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May 7, 1996

cc: Alexis Herman

MAY - 7 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISTA ROBINSON

FROM: MARILYN DIGIACOBBE

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT FOR APRIL 22 THRU MAY 3, 1996

Overview of Ethnic Outreach

Ethnic specific issues were addressed including Irish-American activists and the McBride Principles, Lebanese American community reaction to the Middle East bombings, commemoration of the 81st Anniversary of the Armenian "Genocide", commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Chornobyl Nuclear Disaster, and coverage of the Sons of Italy Annual Dinner in town.

Efforts to build a solid base of grassroots ethnic supporters through the network of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee continue as well as our efforts to gain the support of the more conservative national ethnic group leaders.

Highlights of Ethnic Outreach

- The bi-monthly meeting of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee (NDECC) was held in Chicago, IL on Monday, April 22. David Wilhelm served as the host for the meeting and has now joined Hon. Peter Ujvagi, Hon. Jim Rosapepe and Jim Zogby as a co-convenor of the Committee. We chose Chicago for this meeting to help advance our efforts to heighten the profile of ethnic Americans at the Democratic National Convention and to publicize the NDECC in one of the nation's ethnic media centers. As part of the day long meeting, the group focused on developing lists of key ethnic leaders from the 15 targeted states to convene State Ethnic Coordinating Committees in cooperation with the State Party Chairs. A Democratic Convention Ethnic Task Force of 15 national and Chicago ethnic leaders was coordinated and is meeting with Convention and Chicago Host Committee representatives to develop events to advance our goals.

Ideas and strategies on the Catholic vote, registration of new citizens, and the problems with USAID/USIA funding programs for new democracies were all discussed. Ed Cleary, President of New York AFL-CIO joined the group to discuss coordination between the AFL-CIO's ethnic labor efforts and the activities of the NDECC. Groups are anxious to form "Clinton/Gore" committees. Now that Alan Wheat is on board at the Re-Elect, we are optimistic that the process of formally acknowledging and empowering "Irish-

Americans for Clinton/Gore, Hungarian-Americans for Clinton/Gore, etc. can begin in earnest. We were able to announce plans to hold an Ethnic Leadership Day on June 14, which provided a great sense of encouragement to the group, as this was their highest priority goal at the time of our last meeting.

- As a part of our effort to gain the support of leaders of the Central and Eastern European American communities, Chairman Don Fowler met with the Central and East European Coalition -- the same group you met with in mid-February. The meeting was a success. We are winning points in terms of the openness and accessibility of the White House and now the Democratic Party as well. Policy issues raised with Don Fowler include our approach to NATO expansion and frustrations with USAID/ USIA funding programs.
- Close to 1,000 Lebanese and other Arab Americans from Michigan and other areas including Chicago and Cleveland gathered on Lafayette Park for a rally to oppose Israeli aggression in Lebanon on April 23. We invited 25 Michigan and national community leaders to a Roosevelt Room meeting with Anthony Lake prior to the rally. Representatives John Dingell, David Bonior and Nick Rahall accompanied the group. The community voiced its concern over a perceived imbalance to our Middle East policy and asked that you meet with the President of Lebanon, that you push for implementation of the cease fire, and provide aid to Lebanon. The group felt the imbalance of our policy was highlighted by the fact that Secretary Christopher did not stop in Lebanon when you sent him to the region immediately following the bombing crisis. Anthony Lake's responsiveness in arranging for you to meet with Lebanese President Hrawi the very next morning was well received and was given a lot of play. Tony Lake's delivering the news of the Hrawi meeting to community leaders directly made a significant impact. Also, the positive tone of the morning meeting was helpful to Arab-American supporters who were successful in keeping the tone of the rally under control.

We took a step back with the community, however, in the community's reaction to remarks you delivered to a Jewish group that weekend. (look for remarks to highlight statement the POTUS said.)

- On April 22, we held a briefing for the Croatian American Association. 100 Croatian American community activists from key states were briefed by Sandy Vershbow of the NSC on the progress of our Bosnia policy.
- Our message to the Armenian-American community on April 24, the 81st Anniversary of the Armenian Massacres, did not acknowledge the "Genocide" while Senator Dole released a statement on campaign letterhead acknowledging the "Genocide" and calling attention to your position. We informed our friends in the Armenian-American community prior to the release of your statement that we would not acknowledge the "Genocide" and released the message to Armenian-American leaders in a low key manner. We timed the release so that your message would run

separately in Armenian-American newspapers instead of running side by side Senator Dole's statement. Tom Dine of USAID represented the Administration at an Armenian Commemoration on the hill, and delivered "moving remarks" according to the community.

- Mrs. Clinton served as the Honorary Chair of Chornobyl Challenge '96 to call attention to the Chornobyl Nuclear Disaster of 10 years ago. As part of the commemoration, Mrs. Clinton hosted a White House program and reception on May 1 to honor the humanitarian and volunteer groups who have worked to aid the victims of Chornobyl. Vice President Gore joined the First Lady for this event, which scored big points in the ethnic communities of Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian Americans. The Administration was represented at church services in New York by Ambassador Albright's deputy and Washington, DC by Melanne Vermeer. Your message on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Chornobyl Nuclear Disaster was distributed widely to the ethnic press and read at ceremonies especially in Ukrainian-American communities throughout the month of April.
- At a briefing held for the U.S. Baltic Foundation, an organization headed by Linas Kojelis, the former Ethnic Liaison for President Reagan, Linas Kojelis' father stood up in a roomful of leaders to announce that he had just published an article in a Lithuanian-American newspaper explaining why as a lifelong Republican, he will be supporting President Clinton for re-election.
- We included four ethnic supporters in the May 2 Coffee.
- We arranged for Vice President Gore to represent you at the Annual Dinner of the Order Sons of Italy held in town on the evening of May 2 honoring Al Checchi and Joe Paterno. Vice President Gore spoke to this group of 600 Italian-Americans including state and local chapter heads of Sons of Italy organizations from key areas of the country. Senator Dole also addressed the dinner. Senator Dole did not really connect with the audience, speaking about U.S. Italy relations and his experiences with Italy in World War II. The Vice President was extremely well received by the audience and according to our friend Ben Palumbo, "wiped the floor with Bob Dole." His remarks were well prepared, highlighting accomplishments on crime and support for education and thanking the Sons of Italy for providing both he and you with a pool of talented Italian-Americans that serve the Administration each day. Andrew Cuomo also attended the event and was featured in a Sons of Italy video shown that evening. Vice President Gore's photo with Italian-American college scholarship recipients was featured in the Sons of Italy membership brochure and a message from you was featured in the dinner book.
- A controversy has developed in the Irish-American activist community over your position on the McBride Principles. Father Sean McManus, President of the Irish National Caucus criticized you publicly for not supporting the McBride Principles. Father McManus circulated a letter to you expressing dissatisfaction with your position on the McBride Principles to which Tony Lake replied. That reply was

circulated and caused additional anguish in the activist community because from the content of the reply it appears that you have backed away from a 1992 campaign promise with respect to McBride. Many Irish Americans jumped to your defense in signing onto a release titled "Irish Americans Support President Clinton." Headlines in the Irish American press reflect this. This issue is being discussed with key community leaders and we are re-evaluating with the NSC, our communications with the community on this issue.

May 7, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: MARILYN DIGIACOBBE 
SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT FOR APRIL 22 THRU MAY 3, 1996

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May 17, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco 

Subject: Weekly Report: May 11 - May 17, 1996

UPDATE ON KEY INITIATIVES

IMMIGRATION

English Only -- The Senate Government Affairs Committee withdrew the English-only bill from the mark-up agenda Thursday. Mark-up will likely be rescheduled for June. The Administration finalized a lengthy views letter this week from the Justice Department on this issue.

Naturalization -- As part of the Administration's commitment to attempt to naturalize a million new citizens this year, major naturalization ceremonies were held this week in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York City.

Legal Immigration Numbers Hearing -- DPC staff helped prepare for the House subcommittee hearing charging INS with manipulating legal immigration numbers. The planned announcement of the expansion of Operation Gatekeeper had to be postponed due to the conflict in preparing for the legal immigration numbers hearing.

Legislation -- The Conference Committee to consider the immigration legislation has not yet been scheduled.

