

September 21, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

FROM: Molly Brostrom
Domestic Policy Council

RE: Conference Call with Housing and Homelessness Assistance Advocates

Thank you for agreeing to give opening remarks on Friday's conference call with housing and homelessness assistance advocates; you are scheduled from 11:45-11:50 am. Prior to your joining the call, I will have conducted a round of introductions with the participants. When you join, please introduce yourself and begin your remarks. When you are finished, Bob Litan of OMB will continue with an appropriations discussion. **To access the call, please call 6-6799, code #3769.**

Attached are: a list of the participants on the call (at 25 different locations across the country); suggestions for your remarks; the brief agenda for the call; and a copy of Bob Litan's briefing memo that provides background on HUD appropriations. Below I will describe the genesis of the call.

Background

Housing and homelessness groups have been frustrated with a perceived lack of attention and interest to housing issues by the White House. Last January, they were unhappy with the HUD Reinvention Blueprint (which they saw as OMB-driven), and more recently are frustrated by our budget strategy, which, as you know, due to its focus, results in little or no mention of the housing and homelessness cuts.

This frustration was particularly evident and harmful after the final Recision bill was signed. Advocates were excited that the President initially vetoed the bill, but then were devastated at the final outcome (slightly worse for housing). Because of the perceived lack of interest in housing at the White House, blame and anger for the Recision cuts focused as much on the Administration as Congress.

The Washington groups are very cognizant that their real opponents are the Congressional budget cutters. And I think they are beginning to feel that there is an interest in their issues at the White House (they are meeting regularly with OMB; Alexis and Gene have met with them; Carol will meet with them next week; they requested a meeting with Panetta, but were regretted). But they are looking for assistance in educating and mobilizing their grassroots network -- against the Hill proposals in the short term and for the President in the longer term.

Given the required focus of the budget strategy and public comments, we have been looking for other ways to communicate Administration interest and commitment to the issues and constituency. Andy Hernandez of the DNC originally suggested this conference call.

Bob Litan's discussion will be a realistic assessment of the appropriations situation, helping to focus people on the magnitude of the total cuts we are facing, to communicate our need to fight first for our priorities, and to reduce expectations for what we can accomplish. The discussion period -- which we hope will focus on what they think our housing priorities should be IF we have any wiggle room, will give people an opportunity for input.

Your participation will be very helpful in communicating a message of White House interest. Thank you again. If you have questions, please call me at X6-5561. Immediately before and during the call, I will be in Bob Litan's office (5-3120).

cc: Laura Capps
Ann Eder, OPL

Suggestions for Opening Remarks:

- Your remarks should be a general overview of the budget fight in Washington (Bob Litan will later delve into the specifics of housing).
- Your remarks can and should be partisan, framing the budget debate in terms of the differences between Republicans and Democrats.

(This will help to focus the participants, all of whom will be liberal Democrats, on the big picture and to emphasize that we are on the same side in this budget fight. As I described in the memo, many housing advocates are angry at the Administration for differences we have on housing goals. This conference call is an opportunity to focus people on the bigger fight and on our common goals.)

- Your participation on the call will help to demonstrate that people at the highest levels of the White House do care about their constituencies. But you can reassure them with several points: They are part of the big picture at the White House; their input and support is critical; and the White House supports and is working with HUD in this fight.
- Administration accomplishments in housing and homelessness:
 - The Clinton Administration has made housing and community development a top priority, despite severe budget constraints on all Federal agencies.
 - Federal homeless funding has nearly tripled under this Administration. The President's FY 96 budget calls for \$1.6 billion in funding to help communities develop solutions to break the cycle of homelessness. The House would reduce funding for HUD's homeless programs by 40 percent (\$444 million) and cut another \$30 million from FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter program.
 - The President's balanced budget plan would add over 500,000 voucher subsidies over the next ten years. Congressional proposals would slash housing assistance at a time when the number of families with severe housing needs has been rising.
 - Across housing and homeless programs, the Administration has worked with communities to simplify administrative reporting requirements and make federal funding streams work better -- while at the same time ensuring that program goals are met.

**CONFERENCE CALL WITH HOUSING
AND HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE ADVOCATES**

Friday, September 22, 1995
11:45 am - 12:30 pm

Agenda

11:45 Opening Remarks

George Stephanopoulos, Senior Advisor to the President for
Policy and Strategy

11:50 Overview of Appropriations and White House priorities

Robert E. Litan, Associate Director for General Government
and Finance, Office of Management and Budget, Executive
Office of the President

12:00 Questions and Discussion

12:30 Adjourn

= We need their help w/ Congress on making pot as big as possible

- you know, it's illegal for us to urge people to lobby Congress.

