

File
March 15, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO

ALEXIS HERMAN
HAROLD ICKES
EVELYN LIEBERMAN
MAGGIE WILLIAMS
MELANNE VERVEER
KAREN HANCOX
ANN LEWIS

CC:

LEE SATTERFIELD
CHRISTA ROBINSON

FROM:

BETSY MYERS

SUBJECT:

ACTIVITIES REPORT - March 15, 1996

Below please find a summary of events, outreach and media activities by the Office of Women's Initiatives and Outreach from March 1 to March 15, 1996

EVENTS

- o White House Women's Panel -- with the **First Lady, Alexis Herman, Carolyn Curiel, Ann Stock, Lucia Wyman and Jeanie Nelson** -- on personal experiences of breaking the glass ceiling for **Leadership America**, a women's professional development organization of 130 CEO-level women leaders from business, non-profit and government, March 13.
- o ***At The Table*** event of 12 concurrent roundtables hosted by **12 senior women appointees** including the General Counsel of Transportation, Deputy General Counsel of Education and Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at Labor. Participants were 130 CEO-level women leaders in **Leadership America**, March 13.

AT THE TABLE GRASSROOTS OUTREACH:

- o **Women appointees held dozens of *At The Tables* in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Massachusetts, Colorado, Minnesota, North Carolina, Texas, Kentucky, Georgia, and Nevada. California is the hot spot for *At The Tables*.**
- o Assistant Secretary-level appointees hosting ***At The Table*** included **Mary Ellen Withrow, U.S. Treasurer; Nancy McFadden, General Counsel at Transportation; Eldie Acheson, Assistant AG for Policy Development at Justice; Lois Schiffer, Assistant AG for Environment at Justice; Olena Berg, Assistant Secretary for Pension Benefits at Labor, Kathy Jurado, Assistant Secretary for Public & Intergovernmental Affairs at Veterans' Affairs; Katie Steele, Regional Director at HHS; Norma Cantu, Education's Director of Civil Rights; Susan King, Assistant**

Secretary for Public Affairs at Labor; **Jamienne Studley**, **Deputy General Counsel** at Education; **Louise Stoll**, **Assistant Secretary** for Budget at Transportation. Dozens of junior appointees, including **Kathie Klass** from Transportation, hold several discussions each month.

- o **Involved dozens of local community leaders** across the country to set up *At The Table* outreach meetings for women appointees with local women, including **California State Senator Jack O'Connell** and **Illinois Senator Carol Moseley Braun**.

CONSTITUENCY OUTREACH

- o **Amplification of Affirmative Action**
 - Faxed talking points to women appointees at each agency and sub-cabinet agency;
 - Faxed talking points to over 200 women leaders including those at the LCCR (Leadership Council on Civil Rights) and other leaders;
 - Faxed talking points to women constituents who have attended WH briefings.
- o **Amplification of President's agenda for women and families in Women's History Month:** Distributed Pink Cards and President's greeting for International Women's Day to Cabinet Secretaries to help them prepare for speeches and events.
- o Spoke to **Women In Cable and Telecommunications** meeting in D.C., top women television executives from across the nation., March 1.
- o Spoke to **National Association of Commissions for Women** in D.C., March 1.
- o Spoke to **National Association of County Executives** meeting in D.C., March 3.
- o Hosted meeting on **Women and Girls in Education** with leaders of 25 women's groups, March 4.
- o Spoke to Capitol Hill **Women's Political Caucus**, March 6.
- o Spoke to Daughters of Isis, March 8.
- o Held a briefing for women leaders on the **DOD/HIV** issue.
- o Held a meeting with Bonnie Campbell, Director of DOJ's Violence Against Women Office and other women leaders to discuss the **correlation between domestic violence and welfare reform**.
- o Held a meeting with Judge Anne Williams to discuss events with outreach to **women judges**.

- o Fielded many calls from women concerned about the Continuing Resolution not being signed with anti-choice legislation buried therein.
- o Fielded calls from women concerned about perceived changes of the President's position on affirmative action.
- o Identifying women for trade mission with Alexis Herman.
- o Participated in Family Service America Inc. briefing hosted by Doris Matsui.

