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Remarks to Interfaith Impact Foundation

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mrs. Clinton
Briefing

March 20, 1995

**REMARKS TO INTERFAITH IMPACT FOUNDATION
25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET**

DATE: March 21, 1995
LOCATION: Omni Sheraton Hotel
Washington, D.C.
TIME: 8:10 pm
FROM: Alexis Herman
Flo McAfee

MAR 21

I. PURPOSE

To deliver remarks to religious supporters; acknowledge Interfaith Impact's support of the administration's initiatives; and accept the organization's "Protecting and Expanding the Dream" award.

II. BACKGROUND

Interfaith Impact was founded in 1968 by the Washington Interreligious Staff Council (WISC) following the death of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. It serves as a means for religious agencies to mobilize voter pressure on members of Congress through constituency education and action networks. Today, the foundation is a religious coalition of Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and others working "to advance the cause of justice, peace and stewardship of creation in the public policy arena." This year marks the twenty-fifth Washington-based legislative briefing. The organization is especially concerned with poor and unrepresented people. To that end, the key issues to be covered during the 4-day meeting include:

- o Poor People and Children---Related to funding cuts for federal food programs (including school lunch); the 1995 Farm Bill; and Welfare Reform. Senator Paul Wellstone is expected to give a speech on Tuesday on hunger and hungry children.
- o International Issues---Topics include U.S. foreign aid; United Nations peace keeping; and the code of conduct on arms sales. Senator Paul Simon gave a speech on foreign aid to the group today.
- o General Domestic Concerns---Affirmative action, the Contract with America (they totally oppose it); health care reform; Proposition 187; and mobilization of the religious community around policy issues.

The theme of this year's awards banquet is "Protecting and Expanding the Dream." Before your arrival, awards will be presented to two organizations (seven people): the NAACP Legal Defense Fund for its long history of struggle for equal justice; and the Religious Freedom Roundtable, a Washington, D.C.-based interfaith organization, for promoting justice in the community.

Today, the Office of Public Liaison gave a White House briefing on affirmative action and the Foster nomination to 63 members of the Foundation's Members of Color Caucus. Despite the Foundation's policy of not taking a position on nominations and appointments, following the briefing the Caucus voted to support Dr. Foster's nomination.

You will be speaking to a supportive audience of 400 religious leaders and grassroots local church organizers from throughout the country.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Program:

Jane Hull Harvey, Chair, Interfaith Impact Foundation

Rev. James "Jim" Bell, Executive Director, Interfaith Impact Foundation

Joan Campbell, General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Christ

Award Recipients:

Elaine Jones; Executive Director, NAACP Legal Defense Fund

Religious Freedom Roundtable members:

Dr. Rajwant Singh; President, Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington

Dr. Arnold Keller; Executive Director, Council of Churches of Greater Washington

Ms. Lois Williams; Howrey & Simon Law Offices

Mr. Houston Brown; Executive Director, Church of Jesus Christ, Anacostia

Pastor John W. Wimberly, Jr.; Western Presbyterian Church

Pastor John Steinbruck; Luther Place Memorial Church

400 Guests

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open press.

V. SEQUENCE

- o You will arrive following dinner and the awards presentation.
- o You proceed to the dais. Rev. James Bell will deliver opening remarks and introduce Jane Hull Harvey. (Note: Both Jane Hull Harvey and Jim Bell attended the recent Rescission Bill briefing in the Roosevelt Room. Jane sat next to you during the briefing.)

- o Jane Hull Harvey will introduce you
- o You deliver remarks.
- o Following your remarks, Dr. Joan Campbell will go to the podium to present you with a bible from the National Council of Churches of Christ.
- o Following that presentation, Jim Bell will present you the "Protecting and Expanding the Dream" award for the administration's efforts on health care reform and minimum wages.
- o Rev. Lionel Derenoncourt, director of the Presbyterian Hunger Program and a Haitian national, will give the closing prayer.
- o You exit the stage escorted by Jim Bell and work the ropeline. The other award recipients will be at the front of the ropeline.

VI. REMARKS

To be prepared by Terry Edmonds, Communications.