right to buy a gun without a background check or waiting period. If they are so worried about 'government-mandated solutions,' where do they stand on legislation to protect gun manufacturers from lawsuits? What social value do gun manufacturers bring that merits special protection?

If hundreds of dead children across America aren't reason to consider legislation for the protection of the community, then what is?

RON ELSE

Lakewood

Planting of columbines a memorial to lives forever changed on April 20

I live in another Jefferson County: Jefferson County, Wash. I work as chief criminal deputy prosecutor for this county. We recently charged two juveniles with conspiracy to commit murder. The charge arose out of threats and actions indicating that they intended to kill others at their school.

The charges are also a direct result of the tragedy that occurred almost one year ago at Columbine High School. Our zero tolerance policy for threats of

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this nature is a memorial to those who were killed, wounded or traumatized by the massacre. They will not be forgotten, nor were the deaths in vain. It will be forever unknown how many lives have been, and will be, saved because of the knowledge gained in the aftermath of that horrific day.

A more tangible memorial will be the planting of columbines at Chimacum High School in Jeffco on April 20. These plants will be a memorial for those whose lives were lost or forever changed on April 20 and a visible symbol of the commitment of this community that we will no longer tolerate an atmosphere that could lead to such devastation.

Hopefully, other communities and schools will follow suit, if they have not already done so.

JILL LANDES

Port Townsend, Wash.

Healing from within

Re: 'Columbine receives, asks more,' Chuck Green column, March 31.

It is almost never that I actually agree with anything Chuck Green writes. This column, however, rings true. I live in the Columbine area, and I am becoming more and more appalled by the displays of selfishness forthcoming from this community all in the name of healing.

The people who need something more to heal are those who are getting the media attention. They need more money, evidence returned, more explanations, the sheriff recalled, the library destroyed, among other things, so they can heal. Healing comes from within, driven by a desire to heal. As long as healing is dependent on something external, it will never happen. Every time I see a family member of a victim standing before a camera asking or demanding something, I can't help but think about all the other families throughout time who have lost loved ones through violence. Those without a camera in their faces. Those who were not compensated for their loss. Those who do not have a memorial in their loved one's honor. Those without a voice. Those in the spotlight aside, there is so much going on in this community to promote healing. The school programs that have been implemented this year as a result of Columbine, like the Character Traits education taking place at Normandy Elementary and the activities and programs of area churches, are all positive things going on in this community. One need only to look around them, rather than at the television or newspaper, to see where healing is actually taking place - not being extorted.

To those who need something more to heal, I hope you get what you need. And more than that, I hope that once you get it, there won't be something else that you need to heal. You have had the thoughts and prayers of the world with you this year. More tears than you can imagine have been shed on your behalf. With all these things coming your way, healing is yours for the taking.

KAREN BUTLER

Littleton

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Comprehend the enormity

I need to respond to Chuck Green's March 31 column regarding what I assume he's addressing as the request for federal disaster relief funds for the Columbine victims. His point, in general, is well taken, that our current culture of treating tragedies and their aftermath as ongoing 'victimhoods' and pleas to the public for sympathy, has mushroomed beyond belief. His story about his grandmother losing four children and never taking any compensation from any government body is indeed a symbol of how Americans have traditionally dealt with personal loss. And I agree that it is an admirable approach. Yet, the issue is separate, at its core, from the Columbine aftermath.

I ask Green to spend 24 hours with one, or better yet, all of the kids left paralyzed or maimed by the shootings. Go through their life for one day, going through their daily rituals, their morning routines. I ask him not to feel pity or sympathy for them, but to try to comprehend the enormousness of not only how their life has been impacted but also how astronomical their medical bills will be for the rest of their lives. The financial drain is never over.

These are kids who, with all the promise before them, as bright and studious high school students, were gunned down before they ever had a chance to fulfill their dreams, goals and aspirations. To many of them, that road is still open, but not without considerable re-allocation of family resources, and not without extraordinary courage and stamina on the part of the kids and their parents.

I realize how generous the community was with their donations to the Columbine victims. A large percentage of those funds ultimately went to the mental-health care providers for the community during the healing process, and to others who helped out, and to the process of 'rebuilding the community,' as probably well they should have. There were many more people affected adversely by Columbine than the 13 slain and the 23 maimed. We all lost a chunk of our hearts. But in this situation, I feel the surviving kids most directly affected by the violence should receive disaster funds from the federal government. Again, not to compensate them as victims but to help resurrect their lives and become the citizens they once dreamed of becoming. Tornado and earthquake victims are recipients of disaster relief; why are these kids any less deserving?

JANET LaCAILLE

Denver

Not much sympathy

OK, enough is enough. Disaster relief for Columbine victims? I give up. Any sympathy I might have had left just evaporated.

How on God's green Earth can these lawyers equate what happened at Columbine, no matter how tragic, with someone losing everything they have in a natural disaster? And while we're at it, why stop there? What about the victims of airline crashes? Surely that's a disaster worthy of a few million dollars. I've lost friends to automobile accidents - shouldn't the NTSB, DOT

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and White House pony up some cash to me? Or is this all just another ploy for another group of greedy lawyers to sucker The Post out of a year's worth of free advertising? I'm all for paying the bills of those who were injured, but let's not ride down Madison Avenue on the bones of the dead.

SHAUN KNAPP

Highlands Ranch

U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY

Hope for home country

Re: 'America needs a dialogue on immigration,' April 2 Perspective article by Alan Simpson, Richard D. Lamm and John Love.

What is the basis for most opposition inside the U.S. to lower international immigration levels into the country? From my experience, most opponents are disturbed by the pathetic social conditions that so many immigrants are fleeing. But legal immigrants are the best hope for those countries. Their coming here will keep conditions from improving in those countries. Who are the best instruments of social change? Educated people with initiative are, but they are also the most desired immigrants.

BRAD EDWARDS

Fort Collins

How to enforce laws?

The April 2 article on immigration was well-written and well-reasoned, but the authors have detailed a problem that foments strong emotional reactions without suggesting a corresponding solution, e.g., how any laws to curtail the flood of immigration could possibly be enforced, or how we could truly empower the struggling economies of our southern neighbors. This amounts to irresponsible demagoguery, whether it was intended that way or not.

STEVE MILLIGAN

Colorado Springs

Let population stabilize

I have been reading a number of articles recently about U.S. population growth and immigration. Most sources seem to agree, based on Census Bureau projections, that the population of the U.S. will double by about 2050, and most of the growth is due to immigration. It's difficult to imagine twice as many people, twice the traffic, twice the congestion, etc., in only 50 years.

We have a responsibility to give our children and grandchildren the same quality of life and opportunities we enjoy. We must address this problem now. Federal politicians are responsible to set immigration at a level that allows our population to stabilize at a reasonable level, or soon the U.S. will be so crowded as to be an dreadful place to live. What's the point of a billion Americans?

JIM MORTICK

Englewood
Not smart growth

In her 'Ignoring influx is dangerous' (April 2), Betsy Ross is right and wrong, wrong, wrong.

She is right that bringing in millions of unskilled, uneducated immigrants (while the country metastasizes toward a population of more than a half-billion within the lifetime of our school-age children) is dangerous. We don't need 1.4 million dishwashers a year. Better to wash our own dishes.

She is wrong practically when she says we need to throttle the growth machine by bringing in more highly skilled, temporary foreign workers in order to support a growing, dependent, older population. There is no more permanent worker than a 'temporary' worker. The truth is they rarely return to their native countries.

She is wrong factually. The Department of Labor estimates we generate 138,000 high-tech jobs annually, and the Department of Education says we annually graduate 162,000 high-tech, homegrown students per year. The high-tech labor 'shortage' is a computer industry sleight of hand. That industry spent \$ 39 million in 1998 alone in a successful congressional lobbying effort to grow and perpetuate a cheap, foreign, compliant labor force while denying Americans those otherwise country-sustaining opportunities.

She is wrong morally when she argues for a neocolonial brain-draining of the best and the brightest (human capital) from desperate Third World countries. Those countries invest their scarce resources in training those specialists, only to see them usurped as their natural resources were during the Age of Imperialism.

America is full. Mass immigration is not smart growth, for America or the developing countries.

MIKE MCGARRY

Aspen

On a dangerous course

The Perspective article, 'We still control our future,' by Alan Simpson et al, does not go far enough in calling attention to the dangerous course we are on because of mass immigration. The current immigration policy is nothing less than government-sponsored terrorism against the American people. How else can you explain being forced to pay taxes to overpopulate the country and being duped into dissolving the bonds of the nation?

Sadly the Dark Side is in ascendance: the head of the Senate Immigration Committee, Spencer Abraham, is a national cheerleader for open borders; the entire Republican Party is being paid off by business interests who want the gates widened to guarantee cheap labor - be it strawberry picker or computer

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programmer; the Democratic Party sees importing new constituents as a means to enlarge their numbers; the labor unions want to grant an amnesty to the millions here illegally to invigorate their membership; and the ethnic lobbying groups call for more immigration to increase their power. And, meanwhile, instead of an open debate about immigration there is a national silence as millions bite their collective tongues lest they be attacked as racist.

The mantra is no longer, 'We are a nation of immigrants.' In the light of the drive for even more immigration in the face of the need to reduce it, we are showing that, 'We are a nation of idiots.'

TIM AARONSON

El Cerrito, Calif.

CALLING MARS

Faster not always better

Re: 'Glitch doomed Mars landing,' March 29.

As a taxpayer and computer programmer I am infuriated by NASA's faster, better, cheaper policy that caused funding problems for the NASA engineers and Lockheed Martin employees for the Mars Lander mission. They didn't have enough time and enough workers to do the necessary testing prior to launch date causing inevitable failure.

My friend who used to work in top-level management for NASA told me: 'The reason why NASA adopted FBC (policy) was that the White House and the Congress has been cutting NASA's budget for years. So NASA really had no choice in the matter. Either try FBC or sit back and do nothing. Also, many talented NASA engineers and managers left NASA from 1995-1998 because to the Clinton administration, reinventing government meant that the federal workforce must be reduced. So NASA eliminated thousands of jobs. The people who left were the most marketable. The ones who stayed were the ones who generally weren't as talented. So the politicians are as much to blame as NASA is really.'

My heart goes out to all of the Mars Lander employees who struggled to work 60-80 hours per week with insufficient funding from the White House and Congress. As a taxpayer at tax time I'm angry we lost \$ 165 million.

