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Historically Black
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HBCU's

CLOHAN & DEAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SUITE 400

1101 VERMONT AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3521

April 26, 1993

(202) 289-3900
FAX: (202) 371-0197

Honorable Alexis E. Herman
Assistant to the President for
Public Liaison
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

APR 26 1993

Dear Alexis:

I am enclosing, for your review and information, a copy of a revised final draft of the proposed Executive Order on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This supersedes all previous drafts that may have been shared with you, and varies only to the extent that it modifies slightly paragraph eleven. I am anxious to sit down with you to review the issues surrounding issuance of the Executive Order, and in particular, the transfer of the White Initiative office from the Department of Education to the Executive Office of the President.

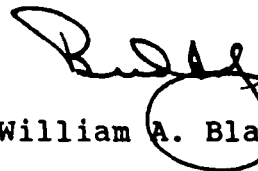
I believe that there is a way that this can be accomplished without appearing to be in conflict with the President's efforts to reduce the White House staff. Placement of the office within the Executive Office of the President, but within the Office of Management and Budget represents a sound policy and political alternative for the HBCU community.

My secretary has been trying for approximately a week to arrange a mutually convenient time for you and I to get together. We have not heard back from your office as yet. I will be out of town from April 28 through May 3, although I am available on Monday afternoon May 3.

Can we get together soon?

Keep the Faith.

Sincerely,



William A. Blakey

WAB/wjh
Enclosure

c: Honorable William H. Gray, III
Dr. Samuel Myers
Dr. N. Joyce Payne
Dr. Arthur E. Thomas

0400E254

DRAFT

Revisions to Executive Order 12677 of April 28, 1989

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, in order to advance the development of human potential, to strengthen the capacity of the Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities to provide higher quality education, and to increase opportunities to participate in and benefit from Federal programs, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. There shall be established in the Executive Office of the President, an Advisory Commission, the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive Order, the responsibilities of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2), which are applicable to the Advisory Commission to be established by this order, shall be performed in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the President. The Board of Advisors, with the advice of the Secretary of Education, shall develop and publish an annual report to the President on the participation by Historically Black Colleges and Universities in federally sponsored programs. The Board of Advisors will also provide advice on how to increase the private sector role in strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Particular emphasis shall be given to facilitating technical, planning, and development advice to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, with the goal of ensuring the long-term viability and enhancement of these institutions.

Sec. 2. The Board of Advisors shall include appropriate representatives of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, of other institutions of higher education, of business and finance, of private foundations, and of secondary education.

Sec. 3. The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, housed in the Executive Office of the President, shall provide the staff, resources, and assistance for the Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; shall assist the President in the role of liaison between the Executive branch and Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and shall serve the President in carrying out his responsibilities under this order.

Sec. 4. Each Executive Department or designated agency shall have authority, by virtue of this order, to enter into appropriate grants, contracts or other agreements with Historically Black Colleges and Universities in order to effectuate the purposes of this order. Affected Executive Departments and agencies shall use this order as appropriate legal authority to promulgate agency regulations or rules or to

initiate other legal mechanisms and procurement authority.

Sec. 5. Each Executive Department and designated agency shall appoint a senior official, who shall report directly to the Secretary or agency head to monitor agency activity and serve as liaison to the White House pursuant to this Executive Order. Each Executive Department and agency shall comply with all data requests pursuant to the implementation of this Executive Order.

Sec. 6. Each Executive department and those Executive agencies designated by the President shall develop an annual plan to document the Agency's effort to increase the ability of Historically Black Colleges and Universities to participate in federally sponsored programs. These plans shall describe measurable objectives for proposed agency actions to fulfill this order and shall be submitted at such time and in such form as the President's Advisory Board shall designate. In consultation with participating Executive agencies, the Advisory Board shall review these plans to develop an integrated Annual Federal Plan for Assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for consideration by the President. The Advisory Board shall ensure that each president of a Historically Black College or University is given the opportunity to comment on the proposed Annual Federal Plan prior to its consideration by the President. Each participating agency shall submit to the President's Advisory Board an Annual Performance Report that shall specify agency performance against its measurable objectives described in the annual plan.

