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1995 economic outlook

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ABSTRACT: Because of a Republican controlled Congress, high unemployment and the corrosive poverty that afflicts female-headed households, 1995 may not be a good year for African Americans. The Black Enterprise Board of Economists meeting held recently in Washington, DC, is discussed. Board member Andrew Brimmer projected that the US economic growth rate will decline considerably in 1995 compared with 1994. The decline in economic activity is one sign that the demand for jobs will continue to outstrip supply. While US economic activity is projected to expand moderately in 1995, signs indicate the general economic position of African-Americans will deteriorate. Brimmer believes that to a considerable extent, the failure of blacks to make substantial progress in their relative economic status reflects a weakening in their participation in the labor force.

TEXT: A NEW YEAR SHOULD SIGNAL hope, but for many African-Americans, 1995 may not bring great cheer. Topping the list of concerns: a conservative, Republican-controlled Congress, high black unemployment and the corrosive poverty that afflicts female-headed households.

It doesn't matter that inflation is low, overall unemployment is down or even that crime rates have fallen. In black communities throughout the nation, there are still too many people chasing too few jobs and too many children raising children.

The double whammy of a Republican sweep last November combined with a neoconservative wave of elected officials at the local level does not bode well for urban economic development.

Although the most recent meeting of the BLACK ENTERPRISE Board of Economists (BEBE) was held prior to the elections, board members felt a tremendous frustration. In remarks prepared for the two-day session in Washington, D.C., BLACK ENTERPRISE publisher Earl G. Graves noted, "Considering the ongoing debate over urban economic development, where can

African-Americans look for new employment? At a time when interest in welfare reform is high, what are the solutions for families stuck in the vicious cycle of poverty?"

Discussants at the session included:

Cecilia A. Conrad, professor of economics at Barnard College; Gerald Jaynes, professor of economics and African-American studies at Yale University; Andrew F. Brimmer, president of Brimmer & Co. a Washington, D.C., economic and financial consulting firm; Margaret C. Simms, director of research programs for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies; Courtney N. Blackman, an international economics consultant; Edward D. Irons, dean of the Clark Atlanta University School of Business; and Emmett J. Rice, a former governor of the Federal Reserve Bank.

THE UNAPPRECIATED RECOVERY

To set the economic cone for the meeting, Andrew Brimmer began by projecting that the U.S. economic growth rate will decline considerably in 1995 compared with 1994. The country will also experience a slower rate of expansion throughout the year.

The decline, which can be traced back to the Federal Reserve Bank's restrictive monetary policy, will be led by a projected slackening in home-building and business receipts, as well as by softening consumer spending.

This year, the economy will expand at a pace well below the 2.7% annual growth necessary to achieve "long-run, full-employment growth," says Brimmer. In fact, he projects that real gross domestic product (GDP) may grow only 2.1%. This is a sizable decline from the 3.6% growth rate projected for 1994. (GDP is the broadest measure of domestic economic activity, of which two-thirds is based on consumer spending.)

The decline in economic activity is one sign that the demand for jobs will continue to outstrip supply. Lower relative employment assures less income and tighter spending at the consumer and supplier levels. Adding these factors to a monetary policy that's dedicated to gradually increasing interest rates will slow commercial and residential construction, and automobile sales, which in turn will retard overall growth.

The strange twist to this scenario is that while Americans feel uneasy about their personal economic status, as was evidenced in the recent electoral thumbs up for the Republican agenda, the economic indicators of the big picture are fairly robust. By the end of 1995, the number of employed Americans is projected to grow to 125.6 million, from 120.2 in

1993. The number of unemployed should drop from 9.6 million to 8.0 million, sliding the unemployment rate down to 6% from 7.4% over the two-year period.

The foul-tasting monetary medicine the Fed prescribes has slowed inflation. Despite two years of economic expansion, consumer prices have grown only slightly. But inflationary pressures are increasing. Although Brimmer sees a boost in prices and wages, he does not project an increase in productivity. As a result, says Brimmer, higher wages and raw material prices could cause the inflation rate to grow from a projected 2.7% for 1994 to 3.25% for 1995. As for interest rates, Brimmer says the prime rate may touch 8% by March 1995, and fall to 7.5% by year's end.

TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE BACK

While U.S. economic activity is projected to expand moderately this year, signs indicate that the general economic position of African-Americans will deteriorate.

In fact, says Brimmer, the "relative employment and income losses being experienced by blacks will be reflected as gains for Asians and other minority groups."

Since 1989, African-Americans have made only modest economic progress based on a review of population, civilian labor force and employment statistics and money income. In the last five years, the black share of the total population rose by 0.34%, but its share of the civilian labor force and of employment increased by only 0.19% and 0.18%, respectively. The black unemployment rate decreased by 0.6% during the same period. By contrast, other races, primarily Asians, showed greater improvement as their population increased by 0.76%, their participation in the civilian labor force grew by 0.54% and their employment went up by 0.48%.

