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Folder Title:

Correspondence/Memos to Alexis Herman [1]

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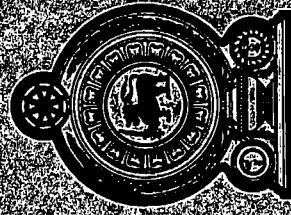
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CORRESPONDENCE MEMOS TO A. HERMAN

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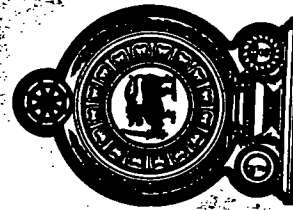
*With the Compliment
of the Ambassador of Sri Lanka*

Embassy of Shri Lanka
2148 Wyoming Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

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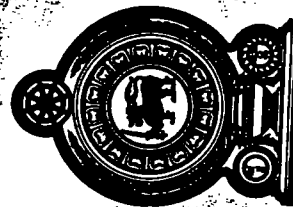
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THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF THE CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE.

Advocates for CCRI claim that it was based on the 1964 Civil Rights Act. However, its central phrase ("preferential treatment") is not found in the 1964 Act.

Because the term "preferential treatment" is not an existing legal term, any prediction of how it will be interpreted by the courts is necessarily uncertain. The analysis that follows is based on the analysis prepared for the ballot by the California Legislative Analyst:

- * Counseling and recruiting programs designed to assist minority youth in applying to college will be eliminated.
- * "Girls Math" programs designed to counteract sex discrimination against girls by helping middle school and high school girls remain competitive in math and science will be eliminated.
- * Counseling, outreach and recruiting programs designed to counteract discrimination in government employment by encouraging minority group members to apply for government employment and promotions will be eliminated.
- * Women/minority business programs designed to help counteract discrimination in government contracting by giving special assistance and consideration to women/minority owned businesses will be eliminated.
- * Magnet schools designed to desegregate school districts will probably be eliminated.
- * Women's centers on state college/university campuses will probably be eliminated.
- * Women's studies and ethnic studies programs/classes at state colleges/universities may be eliminated.
- * The California Constitution will be amended to make it legal to discriminate against women in state employment, contracting and education when "reasonably necessary."

JOIN THE STATEWIDE "NO ON CCRI" CAMPAIGN

Over 150 civil rights and women's rights organizations have united in a statewide campaign to defeat the deceptive California "Civil Rights" Initiative. As you know, CCRI would repeal public affirmative action programs in employment, education and contracting and would also gut sex discrimination laws. Here's how to get involved (if you have not already) to defeat CCRI and support equal opportunity for all Californians:

NO ON CCRI CAMPAIGN OFFICES

Headquarters: 8170 Beverly Blvd., Suite 205
Los Angeles, CA 90048
Phone (213) 782-1144; Fax (213) 782-1159

301 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone (415) 543-7802; Fax (415) 543-2382

1830 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115
Phone (415) 775-3739; Fax (415) 921-8412

What you can do:

VOLUNTEER: Work in a campaign office, distribute campaign literature to members of your organization, or at community events or activities you attend. Contact Chris Taylor at (213) 782-1144 or Erica Teasley at (415) 543-7802.

FUNDRAISE: Give money and get people you know to donate. Contact Amy Gerver at (213) 782-1144 or Zoon Nguyen at (415) 775-3739. Send all contributions to "No On CCRI" P.O. Box 3385, Los Angeles, CA 90051-3385. Please include employer and occupation for campaign finance purposes.

Committee ID #951325.

RESEARCH: Provide information to the campaign by sending press clippings, and observing and taping local talk radio and television programs. Contact Patti Bellasalma (213) 782-1144.

PRESS: Write Op-Ed pieces and Letters to the Editor in support of affirmative action and women's rights. Contact Staci Haag at (213) 782-1144.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND FIELD

Californians for Justice (510) 452-2728
So. L.A. Affirmative Action Project (213) 730-4953

What you can do:

Donate office space; provide phone-banking resources and contact lists; register voters; organize.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION SPEAKERS' BUREAU

No On CCRI Headquarters (213) 782-1144
National Lawyers Guild (415) 285-1041

What you can do:

Get trained to speak out for affirmative action and request speakers to participate in events in your workplace, school or community organization.

Contact Chris Taylor at (213) 782-1144 or
Beth Kohn at (415) 285-1041.

FREEDOM SUMMER '96

No On CCRI/Feminist Majority (213) 651-0495.

What you can do:

Provide housing and transportation for Freedom Summer students; donate office space and provide office resources for Freedom Summer volunteers to aid in voter registration, outreach and phone-banking efforts; recruit students to be Freedom Summer and Freedom Fall interns.

Contact Justine Andronici at (213) 651-0495.

HOUSE PARTY PROGRAM

No On CCRI Headquarters (213) 782-1144.

What you can do:

Throw a house party to educate your friends while raising money to defeat CCRI.

Contact Rahda Patel at (213) 782-1144.

Prepared by the "No On CCRI" Campaign (415) 543-7802

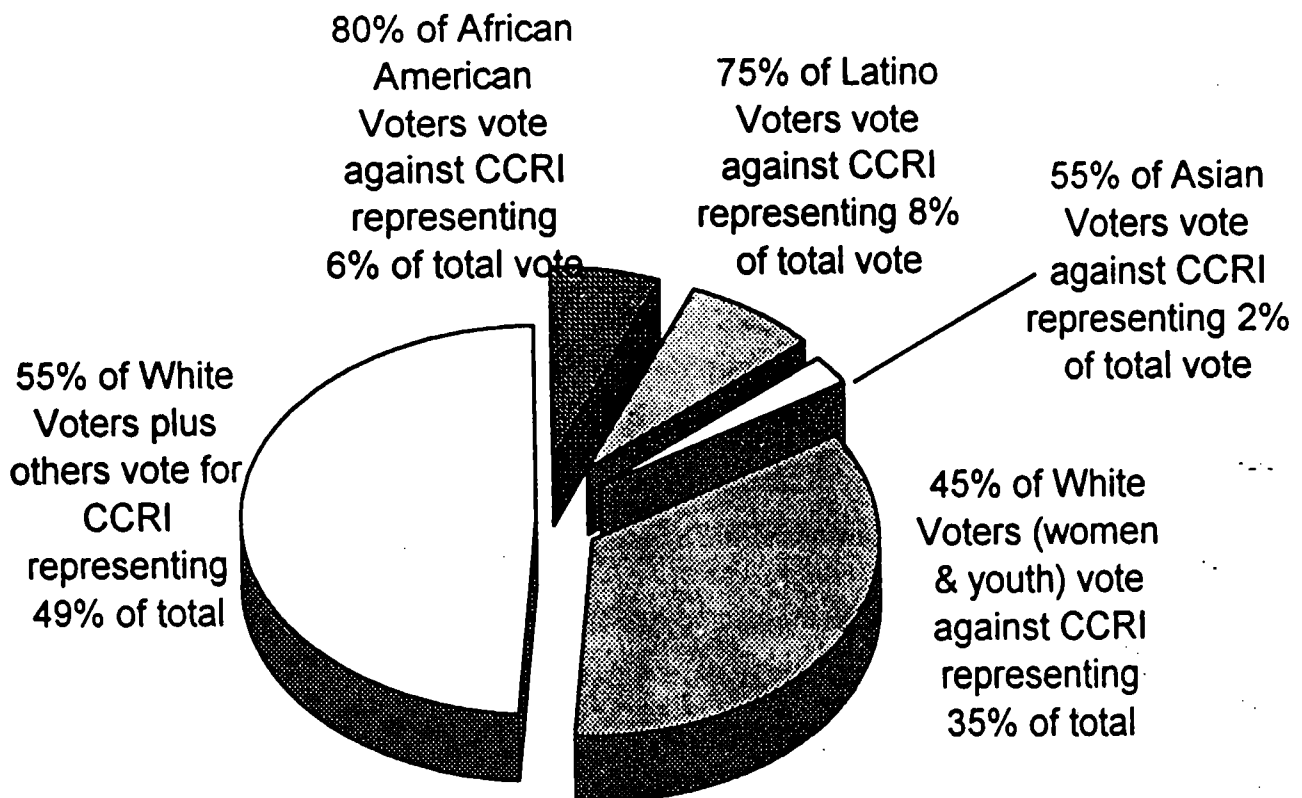
Applied Research Center Scenario for 1996 Victory over CCRI

	1996 Projections			
	Electorate	% of Electorate	% against CCRI	vote against CCRI
Total Voters	9,000,000			
African Americans	675,000	7.5%	80.0%	540,000
Latinos	900,000	10.0%	75.0%	675,000
Asians	405,000	4.5%	55.0%	222,750
Total People of Color	1,980,000	22.0%	72.6%	1,437,480
Whites	7,020,000	78.0%	45.0%	3,159,000

KEY POINTS OF SCENARIO

- Increase African American % of state electorate 2.5%, and win 80% of that vote.
- Win 75% of Latino vote, and increase % of state electorate by 2%.
- Split Asian vote and win 55% of that vote.
- Split White vote by gender & age, and win 45% of that vote.

Voting Scenario for 1996 Victory over CCRI



LEAID. LEAID. LEAID. LEAID. LEAID.

HEADLINE: The quota busters from Berkeley

COLUMN: PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

BYLINE: PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

IN NOVEMBER 1916, Republican candidate Charles Evans Hughes, confident his commanding lead in the Electoral College guaranteed victory over Woodrow Wilson, went to bed early, telling aides he did not wish to be disturbed.

After California's returns were wired east, however, a small troop of reporters approached the candidate's suite, for comment.

"The president has retired for the night!" an aide responded.

"Well, when he wakes up," one reporter cracked, "tell him he isn't president anymore."

The San Francisco Examiner, February 3, 1994

Eighty years later, the Golden State is more crucial than ever, with 54 electoral votes, a fifth of those needed to win. And no one is more cognizant of California's political weight than Bill Clinton, first Democrat in 28 years to carry the state. Given his weakness in the South, Clinton must have California to win again.

But if the GOP can take back California, it is halfway home. As Barry Goldwater used to say, it is as simple as that.

But retaking California will not be easy because the GOP was not just defeated there in '92, it was demolished, with just 31 percent of the vote.

To win back California, the party must win back the Perot vote, that vast middle-class constituency, alienated and populist, that felt itself abandoned by the Beltway.

To the point: If the GOP is casting about for a populist issue to reunite its old coalition and to slice Bill Clinton's new coalition asunder, that issue is at hand.

The "California Civil Rights Initiative" will be on the ballot in '96 if backers can gather 616,000 signatures.

The San Francisco Examiner, February 3, 1994

What does the initiative do? It amends the state Constitution to read:
"Neither the state of California nor any of its political subdivisions shall use race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin as a criterion either for discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group in the operation of the state's system of public employment, public education or public contracting."

The initiative is a quota buster.

"No more government hiring by sex or skin tone," says the Orange County Register. "No racial quotas in university admissions. No more awards of public contracts on the basis of race rather than merit. No more dividing people up by groups rather than honoring them as individuals."

If the initiative should win in California, like the tax-cutting and term-limit propositions that came out of the West, it would sweep the nation.

Among the absurdities that impelled Bay Area scholar Glynn Custred to write the initiative is an annual bill introduced in Sacramento that would mandate that the graduating class of every state college reflect California's ethnic composition.

The San Francisco Examiner, February 3, 1994

Politically, the initiative's appeal is obvious. A 1988 California field poll found 75 percent of voters opposed to racial preferences, including majorities in every single ethnic group.

Not only would the initiative reunite the old Reagan coalition, it would attract Jewish voters with memories of what quotas meant to their parents, and Asian voters whose kids are victimized because they work too hard and succeed too often.

Clinton would be forced to choose between the wing of his party that still believes in judging men on their merits, not their color, and the part that embraces quotas as a necessary instrument of equality. On an issue of vital interest to each, Clinton would have to choose between his New Democrat constituency or Jesse Jackson and the NAACP.

As '96 is the year term limits take effect in California, forcing Democrats to take sides on the initiative could devastate the party.

Custred & Co. had hoped to have the initiative on the ballot by 1994, but they are shooting for the winner-take-all presidential primary that has been moved up to March 1996.

The San Francisco Examiner, February 3, 1994

Meanwhile, Republicans in the 22 other states with ballot initiatives ought to be looking to put racial quotas to a popular vote; and the national GOP should write a version of the initiative into the 1996 party platform.

This matter is more crucial than politics, or California in '96, or even the presidency. It is about whether America is going to remain one country, or whether there is a Bosnia in our future. From the racial resentments and ethnic hatreds aired daily on radio and TV, it is clear America is headed toward Balkanization.

The initiative would ring down the curtain on race-based and gender-based entitlements. Rooted in the grand idea that enabled our immigrant ancestors to come together to build this nation, it provides common ground upon which blacks, Asians, whites and Hispanics can stand together, to "grow" that nation, the common ground that success here depends not on who your parents were, but on who you are.

Patrick J. Buchanan is a syndicated columnist.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE-MDC: FEBRUARY 10, 1994

NEXIS. LE



NATIONAL
MINORITY SUPPLIER
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL, INC.

letter fax'd & sent
5/3/96

March 25, 1996

MAR 25 1996

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The Boeing Company

Ms. Alexis M. Herman
Assistant to the President and Director,
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Alexis:

It was great seeing you again at the reception for Haitian President Preval on March 21, 1996. I regret it has been so long between conversations.

Let me start this letter by thanking you for your assistance and support in arranging the upcoming meeting between White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta and several of the major minority business and civil rights organizations. The opportunity to discuss and clarify the Clinton Administration's vision and support for Affirmative Action programs in general, and minority business opportunities specifically, has been long sought and sorely needed. I believe very strongly in President Clinton's commitment to "equal opportunity and access" and "leveling the playing field". My concerns are with those in the Administration who don't share the vision and are therefore sending different signals to the minority community.

There are a few issues, at the heart of the Affirmative Action debate which need administrative clarification. They are:

- 1) Is the Clinton Administration continuing its commitment to enforce legal remedies, including race and gender-based programs to address past and current discriminatory patterns?

The White House Office of Public Liaison

Alexis M. Herman, Director

Phone (202) 456-2930

Fax (202) 456-6218

Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

Number of Pages (Including Cover) 5

To Alexis Herman

Fax Number 456-2930

Office Number _____

Date 4/15/96

From Richard Wags

***** COMMENTS *****

attached is a draft response to Harriet Mitchell's letter to you

To OPL / From Mail

March 18, 1996

FY 97 AGENCY BUDGET ROLLOUT

Friday, March 15

10:00 a.m. Department of Labor

Budget Press Roundtable: Secretary Reich will host a Press Roundtable with the National Publishers Association (briefing room) - 20 publishers.

Monday, March 18

10:00 a.m. Department of Commerce

FY 1997 budgetary request: Secretary Brown will conduct a press conference and rollout of the FY 1997 budgetary request for the Department of Commerce (room 4830).

Tuesday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Veterans Affairs

Releasing President's FY 97 Budget: Secretary Brown is scheduled to release the President's FY 97 Budget during a briefing for members of the press (Omar Bradley Conference Room).

9:30 a.m. United States Department of Agriculture

Budget Press Conference: Secretary Glickman will be holding a press conference (room 107), about USDA's portion of the FY 1997 Budget.

10:00 a.m. Department of Housing and Urban Development

FY 97 Budget: As part of the Administration release of its FY 97 budget on March 19, HUD will hold a series of briefings on the HUD budget to key Congressional staff (10:00 a.m., 2128 Rayburn Building), constituency groups (1:00 p.m., Department Conference Room), and the press (3:30 p.m., Department Conference Room). HUD is also working with the White House and the National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Counties to engage 20 mayors in an announcement strategy next week that applauds the major urban initiatives in the President's Budget (e.g. empowerment zones, brownfields, CDFIs, etc).

10:00 a.m. Veterans Affairs

Releasing President's FY 97 Budget: Secretary Brown is scheduled to release the President's FY 97 Budget with some members of Congress and staff of veterans service organizations (Conference Room 230).

11:00 a.m. Department of Transportation

Budget Press Conference: Secretary Pena will be holding a press conference about DOT's FY 1997 departmental budget rollout (Media Room 2201).

11:00 a.m. Department of Energy

Budget Rollout: Secretary O'leary will lead the Department's budget rollout briefing for media and stakeholders (auditorium). The key message will be that the Department is achieving its missions at significantly lower cost.

11:00 a.m. Environmental Protection Agency

Budget Press Conference: Administrator Browner will brief reporters on the President's FY 1997 budget (auditorium).

1:00 p.m. Department of Education

Budget Press Conference: A press conference will be held to announce the Department's proposed budget for FY 1997 (auditorium).

1:00 p.m. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Briefing on the HUD budget to key constituency groups (Departmental Conference Room).

2:00 p.m. Department of the Interior

Budget Press Conference: Secretary Babbitt will hold a press conference on Interior's portion of the FY 1997 President's Budget (auditorium).

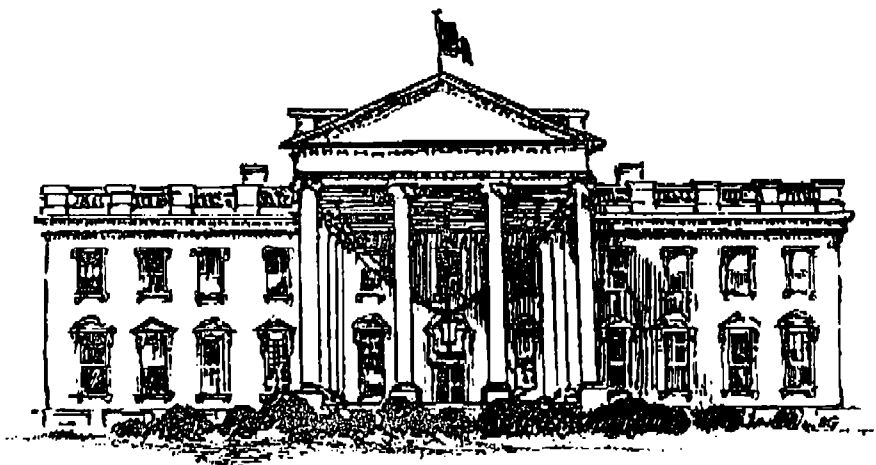
3:30 p.m. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Briefing on the HUD budget to the press (Departmental Conference Room).

3:30 p.m. Small Business Administration

Budget Press Conference: Administrator Lader will be holding a press briefing on FY 1997 budget (briefing room). Prior to this conference SBA will be meeting with their trade associations; no specific time or date has been set.

Budget Hearing: The House Small Business Committee has been talking about the possibility of a hearing on March 21 regarding SBA's FY 1997 budget request. The Administrator is expected to be invited to testify.



THE WHITE HOUSE

MAR 20 1996

To: Herman, Alexis

Date: 3-20-96

From: Donald Dunn

Page 1 of 9

The attached is FYI.

**BACKGROUND MATERIALS ON
PRESIDENT CLINTON'S FY 1997 BALANCED BUDGET**
March 19, 1996

★ Talking Points:

- 1 Page Overview Talking Points.
- 1 Page Summary of Key Investments in Education, Training, Worker Protections, and the Environment.

★ What A Difference 4 Years Makes:

- 1 Page Review of the Deficit, Government Spending, and the Size of Government -- Today vs. 4 Years Ago.