Sec. 7. Each year the Board of Advisors shall include in its Annual Report to the President on the progress achieved in enhancing the role and capabilities of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, including an Annual Performance Report on Executive Agency Actions to Assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities that appraises agency actions during the preceding year. The Board of Advisors shall disseminate the annual report to appropriate members of the Executive branch and make every effort to ensure that findings of the Board of Advisors are taken into account in the policies and actions of every Executive agency, including any appropriate recommendations for improving the Federal response directed by this order.

Sec. 8. The White House along with other Federal offices, shall work to encourage the private sector to assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities through increased use of such devices and activities as: (1) private sector matching funds to support increased endowments, (2) private sector task forces for institutions in need of assistance, and (3) private sector expertise to facilitate the development of more effective ways to manage finances, improve information management, strengthen facilities, and improve course offerings. These steps will be taken with the goals of enhancing the career prospects of their graduates and increasing the number of those with careers in science and technology.

Sec. 9. In all its endeavors the Board of Advisors shall emphasize ways to support the long-term development plans of each Historically Black College and University. The Board of Advisors shall develop alternative sources of faculty talent, particularly in the fields of science and technology, including faculty exchanges and referrals from other institutions of higher education, private sector retirees, Federal employees and retirees, and emeritus faculty members at other institutions of higher education.

Sec. 10. The Board of Advisors, through the White House Initiative, shall provide advice on how Historically Black Colleges and Universities can achieve greater financial security through the use of improved business, accounting, management, and development techniques. To the maximum extent possible, the Board of Advisors shall enlist the resources and experience of the private sector in providing the assistance. To this end, Historically Black Colleges and Universities shall be given high priority within the White House.

Sec. 11. The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall develop a program to improve recruitment and participation of graduates and undergraduate students of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in part-time, summer and permanent positions in the Federal Government. The Director shall, with the full cooperation of the Secretaries of the Department of Labor and the Department of Education, develop initiatives that enhance the ability of HBCUs to participate in the full array of federal programs designed to address the nation's human resource needs.

The Department of Labor's initiatives shall incorporate strategies to increase HBCU participation in programs designed to meet the private sector employment needs, particularly as it relates to disadvantaged populations.

The Department of Education's initiatives shall include strategies designed to increase minority participation in the higher education professorate (pursuant to Title IX, Part E of the Higher Education Act, increasing minority participation in the U.S. Foreign Service and International Service generally (pursuant to Title VI, Part C of the Higher Education Act), and minority participation in the teaching profession (pursuant to Subpart 2 of Part E of Title V of the Higher Education Act).

Sec. 12. Executive Order No 12677 of April 28, 1989, is revoked.

ASAP

Added: DORIS from Ruby
22p
5/21/93

May 21, 1993

going to Alexis

MEMORANDUM TO CAROL RASCO

FROM:

ALEXIS HERMAN

xe: Bill Galston

SUBJECT:

EXECUTIVE ORDER

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) has requested an Executive Order for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This order would supersede President Bush's order. Bill Galston has the information and has initiated the executive order process.

The President must affirm strongly his commitment to Historically Black Colleges and Universities as has every administration since President Carter's. Given the political concerns of the African-American Community, I feel that it is imperative that the order be executed as soon as possible.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

→ wholeheartedly agree -

Thanks!

CRASCO

Amist

I spoke w/ Doris
on this. She + Steve
will meet w/ NAFEO.

I called Wilma Rasco
back to let her work
out a tie w/ Doris + Steve.

(NAFEO) They will be going to
GABON next week. 5/21/93

showed to
Amist

00 : 11v 12 MAY 93

AT

Lezli Baskerville

Attorney at Law

West Lobby

1818 N Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20036-2406

(202) 857-0872 (202) 857-0874 FAX

March 8, 1993

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

Dear Alexis:

I thank you for working the meeting with NAFEO and the black college presidents into your packed schedule last week.

