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AmeriCorps Private Sector Partnerships

AmeriCorps Investors - Corporations and Foundations

AmeriCorps programs are required to demonstrate community support by securing matching funds from non-governmental sources. The following is a partial list of businesses and foundations that have invested ten thousand dollars or more directly in local AmeriCorps programs:

CORPORATION

FOR NATIONAL

 SERVICE

Ahmanson Foundation

Alcoa

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Federated Department Stores

First Union National Bank

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Goldsmith Foundation

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Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Greater Kansas City Community
Foundation

Greater New Orleans Foundation

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Haas Jr. Foundation

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Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

bold denotes a cash commitment of \$100,000 or greater

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Houston Endowment
IBM
J.P. Morgan and Company
James Irvine Foundation
Johnson & Johnson
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Knight Foundation
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Milwaukee Foundation
Mitsubishi Electric America
Mobil
Morgan Stanley
Monsanto
NationsBank
Natural Gas Pipeline of America
Niagara Mohawk
NYNEX Foundation
New York Times
Packard Foundation
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Pennsylvania Legal Services
Pepsi Cola
Pew Charitable Trust
Philadelphia Bar Foundation
Philanthropic Ventures Foundation
Phil Hardin Foundation
Philip D. Reed Foundation
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Phoenix Suns
PNC Bank
Popeye's of Maryland
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Prince Charitable Trust
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Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank
Richard Seaver Trust
Richardson Foundation
Robinson Foundation
Rockwell Foundation
The Rouse Company
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Sallie Mae
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Shell Oil
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Sony Corporation of America
Sprint
Star Foundation
Steelcase
Stover Foundation
Strauss Foundation
Sturgis Foundation
Tandy Foundation
Tenneco
Texaco
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Treasure Coast Pictures
Union Pacific
UAW/Chrysler
UPS
United Way of America
W. K. Kellogg Foundation
Walter Family Foundation
Whitaker Foundation
William Keck Jr. Foundation
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

list in formation - 1/95

bold denotes a cash commitment of \$100,000 or greater

Summer of Safety Accomplishments

50 Reasons Why the Corporation for National Service Can Be Proud of Its First Corporation-Wide, National Program

The following list reports part of what the 1994 Summer of Safety Program got done in American communities. These outcomes resulted from the combined effort of more than 7,000 national service participants in thirty-five states and the District of Columbia. The data come from end-of-summer reports from the local programs' directors, following strict procedures laid down by the Corporation. Many items on this list have been confirmed by CNS program officers and researchers. While some items have not been verified, our experience from the summer programs in 1993 and reports this year tell us that, if anything, local programs under estimate what they achieve.

Community Policing

- 1. Freed up 26,413 hours of police officers time.
- 2. Opened 11 new police mini-stations, expanded or revitalized 23.
- 3. Began 47 citizen patrols; expanded or revitalized 63.
- 4. Identified 1,864 code violations.

Neighborhood Watch or Block Watch

- 5. Opened 976 new watch programs.
- 6. Revitalized 265 watch programs.
- 7. Started 863 phone trees.

Improvement of Household Security

- 8. Performed 13,513 household security surveys or audits.
- 9. Installed 1,001 new window and door locks.
- 10. Identified 866 unsafe areas for local police.

Crime Awareness and Crime Avoidance

- 11. Provided 6,322 persons with escort services.
- 12. Trained 4,626 persons in attributes of scams and confidence games.
- 13. Fingerprinted 4,968 persons.
- 14. Trained 1,360 persons in tourist safety.
- 15. Organized 1,313 phone trees.

Safe Places, Safe Houses and Safe Havens

- 16. Created 99 safe houses.
- 17. Established 40 safe play streets.
- 18. Renovated or expanded 156 safe corridors or havens.
- 19. Trained 1,549 adults and 1,336 youth on the creation and use of safe places.

Conflict Resolution

- 20. Trained 11,785 persons in conflict resolution
- 21. Began 49 peer mediation programs.
- 22. Counseled 871 gang members.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse

- 23. Counseled 638 persons in sexual abuse.
- 24. Counseled 1,472 persons in spouse abuse.
- 25. Counseled 674 survivors of domestic violence and/or rape.

Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention

- 26. Enrolled 1,765 persons in prevention programs.
- 27. Reported 139 drug hot spots to police.
- 28. Started 11 new prevention programs.
- 29. Provided prevention information to 13,999 young people.

Victim Assistance and Witness Assistance

- 30. Established 16 victims assistance programs.
- 31. Monitored 1,897 court cases.
- 32. Provided legal assistance to 422 persons.
- 33. Provided crisis assistance to 5,831 persons.

Alternative Youth Activities

- 34. Provided recreational activities to 50,225 children.
- 35. Provided educational opportunities for 31,293 youth.
- 36. Provided mentors to 7,295 children.

Building and Neighborhood Cleanup

- 37. Tagged 138 abandoned cars for removal.
- 38. Removed 18,632 bags of trash.
- 39. Boarded up 711 abandoned buildings.
- 40. Started 86 community gardens.
- 41. Removed graffiti from 1,467 walls and fences.
- 42. Repaired 300 residences.

Environmental Restoration

- 43. Planted 74,329 trees.
- 44. Tested 50 sites for radon, 29 sites for lead, and six for water quality.
- 45. Built or renovated 44 miles of trails.

Park and Playground Restoration

- { 46. Constructed 15 playgrounds.
- 47. Renovated 45 playgrounds.
- 48. Maintained 65 playgrounds.
- 49. Repaired or painted 242 pieces of playground equipment.
- 50. Removed 2,016 trash bags or barrels of debris.

Editorials

Medford, Oregon Daily Newspaper, Wednesday, January 18, 1995
National service Newt doesn't like federal bureaucrats or volunteers

Providence Journal Bulletin (RI), Wednesday, January 18, 1995
Rep. Reed stands up for Americorps, Clinton's national-service program

Newsday, Thursday, January 19, 1995
National Service Is Worth a Fight, Mr. President

Newsday, Friday, January 20, 1995
Pennies to Save Lives From the Trash Bin

The Philadelphia Inquirer, Friday, January 20, 1995
National disservice How can a program to restore civic values in young people be on the Gingrich hit list?

The Dallas Morning News, Sunday, January 22, 1995
Americorps Helping communities is still a good idea

The Milwaukee Journal, Tuesday, January 24, 1995
Can service corps survive politics?

The Sun (Baltimore), Sunday, January 29, 1995
Volunteers or Not, They Get It Done

The Kansas City Star, Wednesday, February 1, 1995
The AmeriCorps debate

Wednesday, January 18, 1995

OPINION

Mail Tribune

The Mail Tribune offers its opinion pages to stimulate discussion and understanding of issues important to our community. Editorials in this column reflect the opinions of the Mail Tribune.

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Editorials

National service

Newt doesn't like federal bureaucrats or volunteers

News item: "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service," Gingrich says. "It is coerced voluntarism — It's gimmicky."

— Newsweek, Jan. 23 edition

News item: "Heavy rains in western Jackson County this week have triggered some erosion problems. — A crew from the newly created AmeriCorps national service program has been building erosion control structures in the burned area near Ramsey Road, north of Gold Hill — trying to slow runoff on barren hillsides."

— Mail Tribune, Jan. 11

It's hard to know whether House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., is opposed to national service programs in general, or because AmeriCorps is the one of the few unambiguous successes President Clinton can point to in his first two years.

There are some criticisms to level at a program of national service — one being that it's hard to find enough money to make volunteers available everywhere they're needed. But the notion of creating an analog to military service has been around for many years, supported by politicians of all stripes.

CLINTON SHOULD welcome this Gingrich assault as an opportunity to contrast what the president rightly sees as a legitimate, creative use of government with the kind of automatic, anti-government slashing that Gingrich represents.

There are many things the federal government does wrong. But creating opportunities for young people to help their country while putting a small amount of money aside, usually to pay for college, is not one of them.