★ The Real Clinton Record:

- 1 Page "Reality Check" on President Clinton's Agenda, Accomplishments, and the Current Budget Negotiations.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S FY 1997 BUDGET BALANCES IN 7 YEARS WHILE PROTECTING MEDICARE, MEDICAID, EDUCATION, & THE ENVIRONMENT

March 19, 1996

PRESIDENT CLINTON CONTINUES HIS STRONG LEADERSHIP ON DEFICIT REDUCTION -- The first President in 17 years to submit a Balanced Budget using CBO numbers -- while protecting Medicare, Medicaid, Education and the Environment, and cutting taxes for middle-class families.

- **The Strongest Record on Deficit Reduction of Any President in History.** President Clinton inherited a \$290 billion deficit and cut it nearly in half -- without 1 Republican vote. The U.S. deficit today is now the lowest of any major economy in the world as a share of the economy.
- **After Voting Unanimously Against President Clinton's Deficit Reduction Plan, Republicans Have Now Embraced It.** President Clinton's 1993 deficit reduction plan is cutting \$1 trillion over 7 years. It has been so successful that Republicans have not sought to repeal it. Indeed their plan is built on it; without the President's deficit reduction plan, their budget would not come close to reaching balance.
- **President Clinton's Balanced Budget Makes Real Spending Cuts.** Because of the President's 1993 plan, spending is lower as a share of the economy than in any year since 1979. The President's Balanced Budget includes nearly \$300 billion in entitlement savings (\$124 billion in Medicare savings, \$59 billion from Medicaid, and \$40 billion from welfare reform) and nearly \$300 billion in discretionary cuts.

THIS BUDGET SHOWS AGAIN THAT THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO SIGN A BALANCED BUDGET THAT PROTECTS MEDICARE, MEDICAID, EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

- **President Clinton Vetoed The Extreme Republican Budget Because It Violated America's Values.** It wasn't a difference about spending -- it was a difference over whether to impose extreme cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, Education, and the Environment, and raise taxes on working families.
- **No To Needless Medicare & Medicaid Cuts.** Republicans wanted the President to sign a bill that cut Medicare and Medicaid by \$433 billion -- even though it is not necessary to balance the budget.
- **No To Needless Education & Environment Cuts.** Republicans wanted the President to sign a bill that cut Education and Training by \$31 billion and environmental enforcement by 25% -- even though it is not necessary to balance the budget.
- **No To Needless Tax Increases.** Republicans wanted the President to sign a bill that cut the EITC by \$31 billion, raising taxes on 8 million families -- even though it is not necessary to balance the budget.

WE HAVE A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO BALANCE THE BUDGET AND ENACT REAL REFORMS -- BUT ONLY IF REPUBLICANS ARE WILLING TO COME BACK TO COMMON GROUND IN PROTECTING MEDICARE, MEDICAID, EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

- **Balance the Budget Now.** Both sides have agreed to common savings of \$700 billion. Congress should pass these common savings, and give the American people a balanced budget the President can sign.
- **Congress Should Pass Health Care Protections For Workers --** the bipartisan Kennedy-Kassebaum Bill to eliminate pre-existing conditions exclusions and allow workers to keep their health insurance when they change or lose their jobs.
- **Congress Should Pass Bipartisan Welfare Reform** that is tough on work and protects children. The President's proposal establishes tough work requirements, time limits, and provides for needed child care.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S BALANCED BUDGET SHOWS THAT WE CAN BALANCE THE BUDGET
WHILE PROTECTING WORKING FAMILIES AND INVESTING IN EDUCATION**

- **Tax Cuts For Middle Class Families.** Cuts taxes for middle class families to make it easier to raise children, pay for their childrens' education, and save for retirement.
- **Continues Investments In Education, Training, and Technology:**
 - 20% increase in major education and training programs in 1997 over 1993 levels.
 - \$61 billion more for education and training over 7 years than the Republican budget.
 - Nearly \$1 billion more for Title I for basic and advanced skills assistance in 1997 than in 1993.
 - Increases funding for other education and training programs that work, such as: Pell Grants, Safe & Drug Free Schools, Charter Schools, School to Work, and Goals 2000.
 - Technology Literacy Challenge -- \$2 billion fund to help states, local communities, and the private sector bring the future to the fingertips of every child through computers & connections.
 - Investments in technological skills and advancement through the Advanced Technology Program, Manufacturing Extension Program, and the National Information Infrastructure.
- **Major Expansion of Head Start:**
 - New commitment to fund 1 million Head Start opportunities for preschool children by 2002.
 - \$1.2 billion increase in 1997 over 1993 levels.
 - Supports nearly 800,000 Head Start opportunities in 1997 -- 46,000 more than in 1995.
- **Other New Education Initiatives:**
 - \$1000 Honors Scholarships for top 5% of graduates from every high school.
 - Expanded Work Study to reach 1 million students by the year 2000.
 - \$250 million job training initiative to reduce unemployment among low-income youth.
 - \$10,000 Tuition Tax Deduction to help middle-class families afford college.
- **Continues Commitment To National Service:**
 - Funds 30,000 AmeriCorps members in 1997 -- 5,000 more than this year -- for a total of 100,000 AmeriCorps opportunities over the program's first 4 years.
- **More Assistance For Dislocated Workers:**
 - Double the funding from when President Clinton took office -- \$1.3 billion in FY97.
 - Assists an estimated 646,000 dislocated workers in FY97, up from 300,000 in 1993.
- **New Protections For Working Families:**
 - Health Insurance for Laid-Off Workers -- Health insurance assistance for 3.8 million Americans a year who lose insurance when they lose their job.
 - Pension Simplification -- to make it easier for employers to provide pensions.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S BALANCED BUDGET CONTINUES
AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

- **Increases Enforcement.** 23% increase in 1997 in EPA's operating program over 1993 levels -- which includes funds for environmental enforcement, state grants, research, and technology development.
- **Increases Clean Water Protections.** \$1.35 billion for Clean Water State Revolving Funds -- \$225 million more than the vetoed Republican FY96 appropriations bill.
- **Toxic Waste Protections.** Restores Superfund to the FY95 level -- \$231 million above the vetoed Republican FY96 appropriations bill -- to ensure that priority sites are cleaned up.
- **New Brownfields Initiative:** targeted tax incentives to clean up waste sites in distressed communities, spur private sector job creation and return land to productive uses.
- **New Everglades Initiative:** \$1.5 billion over 7 years to restore the Florida Everglades

WHAT A DIFFERENCE 4 YEARS MAKES

I. ELIMINATING THE DEFICIT

Four Years Ago.

- The deficit was \$290 billion -- the highest dollar level in history -- and rising.
- As President Clinton took office in January 1993, CBO projected the deficit would soar to \$455 billion in FY2000 and to \$589 billion in FY2002.

Today.

- The deficit has been nearly *cut in half* in three years, from \$290 billion to \$164 billion.
- The deficit is smaller as a share of the economy than any major economy in the world.
- Actual deficits in fiscal years 1993 to 1995 were *\$123 billion lower* than the Administration projected *after* enactment of the 1993 Economic Plan.
- CBO now projects that the deficit will be *\$1.5 trillion lower* over the next 7 years than projected when President Clinton took office, even without the President's balanced budget.
- Because of President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan, the 1995 budget would have had a \$14 billion *surplus*, had it not been for the interest on the debt accumulated during Reagan and Bush.

II. THE GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING LESS

Four Years Ago.

- Spending as a share of the economy increased for four years in a row during the Bush Administration.

Today.

- Government spending as a share of the economy is lower than under the Reagan or Bush Administrations -- the lowest of any year since 1979.
- President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan cut spending by \$255 billion, and his balanced budget cuts spending by over \$600 billion more. President Clinton's Balanced Budget cuts discretionary spending by \$297 billion and cuts entitlements by more than \$300 billion.

III. THE ERA OF BIG GOVERNMENT IS OVER

Four Years Ago.

- The Federal bureaucracy was larger when President Bush left office than when Reagan took office.
- Non-defense employment reached its highest level in history under President Bush.

Today.

- Reduced the federal workforce by more than 200,000 workers -- to the smallest in three decades.
- Employment at *every* Cabinet Department is lower than when President Clinton took office -- with the single exception of the Justice Department which has increased as part of our anti-crime efforts.
- Closing more than 2,000 unnecessary government field offices.
- Eliminating 16,000 pages of unneeded rules and regulations.

THE REAL CLINTON RECORD

March 19, 1996

PRESIDENT CLINTON TOOK ON THE STATUS-QUO AND THE SPECIAL INTERESTS AND PASSED REAL REFORMS THAT ARE HELPING AMERICAN FAMILIES.

- The most successful legislative agenda since President Johnson. During the first two years, Congress passed 86% of President Clinton's legislative agenda -- highest record of success in 26 years.
- Passed and signed the 1993 Economic Plan -- without 1 Republican vote -- helped turn the economy around and put our country back on track.
 - ★ *8 million new jobs* in 3 years -- including nearly 8 times more private sector jobs per month than in the previous Administration.
 - ★ *Unemployment now at 5.5%* -- down from over 7% before President Clinton took office.
 - ★ *Lowest combined unemployment, inflation and mortgage rates in 27 years.*
 - ★ *Deficit cut nearly in half* -- after 12 years in which the national debt quadrupled.
- Took on the NRA and passed the Brady Bill, Assault Weapons Ban, and a tough anti-Crime Bill -- putting 100,000 new cops on street, and making 3-strikes-and-you're-out the law of the land.
- Took on Strong Interests Even Within His Own Party and passed NAFTA and GATT -- opening foreign markets to American businesses, creating thousands of high wage jobs, and helping increase exports by 1/3.
- Took on Politics As Usual and fought for and signed the Motor Voter Law, the Lobbying Reform Law, the Congressional Accountability Law, and is fighting for real Campaign Finance Reform.
- Took on the Tobacco Lobby with new measures to fight teenage smoking, including requiring states to enforce laws banning the sale and distribution of tobacco products to children.
- Took on the Health Insurance Lobby by proposing a health care reform plan in 1993, and is fighting for the Kennedy-Kassebaum Bill that would eliminate pre-existing conditions exclusions and allow workers to keep their health insurance when they change or lose jobs.
- Took on the Special Interests and Middlemen on Student Loans by fighting to protect Direct Student Loans -- putting the student interest first and the lenders and middlemen last.
 - ★ The Real Education President. *Washington Post* columnists stated: "Bill Clinton has earned the coveted mantle of 'Education President.'" [Washington Post, 10/16/94.]

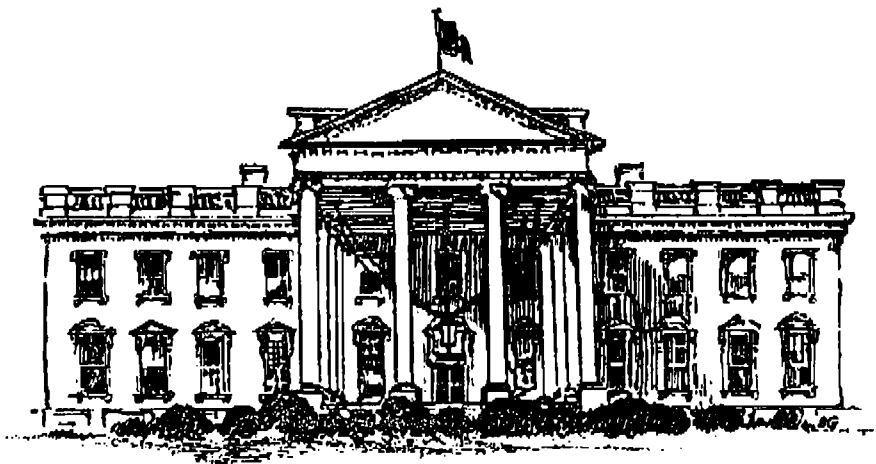
PRESIDENT CLINTON IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT IN 17 YEARS TO SUBMIT A BALANCED BUDGET USING CBO ESTIMATES -- HE STOPPED THE EXTREME REPUBLICAN BUDGET THAT WOULD HAVE DEVASTATED MEDICARE, MEDICAID, EDUCATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

- President Clinton Vetoed The Extreme Republican Budget Because It Violated America's Values. It wasn't a difference about spending -- it was a difference over whether to impose extreme cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, Education, and the Environment, and raise taxes on working families.
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THE WHITE HOUSE



To: Alexis Herman

Date: 3-20-96

From: ABUGHAZALE_T

Page 1 of 7

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PRESIDENT CLINTON'S FISCAL YEAR 1997 BALANCED BUDGET
March 19, 1996**

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- 1 Page Summary of Key Investments in Education, Training, Worker Protections, and the Environment.

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- **The Strongest Record on Deficit Reduction of Any President in History.** President Clinton inherited a \$290 billion deficit and cut it nearly in half -- without 1 Republican vote. The U.S. deficit today is now the lowest of any major economy in the world as a share of the economy.
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WHAT A DIFFERENCE 4 YEARS MAKES

I. ELIMINATING THE DEFICIT

Four Years Ago.

- The deficit was \$290 billion -- the highest dollar level in history -- and rising.
- As President Clinton took office in January 1993, CBO projected the deficit would soar to \$455 billion in FY2000 and to \$589 billion in FY2002.

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March 19, 1996

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- **Took on Strong Interests Even Within His Own Party** and passed NAFTA and GATT -- opening foreign markets to American businesses, creating thousands of high wage jobs, and helping increase exports by 1/3.
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President William J. Clinton
Videotape Message to Olympic Athletes
May 28, 1996

96 MAY 28 P 4: 44

Congratulations. You have accomplished something most of us have only dreamed of: You are a member of Team USA for the Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. Your nation is very proud of you.

You show us something very important about the American spirit. For years, each of you has prepared for this moment. You took personal responsibility, and made the most of your God-given talents. You worked hard, sacrificed, and never lost sight of your goal. And now, as you push yourself in the final stretch to the Centennial Games and your event, your nation will be pulling for each one of you.

You also remind us of another enduring truth about the American spirit. You know better than anyone that, for all your energy and hard work, none of you reached this pinnacle on your own. Every one of you had the help of family, coaches, friends, and role models. Individual effort and personal excellence . . . supported by our communities and our national community. That is the winning formula not just for the Olympics, but for America. That is the way we must come together to meet all of America's challenges.

The good wishes and loud cheers of a whole nation are behind you. We know you will do America proud. Good luck, and God bless you.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED MESSAGE
TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY MILLER
TAPED: 5/28/96 FOR USE ON: 6/3/96 41**

As President, I have the pleasure of meeting many extraordinary people. And Johnny Miller is certainly one of them.

What he has accomplished in golf is truly amazing. Through his years as a player and as a broadcaster, he's helped bring golf to a whole generation of Americans. I've had the pleasure of playing with Johnny, but unfortunately when I play with him, it's never my honor.

Johnny Miller has his priorities in the right place. He's managed to balance his professional career with being a devoted husband and father to his wife and his six children.

Johnny Miller is not only a great champion -- he's a role model for everyone in this country. Johnny, thank you for all that you do.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED MESSAGE
HIV/AIDS TOWN HALL MEETINGS
TAPED ON: MAY 28, 1996

96 MAY 28 P4: 41

It's a pleasure to speak to you today about our national fight to end the epidemic of HIV and AIDS. I'm sorry I can't be there with you in person.

Let me first thank each and every one of you for your work on the front lines of this epidemic. In community after community across this great nation, you provide the leadership and the commitment needed to turn the tide in this struggle.

As a nation, we have responded with compassion to the many challenges created by HIV and AIDS. Our work has helped to double the life expectancy of people living with AIDS and to reduce the number of new infections by nearly half. But you and I know that is not nearly enough. Not when forty to eighty thousand Americans are still becoming infected every year. And not when more than one hundred of our fellow citizens are dying of AIDS every single day.

In December, at the first-ever White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, I heard from many of our fellow citizens that the fight to end the AIDS epidemic must be a national priority. My Administration is committed to doing everything we can to find a cure for those who are living with HIV and a vaccine to protect all of us from this virus. That will require an alliance of government and private citizens, pitting the best minds of our nation against this disease. We all must remember that AIDS is a disease and we have conquered many disease before. We must find a way to conquer AIDS.

We must also continue to support our public health professionals and community-based organizations in their efforts to create AIDS prevention programs that work. Every HIV infection is a preventable infection and we must do everything we can to reduce the number of infections to zero.

I am proud of the work we have done together to address the array of needs associated with this epidemic. A strong public-private partnership has helped put life saving information in the hands of our people. It has also given them the skills they need to protect themselves and their loved ones.

We must continue to work together to make sure that people living with HIV and AIDS get the care they need. That means increased funding for the Ryan White Care Act and preserving the Medicaid guarantee of health care coverage for people with AIDS. I vetoed an attempt to repeal that guarantee last year. And if the Congress tries to take it away in the future, I will veto it again. People with AIDS are our brothers and sisters; our sons and daughters; our children and grandchildren. They deserve our compassion and our respect. Together, I know that we can reach these goals and change the future of our country and our planet. Thank you and God bless you.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED MESSAGE TO MR. ANGELOPOULOS
TAPED ON: MAY 28, 1996**

96 MAY 28 P4:42

Mr. Angelopoulos, I am pleased to add my voice to honor you tonight for your dedication to the core values which originated in your homeland of Greece and became the foundation upon which America was built.

You have had spectacular success as a businessman, and an unparalleled commitment to a variety of philanthropic initiatives. Your work is a true reflection of both the American Dream and Hellenic ideals.

Hillary and Chelsea returned from Athens full of stories of how much they enjoyed seeing you and your family. It is a true pleasure when I get to see you, and I always admire your passion as an advocate of freedom, democracy, charity and justice.

I happen to know that you are only 86 years young. I hope that you will continue to inspire all of us with your energy, your leadership and your love for mankind for many years to come. Best wishes for a wonderful evening, and thank you for all that you do.

MEMO

To: Interested Parties
From: Lottie Shackelford
Subject: Women's Convention Meeting and Walk-through
Date: May 18, 1996

ALERT

We just received the date for the walk-through in Chicago.

Monday, June 3, 1996
DNCC Office
Chicago, Illinois
Beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Details will follow early next week.

Esther Watkins, Director of Housing, at (312) 336-5120 can assist you with hotel reservations.

pts

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DRAFT

Protecting Federal Government Contracts for Businesses that Employ Legal Workers

President Clinton Announced an Executive Order to keep federal contracts from going to businesses that knowingly hire illegal workers. This Executive Order is part of the Administration's strategy to control illegal immigration, protect American jobs for America's legal workers, reduce the job magnet that draws illegal immigrants to the United States from countries around the world, and to cherish and protect the nation's immigrant heritage.

The Clinton Administration has committed unprecedented resources and undertaken unparalleled steps to reverse decades of lax immigration enforcement. The Administration is working to control illegal immigration from the border to the workplace. Over the past three years, the Administration has deployed new strategies and resources to crackdown on illegal immigration at the border. Now, we are moving to back up these efforts with aggressive worksite enforcement.

It is illegal for employers to hire workers who are illegal immigrants and are not authorized to work in the United States. For too long, this employer sanction law has languished on the books. Now, the Clinton Administration is providing the Immigration and Naturalization Service with the tools that it needs to enforce this law -- new investigators, technology and now, an Executive Order to set a standard for all businesses in America to follow and to back up the INS with an additional sanction for serious violators.

