

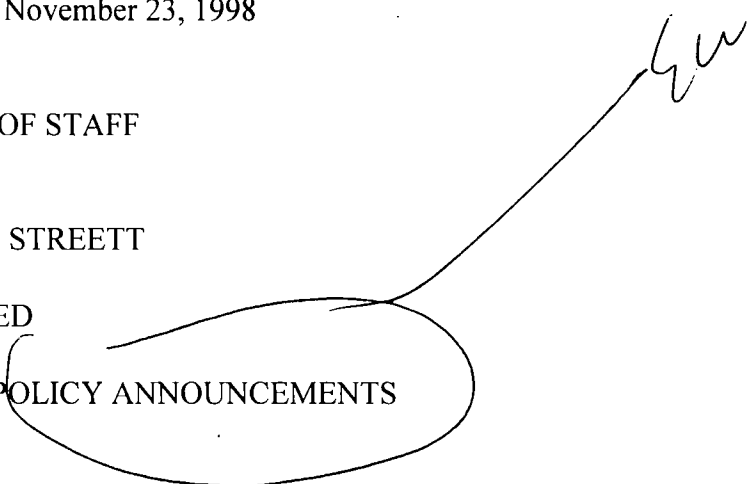
November 23, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

CC: ANN LEWIS
STEPHANIE STREETT

FROM: BRUCE REED

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Following is a list of possible DPC announcements that reflects our discussions last week.

NOVEMBER:

November 24 **Adoption Registry**

The President could join the First Lady in calling for an Internet-based national registry of children in foster care waiting to be adopted. Prospective adoptive parents will be able to visit the site and meet these waiting children. The registry will cost between \$1-2 million and will be funded through the Adoption Opportunities Grants, which are a part of the President's Adoption 2002 Initiative -- an effort to double the number of children adopted from the public child welfare system by the 2002. November is National Adoption Month, and it is exactly one-year since the President signed the landmark Adoption and Safe Families Act. **(The First Lady is planning to make this announcement on November 24.)**

DECEMBER:

December 1 **School Modernization and Class Size Meeting with Members of Congress**

The President could meet with Democratic Members of Congress to discuss the importance of working together on enacting school modernization and expanding the effort to reduce class size. At this meeting, the President could highlight all of the funding going out to states in the coming months on class size and other initiatives passed in the last budget.

December 3 **Bipartisan Meeting on Patients Bill of Rights**

After the Republican leadership completes its meetings on committee assignments in December, the President could host a bipartisan

meeting with members of Congress committed to passing a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights. At this meeting, all sides would affirm that they could pass a bill this year and that all issues, including those associated with enforcement, could be resolved. This meeting would be held to show the momentum this legislation now has across party lines. **(December 3 or date when most Republican Members could attend.)**

December 10 Campaign Finance Reform Event

The President could host a White House meeting of bipartisan sponsors of campaign finance reform legislation, which would include Senators McCain and Feingold and Representatives Shays and Meehan. The purpose of the event would be to underscore the President's commitment to enact bipartisan campaign finance reform by next year. The President could highlight examples of excessive campaign spending throughout the country in this past election. **(Depends on Members schedules.)**

December 11 Car Seat Announcement

or 17 The President could announce the final Department of Transportation rule for universal child safety seats. Under the new rule, every seat would be required to fit in every car the same way -- eliminating the current confusion caused by the existence of 100 kinds of child seats and 300 kinds of passenger vehicles. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration estimates that 80 percent of the children strapped into safety seats are at risk because seats are improperly connected. Approximately 600 children under 5 years old are killed and more than 70,000 are injured in vehicle crashes every year. The new rule would make it easier for parents to use child safety seats properly and encourage greater use of child safety seats. **(Ready mid-December.)**

December 17 Dangerous Toys Initiative

The President could announce the list of 15 toys and child items that have been officially recalled because of safety hazards. The President would call on parents to remove the toys from their homes before the holidays as part of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's "Toy Recall Round-up."

(If the President is unable to do this event before Christmas, it could be a good option for the First Lady or Vice President.)

December 21 FDA Regulation on Over-the-Counter Drug Labeling

The President could announce the release of a final regulation requiring all over-the-counter drugs to bear easily readable and comprehensible labels. We would have to push HHS and OMB hard to announce this regulation in December, but we might be able to get it done by the end of the month. Such an announcement would have the support of both the pharmaceutical community and consumer groups, which would portray it as an important accomplishment. **(Late December.)**

December 22- **Drunk Driving Announcement**

31 The President could meet with leaders of the highway safety community (MADD, SADD, etc.) to sign a Presidential Proclamation declaring December to be Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, announce the availability of Department of Justice grants of \$12 million to states to combat underage drinking, and release public service announcements warning against drunk driving during the holidays and reminding drivers of the importance of seat belts. **(Anytime in December. The Department of Transportation is holding a press conference on Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention on December 18.)**

There are several relatively small budget initiatives that we may want to roll out prior to the State of the Union. These options include:

- **Superbug Initiative**

Resistance to antibiotics is becoming a public health crisis, causing prolonged illnesses and even death. A new initiative, costing about \$25 million each year, could address this problem through: (1) a major outreach and education campaign involving hospitals, health professionals, and managed care organizations; and (2) new research and surveillance efforts to understand where and why antibiotic resistance occurs and to develop effective responses. **(Pending budget decision.)**