CRIME AND DRUGS

Gang Event Follow-up -- DPC staff worked with DOJ to craft the new anti-gang/youth violence legislation announced this week. We will send the legislation to Congress at the beginning of next week. The legislation contains authorization for Juvenile Drug Courts, which is a good follow-up for the White House Leadership Conference on Youth, Drug Use and Violence, where the President advocated them.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Local Empowerment and Flexibility Act -- Paul Weinstein and representatives of OMB and OVP met with staff of Senators Glenn, Levin, Hatfield and Stevens to discuss the "Local Flex" legislation. They reviewed and discussed at length proposed legislative changes to the Hatfield bill. Paul also met with John Hilley to discuss legislative strategy. A Senate markup is scheduled for this week. The House has postponed floor action on the bill until late summer.

Brownfields -- Senator Mosely Braun is intending to introduce the Administration's Brownfields tax incentive bill next week. DPC and NEC staff have been working with Treasury and EPA on coordinating our legislative strategy. At the request of Leg. Affairs, DPC will help brief House Members on our proposal in an effort to coordinate a companion bill on Brownfields to be introduced in the House before Memorial Day.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Gainsharing -- DPC chaired on behalf of Gene Sperling a meeting on Gainsharing and Employee Stock Ownership Plans. The group is working on developing an options memorandum for the President. Attendees included Labor, CEA, OMB, and Treasury.

FDA REFORM

Kassebaum Bill (S. 1477) -- DPC, OVP, and OMB staff met with Senate Labor Committee Democratic staff to discuss strategy on FDA reform legislation reported out of Committee in March on a 12-4 vote. Committee Democrats are divided on the issue. Three Democrats -- Dodd, Harkin, and Mikulski -- voted for the bill. These members -- as well as Senators Wellstone, Wyden, Lautenberg, Kerry, and Lieberman -- sent a letter to Senator Daschle last week urging early action on the legislation while acknowledging the need for improvements. Senator Kennedy, however, wrote a scathing Washington Post editorial calling the bill a "prescription for disaster."

We are working with Labor Committee Democrats to reach a consensus on what must be changed, to unify the Democratic position, and to work toward a bill the Administration can support. Key provisions of concern include a broad "pilot" program to test third-party review of medical devices, and stiff deadlines with unacceptable "hammers." Senator Kassebaum has signaled a willingness to try to accommodate Democratic concerns. (The Administration has stated its strong objections to the more extreme pending House FDA reform legislation).

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

CHR Travel

On Monday, I traveled to Reno, NV and joined Governor Miller's wife, Sandy, for an open press site visit and briefing of the Nevada Baby Your Baby program at the Washoe Health Systems/Medical Center.

On Monday afternoon I participated in an open press roundtable discussion/town hall meeting with representatives from the Children's Cabinet to discuss partnerships and the delivery of social services at the Children's Center in Reno.

On Monday evening I attended a reception hosted by Governor and Mrs. Miller with science, engineering and technology professionals at the University of Nevada, Reno.

On Tuesday morning I toured the Las Vegas Enterprise Zone which included open press stops at the Nevada Partners community center (where residents can go for job training and placement assistance), at a full service day care center, and at the REACH OUT Center (a new day care facility for children with AIDS).

On Tuesday, I attended a lunch with Las Vegas Mayor Jan Laverty Jones and several women business and community leaders.

On Tuesday afternoon I visited two Clark County Schools with Americorps participants.

On Thursday, I travelled to New Jersey and gave the commencement address at Douglass College in New Brunswick. Prior to the commencement address, I had lunch with student leaders.

May 10, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco

Subject: Weekly Report: May 4 - May 10, 1996

UPDATE ON KEY INITIATIVES

WAIVERS

South Carolina Welfare -- After HHS approved this waiver last week, the Governor stated in the press that he had not yet been apprised of the final agreement and has not decided whether to accept it. The Governor is meeting with his human services staff and will get back to HHS shortly.

IMMIGRATION

Legislation -- We are planning our conference strategy. The central issue is how to get the Gallegly amendment to kick kids out of school dropped from the bill. Many smaller yet important issues remain to be worked out at the staff level.

Representative Lamar Smith and Senator Simpson have charged that the INS manipulated the release of legal immigration numbers to influence the outcome of the legislation. The House Immigration Subcommittee hearing to review the events surrounding INS' projections was postponed until next week.

Temporary Workers -- We are trying to bring Labor, Agriculture and INS to agreement on reforms that the Administration can undertake on the H-2A temporary agriculture worker program. The timeframe for agreement on a first set of administrative initiatives is the end of this month.

CRIME AND DRUGS

Gang Event -- On Monday May 13th, the gang event that was to occur last month will take place in the East Room. The event will include the announcement of two projects that we have been working on for the last month. First, the President will announce new anti-gang legislation that we have been drafting with the Justice Department. In addition, the President will announce a National Gang Tracking Network that we have been designing with state and local law enforcement and the Justice Department. This network will permit Federal, State, and local

law enforcement to share gang intelligence from state to state on a secured line.

SENIORS

Older Americans Act Reauthorization -- After several attempts over the past couple of months, this week the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee reported out S. 1643, Older Americans Act reauthorization, along party lines. The bill includes a change in the funding formula used to determine how much each state would receive. Current law uses a formula based on 1985 population figures. The new formula would give more weight to areas with large concentrations of very elderly people (85 and older), phased in over five years. In addition, states would lose no more than 4% or gain no more than 3.75% each year. The funding formula is certain to be revisited during Senate floor debate.

The bill also would turn the Act's Senior Community Service Employment Program for low-income seniors (Title V) into a competitive state-run program. The ten national contractors -- including AARP, NCSC, and NCoA -- would no longer be assured funding, but would have to compete with other groups.

During the markup, Democratic amendments were defeated that would have required states to continue to fund legal services for the elderly and elder abuse prevention programs.

Administration on Aging "Redefining Retirement" Meeting -- On Monday, May 13, the Administration on Aging is holding an "invitational working meeting" to begin a year-long process of defining national objectives to assist baby boomers in making thoughtful choices now that will help their futures be more financially secure, productive, healthy and socially active. The meeting received attention last month as a result of a Los Angeles Times story that described the meeting as a White House Summit for Babyboomers. Since then, AoA has worked hard to downplay the meeting, emphasizing that the process will be examining issues from a comprehensive perspective, focusing on health and quality of life issues, not just financial well-being.

HOUSING

Public Housing Reform Legislation -- This Thursday, the House passed and sent to Conference Rep. Lazio's U.S. Housing Act of 1996, a bill that would significantly change public housing, creating two block grants and giving local communities more flexibility to administer housing assistance based on local needs and conditions.

The Administration has serious concerns with provision of the bill that: 1) repeal the Brooke amendment that limits to 30% the amount of income that Public Housing Authorities can charge

residents for rent (a small concession accepted during debate maintains Brooke for new residents who are elderly, disabled and veterans); and 2) significantly weaken income targeting that ensures that those most in need have access to Public Housing slots and Section 8 assistance.

FAMILY POLICY

Adoption and Indian Child Welfare -- We have communicated to the Hill our opposition to a Rules Committee decision to add to the adoption bill we have endorsed an amendment to the Indian Child Welfare Act. Under this measure, tribal courts would lose jurisdiction over custody decisions on Indian or part-Indian children who have what the bill defines loosely as a marginal affiliation with a tribe.

Parental Rights and Responsibilities Act -- Legislation to give parents the right to sue in federal court if they feel government has "interfered with" or "usurped" their rights is moving forward in the Senate. Senate Judiciary markup is scheduled for next week. The legislation is part of the Christian Coalition's Contract with the American Family. It is opposed by a broad range of children's advocates, education groups and law enforcement. Counsel's Office and DPC are drafting a memorandum outlining concerns with the bill and strategy options for the President's consideration.

ENVIRONMENT

New York - New Jersey Dredging: On Tuesday DPC and CEQ staff and travelled to New York and Trenton to talk to the Governors' staffs about dredging of the New York Harbor. The purpose of the meetings was to explore the Governors interest in a constructive, bipartisan approach to solving the dredging problem. The unions are planning to close down the Port and march on Trenton May 30 to protest Governor Whitman's delays in getting the harbor dredged.

The meeting with New York was encouraging, in that the staff recognizes that it helps both the states and the federal government to stand together when making the very difficult choices that need to be made this year. In New Jersey we heard a message that federal money would be welcome, but that the state was very close to solving this problem. Based on this conversation, I would expect New Jersey to continue to distance itself from any difficult decisions that the federal government needs to make. On Monday we will have an interagency discussion of the options that CEQ and DPC plan to jointly recommend on dredging. We expect to announce Administration actions around Memorial Day.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

CHR Travel

On Thursday, I was honored at a reception by parents of children with disabilities and those that work with people with disabilities in San Rafael, California.

