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AmeriCorps National Service

CORPORATION

FOR NATIONAL

★ SERVICE

October 17, 1994

Dear Friend:

You are invited to attend a briefing at the White House about funding opportunities now available through President Clinton's new domestic Peace Corps Program called "AmeriCorps." The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 1994 at 4:30pm in Room 472 of the Old Executive Office Building.

Joining you will be senior staff from the Corporation and the White House who will provide a brief program overview and then entertain discussion so that we may learn more about your organization.

As you may know, the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 authorized \$1.5 billion through 1996 to assist states, nonprofit organizations, Indian tribes, and institutions of higher education in creating a full- or part- time service program that engages participants in meaningful, community-based service addressing unmet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. AmeriCorps members may serve before, during, or after college, and upon successful completion of a term of service, they will receive an educational award of up to \$4,725 or twice that amount for two years of service. The educational award may be used to help finance their college education or vocational training, or to pay back their student loans.

Please RSVP with David Premo at (202) 606-5000 extension 278. For security purposes, we ask that you provide your full name and birth date. Questions should be directed to Gloria Johnson, Director of Constituent Relations, at extension 234.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Eli Segal
CEO

1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000
Fax 202-606-4806

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

6/16
rec

OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON
ROUTING SLIP

DATE:

June 16, 1993

FROM:

Denny

TO:

Amy Zisook

Doris Matsui

Andrew Morin

Flo McAfee

Chris Lin

Howie Davis

Dan Wexler

Marilyn DiGiacobbe

Dana Wyckoff

Mike Lux

Paul Jackson

Wendy Nishikawa

Debbie Fine

Ruby Moy

Steve Hilton

Suzanne
Other

THE ATTACHED IS FOR YOUR:

INFORMATION

ADVICE

ACTION

COMMENTS:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

FACT SHEET

NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST ACT OF 1993

The "National Service Trust Act of 1993" is innovative public policy founded on traditional American values: offering educational opportunity, demanding personal responsibility, and building the American community. In affirming these values, the initiative also rejects big bureaucracy -- reinventing government to unleash the initiative of the American people.

The President's support for service extends from the youngest elementary school students to our oldest citizens, and includes everything from part-time volunteer activities to full-time public service jobs.

The President's initiative will:

- Build the American community through a new domestic Peace Corps that brings Americans together to tackle pressing national problems.
- Offer educational opportunity and reward individual responsibility by providing educational awards to hundreds of thousands of Americans who serve our country.
- Reinvent government by streamlining Federal bureaucracies, relying on locally driven initiatives, and creating flexibility for students and competition among programs.

The Act will establish a Corporation for National Service that will offer Americans who do vital work in the national service initiative an educational award.

The Corporation will establish quality criteria and require measurable impacts, but within these bounds, communities will be able to design programs that meet their own pressing needs. Programs will be expected to educate their participants both in the particular skills their service demands and in the civic responsibility that our democracy requires. In all respects, the Act is designed to build partnerships -- among Federal Government, State governments, and the private sector; and within communities, among the schools, businesses, and civic organizations that seek to fight common problems. Assistance will be distributed on a competitive basis and no program will have a right to funding, but a wide variety of organizations will have a chance to establish programs that serve our country.

Definition of National Service

- Meets unmet educational, environmental, human, or public safety needs.
- Improves the life of the participant, through citizenship education and training.
- Does not displace or duplicate the functions of existing workers.

Organization

- To reduce waste and promote an entrepreneurial government culture, a new government Corporation for National Service will be established, combining the Commission on National and Community Service and ACTION.
- While maintaining existing programs such as VISTA, the new program makes investments in new initiatives; neither the Corporation nor the State commissions will operate them.
- A small bipartisan Board will share power with a Chairperson.
- Flexible and quality-driven personnel policies will include pay-for-performance and a 7-year limit on most tenures.
- The Corporation may solicit and accept private contributions.
- At the state level, commissions on national service will be established to mirror and cooperate with the Federal Corporation.
- Like the Corporation Board, commissions will be composed of bipartisan members from a variety of fields. To ensure a genuine Federal/State partnership, a representative of the Corporation will sit on the State commissions, and a State representative will sit on the Corporation Board.
- All programs will have to compete for support; none will be guaranteed funding.
- One-third of funds will be allocated by population-based formula to State commissions with approved plans for competitive distribution of funds; at least one-third to State commissions on a competitive basis for competitive distribution; and up to one-third will be reserved to the Corporation for allocation on a competitive basis.

Programs

- National quality criteria for programming will be developed for every type of program in conjunction with experts in the field.
- Performance goals and independent evaluations will be required in every program.

- An Inspector General will police fraud and abuse and perform oversight of funded programs.
- To encourage public/private partnership, programs must provide a 15 percent cash match on stipends and health care and a 25 percent match for other program support.
- Entities ranging from small community organizations to Federal agencies will be eligible to operate service programs.
- A broad array of possible programs will be eligible for funding: from youth corps for at-risk youth, to specialized service programs for college graduates, to diverse community corps for Americans of all backgrounds. Many other models are possible, and venture capital will be available for new efforts.

Participants

- To encourage wide and diverse participation, individuals aged 17 and over may serve before, during, or after post-secondary education.
- To target program participation to participant interests and community needs, participants will be recruited and selected by approved local programs. A national or State recruitment system will also be established to disseminate information and help interested individuals locate placements in local programs. Information about available positions will be widely disseminated through high schools, colleges, and other placement offices.
- To earn an educational award, a participant must complete at least 1 year of full-time or 2 years of part-time service in an approved program. An individual may serve up to two terms and earn up to two educational awards.
- Educational awards of \$5,000 will be provided for each term of service. Awards may be used for past, present or future expenses, including 2- and 4-year colleges, training programs, and graduate or professional programs.
- Programs will set stipends within a limited range based at minimum wage. Health and child care will be provided to those who need them.

Encouraging Service by All

- The Act enhances the Serve-America program for school-age youth.
- The Act extends and improves the VISTA and Older Americans Volunteer Programs.
- The Act reauthorizes support for the Civilian Community Corps.
- The Act reauthorizes support for the Points of Light Foundation.

