

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

April 25, 1995

TO: Patti Solis
Melanne Verveer

CC: Maggie Williams

FROM: Carol Rasco 

RE: Little Rock Satellite Televideo Conference of the 1995 White House
Conference on Aging

The President's address to the Opening Plenary of next week's White House Conference on Aging will be broadcast by satellite to twelve locations across the country, including Little Rock, Arkansas. I have agreed to attend the Little Rock televideo conference and provide opening remarks.

I would appreciate your assistance in extending an invitation to Mrs. Rodham to attend the Little Rock televideo conference. She, of course, would be welcome to provide remarks if she would like. The event will be held at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Auditorium and runs from roughly 9:30 a.m. until noon, Wednesday, May 3.

If you have questions, please call Molly Brostrom on my staff (6-5561). Molly will follow up with one of you later this week. Thank you for your assistance.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 28, 1995

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL H. RASCO

FROM: Molly Brostrom

SUBJECT: Remarks to Little Rock White House Conference on Aging
Televideo Conference

I. LOGISTICS

DATE: Wednesday, May 3, 1995

TIME: 9:40 - 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: University of Arkansas at Little Rock Auditorium

Should you choose to drive to the event, we are working on obtaining a parking spot for you at the auditorium. Otherwise, we will arrange to have someone pick you up at a designated location, and then drive you to the airport after your remarks. You will be met at the lobby entrance of the Auditorium by Mary Lou King.

(Note: Because parking is so tough at the campus, organizers have arranged for buses to shuttle people from a parking lot at North end of campus to the auditorium.)

II. PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

As you are aware, the Opening Plenary of the White House Conference will be broadcast live by satellite (by tape delay to California) to 12 locations across the country (list attached). Administration officials were asked to attend and address key sites.

The Little Rock Televideo Conference is being organized by the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) with some initial assistance from the regional HHS office. You are the only speaker at the event. They will also use the time to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Older Americans Act.

Your remarks will focus on the importance and uniqueness of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging and the Administration's record and accomplishments for seniors, and will provide a slight preview to the President's remarks on Medicare and Medicaid.

III. PARTICIPANTS/AUDIENCE

At least 300 people are expected. They have been invited through Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers, a flyer distributed across the state, and advertisements in the Democratic Gazette.

Some of the key people in the senior community, such as Herb Sanderson, will not be at the event because they will be in Washington. Little Rock Mayor Daley will attend, but does not have a speaking role at this time.

IV. FORMAT

Early speeches of the Opening Plenary will be on the screen as people arrive during the morning. At 9:30, they will turn the program off for welcoming remarks by Mary Lou King. John Diaz, Regional Program Director of the Administration on Aging (based in Dallas, Texas) will then introduce you. You are expected to speak for about 20 minutes.

At 10:00, they will turn the video back on for Sen. Pryor's (or possibly the Vice President's) introduction and the President's speech. After Arthur Flemming's 5 minute follow up to the President, they will break for cake and a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Older Americans Act, and then turn back to taped portions of speech for anyone interested.

V. MEDIA

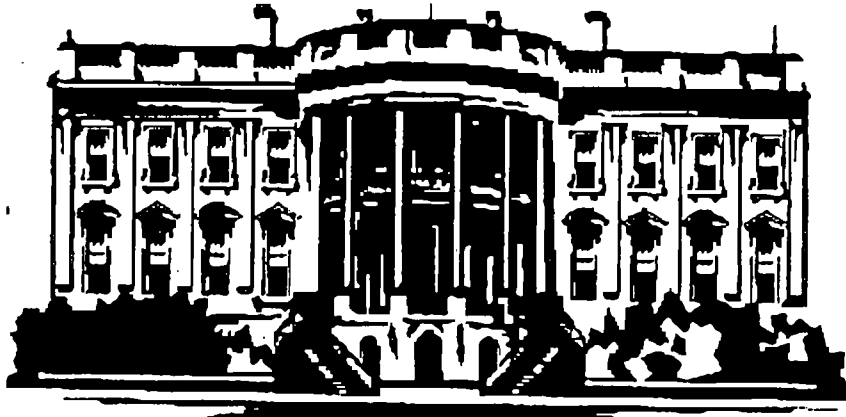
A general distribution press release was sent by DHS to all media across the state; a second release was sent this week to emphasize that the speech will be broadcast live.