On Friday, I gave the keynote address and panel discussion presentation at the "Influencing Change: Legislative Forum" on disability issues in Petaluma, California.

Congressional

On Tuesday, at the request of Congressman Dickey, I met with representatives from the Pine Bluff Arkansas Chamber of Commerce to discuss progress on the Bioplex project and expanding economic opportunities.

Meetings

On Tuesday, I met with representatives from the National Council on Independent Living.

On Wednesday, I hosted the first of a series of meetings on Family and Marriage Policy with Bruce Reed, Bill Galston, Elaine Kamarck, Elena Kagan and others.

On Wednesday, Debbie Fine briefed a group of approximately 35 representatives from local African American churches on teen pregnancy for a meeting organized by OPL as part of an effort to reach out to the District of Columbia.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Patsy Fleming led an Administration team to South Florida for the third in an ongoing series of trips around the country to highlight the Administration's record on and concern for AIDS issues. These regional visits are a direct outgrowth of the White House Conference on HIV/AIDS last December. Patsy Fleming, members of the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS, and members of the administration have been participating. During this trip, the delegation visited five programs in Dade and Broward County and met with several hundred people living with AIDS, service providers and advocates to get their input on policy issues and hear their concerns.

Press

On Wednesday, I interviewed with Meryl Gordon for a September issue story in Elle magazine on how the President's and Senator Dole's policies and initiatives will impact women.

On Friday, I interviewed with Sarah Eckel (national woman columnist) and reporters from Newsday (NY), White House Weekly, Copley News Service, and the Austin American-Stateman (TX) on the importance of EITC and minimum wage for women.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco



Subject: Weekly Report: April 20 - April 26, 1996

UPDATE ON KEY INITIATIVES

VETERANS

Interagency Veterans Policy Group -- On Friday, April 19, and Monday, April 22, DPC, Cabinet Affairs, and Public Liaison staff met with representatives of veteran service organizations and military coalition groups as part of our ongoing Interagency Veterans Policy Group (IVPG) process. Participants expressed strong appreciation for the meeting and IVPG process, stating that they believe it has been very helpful in moving inter-agency issues forward.

Participants were not so appreciative of the fact that two small categorical DOL veterans programs were zeroed out in the budget, and that a leaked DOL budget document listed veterans programs at the bottom of a priority list. (These issues were highlighted at a House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing the previous day; in response, Rep. Buyer issued a press release attacking the Administration for poor treatment of veterans). We are working with DOL to set up a meeting with DOL and veterans groups. DOL is working to extend one of the veterans programs -- the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project -- through joint DOL/HUD funding.

CHOICE

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban: The override vote for H.R.1833 has still not been scheduled. This Monday, the House held a hearing on the origins and intent of Roe v. Wade, with an emphasis on HR 1833. Apparently, it was attended only by Representatives Smith and Canady. The witnesses were primarily anti-choice. There was minimal coverage of the hearing, with articles in the New York Post and the Washington Times. We do expect stories in the LA Times and Sixty Minutes soon covering the women who appeared with the President in a favorable way, as far as we can tell.

APR 29 1996

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Banks and Financial Institutions -- The CDFI Fund received \$45 million in the final FY96 CR agreement. They are making Bank Enterprise Awards next month and are on target to make CDFI awards in late May or early June.

Microenterprise -- The Secretary of Treasury and the 1st Lady will be announcing an award for microenterprise excellence. The award program is based on the Baldrige Award, but it does not include any grants. The award helps to fulfill the commitment the Administration made during the Beijing Women's Conference.

Local Flexibility and Empowerment Act -- The House Committee on Gov Reform adopted the Local Flex bill by a vote of 21 to 19. The bill is still unacceptable to the Administration in its current form because it goes beyond providing waivers for financial assistance programs and provides broad waiver authority for important cross-cutting statutes that protect, for example, the environment, worker safety, financial accountability and the banking system. It would also create a huge bureaucracy to administer the waivers. Paul Weinstein will be meeting with John Koskinen and others to discuss strategy on Monday (April 29).

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

I met with the President of the Arkansas Emergency Care Physicians to discuss medicaid regulations.

I had a demonstration at the Arkansas Children's Hospital of OSHA imposed testing of respirators worn by health care personnel.

May 3, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco *CHR*

Subject: Weekly Report: April 27 - May 3, 1996

MAY - 6 1996

UPDATE ON KEY INITIATIVES

WAIVERS

South Carolina Welfare -- This waiver may be approved Friday, May 3 if HHS is able to complete its work. It would be the 60th welfare waiver. One feature not granted in any prior waivers is that it would require a small number of families who have reached the AFDC time limit to relocate with state assistance if a job was available elsewhere in the state.

Los Angeles County Medicaid -- As expected, L.A. County has submitted an amendment to its waiver proposal. We have agreed to review this amendment within 45 days, including working collaboratively with the county and state to improve the request during that 45-day period.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

IDEA Reauthorization -- We have been working with the Education Department, counsel's office, Rahm Emanuel, and OMB on the Administration's response to recent Senate action allowing schools to expel a student with a disability who brings weapons or drugs to school, as long as it is not a manifestation of the student's disability. Current law requires a school district to continue services for such a student at home if necessary. The Senate bill would allow a district to cease services altogether.

ADOPTION

Pending Legislation -- DPC staff are preparing a letter from the President endorsing the House Republicans' adoption bill for release on Sunday or Monday. The bill is scheduled for a floor vote next week as part of the House's emphasis on adoption in the days leading up to Mothers' Day. It would provide an adoption tax credit and would revise the Multi-ethnic Placement Act (MEPA), which prohibits discrimination in transracial adoption. The measure was part of the Contract with America, and was part of the budget bill the President vetoed.

Although we believe that MEPA is effective in prohibiting discrimination, the Republicans charge that it is not strong enough and that HHS has been lax in enforcing it. However, their alternative language is more or less equivalent to MEPA.

A provision to make it easier for Indian children to be removed from the jurisdiction of tribes was dropped in committee, but may be added back before the bill goes to the floor. Indian groups oppose this measure strongly. We also have concerns about funding sources for the tax credit. Nevertheless, we still favor the bill as a whole strongly.

HEALTH CARE

Governors and Medicaid: As you know, the Democratic Governors agreed to be ready to immediately respond to and reject any Republican Medicaid package that block grants the program and undermines the "guarantee" to coverage. They also will continue to send positive signals about the Breaux-Chafee Medicaid provisions.

Insurance Reform Update: DPC staff held a policy coordination meeting with OMB and the Departments of HHS, Labor, Treasury and Justice to develop Administration-cleared policy on the second and third tier issues of concern in the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill. Working with our Legislative Affairs shop, we will be forwarding our formal positions to the Hill early next week in an attempt to expedite the work of the conferees.

CRIME AND DRUGS

COPS Funding -- Now that the Appropriations bill has passed, we have cops funding to distribute. The Justice Department is ready to announce \$618 million in grants to 2517 jurisdictions that will lead to the hiring 8863 new community policing officers. This would bring the total of new community police officers funded under the Crime Bill to over 43,000. We are working on an announcement in the near future.

Drug Courts funding -- The Appropriations bill also provided \$18 million in new drug court grants. The National Association of Drug Court Professionals are holding their annual conference in Washington, D.C. from May 9-12. We are arranging for General McCaffrey and Attorney General Reno to announce new grants at the conference and to release a report that outlines the success that drug courts are having. In addition, we are drafting a letter from the President that can be placed in the participants conference packets.

Violence Against Women Funding -- We have two grant announcements under Violence Against Women that we could do separately or together. First, through the COPS funding, we are providing \$42 million to law enforcement agencies across the country to address

domestic violence. Second, under the VAWA program, we will be announcing \$130 million in grants that will go to States to distribute to prosecutors, law enforcement, prevention specialists, and shelters for violence against women programs. Since this money will be going through the states, it will be a good opportunity for the Administration to urge the states to enforce their current laws, such as statutory rape laws. In addition, the Attorney General will be testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 15th on the Violence Against Women Act.