These differential changes were also demonstrated in money income during the period. Between 1989 and 1994, the money income of African-Americans grew slightly from 7.4% to 7.8% of total money income. The money income of other races, excluding whites, grew from 3.17% to 3.60% of the total during the same period.

Brimmer believes that "to a considerable extent, the failure of blacks to make substantial progress in their relative economic status reflects a weakening in [their participation] in the labor force." During this same five-year period, members of other races experienced improved employment levels. Their employment level rose by 20.3% compared with 4.8% for all workers, 4% for whites and 6.8% for blacks.

According to Brimmer, this discrepancy is due to the increasing number of young black men over the age of 16 who are not in the labor force or actively seeking employment.

The employment outlook for 1995 is not much better. The African-American civilian labor force is projected to grow to 15 million or 11.3% of the total civilian labor force. Black employment may average 13 million or 10.5% of the total population. But black unemployment is projected to number 1.8 million or 23% of the total jobless. That means that in a time of relative economic expansion, African-Americans are projected to still have an unemployment rate of at least 12.2%.

Brimmer explains, "While the absolute number of jobs held by blacks will increase in 1995, their relative position will most likely weaken further."

Of course, a job deficit translates into an income deficit, which in turn makes for a poorer black community. In 1994, black money income was projected to be \$323.3 billion, or 7.8% of the \$4.1 trillion dollar total. In 1995, projected total money income in the United States may grow to \$4.4 trillion. Of that, African-American money income may rise to \$437.3 billion, or 8% of the total.

CREATING EMPLOYMENT

Three decades ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society abandoned its efforts to improve the employability of inner-city residents. Nevertheless, for many cities, the quest for jobs continues. According to Margaret C. Simms of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C., two fundamental questions must be answered before the challenge is addressed:

- (1) Can the public sector on its own produce economic development in central cities?
- (2) What are the best models for big-city mayors to develop an effective development package?

"When an elected official talks economic development," says Simms, "success is measured in terms of additional jobs for residents and/or additional tax revenue. In both cases, the trump card for most politicians is to bring in new businesses."

Politicians are limited in their ability to implement policies to create jobs, Simms feels. Instead, most political leaders look to providing tax incentives, infrastructure concessions, low-cost land and financing, and training programs for workers. In 1995, these old ideas are being programmed with new urban "software": empowerment zones, public-private

partnerships, and newly designed high-performance workplaces.

In response, cities and counties queued up for the Clinton administration's empowerment zone (EZ) initiative. In fact, the Department of Housing and Urban Development received 74 EZ and 218 enterprise community (EC) applications. Nevertheless, Simms still questions how HUD will determine "a good plan."

Edward Irons of Clark-Atlanta University thinks he knows. He points out that job creation is a macroeconomic issue. Cities and states can't really create jobs, but they can create an appealing mix of tax abatements and incentives to attract investors.

The alternative to growing your own jobs is "stealing" someone else's, claims Emmett Rice, a former governor of the Federal Reserve Bank. According to Rice, this kind of stealing is done by luring firms with an array of fiscal givebacks.

One successful example of public-private synergy is Atlanta's reborn business district. But, the growth of that area did little to lower Atlanta's overall poverty level, adds Simms.

"So what," is Irons' reaction. He claims that decreasing the city's poverty rate was not the primary objective for expanding Atlanta's downtown. The charge was to stabilize Atlanta's commercial base and build it into a world-class city. "We ought not to be thinking about doing good [in the inner city]," Irons notes.

He is not being callous here. Irons believes that businesses are attracted to a location because of an investment or income opportunity, not because of altruism.

"If you are going to develop the inner cities, you must find profit opportunities for businesses," Irons says, "and then attract them on a basis of self-interest."

This comment triggered a discussion on the costs and benefits of attracting new businesses to urban areas. The construction of mega-supermarkets in Harlem and sports stadiums in Cleveland and Chicago were cited as examples of these efforts. But Barnard College professor Cecilia Conrad wondered what price is too high for so-called progress. "What does a city gain if 250 jobs are created, but the taxes lost due to an abatement over several years are a multiple of the taxes the new employees pay? Does creating financial security for 250 families outweigh increasing a city's deficit, and ultimately cutting services?"

Of course, preparing a city for growth is a multifaceted process. Simms

says, "If your goal is to attract business to generate jobs, officials must determine what businesses to target, and what jobs are the city's residents prepared to take, or [which can they] be trained to perform. The goal should be to incorporate new workers in education and training programs, which enhance their ability to compete."

Several nay federal initiatives, primarily from the Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services, are being reviewed and tested to fill the gaps. In these efforts, which have led to a variety of training programs, states and municipalities do the fine-tuning and the private sector does the training. About a half-dozen states, including Wisconsin, Maine and Oregon, have signed on to one such program called School-to-Work in the hope that it will enhance long-term job opportunities. Other programs subsumed under the recently passed crime bill also include money for initiatives to reach high-risk populations.