- **Asthma Initiative**

The President could announce a concerted fight against asthma, which has become a national epidemic affecting the lives of 15 million Americans. The principal goal of this program would be to reduce by half the number of children who die or suffer activity limitations because of this disease. The new FY2000 budget proposal would expand existing pilot programs that have had demonstrated success in preventing, managing, and understanding asthma. The President could also release an interagency report on best practices and strategies to address asthma. **(Requires budget decision.)**

- **Bioterrorism Initiative**

The President could announce a new proposal to detect and manage bioterrorism. Bioterrorism is becoming an increasing threat that has the potential to injure or kill millions of Americans through deadly diseases, such as smallpox. The President's initiative would equip the nation's public health system to detect and respond to this potential problem. This initiative would: train epidemic intelligence officers who can coordinate with state health departments to identify and respond to attacks; develop a mass casualty emergency response system that includes primary care, emergency transportation, and decontamination abilities; create and maintain a stockpile of pharmaceuticals; and improve research to develop new vaccines and antibiotics to be used in the event of an attack.

(Pending budget decision.)

- **Nationwide Crackdown on Food Safety**

The President could announce a proposed budget initiative that would highlight safety standards and enforcement. Included in this initiative are (1) a repackaged and somewhat modified legislative proposal giving the FDA and USDA additional enforcement powers (e.g., mandatory recalls and civil penalties); (2) additional food-specific regulations and/or guidelines (e.g., for certain fruits and vegetables); and (3) more extensive adoption of our model codes for restaurants and food service workers. In addition, we will focus on improving coordination with state and local agencies that regulate food safety in order to develop a wholly integrated national inspection system.

(Ready, depending on budget decisions.)

- **Expansion of Values-Based Crime Prevention Initiative**

Recognizing the important role that civic, community, and faith-based organizations can play in reducing crime, the President announced last July grants for community-based collaboratives, including religiously-affiliated organizations, to target youth violence, gangs, truancy, and other juvenile problems by promoting common-sense values and responsibility. To build on this effort, the President could commit to a series of new grants to support values-based crime prevention efforts, and urge Congress to endorse and increase federal funding for such programs. The President could also highlight the efforts of Rev. Eugene Rivers of Boston, who inspired the President to develop this initiative and has organized a National 10-Point Leadership Foundation to mobilize 1,000 black churches in 40 cities to help at-risk kids in the 50 worst neighborhoods. **(Pending budget decisions.)**

Following is a list of policy announcements that are under development. We are preparing to have these announcements ready for message openings that arise in December.

- **"Zero Tolerance" for Drugs in Prisons**

The recently passed omnibus appropriations bill includes an important provision that would allow states to use up to 10 percent of their prison funds to test and, if necessary, treat prisoners and parolees for drug use. To highlight this accomplishment, the President could join the Attorney General, General McCaffrey, and a group of Governors in issuing new guidelines to ensure that states use their funds effectively to promote this new "zero tolerance" policy.

(Ready mid December)

- **Fighting Homelessness**

A number of homeless organizations hold events throughout the country (including in D.C.) on December 20 to highlight the problem of homelessness. The President could announce \$700 million in HUD Homeless Assistance Grants

that will be granted to 300 communities and states to help homeless individuals find jobs and achieve self-sufficiency. Individuals who have benefited from this initiative and graduated to self-sufficiency could participate in this event.

(December 20th)

- **Title IX Executive Order**

The President could sign an executive order as early as next week prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in education programs conducted by the federal government. This includes schools operated by the Defense Department for military dependents, schools operated by the Department of the Interior for Native Americans, and numerous training and educational programs run by federal departments. This is a follow up to an Executive Memorandum the President issued last year asking the Department of Justice to lead an effort to identify all federally-conducted education programs and to recommend appropriate action to end discrimination. **(Ready)**

- **Family Report**

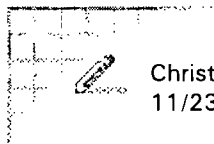
The President could announce the findings of a new report by the CEA detailing changes in the last thirty years in family life. The report will show the increased number of women in the workplace, and detail the diminished amount of time families have to spend with their children. **(Ready mid December)**

- **Work Participation Rates**

The President could visit a welfare-to-work program and announce: (1) new state work participation rates, showing that almost all states are meeting the welfare law's single-parent requirements, although some are failing to meet the law's separate two-parent requirement; (2) new caseload data showing continuing declines; and (3) new data on the number of people who were on welfare in 1997 and working in March 1998. **(Ready in mid December.)**

- **Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers**

The Congress approved in the VA/HUD appropriations bill full funding for the President's request for 50,000 welfare-to-work housing vouchers. The President could hold an event announcing the opening of the first competition for these vouchers. These are the first housing vouchers ever to be linked to welfare reform; they will improve the way welfare, employment, and housing agencies work together. **(Ready mid December.)**



Christa Robinson
11/23/98 03:39:05 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: Scheduling Update

Dec. 1st	OPEN Message Event
	World AIDS Day Event
Dec. 2nd	Democratic Leadership Meeting
Dec. 3rd	Patients Bill of Rights Bipartisan Event
Dec. 4th	Press Conference -- Statement on new job numbers.
Dec. 7th	Minimum Wage Event
Dec. 8-9	WH Conf. on Social Security
Dec 10th	Campaign Finance Reform Event
Dec. 11th	OPEN Message Event - or Central American Hurricane Relief Event
Dec. 12-15	Foreign Travel
Dec. 17th	Possible Child Safety Event (Child Safety Seats and Toys)
Dec. 18th	USEU Summit
Dec. 19th	OPEN Live Radio Address
Dec. 21st	Pan-Am Anniversary Event
Dec. 21st	Possible Service Event
Vacation	

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