VI. OTHER

Attached are your prepared remarks [WILL ARRIVE AT YOUR HOME SATURDAY BY FAX AND E-MAIL], along with background information on the White House Conference on Aging.

cc: Jeremy Ben-Ami
Julie Demeo
Rosalyn Miller

Post-it [®] Fax Note	7671	Date	4/27/95	# of pages	1
To	Mollie Brostrom	From	Bea Murray		
Co./Dept.	IF you HAVE ?	Co.	Pulaski		
Phone #	Please call this #	Phone #	682-8511		
Fax #	(202) 456-7028	Fax #	682-8155		



**White House Conference on Aging
Televideo Conference**

**UALR Theater Auditorium
May 3, 1995**

- 9:30 a.m.** **Opening Remarks**
Mary Lou King, Assistant Director
Division of Aging and Adult Services
- Welcome**
John Diaz, Regional Program Director
Administration on Aging, Dallas, Texas
- 9:40 a.m.** **Address**
Carol Rasco, Chief Domestic Policy Advisor
The White House
- 10:00 a.m.** **Address (live via satellite)**
President Bill Clinton
- 10:30 a.m.** **Celebration of 30th Anniversary of the
Older Americans Act**
(Auditorium Lobby)
- 10:45 a.m.** **Video Broadcast of Opening Ceremonies
of the 1995 White House Conference
on Aging featuring Sen. David Pryor,
Hugh Downs, Secretary Donna Shalala of
the Department of Health and Human
Services, and others**
- 12:45 p.m.** **Closing Remarks by Mr. Diaz**

DRAFT -- TENTATIVE -- DRAFT

1995 White House Conference on Aging

Opening Plenary
Wednesday, May 3, 9:30-12:00

9:30 a.m. Bob Blancato, Exec. Dir. of WHCoA

Sen. Pryor opens (Chairman of Conference) -- 10 mins.

Hugh Downs, Master of Ceremonies
-TV/news personality; co-host of 20-20; age 70+

Sec. Donna Shalala

Sec. Jesse Brown

Sen. Cohen (R-Maine)

Rep. Martinez (D-CA)

Rep. Morella (R-MD)
(Secretaries and Congressional representatives are
all members of the WHCoA Policy Committee)

10:45 Video
Intergenerational Choir (3 mins.)

11:00 Sen. Pryor/VP -- introduction of President (if VP
doesn't introduce, he may be plugged in immediately
before Pryor, or earlier in the program)

President's address

Arthur Flemming (3-5 minutes to praise President,
charge up delegates)
-Flemming is seen as elder statesman of senior
community: former Sec. of HHS; current head of
Save Our Security (NCSC offshoot; well-known in
political circles; turning 90 this year.

1995 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING OVERVIEW

The fourth White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) in history -- and the last of this century -- will be held May 2-5, 1995 at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. The theme of the Conference is "America Now and into the 21st Century: Generations Aging Together with Independence, Opportunity and Dignity."

The Conference has two objectives: [1] to craft resolutions that will influence national aging policy over the next decade, and [2] to design a strategy for implementing these resolutions at the local, state and Federal levels.

The agenda has been shaped by recommendations and reports from officially recognized WHCoA events as well as over 900 public comments. Four issue areas comprise the agenda. They are: [1] Assuring Comprehensive Health Care Including Long Term Care, [2] Promoting Economic Security, [3] Maximizing Housing and Support Service Options, and [4] Maximizing Options for a Quality Life. It is the first agenda in the history of WHCoAs to be developed with public participation.

Approximately 2,200 delegates from all 50 states, the territories and the District of Columbia will discuss, debate, modify and vote on resolutions corresponding to the different issue areas. The resolutions have been formed by synthesizing recommendations received from the nearly 800 authorized pre-Conference events involving thousands of people from across the country. Delegates will have the opportunity to introduce their own resolutions to be voted on during the final plenary session with the written endorsement of at least 10% of all delegates.

Resolutions passed at the Conference will form the basis of a series of post-Conference events entitled, "Turning Resolutions into Results: Building the Legacy of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging." These events will focus on implementing the resolutions at the local, state, and Federal levels.

A final report consisting of the recommendations from all pre-Conference events, the resolutions passed by the delegates at the Conference in Washington, D.C., strategies developed at post-Conference events and all public comments received will be published and forwarded to members of Congress and the President by December 31, 1995.

1995 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING POLICY COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee is comprised of 25 members appointed by the President and Congress. It is responsible for formulating and approving the Conference agenda; making recommendations for participants and delegates of the Conference; establishing the number of delegates to be selected; and formulating and approving the initial report of the Conference to be published in the *Federal Register*. The committee is required by the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1992, which authorize the 1995 White House Conference on Aging.