Prison Grants -- The Appropriations bill also contained funding for the 1994 Crime Bill prison grant program -- albeit under a new Republican formula that assists certain states such as Utah. The prison section contains language that requires the states to provide the Attorney General assurances that they are protecting the rights of victims. This language creates an opportunity to demand that states increase victims rights protections. It is important we act on this opportunity because the victims rights community has been somewhat critical of the Administration. In addition, several congressional members, including Senator Feinstein, are moving a constitutional amendment for victims rights that we have not yet taken a position on.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban: This week Governor Christine Todd Whitman and representatives of the religious community publicly showed support for the President's veto of H.R. 1833.

Family Planning -- In signing a technical corrections bill this week, the President stated his strong support for international family planning and expressed opposition to the low level of funding in the budget. The signing statement has played a critical role in reassuring a large of network of activists from the Beijing network, the population community, and women's groups. DPC worked with OMB and the Staff Secretary to craft the language.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention -- Dr. Foster testified before the Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight in a hearing on teen pregnancy prevention. There was low attendance because the first vote of the day was not until several hours after the hearing. Members present were: Rep. Chris Shays (Chair of the Subcommittee), Rep. Mark Souder (Freshman Republican.), Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD and Rep. Towns (D-NY). Dr. Foster's testimony was well received. He focused on the importance of community action, noting it as an underpinning of the administration strategy and highlighting his personal experience with I Have a Future. Members seemed genuinely interested in learning about teen pregnancy, what approaches to reducing its incidence work, and what the federal government can do to help.

Throughout the hearing there was a strong emphasis on the importance of male responsibility and on the numbers of female teens impregnated by older men. Chair Shays in particular underscored the need for tough prosecution of statutory rape cases. In addition, Members were very complementary about the promise of the National Campaign, which was continually mentioned as an initiative stimulated by the President.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Keynote speech to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, an organization of the 50 state advisory committees on juvenile justice.

Domestic policy briefing for Sacramento, California community leaders in D.C.

Domestic policy briefing for California state legislative delegation.

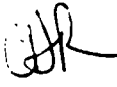
CHR Travel

Two-day visit to East Prairie, Missouri Rural Enterprise Community which included:

- Helicopter tour of levee system in need of reconstruction.
- Roundtable discussion with welfare moms in a comprehensive reform program.
- Town Hall meeting where Enterprise Community task force presented updates on progress.
- Community fish fry with 250 in attendance.
- Joint Enterprise Community Board/Town Council meeting.
- Breakfast with business leadership.
- Tour of small motor plant recently located in East Prairie, MO.
- Visits to all K-12 schools closing with a roundtable discussion on community development with 20 high school students.

March 29, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco 

Subject: Weekly Report: March 23 - March 29, 1996

UPDATE ON KEY INITIATIVES

Waivers

Los Angeles County Medicaid -- Next week, HHS will probably approve the Medicaid waiver implementing the assistance package announced by the President last fall. The remaining issue now being worked out is the nature of the unions' involvement in the waiver's implementation. Approval of the waiver will allow HHS to follow through on the President's announcement and provide significant assistance to the county's health care facilities during this fiscal year and next year. County officials have asked us for additional assistance in the ensuing years, and we have agreed to review any proposal they submit within 45 days after we receive it.

Oregon Welfare -- HHS approved this waiver on Thursday, March 28.

Ohio Medicaid Spousal Impoverishment -- Secretary Shalala has agreed to Governor Voinovich's request that she ask the Department of Justice to file an amicus brief on the state's behalf on Ohio's policy on Medicaid spousal impoverishment. Advocates have sued Ohio, charging that its policy on spousal impoverishment is so tough that it exceeds Federal guidelines. Spousal impoverishment governs the amount of assets and income a person may retain and still have his or her spouse eligible for Medicaid. DOJ makes the final decision about any amicus brief. HHS has not yet informed the state of the Secretary's decision.

Social Security

Earnings Test Bill. The Debt Limit Extension bill is expected to include the "Senior Citizens Right to Work Act", a bill that would gradually increase to \$30,000 a year in 2002 the amount that people aged 65-69 can earn before their Social Security benefits are reduced. The bill would also prohibit payment of disability benefits to people whose disability is substantially related to drug addiction or alcoholism. Advocates for the blind

are concerned because the bill does not increase the earnings test for the blind. Under current law, seniors and the blind are treated equally, and both groups are treated far better than other people with disabilities. There is a split within the disability community on this issue.

Crime and Drugs

Cops Funding. As you know, as part of the negotiations for the FY 96 appropriations, the Administration offered to the Republican appropriators a plan that would divide the President's request for FY 96 COPS funding -- which was \$1.9 billion -- into 75% funding for the COPS program and 25% for some form of block grant. This offer is publicly known. As discussions on the proposal move forward, it will be important to ensure that law enforcement entities have the authority under the proposal to apply directly to the Attorney General for block grant funds. In other words, the chiefs of police should be able to submit applications for funding without having to go through their Mayors.

While the proposal is pending, it is crucial that the Administration reach out and explain to the law enforcement organizations, who have stood by us as the President attacked and vetoed the Republican block grant proposals, why we have proposed block granting 25% of funds and why this approach doesn't break the President's pledge of 100,000 community police officers. Law enforcement agencies view the proposal as simply reducing their funding by 25%. We are reaching out to law enforcement groups to explain the proposal.

Drug Conference. As reported in the Washington Post on March 27, 1996, a student from Eleanor Roosevelt High School -- where the White House Leadership Conference on Youth, Drug Use, and Violence was held -- was stabbed to death by a student from another school. We worked with White House correspondence to get a letter from the President to the student body and one to the student's family. We asked the Attorney General to represent the Administration at a student-organized memorial that was held at the school on the evening of March 27, 1996, where the Attorney General read the President's letter to the student body.

Sex Offenders. On April 1, 1996, the Justice Department is publishing final guidelines to implement the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act. This Act, which was a key element of the 1994 Crime Act, provides financial incentives for states to establish effective registration systems for convicted child molesters and other sexually violent offenders and also permits community notification concerning the location of registered offenders where necessary for public safety. Dennis Burke has been working on a letter for Rahm that would be from the President to all Governors challenging them to meet the goals of this deadline and adopt a tough sex offender registration and notification law.

Choice

The Continuing Resolution: Pro-choice groups and Members of Congress are concerned about compromises under consideration to resolve differences over the issue of Medicaid funding of abortions in cases of rape and incest. The current proposal contains compromise language whereby the federal government would reimburse states for 100% of the cost of abortions in cases of rape or incest. The concern is that this provision in combination with Istook language, that would allow states to opt out of providing the Medicaid service, would result in allowing states to opt-out of providing abortions in cases of rape and incest under Medicaid.

Prosecution of Violence Against Abortion Clinics: Two pro-life activists were indicted on March 26 on federal conspiracy and arson charges stemming from fires at abortion clinics in Norfolk and Newport News, Virginia in 1994 and 1995. The indictments have been embraced by pro-choice activists as testament to the Department of Justice's commitment to enforce the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act.

Environment

Earth Day and the President's Environmental Accomplishments: A major Cabinet roll-out is being planned for Earth Day (Monday, April 22). CEQ is coordinating activities of cabinet and sub-cabinet officials, as well as proposing events for the President and Vice-President. DPC staff have been working with CEQ to add a focus on the President's environmental accomplishments to the Earth Day message. We are working to develop a report on the President's environmental accomplishments for Earth Day. Our focus is to ensure that the environmental accomplishments in the report are linked to other domestic priorities (protection of health, education, and children), and are results-oriented rather than government-oriented (i.e. people protected rather than initiatives proposed).

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

CONGRESSIONAL

None.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

3/28: Thursday, I gave the Keynote Address at a meeting of the National Council of Jewish Women honoring their new president in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

3:28: Thursday, I led a roundtable discussion with Presidents and CEOs of Children's Advocacy Groups to discuss children and family issues in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

MEETINGS

3/26: Tuesday, I met with the Associate Dean and Center Director for Health Communication, Harvard School of Public Health; the Chairman, Amelior Foundation; the National Executive Director, the One to One Partnership, Inc.; and the Executive Director, MCJ Foundation, to discuss at-risk youth and mentoring.

3/26: Tuesday, I visited with the Chairperson, National Commission on Crime Prevention and Control.

3/29: Friday, I met in New York with Alex Kroll of the Advertising Council.

3/29: Friday, I met in New York with Norman Lear and others regarding aids research funding.

