

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National Service

Series/Staff Member: Eli Segal

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 1295

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Michigan State - Campus Compact 4/2/93

Stack:

S

Row:

66

Section:

2

Shelf:

8

Position:

1

Remarks of Eli Segal,
Assistant to the President and
Director, White House Office of National Service
to the Campus Compact
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
April 2, 1993

~~DALE GUY~~

Thank you ~~Representative Guy~~ for that

introduction, and thank you all for your warm
welcome.

GORDON GEYER - Pres.

MARY LEE DAVIS

ABEL SYKES - East Lansing Community College

JULIE BUSCH - NCC

LARRY OWEN - 4

BOB CAAR

BILL FORD

It is a special pleasure to be here in Michigan. I

thought that we in Washington had great college
basketball, but I learned last week that there's one
state with an even better team. Although the focus
this year is on the University of Michigan, I'm well
aware of Michigan State's basketball tradition. I'm
originally from Boston, and everyone there thinks
Magic Johnson is one of the all-time greats -- right
behind Larry Bird.

~~Personal~~
~~(2) Jerry Owens~~

(1-)

ATTACHMENT
(A)

~~Now~~ Now hopefully I'll ~~keep~~ keep you as my friend
~~Boston~~ when I tell you that I come
from Boston, ^{the home of Larry Bird} where we think the Major League
son ~~is~~ ^{was} great - the second best
basketball player of all time!

~~And~~ And I hope you'll forgive me ~~for~~ for
taking a quick walk through my life
- Rudy -

It was 1962 that I left the
U of N -- we just lost
the Rose Bowl, the NCAA championship
& I was about to lose my
first of 7 m.c. cups

~~But I~~ ~~retired~~

I retired - only 20 years old.
~~but was Rose Bowl~~

I've got a friend in the
WH we were going to
^{national security} a leg which ^{wasn't the} Rose Bowl
we'll like it in New Orleans!

I was on this campus just six months ago, when you hosted the third Presidential debate. In his closing statement that night, Bill Clinton said "I want a country where people are coming together across the lines of race and region and income. I know we can do better." The Michigan Campus Compact is proof that we will do better.

Since the new administration began, I've spoken about national service to ^{governors, to mayors, to other} elected officials, ~~and~~ to reporters, ~~and to student groups~~. Now, ~~finally~~, I am with a group I can just call "friends." I know that with you, I'm preaching to the choir. You're teaching kids to read. You're providing shelter to the needy. You're doing environmental audits. In hundreds of ways, large and small, you're already making a difference.

When I speak to a typical group, I try to find out the names and stories of the people in the audience who are most actively engaged in service. Then, during my speech -- and much to their embarrassment - I ask those two or three people to stand up and be honored for their service.

My cup runneth over today; all of you deserve that recognition. So I ask for everyone here who is engaged in service ^{or service learning} to stand. I applaud you, the President applauds you, and I ask that you applaud each other.

Today's Conference is called Awakening. ^{Interested in more than P}
~~Frequently asked, begged a raise~~ ^{Leadership, service & default}
~~the incredible amount of service involved~~ ^{on campus; young people were}
~~received the President's call to service~~ ^{That's exactly}
 America is awakening to your movement.

Some people -- alas, including this old pol -- remember 1984 as the year when R.F. was re-elected. What I learned is that ¹⁹⁸⁴ was ^{also} the year that a Kennedy ^{Don} & Swearer ^{Howard} called for a compact of college presidents to show that young people were hungry to ~~the~~ serve. Just think of it - in 1984, no CC, no COOL, virtually no youth corp, no Teach for Am or City Year, a meager service movement in D.C.

