

Race—POTUS Book

XEROCOPY
SERVATION

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service
Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service
Knight Ridder Washington Bureau

November 14, 1999, Sunday

*RACE -
plus book*

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

KR-ACC-NO: K5175

LENGTH: 750 words

HEADLINE: Clinton has made little progress on his race-relations book

BYLINE: By Jodi Enda

BODY:

WASHINGTON _ President Clinton wanted to go down in history for helping to improve race relations.

But in the year since his much-derided race initiative ended, he hasn't made time to work on the book he hoped would provoke change long into the future.

And when he does finally put pen to paper, he will have to referee a spat among his advisers on whether the book should focus on past successes or lingering problems.

A full six months after Clinton's race book was to be published, White House officials said they are making one more push to get him to review and rework an aide-written manuscript he apparently doesn't like.

"He has to tell us what he wants fixed," said the president's deputy chief of staff, Maria Echaveste. "This is his book. That's what we keep coming back to. In the ideal world you would just sit him down and have him talk into a microphone. But we can't get that chunk of time.

"Clearly the president's not satisfied. Why is that? It's not his. He's got to put it in his words. He wants to say something that's not just going to be for next year, but is visionary."

But whose vision?

Clinton's advisers are split _ in large part along racial lines, several of them said. "The white boys," as they are routinely called, want to herald civil rights gains, while advisers from ethnic and racial minorities are still dissatisfied with inequalities of income, education and quality of life. A similar divide between Clinton's high-ranking white advisers and lower-ranking minorities was widely blamed for crippling his initiative on race last year.

"People have sharply differing perspectives on this issue, including the balance of pessimism and hopefulness," said Christopher Edley, a Harvard law professor who co-wrote the first draft of Clinton's book. "There's also

Knight Ridder Washington Bureau November 14, 1999, Sunday

disagreement over whether we're on the right track and moving at the right speed.

"The draft is an effort to be inspiring, as the president often is on this subject," said Edley, who is married to Echaveste. "But people are inspired in different ways."

It was last spring when Edley and Terry Edmonds, Clinton's chief speechwriter, presented the president with six chapters and several hundred pages of the book intended to bear his name. In May, Clinton jotted a few notes on some pages. He has done nothing on the book since, aides said.

Echaveste said time was a major factor, and added that she and Chief of Staff John Podesta were trying to adjust Clinton's schedule so he could work on the book.

Though neither would go into detail, Edley and Edmonds said their draft reflected the view that, while major gains had been made, much work remains to heal long-standing and deep racial wounds and to bring full equality to racial and ethnic minorities. Edley and Edmonds, both of whom are African-American, have been at the forefront of the president's work on race.

One Clinton adviser, who asked not to be identified, said the draft emphasized that, 35 years after the Civil Rights Act was signed, minorities still are poorer and less educated than whites and that they are more often victims both of criminals and of the criminal justice system.

"There's a lot of discussion of the problems that have yet to be solved and only a modest amount of discussion about the progress that's been made over the past generation," the adviser said.

(STORY CAN END HERE)

Some of Clinton's top aides _ including National Economic Adviser Gene Sperling and Domestic Policy Adviser Bruce Reed, both of whom are white _ have pushed for a more positive pronouncement that stresses such advances as declining unemployment rates and poverty among African-Americans, according to several advisers. Sperling was in Europe and unavailable for comment Friday; Reed did not return a phone call.

Given that race is "one of the most contentious issues on the planet," Edmonds said, he was not surprised that White House officials would disagree about how to deal with it. Now, he said, it's up to Clinton to decide where he stands.

"It won't be a battle, because he'll just lay it out the way he feels," Edmonds said. "For the president, I think that this is more than just about policy and programs, this is also about the consciousness, the psyche of America. This is something that he feels deeply and personally about. That's the kind of stuff we obviously cannot reflect. We can argue about it all day long but he has to decide."

(c) 1999, Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

Knight Ridder Washington Bureau November 14, 1999, Sunday

03SBUCK

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

JOURNAL-CODE: WA

LOAD-DATE: November 14, 1999

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Bulletin Broadfaxing Network, Inc.
The Bulletin's Frontrunner

November 15, 1999

LENGTH: 178 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Race Relations Report Still Incomplete.

BODY:

The AP (11/13, Ross) reported that "after more than a year, President Clinton has yet to deliver his promised report on the status of race relations in America, and one of the authors of a working draft cites possible White House concerns that some proposals are too strongly worded." The report has "circulated at the White House in draft form since the spring, when the authors delivered it to Clinton." Clinton had "planned to spend the summer putting the report 'in his own voice,' as one aide said, and release it in September." But the "200-page draft" has "languished for months and now is undergoing an extensive rewrite. The White House no longer tries to estimate when it will be completed." Harvard University law professor Christopher Edley, one of the report's authors who also "wrote Clinton's 'mend it, don't end it' defense of affirmative action, said he believes the draft was bogged down by 'strong disagreements at the staff level concerning tone and certain policies.'" He said it "also is probable that Clinton simply did not like it."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 15, 1999

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Dayton Newspapers, Inc.
Dayton Daily News

November 14, 1999, Sunday, CITY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 4A

LENGTH: 224 words

HEADLINE: RACE RELATIONS REPORT LAGS

BYLINE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

BODY:

WASHINGTON - After more than a year, President Clinton has yet to deliver his promised report on the status of race relations in America, and one of the authors of a working draft cites possible White House concerns that some proposals are too strongly worded.

