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INVENTORY FOR ARCHIVES

Office on Environmental Policy

Katie McGinty's Files

July 22, 1994

Issues:

Katie's senate files @ Gove

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Why Bill Clinton is Bad for Michigan

- The only *change* Bill Clinton wants is a change of jobs.
- The Clinton-Gore economic plan for automakers would cost Michigan 42,874 jobs.
- The Corporation for Economic Development gave Bill Clinton a 'D' for economic performance.
- In 1982, Arkansas ranked 47th in per capita personal income. In 1990, Arkansas still ranked 47th.
- Under Bill Clinton, an average Arkansas worker earns only 77% of the average Michigan worker's salary.
- In 1992, Bill Clinton was one of only four governors to be given an 'F' on tax policy from the Cato Institute.
- One of every five Arkansas residents lives in poverty.
- The 'Green Index' ranked the Clinton administration 50th in the nation for environmental State Policy initiatives.
- Arkansas' environment ranked 48th nationally in the latest 'Green Index' ranking. Imagine what he could do with Michigan's Great Lakes.
- In his 54 minute acceptance speech, Bill Clinton never once mentioned the word 'Congress' even though his party controls the institution.

Bill Clinton:
If He Can't Change Arkansas
He Won't Change America

Arkansas' Economy

In the New Hampshire primary, even Bill Clinton had to admit there were "no miracles" in the Arkansas economy. He defended his economic record by claiming, "It isn't a miracle, it's just progress, and a bit of hope."

The Corporation for Enterprise Development (C.E.D.) gave Arkansas a 'D' for economic performance in 1990. Arkansas' development capacity received an 'F'. The C.E.D. wrote, "inadequate technology and uneven physical infrastructure cripple Arkansas' ability to strengthen its economy."

The Institute for Southern Studies rated Arkansas 48th in the country in overall economy quality.

Since 1986, Clinton's administration has done four reports on economic development in Arkansas. The editor of the *Arkansas Democrat*, John Starr, wrote, "Clinton has appointed more task forces and received more reports than any governor in history."

The best indication of the lack of progress made by the Clinton Administration towards bolstering economic development is a new law passed by the Arkansas Legislature in April 1991. The law establishes a ten year goal for Arkansas and the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission. 12 years after the Clinton era began, the Arkansas Legislature hopes to reach the following goals:

1. Increase per capita income to 85 percent of the national average.
2. Increase average annual pay to 85 percent of the national average.
3. Reduce the duration of unemployment to under 10 weeks.
4. Reduce the unemployment rate to the national average.
5. Increase health insurance to 75 percent of the workforce.
6. Decrease the poverty rate to less than 14 percent of families in the state.
7. Increase the rate of new business formation to that of the U.S. average.

In 1980, hourly earnings in Arkansas manufacturing were 78.5 percent of the national average. In 1990, hourly earnings were still 78.5 percent of the national average. No progress has occurred under Bill Clinton.

Arkansas' per capita income is the most damning statistic relating to Clinton's economic performance. In 1982 Arkansas ranked 47th nationally in per capita income. In 1990 Arkansas ranked 47th nationally in per capita income. The average income in 1990 was \$14,188 -- only 76 percent of the national average.

Comparatively while Arkansas ranked 47th nationally, Michigan ranked 20th. While an Arkansas worker makes \$14,188, a Michigan worker makes \$18,360. An Arkansas worker earns 77% of a Michigan worker's income.

In January 1978, Arkansas had an unemployment rate of 6.0%. In May 1992, Arkansas' unemployment rate was 6.9%. After twelve years, Bill Clinton's legacy to Arkansas is a 15 percent increase in unemployment.

Automobiles

Katie

Senator Al Gore wrote in his book on the environment:

Automobile pollution "is a mortal threat to the security of every nation that is more deadly than that of any military enemy."

On page 325 of Al Gore's book, he calls for the elimination of the internal combustion engine within 25 years.

Both Clinton and Gore support an increase in government regulation for auto fuel economy standards. Senator Gore co-sponsored legislation requiring the Big Three to increase auto economy standards to 40 miles per gallon.