TERRI E. KADEL

Boulder

Rethink space station

NASA needs to rethink the International Space Station. While the recent mishaps on the way to Mars are unfortunate, the Mars program is literally pennies on the dollar compared to the ISS. And the shuttle burns more than \$ 300 million each launch. Just one shuttle launch budget would pay for a couple of Mars payloads, a bit extra for the rockets.

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And the lack of leadership of both Congress and the executive branch vis-a-vis the ISS is something that the fourth estate should pick up. And I, for one, would not be surprised if Team Clinton-NASA is gleefully whooping it up, privately, as the Mars 'scandal' diverts attention away from the mess of the ISS, which is an order of magnitude larger.

Uh, what is the 'status' on ISS? Well, the next Clinton press conference is in August. Don't forget to ask.

ROB MOHR

Boulder

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Denver Post file photo Mars puts on a happy face on its Galle Crater in the plain called Argyre Planitia.

LOAD-DATE: April 13, 2000

16TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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April 8, 2000, Saturday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 512 words

HEADLINE: Flood of lawsuits might be filed before April 20th anniversary

DATELINE: DENVER

BODY:

A flood of lawsuits filed shortly before the April 20th Columbine High School shooting anniversary may be the only way for victims to ensure some type of aid after the White House on Friday rejected a \$50 million request for disaster relief aid, lawyers for the victims said.

White House officials said the federal government has already funneled more than \$1.5 million into the Columbine community through the Justice Department's Victims' Assistance Fund. Any additional money would have to be appropriated by Congress, officials said. Colorado Gov. Bill Owens and Attorney General Ken Salazar had rejected a similar request.

Walter Gerash, a lawyer for wounded student Sean Graves and his family, was outraged at the White House decision. He said drawn-out litigation now seems inevitable.

The announcement came as lawyers for the victims' families push for a settlement of all potential Columbine litigation and days before President Clinton is to visit Denver on Wednesday.

"He (President Clinton) is coming here and we are going to get more flowers and tears and crosses and monuments," Gerash said. "Nothing else. I'm disgusted."

He said Owens and Clinton should be ashamed.

"Let them put their money where their mouth is," Gerash said. "Now there is going to be a legal war. It's the only recourse."

Bob Schuetze, who represents the family of slain student Kyle Velasquez, said seeking congressional approval might also be worth exploring.

Gerash and lawyers for other families said they may have to reluctantly file

The Associated Press State & Local Wire April 8, 2000

lawsuits against the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office on the eve of the rampage's first anniversary. Lawyers said the timing comes from a state law requiring a decision on whether to sue a law enforcement agency be made within a year of the event.

Twenty victims' families have filed notices of intent to sue the sheriff's department or school district over the April 20 shootings, which left 15 people dead and 23 injured.

The lawyers said the county rejected a plea to extend the April 20 filing deadline another three to six months to conduct settlement negotiations. Bill Tuthill, an assistant Jefferson County attorney, said the deadline extension is under consideration.

"We really feel that filing lawsuits on the eve of this tragedy is a very bad thing," Schuetze said. "We don't think it serves anybody's interest. The only reason to do it is to protect the rights of those people."

"We don't want the public to think that these are a bunch of insensitive lawyers or greedy plaintiffs filing lawsuits on the eve of this tragedy when everyone is just trying to heal and mourn."

A measure moving through the state Legislature would earmark up to \$5 million in donations to victims of the shootings for their lifetime medical needs and college tuition.

Donations would come from an income-tax checkoff as well as a program that would allow people to buy the right to own special license plates designed to memorialize the victims of Columbine as well as recognize problems with violence.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 9, 2000

18TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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DENVER ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

April 8, 2000, Saturday

SECTION: Local; Ed. Final; Pg. 26A

LENGTH: 122 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON REJECTS COLUMBINE FUND

BYLINE: News Staff

BODY:

The White House on Friday rejected a request to create a \$50 million compensation fund for Columbine victims.

"I'm bitterly disappointed," said Walter Gerash, a Denver attorney who filed thea request to replace lawsuits by victims.

"We have no recourse but to file suit against the sheriffs for civil rights violations."

The fund would require congressional approval, the White House said. But Gerash said other funds are available.

"The anti-terrorist act has a section for crime victims," he said. "If this isn't a terrorist act, I don't know what is."

President Clinton can also tap into the emergency fund for disaster relief.

"They should be treating it as a human disaster," Gerash said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 10, 2000

27TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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DENVER ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

April 2, 2000, Sunday

SECTION: Editorial; Ed. Final; Pg. 8B

LENGTH: 1563 words

HEADLINE: LETTERS PAGE

BODY:

Who will feds hit next?

I am writing in regard to Smith & Wesson's agreement with President Clinton to install safety locks on all of its new handguns. My concern is with the executive branch of the federal government attacking an honest business which is already regulated by the government. Smith & Wesson has been acting legally.

The federal government has used our tax dollars to threaten legal action against private gun manufacturers to force the president's agenda. Smith & Wesson could not afford to defend itself and was forced to give in to the government's demands. Remember, Smith & Wesson hadn't violated any laws or regulations.

What industry or business will the government attack next with the threat of potentially bankrupting lawsuits? Every citizen and businessperson should be very concerned about this tactic.

James Adell

Loveland

Leave it to law officers

Kudos to Gov. Bill "Columbo" Owens for butting into a criminal investigation with his interviews, sound bites and comments to the media. I believe he started the exchange with John and Patsy Ramsey, not the other way around. He could better spend his time working with our procrastinating legislature.

One might conclude that he is trying to seek national attention in the hopes of an appointment if George W. Bush gets elected.

I have no opinion on the Ramsey case, but I suggest it be left to law enforcement - not debated by our chief executive.

Robert Van Sant
Evergreen*

They create own stigma

News flash to columnist Mike Littwin: Gov. Bill Owens' education plan does not "stigmatize" poor performing schools. Poor performing schools create their own stigma.

When will the teachers union and other liberal interests stop defending failing schools? There is a reason many educators send their children to private schools: They see the dismal record of the public schools.

Mark W. Salley

Arvada

Kaiser employees won provisions that will ensure better health care

I am writing on behalf of the 1,200 health-care professionals who returned to Kaiser Permanente following a 20-day strike. Let me start on a positive note by commending the News on its overall coverage.

However, a March 24 story completely misrepresented the outcome of the strike, particularly the headline, "Observers say Kaiser got the best of strike," which was unfair and devastating to the Kaiser caregivers who walked the picket lines for three weeks for their principles and quality health care. It would have been much more fair and accurate to say "Kaiser workers win victory for quality health care in triple overtime."

Specific staffing level provisions were a major victory for workers. The News missed the point in reporting that the provisions are not subject to binding arbitration, dismissing the most important fact by saying, "Rather, such issues could be taken up by a federal court."

That's the point! Have a seasoned judge, not an arbitrator, decide whether the HMO is living up to its agreement to provide safe, ethical patient care. In other words, the workers got more than binding arbitration.

Denver is the only place in the nation where workers can actually go to court to force an HMO to provide quality care based on input from health-care professionals. This unprecedented contract will rock the health-care industry.

Workers can put HMO officials on the witness stand and ask them questions about how staffing decisions are made. They can demand previously secret documents such as patient complaints, unsatisfactory outcomes and staff-to-patient formulas. Those previously secret documents will provide an invaluable tool for quality patient care.

Workers obtained a provision that penalizes the HMO for workers' missed

The Rocky Mountain News (Denver, Co.), April 2, 2000

breaks, lunch hours and vacations, and for working "off the clock" in order not to violate the company's no-overtime rule. The penalties are designed to reward caregivers for the work they actually perform and force the company to hire enough people to ensure quality health care. Binding arbitration backs this provision.

The contract also sets up a worker-management committee to study and monitor ongoing staffing issues.

Kaiser health-care professionals scored other significant victories as well:

- * There will be no subcontracting - a key job protection issue.

- * Maintenance of benefits (workers blocked the corporation's attempt to increase employee insurance costs and co-pays).

- * While Kaiser refused to budge from its "last, best and final" wage offer of an average 4 percent per year raise, the initial offer was less than 1 percent per year.

In short, the contract negotiated is a win for quality health care. The benefits for both workers and patients will become more evident in the weeks ahead.

Ernest L. Duran Jr.

President, UFCW Local 7

Denver

Coloradans should not be expected to pay to ease Columbine families' pain

Perhaps it is just me, but I find the notion that the Columbine victim's families want the state to set up a fund for their compensation completely ridiculous (March 22 article, "Owens, Salazar reject Columbine fund"). The arguments by their lawyers are filled with contradictions and make absolutely no solid case. The events last April were indeed tragic beyond words, but the citizens of Colorado should not be expected to pay to ease the families' pain.

Indeed, their own lawyers say, "We wanted to get beyond liability and blame." If there is no liability, then there is no reason for compensation and no reason for litigation. There can be no connection drawn between the tragedy and the state. Colorado, and its taxpayers, is not in any way, shape or form liable for this tragedy and should not be expected to pay a dime.

The fact of the matter is that the lawyers (and probably some of the families) involved are looking to make a buck as well as a name for themselves and will litigate this case for years to come, no matter what Colorado does.

Liability, like it or not, is central to this issue and the state of Colorado has none and should not be expected to pay. Indeed, the only people directly liable are the parents of Harris and Klebold. Any other liability is

completely secondary to that.

The lawyers say that "lawsuits and trials will only prolong the families' agony." The solution is quite simple: Do not pursue lawsuits, trials and other forms of compensation!

Tony Hake

Thornton

Charter school performance varies tremendously based on their curriculum

Suggesting that curriculum is unrelated to academic performance at charter schools - or any school - is like suggesting that the training for an athletic team is unimportant. No thinking person would suggest that tennis training properly prepares a football team. They also know that bringing in the cheerleaders does not make up for inadequate training and practice.

Yet, that is what W. Merrick Severance suggests in a recent letter. Indeed, the performance of charter schools varies tremendously depending, not on parental involvement, but on the curriculum used in the schools.

What is taught in the classroom is what students learn. No amount of parental and community support, though valuable, can make up for deficiencies in the curriculum.

Carolyn G. DeRaad

Morrison

Colorado's governor is an accommodating host

Contrary to Karen Dunn's assertion in a March 20 letter ("Governor Owens scores low in common courtesy"), I have not seen a Colorado governor more accommodating to student tour groups than Bill Owens. The flavor of her letter suggests more disgruntlement with the governor's education policies than in him not personally addressing her fourth-graders.

Since he took the oath of governor, Bill Owens has never failed to greet any school group for which I have served as tour guide.

The tour desk hosted 2,084 guests last January and approximately 1,995 guests this January. The majority of these were students. When making the reservations either this year or last, it is doubtful that Dunn requested a brief talk either by the governor, her senator or representative. I would highly recommend she do so in the future.

