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5/23/93 National Service Focus Group, JFK Birthday Forum - Boston, MA

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ELI J. SEGAL

National Service Focus Group
JFK Birthday Forum

Boston, MA
May 23, 1993

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

KPONS
May 20, 1993

Final Itinerary
National Service Focus Group/JFK Birthday Forum

Saturday, May 22:

4:00 - 6:00 PM	Arrival.
6:30 - 9:00 PM	Welcoming party: Informal welcome, orientation (KSG Courtyard).

Sunday, May 23:

9:00 - 11:00 AM	Brunch: Formal welcome by KPONS, discussion of events, participants introduce themselves and present a short discussion of their service program (Penthouse).
11:30 - 3:00 PM	Service projects at the Cambridge YMCA (Group One) and the Margaret Fuller House (Group Two).
4:00 - 5:30 PM	Focus Group One; Groups led by Gary Orren.
5:30 - 7:00 PM	Focus Group Two (Both Groups in Fainsod Room).
6:30 - 8:00 PM	Dinner: w/ speaker Chris Murphy (Program Officer - Youth Initiatives, Commission on National & Community Service); (5th Floor, Taubman).
8:00 - 9:30 PM	National Service Policy discussion with Eli Segal. (Penthouse).

Monday, May 24

Morning	Informal outing.
1:00 - 3:00 PM	Reaction to National Service Legislation: A discussion w/ participants, KPONS, service professionals & KSG community. Intro by Fred Tombar (KPONS). Speakers are Greg Johnson (Phillips Brooks House, Harvard), Chris Murphy (Commission on Nat. & Com. Service), Rocki Melo (Young People for National Service & Brown University), & Melora Myslik (Mass Youth Service Alliance) Moderated by Clay Thorp (KPONS, Co-founder of SCALE); (Penthouse).
4:00 - 5:30 PM	School-wide IOP National Service Policy Forum commemorating JFK's Birthday. Intro by Charles Royer (Director, IOP). Speakers are Eli Segal, Robert Coles (Harvard), Dorothy Stoneman (YouthBuild USA), Elaine Jones (NAACP, Peace Corps) and Sen. Ted Kennedy. Moderated by John Kennedy, Jr (Forum).
6:00 - 9:00 PM	Departure.

Goals of the Corporation for National Service

Are these the right goals? What else should be on the list?

- 25,000 new participants
- Strong mix of pre-, during, and post- college
- Adequate non-college representation
- Ethnic and economic diversity
- Geographic diversity
- Strong local support
- Measurable results (participants and programs)
- Good mix of the 4 issue areas
- Developed replicable and sustainable programs
- Programs substantially oversubscribed
- Governors fully supportive
- 100% public recognition of national service as a Clinton program
- Esprit de corps
- New models of service underway
- VISTA and OAVP clients feel programming continuity
- Congress members see results in their districts
- No fraud and abuse
- Programs well managed and outside management advice readily available
- Programs (local, ACTION etc.) coordinate to leverage impact
- Federal agencies participating
- Underserved communities are represented in programs and participants
- Employees of old CNCS and ACTION are excited about new corporation
- The plan for integrating all operations (of ACTION and CNCS) is clear and well accepted
- Any time-bombs from past programs were found internally first and defused without embarrassment to the President
- Private sector support is well divided between local, state and national levels
- Program competition very strong at all levels (state and national)
- Training models well established
- Programs received necessary technical assistance
- Comprehensive database of applicants and programs established
- Clear national goals to focus local initiatives

MEMORANDUM

To: Eli Segal
From: Alan Khazei
Re: Thoughts for your upcoming Michigan Law School
Commencement Speech
Date: May 12, 1993

I appreciated your asking me to think about your upcoming commencement speech to Michigan Law School. I don't have formal speech language for you, but rather just some general thoughts for you to consider. Do with these whatever you want, including ignoring them entirely. I'm sorry that I couldn't get these to you sooner. These are general, so I'm just going to bullet them in no particular order.

