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7

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9

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1

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Rubin
FR: Eli Segal
DA: February 8, 1993
RE: Service Component for Emergency Jobs Bill

As we plan and implement a national service program, we need to build on the tremendous enthusiasm of the public and the President.

Even before the Washington Post accused us of backtracking, we knew that a first year appropriation for FY 1994 would not get things moving quickly enough. The benefits of that appropriation will not appear until autumn 1994 -- eighteen months from now -- and we will lose the excitement we have now. By comparison, in 1961 Sargent Shriver designed the Peace Corps in February and had a program up and running that summer. We need to do something quickly the way Shriver did.

I propose that a component of the emergency stimulus package be dedicated to a national service program that would:

- (1) launch a high-profile effort and capture the public imagination
- (2) train a core group of leaders who will be ready to serve when legislation is enacted
- (3) quickly demonstrate the good that national service can do

Proposal

Establish national service leadership centers in four regions, with well known personalities like Sargent Shriver and Magic Johnson taking the lead in each; combine a leadership training program with a concrete service agenda.

Assign to each center a different goal, such as combatting homelessness, cleaning up the environment, teaching disadvantaged young people, and inoculating kids. The projects should be such that we can demonstrate clear progress by the end of the summer -- inoculating some number of young people, cleaning a particular area, housing so many homeless people on a base, and so on.

At the end of the summer, we would aim to use these new leaders to catalyze the next wave of national service programs. Some participants could simply enter existing programs, but we would expect most to compete for a one year award -- one of the Service Entrepreneurship Awards for Change (SEA Change) -- to design and implement a service program. By June of next year,

when the Clinton national service program would be taking effect, the alumni/ae of our program would be primed to lead it.

There are many successful full-year and summer corps programs that already run programs along the lines I suggest. Last year the Ford Foundation ran a leadership institute, and City Year is planning to run one this year. With this supplemental, we would be building on these efforts and throwing the weight of the Presidency behind them.

Size/Cost

The program would involve 1,000 participants at four sites around the country. It would be residential -- either set on military bases or at schools -- and provide a small weekly stipend and post-service benefit. Based on existing models, we believe such a program would cost about \$5,000 per participant. If the follow-up program made \$10,000 SEA Change grants available to half of the participants to expand existing programs and create new ones, there would be an additional \$5 million in costs. Finally, in addition to these, we anticipate some start-up costs.

For a total of \$10-15 million, we could make a dramatic first step towards implementing a national service initiative.

Statutory Authority

At least some of this program is authorized in the Civilian Community Corps in the 1993 Defense Authorization. We will research other authority that may exist under the Commission on National and Community Service and HUD.

Target Date

March 1 is the anniversary of President Kennedy's Executive Order establishing the Peace Corps. President Clinton could unveil this initiative on that date, with either proposed legislation, an Executive Order, or both.

cc: Gene Sperling