Chair:

DAVID PRYOR, U.S. Senate (D-AR)

Committee Members:

WILLIAM S. COHEN, U.S. Senate (R-ME)

DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN, U.S. Senate (D-NY)

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, U.S. Senate (D-MD)

CONSTANCE A. MORELLA, U.S. House of Representatives (R-MD)

ANDREW JACOBS, Jr., U.S. House of Representatives (D-IN)

WILLIAM J. HUGHES, U.S. House of Representatives (D-NJ) (retired)

MATHEW G. MARTINEZ, U.S. House of Representatives (D-CA)

DONNA E. SHALALA, Secretary of Health and Human Services

HENRY G. CISNEROS, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

JESSE BROWN, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

NORMAN ABRAMOWITZ, Mayor of Tamarac, FL

BEA G. BACON, Central States Coalition on Aging, Olathe, KS

HORACE B. DEETS, Executive Director, American Association of Retired Persons

JAMES T. DELACRUZ, Coordinator, Quinault Senior Citizens Program, Tahola, WA

DR. ROSE DOBROF, Executive Director, Brookdale Center on Aging of Hunter College, New York, NY

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Policy Committee Members cont'd

MADELEINE R. FREEMAN, Orono, ME

MARALEE LINDLEY, Director, Illinois Department on Aging, Springfield, IL

DR. THOMAS H.D. MAHONEY, Cambridge, MA

MARY ROSE OAKAR, President, Healthright, Inc., Cleveland, OH

HERB A. SANDERSON, Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services, Arkansas Department of Human Services, Little Rock, AR

SAMUEL J. SIMMONS, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc.

LAWRENCE T. SMEDLEY, Executive Director, National Council of Senior Citizens

DR. MARTA SOTOMAYOR, President, National Hispanic Council on the Aging

DR. DANIEL THURSZ, President Emeritus, National Council on the Aging

-end-

1995 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee is comprised of experts in the field of aging appointed by the President. It provides advice for planning, conducting, and reviewing the Conference. The committee is required by the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1992, which authorize the 1995 White House Conference on Aging.

Chair:

DR. ROBERT BUTLER founded the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health and helped establish the U.S.-Japan International Leadership Center on Longevity and Society.

Committee Members:

DR. JAMES E. BIRREN is an Associate Director of the UCLA Center on Aging at the Multicampus Program of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology.

DR. DAVID K. BROWN is the Director of the West Virginia Office of Aging and is responsible for administering the Older Americans Act, Medicaid Waiver and Foster Grandparent Programs.

LIZ CARPENTER was the Chief of Staff and the Press Secretary for Lady Bird Johnson.

KARYL ECKELS is principal research associate for long-term care issues related to disability and aging for the World Institute on Disability.

REV. CHARLES J. FAHEY is the Senior Associate for the Third Age Center at Fordham University in New York.

ELSIE FRANK is the President of the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans, Inc. and the Advisory Council to the Commission on Affairs of the Elderly of Boston.

ANITA FREEDMAN is a Commissioner on the Portsmouth Housing Authority and Secretary for the New Hampshire Democratic Party.

DR. EVELYNN C. GIOIELLA is the Dean of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing.

LOU GLASSE is the President Emerita of the Older Women's League.

ELINOR GUGGENHEIMER is the Director of the Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City.

ED HAAS is the Executive Director of the White River Area Agency on Aging in Arkansas.

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Advisory Committee Members cont'd

HENRY JAY HANNIGAN is the senior partner in the law firm of Hannigan and Ehreshman.

JAMES SANTIAGO HENA is the Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council and a member of the Tribal Operations Committee of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CARMELA LACAYO is the President/CEO of Asociacion Nacional Pro Personas Mayores (National Association for Hispanic Elderly).

JOHN E. LYLE is the Chairman of the Federal Council on Aging.

MARTHA A. McSTEEN is the President of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

MARY MULVEY is the co-founder and Vice President of the National Council of Senior Citizens.

RON POLLACK is the Executive Director of Families U.S.A., the national consumer group fighting for health and long-term care reform.

DANIEL PERRY is the Founder and Executive Director of the Alliance for Aging Research, Inc.

STEVE PROTULIS is the Coordinator of Senior Affairs for the AFL-CIO National COPE Department.

EUGENE RINALDI is the former manager of the Sixty Plus Services program of St. Joseph Healthcare System and the President of the New Mexico Hispanic Council on Aging.

TERESA SCANNELL is the Director of Generations United, a National Coalition on Intergenerational Issues and Programs.

RUTH SHEPHERD is the Founder and President of Oregon Generations Together, Inc. a non-profit corporation.

DR. E. PERCIL STANFORD is the Director of the National Resource Center on Minority Aging Populations housed at San Diego State University.