- **The Federal Government Sets a Standard for All Businesses:** The Clinton Administration is asking all employers in the nation to comply with employer sanctions laws. This Executive Order sets a standard for compliance. It states the principle that federal business should not be directed at businesses that hire illegal workers.
- **Government-Wide Debarment: A Strong New Tool to Use Against Employer Sanctions Violators:** The Presidential Executive Order will establish a new basis for debarment from federal contracts: knowingly hiring illegal workers. Under current law, employers who knowingly hire illegal workers can be fined, and are subject to criminal penalties for serious, repeat violations. Now these employers will face the new sanction of debarment -- a powerful threat to any company that contemplates doing business with the federal government. The debarment is generally for one year, but is subject to renewal.
- **Executive Order Will Not Burden Employers Violate Minor, Technical Provisions, or Who Innocently hire Illegal Workers:** The President's Executive Order applies to businesses that knowingly hire illegal workers. It does not apply to employers who are found to have violated paperwork requirements. It also does not apply to employers who reviewed documents that appeared to be genuine, but later turn out to be fraudulent work authorization documents.

- **Executive Order Works within Existing Procurement and Contracting Procedures and Will Not Be Burdensome to Federal Contractors:** With the implementation of this Executive Order, the Attorney General will provide all federal contracting agencies with information about businesses that have a final order stating that the business knowingly hired an illegal alien. The federal contracting agency may use this information to terminate a contract or to bar the contractor from participating in future federal contracts.
- **Executive Order Will Not Result in Discrimination:** Federal laws prohibit employers from discriminating against employees or job applicants on the basis of national origin or race. The Executive Order makes clear that employers must comply with these important anti-discrimination provisions and must review the work authorization documents for all potential employees -- not just those who appear to be foreign born. The Administration will not tolerate discrimination of any kind and will not allow the employer sanctions laws to be used as a vehicle for employment discrimination.

REVA!

LEARN. WEAR.

LEAD-CUT



The San Francisco Examiner, February 3, 1994

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The initiative is a quota buster.

"No more government hiring by sex or skin tone," says the Orange County Register. "No racial quotas in university admissions. No more awards of public contracts on the basis of race rather than merit. No more dividing people up by groups rather than honoring them as individuals."

If the initiative should win in California, like the tax-cutting and term-limit propositions that came out of the West, it would sweep the nation.

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Patrick J. Buchanan is a syndicated columnist.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE-MDC: FEBRUARY 1994

NEXIS. LE

The San Francisco Examiner, February 3, 1994

HEADLINE: The quota busters from Berkeley

COLUMN: PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

BYLINE: PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

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But if the GOP can take back California, it is halfway home. As Barry Goldwater used to say, it is as simple as that.

But retaking California will not be easy because the GOP was not just defeated there in '92, it was demolished, with just 31 percent of the vote.

To win back California, the party must win back the Perot vote, that vast middle-class constituency, alienated and populist, that felt itself abandoned by the Beltway.

To the point: If the GOP is casting about for a populist issue to reunite its old coalition and to slice Bill Clinton's new coalition asunder, that issue is at hand.

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LEAD. LEAD. LEAD.

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LOAD-DATE-MDC: FEBRUARY 10 1994

NEXIS. LE

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
WATER RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENT



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Kall
Ben
HC*
a Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM AND
OVERSIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
UPON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PENSION LIABILITY FUNDING REFORM ACT OF 1996
IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Today I have introduced the District of Columbia Pension Liability Funding Reform Act of 1996. This bill is indispensable to the District's return from insolvency. As long as 10% of the District's operating budget must pay for pensions, the District cannot revive.

This bill is the fraternal twin, or complement, to the D.C. Economic Recovery Act (H.R. 3244) which I introduced last month. Together, these bills provide the most pragmatic approach available at this time for obtaining revenue. Both are critically important to restoring solvency by 1999 and enabling the District to achieve a balanced budget as contemplated by the Financial Authority legislation.

The D.C. Pension Liability Funding Reform Act provides the missing congressional piece of the city's financial puzzle. The huge pension liability passed on at Home Rule by Congress has been a huge and definitive part of the city's financial problems for sixteen years. It is time that Congress also becomes a part of the solution.

There has long been bipartisan agreement that the District's pension liability is congressional liability and that the Congress must contribute more. This bill challenges Congress to play a significant role for the first time since Home Rule in helping the District to eliminate the pension liability that Congress alone created. Because Congress has required the District to balance its budget in four years, this is the appropriate time for Congress to begin to pay its fair share of contributions to help eliminate this crushing liability.

A precedent for raising the federal contribution was established this year in the President's FY97 Budget when the Administration proposed increasing the Federal contribution to \$104 million from its current level of only \$52 million. Like the Administration's recommendation, the Federal contribution in my bill recognizes that reducing the liability that Congress created is very different from providing direct revenue to the District -- the action Congress has repeatedly refused to take until the District does more to downsize and reform its operations. None of the funds my bill will authorize go toward operating the District government. Rather, the bill requires the D.C. government, residents, employees and retirees alike to make significant sacrifices to reduce the pension liability that has become a stone around

815 15TH STREET, N.W., SUITE 100
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-2201
(202) 783-5065
(202) 783-5211 (FAX)

1424 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-5101
(202) 225-8050
(202) 225-3002 (FAX)
(202) 225-7829 (TDD)

2041 MARTIN L. KING AVENUE, S.E.
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20020-5734
(202) 678-8900
(202) 678-8844 (FAX)

the city's neck.

Congress instituted pension plans for the District's police officers and firefighters in 1916, for teachers in 1920, and for judges in 1970 but never funded the plans. Instead, Congress paid the pensions of individuals as they retired. In 1979, Congress passed the District of Columbia Retirement Reform Act and transferred all the unfunded pension liability associated with these plans -- all \$2 billion that had accumulated -- from the Federal government to the District of Columbia. The annual pension payments required of the District by the Federal government were to be made on the same pay-as-you-go basis as Congress employed, with payments each year covering only that year's benefit payments. Thus, the District has fully funded all the pensions under its control from the day the city was handed this liability. Stated another way, there has been no new unfunded liability of these pensions on the District's watch. Since FY1980, however, the \$2 billion unfunded liability has never been funded but instead has increased to \$5 billion. Most of the increase is interest on the original unfunded liability that accumulated under Federal management. The transfer of this liability is an amazing case study in Federal fiscal irresponsibility. It is one of those rare instances in United States history when the Federal government has off-loaded its indebtedness to an American city.

The unfunded pension liability has grown from an unfair burden to a crippling threat to the economic viability of the District of Columbia. The District, struggling to survive with a sharply declining taxpayer and revenue base and the continuing responsibility for state, municipal, and county functions, cannot recover without systematic relief from the unfunded pension liability created and passed on to the city by Congress. The legislation I am introducing today will provide that relief by significantly reducing the District's annual retirement plan contribution by 43%. The consequence of this one change will be to reduce the District's annual pension contribution from about \$321 million today to a flat rate of \$185 million, which will remain constant for 40 years. This change is accomplished by allocating to the Federal government 80% of the accrued actuarial liability as of October 1, 1979 for services rendered by employees hired prior to Home Rule but who continued to work for the District government. As of now, the Federal government has assumed no responsibility whatsoever for pension rights accrued by these employees while the District was under Federal management. The contribution will prefund the cost of the benefits of active employees as they are earned, and will liquidate the District's reduced and much more equitable share of the unfunded pension liability that accrued before Home Rule. This change will bring critical relief to the District's deficit and allow the District desperately needed breathing room in its budget.

By no means does the bill simply require only the Federal government to increase its share of the responsibility for the liability. Current and future retirees will receive only one cost of living adjustment per year rather than two, and the rate of contribution from employees will increase from 7% to 8% of their annual wages. The unions and retirees deserve credit for having negotiated these sacrifices. In return, the Federal government will increase its annual pension contribution from a virtually token payment of \$52 million to a flat rate of \$295 million per year. This payment will also be extended over 40 years to liquidate the recalculated amount of the

Federal government's share of the unfunded pension liability. These are painful prescriptions, especially for the employees and retirees, but as they have already recognized, these sacrifices are absolutely necessary. If the District is to reach the goal of a balanced budget by the end of fiscal year 1999, and sustain that performance, it is necessary that the burden be shared.

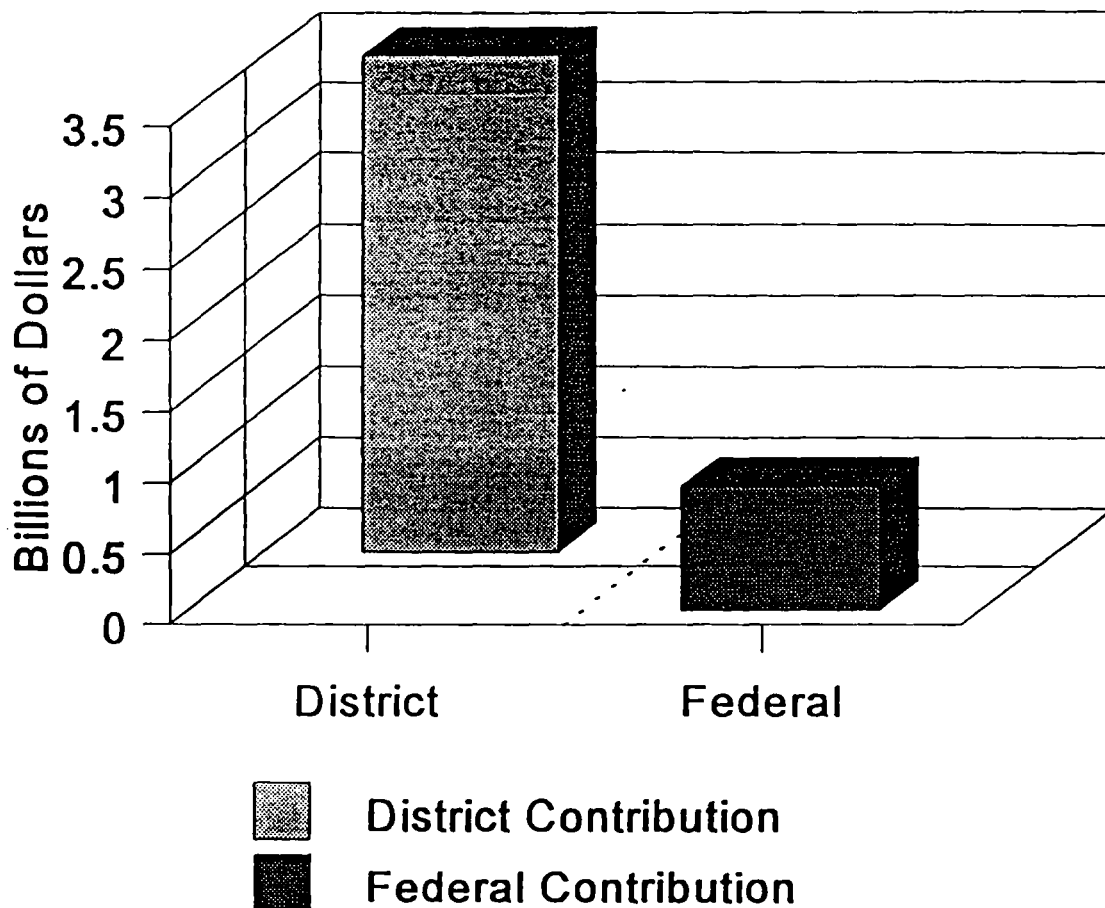
These reforms will implement a plan that is the result of years of intensive work from the time I came to Congress in 1991 by Members of Congress and their staffs in bipartisanship, representatives from the affected employee groups, retirees, the Council, the Mayor's office, the District of Columbia Retirement Board, the Congressional Research Service, and the General Accounting Office. I deeply appreciate all of the cooperation and support they have given to this endeavor. The evolution of this bill reflects their thoughtful contributions. This plan is the most practical from among numerous alternatives we have developed and discarded.

It is impossible to overemphasize the importance of this legislation to the fiscal health and stability of the District. Under the current District of Columbia Retirement Act, upon reaching the year 2004, the Federal government's annual payments cease, and the 1979 law requires the amount the District contributes to nearly double in order to cover both accruing pension obligations and interest payments on unfunded obligations. The unfunded pension liability will have reached \$7.7 billion with the District solely responsible for this debt. This result would be catastrophic, crushing the District financially and wiping out its capacity to ensure future pension benefits for covered beneficiaries.

To complement my bill, the Mayor and the City Council are developing local legislation that will create a third tier within the retirement system to cover new hires who will be provided with an adequate but modified and less costly benefit plan. Experts here in Congress are now assisting the city by reviewing and advising on two bills now pending before the City Council.

I feel fully justified in asking my colleagues to support this legislation now because it is designed to help the District with a problem which is not of its making, but a financial burden created solely by Congress. Corrective action is not only fair. It is quite simply indispensable.

TOTAL DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION TO PENSION FUND NEARLY FOUR TIMES FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION



THE DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION TO THE PENSION FUND INCREASES ANNUALLY WHILE THE FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION REMAINS STATIC

(IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>District Payments</u>	<u>Federal Payments</u>
1980	\$107.7	\$52.1
1981	\$110.1	\$52.1
1982	\$135.7	\$52.1
1983	\$142.9	\$52.1
1984	\$173.5	\$52.1
1985	\$164.5	\$52.1
1986	\$175.3	\$52.1
1987	\$172.7	\$52.1
1988	\$178.5	\$50.0
1989	\$193.3	\$52.1
1990	\$221.6	\$52.1
1991	\$224.8	\$52.1
1992	\$254.0	\$52.1
1993	\$291.2	\$52.1
1994	\$307.2	\$50.1
1995	\$297.1	\$54.1
1996	\$336.5	\$52.1
TOTAL	\$3,486.6	\$883.1

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

PENSION LIABILITY FUNDING REFORM ACT OF 1996

Questions and Answers

Q: Who created the unfunded pension liability?

A: The Congress is entirely responsible for creating the unfunded pension liability. Congress established pension plans for the D.C.'s police officers and firefighters in 1916, for teachers in 1920, and for judges in 1970, when the District had no home rule powers but was under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Congress. After Home Rule was granted in 1979, Congress transferred \$2 billion in unfunded liability associated with these pension plans from the federal government to the District government. Congress had never funded these plans but instead had paid for the pensions of individual retirees out of annual appropriations.

Q: What is the size of this unfunded liability today?

A: Today, owing mostly to interest on the original \$2 billion in liability Congress passed on to the District, the size of the unfunded liability has grown to over \$5 billion. It is estimated that by the year 2004, the unfunded pension liability will reach nearly \$8 billion. That is the year when Congress is no longer under an obligation to make an annual payment in any amount to the retirement fund. The weight of the remaining liability would crush the District financially and eliminate its ability to ensure future benefits for covered beneficiaries.

Q: What is the District's annual pension payment and how would it change under the bill?

A: The District's pension contribution in FY 1997 is estimated to be \$321 million. Under the bill, the District will pay a flat annual rate of \$185 million that will remain constant for 40 years. This payment will prefund the cost of the benefits of active employees as they are earned, and will liquidate the District's equitable share of the unfunded liability.

Q: What will the federal government's annual pension contribution be under the bill?

A: The federal government's annual contribution will increase from \$52 million each year to a flat rate of \$295 million each year. This payment will extend over 40 years to liquidate the recalculated amount of the federal government's share of the unfunded pension

liability and ensure that the federal government's pension contribution will not cease in 2004 as mandated under the 1979 legislation.

Q: How does the bill justify the difference between what D.C. pays and what the federal government pays?

A: The bill allocates to the federal government 80% of the accrued actuarial liability as of October 1, 1979 for services rendered by active employees hired prior to Home Rule when District employees were under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. Under the District of Columbia Retirement Reform Act (the federal law that transferred the pension plans to the District in 1979), the federal government assumed an 80% share of only the pensioners who retired prior to Home Rule and a 33.3% share of disabled retirees prior to Home Rule, and assumed no responsibility for employees who were active at the time of Home Rule and came into service when Congress had exclusive jurisdiction over the city. The District of Columbia Pension Liability Funding Reform Act of 1996 corrects this inequity and ensures that the federal government is responsible for an 80% share of accrued actuarial liability as of October 1, 1979 for services rendered by active employees hired prior to Home Rule..

Q: Will District employees and retirees make any sacrifices under the bill?

A: Employees have agreed that current and future retirees will receive only one cost of living adjustment per year instead of the two they receive now, and that the rate of the employee contribution will increase from 7% to 8% annually.

Q: How will new D.C. government employees be treated under this bill?

A: To complement this bill, the Mayor and the City Council are developing local legislation that will create a third tier within the retirement system to cover new hires who will be provided with an adequate but modified and less costly benefit plan.

March 23, 1996

Ms. Alexis Herman
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C.



Healthy Babies Project
1507 Benning Road, NE (LL)
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 396-2809

Dolores L. Farr, Executive Director

Benjamin F. Wilson, Esq., Chairman
Beveridge & Diamond Law Offices

Dolores L. Farr, RN, MPH, President
Healthy Babies Project

Louise Doss Martin, MA, ACSW, Vice President
Bureau of Primary Health Care/HCH

Martin R. Bates
AT&T Federal Systems

Virginia S. Carson, CEO
Radio Zone

James H. DeGraffenreidt, COO
Washington Gas

Damon T. Downing
Washington Gas

Mana Gomez, RN, MPH
Mary's Center for Maternal & Child Care

Edward R. Leahy
Thacher, Proffitt & Wood

William H. Maultsby, Jr.
Kiwanis Club Shepherd Park

Deborah Royster Reynolds, Esq.
Kaiser Permanente

Randall E. Robertson, Esq.
MCI Communications Corporation

Andre F. Shaw, Branch Manager
Citibank, FSB

Romaine B. Thomas, Principal
Ketcham Elementary School

Ruby M. Van Croft, RN, MS
Visiting Nurse Association

Marciana Wilkerson-Ford, MD
Private Practice

Dear Alexis:

Enclosed is a special request from Healthy Babies Project for the First Lady to speak on her book, IT TAKES A VILLAGE, at the third annual Healthy Babies Project Gala to be held on Wednesday, May 29, 1996 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. The evening will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by Dinner at 7:30 p.m. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr., President of Washington Gas, is the Gala Chairman. (Alexis, Healthy Babies Project is willing to move the event to another date to accommodate the First Lady).

This is the event that I spoke to you about during Women of Washington's "Conversations." Please assist Healthy Babies Project by discussing their letter of invitation with Mrs. Clinton. I hope that you will be able to use your power of influence and your ability to "make things happen," in getting us a positive response.

Since I was going to be seeing you today, I decided to take this opportunity to personally deliver to you the Healthy Babies' letter of invitation and related materials for Mrs. Clinton.

Please contact me, if you have any questions.

With warm and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Shirley Brown, CFRE
Event Coordinator
(202) 508-3650 office
(202) 554-9507 home

cc. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr.
Dolores Farr

DINNER COMMITTEE*

Martin R. Bates
AT&T BC Services

Virginia S. Carson
The Radio Zone

Damon T. Downing
Washington Gas

Maria Gomez
Mary's Center for Maternal & Child Care

Edward R. Leahy
Thacher, Proffitt & Wood

Louise Doss Martin
Bureau of Primary Health Care/HCH

William H. Maultsby, Jr.
Kiwanis Club Shepherd Park

Deborah Royster Reynolds, Esq.
Kaiser Permanente

Randall E. Robertson, Esq.
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Andre F. Shaw
Citibank, FSB

Romaine B. Thomas
Ketcham Elementary School

Ruby M. Van Croft
Visiting Nurse Association of Washington

Marciana Wilkerson-Ford, M.D.
Private Practice

*as of printing date

Benjamin F. Wilson, Esq.
Beveridge & Diamond

Chairman of the Board
Healthy Babies Project, Inc.

