

women

November 2, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO HAROLD ICKES
ALEXIS HERMAN
DOUG SOSNIK
MAGGIE WILLIAMS
MELANNE VERVEER
ANN LEWIS

CC: LEE SATTERFIELD
CHRIS WAYNE

FROM: BETSY MYERS *Betsy*

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES REPORT

Below please find a summary of outreach, events and media activities coordinated and organized by the Office of Women's Initiatives and Outreach from October 26, 1995, through November 2, 1995.

Outreach

- o **Formally announced the At The Table national women's outreach project in two speeches at the DNC's Women's Leadership Forum conference 10/31 to 11/1. More than 20 calls came in from WLF members who want to support regional outreach meetings for women appointees.**
- o **Distributed nearly 500 packets to WLF leaders on Administration accomplishments for women, including Pink Card on President's pro-woman, pro-family agenda, *Working Women Count* executive summary and Honor Roll plan, President's speeches, Clinton Administration accomplishments, background sheet on Women's Office, background sheet on At The Table and newsletter of Women's Office.**
- o **Supplied talking points for President, First Lady and Harold Ickes for WLF speeches.**
- o **Distributed budget message on cuts to VA & Medicaid money to all women appointees.**
- o **Amplified President's budget message on domestic violence by showing videotape of President's Oct. 2 domestic violence event at the statewide conference in Houston of the Texas Council of Jewish Women.**
- o **Amplified President's budget message on Domestic Violence by including videotape of President's Oct. 2 domestic violence event as regular part of ongoing training at a Sarasota, FL, battered women's shelter.**

- o Organized an outreach meeting for **100 women business and economic leaders in San Francisco** with **Treasury Deputy Secretary Larry Summers** to take place November 10 (requested based on our success organizing outreach meetings for the Vice President and Mrs. Gore).
- o Discussed coordination and **At The Table** plan with Emily's List's Ellen Malcolm (10/27). Planned briefing for senior White House staff on recent polling.
- o Worked closely with Department of Justice staff on **Administration responses to Adarand** (Supreme Court case establishing stricter scrutiny standard for affirmative action set-aside programs).
- o Networked with **1,500 women leaders at National Women's Law Center dinner** (11/1) which included all major women's organization leaders.
- o Faxed out to the **Choice coalition** (approximately 50 organizations) three Statements of Administration Policy highlighting the Administration's position on Choice. **Women's organizations were very pleased with the SAP on the "partial birth" legislation.**
- o **Presented At The Table** plan, as well as broader activities and goals of Women's Office, to **women members of the Cabinet** (11/1) as well as to **Agency Press Secretaries** (11/2).
- o Hosted outreach/planning meeting with **key Hispanic women appointees** (10/30) who **committed to hosting 10 outreach meetings** around the nation.
- o Created **organizing committee of agency women liaisons on At The Table kick-off and plan.** Involved **White House Liaisons and Chiefs of Staff** in supporting **agency women liaisons.**
- o Organized **ethics briefing** with Cheryl Mills for **women liaisons** from each government agency on how to organize women appointees (11/3).
- o Created **organizing committee of women liaisons** from each **White House office.**
- o Distributed invitation for November 7 evening forum on Beijing to all women appointees in each federal agency, as well as to all White House women staff.
- o Worked with Ann Stock on plan to rotate all women appointees through attendance at White House events (10/28).
- o Presentation at Chiefs of Staff meeting on outreach with women liaisons (10/31).
- o Networked with advocates at the **National Conference on Women & Aging** (10/30).

Pulse of the Constituency

- o As crystallized by the members of the WLF at their conference (10/31 to 11/1), women leaders are looking for statements by the President indicating "a connection with the base."
- o Women liaisons in agencies are taking the initiative to organize At The Table women's outreach campaign and organize women appointees events. They express strong gratitude -- along with White House women liaisons -- for our organizing events for them.

Media

- o Conducted background interview with Mike McNamee of *Business Week* as preparation for Laura Tyson's interview on women entrepreneurs.
- o Sent Domestic Violence background materials to major women's magazines.
- o Assisted TV, radio and print interviews for working mother participants from First Lady's childcare event 11/1 on South Lawn of White House.
- o Received additional clip from roundtable with women factory workers in Fall River, Mass., from trip with Barney Frank (see attached clip).
- o Continuing media outreach on domestic violence -- including interviews with battered women who met the President, placement of battered women's letters and photographs from President's October 2 event in women's magazines, regional press, and Asian and Hispanic specialty press. (See attached clip.)
- o Continuing placement of photographs from First Lady's working women's roundtable on September 12 (see attached clip.)

