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REMARKS OF ELI SEGAL
Kansas City Consensus
July 8, 1993

Thank you, Nick Lowery. I need to begin my remarks tonight with a special tribute to a special American. One way which I use to define quality is by distinguishing between "workhorses" and "showhorses." Nick Lowery is a workhorse. He may be only the third leading scorer in the NFL, but today he ranks number one as a citizen. His commitment to volunteerism and service has inspired me and I hope you, too.

And as you can see, Nick is as terrific with crowds as he is with his colleagues. I guess you learn poise when you have to go on the road and split the uprights when 60,000 people are hollering at you. Sometimes the President feels like he is learning poise in roughly the same way. As for me, I am glad that this is as large as it is that for national service, I've got a home crowd.

I would especially like to thank Representative Karen McCarthy for the role she has played in having me speak tonight. She is a friend of mine - a true public servant, and has been telling me for as long as I've been in Washington that if I really wanted to see people working together to improve their community, I would have to come to Kansas City. Now that I have come here, I see that she was right.

I am honored to be here tonight. First as a former manufacturer of jigsaw puzzles, I know you chose your table motif

You have shown the courage it takes to care for others; the patience to listen to each other; and the strength to pry open minds that would otherwise be closed. You have had the vision to turn strangers into neighbors, and then into friends.

Tonight's recipient of the Dorothy Davis award, Rita Hotchkiss, found the courage to help Kansas City see and meet the needs of disadvantaged youths. And each of the 4000 people who worked on the COMPASS project showed that they believed in "taking care of those at home." From Dorothy Davis to Chris Hancock, Kansas City Consensus has proven that service to others is an enduring part of America's spirit -- a spirit so strong that it is even starting to overtake Washington.

Like many of you, I first felt that same spirit when President John F. Kennedy asked me -- and my generation -- to serve our country. As part of that call, he proposed that America's young people take a portion of their lives and devote it to a radical new idea -- the Peace Corps. This call to service was powerful because it wasn't an order, but a challenge. It did not invoke the power of the law to require virtuous conduct; instead it argued directly for virtue itself. President Kennedy simply asked Americans to do the right thing, a call to which each generation of Americans has always responded.

In the years since, too many Americans stopped hearing that call. As a lawyer, let me confess that part of this problem was a reliance on laws, rather than people, as the bulwark of civic

virtue. Some things -- including justice itself -- are too important to leave to the law. According to the law, we must stop at red lights, but we may ignore the plight of the homeless.

Of course, some rights require immediate vindication. When I attended law school, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 marked enormous and essential strides forward in our nation's commitment to civil rights. But did they completely solve the problems of race relations in our country? You need only look to Los Angeles -- or even Kansas City -- to see that these laws were not enough. Even if all discrimination ended today, we would still live in a country where, on average, the quality of your education, your job, your housing, and your health care varies with your skin color.

As Harry Truman could have told us, we have found the courage to battle foes, but not the courage to truly care for each other. Indeed, by seeing our nation's challenges as battles between warring camps, we have watched our people draw apart, when we need every one of us to work together.

For this reason, your work in achieving consensus is a national model, and your COMPASS report is proof of what Americans can do if they work together. There is an old saying that if your only tool is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail. You have found a better way, involving real understanding of problems, and a willingness to find the best way for the Kansas City community to meet its own needs.

Your efforts echo the words of President Kennedy because they challenge each of us to make a difference. Your efforts make people feel like warriors for -- rather than victims of -- social justice. And that feeling creates a bond with others more lasting and life-affirming than any law.

There is a joke in Washington about the difference between Democrats and Republicans. Picture a man drowning fifty feet offshore. The Republican would throw him twenty-five feet of rope and tell him to swim the rest because it would be good for his character. The Democrat would throw him a hundred feet of rope and then run off looking for more people to save.

There's a lot of truth in that. And President Clinton was elected to steady the pendulum that has too long swung between federal callousness and federal bossy-ness. If the failed message of the 60s and 70s was that government alone cannot solve our problems, then the message of the 80s that we are better off if we view the government as the problem was equally wrongheaded. Only the American people as a whole can tackle the problems of the nation.

