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Black History Month

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DRAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 8, 1995

*Told 'em
OK*

Dear Editor:

As the Clinton Administration commemorates Black History Month, coinciding with the midpoint of the President's first term, I take this opportunity to outline some of our accomplishments that particularly impact the African American community.

We are proud of the progress made so far. Since taking office, President Clinton has created 5.7 million additional jobs -- bringing down the unemployment rate for African Americans to the lowest its been in over 10 years. This is the first time since 1974 that we've had eight consecutive months of single-digit unemployment in the African American community. (Figures are calculated for adults, 20 years and older.)

The Administration fulfilled one of the President's most cherished campaign promises -- to significantly expand the earned income tax credit (EITC). The President's plan gives 15 million working families a tax cut. The expansion will lift many families out of poverty and help make sure that no parent who works full time has to raise a child in poverty.

The President is committed to rewarding those who work and play by the rules, making our streets safer and providing people with education, training and skills they need to seize the opportunities of tomorrow. We recognize that there is more work to be done and that our progress is a step toward these goals. We are continuing efforts towards change.

We believe that the following accomplishments document presents a strong record of progress that we will continue to build on.

Sincerely,

Leon Panetta
Chief of Staff

E.

AFRICAN AMERICAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ECONOMY:

- The economy created **5.7 million new jobs** in the first 2 years of this Administration.
- For adult African Americans, the **unemployment rate dipped to 8.8%** in January -- one of the lowest rates since August 1974.
(When President Clinton took office in January 1993, the unemployment rate for African American adults was 12.6%.)
- Lowest "**miser index**" in 20 years. The "**miser index**" equals the sum of the inflation rate and the unemployment rate.

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 Justice Department **settled the Denny's Restaurant racial discrimination lawsuit** brought by six U.S. secret service agents. The suit against Denny's was decided in favor of the plaintiffs.
- The Administration argued in federal court to expand the interpretation of the **Voting Rights Act**.
- The Justice Department Civil Rights Division filed a record 189 cases in the last fiscal year to **enforce fair housing laws**, a 125% increase from the number of cases filed in fiscal year 1992.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development actively intervened and **desegregated a Vidor, Texas public housing complex**.
- The Treasury Department, working with the Justice Department, **ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans** for minority customers once denied loans by the bank.

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 seven women.
- **14%** of total Administration appointees are **African American**.
- President Clinton has to date **nominated 31 African Americans** 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 the 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.
- Issued an **Executive Order on Environmental Justice**, ensuring that low income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution.

(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 100,000 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.

Feb 8, 1995



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Cancelled
Secy of Energy
not available
2/7/95

January 9, 1995

1030-1130
Forrestal Bldg AUD.
1000 Indep. Ave

JAN 9 1995

Ms. Alexis Herman, Assistant to the President and
Director, Public Liaison
The White House
2nd Floor West Wing
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Herman:

pix + bio
sent to
1000 Indep Ave SW
Jeane Wms Zip 20585
Room 4B080

The Department of Energy will be observing National African-American History Month with an opening ceremony in the Forrestal Building Auditorium on February 8, 1995, at 10:30 a.m. As one of our leading African American giants, we would be honored and most appreciative if you will join us and participate in the opening celebration of the Department's first "Hall of Fame" in observance of African-American History Month.

Bill Gray
infuse
Craig
Bernice Job

The Department of Energy continues to recognize African-American heritage with appropriate ceremonies and activities. The Department's Office of Civil Rights has outlined a Headquarters African-American History Month observance to contrast past and present African American giants. The 1995 National theme is "Reflections on 1895: Douglas, DuBois, Washington". The Department of Energy Headquarters' theme is "Shades of Color: A Prism of Faces in High Places".

Your presence will ensure a successful and meaningful celebration. Please contact Dr. Margaret Batchelor-White with your response on (202) 586-2265 or via fax on (202) 586-9406.

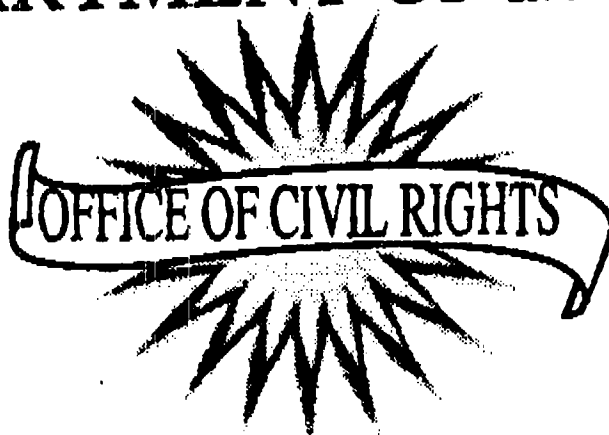
Sincerely,

Corlis S. Moody
Director
Office of Economic Impact and Diversity

Forrestal Bldg
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1000 Indep
Auditori

AMH to be inducted
in Energy's "Hall of Fame"
Just a 3 min. thank
you." and customary
pix taken.
8 people
will be inducted

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



JAN 9 1995

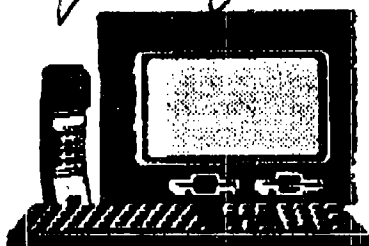
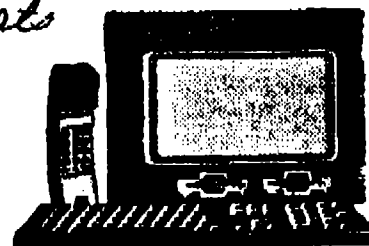
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TO: Ms. Ruby May FROM: Jeannette WilliamsORGANIZATION: _____ ORGANIZATION: ED-4TELEPHONE: 456-6455 TELEPHONE: 586-⁴²²¹~~2221~~FAX PHONE: 456-2983 FAX PHONE: 586-~~2221~~ 9406

APPROVAL: _____ DATE: _____

REMARKS: Please note the attached letter
Per our brief tele conv.Thanks for your suggestions
regarding "how to" control
program with such diverse
invited guestsI am
gratefulJeannette



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 9, 1995

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The White House
2nd Floor West Wing
Washington, D.C. 20503

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