JAMES T. SYKES is the Chairman of the Board of the National Council on Aging and the Associate Director of the Institute on Aging at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

DR. JEANETTE C. TAKAMURA is the Deputy Director of the Hawaii Dept. of Health.

DR. ERIC G. TANGALOS is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic Medical School.

DON WATANABE is the Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging.

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1995 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING DELEGATES

Delegates from all 50 states, the territories, and the District of Columbia will convene in Washington, D.C. to discuss, debate, modify and vote on resolutions corresponding to the different issue areas. The delegates consist of senior citizens, professionals, academics, policy makers, caregivers, members of the international community, youth and lay persons.

Appointor	Delegates Allotted
Governor (States and Territories)	1,062 (47%)
Minimum of nine delegates with remainder allocated based on the percentage of the State's population over age 55 as compared to the nation's total population over age 55.	
Congress	638 (28%)
White House	80 (3.5%)
Dept. of Health and Human Services	50 (2.5%)
White House Conference on Aging	130 (6%)
Other	300 (13%)
National aging organizations; other national organizations; veterans' organizations; business/industry/foundations; labor/retiree organizations; and minority aging, women's, disability groups and others.	
Total	2,260 (100%)

1995 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING SATELLITE LOCATIONS

Hundreds of thousands of individuals across the United States will have the opportunity to view the opening plenary session of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) via satellite. Any facility equipped to receive a Ku-band signal may show this historic event. There is no charge to receive the signal. The satellite coordinates and other technical information can be obtained by calling Tibor Saddler at Advanced Engineering & Planning Corporation, Inc., in Alexandria, VA at (800) 800-2372 or at (703) 838-6885.

The broadcasting of the opening plenary session, as well as the funding for eleven satellite locations, have been made possible through an "in-kind" gift to the WHCoA from five regional Bell operating companies: Pacific Telesis Group, BellSouth, NYNEX, Bell Atlantic, and SBC Communications. The eleven Bell satellite sites, coordinated by Health and Human Services Regional Directors, are listed below.

- Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI Contact: Philip Johnston (617) 565-1500
- The Meadowlands Hilton East, Rutherford, NJ Contact: Alison E. Green (212) 264-4600
- Hunter College, New York, NY Contact: Alison E. Green (212) 264-4600
Eli Segal
- The Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA Contact: Lynn Yeakel (215) 596-6492
Bonnie Campbell
- Radisson Twin Towers, Orlando, FL Contact: Patricia Ford-Roegner (404) 331-2442
- INFOMART, Dallas, TX Contact: Patricia Montoya (214) 767-3617
- University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR Contact: Patricia Montoya (214) 767-3617
Carol Rasco
- San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA Contact: Grantland Johnson (415) 556-1961
- California Exposition, Sacramento, CA Contact: Grantland Johnson (415) 556-1961
- UCLA, Los Angeles, CA Contact: Grantland Johnson (415) 556-1961
Anita Perez Ferguson (Lt. Gov. Grey Davis)
- John Knox Center, Kansas City, MO Contact: Kathleen Steele (816) 426-2821
Shirley Chester

To obtain information about other satellite locations, contact Bryan Preston at (202) 245-0105.

1995 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING SCHEDULE

DRAFT

Tuesday, May 2

3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Registration
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Speakour Session

Wednesday, May 3

6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Registration
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Opening Breakfast (delegates only)
8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. Observers, VIPs, and staff seated for the Opening Plenary Session
~~9:30 - noon~~
~~9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.~~ Opening Plenary Session
Sen. Cohen
Rep. Connie Morella } *R's*
Rep. Martinez
President Bill Clinton, Sen. David Pryor (D-AR), Sec. Donna Shalala, Sec. Henry Cisneros, Sec. Jesse Brown, Arthur Flemming, and Hugh Downs (all tentative)
11:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. Lunch
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Special State & Constituency Caucuses
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. First Issue Resolution Development Session
Evening... Entertainment

Thursday, May 4

7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Breakfast (delegates only)
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Official WHCoA event
First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (tentative) - Mommy gone
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Second Issue Resolution Development Session
1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Lunch
2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Third Issue Resolution Development Session
5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Special State and Constituency Caucuses
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Dinner and Plenary Session (tentative)

Friday, May 5

7:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Closing Breakfast and Resolution Vote
10:30 a.m. - Noon Closing Session

Note: All events noted will be held at the Washington Hilton & Towers Hotel

- *Sec. Shalala*
- *VP & Mrs. Gore*
- *Eli Segal*
- *Jane Alexander*
- *Shirley Chantler*
- *Cisneros?*