Drs. Myers, Richardson, Hackley and Thomas were pleased with the discussion they had with you. I must admit, however, that anything you would have said to the group would likely have been acceptable last Thursday. They were ecstatic about having met President Clinton in the hallway en route to the meeting with you. Dan Wexler was kind enough to introduce to President Clinton, those in the group who had not yet met him. And, Dr. Hackley, President of Fayetteville State, had the opportunity to schmooze with the President, who he knew from his days in Little Rock. I understand that President Clinton also invited Dr. Hackley to jog with him on Friday morning.

NAFEO and the 117 college presidents it represents, are optimistic about the promise the Clinton Administration and the Clinton Economic Plan offer African Americans, generally, and HBCUs and their students, in particular. They are pleased with President Clinton's goal of making the latest technology more accessible to all schools; and by and large they agree, in concept, with the national service program.

The college presidents are understandably anxious about the impact of the Fordice decision on HBCUs and they would like for this Administration to signal its opposition to the elimination of HBCUs as a means of achieving equity among state higher education institutions. HBCU presidents are also concerned that the current student loan default trigger contained in the Higher Education Act has a disparate impact on HBCUs. They would like for President Clinton to support their efforts to amend the Act to include a more equitable trigger.

We would like to work with you or the appropriate persons on

the above matters. And, please don't hesitate to call on me if we can be helpful on other matters which directly impact HBCUs.

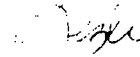
It would be great if President Clinton would be prepared to make a pronouncement on at least one of the matters of concern to HBCU presidents by the time the 117 HBCU presidents assemble here in Washington March 31-April 4th.

Let me know if I can provide you with briefing papers, talking points or any other research which might facilitate such a resolve.

Again, Alexis, I thank you for accommodating my clients.

Warm personal regards.

Sincerely,



Lezli Baskerville

cc DORIS M.
14 AB

June 5, 1993

TO: ALEXIS HERMAN
FROM: BILL GALSTON
SUBJ: EXECUTIVE ORDER

JUN - 6 1993

Based on materials provided by the NAEOHE plus consultations with the Department of Education and the Counsel's office, the DPC has drawn up a preliminary draft of the Executive Order on HBCUs. A copy is attached.

For various reasons, this draft was not able to accommodate every feature of the NAEOHE proposal, but I believe it represents a meaningful step forward from the Bush order.

We should get together at your convenience to discuss your ideas about the next round of consultations.

DRAFT--6/1/93

Executive order on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, in order to advance the development of human potential, to strengthen the capacity of historically Black colleges and universities to provide quality education, and to increase opportunities to participate in and benefit from Federal programs, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1: There shall be established in the Department of Education, an Advisory Commission, the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The members of the board shall be appointed by the President. **The Board of Advisors, with the advice of the Secretary of Education, shall develop and publish an annual report to the President on participation by historically Black colleges and universities in federally sponsored programs.** The Board of Advisors will also provide advice on how to increase the private sector role in strengthening historically Black colleges and universities. Particular emphasis shall be given to facilitating technical, planning, and development advice to historically Black colleges and universities, with the goal of ensuring the long-term viability **and enhancement** of these institutions. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive order, the responsibilities of the president under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2), which are applicable to the Advisory Commission to be established by this order, shall be performed by the Secretary of Education, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

Section 2: The Board of Advisors shall include appropriate representatives of historically Black colleges and universities, of other institutions of higher education, of business and finance, or private foundations, and of secondary education.

Section 3: The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, housed in the Department of Education, shall provide the staff, resources, and assistance for the Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; shall assist the Secretary of Education in the role of liaison between the Executive branch and historically Black colleges and universities; and shall serve the Secretary of Education in carrying out his responsibilities under this order.

Section 4: **Each Executive Department or designated agency shall have authority, by virtue of this order, to enter into appropriate grants, contracts or other agreements with historically Black colleges and universities to effect the purposes of this order. Affected Executive**

Departments and agencies shall use this order as appropriate legal authority to promulgate agency regulations or rules or to initiate other legal mechanisms and procurement authority.

Section 5: Each Executive Department and designated agency shall appoint a senior official, who shall report directly to the Secretary or agency head, to monitor agency activity and serve as liaison to the Advisory Board and White House Initiative. Each Executive Department and agency shall comply with all data requests by the Advisory Board and White House Initiative staff pursuant to the implementation of this executive order.

