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Eli Segal - National Service Events/Talking Points March 3, 1993

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution
FROM: Eli Segal
RE: National Service Events for Monday, March 1
DATE: February 26, 1993

On Monday, March 1, the President travels to New Brunswick, New Jersey for a major address on National Service at Rutgers University.

As part of the events, the President will:

- visit a service project that exemplifies his service message -- probably the New Brunswick Adult Learning Center, which involves college students and Youth Corps from the area;
- give a speech before Rutgers students, discussing the ethic of service and announcing his specific plans for a summer project;
- appear on MTV in a taped interview, challenging young Americans to get involved. The interview will become part of an MTV special broadcast that evening and throughout the week.

There also is a strong possibility the Vice President, First Lady, and Mrs. Gore will be involved in individual service hits on Monday to coincide with the President's Rutgers event.

We anticipate a number of Cabinet officials on Monday will support the President's call to national service -- either as primary surrogates, or in the course of their already scheduled activities.

The attached includes general talking points providing the key messages for the day. Also attached are one-page backgrounders on the status of the President's National Service initiative and the "Summer of Service" project.

NATIONAL SERVICE GENERAL TALKING POINTS

National Service as an American Ethic:

- * Americans have a new sense of determination. They're saying: We want our country back. And they're ready to do something about it. That's why they're supporting the President's economic plan. And that's why they believe in national service.
- * The President deeply believes in service, and he's going to use the tremendous resources at his disposal to support it. But those resources are worth nothing compared to the resourcefulness of the American people.
- * We have a responsibility to fight our country's problems -- "we" the government, but more importantly, we the people.
- * So today, we are challenging you, as the President has challenged his administration, to lift up your selves and lift up your country through service. I challenge you to [specific examples] ... I challenge you to ... As Martin Luther King said: "Everyone can be great because everyone can serve."

The President's National Service Initiative:

- * The President's initiative will encourage our people to serve. It's an investment in our future -- and here's the return:
 - We'll rebuild our communities
 - We'll send thousands of Americans to college
 - We'll lift our country up and bring our people together.
- * The President's program consists of two main components:
 - The first part will help young people take low-paying public service jobs. Graduates will be able to pay off their loans as a small percentage of their income over time; we call it "pay as you grow."
 - The second part will create thousands of opportunities for young people to pay for college by serving our country -- fighting crime, teaching young people, giving immunizations, or cleaning up pollution and waste.

The President's Summer of Service

- * Because the President doesn't want service to wait, he's going to make this summer a Summer of Service -- eight intense weeks for at least 1,000 young leaders from all backgrounds. They'll serve by getting children at risk ready for school -- with tutoring, so they've got better skills; with mentoring, so they want to stay out of gangs and in class; and with immunizations and lead poisoning detection, so kids aren't sick.

**BACKGROUNDER ON
PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE**

Timing. The President will submit his legislation to Congress soon.

Two parts. The legislation has two parts. One part will enable young people to pay back their student loans as a small percentage of their income over time, helping them take essential but low-paying public service jobs. The other part will create opportunities for young people to serve our country and help pay for college in return.

Funding. The President has requested \$7.4 billion over the next four years for the second part of the national service initiative. The funding level rises each year, to \$3.4 billion in 1997, because this initiative aims to support the growing work of America's communities -- not overwhelm it. Funding starts at \$400 million next year.

Number of Participants. The numbers will reflect the enthusiasm of the American people and the ingenuity of our communities in developing solid ways to put our people's energy to work. By 1997, we believe there could be more than 100,000 young people paying for post-secondary education by serving their country, and hundreds of thousands more doing low-paying public service work because loans no longer block the way.

Eligibility and benefits. Students before, during and after college will be eligible to serve for a year or two, and in return get a small stipend, health and child care benefits where necessary, and an educational benefit to pay for college or job training. [Note: This is the service-for-benefits option; anyone who needs an income-contingent loan will be eligible to get it.]

Activities. The program aims to meet unmet needs in critical areas. It is not job training. Young people will be able to serve as teachers in schools where kids need extra help; in clinics in areas where people need medical care; in the police force, keeping criminals off the streets and kids out of gangs; and in an environmental corps, recycling waste and stopping pollution.

Administration. The program will be non-bureaucratic, using venture capital to support entrepreneurs and public-private partnerships to support growing programs. States and local organizations will be given the opportunity to design innovative ways to meet identified national priorities. *⇒ No federal programs at all?*

Nondisplacement. The legislation will include strict nondisplacement and nonduplication provisions. National service will only meet needs that are not otherwise being met.