Finally, the Clinton administration wants to create a one-stop career center to counsel prospective employees and refer them to an appropriate program. Emmett Rice does not disagree with the concept, but he believes that blacks must push for sophisticated skills building programs along with initiatives that develop low-level skills. Irons concurs, adding that undirected training is meaningless because, "We have to identify growing labor niches and train our people for those jobs."

RETHINKING WELFARE REFORM

In many circles, skills building and job training are still believed to be the answer to the feminization of poverty in the United States. But the implementation of these solutions is not simple. The fact is, the number of female-headed households is increasing, and these families have a higher poverty rate than other families. Conrad believes that the consequences of this reality are "grim," especially for black families. More than 50% of black children live in such households, and 63% of these families are poor.

For decades, social scientists have theorized about reducing the number of black female-led families to lower the incidence of poverty. Suggested measures range from eliminating welfare and building more orphanages, to increasing community censure of unwed mothers, and providing more economic opportunities for black males.

But is it possible, Conrad asks, "to reduce the risk of poverty for lone mothers and their children?" She answers yes, arguing that female-based poverty is not unique to the United States. She points to Canada, France and Sweden, countries that reduced their poverty rates in the 1980s, a time when poverty was on the rise in the United States. Their solution: income support policies.

"The United States is notoriously less generous toward families than other industrialized countries," says Conrad. One example of this parsimony is the lack of a universal family allowance. Instead, the only income support the U.S. government provides is the means-tested Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) program. In Canada and Western Europe, all families are eligible for a monthly allowance, regardless of income or family structure. Sweden pays single mothers an advanced child maintenance payment with child support collected from absent fathers. In Canada and the United Kingdom, low-income families are paid supplemental benefits.

The United States' tight-fisted approach is not cost-effective, argues Courtney N. Blackman, former Bank of Barbados governor. "If a single woman has a baby and society doesn't help her, and then she has a second child, the chances of raising either child successfully plunge, leading to social costs that outweigh the small amount of money that wasn't spent [initially]," he explains.

To test her thesis, Conrad created models showing the new income American families would receive if the Canadian and European policies were adopted. She found that these models would reduce U.S. poverty rates among female-headed families.

Conrad brought up studies showing that families headed by high-school dropouts, with their reduced wage potential, lower incomes and less child support, have a higher risk of poverty. The risks of poverty are cumulative. But women with at least a high school degree, who delay childbearing until they are married, are less likely to live in poverty, she notes.

European-style family allowances have a bigger impact on poverty than demographic changes, Conrad observes. "Until recently, most states in the United States did not offer any income supplement to families with two able-bodied adults. The family allowance schemes abroad offer benefits that are quite similar to those offered to one-parent families here." Of course, other countries, such as Australia, France and Sweden, do not expect mothers with young children to work. In the final analysis, the main opposition to family allowances here stems from the cost. Conrad admits the number of recipients would go up, but the bureaucracy monitoring the family eligibility would be reduced, along with the costs.

Yale University economics professor Gerald Jaynes is skeptical about the bottom-line nature of this proposal. He does not believe that conservatives and liberals can find common ground. One such system was tried and defeated during the Nixon administration. He says the conservatives opposed it for cost; and the liberals, because it was not [broad] enough." There was also the belief, that in a less fiscally constrained time, the family allowance

program could be resurrected at a higher level. This belief "of course was a horrendous folly," Jaynes concludes.

The programs presented by Simms and Conrad to boost black employment and decrease black female poverty are both commendable. However, the new conservative political reality makes it unlikely that the government, with a mandate from the American people, will take the initiatives outlined to address these crushing concerns.

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File
African
Americans

President Clinton



*Making A Difference
for America*



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*File
African
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FROM INSIDE OUT*

From the desk of Alexis M. Herman, Assistant to the President and
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** To African-American Leaders: From time to time we will be sending you this Occasional Newsletter for your information and/or action. Please send us any updates or corrections on your information and/or any suggested additions to our mailing list.*

August, 1994

Many of you have told me you want to know more about President Clinton's accomplishments. As we conclude this legislative session, I'd like to share with you a few facts about actions beneficial to the African-American community and about what's at stake for African Americans in the present health care reform debate.

Did You Know ...

Because of President Clinton's leadership, for the first time in 60 years our country is on the verge of making history with a Health Care Reform Bill that guarantees health coverage to every American family, an enormous step forward for all Americans and especially vital for the health and welfare of African Americans.

... Health Care ...

