

All DPC
stuff

BALANCING THE BUDGET WHILE PROTECTING OUR VALUES
October 1, 1996

Balancing the budget while protecting our values. Last night, President Clinton signed the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which will keep the economy growing by moving toward a balanced budget, without undermining Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment. This agreement prevents a repeat of last year's government shutdowns. Once again, President Clinton stood up for America's values, and succeeded in keeping our country on the right track.

More opportunity, more responsibility, and a stronger community. The agreement offers more opportunity through education and college loans, and demands more responsibility through more police and tougher laws to fight crime and terrorism.

Preserving our commitments in the fight against crime. President Clinton has made it a priority to fight crime, and crime has come down four years in a row. Yesterday's bill continues those efforts.

- * **100,000 new police on the street.** President Clinton successfully fought to maintain his commitment to putting 100,000 police on the street.
- * **Stopping domestic violence, expanding the Brady Bill.** The President won his proposed expansion of the Brady Bill so that anyone convicted of any domestic violence crime will not be able to purchase or possess a firearm.
- * **Drug testing for parolees.** The bill includes the President's proposal to fight crime and recidivism by requiring states receiving future federal prison grants to adopt comprehensive drug testing, intervention and sanctions for prisoners and parolees with substance abuse problems.

Combatting terrorism, at home, abroad, and in the skies. The bill will help stop terrorism by providing funds to implement the recommendations of the Gore Commission for air safety, immediately making air travel safer for every American. The bill also provides for increased manpower in agencies responsible for combatting terrorism, and for a study into the use of taggants in black powder and other explosives.

Continuing our progress on immigration. President Clinton has followed a clear strategy against illegal immigration, focusing on our border, the workplace, and the criminal justice system. This bill continues that strategy, by doubling the number of border patrol agents to over 10,000; increasing INS investigators for worksite enforcement; and increasing detention space for criminal and other deportable aliens.

Strengthening education to prepare America's children for the 21st Century. The President won full support for his commitment to renewing educational opportunity at all levels. This is in stark contrast to last year's budget battle:

- * **Safe and Drug Free Schools:** Last Year Republicans Tried to Deny 23 Million Children Safe and Drug-Free Schools vs. a 19% Increase This Year. Last year Republicans tried to cut the Safe and Drug Free Schools program twice [House-passed FY96 Labor-HHS appropriations bill cut it by \$266 million or more than half and vetoed FY95 rescissions bill would have cut it by \$236 million or half from FY95], which could have denied up to 23 million children help in keeping crime, drugs, and violence out of their schools. This year, the program was expanded 19% to help communities fight drugs and violence. [FY97 Omnibus Bill].
- * **Head Start:** Last Year Republicans Tried To Deny Nearly 50,000 vs. This Year a 50,000 Increase. Last year Republicans tried to deny Head Start to about 48,000 children [House-passed FY96 Labor-HHS appropriations bill would have cut it by \$137 million; Senate FY96 appropriations bill would have cut it by \$133 million compared for FY95]. This year, the President won his increase in Head Start, providing 50,000 more children a Head Start and moving towards the President's goal of serving 1 million children in 2000 [FY97 Omnibus Bill].
- * **AmeriCorps National Service:** Last Year Republicans Tried To Eliminate AmeriCorps vs. This Year 24,000 More Young People Will Serve Their Communities Will Earning Money For College. Last year Republicans tried to eliminate the President's AmeriCorps National Service programs, denying 24,000 young people the opportunity to serve their communities while earning money toward college [Vetoed VA-HUD FY96 appropriations bill]. This year, the program continues and another 24,000 young people will be serving their communities, although this is 6,000 fewer than the President requested [FY97 VA-HUD appropriations bill].
- * **Pell Grants:** Last Year Republicans Tried to Deny 100,000 vs. This Year Assistance to 150,000 Needy College Students and Largest Increase in the Maximum Pell Grant in Over 20 Years. Last year Republicans tried to cut the Pell Grant program, denying assistance to 100,000 needy students in 1996 and to 380,000 students compared to the President's request for 1996 [FY96 House-passed Labor-HHS appropriations bill]. Republicans also voted to freeze Pell Grant funding over 7 years, denying assistance to hundreds of thousands more students [FY96 Senate GOP budget resolution]. This year, the President won his requested increase in the maximum Pell Grant to \$2,700 -- the largest increase since 1975 -- which will help 3.8 million students go to college [FY97 Omnibus Bill].
- * **Direct College Loans:** Last Year Republicans Tried to Eliminate Direct College Loans vs. Fully Fund This Year. After Republicans tried last year to deny 2.5 million students direct lending opportunities by effectively ending direct college loans, capping them at 10% of loan volume. The President won full funding of direct college loans this year, continuing to enable students to repay their loans as a share of their income [Vetoed 1995 GOP Reconciliation Bill and FY97 Omnibus Bill].