Throughout his long campaign, Bill Clinton was energized by people like you -- young people who are renewing our national spirit. He knows the amazing statistics; that 61% of all teenagers are performing some kind of community service -- for an average of over three hours a week -- and that two thirds of all college freshmen are doing the same. As President, he is not asking you to endorse a Clinton policy for national service. Instead, he is asking to join your efforts, and hoping to help you build on what you have already accomplished.

press releases, —

Less than 10 years later, almost by magic because it has been done with the usual bells & whistles, a powerful new movement has asserted itself which will not be denied! BC

~~I was deeply honored when President Clinton~~
~~called me to serve my country as Director of the Office~~
~~of National Service.~~ During the past twenty-five
years, I have done two things: I have been a
businessman in Massachusetts and have tried -- ~~seven~~
~~times~~ -- to elect a Democratic President. You may
remember some of my candidates, like President
McCarthy . . . and President McGovern . . . and
President Udall. . . and President Hart . . . The real
miracle of the last election is that Bill Clinton let me
anywhere near his campaign.

Thankfully, I've done a little better as a businessman. That background means at least two things. First, it means I have a lot to learn about the world of community service. It is a cardinal rule in Washington, D.C. that you should pretend you know everything. Let me confess that I don't. I promise to listen and learn from people like you, who know best how to reach and serve our communities.

Second, I have no interest in becoming a bureaucrat. Unlike most of official Washington, I want as little power as possible. Instead, I want to empower you and the communities you serve. I already know this much: that the service programs that work are community-designed and community-based.

Do you know what they say is the difference between a Democrat and a Republican? Picture a man drowning fifty feet offshore. A Republican would throw him twenty-five feet of rope and tell him to swim the rest of the way 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 I will do everything I can to ensure that we avoid the extremes of callousness, on the one hand, and overinvolvement on the other. The last twelve years have proven that even a thousand points of light leave a lot of people in the dark. But I must also admit that the programs of the 1960s and 70s proved that Washington does not have all the answers either. In the Office of National Service, we plan to help target the human needs to be addressed, and then let the spirit and genius of people all over the nation -- people like you -- design ways to meet those challenges.

Having made these promises, I now ask for your help. No one except you can make national service work. As Robert Kennedy explained a generation ago: "it is the young people who must take the lead . . . [Change] demands the qualities of youth: not of a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, [and] of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease."

I ask for your help against the cynics, who will insist that Americans aren't willing to renew their commitment to each other. This kind of skepticism greets every great new challenge. The formation of the Peace Corps was called a "juvenile experiment" by former President Eisenhower.

Too much of the Washington establishment is comfortable with way things are -- and too many of the rest of us are more used to criticizing the government than in working to change it. We've already heard that our national service proposals are too large, and that they'll cost too much. We've also been told that our proposals are too small, and won't make enough of a difference. I can't tell you how many times we've been told that our legislation is dead -- even before we introduce it!

Fortunately, the cynics have to reckon with people like you. By choosing service, you show that there is a ^{fresh} third way to look at America -- to see all of its problems, but to see them as a call to action, not an excuse to stay uninvolved. And as Margaret Mead once said: "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed its the only thing that ever has."

When you get right down to it, National Service is about two very simple ideas. The first is that your country needs you. The second is that you need your country.

America needs you because the government alone cannot solve our country's problems. For example, in this wealthy country, half of all two year olds aren't
+ We rank 16th in the world.

fully vaccinated. That's appalling and unacceptable.

President Clinton has taken the first step, by

committing the federal government to paying for the
But the one thing you've learned is that the govt alone can't do it all.
vaccines. ~~Yet~~ We still need ~~for~~ thousands of volunteers

Find the kids to *educate*
to help ~~locate children~~ and contact their parents ~~and~~ to

keep the medical centers open so that working parents can bring their children in. The health of our country's children ultimately depends not upon our government, but upon our people.

In the same way, the government cannot be the role model that keeps kids out of gangs, or the activist who starts a recycling program, or the tutor that teaches a child to read. Only you can do these things.

Just as your country needs you, I know there is a part of you that needs our country -- a part of you that yearns for a sense of national purpose. Service reminds us that America is more than the sum of our self-interest. As Winston Churchill once explained "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." As we work to reinvent America, we will find that we have reinvented ourselves.

When President Clinton speaks of service, he likes to quote Martin Luther King's words that "everyone can be great because everyone can serve."