*much more sophisticated and place
R's: lab work, etc.*

cleaning up our parks and playgrounds

BACKGROUNDER ON PRESIDENT'S SUMMER OF SERVICE PROGRAM

Overview. In 4 to 10 communities around the country, the Summer of Service will involve a diverse group of more than 1,000 young people in special efforts to help children at risk.

Funding. The program will be funded with a portion of a \$15 million appropriation in the FY 93 stimulus package. (Additional challenge-grant funding for service corps; for expanding teacher training in service learning; and for re-establishing VISTA's Summer Associates program are also included in the package.)

Goals. The program has two major goals: To show what national service can accomplish, meeting critical needs and bringing people together; and to develop a leadership corps for future years of national service. National service is such a priority of the President, he wouldn't let it wait for the full program to pass Congress.

Targeted needs. The programs in the Summer of Service aim to help children-at-risk in the areas of education, health, crime prevention, and environmental protection. Some participants will tutor; some will help bring families into medical clinics; some will develop recreational centers; some will counsel youths to keep them out of gangs. The possibilities are as diverse as our problems, but the goal is always the same: tangible, meaningful change to help children-at-risk.

Leadership training. The entire summer will be designed to develop the leadership skills of participants. For several days at the beginning and end of the summer, the young people will gather to share their experiences and complete intensive leadership training.

Post-program. All participants who are interested in continuing to serve through the next year will receive placement assistance. Participants with ideas to design their own programs to fight community problems will be able to receive modest Service Entrepreneurial Awards for Change (SEA Change) to make their dreams a reality.

Administration. The Commission on National and Community Service will administer a competitive process to determine what programs participate. The Commission is working quickly to ensure that programs are developed rapidly and effectively to succeed for this summer.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DRAFT OP-ED, SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ON
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28, 1993

DETERMINED TO BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE

Title: "Why National Service Can't Wait" MARKING INITIALS MAY DATE: 1/3/2017

Apathy is dead.

Of all the things I've learned in my first few weeks in the White House, that's the one that's made me the happiest. Whether or not the people I've met support the changes I have proposed, they are all saying the same thing: It's time to take our country back.

I have argued that the best way for us to regain control is to take up a new direction and support my economic plan. The plan will create jobs, invest in people and bring down the deficit; it will do much good.

But there is so much more that needs to be done. The plan will make vaccines available to children, but alone it will not administer the shots to all of them. It will put security guards in our schools, but alone it will not take gangs off our streets. And it will make more aid available for college, but alone it will not make the costs of college less daunting for the middle class.

That's why I believe we need national service -- now.

If Congress acts quickly enough, just months from now more than 1,000 young people will start serving our country in a special summer effort. In four years, the number of people serving for each of this summer's pioneers will multiply a hundred-fold. Imagine: an army of young people tackling our problems, rebuilding our communities, and giving their labor in return for an education.

National service is an idea as old as America. Time and again, our people have found new ways to honor citizenship and match the needs of changing times.

Lincoln's Homestead Act rewarded those who had the courage to settle America with the land to raise a family. Franklin Roosevelt's Social Security Act ensured that Americans who work a lifetime can grow old with dignity. Truman's GI Bill rewarded the service of my father's generation, transforming youthful veterans into an educated army that led our nation into a new era.

For my generation, the reality of national service was born thirty-two years ago tomorrow, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps. At its height, the Corps enrolled only 16,000

people, yet it changed the way a generation of Americans look at themselves and the world.

Today, the spirit of our people can once again meet the troubles of our times.

The task is as complex as our challenge is great. We must combine the intensity of the post-World War II years with the idealism of the early 1960s -- and figure out a way to help young people afford a college education.

In 1993, we'll restore the spirit of service by asking our people to serve here at home. We won't refight the wars we won, but we'll tackle the growing domestic enemies that are threatening our future.

Our new initiative will embody the same principles as the old GI Bill. It will challenge our people to serve our country and do the work that should -- and must -- be done. It will give those who serve the honor and rewards they deserve. It will invest in the future of the quiet heroes who invest in the future of others.

The national service legislation that I will shortly send to Congress will give our people the chance to serve in two basic ways.

First, it will make it easier for young people to hold low-paying public service jobs and still pay off their student loans.