Section 6: Each Executive department and those Executive agencies designated by the Secretary of Education shall develop an annual plan to document the Agency's effort to increase the ability of historically Black colleges and universities to participate in Federally sponsored programs. These plans shall describe measurable objectives for proposed agency actions to fulfill this order and shall be submitted at such time and in such form as the President's Advisory Board shall designate. In consultation with participating Executive agencies, **the Advisory Board** and the Secretary of Education shall review these plans and develop an Integrated Annual Federal Plan for Assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for consideration by the President. **The Advisory Board** and the Secretary of Education shall ensure that each president of a Historically Black College or University is given the opportunity to comment on the proposed Annual Federal Plan prior to its consideration by the President. Each participating agency shall submit to the President's Advisory Board an Annual Performance Report that shall specify agency performance against the measurable objectives set forth in its annual plan.

Section 7: Each year the Board of Advisors shall report to the President on the progress achieved in enhancing the role and capabilities of historically Black colleges and universities, including an Annual Performance Report on Executive Agency Actions to Assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities that appraises agency actions during the preceding year. The Secretary of Education shall disseminate the annual report to appropriate members of the Executive branch and make every effort to ensure that findings of the Board of Advisors are taken into account in the policies and actions of every Executive agency, including any appropriate recommendations for improving the Federal response directed by this order.

Section 8: The Department of Education, along with other Federal offices, shall work to encourage the private sector to assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities through increased use of such devices and activities as: (1) private sector matching funds to support increased endowments, (2) private sector task forces for institutions in need of assistance, and (3) private sector

expertise to facilitate the development of more effective ways to manage finances, improve information management, strengthen facilities, and improve course offerings. These steps will be taken with the goals of enhancing the career prospects of their graduates and increasing the number of those with careers in science and technology.

Section 9: In all its endeavors, the Board of Advisors shall emphasize ways to support the long-term development plans of each historically Black college and university. The Board of Advisors shall develop alternative sources of faculty talent, particularly in the fields of science and technology, including faculty exchanges and referrals from other institutions of higher education, private sector retirees, Federal employees and retirees, and emeritus faculty members at other institutions of higher education.

Section 10: The Board of Advisors, through the White House Initiative, shall provide advice on how historically Black colleges and universities can achieve greater financial security through the use of improved business, accounting, management, and development techniques. To the maximum extent possible, the Board of Advisors shall enlist the resources and experience of the private sector in providing this assistance.

Section 11: The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall develop a program to improve recruitment and participation of graduates and undergraduate students of historically Black colleges and universities in part-time, summer and permanent positions in the Federal government.

Section 12: Executive Order No. 12677 of April 28, 1989, is hereby revoked.

June 28, 1993

MEMORANDUM TO ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: DORIS MATSUI *DM*
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON NAFEO
EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR HCBU's

JUN 27 1993

A second draft to the executive order is now in process. Changes are based upon the meeting we had on June 10th with NAFEO. We should be getting the new draft at the end of this week. At that time, I will schedule a follow up meeting with NAFEO.

Most of the concerns expressed by NAFEO centered around their desire to have a contact person in the White House complex who would make certain that the intent of the executive order would be met. My feeling is that we will be able to come to some resolution on this concern.

When we have finally crafted an acceptable executive order, I recommend that we have a nice White House signing. Historical Black Colleges and Universities's Week is September 19. It would really be nice to plan an event around that week.

cc Steve Hilton

③

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3/4/93-

MAY - 4 1993

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A DATE of the ABCu to
YACK FROM you - IS
this CLEAR ENOUGH - or
do we need to add
MORE.

CFail

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

TO: MACK McLARTY

FROM: ALEXIS HERMAN

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE INVOLVEMENT WITH HBCU'S

DATE: MAY 4 1993

Predominantly Black Colleges and Universities are a very sound and strong economic force in American society. They are deeply rooted in the neighborhoods they are housed and often give strength and encouragement to otherwise dead or decaying communities.

