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## CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AFRICAN AMERICANS

### ECONOMY

**12.3 Million New Jobs.** For the first time ever, over 11 million jobs were created during a single Presidential term.

**Declining unemployment.** The unemployment rate for adult African Americans was 8.4% in May --down from 12.7% when President Clinton first took office.

**Minimum wage increase.** The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour --directly benefitting 1.3 million African American workers.

**Small business assistance.** The Small Business Administration has approved more than \$1.1 billion in loans to African American business owners, and has helped over 470,000 African Americans receive management training and counseling from a national network of business education and assistance programs.

**Home mortgage lending on the rise.** Since 1993 home mortgage lending to African Americans increased by 70%.

### FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

**Diverse Administration.** Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. Members of the Clinton Cabinet include four African Americans: Rodney Slater, Secretary of Department of Transportation; Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor; and Franklin Raines, Director of Office of Management and Budget. Appointed more African Americans to serve in the White House (45) than any other Administration.

**Judicial Appointments.** President Clinton has nominated 42 African Americans to the federal bench --more than any other President --and over 18% of total federal bench nominations. Overall, 65% of President Clinton's judicial appointees have been rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association which is the highest percentage achieved by any Administration since the ABA began rating judicial candidates during the Eisenhower Administration.

**Tuskegee apology.** President Clinton apologized to the remaining victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment and their families, and directed Health and Human Services Secretary, Donna Shalala, to issue a report about how best to involve communities, especially minority communities, in research and health care. HHS will award a planning grant to Tuskegee University to help it establish a center for bioethics in research and health care.

**Reviewed Affirmative Action programs.** Ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans.

**Opposed California Prop 209.** Filed *amicus* briefs opposing California Proposition 209, which would prohibit state affirmative action programs.

**Election fairness.** Defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional; prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties.

**Eliminated discriminatory "redlining" practices.** Negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory "redlining" practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

**Defended fairness.** Filed more cases in the last four years to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). Desegregated a Vidor, Texas public housing complex; ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers once denied loans by the bank.

## EDUCATION

**African-American advisory board.** Established the President's Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to strengthen the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide quality education. Advised on ways to increase the private sector's role in these institutions.

**Increased funding and grants for HBCUs.** Increased funding for Historically Black Colleges by nearly \$250 million since FY92, an almost 25% increase. Increased Fulbright grant awards to HBCUs in FY96 by almost 50% over the amount reported in FY95.

**Enrollment.** A record percentage of African Americans were enrolled in post-secondary education in 1994 --35.6% of African American graduates.

**AmeriCorps college support.** Enabled 70,000 volunteers to earn money for college by serving their communities and their country in the AmeriCorps program, with African Americans comprising one-third of all participants. (National Service Act)

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**Increased Earned Income Tax Credit.** Provided tax relief for 15 million working families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates. In 1995, the EITC lifted over 810,000 African Americans, including almost 450,000 African American children, out of poverty.

**Focused health efforts.** Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems for care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program.

### **FIGHTING CRIME**

**White House Conference on Hate Crimes.** President Clinton announced the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which will examine laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlight solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continue the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America.

**Action against church burnings.** Focused the nation's attention and resources to help stop the rash of church burnings across the country, prosecuted those responsible, and sped the rebuilding process.

**Action against hate crimes.** Filed 38 hate crime cases in FY96, involving 65 defendants.

### **SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT**

**Environmental justice and redevelopment.** Issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. Identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

### **AMERICAN LEADERSHIP**

**Democracy for Haiti.** Restored democracy to Haiti and enabled the first transfer of power from one democratically elected president to another in Haitian history.

**Democracy for South Africa.** Assisted South Africa's transition to democracy by providing support for elections and development.

**Focus on Africa.** Hosted the first White House Conference on Africa in July 1994.