I must confess that I came to this understanding far later in life than Harry Truman. When I was a young man, I became deeply involved in the presidential campaign of Eugene McCarthy. I was sure then that I had all the answers, and that what America needed was for me to go to Washington and help provide those answers to a waiting nation. Thankfully -- for me and the country -- I have had a long time to rethink my ideas. Those

twenty-five years taught me that I did not have all the answers, and neither did anyone else. So when Bill Clinton became President, I was not sure that I wanted to go to Washington after all.

What brought me into the government was the opportunity to be part of the President's national service initiative. This program makes sense to me. It fits not only with my more-seasoned idealism, but with the lessons I have learned as a businessman, and as a father, and as a citizen. I no longer believe that government alone is the answer. I know that together, we are the answer. And isn't that what we have all learned in the last 3 decades?

That is why our national service legislation -- which we hope Congress will pass this month -- will unleash our citizens' idealism and energy on our common national problems. We will focus, as the Kansas City Consensus has, on our country's youth. Young people are at the perfect time of life to help:

- immunize infants;
- tutor in our grade schools;
- channel teenagers away from gangs and drugs;
- promote recycling and conservation; and
- make sure that our streets are safe for the elderly.

They will do so not as part of a national jobs program, but as foot soldiers in efforts run by our communities themselves. And in return, participants will be paid a minimum wage for their work, and receive an educational award of \$5000 for each year they serve. And who is it who will stand up today and say we don't have the money for this. Yes, these are difficult economic times which require discipline, austerity and courage in our nation's capital. But if those who serve get just one homeless person off the street, just one person to break the cycle of substance abuse, give just one child hope for the future, then all of the accountant's doing all of the cost benefit analysis will be with us.

But for those program to work, we need you -- and we need you to work as hard as our young people. Service programs will have to raise at least 15 cents of every dollar paid as wages to participants. Let me say that again: no federal money will be spent until private money has already been raised. This will ensure that service programs grow out of communities instead of being transplanted from Washington.

For the same reason, I want my part in this effort to be as small as possible. Unlike Washington bureaucrats past, I have no interest in building an empire. Instead, I hope to hasten my return to private life by fostering public service entrepreneurs across the nation.

There is a very simple reason for me to insist upon this approach. I've done two things over the past twenty-five years. In one -- trying to elect Democratic presidential candidates -- I have lost seven times. You know them: President McCarthy, President McGovern, President Hart. In the other, I've started and run several businesses. Thankfully, for my family's sake, these efforts have been somewhat more successful -- and they've taught me a lesson. National Service will be run like a business.

Our legislation creates a corporation: the Corporation for National Service. This Corporation will insist upon quality programs, not good intentions. It will require measurable success by focussing on results, not rhetoric. If we help fund a program that doesn't work once, it won't get funded again. If another program does work, we'll help expand it. This Corporation must, like any corporation, be relentless in seeking out the most profitable uses of its scarce resources. We are committed to proving that a federal program can be soft-hearted and hard-headed at the same time.

Perhaps most importantly, this program will not be partisan, or even bipartisan -- it will be nonpartisan. Republican Congressman Steve Gunderson recently praised our program as combining "the idealism of the Democratic party with the programmatic realism of the Republican Party." I deeply appreciated those words -- but I hope that our program will eventually escape even those labels. Ultimately, national

service must fuse America's realism with America's idealism. And I think Nick Lowery represents that fusion, having worked in the Office of National Service in Republican and Democratic administrations.

And while I hope they will support our legislation, I am confident that we will have the full support of Senators Dole and Kassebaum of Kansas, and Senators Danforth and Bond of Missouri, in the on-going national service movement. Senator Dole was instrumental in earlier national service legislation. Senator Danforth's work with community-building organizations like the De La Salle High School and the Ad Hoc Coalition Against Crime, and Senator Bond's similar efforts with the Youth Volunteer Corps and the Urban Youth Corps, set a standard for each of us to strive for. And as the ranking minority member of the Senate Labor Committee, Senator Kassebaum is giving us a fair hearing and making her own legislative proposals to craft a comprehensive national service plan.

I am already grateful for the work of Congressman Alan Wheat on our legislation. I also know that many of you here tonight are already working to initiate national service projects in Missouri and Kansas. I know that you have assembled a great team, and so I look forward to great work together.