*8:30 - 9:00
Shuttles
back to
hotel for
packing up*

1995 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

BACKGROUND

- In the last half of this century, there have been three White House Conferences on Aging and each one has served as a catalyst for important new initiatives that address the needs of America's elderly -- their work contributed to the passage of Medicare and Medicaid, the Older Americans Act and Social Security Reform.
- The 1995 White House Conference on Aging is the first conference since 1981 and the last in the 20th Century. The Conference will be held in Washington on May 2-5. Its theme is: America Now and Into the 21st Century -- Generations aging together with independence, opportunity and dignity.
- More than 2000 delegates, appointed by governors, members of Congress, aging organizations, international organizations, veterans groups, the White House, the Department of Health and Human Services and the White House Conference on Aging will attend. Senior volunteers and caregivers are invited as delegates for the first time.
- For the first time, the Opening Plenary of the Conference will be broadcast to twelve satellite sites across the country, providing the opportunity to hundreds of thousands of Americans to view the President's opening address to the Conference.
- The purpose of the 1995 Conference is to produce resolutions that shape national aging policy over the next ten years -- and to work together to see these resolutions implemented.

A GRASS ROOTS PROCESS

For the first time ever, the planning process for the Conference involved grass-roots participation from every corner of our country.

- Over 800 events and conferences have been held in all 50 states and territories, involving more than 100,000 people.
- The public has had an opportunity to shape the Conference's agenda, ensuring that the issues covered are the issues seniors care most about: promoting economic security; assuring comprehensive health care and long-term care; maximizing housing and support service options; maximizing options for a quality life.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

- This Conference comes at a time of both fiscal and demographic change in our country -- diminishing resources on the federal/state/local levels; an entire population living longer, and staying healthier; changing family structures.

- This Conference is about meeting new challenges with new and creative solutions and forging new partnerships.
- It is about energizing society across all age groups to make aging an issue of universal interest and concern.
- It is about building new intergenerational partnerships and expanding existing ones.
- It is about educating younger Americans to plan for their older years by working hard, saving money and making smart decisions about their health.
- And it is about educating all Americans about the extraordinary abilities and potential of our older Americans.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: WORKING FOR OLDER AMERICANS

"Our senior citizens have made us what we are."

President Clinton, State of the Union, 1995

"My position is, I haven't and don't support cuts in Social Security, and I would support savings in the Medicare program only if they're used to advance the cause of health care."

President Clinton, October 23, 1994

BRINGING SENIORS TO THE TABLE *Our nation's seniors are central to our communities. The Clinton Administration is committed to addressing the concerns of Older Americans and including them in decision-making.*

- Elevation of Commissioner of Aging. President Clinton elevated the position of Commissioner on Aging to Assistant Secretary status to make sure the interests and concerns of older Americans are at the table when decisions are made.
- 1995 White House Conference on Aging. President Clinton demonstrated his commitment to older Americans by calling for the fourth White House Conference on Aging, after the 1991 Conference failed to take place.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC SECURITY *People who work hard and play by the rules should be rewarded. The Clinton Administration is committed to promoting economic security and opportunity across generations.*

- A stable Social Security System The Administration is committed to preserving Social Security benefits and ensuring long-term integrity of the Trust Fund. Social Security benefits should not be used to balance the budget or pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.
- Bolstering Public Confidence By strengthening and streamlining the program, we're bolstering public confidence in Social Security. We worked with the Congress to make SSA an independent agency, and now SSA is working hard to improve customer service and satisfaction -- through its 800 number, by reducing the number of pending disability claims and by mailing Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statements (PEBES) so Americans know the retirement benefits they can expect.
- A Reliable Pension System People deserve a pension system that they can rely on -- so President Clinton signed the Retirement Protection Act in December 1994. Now, workers and retirees will be able to count on receiving the pensions they have earned.
- Enhanced IRAs The President's Middle Class Bill of Rights allows people to set up an Individual Retirement Account and withdraw it tax-free for the cost of education... or first time home buying... or the care of a parent... or health care.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO FIGHT FOR REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM *We remain firmly committed to guaranteeing health security to all Americans and to containing health care costs for families, businesses and federal, state and local governments.*