* Housing -

Restore funding for Inc'l Vouchers

Homeless Assistance

Public Hsg - Modernization, esp'ly for severely distressed
also for Drug Elim Grants

Q & A -

Andy Rarbeson: SRO Hsg Corp
1300

#1 obje - get as much \$ in pot
2 - priors

★ Veto → Pres'l stmt → ^{on Pub Hsg} will veto unless HUD / Hsg ↑d

Cisneros - terrible on assisted housing

Joan: vouchers more costly than proj-based

Bill Butes, OH -

Ruth Schwartz, LA, CA - thanks for help on leave
- thx for Suburban Ass →

Manuel Fria - NY - See top priority

P. Barnes, OH - Fair Hsg → in DOJ, how much?
\$30 M
- if not transferred, no \$

GS

- Hsg will move to force
as tax on poor

Pres will veto

veto if 

Preservation - step back
- support → 8449 B



anti-vouchers argument to JBA
why wouldn't non-profits use?

- no vouchers
- pub hsg mgt

- no more disor to PHTAs ⇒ we've expressed
this to Senate



LIHTC + Present

⇒ make it impossible for non-profits
to dump low-rent hsg

Michael Kane - Preservation - HUD expressing that
disposable

- our proposal → to reform, make less exp
- we're fighting prop's to elim.

Lunch?

Participants for White House Conference Call
Friday, September 22, 1995

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**ACORN**

FASCIMILE COVER SHEET

FROM: Jerry Jones
DATE: 9/19
TO: Molly Brostrom
FAX #:

PHONE #:

PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 7 pages

NOTE:

A draft list of conference call participants follows. I will have a final list with complete names and addresses by the end of the day.

There are 3 undesignated sites for 202-456-6799 for your use.

Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now

National Office: 739 8th Street S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 • 202-547-2500 FAX 202-546-2483

Participants for White House Conference Call
Friday, September 22, 1995

Arizona

Louisa Stark ^d
Phoenix Consortium for the Homeless
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602-253-6905

Louisa should call the White House at 202-456-6755 on Friday at 11:30 am Eastern time. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

California

Jane Graf ^c
Mercy Housing
San Francisco, CA
[address & number needed]

Jane should call the White House at 202-456-6755 on Friday at 11:30 am Eastern time. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

Ruth Schwartz ^c
Shelter Partnership
Los Angeles, CA
[address & number needed]

Ruth should call the White House at 202-456-6755 on Friday at 11:30 am Eastern time. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

Rob Wiener ^f
California Rural Housing Coalition
[address & number needed]

Rob should call the White House at 202-456-6755 on Friday at 11:30 Eastern time. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

Andy Raubeson ^f
SRO of Los Angeles
[address & number needed]

Andy should travel to the Shelter Partnership office to participate on the call, which will begin at 11:30 am Eastern time.

California Housing Coalition ^e
Sacramento, CA
[name, address & number needed]

The Coalition should call the White House at 202-456-6755 on Friday at 11:30 am Eastern time. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

Steve Cancian ^a
Coalition for Economic Survival
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Steve should call the White House at 202-456-6755 on Friday at 11:30 am Eastern time. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

Stan Bridenbach ^b
SGANPH
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Stan should call the White House at 202-456-6755 on Friday at 11:30 am. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

Anthony Thigpen ^a
AGENDA
Los Angeles, CA
213-730-4950

Anthony should call the White House at 202-456-6766 on Friday at 11:30 am Eastern time. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

Connecticut

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Jim should call the White House at 202-456-6766 on Friday at 11:30 am. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

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Jean Butzen ^c
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Chicago, IL
[address & number needed]

Jean should travel to the Chicago Rehab Network to participate on the call, which will begin at 11:30 am Eastern time.

Judy Meima ^b
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Judy should call the White House at 202-456-6766 on Friday at 11:30 am Eastern time. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

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Maureen should call the White House at 202-456-6777 on Friday at 11:30 am. The access code for the conference call is 3769.

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*Jerry should call the White House at 202-456-6799 on Friday at 11:30 am.
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Sources:

- a = ACORN
- b = Center for Community Change
- c = National Alliance to End Homelessness
- d = National Coalition for the Homeless
- e = National Housing Law Project
- f = National Low Income Housing Coalition