The 117 HBCU'S (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) are optimistic about the promise the Clinton administration and the Clinton economic plan offers African Americans, generally and HBCU'S and their students in particular. The concept behind the National Service Plan is ideal for many students who choose to attend an institution of higher learning, yet cannot afford the high price tag. They also agree with the President's goal of making the latest technology more accessible to all schools.

The HBCU college Presidents have many concerns: a couple include

- 1) the current student loan default trigger contained in the Higher Education Act and its impact on HBCU's.
- 2) the elimination of HBCU's as a means of achieving equity among state higher education systems.

To better facilitate these concerns I would like Craig Kirby of your staff assist me as a liaison with this group. His experience can be useful.

ABCu

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 1, 1993

EXECUTIVE ORDER

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HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, in order to advance the development of human potential, to strengthen the capacity of historically Black colleges and universities to provide quality education, and to increase opportunities to participate in and benefit from Federal programs, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. There shall be established in the Department of Education the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities ("Board of Advisors" or "Board"), a Presidential advisory committee. The Board of Advisors shall issue an annual report to the President on participation by historically Black colleges and universities in federally sponsored programs. The Board of Advisors will also provide advice to the Secretary of Education ("Secretary") and in the annual report to the President on how to increase the private sector role in strengthening historically Black colleges and universities, with particular emphasis on enhancing institutional infrastructure and facilitating planning, development, and the use of new technologies to ensure the goal of long-term viability and enhancement of these institutions. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive order, the responsibilities of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2), which is applicable to the Board of Advisors, shall be performed by the Secretary, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 2. The members of the Board of Advisors shall be appointed by the President. The Board shall include representatives of historically Black colleges and universities, other institutions of higher education, business and financial institutions, private foundations, and secondary education.

Sec. 3. The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, housed in the Department of Education, shall: (1) provide the staff, resources, and assistance for the Board of Advisors; (2) assist the Secretary in the role of liaison between the executive branch and historically Black colleges and universities; and (3) serve the Secretary in carrying out his responsibilities under this order.

Sec. 4. To carry out the purposes of this order, each executive department and each agency designated by the Secretary shall, consistent with applicable law, enter into appropriate grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements with historically Black colleges and universities. The head of each agency

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(OVER)

subject to this order shall establish an annual goal for the amount of funds to be awarded in grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to historically Black colleges and universities. Consistent with the funds available to the agency, the goal shall be an amount above the actual amount of such awards from the previous fiscal year and shall represent a substantial effort to increase the amounts available to historically Black colleges and universities for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements. In order to facilitate the attainment of the goals established by this section, the head of each agency subject to this order shall provide technical assistance and information to historically Black colleges and universities regarding the program activities of the agency and the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

Sec. 5. Each executive department and designated agency shall appoint a senior official, who is a full-time officer of the Federal Government and who is responsible for management or program administration, to report directly to the department or agency head or designated agency representative on department or agency activity under this order and to serve as liaison to the Board and White House Initiative. To the extent permitted by law and regulation, each executive department and designated agency shall provide appropriate information requested by the Board and the White House Initiative staff pursuant to this order.

Sec. 6. Each executive department and designated agency shall develop an annual plan for, and shall document, the agency's effort to increase the ability of historically Black colleges and universities to participate in federally sponsored programs. These plans shall describe the measurable objectives for proposed agency actions to fulfill this order and shall be submitted at such time and in such form as the Secretary shall designate. In consultation with participating agencies, the Secretary shall review these plans and develop, with the advice of the Board of Advisors, an integrated Annual Federal Plan for Assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for consideration by the President. The Secretary shall ensure that each president of a historically Black college or university is given the opportunity to comment on the proposed Annual Federal Plan prior to consideration by the President. Each participating agency shall submit to the Secretary and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, an Annual Performance Report that shall measure each agency's performance against the objectives set forth in its annual plan. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall be responsible for overseeing compliance with the Annual Federal Plan.

Sec. 7. Each year the Board of Advisors shall report to the President on the progress achieved in enhancing the role and capabilities of historically Black colleges and universities, including findings and recommendations on the Annual Performance Reports, described in Section 6, submitted by the participating agencies. The Secretary shall disseminate the annual report to appropriate members of the executive branch and make every effort to ensure that findings of the Board of Advisors are taken into account in the policies and actions of every executive agency.

