

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 24, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. TM

SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
October 18-24, 1997

AMPLIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

- **Race Initiative:** Cabinet Affairs and the Race Initiative convened a meeting this week with representatives of each of the departments and agencies. This new Federal Youth Task Force will meet regularly and develop activities for young people during the coming year. The group will work closely with the White House Working Group on Youth.
- **Child Care Conferences:** Reports from the 115 regional satellite sites confirmed an intense interest in the White House Child Care Conference. The regional offices noted that the sessions were well-attended and received considerable local press attention.
- **Climate Change Follow-up:** Secretaries Peña, Glickman and Babbitt, Administrator Browner and Under Secretary Wirth called 40 of the 50 largest editorial boards in the country after your climate change speech at National Geographic. Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet officials have also called numerous regional and national radio outlets.

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

- **Southeast Asian Markets:** Currencies and stock markets continue to fall in most S.E. Asian countries. During the week of October 20, the Thai baht fell to record lows and the Malaysian currency and stock market also fell over concerns that the government's monetary and fiscal policies are not restrictive enough to reduce the current account deficit. The Taiwan dollar dropped to a ten-year low in the face of concerns about Taiwan's export competitiveness, and Korea's currency and stock market fell over concerns that the government is not taking strong enough measures to restructure the financial system. Hong Kong's stock market fell to its lowest level in over a year due to concerns that higher interest rates would hurt real estate and construction, and the Australian dollar fell to a 27-month low due to concerns over Australian export growth.

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Staff

file
Cabinet weekly

- **Japan:** On October 21, Japan's ruling party announced measures to stimulate stagnating domestic demand. The package is weak, consisting of vague commitments to cut corporate income and land taxes, increase liquidity in the real estate sector and accelerate deregulation. Furthermore, any stimulative impact is likely to be offset by the Prime Minister's commitment to continue to reduce the budget deficit.
- **Firearms Licensee Reforms:** In 1994, at your direction, ATF instituted reforms in the procedures for granting licenses to federal firearms licensees (FFLs). The reforms include increased fees, fingerprinting and background checks and field inspections of new applicants. As of October 2, the total number of FFLs is 107,554, down from 279,839 on April 8, 1994, and the total number of FFL dealers is 89,241, down from 252,799. These reforms strengthened ATF's ability to reduce the diversion of firearms from the legal market.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **Legal Services:** On November 13, DOJ will defend the constitutionality of two provisions that impose restrictions on the activities of recipients of Legal Services Corporation (LSC) grants. The restrictions, which apply to private as well as LSC funds, prohibit grantees from engaging in litigation on certain topics (such as abortion, welfare reform, and redistricting), participating in class action suits, lobbying, and representing certain illegal aliens and prisoners.
- **OK City Bombing Case:** OK City bombing defendant, Terry Nichols filed a civil action alleging that the Attorney General had violated internal procedures in seeking the death penalty against him. The district court dismissed the complaint on DOJ's motion. Nichols appealed and the Tenth Circuit has affirmed.
- **Line Item Veto:** On October 16, the City of NY and the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) filed separate lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of your authority under the Line Item Veto Act.
- **Remedial Public Education in Parochial Schools:** In 1985, in Aguilar v. Felton, the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the practice of sending public school teachers into parochial schools to provide remedial education under a federal program. Last Term the Supreme Court, in Agostini v. Felton, overruled Aguilar. This case involves an injunction, in effect since 1985, prohibiting publicly paid teachers from going inside parochial schools. Following the Supreme Court's decision in Agostini, the court of appeals has suspended the injunction.
- **Fugitive TN Judge:** On October 13, TN Judge David William Lanier was arrested in Ensenada, Mexico. Lanier had been convicted in the Western District of TN, but fled the country. He was profiled on "America's Most Wanted" television program on October

11, and the segment was viewed by Mexican Judicial Police. Lanier has been deported to the United States.

- **MT Crow Indians:** The Court granted over DOJ opposition the certiorari petition in Montana v. Crow Tribe of Indians. The case presents the question whether MT and Bighorn County were properly required to surrender to the Crow Tribe of Indians the proceeds of illegal taxes that they imposed on the Tribe's coal.
- **Lee Nomination:** On October 22, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the nomination of Bill Lee to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **Weather Service Report:** On October 23, Secretary Daley and retired Air Force Brigadier General Kelly briefed the press on the National Weather Service (NWS) budget and operations report. The report identifies major cost uncertainties associated with the completion of NWS modernization and recommended management reforms to improve service and reduce costs. Secretary Daley also announced that he is terminating plans to close the NWS Southern Region Headquarters in Fort Worth, TX, and creating a new position of Chief Financial Officer for the NWS.
- **Chile Salmon:** The Chilean Association of Salmon and Trout Producers, together with several U.S. institutions, will be participating in events in the U.S. as a response to the antidumping/countervailing duty investigation underway against exports of Chilean-farmed Atlantic salmon to the U.S. The events will seek to demonstrate existence of a sizeable U.S. constituency in favor of continued exports.
- **Telmex/Sprint Communications:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is reviewing an application by Telmex (Mexico's dominant telecom carrier)/Sprint (TSC) for global authority to operate as an international switched resale carrier between the U.S. and international points, including Mexico. Other U.S. international long distance carriers, including AT&T and MCI, oppose the application, asserting that TSC will have the ability and incentive to behave anticompetitively on the U.S.-Mexico route where Telmex is a dominant carrier with bottleneck control over facilities in Mexico. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is working with the FCC to address competition issues.
- **Internet Domain Names:** On November 1, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration will complete policy recommendations for use by the federal government in evaluating proposals for registration and administration of Internet domain names.

- **Nobel Prize Winner:** On October 30, during a House Science Committee event with DOC's winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics will meet with Richard Celeste, U.S. Ambassador-designate to India.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- **Philadelphia Shipyard:** On October 22, Governor Ridge and Mayor Rendell returned from Germany with a preliminary pact with a Norwegian ship-building company to locate at the Philadelphia shipyard to create over 1,000 wage-earning jobs and nearly 6,000 construction jobs. DOL received a formal proposal from PA related to possible assistance in the large-scale effort to bring shipbuilding investments to the former naval facility. DOL has assured a quick turn-around for reviewing the proposal and will keep the White House informed of new developments.
- **Chemical Accident Report:** Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), OSHA and EPA have jointly assumed responsibilities to investigate certain significant chemical accidents. On October 21, a joint accident investigation report was released on the causes of the 1995 NAPP Technology Inc., explosion and fire at their Lodi, NJ, chemical plant. This is the first report published under the MOU.
- **National Safety Council Exposition in Chicago:** On October 27, Greg Watchman, Acting Assistant Secretary for OSHA will present on "OSHA in the Late 90's" to the National Safety Council's 85th Annual Congress and Exposition in Chicago, IL.
- **Child Labor:** The *AP* continues to research issues related to child labor for an upcoming series.
- **Poultry Industry:** *ABC World News Tonight* is planning a two-part story on the poultry industry. OSHA is providing information and expects that the story will air at the end of October.
- **Amtrak:** On October 19, Amtrak and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees agreed to a request from Secretary Slater to extend the status quo period in their dispute at least until 12:01 a.m. on October 29. The extension provides additional time to reach a settlement, and to develop contingency plans for continued operation of commuter trains. Negotiations resumed on October 20 under the auspices of the National Mediation Board.
- **CO Steelworker Strike:** The strike in Pueblo, CO, by about 1,000 Steelworker-represented employees at the CF&I Division of Oregon Steel Mills continued into its third week with no talks reported. The FMCS began active mediation on October 24. The company has resumed some production with supervisory personnel, replacement

workers, and 20 to 50 returning strikers. The key issues in dispute reportedly are mandatory overtime and a union demand for pension credit for service at CF&I prior to its bankruptcy and purchase by Oregon Steel.

- **CA Nurses:** In the continuing dispute between the CA Nurses Association and Kaiser Permanente, the union has scheduled a one-day strike on October 29 at 47 hospitals and clinics in northern CA. This will be the third job action at these facilities since the CNA's contract covering some 7,500 registered nurses expired on January 30. In announcing the date, the union also urged Kaiser to return to negotiations. No meetings have been reported since July 12. Management demands for concessions are the principal issues dividing the parties.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Amtrak Update:** On October 24, Secretary Slater announced that, responding to his request, Amtrak management and labor have come to agreement on a plan enabling most northeast corridor commuter rail service to continue in the event of an Amtrak shutdown after the October 29, 12:01 a.m. deadline. If implemented, the agreement would insure no impact to the commuter passengers who could have been affected by an Amtrak shutdown. The Secretary urged the parties to resolve their differences and avert a service stoppage. He will meet with the parties to help accelerate the talks. Additionally, the Secretary met with Congressional leaders to urge Congress to pass an Amtrak reform bill to free up \$2.2 billion in capital funds that would help lead the railroad to financial self-sufficiency.
- **Education Forum:** On October 30, Secretary Slater will host a Forum at the White House Conference Center with Secretaries Riley and Herman and members of the transport industry to continue dialogue among key transportation leaders in government, industry and academia on the Administration's Garrett A. Morgan Transportation and Technology Futures Program.
- **Conrail Acquisition:** On October 21, DOT recommended that the pending \$10.4 billion application by CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads to acquire Conrail should not happen until the acquiring railroads have committed to a detailed safety integration plan.
- **Hazardous materials:** On October 16, FAA proposed a \$100,000 fine for Reuters America, Inc., for shipping undeclared hazardous material. Reuters shipped a Fuji color bleach replenisher, a corrosive liquid, without proper labeling or packaging. Reuters has 30 days to respond to the allegations.
- **ISTEA:** Senate progress continues to be slow on the ISTEA bill. Several controversial amendments are expected, including the Byrd-Gramm amendment to increase highway authorizations. While it is possible that the ISTEA debate will continue later this week, it

is increasingly likely that the Senate will begin work on an alternative short-term extension of ISTEA.

- **FAA Sexual Harassment:** On October 23, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing on sexual harassment within the Federal Aviation Administration. FAA Administrator Garvey testified.
- **Media Inquiries:**
 - USA Today is preparing a story, to run October 29, on the 10th anniversary of the airline on-time report.
 - *Dateline* has requested information from NHTSA on: 1) vans used as school buses; 2) the shattering or separating of Ford Explorer sun roofs; and 3) sport utility vehicles and rollovers.
 - *Wall Street Journal* is preparing a story on .08 blood alcohol content laws and their effect on alcohol statistics.

UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.