Under our program, Americans will be able to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their income over time. By giving graduates the chance to pay back on an affordable, rational schedule, this "income-contingent" loan program will allow our people to do the work that our communities really need.

Second, our legislation will create new opportunities for Americans to serve our country for a year or two -- and receive financial support for education or training in return.

We'll offer Americans of different ages and educational levels different ways to serve. The work will not be glamorous. But it will be work that has to be done.

- We'll ask thousands of people to serve in our schools -- some as teachers, but others as youth mentors, reading specialists and math tutors. They'll join our effort to keep our kids off drugs and out of gangs, and ensure that our schools offer the best education in the world.

specific on teachers

- We'll send participants into medical clinics to help immunize our nation's two-year olds. Some will be qualified enough to give the shots, but thousands of others can provide essential support, contacting parents and following up to make sure children get the shots they need.

- We'll help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new Police Corps that will walk beats and adding cadets to free up officers who want to be on the streets.

- We'll put still others to work controlling pollution and recycling waste, to help ensure that we pass on to our children a nation that is clean and safe for years to come.

Our national service program will offer more than benefits to individuals. We'll help pay operating costs for groups with proven track records, giving them the support they need to grow. And we'll let entrepreneurs compete for the venture capital they need to develop new service programs.

While government will provide the seed money for national service, we are determined that the participants -- the individuals who serve and the groups that sponsor their service -- guide the process. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy would be self-defeating; it would squash the spirit of innovation that national service demands.

By design, then, our national service program will not happen overnight. Instead, it will grow year by year, with funding reaching \$3.4 billion in 1997. And as I've said many times, I believe it will be the best money we ever spend.

If Congress gives us the chance, this summer we'll create an intensive leadership training program. We'll recruit more than 1,000 young people to serve for eight weeks -- and to train the first class of full-year participants.

In the first full year of our initiative, we will launch our flexible loan program and aim to put tens of thousands of people to work. By 1997, more than 100,000 Americans could be serving our country, getting education and training benefits in return. And hundreds of thousands more could be doing invaluable work because college loans no longer block the way.

But the best planning and the most ambitious design won't make this vision of national service into a reality. That responsibility ultimately rests with the American people.

After twelve years of drifting apart instead of working together, I am convinced that we are ready to meet the challenge. From a 14-year-old in North Dakota who sent us \$1,000 to help pay

off the deficit to a 92-year-old in Kansas who followed his example, people are demonstrating that they want to give something back to their nation.

National service will exercise the talents of our citizens and rebuild our communities. It will harness the energy of our youth and attack the problems of our time. It will bring together men and women of every age and race and lift up our nation's spirit. And it will spark the change that will rekindle the excitement of being an American.

National Service Location Schedule for March 1, 1993

<u>Public Figure</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>CS Group</u>	<u>Topic Slant</u>	<u>Contact(s)</u>
President Clinton	New Brunswick	Rutgers	Adult Lit.	National Service	Stephanie StreetX7560
VP Gore	Madison	Wisconsin Conservation Corps	WCC	Environment	Tony Wilson 456-4245
First Lady	Wash. DC	Sick Childrens Hospital	DC Service Corps	Healthcare	Milan Verveer 456-6266
Mrs. Gore	Richmond	Emergency Shelter	Univ of Richmond	Homelessness	Mary Beth Donahue X6640
Sec. Babbitt	Durham	Clemmons State Forest	Durham Cnsrvtn Corps	Environment	Carol Florman 208-3477
Sec. Reich	Boston		Youth Build	Labor/ Apprenticeship	Steve Dominico 219-8271
Sec. Espy	Baltimore		Civic Works	Agriculture	Joel Berg 720-4623
Sec. Cisneros	Radio			Homelessness	Liz Arky 708-3161
? Sec. Pena	Speech	Nat'l Assc Counties		Empowerment of Localities	Ned Ertle 366-5552
Sec. Shalala	Radio			Health Care/ Children	Avis Lavelle 690-8204

Internal - Very Preliminary. ^{Revisions -} Without
Enviro Component
(President's¹ Speech)

2/26/93, 5 pm
2880 words

Substitute
New intro.

Just twelve days ago, I challenged Congress and the country to join me "on a great national journey."

I presented a plan to create new jobs, invest in our people's future, and bring down the deficit. And -- for my plan to succeed -- it needs not only the support but the active involvement of the American people.