B.G. Harris

Evergreen

Send Census a message

Vincent Carroll was right in his March 19 column, "The Census' odd definition of race," when he complained about the Census Bureau's silly menu of "races" on the latest U.S. Census form. The solution to this attack of political correctness is simple. If all people who believe that any racial classification is abhorrent to our dignity were to check "other" and then penciled "human" in the provided text box, we would send a strong message to the bureaucrats who are trying to deny us our universal humanity.

Shabetai R. Perera

Boulder

It's easier to be told

The reason for the recent deluge of books advocating an increased emphasis on the Ten Commandments (March 23 Inside Story, "Writers find fresh takes on precepts set in stone") is simple. Rather than coming to moral decisions based on reason and the incomparable power of the human mind, most people find it easier to have others tell them to adhere to a set of arbitrary rules that may or may not have been divinely inspired.

Eric Dzinski

Arvada

NOTES:

LETTERS PAGE

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 4, 2000

 Leanne A. Shimabukuro

04/10/2000 12:18:39 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Meredith E. Cabe/WHO/EOP@EOP, Paul Oetken/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: FYI

Can one of you give me a call about the Fund?

Thanks,
Leanne
65574

----- Forwarded by Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP on 04/10/2000 12:18 PM -----



Deanne E. Benos
04/09/2000 04:21:30 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Did you read this?

No U.S. aid for Columbine

By Howard Pankratz
Denver Post Legal Affairs Writer

April 8 - The White House announced late Friday that it will be unable to provide disaster relief for families of those killed and injured at Columbine High School.

Lawyers for the victims had asked the White House several weeks ago to establish a \$50 million relief fund after Colorado Gov. Bill Owens and Attorney General Ken Salazar rejected a similar request.

White House officials said Friday the federal government has already funneled more than \$1.5 million into the Columbine community through the Justice Department's Victims' Assistance Fund. Any additional money would have to be

appropriated by Congress, officials said.

Victims' lawyers were disappointed.

Bob Schuetze, who represents the family of slain student Kyle Velasquez, said seeking congressional approval is worth exploring.

But Walter Gerash, the lawyer for wounded student Sean Graves and his family, was outraged. He said drawn-out litigation now seems inevitable.

"He (President Clinton) is coming here and we are going to get more flowers and tears and crosses and monuments," Gerash said. "Nothing else. I'm disgusted."

He said Owens and Clinton should be ashamed.

"Let them put their money where their mouth is," Gerash said. "Now there is going to be a legal war. It's the only recourse."

The announcement came as lawyers for the victims' families push for a settlement of all potential Columbine litigation.

But they said they may have to reluctantly file lawsuits against the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office on the eve of the rampage's first anniversary because the county refuses to consider a simple request.

The request is that the county not force the victims to make a decision by April 20 whether to file suit, as required under Colorado law.

The law requires potential plaintiffs to file lawsuits against a police, sheriff or other law enforcement agency within a year of the event. Twenty victims' families have filed notices of intent to sue the sheriff's department or school district over the April 20 shootings, which left 15 people dead and 23 injured.

The lawyers said the county rejected a plea to extend the April 20 filing deadline another three to six months to conduct settlement negotiations.

"We really feel that filing lawsuits on the eve of this tragedy is a very bad thing," Schuetze said. "We don't think it serves anybody's interest. The only reason to do it is to protect the rights of those people."

"We don't want the public to think that these are a bunch of in

sensitive lawyers or greedy plaintiffs filing lawsuits on the eve of this tragedy when everyone is just trying to heal and

mourn."

Bill Tuthill, an assistant Jefferson County attorney, said the request to extend the deadline was just recently made and is being considered by Sheriff John Stone and the county attorney's office.

The request has not been rejected, Tuthill said.

Tuthill stressed that Stone is very sensitive to the needs of the victims and the Columbine community as a whole. And he added that Stone is very receptive to efforts to reach a settlement.

Schuetze and law partner Miles Cortez said the plaintiffs' lawyers want to avoid the courtroom in this case.

"Any type of litigation like this causes a great deal of pain and additional suffering on the part of the victims' families and the victims themselves," said Schuetze.

Added Cortez: "It keeps the trauma going. It keeps the tragedy alive in their minds. This is a tragedy of colossal proportions and it affected the entire community. As a result, the way to handle something like this, for the benefit of all parties, is outside the courtroom."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
COUNSEL'S OFFICE

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: 3/30/00

TOTAL PAGES (INCLUDING COVER PAGE): 4

TO: Paul Detken

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ROTHGERBER JOHNSON & LYONS LLP

One Tabor Center, Suite 3000

1200 Seventeenth Street

Denver, Colorado 80202

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DMather**FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

To: Bruce Lindsey

Fax No. 202 456-2983

From: James M. Lyons

User No. 208

Re: Columbine

Client No. 99999.999

Date: March 30, 2000

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3/30/00

THURSDAY

THE DENVER POST

ON TH
The Denver
denver

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

★★25¢ — May vary out

Columbine disaster aid requested

White House studies fund idea

By Howard Pankratz
Denver Post Legal Affairs Writer

Lawyers for the victims of the Columbine massacre have asked President Clinton and the White House to establish a multimillion-dollar disaster fund to help survivors and the families of the 13 who were slain.

The fund proposal — similar to disaster relief given to victims of tornadoes and hurricanes — has been referred to the Office of White House Counsel, where it is under study, The Denver Post has learned.

If the relief becomes reality, any plans for litigation will end, and the only case so far filed, by the parents

of victim Isaiah Shoels, will be dropped. In addition, none of the lawyers would accept legal fees of any kind.

The fund would have to be substantial, as much as \$50 million, according to

EVIDENCE: Mother of Columbine victim can't get son's clothes back. **1B**

the lawyers.

The lawyers say that many of the badly injured survivors will require a lifetime of intensive care costing millions. Protracted litigation, which could take 10 years, would intensify the physical and emotional wounds of the survivors, deny them of badly needed assistance and greatly hinder the healing process, the lawyers say.

Please see RELIEF on 24A

3 requests

raising

financial assistance

> \$50m fund

> SAFE Colorado
#hiser

> library raising

Columbine 'disaster aid' sought

RELIEF from Page 1A

"This is a humanitarian effort to prevent further pain from a human disaster, a disaster resulting in mass injuries and death," said lawyer Walter Gerash. "If funds can be laid out for tornado and hurricane victims on a moment's notice, why not for our young children who were not at fault?"

The White House was quietly approached a couple of weeks ago after the lawyers' group became convinced that Gov. Bill Owens and Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar would turn down a plea for the creation of a similar fund by the state Legislature.

Owens and Salazar, after talks that began in December, ultimately rejected the proposal.

The White House, like the governor and the attorney general, were told that what was needed was a kind, humanitarian approach, Gerash said. No one was suggesting that the state and federal governments shouldered any liability, Gerash said.

On Monday, the lawyers learned from a "high official in the Clinton administration" that the matter had been presented to the White House and is being studied by the Office of White House Counsel, Gerash said.

Gerash said he hopes there will be a quick, positive White House response that will end any litigation and allow everyone to go on with their lives.

Gerash said he approached White House representatives on the basis that what occurred at Columbine was a "human disaster."

If various federal agencies have disaster funds available, the president should approach those agencies and combine the money into a fund for the Columbine victims, Gerash said he suggested.

The veteran Denver lawyer, who represents the parents of Columbine survivor Sean Graves, said he was communicating with "the highest levels of the executive branch."

Denver lawyer Bob Schuetze, who represents the family of Columbine victim Kyle Velasquez, said people don't realize that very little of the charitable contributions that poured in have ever reached the victims.

"Very little of it went to the victims," Schuetze said. "Most of it went to other professionals who were providing counseling services and so on. People put out their hands and took it for their professional services. Quite frankly, why they didn't donate their services is beyond me."

Under the proposals presented to Owens, Salazar and the White House, all of the money would go to the victims, said Schuetze, president-elect of the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association.

"This money, all of it, every penny, would go to the victims," Schuetze said. "As you know, a lot of these victims are left holding a very difficult situation in their lives. There are some paraplegics and very seriously injured people who are going to require a lot of help and care in the future," Schuetze said.

"And there is no way these people are ever going to get compensated unless we do something like this," he said.

307 - 5983

616 - 2145

Kathryn
Turner

Richard L. Siewert

04/06/2000 05:24:45 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Meredith E. Cabe/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP, Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP, Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: Guidance on Columbine -- can everyone vet this?

Q. How are you responding to the request from some of the families from Columbine for disaster assistance of nearly \$50 million for the victims there?

A. We are aware of that request. The federal government has a **mechanism** for helping communities that have been affected by violent tragedies like the one at Columbine.

exact #6?

The President signed a law that created a victims' assistance fund that helps communities **and families** affected by violence. More than \$1.5 million of that money has been made available through the state of Colorado for the Columbine community **and families**. **We have also asked Congress to approve Project SERV, an initiative that would provide assistance specifically to communities affected by school violence. Unfortunately, Congress has not approved that initiative.**

We understand that this request has already been turned down by the Governor of Colorado **(and the local govt? ask Matt Bennett?) The creation of a \$50M federal fund for this specific purpose would seem to require Congressional action.**

Q. Can the Department of Justice approve more money for the Columbine families?

A. **The Department of Justice distributes funds (from the Crime Victims Fund) yearly to state victim assistance agencies for victim assistance and compensation. States distribute those funds to communities and families** — *so it would actually be up to state officials in Colorado.*

true?

Q. Is the federal government named in any of the suits arising out of the Columbine shootings?

A. Not that we are aware. [please check.]

Q. Is this an unprecedented request?

A. Cannot tell for sure. We have created a fund to assist victims that is administered by the Department of Justice. You may want to check with them. **This is the only request of its kind that we're aware of.**

Q. Why do victims of floods and hurricanes get federal disaster money, but not victims of shootings?

A. DPC?????

To: Paul Oetken
From: Kathryn Turman

Draft

Richard L. Siewert
04/08/2000 05:24:45 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Meredith E. Gabe/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP, Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP, Kris M. Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
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*special law on mass violence
those types of crimes*

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(discretionary fund?)

from year to year

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U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
COVER SHEET**

TO:

Paul Oetkin

OFFICE:

FAX #:

456-1647

DATE:

4-7-00

FROM:

Kathryn Turman

Office for Victims of Crime

Office of Justice Programs

Phone #: (202) 307-5983

Fax #: (202) 514-6383

PAGES:

2

(including cover sheet)

NOTES:

► **Meredith E. Cabe**
04/07/2000 10:19:42 AM
.....