- **U.S.-China Space Launch:** On October 27, Ambassador Barshefsky will participate in a signing ceremony with Chinese Minister of Aerospace Liu Jiyuan for a new annex to the U.S.-China Bilateral Space Launch Agreement.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- **Technology Seminars:** On October 28, SBA will join the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Microsoft in Washington, D.C., to announce a series of technology seminars and expositions targeted at small business owners and entrepreneurs. The events, each with an audience of 2,000-3,000, will be held in 30 cities nationwide from November 1997 through June 1998.
- **Financial Symposium:** On October 29, the Administrator will address the Houston Baptist University's 7th Annual Financial Symposium.
- **Media Inquiries:** On October 22-24, the Administrator will travel to AZ and conduct interviews on fast track, welfare to work and small business issues with *KFNN Financial Newsradio*, the *AZ Business Gazette*, the *Tucson Business* and the *Arizona Republic*.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

- **Zone AR Status:** FEMA is conducting briefings in CA and Washington, D.C., today on a new regulation that will require property owners in parts of CA to purchase Federal Flood insurance. Some of these property owners have not been required to purchase flood insurance in the past. Due to urbanization of the watershed, the flood threat has

increased. The policies could cost from \$300 to \$600 each year. Approximately 200,000 properties will be affected by this regulation; of that number roughly 80 percent are residential. The regulation affects those areas where flood control levees no longer provide a 100-year level of protection. Efforts are underway to restore that protection, but may take up to ten years to complete. Congress will have a 30-day review and comment period before the regulation takes effect on November 26. The new flood maps will take effect July 6, 1998.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

- **Reclamation Crash Victims:** The Bureau of Reclamation plans to hold memorial services for the families of the crash victims and their employees in both Page, AZ, and Montrose, CO, later this fall.
- **AK Riders on Appropriations Bills:** Senators Stevens and Murkowski have placed several undesirable riders on appropriation bills. The most problematic rider involves Lake Clark National Park and the interpretation of an agreement reached over 20 years ago by DOI and CIRI, a regional, for-profit Native corporation. For three years, the Senators have tried to give to CIRI, contrary to the terms of the agreement, 30,000 acres in Lake Clark National Park, which would put 90 percent of the coastline of the Park in private ownership. Twice before, their legislative efforts failed.
- **Exxon Rider:** Senator Murkowski placed a rider on the Commerce/Justice appropriation bill involving the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council funds. In the past, the Trustee Council has been severely restricted in its investment options, and it has been criticized by auditors and others as a result. The Murkowski rider which provides greater flexibility in investment options, but forces the Council to use interest earned on its investments only for research, not habitat acquisition. DOI and the other federal trustees, as well as a large segment of the public, have been very supportive of habitat acquisition.
- **National Park Service (NPS) Construction Program:** Following media accounts of the construction of an outhouse at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area at a cost of \$330,000, NPS is preparing direction to the field regarding steps to review the NPS construction program and ensure that individual projects are reviewed for cost and value.
- **Endangered Species:** On October 28, Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman will lead a meeting with Assistant Secretaries, Bureau Directors, and regional directors from DOI, USDA, and DOD to discuss endangered species issues related to NM and AZ.
- **Akron Roundtable:** On October 30, Secretary Babbitt will address the Akron (OH) Roundtable, a group of civic leaders, on the "state of the Interior."

- **Chagrin River (OH) Conservancy:** On October 30, Secretary Babbitt will join the Chagrin River Land Conservancy to tour a river tributary which is home to a successful public/private partnership on native trout recovery, and deliver remarks to the community.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **Conservation Agreement:** On October 20, the Vice President announced the new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for MD, designed to help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. CREP is a voluntary \$195 million incentive program, under which MD's landowners may enroll up to 100,000 acres of cropland to restore wetlands and to establish forest and grass buffers between farms and fragile waterways. This is the first-ever state CREP to address local environmental problems of national or regional significance.
- **Food Safety:** On October 24, Secretaries Glickman and Shalala joined with national consumer organizations and food industry groups in launching one of the most far-reaching and ambitious public education campaigns ever to focus on safe food handling. Developed by the Partnership for Food Safety Education, the campaign will use new and innovative approaches to teach basic sanitation and food handling steps that will greatly reduce the risk for food-related illness.
- **E. coli Update:** On October 16, USDA's testing program for *E. coli* reported its first positive test in the FY98 cycle. The positive sample was found in ground beef imported from an American-owned Canadian plant. The entire shipment, which involves less than 40,000 lbs., is being held in a New Orleans USDA facility.
- **LA Military Training Area:** The Kisatchie National Forest (LA) supervisor and the commanding general of U.S. Army Fort Polk have signed a mutual agreement extending the deadline until October 1, 1998, for completing an environmental analysis on the military use of the Kisatchie's Vernon Ranger District.
- **Hispanic Colleges:** On October 27, Secretary Glickman will address the Hispanic Association of Colleges conference in San Antonio, TX.
- **Intertribal Agriculture Council:** On October 28, Secretary Glickman will address the Intertribal Agriculture Council conference in Chandler, AZ.
- **Tahoe Summit:** On October 29, Secretary Glickman will participate in Tahoe Summit follow-up events in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **D.C. Schools Initiative:** Secretary Peña joined Chief Executive of the D.C. Public Schools, General Julius Becton, at Wilson Senior High School to announce a partnership with Rebuild America to reduce the schools' energy costs by \$3 million by the year 2003 and to teach students how to identify energy efficiency opportunities. DOE will provide expertise, training and contracting assistance and will facilitate bids from energy service companies to make investments in energy upgrades. DOE will also provide teacher training and classroom materials. Students will learn energy auditing, planning, design, and project management. Twenty-five D.C. public high school students will participate in a summer internship program at DOE.
- **Oil and Gas Drilling Technology Awards:** Drilling new oil and gas wells in the U.S. accounts for nearly \$10 billion in annual costs to the domestic petroleum industry, an amount that is likely to grow as U.S. drillers encounter more complex geologic formations and confront more stringent environmental requirements. In a new R&D effort to explore and improve the effectiveness of new drilling techniques, DOE announced that four private companies and a university were selected to conduct one-year studies of proposed technologies.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **Direct Loan Program:** On October 15, DOEd released a report summarizing the results of its audit of 16 schools participating in the Direct Loan Program. Although the report finds that the schools are generally administering the program in accordance with program requirements, and that the audits did not disclose any fraud, it did identify a number of significant weaknesses in the administration of the program and recommended corrective steps.
- **Labels for Education Program:** On October 30, Secretary Riley will participate in a celebration of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Campbell's Soup "Labels for Education" program, which has provided over \$70 million in funds for local schools in D.C.
- **Postal Service Initiative:** On November 5, Secretary Riley will participate in the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) kickoff of its "Celebrate the Century" project. As part of the three-year project, USPS plans to distribute to 70,000 grade 3-6 classrooms curricular materials in subjects including art, geography, language arts, math and computer technology. The project focuses on notable people and events of the 20th century.
- **Blue Ribbon Schools:** On November 6, Secretary Riley will participate in a ceremony honoring schools that have been recognized under the 1997 Blue Ribbon Schools program.

- **Charter Schools:** On November 4-6, DOEd's National Charter Schools Conference will take place in Washington, D.C. Six to seven hundred representatives of charter schools are expected to participate.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **New NC Facility:** On October 20, Administrator Browner joined NC Governor Hunt and Representatives Clayton, Ethridge and Price to break ground for the new EPA facility in Research Triangle Park, NC. This facility will consolidate offices for more than 1,000 EPA employees currently located in a dozen leased buildings spread across the RTP area. The new facility, which will share a campus with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, will contain specialized laboratory and technical space that improves EPA's research capabilities.
- **Common Sense Initiative:** On October 27, in Providence, RI, Administrator Browner will join Senator Chafee in announcing EPA's first sector-wide agreement under the Common Sense Initiative. This agreement with the metal finishings sector will result in dramatic pollution reductions.
- **Alternative Compliance Legislation:** On October 29, Administrator Browner will join Senator Lieberman to announce the introduction of his alternative compliance legislation.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Food Safety:** On October 24, Secretaries Shalala and Glickman launched a major consumer education campaign on food safety to communicate four key messages: cleanliness, avoiding cross-contamination, cooking thoroughly and refrigerating promptly.
- **New Research Center:** On November 4, Secretary Shalala and the Vice President, along with a bi-partisan group of Members of Congress, will participate in the ground breaking ceremony the new Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center. The project will add a 225-bed hospital and laboratories to the NIH Clinical Center.
- **Condom Recall:** On October 21, following consultation with FDA, Ansell Personal Products of Eatontown, NJ, initiated a voluntary nationwide recall. Some of the condoms produced by Ansell have been found to deteriorate before the end of their shelf life and may not adequately protect against pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases.
- **Tribal TANF Approvals:** During the week of October 20, the Pasua Yaqui Tribe will receive notification of its approval to administer Tribal TANF programs effective November 1. HHS may also approve the White Mountain Apache Tribal TANF plan with the same effective date. As of October 20, 11 Federally-recognized Indian tribes

have submitted plans to administer a TANF program. Six Tribal plans have previously been approved.

- **Blood Product Recalls:** The following products were withdrawn from the market by the manufacturer due to concerns about Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD). FDA will continue to monitor the situation:
 - ▶ Bayer Corporation, of Clayton, NC, initiated a market withdrawal for Alpha-1-Proteinase Inhibitor, Prolastin.
 - ▶ Central Laboratory Blood Transfusion Service, Swiss Red Cross, initiated a market withdrawal of the blood derived product *Sandoglobulin*.
 - ▶ The American Red Cross initiated a market withdrawal for more than 80 lots of Albumin, Plasma Protein Fraction, Antihemophilic Factor and Immune Globulin Intravenous products.
- **Silicone Gel Implant:** On October 15, FDA issued letters in response to two opposing breast implant petitions. The letters note that FDA does not have sufficient information at this time to change the current regulatory policy on these devices. They also detail the actions FDA has taken and will take to reach closure on the premarket approval.
- **Welfare Dependence:** On October 31, as required by the Welfare Indicators Act of 1994, HHS will deliver the first annual report to Congress on indicators and predictors of welfare dependence. The report will include administrative data on participation and expenditure trends in the AFDC, Food Stamp and SSI programs, and will address data needs for future reporting.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **AIDS Patient Housing:** Under Administration leadership, funds to provide housing for people with AIDS have quadrupled. This year, the \$204 million for the housing program will help 67,000 persons and families living with AIDS live in safe and stable homes with supportive services. On October 20th, Secretary Cuomo convened a meeting of the AIDS Housing Coalition to discuss the future of Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) funding and the HUD 2020 Management Reform Plan.
- **NV Housing Event:** On October 17, Secretary Cuomo and HUD's top leadership relocated to Las Vegas, NV, to learn at first hand from local officials how HUD can help revitalize the city and the Southern NV region. The HUD delegation was joined by NV Senators Bryan and Reid, and Mayor Jan Laverty Jones. During the visit, Secretary Cuomo announced \$2 million in HUD assistance to a non-profit group to build 24 apartments for people with disabilities.
- **Elderly and Disabled Grants:** Secretary Cuomo continued to announce HUD grants to house the elderly and people with disabilities this week in a series of announcements in

NY, MO, NC, IL, IA and GA. This year, HUD grants will create 6,006 rental units for older Americans and 1,169 rental units for people with disabilities. These announcements were part of the nationwide award total of \$595.6 million.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

- **Smoking-Related Care:** On October 17, the *Washington Post* published an article entitled "VA Seeks Relief From Billions for Smoking-Related Care." The article explained the magnitude of the problem (estimates are that as much as \$23.8 billion will be required over the next five years to compensate military veterans who became addicted to nicotine while on active duty and now suffer from tobacco-related illnesses, if all the claims VA expects could be quickly processed) and VA's position that veterans should not be compensated for such illnesses. The article also quoted Senator Rockefeller, who said that "there is an inherent contradiction between the Clinton administration's strongly held view that nicotine is addictive and [VA's] effort to deny veterans compensation for smoking related-illnesses."
- **EEO Awards:** On October 29, Deputy Secretary Gober will deliver remarks at the Tenth Annual EEO Awards Program in Washington, D.C.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- **Latin America Speech:** On October 30, Director McCaffrey will address CIA leadership and staff involved with Latin American issues. Among other topics, Director McCaffrey will discuss his trip to South America.
- **Coca Production:** On October 17-19, the Director traveled to Bolivia to meet with government leaders, police officials and senior drug officials to discuss support for Bolivia's efforts to eliminate coca production over the next five years. Director McCaffrey also visited a number of prevention and treatment facilities.
- **Treatment and Prevention Centers:** On November 3, Director McCaffrey will be in New Orleans, LA, to visit drug treatment and prevention centers. The Director will be joined by Representative Bob Livingston, New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial and District Attorney Harry Connick, Sr.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

- **COLA Increase:** On October 16, SSA announced that the 1998 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be 2.1 percent. This will increase the payments that Social Security beneficiaries receive beginning in January 1998 and SSI recipients receive beginning on December 31, 1997.