- First Steps As the President has consistently stated, this year we can take the first steps. The Congress can, and should, reform the insurance market; make coverage affordable for working families; help workers who lose their jobs keep their health insurance; continue the start made already to level the playing field for the self-employed; and **help families provide long-term care** for a sick parent or a disabled child.
- Long Term Care We know that long-term care is of critical importance to the elderly. That's why we have consistently supported expanding state administered home care services. It's also why we support tax clarifications for private long-term care insurance and consumer standards for long-term care so that insurance policies are worth more than the paper they're written on.
- Fighting Republican Cuts We're fighting to protect health care for mothers, children, the disabled and aged Americans. Republicans want to cut Medicare by about \$250 billion and federal Medicaid spending by about \$160 billion between now and 2002. These cuts will mean shifting a staggering financial burden to elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries; dropping coverage or shrinking benefits for the elderly, disabled, or mothers and children on Medicaid; and significant cuts in payments to hospitals, physicians and other providers.
- Making Medicare and Medicaid Responsive to Beneficiary Needs We're supportive of an expansion of managed care options to increase choices for beneficiaries -- not as a smokescreen for deep and arbitrary cuts. And, we're streamlining regulations and cutting paperwork.
- Health Reform Critical to Deficit Reduction The President has consistently said that we cannot get a hold of the deficit without passing meaningful health reform. Over the next five years alone, almost 40 percent of the growth in total federal spending will come from rising costs in federal health care programs. We must contain costs in these programs. But we must do it as we reform our health care system as a whole -- not by arbitrarily cutting programs that serve the most vulnerable Americans.

A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE *The Administration is committed to fighting for a better quality of life -- safe streets, high-quality and affordable education for everyone, and making services available where they're needed most -- at the community level.*

- Fighting Crime The Administration passed the smartest, toughest, and most comprehensive Anti-Crime bill in this country's history... a bill that provides police, prisons, punishment and prevention... so that the streets families live on are safer.

- Education President Clinton has signed the Student Loan Reform Act, Goals 2000, School-to-Work and expanded Head Start. His "Middle Class Bill of Rights" calls for tax cuts for parents trying to put their kids through school... and a \$500 tax cut for families with children under 13.
- Promoting community service 20,000 young people are devoting their time to community service through the Administration's Americorps; some work with seniors in their community. And, Senior Corps programs like Foster Grandparent and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program boast 526,000 participants.
- Reinventing Government The Administration has eliminated 102,000 jobs and continues to cut obsolete regulations; reward results, not red tape; taking power away from federal bureaucracies and giving it back to communities.

4/26/95b

Remarks by Carol H. Rasco
Little Rock WHCoA Televideo Conference
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
May 3, 1995

Thank you for that kind introduction, John [John Diaz, Regional Program Director of the Administration on Aging], and for your warm welcome, Mary Lou [Mary Lou King, Assistant Director, Arkansas Division of Aging and Adult Services]. It's good to be here.

[Any personal connection or history to the campus, the Arkansas DHS, Area Agencies on Aging, etc. that you would like to add?]

I am so delighted that you all have this opportunity to participate in the 1995 White House Conference on Aging. This is the first time that the Opening Plenary of a White House Conference on Aging will be broadcast live -- to this and eleven other sites across the country.

All indications are that this will be an important and fruitful Conference. And it certainly is a historic event. The 1995 White House Conference on Aging is the first conference since 1981, the fourth formal White House Conference on Aging, and will be the last held in the 20th Century.

Each of the three previous White House Conferences on Aging has served as a catalyst for important new initiatives that address the needs of America's elderly -- their work contributed to the passage of Medicare and Medicaid, the Older Americans Act and Social Security Reform. We fully expect this Conference to continue in that tradition and provide us important guidance in both meeting the needs of today's seniors and shaping aging policy for the 21st century.

The Conference officially kicked off last evening during a "Speak Out" which gave delegates their first opportunity to begin debate on the policy issues before them. On Friday at mid-day, the Conference will conclude after final voting on resolutions.

More than 2000 delegates are attending the Conference, appointed by governors, members of Congress, aging organizations, international organizations, veterans groups, the White House, and the Department of Health and Human Services. Senior volunteers and caregivers were invited as delegates for the first time.

Also for the first time, the planning process for the Conference involved grass-roots participation from every corner of our country. Over 800 events and conferences were held in all 50 states and territories, involving more than 100,000 people -- I'm sure many of you participated.

Through those events, the public had an opportunity to shape the Conference's agenda, ensuring that the issues covered are those seniors care most about. The four categories that the agenda will cover are: promoting economic security; assuring comprehensive health care and long-term care; maximizing housing and support service options; and maximizing options for a quality life.

And an additional unique and exemplary approach of this Conference is its focus on results. The 1995 Conference will not only produce resolutions designed to shape national aging policy over the next ten years - - but will take additional steps to see these resolutions implemented. A series of post-Conference activities at the state and local level will focus on practical responses and implementation steps for the resolutions agreed to this week, and these steps and recommendations will be presented as a final report next fall. It is a responsible approach, and our Administration is committed to working with the Conference in addressing the issues identified.