The program does not coerce: States may participate at their option, and young men and women choose to apply. The list of applicants is miles longer than the list of available slots.

THERE ARE 38 young men and women at a work camp in the Applegate Ranger District this winter, working in the woods as well as renovating structures and parks in Butte Falls and Prospect.

So far, AmeriCorps is a success in America's forests and urban areas. Newsweek found volunteers highly praised and working in such places as homes for troubled children — the kinds of charity homes that Gingrich envisions as substitutes for America's welfare mothers.

} USDA Forest Service
AmeriCorps
Project

Rep. Reed stands up for Americorps, Clinton's national-service program

■ The congressman, who usually maintains a low profile, is defending the corps against attacks by House Speaker Gingrich.

By JAMES M. O'NEILL
Journal-Bulletin Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Rep. Jack Reed has jumped into the fray between House Speaker Newt Gingrich and President Clinton over the President's national-service program, backing the President in the face of Gingrich's charge that the program is "coerced volunteerism" and "gimmickry."

It is not typical of the sober, workmanlike Reed to make unsolicited statements on the latest public policy brouhaha in Washington, and it is perhaps an indication of the tactical adjustments one must make when one's party suddenly finds itself in the minority.

"When the speaker recklessly goes after a program that has such merit," said the Rhode Island Democrat, "you have to speak out."

While the Republicans have made similar attacks on the national-ser-

vice plan, called Americorps, since it was proposed and established two years ago, the attacks need rebuttal now, Reed said, because "opponents now have a heightened authority."

In other words, the Republicans, now controlling Congress, can back up rhetoric with action. And the Democrats, once the crafters of legislation, have been reduced to defending their favorite programs from the threat of the Republican scalpel.

Reed, a member of the House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, worked on the national-service bill and voted for it.

A corps of 20,000

The program pays people the minimum wage to fill social-service jobs in participating cities. In addition, for each year of service, the federal government wipes out \$4,725 worth of the participants' student loans.

About 20,000 young people now work in Americorps jobs in 350 nonprofit programs across the country.

"This program is an example of

how we should organize government," Reed said. "This does all the things that Republican rhetoric talks about: It gives young people a sense of responsibility, and of their need to contribute back to the community, and the importance of education to their futures and the need to work for your education."

Though Gingrich has called for a return to charity and volunteerism to replace the federal social-services bureaucracy and solve the nation's social ills, he says he is "totally, unequivocally opposed to national service."

Larry Fish, chairman of the Rhode Island Commission for National and Community Service, has said that Rhode Island received more money per capita than any other state — \$1.6 million.

Among grant recipients from that award was the Pawtucket-based Community Partnership, which received \$276,000 to sponsor 23 Americorps workers — in addition to the 150 young people, ages 13 to 17, who already were enrolled in the organization's volunteer program in Pawtucket and Central Falls.

NEWSDAY

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Newsday

EDITORIALS

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National Service Is Worth a Fight, Mr. President

The national service program seems an unlikely place for a beleaguered Democratic president to make a stand against budget-chopping congressional Republicans. It's too new and too inexpensive to have built up much of a constituency among voters. A country that got along without it before President Bill Clinton came along could undoubtedly survive without it now.

But this particular program, now called AmeriCorps, happens to have Clinton's own fingerprints on it, and he says he'll fight to keep it alive. We hope he means it. A voluntary national service corps makes a powerful statement to young Americans that their contributions in community service are both

needed and valued. And since it doesn't require a huge bureaucracy in Washington, it should even appeal to Republicans.

AmeriCorps has about 20,000 members working in more than 300 locally controlled programs nationwide. It pays the minimum wage — \$4.25 an hour — for up to 1,700 hours a year, and provides medical insurance. In addition, members can get as much as \$4,725 to pay past or future college costs.

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich, scenting an opportunity to trash a solid Clinton achievement, says he's "totally, unequivocally opposed to national service." With his usual gift for the colorful but inaccurate sound bite, he calls it "coerced voluntarism." But

this man's coercion looks more like opportunity to us — an educational opportunity that otherwise might not exist, as well as an opportunity for patriotic young people to serve their country and still subsidize.

Congress has already approved funding for as many as 33,000 AmeriCorps slots by early fall. Clinton may not be able to expand the program as he'd like. He may even have to shrink it to keep the Republicans at bay. An experiment with means-testing — by tying tuition subsidies to parental income for kids who choose to go to college before doing their AmeriCorps stint — might also be worth a trial. But this is a program worth fighting for. For once, Clinton must follow through.

NEWSDAY
Friday, January 20, 1995

Pennies to Save Lives From the Trash Bin

I REALIZE that Newt Gingrich has a right to speak any words he wishes — after all, he's speaker of the House. But why is he so opposed to thinking before he speaks?

This week, for instance, he said the national service program, the one called the domestic peace corps, should be abolished completely because, in his opinion, "It is coerced voluntarism . . . It's gimmickry."

Well, a lot of people have seen this "gimmickry" and almost unanimously they are impressed. They say it works. They include me.

I've become familiar with City Year, one of the groups that inspired President Bill Clinton to create the federal service umbrella, known as AmeriCorps. Campaigning in Boston in 1992, he visited City Year and came away saying he wanted to use it as a model for a national program. A year later, after shepherding that model through Congress, he signed into law the National Service Trust Act of 1993.

Here's what it does. It puts 20,000 young volunteers to work all across the country in 350 nonprofit organizations, helping themselves and others. The three-year goal is to expand the volunteer force to 100,000.

The age group is 17 to 23. They come from every background — Ivy League graduates, inner-city youths seeking their General Equivalency Diploma so they can make it to college, high school graduates taking a year off to do some good and learn community leadership skills, former gang members, single mothers, whites, blacks, Latinos, Asians.

Does every young corps member turn into a winner? No, not every single one. But the success rate is very, very high.

City Year, the group I've seen, was founded in Boston about six years ago by two Harvard Law School graduates, Alan Khazei and Michael Brown. They began with about 50 young people. Now they have more than 300.

What they do is renovate old buildings, serve as teachers' aides and tutors in schools, fix up parks and playgrounds, provide assistance to the elderly, build food banks and soup kitchens in church basements, work with the homeless and conduct school workshops on violence prevention and on drug and AIDS awareness.

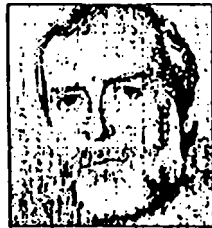
For the first three years of its existence, City

Year existed entirely on private funds. Corporations like Timberland and Reebok and many others became sponsors. The first federal funding became available in the Bush administration. Clinton's AmeriCorps added measurably to that and has made expansion possible.

City Year alone, by dispatching youths already trained, has opened programs in five other cities. Other groups, like Habitat and YouthBuild, are doing the same.

SYDNEY H. SCHANBERG

*I wish the speaker
would go
look at
these
young
people and see
what they do.*



An aide to Speaker Gingrich, explaining his boss' opposition, said "it is a program that spends a lot of money for few benefits. This is an employment program, not national service where work is voluntary." I wish the speaker would go look at these young people and see what they do. If he'll agree, I'll personally take him to Boston and have him meet them. I don't know if the experience will change his mind about funding the national program, but I'm willing to bet his spirits will be raised.

The federal spending now on AmeriCorps is about \$500 million a year — hardly a burp in the national budget. Thousands of lives are being saved from the trash bin, thousands of young people are getting on-the-job street training in coping with serious social problems. The volunteers are getting a lot out of it — and so are we as a nation.

Since Gingrich objects to the spending, let us look at what the volunteers are paid. At City Year originally, they got about \$100 a week. If they stayed the full year, they received an additional \$5,000 for college or job training. Those who had already finished college received a smaller bonus.

Now under the AmeriCorps program, volunteers are expected to commit for two years, receiving \$7,500 as an annual living stipend and \$4,725 a year toward further education. Like every other taxpayer, I'm aware that a fair amount of government money gets wasted. But I've seen how this national service money is used. It's anything but a waste; it's a pure investment in the United States of America.