In our democracy, it is customary for public officials to ask for your voice and your vote. But I am here today to ask for your time and your talent, your energy and your intelligence -- and not just during my term of office but throughout your lifetimes, starting right now, today.

While my economic plan can summon tremendous resources to tackle our problems, these are nothing compared to the resourcefulness of the American people.

That is why I challenge all of the American people -- and especially our young people -- to take personal responsibility not only for your own lives, but for your communities and your country.

My plan can make vaccines available to every child who must be immunized against the diseases that can cut down young lives; but only you can make sure that the children and their parents seize the opportunity.

My plan can make sure more police officers patrol our streets; but only you can help young people stay out of gangs.

My plan can build more sewage treatment plants and treat toxic waste; but only you can start recycling campaigns in your communities.

And my plan can reform our schools; but sometimes it takes one young person to sit with someone just a few years younger to share the excitement of reading a poem, writing a story, or solving the mysteries of mathematics.

That is why I am here today to ask young Americans -- whether you are in high school or college, whether you are working fulltime or looking for work -- to join in building your own future while contributing to your community.

I ask you to join with me in creating the plan of action that will offer the opportunity to serve to millions of Americans -- not only those who are young in years but those who are young in spirit.

And, as I ask for your ideas, let me offer you my own.

I believe national service is rooted in the best of our national experience. And I ask you to join me in taking the first steps to create not just a new program -- but a new ethic -- of national service.

This morning, I was inspired to see and speak with students from Rutgers who are serving their community, from mentoring young people as "big sisters" to helping older people learn new skills.

And I was impressed by the spirit behind the Rutgers Civic Education and Community Service Program. You understand that community service enriches the educational experience: that students should not only take the lessons they learn in class out into the community, but bring the lessons they learn in community service back into the classroom. And, in that spirit, during this academic year alone, more than 800 students from Rutgers are contributing more than 60,000 hours of community service, at your campus here in New Brunswick and in Camden and Newark.

Young people are doing wonderful things here -- and all across America. In Boston, a project called City Year puts young people in schools to help teachers teach. In my own part of the country, in Arkansas and Mississippi, the Delta Service Corps helps older Americans live with pride and dignity and companionship. In Los Angeles, the L.A. Conservation Corps is turning the turmoil of last year into real hope for the future. And everywhere, young people are fixing up parks, tutoring after school, and volunteering in hospitals and nursing homes.

For our nation's leaders, the challenge is to tap into this energy -- and offer a new generation of young Americans the opportunity to build their futures, battle our country's problems, and bring our people together.

For many in my own generation, that summons to citizenship and service came 32 years ago, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps, with Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford.

Even at its height, the Peace Corps enrolled only 16,000 men and women. But it changed the way Americans look at themselves and the world.

Just as President Kennedy did three decades ago, Americans at every moment of history have found new ways to honor service, encourage citizenship, and solve our most pressing problems.

In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln signed into law two visionary programs that helped America come together again and grow stronger than ever.

The Morrill Act helped the states create new "land-grant" colleges where young people learned the skills to make American agriculture and industry the best in the world. Its legacy is not only our great state colleges and universities but the American tradition that merit -- and not money -- should give you the chance for higher education.

The Homestead Act offered 100 acres of land for families who had the courage to settle the frontier and farm the wilderness. Its legacy is a nation that stretches from coast to coast and from border to border.

Seven decades later, in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave two-and-a-half million young people the opportunity to support themselves while working in disaster relief and maintaining forests, beaches, rivers, and parks. And its legacy is not only the restoration of our natural environment but the restoration of our national spirit.

And one decade later, in the midst of World War II, President Roosevelt proposed the GI Bill of Rights which offered returning veterans the opportunity to buy a home, a farm, or a business -- and, even more importantly, the opportunity for education or job training. Thanks to the GI Bill, more than 8 million veterans got advanced education. And half a century later the legacy of the GI Bill is the great American middle class.

Truly, the lesson of our history is that honoring service and rewarding responsibility is the best investment America can make. And that is why, of all the investments in my economic program, none is more important than encouraging our young people to enrich and ennoble their lives with seasons of service, starting with the summer ahead of us.

Begin
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L This spring, I will submit legislation to Congress outlining my initiative for a new program of national service to enlist the energies of today's young people and address the needs of today's America.

Our new initiative will be built on the same principles as the old GI Bill. It will challenge our people to serve our country and do the work that should -- and must -- be done. It will invest in the future of every man and woman who contributes to their community and their country. And it will do this in two basic ways.