Record Type: Record

To: Richard L. Siewert/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Guidance on Columbine -- can everyone vet this?

Jake --

some additional information. Will call you re: conversation with Bruce.

----- Forwarded by Meredith E. Cabe/WHO/EOP on 04/07/2000 10:17 AM -----

 Richard L. Siewert
04/06/2000 05:24:45 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Meredith E. Cabe/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP, Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP, Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Guidance on Columbine -- can everyone vet this?

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year to year.

Q. Is the federal government named in any of the suits arising out of the Columbine shootings?

A. Not that we are aware. **[we're 99.9% sure there hasn't been one; we should get confirmation of that from Education shortly]**

Q. Is this an unprecedented request?

A. Cannot tell for sure. We have created a fund to assist victims that is administered by the Department of Justice. You may want to check with them. **This is the only request of its kind that we're aware of.**

Q. Why do victims of floods and hurricanes get federal disaster money, but not victims of shootings?

A. DPC?????

 Richard L. Siewert
04/07/2000 01:51:33 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP, Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP, Jason H. Schechter/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Meredith E. Cabe/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Final Guidance on Columbine Request

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A. We are aware of that request. The federal government has a mechanism for helping communities that have been affected by violent tragedies like the one at Columbine.

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Q. Why do victims of floods and hurricanes get federal disaster money, but not victims of

shootings?

A. In general, the Stafford Act provides the authority for Federal disaster response. The Act authorizes the President to declare major disasters only in response to natural catastrophes as well as fires, floods, and explosions. The Stafford Act's major disaster response authority is not available in the aftermath of law enforcement emergencies such as shootings. However, victims of shootings may be eligible for assistance and compensation through the federal Crime Victims Fund, which is administered by the States. [For more detailed questions about how FEMA assistance works, you should refer press inquiries to FEMA public affairs.]

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime



Office for Victims of Crime

OVC Fact Sheet

*Advocating for the Fair
Treatment of Crime Victims*

State Crime Victim Compensation and Assistance Grant Programs

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) in the U.S. Department of Justice administers two major formula grant programs: *Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance*. The programs are supported by monies from the Crime Victims Fund (Fund), which was established by the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). *The Fund is supported, not by tax dollars, but by fines, penalty assessments, and bond forfeitures collected from convicted Federal offenders.* OVC distributes over 90 percent of the Fund's deposits directly to the States to support State victim compensation and assistance services for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, drunk driving, homicide, and other crimes. During the past decade, these two formula grant programs have greatly improved the accessibility and quality of services to Federal and State crime victims nationwide. VOCA-funded programs make a significant difference in the lives of more than 2 million people victimized by crime each year.

Victim Compensation Program

All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands have established victim compensation programs. Each of these programs reimburses victims for such crime-related expenses as the following:

- Medical costs.
- Mental health counseling.
- Funeral and burial costs.
- Lost wages or loss of support.

Under the 1996 Antiterrorism Act, States must also provide compensation to residents who are victims of

terrorist acts and mass violence within or outside the United States.

Although each State compensation program is administered independently, most programs have similar eligibility requirements and offer a comparable range of benefits. Maximum awards generally range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Compensation is paid only when other financial resources, such as private insurance or offender restitution do not cover the loss. Certain expenses such as theft, damage, and property loss are not covered by most compensation programs.

To receive compensation, victims must comply with State rules, which generally require that they cooperate with the reasonable requests of law enforcement and submit a timely application to the compensation program.

VOCA funds supplement State efforts to compensate crime victims. The formula for VOCA compensation grants to States is based on a percentage of State payments to crime victims in a previous year. From FY 19 through FY 1998, OVC will have distributed \$705,777,429 in VOCA compensation grant funds.

Victim Assistance Program

Throughout the United States, approximately 10,000 organizations provide services to crime victims. These organizations include domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, child abuse programs, and victim service in law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices,

hospitals, and social service agencies. The services provided include the following:

- Crisis intervention.
- Counseling.
- Emergency shelter.
- Criminal justice advocacy.
- Emergency transportation.

VOCA funds, awarded to States each year, support nearly 3,000 community-based organizations that serve crime victims.

States and Territories are required to give priority to programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Additional funds must be set aside for underserved victims, such as survivors of homicide victims and victims of intoxicated drivers.

All States and Territories receive an annual VOCA victim assistance grant. Each State, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico receive a base amount of \$500,000. The territories of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa each receive a base amount of \$200,000. Additional funds are distributed based on population. From FY 1986 through FY 1998, States received \$1,357,750,713 in VOCA victim assistance grants.

For Further Information

More information about the Office of Victims of Crime is available through the following sources:

OVC 202-307-5983
OVC Web Site <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/>
OVC Resource Center 800-627-6872
OVC Resource Center Web Site <http://www.ncjrs.org>

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime



Office for Victims of Crime

OVC Fact Sheet

*Advocating for the Fair
Treatment of Crime Victims*

What is the Office for Victims of Crime?

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) was formed by the U.S. Department of Justice in 1983 and formally established by Congress in 1988 through an amendment to the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA). The Office provides Federal funds to support victim assistance and compensation programs around the country and advocates for the fair treatment of crime victims. OVC administers formula and discretionary grants for programs designed to benefit victims, to provide training for diverse professionals who work with victims, and to develop projects to enhance victims' rights and services.

OVC's Mission

The mission of OVC is to enhance the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime. OVC accomplishes its mission in many different ways: administering the Crime Victim's Fund, supporting direct services, providing training programs that reach diverse professionals across America, sponsoring demonstration projects with national impact, and publishing and disseminating materials that highlight promising practices in the effective treatment of crime victims that can be replicated throughout the country.

Crime Victims Fund

A major responsibility of OVC is to administer the Crime Victims Fund, which is derived, *not from tax dollars, but from fines and penalties paid by Federal criminal offenders*. Nearly 90 percent of the money collected each year, \$363 million in 1997, is distributed to States to assist in funding their victim assistance and compensation programs. These programs are the lifeline services that help many victims to heal. Federal victim assistance funds help to support nearly 3,000 local victim services agencies such as domestic violence shelters, children's advocacy centers, and rape treatment programs. Compensation

funds provide reimbursement to victims for out-of-pocket expenses resulting from crime, including medical and mental health counseling costs, lost wages, and funeral expenses. Since 1988, OVC has distributed over \$2 billion to the States to support victim services and compensation.

OVC-Sponsored Training

OVC sponsors training on a variety of victims' issues for many different professions, including victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, the judiciary, the clergy, and medical and mental health personnel. Training on victim-witness issues is also provided for some 70 different Federal law enforcement agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Defense, and the National Park Service.

OVC's Direct Services

OVC's mission includes providing direct services to people victimized on tribal or Federal lands, such as military bases and national parks. OVC maintains an emergency fund to provide victims of Federal crimes with needed services such as crisis counseling, temporary shelter, and travel expenses to court. The agency also sponsors victim assistance programs in Indian Country, including the establishment and training of multidisciplinary teams to handle child sexual abuse cases and provide comprehensive victim services.

OVC's Discretionary Grants

Through discretionary grants, OVC has initiated many innovative projects that have had a national impact. For example, the OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) brings top experts to local communities at no cost. OVC has also funded important reports on civil legal remedies for victims, on model antistalking laws, on exemplary corrections programs that assist victims and train victim advocates, and on protocols for handling offenses on tribal lands. In addition, OVC has developed

numerous training curricula addressing subjects such as hate crimes, elder abuse, and the role of the clergy in assisting victims. Other OVC funded projects include videotapes that educate children about testifying in court and crisis response teams that assist communities following mass violence and victimization.

OVC's Resource Center

OVC established the OVC Resource Center (OVCRC), an information clearinghouse which provides current research findings, statistics, and literature on emerging victim issues. The OVCRC is a component of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), the most comprehensive criminal justice library in the world. Through this resource, information is available 24 hours a day through the Internet and Fax-on-Demand.

Training & Technical Assistance Center

In an effort to expand and continue the activities begun under OVC's Trainers Bureau, OVC has established the OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC). The TTAC serves as a centralized access point for information about OVC's training and technical assistance resources and will accomplish the following:

- Continue the work of OVC's Trainers Bureau by providing expert consultants, who specialize in crime victim related areas, to support training events of Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies and special emphasis organizations that are involved in activities related to crime victims.
- Provide intensive on-site technical assistance to meet specific programmatic and administrative requirements of agencies offering services to crime victims.

- Provide rapid response to requesting communities (and Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies responding for communities) affected by a major crisis involving multiple victims through the Community Crisis Response program.

- Organize, arrange, and facilitate national conferences, regional workshops, and meetings with diverse constituent groups, including State VOCA administrators and OVC discretionary grantees.

- Plan focus groups that develop action plans to respond to major emerging issues.

- Support Regional Coordination Initiative activities.

- Develop publications and other materials, such as brochures, briefing materials, and information packers on crime victim-related issues. This activity may include the adaptation and modification of existing materials to make them suitable for various user groups.

- Promote information sharing and networking opportunities for administrators and leaders of similar agencies in an effort to improve response to crime victims.

For Further Information

More information about the Office for Victims of Crime is available through the following sources:

OVC 202-307-5983
 OVC Web Site <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/>
 OVC Resource Center 800-627-6872
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F5000181
 July 1998

OVC Fact Sheet What is the Office for Victims of Crime?

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U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

July 1999

OVC Fact Sheet

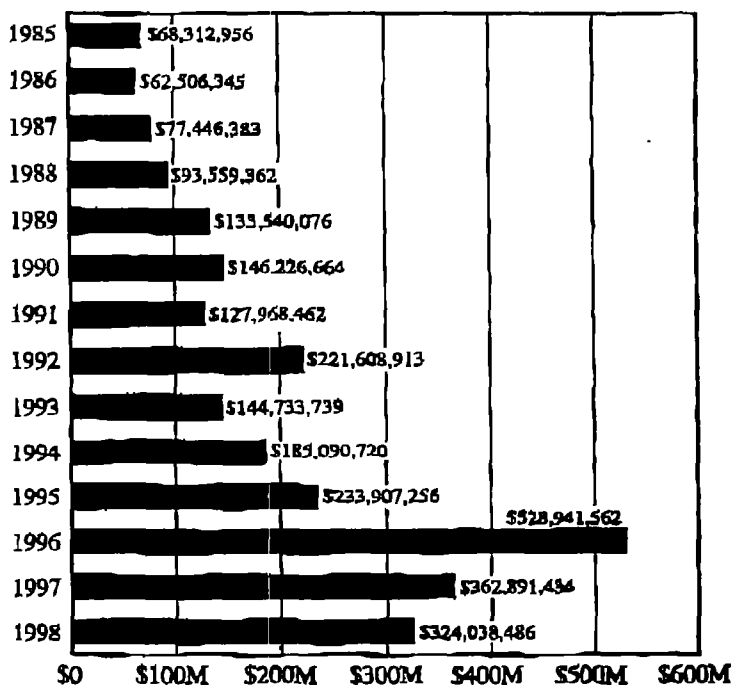
*Advocating for the Fair
Treatment of Crime Victims*

Victims of Crime Act Crime Victims Fund

The Crime Victims Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) and serves as a major funding source for victim services throughout the country. Each year, millions of dollars are deposited into this Fund from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorney's Offices, U.S. Courts, and the Bureau of Prisons. These dollars come from offenders convicted of Federal crimes not from taxpayers.

