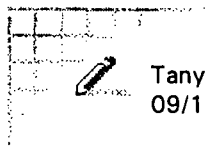


Service—AmeriCorps (Kagan)

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



Tanya E. Martin
09/15/98 01:49:40 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
cc: Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP, Christa Robinson/OPD/EOP
Subject: National Service Announcements

Here are four upcoming announcements from the Corporation for National Service. Some of these could/should be combined. (CNS is asking for WH participation in #1 and #3).

1. Americorps 100,000th Member : CNS is planning national service events in Wash DC and elsewhere around the country, on October 23, to celebrate the swearing-in of the 100,000th Americorp member. CNS has submitted a scheduling request to have the President swear in Americorps members in one location and have thousands of others participate via satellite hook-ups.

2. Americorps Promise Fellowships: announcement of \$5 million in grants to support 500 -1000 fellowships to help implement programs in support of the five goals for children and youth set at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future. The President unveiled this fellowship program at the City Year National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. These grants will be ready to announce on Oct 1.

3. President's Service Awards: Highest volunteer service award, has been annually presented by the President and/or Mrs. Clinton, to twenty Americans who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service to their communities. This year's awards will be aligned with the five fundamental resources for children and youth identified at the Presidents' Summit. This is ready to go at anytime.

4. President's Student Service Award: Modeled on the President's Physical Fitness Award, the President's Student Service Award will be given to all young people who complete 100 hours of service in their communities. This is part of a three-part strategy for inspiring and recognizing national service by young people, the other two are: (1) Leader schools -- schools with exemplary service programs; and (2) service scholarships -- \$1000 for one student per high school who has performed outstanding community service. This is ready to go at anytime.

Reed: V. gd - single event, late October

TO: Director of Scheduling

FROM: Bruce Reed and Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

RECOMMENDED BY: Harris Wofford
Corporation for National Service

REQUEST: President Clinton's participation in a ceremony swearing in the 100,000th AmeriCorps member

PURPOSE: To celebrate the success of the President's national service program by focusing national attention on passing the 100,000 member milestone and to swear in the AmeriCorps Class of 1999.

BACKGROUND: President Clinton created AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, in 1993. This fall, AmeriCorps will pass the 100,000th member milestone, a tremendous achievement for the President and for the national service movement. (N.B. It took the Peace Corps more than two decades to reach the 100,000-member mark.)

We are planning a large-scale nationwide celebration of AmeriCorps passing the 100,000 member milestone. We want to echo the original launch of AmeriCorps in 1994- with the President swearing in AmeriCorps members at one location and thousands of other AmeriCorps members in other states participating via satellite hook-up. Most states are already planning statewide opening ceremony events for the 1999 class of AmeriCorps members, providing a national and local backdrop for the President's leadership.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: Since his 1992 campaign, the President has participated in a number of high-profile AmeriCorps and national service events including the bill-signing and the original AmeriCorps launch. Most recently, the President convened the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in April 1997, served with AmeriCorps members on the Martin Luther King Day of Service in January 1998, and spoke to the City Year -- AmeriCorps "Convention on Idealism" in Cleveland in June 1998.

DATE/TIME: Mid to late October

DURATION: One to one and a half hours

LOCATION: A number of states are already planning large-scale AmeriCorps/national service events around this time. A list of strong locations is below:

- Seattle (Event to take place at Everett Naval Station)
- St. Louis (Event to take place at the Arch)
- Lansing
- Nashville
- Tallahassee
- Jackson
- Indianapolis
- Hartford

These locations are our preferred sites. If none of these locations work for the President's schedule in the mid-October timeframe, we could probably arrange an event at an alternative site, if we have sufficient lead time.

PARTICIPANTS: Harris Wofford, CEO Corporation for National Service AmeriCorps members

OUTLINE OF EVENT: Speech, swearing-in and photo opportunity

REMARKS REQUIRED: 20 minute speech and swearing-in

MEDIA COVERAGE: Yes. National with associated regional and local events.

PROPOSED ATTENDANCE: Several hundred depending on location.

RECOMMENDED BY: Harris Wofford

CONTACT: Tara Murphy
Director of Public Affairs
Corporation for National Service
202-505-6000 ext. 158

Senia-Americans

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

July 29, '98

Dear Bruce,

This 100,000-member
milestone for AmeriCorps can be
a tremendous event for the
President, the American Spirit,
and the Corporation.

Please help get the
go-ahead signal.

Wendy,
Harris

Christa / PJW/
EK -
Let's push
for this.
-BR

TO: Director of Scheduling

FROM: Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

RECOMMENDED BY: Harris Wofford
Corporation for National Service

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Martin Luther King Day of Service in January 1998, and
spoke to the City Year -- AmeriCorps "Convention on
Idealism" in Cleveland in June 1998.

DATE/TIME: Mid to late October

DURATION: One to one and a half hours

LOCATION:

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Harris Wofford, CEO Corporation for National Service
AmeriCorps members

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20 minute speech and swearing-in

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Yes. National with associated with regional and local events.

PROPOSED ATTENDANCE:

Several hundred depending on location.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Harris Wofford

CONTACT:

Tara Murphy
Director of Public Affairs
Corporation for National Service
202/505-6000 ext. 158

PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT CITY YEAR CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND

Seven years after visiting City Year members in Boston, President Clinton today travels to Cleveland to speak to 1,000 young City Year AmeriCorps members from nine cities gathered for their end of year celebration. City Year was an inspiration for AmeriCorps, and its growth and effectiveness is a direct result of President Clinton's leadership and support of AmeriCorps.

In his speech, the President will reflect on the Administration's accomplishments on national service since 1992, including the creation of AmeriCorps. When the President first visited the City Year program in December 1991, it was a fledgling program with 100 members funded through private donations. Today, with support from AmeriCorps, City Year has over 1,000 young people ages 17 to 24 in full-time service in nine cities -- Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Columbia, SC, Philadelphia, Providence, San Antonio, and San Jose -- with Seattle to be added as a tenth city in the fall. All members of City Year are also members of AmeriCorps. Program co-founders Alan Khazei and Michael Brown emphasize that members make a commitment to a lifetime of citizen service. Service with a diverse group of young people is integral to the City Year experience.

City Year's annual "Convention of Idealism" brings together 1,000 City Year members from across the country as they are completing their year of service. Activities include a day of service as well as workshops, a parade, and a rally. The Convention is called CYZYGY (pronounced "SiZiGee," meaning "to align together"). Last year First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker at the convention, which was held in Providence, RI. The audience will include 100 other AmeriCorps members from local Cleveland programs, including Habitat for Humanity, West Side Ecumenical Ministries (a local faith-based program), and others. The setting is John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio -- a Jesuit university with a strong community service tradition.

Increasing Student Service for America Reads

Today, the President announced that a total of 1,000 colleges have agreed to take the America Reads Challenge. These colleges have agreed to use Federal work-study funds to support college students who serve as reading tutors for preschool and elementary school children.

Furthering the Goals of the Presidents' Summit

The President also announced today that the Corporation for National Service will create 500-1,000 new AmeriCorps positions specifically to pursue the goals of last year's Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia. The Administration has worked closely with America's Promise, the organization founded by General Colin Powell to build alliances that help at-risk young people reach their full potential. These new AmeriCorps members, to be selected by states and local communities pursuing the goals of the Summit, will add new firepower to the effort to ensure that all young people have the five resources they need to succeed: a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, an effective education, and a chance to give back to their communities through service. The Corporation will fund the new AmeriCorps positions with \$5 million in demonstration and innovation funds.

AMERICORPS AND NATIONAL SERVICE: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, IMPROVING LIVES

The President came into office with a vision of a national service program that would offer young people the chance to serve our nation in exchange for increased access to higher education. Today, AmeriCorps involves over 40,000 people in intensive, results-driven service, working through a grassroots network of over 1,000 local and national nonprofits. Now in its fourth year, more than 88,000 Americans of all ages and backgrounds have enrolled in AmeriCorps.

Getting Things Done to Solve Community Problems

- ***Improving the lives of children and youth.*** AmeriCorps helps children succeed by tutoring, mentoring, leading after-school programs, and getting children to school safely. Last year, AmeriCorps members taught or tutored more than 500,000 youth, mentored 95,000 more, recruited 39,000 volunteer tutors, and immunized over 64,000 children.
- ***Responding to disasters.*** In tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, and floods, AmeriCorps members trained in disaster relief have responded to disasters in more than 30 states.
- ***Making neighborhoods safer.*** Working with local police and neighborhood groups, AmeriCorps members created or expanded more than 3,100 public safety patrols and trained 109,000 people in violence prevention.
- ***Building housing.*** Serving with Habitat for Humanity and other partners, AmeriCorps members built or rehabbed 5,600 homes and placed more than 32,000 homeless people and families in permanent housing.

Strengthening Community-based, Volunteer, and Faith-based Organizations

- ***Providing "people power."*** National service invests in successful organizations like Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, the American Red Cross, City Year, and hundreds of local groups, providing trained, dedicated people who commit to sustained service.
- ***Generating new volunteers.*** Last year, national service members recruited, trained, and supervised over 300,000 volunteers -- making the organizations they serve more efficient.
- ***Supporting faith-based organizations.*** More than 6,000 AmeriCorps members serve through faith-based organizations like the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the National Council of Churches.
- ***Cutting costs and expanding opportunities to serve.*** In the Education Awards Program, more than 100 non-profits and faith-based groups pay members' living allowances, with the education award provided by the Corporation for National Service. At last year's Presidents' Summit on service, the President challenged these groups to provide 50,000 places over five years. The Corporation is ahead of schedule in meeting that goal.

Expanding Educational Opportunity

National service uses the GI Bill model: in exchange for a year of full-time service, AmeriCorps members earn educational opportunity -- a \$4,725 scholarship that helps pay for college, or pay back student loans. To date, 48,000 Americans have qualified for education awards.

A cost-effective, non-bureaucratic way to engage citizens in meeting our challenges

- Nonprofits must compete every year for AmeriCorps members, and they must set and meet tough goals at the local level. Most sponsors are chosen by bipartisan state commissions appointed by governors.

- Community groups that sponsor AmeriCorps members must raise at least 33% of the program costs.
- An independent study done by three noted conservative economists shows that every federal dollar invested in AmeriCorps returns \$2.60 in direct, measurable benefits.

The President's proposal to extend national service into the 21st century

- On March 19, President Clinton submitted legislation to reauthorize the Corporation for National Service and its three initiatives -- AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps -- for five years.
- The President's proposal would extend and strengthen national service programs, provide opportunities for millions more Americans to serve, give states and communities more flexibility to administer service programs, strengthen partnerships with traditional volunteer groups, and increase the efficiency of national service programs.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 2, 1998

Remarks To City Year Convention

DATE: June 3, 1998
LOCATION: John Carroll University
TIME: 1:50-2:40 P.M.
FROM: Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Bruce Reed

I. PURPOSE

To attend and make remarks at City Year's Annual Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

II. BACKGROUND

Your speech to City Year's annual convention will afford you the opportunity to reflect on all that your Administration has accomplished on national service since 1992. When you first visited City Year in December 1991, it was a fledgling demonstration program with 100 members funded with private donations. Today, with support from AmeriCorps, City Year has over 1,000 people in full-time service in nine cities -- Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Columbia, SC, Philadelphia, Providence, San Antonio, and San Jose -- with Seattle to be added as a tenth city in the fall. All members of City Year are also members of AmeriCorps. In addition, City Year operates a program known as "Young Heroes," which pairs 600 junior high school students with City Year members for service on Saturdays.

CYZYGY ("SiZiGee") is the name for City Year's annual "Conference on Idealism." Last year it was held in Providence, RI with the First Lady as the keynote speaker. The conference brings together City Year* AmeriCorps members from across the country as they are completing their year of service. Also in the audience will be more than 100 other AmeriCorps members from local Cleveland programs, including Habitat for Humanity, West Side Ecumenical Ministries (a local faith-based program), and AquaCorps, an environmental program run by AmeriCorps members. The conference runs from Tuesday to Friday, and features a parade and rally, a day of service, a town meeting, and workshops. George Stephanopoulos is scheduled to speak a few hours after you leave.

The setting is John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio, a Jesuit university named after Archbishop John Carroll of Maryland, the founder of Georgetown University. John Carroll has a strong community service tradition: last year more than 1,000 students contributed more than 50,000 hours of community service in Cleveland. You will be speaking in the Don Shula Sports Center, named after JCU alumnus Don Shula, class of 1951, of NFL fame. John Carroll has just named a new president, the Rev. Edward Glynn, S.J., who will be on hand to meet you

and was previously vice-chancellor for academic affairs and provost of the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

In May, more than 700 City Year* AmeriCorps members sent you letters inviting you to speak at CYZYG. Leslie Frye, a 19-year-old City Year member from Chicago, who wrote a letter that particularly caught your attention, will be attending the conference and will introduce you.

At the event, you will announce that a total of 1,000 colleges have agreed to take the America Reads Challenge. These colleges have agreed to use Federal work-study funds to support college students who serve as reading tutors for preschool and elementary school children.

You will also announce that the Corporation for National Service will create 500-1,000 new AmeriCorps positions specifically to pursue the goals of last year's Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia. The Administration has worked closely with America's Promise, the organization founded by General Colin Powell to build alliances that help at-risk young people reach their full potential. These new AmeriCorps members, to be selected by states and local communities pursuing the goals of the Summit, will add new firepower to the effort to ensure that all young people have the five resources they need to succeed: a caring adult, a safe place, healthy start, an effective education, and a chance to give back to their communities through service. The Corporation will fund the new AmeriCorps positions with \$5 million in demonstration and innovation funds.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Alan Khazei, Co-Founder, City Year
Casey Hunt, City Year* AmeriCorps Member
Senator Harris Wofford, CEO, Corporation of National Service
Leslie Frye, City Year* AmeriCorps Member
YOU

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

YOU are announced on stage accompanied by Harris Wofford, CEO, Corporation for National Service; Alan Khazei, Co-Founder, City Year; Leslie Frye, Member, City Year* AmeriCorps; and Casey Hunt, Member, City Year* AmeriCorps.

Alan Khazei makes brief remarks and introduce Casey Hunt.

Casey Hunt makes brief remarks and introduces Harris Wofford.

Harris Wofford makes brief remarks and introduces Leslie Frye.

Leslie Frye makes brief remarks and introduces **YOU**.

YOU make brief remarks.

YOU work ropeline and depart.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by speechwriting.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES AND BUILDING STRONG FUTURES

June 3, 1998

"I will get things done for America, to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me, this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps member ... and I am going to get things done."

The AmeriCorps Pledge

Today, President Clinton travels to Cleveland, Ohio and discusses national service at the annual City Year convention. The President will announce that 1,000 colleges have agreed to participate in the America Reads Challenge, and the creation of up to 1,000 new AmeriCorps positions to specifically pursue the goals volunteerism outlined at last year's Presidential Summit on Volunteerism in Philadelphia.

A PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL SERVICE. When he came into office in 1993, President Clinton outlined a vision for a national service program which would allow young people to serve our nation. The result of that vision is AmeriCorps, which is bringing people of different racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds together in the name of service and common goals. AmeriCorps has helped over 90,000 young people serve their communities, and engage in a variety of intensive service areas, including:

- **Youth Mentoring.** AmeriCorps members help children succeed by tutoring, mentoring, and leading after-school programs. Last year alone, AmeriCorps members tutored over 500,000 children, mentored 95,000 more, recruited 39,000 volunteer tutors, and helped immunize over 64,000 children;
- **Disaster Relief.** AmeriCorps members trained in disaster relief have provided assistance in the aftermath of tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, and floods, in over 30 states;
- **Public Safety.** Working with local police and neighborhood groups, AmeriCorps members have created or expanded more than 3,100 public safety patrol groups, and trained over 109,000 people in violence prevention;
- **Building Houses.** AmeriCorps members have served with Habitat for Humanity and other groups to build or renovate 5,600 homes and placed more than 32,000 homeless people and families in permanent housing.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES. The President is continuing his efforts to involve communities in national service, and today will announce that:

- **1,000 Colleges and Universities have joined the America Reads Challenge,** committing themselves to support college students who serve as reading tutors for preschool and elementary school children;
- **Up To 1,000 New AmeriCorps members** will be created and utilized to meet the goals of the President's Volunteer Summit, helping to give our nation's youth the five key resources they need to succeed: a caring adult, a safe space, a healthy start, an effective education, and a chance to give back.

CONTINUING NATIONAL SERVICE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY. The President is calling on Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps so the mission of service that has allowed so many people to give to their communities can extend into the 21st Century.

Diana Fortuna

05/28/98 11:43:16

AM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: City Year speech next week

FYI, 2 small ideas we are playing with for next week's CityYear speech:

1. Announcing that we have set aside \$5 million in Corporation demo money to add 500-1,000 new AmeriCorps slots to pursue the summit/America's Promise goals.
2. Announcing that we are asking all AmeriCorps members to pledge to do some amount of extra service, either during their year or after. This is still a bit vague. It might be done in concert with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys/Girls Clubs, and the Y. Presumably CityYear would agree on the spot to do this, and then Harris could require it of future AmeriCorps grants.

