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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

file: National Service

DATE: 12/18/93

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12/22/93

SUBJECT: PROGRESS ON NATIONAL SERVICE

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	PASTER	☐	☒
McLARTY	☐	☒	QUINN	☐	☒
NEEL	☐	☐	RASCO	☐	☒
PANETTA	☐	☒	RUBIN	☐	☐
BAGGETT	☐	☒	SEGAL	☐	☐
EMANUEL	☐	☐	SEIDMAN	☐	☐
GEARAN	☐	☒	STEPHANOPOULOS	☐	☒
GERGEN	☐	☒	TYSON	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	VARNEY	☐	☒
HALE	☐	☒	WATKINS	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☒	WILLIAMS	☐	☒
LAKE	☐	☐		☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐		☐	☐
McGINTY	☐	☐		☐	☐
MYERS	☐	☐		☐	☐
NUSSBAUM	☐	☒		☐	☐

REMARKS:

RESPONSE:

JOHN D. PODESTA
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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December 14, 1993

INFORMATION
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ELI SEGAL *ES*

SUBJECT: PROGRESS ON NATIONAL SERVICE

This memorandum will review certain of the key activities in which we are currently engaged, as your Corporation for National and Community Service hits the mid point of its third month of operations.

1. Involvement of the States: Consistent with your early instructions and with their critical role within our structure for the selection and monitoring of programs, the states have received our early and methodical attention. I have visited with Governors en masse (at the NGA annual meeting in Tulsa), and since October 1, increasingly in person. Democratic support has been strong (I've recently visited Governors Miller [GA], Lowry [WA], and Roberts, [OR]), so we have placed a particular emphasis on Republican governors to ensure that they will give early and diligent attention to setting up their bi-partisan state commissions. Governors Weld (MA), Merrill (NH), Wilson (CA) and Engler (MI) have all been especially supportive. One helpful by-product has been the uniformly favorable press coverage that we receive in local and regional papers on these stops, illustrative copies of which are attached.

2. Involvement of your Executive Branch: Twice you formally have requested your Cabinet to increase their Departments' involvement in service. As you know, we created an inter-agency task force, chaired by Peter Edelman, aimed at securing three types of participation:

- Application to our Corporation for AmeriCorps programs that the Departments and agencies will run under our direction;
- Incorporation of a service element in the work of the Department or agency (for example, HUD's Hope VI program has an earmark for a certain portion of work to be undertaken by service corps); and
- Elevation of an ethic of service among their employees, so that the agency or Department is a model employer.

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Tomorrow, we will challenge the task force regarding the first of these matters. While some Secretaries (especially Babbitt, Espy, Cisneros and Shalala) have been more active than others, most seem quite interested in setting up new service programs, and we expect as many as 2000 of the anticipated 20,000 1994 AmeriCorps members to come from these federal branch efforts (in addition to approximately 4,000 VISTAs and 1000 members of our new Civilian Community Corps, both of which are directly operated by the Corporation).

3. Involvement of Congress: We have made the decision to continue in an active partnership with that bipartisan group of Congressional supporters which was so critical to the legislative approval of your national service initiative -- rather than re-appear on the Hill only at appropriations time. Our first working breakfast occurred recently, and gave us an opportunity to discuss our conclusions from the 1993 Summer of Service, and our plans for the roll-out of the permanent program. The members' reaction was extremely encouraging, and we intend to continue to meet with not only our friends, but members who have indicated a willingness to be persuaded, even if originally opposed. Sen. Hatfield has offered to be helpful in the Senate in drawing together his moderate colleagues. We also hope that these affiliations may have spin-off benefits for the Administration on other initiatives.

4. Status of the Summer of Safety: Your radio address Saturday was a very helpful boost to our effort to make national service an effective ally in the fight against crime and violence. (Your use of the "AmeriCorps" name was also critical, as we will soon begin our efforts to give your program's name the same pervasiveness as the Peace Corps.) We have been encouraged by the belief of police chiefs (including Los Angeles' Willie Williams) and others in the law enforcement and related fields that creative, committed and trained young people can be a potent public safety force. Those with lower skill levels can board up abandoned buildings, to keep them from being turned into crack houses, or escort seniors in crime-ridden neighborhoods; Summer of Safety participants with higher skills can actually accompany community policing uniformed officers on their beats, and stay in the neighborhoods as liaisons after the cops have moved on. We will continue to work with your crime and violence task force, to ensure that service's role is reflected in your Administration's comprehensive strategy. Copies of representative press clippings on our announcement of the summer program are attached.

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5. Status of the full national service program: As you know, our Summer participants will be joined by the first of the full-year AmeriCorps members, with the bulk of the full programs kicking off in September, 1994. Ensuring programmatic quality while delivering on this ambitious schedule has been our main task, and we are pleased to report that one-half of our regulations are mid-way through the public comment period, while the second half are being reviewed on a fast track basis by OMB and should be published for comment by Christmas. As part of our continuing effort to communicate your vision for service and explain our requirements and opportunities to the broadest audience, we will be conducting four regional conferences (in Kansas City, Los Angeles, Atlanta and here in Washington, D.C.) next month -- we expect more than 2,000 non-profits, and a host of other interested parties, to attend.