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Americorps

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A-Domestic Peace Corps With a '90s Twist

Earlier this summer the national press focused on Bill Clinton's attack on conservative talk show impresario Rush Limbaugh instead of focusing on Tim Hager, who introduced the president at a St. Louis event that day. It's a shame; Tim Hager may be a more interesting story.

The 18-year-old St. Louis native is one of the first AmeriCorps volunteers, the about-to-be-launched domestic sequel to the Peace Corps. His AmeriCorps efforts to help stem violence in his neighborhood have special meaning. Tim Hager

successfully started up three businesses, providing him a distinctive view of the challenges awaiting him.

"We must view ourselves less as a grant maker and more as an investment banker; we hope to be very involved in these programs." He promises to set tough, business-like standards. "We don't believe we are going to solve the problems of crime, illiteracy or the environment, but we can make a difference. Any program that doesn't make a difference, where we can't say we have improved the situation, doesn't deserve to keep funding."

Mr. Segal loves the idea of tapping into idealism, of AmeriCorps being a sequel to the Peace Corps or Civilian Conservation Corps. But he also believes its mission is to instill a sense of personal responsibility in its participants. The educational value he believes is critical. The average debt of a graduate of a public university or college is \$6,500. AmeriCorps volunteers could serve up to two years, meaning lots of kids could go to college or use the vouchers to pay off an educational debt.

Unlike the Peace Corps or CCC, however, AmeriCorps seeks to build on existing programs—there are thousands of effective grass-roots organizations around America—and the existing propensity for young students to engage in volunteer work; one study shows that almost 70% of college students now do more than three hours of volunteer work a week.

About two-thirds of the program will be funneled through the bipartisan AmeriCorps commissions established in the states. Final approval of any program and participants will be made by the National Service Corp., but many of the ideas and much of the energy will bubble up from localities.

"This really promises to be a grass-roots effort building on an infrastructure already there," says Vanessa Kirsch, the founder and executive director of Public

Politics & People

By Albert R. Hunt



was brutally beaten by thugs four years ago, leaving such permanent damage that he had to abandon his lifelong dream of service in the Marine Corps. But AmeriCorps is a special opportunity for special kids like Tim.

On Sept. 12 the Clinton administration will formally launch AmeriCorps, a three-year, \$1.5 billion program that eventually aims to put 100,000 young men and women to work in community service in four areas: education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety. This national service program was a major Clinton campaign promise.

The volunteers—there will be 20,000 the first year—will receive minimum-wage pay amounting to about \$7,500 a year and free health care. For one year of work they will get a \$4,725 educational voucher that can be used for college, vocational education, or to pay off a college loan.

The head of the American service corps is Eli Segal, a 51-year-old former political activist, successful businessman and long-time Clinton confidant. He seems ideally suited for the task. He has

more...

Allies, a Washington-based program that enlists young people to work in nonprofit and local governmental activities. "They really seem to be looking for people who are going to get down and dirty in the streets."

AmeriCorps projects on the drawing boards include:

- Teaching underprivileged kids how to read.
- Working with clerics to get youths out of gangs.
- Teaming up with retired IBM executives to teach inner-city children how to use computers.
- Cleaning up the shorelines of Galveston Bay.
- Working with the Navajo Indian nation on projects like providing clean tap water.
- Helping rebuild hurricane-devastated homes in south Florida in tandem with Habitat for Humanity.

There are more than a few critics who worry that the program will evolve into costly political pork, or that it will be a feel-good, "goo-goo sop" to liberals. Some even ask why should the government "pay" volunteers.

If Tim Hager is the prototype of AmeriCorps volunteers, these concerns are groundless. Despite his earlier injury, he joined the Marine Corps last year but eventually had to leave when the degenerative arthritis in his hips worsened. He was devastated, but soon discovered AmeriCorps, offering a chance not only for public service but also to return to his old neighborhood and work at reducing the sort of crime that afflicted him.

"It was awful when I had to leave the Marines. But now I feel like I'm



Eli Segal

serving my country, maybe even in a more direct manner," he says. Without the AmeriCorps job and aid he doubts that he would be able to go to college. This is one reason the national service concept is much more appealing than George Bush's 1,000 Points of Light, which would have encouraged volunteerism more as noblesse oblige for more affluent kids than as a program to enlist and help working-class kids like Mr. Hager.

As for worries about political pork, Mr. Segal continually hammers home the point that these projects have got to make tangible contributions to the communities as well as to the participants. The model is a demonstration project last summer. Some 80 young men and women were sent to Texas to publicize the childhood immunization program and locate children who needed inoculations. The result: There were 104,889 immunizations in southern Texas. "For every \$1 we spent on this, the return was \$5.65," Mr. Segal brags, based on a study by his organization and the Centers for Disease Control.

No one is better able to assess the opportunities and problems facing AmeriCorps than the remarkable R. Sargent Shriver, who started the Peace Corps more than 33 years ago. Mr. Shriver sees a lot more difficulties with this program because of the diversity of existing efforts and the greater political problems with a domestically based initiative than a foreign-based one. But the opportunities today are plentiful: "In 1960 Jack Kennedy aroused a sort of idealism and self-sacrifice; something suddenly began to happen. Today that is more the norm. This is one of the most heartening developments of the last part of the 20th century."

Eli Segal has the potential to become the Sargent Shriver of this decade. That would be an achievement.

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TO: Bill Galston

LOCATION: _____

FAX #: _____ PHONE #: _____

FROM: Susan Stroud

FAX #: (202) 606-4928 TELEPHONE #: (202) 606-5000, Ext. _____

COMMENTS:

I've attached a transcript of an interview The President gave USA Today yesterday re: national service, higher ed costs, character development. If there is anything in the interview that you think should be included in the letter, please let me know. Otherwise we'll make the changes you sent and get the letter back to you for signature.

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 13

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

08/25/94 19:31:16:

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Eli:

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TO: Douglas S. Sheorn
TO: Barry J. Toliv
TO: Jeffrey H. Watson
TO: Carter Wilkie

FROM: Margaret M. Suntum
Office of the Press Secretary

SUBJECT: INTERNAL TRANSCRIPT: USA Weekend Interview of...Pr

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript

August 25, 1994

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY USA WEEKEND

The Oval Office

4:12 P.M. EDT

Q Thank you for taking the time to do this. If you
can refocus --

THE PRESIDENT: I'm fine. You came to talk about my
favorite subject.

Q A different subject -- Americorps.

Mr. President, the idea of community service is so
important to you. Was there a particular event in your past that
opened your eyes to community service?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, I think there were a number of
things -- first of all, I was when I was a young man, very gripped by
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what President Kennedy did with the Peace Corps; And then, a few years later, VISTA came along. And I remember once when I was in college in the summer between my freshman and sophomore years, I had an opportunity to work in one of these federally-funded programs where I was a camp counselor out on a -- in a very rural area on a lake in my hometown, outside my home town. And they brought in all these city kids.

Q This is when you were at Georgetown?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. But this was in Arkansas when I did this. And we worked -- it was an old Navy League camp. And we had an old retired Navy cook there and two or three young people like me. And they brought in all these city kids, mostly from Houston and Dallas and places -- really poor kids who had never been in the woods, never seen anything. And it made a huge impression on me, a, the need for things like this and the difference that people could make in other people's lives trying to solve problems; and secondly, what it did for me. I was the big gainer that summer. I got more out of it, I think, than the kids I was trying to help.

So I always believed in that. And then when I was at Georgetown, we had a community action program here, and I worked for a semester there. And we would go into neighborhoods and go into homes and we would work with kids on literacy and reading skills and stuff like that. And it also did a great deal of good, but it did as much good for the young people who were part of it as it did for the people they were trying to help.

Then after I became governor and served for years as a governor, I became concerned about two things that fit right into this idea -- it's sort of how it finally germinated. One was, I saw more and more how many of America's problems were rooted in the breakdown of family and community and the absence of role models and consistent work and the opportunity to serve among young people who were in trouble. And at the same time, I noticed that in the 1980s the only thing that went up more rapidly than the cost of health care was the cost of a college education.

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So in my state, anyway, we had lots and lots of young people who were dropping out of college because of the cost. And so over a period of, I guess, 20 years, these things sort of germinated in my mind. And by the time I ran for president, I had been active for a couple of years in the Democratic Leadership Council, for several years. And we had been working on this whole concept of national service. Congressman McCurdy, who is now running for the Senate in Oklahoma, and Senator Nunn from Georgia, among others had been working with this idea in the Congress for a few years.

And I just decided to make it a centerpiece of my campaign because I thought, first, it would be very valuable for young people to do it; second, it would help a lot of young people pay for their education at a time when it's more important than ever before for young people to go beyond high school; and thirdly, I thought that a lot of America's problems could be solved one on one in a nonbureaucratic, nongovernmental, intensely human way.

And if you look at the results achieved by a lot of these national service projects already, they're very impressive, all the different things they do.

Q Can you talk about the cost of education which, of course, is only getting worse? The cost of college education is just going through the roof. And even for public schools, the total cost of a four-year college education is about \$40,000. And at your own alma maters, at Georgetown and Yale Law, the costs are \$10,000 and \$21,000 respectively right now. How can --

THE PRESIDENT: It was only about \$6,000 when I went -- something like that -- \$4,000 and \$6,000. Georgetown and Yale I think were \$4,000 and \$6,000.