First, it will make it easier for young people to pay back their student loans, while holding public service jobs that accomplish much but pay relatively little. Under our program, Americans will be able to borrow the money they need for college -- and pay it back as a small percentage of their income over time.

We'll give graduates the chance to repay ^{the loans will} their loans on an affordable, ~~rational~~ schedule, based on how much money you earn each year. ~~And, even more importantly, we'll give you the chance to do the work our communities really need, work that will satisfy your spirit, stretch your mind, and teach lessons that last a lifetime. I call this idea "pay as you grow."~~

Second, our program will create new opportunities for Americans, young and old, to serve our country for a year or two -- and get financial support for education or training in return.
 -- and still pay off your loan.

[Our national service program will go hand in hand with reforming our system of student loans.]

As you know so well or will learn soon enough, the status quo burdens young people with high charges, burdens the taxpayers with the cost of defaults, and puts too many of our students on a path in life that discourages public service and personal growth.

I want to save money for you and for the taxpayers by having the government lend you money directly, rather than going through banks. According to the respected, nonpartisan General Accounting Office, we can all save \$1 billion-a-year by eliminating the middlemen.

Not surprisingly, some of the bankers are protesting my plan. But, just as I am asking everyone to consider what's good for America, I ask them to put the national interest above their special interest.]

No matter how old you are -- and no matter what your educational or occupational background may be -- we will try to offer you the opportunity to serve.

We'll ask you to serve in our schools -- not only as teachers but as tutors in reading and mathematics, and as mentors to young boys and girls. We'll ask you to join an all-out effort to keep all of our young people off drugs and out of gangs. And we'll ask you to help us turn the promise of educational reform into the reality of better schools in every community in America, from our cities to our suburbs to our small towns.

We'll ask you to work in our medical clinics and in our city streets to help immunize our nation's two-year-olds against the diseases that can cut short their lives or destroy their promise.

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help

Some will give the shots. And others will do the equally important work of reaching out to the parents and making sure their children get the immunizations they need.

We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation. We'll train members for a new Police Corps that will walk beats and work with neighborhoods to fight back against the crime wave that terrorizes our people and tears apart our communities.

And we will ask you to help control pollution and recycle waste, to make sure that you pass on to your children a country that is clean and safe for generations to come.

I have often spoken about "reinventing government." And I want national service to ~~be a program that improves~~ and empowers communities without enlarging bureaucracies. (X)

We're going to build on what people are already doing ~~to make their communities better~~. We'll help pay the operating costs for ~~community service~~ groups with proven track records, giving them the support they need to grow. And we'll let people with good ideas -- "entrepreneurs," if you will, in community service -- compete for the venture capital they need to develop new programs to serve their neighbors. *-- not step on it*
-- serve their comm

The best thing the government can do is encourage the spirit of national service -- and provide the seed money for successful efforts at the local level. We are determined that the people who roll up their sleeves and get to work in their neighborhoods will guide the process and call the shots. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy would not waste money; it would stifle the spirit of innovation that national service demands.

That is why we want the national service program to keep growing every year, rewarding results and building on proven success.

And I don't want service to wait, while people's potential is wasted.

That is why I want to make this summer a summer of service when young people can not only serve their communities but build a solid foundation for a new national effort.

I am asking Congress to authorize -- and I am asking young people to participate in -- a special effort in ~~community service~~ and leadership training. We'll recruit more than 1,000 young people ~~from [age] to [age]~~, from every background, and from high school dropouts to college graduates.

(X) Observers from de Tocqueville have recognized the wonderful civic life in America -- in our churches, our businesses, and our neighborhoods. It is now recognized here as well.

We'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems: helping children who are at risk of losing their God-given potential to malnutrition, poverty, and disease.

Some of the participants will tutor. Some will work on programs to immunize young girls and boys against childhood diseases. Some will help develop and run recreational centers. Some will counsel people a few years younger than themselves to keep them out of gangs. And every participant will learn ~~what it means to reach out to others, to build a team, to work with a community, to bring out the best in others and in themselves -- in short, what it means to serve, not just in theory but in reality.~~

I'm sure that participants in this summer of service will learn even more than they will teach. And we mean to use that ^{about serving our country and helping ourselves.} knowledge to build our national program of community service, person-by-person, block-by-block, neighborhood-by neighborhood. Because the only way to build a national service program worthy of the name is not from the top down -- but from the ground up.