The effect of the Clinton-Gore auto plan would be to cripple American carmakers, more specifically they would cripple Michigan's economy. In fact, the Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Association says that the Clinton-Gore auto plan would cost Michigan 42,874 jobs.

Taxes

A 1992 Cato Institute Fiscal Policy Report Card on America's Governors gave Bill Clinton an 'F' in the Tax category. He was one of only three Governor's (Governor's elected before 1990) to receive an 'F'.

During Clinton's tenure as Governor the gas tax has increased by nine

cents per gallon and the sales tax has increased from 3% to 4.5%. Additional tax increases include a penny-a-pack cigarette tax, and .5% increase in the maximum corporate income tax, and a 15% excise tax on the state's share of Medicaid reimbursements to doctors, hospitals and other health care providers.

Clinton did not increase the personal income tax claiming that he could not get the 75% approval needed from the legislature to do so. However, all other tax increases were passed with 76% of the vote.

The Cato Institute wrote of Clinton's record, "Clinton has been a tax increaser. The sales tax has risen...the corporate income tax was just raised by .5 percentage points last year; and the gasoline tax has climbed 9 cents a gallon during Clinton's 10 years."

All of Clinton's tax increases have been regressive. The Arkansas Democrat analyzed Bill Clinton's tax record as follows:

"the reality is that in the Clinton era the state tax system has become more and more regressive. It has become, step by step, a pretty bad system, stacked against the ordinary taxpayer and consumer, stacked for the rich and the special interests."

Welfare

The average Arkansas family on AFDC receives \$194 per month. The average Michigan family on AFDC receives \$452 per month.

Arkansas' budget allocates \$250,000 for aid to the homeless. Michigan's budget allocates \$14 million.

Arkansas' budget allocates no money for emergency relief. Michigan's budget allocates \$60 million for emergency relief.

Like Blanchard, Clinton critics have long accused him of a lack of interest in human services. According to the U.S. Census, Arkansas remains a poverty state.—Only three states have a higher percentage of poor.

One of every five Arkansas residents lives in poverty. Nationally, 13% of residents live below the poverty line. In Arkansas, 19.8% live below the poverty line -- and that's up from 19.0% in 1980.

The most devastating evidence of Clinton's lack of interest in social services is the status of Arkansas' child welfare system. Documents from the Department of Human Services acknowledge that as early as mid-1990, officials knew that the children of Arkansas were in "imminent peril" due to the state's failure to investigate complaints of child abuse and neglect. The director of Child and Family Services told the Arkansas Joint Budget Committee \$12 million was needed to remedy severe problems in the agency. Clinton said it was simply a bureaucrat asking for more money.

In July 1991, a class action suit was filed against Clinton seeking an injunction to require the state services to comply with federal standards and constitutional rights. Clinton finally admitted that he "should have acted more quickly to pump more money into...the child welfare system."

The funding of child welfare programs along with court ordered restitution to Arkansas retirees and increased fees for public defenders have combined to give Clinton a \$250 million deficit in the current fiscal year.

Environment:

"If California was operating on the laws of Arkansas, you'd probably have to wear a gas mask"

Arkansas' environment ranked 48th nationally in the latest 'Green Index' ranking. According to the E.P.A. Arkansas ranks 41st nationally in the release of toxic chemicals into the air, land and water.

The 'Green Index' ranked the Clinton administration 50th in the nation for environmental State Policy Initiatives.

Clinton's own Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Chairman, Richard Mason, said, "We deserve to be low on the list. It doesn't mean Arkansas has dirtier air than California, but if California was operating on the laws of Arkansas, you'd probably have to wear a gas mask."

Hillary Clinton sat on the Board of Directors of LaFarge Corporation from which she earned \$31,000 annually. LaFarge Corporation now owns the large cement kilns which used to make up the Huron National Portland Cement Company in Alpena, Michigan on the shores of Lake Huron.

Those kilns are now fueled by burning hazardous wastes. The Alpena site takes more than 17 million gallons of hazardous waste from across the nation and has applied for a permit to burn 30 million gallons annually.