**CORE STAFF OF THE
WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE
(202) 456-6444**

Eli J. Segal	Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of National Service
Rick Allen	Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director, Office of National Service
Jack Lew	General Counsel, Office of National Service
Gloria Johnson	Special Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison, Office of National Service
Diana Aldridge	Director of Communications
Susan Stroud	Senior Advisor to the Director
Phil Caplan	Liaison from ACTION
Robert Gordon III	White House Fellow - Summer of Service Program
Josie Heath	Advisor to the Director
Nick Lowery	Advisor to the Director
Nancy Rubin	Private Sector Liaison

INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE:

o **Timing:** The President will submit legislation for his national service program to Congress this spring.

o **Two Components of the Program:** The President's program will have two primary components: 1) The program will create national service opportunities for young people to serve their country and receive money for college or training in return; 2) The program will enable all young people to go to college or receive training to pay back their student loans as a small percentage of their income over time ("income contingent" loans) -- enabling them to hold essential public service jobs that accomplish much but sometimes pay relatively little.

Detail on The First Component:

o **Funding:** The President has requested \$7.4 billion over the next four years for his national service program. The funding level will rise each year, to \$3.4 billion in 1997. Funding starts at \$400 million for the first year.

o **Number of Participants:** The number of participants for the first year is estimated at 25,000. By 1997, it is expected that more than 100,000 young people will be paying for their education or training by serving their country and communities.

o **Eligibility and Benefits:** Students before, during and after college will be eligible to serve for a year or two, and in return receive a small stipend, health and child care benefits where necessary, and an educational benefit to pay for college or job training (or discharge loans incurred for those purposes).

o **Focus of Service Activities:** The program objectives will be to meet unmet needs in critical areas. For example, young people will be able to serve as teachers in schools where children 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 fighting pollution.

o **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.

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

INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S "SUMMER OF SERVICE" PROJECT:

- o **Project Overview:** With national service a high priority for the President, he will be organizing a summer project even as his proposed legislation will be making its way through Congress. The project will focus on 4 to 10 communities around the country, involving a diverse group of more than 1,000 young people involved in special efforts to help children at risk.
- o **Funding:** The project 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.)
- o **Objectives:** 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.
- o **Targeted Needs:** The programs in the "Summer of Service" will focus on **children-at-risk** in the areas of education, health, crime prevention, and environmental protection. For example, 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.
- o **Leadership Training:** The summer project will be designed to develop the leadership skills of the young participants. For several days at the beginning and end of the summer, the participants will gather to share their experiences and complete intensive leadership training.
- o **Post-program/Ongoing Benefits:** All participants 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 realize their plans.
- o **Administration:** The Commission on National and Community Service will administer a competitive process to determine what programs participate. The programs will select the participants. The Commission is working quickly to ensure that programs are developed rapidly and effectively to succeed for this summer.

National Service — Now

The New York Times
2/28/93

By Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON

A pathy is dead. Of everything I've learned in my first few weeks in the White House, that's the thing that's made me the happiest. Whether or not the people I've met outside the capital support the changes I have proposed, they're all saying they're ready to rebuild our country.

But they know, as I do, that no economic plan can do it alone. A plan can make vaccines available to children, but alone it will not administer the shots to all of them. It can put security guards in the schools, but alone it will not take gangs off the streets. And it can provide more aid 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 successors to these pioneers will multiply a hundredfold. Imagine: an army of 100,000 young people restoring urban and rural communities and giving their labor in return for education and training.

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 the frontier with the land to raise a family. Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Act insured that Americans who work a lifetime can grow old with dignity. Harry S. Truman's G.I. Bill rewarded the service of my father's generation, transforming youthful veterans into an army of educated civilians that led our nation into a new era.

For my generation, the reality of national service was born 32 years ago tomorrow, when President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps. At its peak, the Peace Corps enrolled only 16,000 volunteers yet it changed the way a generation of Americans look at themselves and the world.

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

The task is as complex as our chal-

President Clinton will deliver a speech on national service tomorrow at Rutgers University.

lenge is great. We must combine the intensity of the post-World War II years with the idealism of the early 1960's — and help young people afford a college education or job training.

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 dangers that threaten our future.

Our new initiative will embody the same principles as the old G.I. 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 send to Congress shortly 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.

Indeed, 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 repay loans on an affordable, reasonable schedule, this "income-contingent" 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 people of different ages and educational levels different ways to serve. And to focus our energies and get the most for our money, we'll direct special attention to a few areas:

- We'll ask thousands of young people to serve in our schools — some as teachers, others as youth mentors, reading specialists and math tutors. They'll join the effort to insure that our schools offer the best education in the world.

- We'll send people into medical clinics to help immunize the nation's 2-year-olds. Some participants will be qualified 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 police forces across the country through a new Police Corps trained to walk beats. We'll also organize others in our communities to keep kids out of gangs and off drugs.

- We'll put still others to work controlling pollution and recycling waste, to help insure 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 community groups with proved track records, providing the support they'll need to grow. And we'll let entrepreneurs compete for venture capital to develop new service programs.

While the Federal 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 — will 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, our national service program will not happen overnight. Instead, it will grow year by year, with funding reaching \$3 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 eight-week leadership training program. We'll recruit more than 1,000 young people for special projects to meet the needs of children at risk — and to train the first class of full-year participants.

In the first full year of our initiative, we'll launch our flexible loan program and aim to put tens of thousands of people to work. By 1997, more than 100,000 citizens could be serving our country, getting education and training benefits in return. And hundreds of thousands more people 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 a reality. That responsibility ultimately rests with the American people.

I am convinced that after 12 years of drifting apart instead of working together we are ready to meet the challenge. From a 14-year-old boy in North Dakota who sent us \$1,000 to help pay off the deficit, to a 92-year-old widower in Kansas who followed his example, people are demonstrating that they want to give something back to their nation.

National service will exercise our talents 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 for all of us, it will rekindle the excitement of being Americans. □

Colman McCarthy

Clinton's Call to Service

No speech in the Clinton campaign was more inspirational than the candidate's remarks at the University of Notre Dame last September. As president, Clinton didn't match it until his March 1 speech at Rutgers University. At both campuses, he issued calls for national service for college students.

At Notre Dame: "If we are truly to practice what we preach, Americans of every faith and viewpoint should come together to promote the common good." It was similar at Rutgers: "National service is nothing less than the American way to change America."

Clinton's effort to rally the young to altruism has created a debate that pits idealism against realism, as if the two are forever locked in conflict. Where's the money, ask realists, for the tuition-for-service program that Clinton is proposing: \$389 million in scholarships for 25,000 students the first year and \$3.4 billion for 100,000 by 1997. Realists say that Clinton's sweet talk ignores sour facts: There's no money for a new social program.