Shirley Brown, CFRE
Event Coordinator

Dolores L. Farr, RN, MPH
Executive Director
Healthy Babies Project, Inc.

ABOUT HEALTHY BABIES PROJECT

Healthy Babies Project has been in full operation since January, 1991. It serves low income, high-risk pregnant women in Ward 5 and Ward 6, particularly substance-abusing pregnant women. Healthy Babies Project provides services for homeless pregnant women regardless of the ward. The goal of Healthy Babies Project is to reduce the infant mortality and morbidity rates that are higher in the District than anywhere in the nation. Its mission is to help families bring healthy babies into the world with the best opportunity to succeed.

Healthy Babies Project begins with an aggressive, systematic outreach strategy and social service assistance. A drop-in center is provided where participants come to share in educational sessions on child development, parenting, labor and delivery; receive housing assistance and substance abuse counseling; wash and dry their clothes, rest and have a nutritional meal. Participants receive comprehensive medical and social service assistance and help in obtaining prenatal care, pediatric care, immunization referrals and well child care.

Healthy Babies Project has enjoyed a remarkable success rate. In 1994, Healthy Babies Project enrolled 181 new participants into its program and continued to assist 180 mothers and their infants throughout the child's first year of life. Also, 82% or 150 mothers delivered normal healthy babies and 181 infants received all or part of their basic immunizations. Six mothers delivered twins. Recognition of Healthy Babies Project appeared in the September 2, 1994 issue of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Designed and Printed by Washington Gas

Second Annual Healthy Babies Project Making a Difference Gala Dinner

May 23, 1995



**Healthy Babies Project
Making a Difference Award Honorees**

Lillian McLean Beard, M.D.
Practicing Pediatrician

Robert L. Bowles, Jr., D.B.A.
*Chairman and CEO
D.C. Chartered Health Plan
Past President, D.C. Chamber of Commerce*

Benjamin Carson, M.D.
*Pediatric Neurosurgeon
Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Johns Hopkins Hospital*

Julie Rogers
*President
Eugene And Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
1994 Washingtonian of the Year*

Peter Underwood
*Founder/Director
Reach For Tomorrow*

Dinner Benefactors*

Arthur Andersen & Company
First National Bank of Maryland

HealthPlus
Washington Gas

Dinner Sponsors*

Bell Atlantic
Beveridge & Diamond
Giant Food, Inc.
IBM
Kaiser Permanente
Robert and Tina Robertson

Thacher Proffitt & Wood
Marciana Wilkerson-Ford, M.D.
Benjamin F. and Merinda Wilson
J.M. Wilson and Associates
US Air

Dinner Patrons*

Virginia Carson and Terry Barnett
The Honorable Harry Thomas and Mrs. Romaine Thomas
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Ruby M. Van Croft



**The Board of Directors of
Healthy Babies Project, Inc.**

*requests the pleasure of
your company at the*

**Second Annual
Healthy Babies Project
Making A Difference
Gala Dinner**

Dinner Chairman

James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr.
President and Chief Operating Officer
Washington Gas

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Sheraton Washington Hotel
2660 Woodley Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Reception and silent auction at six-thirty
Dinner at seven-thirty

* as of printing date

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Healthy Babies Project

Joint Message

The year 1994 has been a year of change for the nation and the world. It has also been a time for change for the Healthy Babies Project, Inc. - a time to look a little harder at who we are; what our goals and objectives are for the future; and why we must remain committed to making a difference. Infant mortality and low birthweight rates are still dangerously high in the District of Columbia. D.C. still has an infant mortality rate that is more than twice the national average, higher than that of many Third World countries. We, at the Healthy Babies Project, have seen the suffering of the disadvantaged, the dysfunctional and those who have no where else to turn.

The Healthy Babies Project has made a commitment to help these families bring healthy babies into the world with the best possible chance to succeed. We know that if we are to maintain our position as "agents of change," we must penetrate even further into the community to empower our mothers, infants and the entire family to improve the quality of their own lives.

The Healthy Babies Project is actively pursuing its goals. We realize that we can not do this job alone. We believe in team work, in public/private partnerships. We believe that it is necessary to remove barriers to medical and social services if our mothers and infants are to obtain adequate access to health care. We will continue to advocate, not only for our mothers and infants, but on behalf of their families as well.

As a community based not-for-profit organization, it is clear to us that now, more than ever, is the time to join forces and work more collaboratively with private and public organizations and agencies to assure that we maximize our resources to improve the health and safety of our mothers, their infants and their families. The needs in our society are great. Yet, we must persevere for we are only as strong as our weakest link. If we let the chain be broken, we let down a vulnerable community already in distress.

Won't you join us in taking the next step for those trying to take their first step?

Benjamin F. Wilson, Esq.
Chairman, Board of Directors

Dolores L. Farr
Executive Director

Mission

The mission of the Healthy Babies Project, Inc., is to help families bring healthy babies into the world with the best possible chance to succeed. Our goals are to reduce the high rates of infant deaths, illness and low birthweight, and to improve the health outcome of mothers and infants.



Healthy Babies Project
1507 Benning Road, NE (LL)
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 396-2809

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Romaine B. Thomas, Principal
Ketcham Elementary School

Ruby M. Van Croft, RN, MS
Visiting Nurse Association

Marciana Wilkerson-Ford, MD
Private Practice

March 15, 1996

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500-001

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

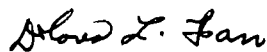
On behalf of the Healthy Babies Project, we would like to invite you to be our guest of honor at the third annual premier fund raising dinner gala, scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 1996, to address your recent book, IT TAKES A VILLAGE. We are willing to provide options if this date is not a good one.

The Healthy Babies Project, a not-for-profit community based outreach program, was conceived to reduce the number of sick, underweight and premature babies born to high risk low-income pregnant women. The program is especially targeted to substance abusing pregnant women in Wards 5 and 6 and to the homeless pregnant population in the District of Columbia. The infant mortality rates in these wards and populations are amongst the highest in our nation. As you can see in the materials enclosed, the Healthy Babies Project works with parents to provide prenatal, postpartum and pediatric assistance while addressing the ravaging effects of substance abuse, psychological disorders, poverty and homelessness. Also enclosed are program booklets from our first two gala dinners.

We are very much aware of your advocacy and keen interest regarding children and families, as well as your position with respect to principles deemed essential in successfully rearing children. You are acutely aware of the importance of what it means to have a healthy baby. As you so aptly stated in your book, "Even in the best circumstances, it is difficult for any one of us to raise a child alone. ...Even families with two parents rely on the "village" for functions that are beyond their scope."

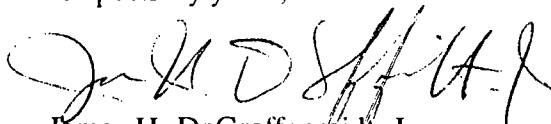
We would be extremely honored to have you join us in discussing your book IT TAKES A VILLAGE at our fundraising gala. A number of the mothers and babies who have been involved in the project will be present for you to greet and meet. They represent the essence of what our project and your "Village" are all about. We shall be very happy to speak with you directly to tell you more about the project at anytime that is convenient for you.

Respectfully yours,



Dolores L. Farr
Executive Director
Healthy Babies Project, Inc.

Respectfully yours,



James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr.
President and Chief Operating Officer
Washington Gas





SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT HEALTHY BABIES PROJECT

Fact:

Healthy Babies Project is not funded by the federal government and has little financial support from the District of Columbia government. Most of its money comes from the public and private sectors.

Fact:

Healthy Babies Project increased its revenue and support in 1995 and has no outstanding debt.

Fact:

According to the Centers for Disease Control, a baby born in the District of Columbia is more likely to die during his or her first year of life than a baby born in any other American population center. In 1993, the most recent year for which (provisional) data exists, the District's infant mortality rate at 16.7 per 1000 lives was twice the national average.

Fact:

Low birth rates and inadequate prenatal care have been closely linked. A baby born in the District after receiving no prenatal care is three times as likely to be born at a low birth weight than is one who received care in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Fact:

1,823 or 17% of the babies born in the District in 1993 were born to teen-age mothers; 237 of those born were low birth weight babies (under 5.5 pounds).

Fact:

All of the services provided by the Healthy Babies Project are free. In 1995, 169 mothers enrolled in Healthy Babies Project.



FACTS ABOUT HEALTHY BABIES PROJECT

Fact:

In 1995, 130 babies were delivered by mothers enrolled in Healthy Babies Project. One set of triplets (all died) and 3 sets of twins were born.

Fact:

In 1995, 154 infants enrolled in the Healthy Babies Project program received all or part of their basic immunizations.

Fact:

About 25% of the mothers served by the Healthy Babies Project are homeless pregnant women and their children.

Fact:

In 1995, 78 out of 169 of the mothers enrolled in Healthy Babies Project program were substance abusers. Of the 78 mothers who were substance abusers, 53 mothers used more than one substance.

Fact:

Of the 46 mothers abusing illegal drugs, 87% or 40 mothers have ceased or decreased use. Of the 38 mothers abusing alcohol, 71% or 27 mothers have ceased or decreased use.

Fact:

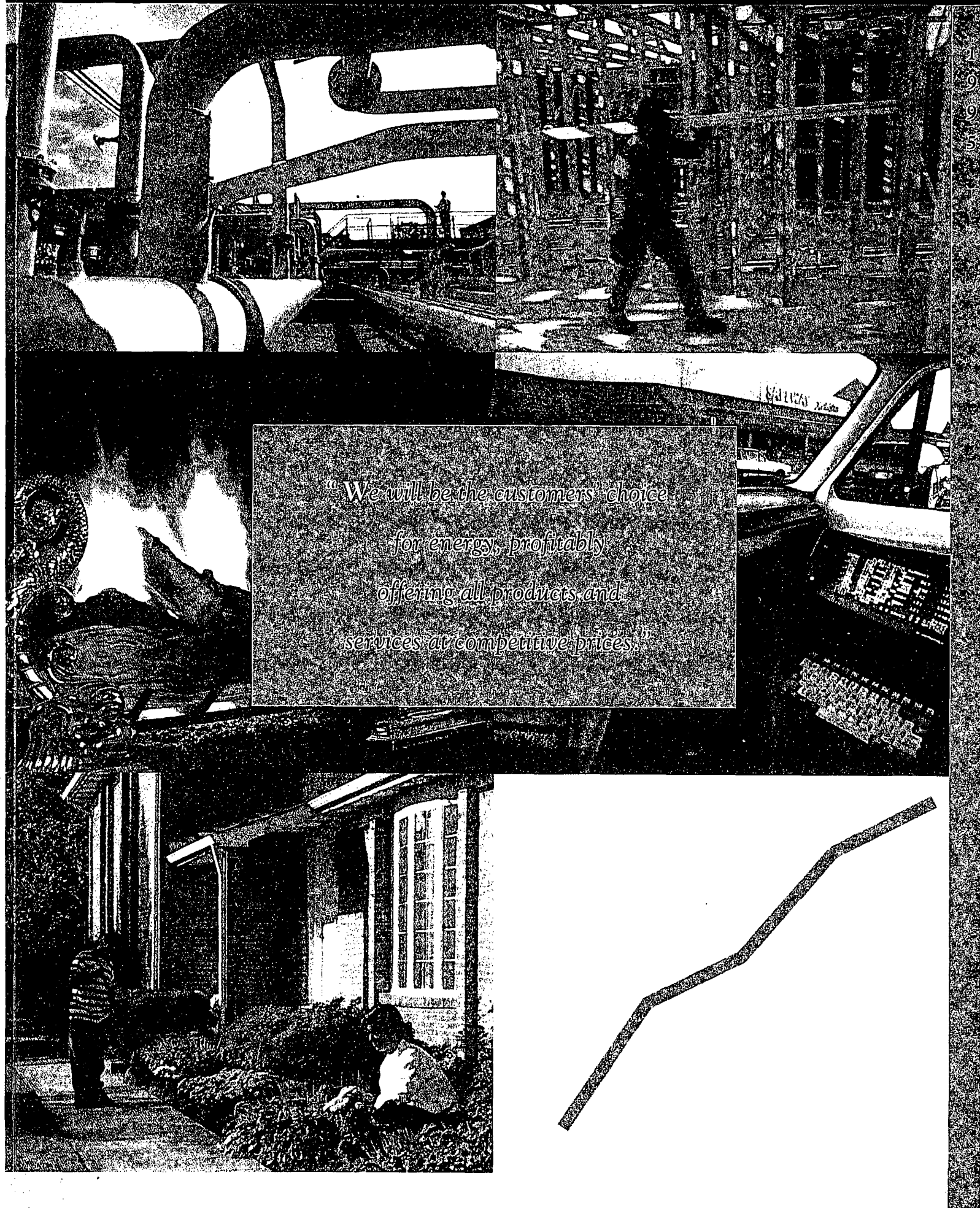
The Healthy Babies Project has embarked upon a new program in 1996....the male mentoring program for fathers.

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*"We will be the customers' choice
for energy, profitably
offering all products and
services at competitive prices."*



Doris
Ann

Office of the City Attorney

8401 West Monroe Street
Peoria, Arizona 85345
602-412-7330
Fax 602-412-7043

Civil 412-7330

• Prosecutor 412-7335

• Risk Management 412-7234

• Writer's Direct Line 412-7347

April 10, 1996

Ms. Alexis Herman, Public Liaison
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative

Dear Ms. Herman:

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to you and your staff for facilitating a meeting with Ms. Doris Matsui. I am sorry I missed seeing you, however I understood you were out of the country. I am sure doing very important business for our country. Nevertheless, my meeting with Ms. Matsui was most beneficial. It is my opinion that the juvenile crime prevention program I shared with Ms. Matsui will certainly be of interest to the Clinton Administration. An administration dedicated to ensuring the interest and safety of children.

The recent FBI report illuminates that violent crime in the United States has diminished. However, that same report indicates that violence among our youth has increased and will significantly increase in the future when those preadolescent children "age into" the high crime categories. As an American, I am truly concerned. As a prosecutor, I feel compelled to do something about the threat of juvenile crime in our country. In that regard we must look to programs like *Operation SAVE KIDS* and *SAVE KIDS Partnership* in order to begin to turn the tide of juvenile violence.

I will be available should you have any questions. Thank you again for your wonderful staff, specifically Ruby and Anne for arranging the meeting with Ms. Matsui.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Terry Bays Smith".

Terry Bays Smith
Assistant City Attorney
Prosecutor

December 27, 1995

(7)

Other
copies to
sent WH Ag. Liaison
1/3/96

Dear Mrs. Herman,

I shared your greeting with the other inmates that are here and at the Ft. Worth men's facility. I know most of them appreciated it! Some of the staff members were really rude?

Would you please, please, please give this letter to President Clinton, because he must not be getting the letters that I mail directly to him.

Thank you in advance,

Mary Reavis

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECEMBER 1995

**MAY THE SPIRIT OF THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON BRING YOU MANY WARM
MOMENTS AND HAPPY MEMORIES.**

**MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU
ONLY THE BEST.**

**ALEXIS M. HERMAN
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC LIAISON**

Mary Lewis 10 756-076
FME Carswell W/T
P.O. Box 27137
Carswell AFB, TX 76127-0137



Mrs. Alexis Herman,
Assistant to the President
Director of Public Liaison
The White House Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

F
not
said this

May 17, 1996

Ms. Alexis M. Herman
Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison
West Wing

Dear Ms. Herman:

Thank you for treating us to lunch today. We appreciate your recognizing our hard work in assisting Kate with the Corporate Responsibility event yesterday at Georgetown.

We look forward to working on other events in Public Liaison.

Sincerely,

"The Kate Carr Crew"

Elizabeth
Joanne

Ethan L
Peter



1400 16th Street, N.W., Suite 101
Washington, DC 20036-2266

May 16, 1996

Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building
Room 122
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Herman:

Thank you for your part in helping to organize the meeting of May 14th between President Clinton and seventeen Washington, DC community leaders. We felt that it was an important opportunity to spotlight innovative strategies which are successfully rebuilding neighborhoods and supporting families in our nation's capital. Hopefully, the increased attention on these efforts will generate the level of support necessary to create systemic change in the areas of community development and family services.

I would also like to offer my appreciation to Ben Johnson and Carol Thompson-Cole, both of whom did a spectacular job coordinating this monumental meeting. I look forward to continuing this dialogue with the Administration. Thank you again for your role in making this possible.

Sincerely,

Kent Amos
President
Urban Family Institute



OFIELD DUKES & ASSOCIATES
PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSELOR

MAR 28 1996

To: Alexis Herman
Assistant to President, Director of Public Liaison
The White House

From: Ofield Dukes

Subject: Article on "Pro-Nigeria Organization Courts U.S.Blacks"

Date: March 28, 1996

As I indicated to you in a previous memorandum, Maurice Dawkins is the main organizer of a support group for the Nigerian Government. This is the same Maurice Dawkins who ran against Senator Chuck Robb a few years ago, as a conservative, Reagan-loving Republican. At the time, he said some unkind things about Democratic welfarism and liberals.

He also has been involved with NNPA on the advertising issue. Obviously, Maurice has a large contract to provide free travel for black groups to Nigeria for "fact-finding" missions and a clever propaganda campaign involving some black leaders and groups in support of the Nigerian government. Dawkins is certainly coordinating Friday's press conference with Dorothy Levell.

Never a dull moment in your work!



Vol VI, No. 7 • March 25, 1996

O'Dwyer's Washington Report

Covering Public Relations and Public Affairs in the Nation's Capital

Pro-Nigeria organization courts U.S. blacks

The Coalition for Fairness to Nigeria is rallying support among U.S. blacks to pressure the White House to drop its threat to slap economic sanctions on Africa's most populated country because of human rights abuses.

The group is organizing a petition drive via ads placed in black newspapers, such as *The New York Amsterdam News*, calling for fairness toward Nigeria.

"Black Americans can no longer tolerate a 'double standard' treatment of Black African Nations by the U.S. Government," reads copy from the ad that ran March 9. "If Jewish Americans can stand up for Israel we can stand up for Africa. Now is the time to let President Clinton know that we African-Americans respectfully recommend responsible engagement with Nigeria and oppose isolation and economic sanctions."

API collects petitions

The ad includes a petition that has 20 spaces for names, mailing addresses, congressional districts and signatures of those who support a "Fairness Doctrine to help Nigeria as we are helping Israel and the PLO resolve the crisis of the Middle East."

The petitions are to be mailed to "API" in New York. Since API is not listed in the phone directory, this NL visited the 45th St. address and found Amalgamated Publishers Inc., a placement firm that claims to reach 12.6 million readers of black newspapers. An executive at the firm said he did not know the address of the Coalition, which is neither listed in New York or D.C.

The reception area of API had a table filled with "Nigeria. A Closer Look" ad inserts. One story in the insert recounts a trip to Nigeria organized by Dr. Maurice Dawkins for members of the black media. The conclusion, according to the insert, was that Nigeria "deserves an opportunity to find a democracy that will fit their unique situation."

Dawkins, who is identified as a freelance writer for the National Newspaper Publishers Assn. and Black Media Inc., also had a "letter to the editor" in the insert in which he blasted the U.S. "majority press" for trashing Nigeria.

Dawkins, it turns out, is an Associate, at Symms, Lehn & Associates, the firm headed by ex-Sen. Steve Symms (R-ID) that has a \$350,000 contract with the Government of Nigeria. He did not return a call for comment.