CHR PRESS ACTIVITY

None.

April 19, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco 

Subject: Weekly Report: April 13 - April 19, 1996

UPDATE ON KEY INITIATIVES

HEALTH CARE

Senate Action on Kennedy-Kassebaum Bill. On Thursday evening, every Democratic Senator joined with five Republican Senators to support an amendment (in a 52-46 vote) to strike MSAs from a Dole Amendment to the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill. The Republicans that supported the amendment were Senators Bond, Gorton, Chafee, Kassebaum, and Hatfield. This was played by the media as a major defeat for Senator Dole. In deference to Senator Mack, whose father just died, the final vote was pushed back to April 23rd. (The delay may also give time for Senator Dole to claim more credit for passage of the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill -- outside the light of the MSA defeat.)

Important Amendments to the Bill Include: (1) Expansion of the self-employed tax deduction to 80 percent over 10 years (The President's balanced budget has a phase-in to 50 percent, as does the House-passed version of Kassebaum-Kennedy); (2) Clarification that tax treatment of private long-term care policies should be the same as traditional health insurance (The President's balanced budget does not have this provision, but he advocated for a similar provision in the Health Security Act; the House-passed bill has a similar provision); (3) Strengthening of Medicare fraud and abuse prevention/enforcement (the President's balanced budget has a similar provision, as does the House-passed insurance reform bill); and (4) the Prohibition of health plans from imposing limits or caps on mental health services if similar limitations are not imposed on coverage for other conditions (the President's balanced budget proposal does not allow plans to discriminate by disease category, but it does not preclude plans from having differential coverage limits; the House-passed bill has neither the Senate nor the President's protections). This last item, was sponsored by Senators Domenici and Wellstone and won by a surprisingly large 65-33 margin.

Outstanding Issues Going Into Conference: The House-passed bill has at least 5 major provisions that are extremely problematic. They were well aware that we had grave concerns about them, but they went ahead and included (1) Medical Savings Accounts, (2)

APR 22 1996

caps on punitive and non-economic medical malpractice awards, (3) the deregulation of state oversight over multiple employer welfare arrangements (MEWAs), (4) the elimination of the prohibition against insurers selling Medigap policies that duplicate benefits that beneficiaries already receive through their Medicare coverage, and (5) the weakening of certain Medicare fraud and abuse enforcement provisions.

The Senate-passed bill does not include the first four provisions and improved on the problematic fraud and abuse provisions. We believe that we can and should work out some of the minor concerns we have with the Senate provisions (mostly relating to the long-term care tax clarifications and the fraud and abuse provisions). However, the real fight will be on the House-passed provisions. The business community might help us fight the House-passed controversial provisions. However, they will also be focusing their guns on the Domenici/Wellstone mental health parity provision.

Childhood Immunization Week. On Thursday, HHS issued a press release on immunization in preparation for National Immunization Week next week, including a quote from the President. The release highlighted the latest measles incidence numbers (also released on Thursday) showing that there were only 301 cases of measles in 1995, the smallest number of cases since reporting began in 1912, and a 69% reduction from 1994. Jen Klein and Diana Fortuna are working with OMB, the press office, and HHS to ensure that we describe the improvement in immunization rates since 1992 appropriately.

DISABILITY POLICY

National Summit on Disability Policy. The National Council on Disability, an independent Federal agency, is holding a summit on disability policy in Dallas on April 27-29. The summit is structured as a three-day event with 300 invited guests, most of whom are people with disabilities, many of them from the grassroots. The group will attempt to develop strategies for the next decade to achieve equal opportunity and independence for people with disabilities. NCD is not attempting to guide or shape the group's recommendations in advance.

The recommendations will be forwarded to NCD's 15-member board for their consideration. NCD's chair, Marca Bristo, hopes to present NCD's final report on the summit to the President at whatever event we select to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the ADA in July. (She presented an NCD report on the ADA to the President at the ADA fifth anniversary celebration last year.)

NCD's 15 board members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. A majority of the current NCD board was appointed by President Clinton.

AIDS/HIV POLICY

New York Town Hall Meeting. Patsy Fleming and a team of Administration officials -- including Secretary Shalala, HUD senior advisor Roberta Achtenberg, and Jeremy Ben-Ami -- traveled to New York City for site visits, meetings with foundation executives and AIDS service providers, and a town meeting on AIDS. Patsy met with editors of the New York Times.

The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS meets next week, April 24-26.

CRIME AND DRUGS

Anti-Terrorism Bill. The law enforcement groups are not pleased with the final legislation. A few of them, such as the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association and the Fraternal Order of Police, have written letters to the President asking him to veto the bill. They are particularly upset with an NRA-sponsored provision that would create a commission to examine law enforcement. The NRA expects that this commission will review Waco and Ruby Ridge. Law enforcement organizations characterize the commission as a witch hunt and are upset that Congress -- both Democrats and Republicans -- have still not appointed anyone to two law enforcement commissions that were created in the 1994 Crime Bill.

Police Memorial. The President will be giving the keynote speech at the Law Enforcement Memorial ceremony in mid-May. Organizers believe close to 30,000 people will be attending this event on the Mall. We are working on legislation that would provide scholarships to the dependents of officers slain in the line of duty that the President could announce during his speech.

CHOICE

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban. On Monday April 22, the House Judiciary Committee will hold hearings on the origins of Roe v. Wade to make the point that the decision was not intended to apply to "partial-birth" abortions. We do not expect a House vote to override the President's veto to come up next week. A veto override vote, and a second day of hearings on Roe v. Wade that would be more favorable for us, may not be scheduled for several weeks. DPC staff have been working with an internal team to further clarify the President's position on H.R.1833.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

CHR TRAVEL

4/15-4/16: Monday & Tuesday: I visited the Detroit, MI Empowerment Zone. I met with the Empowerment Zone's Executive Committee; visited with the Mayor of Detroit; toured a new business operation within the Empowerment Zone; met with a hospital consortium involved in training health care professionals; visited a youth employment and training program; attended a dinner of community service providers and leaders set up by Jim and Janet Blanchard; led a roundtable discussion on sustainable development; and toured a Super Fund site.

4:17-4/18: Wednesday & Thursday: I traveled to Columbia, South Carolina where I visited a center which works with abused children and their families; met with a hospital consortium that is working to improve the quality of medicaid services under managed care; held a Town Hall meeting sponsored by the Columbia Commission on Children and Youth; and was interviewed by the editorial board of the Columbia newspaper.

4/19: Friday: I met with the President of the Society for Health care Epidemiology of America, Inc. (SHEA) and other members, along with representative of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to discuss health care worker safety.

MEETINGS

Patsy Fleming attended a CDC-sponsored meeting in Atlanta on the issue of topical microbicides. Development of an effective topical microbicide is a critical element of the HIV prevention research agenda.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco 

Subject: Weekly Report: April 6 - April 12, 1996

UPDATE ON KEY INITIATIVES

Waivers

Los Angeles County Medicaid -- The L.A. County Medicaid waiver is set to be approved on Friday, April 12. Earlier this week, L.A. County reached an agreement with SEIU on its involvement in restructuring the county health system.

Health Care

Announcement of Medicare Managed Care Demonstration -- On Monday, HHS will announce that 25 managed care plans have been awarded the chance to participate in the Medicare Choices demonstration, which will offer Medicare beneficiaries in eight cities and five rural areas an expanded choice of managed care plans. The competition among plans to participate in this demonstration has been fairly intense. Winners may be notified on Friday, April 12.

Immigration

Legislation -- The Senate will take up illegal immigration legislation on Monday. Department Secretaries will issue letters recommending the President veto the legislation if it contains the anticipated amendments to kick illegal immigrant kids out of school and to diminish motor voter (by requiring everyone to prove they are citizens). We will express strong opposition to the anticipated Shelby English-only amendment. The DPC is taking the lead on ensuring the Statements of Administration Position for the illegal and legal immigration bills, the views letter, and agency veto letters are consistent with White House views.

Environment

Lake Gaston -- Over the next week it is possible that many offices in the White House will receive calls seeking to encourage the Administration to get involved in years-old

litigation between North Carolina and Virginia Beach over water in Lake Gaston. The Governor of North Carolina has mentioned this issue to the President in the past. Over the last several months political appointees in EPA put significant effort into trying to build a non-litigation solution to this problem, but ultimately the parties did not agree. If staff receive requests, we should coordinate any response with EPA.