From that negative, despairing argument, Clinton is supposed to get the message: Don't even try. That means don't lead, just preside. The past 12 years witnessed two presidents in the White House. Most first-year college students today were in kindergarten when Ronald Reagan was elected and in fourth grade when reelected. They came into adolescence under a politician who tried nothing by way of linking government with national service. Instead of selflessness to others, he extolled self-enrichment.

Evidence suggests that the young weren't seduced either by Reagan's message of contempt for government or his disdain for altruism. The 1980s saw a surge in campus community-service programs, such as the ones Clinton praised at Notre Dame and Rutgers. Amnesty International chapters increased on campuses, as did those of Oxfam USA. Applications to Peace Corps remained high, as they did for such private domestic programs as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and the Lutheran Volunteer Corps.

Yet Clinton's philosophy of service represents intellectual newness to many in high school and college. John F. Kennedy's appeals to national service are seen as historical relics, known from books but not live on MTV as are Clinton's. It wasn't a politician's celebrityhood that created support for the president at Notre Dame and Rutgers. Students saw in him someone with a positive message—put community interest above self-interest—that many professors and counselors at their schools had been exposing them to all along: If you can't teach the illiterate, comfort the sick and handicapped, or mend whatever and whoever is broken during your college years, you're receiving a limited education.

Clinton deserves to be honored for taking a risk that he'll be able to raise the money for his program of national service. Critics in Congress with no greater agenda than carping about ideas they were too dull-witted or timid to propose themselves now lie in wait for the president when he comes in with specifics. They will say Clinton's ideas are dangerous because they are romantic and utopian, a charge that ignores the thought of James Madison in 1788: "No theoretical checks—no form of government, can render us secure. To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people is a chimerical idea."

Some critics charge that Clinton is into bribery: tuition money for service. While the details are being worked out on how much money for what service, who complains that the U.S. Army entices recruits with as much as \$20,000 toward a college education. Why isn't it bribery when ROTC programs pay students to shine their boots occasionally and take gut courses in military lore. Nor is much alarm expressed over the most lavish enticement of all: a free ride at the military academies in exchange for a few years in uniform after graduation.

Clinton's Rutgers speech marked the 32nd anniversary of the Peace Corps. Kennedy's spirited message was repeated by Clinton: "Answer the call to service." In "The Bold Experiment," a history of the Peace Corps by Gerard Rice, one of those who responded to Kennedy's call explained why: "I'd never done anything political, patriotic or unselfish because nobody ever asked me to. Kennedy asked."

So has Clinton.

The Washington Post March 13, 1993

POLITICS & POLICY

National Service Already Attracts Volunteers, Even Before the Debate in Congress Has Begun

By GERALD F. SEIB

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WASHINGTON — "If you build it, he will come," a mysterious voice told Kevin Costner about the baseball diamond in "Field of Dreams." President Clinton hasn't even built his National Service program yet, and they are already coming in droves.

National Service is Mr. Clinton's dream of putting young Americans to work tackling the nation's pressing social problems in return for college tuition benefits. Already, Eli Segal, the man in charge of making the dream a reality, is being besieged with letters from young people volunteering to join a preliminary National Service pilot program this summer. More than 4,000 applications have poured in so far for a program that will have only about 1,000 jobs to offer — and that's if congressional Democrats and Republicans end their squabbling and pass the Clinton economic stimulus package that contains money to pay for it.

Bill in Congress Soon

In many ways, the real debate over such knotty questions as how much the program should tilt toward middle-class youths and how much toward the disadvantaged is yet to begin. Within the next month or so, Mr. Segal says, he hopes to send Congress a bill formally creating the full-blown National Service program, which will aim to put 100,000 young Americans to work in hundreds of projects around the country at a total cost of \$6 billion by 1997, sowing the seeds for greater spending later.

The administration's short-term goals, he says, are to get the legislation passed by the end of this year and then have 25,000 young Americans at work as teachers, police officers, and health and environmental workers by the end of next year.

The long-term goal is to have an impact on young Americans as profound as that felt by the G.I. Bill half a century ago. "If done properly, this is one of the more nonpartisan initiatives of the Clinton administration," says Mr. Segal, a successful business entrepreneur who became a top Clinton campaign aide last year. "If we do this right, we can wash out all of the problems."

Skeptics Cite Costliness

Skeptics say the program will be too small to have the sweeping effect on society that Mr. Clinton desires — and would be too costly if it were made large enough to have such an impact. "It's hard to imagine this program having anything close to the kind of national impact they

talk about," says Doug Bandow, an analyst at the Cato Institute, a conservative Washington think tank. Even among proponents, there are nagging worries that the program may crush grass-roots volunteer programs, or that the jobs it provides could either steal work from adult workers or become make-work jobs.

The idea of a National Service program has been gaining steam, particularly among moderate and conservative Democrats, for several years. The idea is both to solve nettlesome social problems and instill a sense of civic responsibility in young Americans by putting them to work in community service projects for one or two years at a time. By the time Mr. Clinton latched onto the idea as a presidential candidate, Congress already had started the ball rolling by funding a few pilot projects.

In his campaign, Mr. Clinton talked of a far more ambitious program in which any college student would be able to borrow money from a new National Service Trust Fund, and then pay it back through service work. The problem with that formulation, in the eyes of many National Service advocates, was that it seemed a recipe simply for helping middle-class kids already enrolled in college find a way to pay off their school loans.

Need to Lure Poor Youth

The early champions of National Service prefer an approach that more closely resembled the G.I. Bill formula, in which young people would do community service first, and then get their college tuition benefits afterward. That way, these advocates hope, the program would lure more lower-class and minority youngsters, who otherwise wouldn't find their way into college in the first place. They argue that helping steer those youngsters into jobs and college is especially important with the shrinkage of the military, a traditional avenue for social advancement.

"We want it to be more of a loan-forgiveness program," says Al From, who's president of the moderate Democratic Leadership Council and was director of domestic policy for the Clinton presidential transition. "We want it to be potentially an upward-mobility track for the disadvantaged as the military is downsized."

In post-election discussions with advisers, Mr. Segal says, the president "became aware of a feeling that this should be made available to a much larger universe of people." So Mr. Clinton shifted his vision. Now, Mr. Segal says, the administration's plan will offer slots to those who are "pre-college, non-college, during-col-

(over)

lege and post-college." The young participants will get a small salary and also earn education benefits that can be applied to either college or job-training programs.

The administration is working behind the scenes to settle other potentially emotional debates about the program. Some of those who already run grass-roots volunteer programs worry that the new national program will swallow them up, rather than simply feed them young workers. "Is this effort going to build on the strengths and model that already are out there in the field, as opposed to just running roughshod over them with a lot of government-centered efforts?" asks Roger Landrum, president of Youth Service America, a nonprofit organization that promotes community service projects.