Deposits into the Fund fluctuate from year to year. The chart below depicts deposits into the Fund from 1985 through 1998.

Crime Victims Fund Deposits



When the Crime Victims Fund was authorized in 1984, a cap was placed on Fund deposits for the first eight years. However, the cap on deposits was lifted in 1993 thus allowing all criminal fines, bail forfeitures, penalties and special assessments authorized by VOCA for the Crime Victims Fund to be deposited into the Fund to support crime victim program activities.

How Are Fund Deposits Disbursed?

The first \$10 million is used to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. The \$10 million is divided between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (\$8.5 million) and OVC (\$1.5 million). The portion administered by OVC is used exclusively to help Native Americans improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, particularly child sexual abuse.

The remaining Fund deposits are distributed in the following ways:

- 48.5 percent to State compensation programs.
- 48.5 percent to State assistance programs.
- 3 percent for discretionary funds to support demonstration projects, training, and other assistance to expand and improve the delivery of services to federal crime victims.

Victim Compensation

What Is Crime Victim Compensation?

Crime victim compensation is a direct reimbursement to, or on behalf of, a crime victim for the following crime-related expenses:

- Medical costs.
- Mental health counseling.
- Funeral and burial costs.
- Lost wages or loss of support.

Other compensable expenses may include eyeglasses or other corrective lenses, dental services and devices, prosthetic devices, and crime scene clean-up.

What Is a Crime Victim Compensation Program?

Every State administers a crime victim compensation program. These programs provide financial assistance to victims of both Federal and State crimes. Although each State compensation program is administered independently, most programs have similar eligibility requirements and offer a comparable range of benefits. Maximum awards generally range from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

The typical State compensation program requires victims to report crimes to law enforcement within 3 days and to file claims within a fixed period of time, usually 2 years. Most States can extend these time limits for good cause. If other financial resources are available, such as private insurance, compensation is paid only to the extent that the collateral resource does not cover the loss.

Which States Receive VOCA Compensation Grants?

All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands receive VOCA compensation grants.

A State is eligible to receive a VOCA compensation grant if it meets the criteria set forth in VOCA and OVC's Program Guidelines. Examples of such criteria include providing services for Federal crime victims and assisting victims who are victimized within the State when the victim resides in another State. Under the 1996 Antiterrorism Act, States must also provide compensation to residents who are victims of terrorist acts within or outside the United States.

The formula for VOCA compensation grants to States is based on a percentage of State payments to crime victims in a previous year.

Victim Assistance

What Is Victim Assistance?

Victim assistance includes, but is not limited to, the following services:

- Crisis intervention.
- Counseling.
- Emergency shelter.
- Criminal justice advocacy.
- Emergency transportation.

Throughout the nation, there are approximately 10,000 organizations that provide these and other services to crime victims. Nearly 3,300 of those organizations receive some VOCA funds.

Which States Receive VOCA Victim Assistance Grants?

All States and most Territories receive an annual VOCA victim assistance grant. Each State, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico receive a base amount of \$500,000. The territories of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa each receive a base amount of \$200,000. Additional funds are distributed based on population.

States competitively award VOCA funds to local community-based organizations that provide services directly to victims of crime.

How Do States Determine Which Organizations Will Receive VOCA Victim Assistance Grants?

Each State has discretion to determine which organizations will receive funding based upon the VOCA victim assistance guidelines and the needs of crime victims within the State. Most States make awards on a competitive basis.

VOCA assistance funds may be used only for direct services to crime victims. Services such as offender rehabilitation, criminal justice improvements, and crime prevention activities cannot be supported with VOCA assistance funds.

Discretionary Funds

What Are Discretionary Funds?

VOCA authorizes OVC to use discretionary funds to improve and enhance the quality and availability of victim services. Each year, OVC develops a Program Plan which identifies the training and technical assistance and demonstration initiatives to be funded on a competitive basis in the coming year.

How Are the Discretionary Funds Used?

At least half of all discretionary grant funds are dedicated to improving the response to Federal crime victims. Initiatives include the following:

- Training Federal criminal justice system personnel on victims' issues.
- Developing materials that help Federal victims understand their rights and available services.
- Supporting programs that establish and expand existing services for Federal crime victims.

The remaining discretionary funds support a variety of nationwide initiatives such as follows:

- Developing training curricula.
- Training victim services and criminal justice professionals.

- Working to raise the awareness of victim's rights and needs throughout the country.
- Identifying and disseminating promising practices in victim services.
- Supporting and evaluating demonstration programs.

For Further Information

More information about the Office for Victims of Crime is available through the following sources:

OVC 202-307-5983

OVC Web Site <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/>

OVC Resource Center 800-627-6872

OVC Resource Center Web Site <http://www.ncjrs.org>



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Name: Paul Oetken, WHCO

Phone: 202-456-6297

Fax: 202-456-1647

FROM: DEBORAH S. SMOLOVER
Associate Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Room 4211
Washington, D.C. 20530

Phone: (202) 514-1818

Fax: (202) 514-6897

DATE: March 30, 2000

NUMBER OF PAGES: 5 plus cover

MESSAGES: Per your request, information on VOCA and victims assistance and compensation funds follows. Please feel free to call if I can be of any further assistance.

**Assistance to Victims and First Responders
Office for Victims of Crime
U.S. Department of Justice**

OVC Background:

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) in the Department of Justice administers the Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA), which consists of fines, special assessments, and forfeited bail paid by convicted defendants in federal courts. None of OVC's funds are appropriated. Each year, the first \$10 million of the fund goes to support Children's Justice Act programs at the state and local level. Ninety percent of the remaining funds are provided to the states, the District of Columbia, and the territories to fund victim assistance services and to supplement state victims compensation programs. The remainder of the fund is used by OVC to fund demonstration projects, and to provide training and technical assistance to local, state, and federal agencies working with crime victims and private victims assistance organizations. Each year, VOCA funds are used to support more than 3,000 victim services agencies, including rape crisis programs, support services for homicide survivors, domestic violence shelters, children's advocacy centers, and criminal justice-based victim advocates. Each year, VOCA funds are used to provide millions of dollars in direct compensation to victims of crime for otherwise uncompensated crime-related expenses, such as funerals, medical bills, lost wages, counseling, and emergency needs. A 1996 amendment to the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 authorized OVC to set aside a reserve fund that could be used for victims of terrorism and mass violence.

Prior Assistance to Denver Area

Colorado has a tradition of focusing on the needs of crime victims and providing a range of services. OVC has a history of funding innovative services to victims of crime in the Denver area.

- ☐ When the Oklahoma City bombing trials were moved to Denver, OVC worked with a conglomeration of public and private agencies, the Colorado/Oklahoma Resource Council (CORC) in the Denver area to ensure that the victims who were to participate in the federal criminal justice process had the necessary services and support during their stay in Denver. OVC provided approximately \$200,000 from the terrorism victim reserve fund to directly assist victims traveling to Denver by supporting CORC activities. The funds were used to pay for staff, secure lodging for victims, arrange for local transportation, create a "Safe Haven" for victims, and to establish a process for handling mental health and medical needs, and any other victims services identified as necessary. Victim advocates and CORC volunteers were assigned to each victim family. Volunteers even stood in line in the early morning hours to reserve seats in the courtroom for victims. As a result of CORC's work, OVC provided additional funds to document the model of providing victim assistance when there is a change of venue in a mass victim case. CORC staff and volunteers provided technical assistance to the Springfield, Oregon school district after the shooting at Thurston High School.

Project Contacts: Candace Grocz, Colorado Dept of Public Safety
303-129-5703

Victim Compensation FY99 - \$3,523,000
 FY98 - \$4,027,000

OVC has offered to supplement these grants with monies from the terrorism victims reserve fund. The "pipeline" is already open and will allow additional funds to be provided in a timely manner with no bureaucratic hassle. Colorado can subgrant funds to the schools or to any other agency to support counseling services and other types of victim assistance. Funds provided to the compensation programs can be used to pay for funerals, medical expenses, private mental health services, and lost wages. OVC understands that the Jefferson County compensation program is low on funds, so we will plan to supplement them immediately.

The OVC Acting Director spoke with Deputy Attorney General Don Quick earlier today. He said their most pressing need was funding to pay the travel, lodging, and overtime expenses for crisis counselors from other parts of the state. OVC Director Turman verbally agreed to cover these costs with the terrorism victim reserve funds and encouraged him to proceed with obtaining the services of these counselors. OVC staff are processing the small amount of paperwork needed to make the funds available.

OVC can provide training and technical assistance resources to any of the responding agencies, including expenses for experts on school violence, trauma and grief, planning for long-term mental health services, and other issues. OVC has provided funding for ongoing counseling services for the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, including the first responders. Working with the Department of Education and the Center for Mental Health Services, OVC is prepared to provide similar assistance to the Littleton community.

For more information, contact:

Kathryn Turman, Acting Director, OVC

(202) 616-2145

Olga Trujillo, Director, Special Projects Division, OVC

(202) 616-3585

STATEMENT

The Department of Justice is committed to providing support to the victims of the Buckhead shooting and to the families of the victims of this terrible tragedy.

The Department is coordinating closely with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in Atlanta, the agency that manages victim assistance funds in Georgia, and has offered the Coordinating Council its full support and assistance.

Earlier this year, the Department provided the State of Georgia with approximately \$7 million to help support victims' compensation and victims' assistance programs. The Department stands ready to provide supplemental support and assistance as needed and requested.

This federal funding comes from fines paid by convicted federal offenders (not from taxpayer dollars).