Diana Fortuna	03/25/98 05:41:11
	PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc: Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP

Subject: You probably know this, but...

the House emergency supplemental cuts AmeriCorps very sharply, among other programs. I am working with OMB and the Corp. for Natl Service on whatever statements we issue on this.

Service - AmeriCorps

11-5-97
11-5-97
11-5-97

Brew / Hwangford
agui - see last p. 3

cupred
Reed
Wofford
COS
B. H.
S. H.

October 3, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

From: Harris Wofford *Harris*
Subject: AmeriCorps and National Service -- What We've Done and Where We Need to Go

Two years have passed since you tapped me to lead the Corporation for National Service. It's time to report what we have achieved and to propose next steps. As you asked, we've worked hard to gain greater support for AmeriCorps, and these efforts have won new allies and reduced the political acrimony about the program. A sign of this progress is the action this week by the House-Senate conference committee on the VA-HUD appropriation. They restored the cut in AmeriCorps made by the House and increased last year's funding by \$25 million, the first increase in three years. Now we need to capitalize on this progress and make the reauthorization and strengthening of AmeriCorps and the Corporation's other two major programs -- the Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America -- a high Administration priority.

After you've had the chance to read this memorandum, I hope that we can spend a few minutes together to chart our future course, beginning soon with an all-out effort to persuade Congress to reauthorize the Corporation.

* * *

Your charge to me was to build greater political support for AmeriCorps, strengthen AmeriCorps, and bring AmeriCorps into the mainstream of American life. That required developing real bipartisan support and establishing close working relationships with the great non-profit and service organizations of the country. We have made tremendous strides in these areas. Let me highlight our progress -- resisting the temptation to tell you everything we have done -- and then focus on the future.

The lack of controversy and rancor over funding of AmeriCorps in the soon-to-be-completed appropriations process shows AmeriCorps' greater acceptance. Through much work with Republican Members of Congress, we have made real inroads in demonstrating how AmeriCorps and the other key programs of the Corporation are a crucial part of a strategy to address the nation's educational and social challenges. As a result, support among Republicans inside and outside of Congress has expanded. Even among those who have not come all the way to supporting AmeriCorps, we have taken the edge off their opposition. They recognize that AmeriCorps will continue and that hundreds -- indeed thousands -- of organizations around the country approve. The loud

foes of AmeriCorps have been significantly marginalized. Moreover, we are on the road to important breakthroughs that will bring AmeriCorps and the Corporation to a new level of true bipartisan and nonpartisan support. While AmeriCorps is continually winning new allies, we have also built strong new bases of support for the Corporation through our work with students and seniors. With your good help, we are in the forefront of a growing effort to make service-learning an integral part of American education at all levels, and to make citizen service a reality for Americans of all ages and backgrounds.

In building support for AmeriCorps, I have been especially cultivating the so-called "Compassionate Conservatives" and those in the civic renewal movement. Though conservative, these leaders believe that government must find effective ways to help poor and disadvantaged citizens. As you know, these conservatives want churches, other faith-based institutions and non-profit organizations -- instead of the government -- to lead the effort to address our nation's problems. They want government to support these independent civic forces. Therein lies a great opportunity for AmeriCorps.

✓ One story illustrates this. Earlier this year Rep. John Kasich visited the Rheedlin Center in New York, an AmeriCorps grantee that works in Harlem schools to create safe havens for children, tutor, and teach conflict resolution, among other activities. Kasich spent two hours there and was overwhelmingly impressed with what the director, Geoff Canada, and his team of more than fifty young people are accomplishing. Unaware that this is an AmeriCorps site, at the end of his visit Kasich said to Canada, "Dammit, this is exactly what AmeriCorps should be doing!" To which Canada replied, "Almost all the people you've seen here this morning are AmeriCorps members. This is AmeriCorps!" ✓ Based on this incident -- reported to me by both Geoff Canada and Kasich -- I have struck up a very constructive, continuing conversation with Kasich. He says he is rethinking his position on AmeriCorps and believes there is common ground for mutual support.

I've also developed a strong relationship with Dan Coats, a co-chair with Kasich of the Congressional civic renewal alliance. Coats will become President of Big Brothers/ Big Sisters when he retires from the Senate next year. As he has seen AmeriCorps provide key assistance to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, he has discovered that AmeriCorps can play a valuable and constructive role. At the Big Brothers/Big Sisters national board meeting, after I put the challenge to them for a major Summit commitment, Coats moved a resolution committing the organization to double its numbers and add service as an integral part of the young participants' experience.

A key part of our strategy to build support for AmeriCorps has been to reach out to and collaborate with mainstream non-profit organizations. The Presidents' Summit was -- and continues to be -- the largest of our opportunities to do this and it has already borne much fruit. Our national service networks are taking the lead in many of the state and local summits, and forging closer relationships with the many Governors and Mayors who are engaged in the post-Summit campaign to achieve the five Summit goals for youth. Through these efforts, the National Service State Commissions, our Corporation state offices, and AmeriCorps grantees have taken a leadership role in their communities

and states, and have established strong, new bonds with leading non-profits and private sector sponsors. The partnership that you and President Bush and General Powell showed in Philadelphia is being replicated in cities, counties and states across the country. And in one place after another, this partnership is working to the benefit of AmeriCorps and our other programs.

Other partnerships of great significance include the National Service Scholars Program for outstanding high school student volunteers, which you initiated in your commencement talk at Penn State in the spring of 1996. It has drawn enthusiastic support around the country and from such valuable national allies as the Kiwanis, Rotary International and Lions Clubs, the Miss America Foundation, the Chamber of Commerce and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This past spring, we gave the first 1,700 high school service scholarships. Next year we plan to expand to at least 10,000 high schools, and then to all 25,000 high schools in the country. These service scholarships are also a potential feeder system for AmeriCorps recruiting.

Similarly, our "education award only" program, to which you gave a great boost at the Summit, has taken hold even more quickly than we expected. Under this approach, which we call the AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarship, the AmeriCorps member receives from the Corporation only the education award -- \$4,725 for a year of full-time service. Living allowances and other costs are borne almost entirely by the host non-profit organization or from other private sector sources. The response to your Summit call for 50,000 such national service awards by the year 2000, has been enthusiastic. After the latest round of grants, we expect to have more than 15,000 new AmeriCorps participants in this program this year. Our largest partners in this endeavor so far are the National Council of Churches and the Boys and Girls Clubs. As you know, Sen. Grassley, who had been one of our chief critics, is particularly supportive of these AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarships and is delighted by our progress.

The most important source of our growing public support is the work of the members themselves. Whether it is tutoring school children for "America Reads" or disaster assistance in flooded communities, the reality of our motto -- Getting Things Done -- is setting in. In City Year and Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross and Teach for America, our AmeriCorps members are proving their value. That's why Millard Fuller, the Founder-President of Habitat for Humanity (once an AmeriCorps skeptic), recently wrote the following to Speaker Gingrich:

"I am writing you to affirm and emphasize the importance and value of national service. It is through partnerships with AmeriCorps, VISTA and other national service programs that [we] maximize Habitat's resources and expand its productivity, while helping recruit, train and supervise volunteers of all ages. To date, approximately 470 AmeriCorps members and additional national service participants through Learn and Serve America and the

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) are serving in over 50 Habitat for Humanity affiliates. Again, national service is of great value in not only helping to eliminate sub-standard housing, but in transforming lives of participants in their various endeavors."

Millard Fuller's praise for AmeriCorps is typical of the response by growing numbers of organizations that have the benefit of AmeriCorps members.

When one puts together the overall reduction of political tensions, your resolve in insisting on continued support for AmeriCorps, and the increased understanding of AmeriCorps' true potential for helping to solve seemingly intractable problems, it is clear that the prospects are good for establishing AmeriCorps as a non-partisan institution in which Americans take pride.

The Road From Here – Seeking Reauthorization for AmeriCorps

Now is the moment to capitalize on this progress. We must secure AmeriCorps' future and expand the reach of national service by – first of all – getting Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service. This will not be easy but if you make this a personal priority, I believe we can win the reauthorization that will assure that AmeriCorps lives long into the future.

The authorization for AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service expired last year. We are now operating under a de facto extension through annual appropriations. We have worked with the Office of Management and Budget to complete draft reauthorization legislation. In short, we need the reauthorization and the bill is ready to go.