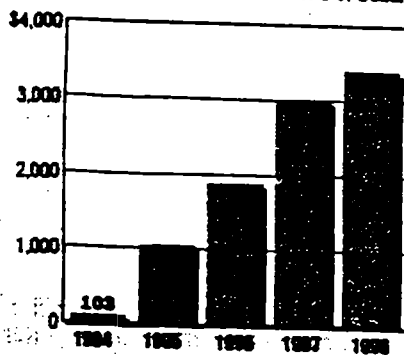
Working Behind the Scenes

Predictably, Mr. Segal is trying to assure people that he isn't building a big new bureaucracy. Mr. Clinton, he says, will use the presidential "bully pulpit" to pick the kinds of jobs he thinks National Service workers should tackle; helping run clinics that immunize young children is likely to be one early priority.

But he insists the White House will mostly look for promising programs that already are under way in cities and towns across the U.S., and funnel federally financed young workers toward them. For instance, he says his office has received proposals from 435 different communities around the country seeking to put to work young volunteers in the coming summer pilot project. Mainly, he says, those are projects that already are up and running but eager for help from federally financed young workers to expand. "I look

National Service Program

Budget proposal outlays for President Clinton's National Service initiative, in millions of dollars



Source: The White House

at this as an investment banking house," Mr. Segal says. "This is not a federal program for the most part."

Unions fret that the program will send low-paid workers into the field to steal jobs from their members. Mr. Segal has met union leaders to assure them that National Service workers will be doing jobs that aren't being done by anybody right now. And some in the military worry that a National Service program will hurt them by drawing away potential military enlistees. Cleverly, the White House is helping win over the military by making it part of the new program. Mr. Segal says military officers, drawing on their long experience in organizing legions of young volunteers, will help conduct training sessions for workers this summer.

For now, though, such political worries seem far removed from the young people who are lining up for National Service—and baring their idealism in the process. "I readily accept your call to action, your call to serve my nation through national service," reads one letter Mr. Clinton just received from a Kentucky college student. "This summer, I want to MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

Los Angeles Times

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 1993

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CHRISTOPHER MATTHEWS

An Experience That Can Change a Life

■ National service will offer Americans an escape from a stay-at-home, career-driven rut

In 1951, U.S. Rep. John F. Kennedy complained on national television about all the nerds he found serving in the State Department. Just back from a round-the-world trip, he asked why the country couldn't find "well-rounded" young people to serve abroad. Why, the young Massachusetts lawmaker wondered on "Meet the Press," weren't there any "American types" representing us in foreign lands?

Kennedy had another complaint: How come those pin-striped Foreign Service boys infesting the diplomatic corps knew so little of the people of their assigned countries, so little of the local language and customs?

A decade later, the newly inaugurated President Kennedy offered a solution. His new Peace Corps would have three goals: First, it would help countries develop economically. More than that, it would show people overseas the best of what America can offer, the can-do zeal of its idealistic youth. Finally, it would expose America to foreign cultures by getting its youth fully immersed in them, "doing the same work, eating the same food, speaking the same language."

Last week, a U.S. President inaugurated an enterprise with similar goals. Under Bill Clinton's national-service program, Americans will work throughout the country in a variety of tasks—teaching, health care, community action. In exchange, they will receive government grants for their educations.

In launching his own new program, President Clinton paid tribute to the older one that had inspired it. The legacy of the Peace Corps, he said, is "not simply goodwill and good works in countries all across the globe, but a profound and lasting change in the way Americans think about their country and the world."

A returned volunteer could not have said it better.

Viewed from the outside, the Peace Corps is usually seen for what it achieves overseas, the furthered economic development, the enhanced U.S. goodwill. The secret every volunteer shares is what this service did for him or her.

Personally, I will never forget an experience of a quarter-century ago: that of standing in a schoolroom in Swaziland, a small, wonderful country in southern Africa, with 17 other people. All of them were local traders with whom I had been working. I knew them all personally, as you would any fellow worker. Yet in that

'It forces you, against all your timidity, to deal one-on-one with people who were placed on this Earth in very different circumstances than you.'

rich range of personalities, it settled on me that warm afternoon that I was the only one in the room who was not a Swazi, the only one who was of a different color.

This is the heart of it: The great thing about joining the Peace Corps is that it gets you out there, out in the world. It forces you, against all your timidity, to deal one-on-one with people who were placed on this Earth in very different circumstances than you. It requires that, raised one way, you learn another. Ready or not, it makes a Peace Corps volunteer see the world he or she left behind with the same succinct clarity as astronauts once got to gaze on the globe.

The great prospect for Bill Clinton's national-service program is that it will do much the same here in our own diverse land. Tens of thousands of Americans will get to see their country the way they would never have known it otherwise. The fortunate ones will be assigned to jobs and living environments far removed from where they came. They will meet people of totally different circumstances and religions and colors. They will develop a self-confidence about their country and its people they could never have gained staying at home, continuing along the same career-driven, TV-lit rut. By entering other ghettos, they will escape their own.

I speak from experience. Immediately after returning from the Peace Corps, I went to Washington, and, by knocking on some strange Capitol Hill doors, began a career that had me, while still quite young, working at the White House, writing speeches for a President.

My aging grandmother was impressed, not so much by the achievement as the differentness of my course, how extraordinary my road had been from those of my four brothers, all of whom had stayed fairly close to home.

"It was Africa, wasn't it?" she asked, already knowing the answer.

Yes, grandmom, it was Africa. And, thanks to President Clinton's national-service program, many other Americans someday will answer a similar question with "Harlem" or "Alabama" or "Detroit" or "Alaska." This will be the shorthand for an experience that changed a life.

Christopher Matthews is a syndicated columnist in Washington.

What I Can Do for My Country

BY CASSIE NYLEN

I first heard about national service while my dad and I were shooting hoops at the town school court last fall. He asked me: "What if your country wanted you to serve, maybe in return for college money? You wouldn't have to enlist in the military; maybe you'd be a teacher's aide, or clean up the environment, or something."

I answered, "A sphincter says what?" having just seen "Wayne's World" for the 85th time. But after thinking about it, I said, "Well, I'd say yes. Definitely maybe yes."

I'm a 17-year-old high-school senior at a tiny school (88 students in grades 5 to 12, to be exact) in rural western Massachusetts (the boondocks to you). Next year I'll be going away to college (Haverford, specifically). By the end of my college career, I'll have thousands of dollars' worth of student loans to pay back.