Sec. 8. The Department of Education, along with other Federal departments or agencies, shall work to encourage the private sector to assist historically Black colleges and universities through increased use of such devices and

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activities as: (1) private sector matching funds to support increased endowments; (2) private sector task forces for institutions in need of assistance; and (3) private sector expertise to facilitate the development of more effective ways to manage finances, improve information management, strengthen facilities, and improve course offerings. These steps will be taken with the goals of enhancing the career prospects of graduates of historically Black colleges and universities and increasing the number of such graduates with degrees in science and technology.

Sec. 9. In all its recommendations, the Board of Advisors shall emphasize ways to support the long-term development plans of each historically Black college and university. The Board of Advisors shall recommend alternative sources of faculty talent, particularly in the fields of science and technology, including faculty exchanges and referrals from other institutions of higher education, private sector retirees, Federal employees and retirees, and emeritus faculty members at other institutions of higher education.

Sec. 10. The Board of Advisors, through the White House Initiative, shall provide advice on how historically Black colleges and universities can achieve greater financial security. To the maximum extent possible, the Board of Advisors shall consider how such institutions can enlist the resources and experience of the private sector to achieve such security.

Sec. 11. The Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Secretary and the Secretary of Labor, shall develop a program to improve recruitment and participation of graduates and undergraduate students of historically Black colleges and universities in part-time, summer and permanent positions in the Federal Government.

Sec. 12. Administration: (a) Members of the Board of Advisors shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service, (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707).

(b) The Board of Advisors and the White House Initiative shall obtain funding for their activities from the Department of Education.

(c) The Department of Education shall provide such administrative services for the Board as may be required.

Sec. 13. Executive Order No. 12677 of April 28, 1989, is hereby revoked.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
November 1, 1993.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SIGNING EXECUTIVE ORDER ON
HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

1:38 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Mr. Vice President, Secretary Riley, ladies and gentlemen, it's a great pleasure for me to be here today with my longtime friend, Chancellor Vic Hackley, and with so many of the distinguished persons in the audience -- Dr. Sam Myers, Dr. Joyce Payne, our longtime friend, Bill Gray. Dr. James Cheek, we're glad to see you here. Dr. Art Thomas; General Alonzo Short is here -- I'm glad to see you, General Short. And Mr. Emmet Paige, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Control and Intelligence.

And I also know that in addition to the members of Congress already introduced, Congressman Bobby Scott from Virginia just came in. Somewhere he's standing; I saw him. Thank you for coming. (Applause.)

Now, since the Vice President was so parochial -- (laughter) -- I have four people here I want to introduce. (Laughter.) My friend, Dr. William Keaton, from Arkansas Baptist College in the back there. Dr. Katherine Mitchell from Shorter College. I saw Katherine over here. Dr. Lawrence Davis, from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. And Dr. Myer Titus from Philander Smith College, where I used to run every day in my former life. (Laughter.)

I am so glad to see all of you here. For 130 years the institutions you represent have been beacons of hope and opportunity for Americans for whom no other options existed. You have nurtured young minds. You have built self-esteem. You've educated some of our nation's foremost scholars and leaders. When Thurgood Marshall was refused admittance to the University of Maryland Law School because of the color of his skin, it was Howard University Law School that prepared him for the challenge for the United States Supreme Court.

Seventeen members of the United States Congress are graduates of historically black institutions of higher education, as well as one United States senator who is not an African American -- Senator Harris Wofford from Pennsylvania, a graduate of Howard Law School.

Martin Luther King's way to Oslo, Norway, to receive the Nobel Prize was, as the Vice President said, plainly paved by the fact that he was a Morehouse man. The ribbons of my friend, Tony Morrison's writings, which garnered her this year's Nobel Prize in Literature, are rooted in her study of classics and literature at Howard University.

MORE

In seeking the best and most skilled Americans to serve here in our administration, graduates from historically black colleges and universities have been a part of our team. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and the Assistant to the President for Public Liaison Alexis Herman are Xavier graduates. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy and Under Secretary Bob Nash attended Howard. Our Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders was a graduate of Philander Smith. Sarah Summerville, my Alabama campaign coordinator and now at the Department of Defense, attended both Mississippi Industrial and Miles Colleges. And there are many more.