William Marshall
04/05/2000 12:32:29 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Meredith E. Cabe/WHO/EOP@EOP, Paul Oetken/WHO/EOP@EOP, Peter Rundlet/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Re: Colorado trip

----- Forwarded by William Marshall/WHO/EOP on 04/05/2000 12:32 PM -----



William T. Glunz
04/05/2000 10:33:07 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Jason H. Schechter/WHO/EOP@EOP, Lindsay R. Drewel/WHO/EOP@EOP, Cathy R. Mays/OPD/EOP@EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: Colorado trip

Per Kris' e-mail below, we will have a meeting today at 3:30 pm in his office (OEOB 162) to discuss CO funding issues. Please let me know if you are unable to attend.

Thanks
Billy

Kris M Balderston



Kris M Balderston

04/04/2000 01:09:38 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: Re: Colorado trip

As anticipated, Bill Marshall agrees that we probably need a mtg on how to handle the CO funding issues - (the library, the victims fund, the SAFE fundraiser). Counsel's first impression is that DOJ already

handles this thru the Victims Assistance fund. We should come up with TPTs and discuss options.

Billy G will set up a mtg with reps from Counsel (Bill Marshall), Press (Newman and Jim Kennedy), DPC Kullman and Bruce; Communications (Cutter); IGA (Bennett). Anyone else?

Message Copied To:

peter rundlet/who/eop@eop
karin kullman/opd/eop@eop
William T. Glunz/WHO/EOP@EOP
William Marshall/WHO/EOP@EOP
Matthew L. Bennett/WHO/EOP@EOP

Message Sent To:

Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
bruce n. reed/opd/eop@eop
peter rundlet/who/eop@eop
karin kullman/opd/eop@eop
william marshall/who/eop@eop
matthew l. bennett/who/eop@eop
Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP
James E. Kennedy/WHO/EOP@EOP
Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
Stephen S. Lamb/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura A. Graham/WHO/EOP@EOP



Kris M Balderston

04/04/2000 12:41:38 PM



Record Type: Record

To: William Marshall/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Colorado trip

FYI

thoughts

----- Forwarded by Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP on 04/04/2000 12:41 PM -----



Bruce N. Reed

04/04/2000 12:27:47 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Peter Rundlet/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP, Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject: Re: Colorado trip 

Thanks. There's a difficult issue that parents from Columbine raised with Counsel's office, asking the Admin to set up a \$50m fund for the victims families. We'd like to refer the matter to the Justice Dept. Kris Balderston was going to call Bill Marshall about it; if you'd like to jump in, just let him know. Bruce Lindsey's office has all the information.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
COUNSEL'S OFFICE

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: 3/30/00

TOTAL PAGES (INCLUDING COVER PAGE): 2

TO: Paul Oetken

ATTN: _____

FACSIMILE NUMBER: 616A7

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

FROM: Dawn V. Woollen at 202-456-2668

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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FROM ROTHGERBER JOHNSON & LYONS

(MON) 3.13'00 14:36/ST. 14:31/NO. 4800000633 P 1

ROTHGERBER JOHNSON & LYONS LLP

One Tabor Center, Suite 3000
1200 Seventeenth Street
Denver, Colorado 80202
303 623-9000—FAX 303 623-9222

DMather**FAX MEMORANDUM**

To: Bruce Lindsey Fax No. 202 456.2983
From: James M. Lyons User No. 208
Re: Columbine Client No. 99999.999
Date: March 13, 2000

I have been asked by lawyers representing injured students and potential plaintiffs to inquire regarding possible federal funds to a victims compensation fund. These lawyers are currently representing some 30 injured students and are doing so *pro bono*. They have approached the State of Colorado about creating such a fund, since insurance coverage from potential defendants (including the State and its subdivisions) is woefully inadequate.

The State is cool to the idea, believing it has little or no liability in the matter. This, of course, ignores the State's opportunity to avoid expensive and protracted litigation.

I would like your thoughts on this. Give me a call, or we can discuss it Wednesday night.

WE ARE TRANSMITTING 1 PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER PAGE). IF TRANSMISSION IS NOT COMPLETE, PLEASE CALL (303) 623-9000, EXT. 321.

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313.00.21

15TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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FDCH Federal Department and Agency Documents

April 15, 1997; Tuesday

LENGTH: 842 words

AGENCY: WHITE HOUSE

SIC-MAJOR-GROUP: 09 - General Classification

HEADLINE: PROCLAMATION OF CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK FEDERAL DOCUMENT CLEARING
HOUSE, INC. 201 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, S.E., 2nd Floor WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003
Tel: 202-547-4512 Fax: 202-546-4194

CONTACT: 202 456-7150

BODY:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Immediate Release

April 15, 1997

PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL CRIME

VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, 1997

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Americans in communities across the country join together to honor victims and survivors, to remember their pain, and to recognize their any contributions to improving our criminal justice system and helping others affected by crime. It is also an occasion for us to acknowledge our significant progress in securing crucial rights and services for crime victims.

As we reflect on the events of this past year, we think of all our fellow citizens who became victims of crime on our streets, at home, in our neighborhoods, in our schools, in our workplaces, and even in our sacred places of worship. We remember the images of dozens of mostly African American churches being consumed in flames, and we recall church leaders and their congregations, representing all denominations and races, reaching out to invite healing and rebuilding -- not in isolation, but in an extraordinary spirit of community and unity. We also remember the many contributions of crime victims in pioneering crime prevention programs in our schools and working to strengthen our laws and to enlighten all of us about the needs of all crime victims.

Through the dedicated efforts of crime victims and their advocates, criminal justice workers, and responsive legislators, we have made important strides in the struggle against violence. The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 allocated an increase in resources for criminal justice programs, deploying thousands of new police officers on our streets. The Brady Bill has prevented over 225,000 felons, fugitives, and stalkers from buying handguns since it was enacted. And the Community Notification Act, known as "Megan's Law," is helping us protect our most vulnerable citizens by informing communities of

Federal Department and Agency Documents, April 15, 1997

the presence of convicted pedophiles. With community notification, we are working to prevent cases like that of the Act's namesake, Megan Kanka, a 7 year-old who died at the hands of a repeat sex offender released into an unsuspecting community. With these and other preventive measures, we've managed to reduce the rate of violent crime for 5 straight years and to restore hope of reaching our goal of a peaceful America.

We can also take heart in our efforts to assist victims in need of justice and healing in the aftermath of violent crimes. The Violence Against Women Act, a historic and comprehensive plan targeted at ending crimes against women, has provided much-needed services to countless domestic violence victims and their children. Likewise, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, established last year, has responded to more than 73,000 calls for assistance from around the country. As a result of over \$500 million in deposits to the Federal Crime Victims Fund in fiscal 1996, the States will receive more than three times as much in Federal funds as they have received in any previous year to support local victim assistance programs. And the Antiterrorism Act has guaranteed restitution to victims of Federal crimes and mass violence; it has already provided substantial assistance to victims of the Oklahoma City bombing.

This year, we can take one more historic step to ensure that victims throughout our country are guaranteed the fundamental rights to be present at proceedings, to be informed of significant developments in their cases and of their rights, and to be heard at sentencing and other appropriate times throughout the criminal justice process. The Congress should pass a Victims' Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution that will, when ratified by the States, ensure that crime victims are at the center of the criminal justice process, not on the outside looking in.

We must stand united in caring for and assisting crime victims throughout our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 13 through April 19, 1997, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I urge all Americans to follow in the example of victim advocates and reaffirm our common purpose to protect and comfort one another in times of hardship -- not only during this special week but also throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

REGION: 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals - Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington, D.C.

INDUSTRY-CODE: Executive, legislative, and general government, except finance

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

13TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright M2 Communications Ltd 1997
M2 PRESSWIRE

April 16, 1997

LENGTH: 974 words

HEADLINE: THE WHITE HOUSE

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 1997 - By the Pres of USA - A
proclamation

BODY:

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Americans in communities across the country join together to honor victims and survivors, to remember their pain, and to recognize their many contributions to improving our criminal justice system and helping others affected by crime. It is also an occasion for us to acknowledge our significant progress in securing crucial rights and services for crime victims.

As we reflect on the events of this past year, we think of all our fellow citizens who became victims of crime on our streets, at home, in our neighborhoods, in our schools, in our workplaces, and even in our sacred places of worship. We remember the images of dozens of mostly African American churches being consumed in flames, and we recall church leaders and their congregations, representing all denominations and races, reaching out to invite healing and rebuilding - not in isolation, but in an extraordinary spirit of community and unity. We also remember the many contributions of crime victims in pioneering crime prevention programs in our schools and working to strengthen our laws and to enlighten all of us about the needs of all crime victims.

Through the dedicated efforts of crime victims and their advocates, criminal justice workers, and responsive legislators, we have made important strides in the struggle against violence. The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 allocated an increase in resources for criminal justice programs, deploying thousands of new police officers on our streets. The Brady Bill has prevented over 225,000 felons, fugitives, and stalkers from buying handguns since it was enacted. And the Community Notification Act, known as "Megan's Law," is helping us protect our most vulnerable citizens by informing communities of the presence of convicted pedophiles. With community notification, we are working to prevent cases like that of the Act's namesake, Megan Kanka, a 7 year-old who died at the hands of a repeat sex offender released into an unsuspecting community. With these and other preventive measures, we've managed to reduce the rate of violent crime for 5 straight years and to restore hope of reaching our goal of a peaceful America.

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M2 PRESSWIRE April 16, 1997

restitution to victims of Federal crimes and mass violence; it has already provided substantial assistance to victims of the Oklahoma City bombing.

This year, we can take one more historic step to ensure that victims throughout our country are guaranteed the fundamental rights to be present at proceedings, to be informed of significant developments in their cases and of their rights, and to be heard at sentencing and other appropriate times throughout the criminal justice process. The Congress should pass a Victims' Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution that will, when ratified by the States, ensure that crime victims are at the center of the criminal justice process, not on the outside looking in.

We must stand united in caring for and assisting crime victims throughout our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 13 through April 19, 1997, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I urge all Americans to follow in the example of victim advocates and reaffirm our common purpose to protect and comfort one another in times of hardship - not only during this special week but also throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 23, 1997

35TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Jerusalem Post
The Jerusalem Post

July 28, 1995, Friday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 186 words

HEADLINE: US bill erasing Jordan debt signed

BYLINE: Hillel Kuttler, Washington

BODY:

ONE year and two days after the Washington Declaration was signed, the US officially rewarded Jordan for making peace with Israel.

In a White House ceremony yesterday, President Clinton signed a \$ 16.4 billion budget-cutting bill that contains Congress' appropriation of \$ 275 million to wipe out the remainder of Jordan's debt to the US. The bill also includes \$ 289 million for counter-terrorism activities, as well as funds for disaster relief for victims of the California earthquake and the Oklahoma City bombing.