That scares me. So national service sounds interesting: perhaps I would work in a field in which I could get a real job eventually, or at least learn *something*, meet new people, pay back my loans and help my country at the same time. So, I'm thinking, Yeah, all right, sign me up! But then I think, Whoa, wait a minute here: I have lots of questions about national service, like, how much will I earn? (It doesn't have to be a lot, but I'd like to have an idea.) Where will I live? Will I be able to choose the program I want to be involved in, or could I wind up emptying bedpans at an old folks' home (when I really want to work as a teacher's aide, maybe in an inner-city school)? Questions like these have to be answered before somebody my age can get really excited about national service.

Here's what we know so far. In his address before Congress last month, President Clinton said national service is designed to help pay college tuitions for those students who serve their nation and their communities. He said twice as many people would enter national service within the first year of its operation as the number that participated in the Peace Corps in its whole history. Good, I thought, now the plan is big enough to grab people's attention in the bold way it should: the more people involved, the better it is for everybody. But now we learn it'll begin as a pilot plan with a thousand people. A thousand people! That's not exactly what I had in mind. But Clinton promises it will grow, and he's still talking about adding new adjuncts to military service, like a police corps, a teaching corps, a forestry or environmental corps and a health-care corps. That's cool.

My dad is excited about the prospect of a national-service program—maybe a little too excited. The reason he likes the idea (and keeps yammering at me about it) is that he thinks young people will get a chance to gain the kind of understanding of their country and what makes it work

that he got during his own military service, and that my grandparents' generation did during World War II (and after it, thanks to the GI Bill). It's the kind of patriotism that we haven't seen during the past 20 years because there has been no big call to arms. My dad says that while he might not have been acutely aware of it at the time, because he spent a lot of time peeling potatoes and digging foxholes, he learned some very powerful lessons about other people and about his country while he was in the army, and I believe him. So he thinks my generation would learn a lot. That sounds hokey, so I really hate to admit it, but I agree. Does that make me a dork, too?

Daunting future: There are other reasons to be interested. We face awful societal problems today: crime, urban strife, drugs, racial and class conflicts, for instance, not to mention that this is the last season of "Cheers." The nation is coming apart at the seams and people don't connect with one another anymore. The future looks daunting. So maybe some of these problems could be solved or at least minimized a little, if people only understood each other better. A program in which the nation's youth could learn how to work together would help. Here's another good point: since I go to a school where virtually everyone looks, dresses and acts exactly like me, I wouldn't mind meeting other kinds of people for a change.

Many kids might benefit from this kind of exposure.

Everybody wants to figure out how much all this idealism will cost, but if the program is going to work, we should first concentrate on what it will do, and then figure out the economic details. The budget should come after we reach a consensus about what we want to do. This program has too much potential to let politi-

National service would give students a chance to prove themselves



cians kill it before it even gets started.

Whoa, heavy stuff! Did I just say all that? Can a teenager have brain room left after all those hours of the very best bits from "Saturday Night Live" and all those Pearl Jam lyrics get lodged in there? That's another thing: national service would give teenagers and young people a great chance to prove themselves to skeptical adults. That may be the best part of the program. But the big problem with Clinton's plan now, judging from the vacant looks I see when I ask kids my age about it, is that the people this plan will affect most dramatically really don't know very much about it. Yet when I explained what I knew about it to my friends, they were intrigued.

So hey, President Clinton, use that telegenic salesmanship on us, and hold a nationally televised national-service summit. Don't rely on MTV alone, either, because we don't have cable here in the boonies. Maybe you could invite members of the earlier national volunteer organizations, like VISTA, and also war veterans, vets from the Job Corps and the Civilian Conservation Corps and representatives from private volunteer organizations. Most important, you should invite some of the young people who will eventually be enlisted to help mold the program that could end up changing their lives. Adults owe it to their children to take action on the subject, to give them a clear stake in their future. President Clinton, do it for Chelsea. But personally, I hope the Gore kids have to empty the bedpans.

Nylén lives in Ashfield, Mass.

**THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE
NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICE**

March 3, 1993

Contact: Diana Aldridge
(202) 456-6444

THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NATIONAL SERVICE AT RUTGERS:

On the 32nd anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps, President Clinton spent a day in New Jersey challenging young people to serve their country by meeting pressing national needs.

Before his address at Rutgers University, the President visited the New Brunswick Public Schools Adult Learning Center, and spoke to participants from both Rutgers and the community about their outstanding service work.

Then speaking before what the *New York Times* termed a "wildly enthusiastic" crowd at Rutgers, the President challenged America's young people to "make America new again" by serving their country.

The President also detailed his national service plan and issued his challenge to young people in a taped interview with MTV. Excerpts aired Monday and Tuesday in a half-hour MTV special, "Bill Clinton: His Plan, Your Future."

**The VICE PRESIDENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION PRINCIPALS
ENCOURAGE SERVICE:**

Also on Monday, March 1:

Vice President Gore visited the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and gave a speech at the University of Wisconsin on national service and the environment.

Mrs. Gore visited a Richmond emergency shelter for families, and spoke to student service providers at the University of Richmond.

Five Cabinet Secretaries highlighted service on Monday: Secretary Babbitt worked with the Durham Conservation Corps in Durham, North Carolina; Secretary Pena specifically addressed service in a speech to the National Association of County Organizations; Secretary Reich visited YouthBuild in Boston; and Secretary Shalala visited the Sick Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C. On Tuesday, Secretary Espy gave a speech on national service at Howard University.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S RUTGERS ADDRESS:

- "National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity and rewarding responsibility.
- "We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young ... to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors ... to help our police forces across the nation ... to help control pollution and waste ... to work with senior citizens and combat homelessness..."
- "I want [national service] to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people."
- "I want to make this summer a summer of service.... We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer. Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential.... At the end of this summer... they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting..."

The President specifically **challenged young people** to serve:

- "If anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech ... or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it National Service."
- "I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers; to join the effort to renew our community and to rebuild our country; and to write to be about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood..."

(more)

Page Three

PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST:

Public and press interest in the President's national service plans was wide-spread.

Extensive coverage of the President's speech included front page stories in **USA Today**, the **Los Angeles Times**, and the **Philadelphia Inquirer**, among others. ABC News' "**American Agenda**" highlighted successful service programs and young people exemplifying the President's national service message in Washington State.