- **Solvency Hearings:** On October 30, the Senate Social Security Task Force will hold a hearing on the solvency of the Social Security trust funds and other Social Security issues. SSA has not been invited to testify.

cc:

The Vice President

Erskine Bowles

Sylvia Mathews

John Podesta

Franklin Raines

Paul Begala

Sidney Blumenthal

Maria Echaveste

Rahm Emanuel

Jack Gibbons

John Hilley

Mickey Ibarra

Janis Kearney

Ron Klain

Ann Lewis

Mike McCurry

Katie McGinty

Bruce Reed

Craig Smith

Doug Sosnik

Gene Sperling

Melanne Verveer

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Copies for
DPC Staff*

October 17, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. TM
SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
October 10 - 17, 1997

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AMPLIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

- **Childcare Conference:** The Cabinet will lend significant support to the White House Conference on Childcare, with events in Washington, D.C., and around the country. To accommodate the large number of people who want to attend the WH conference in Washington, D.C., four agencies will sponsor satellite conference sessions at HHS, DOL, USDA and GSA. Secretaries Shalala, Herman, Glickman, Riley, Slater and Cuomo and Director Barram will participate in luncheon sessions at the agencies to get input from the participants. Regional Administrators are sponsoring over 90 satellite conferences in 42 states.
- **Back to School:** As we continue our focus on education next week, DOEd reports that from August to October, the Cabinet attended over 90 "Back to School" events throughout the country. In addition, Secretary Riley participated in 22 events, while the Department's senior staff and regional administrators joined nearly 330 events in 40 states. The Administration's ten-point "Call to Action" was the focus of each event.

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

- **Indonesia:** On October 8, Indonesia announced that it would seek assistance from the IMF and the World Bank following the 9 percent fall of the rupiah on October 3, and its subsequent depreciation to all-time lows against the dollar. During the week of October 14, a team of officials from Treasury, State and the Federal Reserve Board were in Jakarta to consult with IMF and Indonesian officials to ensure that any relief program is financed by the IMF, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

- **Japan:** On October 20-23, Treasury officials will lead a U.S. delegation to Tokyo to discuss the implementation of the 1995 U.S.-Japan Financial Services Agreement. Treasury will encourage the Japanese to improve disclosure of financial data and adopt international regulatory standards, and identify new opportunities for U.S. financial services firms.
- **Tobacco:** Treasury is participating in the interagency strategy meetings on tobacco, which are focusing on setting up a structure for working with Congress on the issue. Treasury will work with ATF to investigate black market issues related to the settlement, including whether higher prices will lead to excessive smuggling, as occurred when Canada hiked its tax on cigarettes.
- **Pennsylvania Avenue:** On October 9, the House passed the D.C. Appropriations bill which contained a provision that would re-open the Avenue to vehicular traffic. Treasury is working with OMB to add this provision to a list of highly objectionable items with regard to this bill. The Senate bill does not include this provision, and Treasury is working with Subcommittee staff to have it deleted in conference.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **1996 Terrorism Law:** On October 8, 30 foreign terrorist organizations were designated as terrorists by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, pursuant to the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. As a consequence of these designations, members and representatives of these organizations are ineligible for visas to enter the U.S., funds will be blocked and any material support to these organizations will be a crime.
- **"Golden Venture":** On October 3, Lee Peng Fei, a Taiwanese national, was extradited from Thailand for trial in the Eastern District of NY on manslaughter and alien smuggling charges. He is allegedly the kingpin behind the attempted smuggling of nearly 300 Chinese nationals aboard the ship Golden Venture.
- **Child Pornography:** On October 3, in the Eastern District of VA, Dmitry Bron was sentenced to 330 months of imprisonment after pleading guilty to three counts of production of child pornography. Bron had set up a file transfer protocol site on his computer to allow others off-site to access files which contained child pornography images he had produced.
- **Spy Charges:** Three D.C.-area residents were arrested and charged with engaging in a conspiracy to commit espionage on behalf of the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of South Africa.

- **Don't Ask, Don't Tell:** The Air Force discharged an officer based on his statement of homosexuality coupled with his failure to rebut the presumption -- arising from his statement -- of prohibited homosexual acts. The district court upheld the constitutional validity of the military's policy against equal protection and free speech challenges, and the Eighth Circuit affirmed. The Supreme Court denied certiorari, marking the third time that the Supreme Court has declined to review a decision sustaining the constitutional validity of that policy.
- **Disability Case:** The Supreme Court has invited the Acting Solicitor General to file an *amicus* brief in Cedar Rapids Community School District v. Garret F., which presents the questions: (1) whether a school district is required to pay for continuous one-on-one nursing services for a disabled student when the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) expressly excludes "medical services" from its mandate, and (2) whether there should be a bright-line rule that IDEA's exclusion of "medical services" means only those services provided by a physician or includes other medical services as well.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **Nobel Prize in Physics:** On October 15, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced that Dr. William Phillips, a physicist at DOC's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), was selected to receive the Nobel Prize in Physics. Dr. Phillips will share the award with Professor Steven Chu of Stanford University and Professor Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, of France, for the development of methods to cool and trap atoms with laser light. This is the first time a NIST researcher has been awarded a Nobel Prize. The award will be presented in Stockholm on December 10.
- **Baldrige Award:** On October 15, the White House announced the 1997 winners of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The winners are: 3M Dental Products Division of St. Paul, MN (manufacturing); Soletron Corporation of Milpitas, CA (manufacturing); Merrill Lynch Credit Corporation of Jacksonville, FL (service); and Xerox Business Services of Rochester, NY (service).
- **Economic Indicators:** ESA will release the following indicators during the next two weeks:
 - ▶ October 21 - Census U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services: August
 - ▶ October 23 - Census Housing Vacancies: Third Quarter 1997
- **Digital Television:** On October 22-23, the first meeting of the President's Advisory Committee will be held in Washington, D.C. The Vice President will attend the first session of the meeting and announce the members of the Committee.

- **Hammer Award:** On November 3, the National Technical Information Service's (NTIS) FedWorld will receive a National Performance Review Hammer Award from the Vice President. The award recognizes NTIS work in automating the wage determination factors required for bidding on service contracts. DoD has documented both financial and labor savings as a result of this automation.
- **Secretary's Schedule:** On October 21, Secretary Daley will announce the August 1997 trade numbers. On October 22, the Secretary will host a breakfast for District Export Council members as part of a day-long fast track event, and will attend a travel industry roundtable.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- **PA Naval Shipyard:** PA has submitted for DOL's review a draft proposal related to possible assistance in the large-scale effort to bring ship-building investments to the former naval facility. A meeting was held on October 14 with PA officials regarding the draft proposal. DOL has assured a 30-day turnaround and technical assistance once the proposal has been received.
- **Tuberculosis:** On October 17, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's proposed standard occupational exposure to tuberculosis will be published. On October 16, DOL conducted a media roundtable event on the proposed rule.
- **Health Care Commission:** On October 21, Secretary Herman will join Secretary Shalala for the Health Care Commission meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting will focus on the consumer bill of rights being developed by the Commission.
- **Amtrak Dispute:** On October 8, talks between Amtrak and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees resumed under the auspices of the National Mediation Board (NMB). Among the major issues is the union's goal of wage parity, a matter on which the Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) recommended pay scale increases consistent with those in the union's agreement with the major freight railroads. The remaining issues, the PEB recommended a 60-day mediation effort under NMB auspices which would be followed by "final offer" arbitration of any unresolved issues.
- **Anti-Sweatshop Initiative:** On October 16, Secretary Herman announced the support of Newark, NJ's Archdiocese of the No Sweat, anti-sweatshop initiative. She was joined by the Archbishop and representatives from Union of Needle trades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) and the NJ DOL. The Diocese announced intent to buy parochial school day and sport uniforms not made under sweatshop conditions. Secretary Herman and the Archbishop also unveiled a new high school resource guide emphasizing socially responsible strategies to help end sweatshop conditions for American workers.

- **US Airways:** On October 8, the Air Line Pilots Association's Master Executive Council at US Airways announced that the informational meeting on its tentative agreement with the carrier would begin on October 13, and that the ratification process will be completed by October 31.
- **Continental Pilots:** On October 6, the Independent Association of Continental Pilots resumed talks with Continental and Continental Express under the auspices of the National Mediation Board. The union more recently has been raising the threat of a work stoppage, but deferred a strike authorization vote until November 1.
- **Job Corps:** On October 23, Congressman Shays' House Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittee on Human Resources will hold an oversight hearing on Job Corps Programs. The hearing will also include testimony from GAO officials who will discuss their upcoming report on Job Corps.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Amtrak Strike:** On October 15, Secretary Slater met with Governor Thomas Carper and mid-Atlantic transportation officials on efforts to gain Congressional action on Amtrak reauthorization legislation and resolve the Amtrak labor dispute. Congress has been unable to agree on legislation that would free up \$2.2 billion in capital funds made available in the balanced budget agreement. Secretary Slater has urged Amtrak's management and labor to redouble their efforts to reach a settlement before the October 22 deadline.
- **Japanese Port Authority:** On October 17, DOT and State made a significant breakthrough with the government of Japan in negotiations on the issue of anticompetitive port practices. While the negotiations are not complete, DOT is confident that the breakthrough will help to reach the solution we have been working towards. The agencies involved have a commitment to streamline, reform and establish prior consultation systems, a framework for an alternative system of prior consultation, and expeditious approval of licenses for foreign companies seeking to create port service companies, and commitments from the highest levels of the Japanese government to use its full authorities to implement these reforms. DOT informed FMC of the progress and asked that they act in consideration with these developments.
- **DBE Business Program:** On October 20, Secretary Slater will hold a press briefing on DOT's Disadvantage Business Enterprise program.

UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

- **Fast Track:** Ambassador Barshefsky is working with the White House and Cabinet to ensure passage of fast track legislation. Ambassador Barshefsky seeks to broaden the understanding of the Administration's fast track objectives through submission of op-ed pieces, articles and interviews for major national and regional newspapers and participation in regional radio shows. Ambassador Barshefsky continues to meet with key members of Congress and industry leaders and participating in public speaking engagements on fast track.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- **Fast Track:** Last week, Administrator Alvarez met with the leadership of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the ASPIRA National Conference and the Association of Small Business Development Centers on Fast Track. She also conducted interviews with *Newsday*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News*.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

- **El Niño Summit:** Director Witt hosted an El Niño Community Preparedness Summit to provide a forum for discussion of preparations for the potential effects of this weather event. Held in Santa Monica, CA, the summit was facilitated by Senator Boxer. The Vice President spoke at the meeting. Attendees included Senator Mikulski, State Emergency Management Directors and twenty-five Congressional staff representatives from western states.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

- **Flags at Half Staff:** On October 14, Interior Secretary Babbitt ordered that all U.S. flags flown over DOI facilities be flown at half staff to honor the eight Bureau of Reclamation employees killed last week in a plane crash near Montrose, CO. The employees are: William Duncan, Delphina Holliman, Walter Kaltmaier, Catrina Wall, James Bloomfield, and Jeffrey Waite from Page and Jon Nees and Allen Inman from Montrose. A memorial service has not yet been scheduled.
- **NPS Campground Reservations:** Due to contractual problems with the contractor for National Park Service (NPS) campground reservations, the NPS national reservation system has been temporarily suspended. Information is available on an 800 number during this interim period. DOI anticipates that the national reservation system will be fully operational in time for the 1998 summer camping season.
- **Yellowstone Bison:** Conservation interests, the Forest Service and the Church Universal and Triumphant have developed a package to protect the critical wildlife winter range

north of Yellowstone National Park. The deal would protect from development more than 7,850 acres, including land along the Yellowstone River that is a crucial habitat for migrating antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer and bison. The majority of the 1083 bison killed last winter were forced toward this private land by harsh conditions in Yellowstone National Park.

- **Sterling Forest, NY:** Pending a final DOI budget, the balance of the funds promised by the federal government will be obligated, and Sterling Forest will be protected. Protection of Sterling Forest was a key element of your Parks for Tomorrow initiative. The closing on the property is scheduled for early February 1998, but may move up to December 1997.
- **National Monument Fairness Act:** In response to your designation of the 1.7 million acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern UT, Representative Hansen introduced the National Monument Fairness Act. This bill would undermine existing presidential authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act. The bill would repeal designations of new monuments larger than 50,000 acres unless Congress specifically authorizes them within two years after the designation and would make it possible for one Senator or House committee chair to block legislation to approve new national monuments. On October 7, the House passed the bill, 229-197. Passage of similar legislation in the Senate is unlikely.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **"Tipper" Lily:** On October 16, Secretary Glickman joined Mrs. Gore at a National Arboretum ceremony to name a new South African lily hybrid in honor of Mrs. Gore, in appreciation of the Vice President's environmental focus and efforts to foster trade relations between America and South Africa.
- **Food Stamp Sweep:** USDA has launched an investigation of Philadelphia, PA, area food stamp retailers. Of the 154 stores that have been investigated, 83 have committed food stamp program violations, including 23 which have trafficked food stamps for cash.
- **Animal Agriculture and Environment:** USDA has established a working group on animal agriculture and the environment that will develop an inventory of what USDA has underway on livestock manures and the environment and the emerging and long-term challenges.
- **Park Fee Program:** The Forest Service plans to add 32 new projects to its recreation fee demonstration program. The Forest Service has collected \$5.435 million to reduce the backlog of maintenance, improve and expand interpretive programs, upgrade recreational facilities, reduce vandalism and enhance security and protection of resources.

- **Railroad Bottlenecks:** On October 27, USDA will participate in a hearing on Union Pacific and Southern Pacific service problems. Particularly acute in the Southwest, rail transportation problems are slowing shipments and compounding storage problems.
- **Secretary's Schedule:** On October 20, Secretary Glickman will join the Vice President to announce the MD Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in Centerville, MD. On October 21, the Secretary will join the Vice President to announce Telemedicine Distance Learning grants, in New Orleans, LA.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **Solar Initiative Teleconference:** On October 29, in Washington, D.C., a teleconference of solar energy experts will examine the availability of new solar roof technology and commitments from states, utilities and private builders to participate in the solar roof initiative.
- **AK Energy Workshop:** On October 28-29, Robert S. Kripowicz, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, and Rita A. Bajura, Director, Federal Energy Technology Center, will participate with industry representatives, congressional staff, Native Alaskans, environmental activists, Federal and State government regulators and proponents of energy development in a workshop titled, One Decade Later: What's Alaska's Future? This is a follow-on to a workshop held in June 1987 which brought together public and private sector stakeholders concerned with the recovery and use of Alaskan oil and gas.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **Student Science Performance:** On October 21, Secretary Riley will participate in a National Assessment Governing Board news conference. The Board will release a report analyzing state-by-state results of the 1996 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in science.
- **Direct Loans:** DOEd's loan consolidation contractor, Electronic Data Systems, has reduced the backlog in consolidations by 44 percent since September 15, and anticipates accepting new applications on or before December 1. DOEd prepared and forwarded to OMB a draft Statement of Administration Policy that would allow Federal Direct Loan Program (FDLP) loans to be consolidated in loans outside the FDLP.
- **Goals Panel Report:** On November 5, Secretary Riley will participate in the release of the National Education Goals Panel's 1997 report in D.C. The report will highlight positive student achievement in math and science with a special emphasis on the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS). It will provide national data on 26 indicators and state data on 33 indicators for the eight national education goals.

- **House Education Week:** The House Republican leadership has dubbed October 20-24 Education Week on the House floor. They intend to bring a number of DOEd-related bills to the floor during the period.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **Clean Air Report:** On October 15, Administrator Browner transmitted to Congress a report on the benefits and costs of clean air programs. This report, required by the Clean Air Act, examined the benefits and costs of clean air programs from 1970-1990 and found that the historical benefits of clean air programs exceeded the costs by a margin of 42-to-one. This report represents of a six-year effort by the EPA and peer review by an independent panel of economists and others under the auspices of EPA's Science Advisory Board.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Childhood Immunization:** At the national level, the 1996 Childhood Immunization Initiative (CII) vaccination coverage goals have been met for two-year-old children for the most critical doses of each routinely recommended vaccine. The October 17 issue of the *MMWR* cited that the coverage goals were met or exceeded for most or all of the targeted vaccines for all of the racial/ethnic groups, children living below the poverty level had substantially lower vaccination coverage than those living at or above the poverty level, and the differences in immunization coverage by race and ethnicity are diminishing.
- **VA Automated Child Welfare System:** On October 14, the Commissioner of the VA Department of Social Services was notified that the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) would be unable to provide retroactive funding for its Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS). VA failed to comply with HHS regulations which require prior approval of SACWIS projects and has already expended \$9.6 million of the anticipated \$12.2 million in total project costs without HHS approval. This represents a total loss of \$7.2 million in Federal funds. ACF is working with VA to identify what will be required for participation in future costs.
- **Girl Power Grants:** On October 15, HRSA announced the award of approximately \$1 million to four community-based projects and one national consortium to promote healthy behavior and development in 9- to 14-year-old girls and reduce substance abuse, pregnancy, and other health risks. These grants are part of the Girl Neighborhood Power: Building Bright Futures for Success program, a collaborative 5-year effort to demonstrate how state and local agencies, organizations, businesses and communities can work together to improve the health, education and well-being of adolescent girls.

- **Mad Cow:** On October 8-9, an FDA delegation met with officials of the European Commission (EC) in Brussels to discuss the impact of the EC Decision banning the use of Specified Risk Materials (primarily high-risk neural tissues from animals) due to concern about transmission of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or "Mad Cow Disease"). This Decision becomes effective on January 1, 1998. EC officials were made aware of the magnitude of the potential health impacts of the Decision on U.S. and EU consumers because of shortages of key ingredients for the manufacture of almost all pharmaceuticals. The FDA delegation also expressed concerns about the FDA resources necessary to review product reformulations and provide certificates as required by the Decision.
- **MO Child Health Plan:** MO has indicated that it wants to implement the new Title XXI child health program simultaneously with a Medicaid section 1115 waiver. On October 3, MO Medicaid Director Vadner met with HCFA staff. HCFA is working with the state on the current flexibility under the program so that Title XXI waivers using 1115 authority are not needed.
- **CA Child Support Tax:** On October 13, Governor Wilson signed legislation that will require district attorneys to turn over delinquent parents' accounts to state income tax collectors. Child support advocates have long wanted to take away collection authority from district attorneys based on the argument that prosecutors are too preoccupied by criminal matters to pursue deadbeat parents aggressively. The California Franchise Tax Board will take over accounts that are 90 days or more past due.
- **Genetic Testing:** Next week, a press release will be distributed about the final report from the Task Force on Genetic Testing, created by the NIH-DOE Working Group on Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of Human Genome Research. Distribution is being timed to coincide with the October 24 issue of *Science*, which will be a genome issue. In the report, entitled Promoting Safe and Effective Genetic Testing in the U.S., the Task Force makes recommendations regarding protocols for the development of genetic tests, the development of educational curricula, and ensuring access to accurate information.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Disability Grants:** On October 14, Secretary Cuomo traveled to Boston, MA, Woonsocket, RI, and Providence, RI, to announce HUD grants totaling \$25.2 million to create 258 apartments for elderly and disabled citizens with very low incomes. This year, HUD grants will help create 6,006 rental units for older Americans and 1,169 rental units for people with disabilities.
- **Troubled Housing Authorities:** On October 7, HUD released a list of Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) designated by HUD as "Troubled." The list totals 62 PHAs, down

from 64 listed on the previous report, from 189,032 units to 137,350 units. Ninety-five percent of the country's 3,400 locally run Public Housing Authorities are performing well.

- **Housing Discrimination:** On October 13, HUD announced the successful resolution of four Fair Housing complaints in AL, PA, AZ, and CA. HUD has pledged to double the number of enforcement actions from 1,085 to 2,170 during your second term.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

- **Sexual Harassment:** On October 6, legislation to modify VA's system of handling EEO complaints was passed by the House. Much of that measure is in line with VA's own plan to revise the handling of complaints, but it does contain an objectionable provision calling for the creation of a "review" commission. The Senate version of similar legislation was approved by the Veterans' Affairs Committee on October 7.
- **VA Risk Management and Quality of Care:** On October 8, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on risk management and quality of care issues in VA's health care delivery system. Quality of care continues to be the stated concern of several House members from NY who have repeatedly expressed their objections to VA's reallocation of money for health care under the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation model. The most vocal of those members, Representatives Kelly and Solomon, have urged Secretary-Designate Gober to instruct the Inspector General to report on the quality of care provided in VA medical centers nationwide.
- **Tobacco Legislation:** The Senate Budget Committee and the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees were briefed by VA and OMB officials on VA's proposed legislation concerning tobacco-related claims for veterans' benefits.
- **Confirmation Hearings:** The Senate confirmation hearing for Secretary-Designate Gober and others has been postponed to an unspecified date.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- **Contact Group Session:** A U.S./Mexico High Level Contact Group (HLCG) plenary session will be held in Washington, D.C. The Cabinet-level participants will review drug control progress since the May 1997 Bi-National in Mexico City. Major issues include adjustments to a binational counterdrug strategy that you and President Zedillo requested drafted by the end of the year. In addition, the HLCG will address issues on Demand Reduction, Chemical (Essential and Precursor) Diversion, Money Laundering and Firearms Trafficking. The HLCG will hear reports on drug interdiction and eradication, extradition and actions against major criminal organizations.