- OCT-01 '96 16:06 FROM: CABINET AFFAIRS LBL 400 0101
- * **Charter Schools:** More charter schools to expand public school choice. The bill accelerates progress towards the President's goal of establishing 3,000 new charter schools -- schools formed by parents, teachers and communities with charters they can keep only if they do a good job. [FY97 Omnibus Bill increases funding from \$18 million in FY96 to \$51 million in FY97].

 - * **Educational Technology:** Expands access to technology in schools, establishes President's Technology Literacy Challenge. The bill takes significant steps toward bringing technology into our classrooms, and funds the President's new Technology Literacy Challenge which will leverage state, local, and private sector efforts to ensure that all children are technologically literate by the dawn of the 21st century. The goal is to ensure that every classroom in America is connected to the Information Superhighway and has access to modern computers, engaging software, and trained teachers [FY97 Omnibus Bill].

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

30-May-1996 01:25pm

TO: Jeremy D. Benami

FROM: Carol H. Rasco
 Domestic Policy Council

CC: Elizabeth E. Drye

SUBJECT: Budget issues

I did bring up with Alice and Laura the matter of the various areas being cut about which we are getting calls. All of us agree it is a dilemma and that all of us or our staffs are getting calls on these and many other areas which of course leads us to the matter of any cut is going to hurt...in a balanced budget arena it does make policy sense to cut small programs but it does indeed leave people out in the cold as the larger grants we tell them they are eligible for are already being utilized and have waiting lists.

We also talked about the matter that an added danger is that throughout the coming months as one new initiative after another is touted it will leave people wondering how we can finance these new things and how deep is our commitment when we've just cut things we said we believed in!

While they were going to bring up some of these things in an economic briefing yesterday with POTUS they urged me to follow through on my idea that I at least send a memo to POTUS telling him that we are hearing these things, that indeed it will be a more complicated problem if we start talking about a number of new ideas, programs that cost money in the coming months.

As an opener for this memo we should use his note on the recent cabinet report, page 8, HHS item labelled "Budget Cuts" where POTUS wrote to Leon, Rahm and me: Do we need to do something with this?" I have told Leon's office I am preparing something on this.

I would like to see faxed to my house in the next day or so a draft memo to POTUS which I think should incorporate the things I have said in this email along with a shortened version of the email you wrote me about the budget cuts, Jeremy. Hopefully we can get it in first thing next week.

Thanks.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

28-May-1996 01:17pm

TO: Carol H. Rasco

FROM: Jeremy D. Benami
Domestic Policy Council

CC: Elizabeth E. Drye

SUBJECT: budget cut issues

As promised, here are some of the programs that I and other DPC staff have been getting anxious phone calls about:

- 1) Youthbuild - our request down to \$20M which was FY96 level. In '95, the program got \$50M, but also a \$10M rescission - so real approps was \$40M. I think the program was at \$40M in '94 as well. The First Lady had visited a program and apparently then met with Cisneros personally to discuss the appropriations level. HUD responds to criticism by saying that communities can use CDBG funds to keep Youthbuild programs whole.
- 2) Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program - zeroed out in '96 deal and we did not ask for funding in '97. This program used to be funded at \$5 million, and we go through a yearly fight over it. It was also in the '95 rescission package. In '96, HUD and DOL patched together some limited funding (2.6M) to keep it going. There are very few Labor Dept dollars for homeless veterans. This program is well liked and successful, and the veterans groups keep pointing to administration efforts to kill it each year as an ongoing gripe with the administration.
- 3) National Veterans Training Institute - zeroed out in '97 request. This is apparently the first time we have cut this. The NVTI trains people who train vets. The VSOs like this program and raised it as a concern in the interagency policy group.
- 4) Child Care Resource and Referral - this is the money that Patty Segal has been calling about. Apparently a \$12M line item, again zeroed out. You know what the money is for: linking people to available child care. OMB says that the service can be funded from CCDBG. Patty and their network of R and R agencies say of course that they don't want to be put in the position of cutting service dollars to pay for this more administrative service.
- 5) Violence Against Women Act - The Women's Caucus on the Hill and some of the women's groups have been upset at funding levels for the Violence Against Women Act. We asked for \$79.6M in '97. The