Q Now it's \$18,000 and \$21,000.

THE PRESIDENT: -- \$5,000 and \$6,000. Of course, that was a generation ago.

Q Isn't it still going to be very tough for kids to -- for Americorps kids to pay for college even with the \$4,700 a year?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, it is. But it's something. One of the things that we have to examine -- let me say, you have to put it in the context of the other thing we did with college education,

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which has not gotten enough publicity, so I'm glad we're doing this interview. A major part of the economic program that I passed last year which reduced the deficit and increased funding for Head Start and job training and defense conversion was also a dramatic reformation of the college loan program, which was very much opposed by a lot of the people that were doing well with the old college loan program, people that were financing it.

But under our new college loan system, young people now can borrow money to go to college at a lower interest rate and can exercise the option to pay it off over as long as 30 years as a percentage of their income. Because what we found -- what I found from my own experience as governor was a lot of our kids -- because states run the student loan programs, even though they're federal underwritten -- so we found a lot of our kids could get the loans all right, but let's say they were studying to become teachers, and they calculated what their loan repayments schedule would be, and they just couldn't imagine getting that.

So our view is that if you take the cash supplement you get from Americorps, if you have to have more money, then they'll be able to borrow a smaller amount of money at a lower interest rate,

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pay it out over a longer period of time, that these two things together will make a significant difference.

Obviously, as President, we don't have any control over the cost of a college education, either public or private because the public institutions are all state institutions. But I think these two things together can make a big difference.

Q What's your gut reaction to these incredible costs, especially private, these days?

THE PRESIDENT: A lot of thought needs to be given to how they're managed because some of them are beyond their control, I think. That is the cost, for example, of printed materials has escalated dramatically. So it's almost like that what people are doing managing medical care now -- there's going to have to be some thought given in colleges whether they should manage their libraries more with technology, how they're going to manage the cost of just pure paperwork.

I think a lot of analysis needs to be given to the management of facilities. I know quite a bit about this because I used to be a college teacher and I spent a lot of time looking at college budgets as governor. I also think many, many colleges and universities have seen their administrative staffs grow more rapidly than their teaching staffs. So a lot of those things need to be looked into.

But, as I said, those things are sort of beyond my reach as President. What I have to do is worry about how I can help these young people to go college. And I think Americorps will help and the student loan program will help.

Q What is your advice for kids who won't get into Americorps and who don't qualify for the student loans? What would you say to those kids?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, nearly all of them do. Just about everybody qualifies for a student loan now -- well, who needs it. My advice is that they should reconsider because I think that one of the problems we've got in this country today is there's a whole lot of -- there is too much shouting. There's too many people who we're too divided one from another. And there's too much name-calling in America today. And really, we need to get back thinking of ourselves as one, big family.

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And a lot of our problems today are because we have a lot of deeply wounded people out there because they grow up in very difficult circumstances, they have problems that are difficult to deal with. A lot of our seniors are living in financial and physical insecurity -- as well as young people. And I think that -- the main thing I hope will come out of Americorps is that we'll really not only deepen and broaden the experience and empathy young people feel for others -- which is what happened to me when I did it, that kind of service years ago -- but I also think it will really strengthen this country in a profound way at the community level. And the strength of America has never been in the halls of Congress, it's always been on Main Street. And if we start coming apart, if we keep doing this, having these divisions, it's going to be very tough for us in the 21st century.

On the other hand, if we begin to say, okay, we have profound differences in this country over certain issues, even deeply-held moral views on certain issues, but still, with all of our diversity, there are things we believe in -- we believe in freedom and the dignity of the individual, the importance of work and faith and family -- and we're going to deal with those things and strengthen those things through this National Service program. 1

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think it can have a lot to do with what kind of country we turn out to be 10, 20 years from now.

Q Let me ask -- you talked about the influence that your early volunteer work had on you and this program now, and you've also talked about the influence that your mother had on you about helping other people. What kind of influence, if any, has Mrs. Clinton had related to this?

THE PRESIDENT: She was always in -- she did a lot of volunteer work when she was a young person. So she -- and, of course, at the time I met her she was deeply involved in all kinds of things. When we started -- when she came to Arkansas and she started teaching at Arkansas Law School, she started a legal services clinic there. When I became Governor, she'd already gotten some women together who were family advocates and doctors and other religious and community leaders and formed a group called the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.

And she always gave, no matter how busy she was, she always gave massive amounts of her time to community service. Even after when I became Governor and she was spending -- she was a full-time lawyer and spending a lot of time on our education work, the things we did together, she still was spending massive amounts of time on community service.

So for her I suppose in our adult years it's been -- she's been my role model because it's been so much more of a part of the fabric of her everyday life even than it has been of mine.

Q Do you think it's hard for her these days that she's so caught up in --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think she misses that a lot. I think she misses it a lot.

Q Do you see her going back to it?

THE PRESIDENT: I think she would in a heartbeat if she thought she could, if she had the chance to, because it was a big part of -- we liked the life we had before we came here because it was informal, open and full -- very full of the things that we cared about. And a big part of that for her was a lot of the community work she did, with the Children's Hospital, for example, with the Briar* Women's Shelter that we both kind of adopted when -- we had women and kids we used to visit twice a year at least, and worked

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with and helped them raise money and do things all year round.

We had a lot of things that we -- in our community that were important to us. And those folks, actually, the people that do that kind of work all the time are the great unsung heroes of this country. I sometimes think that if we could exalt a lot of them, we could wipe away some of our political divisions.

Q Have you or Mrs. Clinton talked to Chelsea at all about joining Americorps, or has she expressed any interest in it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, she's fairly big into community service. She did a week's worth of work this year, this summer, on her own with her church group here in downtown Washington with young children who came from poor families -- all but one of them is from a single-parent family -- and working with little kids at a center here in town.

And her school, Sidwell, requires all the students to do community service work each semester as a part of just being an enrolled student there. So my little girl will probably out-distance her parents in her devotion to community service.

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Q Speaking of mandatory community service in schools, community service at the school level is really having kind of a rebirth. And it's now a requirement to graduate, like math or science, at about a quarter of the nation's public schools. Do you think schools should make some sort of community service mandatory?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. Absolutely, I do. I was -- several years ago, I served with the then Republican governor of New Jersey, Tom Keane, who's now the president of Drew University, on a Carnegie Council group -- Carnegie Foundation group on middle schools. And we made a lot of recommendations, among which were that we should have basic character education in our schools -- teach certain basic values and traits, number one; and number two, that we should have a community service component in the curriculum of our public schools.

We recommended that it start at the junior high school level. But I believe very strongly -- as I said, now about all we can do is advocate those things and facilitate them. The Department of Education had a character education program just the other day -- a national seminar. But I would like to see every state adopt as part of its minimum school standards a community service requirement.

Q Now, you know, of course, a lot of people say that that's not legal, that you can't require students to do volunteer work.

THE PRESIDENT: I know that. And I guess that's why nationally I don't think you should probably. But I think states require all kinds of things that are important for education.

We used to require civics. I mean, when I was in junior high school, you had to have a civics course so we could learn about our relationship to each other and our responsibilities as citizens. And I think of a community service requirement in school as sort of a civics course. I mean, the American people need to know each other better.

When I listen to debates here in Congress sometimes over highly contentious issues, or issues that ought not to be contentious but get to be, and I hear sometimes members -- and this is not a partisan comment, sometimes it's members of both parties -- playing to the home crowd, which is, of course, their first responsibility, to play to the home, the people that sent them here -- but I think to myself, my goodness, I wish we got to know each other better.

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This is a big diverse country; it's a wonderful place. And we're weaker when we're divided than we are when we're working together. I believe if we had 10 or 20 years of kids that always did at least some community service -- most of them might not continue it when they got out of high school. After all, even if we get to 100,000 or 200,000 or 300,000 a year in Americorps, most young people in college won't have done it. But it will affect everybody they come in contact with. And it will stay with them for the rest of their lives, even if it's just in their habits and attitudes as citizens and how they talk to their own children.

So I just have a different view. I think that it wouldn't do the kids of this country any harm to require them to be in community service.

Q Sir, can I ask you, when you were young, did you ever consider joining the Peace Corps?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought about it. But by the time I kind of came of age, I think there were just other issues and other concerns that kind of dominated my imagination. But I was really

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captivated by it, and I still sometimes wish I had had the experience.

Q Is there any one place you've dreamt about going, or thought about going?

THE PRESIDENT: I wish I had served in Africa, because I think Americans understand Africa less well than any other continent. I had a very good friend in college who did some time in Malawi in the Peace Corps.

Q If you were a college-bound kid today, which Americorps project would you want to be a part of -- what area? Would it be education, would it be public health, would it be crime, the environment?

THE PRESIDENT: If I were going, I would like to do something either in one of the education or the safety programs in a poor inner city or rural area, where people have really been left out and where they're under great strain. I'd like to go to some areas of very great difficulty.

Q Rural or urban, did you say?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because I have a different slant on it. Most Americans think that poor kids all live in urban areas. But the poorest part of America is still the Mississippi Delta, from Memphis to New Orleans, including Eastern Arkansas. And so a lot of the problems those kids have are very similar to the problems of kids in abandoned inner cities.