At the end of this summer of service, we will bring all the participants together for several days of debriefing and training. Then, we'll the participants will join in a Youth Service Summit. I will attend that meeting, and I plan to listen even longer than I speak. And I will ask leaders from Congress, and from the business, labor, religious, and education communities to attend that Youth Service Summit with me.

^{we give those who serve the honor they deserve,} We'll learn a lot about how to build a national service program. ~~And we'll recruit and train a diverse group of more than 1,000 young pioneers, ready and able and eager to lead a fullscale program.~~ And, from these ^{too} pioneers, I want the national service program to grow one hundred-fold within four years.

^{for this summer ing} ~~That~~ program will change America -- and challenge all Americans. And, most of all, it will challenge you.

Thirty-two years ago, thousands of young Americans answered President Kennedy's challenge, joined the Peace Corps, and helped to change the world, ~~one village at a time.~~

^{But} ~~Today~~ there are some among us -- your elders and your peers -- who believe that young Americans will no longer answer a call to action.

They say the sense of adventure and the spirit of service have passed away. They say young people measure their success merely in the accumulation of material things. They maintain that a summons to service will go unanswered.

④ But even when hundreds of thousands of us are serving, I want all of us to maintain the pioneer spirit of these first men.

Because ~~the~~ national service will make America new again.

I maintain they are wrong. And I ask you: will you join me in proving that what they are saying about your generation is wrong?

I've spoken today about the ways that national service can help solve our problems, educate our people, and reknit our communities. If you want to answer the challenge, please let me know.

-- and mark it "National Service."

Drop me a card. Let me know that you want to serve. You know where I live. Let me know where you live -- or, better yet, let me know where you'll be living this summer.

Then, when the programs for the Summer of Service have been selected, we will give you information about the effort closest to you. And, if you are serious about serving, I cannot guarantee that you will be chosen -- but I can assure you that you will be considered. And, together, we can make sure that the Summer of Service this year will grow into opportunities for many more seasons of service for many more people, young and old, in the years to come.

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If you are fortunate enough to participate in national service, I believe with all my heart and soul that you will get back even more than you give.

~~Yes, we will offer you opportunities for education and training. But, even more important, in serving others, you will find the best in yourself. And you will learn lessons about your own life, about other people, and about the meaning of our democracy.~~

You will learn that each of us has the spark of potential to accomplish something for ourselves and contribute something to others. You will experience the satisfaction of making a connection with someone you may think is very different from you, only to learn you have more in common than you thought. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is equaled and exceeded only by the joy of helping another person experience that excitement. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or even for what you earn, but for what you have contributed to others. You will understand the wisdom in the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Each of us can be great, because each of us can serve." [check quote]

is sense that

More than in any classroom or from any book, you will learn the meaning of America at its best. We are not just another country, but a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities, and bound together not by blood, but by beliefs. When we serve others, we honor our heritage, exercise our responsibilities, and act on our beliefs.

Today, I ask you, not just to consider committing yourselves to seasons of service, but to become Americans in the best sense of the word. And, from everything I have seen and heard, I am confident that your generation of Americans -- and every generation of Americans -- will answer the call.

SOME CENTRAL THOUGHTS (SOUND BITES FOR THE "SOFT" QUESTIONS):

An ethic. National service isn't just a program -- it's an ethic of contribution. After twelve years of drifting apart, we're coming together to make our country work again.

A challenge. National service challenges young people to take responsibility for their communities. Through our initiatives, we'll give our youth the tools to change our country. But our people will have to do the work.

No bureaucracy. By definition, the bureaucracy can't run the national service program -- because the program is about people serving people, not Washington doing it.

We need national service. We can't afford not to make this effort.

-- Our country has deep domestic problems. Through national service, we'll tackle them.

-- Our country needs an educated work force in order to compete. National service will send thousands of young people to college.

-- We need to come together. National service will unite us.

HOW WILL IT WORK AND HOW WILL IT BE PAID FOR?

"It" isn't just a program -- national service is an ethic, an ethic of caring and contributing to the American community. After twelve years of drifting apart, we're coming together again to make our country work.

The service program that we are developing is one part of this ethic. And it will support the ideas, the enthusiasm, and the energy of the American people -- bringing out our best.