The Business Roundtable

John W. Snow
Chairman

Jerry R. Junkins
Cochairman

Ralph S. Larsen
Cochairman

1615 L Street, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20036-5610
(202) 872-1260 FAX (202) 466-3509

Samuel L. Maury
President

Patricia Hanahan Engman
Executive Director

May 17, 1996

Ms. Alexis M. Herman
Assistant to the President &
Director of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Alexis:

Thank you very much for all your help in setting up the meetings with representatives from The Business Roundtable and the Keidanren last Tuesday. The meetings with Secretary Rubin and Dr. Tyson went extremely well, and will certainly help further the strong and vital relationship America has with the Japanese business community.

Again, Alexis, I appreciate your help. All the best to you.

Sincerely,

John W. Snow



National Franchisee Association, Inc.

An association of regional Burger King® associations

Jack Eberly

President

450 Country Club Road
Suite 260
Eugene, OR 97401
(503) 485-8904
(503) 485-7966 fax

Michael F. DeRosa

Vice President

2127 Necessity Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703
(715) 836-6780
(715) 836-6786 fax

Rich Boyle

Secretary

2934 East Fountain Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80910
(719) 475-0555
(719) 473-4329 fax

Michael P. Jones

Treasurer

86 West Main
East Islip, NY 11730
(516) 581-8544
(516) 277-8502 fax

J.B. Ruenheck

Past President

1944 East Edgewood Drive
Lakeland, FL 33803
(813) 688-9454
(813) 683-3375 fax

Linda Waddell

Director of Administration

May 16, 1996

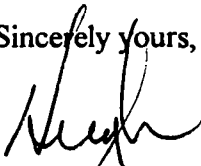
Ms. Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President, Public Liaison
The White House
West Wing, Second Floor
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Ms. Herman:

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with the Burger King National Franchisee Association (NFA) Government Affairs committee members during our recent visit to Washington, D.C. We appreciated your keen insight on issues impacting our business, such as the movement to raise the minimum wage and the NLRB unionizing proposal.

We were delighted to learn of the measures the Clinton Administration is taking to reform government and to make government more sensitive to the concerns of small business. We commend the Administration for making 16,000 revisions to various OSHA guidelines as part of the President's goal of reinventing government. If we may assist you, Alexis, as you put together focus groups to provide input to the Administration on various government reform measures, please let us know. We would be happy to be a part of this process if you feel we could make a meaningful contribution.

Thank you again, Alexis, for meeting with the NFA Government Affairs committee and allowing us to share our viewpoints on issues of importance to our business. Our visit was informative and productive. We wish you continued success in your role as Assistant to the President and we look forward to working with you and your fine staff in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh Bigham
Chairman



DEBRA DELEE, CEO

May 13, 1996

Alexis Herman
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Herman:

Thank you for forwarding Lybra Clemons's resume to me for consideration for a 1996 convention job.

We are currently assessing our personnel needs and will continue to fill remaining positions in the coming months. I am sure Lybra's credentials are exemplary and will be given the proper attention.

I appreciate your taking the time to write on behalf of Lybra and please do not hesitate to call me with any questions. I am looking forward to a great convention and hope to see you soon.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Debra DeLee

DD/jb

Cc: Lybra Clemons

2/3 pts

DIANE E. BRANCH, ESQ.
605 East 14th Street, Apt. 9F
New York, New York 10009
(212) 982-2317

May 6, 1996

Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
Director of the Office of Public Liasion
The Executive Office Bldg ., R. 122
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Ms. Herman:

I am a business colleague and a friend of Tommy Agee. Recently I had lunch with Tommy and I shared with him my frustrations in trying to reenter Corporate America after having been downsized from Hertz Corporation as an in-house attorney. I told Tommy how much I enjoyed your speech at Ron Brown's Apollo New York tribute. He suggested that I write to you. What touched me the most from your speech was your description of Ron Brown as our Man of La Moncha. You said that he dared to dream the impossible dream. My trying to get a job during the downsizing of Corporate America is like dreaming the impossible dream.

It gave me so much strength and hope to hear of his accomplishments. He was a New Yorker, like me. He went to law school at night, like me. I thought about my own struggles. I went to school to obtain the credentials that I was told were necessary to achieve success in America. I became active and volunteered in political campaigns so that I would be informed and make change instead of complaining about America. However, after you are repeatedly kicked, you eventually realize that maybe you are going in the wrong direction. My conclusion in looking at this reality is that I would like to take my training and background into the political process.

I would like to speak to you about how I can work for the Democratic National Committee on a full-time basis. I can't think of a better place for me to bring my skills as an attorney and educator. Recognizing that your schedule is extremely demanding. I would like to meet with you at your convenience to discuss my interests. I will call your secretary in a week as a follow up to this letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Diane E. Branch

2/3
P15

Loannigell
TITLESERV
TITLE INSURANCE SERVICES
45 Executive Drive • Plainview, New York 11803



Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
Director of the Office of Public Liasion
The Executive Office Bldg. R. 122
Washington, D.C. 20502



DIANE E. BRANCH, ESQ.

605 EAST 14TH STREET, SUITE 9F

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10009

Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
Director of the Office of Public Liasion
The Executive Office Bldg., R. 122
Washington, D.C. 20502

SHAW PITTMAN
POTTS & TROWBRIDGE

A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1128
202.663.8000
Facsimile 202.663.8007

WELDON H. LATHAM
202.663.9228
weldon_latham@shawpittman.com

New York
Virginia

May 17, 1996

Honorable Alexis M. Herman
Assistant to the President and
Director, Public Liaison
The White House
2nd Floor, West Wing
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: May 15th Networking Meeting

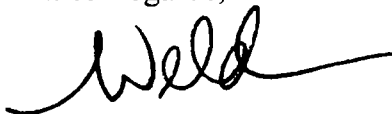
Dear Alexis:

Sorry you were unable to attend the Networking Meeting held here on
Wednesday, May 15th.

By all accounts from the individuals who attended, the meeting was a major
success. It was a excellent opportunity to meet with and network among White
House, Democratic National Committee ("DNC"), and Clinton/Gore Campaign senior
staff, as well as with private corporate CEOs--all supporters of the President and the
DNC.

As agreed among all who attended, I am providing you with a list of the names,
titles, organizations, addresses and phone numbers of the individuals invited to the
meeting (all but a few of whom attended).

Best regards,



Weldon H. Latham

Enclosures

WHL:lh

List of Invitees to Networking Meeting
Hosted by Weldon Latham
Wednesday, May 15, 1996

White House

Honorable Alexis M. Herman

Assistant to the President and
Director, Public Liaison
The White House
2nd Floor, West Wing
Washington, D.C. 20500
(ph.) 202-456-6455
(fax) 202-456-6218

Honorable Bob J. Nash

Assistant to the President and
Director, Presidential Personnel
The White House
OEOB 158
Washington, D.C. 20510
(ph.) 202-456-6676
(fax) 202-456-2259

Honorable Margaret A. Williams

Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
2nd Floor, West Wing
Washington, D.C. 20500
(ph.) 202-456-6266
(fax) 202-456-6244

White House (Continued)

Honorable Charles N. Duncan

Associate Director of Presidential Personnel
The White House
OEOB 139
Washington, D.C. 20503
(ph.) 202-456-5263
(fax) 202-456-6294

Honorable Ben Johnson

Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison
The White House
OEOB 122
Washington, D.C. 20502
(ph.) 202-456-2930
(fax) 202-456-6218

Honorable Richard Hayes

Office of Public Liaison
The White House
OEOB 122
Washington, D.C. 20502
(ph.) 202-456-5180
(fax) 202-456-6218

Honorable Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

Deputy Counsel and
Director of Legislative Affairs for the Vice President
U.S. Capitol, S-212
Washington, D.C. 20501
(ph.) 202-224-8391
(fax) 202-224-0291

Honorable Kumiki Gibson

Counsel to the Vice President
The White House
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Washington, D.C. 20510
(ph.) 202-456-7022
(fax) 202-456-7044

White House (Continued)

Honorable Eric Eve

Special Assistant to the President for Politics
The White House
OEOB 115
Washington, D.C. 20502
(ph.) 202-456-5231
(fax) 202-456-7929

Democratic National Committee ("DNC")

Ms. Minyon Moore

Campaign Division Director
Democratic Party Headquarters
430 South Capitol Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(ph.) 202-863-7122
(fax) 202-863-8081

Mr. David Mercer

Deputy Finance Director
Democratic Party Headquarters
430 South Capitol Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(ph.) 202-863-7105
(fax) 202-863-7109

Clinton/Gore Campaign

Mr. Ted Carter

Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Campaign Manager
Clinton/Gore Campaign
P.O. Box 19300
Washington, D.C. 20036
(ph.) 202-496-2777
(fax) 202-496-5000

Clinton/Gore Campaign (Continued)

Honorable Alan Wheat

Deputy Campaign Manager and Head of Constituent Out Reach
Clinton/Gore Campaign
P.O. Box 19300
Washington, D.C. 20036
(ph.) 202-496-5071
(fax) 202-496-4849

Ms. Gloria Johnson

Director of Surrogate Speakers
Clinton/Gore Campaign
P.O. Box 19300
Washington, D.C. 20036-9300
(ph.) 202-496-1024
(fax) 202-496-2776

DNC Trustees/Democratic Business Council Members

Mr. Knowlton R. Atterbeary

President & CEO
KRA Corporation
1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 850
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
(ph.) 301-495-1591
(fax) 301-495-3172

Mr. Hilton H. Augustine, Jr.

President & CEO
Global Management Systems, Inc.
6707 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 200
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
(ph.) 301-493-4674
(fax) 301-493-9193

DNC Trustees/Democratic Business Council Members
(Continued)

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President

Caraway & Associates

1010 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20007

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(fax) 202-965-2812

Mr. Wayne J. Carter

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1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 720

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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(fax) 301-585-4128

Mr. Terry L. Childers

President & CEO

Childers Construction

13495 N. Santa Fe

P.O. Box 14510

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73113-0510

(ph.) 405-755-2200

(fax) 405-755-8263

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Metroplex Corp.

512 G Street, S.W.

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(fax) 202-488-8068

DNC Trustees/Democratic Business Council Members
(Continued)

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Pulsar Data Systems, Inc.
5000 Philadelphia Way, Suite H
Lanham, Maryland 20706
(ph.) 301-495-2650 x-334
(fax) 301-495-2654

Mr. Dennis J. Garrett

Executive Vice President & COO
Qualiticare Medical Services, Inc.
1281 Portal Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
(ph.) 410-633-0002
(fax) 410-633-1762

Mr. Ernest G. Green

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Lehman Brothers
800 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006
(ph.) 202-452-4728
(fax) 202-452-4778

Mr. Edward L. Howlette, Jr.

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NEXGEN Solutions, Inc.
1010 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
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(ph.) 202-638-7777
(fax) 202-638-6200

DNC Trustees/Democratic Business Council Members
(Continued)

Mr. Robert L. Johnson

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BET Holdings, Inc.
1900 W Place, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20018
(ph.) 202-608-2171
(fax) 202-608-2595

Mr. Rollie O. Kimbrough

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MCSI Technologies, Inc.
8401 Colesville Road, Suite 305
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
(ph.) 310-495-4444
(fax) 301-495-4475

Mr. Anthony L. Jones

President & CEO
Tonya, Inc.
1000 Vermont Avenue, N.W., 5th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
(ph.) 202-289-8100
(fax) 202-289-8107

Weldon H. Latham, Esq.

Senior Partner
Shaw Pittman Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1128
(ph.) 202-663-9228
(fax) 202-663-8007

DNC Trustees/Democratic Business Council Members
(Continued)

Mr. Willie E. Woods

President & CEO

Digital Systems Research, Inc.

4301 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 725

Arlington, Virginia 22203-1627

(ph.) 703-522-6067

(fax) 703-522-6367

Name	Date
Sally Lupton	2/20/98
Sally Lupton	11/19/98

Council
Council

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1996

The Honorable Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President and
Director of the Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C.

APR 12 1996

Dear Alexis:

Based on our discussions, I have decided to end my role at the White House as special adviser to the President and the Secretary of State for Cuba and to return to the State Department. With the shutdown of two unarmed, civilian aircraft in international waters by Cuban MiGs and the ensuing passage of Helms-Burton, the issues and goals previously carried out by the special adviser's office are better managed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs. I understand that the Inter-Agency Task Force, which I chaired, will be abolished, and that the coordination of Cuba policy will be assumed by the Inter-Agency Working Group chaired by Acting Assistant Secretary Anne Patterson.

During the roughly ten months I have served the President in this capacity we have taken important steps to increase international understanding of and support for our Cuba policy, to strengthen civil society within Cuba, and to extend our outreach to the American people and the Cuban American community. I am particularly proud to have contributed to the safe arrival of more than 32,000 Cuban "rafters" in the United States from safe havens in Guantanamo and Panama.

I want to thank you personally for the great support and respect you gave me during the time we worked together. The advances made during this period would not have been possible without you.

Warmest regards,



Richard A. Nuccio

PMH FAXED 4/11
Sandy + Peter know
about this departure.
As you know, he
has been asking to
see you. He wants
you to call him. R
703 534 8563

MEMORANDUM TO: HAROLD ICKES AND ALEXIS HERMAN
FROM: SUZANNA VALDEZ
DATE: APRIL 30, 1996
SUBJECT: CUBAN AMERICAN FLOTILLA

The May 1st Flotilla, organized by Ramon Saul Sanchez from the "Democracy Movement," is scheduled to coincide with Cuba's May Day (Labor Day) celebration.

The flotilla, which currently consists of nine boats and four planes, is scheduled to travel to the sight of the February 24 shutdown to commemorate the fallen pilates.

Organizers have stressed that they do not intend to cross into Cuban territory. However, Cuba is very tense, and coupled with their inability to mark their territorial limits, any confusion or miscalculation between either party may lead to a confrontation.

US Coast Guard is scheduled to have five ships and an airplane in the area to both assist the flotilla in marking the spot and to warn them should they proceed into Cuban territory. The weather is expected to be rough, which may inhibit the flotilla.

Community support for the flotilla is limited, but should an incident occur, support will grow considerably. We have asked the interagency task force to keep us informed, so that we can prepare an appropriate response to the community -- if needed.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

April 30, 1996

STATEMENT BY NICHOLAS BURNS, SPOKESMAN

"FLOTILLA" TO
WATERS OFF CUBA MAY 1

The United States Government notes that organizers of a "flotilla" of privately owned vessels from Florida, perhaps accompanied by aircraft, have announced plans to conduct a protest in international waters close to Cuban territorial seas and airspace on May 1.

We recognize the right of the participants to engage in peaceful protest against the Castro regime. The Department of State warns, however, that persons who enter Cuban territory, territorial seas or airspace without authorization from the Cuban Government, or illegally transmit unauthorized broadcasts from the high seas or aircraft, may place themselves and others in serious danger. United States Coast Guard and Federal Aviation Administration notices reinforcing these warnings remain in effect.

The Cuban Government proved itself willing to take actions in clear violation of international law and international aviation standards when Cuban military shot down two unarmed civil aircraft in international waters on February 24. The Cuban Government has reiterated publicly its warning that it will continue to use measures it deems necessary to defend Cuban territorial sovereignty and to prevent unauthorized incursions into Cuban territorial waters and airspace.

In the interest of avoiding unnecessary risks to all concerned, the Department has informed the Cuban Government of the avowed peaceful intentions of the flotilla organizers. The Department has also reminded the Cuban Government of its obligation to exercise, in accordance with international legal principles concerning the use of force and the law of the sea, the utmost discretion and restraint, and not to use excessive force in responding to the planned flotilla should private vessels or aircraft associated with them enter Cuban territorial seas or airspace.

The Department has also spoken directly with organizers of the flotilla and warned them of the potentially serious consequences of making unauthorized entry into Cuban territorial seas or airspace.

If persons are detained by the Cuban Government in Cuban territory, the ability of the United States Government to assist them would be very limited. Cuban authorities routinely deny consular access by U.S. officials to American citizens of Cuban birth. In addition, there would be very little, if anything, the United States Government could do to assist persons arrested by Cuba who are not American citizens.

The United States Government has made clear its intention to take strong enforcement actions in cases of unauthorized entry by U.S.-registered vessels or aircraft into Cuban territorial seas or airspace. Following the tragic events of February 24, the President declared a national emergency invoking emergency authority relating to the regulation of the anchorage and movement of vessels that may intend to make unauthorized entry into Cuban territorial seas. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued an "Emergency Cease and Desist Order and Statement of Policy" which allows for vigorous enforcement action against U.S.-registered aircraft that violate Cuban territorial airspace. These actions were undertaken to discourage U.S. vessels and aircraft from unauthorized entry into Cuban territorial seas and airspace and to reduce the risks to U.S. citizens and residents of the United States. Additional information is available through the FAA and the United States Coast Guard.

The Department of State urges all concerned -- the organizers and participants in the "flotilla," and any aircraft that may be associated with it, as well as the Cuban Government -- to exercise restraint in handling this event to avoid unnecessary risks to themselves and others, and to do everything possible to ensure the safety of lives.

R'scc
177993

August 10, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: BARBARA WOOLLEY

RE: "Women in Trade" Business Development Mission
Amsterdam and London, September 24-29, 1995

Suggested Participants

Alignment Strategies
9812 Falls Road
Suite 114-284
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-0066
301-299-0069 fax
Dr. Vanessa Weaver, President

Consulting Firm

ESI (Executive Security & Engineering Technology)
900 2nd Street, NE
Suite 112
Washington, DC 20002
202-898-1900
202-898-0025 fax
Margo Bridges, President
Bridges

Telecommunications Firm

Aegir Systems
2051 North Solar Drive, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93030
Ella Williams, President and CEO

Engineering Firm

Research Management, Consultants Inc.
2000 Corporate Ridge
Suite 475
McLean, VA 22102
703-356-4401 VA
303-697-66693 CO
Raydean Acevedo, President and CEO

Theiesa McBride/NM

Linda Alverado/Co.