Jordan Information Bureau spokeswoman Rania Atalla said Amman is "thankful for the efforts of the administration and members of Congress," and believes the debt relief could help spur international investment in the country.

Surrounded by House and Senate leaders, Clinton praised the bill as a cooperative effort between the White House and Congress.

The signing caps a lengthy process in which immediate debt relief for Jordan was threatened first by the new Republican leadership, and later by partisan jockeying over the recession bill in which the relief was placed.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 31, 1995

28TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1996 The Daily Oklahoman
THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

February 28, 1996, Wednesday CITY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 9

LENGTH: 434 words

HEADLINE: Bombing Victims' Travel Fund Gets \$ 271,000 Start

BYLINE: David Zizzo, Staff Writer

BODY:

An effort to help survivors travel to Denver for the bombing trial got a quick start Tuesday as officials announced \$ 271,000 in pledges and the creation of a committee to administer the funds.

At a news conference in Oklahoma City, officials announced the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime in Washington will provide \$ 200,000 for travel expenses. Also, Conoco contributed \$ 50,000, and Oklahoma City radio station KTNT donated \$ 21,000.

"We're obviously off and running," said Dr. William G. Thurman, president of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and chairman of the board of United Way of Metro Oklahoma City.

Aileen Adams, director of the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime, called the effort "an unprecedented public and private partnership." Funds from her office come from penalties and fines paid by criminals, not from tax money, Adams said.

That office normally budgets only \$ 50,000 a year to help victims with travel. The Justice Department said it would seek additional money from Congress if necessary.

"We want to be sure that victims can exercise their right to attend court proceedings," Attorney General Janet Reno said in a statement released in Washington.

Thurman also said a 12-member committee has been selected to decide how the funds will be spent.

That committee, made up of charity officials, survivors and government representatives, will have its first meeting next week.

Gov. Frank Keating, who asked the United Way to coordinate the travel aide effort, said officials do not yet know how much money will be needed. The committee will discuss costs survivors will encounter, availability of courtroom seating and coordination of help offered by agencies in Denver.

Keating said he hopes money already held in various charities will not have to be used for travel. He said the committee will contact survivors to give them details once members establish

criteria for spending the travel funds.

Keating said Conoco officials asked that their donation be used to help survivors according to their needs, "those who cannot really afford to pay for this." However, he said, expenditure of money from the Victims of Crime fund is not required to be "needs-based."

Officials also will try to assure expenditures comply with Internal Revenue Service regulations so that they can be considered tax-deductible for those who contribute, Keating said.

Donations may be sent to: Victims' and Survivors' Travel Fund, c/o United Way of Metro Oklahoma City, P.O. Box 837, Oklahoma City, OK 73101.

GRAPHIC: Gov. Frank Keating, right, announces Tuesday the creation of a panel to distribute \$ 271,000 pledged to help survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing attend the trial in Denver. Looking on are Dr. William G. Thurman, chairman of the board of United Way of Metro Oklahoma City, and Aileen Adams, director of the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime. - Staff Photo by David McDaniel

LOAD-DATE: March 18, 1998

7TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 The Daily Oklahoman
THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

October 10, 1997, Friday CITY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 703 words

HEADLINE: \$ 5 Million Funding Bill OK'd For Murrah Bomb Memorial

BYLINE: Chris Casteel, Washington Bureau

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

President Clinton made the future Oklahoma City bombing memorial part of the National Park System on Thursday "to recognize the profound changes brought to so many lives on the tragic morning of April 19, 1995."

The president signed legislation that will give control of the memorial to a local trust, which the president will likely appoint early next year. The measure also authorizes \$ 5 million in federal funding for the memorial, though the money has to be matched with funds from other sources.

"The significance of the tragedy of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and the meaning and implications of this event for our Nation, compel the establishment of this memorial as a visible and prominent national shrine," Clinton said Thursday.

Clinton viewed a design of the planned memorial at a White House ceremony in August and said it had "true power and amazing grace."

The memorial will include 168 empty glass base chairs, a reflecting pool and a grassy stretch on the "footprint" of the Murrah Building. The Survivor Tree, the American elm that survived the blast across the street from the federal building, also was incorporated into the design.

Besides the memorial, an interactive museum and an institute for prevention of terrorism and violence are part of the overall plan.

Kari Ferguson, spokeswoman for the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation, said Thursday the group is hoping for a ceremonial groundbreaking April 19, and completion sometime late in 1999.

The project's cost is estimated at \$ 24 million. The group already has raised \$ 3.5 million in private funds and is hoping to get \$ 5 million from the state Legislature.

The president's signature on the legislation "now kickstarts our national fund-raising effort, and we will obviously be working hard

to raise the additional money," Ferguson said.

Oklahoma's elected officials, including the congressional delegation, Gov. Frank Keating and Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick, now have 90 days to recommend to the president eight individuals to be named to the nine-member board of directors for the Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust, which will control the site.

The other member will be the secretary of Interior, or a person whom the secretary designates. Under the legislation, the trust is a wholly owned government corporation within the Department of Interior.

Robert M. Johnson, the chairman of the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation, is expected to be on one of those nominated for the trust and already has said he would serve.

Senate Majority Leader Don Nickles, who drafted the legislation with Rep. Frank Lucas, said, "I'm pleased the president quickly signed this bill into law.

"We begin construction of this locally controlled national memorial with the confidence that Congress, the president and the entire nation are behind our efforts. That support should help the Oklahoma City Memorial Trust raise the remaining funds necessary for construction."

Lucas said, "I think we should be very proud of the fact that Congress and the president recognized that strong local control was the way to go on this project."

The congressman said a number of members of the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation would make good members of the trust.

The foundation selected the design for the project and developed the fund-raising campaign.

Johnson also helped write the legislation, which was unique in that it established a Park Service unit but didn't give total control to the Park Service.

Instead, the trust was designated as the final authority over most major decisions. The Park Service and some lawmakers balked at the proposal. It was amended to ensure the Park Service would have input into the memorial's operation.

Ferguson said the foundation already is reviewing cooperative agreements that might have elements applicable to the trust's relationship with the Park Service.

She said that the group needs \$ 8.8 million to break ground in April but that construction might not follow until months later since architectural plans still have to be completed.

LOAD-DATE: March 19, 1998

16 USCS @ 450SS printed in FULL format.

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*** THIS SECTION IS CURRENT THROUGH 106-174, APPROVED 2/25/00 ***

TITLE 16. CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 1. NATIONAL PARKS, MILITARY PARKS, MONUMENTS, AND SEASHORES
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS

16 USCS @ 450ss (2000)

@ 450ss. Oklahoma City National Memorial; findings and purposes

Congress finds that--

(1) few events in the past quarter-century have rocked Americans' perception of themselves and their institutions, and brought together the people of our Nation with greater intensity than the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City;

(2) the resulting deaths of 168 people, some of whom were children, immediately touched thousands of family members whose lives will forever bear scars of having those precious to them taken away so brutally;

(3) suffering with such families are countless survivors, including children, who struggle not only with the suffering around them, but their own physical and emotional injuries and with shaping a life beyond April 19;

(4) such losses and struggles are personal and, since they resulted from so public an attack, they are also shared with a community, a Nation, and the world;

(5) the story of the bombing does not stop with the attack itself or with the many losses it caused. The responses of Oklahoma's public servants and private citizens, and those from throughout the Nation, remain as a testament to the sense of unity, compassion, even heroism, that characterized the rescue and recovery following the bombing;

(6) during the days immediately following the Oklahoma City bombing, Americans and people from around the world of all races, political philosophies, religions and walks of life responded with unprecedented solidarity and selflessness; and

(7) given the national and international impact and reaction, the Federal character of the site of the bombing, and the significant percentage of the victims and survivors who were Federal employees, the Oklahoma City Memorial will be established, designed, managed and maintained to educate present and future generations, through a public/private partnership, to work together efficiently and respectfully in developing a National Memorial relating to all aspects of the April 19, 1995, bombing in Oklahoma City.

HISTORY: (Oct. 9, 1997, P.L. 105-58, @ 2, 111 Stat. 1261.)

HISTORY; ANCILLARY LAWS AND DIRECTIVES

Short titles:

Act Oct. 9, 1997, P.L. 105-58, @ 1, 111 Stat. 1261, provides: "This Act [16 USCS @@ 450ss et seq.] may be cited as the 'Oklahoma City National Memorial Act of 1997'."

105 P.L. 58 printed in FULL format.

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PUBLIC LAW 105-58 [S. 871]
OCTOBER 09, 1997
OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL ACT OF 1997

105 P.L. 58; 111 Stat. 1261; 1997 Enacted S. 871; 105 Enacted S. 871

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An Act

To establish the Oklahoma City National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System; to designate the Oklahoma City Memorial Trust, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

[*1] SECTION 1. <16 USC 450ss note> SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Oklahoma City National Memorial Act of 1997".

[*2] SEC. 2. <16 USC 450ss> FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

Congress finds that--

(1) few events in the past quarter-century have rocked Americans' perception of themselves and their institutions, and brought together the people of our Nation with greater intensity than the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City;

(2) the resulting deaths of 168 people, some of whom were children, immediately touched thousands of family members whose lives will forever bear scars of having those precious to them taken away so brutally;

(3) suffering with such families are countless survivors, including children, who struggle not only with the suffering around them, but their own physical and emotional injuries and with shaping a life beyond April 19;

(4) such losses and struggles are personal and, since they resulted from so public an attack, they are also shared with a community, a Nation, and the world;

(5) the story of the bombing does not stop with the attack itself or with the many losses it caused. The responses of Oklahoma's public servants and private citizens, and those from throughout the Nation, remain as a testament to the sense of unity, compassion, even heroism, that characterized the rescue and recovery following the bombing;

(6) during the days immediately following the Oklahoma City bombing, Americans and people from around the world of all races, political philosophies, religions and walks of life responded with unprecedented solidarity and selflessness; and

(7) given the national and international impact and reaction, the Federal character of the site of the bombing, and the significant percentage of the victims and survivors who were Federal employees, the Oklahoma City Memorial will be established, designed, managed and maintained to educate [**1262] present and future generations, through a public/private partnership, to work together efficiently and respectfully in developing a National Memorial relating to all aspects of the April 19, 1995, bombing in Oklahoma City.

[*3] SEC. 3. <16 USC 450ss-1> DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) Memorial. --The term "Memorial" means the Oklahoma City National Memorial designated under section 4(a).

(2) Secretary. --The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) Trust. --The term "Trust" means the Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust designated under section 5(a).