'96 funding level was \$85.6. The authorized level is \$109.4. The first problem they have is they want full funding - i.e., at the authorized level. The D's have been hitting the R's for the past year for not full funding, and to have us turn around and request less than last year caught them by surprise.

Besides the overall funding level, they are also upset that one HHS VAWA has been defunded: Prevention of Sexual Abuse for Runaway and Homeless Youth. That program got \$5.6M last year. The OMB/HHS response is that there are other HHS programs that do similar things and they are trying to do away with some of their smaller discretionary grant programs. The women's caucus is finalizing a critical letter that will go out this week.

My general questions are:

(1) Is there anything the administration could do at this point if we decided that in fact we made a mistake in some of these instances? Could we signal the hill, etc.?

(2) Taking as a given that the world is a better place with fewer discretionary grant programs - how can we also hold the level of block grants such as CDBG or CCDBG constant and tell people they have to find the money there to keep the services from the eliminated grant programs going? It's not a logically consistent defense if we don't also increase the \$ in the block grants. Same goes for the Domestic Violence programs - it's fine to say that there is another program that does a similar thing, but if we don't increase the funding of the one when we eliminate the other it's still a cut in services.

(3) Process: how can we get better into the decision loop on some of these appropriations matters before the decisions are made.

N T
N T

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDE

19-Nov-1996 06:36pm

TO: Carol H. Rasco

FROM: Jeanine D. Smartt
Domestic Policy Council

CC: Lyndell Hogan
CC: Jeremy D. Benami
CC: Elizabeth E. Drye

SUBJECT: Healthy Start

The Healthy Start Program referred to in Lyn's e-mail is the federal program out of HHS' Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Begun in 1991, 15 communities were selected as 5-year demonstration sites to identify a broad range of community-driven strategies to reduce infant mortality and the number of low birthweight babies in communities. In 1994, 7 more sites were selected.

Currently Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. is conducting a national evaluation on the original 15 sites. It should be available late next year.

In response to Nancy Ann's comment about the program's lack of outcomes - it is true that they do not have consistent data across project, but this is because each project is community specific and chose their own benchmarks given the priorities in the communities they serve.

MCHB is forwarding some of those progress reports to me. Early signs of progress included in those reports are:

- increased numbers of women entering prenatal care early;
- reduced behavioral risk
- successful co-location of services and improved access to and coordination of care;
- broad-based public- and private sector partnerships; (Johnson & Johnson has sponsored a corporate summit encouraging the private sector involvement in this effort.)

Personally, I think this is the right type of program. I have visited the Healthy Start site in Baltimore and they are doing some incredible things and making the types of linkages throughout the community that we talk about. I would also note that one of the problems states and localities have with the federal government is that we start these demos and then we just drop the ball. If there is an opportunity to have a longer conversation about saving this project (maybe making some

changes) I would volunteer myself toward that effort. Thanks.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

20-Nov-1996 08:35am

TO: Jeanine D. Smartt

FROM: Carol H. Rasco
 Domestic Policy Council

CC: Lyndell Hogan
CC: Jeremy D. Benami
CC: Elizabeth E. Drye

SUBJECT: RE: Healthy Start

a. If this discontinuation would halt the Hawaii Healthy Start program in any way we need to alert OMB that it is a favorite of Mrs. Clinton and me..., .VERY tangible results...I think, however, it has been going so long it would not be in this category.

b. Gov. Clinton and Mrs. CLinton worked very hard as did Governor Dick Riley on infant mortality and community specific programs in this area of infant mortality.

c. The Johnson and Johnson initiative was a very comprehensive one, it actually grew out of (b) when Southern governors had a commission on this issue. Rae Grad was the director of the So. Governor's effort which Sen. Rockefeller was key supporter of as well.

I am not saying the program has to be saved without further discussion but many of these programs have strong state support in their Congressional delegations....there certainly at least needs to be that further discussion.

Thanks.