The reason I've seen how City Year works is that one of my daughters, Rebecca, is part of it. She graduated from Stanford in 1993 and is in her second year in the Boston program. The first year, she was a team member. Now she's a leader of a team.

Her team is as diverse as our nation has always been — Brooks Emanuel from Atlanta and Jenny Evert from Minnesota and José Cerneno from Dorchester out of Puerto Rico and Robert Hannaford from North Quincy and Sherwin McClellon from Lynn and Darrell Greene from Mattapan and Natalie Pierre of Trinidad and now Dorchester and Yessenia Alvarado from Chelsea via El Salvador and Len Swartz from Hull.

You'll find them most days at a school in Chelsea, one of those struggling communities that ring Boston. The school, housed in the tired Chelsea High School, is called Early Childhood Program, which runs from prekindergarten through the second grade. If you sit for just a few hours and observe the City Year team members working with these 3- to 8-year-old black and Latino and Vietnamese and Cambodian kids, you will learn many things, not least of which is how much these volunteers are needed.

I sincerely hope the House speaker will visit them.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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A22

Friday, January 20, 1995

EDITORIALS

National disservice

How can a program to restore civic values in young people be on the Gingrich hit list?

The President drew his line in the sand this week. He is willing to deal in the brave new world of the Republican Contract, speed the pica of reinventing government, attempt to make welfare work. But try to take away the national service corps, and that's it — no more Mr. Nice Guy.

Take it away? It's a good bet that most Americans don't know the six-month-old program — called, AmeriCorps — exists. (Which is a problem from the get-go.)

AmeriCorps is a type of domestic Peace Corps, enlisting college-age youths to help tutor and immunize, to rebuild tumbled-down housing and assist local police.

The kids are supposed to get a taste of public service, and how the other half lives. And in return, they get living expenses (up to \$7,400 a year) and tuition money for college (\$4,725 a year).

There was a big debate over the program, the first new one of the Clinton administration. This was to be the New Democratic Way — provide opportunity, but attach obligation. There were complaints: Veterans' groups said the stipend was too high. (It was reduced.) Some Republicans cited "bureaucracy." Some college presidents feared the program was so small as to be misleading. Initial funding supports only about two of every 100 college students.

But in the end, the legislation passed, with a generous sprinkling of Republican votes. (Twenty-six in the

House.) One partisan who was never won over — though he granted the program's "idealism" — was Newt Gingrich, now House Speaker.

With all that's on his mind, with all that's on the country's mind, he found time this week to vow to "totally, unequivocally" slice, dice and destroy national service, which he says is fraught with "gimmickry" and reliant on "coerced voluntarism."

Hello? There is much to get in a lather about in this republic. But if national service isn't the end-all to our problems, it hardly seems a villain that needs be stamped out.

Indeed, if Mr. Gingrich is the advocate he claims to be of restoring civic values, of burnishing citizenship, of reviving community, why not give national service a chance?

If it fails, as Mr. Gingrich is fond of saying about his own boundless experiments, we should have the courage to say, "Well, that one didn't work," and try something else.

He need not embrace Mr. Clinton's every program to concede the President's good intent and share his vision of opportunity linked to work. Those are not gimmicks. They don't deserve to be casually assaulted.

As for the President, he needs to show Americans how AmeriCorps fits into his theme of renewing public spiritedness, of investing in human capital and changing an ethos of something for nothing.

The Gingrich sound bites will keep scoring until he does.

The Dallas Morning News

Sunday, January 22, 1995

AMERICORPS

Helping communities is still a good idea

Republican lawmakers should, and will, take the Clinton administration to task over initiatives that cost too much and are not needed. But Mr. Clinton's national service program shouldn't be one of them.

The program, Americorps, allows young people to work for minimum wage in communities across the country in exchange for government help in repaying college loans or vocational training loans. A kind of domestic Peace Corps, the year-old program provides an excellent vehicle for restoring a much-needed sense of citizenship and community right here at home.

Yet, the new Republican leadership, especially House Speaker Newt Gingrich, has targeted Americorps for the budget ax. He told *Newsweek*, "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service. It is coerced voluntarism. ... It's gimmickry."

Hardly. It was a good idea when Mr. Clinton made it a major campaign theme. And it was a good bill when approved by Congress. Sixteen House Republican co-sponsors sent letters to their colleagues encouraging them to support the national service bill. "We believe national service is a basic Republican idea and that the president's proposal is structured as a Republican would have structured it and that it deserves Republican support," the letter said.

Especially Republican about the bill is its decentralization, both in terms of funding and administration. A third of the federal trust fund for the program goes to national nonprofit organizations like the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and Teach for

America. The bulk of the money goes to bipartisan, independent state commissions that distribute the funds according to state guidelines. The application process is local, and local jurisdictions actually employ the youngsters. That means the people who know the greatest needs in their community can direct volunteers to that concern.

Texas, which has 14 program partners, has the largest number of participants per capita than any other state. The Greater Dallas Community of Churches is the local partner and is using its 49 participants to: tutor in elementary and middle schools, teach alternatives to violence, expand access to health care and improve nutrition and reduce hunger. And the volunteers are in the neighborhoods where their efforts can do the most good.

Republican critics say the program costs too much. Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa says the cost per participant is more than \$30,000. Eli Segal, head of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the program, told *The Dallas Morning News* that the cost is under \$20,000. He said that Mr. Grassley includes such things as the donations of equipment and retired personnel by corporations being good corporate citizens.

Costs do matter. But the potential benefits of this program — meeting unmet community needs, bringing youngsters of all ethnic and economic backgrounds together, helping youngsters defray college costs, and instilling a true sense of civic responsibility — make it a worthwhile investment.

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Page A6

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

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Can service corps survive politics?

SOME government programs are hard to defend. The fledgling AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service plan, is not one of them. It's a splendid way to revitalize communities, encourage social responsibility and expand educational opportunities — causes that conservatives and liberals alike can embrace.

So why are congressional Republicans trying to kill off AmeriCorps? House Speaker Newt Gingrich calls it "coerced voluntarism." Huh? Last time we checked, no one was forced to join. The service corps' 20,000 members aren't even volunteers. They get the minimum wage, health benefits, child care and an annual grant of \$4,725 to pay for college or vocational training.

An expensive bureaucracy? Come on. The program costs just \$500 million a year, a pinprick in the \$1.5 trillion federal budget.

Even so, critics complain that the cost per participant — about \$20,000 a year — is too high. That's in the eye of the beholder, of course. But the federal dollars leverage much more in private contributions — exactly the sort of public-private alliances that Republicans say they want to encourage.

Gimmickry? So says Gingrich. The facts argue

otherwise. AmeriCorps' 300 projects around the country plug into existing programs in public safety, health care, the environment and human services. In Austin, Texas, for example, participants clean up graffiti, immunize needy children and work to improve relations between police and the community. Nitty-gritty stuff that might not otherwise get done.

There's another aspect to this modest program that conservatives ought to like: It revitalizes the social contract between citizens and government. In contrast to entitlements, which demand nothing in return, national service marries benefit to sacrifice, individualism to community. Participants gain support for their schooling. But society, too, comes out ahead when the urban fabric is strengthened and the work force is better educated.

So really now, what's not to like? It's hard to avoid the conclusion that the GOP objections to national service are not about voluntarism or big government but rather about embarrassing Clinton: Get rid of a probable domestic success story and deny him something to brag about in 1996. If that's the aim here, it's a victory for political spite, not enlightened government.

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Volunteers or Not, They Get It Done

By SARA ENGRAM

Don't call members of AmeriCorps volunteers. As anyone connected to the program is quick to point out, they're full-time workers. You won't find many "volunteers" who spend 40 hours a week or more on the job.

But for some Republicans the term is a handy buzzword for igniting a partisan debate. "To replace voluntarism with bureaucrats is wrong," says House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Supporters of AmeriCorps — and of the ideals of national service — are ready with their answers.