[*4] SEC. 4. <16 USC 450ss-2> OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

(a) In order to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States and the world, as a National Memorial certain lands located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, there is established as a unit of the National Park System the Oklahoma City National Memorial. The Memorial shall be administered by the Trust in cooperation with the Secretary and in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461-467).

(b) The Memorial area shall be comprised of the lands, facilities and structures generally depicted on the map entitled "Oklahoma City National Memorial", numbered OCNM 001, and dated May 1997 (hereafter referred to in this Act as the "map"):

(1) Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service and the Trust.

(2) After advising the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives, in writing, the Trust, as established by section 5 of this Act, in consultation with the Secretary, may make minor revisions of the boundaries of the Memorial when necessary by publication of a revised drawing or other boundary description in the Federal Register.

[*5] SEC. 5. <16 USC 450ss-3> OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRUST.

(a) Establishment.--There is established a wholly owned Government corporation to be known as the Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust.

(b) Board of Directors.--

(1) In general.-- The powers and management of the Trust shall be vested in a board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") consisting of the following 9 members:

(A) The Secretary or the Secretary's designee.

(B) Eight individuals, appointed by the President, from a list of recommendations submitted by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma; and a list of recommendations submitted by the Mayor of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and a list of recommendations submitted by the United States Senators from Oklahoma; and a list of recommendations submitted by United States Representatives from Oklahoma. The President shall make the appointments referred to in this subparagraph within 90 days after the enactment of this Act.

[**1263] (2) Terms.-- Members of the Board appointed under paragraph (1)(B) shall each serve for a term of 4 years, except that of the members first appointed, 2 shall serve for a term of 3 years; and 2 shall serve a term of 2 years. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made, and any member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of that term for which his or her predecessor was appointed. No appointed member may serve more than 8 years in consecutive terms.

(3) Quorum.-- Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business by the Board.

(4) Organization and compensation.-- The Board shall organize itself in such a manner as it deems most appropriate to effectively carry out the authorized activities of the Trust. Board members shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for the actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties of the Trust.

(5) Liability of directors.-- Members of the Board of Directors shall not be considered Federal employees by virtue of their membership on the Board, except for purposes of the Federal Tort Claims Act and the Ethics in Government Act, and the provisions of chapter 11 of title 18, United States Code.

(6) Meetings.-- The Board shall meet at least three times per year in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and at least two of those meetings shall be opened to the public. Upon a majority vote, the Board may close any other meetings to the public. The Board shall establish procedures for providing public information and opportunities for public comment regarding operations maintenance and management of the Memorial; as well as, policy, planning and design issues.

(7) Staff.--

(A) Non-national park service staff.--The Trust is authorized to appoint and fix the compensation and duties of an executive director and such other officers and employees as it deems necessary without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may pay them without regard to the provisions of chapter 51, and subchapter III of chapter 53, title 5, United States Code, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

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(B) Interim park service staff.--At the request of the Trust, the Secretary shall provide for a period not to exceed 2 years, such personnel and technical expertise, as necessary, to provide assistance in the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

(C) Park service staff.--At the request of the Trust, the Secretary shall provide such uniformed personnel, on a reimbursable basis, to carry out day-to-day visitor service programs.

(D) Other federal employees.--At the request of the Trust, the Director of any other Federal agency may provide such personnel, on a reimbursable basis, to carry out day-to-day visitor service programs.

(8) Necessary powers.-- The Trust shall have all necessary and proper powers for the exercise of the authorities vested in it.

[**1264] (9) Taxes.-- The Trust and all properties administered by the Trust shall be exempt from all taxes and special assessments of every kind by the State of Oklahoma, and its political subdivisions including the county of Oklahoma and the city of Oklahoma City.

(10) Government corporation.--

(A) The Trust shall be treated as a wholly owned Government corporation subject to chapter 91 of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Government Corporation Control Act). Financial statements of the Trust shall be audited annually in accordance with section 9105 of title 31 of the United States Code.

(B) At the end of each calendar year, the Trust shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a comprehensive and detailed report of its operations, activities, and accomplishments for the prior fiscal year. The report also shall include a section that describes in general terms the Trust's goals for the current fiscal year.

[*6] SEC. 6. <16 USC 450ss-4> DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF THE TRUST.

(a) Overall Requirements of the Trust.--The Trust shall administer the operation, maintenance, management and interpretation of the Memorial including, but not limited to, leasing, rehabilitation, repair and improvement of property within the Memorial under its administrative jurisdiction using the authorities provided in this section, which shall be exercised in accordance with--

(1) the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park Service, including: "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes" approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4);

(2) the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; U.S.C. 461-467);

(3) the general objectives of the "Memorial Mission Statement", adopted March 26, 1996, by the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation;

(4) the "Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation Intergovernmental Letter of Understanding", dated October 28, 1996; and

(5) the Cooperative Agreement to be entered into between the Trust and the Secretary pursuant to this Act.

(b) Authorities.--

(1) The Trust may participate in the development of programs and activities at the properties designated by the map, and the Trust shall have the authority to negotiate and enter into such agreements, leases, contracts and other arrangements with any person, firm, association, organization, corporation or governmental entity, including, without limitation, entities of Federal, State and local governments as are necessary and appropriate to carry out its authorized activities. Any such agreements may be entered into without regard to section 321 of the Act of June 30, 1932 (40 U.S.C. 303b).

(2) The Trust shall establish procedures for lease agreements and other agreements for use and occupancy of Memorial facilities, including a requirement that in entering into such agreements the Trust shall obtain reasonable competition.

[**1265] (3) The Trust may not dispose of or convey fee title to any real property transferred to it under this Act.

(4) Federal laws and regulations governing procurement by Federal agencies shall not apply to the Trust, with the exception of laws and regulations related to Federal Government contracts governing working conditions, and any civil rights provisions otherwise applicable thereto.

(5) The Trust, in consultation with the Administrator of Federal Procurement Policy, shall establish and promulgate procedures applicable to the Trust's procurement of goods and services including, but not limited to, the award of contracts on the basis of contractor qualifications, price, commercially reasonable buying practices, and reasonable competition.

(c) Management Program.--Within one year after the enactment of this Act, the Trust, in consultation with the Secretary, shall develop a cooperative agreement for management of those lands, operations and facilities within the Memorial established by this Act. In furtherance of the general purposes of this Act, the Secretary and the Trust shall enter into a Cooperative Agreement pursuant to which the Secretary shall provide technical assistance for the planning, preservation, maintenance, management, and interpretation of the Memorial. The Secretary also shall provide such maintenance, interpretation, curatorial management, and general management as mutually agreed to by the Secretary and the Trust.

(d) Donations.--The Trust may solicit and accept donations of funds, property, supplies, or services from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other private or public entities for the purposes of carrying out its duties.

(e) Proceeds.--Notwithstanding section 1341 of title 31 of the United States Code, all proceeds received by the Trust shall be retained by the Trust, and such proceeds shall be available, without further appropriation, for the

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administration, operation, preservation, restoration, operation and maintenance, improvement, repair and related expenses incurred with respect to Memorial properties under its administrative jurisdiction. The Secretary of the Treasury, at the option of the Trust shall invest excess monies of the Trust in public debt securities which shall bear interest at rates determined by the Secretary of the Treasury taking into consideration the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States of comparable maturity.

(f) Suits.--The Trust may sue and be sued in its own name to the same extent as the Federal Government. Litigation arising out of the activities of the Trust shall be conducted by the Attorney General; except that the Trust may retain private attorneys to provide advice and counsel. The District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any suit filed against the Trust.

(g) Bylaws, Rules and Regulations.--The Trust may adopt, amend, repeal, and enforce bylaws, rules and regulations governing the manner in which its business may be conducted and the powers vested in it may be exercised. The Trust is authorized, in consultation with the Secretary, to adopt and to enforce those rules and regulations that are applicable to the operation of the National Park System and that may be necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties and responsibilities under this Act. The Trust shall [**1266] give notice of the adoption of such rules and regulations by publication in the Federal Register.

(h) Insurance.--The Trust shall require that all leaseholders and contractors procure proper insurance against any loss in connection with properties under lease or contract, or the authorized activities granted in such lease or contract, as is reasonable and customary.

[*7] SEC. 7. <16 USC 450ss-5> LIMITATIONS ON FUNDING.

Authorization of Appropriations:

(1) In general.-- In furtherance of the purposes of this Act, there is hereby authorized the sum of \$ 5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(2) Matching requirement.-- Amounts appropriated in any fiscal year to carry out the provisions of this Act may only be expended on a matching basis in a ratio of at least one non-Federal dollar to every Federal dollar. For the purposes of this provision, each non-Federal dollar donated to the Trust or to the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation for the creation, maintenance, or operation of the Memorial shall satisfy the matching dollar requirement without regard to the fiscal year in which such donation is made.

[*8] SEC. 8. <16 USC 450ss-6> ALFRED P. MURRAH FEDERAL BUILDING.

Prior to the construction of the Memorial the Administrator of General Services shall, among other actions, exchange, sell, lease, donate, or otherwise dispose of the site of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, or a portion thereof, to the Trust. Any such disposal shall not be subject to--

(1) the Public Buildings Act of 1959 (40 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

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(2) the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. et seq.); or

(3) any other Federal law establishing requirements or procedures for the disposal of Federal property.

[*9] SEC. 9. <46 USC 450ss-7> GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE STUDY.

Six years after the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Trust, the General Accounting Office shall conduct an interim study of the activities of the Trust and shall report the results of the study to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the United States Senate, [**1267] and the Committee on Resources and Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives. The study shall include, but shall not be limited to, details of how the Trust is meeting its obligations under this Act.

DESCRIPTORS: OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.; OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL; OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRUST; MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS; BOMBS; TERRORISM; PUBLIC BUILDINGS

OPM process <sup>Henry Mitchell
Susan Whitman</sup>
letter from WH to OPM
Pavetta to Calhoun's
predecessor
(Kory)
needs to
be SOL(c)(3)
on behalf of whom

FEAR
scholarship fund
for parents who

did it for Kosovo
humanitarian crisis
individuals injured

Kenya + Tanzania
victims

policy - tighten + narrow
scope of "disasters or emergencies"

FEAR
→ Generally only what's
beyond state ability

> 72K, OK city
offered counselors

> financial assistance
| appropriated funds
| can pay for programs
| can go directly to
individuals

can send personnel
connect them w/
charitable assistance

\$ to states, etc.
to rebuild govt structures

FEAR & KOSOVO ⇒ phone lines
operators
helped do collection
of funds

| steered people to orgs
raising money