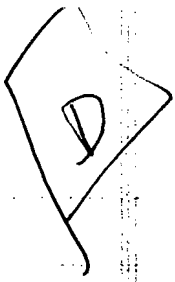
These words do not mean simply that the seeds of greatness are within each of us as individuals --

although that certainly is true. They also mean 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 like Bea Salazar and Lonnie Jackson are ^{like} ~~measured~~ by the lack of distance between ^{Wike} ~~themselves~~ and others.



How do we go from these lofty ideals to the record of success we all crave? Well, in my former life, I owned a jigsaw puzzle company. I like to think of our challenge as though we're making a ~~retained~~ puzzle -- first we turn the pieces over, then we establish relationships between them and then we start connecting them one piece at a time. In our case, like in most jigsaws, we'll start by working the outline pieces -- getting the Congress to legislate us into existence.

To do this, we need to show that service works, that in the mitty gritty world of Washington, it cost effective. Hence our Summer of Service.

Yesterday was April Fools day. But what happened at CNCS
was no practical joke. ~~It was no joke. We were a small~~
~~community. We were a small community. We were a small~~
some flows in a hand delivered for all over the U.S.

We are already accepting statements of interest
from young people who would like to serve this
summer. We will be able to take about one thousand
students from 17 to 25 years old. They will be chosen
locally, with special attention to diversity and to
identifying people who are potential leaders in the
national service movement. In other words, we're
looking for people like you.

If you know that you would like to be considered, please drop me a card at the White House with your summer address. Or better yet, go over my head to the President. We will send you information about the selected community service programs in your area as soon as they are chosen, and tell you how you can apply directly to them. I cannot promise that you will be selected, but I promise that you will be considered, and that we will use your desire to serve as proof that America's students are willing to lead America's renewal.

The summer program is just a beginning. We hope that some of these thousand pioneers will return to school with ideas for new programs to fight community problems. We will provide special grants to help start the most innovative proposals. I know that the Michigan Campus Compact is already a leader in encouraging student-initiated projects. I hope to repeat that success nationwide.

While we organize the summer of service, we are also drafting legislation to provide for a permanent national service program. We hope to introduce this legislation later this Spring. As you already know, the program is designed to help ^{young people} ~~you~~ shoulder the cost of ^{their} ~~your~~ education by allowing ^{them} ~~you~~ to pay off ^{their} ~~your~~ loans over a long period of time, or better yet, by performing a year or two of national service.

But as I mentioned earlier, I don't claim to have all the answers. So let me use our time here to get a rough sense of your views on two of the tough issues we still face in trying to put together a legislative program. This will be like a town meeting. With apologies to Ross Perot, I'm all ears.

First, we need to decide how to allocate whatever funds we can get Congress to appropriate. Some argue that our appropriation should fund service by as many people as possible, even though that means that each participant will get less money towards their education. Others argue that we must provide a substantial education benefit, even though that limits the number of people who can be part of the program. What do you think? Let me hear you applaud first if you favor a larger program with a smaller individual benefit. Now let me hear the applause of those who think the benefit should be large, even if that shrinks the program.

These are not easy decisions. Let's do the same thing with the level of benefits paid to college graduates and non-graduates. Some argue that the benefit should be large: for college graduates, since they will have special skills that are of increased value to our communities. Others argue that the benefits should be the same for everyone who serves, regardless of educational attainment. Who believes in different benefits for differently skilled people? Who believes in equal benefits for all?

~~Asst~~

I want to hear from you, and President Clinton wants to hear from you. Please write to either of us. Let us know when we do something right, and when we do something wrong, and what we should do next.

You are our eyes and ears in your communities, and

we need your input. because once we pass

our legislation -- the outline of our puzzle -- we go onto the truly

hard stuff -- ~~the~~ ^{of} connecting the pieces that ~~are~~ ^{sit} for

~~from Washington in~~ our communities, creating harmony where there was chaos & truly making the whole more than the sum of

the ~~many~~ part

And if puzzles are not for you, or even if they are, let's never forget that

~~Let me end, as I began, by thanking you for your~~
service is ~~not~~ about something big.

~~service, and telling you how much it matters.~~ I can
add little to the words Robert Kennedy brought to
South Africa in 1966. He said "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."

Thank you again for letting me be here with you
today. You are an inspiring group, and I know that
together, there is nothing we cannot do.