"They're not replacing anyone," says Rhoda Dorsey, former president of Goucher College and chair of the Governor's Commission on Service, the board that oversees Maryland's AmeriCorps efforts. AmeriCorps funding is available only for projects that are not being done by anyone else. If these workers didn't offer these services, nobody would.

Hilda Peterson, 45, a mother of seven children in Cumberland, has learned first-hand the needs that exist in her community. As an AmeriCorps worker in Western Maryland, she has been able to extend a meal-delivery program for senior citizens into a rural community where elderly people were getting no help.

Often, Ms. Peterson says, these people were existing on diets of crackers and applesauce simply because they were unable to prepare more nutritious meals. Her most satisfying experience is the aid she has been able to provide for a woman in her 90s, crippled with arthritis and living alone in a farmhouse several miles from her nearest neighbors. "Helping her has made the whole thing worthwhile," she says.

In Baltimore, 28-year-old Sean Stevenson, an AmeriCorps worker who is tutoring in a city elementary school, cites the first-grade child who spent her days in silence before the program began. Now, he says proudly, she's such a confident little girl, "she talks all day."

Ms. Peterson and Mr. Stevenson, like those AmeriCorps members who were present in the House chamber for President Clinton's State of the Union message this past week, are volunteers in the sense that they asked to participate. But these days soldiers also volunteer for the army, and even members of Congress voluntarily run for office. Yet once they're in service to the country, no one expects them to serve for free.

In contrast, AmeriCorps workers come close to working for free. They earn only a small living allowance, usually around \$600 a month, plus about \$1,200 a year in health benefits. For most of them, the entitlement is a voucher for \$4,725, to be used for education and collected only after they have completed a year of service, or 1,700 hours of work.

Their one-year service to America costs about \$13,000 each, 20 percent of which is covered by the programs in which they work.

Meanwhile, AmeriCorps members are plowing plenty of rewards back into the communities. That's especially true in Maryland. With 854 people serving in some 18 different programs, Maryland now has more AmeriCorps members per capita than any other state. The benefits they provide don't come just in dollars and services, but also in the spark of imagination that helps communities pull together to find local, small-scale, non-bureaucratic solutions to problems.

That's another place defenders of national service differ sharply with the critics. AmeriCorps encourages partnerships that would seem unlikely in other contexts. In Baltimore, Mr. Stevenson works in a program called Enable, which offers a range of services under the auspices of Baltimore Reads, Inc., the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland at Baltimore and Community Building in Partnership, Inc.

As Dr. Dorsey notes, we live in a society that believes in solutions. We tell ourselves that if we can define a social problem and devise a way to tackle it, we can solve it. But that kind of thinking has often led to exactly the kind of expensive and expansive government efforts that Speaker Gingrich and his allies detest.

AmeriCorps has a different philosophy. It puts a premium on small-scale approaches and on finding ways to leverage local resources, both in money and time. Many AmeriCorps programs make use of a "cascading" model of voluntarism, in which AmeriCorps workers recruit and train volunteers for various projects, who in turn recruit and train other volunteers, thus multiplying the rewards many times over.

"This is a not-very-expensive way of tackling problems that have not been amenable to solutions on a grander scale," Dr. Dorsey says.

AmeriCorps gets things done — from feeding hungry people and tutoring students to taking health services door-to-door and cleaning up public areas. No wonder President Clinton considers AmeriCorps one of his proudest achievements.

Sara Engram is editorial-page director of The Evening Sun.

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The Kansas City Star.

SECTION
C
Wednesday,
February 1,
1995
★

The AmeriCorps debate

President Clinton, in his recent State of the Union address, called AmeriCorps "citizenship at its best." Earlier, he'd called it "one achievement I could say I was most proud of."

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich says this national service plan, sort of a domestic Peace Corps, is "the perfect, classic example of why people are furious about government and enraged at politicians."

Both men, to put it kindly, overstate their cases. Gingrich, however, is considerably more off the mark than the president. Bill Clinton should win this argument. The new Republican Congress should find other fish to fry.

This is not to say there can't be economies in such programs. For instance, AmeriCorps' administrative costs include a \$1.7 million contract with a public relations firm. Surely that could be cut. And there simply must be strict accountability and close financial oversight of the program, budgeted at \$1.5 billion over three years. But such measures should make the program more efficient, not kill it. One Republican, Christopher Shays of Connecticut, calls AmeriCorps "the most important program that has been adopted in the last 10 years."

AmeriCorps now has about 20,000 members in more than 300 projects around the country, and thus is larger than was the Peace Corps at

its height. The program allows for people to earn a minimum wage (plus health insurance and child care) and earn a credit of up to \$4,725 a year for their college costs.

Evidence suggests that AmeriCorps members are doing important work and helping many communities, including Kansas City, where Kansas City Consensus leads 22 agencies using AmeriCorps workers. In fact, one Kansas City AmeriCorps worker, LeRon Fields, was chosen to attend the State of the Union speech to honor his work here with the Blue Hills Together anti-crime program. Kansas City police praise that program for helping to shut down a dozen crack houses and reclaim a neighborhood park from gangs and drug dealers.

AmeriCorps needs close financial oversight and constant evaluation to make sure it's doing what it should. But if managed wisely, it will make a relatively inexpensive investment in the country's future by helping people save for a college education and, at the same time, letting them do valuable community service.

In its publicly pronounced zeal for savings, Congress certainly should keep its eye on AmeriCorps. But until AmeriCorps proves itself unworthy, Congress should let it live.

C-6
Opinion

The Columbus Dispatch

An Independent Newspaper Serving Ohio Since July 1, 1871.

JOHN F. WOLFE, Publisher, President and CEO

ROBERT B. SMITH, Editor

EDITORIALS

National service

New domestic Peace Corps worth trying

Americans justifiably feel jaded about the ability of government to tackle problems, but President Clinton's recently launched AmeriCorps, a new national-service program for youths, is worth a try.

The idea that the MTV generation might help tackle the nation's social problems in exchange for educational grants has been debated for years.

Bill Clinton latched on to the idea during his presidential campaign and received an enthusiastic response, although the domestic version of the Peace Corps launched last week is smaller than originally envisioned.

It's ironic in one sense that "getting things done" is the theme of this new service program, started at a time when even its most ardent supporters acknowledge the public is cynical about any government project.

There are signs, however, the Clinton administration is going about tapping into the ideals of youth in a businesslike manner.

For example, the program was tested across the nation in local pilots for two summers before it was implemented nationwide.

It is decentralized, in that nonprofit organizations help propose and administer the projects.

Further, a nervous Congress has allocated money for only two years so that review and reconsideration will be possible.

Not a bad idea.

By year's end the program will have 20,000 volunteers who will work around the country in activities ranging from immunization efforts for children to recycling, crime prevention and urban revitalization.

Initially, Columbus will have slightly more than 100 AmeriCorps volunteers, who offer a range of services from teaching arts

as crime prevention to helping elementary children with reading, writing and math skills.

In all, Ohio will have 18 projects, including nine funded through the Governors' Community Service Commission.

The national budget for the first year is \$365 million, which jumps to \$585 million in the second year.

To talk to Eli J. Segal, the chief executive of the Corporation for National Service, the new quasi-public agency in charge of AmeriCorps, is to understand how much Clinton cares about rekindling the idealism the creation of the Peace Corps generated in 1961.

Those days are gone.

Still, it's a worthy goal to instill in a cynical, young generation an appreciation for community service, while at the same time helping them with the soaring costs of education.

Volunteer participants will receive \$7,500 a year for their living expenses and an educational award of \$4,725 a year for a maximum of two years to help finance their college education or vocational training or to pay back their college loans.

Segal is high on a Texas demonstration program last year where 80 members gave 104,000 immunizations in 33 counties.

And, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, some of the summer test programs were shining examples of how dedicated young people can change their own lives while tangibly changing their communities.