MTV produced its broadcast to encourage young people to examine and respond to the President's plans for national service. In addition to the interview with President Clinton, the special included footage of his speech as he issued his "challenge to serve" to young people, and President Kennedy announcing the Peace Corps 32 years ago.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New Brunswick, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN NATIONAL SERVICE ADDRESS

Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

1:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, Nakia Tomlinson for that fine introduction. I wish I could take you with me everywhere. We'd make a great duo there. Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

I'd like to thank President Frank Lawrence for his - Francis Lawrence -- for his fine speech. Does anybody call him Frank? I should have asked. (Laughter.) I want to compliment Professor Benjamin Barber for his leadership and service here. (Applause.) And I want to thank all of you here in the Rutgers community for coming out for what I hope will be a truly historic moment in our nation's history. (Applause.)

In addition to the people who have been introduced here, there are a host of mayors and members of the Assembly and county officials here from your state. We have two former governors, both of whom I served with -- Brendan Byrne and Tom Kean who are out there. I'm glad to see them. (Applause.) My friends. We have a distinguished array of members of the House from New Jersey -- Herb Klein, Bob Menendez, Frank Pallone, Donald Payne -- (applause).

But you have some members of the Congress from all over America here and I want to introduce them, too, because they have taken a lot of trouble to come to Rutgers and because without them and without the people who represent you, the proposal I make today has no hope of passage.

Many members of the Congress for years have believed we ought to do more in national service and some of them are here today. I'd like to begin by introducing your Senator Bill Bradley, who's behind me. (Applause.) I must say, when I walked into this arena, I turned around and asked Bill Bradley if he'd ever shot any baskets in here. I'd be intimidated to be the opposing team in here. (Applause.) Senator Bradley sponsored legislation to establish neighborhood corps and self-reliance scholarships, things that are forerunners of the proposal I came to make.

I'd like to recognize the presence on the platform of Senator Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts -- (applause) -- who chairs the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education, which shepherded the pilot national and community service bill through the Congress in the last session, along with his counterpart who is out here in the audience somewhere. I'd like to ask him to stand up. The Chairman of the House Committee, Congressman Bill Ford, who came all the way from Michigan to be with us. Congressman, would you stand up. (Applause.)

MORE

I'd like to recognize in the audience the presence of Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut, who was one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in the United States. (Applause.)

The member of Congress who introduced many, many years ago, the first piece of national service legislation ever introduced, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Clairborne Pell from Rhode Island is here. (Applause.)

I'd also like to introduce the only person in this audience, at least of our crowd, who doesn't have to look up to Senator Bradley, Senator Jay Rockefeller from West Virginia, an early VISTA volunteer in the United States. (Applause.)

And finally I would like to recognize two other people, one, a member of the United States Senate and one a distinguished American citizen, the first boss of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver, who's up here with me. (Applause.) And his deputy, Senator Harris Wofford, from Pennsylvania. (Applause.) And Mrs. Wofford, I'm glad to see you. (Applause.)

Now, I was involved before I became President in a group called the Democratic Leadership Council, and we made one of the central parts of our platform to reclaim a new majority of Americans for our party the establishment of a system of national service to help people to finance education. And one of our founding members and guiding lights is here, Representative Dave McCurdy from Oklahoma. I'd like for him to stand up. (Applause.)

Let me make this last point, if I might, by way of beginning. None of these things happen at the national level. We empower them to happen and then people have to do things here at the grassroots. And I want to say a special word of thanks to your Governor for supporting the New Jersey Youth Corps and several other projects like it around the state, because if nobody's here to believe in this, it can't happen. And I thank Governor Florio for his support for these things. (Applause.)

I came here to ask all of you to join me in a great national adventure, for in the next few weeks I will ask the United States Congress to join me in creating a new system of voluntary national service -- something that I believe in the next few years will change America forever and for the better.

My parents' generation won new dignity working their way out of the great Depression through programs that provided them the opportunity to serve and to survive. Brave men and women in my own generation waged and won peaceful revolutions here at home for civil rights and human rights, and began service around the world in the Peace Corps and here at home in Vista. Now, Americans of every generation face profound challenges in meeting the needs that have been neglected for too long in this country -- from city streets plagued by crime and drugs to classrooms where girls and boys must learn the skills they need for tomorrow, to hospital wards where patients need more care. All across America we have problems that demand our common attention.

For those who answer the call and meet these challenges, I propose that our country honor your service with new opportunities for education. National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity, and rewarding responsibility. National service is a challenge for Americans from every background and walk of life, and it

MORE

values something far more than money. National service is nothing less than the American way to change America. (Applause.)

It is rooted in the concept of community: the simple idea that none of us on our own will ever have as much to cherish about our own lives if we are out here all alone as we will if we work together. That somehow a society really is an organism in which the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. And every one of us, no matter how many privileges with which we are born, can still be enriched by the contributions of the least of us. And that we will never fulfill our individual capacities until, as Americans, we can all be what God meant for us to be. (Applause.)

If that is so -- if that is true, my fellow Americans, and if you believe it, it must therefore follow that each of us has an obligation to serve. For it is perfectly clear that all of us cannot be what we ought to be until those of us who can help others -- and that is nearly all of us -- are doing something to help others live up to their potential. The concept of community and the idea of service are as old as our history. They began the moment America was literally invented.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor." In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln signed into law two visionary programs that helped our people come together again and build America up. The Morrill Act helped states create new land grant colleges. This is a land grant university. The university in my home state was the first land grant college west of the Mississippi River.

In these places, young people learn to make American agriculture and industry the best in the world. The legacy of the Morrill Act is not only our great colleges and universities like Rutgers, but the American tradition that merit and not money should give people a chance for a higher education. (Applause.)

Mr. Lincoln also signed the Homestead Act that 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. Now we must create a new legacy that gives a new generation of Americans the right and the power to explore the frontiers of science and technology and space. The frontiers of the limitations of our knowledge must be pushed back so that we can do what we need to do. And education is the way to do it, just as surely as it was more than 100 years ago.

Seven decades after the Civil War in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave 2.5 million young people the opportunity to support themselves while working in disaster relief and maintaining forests, beaches, rivers, and parks. Its legacy is not only the restoration of our natural environment, but the restoration of our national spirit. Along with the Works Products Administration -- the WPA -- the Civilian Conservation Corps symbolized government's effort to provide a nation in depression with the opportunity to work, to build the American community through service. And all over America today, you can see projects -- even today in the 1990s -- built by your parents or your grandparents with the WPA plaque on it -- the CCC plaque on it -- the idea that people should be asked to serve and rewarded for doing it.