WOMEN POLITICAL APPOINTEES OUTREACH

- o **Conducted Conference call of Agency Organizers for *At The Table*** on March to discuss organizing strategy.
- o **Conducted Conference calls with Regional Women Appointees** on March 6 to discuss grassroots outreach and organizing a White House presence at conferences and events outside Washington.
- o **Conducted Conference call with 12 women Assistant Secretaries on *At The Table*.**
- o **Hosted Brown Bag Lunches with women appointees** at the **Energy Department** on March 5, at the **Education Department** on March 12 and at **FEMA** on March 14 to gather input and recruit for *At The Table*.
- o Working with Presidential Personnel to reach out to **women appointees at Boards & Commissions**.
- o Meeting of the **Kitchen Cabinet** of senior women appointee advisors on March 5.
- o **Faxed talking points to all women appointees** at agencies and sub-cabinet agencies on **Affirmative Action**; on **Domestic Violence** and on **women business owners**.
- o Created specialized Weekly Hot Issues for Women - White House Talking Points on (this week): **V-Chip, Education, Job Creation and Economic Growth and to combat the alleged White House Glass Ceiling**.
- o Began development of African-American women Presidential appointee list.

MEDIA

- o Press on *At The Table* roundtables in California and elsewhere.
- o Extensive outreach on *At The Table* event of 12 concurrent roundtables with senior women appointees and **Leadership America** women leaders, including with TOP Radio, BNA, CBS Memphis affiliate and Jeff Katz Talk Radio in Sacramento.

- o Helping to develop and implement press strategy for upcoming trade mission to Mexico lead by Alexis Herman.

UPCOMING

- o POTUS event to sign Women's History Month proclamation on March 19.
- o Release of President Clinton's Accomplishments for Women and Families at a press briefing featuring top women in the Administration.
- o Gloria Steinem speech, March 20, in honor of Women's History Month.
- o POTUS coffee with women leaders, March 20.
- o Women's History Month Luncheon for agency women leaders and new constituent leaders to highlight individual women "success stories" who benefitted from government programs, March 26.

PULSE OF THE CONSTITUENCY

- o **Women leaders** are concerned about preserving Affirmative Action and about the President standing firm about a 'clean' Continuing Resolution."
- o **Local women in *At The Table* outreach meetings:** Women are concerned about domestic violence, reproductive freedom, health care reform and public health issues, preserving affirmative action, and increasing education opportunities for women.

■ NEWS YOU CAN USE

Newswatch

Hot line for the bruised and battered

President Clinton, whose mother was frequently attacked by one of his stepfathers, last week launched a 24-hour, toll-free national hot line that anyone suffering from physical abuse can call for help. The National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233) was set up by the Department of Health and Human Services and is staffed by trained, multilingual counselors. Battered individuals, their families and friends can call for counseling. They can also be hooked up immediately with local law enforcement agencies and emergency shelters. The hot line provides referrals to more than 2,000 local shelters, legal-aid offices and health care centers specializing in abuse victims. On its first day of operation, the service answered 1,242 calls. Because the number of operators is limited, callers may have to wait five minutes or more to speak to a counselor.



CURING CALLING-CARD CONFUSION. Growing competition in the prepaid-calling-card business is making it tougher to figure out the best deals—but a new survey of 17 phone cards by the San Francisco-based nonprofit group Consumer Action should help. The survey found rates for calls within the 48 contiguous states ranging from 59 cents a minute with a \$5.99 MCI PhoneCash card to 25 cents per minute with the \$10 LDDS Phone Pass sold at Target stores, the \$15 TransNational card (available by calling 800-653-2669) and the \$7 ACMI card (800-860-8641). The \$5 Sprint Spree Card charges 46 cents per minute, but Sprint's and MCI's rates drop to 34 cents and 44 cents, respectively, if you purchase cards worth \$49.99 and \$53.99. Some cards expire within six months; others are good for longer. For a free copy of the survey, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to CA Prepaid Phone Cards Survey, 116 New Montgomery Street, Suite 233, San Francisco, CA 94105.



IRS TO TAXPAYERS: TAKE YOUR TIME. Ready, world? The Internal Revenue Service is asking some people *not* to send money quickly. High-bracket taxpayers who were stung by 1993's rate increase and opted to pay part of that year's tax in three annual installments must make their final payments by this April 15. But to smooth processing, the

IRS is asking them to wait until they get a reminder notice and voucher and then remit a check separately from 1995's regular tax return. While last year's reminders were mailed in January—too early, the IRS has decided—this year's notices won't go out until March. Now the IRS is concerned that taxpayers may jump the gun. Taxpayers due a refund on 1995's return who want to apply it to their final 1993 installment note that on the '95 return; the tax form instructions tell how. But some tax pros say that might increase the chances of a snafu. —By Kerry Hannon and Leonard Wiener



VIDEO



► **I Am Cuba** (Milestone, not rated). A tempestuous journey into pre-Revolution Cuba, this subtitled 1964 black-and-white classic by Russian director Mikhail Kalatozov is now on video in the United States for the first time. Four separate stories, including one set in an opulent Havana resort and another about a poor sugar-cane farmer evicted from his land, starkly contrast Cuba's sensual wealth and its despotic poverty.