- African Americans are among those most at risk of going without care and health coverage in today's system.
- Life expectancy for African Americans is lower than for other communities: infant mortality is greater; heart disease, diabetes, and arthritis are more common among African Americans.
- Medicare takes care of seniors. Medicaid takes care of the poorest in our country. In the past five years, five million more Americans have lost their health insurance, almost all of them working people and their children. The health care debate boils down to whether or not the majority of hard-working folks who work two and three jobs just to make ends meet, will have full health care coverage that can never be taken away.
- We tend to be the last hired and the first fired. When we lose our jobs, change jobs, or move, we are in jeopardy of losing our health insurance.
- 55% of African-American households are uninsured or underinsured. That's why guaranteed coverage that can never be taken away is so important.

That's why the passage of these concepts are so important to us all. That's why the National Medical Association -- the largest association of African-American doctors -- supports the Clinton health care principles of universal coverage and shared responsibility. Others supporting these principles are the National Black Nurses Association, NAACP, Congress of National Black Churches, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, National Black Leadership Forum, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, A. Phillip Randolph Institute, to mention a few.

These health care issues are now being debated in the House and Senate before Congress departs for the August recess.

Accomplishments of the Clinton Administration

With many outstanding tangible and intangible accomplishments during his first 18 months, President Clinton has truly made a significant difference in setting a tone for the country, especially in areas of excellence, diversity and inclusion. More importantly, the initiatives of the Administration are making a real difference in the lives of ordinary Americans.

Did You Know ...

President Clinton has an excellent record of Legislative Leadership.

... Legislative Initiatives ...

- As a result of the Clinton Economic Plan, 3.8 million new jobs have been created in the American economy in the past 18 months, more jobs than were created by the previous administration in four years.
- The new Brady Law prevents convicted felons and the mentally unstable from walking into gun stores and walking out with deadly weapons by imposing a five-day waiting period to allow police to conduct background checks on potential gun purchasers.
- The new Family & Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for an infant or a loved one without losing their job.
- The new National Service Act offers a chance for tens of thousands of young people to contribute to their communities while they earn credit toward their higher education.
- The new Motor Voter Law provides the opportunity to register to vote in drivers license offices, unemployment offices and other public facilities.
- The Small Business Guaranteed Credit Enhancement Act significantly increases the availability of loans that can be guaranteed by the Small Business Administration, enabling more African-American businesses to develop and grow.
- The Assault Weapons Ban was passed as a part of the Crime Bill despite all the special interests who opposed it. The concept of significant crime prevention was also successfully included.
- Through the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, low-income workers can now qualify for an additional \$100 a month in direct payments.

Did You Know ...

President Clinton is committed to diversity. His Administration is one that looks like America.

... Diversity ...

- For the first time ever, African Americans serve in key positions in every agency and department throughout the federal government, including five cabinet-level secretaries (Agriculture, Commerce, Drug Policy, Energy, Veterans Affairs), more than twice as many as any previous administration. Together these officials command budgets in excess of \$120 billion, supervise close to a half-million federal employees, and make decisions that affect every facet of American life.
- The President has asked each of his cabinet officers to develop policies of inclusion. He has appointed over 500 African Americans to his administration, more than the past three Presidents combined. As a result of his leadership, every department of federal government, from top to bottom, has African Americans helping to insure that high-level decisions are made fairly and equitably. (See page 4: "21 African Americans Who Make a Difference")

Did You Know ...

President Clinton is committed to justice and fair play. Despite tremendous criticism, the Clinton Justice Department has been unequalled in its vigorous enforcement of civil rights laws.

... Leadership for Justice ...

- The Clinton Administration has appointed twice as many members of racial minorities to the federal bench as the last three Presidents combined; and collectively they would be more highly rated by the American Bar Association than those of any of the last three Presidents -- more diverse and more qualified. The majority of all presidential appointees to the federal bench have been women and minorities.
- The President's Executive Order on Environmental Justice protects low-income communities from discriminatory practices by directing federal agencies to develop environmental justice strategies.
- President Clinton's Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights won a landmark agreement to protect customers from racial discrimination in restaurants .
- The Justice Department Civil Rights Division filed a record 140 cases last year to enforce fair housing laws, a 35% increase from the number of cases filed in 1992.
- The Labor Department collected over \$34.5 million in back pay and other financial remedies for discrimination victims, an increase of 12% from the year before.
- The Justice Department has prosecuted 34 racial violence cases, charging 59 defendants since President Clinton took office.
- The Clinton Administration continues to intervene in federal court to sustain the current interpretation of the Voting Rights Act.

Did You Know ...

Three strategic objectives for the minority business community are providing opportunities in 1) international trade, 2) federal government and 3) capital formation.

... Business Strategies ...