Pan Metal Corporation
California
213-587-7100
Mi Ahn, President

Jockey Inc.
Wisconsin
Donna Steigerwalt, President

Name	Date	
Wendy White	4/4/97	Council
Wendy Cunningham	3/3/97	
Sally Paxton	11/19/98	Council

**"Women in Trade"
Business Development Mission
to
Amsterdam and London
September 24-29, 1995**

Participants (as of Aug. 9)

Advanced Rubber Concepts, Inc.
P.O. Box 489 Highway 77 South
Pauls Valley, OK 73075
Tel: 800-654-3662 Fax: (405) 238-3029
Sheila A. Smith, President

Rubber Keypads

APB Associates
#80 State Creek Road
HCR Rt. 2, Box 252
La Honda, CA 94020
Tel: 415-949-0339 Fax: Same
Ann E. Von Thaden, President

Custom Gift Boxes

Diana's California Cookies
P.O. Box 3373
Laguna Hills, CA. 92654
Tel: 714-830-7273 Fax: 714-768-7711
Diana Todera, President

**Cookies & Cookie Bars
Private Branded**

Fostermation, Inc.
200 Valleyview Drive
P.O. Box 1290
Meadville, PA 16335
Tel: 814-336-6211 Fax: 814-333-1297
Catherine R. Foster, President

Metal Components From Wire

D & H Electronic Systems, Inc.
P. O. Box 377
11521 Lebanon Road
Mt. Lullier, TN 37122-0377
Tel: 615-754-5692 Fax: 615-758-3890
Glenda J. Binkley, President

Security Systems

Masha Manufacturing
3014 Central S.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106
Tel: 505-256-9600
Sabiha Quraishi,

Sterling Silver Jewelry

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-80)		# of pages 6
FAX TRANSMITTAL		
To: <i>Barbara Woolley</i>		From: <i>Bowling</i>
Attn: <i>White House</i>		Phone: <i>482-4501</i>
Tel: <i>456-6218</i>		Fax: <i>482-1999</i>
NEW YORK 310-7306		5039-101
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION		

P.D.Q. Personnel Services, Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Tel: 213-938-3933 Fax: 213-938-2715
Patty DeDominic, CEO
Immediate Past President, National Association
of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)

Personnel Recruitment Firm

STI - Standard Technology, Inc.
6116 Executive Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Rockville, MD 20852
Tel: 301-770-2800 Fax: 301-770-8560
Kathryn C. Turner, Chairperson & CEO

**Information Systems
And Engineering, Defense
System Component Manufacturing**

Technical Solutions and Maintenance, Inc.
205 S. Whiting Street, Suite 405
Alexandria, VA 22304
Tel: 703-370-1104
Kiralfy C. Forte, President/CEO

Computers, Software

Video Electronic Systems, Inc.
1500 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Suite # 34
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel: 202-833-3450 Fax: 202-331-7822
Dr. Mary Walker, Vice President
President of the National Federation
of Black Women Business Owners (NFBWBO)

Notebook & Personal Computers

T.L.I. International Corp.
680 N. Lake Shore Drive
Suite 1220
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: 312-944-7800 Fax: 312-944-7674
Lyric Hughes, President
Founder, Organization of Women
in International Trade (OWIT)

**Translations & Interpretation
Cultural Sensitivity Training
Public Relations**

Verbal Commitments (as of August 2)

- 4

Johnson Security Bureau, Inc.
1020 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
Tel: 718-681-6957 Fax: 718-681-4330
Dorothy C. Johnson, President

State-Of-The-Art Security

Engineered Demolition Inc.
3231 Slag Court North
Minneapolis, MN 55427
Tel: 612-591-0614
Anna Chong,

Demolition Company

International Product Promotions USA Inc.
600 W. Mechanics Street, Suite 125
Independance, MO 64050
Tel: 816-252-0300
Ms. Cheryl Cooley, President

Export Management Company

Domain Inc.
51 Morgan Drive
Norwood, MA 02062
Tel: 617-769-9130 Fax: 617-769-3587
Judy George, President

Furniture

Very Interested Prospects (as of August 9)

The Platinum Pages
101 Yesler Way, Suite 501
Seattle, WA 98104
Tel: 206-624-5010 Fax 206-624-5717
Marilyn Carr,

Microsoft Directory
Of Legal Professionals

Grolier Inc.
Sherman Turnpike
Danbury, CT 06816
Tel: 203-797-3975 Fax: 203-797-3899
Susanna Phillips, Director Export Sales

Children's Literature

Creative Connections
377 Broad Street
New London, CT 06320
Tel: 203-442-7556 Fax: 203-447-3522
Susan Stewart,

Management Consultant

Sirica Communications
76 Scudder Avenue
Northport, NY 11768
Tel: 516-757-0673 Fax: 516-754-3866
Colabra M. Sirica,

Public Relations Firm

Design Power Inc.
18639 AL Hwy 9
Piedmont, AL 36272
Tel: 205-447-2382 Fax: 205-447-2382
Pamela D. Grimes,

Management Consultants

BMC
Sales & Marketing Communications Associates Inc.
6555 Quince Avenue, Suite 309
Memphis, TN 38119
POB 240213, Memphis TN 38124
Tel: 901-753-0308 Fax: 901-753-8324
Casandra H. Webster, President

Barrasa Associates Ltd.
450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1008
New York, NY 10123
Tel: 212-564-6583
Marian Barrasa,

Winter Coats

SEN: 3120 FAX: 7020 1 0- 9-99 1 3:30PM
202432 833- 202430 0210-7 0

Morfan Inc.
3002 N. Home Street
Mishawaka, IN 46545
Tel: 219-259-4581 Fax: 219-256-2594
Sue Morsey,

Horse Massagers

Needless Away
POB 1072
Big Timber, MT 59011
Tel: 406-932-6254 Fax: 406-932-6254
Joanne Porter, Owner

Medical Needle Incinerator

Mechanical Systems & Supplies, Inc.
P.O. Box 957675
Duluth, GA 30136-9528
Tel: 404-446-0664 Fax: 404-446-0663
Roshellia Goines,

Design & Testing, TQM

Diversified Solutions Inc.
Second National Bank Building
830 Main Street, Suite 510
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Tel: 513-421-9616 Fax: 513-421-9135
Cynthia O. Booth, President

Custom Tracking Software

The Kee-Par Bag
545 Ridge Avenue
Elk Grove, IL 60007
Tel: 708-437-2084 800-765-9244 Fax: 708-437-8294
Eleanor Workman,

Insulated Food Bags

Madison Madison Int'l.
1420 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226-1716
Tel: 313-963-6110 Fax: 313-963-4290
Faye Paige, Director of Marketing

Engineers, Architects & Planners

Sherikon, Inc.
14500 Avion Parkway, Suite 200
Chantilly, VA 22021
Tel: 703-803-7000 Fax: 703-803-3730
Lee Ann Standish, Vice President

**Health Care-
Management Services**

World Community Projects
1089 Sea Terrace Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Tel: 714-722-1122 Fax: ?
Barbara Jean,

Humanitarian Magazine

Creative Juices
625 2nd Street
Suite 408
San Francisco, CA 94107
Tel: 415-979-0866 Fax: 415-543-1023
Lori Foster,

Non-Alcoholic Wines

Name	Date	
Wendy White	2/4/97	Bumby
Sally Payton	11/19/98	Gruce

2

Bent
Amy B

Amel

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

FAX COVER SHEET

DELIVER TO: Mrs. Alexis Herman
Assistant to the president
FROM: Director of Public Liason

FAX #:
(202) 456-2461

DATE: Ms. Niani Williams
Director, Program in African American Culture
10/04/95

INCLUDING THIS SHEET THERE IS/ARE 13 **PAGE(S) TO THIS FAX**

THE MUSEUM'S FAX NUMBER IS (202) 357-1853

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURE

PROGRAM IN AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE
Room 1015 MRC 607
(202) 357-4176 FAX: (202) 357-1853

October 3, 1995

Mrs. Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
Director of Public Liason
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004-2400

Dear Mrs. Herman,

The Program in African American Culture at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History is planning its fifteenth annual national conference in observance of African American History Month, to be held March 31 - February 3, 1996. This event is being organized as a national conference on the history and development of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and is entitled "...Mind on Freedom": **Celebrating the History and Culture of America's Black Colleges and Universities**. The conference will be jointly sponsored by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the Office for the Advancement of Public Black Colleges, the United Negro College Fund, and the Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum. Moreover, the momentousness of this topic has placed this conference on the official register of programs in celebration of the Smithsonian Institution's 150th anniversary.

The project, endorsed by the National Museum of American History, requires the counsel and support of experts in the field to advise us in the development and implementation of this historic forum. We invite you to serve on the conference advisory committee and join us in informing the nation of the vital role the HBCUs have played in the intellectual and cultural life of African Americans specifically, and in the development of education in the U.S. generally. Your participation on the committee will be acknowledged in all conference promotional announcements and brochures, event invitations, the conference program booklet, published proceedings, and other related publications.

This conference was conceptualized in an effort to contribute to the research, analysis, and documentation of HBCUs, institutions that have been central to the intellectual and cultural life of

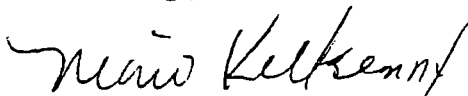
(2)

African Americans, and pivotal to the development of American education. Our aim is to provide a national forum for HBCUs, scholars, researchers, policymakers, alumni, students, and the public to examine the historical evolution of these institutions and their impact on the life and culture of this nation. Enclosed with this letter you will find the following documents:

- a mission statement of the Program in African American Culture, for your information
- a conference concept statement, for your review
- a draft conference outline
- a current list of advisory board members

Thank you in advance for agreeing to serve as an advisor to this historic conference through your support. We are certain that your involvement as a member of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities will guarantee a rich, informative, and exciting event that will have significant long-term consequences for the future of America's historically Black colleges and universities.

Sincerely,



Niani Kilkenney, Director,
Program in African American Culture

enclosures

Program in African American Culture

**National African American
History Month Conference, 1996**

**"...Mind on Freedom":
Celebrating the History
and Culture
of America's Black Colleges
and Universities
January 31- February 3
1996**

CONCEPT STATEMENT

The Program in African American Culture's Fifteenth annual national conference in observance of African American History Month, February 1 - 3, 1996 is organized as a National Conference on the History and Development of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) entitled "Mind on Freedom": Celebrating the History and Culture of America's Black Colleges and Universities. The National Museum of American History has endorsed this project in conjunction with the presidents of the nations' distinguished HBCUs in an effort to contribute to the national research, analysis, and documentation of these institutions that have been central to the intellectual and cultural life of African Americans, and pivotal to the development of U.S. education in general.

This conference represents an expansion of work begun in 1990 by Spencer R. Crew, presently Director of the National Museum of American History, and Lonnie Bunch, Assistant Director for Historical Services, in cooperation with the 17 Black Land grant institutions -- an exhibition and research/documentation project titled "Go Forth and Serve." A substantial collection of oral interviews, photographic images, and official and unofficial documentation of the histories of these institutions has been gathered. This national conference will facilitate a gathering of all 115 HBCUs at this critical historical moment in which they face a variety of legal and political challenges to their existence.

BACKGROUND

We did not learn to read and write, as it was against the law for any person to teach any slave to read; and any slave caught writing suffered the penalty of having his forefinger cut from his right hand; yet there were some who could read and write."

William Henry Heard
former slave

The roots of African American thirst for knowledge go deep into the history of this nation. Three decades before the Civil War, slave literacy was forbidden by law. However, slaves' fundamental belief in the value of literacy and education as a means to liberation and freedom was expressed most clearly in their efforts to secure schooling for themselves and their children despite the dangers and difficulties. By 1860, thousands of slaves had learned to read and write through clandestine educational institutions and systems. Many of the prominent nineteenth-century educational and political figures who became literate in the antebellum South, were at the forefront of the struggle to establish educational institutions and systems that reflected their ideas about the meaning and purpose of education. Proscribed from political struggle by an overwhelmingly oppressive U.S. system of segregation, African American

institutions of higher learning were created as Land Grant, Liberal Arts, and Normal schools, providing for the training of African American intellectuals and professionals. These institutions and their dedicated cadre of trained professionals served as an organic and indispensable infrastructure for African American communities nationwide.

This conference will provide a national forum for HBCUs, scholars, researchers, policy makers, alumni, students, and the public to report on and examine the historical evolution of HBCUs, their impact on the life and culture of this nation, the current status of these institutions, and projections and recommendations for their future.

As we approach the twenty-first century, the uniqueness of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities becomes ever more apparent, while at the same time, the nation's "mainstream" academic institutions remain quintessentially American in their response to a diverse educational environment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Program in African American Culture at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History is planning its fifteenth annual national conference in observance of African American History Month, to be held at the museum, January 31 - February 3, 1996. This event is being organized as a national conference on the history and development of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and is entitled "...Mind on Freedom" : Celebrating the History and Culture of America's Black Colleges and Universities. The conference will be consponsored by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the Office for the Advancement of Public Black Colleges, the United Negro College Fund, and Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum. Moreover, the momentousness of this topic has placed this conference on the official register of programs in celebration of Smithsonian Institution's 150th anniversary.

This conference, endorsed by the presidents of the nation's 117 HBCUs, was conceptualized in an effort to contribute to the national research, analysis, and documentation of HBCUs, institutions that have been central to the intellectual and cultural life of African Americans, and pivotal to the quality of American education. Our aim is to provide a national forum for HBCUs, scholars, researchers, policymakers, alumni, students, and the public to examine the historical evolution of HBCUs, their impact on the life and culture of this nation, and trends and challenges for their future.

The conference sessions will cover the philosophical and social foundations of education in African American life, the intellectual and cultural traditions of HBCUs, the relationships between HBCUS and community; the role of HBCUS in art, patronage, and archival documentation, political and social movements and HBCUs, and current policy issues. Cultural presentations will include instrumental and vocual music performance, dramatic and literary presentations, step shows, marching bands, and alumni reminiscences of life on campus.

This conference represents an expansion of an exhibition and research/documentation project begun in 1990 titled "Go Forth and Serve." Spencer R. Crew, Ph.D., director of the National Museum of American History and Lonnie Bunch, the museum's associate director for Historical Resources, in cooperation with the seventeen Black Land Grant Institutions, collaborated on the project.

[DRAFT COPY]

HBCU PROJECT
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, as of 9/8/95

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

Reception for the Presidents of the HBCUs
HBCU/Education Lifetime Achievement Awards
Presentation

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Session I "Oh, Freedom...": The Roots of the Struggle
9:30am to 11:30am
Carmichael Auditorium

The panelists will explore the historical significance of education as a key to freedom, democracy, and survival within the African American ante and post bellum community.

Session II "Lifting as we Climb...": ?
1:00pm to 3:00pm
Carmichael Auditorium

This session focuses on the structure and development of the HBCU's - land grant liberal arts, and normal schools. Panelists will discuss intellectual traditions, as well as regional and gender issues

Session III "Go Forth and Serve": Service to the community
3:30pm to 5:30pm
Carmichael Auditorium

In this session, panelists will explore the role of HBCU's as an integral part of the African American communities' infrastructure.

Session IV "Remember the Time": Reminiscences of Campus life
8:00pm to 10:00pm
Carmichael Auditorium

Roundtable discussion featuring testimony spanning seven decades (1930's through 1990's) of life on the

campus of HBCU's

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2

Session V "On The Yard": Games, Greeks, and Marching
9:30am to 11:30pm Bands"
Carmichael Auditorium

This session provides an opportunity to explore the unique cultural expressions of HBCU's demonstrated "on the yard". (i.e. athletic, pan hellenic activities.)

Session VI [title??] (Visual, Performing and Literary
1:00pm to 3:00pm Arts)
Carmichael Auditorium .

This session will demonstrate and analyze the HBCU's institutional development of performing literary, and visual arts and how these institutions nurtured, produced, and protected this culture and disseminated it inter nationally

Session VII "Keepers of the Flame": Art, Patronage and the
3:30pm to 5:30pm Archival tradition
Carmichael Auditorium

This session will review and analyze the HBCU's as pioneering repositories of African American life and culture and as originators of the African American museum, gallery, and archival traditions.

Session VIII "Every time I feel the Spirit...": The
7:00pm to 10:00pm concert tradition in HBCUs
Lincoln Theatre

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Session IX: We shall not be moved...": Political and
9:30am to 11:30am Social Movements and the HBCUs
Carmichael Auditorium

This session will address the impact of

HBCU's on national and international politics.

Session X:

1:00pm to 3:00pm
Carmichael Auditorium

"... and still I rise": Student Perspectives
on the future of Black Education"

This session will be a student forum on the critical analysis of Black education

Session XI:

3:30pm to 5:30pm
Carmichael Auditorium

[title??]

": Public Policy

This session will analyze contemporary public policy and prospects for the future

Session XII:

7:00pm to 10:00pm
Flag Hall

[title?]

".. The Step Show

This final session will demonstrate one of the more colorful aspects of the HBCU campus life

1

hbcu.21e

**"...Mind on Freedom": Celebrating
the History and Culture of America's Black Colleges
and Universities**

**MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE ADVISORY BOARD
AS OF 9/29/95**

Conference Co-chairs

James D. Anderson, Ph.D.
Head, Department of Educational Policy Studies,
and Professor of History
University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

Bettye J. Gardner, Ph.D.
National President, ASALH, and Professor of History/Geography
and International Studies, Coppin State College

Project Originators

Spencer R. Crew, Ph.D.
Director
National Museum of American History

Lonnie Bunch
Associate Director for Historical Resources
National Museum of American History

Members

The Hon. William L. Clay
Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

John Hope Franklin, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
History Dept.
Duke University

William H. Gray, III
President/CEO
United Negro College Fund

Dorothy Height, Ph.D
President
National Council of Negro Women

Darlene Clark Hine, Ph.D.
Professor, History Department
Michigan State University

Catherine LeBlanc
Executive Director
White House Initiative on HBCUs

Frank L. Matthews
Publisher, Black Issues in Higher Education

Constance Berry Newman
Under Secretary
Smithsonian Institution

Steven Cameron Newsome
Director, Anacostia Museum and the Center for
African American History and Culture

The Honorable Major R. Owens
The Economic and Educational Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

N. Joyce Payne
Director
Office for the Advancement
of Public Black Colleges

Wendell Rayburn, Ph.D.
President, Lincoln University, MO,
and Chair, Board of Directors, Office for
the Advancement of Public Black Colleges

Bernice Johnson Reagon, Ph.D.
Curator Emerita
Division of Community Life,
National Museum of American History

Mrs. Wilma Roscoe
President
National Association for
Equal Opportunity in Higher Education

The Hon. Robert C. Scott
Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Talbert O. Shaw, Ph.D.
President, Shaw University
and Chair, Board of Directors, National Association
for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education

IMPORTANT FAX!**BREAST CANCER RESOURCE COMMITTEE**

1765 N STREET, N.W., SUITE 100

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-2802

(202) 463-8040

(202) 463-8015 FAX

DATE:

March 30, 1996

TO:

Alexis M. Herman, Asst. to the
President

FAX NO.:

456-6218

TEL. NO.:

456-2930

FROM:

Les Butler, Director of Communications

RE:

April 1 Press Conference

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER SHEET:

3

COMMENTS:

If this FAX is not properly received or should you have any questions, please call
(202) 463-8040.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER!

BREAST CANCER RESOURCE COMMITTEE

ZORA KRAMER BROWN
CHAIRMAN

NEWS

CONTACT:

Les Butler (202) 463-8040

MEDIA ADVISORY

MARCH 29, 1996

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT, COALITION OF CANCER ADVOCATES,
AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PARTICIPATE IN
NATIONAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY KICK-OFF**

Washington, D.C. -- Cora Masters Barry, First Lady of the District of Columbia, the Breast Cancer Resource Committee and a coalition of cancer advocates including hospitals, health professionals, community leaders and cancer survivors, will hold a press conference to kick-off April 1996 - National Cancer Awareness Month. The press conference will highlight the unique models and advances in cancer control initiatives in the District and the advances made in cancer screening, treatment, and research made by the United States Department of Defense and the United States Department of the Army.

WHEN: Monday, April 1, 1996
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

WHERE: One Judiciary Square (Mayor Barry's Office)
441 4th Street, N.W.
Auditorium - First Floor

GUESTS: Cora Masters Barry
First Lady of the District of Columbia

Colonel Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.
U.S. Department of Defense

Lieutenant Colonel Claudia Ogilvie
Research Area Directorate VI
United States Department of Army

BREAST CANCER RESOURCE COMMITTEE
1765 N STREET, N.W., SUITE 100
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

TELEPHONE: (202) 463-8040

FACSIMILE: (202) 463-8015

CONT.