► **Living in Oblivion** (Columbia/TriStar, rated R). Murphy's Law prevails in Tom DiCillo's satirical swipe at the travails of independent filmmaking. Steve Buscemi—the surly Buddy Holly waiter in *Pulp Fiction*—stars as the cash-crunched director.

SOFTWARE

► **PointCast Network.** This free service displays news on your monitor, screen-saver style, when you don't use your PC for several minutes. On demand, the PointCast Network will download stock quotes from S&P Comestock, articles from Reuters and SportsTicker and maps from AccuWeather. The program is downloadable from the PointCast Web site (<http://www.pointcast.com>).

On The Line

March/April 1996

A Newsletter for Volunteer Members of the
Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women

6043 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90028

LOS ANGELES COMMISSION ON

LACAAW

ASSAULTS AGAINST WOMEN

Office (213) 462-1281

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE KICKOFF HOSTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE LACAAW IS THERE!

Peggle Reyna, Program Coordinator, Deaf & Disabled Services and In Power Women's Self-Defense

As a member of the Professional Advisory Board for the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVHL), I recently had the privilege of traveling to Washington D.C. to join with President Clinton, staff members of the White House Office for Women's Initiatives & Outreach, Ellen Fisher, E.D. of the NDVHL, and interested and involved persons representing women's organizations across the nation.

I have served on the Professional Advisory Board for the NDVHL since it was just a dream. I shared in the joy when the funding finally came through. A short time ago I traveled to Austin, Texas to provide the NDVHL staff and volunteers with an all day training on providing services for persons who are Deaf or disabled. As a direct result of that training I was invited to represent the NDVHL at the White House for the kick-off on February 21, 1996.

It was a great honor to be invited to represent the National Domestic Violence Hotline at this event. It was also one of the most exciting events of my life.

President Clinton announced the nationwide 24-hour toll-free domestic violence hotlines. The voice number is 1-800-799-SAFE, the TDD number is 1-800-787-3224.

The hotline will provide information, peer-counseling, & referral services to survivors of domestic violence, family members, neighbors, and the general public. Help is available to callers in English and Spanish, to other non-English speakers and to persons who are Deaf or hearing-impaired.

President Clinton spoke to the group of about 40 persons, plus reporters, stating that his administration is "committed to ensuring that every woman has access to information and emergency assistance, wherever and whenever she needs it." Mr. Clinton said that domestic violence causes terror and tears in American homes, and he called for American men to "stand today and make a commitment to never again raise their hand in violence against their family." He touched our hearts as he spoke of his personal experience in witnessing the battering of his own mother and of his desire to end violence in American homes. And, finally, he spoke of the thousands of American women who are Deaf, who are also survivors

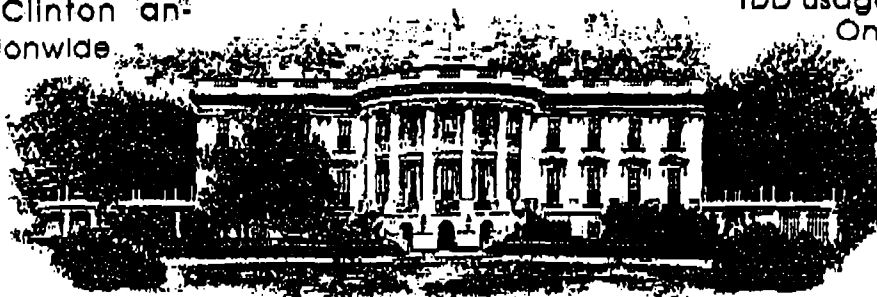
of domestic violence, and who now have a national hotline, and of his hope that every television station, radio station, and newspaper in America would get the message and the numbers out to the public.

Hugs, handshakes, tears, and laughter all caught on film to be shared with family, friends, and co-workers back home. Then on to the White House lawn for a press conference where the NDVHL representatives spoke with reporters from across the nation for the next hour. Back to the White House Women's Office for a wonderful conference call to share the information with women's agencies and service providers from several states.

