

FOIA MARKER

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African American Accomplishments

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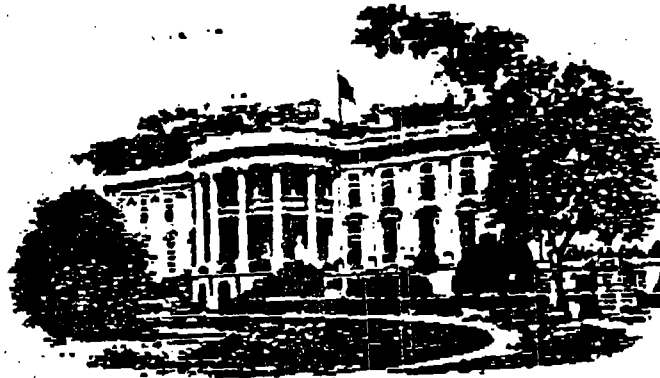
Ben
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THE WHITE HOUSE

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Jan 23 1995



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Number of Pages to Follow: 2

NOTES: _____

January 1995

AFRICAN AMERICAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ECONOMY:

- The economy created **5.6 million new jobs** in the first 23 months of this Administration.
- For adult African Americans, the **unemployment rate dipped to 9.8%** in December -- the first time it has dropped below 10% since August 1974: (When President Clinton took office in January 1993, the unemployment rate for African American adults was 14.2%.)
- Lowest **"misery index"** in 20 years.

EDUCATION:

- Signed the **Student Loan Reform Act**, August 10, 1993.
- Signed the **National Service Act**, September 21, 1993.
- Signed the **Goals 2000: Educate America Act**.
- Signed the **School-to-Work Act** on May 4, 1994.
- Signed the **Elementary and Secondary Schools Act**.
- Increased **Head Start** funding by \$760 million.
- Introduced the **Reemployment Act**.

CIVIL RIGHTS:

- The Administration argued in federal court to expand the interpretation of the Voting Rights Act.
- The Justice Department Civil Rights Division filed a record 140 cases last year to enforce fair housing laws, a 35% increase from the number of cases filed in 1992.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development has aggressively fought to knock down discriminatory barriers, actively intervening to integrate a once segregated public housing complex in Vidor, Texas.
- The Treasury Department, working with the Justice Department, ordered a Mississippi bank that denied loans because of race to implement a remedial lending plan for minority customers.

CRIME:

- Signed a tough **\$30 billion Crime Bill**, September 13, 1994
- Signed the **Brady Bill**, November 30, 1993.
- Signed the **Assault Weapons Ban**.
- On the way to putting **100,000 new police** on the street.
- Signed the **Police Hiring Supplement**, which awards \$200 million for **community policing**.
- Expanded funding for the **SAFE Schools Initiative**.

REINVENTING GOVERNMENT:

- Appointed the most **diverse Cabinet and Administration** in history.
- Members of the Clinton cabinet include **4 African Americans**, two

Hispanics and six women.

- President Clinton has to date **nominated 31 African American** to the Federal bench -- 22% of his total federal bench nominations.
- Conducted a **National Performance Review** of the Federal Government.
- Already cut the **Federal Workforce by 100,000** -- on the way to lowest level in 30 years.

HEALTH CARE:

- Introduced the **Health Care Security Act**, November 20, 1993.
- Signed the **Family and Medical Leave Act**, February 5, 1993.
- Signed a comprehensive **Child Immunization Plan**.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Created nine **Economic Empowerment Zones** and 95 **Enterprise Communities**.
- Signed the **Community Development Banking Bill**, September 23, 1994.
- Introduced the **Housing and Community Development Act** of 1993.

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN:

- Expanded the **Earned Income Tax Credit** by \$21 billion over five years.
- Introduced the **Work and Responsibility Act** - comprehensive welfare reform.
- Passed the **Family Support and Preservation Program**.
- Issued the **Federal Plan to End Homelessness**.
- Passed major funding increases for **homeless programs** in both Houses.
- Approved **24 waivers** to states permitting comprehensive **welfare reform** demonstrations.

POLITICAL REFORM:

- Signed the **National Voter Registration Act (Motor-Voter)**, May 20, 1993. This expands voting rights for all, including the poor and the young, by creating new, more accessible voter registration locations.

ENVIRONMENT:

- The EPA identified 20 environmental justice pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities and turn them into useable space, creating jobs and enhancing community development.

(AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY TALKING POINTS)

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Family and Medical Leave Act, February 5, 1993.**
This is an historic effort to allow working Americans unpaid time off work to care for a sick relative or a new child. Over 42 million workers are covered by the new law and it is estimated that as many as 2.5 million workers will take advantage of it annually.
- **Student Loan Reform Act, August 10, 1993.**
The new direct student loan program will enable 20 million borrowers to consolidate their guaranteed loans into direct loans. Borrowers will benefit from lower fees and the option of income contingent repayment -- taxpayers will save at least \$4.3 billion over five years.
- **Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, August 10, 1993.**
After a decade of failed attempts, President Clinton championed the passage of this legislation, which uses tax incentives and flexible grants to promote economic empowerment and private-sector job creation in 104 distressed communities across America. Over 500 communities took up the "EZ" challenge, developing comprehensive strategies and forging unprecedented partnerships for community renewal that made all applicants winners.
- **National Service Act, September 21, 1993.**
In 1994, 20,000 AmeriCorps members (more than served during the largest year of the Peace Corps) tutored students, immunized children, reclaimed parks and patrolled streets -- and in return received education awards that make college or job training more affordable. AmeriCorps is scheduled to increase to 33,000 members in FY1995, with a total over the first three years of 100,00- Americans serving our country.
- **The Brady Act, November 30, 1993.**
After stalling for several years in Congress, the Brady Bill became law under the leadership of President Clinton. The Act requires a five-day waiting period during which all potential handgun purchasers are required to submit to a background check. \$100 million has been appropriated for implementation in FY1995 and another \$50 million is authorized for the next fiscal year.
- **Goals 2000: Educate America Act, March 31, 1994.**
The Goals 2000 bill codifies the National Education Goals and offers grants to states that commit themselves to specific plans for systemic reform of K-12 education. Already 41 states and territories have received federal grants. Funding for Goals 2000 in FY1995 will be \$403 million.

• **School-to-Work Act, May 4, 1994.**

A crucial element of the Administration's lifelong learning agenda, this landmark legislation will provide venture capital to spark a nationwide system for moving America's young people smoothly from the classroom to a job with a future. This year, all states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have received funds for planning their school-to-work programs and eight states and 15 localities will receive grants to implement their programs.

• **The Crime Bill, September 13, 1994.**

The \$30 billion Crime Bill attacks crime by adding 100,000 police officers, funding comprehensive prevention programs and building more prisons. The legislation also includes strong punishment for criminals by expanding the number of offenses eligible for the death penalty and implementing "three-strikes-and-your-out" for repeat violent offenders.

• **Assault Weapons Ban, September 13, 1994.**

President Clinton successfully challenged gun interests to ban 19 specific types of deadly assault weapons while simultaneously protecting hunters rights by exempting over 650 hunting rifles.

• **Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act, September 23, 1994.**

This legislation creates a national network of non-traditional grassroots community lending institutions and will inject \$4.8 billion of capital into economically distressed urban and rural areas.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Alexis -

A reminder...

2 events

1) African American
wreath laying
(2/1 - NO POTUS)

2) Musical Salute
to African Americans
@ Constitution Hall
(2/17 - POTUS yes)

— Billy

JAN 23 1995