Page 2

District of Columbia and U.S. Department of Defense
Collaborate on National Cancer Awareness Day Kick-Off

Edward Sondik, Deputy Director
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control
National Cancer Institute

Robert DeWitty, M.D.,
Howard University Cancer Center

Paul Levine, M.D.
The George Washington University Cancer Center

Pauline A. Schneider, Past President
District of Columbia Bar Association

Jacquelyn Lendsey, Vice President,
Corporate and Community Development
Greater Southeast Community Hospital

Barbara Baldwin, Grants Manager
Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program - DC

Zora Kramer Brown, Founder and Chairperson
Breast Cancer Resource Committee

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3/29/96

My paper
Kate

(Amult)



**ASSOCIATION OF
TRIAL LAWYERS OF AMERICA**

1050 31ST STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20007 (202) 965-3500

LINDA A. LIPSEN
SENIOR DIRECTOR
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM



APR 26 1996

TO: Alexis Herman

FROM: Linda Lipsen *[Signature]*

Thought you would be interested in the enclosed clips and Attorneys General letters supporting the President's position on the product liability conference report.

pjb

State Attorneys General Opposed to the Product Liability Conference Report

As of March 20, 1996

Arizona Attorney General Grant Woods

Arkansas Attorney General Winston Bryant

Kentucky Attorney General A.B. Chandler III*

Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger

Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III

Missouri Attorney General Jeremiah W. Nixon

Nevada Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa

New Mexico Attorney General Tom Udall

North Dakota Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp*

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales

West Virginia Attorney General Darrell V. McGraw, Jr.

* Sent individual letter in opposition to the bill; not included on sign-on letter.



Attorney General of New Mexico

PO Drawer 1508
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1508

505/827-6000
Fax 505/827-5826

TOM UDALL
Attorney General

MANUEL TIJERINA
Deputy Attorney General

March 20, 1996

Dear Senator:

As the Attorneys General of our respective states, we strongly urge you to oppose the "Common Sense Product Liability Legal Reform Act." This legislation, in our view, would unfairly tilt the scales of justice against citizens in our states who are injured by defective products and in favor of the small number of manufacturers that put their own interests before public safety.

Based on our extensive legal experience, we recognize that America's state-based legal system can and should be improved. In fact, many state courts and legislatures have enacted legal reforms designed to achieve quicker and less costly resolution of civil claims. However, legal reform must balance the interests of citizens who suffer injuries caused by product defects with the interests of product manufacturers to be free from unwarranted litigation. This legislation fails to strike the requisite balance.

Our major concerns with this legislation are as follows:

I. Preemption of State Laws

If enacted, this legislation would preempt only those state product liability laws that offer citizens more protection than they would receive under the federal legislation. The states would remain free to enact a product liability law with less consumer protection than the federal law. This "one-way" preemption would fail to achieve uniformity in product liability law, and, more importantly, appears designed to provide manufacturers with the most advantageous law -- to the detriment of injured citizens.

Further, tort law traditionally has fallen within the purview of state courts and legislatures. Over the past 20 years, practically every state has reformed its tort laws, including products liability. These state policy decisions should not be usurped by the federal government absent a strong justification for federal involvement. To date, we have seen no evidence establishing a predicate for federal preemption of state product liability laws.

We frankly find it puzzling that the federal government would consider preempting state product liability laws when bipartisan groups have emphasized the advantages of devolving authority to state and local governments on issue after issue. State policymakers are best situated to determine the substantive content of product liability laws based on local considerations. This legislation is an unjustified and unnecessary encroachment upon the right of the states to determine their tort laws.

II. Punitive Damages

As the chief law enforcement officers in our states, we strongly believe that punishment -- and even the threat of punishment -- can deter criminal and wrongful civil acts. We also recognize that criminal and civil punishment must fit the circumstances of each case. Thus, we find the legislation's arbitrary formula for the award of punitive damages to be fundamentally flawed. While some product manufacturers may legitimately fear the potential of punitive awards, all the empirical studies to date demonstrate that such awards are very rare. However, the deterrent effect of punitive damages should not be undercut by an arbitrary limit. In some cases, punitive damages are the only device available to bring an offender to justice or to keep a dangerous product off the market. This provision does not appropriately balance the right of citizens to be free from reckless misconduct with the right of manufacturers to be free from unwarranted or excessive awards.

III. Statute of Repose

The 15-year statute of repose is problematic for several reasons. First, it would bar a citizen from bringing a claim against the manufacturer of a 15-year-old piece of defective equipment, wholly disregarding the fact that many products are built to last 15, 30 or more years (e.g., farm machinery, industrial equipment). By failing to recognize the individual circumstances in each case, this arbitrary time bar would work unfairly against citizens.

Second, this measure would give the manufacturer that learns of a hazardous product defect late in the 15-year period an incentive to conceal such knowledge rather than make necessary safety modifications. The manufacturer could be encouraged, for example, to gamble that a 14-year-old product with a known defect would not injure someone for the next year rather than spend the money needed to make repairs. If an injury occurred after the 15-year period expired, the manufacturer would be immunized from liability regardless of the circumstances.

Third, we cannot countenance a proposal that elevates property rights over a citizen's right to be free from injury. While a worker who was injured by a defective product that had been in use for 15 years and one day would be absolutely barred from pursuing his or her rights in court, that worker's employer could recover for any property damage sustained due to the exact same product defect. This is unfair and counter to Americans' sense of justice.

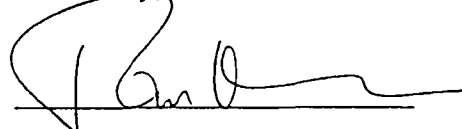
IV. Joint and Several Liability

The provision changing this legal concept, which has been recognized since 1304 as a feature of the common law, fails the test of fairness on two counts. First, it obliterates the idea that between multiple adjudicated wrongdoers and an innocent party, the innocent party should not be forced to bear the costs of injury simply because one wrongdoer has gone out of business or is judgment-proof. Under this provision, the injured party would unfairly bear the costs of wrongdoing.

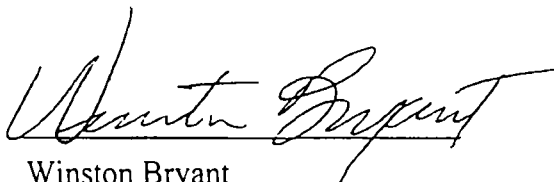
Second, because this provision would only eliminate joint-and-several liability for "non-economic" loss, it would discriminate unfairly against those who historically have not had higher "economic" losses (i.e., women, children, the elderly, minorities). For these reasons, we believe that this provision also unfairly tilts the playing field against citizens.

In closing, we would reiterate our strong belief that improvements to our civil justice system can and should be made. However, we believe that the "Common Sense Product Liability Legal Reform Act" is not an appropriate vehicle for quicker and less costly resolution of civil claims. Rather, in our view, it would prevent injured citizens from vindicating their legal rights and reduce the incentives for manufacturers to market safe and effective products. We therefore urge you to oppose the Conference Report.

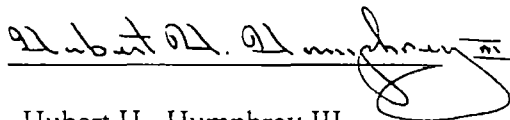
Sincerely,



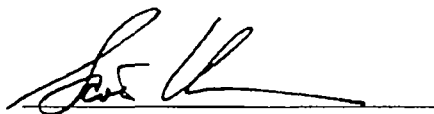
Tom Udall
Attorney General of New Mexico



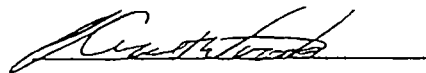
Winston Bryant
Attorney General of Arkansas



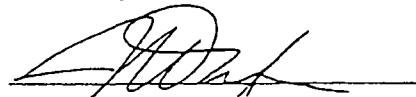
Hubert H. Humphrey III
Attorney General of Minnesota



Scott Harshbarger
Attorney General of Massachusetts



Grant Woods
Attorney General of Arizona

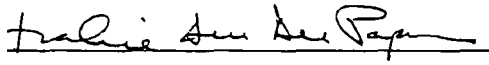


Jeremiah W. Nixon
Attorney General of Missouri

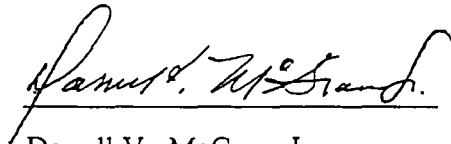


Dan Morales
Attorney General of Texas

Page 4

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frankie Sue Del Papa", written over a horizontal line.

Frankie Sue Del Papa
Attorney General of Nevada

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Darrell V. McGraw Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Darrell V. McGraw Jr.
Attorney General of West Virginia



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

A.B. CHANDLER III
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 15, 1996

P.O. BOX 2000
FRANKFORT, KY 40602-2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the Attorney General of Kentucky, I strongly urge you to veto the "Product Liability Fairness Act," which may soon be on your desk. This legislation unfairly tilts the scales of justice against citizens in our state who are injured by defective products in favor of the small number of manufacturers that put their own interests before public safety.

I recognize that America's state-based legal system can and should be improved. In fact, many state courts and legislatures have enacted legal reforms designed to achieve quicker and less costly resolution of civil claims. However, any legal reform must balance the interests of citizens who suffer injuries caused by product defects with the interests of product manufacturers to be free from unwarranted litigation. This legislation fails to strike the requisite balance.

In the comments below, we address the provisions in the Senate bill because I understand that the legislation produced by the conference committee is more likely to resemble that bill than the legal reform bill passed by the House of Representatives. My major concerns with this legislation are as follows:

I. Preemption of State Laws

If enacted, this legislation would preempt only those state product liability laws that offer citizens more protection than they would receive under the federal legislation. The states would remain free to enact a product liability law with less consumer protection than the federal law. This "one-way" preemption would fail to achieve uniformity in product liability law, and, more importantly, appears designed to provide manufacturers with the most advantageous law - to the detriment of injured citizens.

More fundamentally, Mr. President, as a former governor and state attorney general yourself, you recognize that tort law traditionally has fallen within the purview of state courts and legislatures. Over the past 20 years, many states have

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
Page 2

reformed tort laws, including products liability. These state policy decisions should not be usurped by the federal government absent a strong justification for federal involvement. To date, I have seen no evidence establishing a predicate for federal preemption of state product liability laws.

II. Punitive Damages

As the chief law enforcement officer, I strongly believe that punishment - even the threat of punishment - can deter criminal and wrongful civil acts. Criminal and civil punishment must fit the circumstances of each case. Thus, we find the legislation's arbitrary formula for the award of punitive damages to be fundamentally flawed.

III. Statute of Repose

The 20-year statute of repose is problematic for several reasons. First, it would bar a citizen from bringing a claim against the manufacturer of a 20-year-old piece of defective equipment, wholly disregarding the fact that many products are built to last 20, 30 or more years (e.g., farm machinery, industrial equipment). By failing to recognize the individual circumstances in each case, this arbitrary time bar would work unfairly against citizens.

Second, this measure would give the manufacturer that learns of a hazardous product defect late in the 20-year period an incentive to conceal such knowledge rather than make necessary safety modifications. The manufacturer could be encouraged, for example, to gamble that a 19-year-old product with a known defect would not injure someone for the next year rather than spend the money needed to make repairs. If an injury occurred after the 20-year period expired, the manufacturer would be immunized from liability regardless of the circumstances.

Third, we cannot countenance a proposal that elevates property rights over a citizen's right to be free from injury. While a worker who was injured by a defective product that had been in use for 20 years and one day would be absolutely barred from pursuing his or her rights in court, that worker's employer could recover for any property damage sustained due to the exact same product defect. This is unfair and counter to Americans' sense of justice.

Respectfully,

A. B. Chandler III

A. B. Chandler, III
Attorney General



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

March 19, 1996

Heidi Heitkamp
ATTORNEY GENERAL

CAPITOL TOWER
State Capitol
500 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0040
701-328-2210
FAX 701-328-2225

Consumer Protection
and Antitrust Division
701-328-3404 (V/TDD)
800-472-2500 (V/TDD)
Toll Free in North Dakota
FAX 701-328-3535

Gaming Division
701-328-4345
FAX 701-328-3535

Licensing Section
701-328-4545
FAX 701-328-3535

CAPITOL COMPLEX
State Office Building
500 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0041
FAX 701-328-4300

Civil Litigation
701-328-3540

Natural Resources
701-328-3540

Racing Commission
701-328-4250

Bureau of Criminal
Investigation
P.O. Box 1054
Bismarck, ND 58502-1054
701-328-5500
800-472-2185
Toll Free in North Dakota
FAX 701-328-5510

Fire Marshal
P.O. Box 1054
Bismarck, ND 58502-1054
701-328-5555
FAX 701-328-5510

Fargo Office
P.O. Box 1773
Fargo, ND 58107-1773
701-235-7125
FAX 701-235-7125

VIA FACSIMILE (202-224-7776)

Hon. Kent Conrad
United States Senate
724 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Conrad:

Thank you for taking the time to visit with me about the "Product Liability Fairness Act of 1995," H.R. 956. As I told you, I am particularly concerned about the legislation's "one-way" preemption and cap on punitive damages.

As you know, the legislation would preempt only those state product-liability laws that offer citizens more protection than they would receive under H.R. 956. States would remain free to enact state product liability legislation with less consumer protection than the federal law, but not more. This one-way preemption would not promote uniformity in product liability law and would prohibit states from choosing to provide their citizens with a higher level of consumer protection, if appropriate, based on local considerations.

The legislation also limits most punitive damage awards to, at most, two times the amount of the injured person's losses or \$250,000. In some instances a punitive damages award is the only device available to keep a dangerous product off the market or to force a large company to change inappropriate behavior. Without the threat of a large punitive damages award, a large corporation may find it financially expedient to continue to produce and market a dangerous product. I believe removing that threat eliminates an important incentive manufacturers and others currently have to be good citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose this legislation. If you have any questions about how this legislation would affect North Dakotans or North Dakota law, please feel free to contact me or Solicitor General Laurie Loveland. We will provide whatever assistance we can.

Hon. Kent Conrad
March 19, 1996
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Heidi Heitkamp by *JL*

Heidi Heitkamp
Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0040
Telephone (701) 328-2210
Facsimile (701) 328-2226

**"FIRST THING WE NEED IS A GOVERNMENT
CAP ON LIABILITY PAYMENTS"**



March 21, 1996

The Anti-Consumer Act of 1996

The Senate is preparing to vote today on a pernicious piece of anti-consumer legislation masquerading as product liability "reform." The measure is little more than a bipartisan gift to manufacturers and trade associations that supplemented their lobbying and generous campaign contributions with misleading propaganda exaggerating the problem of high verdicts. The bill would arbitrarily cap the punitive damages that juries may award — dangerously weakening the ability of the civil justice system to punish, and thereby deter, the reckless manufacture or sale of unsafe products.

If a majority of senators will not heed legitimate concerns about the measure's rollback of consumer protection, President Clinton must be prepared to make good on his veto threat.

The bill is a convenient exception to Capitol Hill's prevailing philosophy of devolving power to the states. It would compel all states, even in their own courts, to limit punitive damages. The phony rationale given is the need to create a single national commercial standard. But that standard would be applied only when it would benefit the manufacturers. The bill would override the product liability laws of states that allow unlimited punitive damages, for example, but it would impose no such damages on states that do not now have them.

Under the measure, plaintiffs who sue successfully for harm from faulty products could be compensated, as they should be, for medical expenses, lost wages, damaged property and other actual damages. But punitive damages, which are awarded by juries in cases of egregious misconduct, would be limited in most cases to \$250,000 or two times actual damages, whichever is greater. That is hardly enough money to serve as a deterrent to major corporations.

Senator John D. Rockefeller 4th of West Virginia, a Democratic architect of this attack on civil justice, has suggested that President Clinton is trying to scuttle the bill to reward major campaign contributors, like trial lawyers. True, the American Association of Trial Lawyers has been one of Mr. Clinton's strongest political and financial backers. But by now it is laughable for Mr. Rockefeller to make purity an issue, given the far greater sums tossed into this fight by the powerful business interests amassed on the other side.

"For irresponsible companies willing to put profits above all else, the bill's capping of punitive damages increases the incentive to engage in the egregious misconduct of knowingly manufacturing and selling of defective products," Mr. Clinton said last week. On the merits, the President was right.

MARCH 19, 1996

Sometimes, Lobbyists Strive To Keep Public in the Dark

By JANE FRITSCH

WASHINGTON, March 18 — On a February morning two years ago, lobbyists from throughout the country gathered at the Colony Beach and Tennis Resort in Longboat Key, Fla., to share the secrets of their successful lobbying campaigns.

Among the first speakers was Neal M. Cohen of Apco Associates, a Washington firm that had been working behind the scenes for years for clients seeking limit damages in lawsuits. He regaled the group with tales of hapless reporters and public relations coups, but he underscored a serious theme: the importance of keeping the public in the dark about who the clients really are.

Mr. Cohen is a specialist in "grass-roots" lobbying, a Washington term for a technique often used to camouflage an unpopular or unsympathetic client. Typically the client, often a large business, hires a Washington firm to organize a coalition of small businesses, nonprofit groups and individuals across the nation. The coalition draws public sympathy for the legislation sought by the original client, who recedes into the background.

This week, Mr. Cohen and Apco have reached the culmination of one of the most elaborate grass-roots campaigns since the technique was developed a decade ago. The focus of that campaign, a bill to impose the first nationwide limits on liability lawsuits, is scheduled for a Senate vote in the next few days.

The fate of the legislation is unclear. On Saturday, President Clinton said he would veto the bill if it reached his desk in its current form, and it is not known whether the measure has enough support in Congress to overcome a veto. Still, in Congress, in state legislatures and in

the Presidential campaign, the issue has gained more prominence in the last year than ever before, in large part because of the activities of a coalition Mr. Cohen helped develop.

Mr. Cohen will not say who his clients are, other than the coalition, the American Tort Reform Association. It, in turn, calls itself a broad-based national coalition of local organizations, large and small businesses, school boards and others.

But the legislation that will go to the Senate floor would do little for most of those in the coalition, like the school board or Little League team afraid of being sued. The legislation would limit only product liability lawsuits, claims that a poorly manufactured or dangerous product has caused an injury. So if the bill becomes law, the victors will largely be tobacco companies, manufacturers and insurance companies.

Opponents of the measure, like the Trial Lawyers Association of America and Public Citizen, a public-interest lobbying group, say the big companies have been paying the bills for tort law changes for years, while hiding behind the members of the association they helped to create.

Few public records exist to show who pays for such a campaign, but a recording of Mr. Cohen's speech, given to The New York Times by Public Citizen, suggests that a few large companies paid for and called the shots in the movement to change tort laws, both in Washington and in a number of state legislatures.

In an interview last week, Mr. Co-

*The fine art of
lobbying sometimes
calls for a master
of disguise.*

hen said that he had not realized that his speech was being recorded, and that he was not advocating that lobbyists "obfuscate" who their clients are. "My job is to make the message more attractive to the public," he said. If a client has an obviously negative public image, he said, "I find other allies who support the bill in an honest way."

But the recording provides an unusually candid description of how a major grass-roots campaign is run.

As an example, Mr. Cohen dissected for the group the successful campaign for tort overhaul in Mississippi. In 1993, he said, he began a blitzkrieg public attack on "greedy" trial lawyers, on behalf of a coalition he called "Mississippians for a Fair Legal System." He advertised for members with an 800 number on billboards carrying slogans like "Fairness, Yes. Greed, No."

To get the attention of the press, he hired a local professor to do a study that said more money was being spent on the tort system in Mississippi than on education.

In one television advertisement, the announcer concluded by saying: "Lawyers are more interested in turning any opportunity into a windfall. If they win, a lot of the money ends up in their pockets."