Government Reform

Local Flexibility and Empowerment Act -- Paul Weinstein and staff from OMB and the Vice President's office met with staff from Senator Hatfield's office to discuss the outlook for this legislation. Our analysis is that the bill is on life support due to Republican efforts to make this legislation into Reg Flex II.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

CONGRESSIONAL

None.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

None.

MEETINGS

4/11: Thursday, I met with the Deputy Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association.

4:11: Thursday, I met with the Executive Director of Midtown Commons, Seattle WA.

CHR PRESS ACTIVITY

None

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 18, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: DORIS MATSUI
ANN EDER

CC: LEE SATTERFIELD
CHRISTA ROBINSON/with attachments

RE: WEEKLY REPORT/*April 19, 1996*

I. ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

- * We have begun to plan for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May); we intend to be proactive and ensure that the Administration's involvement is demonstrated through various events, meetings, and media in Washington and throughout the country.
 - Coordinated calendar of Federal Department/Agencies heritage month events, as well as appointees that were willing to participate in these events.
 - Coordinated calendar of community events, cross referencing with appointee schedules and APA appointee surrogate speakers calendar to maximize administration participation in community events.
 - Ordered 2500 APA Heritage Month Proclamations to mail to community leaders and all community events on our calendar. Assessed lists and printed labels so proclamations can be mailed out immediately.
 - Working with the President's scheduling office on the President's participation in the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus Institute Dinner.
 - Working with the Vice President's office to have the Vice President do a Drop-by at the annual White House Briefing for Community Leaders.
 - Working with the Women's office to coordinate Women's Luncheon for APA Women during Heritage Month.

- * Appointees held roundtables with community leaders in Wisconsin (Wisconsin Refugee Conference), Philadelphia (4-Asian Bar Association, APA Veterans, Korean Americans and Vietnamese Americans), and California.
- * Recommended participants for possible NSC briefing.
- * Mailed information and INS press release on Citizenship USA to 25 immigration/civil rights groups. In relation, Asian Week (national specialty press) ran a story on the INS/Crime Bill measure that protects battered immigrant women wanting to become citizens. This ties in two very important issues in the community, immigration and domestic violence. Domestic violence is a key concern in APA communities with high immigration.
- * Recommended key community leaders to participate in a coffee with the President.

II. Children and Families

- * Sent out 125 Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamations to children's groups across the country.

III. EDUCATION

- * The Washington Director of the PTA called to say applaud the Vice President's remarks to broadcasters regarding the 3 hour requirement on children's programming. The PTA has been very supportive of this issue. They understand how tough an issue this is to discuss and commend the Vice President for speaking so frankly on this issue.
- * Sent out 25 Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamations to national education groups.
- * Updated our education database to include local/state contacts for national education groups including the PTA, AFT, NEA, Chief State School Officers, and the National School Board Administration.

IV. NONPROFITS

- * Received a request on behalf of a number of foundation officials for a meeting with the President to discuss ways to foster partnership between the voluntary--philanthropic and nonprofit--sector and government to better meet the needs of communities.

Forwarded this request, with recommendation, to the Chief of Staff's office.

- * Met with Executive Director of Japan Center for International Exchange (offices in Tokyo and New York) to discuss philanthropy and nonprofit activity in Japan and Asia Pacific and the work they are doing with nonprofits in the United States.
- * Working with Cabinet Affairs to find Cabinet speaker for the annual luncheon of "Alliance for Justice".
- * Secured drop-by of Secretary Shalala at the annual conference of Independent Charities of America, 300+ leaders of national charities.
- * Met with Legislative Affairs and members groups of the "Istook Coalition" on two other bills they are concerned about, the Federal Agency Anti-Lobbying Act and the Local Flexibility/Waiver legislation. Nonprofit groups sees both items as attacks on the nonprofit sector and the people who depend on the services they provide.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

22-Apr-1996 07:40am

TO: Holly Carver

FROM: Ann T. Eder
 Office of Public Liaison

SUBJECT: weekly report

Addendums to attached weekly report:

* Child Care provider groups are upset regarding the cuts to school age programs in the CR. Although they continue to support us and are grateful for the Presidents leadership on these issues, they feel let down and dissapointed. They will fight these cuts. They argue that these programs are the only programs (with the exception of tax issues) that affect ALL Americans, regardless of income.

* Met to finalize details for Take Our Daughters to Work.

Name	Date	
Wendy White	12/31/96	Counselor

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: DORIS MATSUI
ANN EDER

CC: LEE SATTERFIELD
CHRISTA ROBINSON/with attachments

RE: WEEKLY REPORT/May 3, 1996

I. ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. We continue to be proactive in ensuring that the Administration's involvement is demonstrated through various events, meetings, and media in Washington and throughout the country.

- Coordinated calendar of Federal Department/Agencies heritage month events, as well as appointees that were willing to participate in these events.
- Continue to coordinate calendar of community events, cross referencing with appointee schedules and APA appointee surrogate speakers calendar to maximize administration participation in community events.
- Worked with the greeting's unit to edit and revise the Proclamation. Printed labels and enclosure cards so the 2000 proclamations can be mailed out immediately after they are received by OPL.
- Wrote and mailed out 300 bulletins created by OPL and APA appointees highlighting Heritage Month and profiles of APA appointees in the news. (ie--Ginger Lew, originally in the Commerce Department, being made Deputy Administrator of SBA.)
- Coordinating surrogate speakers for APA Heritage Month events taking place through out the month. This week, appointees will be in Chicago, Houston, New York, and San Francisco.
- Supplied letters of greetings to 7 community events.

- * Requested a photo with the President and APA appointees to demonstrate the large number of APA Administration appointees.
- * Mailed copies of Administration letter to Hill leadership, opposing English only language to 25 immigration/civil rights groups.
- * Held weekly meetings with appointees to discuss implementation of a more aggressive media outreach plan, including planning information for the next bulletin, and this week's news article (President's trip to Asia), and appointee profiles to release to the specialty press.
- * Sent the President's statement on immigration to 25 immigration/civil rights groups.
- * Invited key community leaders to participate in a coffee with the President.

II. Children and Families

We continue to monitor the developments on the Stand for Children rally taking place on June 1. We will be meeting with organizing representatives next week. Groups attending/participating range from children and education advocacy groups to crime and seniors groups.

In addition, National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) were very upset in the loss of appropriations to some of their programs that were consolidated into the CCDBG for FY 96. We were able to work with OMB to find out exactly what the figures were and what happened, so we could get the information out to their members. While they continue to support the President and feel the Administration did a great job, they were still very disappointed. We did not hear from the other groups on this matter.

- * Met with Team Nutrition representative to discuss changes and outreach initiatives around school lunches.
- * Faxed 300 grassroots organizations--nation wide--talking points/information on minimum wage.
- * Faxed 300 grassroots organizations, the omnibus appropriations bill fact sheet.
- * See also NONPROFITS.
- * See also EDUCATION.

III. EDUCATION

Parental Involvement Legislation is another matter that the **education** and **children's groups** are reacting to. Met with a representative of AAUW and attended a internal meeting to discuss this issue. Education groups are particularly upset about the legislation. They say it cannot be fixed.

- * Faxed 50 grassroots organizations--nation wide--talking points/information on minimum wage.
- * Faxed 100 grassroots organizations, colleges and universities the omnibus appropriations bill fact sheet.
- * Participated in the planning and program for Take our Daughters to Work Day.
- * See also NONPROFITS.

IV. NONPROFITS

Attended a meeting on the Local Empowerment and Flexibility Act at the National Education Association with a variety of **Nonprofit** groups including **education, children and labor**. They are looking for the Administration to stand against this bill in it's current form. They are willing to work with Congress and the Administration to work through the differences (they agree greater flexibility would sometimes be helpful) but see the current bill as being very dangerous. Their two main concerns are; 1.) Waivers--ability to change federal regulations and statues without adequate emphasis on program quality and public protection. No accountability. 2.) Community Empowerment Board--they see this as potentially abusive of both funds and power. Concerned about the harm it will do to the programs the Clinton Administration has worked hard to protect, especially if under administrations like they have seen in the past. Feel that those on the board will not represent those in the community that the programs are effecting.

- * Attended the annual luncheon of "Alliance for Justice". Secured Jack Quinn to address the luncheon on behalf of the Administration.
- * Foundation leaders are requesting a meeting with the President. We have submitted a request and feel this would be an excellent opportunity for the President. They are very supportive. While they cannot say so vis-a-vi the organizations, they can speak publicly as individuals. Many foundation board members are key community leaders in business, law and academia.