The theme of the 1995 White House Conference is: America Now and Into the 21st Century - - Generations Aging Together with Independence, Opportunity and Dignity. It is an intergenerational theme that we must all be guided by as we work to address today's problems. And it is a theme that I hope will shine brightly throughout this Conference because people, the press in particular, will try to portray this Conference as pitting the elderly against younger generations. And we cannot afford intergenerational schisms today. Older generations must work with younger ones to leave a solid legacy for future generations. And younger generations must recognize the universal bond of growing old that ties us all together.

This Conference could not come at a more important time. A time of both fiscal and demographic change in our country - - diminishing resources on the federal, state, and local levels; an entire population living longer, and staying healthier; changing family structures.

And the Conference comes at an interesting crossroads in American politics, a time of potentially dramatic changes in the shape, size and direction of our government. Potential changes that illustrate a struggle between two fundamentally different views of society.

It is, to my mind, a struggle for the soul of this country.

The President is very fond of describing this struggle in the following terms: For over fifty years, our country was governed by the basic notion that there wasn't a problem that couldn't be fixed by a government program. Ever since the New Deal brought us out of the Great Depression, our leaders, from both parties let me

add, have made their mark by designing and implementing problem-solving government programs.

Yet, as the twentieth century began to draw to a close, the country began to lose patience with the size and the scope of the government that had been created. Beginning probably with the property tax revolution in California in the late 70's and leading directly through Ronald Reagan, Ross Perot and Newt Gingrich, a new movement was born. It countered the Old Democratic view that government could solve every problem with the belief that there no role for government in any problems.

Bill Clinton ran and won in 1992 on the belief that there had to be a third way, a middle ground -- between these two views. Bill Clinton presented himself as a New Democrat, believing that government does have a role -- as a partner with other segments of society in solving our problems. His theory of government revolves around what he calls the New Covenant -- a mutually binding understanding between the people and their government -- in which the government doesn't so much solve problems as provide opportunities, and in which individual citizens share responsibility both for helping to solve the problems around them and for taking full advantage of the opportunities society offers them.

The conflict between these views of government provides the backdrop for the current debate over the Contract with America. Its resolution will guide our country into the new millenium and help define who we are as a society as we move out of the industrial age into the information age of the 21st century.

This covenant between ourselves and our government is particularly important at times when we are most vulnerable. And I think we would all agree that two times when we are most vulnerable are at the beginning and end of our lives. That is why I am so proud that our Administration has a strong record of accomplishments on both of these fronts.

The President and I share a belief, that children are a precious natural resource of our country. If we, as a nation, are truly serious about developing a stronger economy, increased competitiveness, and a life better than our parents and grandparents kne, then we do not have a single child to waste.

And your President and I share the belief that older Americans are central threads in the fabric of our communities. You are parents, grandparents, teachers and mentors to us. You have helped build this nation, defended the principles upon which our country was founded, nurtured children and grandchildren, and continue to give of yourselves.

Too often people consider the aging demographic revolution in terms of the burdens it presents to society -- concerns about care of frail elderly, strains on entitlements. President Clinton, more than any other President before him, believes that our older citizens are a vital resource to our country. We need to use your vast potential to strengthen family, build community, and make our nation whole.

The President's belief in our nation's seniors is evident in the high priority and substantial support the Administration has given to the National Senior Service Corps programs -- Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) -- programs with which many of you are very familiar.

Here in Arkansas, almost 9800 RSVP volunteers are helping communities address identified needs through over a dozen different projects; over 350 Foster Grandparents are active in providing individualized attention and guidance to children with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities; and almost 200 Senior Companions help frail adults achieve and maintain their highest level of independent living.

Nearly one-half million older people nationwide serve in the Senior Corps programs, yet these are fewer than 2 percent of eligible seniors. All of the Senior Corps programs have waiting lists, both of people wanting to serve and of individuals seeking the services of the programs' participants. That is why President Clinton is fighting to not only protect this program and the entire National Service programs from the budget cutting frenzy in Washington, but to provide it additional support. We must continue to tap the vast potential of older Americans in our efforts to tackle the serious problems confronting our nation.

The Senior Corps is just one area where this Administration is fighting for programs that protect, and promote the health and independence of older Americans. I would like to briefly highlight some of the Administration's other commitments and achievements on behalf of older Americans.