Upcoming

- o November 7 networking reception and forum discussion on Beijing for women appointees at the Woman's National Democratic Club. Speakers include Donna Shalala, Geraldine Ferraro, Bonnie Campbell, Madeleine Kunin, Lynn Cutler and others from the Delegation to Beijing. Audience of women appointees will number several hundred.
- o Organizing outreach meeting/At The Table for Carol Rasco in Miami on November 16.
- o Visits by Myers to each federal agency to meet with women appointees and mobilize them for national outreach campaign to women, At The Table.
- o Briefing for senior White House staff on Saturday, December 2, with Celinda Lake and Ellen Malcolm.

Local woman in president's talk on domestic violence

By Neil Fater

In recent years, Americans have become increasingly aware that domestic violence can take many faces, including those of friends and neighbors. Andover resident Tana Sherman says for quite some time she knew one of these faces intimately. It was that of her husband.

But since ending her allegedly abusive 20-year marriage more than eight years ago, Ms. Sherman has remarried and begun speaking about domestic violence at functions throughout New England. And this month her story was able to touch people throughout the nation.

Along with proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, President Bill Clinton twice has used Ms. Sherman's story to increase domestic-violence awareness recently.

Saturday, Oct. 14, Mr. Clinton alluded to Ms. Sherman in his radio address to the nation.

The previous week Ms. Sherman and fellow Andover resi-

dent Jerry Rossi, the president of Marshalls Inc., were two of the four speakers at a press event regarding domestic violence awareness.

"I met with him (President Clinton) privately with five other women who are survivors of domestic violence in the Oval Office beforehand, which of course was the thrill of a lifetime," said Ms. Sherman.

Ms. Sherman said she was specifically asked not to mention the O.J. Simpson trial, which many people believe has brought greater awareness to violence against women.

"At the point that we had our event, the jury was deliberating," she said this week. "The president was very cautious about not wanting to influence that."

During her speech in front of the press, Ms. Sherman made clear that domestic violence can affect anyone.

"There's a myth about domestic violence that it wouldn't

'For 20 years, my husband, a medical professional, battered me in our "perfect" middle-class home in our "perfect" suburban life.'

strike somebody like me. For 20 years, my husband, a medical professional, battered me in our 'perfect' middle-class home in our 'perfect' suburban life," she said. "And there are so many societal messages. I grew up always hearing that you stand by your husband. Even the town library didn't carry books on domestic violence because they said it wasn't a problem in our town."

Eventually, Ms. Sherman said, she gained the information and courage she needed to leave the marriage along with her children.

She became certified as a crisis intervention counselor and volunteered at a domestic violence hotline before speaking at events in New England. She remarried about four years ago.

"I certainly hope there's a permanent awareness. According to surveys that were done, I think women are more willing to talk about it now," said Ms. Sherman. "When the president of the United States comes out and is speaking about this issue repeatedly, it has to say something. He makes the point that this is a problem for all Americans, it's not just for women." During his radio address, President Clinton also praised the Senate for agreeing to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act, a part of his Crime Act, and chastised the House for cutting millions out of what he described as efforts to protect battered women.

The Herald News, Friday, October 20, 1995

Clinton advisor will meet with area women

By SEAN FLYNN
Herald News Staff Reporter

FALL RIVER — President Bill Clinton's top advisor on women's issues will meet with women workers at Essex Manufacturing on Monday.

Betsy Myers, the White House director for women's initiatives and outreach, will also meet with women business leaders at the Venus de Milo in Swansea. There, she will participate in a panel discussion.

Myers is coming at the invitation of Congressman Barney Frank, who will accompany her, and the Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce.

The roundtable and panel discussions are two of many being held around the country by President Clinton and other White House officials to listen to women's concerns and ideas, especially in relation to the current budget battle in Washington.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is holding similar roundtables on working women's issues. Clinton supporters are also

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Clinton: Advisor will visit area

organizing women get-out-the-vote efforts.

Clinton created the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach in June, and named Myers the first director. The office is the liaison between the White House and women's organizations, and is charged with bringing women's concerns and proposals to the President and others in the administration.

According to a release from Myers, "the office advocates for President Clinton's pro-woman and pro-family agenda." It

publishes a bi-weekly newsletter highlighting activities by Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and other administration officials in connection with women and family issues.

It is no secret that Clinton's favorability ratings are higher among women voters than among men. The efforts are expected to give him a boost in the 1996 Presidential campaign.

Myers previously served as assistant administrator for the Office of Women's Business Ownership at the U.S. Small Business Administration. There,

she coordinated federal efforts on behalf of nearly 7.8 million woman entrepreneurs.

Before joining SBA, Myers was the owner of Myers Insurance and Financial Services of Los Angeles, Calif., specializing in women-owned businesses. She was actively involved in the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign, as well as in Diane Feinstein's campaign for U.S. senator in California.

She has a degree in business administration from the University of San Diego



WOMEN'S ISSUES. Tina Garcia, left, president of Special Properties, Inc., in Woodbridge, recently met with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, along with seven other women from the metropolitan area, to examine issues of most concern to working families. Clinton, Garcia, and the other participants discussed a wide range of topics from solid support for student loan programs to concerns over Medicare cuts.