Other projects were found to be poorly conceived and badly organized — essentially make-work jobs.

The hope is that among the first 350 projects nationally, there will be more in the former category than in the latter.

House

REPUBLICAN

Conference

Issue Brief

John Boehner

Chairman

8th District, Ohio

February 2, 1995

Want to Get Paid to Volunteer? Join AmeriCorps!

"In a little more than four hours, 10 corps members and a supervisor have measured one window, installed another, and put one lock on a door. Though they are willing hands, there simply isn't enough work. After lunch, the workload gets lighter."

— Francis Wilkinson, Rolling Stone, September 22, 1994

"So now, based on this data, when someone asks you how many AmeriCorps volunteers it takes to screw in a lock, the unfortunate answer is ten, plus one supervisor."

— Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA), October 6, 1994

During the past few weeks, President Clinton has spent much time trumpeting AmeriCorps — the paid volunteer program enacted in 1993 as the National and Community Service Act. During the State of the Union Address, Clinton called it "the essence" of what he was trying to accomplish, and he has consistently stated that he considers AmeriCorps his finest achievement as President. House Republicans, on the other hand, are determined to make

government smaller and more efficient, and there is no better place to begin than by zeroing out this boondoggle.

AmeriCorps Undermines Voluntarism

"The irony at the heart of AmeriCorps is that it tries to replicate a successful private sector activity - voluntary community service - with another government initiative modeled on failed social-welfare programs."

— John Walters, President, New Citizenship Project

One of the stated purposes of AmeriCorps is to promote voluntarism in this country, particularly among young people. By definition, a volunteer is someone who performs an act or service without the intent of being compensated in a measurable way. That is to say, people undertake volunteer work in their communities, not because of some monetary reward they might receive, but because they want to help people and make their communities a better place to live.

The problem with AmeriCorps is that it pays people to do something that millions of people already do without financial reward. As students see their friends getting paid to do community service, it can be expected that many of them will no longer volunteer their services for free. Ironically, this program of paid volunteers will have the perverse effect of undermining what it hopes to accomplish. Instead of promoting national service, this government-run system of handouts to a select few will actually discourage millions of young people from ever volunteering their services in the first place.

It would be one thing if the American people had to be induced into volunteering their services to their communities. But they don't. The idea that national service and voluntarism should be fostered is not new nor is it largely questioned. That's why approximately 80 million Americans participate in volunteer activities.

Moreover, ignoring the merits of the argument whether or not the federal government has a role in encouraging voluntarism, the federal government is already doing its part. In 1992, federal expenditures totaled \$1.3 billion on 23 existing community service programs, including VISTA, Foster Grandparents,

Foster Grandparents, Student Literacy Corps, and Teach for America. Thus, AmeriCorps is not really a new or innovative idea.

So the question that must be asked is this: Why should the federal government shoulder the burden of another costly federal program to encourage voluntarism? And, be assured, it will be costly. The program is currently appropriated at \$500 million this year. And if President Clinton had his way, \$8 billion would be poured into bureaucratizing voluntarism over a 5-year period.

Membership Has Its Privileges

"When I asked a Baltimore participant why he had signed on, his answer was brutally concise: 'Money'."

— Francis Wilkinson, Rolling Stone, September 22, 1994

One major flaw with AmeriCorps is that there are really no volunteers. The reality is AmeriCorps participants are workers paid with taxpayer dollars. In the end, AmeriCorps boils down to nothing more than another federal jobs program. And the last thing taxpayers need to support is another federal jobs program. Taxpayers forked over \$24.8 billion last year on 154 employment and training programs.

Not too surprisingly, AmeriCorps' directors avoid using the words "jobs" and "employees" at all costs. AmeriCorps' directors also avoid referring to participants as "volunteers," although the principles guiding this program are responsibility, voluntarism, and the idea of giving something back to the community. In fact, the people who serve in AmeriCorps are referred to as "members." And just like the American Express gold card, membership has its privileges. The package of income and benefits "members" receive is impressive:

- \$ AmeriCorps "members" receive up to \$9,450 to be used toward school expenses.
- \$ AmeriCorps "members" receive an annual stipend averaging \$7,400.
- \$ AmeriCorps "members" receive free health insurance.
- \$ AmeriCorps "members" receive free child care.

The average cost of a single AmeriCorps "member" to taxpayers is \$30,000. More than one-half of this amount covers the salary and educational awards given to job program enrollees, while the remainder covers child care and health insurance benefits, overhead costs, and administration. The salary and educational benefits work out to \$7.27 an hour. No wonder President Clinton thinks the minimum wage ought to be increased. He's paying AmeriCorps "members" \$7.27 an hour when nearly 4 million young people do the same work for free, and more than 11 million Americans work real jobs for less.

AmeriCorps Already Has a Checkered History

A strong case can be made for zeroing-out AmeriCorps because of the program's ill-conceived principles and the fact that taxpayers are not getting much in return for a \$30,000 per "member" investment. In addition to those problems, this relatively new jobs program is plagued by questionable spending decisions. Some examples include:

- \$ The state of Nebraska received a \$457,622 grant to *recruit 23 AmeriCorps members for the purpose of teaching their peers to settle on how to settle disagreements non-violently. That's \$20,000 per "member" solely for recruitment.*
- \$ AmeriCorps paid \$1.7 million to the public-relations firm of Ogilvy, Adams, and Rinehart Inc. to promote AmeriCorps on a national level.
- \$ Of the 20,000 "members" now "volunteering" in AmeriCorps, more than 1,200 are working for the government. While the Clinton Administration says it is trimming the size of government, it is expanding the role of government through AmeriCorps.

Limited Educational Opportunities

AmeriCorps is not just another jobs program. It also has the stated purpose of expanding higher education opportunities — at least for the moment — to 20,000 young people. But the program imposes no income levels on participants. Thus, kids from upper-income families who would likely attend college anyway if AmeriCorps didn't exist compete with children from impoverished families for volunteer slots.

Even if the program were limited to young people from low-income families, it still wouldn't expand educational opportunities for many Americans. Presently, there are some 5 million students receiving benefits from college loan programs. AmeriCorps currently has 20,000 "members." This is less than one-half of one percent of those students eligible for student aid.

If the President really wants to make higher education more accessible to low-income kids, he could have instead proposed increasing funding for the needs-based Pell Grant program. Senator Grassley has pointed out that three students could spend one year attending the University of Iowa for the cost of just one \$30,000 per year AmeriCorps "member." Driving home that point further, the \$500 million appropriation for AmeriCorps in 1995 could provide 200,000 students from low-income families with a \$2,500 Pell Grant award.

Conclusion

At its heart, AmeriCorps represents the rebirth of a sixties Great Society program. As most Americans have come to learn, and as history has demonstrated, creating another big-government and highly bureaucratic program is not the solution to our societal and cultural problems. Voluntarism is alive and well in America. Eighty million Americans devote countless hours volunteering their time and services to their communities. Given those facts, the American people cannot afford yet another costly federal program masquerading behind the ideal of fostering voluntarism.

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 225-4146

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Chafee (RI)
Hatfield (OR)
Jeffords (VT)
Snowe (ME) (Voted "yes" while in the House)
Shelby (AL) (voted "yes" while a House Democrat)
Specter (PA)
Stevens (AK)

House

Bereuter (NB)
Blute (MA)
Diaz-Balart (FL)
Dickey (AR)
Gilchrest (MD)
Gilmor (OH)
Gilman (NY)
Gunderson (WI)
Hoekstra (MI)
Horn (CA)
Houghton (NY)
Johnson (CT)
Klug (WI)
Lazio (NY)
Leach (IA)
Morella (MD)
Quinn (NY)
Rodgers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen (FL)
Shays (CT)
Torkildsen (MA)
Upton (MI)
Walsh (NY)

Republican Priorities

January 10, 1995

The following is a prioritized list of our targeted Republican Members, and Republican supporters (in italics) of the 1993 Act, and Governors of their respective states. Priorities (I - III) are based on factors including: support of 1990 Act, membership in the Tuesday group of moderate Republicans from whom we received much of our Republican support in 1993, or an otherwise moderate voting record. Members such as Dole and Kassebaum and Goodling are ranked priority (I) due to their influence over our authorization and appropriations and the wholesale value of gaining their support.