But if I were a young person, I think that's what I would do because it's what I've had the most immediate gripping experience with. And when I see all these -- I see cities where the crime rate is going down overall, but the rate of violence of young people against other young people is going up. And I see all these kids with their whole lives before them with no sense of the future and very little self-control and very little sense of how to deal with themselves in conditions of stress under terrible peer pressure and all that -- those are the kinds of things that I would like to deal with, because at least from my perspective now, those are the things which threaten to undo the future that I want to see America have.

Q Going back just one more time to the cost of education, which is so high -- when Chelsea was born, did you and
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Mrs. Clinton start saving for college back then, like all the experts recommend, the moment your child is born you have to start putting --

THE PRESIDENT: No, not when she was born. But shortly thereafter we did. We got really concerned about it. We realized -- we sat down once with a friend of ours who did financial planning, we started calculating how much money it would cost. And at the time, I had no idea I'd wind up being President, and we figured, given my modest income and the fact that Hillary was taking significant chunks of time off every year to do service, that we had to start saving.

Q Can I ask you something on one other topic, if you'll excuse me. We are doing -- a former speechwriter of yours, Eric -- who you called "Little Eric, I understand --

THE PRESIDENT: A wonderful young man.

Q -- and he's writing a story for us on immigration. And it's a big topic. But I wanted to ask you -- there are several bills in Congress that propose cutting immigration by more than half. Do you support those bills? What's your position on that?

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THE PRESIDENT: No. My position is we can manage the level of immigration we have now. My problem is not legal immigration but nonlegal immigration. And it's really part and parcel of a phenomenon that is sweeping the world today.

There was a really good article in U.S. Today this morning about it, actually, the pressures that all the wealthy nations are under from immigration. We don't want to close our borders to people genuinely in despair who qualify as political refugees. On the other hand, we can't open our borders to people who just want to come to America because it's a wealthier country than someplace else unless they're willing to come in an orderly fashion with certain amounts every year. I think that's going to be the trick.

And I predict to you, next year, no matter what happens in these midterm elections, there will be some very heated debates in Congress on the subject because the American people are very concerned about it. But it's important to realize we're a nation of immigrants. We're rendered stronger, not weaker, by immigrants.

The important thing is to control the flow of it. We have to be able to control our borders in order to maintain support within the United States for a forward-looking immigration policy. And that's the dilemma I face in Cuba, with Haiti and with Mexico, with China, with all these other places. I want more -- I want us to have an immigration policy that's open and reasonable, but we have to be able to control our borders to do it. Otherwise, the American people will have a terrific reaction the other way.

Tell Eric I said hello.

Q Thank you, sir. I sure will.

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TO: Bill Galsion

LOCATION: _____

FAX #: 156-2878 PHONE #: _____FROM: Rick AllenFAX #: (202) 606-4928 TELEPHONE #: (202) 606-5000, Ext. 157

COMMENTS:

Don Pacer told me you were
handling this speech. We hope to use
part of it to advertise the theme of
community responsibility to set the philoso-
phical context for our 90 launch of AmeriCorps.
If any of this works for you, I'd be delighted, Rick Allen

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REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
BAPTIST CONVENTION
NEW ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 8, 1994

[Acknowledgements]

Like many of you, I've taken a little time off recently. I love to live a busy life, but I cherish the chance, at least once a year and maybe again around the holidays, to spend more time with my family, to think, perhaps just to watch in wonder the ocean's beauty and power -- and to slow for a little while the waves of words that wash over us in Washington.

Being away helped me separate out the words that had real importance. Before I left, I had my 48th birthday, and maybe it's my age or maybe it's a fact, but it seems that with each passing year, what's worth remembering reaches further and further back, past today's headlines.

So I came to read a sermon a Baptist preached 26 years ago, more than a Biblical generation back. Surrounded as I am today by our greatest Baptist preachers, I'm not afraid to tell you he was greater still; the most powerful of this, and perhaps any, modern age.

From the pulpit of a Baptist church that had been his father's, but would be forever linked in history with his own name, he took as his text the story from Saint Mark, where James and John come to Christ and ask a favor. They ask, "Grant unto us that we may sit one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand in thy glory."

Well, Jesus said that such elevation was not his to grant, but tells his disciples that "whosoever will be great among you, shall be your servant; and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all."

It's easy to condemn James and John as selfish, this great Baptist preacher told the Atlanta church-goers, but let's look into our own hearts. Each of us has what he called "the drum major instinct" -- that deep human drive to be at the front, leading any parade.

We begin early to ask life to put us first -- after all, isn't our first cry as a baby the call for attention? And the drum major instinct shows up in every grade school classroom -- and, you can bet, on every playground.

When we become adults, the preacher told his Ebenezer Baptist congregation, the drum major instinct drives us to personal accomplishments, and it fuels a growing economy. But by itself, it can also lead to an obsession with material things, and a poverty of the spirit. We look at our neighbor's garage, and if her car is bigger or newer than ours, we are filled by that drum major's instinct.

We look at our colleague at work, and if his clothes are sharper than ours, we are filled by that drum major's instinct. And Lord, if we covet all of the things those characters on TV have, no drum major's instinct can be contained within a 19 inch screen!

So the central question is: what line of march does the drum major choose?

In the decade past, the desire for the biggest home or the fastest car drove dozens of investors to stretch the law and break our banks, leaving millions of Americans in the lurch. In our poorest neighborhoods today, envy of a pair of sneakers or a fancy jacket can end in gunshots, leaving mothers without sons and children without fathers. And in Washington every day, the desire to advance a special interest or maintain a special exemption breeds waste in our budgets and cynicism in our people.

What to do with a drum major's instinct that leaves behind humanity, community, and common sense? The trick, said this great Baptist preacher, isn't to deny that we want to be the best. The trick is instead to understand what the best really is. If best means to stand apart from the rest - if climbing up means driving others down -- then success is just another word for loneliness.

So the Bible teaches -- and so we learn by living. Politics of special interests and personal lives of irresponsibility are impossible to sustain -- try standing a pyramid on its point. No one finds happiness -- and no nation becomes whole -- as long as the drum major travels alone.

And so, said the great Baptist preacher, the highest form of leadership -- the true calling of the drum major -- is service. We are each born weak, and we find the strength and warmth to survive only by joining together with others. In service to others we create our best selves -- selves who share in others' aches and anguish and also in their love and laughter -- selves strong enough alone, but when together, truly commensurate with our capacity to wonder -- with our willingness to dream.

Together, where greatness becomes more than a zero sum game. Because, Martin Luther King, Jr. continued, "everybody can be great. Because everybody can serve."

By this, Dr. King meant, I believe, more than that the seeds of greatness lie within each of us. He also meant that greatness through service is not a scarce commodity -- that great people, unlike great scientists or great basketball players, are not measured by the distance between themselves and ordinary people. Great people are measured by the lack of distance between themselves and other people.

So for those of us who would be drum majors, the way is clear. If we wish for the opportunity to find fulfillment, if we wish to lead, then we must take responsibility for each other. We must build that toughest and most enduring creation of all -- community. It is the biggest item of our unfinished agenda. It is what Dr. King described from the mountaintop, which neither he nor we have reached.

In each generation and through each great American struggle, we are shown what can be done when all of us join together, hands and hearts and heads. And we know that communities have never been built just with brick and mortar, but with common effort and common connections to those with whom we share a country lane or a city street -- to those with whom we share that most uncommon common heritage: the name American.

Service is, after all, neither a program nor a panacea. Service is the way we live our lives. It stems from that fierce refusal to accept things as they are, and a personal commitment to make them better.

And service, like life, is a series of challenges. Three days from now, I will pose anew the great American challenge, the challenge of service. At America's house, and by satellite to dozens of sites from the hills of Los Angeles to the flats of Texas, from the center of Boston to the Badlands of the Dakotas, I will administer the oath of service to the new members of AmeriCorps.

They will come from all corners of our vast land. They will have a wider range of skin tones than the biggest box of Crayolas. They'll hail from the big house on the hill and the crowded barrio apartment. Some will have always succeeded -- others will have long since been given up for failures. But each of them will be great, because each of them will serve. And they will teach all of us who join them, or merely watch with quiet wonder, why we are so proud to be Americans.

AmeriCorps is the name we have given to our national service movement. Through AmeriCorps, 20,000 Americans in this year alone will give an intensive year or 2 to helping their community and country, and get help paying for college in return.

I have harbored this dream for so long, and on Monday, it becomes real. Starting Monday, AmeriCorps members will be saving babies in south Texas and raising reading scores in Seattle; they'll be walking the NYPD beat in Brooklyn and patrolling Balboa Park in San Diego; they'll be saving the Gulf coastline from a boat and the Chesapeake from an army base; they'll be taking seniors safely to the doctor in St. Louis and keeping kids out of gangs in Killen, Texas; they'll be making real homes in Roxbury, Massachusetts and making better parents in Auburn, Mississippi.

They'll do all of this in what may be the greatest explosion of energy and commitment in a generation. An army of drum majors -- an opportunity for our communities....

The Corporation for National and Community Service

Service Programs

SEASONS OF SERVICE

*"I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service...
There is so much to be done -- enough, indeed, for millions of others who
are still young in spirit to give of themselves in service, too."*

President Bill Clinton, Inaugural Address

The President's national service legislation created the new Corporation for National and Community Service. Formed in conjunction with the White House Office of National Service, built upon the foundation of the former Commission on National and Community Service and ACTION, and incorporating the new Civilian Community Corps, the Corporation is positioned to revitalize service in every region and community across the country.