Our case for reauthorization rests on three key points:

- (1) The Corporation and AmeriCorps are accomplishing the objectives set out in the original legislation;
- (2) We have listened to the critics and been responsive to their concerns; and
- (3) We have been creative in finding ways to extend the opportunities to serve and the rewards for service through innovations such as the AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarships and the high school service scholarship program.

11-3-97

In addition to generally reauthorizing our programs and instituting minor programmatic improvements, the highlights of the draft bill are:

- to devolve more authority and provide greater flexibility to States and local communities in implementing national service programs;
- ✓ to streamline the delivery system, further reducing costs and improving efficiency;
- ✓ to foster greater coordination among national and community service programs; and
- ✓ to modify and improve programs based on the experience developed over the last several years.

The bill also repeals various redundant or obsolete authorities, and makes a number of technical revisions to the existing statutes.

Getting a bill passed will be particularly difficult in the House where Rep. Goodling has jurisdiction and is not friendly to AmeriCorps. Still, our key supporters in Congress -- including Senators Jeffords and Kennedy and Representative Shays -- see a real opportunity for success. Each emphasizes that the outcome will depend in significant measure on the strength with which the Administration presses for reauthorization.

✓ Proposing legislation inevitably carries some risk -- of failure or of damaging amendments. These considerations led us to not seek a reauthorization bill in 1996. But the climate is significantly more favorable at this point. In addition to counsel from our allies on the Hill, I have spoken with Bruce Reed, Al From and Eli Segal, among others. Acknowledging the difficulties and dangers, each agrees that we should be bold and confident in sending Congress a reauthorization bill and in asking for Congressional action. This approach also has the strong support of our Board of Directors.

Our success in this undertaking will depend in large part on the tone we strike and approach we take. The Corporation programs are clearly in the mainstream of the national movement to promote service, a movement to which you have contributed so much. They are in line with the national, state and local efforts to achieve the goals of the Presidents' Summit. AmeriCorps is a valuable addition to the American tradition of community and citizen action.

The timing of the reauthorization effort is also important. Given the election results, AmeriCorps successes and the positive consensus around the Summit, we may never have a better time to make reauthorization a top priority. Yet time is already short

for a reauthorization in this Congress. But if you make reauthorization a real priority and press forward with an aggressive campaign we can still succeed.

The strategy I propose has three phases in quick succession.

- ✓ First, you would launch reauthorization legislation before Congress adjourns this fall.
- ✓ Second, in the roughly three months (November, December and January) of Congressional inactivity we would press the case for reauthorization. We would ask Sen. Jeffords and others to conduct hearings on the bill during the lengthy recess. Our national partners in the national service movement will add their voices in support for reauthorization. In addition, we would propose one major Presidential event to demonstrate the case for reauthorization. We would also propose your involvement in making a major effort on the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday - National Day of Service in January.
- Third, upon Congress's return early next year, we would press a Congressional strategy -- starting with a strong statement and request for reauthorization in the State of the Union address.

✓ *Goal* Our target is to win the reauthorization by the first anniversary of the Presidents' Summit in late April.

✓ I look forward to discussing this with you in the near future and leave you with one thought. People say that getting a first reauthorization is like winning a first re-election: it is the hardest to accomplish but if you succeed you are well-established. I didn't succeed myself at this in the Senate; but I believe that with your strong support we can and will win reauthorization for AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service.



05:32:06 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, William R. Kincaid/OPD/EOP, Robert M. Shireman/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Here's a summary of the President's meeting with Harris today -- AmeriCorps reauthorization and work-study

Reauthorization: Harris stressed that he needed the President to keep pushing the issue, which the President said he'd do, noting that he raised it today at the Conference of Mayors. Harris and the President noted that Kasich might be brought around to support reauthorization, and the President said he'd talk to him. The President said he'd heard that the Republicans might attach some family planning legislation to AmeriCorps that they had previously attached to legislation on UN dues, but none of us had heard that. Harris said he wants us to slip into any tax bill that we do this year his proposal to make AmeriCorps education awards exempt from taxation, and the President was positive about the idea.

Work-study and service: The President recounted that his daughter has signed up to be an America Reads tutor, but that she was initially told she couldn't participate because she was too high-income to be eligible for work-study. He said that colleges should round up tutors regardless of whether the students are work-study.

Harris noted that Jonathan Alter, Joe Klein, and Steve Waldman think a key test of whether we're serious about service is whether we will continue to push colleges to dedicate work-study to service. The President asked if we knew how many work-study students are participating in America Reads or service generally. When no one seemed to know, the President said that Riley should require colleges to report this. Harris responded that we know to some extent for America Reads because we ask participating colleges to report the data, but other colleges do not have to report it. Harris noted the President's upcoming ACE(?) speech and said that might be a good chance to raise this issue. The President said that we have to push work-study students and college students generally out into the communities, and that community involvement should be an essential feature of a first-class university. He mentioned the college-school partnerships and said he is convinced that universities are in a position to stop the burst of juvenile crime we might otherwise see in a few years, when the current elementary school population become teenagers.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

'98 FEB 26 PM 6:51

THE DIRECTOR

February 26, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Franklin D. Raines 

SUBJECT: Presidential Transmittal of the "National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998"

I am forwarding a legislative proposal -- entitled the "National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998" -- for your transmittal to the Congress. This proposal would extend and amend national service legislation, including the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973.

This package contains two originals and eight copies of: the Presidential Transmittal Message to the Congress, the legislative proposal, a sectional analysis of the proposal, and a related fact sheet.

These materials were prepared by the Corporation for National Service. They have been coordinated with the Department of Education, the Domestic Policy Council, and this Office. (The legislative proposal was also reviewed by the Departments of the Treasury, Labor, Justice, the Interior, and Veterans Affairs; the Office of Personnel Management; and the Social Security Administration.)

Attachments

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

I am pleased to transmit today for your immediate consideration and enactment the "National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998." This legislative proposal extends and amends national service law, including the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973. It builds upon the long, bipartisan tradition of service in our country, which was renewed in 1993 when I signed the National and Community Service Trust Act creating the Corporation for National Service.

Service to one's community is an integral part of what it means to be an American. The Presidents' Summit for America's Future held in Philadelphia last April reinforced the role of programs supported by the Corporation for National Service as key vehicles to provide young people with the resources to maximize their potential and give back to their communities. Citizen service is also at the heart of our efforts to prepare America for the 21st century, as we work to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to make the most of their own lives and to help those in need.

My Administration's most important contribution to citizen service is AmeriCorps, the national service program that already has given more than 100,000 young Americans the opportunity to serve their country. By tying opportunity to responsibility, we have given them the chance to serve and, in return, earn money for post-secondary education. In community after community, AmeriCorps members have proven that service can help us meet our most pressing social needs. For example, in Simpson County, Kentucky, AmeriCorps members helped 2nd graders jump three grade levels in reading. In Boys and Girls Clubs all across the country, AmeriCorps members are mentors for at-risk young people. Habitat For Humanity relies upon AmeriCorps members to bring in more volunteers and build more houses. In communities beset by floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes, AmeriCorps members have helped to rebuild homes and restore hope. AmeriCorps members are mobilizing thousands of college students from more than 800 college campuses in our America Reads program. In all of these efforts, AmeriCorps brings together people of every background to work toward common goals.

Independent evaluators have reviewed AmeriCorps, National Senior Service Corps programs, and Learn and Service America programs and have concluded that national service yields a positive return on investment. The legislation that I am transmitting builds on our experiences with national service to date and improves the national service program in four ways: (1) codifying agreements with Congress and others to reduce costs and streamline national service; (2) strengthening partnerships with traditional volunteer organizations; (3) increasing States' flexibility to administer national service programs; and (4) expanding opportunities for Americans to serve.

Since the enactment of the National and Community Service Trust Act in 1993, and particularly since 1995, my Administration has worked with constructive critics of national service to address their concerns and improve the program. This legislation continues that process by reducing the Corporation's average budgeted cost per AmeriCorps member, repealing authority for redundant or obsolete national service programs, and making other improvements in the efficiency of national service programs.

National service has never been a substitute for the contributions made by the millions of Americans who volunteer their time to worthy causes every year. Rather, as leaders of volunteer organizations have told me many times, national service has proven that the presence of full-time, trained service participants enhances tremendously the effectiveness of volunteers. This legislation strengthens the partnership between the national service programs and traditional volunteer organizations; codifies the National Service Scholarship program honoring exemplary service by high school students; and expands the AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarships, through which national service participants can access education awards. The legislation also authorizes appropriations for the Points of Light Foundation through the year 2002.