- If you can start with some memories of what Michigan was like when you were there, and how it has changed, preferably something humorous, that is always good.
- If you have a chance to meet with some graduating students before you give your speech, I don't know if that is possible at all, if there is a lunch or something, I find that is always helpful to get a sense of where your audience is coming from before you talk to them. Also if you can get some information about any of the "issues" that were the hot issues on campus while they were there, or anything in particular that is special that their class did and refer to them in your remarks at the beginning, that always helps to show that you are in touch and helps you to connect with your audience.
- Talk about something that is at the core of what you believe in. You are still an idealist after 7 losing campaigns. What kept you going? Why did you hang in there and not give up? What advice can you give to those who want to put their beliefs and values into action to get through both the tough and the good times?
- Talk about something that only you could tell them -- things you've learned from your experience, what has motivated you, what has led you to make the choices you've made? Also any "inside" story from the White House or campaign, especially a funny one will go over well. People always feel special if you are sharing "inside" information with them.
- Why national service? Why did you take this job, as opposed to the others that you could have had? Why is national service at the core of President Clinton's presidency?

- One overarching theme for your speech could be that now that the cold war is over, that the Soviet Union no longer exists, that the Berlin Wall is down, that Nelson Mandela has been released from prison, etc. that they are the first generation in at least 50 years that is free to decide what they are going to be FOR not merely what they are against. For the past 50 years we have focused mostly on what we are against, it is going to take some new thinking to figure out how to focus on what we are FOR, and patience to work together to accomplish new goals. Especially since as Americans, we aren't used to doing that, that is one reason why President Clinton is running into so much opposition. That is the challenge for their generation, but it is also their great opportunity, and the chance for them to achieve their own greatness and make their own mark.

- Challenge them to do something with their law degrees. Lawyers are important in our society. Because we have a written constitution and are the oldest ongoing experiment in democracy, lawyers are at the center of most of our societal debates, transactions and efforts for social justice and unfortunately, efforts at impediments for social change. Challenge them to think about spending some time in public service. Time in the private sector is valuable -- you can speak from your own experience about that and most of your audience will be going into private sector firms -- you don't want to criticize and alienate them on that. But challenge them to make a real commitment to pro bono work -- if all of the private lawyers and law firms in this country made a real commitment to pro bono work, say an average of 10% of their time, they would be able to do more legal work than all of the full-time legal aid lawyers.

Tell them that they are needed and they are important. Because they are graduates of one of the best, of course you will say the best, law school in the country -- they have a powerful opportunity and as RFK used to say, responsibility, to do something to make a difference. To be a leader for change and societal improvement, whether they choose to spend the bulk of their career in the private sector or public sector. Challenge them to take their values and beliefs with them into their working life and to reform the institutions they work in to make them better.

- Of course you want to congratulate them on their achievement in graduating from the top law school in the country.
- Most of all, make sure you have fun with this. Don't worry about the fact that you are not a speechmaker and that you don't like doing it. As an alum, as an idealist, as the head of national service, you have something very important to say, and something they will definitely want to hear. Before you talk, look over the crowd, think about what led you to go from Michigan to use your law degree with the McGovern-Fraser commission to work to

reform the democratic party and what kept you at it for 25 years until you were finally successful. Think about why there is hope in the country, why the country needs them and their youthful energy and idealism, and that positive change is possible and just tell them what you believe in and be yourself and you will do a great job!!!

Well, these are just some general thoughts. Feel free to use any or none of them. Congratulations on producing what is landmark legislation and what I am sure is the beginning of true fundamental change. Your work on behalf of our country is incredibly needed, important and very much appreciated. All my best, and GOOD LUCK!!!!!!

(Also, we sent this formal invitation to Hillary Clinton to speak at our graduation on June 14th. I would mean so much to have her, or potentially, the Vice President. Thanks for any help you can give.)