The Corporation supports a range of national and community service programs, providing opportunities for participants to serve full-time and part-time, as volunteers or as stipended participants, and as individuals or as a part of a team. From our youngest citizens engaged in service-learning activities in grades K-12, to our older Americans assisting those in need in their communities, the Corporation provides "seasons of service" for all Americans.

- **AmeriCorps** is the President's national service vision of directly and demonstrably addressing the nation's education, human, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level. AmeriCorps offers opportunities for Americans age 17 or older to make a substantial commitment to serve their country and to earn education awards for college or vocational training in return. Up to 20,000 Americans of all backgrounds will serve full-time or part-time in the program's first year, beginning in the fall of 1994.

Included in AmeriCorps will be the more than 1,000 young people serving in the new **Civilian Community Corps**. The CCC is a national residential service option in which participants are housed and trained together on military bases and deployed as teams to community service sites. The CCC combines the best of our military tradition with the best practices of local community service corps, providing participants with opportunities to solve real community needs while developing their own leadership skills and receiving invaluable training for future careers.

Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) will also be an important component of AmeriCorps. VISTA is a full-time, year-long program for men and women age 18 and older who commit themselves to increasing the capability of low-income people to improve the conditions of their own lives. VISTA volunteers serve in rural or urban areas or on Indian reservations, sharing their skills and experience in fields such as employment training, literacy, shelter for the homeless, and neighborhood revitalization. Approximately 3,500 VISTA volunteers are currently serving, joining more than 100,000 alumni who have previously served their country through VISTA.

-
- **Serve-America** programs are school-based, and integrate service into daily academic life. Service-learning is a method by which young people learn and develop through active participation in service experiences that meet community needs, and foster a lifetime commitment to service.

The **K-12 Program** supports school and community-based organizations that engage school-aged youth in service. Over 275,000 students in all fifty states participate in service activities which are integrated into their curriculum, providing structured time for service and time for the students to think, talk, or write about their service experiences.

Higher Education Innovation Programs engage college students in meeting pressing community needs. Higher education projects support high-quality community service and service-learning initiatives at colleges and universities across the nation. Some are student-run; some are faculty-led; many are integrated with academic study. As essential parts of the college experience, these efforts will create a new generation of leaders committed to service.

- **National Senior Volunteer Corps** utilizes the skills, talents, and experience of older Americans in addressing urgent issues facing the nation. Together these programs involve over 470,000 volunteers who serve in 1,223 local projects and devote an annual total of over 111 million hours of service to their local communities.

The **Foster Grandparent Program** offers low-income persons age 60 and over the opportunity to serve one-on-one with children and young people who have special needs, including teen parents, boarder babies and those who are abused and neglected. Over 23,000 Foster Grandparents serve twenty hours a week in volunteer stations such as hospitals, public schools, day care centers and correctional institutions.

The **Senior Companion Program** volunteers are low-income men and women age 60 and over. Senior Companions provide individualized support and assistance to other adults, primarily the homebound elderly. Their services help the homebound achieve and maintain their highest level of independent living. Approximately 13,000 Senior Companions provide disability assistance, home management assistance, and social and recreational companionship to approximately 32,000 individuals each year.

The **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** is a network of 430,000 Americans, age 55 and up, who perform a wide range of volunteer services that meet real community needs and effectively use their skills, interests, and experience. RSVP is the Corporation's largest service program, providing communities with volunteers diverse in experience, interest, income, and education, and ready to take on the challenges facing the country.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Education

School readiness: furthering early childhood development

- Working in day care and Head Start centers and preschool programs, improving the quality and availability of children's care to enhance their ability to learn
- Teaching literacy and other basic skills to parents of young children so they can help their children learn
- Providing child care and other needed services to help teen parents stay in school

School success: aiding the educational achievement of school-age children

- Working in classrooms with high concentrations of low-income students
- Mentoring, tutoring, and providing after-school and summer learning-opportunities
- Coordinating service-learning activities for K-12 students

Human Needs

Health: providing independent living assistance, home- and community-based health care

- Providing independent living assistance and health care to the homebound elderly, people with disabilities, and people living with AIDS
- Supporting community health clinics to improve preventive health services to low-income communities
- Conducting home visits to provide prenatal care, parenting education, and health care to families of young children

Home: rebuilding neighborhoods and helping the homeless

- Providing shelter support to help the homeless transition into permanent housing
- Renovating and rehabilitating low-income housing
- Supporting community programs that help individuals move off of public assistance and into self-sufficiency

Environment

Neighborhood environment: eliminating community environmental hazards

- Revitalizing neighborhoods by creating and maintaining trees, green spaces, and recreation areas
- Eliminating environmental risks through education, testing, and cleanup
- Reducing waste through energy efficiency efforts, recycling, and other conservation measures

Natural environment: sustaining natural habitats

- Conserving and restoring public lands, forests, rivers, streams, and wetlands
- Making parks more accessible through trail maintenance and infrastructure improvements
- Sampling, mapping, monitoring and recording the status and trends of air, water, groundwater, land, plants, and animals

Public Safety

Crime prevention: providing alternatives to drugs, crime, and violence

- Making schools safe through violence prevention patrols and training in conflict resolution and management
- Offering counseling, education, and services to reduce substance abuse
- Providing youth with structured activities and safe environments after school, summers, and weekends

Crime control: assisting with law enforcement, criminal justice, and victim services

- Supporting community collaboration with local law enforcement in efforts such as community policing
- Providing victim assistance and anti-victimization programs addressing domestic violence, crimes motivated by bias, and crimes against senior citizens and children
- Supporting innovative juvenile justice programs

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President Clinton and youth corps members gather on the South Lawn of the White House for the signing of national service legislation.

AmeriCorps

President Signs National Service Bill

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21 -- Before an enthusiastic crowd of service, education, and congressional leaders, President Clinton signed into law the National and Community Service Trust Act to engage Americans in meeting critical needs through direct community-based service.

Promising that national service will "strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people," the President created AmeriCorps, a new program which will allow in its first year 20,000 young people to earn education benefits in exchange for grass-roots community service. With the enactment of this legislation, the nation will have the opportunity to marshal its best resources—Americans of all ages and backgrounds—to meet the challenge of rebuilding America through service.

The national service initiative was launched in the President's Inaugural Address, when he challenged "a new generation of young Americans to a season of service." In March, on the anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps, the President unveiled his plan for national service and challenged the nation's youth to answer his call "to change America for ever and for the better." In May, the President proposed the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, legislation to strengthen and expand service and educational opportunities for all Americans. The President also initiated a pilot program, the Summer of Service, which engaged 1,500 young people in meeting the critical needs of children through sixteen programs across the country. By the end of the summer, the legislation creating the new Corporation for National and Community Service and AmeriCorps had passed with broad bipartisan support.

The new law focuses national service efforts on the most critical issues facing communities across the nation, bringing energy and commitment to address education, human, public safety, and environmental needs. The Act also creates a new administrative entity to coordinate AmeriCorps, as well as existing community service programs involving children, college students, adults, and seniors. In the best sense of reinventing government, the new Corporation for National and Community Service will feature a bipartisan board of directors, and an entrepreneurial, non-civil service management team and workforce.

At the bill signing, the President expressed his hope that "national service will remain throughout the life of America not a series of promises, but a series of challenges, across all the generations and all walks of life to help push to rebuild our troubled but wonderful land."

The Corporation for National and Community Service, October 1993

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Corporation for National and Community Service will engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service. This service will address the nation's education, human, public safety, and environmental needs to achieve direct and demonstrable results. In doing so, the Corporation will foster civic responsibility, strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people, and provide educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service.

AmeriCorps

IS COMING

Program Application Assistance Workshops for National and Community Service Funding

On September 21, 1993, President Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in meeting the nation's critical education, human, public safety, and environmental needs through direct, community-based service. The centerpiece of the legislation is a new national service program, AmeriCorps, which offers opportunities for Americans to serve their country and earn education awards in return. Up to 20,000 Americans of all ages and backgrounds will serve full-time or part-time in the program's first year, beginning in the fall of 1994.

The Act also created a new public entity, the Corporation for National and Community Service, to revitalize service in every region and community across the country. The Corporation will function as a service "venture capitalist," providing funding on a competitive basis for state and national service programs, and as a clearinghouse of information and technical expertise for service initiatives nationwide.

To encourage broad participation in the national service movement, the Corporation is conducting a series of application assistance workshops for programs and organizations that wish to apply for national and community service funding. Programs may be run by not-for-profit organizations, by local, state, and federal government entities, by Indian tribes, by institutions of higher education, by local school and police districts, and by partnerships among any of the above.

The workshops will provide an overview of the Corporation's grants programs and applications procedures and information on how organizations can participate in the national and community service programs.

January 10-11	Washington, D.C.
January 12-13	Atlanta, Georgia
January 18-19	Kansas City, Missouri
January 20-21	Los Angeles, California

If you would like to receive more information on how your organization can participate in these conferences or receive application assistance (through teleconferencing, program notes, or additional materials), please contact the Office of the Public Liaison at the Corporation at (202) 606-5000.