The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 explicitly conceived of service as a Federal-State partnership. Significant authority was vested in bipartisan State Commissions appointed by the Governors. Consistent with our goal of turning power back to the people, I promised that we would accelerate the process of devolution as the newly-created State Commissions expanded their capacities. This legislation fulfills that promise in a variety of ways, including authority to enter into Service Collaboration Agreements with Governors to provide a means for coordinating the planning and administration of national service programs in a State.

The changes proposed in this legislation provide expanded opportunities for Americans to serve. By reducing the cost per AmeriCorps member, this legislation allows each dollar invested in the program to go further. This legislation broadens the age and income guidelines for National Senior Service Corps participants, expanding the pool of older Americans who can perform results-oriented service in their communities. It simplifies the administration of Learn and Serve America, so States and communities will more easily be able to provide opportunities for students to learn through service in their schools and neighborhoods.

On January 19th, I had the opportunity to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by engaging in service on the holiday commemorating his birth. I joined sixty-five AmeriCorps members and more than 300 community volunteers in repairing and re-painting Cardozo High School in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington, DC. Thirty-one years ago, Dr. King came to that very neighborhood and urged the people there to engage in citizen service to rebuild their lives, their community, and their future. That is what those national service participants, and the thousands more who were participating in similar projects across the country, were doing -- honoring the legacy of Dr. King and answering the highest calling of citizenship in this country.

Each of the more than 500,000 participants in the programs of the National Senior Service Corps and 750,000 participants in programs supported by Learn and Serve America, and every AmeriCorps member answers that highest calling of citizenship when they make and fulfill a commitment to service in their communities. This legislation builds on the successes of these programs and improves them for the future.

I urge the Congress to give this legislation prompt and favorable consideration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

PURPOSE

The National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998 will extend and amend national service law, including the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, to further the Corporation's mission.

The legislation would reauthorize appropriations for the major national service programs for fiscal years 1998 through 2002. These programs include:

- AmeriCorps, including (1) AmeriCorps*State, which provides grants to State Commissions on National and Community Service appointed by Governors; AmeriCorps*National, which provides direct grants to national organizations; (2) AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America); and (3) AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).
- Learn and Serve America, including Elementary and Secondary Education, Community-Based, and Higher Education programs.
- The National Senior Service Corps, including the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, the Foster Grandparent Program, and the Senior Companion Program.
- The Points of Light Foundation.
- Demonstration, training and technical assistance, evaluations, and other support services necessary to provide for the infrastructure and quality improvement necessary to enable national service programs to be of the highest possible quality.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN THE BILL

Consistent with the Federal-State partnership through which national service has operated since 1993 and the recommendations of the Vice President's National Performance Review, a new authority -- Service Collaboration Agreements -- will provide a means for devolving the planning and administration of the Corporation's national service programs in a State. The authority will be used selectively and voluntarily, and tailored to the circumstances of those States wishing to participate. Service agreements will be made with Governors and will incorporate performance goals and indicators.

Changes affecting AmeriCorps*State and National include:

- Explicit authority for making AmeriCorps grants to Federal agencies is removed.
- Recruiting, training, and supervising unpaid volunteers by AmeriCorps members is made an explicit priority.
- The Corporation's average budgeted costs per AmeriCorps member is reduced; the ceiling is \$16,000 for programs funded in fiscal year 1998 and \$15,000 (adjusted for inflation) thereafter. Waivers of matching requirements are authorized.

- AmeriCorps Leaders are brought under Federal workers compensation and tort claims liability laws.
- Enhanced waiver authority is provided to allow the Corporation to test innovative approaches to national service.
- The minimum amount of AmeriCorps formula grant funds per State is increased from \$450,000 to \$500,000. The minimum grant for State Commission administration is increased from \$125,000 to \$200,000, and matching requirements are reduced.
- The “education-award-only” approach is expanded by authorizing the use of Subtitle C funds for this purpose.

Changes affecting the **AmeriCorps*NCCC** program include:

- Response to natural disasters is added as a purpose of NCCC.
- A non-residential summer program is authorized.
- The minimum age for AmeriCorps*NCCC membership is raised from 16 to 18 (except for summer programs).
- The alternative cash benefit for AmeriCorps*NCCC members is eliminated.

Changes affecting the **National Service Trust** include:

- Expanding the definitions of eligible institutions of higher education and qualified student loans.
- Clarifying the relationship between the education award and other student financial aid.
- Clarifying that no more than two full-time education awards or their equivalent in part-time education awards may be earned.
- Authorizing use of the National Service Trust for scholarships honoring exemplary service by high school students.
- Permitting the use of Trust funds for purposes related to administering AmeriCorps members’ accounts.

Changes affecting **AmeriCorps*VISTA** include:

- The purpose is clarified to emphasize promoting sustainable activities in communities.
- Members are eligible for family and medical leave benefits.
- Cost-sharing with sponsoring organizations is explicitly encouraged.
- Service by an individual is limited to three years, with an education award available for no more than two years of service.

Changes affecting **Learn and Serve America** include:

- Funds available for capacity building activities under Learn and Serve America School-Based programs are increased from 10-15 percent to a maximum of 25 percent of funds distributed by formula.
- Funds distribution for elementary and secondary education programs to States is established at 70 percent via formula and 30 percent on a competitive basis. The minimum grant amount per State is increased to \$100,000, and States are required to distribute funds competitively.
- State Commissions on National and Community Service and State Higher Education Boards, in partnership with institutions of higher education, are added as eligible applicants for Learn and Serve America Higher Education programs.
- Service-learning is designated a fundamental purpose of Higher Education programs.
- Authority for supporting multi-State programs, demonstrations, and activities to improve the quality of service-learning programs is added.
- States are given explicit authority to designate a single State entity to administer Learn and Serve America school-based and community-based programs in the State.

Changes affecting the **National Senior Service Corps** include:

- The impact of senior service within communities is emphasized.
- The minimum age for Senior Corps participants is made uniform across all three Senior Corps programs at 55 years.
- The ability to provide incentives for a Leaders program under the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is added; meeting community needs is added as a purpose; and a 45-day period for review of certain RSVP grants is eliminated.
- For the Foster Grandparent Program, authority for Leaders is included; eligibility is raised to 150 percent of the poverty level; up to 10 percent of Federal funds may be used to support individuals who exceed income eligibility; and funding for programs of national significance is simplified.
- The changes in the Senior Companion Program are comparable to those provided for the Foster Grandparent Program. Eligibility is raised to 150 percent of the poverty level; up to 10 percent of federal funds may be used to support individuals who exceed income eligibility; and funding for programs of national significance is simplified.

Changes affecting **all streams of national service programs** include:

- Authorities for supplemental and outreach grants for individuals with disabilities is extended to all AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and National Senior Service Corps programs.
- Training and technical assistance authorities are also extended to all programs supported by the Corporation.

Administrative and technical changes include:

- Clarifying the role of the Corporation's appointed representatives to State Commissions; revising participant hearing and grievance procedures; and permitting a Member of the Board of Directors to serve until a replacement is appointed.
- Repeal of various redundant or obsolete authorities, including the VISTA Literacy Corps; certain Special Volunteer Programs; and Challenge Grants for National Service Programs under the National and Community Service Trust Act.
- Removal of a requirement limiting the use of AmeriCorps*VISTA members to support Senior Corps programs, and removal of a redundant requirement mandating a minimum number of AmeriCorps*VISTA service years.

Appropriations earmarked for the **Points of Light Foundation** are reauthorized for five years. The Points of Light Foundation has worked closely with the Corporation on several joint initiatives, including co-sponsorship of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia.

Authority for appropriations is provided as follows:

- For fiscal years 1998-2002, such sums as are necessary.



Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Subject: Americorps reauthorization

You're probably crashing on a million things, but I do need to confirm that I should keep telling Gomperts that he can't ask the Democrats to quickly and quietly introduce our reauthorization proposal before Congress leaves, because we want to save it for the radio address.

----- Forwarded by Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP on 11/06/97 03:05 PM -----



Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
cc:
Subject: Americorps reauthorization

Gomperts says they have a green light from Hilley to introduce the AmeriCorps reauthorization as soon as Congress leaves, which he thinks could be in a few days. He wants to have the bill introduced in Congress quietly right before they leave, so as to get a bill number, etc. I told him that might create a problem with the radio address we have reserved on the 21st -- i.e., it would rob us of the announcement of the reauthorization. Do you concur?

He feels very strongly about this, though, and they will push this. He says it will greatly hamper their effort to get reauthorization moving during the recess -- to schedule hearings, seek endorsements. He said they will introduce the bills very quietly, and suggested we could substitute the announcement of their "Seniors in Schools" program at the radio address, as well as talking about the reauthorization.

(By the way, Silverman got a service event on the schedule in Sacramento on Saturday, the 15th, but it's not clicking. There's no real AmeriCorps presence there, and the President is supposed to do some environmental project there called the Bay Delta which Steve hoped would have service links, but doesn't seem to. We're still trying.)

Service - AmeriCorps



12:07:33 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Radio address next week on service

For next week's radio address on AmeriCorps reauthorization/service, Gomperts suggested inviting a few (bipartisan) members of Congress who support the Corporation to attend the taping, so that the President could say something like, "I'm joined today by x...." Probably also a few people serving in Corp. programs -- AmeriCorps, senior program, service-learning young person. This sounds like a good idea to me. Do you think this is worth doing (assuming we can get members who are in town at that time)?



05:27:16 PM

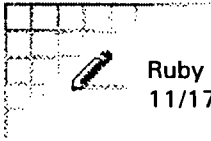
Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Subject: Radio address this week

I'll go to Ann Lewis's meeting on service tomorrow.

On the radio address, I assume the focus is reauthorization of AmeriCorps -- it's a priority for next year in Congress, why we think the program is great, etc. The actual content of reauthorization is dull enough that there's not much to say there. I'm assuming we would talk a bit about the six months since the summit and say what we've done, especially with Powell scheduled to do his 6-month update a few days later (Nov. 25). Let me know if you have any views on this.

----- Forwarded by Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP on 11/17/97 05:15 PM -----



Ruby Shamir
11/17/97 05:14:16 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Lisa J. Levin/WHO/EOP, Lori L. Anderson/WHO/EOP, Darby E. Stott/WHO/EOP, Thomas D. Janenda/WHO/EOP
Subject: Service

Ann Lewis will have a meeting on Tuesday at 10am to discuss a communications/press strategy for our service initiatives. Thanks.

Message Sent To:

Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP
Amy W. Tobe/WHO/EOP
Neera Tanden/WHO/EOP
Stephen B. Silverman/WHO/EOP
Katherine Hubbard/WHO/EOP
Stacie Spector/WHO/EOP



03:43:41 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jordan Tamagni/WHO/EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
bcc:
Subject: Re: Radio Address on Service 

Looks good. Comments below in bold. These include the Corporation's comments. There are 2 spots where we haven't quite finished.

FYI, there are now over 100,000 people who were or are now in AmeriCorps. Many of them have not yet used or earned their scholarship. I think my proposed language below is good, but if you tinker with it I should see it again to make sure it's accurate.

Jordan Tamagni

▶ **Jordan Tamagni**
11/26/97 01:59:53 PM
.....

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Michelle Crisci/WHO/EOP, Peter A. Weissman/OPD/EOP, Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP, Ruby Shamir/WHO/EOP
Subject: Radio Address on Service

Draft 11/25/97 1:30pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON AMERICORPS REAUTHORIZATION
November 28, 1997**

Good morning. This week, millions of Americans have gathered with family and friends to share in our traditional feast of Thanksgiving. Much has changed for America since George Washington first proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving for our new nation in 1789, but the Thanksgiving spirit -- sharing our good fortune with others, and coming together to meet our common challenges -- is as strong as ever. Today, I want to talk about what we must do to keep that spirit alive throughout the year, through citizen service.

Service is at the heart of what it means to be American, and it must be at the heart of our efforts to prepare America for the 21st Century. It reflects our fundamental belief that everyone who works for it deserves an equal opportunity to succeed in life -- but that each of

us must do our part -- in government, in business, in our communities, our schools, and our houses of worship -- to create the conditions that make that success possible.

Of all the things we have done to meet that challenge, I am proudest of AmeriCorps, our national service program. **More than 100,000 young Americans have had the opportunity to earn money for college by serving our country. [drop next part in bracket s: that has already helped more than 70,000 young Americans earn money for college by serving our country.]** In community after community, AmeriCorps members have proved that service can help us meet our most pressing social needs. In Simpson County, Kentucky, AmeriCorps members helped second graders jump three grade levels in reading. **Corporation wants to substitute new example for Kansas City; they say KC is old (1993), overused, and was actually pre-AmeriCorps. They are working on a new example, but they agree using KC wouldn't be a disaster. [In Kansas City, AmeriCorps members started after-school programs for at-risk youths that local police say have helped turn around troubled neighborhoods.]** And in communities beset by floods, tornadoes and hurricanes, AmeriCorps members have helped to rebuild homes and restore hope.

National service **drop "should"** brings people together -- and after years of partisan division, I am pleased that Congress seems ready to give its full support to AmeriCorps. Today, I am proposing legislation that will strengthen all of our national service programs, including AmeriCorps and our programs for student and senior service, and extend them for five **drop "more"** years. **Congress should [drop next phrase in brackets: And I hope and expect that this year, Congress will]** give AmeriCorps the bipartisan support it deserves, and give more Americans the chance to serve.

This legislation **embodies, not reflects** the spirit of the Presidents', **not President's** Summit on Service, where thousands of Americans pledged to give our children the support they need to make the most of their lives. **[Corporation wants to start this sentence with "As General Colin Powell reported this week," but I'm not so sure]** We have made a lot of progress since the summit, with more AmeriCorps members **not scholarships**, more reading tutors for our children through our America Reads **initiative not program**, more mentoring programs for young people **drop "at our federal agencies,"** and more partnerships with private business and community groups. And at Thanksgiving, I am especially proud of our efforts to encourage citizens and businesses to ensure that our nation's surplus food helps to feed the hungry, not to fill up dumpsters.

This Thanksgiving weekend, many Americans are giving thanks for the year's blessings by giving something back to their communities. But we must create more opportunities for people to serve. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s great commitment to service, Congress has designated Martin Luther King Day **drop "in January 19th" here** as a day of service -- **a day on, not a day off**, a day to come together across all the lines that divide us to strengthen our communities. And I am pleased to announce that the Corporation for National Service has awarded \$225,000 million dollars in community grants to help make this day of service a reality. **Still working on this sentence; I'll be back to you in a minute.**

Refer to
race
initiative
at all?

Dr. King once said that “**everybody, not anyone** can be great, because **anybody not anyone** can serve. You only need a heart full of grace, and a soul generated by love.” As we look forward to a joyous holiday season, let us pledge to live up to his words by making service a part of our lives every day. Thanks for listening.

Message Sent To:

Michael Waldman/WHO/EOP
Ann F. Lewis/WHO/EOP
Gene B. Sperling/OPD/EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP
Stephen B. Silverman/WHO/EOP
Katherine Hubbard/WHO/EOP
Robert M. Shireman/OPD/EOP

Message Copied To:

Ann F. Lewis/WHO/EOP
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Katherine Hubbard/WHO/EOP
Robert M. Shireman/OPD/EOP
Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP
Ruby Shamir/WHO/EOP
Pamela B. VanWie/OMB/EOP

Service - Americas



03:09:29 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: MLK grants

I am hearing that COS office wants to leak MLK grants to a reporter on Friday, FYI.

I'll cc you on my radio address comments shortly.



Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Has the radio address topic been decided?

By the way, if we're doing AmeriCorps, Rahm asked Steve Silverman for ideas of reporters, other than Jonathan Alter, who we could leak the story to. Any ideas?

The Corp. is not inviting members of Congress to the address. In fact, now that they've missed the chance to get their reauthorization proposal introduced this session, they are leaning toward not even releasing the bill at this point, but just a summary, and taking the opportunity to play with the draft and talk to people over the recess. Do you think that's a problem?

We're working on a letter from the President to Powell saying nice things and attaching our 6 month accomplishment piece. We would then release that to the press, either with the radio address or just as a freestanding piece prior to Powell's thing Tuesday.

Also, we are investigating whether we could reach a quick agreement with America's Promise that we can announce on Friday that we are working with them on child health outreach -- getting kids signed up for Medicaid and the new child health program. Not sure we can pull it off in the next day or two, other than as a vague announcement.

Service - Points of Light

and

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
11-3-97

Service - Americans

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1997

MR. PRESIDENT:

Harris Wofford, Director of the Corporation for National Service, has sent you two memos. The first seeks your approval on a strategy of moving forward with reauthorization of AmeriCorps this year. The second seeks your approval of a plan by Sen. Wofford to reinstate the "Daily Points of Light" award. Sen. Wofford has apparently already had extensive conversations with President Bush about this plan.

At my request, Bruce Reed has summarized the memos and presented you with recommendations; the underlying memos from Wofford follow Bruce's cover note.