- **High Level Contact Group:** On October 23, Senator Hutchison will host a Congressional Panel discussion with Director McCaffrey and Foreign Minister Gurria and Attorney General Madrazo.
- **Secretary's Schedule:** On October 19-21, Director McCaffrey will be in Bogota, Colombia, for meetings with government, military and police officials to discuss joint counterdrug efforts in reducing the flow of narcotics.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

- **Back-to-School Supplies:** On October 16, Commissioner Apfel visited Winfield Elementary School in Randallstown, MD, to donate school supplies as part of SSA's first annual "Back-to-School School Supplies Drive." SSA employees donated 23,000 school items, which will be distributed to five locations, including Winfield Elementary School.
- **CNN Interview:** On October 17, Commissioner Apfel is scheduled to do a live television interview with *CNN* on his goals and priorities for SSA.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

- **Back to School:** On October 17, Acting Director Lachance is scheduled to speak at a Back to School event at Booker T. Washington High School in New Orleans, LA.
- **Race Initiative:** On October 26, Acting Director Lachance will outline the Administration's actions on behalf of Hispanic-Americans at a conference of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities in San Antonio.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

- **Computers to Schools:** On October 17, the Swanton Elementary School in VT received 25 Apple computers and 5 other computers through the GSA Computers to Schools program.
- **Fraud and Abuse:** *NBC Nightly News* will interview Public Building Commissioner Peck for a Fleecing of America piece. It is a followup to a series that ran last month in the *Greenville SC News* on costly renovations in 1992-93 to the Haynesworth Federal Courthouse. GSA managed the project, but the judges played a significant role in requesting and eventually paying for "lavish" finishes and accessories. GSA's IG is reviewing the facts.

cc:

The Vice President
Erskine Bowles
Sylvia Mathews
John Podesta
Franklin Raines
Paul Begala
Sidney Blumenthal
Maria Echaveste
Rahm Emanuel
Jack Gibbons
John Hilley
Mickey Ibarra
Janis Kearney
Ron Klain
Ann Lewis
Mike McCurry
Katie McGinty
Bruce Reed
Craig Smith
Doug Sosnik
Gene Sperling
Melanne Verveer

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. *T.M.*
SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
April 4 - 10, 1998

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

- **G-7/G-10:** On April 15, Secretary Rubin will chair a meeting of the G-7 Finance Ministers in Washington, and on April 16, he will meet with the G-10 and the IMF's Interim Committee. In addition to reviewing economic developments and prospects, the G-7 and Interim Committee will consider development issues, particularly the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative. The Interim Committee will also address the work on an amendment of the IMF's Articles of Agreement to promote liberalization of capital movements and a proposed Code of Conduct on Fiscal Transparency.
- **G-22:** On April 16, Secretary Rubin and Chairman Greenspan will host a special meeting in Washington of 22 countries, comprising the G-7 and a selection of other advanced, emerging, and transition economies. This meeting follows up your call at the Vancouver APEC Summit for a special meeting of finance ministers. The Special Group of 22 will discuss ways to strengthen the international financial system and is expected to endorse the creation of three working groups on transparency, strengthening financial systems, and burden-sharing by private creditors.
- **Development Committee:** On April 17, the IMF/IBRD Development Committee will meet in Washington to discuss implications of the Asian financial crisis and the decline in World Bank net income, which is used in part to finance development priorities such as assistance to the poorest countries. Treasury will encourage development issues, including the need for closer linkage between new lending and basic policy reforms; the importance of closer collaboration among the international financial institutions in pursuit of sustainable development; and the need to press ahead with measures to combat corruption.

- **IRS:** On April 28, the Senate Finance Committee will hold hearings on the IRS Criminal Investigative Division. Possible areas of inquiry include the improper use of firearms, conducting investigations without search warrants, the use of informants, employee behavior that may have led to taxpayer suicides, as well as EEO and sexual harassment complaints. Treasury and the IRS are also expecting two more internal reports on IRS abuses to be completed at the same time as the hearings.
- **Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund:** On April 3, Under Secretary Hawke traveled to Durham, NC, to visit Self Help Credit Union, a non-profit community development financial institution and CDFI awardee. Since first receiving a \$3 million grant from the Fund in 1996, Self Help has assisted the development of local small businesses, provided funding for first-time home buyers, and assisted the construction of a homeless shelter. In late April, Secretary Rubin will visit a CDFI in Boston and Deputy Secretary Summers will visit a CDFI in Oakland.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **Freemen Conviction:** On March 31, a jury convicted five members of the MT Freemen of criminal charges in the first trial resulting from the 81-day standoff between the anti-government militants and the FBI.
- **Polygraph Use:** U.S. v. Scheffer presented the issue whether Military Rule of Evidence 707, which provides that evidence of a polygraph examination is inadmissible in court-martial proceedings, is an unconstitutional abridgment of military defendants' Sixth Amendment right to present a defense. Last week, the Supreme Court held that the rule does not violate the Sixth Amendment. The Court explained that because a defendant's right to present relevant evidence is subject to reasonable restrictions to accommodate other legitimate interests in the criminal trial process, state and federal rulemakers have broad Constitutional latitude to establish rules of evidence.
- **Harbor Maintenance Tax:** On March 31, the Supreme Court held that the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) as applied to exports violates the Export Clause. The HMT was enacted to provide funds for U.S. harbor maintenance and improvement. It is assessed on port use and is paid by all commercial shippers. Five thousand similar cases challenging the constitutionality of the HMT are pending in the Court of International Trade and 150 are pending in the Court of Federal Claims.
- **Welfare Reform:** The City of Chicago and several legal aid groups challenged on equal protection grounds provisions of the Welfare Reform Act that restrict permanent resident aliens' eligibility for a variety of welfare benefits based on their alien status. On March 31, the Government's motion to dismiss was granted.

- **Drug Treatment and Testing:** On March 24, DOJ transmitted proposed legislation to Congress that will amend the federal prison construction grant program (VOI/TIS) and the residential substance abuse treatment program (RSAT) to provide states with the flexibility to use those funds for drug testing and treatment of offenders in prisons and while they are under criminal justice supervision outside of prison. The legislation also requires states to adhere to guidelines established by the Attorney General for penalties for trafficking within and into prisons, or lose prison construction grant funding.
- **Teamsters:** Last week, the Second Circuit concluded that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters could not be required to pay for the rerun of its election, and that under the terms of the Consent Decree, if the Government elected to have the rerun election supervised, then the Government would have to pay the costs of that supervision. DOJ has not yet made a determination as to how the election will be funded.
- **Race Initiative:** On April 8, at Temple University in Philadelphia, Attorney General Reno conducted a dialogue on race relations in America and delivered a speech about the importance of diversity.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

- **National Parks Week:** The dates of National Parks Week, April 20-26, will coincide with March for Parks and Earth Day.
- **National Parks Overflights:** On April 14-15, NPS, the FAA, and the national working group on overflights will meet in Denver, CO to review working group recommendations and begin writing the national rule for overflights of national parks.
- **Indian Gaming Rules:** DOI is considering a request from the National Governors Association for a 60-day extension of comment on proposed rules regarding Class III Indian Gaming.
- **Secretary's Schedule:** On April 13, Secretary Babbitt will sign a Conservation Agreement with Senator Harry Reid and others in Clark County, NV, at the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. On April 14, the Secretary and Senator Kyl will host meetings with Tribal leaders, government officials, and constituents regarding the Central Arizona Project in Phoenix, AZ. On April 15, the Secretary will participate in an endangered species event in Tucson, AZ, focusing on the Pygmy Owl.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **Kansan of the Year:** On April 4, Secretary Glickman was honored as Kansan of the Year during the Kansas State Society's annual cherry blossom festival dinner.

- **Farm Forums:** On April 3, Secretary Glickman kicked off the first of seven farm forums in Lexington, KY, before a crowd of 700 farmers, local and state officials, and agribusiness leaders. The audience gave Secretary Glickman a standing ovation when he pledged the Administration's support for farmer protections in any legislation implementing a tobacco settlement. On April 3, Deputy Secretary Rominger hosted a farm forum in Orono, ME, where over 250 farmers raised their concerns about dairy policy, Canadian imports, and cleanup of last winter's ice storm damage.
- **Minnesota River Clean Up:** Citing the recently concluded Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program agreement between USDA and the State of MN to clean up the Minnesota River watershed, the group America's Rivers dropped the Minnesota River from its annual list of most polluted rivers in the country.
- **Northern Plains Wheat Growers:** Following an April 2 meeting with Senators Daschle, Baucus, Conrad, Harkin, Kerrey, and Wellstone, and Representative Pomeroy, Secretary Glickman announced several changes in USDA's crop insurance program to moderate premium increases for farmers who have suffered repeated crop failures. Beginning with the 1999 crop year, USDA will propose modifications to the prevented planting provisions of the crop insurance policy, will develop an alternative coverage pilot program for selected Northern Plains counties, and will expedite expansion of crop insurance to new crops and new areas.
- **WA National Forests:** On April 7, WA Governor Locke will join the Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser Company in a ceremony marking the consummation of the Huckleberry Land exchange in western WA. Weyerhaeuser received 4,362 acres of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests in exchange for 30,253 acres of Weyerhaeuser-owned lands, and donated 2,000 acres of forest land, half of which were added to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. This exchange added 246 miles of rivers and streams, 7,900 acres of riparian reserves, and 225 acres of wetlands to the public domain under national forest management.
- **Supply and Demand Report:** On April 9, USDA's projections of U.S. and world supply, use, and prices for 1997-98 was published in the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report. Commodity traders will examine domestic use and export forecasts for wheat, corn, soybeans and products, sugar, and cotton. The report will also feature country-specific supply and use forecasts for wheat, coarse grains, rice, cotton, soybeans, and soybean products. Southern Hemisphere developments, particularly for Argentina, Australia, Brazil, and South Africa, will be the market focus. The report will include projections of 1997-98 U.S. livestock product and dairy supply, exports, domestic use, and prices.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **US-Japan Initiative on Deregulation:** On March 31, Japan released its new Three-Year Deregulation Action Plan. The plan includes 624 individual Japanese deregulation measures in 15 different sectors and addresses many of the U.S. priority deregulation items under the Enhanced Initiative on Deregulation. The preliminary assessment is that while the plan's measures represent a step toward a meaningful deregulation package for review by you and Prime Minister Hashimoto at the May G-7 Summit in Birmingham, England, the announced measures will need to be augmented to make Birmingham successful.
- **IMF Update:** On April 2, Secretary Daley hosted a meeting of U.S. government officials and business representatives to discuss the Asian financial crisis. Representative Kolbe attended the meeting, along with representatives from DOC, Treasury, and the Export-Import Bank. Participants discussed the state of the crisis and steps the U.S. should be taking to assist the Asian nations and protect U.S. market share.
- **El Niño:** DOC scientists are briefing Congressional staff on El Niño, particularly staff from the CA, FL, and LA delegations. The purpose is to ensure that Congressional staff members are knowledgeable about what DOC can do in the area of climate prediction, and to let them know that DOC is working with State, Federal and local agencies, academia, and industry to ensure that available knowledge is disseminated to the fullest extent possible.
- **China Export Controls:** The week of April 6, Assistant Minister Sun Guangxiang of China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation led a delegation in meetings on export controls with Bureau of Export Administration officials. The meetings discussed export control issues of mutual concern and explored ways to strengthen cooperation between the two governments on export control matters.
- **Indonesia Auto Import Policy:** On March 24, the WTO panel hearing the U.S. case against Indonesia's national car program issued an interim report favoring the U.S. argument that Indonesia's practice of discriminating against imported autos and parts violates WTO rules. The panel will release a final report at the end of April.
- **Argentina Textile Imports:** On March 27, the WTO Appellate Body affirmed an earlier dispute settlement panel ruling in favor of the U.S. in its challenge to the application of minimum specific duties and taxes assessed by the Government of Argentina on textile and apparel imports.
- **Nuclear Suppliers Group Annex:** The long-awaited proposal to restructure the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) Annex, so that it conforms with the numbering system of the EU and Commodity Control Lists, appears to have the support of all countries except the U.S.

and Canada. The U.S. is opposed on the grounds that the proposed restructuring does not add to the clarity of the Annex. The NSG participating countries have agreed that the Annex Working Group will resolve the few remaining technical issues and leave the broader restructuring issue for a future meeting.

