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Series/Staff Member: Eli Segal

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Folder Title:

Ed Kilgore (Office of Governor Miller)

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STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ATLANTA 30334-0900

Zell Miller
GOVERNOR

March 2, 1993

Ed Kilgore
DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eli Segal
FROM: Ed Kilgore *Ek*
SUBJECT: President's National Service Initiative

Congratulations on the initial unveiling of the President's national service proposal. It sounds like the Rutgers event was a great success, and the overall scope of the initiative appears to exceed all expectations.

I do have one very obvious concern about the proposal as outlined in the discussion draft your staff sent me last night, and I pass it on because you will immediately encounter it among national service supporters in Congress.

If the post-service benefit for post-college volunteers is potentially double that available to pre-college volunteers, then it is hard to imagine why anyone capable of gaining admission to college would serve first. It's like telling children they have a choice of broccoli or dessert as the first course of a meal, but if they start with dessert, they get twice as much.

Unless modified, this approach would probably make the ratio of post-college to pre-college volunteers about 90-10, with the pre-college pool being limited to non-college bound kids. Furthermore, it would virtually destroy the concept of educational assistance as an earned benefit.

The most obvious remedy would be to make the pre- and post-college benefits the same. Assuming the proposal is too far advanced for that kind of basic modification, the only alternative is to tightly link higher assistance for post-college service to critical service occupations that require post-secondary education --in other words, to stick to the ROTC model and require an explicit commitment to prepare for and then serve in a capacity of unquestioned social value, such as community policing or teaching in an inner-city school.

Under this approach, if you wanted unconditional educational aid regardless of your field of study or career path, and also preferred extensive options in service, then you would have to earn the benefits first.

ELI SEGAL, page 2

If the President is completely wedded to making post-college service an option for every young American, then at the very least you could lower the maximum loan forgiveness for post-college service to \$5,000 a year for unconditional assistance, with the higher benefit limited to those who made a specific service commitment requiring advanced training.

I strongly urge you to give an indication that some modification along these lines is at least a possibility. Otherwise, those like Senator Sam Nunn who believe pre-college service is more feasible economically and more significant politically and morally will likely dismiss the President's proposal as just another entitlement program with some offsetting benefits. In addition, an unrestricted post-college program with double the benefits of pre-college service would decimate participation in existing pre-college programs, including those established by the 1989 demonstration bill.

On another subject, I am intrigued by the potentially broader role of the state in supervising national service efforts that your discussion outline appears to suggest. I know you have briefed both the Democratic Governors and staff from the National Governors' Association. I would like to repeat the offer I made to Gloria Johnson several weeks ago, to put together a small group of staff representing Governors who are close to the President and very interested in national service, to meet with you and your staff to talk very specifically about the state role.



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

called 2/4
4:15 pm

Jim Higdon
COMMISSIONER

Zell Miller
GOVERNOR

January 29, 1993



McDuffie County

Georgia Peach Corps
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Thomson,
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(706) 595-2185

Toombs County

Georgia Peach Corps
Ross P. Bowen Building
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Post Office Box 348
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Georgia 30436
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Eli Segal, Director
White House Office of National Service
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

On behalf of Georgia's Advisory Board on National and Community Service, I am inviting you to participate in a conference in Atlanta on February 4 and 5.

The purpose of the conference is to envision how a coordinated and seamless system of national and community service can be put in place in Georgia. Representatives of business, education, foundations, youth service, volunteer organizations, alternative training programs and of Governor Zell Miller and Senator Sam Nunn will participate. The conference will be held at the Atlanta Project's Collaboration Center, enabling all participants to have an equal voice in brainstorming and preparing recommendations.

People involved in community service in Georgia have given a lot of thought to the issues we are facing. We cooperated extensively with each other in the development of proposals for funding under the National and Community Service Act, and are the recipients of three grants from the Commission on National and Community Service for *Serve America!*, Higher Education, and for a national demonstration project: the Peach Corps.

The Peach Corps is unique in two respects: it operates exclusively in rural areas, and most importantly, it is the only existing national service initiative which reaches the level of concentration of volunteers that would be achieved in a full-scale national service program along the lines of the DLC and Nunn-McCurdy proposals.

We hope to have a close working relationship with your office on service matters and hope you'll be able to come to Atlanta as we bring together the people in Georgia who care about national and community service.

If you are able to attend, please call Ms. Lynn Thornton, Director, Georgia Peach Corps, at 404-656-3836.

Sincerely,

John Sibley
Chairman

A NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT – COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE