

Welland
rally

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

The Washington Post

OUTLOOK

Commentary and Opinion

MARY McGRORY

The Homeless and the Heartless

IN 1993 President Clinton took action that said plainly that he is his brother's keeper. He asked for a \$1.6 billion budget for the homeless. He didn't have to. The people who sleep in shelters or on grates do not have a large constituency on Capitol Hill. But Congress went along, minus \$4 million, and HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros made good use of the money. And now that they're getting somewhere, Congress wants to slash the funds.

Why?

Opponents of the program are not saying that HUD's new approach isn't working. They're not saying it is inefficient. They're not saying it costs too much to reclaim human beings who have hit the skids and need all sorts of help, like drug

rehabilitation, job training and child care. They're just not saying.

HUD Assistant Secretary Andrew Cuomo, who pioneered a new approach to homeless solutions in New York and now runs HUD's homeless programs, says it is just part of the Republicans' "overall machete solution to budget-cutting and government downsizing." Cuomo protests that the "continuum of care" approach now required of all applicants for HUD help is the epitome of what Republicans say ought to be done.

"They want local control. It's done," he says. "They want church involvement. It's done. They want non-profit organizations. Done. They want volunteers. Done. But they still want to cut us by

32 percent. I will defend investment in a person with a lot of problems as opposed to long-term dependency. It is worth investing in substance abuse control as against incarceration."

HUD is deeply into devolution, which is of maximum concern to Republicans this season. No longer are great behemoth programs wheeled out of Washington and planted in some locale that doesn't particularly want them, except for the money. Instead, HUD goes to the city or town and asks what it needs. The number of emergency shelters has declined. People have learned that taking the homeless in out of the cold is not enough. They have to help them to define their problems and then address them.

Localities have to have plans that dovetail with the plans of other organizations. HUD money is just a part of the budget. It may not impress Republicans, but it is a complete reversal of the old ways.

A little restaurant-carryout at the corner of Third and E Streets NW, called "Third and Eats" is a model Cuomo uses to showcase the new HUD. It's the brainchild of the people on the block, who said the neighborhood needed a deli-type restaurant, and the creation of the Trinity Lutheran Church's Community Family Life Services. CFLS is a truly awesome institution, a kind of miniature HUD, a powerhouse of social activism and a rallying place

of people who tutor little children, find housing and jobs for adults, anticipate problems, do battle with the District of Columbia bureaucracy and behave in general like early Christians. The pastor, Tom Knoll, never met a

People who are not sure of their own identity or the day of the week can hardly be expected to snap to when it comes to remembering where and when to go for help.

problem he won't take on. But he shakes his head sadly when conservatives say the church can do it all. "We just can't do any more," he says, and there is no reason not to believe him.

"Third and Eats" is next door to the Trinity Arms, where CFLS houses homeless people who are on their way to permanent housing. Its employees, all homeless, are undergoing intensive training in food service. The trainees have sad personal histories of drugs,

degradation and prison. But they have fallen into a safety net and they are sustained by reasonable hopes of a job and a home. The success rate is dazzling. Eighty-five percent of their alumni have landed jobs in classy local places like the Olive Garden. HUD's contribution is \$10,000 a year, surely a bargain.

Government policy makers find humble pie on their menus these days. It is quite clear that some big plans went seriously awry. Housing projects, once in great repute are in bad odor, and HUD seems to brag as much about its demolitions as about construction. In his 1996 Status Report, Secretary Cisneros writes of "deeply rooted and systemic problems" in the agency.

Another bright idea gone wrong is deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill, which overtook planners in the '70s. It was right and humane to remove people from vast warehouses of the mentally ill, where abuse and neglect were lamentably common. But the idea of having satellite clinics to which the former inmates would repair for medication and help at stated intervals was off the mark. People who are not sure of their own identity or the day of the week can hardly be expected to snap to when it comes to remembering where and when to go for help.

HUD has learned from past mistakes and should be commended. So should Clinton, who not wavered in his commitment to the

**SPEECH OF CAROL H. RASCO
TO THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS
June 20, 1996**

Thank you for inviting me to participate with you today. It's good to join you once again. Over the past few years, I've had the opportunity to get to know many of you well: at Awards Ceremonies, conferences, and meetings at the White House, where the Vice President of the National Alliance, Nan Roman, has represented you well. They have been important and useful interactions as we have tried to work with you to end the tragedy of homelessness in our nation.

You've managed to line up a good cast of Administration characters to speak with you during today's conference; we will try to not give the same speech.

I wanted to come here today to share this Administration's support for the work you do. And to talk with you about three things: first, the President's vision of this nation as a community; second, the steps this Administration has taken to fulfill that vision; and third, how we meet the challenges ahead of us.

Our Nation as a Community

Let me begin by retelling a story told by Fred Karnas, the Director of HUD's AIDS Housing Office and our acting Director of the Interagency Council on the Homeless.

Several years ago, Fred was in Phoenix, holding a candlelight march to bring attention to the destruction of 34 of the city's 38 SRO hotels to make way for downtown redevelopment over the last decade.

When the march ended, several of them stood talking in the civic plaza area of downtown Phoenix. One march participant noticed a stereotypical homeless man standing next to a shopping cart. As he watched, the elderly man with a gray beard dripped melted wax from his candle on the baby seat of his shopping cart and mounted his candle in the cooling wax. The old man then reached into his pocket, pulled out a hot dog, and proceeded to roast it piece by piece over the candle. He would roast a small section, bite it off and roast another piece.

The participant sat transfixed, watching the man eat until the old man noticed him watching. He slowly ate one more bit and then turned to the observer and said..."Excuse me sir, do you have any Grey Poupon?"

As Fred points out, that story always gets a laugh, in part because it reaches to the depths of our own myths and stereotypes about homeless people. Sadly, it seems that no matter how little or how much time we have spent with homeless people, it catches us by surprise because, deep down, we really don't believe homeless people are like us...we don't believe they have a sense of humor and we certainly don't believe they are connected enough to the "real world" to know the latest TV commercials.

I tell this story because I think it provides a good example of the need for the vision this President has for the country -- and that is his belief that we are a community. As a community, we recognize the old man dining at his shopping cart as a fellow citizen. We know that there, "but for

the grace of God," could go one of us. But more importantly we recognize him as a member of our community, and thus feel concern and a sense of obligation to him.

As a nation which is a community, we have obligations to our parents and other older Americans when they need us; to our collective children; and to people who for different reasons, may find themselves without a home. We believe that each member of our community should have the opportunity to be part of the American dream. And we recognize that for some of us, at certain times, this means we need the community's support.

For some of us, the idea of a supportive community has a personal note to it. Many of you know the individuals living out of shopping carts or the children being raised in shelters -- people who need the support of the community for a while. For me, I have a child who is disabled and have worked hard to ensure that he and other children like him are not forgotten by the community.

The last couple of years have been rocky ones for this vision of a unified community. It has seemed that the debates and issues put before us have all been about pulling this country apart. Stratifying, not unifying. Pointing out differences and pitting groups against each other, rather than searching for common ground.

In a speech last fall, the President described the challenges as epitomized in the budget debate. He said:

"...We're in the midst of a struggle in Washington that is not about balancing the budget and is far more important than economics -- that goes to the very heart of who we are as a people, what we believe and what we are willing to stand for, and what kind of America we want our children and our grandchildren to live in the 21st century."

While I hope that the worst challenges to our vision of a community have receded, these questions are still before us today. Who are we as a nation? What kind of America do we want to be part of?

Do we want to be a nation where in almost every city you can find people sleeping at night on steaming grates? Do we care whether children may have to spend parts of their childhood calling a homeless shelter home? Do we believe that as a nation, a community, we have any responsibility to help families who may need some assistance getting back on to their feet?

This President and we who serve with him believe that as a community we have obligations to one another as well as to ourselves. And we are working toward a nation in which every community member has the opportunity to participate.

Administration Record in Supporting the Community

Even during the difficult times of the last few years, I believe this Administration has taken important steps to move our country forward as a community. Again and again, the President has stated that "we're going forward or backward together," and his policies have reflected his belief in building a nation in which everyone has a chance to attain the American dream.

The President has fought for a strong economy and an educated workforce to help end the

poverty that is at the core of much of the homelessness in our country. The President believes that in order to repair the fabric of our society, it is essential that those who can work have work. And that is why he has doggedly pursued the economic base that has produced over 8 million new jobs.

And if you work, you shouldn't be poor -- and so the President fought for and increased the Earned Income Tax Credit and continues to fight for an increase in the minimum wage.

And we've worked to revitalize and bring jobs and economic opportunity to some of our forgotten communities -- through the Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities initiative; through the creation of a network of community development banks which are increasing lending and investing in low- and moderate-income communities, encouraging the private sector to work in places it has not gone before; and through a strengthened Community Reinvestment Act which is helping to increase mortgage loans to minority Americans.

The President believes that education and training are at the heart of increased opportunity and he has successfully pursued this agenda: evident in an improved and expanded Head Start, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the School to Work Act, Goals 2000, and the Direct Lending program which is helping more kids get college loans cheaper. And his National Service program is giving youth financial assistance with college and a chance to help repair the frayed bonds of community.

We've worked to eradicate the health differences that have historically followed income differences in this country -- through increased funding for WIC, the Childhood Immunization initiative, and an ongoing battle to maintain Medicaid coverage for low-income women, children, elderly, and the disabled. We fought for guaranteed health coverage for all our families -- a goal the President remains committed to. We've increased funding for AIDS research, prevention and care, and will continue to fight to end this tragic disease.

We've worked to create safer communities by banning assault weapons, adding more police to our streets, and providing kids with the opportunities that will deter them from crime through important prevention programs.

And we're fighting for fairness and tolerance throughout society. The recent church- burnings in the South have been a deplorable reminder that we all need to renew our efforts.

I want to leave the discussion of our specific housing efforts for Secretary Cisneros' remarks this afternoon. But I do want to note -- and commend you for your part in it -- that we fought off the drastic cuts to homeless assistance proposed by the Republican Congress, and have succeeded in doubling homeless assistance funding at HUD. These levels were made possible in these tough budgetary times in large part by the advocacy, pressure and support you provide. For FY 97, we have proposed \$1.6 billion for homeless assistance across agencies -- and we urge Congress to fund these levels in the appropriations process.

I also want to note the leadership that Secretary Cisneros has provided at HUD to help ensure that our nation's public housing is a safe and decent place to live, and that it is a place of opportunity for low-income Americans, not a warehouse. As we work with the Congress this summer to build on these efforts in Public Housing reform legislation, we are committed to ensuring that scarce housing assistance helps those with the most severe housing needs. As you well know, 5.3 million families in

our country have "worst-case housing needs," and these families are concentrated at the lowest income levels. We cannot pass legislation that would exacerbate these needs and possibly displace or force more people into homelessness.

Finally, I wanted to mention one other success -- which may seem small, but is considered critical to many. Later this year, we hope to have the results of the Census Bureau Survey of Homeless Persons and Providers. The results of this survey will provide important information on who is homeless and why -- information that will help guide our efforts to end this tragedy. I am pleased to say that, with a bit of cajoling, this survey was funded jointly by the member agencies of the Interagency Council on the Homeless. Joint ventures are not easy to come by in the federal government -- the funding of this survey is testament to the recognized need for more information about our homeless citizens.

Meeting our National Challenges

Despite these successes, as you know only too well, we MUST do more. We have taken steps on the road to a more just community, but we still have far to go. Too many in our community are left behind -- as this year's U.S. Conference of Mayors' survey reported. Requests for homeless assistance continue to increase, and families and children are a growing proportion of the homeless.

In this year's State of the Union Address, the President laid out seven national challenges to meet as we move into the 21st century. Challenges which we must work on together to make real the American dream of opportunity for all.

The first challenge he presented is to support and strengthen our families and children. This is a commitment I have shared with the President during our many years working together. I have a sign on the wall in my office which reads: "How will this decision affect children and families?" As we develop national policy, I strive to ensure that this question is answered every step of the way. And let me tell you that I believe that meeting the needs of families and children without a home must be central to our response to the President's challenge.

I want to close my remarks by talking about how we meet these national challenges, and maintain a national commitment to doing so, in an era of constrained government resources, when we all recognize that government programs alone will not solve all of our problems.

To do this, we believe we must rethink how -- not whether -- we respond to the challenges ahead of us. One of the ways we are trying to do that is by encouraging new partnerships with communities and the private sector. That's what I find so exciting about the Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Community process -- the private/public partnerships that have developed as part of the "EZ/EC" application process will be a force for change far into the future. And these partnerships are bringing more financial resources to the table. In Detroit, for example, more than \$2 billion in private-sector commitments have been pledged. And Baltimore's plan leverages \$8 in outside resources for every \$1 of federal funds.

That's also what's exciting about our approach to teen pregnancy. Here is an issue that the President has called one of our most serious social problems, yet it is a problem that in no way lends itself to a top-down government imposed solution. It demands, rather, a mobilization of all elements

of our society -- religious institutions, schools, community-based organizations, media, business -- all working together toward the same goal.

The National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy, formed in response to the President's call in the State of the Union, has brought together national leaders, such as its chairman, former Republican Governor of New Jersey Tom Kean, and Whoopi Goldberg and C. Everett Koop, and representatives from various media such as MTV and People magazine. It's a non-profit, nonpartisan organization whose work at the national level will be complemented, we hope, by state coalitions in all 50 states, and by the federal government's work in research and in demonstrating what works. This is the sort of partnership and collaboration we will need to solve complex social problems in the 21st century.

We also believe that we must look at how to do things better within government. Taking your advice and urging, we are working to increase coordination and collaboration in homeless assistance. For example, HUD's Super NOFA streamlines several homeless funding application processes and encourages local collaboration between private and public entities. And the new HIV Multiple-Diagnoses Initiative is a first step toward more collaborative efforts between HUD and the Department of Health and Human Services. These efforts will provide housing and services funding through the HOPWA and Ryan White programs as well as information on model programs that integrate health care and other supportive services with housing assistance. As we strive to improve the way government works, your suggestions and input have been useful, and we will continue to provide opportunities for exchanging information.

Building new partnerships, making government work better -- these are steps we believe are necessary to meeting our nation's challenges in today's world.

But recognizing the end of the era of big government does not mean abandoning our national commitment to addressing the difficult social issues that all of you dedicate your lives to working on. That was the heart of the President's vision in the State of the Union: while we have come to realize that government alone cannot solve all of our problems, we as a nation cannot lessen our resolve to address them.

We cannot be fooled by those who would use constrained resources or charges of ineffective government as cover for backing away from a commitment to with our national problems.

In today's world, where we face greater challenges with fewer resources, we have to make choices that will truly help define the kind of nation we are. President Clinton believes that ending the tragedy of homelessness must be part of our national commitment. And he will continue to believe in and work toward a community in which, through shared responsibility, all citizens can participate in the American dream of opportunity. I look forward to continued work with you to make this vision a reality.

MEETING REQUEST/TRACKING FORM

CAROL H. RASCO

DOMESTIC POLICY

Name of Requestor: Thomas L. Kenyon Date: 3/14/96

Affiliation: The National Alliance to End Homelessness, Inc.

Nature of Request: keynote speaker at Fourth Annual Membership Conference

Contact Person: Phone Number: 638-1526

DCP Staff Person: *Breaston*

Meeting Data: A. Date: June 20th

B. Time: 9:15am-10:00am

C. Place: Washington, DC

D. Purpose: **Note:** They will contact to follow up

Note: Time for speech is flexible

E. Conflicts: *none*

DECISION

☒ Accept *3/15/96*

☐ Regret

☐ Forward To:

☐ Pending

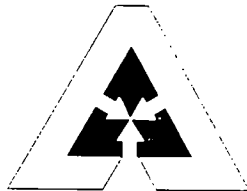
Comments:

+ Sally
w/ have

Tom Kenyon
& Kar Roman

Contact

+ Delighted Cth Sally -
will do



THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS, INC.

March 8, 1996

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Chairmen

Susan G. Baker
Anthony S. Harrington

Vice Chairman

Barbara J. Easterling

Secretary

Elizabeth Boyle Roberts

Treasurer

Gary M. Parsons

President

Thomas L. Kenson

Members

Kimberly C. Aiken
Thomas Ludlow Ashley
Maristee Bradley
Leslie Cornfeld-Urfirer
Susan A. Davis
J. Raymond DePaulo Jr., M.D.
James A. Johnson
Green P. Lewis
Ralph da Costa Nunez
D. Eric Pogue
John P. Roe
Arman R. Simone
Robert S. Strauss
Bon Vili
Robert D. Villency
Howard H. Williams III
Geoffrey F. Worden
H. J. Young

Past Chairmen

Rabbi Martin Siegel
John W. Macy, Jr.
Clifford L. Alexander, Jr.

Ms. Carol Rasco

Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Rasco:

On behalf of the National Alliance to End Homelessness and its 2,500 members, I would like to extend an invitation to you to be our keynote speaker at our Fourth Annual Membership Conference entitled, **Building Our Future: Organizing to End Homelessness in a New Era**. The conference will be held in Washington, DC, on June 19th-21st, 1996.

The Alliance is the only national membership organization which brings together local and national nonprofit organizations, public sector agencies, and corporations in a partnership to prevent and end homelessness. It is our conviction that homelessness is unacceptable, and that as a nation we must commit ourselves to ending homelessness for each homeless person.

Our annual membership conference is both a training and planning conference for the agencies and non-profit organizations affiliated with the Alliance. This year the conference will address such issues as block granting and its effects on homeless assistance, local coalition building, and serving clients with multiple needs. Given your knowledge of national policy and your commitment to the issues that affect homelessness in this country, the Alliance believes that you would be an ideal person to set the tone of the conference as our keynote speaker.

The keynote address is slated for Thursday, June 20th from 9:15 - 10:00 am. We expect several hundred participants from organizations throughout the country. Enclosed is material about the National Alliance to End Homelessness. It will give you a more detailed history of the organization, as well as an overview of our programs and advocacy initiatives.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information. If you are not available at the time we have requested, we would be happy to work with you on scheduling an alternative time for your keynote address. Thank you very much for your consideration. An Alliance staff member will contact you shortly to follow up on our invitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas L. Kenyon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thomas L. Kenyon
President