**CORPORATION FOR
NATIONAL
AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

**Proposed Objectives for
SUMMER OF SERVICE '94:
*"A Summer Of Safety"***

• **"Getting Things Done" in the Summer:** Support high quality programs that have clear and demonstrable goals for addressing the unmet public safety needs of our communities, especially those needs that are unique to the summer, including the special needs of children and the elderly.

--Require programming initiatives to be tied to specific, identifiable needs within communities.

--Require proposed demonstrable impact from all supported programs.

--Demonstrate coherent "theme" and "products" for enhancing the safety of community residents.

--Demonstrate that communities, through national service programs, can invest in young people, including children, as key resources to address unmet community needs.

• **Reaching out to new constituencies, institutions, programs and participants to broaden and enhance the existing service infrastructure.**

--Bring new institutional partners and innovative collaborations into the national service initiative (i.e., police departments, new non-profit organizations, new professional networks, and innovative consortia).

--Seed new program models and designs, including those that might have potential for year-round support under the national service grants program, particularly in areas that are underrepresented in the existing grant portfolio (i.e. community policing initiatives, innovative safe haven programs, escort and neighborhood watch initiatives, etc.).

--Attract new participants to service (including those from backgrounds not otherwise well represented in the overall participant pool).

Summer of Service will also achieve the following organizational and communication objectives for the Corporation:

- **Keep National Service within the public consciousness, associated directly with tackling pressing community problems (in this case, creating safer communities through a variety of initiatives).**

- Prelude to launch the AmeriCorps programs in the fall.
- Possibly coordinated with proposed “issue forum” on public safety(?).

- **Facilitate collaboration and integration across Corporation programming.**

- Create strong team network across DVSA and NCSA program departments.
- Facilitate shared values, mission and organizational development for Corporation staff.

AmeriCorps

IS COMING

1993

November Proposed State Regulations Published

Final version of interim regulations for State Commissions published. Any state wishing to participate in national service programs establishes a commission through which at least two-thirds of the federal funding flows.

December Proposed National Program Regulations Published

Publication for public comment of the Corporation's proposed program regulations and applications for state and national direct funding.

1994

January Final State and National Regulations and Applications Published

Publication of final regulations and applications for state and national direct funding.

Technical Assistance Outreach Underway

The Corporation will provide extensive technical assistance to potential grant applicants. Assistance will include regional public meetings, national and regional teleconferencing, and travelling "road shows."

National Public Information Campaign Underway

Communications campaign to reach potential programs and participants.

March National/Multi-State Applications Due

Applications for national or multi-state programs due to the Corporation.

April Ongoing Review of Direct Funding Programs

Corporation reviews programs applying for national service direct funding.

May Announcement of First Grants (National/Multi-State Programs)

First grant awards announced for national, multi-state, and other programs eligible to apply directly to the Corporation.

Recruitment Campaign Begins

Programs begin recruitment of AmeriCorps members.

First Grant Programs Begin/CCC Underway

First national service grant programs begin service. First CCC camps underway.

June State Applications Due

Applications for state programs due to the Corporation.

July Announcement of Grants (State Programs)

Grant awards announced for state programs.

September Official Launch of AmeriCorps

Major rollout of what will be up to 20,000 AmeriCorps members serving in communities across the country.



National Institute of Justice

Research in Action

Reprinted from National Institute of Justice Journal No. 227 • November 1993

AMERICORPS

A Call to Service

by Attorney General Janet Reno

On September 21st, President Clinton signed an historic piece of legislation into law—the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. National Service will offer thousands of Americans opportunities to address four priorities—public safety, education, human needs, and the environment—as part of a national service corps, AmeriCorps. In its first year, 20,000 service workers of all ages will engage in substantive, skill-building work in our Nation's communities through AmeriCorps. By 1996, service workers will number 100,000. Retired police officers and teachers will serve side by side with our Nation's youth, rebuilding America in the new AmeriCorps.

In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps participants will receive an educational award that will help defray the costs of post-secondary education, as well as a modest stipend. Why should criminal justice practitioners take notice of AmeriCorps? For a number of very important reasons.

Significance of AmeriCorps

First, at a time when local resources are limited, AmeriCorps can help fill the gaps in the continuum of public safety services. AmeriCorps, working alongside our public safety providers, can help provide more comprehensive and integrated services

with respect to crime prevention, police protection, crime victim assistance, and community-based public safety services in urban and rural communities all across the country.

Second, AmeriCorps will re-engage some of our Nation's youth. We all decry overcrowded juvenile detention facilities, jails, and prisons. We must begin to think about our young not only at the point when they have come in contact with the criminal justice system but before, well before. Through service, AmeriCorps will instill a sense of citizenship in our youth. They will learn skills, access a path to a better life through education—not drugs, crime, and violence.

Third, National Service is not just another top-down, bureaucratic government answer to the problems of our Nation's communities. Local entities such as police departments, victim service agencies, community-based prevention organizations, prosecutor and defender offices, treatment, and community and institutional corrections agencies can apply to participate.

Criminal justice and AmeriCorps

A diverse group of practitioners has already suggested the following ways in which AmeriCorps can work with the criminal justice system to amplify public safety services:

Police practitioners have suggested AmeriCorps workers can help move community policing efforts forward. They can be trained to conduct community surveys of neighborhood crime and disorder, work on projects to prevent victimization of seniors, develop residential and commercial crime prevention workshops, and staff community policing neighborhood substations which will begin to bridge the gap between scarce police resources and legitimate neighborhood demands. In addition, through AmeriCorps, local police departments can establish a pre-professional police corps consisting of a cadre of high-quality local recruits.

Court administrators, prosecutors, and judges have suggested that AmeriCorps workers can help make the criminal justice system more accessible to the community by staffing neighborhood courts, assisting domestic violence victims to navigate the court system, and representing abused and neglected children as court-appointed advocates.

Victim assistance providers have proposed that AmeriCorps workers take part in the movement towards restorative justice. They could monitor community restitution programs, staff victim's desks in neighbor-

hood courts, and coordinate victim counseling volunteers.

Community and institutional correctional personnel have suggested that AmeriCorps workers help prepare offenders scheduled for release to make the transition to a drug-free, crime-free life. They can teach offenders basic reading, math, and computer literacy skills, train offenders in marketable jail industries areas like data management, construction, and the automotive trades.

These examples are offered as a beginning, serving as a series of creativity generators as we launch the first generation of AmeriCorps workers.

Operational issues

Now, how will AmeriCorps work? Here are a few of the particulars. A Federal corporation, the Corporation for National and Community Service, will function as a clearinghouse of information and technical expertise for service initiatives nationwide and, as a service "venture capitalist," provide funding on a competitive basis for local, State, and national service programs.

States will be asked to set up bipartisan commissions to receive AmeriCorps funds. One-third of overall program funding—as much as \$50 million in the first year—will go by formula grant to States. The second third will be awarded to States on a competitive basis. The remaining third will be administered by the Corporation in its "venture capitalist" capacity: some additional funds will be available for training and technical assistance.

Organizations and government entities applying for participation in National Service through AmeriCorps will be encouraged to form private/public partnerships to help financially support their programs. The Corporation will pay up to 85 percent of a modest salary (roughly minimum wage) for AmeriCorps participants, 85 percent of health-care costs, 75 percent of other operating costs, 100 per-

cent of eligible child-care costs, and an educational award of nearly \$5,000 for each year of service, up to two years. Programs may elect to pay participants more than minimum wage (at their own expense) with some restrictions.

Regulations will be set forth for the new Corporation over the next few months. Sometime early next year, applications will be available to cities, counties, police and sheriff's departments, district attorneys, courts, judges, wardens, not-for-profits, and all others eligible to apply for planning, operating, or replication grants.

A call for your participation

Over the coming months, you will be hearing more about AmeriCorps and the opportunities it offers our communities to re-engage through service, citizenship, skill-building work, and education. Between now and the new year, as program regulations are outlined and State commissions are set up, I encourage you and your communities to look closely at AmeriCorps to help your neighborhoods meet critical, unmet public safety needs. You will lead the wave as the first AmeriCorps workers hit the streets in the summer of 1994.

For more information about National Service, write to:

**The Corporation for National and Community Service
1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525**

The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

NCJ 145158

USA TODAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1993

Launching national service policy

By Dennis Kelly
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — They aren't officially taking applications yet for President Clinton's national service plan — but they're already getting thousands of letters of interest.

The people running the Corporation for National and Community Service — just a few blocks from the White House — say that's an indication of high interest the program has generated. But it also leaves them nervous about expectations the program has created.

"There are moments of real anxiety about all that is expected. We feel a real need to get this done quickly," says Eli Segal, president of the corporation, the newly christened umbrella group overseeing Clinton's national service plan and a host of existing community service agencies. "We've got to go back to Congress and ask for appropriations (again) next year. The fear is how much needs to be done and how much we need the local communities to buy into this."

But the vision for Clinton's national service program is certainly heady stuff.

Its administrators see young



SEGAL: Feels pressure to get service program working soon

workers fixing up dilapidated homes or escorting the elderly to grocery stores in crime-infested neighborhoods. They see college students working in Head Start and early childhood education programs, all the time earning money that will help pay their college bill.

Those daydreams have been there ever since Clinton touted national service as one way to help young people earn money for college.

But the daydreaming has stopped, and the program is

now gearing up the process of making it work.