- **Taiwan and CWC:** On March 30, BXA staff met with a visiting delegation from Taiwan to discuss U.S. assistance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Among other prohibitions, the treaty imposes restraints on trade with non-member countries. Taiwan is ineligible to become a member of the CWC and is considering adopting the CWC into domestic law in order to protect its chemical industry and trade with international partners who are member countries.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** On April 16, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will announce details of its plan to implement the use of a geometric mean formula in some components of the CPI. As previously announced, this change will be introduced in February 1999 with the release of CPI data for January 1999.
- **Dislocated Workers:** On April 13, DOL will award \$7 million to the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) to assist 1,200 workers who have lost their jobs at more than 65 coal mines in OH, PA, and WV. UMWA will coordinate its activities with the relevant local Job Training Partnership Act Title III entities to provide the impacted workers with the most appropriate and useful array of services.
- **Summit of the Americas:** The week of March 29, DOL and State negotiated two items in the Plan of Action to be adopted at the Santiago Summit: strengthening of labor ministries and basic worker rights. These elements will be advanced through the work of Labor Ministers with assistance from the OAS, ILO, and IDB. In the trade area of the Plan of Action, USTR negotiated the establishment of a committee of government representatives to hear the views of civil society (which is defined to include labor) and provide input to the trade ministers in the negotiation of the FTAA. The Plan of Action that will emerge from the Santiago Summit will recognize the importance of labor issues and will begin to reverse the lack of attention given to these matters in the Miami Plan of Action.
- **White House Summit on Savings:** On June 4-5, you will host the 1998 National Summit on Retirement Income Savings. DOL's Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration (PWBA) is currently developing the program and shared the tentative agenda with the Congressional leadership. DOL is currently negotiating specifics such as proposed speakers and panelists. The leadership agreed to develop a list of speakers and panelists and expressed a strong interest in appearing with you and Vice President Gore at both the opening and closing sessions of the Summit.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Food Risk Assessment:** The week of April 13, FDA will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* requesting applications for grants to conduct research on risk assessment models for microbiological hazards in foods, as required by your Food Safety Initiative (FSI). Although the American food supply is among the safest in the world, the goal of the FSI is to further reduce the incidence of food borne disease to the greatest extent possible.
- **Breast Cancer Research:** On April 6, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) announced that preliminary data from the Breast Cancer Prevention Trial (BCPT), a clinical trial designed to see whether the drug tamoxifen prevents breast cancer in women who are at an increased risk of developing the disease, shows a 45 percent reduction in breast cancer incidence among the high-risk participants who took tamoxifen.
- **FDA Advisory Panels:**
 - ▶ The April 9 FDA advisory panel which was to consider a re-analysis of statistical data on the efficacy of Myotrophin for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, has been canceled. FDA continues to work with the drug's developer, Cephalon Chiron Partners, to complete its review.
 - ▶ On April 15-16, an FDA advisory panel will discuss the safety of FDA-regulated products regarding the risk of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), including "Mad Cow Disease." The panel will make recommendations on the safety of tallow derivatives used in pharmaceuticals and cosmetics and will continue discussions about gelatin safety.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Section 108 Loans:** On April 2, Secretary Cuomo announced \$1.2 million in Section 108 loan guarantees to Birmingham, AL, to assist the city in financing the construction of a restaurant that will create more than 30 jobs. Many of the jobs at the restaurant are expected to go to people with low and moderate incomes living in the area.
- **Homeownership Zone:** On April 6, Secretary Cuomo designated a one-half square mile area of Central/East Harlem as HUD's twelfth Homeownership Zone and awarded New York City a \$4.65 million grant. The action is expected to attract an additional \$42.7 million in investment.
- **Empowerment Zone Enhancement Act:** On April 1, Representative Rangel introduced The Empowerment Zone Enhancement Act of 1998. The bill will serve to amend Section 2007 of the Social Security Act to provide grant funding for twenty additional empowerment zones.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **TWA 800 Recommendations:** FAA agrees with the intent of the NTSB recommendations issued on April 7 regarding fuel tanks and has action underway on these recommendations. FAA has been working with Boeing on a service bulletin for the inspection of fuel quantity indication system wiring inside Boeing 747 fuel tanks and plans to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking later this spring which would require such inspections. FAA is preparing a Regulation that would require manufacturers to develop an FAA-approved fuel tank maintenance and inspection program based on the TWA 800 investigation.
- **Lockheed L-1011 Fuel Boost Pump Wiring:** The FAA issued an Emergency Airworthiness Directive for the Lockheed Model L-1011 to prohibit operation of the fuel pumps when fuel quantities are below certain levels, and to add a new maintenance procedure for operating the airplane with an inoperative fuel boost pump or with an inoperative flight station fuel quantity indicating system. This action is a precautionary action based on reports of internal electrical failures in the fuel pump assembly that could result in either electrical arcing or localized overheating.
- **McDonnell Douglas Fuel Leak:** The FAA issued an Emergency Airworthiness Directive for the McDonnell Douglas MD 11 and 11F series airplane. This action is a result of a hole discovered in the fuel feed pipe caused by electrical arcing between the pneumatic sense line heater tape and the fuel feed pipe.
- **Bus Accessibility Regulations:** On April 7, a federal district court in AZ heard oral arguments regarding the regulations required by the ADA on the accessibility of over-the-road-buses. Disability groups have asked the court to impose a May 30 deadline for the implementation of the final rule and to require DOT to amend the interim rule to prohibit the purchase or lease of non-accessible over-the-road-buses. The final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on March 25.
- **AL Emergency Relief (ER):** On March 20, AL's initial ER request for \$5 million was submitted. Detailed inspections of damages from the flooding which occurred March 6-13 now totals \$10.4 million. The total cost is still not known.
- **Union Pacific:** On April 1, FRA staff met in Houston, TX, with representatives of Union Pacific, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Kansas City Southern, Texas-Mexican, and the Texas Railroad Commission to discuss concerns regarding the Union Pacific's recent embargo on most exports to Mexico moving through Laredo, TX. UP indicated that it would take a few weeks to clear up their backlog of cars, but that other gateways were open for shippers. The other railroads expressed concern about the impact the embargo would have on relations with Mexico.

- **Air Traffic Control Language:** On March 30-31, a segment will run on the *CBS Evening News* on the use of the English language in Air Traffic Control, specifically about foreign pilots flying into the U.S. who often have limited understanding.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **International Petroleum Forum:** On April 22, Secretary Peña will keynote the International Petroleum Forum. He will focus on oil and gas activities and privatization in Latin America, as well as opportunities for U.S. companies in that region.
- **Honda Natural Gas Vehicle:** On April 8, in Columbus, OH, the 1998 Honda Civic GX, fueled entirely with natural gas, was released for fleet purchases and to the general public.
- **TN Valley Electric System:** On March 31, the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board will receive the final report on the TN Valley Electric System. The report was reviewed and approved by the TN Valley Electric System Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of SEA. The plenary session will discuss the recommendations and findings of the report.
- **Turkmenistan Bilateral:** On April 22, in a bilateral meeting with President Niyazov, Secretary Peña and Foreign Minister Shikhmuradov will sign a framework agreement to formalize energy bilaterals. The primary topic of discussion will be export options for Turkmenistan, specifically the development of a trans-Caspian pipeline route.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **School Violence Report:** On April 14, Secretary Riley will participate in the release of school crime data collected in 1995 as a supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey of U.S. households. The release will include comparisons with 1989, the last time such data was collected. The data is gathered through reports from the victims of school crime rather than through reports by school administrators.
- **21st Century Community Learning Centers:** On April 16, Secretary Riley will join Vice President Gore in a teleconference, produced in partnership with a number of national organizations, on creating quality after-school programs.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

- **Gulf War Management Information System (GWMIS):** On March 30, VA's Gulf War Expert Scientific Advisory Committee received a briefing on the GWMIS. The goal is a single, reliable data and information resource that allows VA to effectively identify and respond to demands for information specifically associated with Gulf War veterans.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA):** On April 8, Vice President Gore sent a memorandum to Administrator Browner and Secretary Glickman directing their agencies to conduct a public process on the implementation of the FQPA's new public health protections. EPA and USDA formed an advisory committee led by EPA Deputy Administrator Hansen and USDA Deputy Secretary Rominger. This action was spurred in part by concern expressed by Members of Congress over EPA's implementation of FQPA. EPA is still exploring options for safe regulation of organophosphates.

UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

- **Shrimp/Turtle Law:** On April 6, the U.S. received the final report of a WTO panel criticizing the U.S. "Shrimp/Turtle" law which prohibits imports of shrimp from countries that do not take adequate steps to prevent shrimp from being harvested in ways that harm endangered sea turtles. USTR has begun interagency discussions of options to ensure that U.S. laws protecting sea turtles remain strong and effective.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- **Heroin Action Plan:** The draft of the *National Heroin Action Plan* will be forwarded to Director McCaffrey this week, and will be available for formal interagency coordination following his approval. The anticipated public release of the Plan will be in late May.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- **MOU with SECOFI National Finance Bank of Mexico (NAFIN):** On April 20, Administrator Alvarez will travel to Mexico City to sign an MOU with SECOFI and NAFIN, to establish a program to promote the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in Mexico and the U.S., exchange technical and commercial information, and facilitate linkages between small- and medium-sized enterprises.
- **Climate Change:** SBA met with the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) to initiate a partnership to establish sustainable technology assistance programs in selected SBA field offices in rural areas. As part of the partnership, SEIA members will commit to provide jobs in support of SBA's welfare-to-work initiative.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

- **Welfare-to-Work:** On April 9, Director Lachance participated with the Vice President in an event that celebrated the one-year anniversary of Welfare-to-Work. One of the federal employees hired by OPM introduced the Vice President at this event.