Within four weeks, he said, the coalition had 1,200 members, including nonprofit agencies, schools, businesses and people who felt they had been victimized by frivolous suits.

"We used every campaign tactic we had in order to bring in as many people," he said. "And we made sure that it was typical people mixed in with large employers and political contributors." It cost nothing to join, he added. "You just had to sign your name on a form that said you're a member."

The sudden, concerted effort took Mississippi lawyers "completely by surprise," Mr. Cohen told the group. "They didn't really know who was at the heart of everything, and there were no reporting requirements." The lawyers could not figure out who was at the root of the attacks, he said, because, in the end, "we have

1,500 Mississippians mixed in with who our clients were."

The trial lawyers "caved in," he said. "We had divided them from the victims, and the media took our side, and their money became radioactive."

Joan Claybrook, the president of Public Citizen, said the tort movement had recruited members only as window dressing. "A lot of the behind-the-scenes financing is coming, we believe, from insurance and tobacco and other industries."

Sherman Joyce, the executive director of the tort association, declined to say what companies or industries had paid significant amounts of money to push for the legislation. He said the association was committed to continuing its fight for changes that would help all its members, not just those who wanted product liability legislation.

But he added, "Politics is the art of the do-able." Mr. Joyce said it might be easier for Congress to justify a product liability law than a law that would limit all damage suits in state courts. Besides, he said, groups like Public Citizen try to keep trial lawyers in the background of the debate, when it is the trial lawyers who are behind the opposition to overhauling the tort system.

The move to overhaul the nation's liability laws began in earnest in 1986, when a group of engineers, led by James K. Coyne, a former Republican Congressman from Pennsylvania, started the American Tort Reform Association. The engineers were unhappy with the number of lawsuits being filed against them and their companies over things like people tripping on badly maintained sidewalks that they may have designed years earlier, Mr. Coyne recalled last week.

Mr. Coyne and the other founders wanted to fight what they viewed as the pervasive influence of trial lawyers in politics, he said. There were construction-related companies, doctors, nurses, optometrists, nonprofit groups and manufacturers among the members. The founders discouraged participation by corporate lawyers, the insurance industry and tobacco interests, he said.

"We were focused not just on product liability," Mr. Coyne said. "We were concerned about the Little League that was being sued."

But many corporate lobbyists joined the group with their own agendas, he said. "The products folks only wanted to achieve product liability legislation," he said, "and the products guys had the bigger budgets."

So two years after Mr. Coyne started the association, he left. It was about that time that the coalition hired Apco Associates, then a subsidiary of Arnold & Porter, the influential Washington lobbying firm.

Today, the tort association has more than 300 members and has helped push through legislation in several states. On its membership list are companies like Aetna, Philip Morris and Pfizer as well as the American Camping Association, the American Council on Education and the Roller Skating Association. But, as Mr. Cohen told his colleagues in Florida, broad-based membership can be a blessing and a curse. He warned against confusing broad-based membership with broad-based leadership.

"If you join a coalition and you contribute significant money to a coalition, you'd better be at the table when the decisions are made," Mr. Cohen said. "Broad-based membership is: 'What does the public see? What do the legislators see?'"

"In a tort reform battle, if State Farm — I think they're here, and Nationwide — is the leader of the coalition, you're not going to pass the bill. It is not credible, O.K., because it's so self-serving. That's why the clients came to me and said, 'We've got to pull away from this.'"

For his final piece of advice, Mr. Cohen summed up the two reasons for starting a grass-roots campaign: when a client cannot get legislation passed on its own, and when an issue is already popular enough that forming a coalition makes the client more powerful. "I guess to simplify," he said, "one is for cover and the other is for strength."

MARCH 20, 1996

Liability Act Beats Up on the Little Guy

The "Product Liability Fairness Act of 1996," as its Republican sponsors call it, will unclog the courts of frivolous lawsuits and unburden business of unpredictably high jury awards, such as the nearly \$3 million to a woman scalded by hot coffee.

But consumer groups and trial lawyers call it the "Wrongdoers Act of 1996," saying it would protect big businesses that willfully produce and sell unsafe goods.

We believe tort reform is needed to discourage nuisance lawsuits, but not in the form of this proposal, which is set for a vote today.

Among other things, this bill would supersede any state law that favors consumers and would place an arbitrary \$250,000 cap—or twice the value of actual loss—on jury awards for pain and suffering. That's appropriate in some cases, but in others that might amount to a few minutes' profit, which is no incentive for companies to stop making or selling dangerous products.

These decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, within reasonable limits. That's why we're glad President Clinton has vowed to veto the legislation. Still, watch how our senators vote.

Sen. Paul Simon voted against the bill last year and says revisions have made the current proposal even more anti-consumer. He'll vote against it. But Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, who plans to vote for it, says the bill "strikes an appropriate balance between preserving access to the courts and providing a measure of certainty and predictability to the manufacturers."

The fact is, the unpredictability of jury awards is what keeps companies honest. For example, Ford knew how to make safe the Pinto, notorious for bursting into flames upon impact, but chose a design that was more profitable. The car was redesigned only after the company got socked with \$125 million in punitive damages.

Children's pajamas, pain relievers and baby cribs—to name just a few—also were made safer after jury awards.

But for all the good that product liability suits have done, they represent less than 2 percent of the 762,000 civil cases resolved in the biggest U.S. counties, according to 1995 Justice Department statistics. That's hardly enough to clog the courts. Punitive damages were awarded in less than 1 percent of those cases.

The gall of some big businesses is why the mere threat of punitive damages is needed. Better to have legislation that addresses the real clog in the court system: the businesses suing other businesses. Those cases are about 50 percent of all federal lawsuits.

We hope the groups lobbying on behalf of the little guy prevail.

MARCH 21, 1996

Product liability bill hurts U.S. consumers

MUCH of the increasingly shrill debate over the product liability bill now in Congress casts the fight as one between trial lawyers and big business.

That may be how it looks to Washington insiders, but what cannot be lost in the debate is the affect the legislation would have on consumers. And there is no doubt that if this bill passes, consumers will get the shaft.

The House and Senate passed radically different measures earlier this year, with the House bill being a far more sweeping tort reform measure than the Senate version. The compromise bill, which is expected to go to the Senate floor this week, is limited to product liability cases, where consumers sue product manufacturers claiming injuries due to faulty products. On Saturday, President Clinton said he would veto the bill in its present version.

The cornerstone of the legislation is a cap on punitive damages. Under the legislation, punitive damages, which are damages other than those that compensate for a direct injury or loss, would be limited to \$250,000, or two times the compensatory damages, whichever is greater.

The bill's supporters have argued that punitive damages cripple the ability of U.S. manufacturers to compete. They have also trotted out a handful of cases where plaintiffs were awarded punitive damages that were several times over the actual losses in terms of missed work, property damage and medical expenses.

But punitive damages, as the name implies, exist to punish companies for putting shoddy products on the market and to deter them from doing so in the future. Manufacturers of everything from farm equipment to baby clothes are going to be far more careful in the way their products are tested and labeled if they know that they can be held liable

Measure would federalize all product liability

for punitive damages in court.

This newspaper's main beef against the product liability legislation, however, is that it federalizes an entire segment of civil litigation. The bill would cover product liability lawsuits in all federal and state courts. Currently, states set their own standards for product liability cases. And juries in individual states and communities have tremendous range in hearing the merits of each case, determining fault, and awarding damages.

Of course, there have been cases where juries have awarded plaintiffs punitive damages that were excessive. But those instances are extremely rare. And in those cases, the defense usually appeals the award and has it reduced.

Most U.S. manufacturers of everything from automobiles and airplanes to toasters and toys try to assure that the products they put on the market are safe. But some are reckless. Remember the highly flammable baby pajamas, super-absorbent tampons, the Dalkon Shield, and the Pinto? Every year, dangerous products go on the market because some manufacturers had more regard for their profit margin than for the well-being of their customers.

Strong product liability laws are the only thing standing between American consumers and defective and dangerous products. State legislatures, not Congress, should determine the level of protection in each state. And local judges and juries should continue to determine the fault and the level of damages. The Tennessee delegation is urged to think twice, and vote against this bill. ■

MARCH 11, 1996

Tort reform moderating

Consumers once again may be grateful that the U.S. Senate is more moderate than the House. The lower body has wanted extreme changes in the tort laws, but a deadlock between negotiators threatened to kill any plan. So last week the House Republicans dropped their bill, and it appears that the more moderate changes approved by the Senate will prevail.

Despite all the hot rhetoric about the need for reform in the civil justice laws, state and federal, there really is nothing terribly wrong with the existing laws. But "tort reform" has been the political color of the month for a few years now, despite the lack of evidence to back up the horror stories about excessive awards. Texas enacted changes in its tort laws last year that make it harder to sue and that cap punitive damages.

The U.S. House had wanted changes so sweeping that they would even limit the amount of punitive damages that could be awarded the victims of rapists. The New York Times reported.

The Senate bill would limit only lawsuits involving faulty products, but it still could draw opposition from President Clinton. Under the proposed bill, punitive damages would be limited in cases involving dangerous products and would set a national standard for such suits in both state and federal courts, the Times reported.

Someone who successfully sued could win actual damages such as medical expenses, damaged property and lost wages. But punitive damages would be capped at \$250,000 in most cases, or two or three times actual damages, whichever is greater. The cap for small businesses would be fixed at \$250,000.

But a judge could increase punitive

damages in particularly outrageous cases. According to the Times, jurors would not be told about the cap and could award a larger amount than permitted. The defendant in such an instance would have to pay only the \$250,000 (or up to three times actual damages, if greater) unless a judge found that the company had behaved

recklessly. That maximum award won't deter a giant corporation from continuing to produce a dangerous product.

Certainly, this is better than the House version, but it still seems unnecessary. Jurors, federal or state, are not simple-

tons, and they typically will make large awards for punitive purposes only when the facts warrant such an award. Those who use the famous McDonald's hot coffee case as an example of an excessive award (\$2.9 million) usually don't mention that there had been numerous other complaints or that the award was reduced to \$490,000.

Thus, judges and appeals courts can and do step in and reduce awards they deem unsupported by the facts. Advocates of tort reform also say that potential costs of proceeding through trial lead to an excessive number of expensive settlements, but there are many steps and alternatives available between a complaint and a settlement, let alone a jury trial, including mediation — and corporate policies that stress product safety, which reduces the number of potential lawsuits.

In any event, the decision by the House to back off its sweeping "reform" package may signal the beginning of a swing of the pendulum back toward trust in our civil litigation system. Each case is unique. Juries and judges ought to have sufficient flexibility to render civil justice.

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Defective product

• *The U.S. Senate takes up a misguided plan to reform the legal system*

Today, the U.S. Senate is expected to vote on a controversial bill that would limit the liability of manufacturers in lawsuits filed by consumers over defective products. The business community has pushed hard for congressional action. It has legitimately complained about the burdensome costs of civil litigation.

The legislation before the Senate contains several worthwhile provisions. It reflects months of intense lobbying, negotiation and compromise. It has bipartisan support. It is far less harsh than the sweeping proposal approved by the House last year.

All of the positive elements, however, aren't enough to overcome the serious shortcomings of the bill. Over the weekend, President Clinton pledged to veto the measure, if it arrived on his desk. The promise contained a large dollop of election-year politics. It also makes sense on the merits.

The bill tells the story of the Republican Congress. It heads in the right direction. It just goes too far.

Take, for instance, the proposed limit on punitive damages, which are awarded by juries in cases of egregious conduct. In most cases, a jury would be permitted to award no more than \$250,000 or twice the economic and noneconomic damages, whichever is greater. That allows some flexibility. It seems mean-spirited, however, to place such an arbitrary limit on damages, especially when innocent victims are involved; their families shattered; their lives ruined.

Punitive damages are designed to serve as a deterrent against the rare but dangerous manufacturer that neglects safety in the naked pursuit of profit. What kind of signal would Congress send with a limit on punitive damages of \$250,000?

The concept of joint and several li-

ability means a defendant can be held liable for an entire award even though he or she is merely 10 percent responsible for an accident. Unfortunately, in rightly seeking to improve the concept, the legislation indulges in excess, leaving the innocent and injured in the legal cold.

Similarly, the bill would prohibit lawsuits by consumers who are injured by defective products that are more than 15 years old. Businesses would not face such a restriction in seeking damages for commercial losses that may have resulted from defects in products or equipment.

The hypocrisy should be plain. The provision suggests, as do others in the bill, less an eagerness to improve a troubled civil-litigation system than a desire to serve a narrow agenda. Congress can do better. Consumers deserve better.

Act would usurp state laws, sensibilities

By SARAH VOGEL
Bismarck

Operating a family farm is dangerous business. Farming is one of the most dangerous jobs in America, along with mining and construction. Heavy equipment, volatile chemicals, rough work and long hours make farm safety a top priority.

The last thing we need from Washington, D.C. is a law that could make farming more dangerous. Regrettably, that's the road Congress is traveling right now. They're set to vote on S.565, the "Product Liability Fairness Act," on Monday.

This federal law would impair our state constitution, preempt our state laws and restrict the abilities of a North Dakota jury or court to render decisions on products that injure North Dakotans.

Some may argue that the North Dakota Legislature has imposed similar restrictions, therefore federal legislation makes no difference. I believe this is a poor argument. I am far more comfortable with restrictions set by our North Dakota Legislature than I would be if the same restrictions were set by Congress. At least in the North Dakota Legislature all members are North Dakotans.

S. 565 also links punitive damages to size of the economic award. This provision would lead to a rich person being awarded more than a poor person who suffered the same injury. For example, if the recent train derailment near White Earth had smashed into, instead of narrowly missed the elevator, an injured visiting grain company executive would have been eligible for a greater award than a farm wife. The bill isn't fair. It does not match the North Dakota ethic that all per-

sons are created equal and should be treated equally.

Farm injuries are very common. We all know farmers who have missing fingers, hands, or even arms. Farm machinery is much safer than it was decades ago. But this bill reduces the economic incentive to make safe equipment, and it allows unscrupulous companies to move to less safe, cheaper products.

Another area of potential hazard is derived from the widespread use of farm chemicals. Some of these chemicals are on the market, but are not reliably tested for safety. We may now compound the problem by the fact that, under S.565, companies might manage to escape liability by limiting the time farmers could sue, or by limiting jury discretion on awards.

Farmers widely use anhydrous ammonia. We have more than 410 commercial tank locations around the state, in addition to many farm tank locations. The Departments of agriculture and insurance just instituted a safety inspection and enforcement program. We are finding, to our alarm, that North Dakota has a number of tanks that do not meet safety requirements.

It appears that some tanks not meeting proper standards were sold to unsuspecting farmers and businesses, perhaps because the sellers knew we had no inspection program for a number of years.

Hose breakage is one of the leading reasons for farm chemical and anhydrous injuries. We have had 16 hose breakages that led to

human injury in the past two years, according to the North Dakota Poison Center. Ruptured hoses and equipment failure have led to the evacuation of Kindred and releases of toxic vapor at Clyde, Wahpeton, Bordonlac and Grand Forks.

Adoption of S.565 makes the already tough and risky job of agriculture even more tough and risky. Given recent congressional action on the farm bill, S.565 adds uncompensated injury to insult. In addition, the power of the American justice system has always been the local jury of peers. A panel of North Dakotans, who review the facts and render a verdict to right a wrong for a fellow North Dakotan, should have the power to decide what judgment to award, not Congress.

Not really fair: Product Liability Fairness Act

In the name of fairness, is the Product Liability Fairness Act really fair? When you take a close look, it doesn't appear fair to citizens of North Dakota.

The bill is in conference committee and could come before the Senate for a vote as early as Tuesday.

The bill, which is geared toward setting limits on product liability awards, has met with much debate.

As far as North Dakota is concerned, the bill would:

- ▶ Abolish joint liability for non-economic harms only, which means that North Dakotans who have been injured by the negligence of a party

that has gone out of business may have little recourse.

- ▶ Create a much tougher standard for holding product sellers responsible for putting defective and dangerous products into the stream of commerce.

- ▶ Strike down those aspects of North Dakota's product liability law that give citizens more protection from defective products than the federal legislation.

President Clinton has expressed concern over the bill, saying it doesn't balance the interests of consumers with those of manufacturers and sellers. He also said the Senate cap on punitive

damages is flawed.

There's no doubt that many lawsuits today are frivolous. But a bill that penalizes those who don't deserve it appears to be flawed.

As State Agriculture Commissioner Sarah Vogel said in a recent column, "This federal law would impair our state constitution, preempt our state laws and restrict the abilities of a North Dakota jury or court to render decisions on products that injure North Dakotans."

Tort reform may be needed to some degree, but the Product Liability Fairness Act isn't the answer.



**SARAH
VOGEL**

Bill could hurt safety

Senate may vote Friday on
'Product Liability Fairness Act'

Operating a family farm is dangerous business. Farming is one of the most dangerous jobs in America, along with mining and construction. Heavy equipment, volatile chemicals, rough work and long hours make farm safety a top priority.

The last thing we need from Washington, D.C., is a law that could make farming more dangerous. Regrettably, that's the road Congress is traveling right now. They're set to vote on Senate Bill 565, the "Product Liability Fairness Act," as early as Friday.

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Some may argue that the North Dakota Legislature has imposed similar restrictions, therefore federal legislation makes no difference. I believe this is a poor argument. I am far more comfortable with restrictions set by our own North Dakota Legislature.

One provision of Senate Bill 565 would lead to a rich person being awarded more than a poor person who suffered the same injury. For example, if the recent train derailment near White Earth had smashed into, instead of narrowly missing, the elevator, an injured visiting grain company executive would have been eligible for a greater award than a farm wife. The bill isn't fair. It does not match the North Dakota ethic that all persons are created equal and should be treated equally.

Farm injuries are very common. We all know farmers who are missing fingers, hands or even arms. Farm machinery is much safer than it was decades ago. But this bill reduces the economic incentive to make safe equipment, and it allows unscrupulous companies to move to less safe, cheaper products.

Another area of potential hazard is derived from the widespread use of farm chemicals. Some of these chemicals are on the market, but are not reliably tested for safety. We may now compound the problem by the fact that, under Senate Bill 565, companies might manage to escape liability by limiting the time farmers could sue, or by limiting jury discretion on awards.

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Hose breakage is one of the leading reasons for farm chemical and anhydrous injuries. We have had 16 hose breakages that led to human injury in the past two years, according to the North Dakota Poison Center. Ruptured hoses and equipment failure have led to the evacuation of Kindred and releases of toxic vapor at Clyde, Wahpeton, Bordulac and Grand Forks.

Adoption of Senate Bill 565 makes the already tough and risky job of agriculture even more tough and risky. In addition, the power of the American justice system has always been the local jury of peers. A panel of North Dakotans, who review the facts and render a verdict to right a wrong for a fellow North Dakotan, should have the power to decide what judgment to award, not Congress.

Senate bill risky for farmers

■ Product Liability Fairness Act may make farming more dangerous

BISMARCK, N.D. — Operating a farm is dangerous business. Farming is one of the most dangerous jobs in America, along with mining and construction. Heavy equipment, volatile chemicals, rough work and long hours make farm safety a top priority.

The last thing we need from Washington, is a law that could make farming more dangerous. Regrettably, that's the road Congress is traveling right now. They're set to vote on S. 565, the Product Liability Fairness Act, March 18.

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Poor people suffer

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Chemical dangers

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— Sarah Vogel,

North Dakota agriculture commissioner