Years of dreams and hard work had come to fruition on this great day. Years of educating the Deaf Community about domestic violence, years of educating service providers about Deaf culture and the great need for TDD hotline numbers. In the past year I had provided the staff and volunteers of 5 shelters with training on issues of Deaf Culture and on TDD usage.

On this day, February 21,

1996, as I walked from the White House to my hotel, I felt exhausted, exhilarated, and very proud to be a part of this event.



File Women's Office

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 26, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: BETSY MYERS

RE: THE PRESIDENT'S AT THE TABLE

Please find attached a copy of an article from the Rocky Mountain News on the President's At the Table roundtable in Denver on July 21.

The event was an exclusive for Family Circle magazine (26 million readers; 1 in 4 American women), but after the President's departure, the local media spoke to some of the participants who had only high praise for the the President.

The Family Circle article will be in the October 8th edition which will be sold beginning Sept. 17th.

Clinton meets local women ~~one-on-one~~

President listens as guests
voice opinions about issues

By Brian Weber

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Sixteen Denver-area women got the rare opportunity Sunday to influence national policy by sharing with President Clinton their concerns about families, businesses, children and the overall condition of America.

Throughout the hour and a half discussion, Clinton responded with a sincere ear and understanding words that touched the diverse group — none of whom seemed at all naive about political deception.

"It feels like he has a vision," said Janet Miller, a mother of two from Thornton. "We felt like it was our vision."

The evening event in an upscale living room in southeast Denver was arranged for *Family Circle* magazine, which will publish a comprehensive story on the event in its October issue. The women were chosen through a variety of political and business sources.

The White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach conducts similar sessions around the country, but this was the first one that Clinton attended, officials said.

"He made everyone feel welcome and very comfortable," said Phyllis Canos. "He was very interested in what everyone said. He actually made notes of who was saying what, to address our personal concerns."

Issues were as diverse as the women participating in the event, who included young mothers, grandmothers, working parents and business owners. Some were Democrats, some Republicans.

Monday, July 22, 1996

DENVER

35¢ (50¢ in Design)



Rocky Mountain News

"It feels like he has a vision. We felt like it was our vision."

Janet Miller, Thornton



Esdras M. Suarez/Rocky Mountain News

Janet Miller, left, and Susan Cordoba talk about their meeting with President Clinton during his visit to Denver on Sunday. They were among a bipartisan group of 16 women who gathered at a southeast Denver home to chat with the president.

Topics included the cost of college, child care, education, latchkey kids, family leave, small business and juggling work and parenthood.

Canos said she came because she wanted to reassure Clinton that people are benefiting from federal programs that often are derided.

With a loan from the Small Business Administration, Canos opened the Pretty

See **WOMEN** on 147

Women tell Clinton about help they had from federal programs

WOMEN from 4A

Cakes bakery at 211 Pecos St. She's about to open a second.

"I told him to have faith in the program, that I am an example that they do work," she said.

Miller complimented the Family Star child care program in northeast Denver, citing it as another example of a successful federally funded idea.

Canos also used a federally backed student loan to attend college and get off welfare, leading her into her business.

"He was very touched by that," said Ranya Kelly, another participant.

Kelly is affectionately known as "the shoe lady" for running the Redistribution Center in Jefferson County, which gives shoes to the

homeless and needy.

She came because, "I was concerned about safety in my son's school," both elementary and middle. Discipline seems lax, and school officials seem unmoved by complaints, she said.

Clinton needs to know there are problems, she said.

"We're supposed to be in a safe environment (in Jefferson County), but we've got the same problems as the city has," she said.

Mary Frances Kelley, who hosted the event at her home on South Magnolia Way near East Mansfield Avenue, got involved because of her connection to a Small Business Administration official. She advised Clinton that the country needs a night devoted to the family, perhaps enhanced through cable television educational programs on family issues.

"All parents need help," she said.

Miller was called on because she relied on the federal Family Leave Act for time off when her second child arrived. She stressed to Clinton how important such legislation is because society is still struggling with working mothers.

"We get slammed for being a parent in the workplace," said Miller, who works in a Kaiser Permanente pharmacy.

Miller and the others were convinced Clinton cared. For one thing he didn't offer grand solutions and only promised to remember their words.

"He talked a lot but he listened," Miller said. "He's an awesome person. I voted for him in '92, but I was a little indifferent this time, but not anymore."