- **Internet Resume Database (NSEP NET):** On April 8, Director Lachance unveiled an on line resume database that gives managers and human resource professionals in the national security operations access to resumes of NSEP undergraduate and graduate students. This will encourage students to work in the federal government's national security field and help agencies find more qualified candidates.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

- **Polling on Northern Ireland:** A USIA survey conducted March 20-22 found that by 45 to 25 percent, Britons favor the Irish government over the British government when asked who should play "a major role" in the affairs of Northern Ireland. Nearly three-quarters support the proposal to create a Council of the Isles which would include representatives of all governments in the region. The British public splits about evenly into optimists and pessimists on the current peace process. Few are confident that leading paramilitary organizations will permanently renounce violence. A large majority (69 percent) think it is not appropriate for the American government to be involved in the peace process, and many perceive an American bias in favor of the Irish Nationalists.
- **Bosnian Polling:** A recent survey in Bosnia finds that economic improvement remains a top policy priority for Bosnians, and except among Bosnian Muslims, it competes with public concern over nationality-based rights. Many hope that inter-ethnic commerce and economic improvement may eventually help unify the three nationalities. Bosnian Serbs remain the most negative about their financial situation and the most pessimistic about the future. While support for a market economy persists, Bosnian Croats and Serbs are less inclined now than in the past to say it is right for Bosnia.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

- **Washington, DC Historic Sites:** On April 9, GSA announced its selections of the developers of two downtown DC historic sites. Over \$40 million will be invested in the properties located in the heart of downtown Washington's most active new marketplace near the new MCI Center. Many of the buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The selections contribute to the preservation of the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic Site.
- **Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands:** On April 1-2, GSA joined a group of regional administrators and secretaries' representatives to visit with local officials in Puerto Rico. The focus of the trip was to discuss mutually beneficial initiatives that U.S. government agencies could undertake with Puerto Rican agencies. On April 3, the federal group met with U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Schneider to discuss similar federal strategies.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

- **1998 Annual Reports:** Under law, the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees submit annual reports on the operation and status of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. On April 28, the Board will meet to review and approve its annual reports.
- **Social Security Advisory Board:** On April 21, the Social Security Advisory Board will meet in Washington, DC. The Board's tentative agenda includes sessions with administrators from State Disability Determination Services and with representatives from the Office of the Inspector General.

cc:

The Vice President

Erskine Bowles

Paul Begala

Sandy Berger

Sidney Blumenthal

Maria Echaveste

Rahm Emanuel

Mickey Ibarra

Janis Kearney

Ron Klain

Neal Lane

Ann Lewis

Sylvia Mathews

Michael McCurry

Katie McGinty

Mack McLarty

John Podesta

Franklin Raines

Bruce Reed

Craig Smith

Doug Sosnik

Gene Sperling

Larry Stein

Melanne Verveer

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 23, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. *TM*
KRIS M. BALDERSTON

SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
April 17 - 23, 1999

AMPLIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

- **Agency Response to Columbine School Shooting:** Cabinet Affairs continues to convene daily conference calls with Treasury, Justice, Education, HHS, and FEMA, which are the primary agencies involved in responding to the recent school tragedy in Colorado. Agencies report that they remain in contact with their local, county, and state counterparts to respond to needs and requests. Each agency continues to work closely to provide necessary funding and technical assistance. Although the federal role has been limited to date, the long term needs may require an increase in both presence and resources. Secretary Herman was in Denver speaking to the Conference of Black Mayors on April 22. The Attorney General attended memorial ceremonies, met with first responders, children, local officials, and others involved. She also briefed CNN on her meetings on Thursday evening.

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

- **Littleton, CO Shooting:** On April 20, at the request of the local sheriff, BATF dispatched investigative teams to conduct bomb disposal and to assist the sheriff's office in mapping the crime scene following the attack on Columbine High School. ATF is also beginning to trace the explosive ordinance and will trace the firearms used in the attack. An ATF crisis counseling team was dispatched to provide support to victims, witnesses, and investigators.
- **G-33 Outreach Seminar:** On April 25, Deputy Secretary Summers and Federal Reserve Board Vice Chair Rivlin will co-host the second International Financial Architecture Seminar for 33 Finance and Central Bank Deputies. The agenda will focus on three of

the six broad architecture topics identified last October: prudential oversight in industrial countries; strengthening financial sectors in emerging markets; and minimizing the human cost of crises and policies to better protect the most vulnerable in society. Several international financial institutions, including the IMF, have been invited to observe.

- **G-7 Ministerial Meeting:** On April 26, Secretary Rubin will meet with G-7 counterparts and Central Bank Governors to discuss the world economic outlook, international financial architecture, and debt relief. A discussion with Russian officials on their economic situation will also take place. Special effort will be made to develop consensus around elements of your proposal to reform the international financial architecture.
- **Promotion of Public Savings:** On May 1, the Bureau of Public Debt will start selling the remaining two denominations of the Inflation-Indexed Savings Bond (I-Bonds). I-Bonds, which earn a guaranteed fixed return over inflation, offer all Americans a way to save that protects their investment by assuring a real return above inflation. Ceremonies will be held to commemorate their introduction and to honor Chief Joseph, who is depicted on the \$200 denomination I-Bond, and Sparks Matsunaga, who is depicted on the \$10,000 denomination I-Bond. This completes the introduction of the family of Series I-Bonds. Currently, more than 10 percent of the total sales of Savings Bonds is from I-Bonds.
- **New Markets Initiative:** Treasury continues to finalize legislation for the New Markets Tax Credit, America's Private Investment Corporations (APIC), and New Markets Venture Firms. Outreach to Congressional staffs, and public and business groups are ongoing. Treasury is working with the NEC to develop a proposal for you to visit low-income communities to focus on issues of poverty, highlight potential policy responses including the New Markets Initiative, and generate greater private sector investment in low-income communities.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **CO School Shooting:** On April 22, the Attorney General Reno met in Denver, CO with local law enforcement officials and workers assisting in the aftermath of the Columbine School shooting tragedy.
- **African American Farmer .Consent Decree:** On April 14, District Judge Paul L. Friedman approved the Consent Decree agreed upon by the parties to settle two class actions brought by African American farmers alleging that USDA failed to investigate or properly respond to discrimination complaints in USDA farm credit and non-credit benefit programs. The Consent Decree affords class members an opportunity to obtain relief for discrimination that they can prove they experienced. Class members who present substantial evidence of discrimination to recover \$50,000 plus forgiveness of

outstanding USDA debt related to discrimination. Those who establish by a preponderance of evidence that they experienced discrimination to recover actual damages as well as forgiveness of outstanding USDA debt related to discrimination.

- **Wilson Bridge Project Failure to Comply with Environmental Laws:** The City of Alexandria, VA, is challenging the proposed Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement. The court allowed several citizens groups to intervene as plaintiff-intervenors. The U.S. settled with the City but not with the plaintiff-intervenors. Last week, U.S. District Judge Sporkin granted a motion for summary judgment filed by citizen groups in Alexandria. The groups contend that DOT and others failed to comply with the Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the DOT Act. The court remanded the proceeding and ruled that "construction on the new bridge can not commence until the agency has fulfilled its responsibilities under these statutes." The court noted that for "the Project to be put on a real time basis might require direct intervention by the Congress, which after balancing all the public interest aspects could 'by pass' the regulatory gridlock that has developed."
- **Firearm Possession for Persons Convicted of a Domestic Violence Misdemeanor:** On April 16, the DC Circuit vacated its prior decision striking down in part as unconstitutional 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(9), which bars persons convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing a firearm. The Court now agrees with DOJ that the statute's failure to address felons hired as law enforcement officers did not render it irrational. The court stated that "on reflection it appears to us not unreasonable for Congress to believe that existing laws and practices adequately deal with the problem of issuance of official firearms to felons but not to domestic violence misdemeanants." The court rejected the other constitutional arguments raised by the Fraternal Order of the Police, including Tenth Amendment and Second Amendment claims.
- **Denver Youth Study Publication:** In early May, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will publish *Highlights of Findings From the Denver Youth Survey*. The Denver Youth Survey is one of three longitudinal studies supported by OJJDP since 1986 through its Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency. The primary goal of the study is to identify social conditions, personal characteristics, and developmental patterns linked to sustained involvement in delinquency and drug use.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

- **National Park Week:** April 19-25 is National Park Week. Its theme is "America's Parks, America's Treasures." With Earth Day falling on April 22 in the midst of National Park Week, 378 NPS areas will host numerous events for VIPs, dignitaries, and their communities.

- **Yellowstone Visitor Center:** Unilever Home and Personal Care, a worldwide manufacturer of consumer goods from Q-tips to Wisk, contributed \$1.25 million toward a new visitor center at Yellowstone National Park. The proposed center, expected to cost \$10 million, will overlook Old Faithful Geyser and feature a 300-seat theater, classrooms for visiting school groups, an exhibit hall with displays on the inner working of geysers and electronic readouts of predicted geyser eruption times. Unilever previously donated recycled plastic material to build new geyser basin boardwalks in Yellowstone. The company plans a new marketing campaign involving store coupons that when used will direct a share of the purchase price of Unilever products to Yellowstone.
- **"Save America's Treasures":** A list of 45 preservation projects, totaling \$30 million, goes for review to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees. The list recommends projects to receive FY99 grants from the Historic Preservation Fund. Among the latest grant nominees are: the Louis Armstrong House and archives; threatened artifacts of the Apollo Space Program; Pelican Island, America's first national wildlife refuge; and a project to preserve and restore American silent films. Each award requires a dollar-for-dollar non-federal match. States, localities, corporations, foundations and private citizens have already pledged to support the suggested projects through financial contributions, donations, and in-kind services.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **Council of Black Mayors:** On April 23, Secretary Glickman will address the Council of Black Mayors in Denver, CO, addressing his civil rights initiative and USDA's rural development and community assistance programs.
- **Kosovar Food Aid Needs:** On April 22, the USDA-chaired interagency food aid group will reconvene to revise estimates for food aid needs for Kosovar refugees, which preliminary USDA estimates put at 27,000 metric tons (MT) of wheat flour through FY99, with perhaps as much more as an additional 80,000 MT next year, both amounts in addition to the 83,000 MT, \$20 million food aid program USDA was supplying to the region prior to the present conflict.
- **Cotton Imports:** Last week, imports of foreign cotton under the step 3 quota program jumped by 25,000 bales over the previous week's level, continuing pressure on cotton prices. The step 3 program tries to keep domestic mills competitive, and has been in effect since USDA exhausted the farm bill's funding for the step 2 program, which also underwrites domestic millers' costs and helps facilitate the export of U.S. cotton. USDA expects that continuing imports, especially if they continue to trend upward, will increase Congressional and public interest in providing new funding for the step 2 program.