The famed civil rights worker Fanny Lou Hamer used to tell the story of the wise old man and the two little boys who thought they were very clever. They decided they would fool the old man by catching a small bird and cupping it in one boy's hands. They

would then bring it to the old man and say: "old man, we have a bird in our hands. Is it alive or dead?" Their plan was that if he said the bird was dead, they would release it and let it fly away. If he said it was alive, they would crush it and show him the dead bird. But when the boys brought the bird to the old man and asked him their question, he answered "it's in your hands."

Tonight, in closing, we celebrate how much is in your hands. Not all of us can be All Pro football players, or become President, or even be honored at a dinner like tonight's. But each of us can make lasting contributions to our communities and to our country.

When President Clinton calls us to service, he likes to quote Martin Luther King's words that "everyone can be great because everyone can serve." These words do not mean simply that the seeds of greatness are within each of us as individuals. They also mean that greatness through service is not a scarce commodity -- that great people, unlike great scientists, or great football players, are not measured by the distance between themselves and ordinary people. Great people are measured by the lack of distance between themselves and others.

I urge you to continue to find the courage to care. In addition to supporting Kansas City Consensus, I urge you to find a way to perform personal acts of service. Visit with the elderly. Tutor a child. Read to the blind.

Making a direct difference in one life frequently can be more meaningful than helping hundreds in abstract ways. And these

quiet, selfless actions will accomplish great things -- for Kansas City and for our country. Robert Kennedy explained it best when, speaking in South Africa in 1966, he said that "each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Let us go forth and make waves together in the years to come.

Kerens

7/13 ✓

Here's the speech.
After you've cleaned
it up, let's arrange
to talk to Jack Holland
or Kerens McCarthy re
its reproduction & delivery to
U.S. Senators. Time is impt
here.

Sci

REMARKS OF ELI SEGAL Kansas City Consensus

July 8, 1993

~~In all of our worlds...~~
Thank you, Nick. I got a real kick out of that
one way ^{in which many of us} ~~defining~~ quality by distinguishing
introduction [grimace]. We all admire Nick's "Kick with
between workhorses & show horses. Nick Lowrey
Nick" program -- but I understand that after the Kansas
may be ~~the~~ only the third leading scorer in the
City Star ran a picture [of our office, prominently]
NFL but today he ranks #1 as a citizen in the
featuring Nick with one of our [attractive and talented
best score at the term. His commitment to volunteerism
female] colleagues on his lap, people out here started a
a national service has inspired ^{only} me & I hope you
"Sit on Nick" fan club. [The problem was] that the
Broncos' front linemen ^{will be} [were] the first to sign up! [It's a
lot more comfortable in Washington, Nick!]

Thank you Nick Lowrey. I need to begin
my remarks ^{tonight} ~~today~~ with a special tribute to
a special American. One way which I use to
define quality is by distinguishing between "workhorses" and
"showhorses". Nick Lowrey is 1 - a workhorse. He may be only the
third leading scorer in the NFL but today he ranks #1 as a citizen.
His commitment to volunteerism and service has inspired me and I hope you.

And
~~But~~ as you can see, Nick is as terrific with crowds
as he is with his colleagues. I guess you learn poise
when you have to go on the road and split the uprights
when 60,000 people are hollering at you. Sometimes
the President feels like he is learning poise in roughly
the same way. As for me, I am glad that this is as
large a group as ^{it is} ~~likely to address~~ and that for
national service, I've got a home crowd.

I would especially like to thank Representative Karen
McCarthy for the role she has played in having me
^{to night} speak ~~here~~. ^{-- a true public servant} ~~she is a true public servant~~
She is a friend of mine, and has been
^{as long as I've been in Washington}
telling me for ~~years~~ that if I really wanted to see people
working together to improve their community, I would
have to come to Kansas City. ~~Now~~ Now that I have come
here, I see that she was right.

I am honored to be here tonight. First, as a former manufacturer of jigsaw puzzles, I know you chose your table motif in my honor. Second, I am happy to help you transform Kansas City from the Barbecue Capital of America to the Child Opportunity Capital of the world.

In a long day today, I have learned ~~the~~ a lot about Kansas City. And most important, I have learned that each of you -- and especially outgoing Consensus President Jack Holland and incoming Consensus President Mark Jackson -- is committed to serving your community.