- Minority business representatives have been included in international trade delegations.
- A special bank to assist with capital formation and loans to small and minority businesses who want to do business in Mexico was included in the passage of NAFTA.
- The President sponsored the first White House Conference on Africa, which brought together leading Africanists, business persons, and senior administration officials to discuss U.S. policy. Among the many issues debated were the pivotal issues of U.S. trade, investment and business development in Africa.
- The Clinton team has broadened the approaches to minority businesses beyond traditional programs like the 8A program, analyzing the entire federal approach for minority business participation. For example, we have carved out special opportunities for minorities in the emerging markets arising from the Information Superhighway initiative.
- The Clinton team is looking at ways to help create Real Wealth in the minority community by looking at what can be done more creatively to involve minority businesses with banking programs and asset management portfolios.

Summary

These are just a few of the accomplishments of President Clinton as he fosters his commitment to excellence, diversity and inclusion. There are many more things the Clinton team wants to do and will do -- with your continued help and support.

21 African Americans Who Make a Difference*

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Alexis Herman	Assistant to the President & Director of Public Liaison
Margaret Williams	Assistant to the President & Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Veronica Biggins	Assistant to the President & Director of Presidential Personnel

Throughout the Administration

Mary Frances Berry	Chair, Civil Rights Commission
Walter Broadnax	Deputy Secretary of Health & Human Services
Drew Days	US Solicitor General (argues for the US before Supreme Court)
Terrance Duvernay	Deputy Secretary of Housing & Urban Development
Joycelyn Elders	US Surgeon General
Eric Holder, Jr.	US Attorney for the District of Columbia
Larry Irving	Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Telecommunications
Bob Nash	Undersecretary of Agriculture
Ron Noble	Asst. Sec'y of Treasury for Enforcement (oversees Secret Service)
Emmett Paige	Asst. Sec'y of Defense for Command, Control, Communications
Deval Patrick	US Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights
Cassandra Robinson	Deputy Administrator of Small Business Administration
Rodney Slater	Federal Highway Administrator (oversees all federal highways)

* *These are but a handful of the more than 500 African Americans appointed to the Administration by President Clinton, as he demonstrates his belief that government must work harder to find quality appointments that help to correct injustices of the past while planning for the realities of the future. In our next occasional letter, we will list other African Americans on the Clinton Team who are making a difference.*

Contact Ben Johnson, OPL Associate Director, at (202) 456-2930 for more information.
Thank you for your continued support. AMH:atb

Would you help us verify and correct our records? Please attach your mailing label, correct any incorrect information, add your phone and FAX numbers, any comments, and any suggested additions to our mailing list. Return to Office of Public Liaison, c/o Mr. Ben Johnson, The White House, Washington, DC 20500.

Label or Name _____ Address _____

City, ST _____ Zip _____ + 4 _____

Phone(s) (_____) _____ FAX _____

Comments: _____

Suggested Mailing List Additions: _____

*African
Americans*



OFIELD DUKES & ASSOCIATES
PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSELOR

To: Maggie Williams
Chief of Staff
The First Lady
The White House

From: Ofield Dukes

Date: December 8, 1995

I thought I would share with you clippings from black newspapers on a "guest editorial" on President Clinton's race relations speech given in Austin, Texas. At the request of Alexis Herman, I wrote the ghost editorial for the black press and it was adopted and disseminated by NNPA (National Newspaper Publishers Association).

Ofield Dukes sends you
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on President Clinton's race
relations speech given in Texas.
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Guest Editorial

President Clinton Calls On Americans To 'Clean Our House Of Racism'



Walter Smith
Publisher

There are those, even some African Americans, who believe racism is dead and buried.

However, most African Americans know from the harsh realities of the present social and political environment that racism is still a potent virus in American society. We commend President Bill Clinton for addressing this issue clearly and forcefully in his speech on race relations at the University of Texas on the morning of the One Million Man March in Washington.

In his speech, President Clinton was on target in calling for an end to racism in America. The President said, "Recognizing one another's real grievances is only the first step. We must all take responsibility for ourselves, our conduct and our attitudes. America, we must clean our house of racism."

The racial rift between Blacks and Whites did not evolve over night. This rift became dramatically clear to all America as a result of the O.J. Simpson trial and the jury verdict. The differences between Blacks and Whites shifted from the South with the historic passage of civil rights legislation in the 1960's, led by President Lyndon B. Johnson, who was firmly committed to using the full force of the federal government and U.S. Congress to support

civil rights and equal opportunities for African Americans.

In the 1968 presidential election, bussing became a divisive issue in northern states. In subsequent presidential campaigns, wedge issues revolved around affirmative action quotas, crime, welfare, Willie Horton, and this year affirmative action, again. White opposition to Black progress in segments of the American population is deeply rooted in racism.

President Clinton took a courageous step earlier this year in strongly reaffirming his support for affirmative action, in spite of recent Supreme Court decisions and the political climate of "angry White males."

With Republican conservatives in full control of the U.S. congress and conservative justices having the balance of power on the U.S. Supreme Court, there is evidence all around us to suggest that the racial climate is worse now throughout America than it was in the 1960's. Many in African-American communities are suggesting that there is a mean spirit reflected in the actions of conservative Republican members of Congress who want to turn the clocks back and return Blacks to second class citizenship.