Shuk Yee Fung Ng
420 West 26th Street
New York, New York 10001

October 17, 1995

Honorable William Clinton
President of The United States
White House
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear President Clinton,

Thank you for the once-in-a lifetime chance to meet you. It feels like a dream still. No one would believe that the President of the strongest country in the world would use his precious time to listen to a battered woman who has been treated less than human and neglected by society. It took me two days to accept the fact that seeing you was real. I am now starting to believe that this Land is full of opportunities after all.

When I stood behind you and listened to your speech, I told myself that it was real. It is real that there is a man who is willing to listen. Most importantly, this man is the leader of this country and is wholeheartedly protecting women. There are few leaders like you taking a stand to protect women so strongly. No leader that I know of in the history of the world has been as brave as you to openly talk about the abuse you saw at home.

After listening to your speech, I felt my soul was alive again. That moment when you hugged me, I felt that all women are now safe. You carry a message to all men as well as to our children that a true hero will not use violence or power against women. This short meeting was much better than ten years in therapy!

After thirteen years of abuse, my four daughters and I were able to leave the abuse at home safely. But the fear in our hearts is still with us. We try very hard to adjust in this culture, learn English, adopt the customs and to survive.

There are thousands of women, who are still suffering at home. Many of them have been in this country for a long time, but their husbands never applied for their legal status. They have no where to go, because they are afraid of being deported.

I know that the Violence Against Women Act allows immigrant women to apply for legal status on their own, yet, women have not been able to apply, because Immigration Naturalization Service has still not come out with the regulations which can set these women free. What good is a new law if women cannot use it? How painful and dangerous it is for women who have one foot in the grave, the other foot still locked by a deadly chain.

I am now sincerely requesting your help to set the women free by:

- * enforcing the law through regulations from INS to save the lives of immigrant women.

- * stopping proposed legislation which blocks federally funded programs from helping undocumented battered women. In fact, without those agencies (such as New York Asian Women's Center which helped me) to help immigrant women overcome the language and cultural barriers, women have no way to escape.

- * enhancing welfare benefits for immigrant battered women, so that they can stay with their children closely to endure the difficult transitional period.

Battered immigrant women are extremely vulnerable. Any of the barriers that are mentioned above will block their way to escape. Please give the women as well as the children a chance to have safe new lives. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

May God continue to bless our country to have a leader like you! Best wishes to your family!

Faithful citizen,

Shin Yee Jung RG

NEW YORK ASIAN WOMEN'S CENTER

39 Bowery, Box 575, New York, New York 10002 • (212) 732-5230

October 18, 1995

President William Clinton
White House
Washington D.C. 20503

23 OCT 1995

Dear President Clinton:

On October 2, we watched with great excitement and pride as our former shelter resident and current Board member, Shuk Yee Fung Ng met with you at the White House for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Shuk Yee has limitless strength, courage, and enthusiasm which has enabled her to establish a new life for herself and her children. That same strength and energy has led her to a broader commitment of helping other women who still suffer at home.

Our organization, the New York Asian Women's Center is the oldest and most comprehensive program for battered immigrant Asian women in New York City. It operates the only 24-hour multi-lingual hotline and shelter program serving the various Asian communities. Now, 14 years old, our small organization has long struggled with the enormous task of reaching out to immigrant women who face multiple abusers (husbands, parents-in-law, etc.) and are trapped by language, cultural, and economic barriers. Enclosed are some materials which further describe the work of our organization.

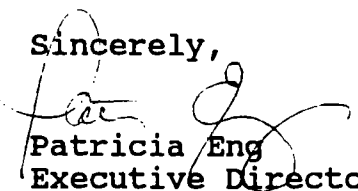
We applaud the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) passed last year which provides funds for programs and legal remedies for immigrant women trapped in domestic violence situations. We understand that Immigration and Naturalization Services still has not promulgated regulations which would enable women to self petition under the new law. In the absence of such regulations, immigrant women are still trapped in a dangerous legal limbo.

While VAWA provides some funding for programs, the survival of small community based organizations such as ours is at stake. Based within the immigrant community itself, the New York Asian Women's Center has been most successful at reaching battered women who have traditionally not been served by larger domestic violence programs. In particular, we are able to reach and assist women whom the Violence Against Women Act targets through its provisions for immigrant women. Without the existence of organizations such as ours, battered immigrant women will remain

in violent and dangerous situations, unable to access legal and other remedies. With growing anti-immigrant sentiments, it is even more vital that organizations such as ours not only continue to survive, but in fact flourish to assist those whose survival is most precarious. The lives of thousands of women, regardless of immigration status, are at stake.

In closing, we thank you for your personal courage to speak out about domestic violence and your compassion for assisting all battered women throughout the country. We stand ready to assist you and your staff in whatever manner appropriate in the effort to end violence in the lives of all women.

Sincerely,



Patricia Eng
Executive Director

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