There is no disagreement on the reauthorization issue -- your advisors agree that we should move forward this year. On the "Points of Light" award, Bruce presents a recommendation different than Harris' proposal. While none of your advisor's are thrilled about reinstating these awards, they agree that Bruce's suggestion makes the most sense. Resumption of the awards could be announced at your visit to the Bush Library next week.

Please see Bruce's memo for details.

copied
Reed
Silverman
COS
Fordina

Phil Caplan

Phil

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
11-3-97

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1997 OCT 24 AM 11:38

October 24, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRUCE REED *BR*
CC: Steve Silverman
SUBJECT: Harris Wofford Memos

*done on 10/24
for process
on 10/24
trust
Wofford
memo*

Harris Wofford has written you two memos. The first recommends that you make reauthorization of AmeriCorps a high priority. The second recommends that you reinstate President Bush's "Daily Points of Light" awards. A discussion of each memo, along with my recommendations, follows.

I. Recommendation on Harris's Reauthorization Memo

Harris Wofford wrote you on October 3 urging that we make reauthorization of AmeriCorps a high priority. He argues that we should send the Corporation's reauthorization proposal to the Hill before adjournment this year, with the goal of getting AmeriCorps reauthorized by the first anniversary of the Presidents' service summit next April. AmeriCorps has never been reauthorized and is now operating without any authorization. Harris argues that we must seek to establish firmly AmeriCorps' existence, preferably beyond the end of your term, and that this is the best time to do it.

The Corporation has made strides, particularly since the service summit, in getting Congress to support or at least not attack AmeriCorps. This year, for the first time, Congress did not launch an effort to eliminate the core AmeriCorps programs during the appropriations process, and it appears we will secure funding at last year's levels plus an increment for America Reads, although a smaller one than we requested.

agreed
We recommend that we launch the reauthorization in a high-profile way as Harris requests, but wait until the final phase of this year's appropriations battle is complete. The VA-HUD appropriations bill that is coming to you for signature includes funding for core AmeriCorps programs as well as \$25 million for America Reads. However, we are still fighting to get more funds for AmeriCorps' portion of America Reads as part of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, and we believe it would be prudent to wait until this is resolved. It is possible that Labor-HHS will not be settled until just before recess, which would frustrate Harris's goal of sending this proposal to the Hill prior to adjournment. Nevertheless it would be prudent to wait.

One option is to launch the reauthorization in a radio address right before Thanksgiving, which would come just before Powell's summit update on November 25.

II. Recommendation on Harris's Points of Light Memo

Harris Wofford has written to urge that you resume former President Bush's "Daily Points of Light" awards. He proposes to rename the awards the "Presidents' Points of Light," with you and President Bush as co-sponsors. Rather than having the White House take responsibility for selecting and vetting the winners on a daily basis, as was the case under President Bush, Harris proposes that the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service take on this responsibility. The Knights of Columbus have agreed to fund the costs of this program for one year.

One factor complicating the decision is that Harris has had extensive conversations with the Points of Light Foundation and with President Bush himself on this proposal. Apparently Harris has made it clear that he favors this idea and that the decision rests with the White House. Harris indicates that President Bush will be deeply disappointed if we decide not to resume the awards.

One other timing issue is that you are scheduled to attend the dedication of President Bush's library on November 6. If we decide to reinstate this program, that event would be an opportunity to announce it, especially given the former President's attachment to the Points of Light program.

Arguments For:

- Reinstating the awards is an easy way to keep the issue of service and volunteerism before the public on a daily basis. It would continue to repair the rift between the AmeriCorps concept of service and the more traditional volunteer sector, just as the Philadelphia summit did. Also, AmeriCorps members would be eligible for the awards.
- President Bush very much wants the Administration to do this. He will be very disappointed if we do not, and he will see it as the White House's decision because of Harris's conversations with him.

Arguments Against:

- The benefits of resuming the awards are minimal. Our efforts to reach out to the volunteer sector at the Philadelphia summit were so successful that it is not clear what this would add. In addition, some would react negatively to such a decision, since the original Points of Light program was derided by many as an empty gesture.
- Although theoretically we could assign responsibility for vetting the award winners to the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service, from a practical

standpoint we would probably still feel the need to do a legal and/or political check on award winners. The daily responsibility of selecting and vetting winners will be time-consuming for White House staff, and not worth the effort.

Options:

#1 Resume the awards as Wofford proposes.

#2 Decline to resume the awards.

#3 Recommended Option: Reestablish these awards as the "Daily Points of Light" awards, rather than the "Presidents' Daily Points of Light" awards, to be administered by the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation, with no formal connection to the President or the White House.

✓ Harris believes that this plan would be acceptable to former President Bush as long as we do not appear to be distancing ourselves from the awards. To that end, he suggests we announce this at the dedication of the Bush library, and advise former President Bush in advance of our action. He also suggests that we invite a group of the first winners to the White House during National Volunteer Week in April, along with former President Bush, and that we use inclusive language in talking about the awards, such as "We join former President Bush in congratulating the winners." Such actions seem like a reasonable compromise on this issue.

___ Option #1

___ Option #2

✓ ___ Option #3 (recommended)

___ Discuss

↳ Walter I'm OK on
Option 1 - might help
us get to work - if I did
would Bush publicly help
us get to work?

L1 Disagree - we can let them
handle it if we want to
because if they don't look



02:41:14 PM

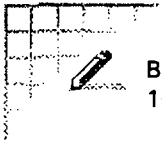
Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, William R. Kincaid/OPD/EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: national service

I am planning to include AmeriCorps reauthorization on my list of summit follow-up possibilities. I thought Harris's memo was fairly reasonable. The only question is whether there's still time this year to introduce the legislation, and what the right type of launching event is.

On AmeriCorps approps, my understanding is that the base funding looks good, and could be done in Congress this week as part of VA/HUD. On AmeriCorps' America Reads money, they appear to have \$25 million locked up in the VA/HUD bill, with the hope of another \$25 million in Labor/HHS. Labor/H is on a slower track, but could be done in 2 weeks. So it's probably a November item, but if we want an event we should start thinking about it.

Bruce N. Reed



Bruce N. Reed
10/06/97 06:22:17 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Subject: national service

Any thoughts on Harris's POTUS memo on reauthorization? Staff secy asked for our comments. My only thought is that introducing the reauthorization bill should wait until after we've signed the approps into law -- which probably pushes us into November at the earliest. It might be something to add to your list of summit follow-ups.

Service - AmeriCorps



Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, William R. Kincaid/OPD/EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: AmeriCorps reauthorization 

But if there is a small window of time between passage of L-HHS approps and adjournment, would you have a problem with them proceeding then?

Bruce N. Reed

For - mess not

 Bruce N. Reed
10/14/97 12:43:56 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, William R. Kincaid/OPD/EOP
Subject: Re: AmeriCorps reauthorization 

I still think it's a mistake to send it up until the Labor/HHS bill is passed. We are in the middle of a war on that bill, so why take chances when there is so little to be gained from it?

*Service: Americorps*Recommendation on Harris's Reauthorization Memo:

Harris Wofford also wrote you on October 3 urging that we make reauthorization of AmeriCorps a high priority. He argues that we should send the Corporation's reauthorization proposal to the Hill before adjournment this year, with the goal of getting AmeriCorps reauthorized by the first anniversary of the Presidents' service summit next April. AmeriCorps has never been reauthorized and is now operating without any authorization. Harris argues that we must seek to firmly establish AmeriCorps' existence, preferably beyond the end of your term, and that this is the best time to do it.

The Corporation has made strides, particularly since the service summit, in getting Congress to support or at least not attack AmeriCorps. This year, for the first time, Congress did not launch an effort to eliminate the core AmeriCorps programs during the appropriations process, and it appears we will secure funding at last year's levels plus an increment for America Reads, although a smaller one than we requested.

We recommend that we launch the reauthorization in a high-profile way as Harris requests, but wait until the final phase of this year's appropriations battle is complete. The VA-HUD appropriations bill that is coming to you for signature includes funding for core AmeriCorps programs as well as \$25 million for America Reads. However, we are still fighting to get more funds for AmeriCorps' portion of America Reads as part of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, and we believe it would be prudent to wait until this is resolved. It is possible that Labor-HHS will not be settled until just before recess, which would frustrate Harris's goal of sending this proposal to the Hill prior to adjournment. Nevertheless it would be prudent to wait.

As the memo to you on Presidents' service summit follow-up suggests, one option is to launch the reauthorization in a radio address right before Thanksgiving, which would come just before Powell's summit update on November 25.



10:11:12 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Subject: DLC Speech . . .

Should we push to include AmeriCorps/service in the DLC speech, or is the air time already taken up with fast track and other topics? See attached possibilities from Gomperts.