President Clinton offers some good first-step advice on improving race relations. "I ask every governor,

every mayor, every business leaders, every church leader, every civic leaders, every union steward, every student leader—most important, every citizen—in every workplace and learning place and meeting place all across America to take personal responsibility for reaching out to people of different races; for taking time to sit down and talk through this issue; to have the courage to speak honestly and frankly, and then to have the discipline to listen quietly with an open mind and open heart, as others do the same."

We ask President Clinton to take the lead in beginning this dialogue between Whites and Blacks. As NAACP Board Chair Myrlie Evers-Williams said in a recent speech before the Anti-Defamation League honoring the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, "If President Clinton can bring together at the White House two traditional, very violent enemies, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, and the warring factions in Bosnia, certainly he should be able to bring together Black and White leaders to improve communications, understanding, appreciation of our differences, and race relations in this country." Surely his office should take the initiative to have this dialogue happen.

We agree, Mr. President, thank you for the timely speech on what has become a race relations crisis in America. We await your next move. NNPA



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President Clinton calls on Americans to 'clean our house of racism'

By Special to the NNPA

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OFIELD DUKES & ASSOCIATES

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Ms. Maggie Williams
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500



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THE WHITE HOUSE

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Civil Rights in the Clinton Administration
A Fact Sheet

The announcement of Deval Patrick, a distinguished attorney and compassionate advocate, as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights continues the Clinton Administration's active involvement in civil rights issues.

- * President Clinton has assembled a highly qualified team that includes the most diverse group of presidential advisers ever to sit in a president's cabinet. Five African-Americans, two Hispanics, and six women are members of the Clinton cabinet.
- * A record high 61% of the President's nominees to the federal bench have been women and minorities.
- * President Clinton broke the gridlock in Washington and signed the Motor Voter Bill, which expands voting rights for all, including the poor and the young, by creating new voter registration locations.
- * The President signed into law the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which restores protection for religious exercise by restricting government actions that substantially interfere with religious practices.
- * President Clinton appointed highly-acclaimed civil rights leader Mary Frances Berry to be chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

President Clinton's civil rights policy extends beyond enforcing existing civil rights laws. It seeks to create real opportunity and empowerment. As the President has said, "The absence of discrimination is not the same thing as the presence of opportunity."

- * The Clinton civil rights policy emphasizes **justice, opportunity, and empowerment.**
- * The Clinton civil rights policy empowers people by providing valuable tools to help them succeed, such as:
 - ✓ Universal and Guaranteed Health Care
 - ✓ Welfare Reform
 - ✓ Small Business Assistance
 - ✓ Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit
 - ✓ Family & Medical Leave
 - ✓ Affordable Student Loans
 - ✓ Community Development Banks
 - ✓ A Strengthened Community Reinvestment Act
 - ✓ Empowerment Zones

The Clinton Administration's civil rights policy is broad-based and enforced throughout the entire federal government. No longer does the weight of civil rights enforcement fall solely on one department's shoulders; every department develops, implements, and enforces civil rights policy. For example:

- * The Administration argued in federal court to expand the interpretation of the Voting Rights Act.
- * The Justice Department Civil Rights Division filed a record 140 cases last year to enforce fair housing laws, a 35% increase from the number of cases filed in 1992.
- * The Department of Housing & Urban Development has aggressively fought to knock down discriminatory barriers, actively intervening to integrate a once segregated public housing complex in Vidor, Texas.
- * The Treasury Department, working with the Justice Department, ordered a Mississippi bank that denied loans because of race to implement a remedial lending plan for minority customers.
- * The Justice Department obtained an agreement from a South Dakota bank that charged higher interest rates to Native Americans to compensate minority borrowers and remedy its lending practices.
- * For the first time since the Age Discrimination Act was passed in 1975, the Department of Education issued regulations needed to implement the law. Prior administrations had failed to release the necessary guidelines.
- * The Labor Department collected over \$34.5 million in back pay and other financial remedies for discrimination victims, an increase of 12% from the year before.
- * The Department of Health & Human Services helped to develop language for the Health Security Act that ensures equal access and civil rights protections in health care reform.
- * The Department of Commerce awarded 15% of its procurement business to minority-owned businesses in 1993.
- * The Attorney General added 10 new staff people and approved a toll-free hotline to respond to complaints under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Justice Department has awarded technical assistance grants to speed compliance with the ADA and has resolved complaints to make public accommodations, courtrooms, and other government and private facilities accessible to people with disabilities.
- * The Justice Department filed first ever AIDS-related ADA lawsuits, suing dental offices in Houston and New Orleans for refusing to treat people with HIV and AIDS.
- * The Environmental Protection Agency identified 20 environmental justice pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities and turn them into useable space, creating jobs and enhancing community development.