The executive order I sign today and all the education initiatives that Secretary Riley discussed have to do with change -- preserving educational institutions and ensuring that every young person in this country who wants to get a college education has the opportunity to do it; in finding new ways to get people into college and into training programs and to help them succeed once they're there.

Since the average person will change jobs seven times in a lifetime, in the 1990 census makes it crystal clear the very harsh economic consequences of not having at least two years of post-high school education, we know we have much to do. This year we have begun already by reorganizing the student loan programs, to cut their cost of overhead, to lower the interest rates, to change the repayment terms so that young people can now borrow money without fear of being bankrupted in paying the loans back. Now young people can borrow the money at lower interest rates and then elect to pay them back as a percentage of their incomes, without regard to the amount of the loan, so that no one will ever be discouraged from borrowing the money, and even more important perhaps, from taking a job after college which might not be a high-paying job, but which might do an awful lot of good for our society -- a job in our inner cities as a teacher perhaps, or working in a program to help our young people.

I'm very proud of the changes that we made in the student loan program and I thank Secretary Riley for his outstanding leadership in that regard.

We have also passed the National Service Program which will give, over the next three to four years, up to 100,000 young Americans a chance to earn some credit against their college education and help to serve their communities at the grass-roots level, to rebuild lives and to build their own minds in the process.

The Goals 2000 legislation, which Secretary Riley mentioned and to which the Vice President alluded, will forge a new partnership between our national government and states and communities to set some meaningful national standards about what our young people should know because we know that they're going to be competing in a global economy and they're entitled to have a shot at the best we have to offer. (Applause.)

With this executive order and working in close cooperation with Secretary Riley and Catherine LeBlanc, the Executive Director of the White House Initiative Office, we'll expand the opportunities for participation in federal programs. Ultimately, we'll strengthen the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide quality education. Within the next few days, I'll announce my appointments to the Presidential Advisory Board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and will ask my longtime friend and the former Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Vic Hackley, now at Fayetteville State University, to serve as the Chair. (Applause.)

I want to say a special word of thanks to the current board which was appointed by President Bush for their service and

MORE

commitment, and especially to Dr. James Cheek for his leadership. And I thank you Dr. Cheek for what you have done. (Applause.)

I'd like to close by mentioning a very disturbing article that appeared in the morning paper here. You may have seen it, about children in our Nation's Capital, not even teenagers, discussing their own funerals -- planning their funerals; thinking about what they would wear, and what music they hope would be played. I am profoundly concerned as we take up the debate this week on the crime bill, on the Brady bill, on the establishment of boot camps as alternatives to prison for young people, on trying to get more law enforcement officers on our streets, that we not underestimate the gravity of the task before us. Somehow we have to get those young people to you, and through you, to the world.

I know this is a difficult, frustrating, perplexing time. Every day the Vice President and I start the morning together talking about problems that have no easy solution. But I know that this ought to be a time of immense celebration and hopefulness for the American people with the end of the Cold War, with the receding threat of nuclear annihilation, with the clear evidence that, for all of our problems, our economy is doing better than the other wealthy countries in creating jobs and promoting growth, and that there is so much out there for us still to do.

But the truth is that we are squandering our most valuable resource, our young people, at a rate that no other nation would tolerate. We permit so many of them to grow up without the basic supports of family and community. We permit many of them to live in circumstances, frankly, more dangerous than those experienced by people we go halfway around the world to protect. And so many of them, by the time they are old enough for you to get a hold of them, aren't there for you to get hold of.

I say that not to end this on a down moment, but to remind you of just how important this is, what you are doing. A lot of these kids still won't have a chance if you don't do your job well. And we have to find a way for you to reach them at an even earlier point. And if we want to make it, we've got to find a way to remind the rest of America that we are really all in this together; we cannot afford to have 11-year-olds thinking about their funerals. They need to be thinking about their children. You can do that.

... Thank you very much. (Applause.)

(The executive order is signed.)

END

1:45 P.M. EDT