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In the midst of World War II, President Roosevelt proposed the GI Bill of Rights, which offered returning veterans the opportunity for education in respect to their service to our country in the war. Thanks to the GI Bill, which became a living reality in President Truman's time, more than eight million veterans got advanced education. And half a century later, the enduring legacy of the GI Bill is the strongest economy in the world and the broadest, biggest middle class that any nation has ever enjoyed.

For many in my own generation, the summons to citizenship and service came on this day 32 years ago, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps with Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps. With Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans, he enabled thousands of young men and women to serve on the leading edge of the new frontier, helping people all over the world to become what they ought to be, and bringing them the message by their very lives that America was a great country that stood for good values and human progress.

At its height, the Peace Corps enrolled 16,000 young men and women. Its legacy is not simply goodwill and good works in countries all across the globe, but a profound and lasting change in the way Americans think about their own country and the world.

Shortly after the Peace Corps, Congress, under President Johnson, created the volunteers and service to America. Senator Jay Rockefeller, whom I introduced a moment ago, and many thousands of other Americans went to the hills and hollows of poor places, like West Virginia and Arkansas and Mississippi, to lift up Americans through their service.

The lesson of our whole history is that honoring service and rewarding responsibility is the best investment America can make. And I have seen it today. Across this great land, through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which took the children who lived in the neighborhoods where the riots occurred and gave them a chance to get out into nature and to clean up their own neighborhoods and to lift themselves and their friends in the effort; in Boston with the City Year program -- with all these programs represented here in this room today, the spirit of service is sweeping this country and giving us a chance to put the quilt of America together in a way that makes a strength out of diversity; that lifts us up out of our problems; and that keeps our people looking toward a better and brighter future. (Applause.)

National service recognizes a simple but powerful truth -- that we make progress not by governmental action alone, but we do best when the people and their government work at the grassroots in genuine partnership. The idea of national service permeates many other aspects of the programs I have sought to bring to America. The economic plan that I announced to Congress, for example, will offer every child the chance for a healthy start through immunization and basic health care and Head Start. (Applause.) But still it depends on parents doing the best they can as parents and children making the most of their opportunities.

The plan can help to rebuild our cities and our small communities through physical investments that will put people to work. But Americans still must work to restore the

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social fabric that has been torn in too many communities. Unless people know we can work together in our schools and our offices, in our factories, unless they believe we can walk the streets safely together, and unless we do that together, governmental action alone is doomed to fail. (Applause.)

The national service plan I propose will be built on the same principles as the old GI Bill -- when people give something of invaluable merit to their country, they ought to be rewarded with the opportunity to further their education. National service will challenge our people to do the work that should and indeed must be done and cannot be done unless the American people voluntarily give themselves up to that work. It will invest in the future of every person who serves.

And as we rekindle the spirit of national service, I know it won't disappoint many of the students here to know that we also have to reform the whole system of student loans. (Applause.) We should begin by making it easier for young people to pay back their student loans and enabling them to hold jobs -- (applause) -- enabling them to hold jobs that may accomplish much, but pay little.

Today, when students borrow money for an education, the repayment plan they make is based largely on how much they have to repay, without regard to what the jobs they take themselves pay. It is a powerful incentive, therefore, for young college graduates to do just the reverse of what we might want them to do; to take a job that pays more even it is less rewarding because that is the job that will make the repayment of the loans possible. It is also, unfortunately, a powerful incentive for some not to make the payments at all, which is unforgivable.

So what we seek to do is to enable the American students to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their own income over time. This is especially important after a decade in which the cost of a college education has gone up even more rapidly than the cost of health care. (Applause.) Making a major contribution to one of the more disturbing statistics in America today, which is that the college dropout rate in this country is now 2.5 times the high school dropout rate. We can do better than that through national service and adequate financing. (Applause.)

The present system is unacceptable, not only for students, but for the taxpayers as well. It's complicated and it's expensive. It costs the taxpayers of our country about \$4 billion every year to finance the student loan program because of loan defaults and the cost of administering the program. And I believe we can do better.

Beyond reforming this system for financing higher education, the national service program more importantly will create new opportunities for Americans to work off outstanding loans or to build up credits for future education and training opportunities.

We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young who want to further their college education to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors in reading and mathematics. We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new police corps that will walk beats and work with neighborhoods and build the kind of communities ties that will prevent crime from happening in the

first place so that our police officers won't have to spend all their time chasing criminals. (Applause.)

We'll ask young people to work, to help control pollution and recycle waste, to paint darkened buildings and clean up neighborhoods. (Applause.) To work with senior citizens and combat homelessness and help children in trouble get out of it and build a better life. (Applause.)

And these are just a few of the things that you will be able to, for most of the decisions about what you can do will be made by people like those in this room, people who run the programs represented by all of those wearing these different kinds of tee-shirts. We don't seek a national bureaucracy. I have spoken often about how we need to reinvent the government to make it more efficient and less bureaucratic, to make it more responsive to people at the grassroots level.

And I want national service to do just that. I want it to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people. (Applause.)

And as you well know, that's what's happening all across America today. People are already serving their neighbors in their neighborhoods. Just this morning, I was inspired to see and to speak with students from Rutgers serving their community, from mentoring young people as Big Sisters, to helping older people learn new skills.

I met a lady today who has 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who dropped out of school the year before I was born -- is about to become a high school graduate shortly because of the efforts of this program. (Applause.) Is she back there? Stand up. (Applause.)

I'm impressed by the spirit behind the Rutgers civic education and community service program: the understanding that community service enriches education, that students should not only take the lessons they learn in class out into the community, but bring the lessons they learn in the community back into the classroom. (Applause.)

And that spirit, during this academic year alone, more than 800 students from Rutgers are contributing more than 60,000 hours of community service -- in New Brunswick, in Camden, in Newark, throughout this state. (Applause.)

This morning I also met with members of the New Jersey Youth Corps. Here they are. (Applause.) Stand up. (Applause.) Young people who are looking for a second chance at school, and who when coming back to finish their high school degrees, also serve in their communities. Through this program, more than 6,500 young adults have contributed over 900,000 hours of service to the state of New Jersey. (Applause.)

They've done everything from paint senior citizens' homes, to tutor and mentor children in after-school programs. For the future of our state and nation, we need more young people like those in the New Jersey Youth Corps who exemplify the spirit of service.

That spirit also moves people all across the nation. In my state, there's a young woman named Antoinette Jackson, who's a senior in a small community called Gault, Arkansas. She's a member of the Delta Service Corps. The rural Mississippi

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Delta is still the poorest place in America. And in that area, she works with a "Lend a Hand" program which runs a thrift shop to provide hungry and homeless people with food and clothing. And in return, the Delta Four is going to help her attend college so that she can make an even greater contribution. (Applause.)