Other appointments include Joycelyn Elders, who directs our nation's public health programs as Surgeon General and Cassandra Robinson, who serves as Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration. These are only a handful of the many appointments of African Americans made by President Clinton.

With the partnership of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Administration has also launched bold, new legislation. Last month, the President signed into law a new budget that will provide a tax break to small business owners and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit to lift the working poor out of poverty. The President pushed for and won the passage of the National Service Act to rebuild our communities and inspire our youth. The Administration won passage of a bill to establish Empowerment Zones in our nation's inner cities. And after years of Washington gridlock, the first piece of legislation the President signed was the Family & Medical Leave Act to protect working parents from losing their jobs when they need to take care of a child or a loved one.

In spite of what has been accomplished, there is much more to do. The Administration plans to put thousands more police officers not only on the streets but in the community, and it has proposed imposing a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases. Soon, the President will also announce his plan to reform the nation's health care system so that finally every American will be guaranteed medical coverage.

With your help, in full partnership, the Administration can achieve these goals and continue to build a better America.

The following facts and information highlight just a few of the many examples of steps President Clinton has taken to fight for the country's future.

APPOINTMENTS

- Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history.
- With four African American members, the Clinton Cabinet is 29% African American.
- Clinton Cabinet-level appointments include:
 - Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 - Lee Brown, Drug Policy Coordinator
 - Ronald Brown, Secretary of Commerce
 - Mike Espy, Secretary of Agriculture
 - Hazel O'Leary, Secretary of Energy

- For the first time in history, appointed two African American women (Alexis Herman as Director of Public Liaison and Maggie Williams as Chief of Staff to the First Lady) as Assistants to the President.
- Appointed more than twice as many African Americans to leadership and senior staff positions than any previous administration.
- Appointed ^{two} ~~three~~ deputy cabinet secretaries, including ~~_____~~ Terrance Duvernay as Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Walter Broadnax as Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- Appointed the first African American Surgeon General, Joycelyn Elders.
- Appointed an African American, Drew Days, as Solicitor General, the United States's Chief Advocate before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Appointed Ron Noble Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, a role which places him in charge of the U.S. Secret Service.
- Appointed Rodney Slater as Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.
- Nominated the first African American ever as U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, Eric Holder, Jr.
- Nominated three African American women, Veronica Coleman of Tennessee, Vickie Miles-LeGrange of Oklahoma, and Gaynelle Griffin-Jones of Texas as United States Attorneys.

ECONOMY

- Passed the single largest deficit-cutting plan in history, reducing the deficit by \$496 billion over five years.
- Signed into law the Small Business Guaranteed Credit Enhancement Act, significantly increasing the availability of loans that can be guaranteed by the SBA.
- Initiated aggressive action to alleviate the credit crunch on small business and issued more than ten regulatory initiatives to provide small businesses with more capital at lower interest rates.

- Expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to lift working families out of poverty with incentives to work. When fully implemented, over 20 million households with incomes of up to \$27,000 will benefit.
- Passed the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1993, providing \$4 billion in emergency unemployment compensation to approximately 1.9 million unemployed American workers.

FAMILIES & CHILDREN

- Signed the Family and Medical Leave Act, which requires employers to allow workers up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for an infant or a loved one in a time of need.
- Passed a comprehensive child immunization plan, which includes a 96% increase in funding, so that every child, regardless of family income, will be immunized against disease.
- Dramatically increased funding for the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program.
- Enacted key provisions of the Mickey Leland Act, broadening food stamp assistance for poor families with children.
- Achieved \$1 billion in funding for the Family Support and Preservation Initiative that will help prevent child abuse and help parents learn the skills and tools necessary to raise children.

EDUCATION

- Dramatically increased funding for Head Start, with full funding by 1997.
- Created the Historically Black College and University Capital Financing Program, which provides a federal guarantee for private sector bond financing for the repair and construction of facilities at historically black colleges and universities.
- Created the Institute for International Public Policy, which taps the talents of underrepresented minorities for the foreign service of the United States and private international volunteer organizations.
- Created the Faculty Development Fellowship Program to make grants to institutions of higher learning for programs to assist talented faculty from underrepresented groups obtain advance degrees and develop their careers.

- Passed a National Service Act that will give tens of thousands of young Americans a chance to contribute to their communities while they earn credit toward their higher education.
- Proposed funding for the construction, maintenance, and endowment of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Fine Arts Center.
- Passed the Student Loan Reform Act of 1993, which will make college more affordable and save taxpayer money through direct federal lending.
- Set forth "Goals 2000," a comprehensive national educational reform that embraces new, world-class learning standards, underscores the link between education and employment, and encourages bottom-up, not top-down, educational reform.