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First, as a former
 member of the...
 I know you have good
 table...
 Second, I am honored to
 preside...
 I am honored to be here tonight because I know
 that each of you is committed to serving your
 community. [I bring to you the President's greetings
 and appreciation.] Throughout the long campaign -- and
 what has already been a long road as President -- I
 have seen Bill Clinton energized by people like you.
 Indeed, efforts like those of Kansas City Consensus led
 him to say in his inaugural that "there is nothing wrong
 with America that cannot be fixed by what is right with
 America."

[BC + East Room story on Namibia]

As President, he is not asking you to endorse a
 Clinton policy for national service. Instead, he would
 like to become part of your efforts, and help build on
 what you have already accomplished.

When Harry Truman was still in High School in Independence, he wrote "the virtue I call courage is not in always facing the foe, but in taking care of those at home." That simple statement is the heart of my message tonight. To begin with, it highlights the spirit of caring that nurtures the Kansas City Consensus. You have shown the courage it takes to care for others; the patience to listen to each other; and the strength to pry open minds that would otherwise be closed. You have had the vision to turn strangers into neighbors, and then into friends.

For example, Paul Levy found the courage to help Kansas City recognize and accommodate its disabled citizens. Tonight's recipient of the Dorothy Davis award, Rita Hotchkiss, found the courage to help Kansas City see and meet the needs of disadvantaged youths. And each of the 4000 people who worked on the COMPASS project showed that they believed in "taking care of those at home." From Dorothy Davis to Chris Hancock, Kansas City Consensus has proven that service to others is an enduring part of America's spirit -- a spirit so strong that it is even starting to overtake Washington.

~~I salute you, Paul Levy,
Rita Hotchkiss & Chris Hancock
& I salute each of the 4000
people who worked on the
COMPASS project as you take
care of those at home.~~

Like many of you, I first felt that ^{same} ~~spirit~~ when President John F. Kennedy asked me -- and my generation -- to serve our country. As part of that call, he proposed that America's young people take a portion of their lives and devote it to a radical new idea -- the Peace Corps. This call to service was powerful because it wasn't an order, but a challenge. It did not invoke the power of the law to require virtuous conduct; instead it argued directly for virtue itself. President Kennedy simply asked Americans to do the right thing, a call to which each generation of Americans has always responded.

In the years since, too many Americans stopped hearing that call. As a lawyer, let me confess that part of this problem was a reliance on laws, rather than people, as the bulwark of civic virtue. Some things -- including justice itself -- are too important to leave to the law. Our legal vocabulary of rights and prohibitions cannot fully account for our responsibilities to each other. According to the law, we must stop at red lights, but we may ignore the plight of the homeless.

Of course, some rights require immediate vindication. When I attended law school, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 marked enormous and essential strides forward in our nation's commitment to civil rights. But did they completely solve the problems of race relations in our country? You need only look to Los Angeles -- or even Kansas City -- to see that these laws were not enough. Even if all discrimination ended today, we would still live in a country where, on average, the quality of your education, your job, your housing, and your health care varies with your skin color.

As Harry Truman could have told us, we have
found the courage to battle foes, but not^{always} the courage
to truly care for each other. Indeed, by seeing our
nation's challenges as battles between warring camps,
we have watched our people draw apart, when we
need every one of us to work together. Nick knows
well that united teams get championship rings --
although a team entirely composed of Chiefs ~~may make~~
it into the Super Bowl this year!

For this reason, your work in achieving consensus is a national model, and your COMPASS report is proof of what Americans can do if they work together.

There is an old saying that if your only tool is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail. You have found a better way, involving real understanding of problems, and a willingness to find the best way for the Kansas City community to meet its own needs.

Your efforts echo the words of President Kennedy because they challenge each of us to make a difference. Your efforts make people feel like warriors for -- rather than victims of -- social justice. And that feeling creates a bond with others more lasting and life-affirming than any law. [The President is committed to making sure that Washington follows your example.]

There is a joke in Washington about the difference between Democrats and Republicans. Picture a man drowning fifty feet offshore. The Republican would throw him twenty-five feet of rope and tell him to swim the rest because it would be good for his character. The Democrat would throw him a hundred feet of rope and then run off looking for more people to save.