The spirit of service also moves a young man I met about a year ago named Stephen Spalos, who works with a City Year program in Boston. At age 23, he's had some hard times in his life. But as he puts it, City Year gave him a place and the tools to be able to start over. He works as a team leader, a mentor, a tutor, a project manager for a bunch of young people who restore senior citizens' homes.

Last year when I visited his project, he literally took his sweatshirt off his back and gave it to me so that I would never forget the kids at City Year. And I still wear it when I go jogging, always remembering what they're doing in Boston to help those kids. (Applause.)

The spirit of service moves Orah Fireman, a graduate of Wesleyan College. As a sophomore in high school, she worked with disadvantaged children in upstate New York. That experience changed her life. And during her high school and college years, she continued to work with children. And now that she is out of college, she has begun what will probably be a lifetime of service by working at a school for emotionally disturbed children in Boston. She wants other people to have the opportunity to serve, and she wrote this: Service work teaches responsibility and compassion. It fights alienation by proving to young people that they can make a difference. There is no lesson more important than that.

Well, there are stories like this in this room and all across America. And we're going to create thousands of more of them through national service. We'll work with groups with proven track records to serve their community, giving them the support they need. And if you have more good ideas, if you're entrepreneurs of national service, we'll let you compete for our form of venture capital -- develop new programs to serve your neighbors. That's how we want the national service program to grow every year -- rewarding results, building on success, and bubbling up from the grassroots energy and compassion and intellect of America.

I don't want service to wait while this potential is wasted. That's why I want to make this summer a summer of service, when young people can not only serve their communities, but build a foundation for a new national effort. I've asked Congress to invest in and I'm asking young people to participate in a special effort in national service and leadership training just this summer. We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer.

Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential. Some of them will tutor. Some will work on programs to immunize young children from preventable childhood diseases. Some will help to develop and run recreational centers or reclaim urban parks from dealers and debris. Some will counsel people a few years younger than themselves to keep them out of gangs and into good activities. And everyone will learn about serving our country and helping our communities.

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At the end of this summer, we'll bring all these people together for several days of debriefing and training, and then they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting and I expect to listen a lot more than I talk. I'll ask leaders from Congress, from business, labor, religious, and community groups to attend the youth service summit, too. We'll give those who serve the honor they deserve, and we'll learn a lot more about how to build this national service program. And from the thousand pioneers of this summer, I want the national service to grow 100-fold in the next four years. (Applause.)

But even when hundreds of thousands are serving, I want to maintain the pioneer spirit of this first few months, because national service can make America new again. It can help solve our problems, educate our people, and build our communities back together. So if anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech by radio or television or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it national service. We're going to pick them. And I can't promise you'll be selected, but I promise you'll be considered. I want to engage the energies of America in this effort. (Applause.)

I also want to say that you shouldn't wait for the summer or for a new program. We need to begin now. We are going to be looking for the kinds of ideas that we ought to be funding. This is Monday. I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you think you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers, to join the effort to renew our community and to rebuild our country; and to write to me about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood -- time to return to our roots an excitement, an idealism, and an energy. (Applause.)

I have to tell you that there are some among us who do not believe that young Americans will answer a call to action, who believe that our people now measure their success merely in the accumulation of material things. They believe this call to service will go unanswered. But I believe they are dead wrong. (Applause.)

And so, especially to the young Americans here, I ask you to prove that those who doubt you are wrong about your generation. And today I ask all of you who are young in spirit -- whether you are a 10-year-old in a service program in our schools who reads to still younger children, or a 72-year-old who has become a foster grandparent -- I ask you all to believe that you can contribute to your community and your country. And in so doing, you will find the best in yourself.

You will learn the lessons about your life that you might not ever learn any other way. You will learn again that each of us has the spark of potential to accomplish something truly and enduringly unique. You will experience the satisfaction of making a connection in a way with another person that you could do in no other way. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is exceeded only by the joy of helping someone else do the same thing. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or what you earn or what position you hold, but just because of what you have given to someone else. (Applause.) You will understand in personal ways the wisdom of the words spoken years ago by Martin Luther King who said "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." (Applause.)

I ask you all, my fellow Americans, to support our proposal for national service and to live a proposal for national service; to learn the meaning of America at its best, and to recreate for others America at its best. We are not just another country. We have always been a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities, and bound together, not by bloodlines, but by beliefs. At an age in time when people all across the world are being literally torn apart by racial hatreds, by ethnic hatreds, by religious divisions, we are a nation, with all of our problems, where people can come together across racial and religious lines and hold hands and work together, not just to endure our differences, but to celebrate them. I ask you to make America celebrate that again. (Applause.)

I ask you, in closing, to commit yourselves to this season of service because America needs it. We need every one of you to live up to the fullest of your potential, and we need you to reach those who are not here and who will never hear this talk, and who will never have the future they could otherwise have if not for something that you could do. The great challenge of your generation is to prove that every person here in this great land can live up to the fullest of their God-given capacity. If we do it, the 21st century will be the American century. The American Dream will be kept alive if you will today answer the call to service.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:50 P.M. EST

Summer of Service Program Design

To demonstrate the power of national service to change both communities served and individuals serving, the President has asked Congress to appropriate \$15 million in the economic stimulus package for a Summer of Service.

The Summer of Service initiative will involve more than 1,000 young people in programs in a limited number of urban and rural areas that will (1) meet the unmet needs of children at risk in the areas of education, health, public safety and environment; and (2) train the young people to become leaders of the full-year national service program.

The Commission on National and Community Service will select programs for funding based on the statutory authority contained in the National and Community Service Act of 1990. Current matching requirements will leverage additional funding to support the funding contained in the economic stimulus package. The following activities indicate examples of services that programs in the Summer of Service might provide:

- assisting health care providers in implementing immunization programs for very young children;
- individualized literacy programs;
- educational enrichment and recreational activities for children at risk of dropping out of school;
- projects to test an entire neighborhood for lead paint.

Building on Existing Models

Existing not-for-profit organizations (service providers, schools, higher education institutions, youth corps, and/or, public agencies) will be invited to submit program proposals to the Commission. Programs that are funded will be required to reflect the following components, among others:

- a detailed plan showing measurable outcomes from the services to be rendered (e.g., how many children immunized or tutored; how many parks cleaned up or established);
- a minimum of eight weeks of service during the summer of 1993, not including the national training and related activities described below;
- a proven track record of running community service programs of the type proposed;