- Early on, President Clinton elevated the position of Commissioner on Aging to Assistant Secretary status to make sure the interests and concerns of older Americans are at the table when decisions are made.
- President Clinton is committed to promoting economic security and opportunity across generations. He recognizes that Social Security is essential to that economic security for many older Americans and is committed to preserving Social Security benefits and ensuring long-term integrity of the Trust Fund. He believes that Social Security benefits should

not be used to balance the budget or pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. You will hear the President himself reaffirm this commitment shortly.

- We're bolstering public confidence in Social Security by strengthening and streamlining the program. We worked with the Congress to make the Social Security Administration an independent agency. And now the Social Security Administration is working hard to improve customer service and satisfaction -- through its 800 number, by reducing the number of pending disability claims and by mailing Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statements (PEBES) so Americans know the retirement benefits they can expect.
- President Clinton signed the Retirement Protection Act in December 1994 so that workers and retirees will be able to count on receiving the pensions they have earned.
- The President's Middle Class Bill of Rights would allow people to set up an Individual Retirement Account and withdraw it tax-free for the cost of education, for first time home buying, for the care of a parent, or for health care.
- The Administration fought hard for a smart, tough, and comprehensive Anti-Crime bill that provides police, prisons, punishment and prevention so that the streets families live on are safer. And we fought for additional funding for programs focused on protection of the elderly.
- The Clinton Administration recognizes and has consistently supported the vital assistance provided by a program whose 30th anniversary we celebrate today -- the Older Americans Act. The home-delivered meals, transportation, protective and legal services, and nursing home ombudsman programs of the Older Americans Act are government programs with a proven record. And the Clinton Administration will continue to fight to keep the Older American Act programs strong and intact.
- President Clinton remains firmly committed to guaranteeing health security to all Americans and to containing health care costs for families, businesses and federal, state and local governments.
- And as the President has consistently stated, this year we can take the first steps. The Congress can, and should, reform the insurance market; make coverage affordable for working families; help workers who lose their jobs keep their health insurance; continue the start made already to level the playing field for the self-employed; and **help families**

provide long-term care for a sick parent or a disabled child.

- We know that long-term care is of critical importance to the elderly. That's why we have consistently supported expanding state administered home care services. It's also why we support tax clarifications for private long-term care insurance and consumer standards for long-term care so that insurance policies are worth more than the paper they're written on.
- And we stand ready for a hard fight to protect health care for mothers, children, the disabled and aged Americans. Republicans want to cut Medicare by about \$250 billion and federal Medicaid spending by about \$160 billion between now and 2002. These cuts would mean shifting a staggering financial burden to elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries; dropping coverage or shrinking benefits for the elderly, disabled, or mothers and children on Medicaid; and significant cuts in payments to hospitals, physicians and other providers.
- President Clinton recognizes that there are real problems in Medicare and Medicaid that need to be addressed. And, as he has consistently said, we cannot get a hold of the deficit without addressing growing health care entitlement spending, through meaningful health reform.
- But he believes there is a right way and a wrong way to address these problems. Simply slashing Medicare and Medicaid, or using these programs to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy, or reducing coverage, or making changes in Medicare that call for coercion over choice -- we believe these are the wrong ways.
- The Administration is taking steps now to reform the health care system and to improve Federal programs. The Administration has cracked down on fraud and abuse, recovering an unprecedented \$411 million in fraudulent health care claims -- a large percentage of which were robbed from the Medicare program. And these efforts will increase through the program announced yesterday as part of our "Reinventing Government" proposals. This is just one example of the "right way" to reform our health programs.
- I know the President will talk more about what he will and will not support in addressing health care spending, so let me not steal his thunder here.

The initiatives I have mentioned here are just a few of the ways our Administration has worked with our nation's older Americans to help ensure that the later years in life are healthy, independent

and productive. I look forward to the recommendations that will come out of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging for guidance on how to improve these programs or address other critical needs.

And most of all, I look forward to a full and honest debate about what to do. About what has worked and what hasn't and why. Because that discussion is not taking place in Washington today. There is no exchange of ideas, no weighing of the evidence. Instead there is a full-scale assault on nearly every single program that helps the neediest and most vulnerable among us.

I am confident that this Conference will step above all this and set an example for us all. There is great potential for this Conference:

- to meet new challenges with new and creative solutions and forge new partnerships;
- to energize society across all age groups to make aging an issue of universal interest and concern;
- to build new intergenerational partnerships and expanding existing ones;
- to educate younger Americans about the need to plan for their older years by working hard, saving money and making smart decisions about their health; and
- to educate all Americans about the extraordinary abilities and potential of our older Americans.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with you during the Opening Plenary of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging. And I look forward to working with your delegates and you on the recommendations that emerge from the Conference.