The report has circulated at the White House in draft form since the spring, when the authors delivered it to Clinton. The president planned to spend the summer putting the report "in his own voice," as one aide said, and release it in September.

Instead, the 200-page draft languished for months and now is undergoing an extensive rewrite. The White House no longer tries to estimate when it will be completed.

"The White House staff is redoubling its efforts to help the president finish this project," said Maria Echaveste, the deputy chief of staff. "Ultimately, it has to be the president's words and the president's vision, but everyone is committed to getting it done."

The report, written by Harvard University law professor Christopher Edley and Clinton speechwriter Terry Edmonds, was built around information compiled by Clinton's race advisory board during the one-year national dialogue on race. The race board completed its work in September 1998.

The board said Clinton should continue the dialogue through a permanent presidential council.

LOAD-DATE: November 15, 1999

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service
Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service
Knight Ridder Washington Bureau

November 14, 1999, Sunday

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

KR-ACC-NO: K5175

LENGTH: 750 words

HEADLINE: Clinton has made little progress on his race-relations book

BYLINE: By Jodi Enda

BODY:

WASHINGTON _ President Clinton wanted to go down in history for helping to improve race relations.

But in the year since his much-derided race initiative ended, he hasn't made time to work on the book he hoped would provoke change long into the future.

And when he does finally put pen to paper, he will have to referee a spat among his advisers on whether the book should focus on past successes or lingering problems.

A full six months after Clinton's race book was to be published, White House officials said they are making one more push to get him to review and rework an aide-written manuscript he apparently doesn't like.

"He has to tell us what he wants fixed," said the president's deputy chief of staff, Maria Echaveste. "This is his book. That's what we keep coming back to. In the ideal world you would just sit him down and have him talk into a microphone. But we can't get that chunk of time.

"Clearly the president's not satisfied. Why is that? It's not his. He's got to put it in his words. He wants to say something that's not just going to be for next year, but is visionary."

But whose vision?

Clinton's advisers are split _ in large part along racial lines, several of them said. "The white boys," as they are routinely called, want to herald civil rights gains, while advisers from ethnic and racial minorities are still dissatisfied with inequalities of income, education and quality of life. A similar divide between Clinton's high-ranking white advisers and lower-ranking minorities was widely blamed for crippling his initiative on race last year.

"People have sharply differing perspectives on this issue, including the balance of pessimism and hopefulness," said Christopher Edley, a Harvard law professor who co-wrote the first draft of Clinton's book. "There's also

Knight Ridder Washington Bureau November 14, 1999, Sunday

disagreement over whether we're on the right track and moving at the right speed.

"The draft is an effort to be inspiring, as the president often is on this subject," said Edley, who is married to Echaveste. "But people are inspired in different ways."

It was last spring when Edley and Terry Edmonds, Clinton's chief speechwriter, presented the president with six chapters and several hundred pages of the book intended to bear his name. In May, Clinton jotted a few notes on some pages. He has done nothing on the book since, aides said.

Echaveste said time was a major factor, and added that she and Chief of Staff John Podesta were trying to adjust Clinton's schedule so he could work on the book.

Though neither would go into detail, Edley and Edmonds said their draft reflected the view that, while major gains had been made, much work remains to heal long-standing and deep racial wounds and to bring full equality to racial and ethnic minorities. Edley and Edmonds, both of whom are African-American, have been at the forefront of the president's work on race.

One Clinton adviser, who asked not to be identified, said the draft emphasized that, 35 years after the Civil Rights Act was signed, minorities still are poorer and less educated than whites and that they are more often victims both of criminals and of the criminal justice system.

"There's a lot of discussion of the problems that have yet to be solved and only a modest amount of discussion about the progress that's been made over the past generation," the adviser said.

(STORY CAN END HERE)

Some of Clinton's top aides _ including National Economic Adviser Gene Sperling and Domestic Policy Adviser Bruce Reed, both of whom are white _ have pushed for a more positive pronouncement that stresses such advances as declining unemployment rates and poverty among African-Americans, according to several advisers. Sperling was in Europe and unavailable for comment Friday; Reed did not return a phone call.

Given that race is "one of the most contentious issues on the planet," Edmonds said, he was not surprised that White House officials would disagree about how to deal with it. Now, he said, it's up to Clinton to decide where he stands.

"It won't be a battle, because he'll just lay it out the way he feels," Edmonds said. "For the president, I think that this is more than just about policy and programs, this is also about the consciousness, the psyche of America. This is something that he feels deeply and personally about. That's the kind of stuff we obviously cannot reflect. We can argue about it all day long but he has to decide."

(c) 1999, Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.