- * Coordinating a meeting with Nonprofit Liaisons and community leaders regarding developing an online access source.
- * Continuing to track/work with the community on Federal Agency Anti-Lobbying Act. They continue to see this and the Local Flexibility Act as an attack on the nonprofit sector and the people who depend on the services they provide.
- * Developing talking points on the Administration accomplishments for the nonprofit sector.

Wendy White	12/31/96	Counselor

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 29, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: DORIS MATSUI
ANN EDER

CC: LEE SATTERFIELD
CHRISTA ROBINSON/with attachments

RE: WEEKLY REPORT/March 18-29, 1996

I. ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

- * The APA national plan was completed four weeks ago--awaiting final clearance.
- * Met with APA appointees to discuss final development of state outreach plans.
- * Participated in community immigration meeting with the Chief-of-Staff.
- * Met with key community leaders from New York, California, Michigan and the local area following their coffee with the President. Discussed community outreach and organization.
- * Met with Okura Mental Health Foundation representative to discuss possible yearly fellow working with APA outreach.
- * Key APA organizations are undertaking registration drives to register 1 million voters--much of this had been precipitated by perceived anti-immigrant bias. The immigration bills in the House and Senate are being watched carefully--in particular, the legal immigration section regarding family reunification.
- * We have begun to plan for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May); we intend to be proactive and ensure that the Administration's involvement is demonstrated through various events, meetings, and media in Washington and throughout the country.

- * Convened small internal immigration meeting to discuss a community outreach strategy surrounding the issue.
- * Coordinated conference call with personnel and the APA community to discuss APA staff appointments to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.
- * Coordinated and distributed surrogate speaking package to APA appointees. These packets included tracking and feedback forms as well as talking points and instructions on holding informal community roundtables.

II. Children and Families

- * We continue to hear from various groups and individuals about their specific concerns on welfare reform and budget. They are grateful for the President's support and want him to stand firm for children.
- * Spoke with major Children's environmental group regarding outreach on children and the environment. Faxed them recent FY 1997 budget talking points on the budget for use/distribution with their network.
- * Faxed 400 grassroots children's groups information on the President's FY 1997 Budget.
- * Faxed 150 key organizations on the assault weapon ban.
- * Met with representatives from the Administration for Children and Families to begin strategizing on ways with which we can work together to get the word out most effectively. We will begin to implement some basic steps to begin with including sharing group information and coordinating a comprehensive calendar of events.
- * Met with White House and Labor Department representatives to discuss outreach surrounding the minimum wage issue.
- * Faxed minimum wage talking points to 350 children's groups around the country.
- * Met with Representatives from the Juvenile Diabetes Association. Had a good discussion regarding their efforts in the health community. They are partnering with Veteran's Affairs which could serve as an unique model in developing interdisciplinary research.
- * Faxed talking points on the President's remarks at the NGA Education summit to 350 children's organizations.

- * Met with Robin Smith, of Women in Radio to discuss ways that we could assist in develop good media for children.
- * Participated in brainstorming session with Ida Castro of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor. This was a good meeting with a broad range of issues brought to the table by a diverse group of Administration women. Everyone is committed to incorporating the working women aspect into these messages
- * Faxed minimum wage talking points to 350 children's organizations.

III. EDUCATION

- * Faxed over 100 education organizations talking points on the FY 1997 budget proposal.
- * Faxed talking points on the assault weapons ban to 50 education groups. The education groups were very vocal on the issue.
- * Faxed talking points on minimum wage to 50 key education groups.
- * Faxed talking points on the President's remarks at the NGA Education summit to 50 education associations. Many of the organizations, as always, will be sent to their member organizations. Requests for the transcript of the President's remarks began almost immediately. Once a final copy is provided, the full speech will be sent out to major organizations. There has been a positive response to the president's remarks. Many groups have requested a copy of the transcript. The American Federation of Teachers is planning on publishing the remarks in their entirety in their membership magazine.

IV. NONPROFITS

- * OPL convened a meeting with representatives of a nonprofit coalition to discuss efforts to assure that the "Istook" amendment is not included in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. Group leaders were appreciative of the Administration's effort and urged the Administration to hold strong.

- * Grassroots organizations are making calls to Congress to urge them to "Just say No to Istook." In addition, the nonprofit "Istook" coalition is urging Congress not to accept the Istook Amendment and to exclude the provision from the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. Also, twenty nine Foundation Leaders issued a letter to Senate Majority Leader Dole opposing the Istook Amendment.
- * Citizens for Sensible Safeguards Coalition is concerned about the Shays' "Waiver" bill (H.R. 2086). OPL secured and participated in a March 22 meeting of education, children and labor groups with the OMB staff working on the Administration's position on the bill.
- * OPL held a meeting with representatives of the Communications Catalyst to discuss their proposal to adapt the US Business Advisor online information service to the needs of the nonprofit sector.
- * OPL met with the CEO of HandsNet, the nonprofit online service, to talk about HandsNet work in providing training and assistance to nonprofits on the utilization of telecommunications.
- * OPL, reviewing Nonprofit Talking Points prepared by nonprofit representatives several years ago, gave feedback to the Independent Sector's Government Relations Committee as preparation for the convening meeting.
- * OPL held a breakfast meeting with the new president of Council on Foundations, Dorothy Riding, on Monday March 18.
- * Faxed minimum wage talking points to nonprofit organizations and foundations.

[illegible]

April 1, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO

ALEXIS HERMAN
HAROLD ICKES
EVELYN LIEBERMAN
MAGGIE WILLIAMS
MELANNE VERVEER
KAREN HANCOX
ANN LEWIS

CC:

LEE SATTERFIELD
CHRISTA ROBINSON

FROM:

BETSY MYERS

SUBJECT:

ACTIVITIES REPORT - April 1, 1996

Below please find a summary of events, outreach and media activities by the Office of Women's Initiatives and Outreach from March 16 to April 1, 1996.

EVENTS

- o Organized the signing of the Women's History Month Proclamation in the West Wing Roosevelt Room on March 19 attended by Vice President Gore and other distinguished guests..
- o Hosted monthly Women's networking event/reception on March 20 at the Commerce Department in honor of Women's History Month highlighting women's accomplishments inside and outside the Administration featuring Evelyn Lieberman and Gloria Steinem. Ms. Steinem is a big supporter of the Administration and stressed the importance of the Presidential election for women. More than 800 women appointees and leaders attended.
- o Hosted a luncheon on March 26 in the Indian Treaty Room to kick off our new accomplishments piece and to honor "Women Making History" inside and outside the Administration. Represented at the luncheon were the most senior woman political appointee working with women's issues from each of the Cabinet and sub-Cabinet agencies along with two private sector constituents who had benefited from the Administration's accomplishments.

Constituency Outreach

- o Conducted a lunch/meeting with Linda Chavez Thompson on March 27 to brainstorm on outreach to working women and explore ways to reach labor union women and to amplify our accomplishments piece. Also included were Karen Nussbaum with AFL-

CIO, Ida Castro, Jennifer O'Connor and Arleen Holt with the AFL-CIO.

- o Hosted brainstorming session with Ida Castro and Nancy Donaldson with the Service Employees International Union.
- o Hosted brainstorming meeting on Earth Day women's event.
- o Hosted a roundtable discussion with Gloria Steinem and senior White House staff to talk about women's concerns around the country.
- o Held a meeting with Harriet Trudell of the Feminist Majority to discuss concerns of her constituencies.
- o Invited women's groups to a briefing on the '97 budget.
- o Organized a conference call with women's groups outside the beltway to discuss Affirmative Action. Call was led by Alexis Herman, Susan Liss and Isabelle Pinsler.
- o Organized a Junior Kitchen Cabinet meeting with young women from a variety of women's organizations.
- o Held a conference call with women leaders on the correlation between welfare and domestic violence.
- o Organized a briefing for senior White House staff with Ellie Smeal, Executive Director of the Feminist Majority, on the anti-affirmative action ballot initiatives in California and other states. Their grass roots organizing plan, Freedom Summer '96 will move women to the polls. Freedom Summer is being organized at colleges and universities throughout the country.
- o Sent a Presidential letter to the National Abortion Federation's National Conference in San Francisco. They have been extremely helpful to POTUS on 1833 stand.