~~There's~~ There's a lot of truth in that. And President Clinton was elected to steady the pendulum that has too long swung between federal callousness and federal bossy-ness. ^{If this message of the 60's & 70's was} ~~The last twelve years proved that~~ ^{that govt alone can't solve our problems, then the message of the 80's & 90's will be better off} ~~even a thousand points of light leave a lot of people in~~ ^{the} ~~the darkness. But the programs of the 1960s and 70s~~ ^{if we view the govt itself as the problem was equally wrongheaded.} ~~proved that Washington does not have all the answers,~~ ~~either.~~ Only the American people as a whole can tackle the problems of the nation.]

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I must confess that I came to ~~this understanding~~ ~~only the American people as a whole saw the problems of the nation~~
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young man, I became deeply involved in the
presidential campaign of Eugene McCarthy. I was sure
then that I had all the answers, and that what America
needed was for me to go to Washington and help
provide those answers to a waiting nation. Thankfully
-- for me and the country -- I have had a long time to
rethink my ideas. Those twenty-five years taught me
that I did not have all the answers, and neither did
anyone else. So when Bill Clinton -- ~~who became my~~
~~friend during those early years~~ -- became President, I
was not sure that I wanted to go to Washington after
all.

What brought me into the government was the opportunity to be part of the President's national service initiative. This program ^{makes} ~~made~~ sense to me. It ^{fits} ~~fits~~ not only with my more-seasoned idealism, but with the lessons ^{have} ~~I~~ learned as a businessman, and as a father, and as a citizen. I no longer believe that government alone is the answer. I know that together, we are the answer. And isn't that what we have all learned in the last 3 decades?

**That is why our national service legislation --
which we hope Congress will pass this month -- will
unleash our citizens' idealism and energy on our
common national problems. We will focus, as the
Kansas City Consensus has, on our country's youth.
Young people are at the perfect time of life to help:**

- Immunize*
- ~~ensure that infants are immunized;~~
 - **tutor in our grade schools;**
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They will do so not as part of a national jobs program, but as foot soldiers in efforts run by our communities themselves. And in return, participants will be paid a minimum wage for their work, and receive an educational award of \$5000 for each year

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Ⓟ And who is it who will stand up today and say we don't have the money for this. Yes, there are difficult economic times -- times which require discipline, austerity & courage in our nation's capital. But if those who serve ~~it~~ ~~it~~ ~~it~~ just one homeless person off the street, just one person to break the cycle of substance abuse, give just one child hope for the future, then all of the accounts doing all of the cost benefit analysis will be with us.

~~And these local programs will have to~~ work as hard as our young people. Service programs will have to raise at least 15 cents of every dollar paid as wages to participants. Let me say that again: no federal money will be spent until private money has already been raised. This will ensure that service programs grow out of communities instead of being transplanted from Washington.

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~~And whatever their individual decisions may be~~
concerning our legislation, I am confident that we will
have the full support of Senators Dole and Kassebaum
of Kansas, and Senators Danforth and Bond of
Missouri, in the on-going national service movement.
Senator Dole was instrumental in earlier national
service legislation. Senator Danforth's work with
community-building organizations like the De La Salle
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and Senator Bond's similar efforts with the Youth
Volunteer Corps and the Urban Youth Corps, set a
*as the ranking minority member
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standard for each of us to strive for. And ^{giving us a fair hearing & making her own legislative} Senator
Kassebaum is ~~literally setting a standard for those of us~~
proposals to craft
~~in Washington, working in a cooperative effort to draft~~
a comprehensive national service plan.

I am already grateful for the work of Congressman Alan Wheat on our legislation. I also know that many of you here tonight -- ~~Bert Berkey, Tammy Blossom, Connie Campbell, Bob Rogers and Clyde McQueen~~ and countless others ~~are~~ are already working to initiate national service projects in Missouri. ^{and Kansas} I know that you have assembled a great team, and so I look forward to great work together.

The famed civil rights worker Fanny Lou Hamer used to tell the story of the wise old man and the two little boys who thought they were very clever. They decided they would fool the old man by catching a small bird and cupping it in one boy's hands. They would then bring it to the old man and say: "old man, we have a bird in our hands. Is it alive or dead?" Their plan was that if he said the bird was dead, they would release it and let it fly away. If he said it was alive, they would crush it and show him the dead bird. But when the boys brought the bird to the old man and asked him their question, he answered "it's in your hands."

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