Regulations for the program will be published in January. Local and national groups then will compete for grants beginning in the spring and learn who gets funded between May and August. By the end of 1994, the Clinton administration expects to have 20,000 working in community service jobs and earning awards of \$4,725 per year in the program toward a college education or vocational training.

The \$1.5 billion program intends to have 100,000 participants over three years.

The part of the national and community service corporation devoted to Clinton's plan is called AmeriCorps. Anyone 17 or over will be able to earn the \$4,725 award toward college or vocational training by working with the non-profit groups that are awarded grants in the application process, or by working with one of two existing service agencies, the Civilian Community Corps or Volunteers in Service to America, better known as VISTA.

Those hired get a \$7,400 per year stipend — about minimum wage — plus health care and child care if needed, along

with the education award.

Programs that qualify will have to meet the educational, human, environmental or public safety needs of their communities. What those are will be up to commissions forming in each state — a "bottom-up" approach that Segal says will let communities decide what kinds of service are in their best interest.

Still, Shirley Sagawa, nominated as managing director of the corporation, says the corporation will help provide the program a "national identity." That will include a common oath taken by participants, a logo, as well as training and monitoring of program quality. The corporation even plans to hire some investigative-journalist types as "circuit riders" to help ensure programs are delivering on promises.

She says the program will also work hard to ensure that program participants "look like America." That's meant to allay concerns that AmeriCorps would be dominated either by low-income groups forced into national service as the only way to pay for college or by students from high-income families getting subsidies from the federal government.

How to get information

People who think they'd like to apply for one of the 20,000 national service slots available next year can get information now, but applications won't be officially taken for a while.

To get information on AmeriCorps, call the Corporation for National and Community Service at 202-606-5000 and then, if you have a touch-tone phone, dial 4 at the list of menu options. You can leave your name and address and you'll be sent a brochure.

This month, the corporation will announce a toll-free 800 number. Then in May and August when 300 to 400 non-profit groups are selected to offer the national service jobs, the toll-free number will get you to an operator who can tell you about programs in your area. Local and national agencies that win grants will do the hiring.

Those interested also can write the corporation at 1100 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20525, Attn: AmeriCorps.

The Washington Post

Youth Service Corps Officials Prepare For Recruiting Blitz

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1993

By Mary Jordan
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former inner-city gangsters and Stanford University honor students are among those expected to sign up in the new year for one of President Clinton's new programs: youths performing community service to pay for college tuition.

In January, radio and television advertisements are to begin telling thousands of students how they can enroll in AmeriCorps and get paid for work ranging from comforting AIDS patients to tutoring preschoolers.

In interviews last week with AmeriCorps leaders, details of one of Clinton's most visible campaign promises emerged for the first time. All 20,000 of the students to be selected next year will earn an \$8,000 wage (roughly \$4.25 an hour), plus health and child care benefits. If they successfully complete the 12-month program, the youths also will get \$4,725 in college or vocational school tuition or loan forgiveness. The government will write a check to the school of their choice.

Program officials expect a blizzard of applications from students, even though the compensation will be considerably lower than proposals floated during Clinton's campaign.

The first step is next month's media campaign, which will include spots on MTV, an effort that program officials hope will help make AmeriCorps as well known as the Peace Corps. In April and May, nonprofit service groups such as Teach for America, which brings recent college graduates into needy elementary school classrooms, will be selected to participate.

The winning service groups will then pick the students who will work for them. Some students will go to work next summer, with the big kickoff in September.

"One of our objectives is to create a national ethic of service," said Eli Segal, president of the Corporation for National and Community Service that oversees AmeriCorps.

Congress approved \$300 million for national service in 1994. The White House hopes funding will escalate, and that likely will depend on whether the program's initial reviews are good.

According to Clinton, youths who "look like America" will be selected. Most are expected to be between the ages of 17 and 25. Some will get involved in environmental work, others in public safety, education or health programs.

In addition to AmeriCorps, two smaller service programs are part of the national service corporation. One is the Civilian Community Corps (CCC), modeled after the popular 1930s program that gave people jobs on public works projects, such as planting trees and fixing parks.

The CCC will involve 800 students, and all will be housed on military bases. Former military personnel will work as instructors. Youths participating in this program do not have to have a high school degree and will be selected as early as February.

"The focus will be on civilian needs," said CCC director Donald Scott. Students will work at "creating green space in parks, tree-planting projects and erosion control," among other projects, Scott said.

The other part of the service corporation is VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) formed in 1964 and located a few blocks from the White House at 1100 Vermont Ave. NW. VISTA's 3,400 volunteers will earn the same as AmeriCorps students, and will do much the same kind of community work.

By the end of this month, a toll-free hot line (1-800-94-ACORPS) will begin giving potential applicants basic information about the AmeriCorps program and help link students to specific programs in particular cities.

Each Cabinet-level agency also will be eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funds.

All states have or will set up a community service commission to help select and monitor the AmeriCorps programs. The commissions also will help distribute the federal funds. About \$11 million in federal money has been set aside for the state commissions, and they are expected to get some local funding too.

The national office will cost an additional \$14 million a year to operate. How it fares in its first year is considered crucial for the eventual success of AmeriCorps.

Some critics of the program say they worry it will not attract middle- and upper-class students because the pay is so low. Others are concerned about just the opposite, that only well-off students will be able to join. And many are waiting to see if worthwhile work will get done.

Los Angeles Times

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1993

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Service Program to Take Aim at Crime

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—Reflecting a rising federal emphasis on anti-crime initiatives, the White House said Monday that its new national service program will concentrate on helping make American communities safer next summer.

The estimated 3,500 participants in the summer part of the 1994 national service program could perform such duties as joining in community policing, conducting crime prevention training for the elderly and children, helping clean up dangerous areas to return them to neighborhood use and counseling crime victims, Administration officials said.

"It was an idea formed after listening to the passion in the President's Memphis speech last week," said Eli Segal, president and chief of the new Corporation for National and Community Service, which will administer the national service program. "It's a way of reinforcing the President's commitment to public safety and a way of reinforcing that national service gets things done."

The White House announcement followed earlier pleas by President Clinton for communities to become more engaged in dealing with crime and violence.

"There are some changes we can make from the outside in—that's the job of the President and the Congress and the governors and the mayors and the social service agencies," Clinton said in his appeal to black church leaders in Memphis earlier this month. "And then there are some changes we're going to have to make from the inside out or the others won't matter."

National service, which has been described as a domestic Peace Corps, could help communities combat the sources of crime and violence from the inside out by involving young people in their own

neighborhoods.

The concentration on community safety next summer will draw a spotlight to national service, Segal said, because crime is a top concern of the public, the President and the Congress.

But it also presents a significant risk for the new program, which has been ordered by Congress to show measurable results if it wants to receive future funding. Community service programs have proved their effectiveness in environmental, education and urban renewal projects but public safety is a relatively untested area.

In signing the National and Community Service and Trust Act in September, the President fulfilled a major campaign promise to help young people pay for education by serving their country. In 1994, 20,000 participants are to be engaged in full-time community service and will receive a low-wage salary and benefits in addition to awards of \$4,725 each year of service to apply toward their education or training. Summer-only participants will receive smaller awards of \$1,000.

Although the size of the summer program is small, some law enforcement experts said that the impact on communities will be significant.

"Getting these young adults involved will be a tremendous asset for crime prevention," said Joseph Wright, executive director of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. "They can persuade other young adults not to follow criminal lifestyles."

"I'll take about 50 of them," said Darrel Stephens, the police chief in St. Petersburg, Fla. He said he envisions national service participants organizing neighborhoods to work with police, walking the streets with beat cops, working in police stations so officers are free to patrol and being positive role models for children.

AmeriCorps

IS COMING

1993

November Proposed State Regulations Published

Final version of interim regulations for State Commissions published. Any state wishing to participate in national service programs establishes a commission through which at least two-thirds of the federal funding flows.

December Proposed National Program Regulations Published

Publication for public comment of the Corporation's proposed program regulations and applications for state and national direct funding.

1994

January Final State and National Regulations and Applications Published

Publication of final regulations and applications for state and national direct funding.

Technical Assistance Outreach Underway

The Corporation will provide extensive technical assistance to potential grant applicants. Assistance will include regional public meetings, national and regional teleconferencing, and travelling "road shows."

National Public Information Campaign Underway

Communications campaign to reach potential programs and participants.

March National/Multi-State Applications Due

Applications for national or multi-state programs due to the Corporation.

April Ongoing Review of Direct Funding Programs

Corporation reviews programs applying for national service direct funding.

May Announcement of First Grants (National/Multi-State Programs)

First grant awards announced for national, multi-state, and other programs eligible to apply directly to the Corporation.

Recruitment Campaign Begins

Programs begin recruitment of AmeriCorps members.

First Grant Programs Begin/CCC Underway

First national service grant programs begin service. First CCC camps underway.

June State Applications Due

Applications for state programs due to the Corporation.

July Announcement of Grants (State Programs)

Grant awards announced for state programs.

September Official Launch of AmeriCorps

Major rollout of what will be up to 20,000 AmeriCorps members serving in communities across the country.

SUMMER OF SAFETY

The young people in Summer of Safety will be an inspiring example for Americans of all ages to work together to make our streets safer by acting on our finest values.