House Supporters: 23

Senate Supporters: 7

House Targets: 46

Senate Targets: 22

ALABAMA

Gov. Fob James R

Sen. Richard Shelby (supporter as a Democrat) (I)

ALASKA

Gov. Tony Knowles D

Sen. Ted Stevens

Rep. Don Young (II)

At large

ARIZONA

Gov. Fife Symington R

Rep. Jim Kolbe (I)

5th Southwestern AZ incl. Tucson

ARKANSAS

Gov. Jim Guy Tucker D

Rep. Jay Dickey

4th Southern AR incl. Pine Bluff and Hot Springs

Rep. Tim Hutchinson (III)

3rd Northwest AR incl. Fort Smith and Fayetteville

CALIFORNIA

Gov. Pete Wilson R

Rep. Stephen Horn

38th Long Beach

Rep. Jerry Lewis (I)

40th San Bernardino County and Redlands

Rep. Carlos Moorhead (II)

27th Northeastern LA County incl. Pasadena and Burbank

Rep. Bill Thomas (I)

21st Kern and Tulare counties incl. Bakersfield

CONNECTICUT

Gov. John Rowland R

Rep. Nancy Johnson

6th Northwest CT incl. Bristol and New Britain

Rep. Christopher Shays

4th Southwest CT incl. Bridgeport and Stamford

DELAWARE

Gov. Thomas Carper (D)

Sen. William Roth (II)

Rep. Michael Castle (I)

At Large

FLORIDA

Gov. Lawton Chiles D

Sen. Connie Mack (II)

Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart

21st Southeast FL incl. part of Dade County

Rep. Dan Miller (I)

13th Southwest FL incl. Sarasota

Rep. Tillie Fowler (I)

4th Northeast FL incl. part of Jacksonville

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

18th Southeast FL incl. Part of Dade County and Miami

GEORGIA

Gov. Zell Miller D

Sen. Paul Coverdell (I)

ILLINOIS

Gov. Jim Edgar R

Rep. Harris Fawell (II)

13th Southwest Chicago suburbs

Rep. Henry Hyde (II)

6th Northwest and West Chicago Suburbs

Rep. John Edward Porter (I)

10th North and Northwest Chicago Suburbs

INDIANA

Gov. Evan Bayh D

Sen. Dan Coats (I)

Sen. Richard Lugar (II)

Rep. John Myers (II)

7th West IN incl. Terre Haute and Lafayette

IOWA

Gov. Terry Branstad R

Rep. Jim Leach

1st East IA incl. Cedar Rapids, Davenport and Iowa City

Rep. Jim Lightfoot (I)

3rd South Central IA incl. Ames and Burlington

KANSAS

Gov. Bill Graves R

Sen. Bob Dole (I)

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (I)

Rep. Jan Meyers (I)

3rd Kansas City and surrounding area

KENTUCKY

Gov. Bereton Jones D
Sen. Mitch McConnell (II)

Rep. Harold Rogers
5th Southeast incl. Middlesboro and Pikesville

LOUISIANA

Gov. Edwin Edwards D

Rep. Jim McCrery (III)
5th North and East LA incl. parts of Shreveport and Baton Rouge

MAINE

Gov. Angus King Ind.
Sen. William Cohen (I)
Sen. Olympia Snowe (supporter in House)

MARYLAND

Gov. Parris Glendening D

Rep. Wayne Gilchrest
1st Eastern Shore, Annapolis and Glen Burnie

Rep. Constance Morella
8th Montgomery County

MASSACHUSETTS

Gov. William Weld R

Rep. Peter Blute
3rd Central and Southeast MA incl. Worcester

Rep. Peter Torkildsen
6th North Shore incl. Lynn and Peabody

MICHIGAN

Gov. John Engler R

Rep. Peter Hoekstra
2nd Western MI incl. Muskegon

Rep. Fred Upton
6th Southwest incl. Kalamazoo and Benton Harbor

Rep. Vern Ehlers (I)
3rd West Central MI and Grand Rapids

MINNESOTA

Gov. Arne Carlson R
Sen. Rod Grams (II)

Rep. Jim Ramstad (I)
3rd Southwestern Twin Cities' suburbs

MISSISSIPPI

Gov. Kirk Fordice R
Sen Thad Cochran (III)

MISSOURI

Gov. Mel Carnahan D
Sen. Chris Bond (I)
Sen. John Ashcroft (II)

Rep. Bill Emerson (III)
8th Southeastern MO incl. Cape Girardeau

MONTANA

Gov. Marc Racicot R
Sen. Conrad Burns (II)

NEBRASKA

Gov. Ben Nelson D

Rep. Douglas Bereuter
1st Eastern NE incl. Lincoln

Rep. Bill Barrett (I)
3rd Rural West NE incl. Grand Island and North Platte

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Gov. Stephen Merrill R

Sen. Judd Gregg (I)

Rep. Bill Zeliff (I)

1st Eastern NH incl. Manchester

NEW JERSEY

Gov. Christine Todd Whitman R

Rep. Bob Franks (I)

7th North Central NJ incl. parts of Woodbridge and Union

Rep. Marge Roukema (II)

5th North and West NJ incl. Ridgewood and West Milford

Rep. Christopher Smith (I)

4th Central NJ incl. Trenton

Rep. Dick Zimmer (II)

12th North and Central NJ include. Princeton and Flemington

NEW MEXICO

Gov. Gary Johnson R

Sen. Pete Domenici (II)

Rep. Steven Schiff (I)

1st Central NM incl. Albuquerque

NEW YORK

Gov. George Pataki R

Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (I)
23rd Central NY State incl. Utica and Rome

Rep. Benjamin Gilman
20th Westchester and part of Orange counties

Rep. Amo Houghton
31st Jamestown and Elmira

Rep. Peter King (II)
3rd Eastern Nassau county incl. Oyster Bay

Rep. Rick Lazio
2nd Western Suffolk county incl. Islip and Babylon

Rep. John McHugh (II)
24th Northern NY State incl. Plattsburg and Oswego

Rep. Susan Molinari (I)
13th Staten Island and SW Brooklyn

Rep. Jack Quinn
30th Western NY and Buffalo

Rep. James Walsh
25th Central NY incl. Syracuse

OHIO

Gov. George Voinovich

Sen. Mike DeWine (II)

Rep. John Boehner (III)

8th Southwest OH incl. Hamilton and parts of Middletown

Rep. Paul Gillmor

5th Northwest OH incl. Bowling Green

Rep. David Hobson (I)

7th West Central OH incl. Springfield and Lancaster

Rep. Martin Hoke (I)

10th West side of Cleveland and suburbs

Rep. Rob Portman (II)

2nd Southwest and Eastern Cincinnati and suburbs

Rep. Michael Oxley (III)

4th West Central OH incl. Mansfield and Lima

Rep. Ralph Regula (I)

16th North East OH. incl. Canton

OREGON

Gov. John Kitzhaber D

Sen. Mark Hatfield

Sen. Bob Packwood (I)

PENNSYLVANIA

Gov. Thomas Ridge R

Sen. Arlen Specter

Rep. Bill Goodling (I)

19th South Central PA incl. York

Rep. Curt Weldon (II)

7th Suburban Philadelphia

Rep. Joseph McDade (II)

10th Northwest PA incl. Scranton

Rep. William Clinger (II)

5th Northwest and Central PA incl. Penn State Univ.