----- Forwarded by Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP on 10/22/97 10:05 AM -----



JGOMPERT @ cns.gov
10/22/97 08:51:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna, Stephen B. Silverman
cc:
Subject: DLC Speech . . .

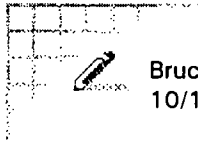
Is the President speaking to the DLC meeting on Monday. If so, here are a couple of thoughts:

1. It is the 6 month anniversary of the Summit. He should definitely talk about it.
2. It is apparently the day on which he will sign the VA/HUD appropriations bill, which will give AmeriCorps its first increase in funding in several years, and which will be the first real funds going to America Reads. That bears noting in the speech.
3. Of course, if I really wanted to throw long, and I might, I would say that he should tell that crowd that he intends to send up a reauthorization bill in the near future, and that reauthorizing AmeriCorps and the other service programs under the Corporation will be a top priority for the coming year. It is part of the DLC legacy, as well as the President's.

How 'bout them apples?

Talk to you later. JG

Service - Americorps



Bruce N. Reed
10/15/97 10:40:52 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP, William R. Kincaid/OPD/EOP

Subject: Re: AmeriCorps reauthorization

I'd be fine with making an event out of it. I just was skeptical that we'd get the time, since it's not big news. But maybe we could get a radio address (e.g., the Saturday before Thanksgiving).



12:16:23 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc: William R. Kincaid/OPD/EOP

Subject: AmeriCorps reauthorization

Gomperts is pushing very hard to find out if they can launch their reauthorization proposal before Congress leaves. He is not pushing for a WH event now, but just a green light to send it to the Hill. He knows Hilley's bottom line that the approps be settled, but those are just about done. The only outstanding question is how much America Reads money they will get from Labor/HHS. Do you have a problem in telling them they can go forward at the end of this month or the beginning of November, assuming America Reads is settled by then?

► **Diana Fortuna**
07/24/97 10:47:45 AM
.....

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Hoekstra hearing today on Corporation/AmeriCorps

Just FYI, this morning the Corporation is being raked over the coals at a hearing on the Hill by Rep. Hoekstra, one of their traditional opponents. Apparently it will focus on management issues rather than some of the political stories that came up around the time of the summit. Criticisms will be that the Corporation is not auditable and that their trust fund can't account for \$20 million. They don't expect much bad press beyond the traditional Wash. Times article, but they will update me if it goes worse than that.]

Message Sent To:

Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Ann F. Lewis/WHO/EOP
Stephen B. Silverman/WHO/EOP
Barry J. Toiv/WHO/EOP
Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP

► **Diana Fortuna**
 07/23/97 07:15:40 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
 cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
 Subject: New AmeriCorps scholarships

The Corporation says we can say the following in the radio address to report progress on the President's summit announcement/challenge of 50,000 new scholarship-only awards:

"Already, 77 religious and service organizations have answered that challenge by offering to sponsor 10,000 new AmeriCorps members."

It appears there has been a real spike in interest since the summit speech, but I just want to make sure you're comfortable with using this number of 10,000. The Corporation has had 3 deadlines to apply for these scholarship-only awards -- October 96, February 97, and June 30, 1997. The 10,000 counts everything they received on June 30 of this year. It's arguably a slight stretch to count everything in the June 30 batch as a response to the President's call, but it's not clear there's an alternative, and the Corporation reports that inquiries about these awards increased sharply after the President's speech at the summit. The 10,000 includes 4,200 that the National Council of Churches was planning to submit before our summit announcement, but they are seriously into the summit and the announcement, and will link their program to the summit's 5 goals.

	Applications	Approved
October 96	1,900	1,700
February 97	5,000	4,600
June 97	10,000	not decided; could be 8,700

▶ **Diana Fortuna**
08/04/97 05:15:25 PM
.....

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: AmeriCorps reauthorization & scheduling proposal

As you recall, we agreed with Hilley that we would delay until September any event launching a bill to reauthorize AmeriCorps. I don't want to miss the boat in terms of the President's schedule in September, and Gomperts notes there are a couple of anniversaries in that month (Congress passed it 9/12 and the President signed it 9/21 -- somewhat boring but a bit of a hook).

Do you want me to take a crack at a scheduling proposal/options now, or wait a few weeks, or do you want to first touch base with Hilley to see where he is on this?

► Diana Fortuna
07/10/97 02:36:38 PM
.....

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
cc: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
Subject: Tony Campolo

The Rev. Tony Campolo just gave me this update: He is working on an event being organized by "Youth for Christ" on Friday evening, July 18 (same day as our Girls Nation event). It will include 25-30,000 young people, mostly high school age, gathering on the Mall as part of a 4-day conference. Each young person is pledging to serve 3 hours a week for the next 6 months in their communities. He is sending me some paper on it. They already had an event in LA in late June with 11,000 young people there. It includes Christian denominations ranging from Roman Catholic to Pentacostal. He noted that the Summit didn't recognize that how many volunteers come from the religious community. He says he is talking to the Washington Post about the event. He invited Powell, but he's out of the country. Apparently he has had some communication with the President's office, because he said he was told the President would just be returning from his trip and would try to come, but wasn't sure if he can.

Not sure how relevant all this is because it's so explicitly religious, but thought you should know given the nearness of our event and his relationship with the President. Shall I put this in the weekly report? I should also probably forward to Steve Silverman and Ann Lewis.

Also, he mentioned that Harris may have resolved the issue of whether his Mission Year service program for college students can get ~~AmeriCorps~~ scholarships even though they do some "religious evangelism." ~~He said he had given up when~~ Harris called him and said they could provide reduced scholarships to reflect just the time not connected to evangelism. They are working out the details, but it would be roughly \$2,500 instead of \$4,725. He thinks it could happen for the next year of Mission Year. I've asked Gömperts to give us a heads-up before any announcement by anyone.

→ Diana -

Could you check to see what's going on with this? If it's settled, we should probably put it in the weekly

Elena

Service - AmeriCorps -
general

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5-5-97

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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or and Vice President

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A14

Monday, April 28, 1997

EDITORIALS

Fee for service

AmeriCorps and Peace Corps members invest their time; we should invest our tax dollars.

Some conservatives just about choked on President Clinton's first-term push for thousands of Americans to do a year or two of service, in exchange for a college grant and a near-minimum wage.

Sen. Rick Santorum (R., Pa.) sneered that this was too sweet a deal for "picking up trash in a park and singing 'Kumbaya' around a campfire." Sen. John Ashcroft (R., Mo.) called it "welfare for the well-to-do."

Well, four years after the President launched AmeriCorps, and two years after the Republican Congress moved in for the kill, it's alive and kicking. The value of full-time, low-pay service a la AmeriCorps and its precursors — the Peace Corps and VISTA — is being celebrated at the Presidents' Summit. Now it's time to dramatically expand these programs.

Spending a year or two helping others — "a season of service," as Mr. Clinton called it — ought to be the norm, a rite of passage for those Americans who don't serve in the military. This isn't only to help those left behind, such as the endangered kids that the summit is targeting. It's to help those who serve as well. With a few exceptions, volunteers say that they grew and learned while giving.

The taxpayers get a bargain when they pay a Peace Corps volunteer an average of \$262 a month to live on, plus \$200 a month into savings, to extend a helping hand overseas. Usually,

those volunteers return to America determined to make a difference in their communities.

The same kind of civic energy will be the long-term payoff from AmeriCorps volunteers now at work on community projects for about \$153 a week — plus a \$4,725 educational grant for a year's work. Such opportunities have exploded, thanks to AmeriCorps — a 250 percent increase in people power over five years.

Spurred by the summit, corporations and nonprofits have pledged to do more to support volunteerism. Well, AmeriCorps & Co. can do that, too, if elected officials will stand up for programs that epitomize individual initiative.

This year, these volunteer programs will cost about \$800 million. (That's the price of five F-22 fighters.) Let's double that to \$1.6 billion by 2000.

President Clinton wants about \$160 million more next year for AmeriCorps (which now includes VISTA). The Peace Corps — whose 6,400 volunteers make it less than half its peak size in '60s — also ought to expand dramatically, but Mr. Clinton would keep its budget virtually the same. That would force the agency to keep turning down nearly two-thirds of the idealistic Americans who apply.

It's dead-wrong for the government to tell thousands of would-be volunteers: No, we can't afford you.

LETTERS

Capitalism

Roland M. capitalism, ket, their most, as jobs due to. Although in better's American harder dest rity. Although loses a job, ism has pro century) to in the work. Under a himself, ing a 23-year thought is a ture employ because of at it as the least in a c