President Clinton 12/11/93

The Corporation for National and Community Service plans to place more than 5000 Americans, young and young in spirit, into community-based summertime projects to respond to the plague of crime, violence, and fear sweeping the country. Communities will determine what they need most, and efforts likely to be launched include:

- o working with community policing initiatives
- o providing information to community residents concerning Neighborhood Watch and other crime prevention strategies
- o involving youth as participants in community crime prevention efforts, such as escorting seniors or supervising recreation for children
- o establishing "Safe Houses" and training parents and children about safety and crime prevention
- o assisting victims of crime
- o rehabilitating crack houses, cleaning up dangerous areas, and restoring them to neighborhood use
- o providing crime prevention and anti-violence presentations and activities to youth groups

Program sponsors will include community organizations, law enforcement agencies, local coalitions, institutions of higher education, and other public agencies. To carry out these kinds of public safety strategies, projects will identify community public safety needs, build new partnerships and collaborations capitalizing on the community's resources, and demonstrate the role that young people can play in helping make their communities safer.

Though emphasizing youth service, opportunities to participate in Summer of Safety will be available for citizens of all ages, working through one of several programs sponsored by the Corporation. Some programs will provide full-time participants with stipends equivalent to minimum wage and a \$ 1000 educational benefit. Others will provide part-time and non-stipended service opportunities for older adults and for youth in the K-12 grades.

For further information, call or write the Corporation for National and Community Service....

AmeriCorps

IS COMING

EDUCATION

School Readiness: furthering early childhood development

Getting Things Done:

- Improving the quality and availability of child development programs by working in day care and Head Start centers and preschool programs
- Teaching literacy and other basic skills to parents of young children so that they can help their children learn
- Helping teen parents stay in school by providing needed services such as child care

School Success: aiding the educational achievement of school-aged children

Getting Things Done:

- Working in schools with high concentrations of low-income students
- Mentoring, tutoring, and providing after-school and summer learning opportunities
- Coordinating service-learning activities for K-12 students

PUBLIC SAFETY

•Crime Prevention: reducing the incidence of violence

Getting Things Done:

- Reducing crimes against youth by making schools safe, creating safe havens, providing training in conflict resolution, and involving youth in prevention efforts
- Providing substance abuse counseling and education
- Developing specific crime prevention strategies targeted at key locations such as playgrounds, public transportation points, and other public gathering places

•Crime Control: improving criminal justice services, law enforcement, and victim services

Getting Things Done:

- Enhancing community policing efforts by working with local law enforcement
- Reducing specific crime problems such as drug dealing, domestic violence, crimes motivated by bias, crimes against senior citizens, and child abuse
- Improving services available for victims of crime and strengthening innovative criminal justice programs such as neighborhood courts and community restitution

HUMAN NEEDS

Health: providing independent living assistance, home-and community-based health care

Getting Things Done:

- Providing independent living assistance and health care to the homebound elderly, people with disabilities, and people living with AIDS
- Improving the health of low-income communities by offering preventive health services through community health clinics
- Offering prenatal care, parenting education, and health care to families of young children through home visits

Home: rebuilding neighborhoods and helping people who are homeless

Getting Things Done:

- Helping people who are homeless by providing shelter support, assisting in moving into permanent housing, and related services
- Renovating and rehabilitating low-income housing
- Helping individuals move from public assistance and into self-sufficiency by providing job training, literacy tutoring, and other services

ENVIRONMENT

- **Neighborhood Environment: reducing community environmental hazards**

Getting Things Done:

- Revitalizing neighborhoods by creating and maintaining recreation areas, green spaces, and community gardens
- Eliminating environmental risks through education, testing, and cleanup
- Reducing waste through energy efficiency efforts, recycling, and other conservation measures

- **Natural Environment: conserving, restoring, and sustaining natural habitats**

Getting Things Done:

- Conserving and restoring public lands, forests, rivers, streams and wetlands
- Making parks more accessible through trail maintenance, infrastructure improvements
- Sampling, mapping, monitoring, and recording air and water quality and status of groundwater, land, plant, and animal resources

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AmeriCorps

IS COMING

Continuing Application Assistance for

AmeriCorps • Learn and Serve America • Summer of Safety

If you are interested in applying to the Corporation for National and Community Service for national and community service program funding and need more information, help is as near as your telephone or computer.

Application assistance is available through national video conferences, through a six-week schedule for telephone conference assistance, through Internet, and through the mail for the following national and community service programs:

AmeriCorps is the President's new national service program which engages the energy of the American people, especially its young people, in meeting the most critical education, public safety, human, and environmental needs of our communities. AmeriCorps offers opportunities for Americans age 17 or older to make a substantial commitment to serving their country and to earn money for college in return. Grants totalling over \$153 million will be awarded to not-for-profit organizations, to local, State, and Federal agencies, to Indian tribes, to institutions of higher education, to local school and police districts, and to partnerships among any of the above.

Learn and Serve America programs integrate service, and service-learning, into daily academic life for students in both K-12, higher education institutions, and community-based programs. Service-learning is a method by which young people learn and develop through active participation in service experiences that meet community needs and foster a lifetime commitment to service. The **K-12 School-based and Community-Based Programs** support projects that engage school-age youth in service-learning activities and involve adult volunteers in the schools. In fiscal year 1994, \$30 million will be available for teacher training, for the placement of service-learning coordinators in schools, and for grants to local partnerships through State Education Agencies, State Commissions, and grant-making entities. The **Higher Education Programs** will award approximately \$9 million to individual colleges and universities, consortia, or partnerships between higher education institutions and public or private nonprofits in order to develop high-quality programs that make service an integral part of students' education experience.

Summer of Safety is the summer service program which will leverage the energy and talent of over 6,000 Americans in a range of projects designed to strengthen the ability of communities to respond to problems of crime, violence and fear. Though emphasizing youth service, opportunities to participate in the Summer of Safety will be available for citizens of all ages, working through one of several programs sponsored by the Corporation. Some programs will provide full-time participants with minimum wage stipends and a \$1000 educational benefit. Others will provide part-time and non-stipended service opportunities for older adults and for youth in grades K-12.

Application Deadlines

Summer of Safety		March 14, 1994
Learn and Serve America:	K-12 School-based	April 1, 1994
Learn and Serve America:	Higher Education	April 9, 1994
AmeriCorps, National Service:	Direct (national & multi-state)	April 15, 1994
Learn and Serve America:	K-12 Community-based	May 27, 1994
AmeriCorps, National Service:	State	June 15, 1994

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Summer of Safety

Dear Service Friend,

On September 21, 1993, President Clinton signed national service legislation into law, creating the Corporation for National and Community Service. Through the new Corporation, Americans of all ages and backgrounds will work to meet urgent challenges in their communities in the areas of education, public safety, human needs and the environment.

Of these, public safety may be the most critical challenge facing the nation today. President Clinton discussed it at length in his State of the Union address just a couple of weeks ago. It is at the top of the agenda of the administration, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Governors Association, and countless other regional, state and local organizations nationwide. I hope you will join us in moving it to the top of the national service agenda this summer.

The cost of crime, in economic terms, is staggering: \$14,000 to treat a child struck by gunfire, \$50 billion annual loss by urban economies due to lost businesses and fleeing residents, \$425 billion spent on crime every year. But in human terms, the cost is inestimable. Victims, and those who commit crimes, are getting younger and younger; crimes are becoming more and more violent. Few communities remain unscathed by drugs; few homes remain unassailed by fear.

The American people can take back their communities — and national service can help.

This summer, the Corporation will focus its efforts in public safety by sponsoring a national Summer of Safety. Like the year-round AmeriCorps program we'll launch this fall, the Summer of Safety will engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in direct, locally-based service to strengthen the ability of communities to respond to problems of crime, violence and fear.

Our 6,000 Summer of Safety participants will come together across generations, ethnicities, and income levels. They'll help police monitor victim assistance hotlines, clean up dangerous parks and alleys, provide crime prevention workshops to families, and help organize neighborhood watch programs. They'll do the work that you determine is most necessary in your community to meet the number one priority of national service: Getting Things Done.

The Summer of Safety can't succeed without your help. In the coming weeks, you can design an innovative service program tailored to the specific needs of your community, and that will continue to get things done long after the summer is over. We can help with phone and video technical assistance conferences, and with funding. But, ultimately, the work of designing quality service programs is up to the people who know the most about serving your communities. It's up to you.

In his inaugural address, President Clinton challenged all Americans to engage in "seasons of service." I look forward to working with you to help meet this challenge, through the Summer of Safety, and through the ever-changing seasons ahead of us.

Sincerely,



Eli J. Segal

Chief Executive Officer

In America

BOB HERBERT

A Season Of Service

Think of it as an antidote to cynicism, a rejection of the rampant selfishness that managed somehow to become fashionable in the 1980's. Think of it as a return to the can-do spirit of the 50's and 60's, when large numbers of Americans believed it was possible to find remedies for violence and injustice, for poverty and ignorance, for the buffoonery and corruption of politicians, and for the wholesale degradation of the environment.

"I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service," said Bill Clinton in his inaugural address. "There is so much to be done — enough, indeed, for millions of others who are still young in spirit to give of themselves in service, too."