Rep. Jim Greenwood (II)

8th Northern Philadelphia Suburbs incl. Levittown and Bucks county

Rep. Bud Shuster (III)

9th South Central PA incl. Altoona

RHODE ISLAND

Gov. Lincoln Almond R

Sen. John Chafee

TENNESSEE

Gov. Don Sundquist R

Sen. Fred Thompson (II)

Rep. James Quillen (III)

1st Northeast TN incl. Johnson City and Kingsport

TEXAS

Gov. elect George W. Bush R
Rep. Henry Bonilla (I)
23rd Laredo and suburban San Antonio

VERMONT

Gov. Howard Dean D
Sen. James Jeffords

VIRGINIA

Gov. George Allen R
Sen. John Warner (II)

Rep. Tom Bliley (III)
7th Central VA incl. part of Richmond and suburbs

WASHINGTON

Gov. Mike Lowry D
Sen. Slade Gorton (II)

Rep. Jennifer Dunn (II)
8th Part of suburban King county incl. Bellevue

WISCONSIN

Gov. Tommy G. Thompson R

Rep. Steve Gunderson
3rd Western incl. Eau Claire and La Crosse

Rep. Scott Klug
2nd Southern incl. Madison

WYOMING

Gov. Jim Geringer R
Sen. Alan Simpson (II)

RE : Republican Freshmen

DATE: January 11, 1995

I've made a rather cursory review of the 53 Republican freshmen and have identified the following 18 as targets:

1. Matt Salmon (AZ) involved with Phoenix Crisis Nursery and United Way.
2. Brian Bilbray (CA) - San Diego Council on Literacy
3. Michael Flanagan (IL) - AIDS Volunteer
4. Mark Souder (IN) - Notre Dame graduate
5. Dick Chrysler (MI) - Livingston CO United Way
6. Charles Bass (NH) - perceived by NH folks as reasonable
7. Frank LoBiondo (NJ) - Board of Directors, Literacy Volunteers of America; New Jersey YMCA
8. William Martini (NJ) - United Way of Passaic Co.
9. Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ) - Active in VFW, American Legion; close to Kean
10. Sue Kelly (NY) - worked as rape crisis counselor
11. Fredrick Heineman (NC) - former Deputy Chief, NYPD; former Chief Raleigh NCPD
12. Sue Myrick (NC) - former Mayor of Charlotte (friend of Jim Scheibel's)
13. J.C. Watts (OK) - Special Olympics
14. Jon Fox (PA) - Legal Aid, AIDS Task Force, Jewish Community Relations Council
15. Mac Thornberry (TX) - High Plains Food Bank

16. Rick White (WA) - Founder of Books For Kids
17. George Nethercutt (WA) - Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Child Abuse Prevention
18. Mark Neumann (WI) - Habitat For Humanity, Boys Clubs

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10/2/95

Dear P.t.

I have no idea how
you'll need us in order
to restore funding for Ameri-
Corp... Just so you have the
#s in front of you:

President's 1996 request: \$820mill.

1995 Appropriation: \$470 "
(after rescission)

Nikulski Amendment: \$425 "

Note: she consulted with me on
this. Any # below this does real
damage. I urge holding tough for
\$470 million now (so we can do what
Bond wants on federal agencies; see p. 3004
underlined). El

APPROPRIATIONS

Senate Anticipates Veto, Passes Program Cuts

*VA-HUD's \$81 billion spending measure
now heading to conference*

The Senate quickly dispensed with a catchall \$81 billion fiscal 1996 spending bill for veterans, housing, environmental and space programs — certain that the real negotiating between parties would not begin until after President Clinton's expected veto.

The Senate approved the bill (HR 2099) Sept. 27 on a 55-45 vote, largely along party lines. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska was the only Democrat to support the bill; every Republican voted for it. (Vote 470, p. 3031)

Most Senate Democrats and the Clinton administration said they generally preferred the Senate's version of the spending bill for Veterans Affairs (VA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and independent agencies to the more stringent version that the House passed July 31. But they said the Senate measure, like the House's, seriously underfunded key federal agencies.

The Senate version would cut deeply from HUD and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and less so from the VA and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). It also omits most of the House-passed legislative provisions restricting EPA's activities that had raised the ire of Democrats and moderate Republicans.

The measure now heads for a House-Senate conference to resolve these differences. But the real bargaining is expected after Clinton's veto. That is when Republicans, who are unlikely to override the veto, must deal more directly with Democratic demands.

The administration was particularly displeased that the Senate joined the House in moving to eliminate the National Service program, which Clinton views as a hallmark of his presidency.

Office of Management and Budget Director Alice M. Rivlin renewed Clinton's veto threat Sept. 27 after the vote.

"The president would veto the



BOXSCORE

Bill: HR 2099 (H Rept 104-201, S Rept 104-140) — Fiscal 1996 VA-HUD appropriations.

Latest action: Senate passed the bill, 55-45, on Sept. 27.

Next likely action: House-Senate conference.

Background: The bill finances veterans, housing, space, environment and science programs.

Reference: Senate committee, Weekly Report, p. 2809; House floor, pp. 2366, 2267.

Senate-passed bill for a simple reason," Rivlin said. "Like its House counterpart, the Senate bill would threaten public health and the environment, terminate programs that are helping communities help themselves, and close the door on college for thousands of young people."

Democrats made a few carefully chosen attempts to change the bill's funding priorities. As expected, nearly all were defeated. Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., had said Sept. 26 that Democrats had little interest in belaboring consideration of the bill because their best chance to negotiate would come after an expected veto.

Christopher S. Bond, R-Mo., chairman of the VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, said the bill was the product of tough choices designed to help balance the budget by fiscal 2002.

"I urge the president to listen to the American people and join us in

curbing federal spending by approving this appropriations bill," Bond said.

Democrats chafed at the bill's funding allocation. They sought to increase funding for many programs, but found that difficult because it generally required redirecting money from other agencies covered by the bill.

When some of the amendments sought to go outside the bill to find offsetting revenues, Republicans made it tougher by invoking procedural motions that required 60 votes for approval. Democrats failed in attempts to add money for National Service, VA medical care, homeless assistance and environmental programs.

However, they did persuade the Senate to approve an amendment to strike a provision that would have prevented HUD from enforcing anti-redlining laws in the Fair Housing Act.

The Senate also easily defeated an amendment that would have terminated NASA's space station program.

National Service

The Senate beat back an attempt to restore funding for National Service.

A 1993 law (PL 103-82) established the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the AmeriCorps volunteer program, designed to award individuals who perform community service. Participants receive \$4,725 to offset the costs of their education. (1993 Almanac, p. 400)

The program initially received an appropriation of \$577 million in fiscal 1995, later reduced to \$470 million. The Clinton administration sought \$819 million in fiscal 1996.

Despite the administration's interest, however, some House Democrats thought it was less important than other programs that would be cut under the VA-HUD spending bill. During House consideration, the VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee defeated an amendment by Rep. Jim Chapman, D-Texas, to continue National Service. Chapman did not offer the amendment.

By Jeffrey L. Katz

in full committee nor on the House floor, and neither did anyone else.

In the Senate, Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., offered an amendment to continue the program with a \$425 million appropriation. She proposed to offset the funding by reducing HUD's assisted housing account and by permitting the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to insure higher-priced mortgages for single-family houses.

"This is not another handout," Mikulski said of National Service. "I think this goes right into the values of the nation." She said it encouraged hard work, prodded neighbors to help one another and improved access to education.

The program's critics had seized on a recent report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) that said the total cost for each AmeriCorps participant amounted to \$26,700 for 1994-95. Mikulski said the figure was misleading because it reflected the program's start-up costs and contributions from sources other than the federal government.

But Bond said that National Service was not important enough to fund now. "Good intentions alone, unfortunately, aren't enough," he said, adding that local officials were more interested in continued funding for Community Development Block Grants, which give state and local governments wide discretion in how to use the money.

Some Republicans also objected to the program's mission. "I think that it is a very dangerous value to somehow elevate government service above all other aspects of our lives in society," said Rick Santorum, R-Pa.

John Ashcroft, R-Mo., dismissed it as a "boondoggle for kids trying to find themselves. AmeriCorps is welfare for the well-to-do."

Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., said he found the GOP descriptions of National Service "insulting. I do not even recognize the program my colleagues are describing," he said.

Mikulski's amendment was defeated, 47-52, on Sept. 26. Six Republicans voted for the amendment while five Democrats opposed it. Two of the Democrats — Russell D. Feingold and Herb Kohl, both of Wisconsin — said they opposed the amendment only because of the proposed increase in FHA limits. (Vote 464, p. 3030)

After the vote, Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., called it "a severe body blow" to continuing National Service. But Mikulski was still optimistic that funding could be added in the wake of a presidential veto.

Bond, who has been open to negotiating with the administration on the issue, said he would not approve of continuing the program without substantive changes. For instance, he spoke favorably about an aspect of Mikulski's amendment that would prohibit National Service from providing money to other federal agencies to run National Service programs.

Environmental Protection Agency

Senators defeated two Democratic attempts to reshape environmental provisions. One would have added money to several programs and the



"This is not another handout," Mikulski said of the National Service program. "I think this goes right into the values of the nation."

other aimed to shield the EPA from House-passed legislative provisions.

The Senate on Sept. 27 rejected, 45-54, an amendment by Frank R. Lautenberg, D-N.J., to boost environmental funding. His amendment would add \$432 million to the nearly \$1 billion for the superfund hazardous waste clean-up fund and \$328 million to the \$2.3 billion to help local communities build sewage treatment plants. It also would add another \$1 million to the \$1 million for the Council on Environmental Quality, which provides environmental advice to the White House and federal agencies. (Vote 469, p. 3031)

Because Lautenberg proposed to offset these costs by limiting any proposed tax cut to families earning over \$150,000 per year, Republicans raised a point of

order that it would violate Budget Act constraints on what can be counted as an offset to spending increases. That procedural motion then required the amendment to be approved with 60 votes instead of a simple majority.

"If forced to choose between a tax break for the rich and strengthening environmental protections," Lautenberg said, "I'm convinced most Americans would strongly support the environment."

Bond said that superfund's appropriation was limited because "it was time to stop throwing away money at a wasteful, broken program." He said funding would continue at sites that posed an immediate threat to human health and the environment and where some cleanup was under way.

Also on Sept. 27, senators rejected, 39-61, an amendment by Max Baucus, D-Mont., to enable the EPA administrator to ignore any provision in the bill that she thought would weaken environmental protection or public health. (Vote 467, p. 3031)

Baucus said the amendment was intended to blunt any attempt by House-Senate conferees to accept the House's legislative provisions.

Bond derided the power that the amendment would give the EPA administrator as "totally awesome." He said it would be unprecedented to give "an unelected bureaucrat the authority to disregard a law passed by Congress and signed by the president."

Other Action

In other action, senators:

- **Fair housing.** Gave voice vote approval Sept. 27 to an amendment by Feingold to remove a provision that would bar HUD from enforcing the Fair Housing Act against insurance redlining, the practice of refusing to write property and casualty policies in certain low-income neighborhoods.

- **Homeless assistance.** Tabled, or killed, 52-48, on Sept. 27 an amendment by Paul S. Sarbanes, D-Md., to restore \$360 million in homeless assistance funding. (Vote 468, p. 3031)

The bill would appropriate \$760 million for homeless assistance, a 32 percent cut from fiscal 1995 funding. The amendment would offset the additional funds by decreasing money to renew expiring subsidized housing contracts.

Sarbanes said that homeless assistance programs were an important part of the social safety net. But Bond said the amendment, by dipping into money for rental subsidies, "is taking money from one group of very poor

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9/30

P.t.

Because I don't know
whether Todd would forward
the enclosed to you, I am
doing so.

I'd appreciate your
reading this -- particularly
what I marked -- & getting
together for a few minutes
at your convenience.

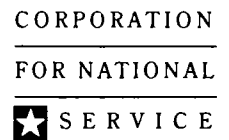
Ed.

September 29, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Eli Segal 

SUBJECT: AmeriCorps



Within days, Harris Wofford will be confirmed as the C.E.O. of the Corporation for National Service, so this memo is probably my last official communication to you on AmeriCorps.

First, I believe the product in the field is excellent. On October 12, you will participate in a swearing in ceremony at the White House for our second class of AmeriCorps. Within a few weeks thereafter, close to 25,000 young people will begin serving in about 450 programs in well over 1,500 communities throughout the country. Like those who preceded them, they will *"get things done."* There are many measures of success, including program achievements; independent evaluations; political support from Republican Governors and Mayors; and rich partnerships with charities, police departments, school districts, corporations, foundations and other key American institutions.

Second, the product isn't perfect. Like any start-up, especially a decentralized one, not every aspect worked as smoothly as I would have liked. We have de-funded a handful of programs (only two of which were related to their political activities). We have had some rocky sledding with some of our new state commissions. Recruitment of members is less than ideal, leading to a higher attrition rate than we'll see in the future. All in all, however, I see no major headaches--although those who oppose us are scouring America for them.

Third, the message. On this, I'm afraid the superior discipline of the Republicans, in partnership with conservative think tanks, is beginning to have its effect. For many months, we have been waging a message battle and believe we have more than held our own--until the recent GAO Report--or more accurately until the Republican spin on the GAO Report. What was in reality GAO's endorsement of our position is now too-widely perceived to be *"the \$27,000 paid volunteer"*. Our themes of "common ground" and core values, still resonate (87 percent of registered voters support

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

Memorandum for The President
September 29, 1995
Page Two

AmeriCorps, even with its costs, according to a just completed Gallup Poll), but we have to find fresh ways to sell national service as smart government--decentralized, no new bureaucracy and cost effective. That the most engaged legislators are now our opponents (Chuck Grassley and Pete Hoekstra) is particularly anxiety producing. In this context, I expect a tough House oversight hearing in two weeks where one extra line of attack will be that politics has an undue influence on our grant making process.

Fourth, the politics. Despite our defeat on the Floor of the Senate the other day, it's clear that Republicans know they will need to fund national service for FY '96. My instinct, therefore, is not to use the bully pulpit too aggressively on this one (unless doing so might be driven by re-election considerations). Too public a win on funding might hurt what will be difficult negotiations on reauthorization in early 1996. There are several significant issues on reauthorization which will require your time and judgment but more on that at a later point.

Fifth, the new leadership at the Corporation For National Service. Harris comes at national service through a different prism than I. Mine was shaped entirely by the 1992 campaign and my objective to make this a fundamental part of your legacy. Harris comes from a 30 year engagement in this issue. There will be a few what I believe to be modest midcourse corrections under his leadership, the details of which will evolve in the weeks ahead. They are a product of his experience and the changes in the political landscape since AmeriCorps became the law of the land. Essentially, he will try to emphasize nonpartisanship even more than the first year by: (a) focusing more attention on our products other than AmeriCorps (particularly Senior Corps [a special opportunity in the context of our Medicare fight] and Learn and Serve and our partnership with the Points of Light Foundation); (b) reaching out even more aggressively to Republican opinion leaders, Governors and former Presidents; and (c) de-emphasizing your **public** identification with AmeriCorps until after our legislation is reauthorized.

I share his judgment on these matters (you will always be identified with what has almost derisively become known as your "*pet project*") but want to make sure you are not uncomfortable with it. For example, one could take the opposite tack, putting as much pressure on our opponents as possible with a high profile campaign featuring the AmeriCorps members "*getting things done*". I fear, however, that would take too much of your time and would complicate reauthorization.

Finally, I want you to know that with all its frustrations, this experience has been the most exhilarating of my life. My thanks for your confidence in me and your support every step of the way. If we can get by this reauthorization hurdle with AmeriCorps substantially intact, I am confident that by 2000 we'll have an institution in which Americans will delight.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
10.5.95

September 29, 1995

Natl Serv.

[Handwritten signature]
1995 OCT

49:17

cc: Leon Furman
Barclay

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

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*is well, we are not
the 2 line answer*

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