Appointee Outreach

- o Held Women's Office Kitchen Cabinet meeting, March 19 to discuss EITC and Administration success stories..
- o Held several meetings with HHS appointees on events to amplify the benefits of the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- o Faxed and e-mailed talking points on minimum wage, education, affirmative action, and the assault weapons ban to appointees in every agency.
- o Disseminated the Women's Office Calendar of Events to agency liaisons and Kitchen Cabinet members.

- o Coordinated with appointees at the Department of Labor on minimum wage events.
- o Held an evening forum for 800 women appointees and women leaders with Gloria Steinem and Evelyn Lieberman at the Department of Commerce.
- o Held meeting with Roberta Achtenberg from HUD to amplify home ownership for women.

AT THE TABLE GRASSROOTS OUTREACH:

- o Women appointees held dozens of *At the Tables* in **Pennsylvania, California, Colorado, Oklahoma, Michigan, Illinois, Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. California, New York, and Pennsylvania** remain the hot spots for *At the Tables*.
- o Appointees hosting *At the Table* included **Kathy Jurado**, Assistant Secretary at Veterans' Affairs, **Dr. Margaret Cary**, and **Lynn Yeakel**, Regional Directors at HHS, **Dr. Lynn Goldman**, Administrator for Pesticides and Toxic Substances at EPA, **Clara Apodaca** from Treasury, **Loni Hancock**, Regional Administrator at Education, **Melinda Yee**, Senior Advisor at Commerce, and **Barbara Leach**, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at Transportation.
- o Assisted Carol Browner with an At the Table in San Francisco, Friday, March 29.

Communications/Media

- o Issued sixth edition of the Women's Newsletter, distributed to women's organizations, a large variety of Women's Office lists and women appointees.
- o Conducted interview with USA Radio Network which reaches 1,400 affiliates around the nation. Topic: President Clinton's Accomplishments for women and families.
- o Distributed, along with the Specialty Press Office, President Clinton's Accomplishments for women and families to 200 women and parenting magazines.
- o Continued media outreach on Women's History Month Proclamation. Placing photos of the participating congressional members in their local newspapers.
- o Continued working At the Table press, referring women appointees to media in the area where they are holding At the Table roundtables.
- o Conducted radio interview on President Clinton's Accomplishments for women and families with WPGC-AM which reaches throughout southern California.
- o Conducted minimum wage brainstorming session with Labor. Worked with speechwriting to ensure inclusion of women's angle.

Pulse of the Constituency

- o Women are anxious about the H.R. 1833 legislation and are awaiting a Presidential veto.
- o Women are inquiring as to where the Administration stands on the California Civil Rights Initiative.



Daily Labor Report

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NEWS

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Working Women

WOMEN VOICE CONCERNS ABOUT CHILD CARE, WELFARE DURING WHITE HOUSE 'ROUND TABLES'

The Clinton administration March 13 continued its efforts to gain women's input on policy decisions—and their support at the voting booth—during the latest in a series of "round table" sessions that the White House has convened with women across the country.

The White House initiative, called *At the Table*, brings political appointees together with women throughout the country, to talk about issues important to women and to relay them to the president. Betsy Myers, director of the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach, told BNA.

Welfare and child care were among the concerns raised during 12 concurrent round tables in Washington, D.C., led by appointees from the departments of Labor, Transportation, and Justice. The women were in Washington participating in "Leadership America," a project of the Foundation for Women's Resources.

Drumming Up Support

Myers said the goal is to ensure that the concerns of women are heard and considered in administration policy-making. Child care, health care, and educational programs have consistently ranked among the top concerns raised in these round tables, she said.

Along with providing women a direct link to administration officials, the project also provides Clinton appointees an opportunity to tout the president's "pro-woman/pro-family" record. The administration hopes to "get the word out" about the president's commitment and showcase the president's accomplishments, such as passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act and creation of the Working Women Count Honor Roll at the Labor Department.

The round tables allow us "to put a human face to government," Myers said.

The women's vote is expected to be crucial in the 1996 election. Myers said that in the 1994 election, only 43 percent of registered women voted.

Welfare Reform Concerns

Juggling work and family responsibilities and welfare were among the issues women brought to the forefront during the March 13 round table in Washington, D.C., that was headed by Maria Echaveste, administrator for the Wage and Hour Division at the Labor Department.

On welfare, Sue E. Payne, business unit leader for Mobil Exploration & Producing in Houston, said job training and child care had to be key ingredients of any welfare reform.

Echaveste said the issue of child care for welfare recipients was a difficult one in discussions of an inter-agency group that met every six to eight weeks in 1994 to discuss welfare. While everyone agreed child care was instrumental in helping welfare recipients get into the workforce, the question was whether it was fair to subsidize child care for welfare recipients but not for the working poor struggling to stay off welfare.

Sandra R. Smoley, secretary of California's health and welfare agency in Sacramento, said that her state budget for the next year is based on the premise that the White House and Congress would agree on welfare reform legislation and that the state would get federal funds in the form of a block grant. If welfare reform is not approved, California will have to cut \$1 billion in its budget, she said.

Antoinette Marie Filla, captain and commander of internal affairs at the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, said Congress may be aware of the problem of child care but that "Congress doesn't know how deep it goes." That may change, Filla said, as more men wrestle with the problems of child care, she said, noting that men in her unit were having problems juggling their work schedules and child care.

Impact Of Budget Woes

On the "budget battles," Echaveste said administration education and training programs such as the

Goals 2000 and School-To-Work have been pared or eliminated by Republican appropriators. The lack of a budget also has dampened morale at the wage and hour division and disrupted the division's efforts to improve efficiency and cut paperwork, she said. The reinvention campaign resulted in consolidating 10 regions into five, she said, but that effort has somewhat stalled, she said, because of the federal government shutdowns. Her staff is looking at 20 furlough days because of the cutbacks, she said.

The shutdowns and uncertainty over funding also have "broken the momentum" of the Labor Department's crackdown on sweatshops in the garment industry, she told BNA.

In addition to Echaveste, other administration appointees leading table discussion included: Susan King, assistant secretary of public affairs at the Labor Department; Nancy McFadden, general counsel of Department of Transportation; Jan Piercy, U.S. executive director of the World Bank; Eleanor Acheson, assistant attorney general at the office of policy development at the Department of Justice; and Lisa Ross, deputy director of the White House's office of women's initiatives, who previously served at the Labor Department, first at the Office of American Workplace, then at the Glass Ceiling Commission.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton held a series of round tables on "working women issues" while Tipper Gore hosted a meeting for labor women leaders, the office said. Laura Tyson, who heads the National Economic Council, held a roundtable session to discuss the impact of the Republican budget on women, while Attorney General Janet Reno discussed with businesses and families the Family and Medical Leave Act.

The administration officials file reports on each round table they participate in, which the women's initiative office compiles for the president.

"Washington, D.C., is a company town and that company is the government," Echaveste said. The round tables are a good way "to get a reality check" on the issues that are important to people, Echaveste said.

—By Pamela M. Prah

Helderman participates in discussions

By Sean Loughlin
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — As part of an outreach program to America's women, administration officials on Wednesday hosted a series of round-table discussions with business and community leaders, asking the women to let the president know what's on their minds.

"I think that anyone inside the Beltway needs to work very hard to stay in touch with those on the outside," said Jennie Helderman, a community volunteer from Florence. Helderman said Washington officials "tend to get isolated."

The series of 12 concurrent discussions, held at a Washington hotel, was organized with Leadership America, a national, nonprofit program for women of achievement. About 110 women came to Washington this week for a series of seminars on the 1996 elections and issues currently before Congress.

The "At the Table" discussions drew praise from the women who said this administration seemed sincere in its efforts to heed women's concerns and draw more women into the political process.

Helderman said she stressed the importance of volunteerism in her written comments to the president. Although Helderman said she wouldn't want to see a new government program, she thinks Clinton could act as more of a "cheerleader" in promoting volunteerism in America. Helderman is one of the founders of Women in Lifetime Leadership.

At the morning session, the different tables touched on a host of issues. Some women criticized the media's depiction of women in power, saying the press focused too much on hairstyles and fashions. Others talked about the lack of job opportunities in the corporate and legal worlds, while some women called on Congress to spend more in education and child care programs.

"This is a way for us to go out across the country and listen to women to find out what matters to them," said Betsy Myers, director of the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach. "It's easy in government to get out of touch with what women are thinking or feeling."