Although we will be encouraging all types of service by all kinds of people, I have made clear that the bulk of the federal funding role will be to encourage young Americans to serve. We place this emphasis because youth is both a state of mind and a time of life -- when most people are best able to sacrifice their time, marshal their energies, and re-shape their lives.

The program we are developing will therefore encourage these young Americans to serve in two basic ways....

1. By 1997, we aim to enable at least 150,000 students a year to perform service as a way of paying for their college. The program would include young people before, during and after college -- and those not intending to go to college at all.
2. But we will also be asking Congress to allow any student who wants to serve the loan flexibility to do so. This idea goes under the ungainly name of "income-contingent repayment" -- basically, it means you pay as you grow.

And for those who wanted to forego a higher-paying job to perform community service, they could do so, with their loan repayment schedule being adjusted to reflect their income level.

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO CRITICS WHO SAY IT'S TOO SMALL -- AND THAT FOR IT TO INCLUDE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF STUDENTS WOULD BE TOO EXPENSIVE?

First, we're aiming to get 150,000 people paying back their loans through service -- and hundreds of thousands more doing important work because college loans no longer block the way. The Peace Corps never had more than 16,000 volunteers, and its impact has been enormous. We're not talking small here.

BUT ISN'T IT TOO EXPENSIVE?

I think of national service as an investment. And for the money you invest, I think you get three things we desperately need.

- You tackle our country's deep domestic problems -- from gangs to illiteracy to pollution to disease.
- You educate thousands of young people -- so they can make all of our country more competitive.
- You bring our people together. After 12 years of coming apart, national service brings us together. We need that.

I've demanded that we have an intelligent and effective government: We will be expanding the program in measured steps, to allow us to evaluate how it's going, and to do our level-headed best to see real problems solved by hard-working and inspired people. We don't intend -- we don't have the luxury -- of wasting anyone's time, or their money.

HOW WILL IT BE ADMINISTERED?

We want national service to reinvent government -- with a slim, nonbureaucratic federal presence that helps people without getting in their way.

- * We'll provide venture capital to entrepreneurs with the ideas to create programs that enable young people to fight the country's problems.
- * We'll use public/private partnerships to support efforts in our communities -- working with churches and businesses and nonprofits, not fighting against them.
- * And in certain areas where communities can't do it alone, we may make special efforts -- putting more cops on the streets and more educators in the classrooms, for example.

WHAT ABOUT CRITICISMS FROM ORGANIZED LABOR ABOUT DISPLACEMENT?

I've talked with many labor leaders about this topic, and you're confusing "concern" with criticism.

Since 1990, nondisplacement and nonduplication requirements have been an integral part of national service legislation. Those provisions have worked -- just ask the unions. We'll be incorporating them into any legislation we submit to Congress. Our program will increase opportunities -- not diminish them

DIRECT LOANS ARE CONTROVERSIAL. AREN'T BANKS BETTER AT ADMINISTERING THAN THE GOVERNMENT?

Direct lending has been proposed as a way to reduce default rates and increase collections, as well as ensure that interest on the loans is as low as possible. Assisted by the Department of Education and others, I am looking into the best way to accomplish those goals.

Direct lending is an important issue, but neither of the aspects of national service that I've mentioned depend upon it.

National Service

Campaign Remarks by Candidate Bill Clinton

Excerpts from September 11, 1992 Notre Dame Speech

Throughout this campaign I've talked about my plan to open the doors of college to every American. To offer every American in this country the opportunity to borrow the money to go to college and then require them to pay it back, either as a small percentage of their paychecks after they go to work or even better, by going back home and serving their community.

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Frankly, I would much rather see everyone, whether they are rich, or poor, or middle class, pay back that debt by going home and working for two years in a peace corps here in America, to rebuild America. Just think of it. Millions of energetic young men and women serving their country by teaching the children, policing the streets, caring for the sick, working with the elderly, or people with disabilities, building homes for the homeless, helping children to stay off of drugs and out of gangs -- giving us all a new sense of home and real limitless possibilities.

I have offered this plan to help more young people go to college, but I have also offered it because I want America to send the message that our society values and honors service to community, just as Harry Truman's GI Bill honored the service of my father's generation, who fought and won World War II, just as the Peace Corps, which President Kennedy created with the help of your former president, Father Hesburgh and Senator Wofford, sent that message to my generation. Just as millions of Americans from all backgrounds and every walk of life are waiting for a summons to service and citizenship, not just for young people that are going on to college but for young people in our high schools and people of all ages who want to do something for their communities and for their country.