VOTING RIGHTS

- Signed the Motor Voter Bill, which expands voting rights for the poor and the young by establishing voter registration locations in drivers license offices, unemployment offices, and other public facilities.
- Argued in court for the expansion of the enforcement of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

URBAN POLICY

- Vigorously enforced the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in Vidor, Texas by announcing a plan to remove the Orange County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and Executive Director for failure to protect black former residents in this all-white town's public housing community.
- Initiated a four-pronged strategy to help integrate East Texas public housing facilities by increasing security and providing safe access to public transportation in Vidor, Texas and establishing an oversight office to monitor desegregation plans throughout East Texas. The plan will be implemented by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of a new direction for the department.
- Granted \$300 million to the Urban Revitalization Demonstration Program (Hope VI) to revitalize the most severely distressed public housing developments in the nation.

- Introduced legislation to create a network of Community Development financial institutions to provide capital and basic banking services to credit-starved, low-income communities.
- Proposed strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act, which is designed to encourage banks to lend to members of the community.
- Developed a plan to create Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities to encourage business investment in depressed urban areas.
- Signed an Executive Order directing the Interagency Council on the Homeless to develop a plan to make federal homeless programs more effective to break the cycle of homelessness.
- Proposed the "D.C. Initiative," which will create a comprehensive program for dealing with homelessness in the District of Columbia.
- Introduced the Housing and Community Development Act of 1993, which will significantly change rent policy for public housing and make home ownership easier for low income Americans.

CRIME

- Signed a Presidential Directive to reform federal firearms licensing procedures by improving background checks and imposing other security measures to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.
- Signed a Presidential Directive to close the loophole on the importation of assault pistols.
- Proposed a five-day waiting period on the purchase of handguns ("The Brady Bill").
- Passed the Police Hiring Supplement, making \$150 million available to communities most in need of community policing.

HEALTH

- Created the Office of Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health.
- Named the first ever White House AIDS policy coordinator to organize federal policy to fight the deadly disease.

- Revoked the Reagan/Bush "gag rule" that prohibited doctors in federally-funded facilities and public clinics from even mentioning family planning to their patients.
- Revoked the Reagan/Bush restrictions on family counseling in military hospitals.

The Health Security Act

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS

African-Americans face a health care system stacked against them -- they are among those Americans most at risk of going without care and coverage today. Losing or changing jobs often means losing health insurance, and African-Americans have one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. The health of African-Americans is also aggravated by:

- *African-American infant mortality rates are double (18.5%) those in white communities (8.1%).*
- *High mortality rates from preventable diseases -- including heart disease, cancer, and stroke .*
- *Homicide and legal intervention rates which are seven times higher among African-American males (61.5%) than white males (8.1%).*

Guaranteed Comprehensive Benefits

- The Health Security Act will guarantee all Americans comprehensive health care benefits they can never lose. Health alliances and plans are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or country of origin.
- All low income individuals, including those currently eligible for Medicaid, will be covered by the same comprehensive benefits and will be offered a choice of health plans.
- Alliances will be prevented from creating two-tier systems of care, and a system for redressing grievances quickly will be required of all plans and alliances.

Community-Based Investments

- Community-based plans that can best address the needs of a particular community will be encouraged through special incentives, capital development programs, and public health initiatives.

The Health Security Act

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTERS

America's Academic Health Centers form a unique national resource, driving advances in medical sciences and biotechnology. They secure America's position as the world leader in medical training and specialized care.

These centers are major employers encompassing a network of university hospitals, county hospitals, Veterans Administration hospitals, affiliated community hospitals, and area health education centers. The Health Security Act will preserve and strengthen the role of Academic Health Centers which provide front-line health care for residents of rural states and inner-city communities.

Levels the Playing Field

- Universal coverage under the Health Security Act will relieve the burden of paying for the care of the uninsured that is currently shouldered by Academic Health Centers.
- The costs of education and research in Academic Health Centers will be eased by a separate pool of funds that will be distributed through a formula to each eligible center.

Maintains Specialty Services

- While most people will not obtain routine health care at an academic health center, the Health Security Act will ensure that every American has access to the medically necessary specialized care offered at academic health centers.

Supports Cutting-Edge Care and Research

- Health plans will cover the costs of routine patient care associated with research conducted in academic health centers. This will enable academic health centers to continue to develop the advanced and highly specialized care they provide today, from heart-lung transplants to laser surgery for brain aneurysms.

January 5, 1994

2/17/94

	Ethnicity						Grand total
	AA	AP	H	NA	U	W	
PAS, PA & SEC	138	31	50	6	286	725	1236
Percentages	11.17%	2.51%	4.05%	0.49%	23.14%	58.66%	
SES, C, AD, A and others	318	79	161	14	48	1708	2328
Percentages	13.66%	3.39%	6.92%	0.60%	2.06%	73.37%	
Total	456	110	211	20	334	2433	3564
Total Percentages	12.79%	3.09%	5.92%	0.56%	9.37%	68.27%	