On Sept. 12, amid elaborate ceremonies planned for the South Lawn of the White House, the President's national service program will get fully under way. It's called AmeriCorps

Patriotism rolls up its sleeves for AmeriCorps.

and it's described as a domestic version of the Peace Corps. Its scope is less than I would have wished, but more than we've come to expect from a sociopolitical environment that over the past decade and a half has been poisoned by greed, a collapse of ideals and contempt for the old-fashioned notion of brotherhood.

In that environment, we were free to choose between the national values espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and those currently embraced by Representative Newt Gingrich. We opted for Mr. Gingrich's.

The President's national service program is a modest step in Dr. King's direction.

Under the program, several thousand young Americans from all kinds of backgrounds will offer their services to organizations working on problems related to education, public safety, social services and the environment. For a two-year commitment, the participants will be paid \$7,500 a year and will receive a credit of \$9,450 (\$4,725 a year) that can be used for college or graduate school expenses.

The program will reach into urban, suburban and rural America. Parts of it have already started. Young men and women are helping to restore wildlife habitats, conducting childhood immunization programs, escorting children and the elderly through dangerous inner-city neighborhoods, counseling drug abusers, providing preventive health services and improving neglected playgrounds, parks and wetlands.

Tiffany Tidwell, an honors gradu-

ate from the University of Kansas, is teaching French at a public school in the Mississippi Delta. Leo Negrón, who grew up in a tough neighborhood in Chicago, is teaching construction skills to teen-agers. Laura Sullivan, who grew up in a wealthy suburb in Massachusetts, has joined a program in Baltimore that provides assistance to poor women who want to start their own businesses.

"We have a lot of domestic problems that need creative answers," Ms. Sullivan said. "And I wanted to get to know the neighborhoods in the inner cities, rather than just living in the ivory tower of a college community."

She referred to friends who are serving in the military and said: "They are defending us internationally. I feel strongly that there should be a force of young people that are kind of defending us domestically."

Besides providing assistance to many worthwhile organizations, AmeriCorps is a way for young people to see a variety of fellow Americans up close and personal, the way

they really are, without the distorting filter of the boob tube. It's a way to get beyond the stereotypes of situation comedy and the local news.

"Whenever possible," said Eli Segal, chief chaperone for this noble effort, "we want youngsters from different geographic areas, from different races and ethnic groups and from different economic backgrounds to pitch in and work together."

Mr. Segal, an assistant to the President, is the chief executive of the Corporation for National Service. He expects to have 20,000 AmeriCorps enlistees spread out across the country by the end of the year. "And if it works," he said, "we could have 100,000 by the end of 1996."

I have always believed that national service should be compulsory. Every American should serve two years in some military or civilian capacity. There should be more to patriotism than singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at a ball game, or rooting (from the comfort of our living rooms) for the American team to win a nationally televised war.

AmeriCorps is a start.

Go Ahead, Spy on Us

By William E. Burrows

The Clinton Administration is trying to help an aerospace industry severely damaged by the end of the cold war. While the goal is commendable, the Administration is going about it in a way that endangers U.S. and international security.

The plan is to allow the companies to sell spy satellites — satellites that can take very high-resolution pictures — on the open market, along with the pictures themselves.

Starting in 1960, when the first reconnaissance satellite went into orbit, space-based observation of earth has been one of the blackest — most secret — elements of the national intelligence system. This is because the "product" of such missions — typically pictures in which objects of six inches can be identified from 100 miles — has been invaluable for assessing the strength, and sometimes the intentions, of friend and foe alike.

To give away the system's capability, it was felt, would negate its purpose. That is precisely what happened during the Iran-Iraq war, when the Government shared top-secret satellite imagery of Iranian targets with the Iraqis. That cynical bit of expedience cost us dearly during the gulf war, when no mobile Scud launchers could be found, let alone knocked out, by coalition aircraft; showing space imagery to the Iraqis had taught them how to hide.

The case is made that space imagery is invaluable for locating and monitoring resources, for civil engineering projects and for other civilian tasks. This is true. But none of

those endeavors requires pictures with resolution of one meter — 39 inches — which is what we are getting ready to offer the world.

One-meter resolution is better suited to collecting high-quality military intelligence and to targeting than it is to locating dams. No matter what restrictions the State Department imposes, the history of weapons proliferation — and these pictures are weapons as surely as cruise missiles

The scary plan to sell U.S. satellite technology.

are — shows that the pictures will find their way to whichever country will pay the asking price.

The Administration's case for peddling the pictures is a classic in the annals of arms sales: if we don't, our competitors — in this case, France, Russia, and eventually Japan — will.

But the French are not prepared to sell high-resolution imagery. "For us, beyond five meters is military, and we do not believe this category of image should be offered for commercial sale," Jean-Daniel Lévi, the director general of the French space agency, said in March.

Instead of scrambling to beat them in this small corner of a worldwide weapons market that we already dominate, we ought to join the French and Russians in putting long-term security before short-term profit.

With ballistic missiles proliferating, selling the means to make targets of Paris, Moscow or Washington will make those places as vulnerable as any in the Middle East or Asia. That is unacceptable at any price. □

William E. Burrows is author of "Deep Black" and, with Robert Windrem, of "Critical Mass," about weapons proliferation.

Never Mind the Mess

Less than two weeks after the Clinton Administration vowed it would never let Fidel Castro dictate a change in U.S. immigration policy, Washington is ready to offer Mr. Castro the policy change he seeks. In talks beginning tomorrow in New York, the Administration will propose a sharp expansion in legal immigration from Cuba if the Castro regime agrees to halt the mass exodus of raft people it began permitting earlier this month.

The shift is embarrassing for an Administration already famous for its serial flip-flops in foreign affairs. But the proposal makes sense for both Governments and could prevent desperate Cubans from risking their lives at sea. It is a case of a messy process lurching toward a worthy goal.

Since 1990 Cuba, like all other countries, has been allotted a quota of 27,845 immigrant visas to the U.S. But fewer than a tenth that number have been granted because eligibility is governed by a complicated system of preferences allocated on a worldwide basis. Apart from immediate family members of U.S. citizens, most of these preference categories are oversubscribed, some with 10-year waiting lists. Havana has long argued that by issuing so few legal visas while (until two weeks ago) granting admission to boat people under the Cuban Adjustment Act, Washington was encouraging the mass departures it now complains about.

Without conceding that point, the Administration is now looking for ways it could move eligible Cubans to the front of the queue without reducing the slots available for those who have been waiting for years from other countries. In return, Havana would be expected to clamp down on departures by boat or raft. That would be a good deal for Havana.

It would open a controlled safety valve for discontented Cubans and represent a grudging admission by the U.S. that the Castro regime must be dealt with on practical matters for the foreseeable future.

It would also be a good deal for an Administration terrified of a repeat of the Mariel boatlift of 1980, which included criminals direct from Cuban jails. Mr. Clinton believes that Mariel's repercussions contributed to his own re-election defeat for Governor, and Jimmy Carter's for President. In contrast, an expansion of carefully screened legal departures could be a political plus, so long as Havana pledges not to harass visa-seekers.

Surely such an arrangement could have been reached months or even years ago, without the appearance of bowing to Mr. Castro's manipulations and without the policy lurches of the past two weeks. The Administration got off on the wrong track because its first reactions reflected only domestic politics and later because it paid too much heed to hard-line Cuban-American leaders not fully representative of their own community.

Now, with foreign-policy makers finally focused on Cuba, a more considered policy seems to be emerging. Some officials even suggest that if the talks on immigration issues prove productive, the dialogue might be widened. Such a broadening of the agenda is something Washington was vehemently ruling out only last week.

Ruling it back in is a good idea. One more reversal will scarcely be noticed. Only by expanding these talks to the full range of Washington-Havana relations can the Clinton Administration hope to draw any lasting credit from its woozy handling of the Cuba issue.

Megan's Legacy

New Jersey's State Assembly acted unwisely and hastily this week when it rushed through legislation responding to the death last month of Megan Kanka. The little girl was lured by a man who had served six years in a facility for sex offenders into his home in Hamilton Township, N.J., where he raped and strangled her.

Like Megan's family and neighbors, the legislators were properly outraged to discover that Jesse Timmendequas, twice convicted of sexually assaulting young girls, had been living undetected in Megan's neighborhood. But the bills they passed to appease that rage were approved without public hearings. Indeed, two of the bills may be constitutionally shaky.

One bill that might do some good would require an evaluation of the effectiveness of treatment for sexual offenders at the state-run Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center at Avenel. Mr. Timmendequas served time at Avenel, and according to the chairman of its review board, neither the board nor the staff and superintendent thought he was ready to leave. He had, however, "maxed out," and there

was no longer a legal basis on which to keep him.

A second bill allows for involuntary civil commitment to a psychiatric hospital for sex offenders who have done their time but are judged still dangerous by doctors. This could raise civil liberties issues that deserve careful consideration.

The most popular bill deals with community notification and would allow the state to register and track convicted sex offenders, a procedure that may well have a place in a careful police program. It would also allow the state to notify residents when a convicted offender moves into their neighborhood. This raises a real danger of vigilantism as well as the prospect that offenders will be hounded from one town to another. Putting all sex offenders in the same category risks ruining their efforts to rebuild their lives.

The Senate is moving more slowly and more wisely, holding committee hearings now and delaying some discussions until October. Megan Kanka, and all the children who have suffered as she did, deserve the best laws time, intelligence and informed testimony can provide.