- **Pipeline Route:** On April 13, USDA's Lolo National forest (MT) team briefed members of the ID, MT, and WA congressional delegations, the governor of MT, and Yellowstone Pipeline Company officials on draft environmental impact statement on the company's proposed pipeline along interstate 90 from Missoula, MT to Kingston, ID. When publicly released for comment in June, USDA expects that the study will generate considerable regional controversy.
- **Commodity Markets:** Wheat cash and futures fell last week, on good conditions for the U.S. winter wheat crop, large supplies, and weak export demand. Corn prices were almost unchanged, as supportive news, including strong recent exports, was offset by weak domestic feed demand and competition. Soybean prices moved higher on reports of problems with crops in South America and a strong domestic crush report. Nearby rice futures strengthened on thoughts that deliverable supplies could be tight; cash prices held steady. Cotton prices slumped as export sales were sluggish and reports continued of sales of foreign cotton for import into the United States. Cattle prices moved slightly higher, following higher cutout values. Hog prices rose, as retailers began ordering for late-April featuring. Broiler prices fell slightly; slaughter continues to outpace 1998. Butter prices were up sharply, as some buyers scrambled to lock in supplies at current low prices. Cheese prices were unchanged.
- **Food Safety:** On May 5, USDA's National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspections will meet to evaluate strategies for better controlling campylobacter contamination, incidents of which have generated considerable public, media, and Congressional attention in recent weeks. The committee will also evaluate the policy of mandatory inspection of meat and poultry, as well as personnel qualifications of industry and government personnel involved in implementing USDA's new science-based inspections system, HACCP.
- **Clean Water Funding Announcement:** On April 22, in conjunction with Earth Day activities including planting one of the first of 700 trees the Forest Service is donating to DC for placement along the Anacostia River, Secretary Glickman announced that USDA will award \$155 million in loans and grants under its Water 2000 initiative, to bring clean, safe water systems to rural communities.
- **Loan Repayment Rules:** On April 23, USDA will begin allowing borrowers with shared appreciated agreements that expire before December 31, 2000 to suspend for up to three years their obligation to pay the recapture, thus permitting farmers suffering from low commodity prices a way to alleviate their cash flow problems.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **EU Vice President:** On April 20, Secretary Daley met in Washington with EU Vice President Leon Brittan to discuss China's accession into the WTO, hushkits, International Labor Organization standards in the WTO, the role of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue in the U.S.-EU June Summit, and WTO sectoral liberalization.
- **Andean Trade Ministers:** On April 19, Secretary Daley met with five Trade Ministers of the Andean Community in Washington, DC to seek a permanent extension of the Andean Trade Preference Act before it expires in 2001. The Andean Community fears being disadvantaged by the pending passage of Caribbean Basin Initiative parity legislation.
- **Phone Call with Canadians:** On April 15, Secretary Daley called Canadian Trade Minister Manley to raise U.S. concerns with Canada's failure to implement the patent term provisions of the WTO Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement. U.S. pharmaceutical companies have approached the government regarding this situation as the patent terms of some commercially important products will begin expiring by August.
- **Census 2000:** On April 14, the House approved legislation to require a 45-day local review of preliminary housing unit counts as part of the 2000 census. Lawmakers passed the bill after rejecting an alternative proposal to give the Census Bureau more flexibility in providing opportunities for local officials to review address lists and census maps. In a press statement, Secretary Daley recommended a veto and said the bill would "disrupt census operations by allowing 39,000 local governments to contest counts within their jurisdictions long after April 1, 2000."
- **Korea:** The Government of Korea has accepted U.S.-proposed changes to the intellectual property rights annex of the U.S.-Korea Science and Technology Agreement. After the text of the proposal is drafted in both languages, the agreement will be ready for signature.
- **General Electric Engines for the Singapore Apaches:** The Bureau of Export Administration (BXA) has supported General Electric (GE) in negotiations with the Singapore government so that the Apache Helicopters recently sold to Singapore will use GE engines instead of those built by Rolls Royce of England. The engine sale is worth \$40-80 million, depending on which options Singapore exercises. Singapore must decide by late June which engines it intends to purchase.

- **Encryption:** On April 14, Senator McCain introduced the "Promote Reliable On-Line Transactions to Encourage Commerce and Trade (PROTECT) Act of 1999." The bill would allow the export of encryption with key lengths up to 64 bits, and the export of non-defense encryption above 64 bits to "legitimate and responsible entities or organizations and their strategic partners" or governments that are members of NATO, ASEAN, or OECD.
- **Albania's Accession to the WTO:** Albania has made significant progress in preparing for its WTO accession with negotiations scheduled to be completed this year. An information working group meeting has been scheduled for the end of April to review its progress in bilateral market access negotiations.
- **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC):** On April 13, a National Security Council meeting concluded that DOC will be the lead agency during CWC inspections. DOC will also determine the composition of the inspection teams and be responsible for making on-site decisions regarding what will be revealed to international inspectors.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- **Unum Life Insurance Co. v. War:** On April 20, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld a state law protecting the rights of individuals covered by employee benefit plans and decided that a CA insurance law doctrine favoring employees is protected from ERISA preemption. The CA doctrine, called the "notice-prejudice rule," provides that claims filed late will not be dismissed by the insurer unless they prejudice the insurer's ability to determine whether the claim should be paid. The Court distinguished this law from state laws allowing compensation for bad faith denial of claims which was found to be preempted, or wiped out, in ERISA cases by the Supreme Court in 1987. DOL's *amicus* brief argued that the CA law should be upheld and that the 1987 case should be reconsidered. The decision is helpful because it protects the application of state laws protecting employees in plans covered by insurance. However, tens of millions of workers are covered by plans which are not backed by insurance policies; and legislation is needed to provide patient protections to that population.
- **Worker Memorial Day:** OSHA is organizing an April 28 event highlighting workplace safety and health. The proposed event will recognize workplace heroes including the Atlanta crane operator and the two workers who rescued him from above a burning building on April 12. OSHA also hopes to announce strengthened whistleblower protections for workers who want to improve job safety and health and have the courage to speak out hazards in their own workplaces.
- **Newport News Shipbuilding:** The strike by United Steelworkers Union against Newport News Shipbuilding and Repair entered its third week on April 19 with little

progress and no indication of a settlement. Monetary differences on pay, pensions and healthcare benefits led to the March 30 breakdown in negotiations. This week, more than 600 Local 8888 members traveled to Washington, D.C. for a rally at the West Front of the Capitol and for visits with the VA congressional delegation, the House National Security Committee, the Senate Armed Service Committee, and both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

- **American Airlines:** U.S. District Judge Joe Kendall levied a \$45.5 million fine against the Allied Pilots Association to compensate American Airlines for losses incurred when the union called a sickout in February protesting the pace of negotiations over work rules and pay levels for new pilots integrated into the American system following the acquisition of Reno Airlines. APA President Rich LaVoy said the union would appeal the decision. The dispute over the integration of Reno pilots, which the union claims should be retroactive to the merger in December, 1998, remains unresolved. Talks have continued since March with the assistance of a federal mediator. Agreements over the integration issue were reached with the Association of Professional Flight Attendants on Transport Workers Union on April 8 and 9 respectively.
- **Youth Offender Grants:** On May 3, Secretary Herman plans to announce the award of 14, Youth Offender Demonstration Project grants totaling \$12,147,000 in an event with Senator Specter at the Youth Study Center in Philadelphia, PA. These grants will provide services for youth who are or have been under criminal justice supervision or involved in gangs, as well as out-of-school youth in communities with high poverty and unemployment.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **CO High School Shooting:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) has been in contact with the Colorado State Disaster Mental Health Program Coordinator to offer technical assistance if requested. The State has requested that HHS hold off on any action to provide crisis counselors so as to not overburden them with too many mental health professionals. SAMHSA has also been coordinating with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As part of the occupational health program at HRSA, there is a nationwide network of specialized professionals who have been trained and utilized in crisis response situations. HRSA is ready to support the state should they request assistance in mental health crisis management. CDC's Nation Center for Injury Prevention and Control continues to work with SAMHSA on various violence-prevention activities. In September 1998 through an ongoing collaboration with DOJ, CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control provided \$894,000 to DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs for the purpose of awarding these funds to the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado. These funds are being

used to provide technical assistance and information to schools and organizations to implement the school-based violence prevention activity known as "Blueprints for Violence Prevention Programs." CDC's objective, through these funds, is to help schools select and implement effective violence prevention programs, disseminate information about these programs, and support technical assistance to schools that want to start school-based violence prevention activities.

- **Tobacco Rule:** On April 23, the Supreme Court is expected to decide whether to hear the appeal of the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over tobacco products and the Tobacco Regulations. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids held a press briefing on April 22 to clarify the issues in the court case.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **National Homeownership Rate:** On April 21, Secretary Cuomo announced that America's homeownership rate rose to 66.7 percent for the first quarter of 1999, including a record number of African American and Hispanic families. New Census Bureau statistics showed that the homeownership rate – the percentage of families owning their homes – rose three-tenths of a percentage point in the first quarter of this year, up from 66.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 1998.
- **First Inspections of Public Housing Authorities:** On April 21, Secretary Cuomo announced that the first comprehensive physical inspections of public housing around the nation gave 87 percent of 750 housing authorities good or excellent ratings. A companion HUD survey of public housing residents found that 75 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with their housing units. The survey found that 64 percent of residents would recommend their public housing developments to a relative or friend, and also said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their developments and their neighborhoods.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Summit Airspace Restrictions:** During the 50th Anniversary NATO Summit, DOT will temporarily expand airspace restrictions and enhance airport security in the Washington, DC area to provide an extra margin of safety and security.
- **Kosovo Response Planning:** The Maritime Administration (MARAD) sent to the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center (EADRCC) lists of passenger/car ferries, break bulk, and RO/RO vessels operating recently in the Italian/Albanian Adriatic corridor to assist in NATO response planning for Kosovo. In addition, DOT is providing support on a 24-hour basis to the EADRCC at NATO Headquarters with coordinating NATO civil humanitarian relief efforts in the Balkan Region, and to the Allied Movements Coordination Center with coordinating military movements in support of

operations in Kosovo. A number of NATO civil experts from the shipping industry have been contacted for advice and assistance. MARAD set up a 24-hour alert response network of Planning Board on Ocean Shipping (PBOS) members and civil shipping experts to assist the NATO military and civil authorities as needs arise.

- **Decision on Conformity:** On April 16, EPA, DOJ, and DOT jointly decided not to appeal a DC Circuit Court of Appeals decision which invalidated several EPA regulations implementing the transportation conformity requirements of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990. The decision not to appeal was made despite an April 14 letter to Administrator Browner from Representatives Shuster, Petri, and Rahall urging the Administration to appeal the decision. DOT and EPA will issue interim guidance on how states will be able to advance transportation projects in light of the decision. In the long-term, EPA must modify its conformity regulations to conform with the Court's decision.
- **Environmental Studies for Woodrow Wilson Bridge:** A federal judge found that the FHWA failed to give adequate consideration to alternatives to the proposed 12-lane drawbridge spanning the Potomac River, as noted in the DOJ Weekly Report.
- **Smoking on International Flights:** DOT is revising its web site and issuing a press release on the status of smoking on international airline flights to reflect that 97 percent of all flights to and from the U.S. are smoke-free. Smoking is prohibited on all domestic flights and DOT continues to work toward its goal of smoke-free travel in all public transportation.
- **AR Repeat Offender Bill:** On April 5, AR Governor Huckabee signed repeat drunk driving offender legislation into law. On March 30, the AR House of Representatives approved the repeat offender legislation previously passed the Senate.
- **Managing Diversity:** DOT is viewed as the "Best in Government" by the National Performance Review (NPR) Task Force on Diversity. DOT's Diversity Advocate has been asked to serve as a consultant to the NPR Task Force.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **"Green Power for Green LA":** On May 13, Secretary Richardson is scheduled to participate in the launch of the "Green Power for Green LA" program in Los Angeles to provide customers of LADWP, the nation's largest municipal utility, the opportunity to purchase electricity from green power suppliers, install renewable energy systems in homes and buildings, and improve the environment and air quality.
- **ENERGY STAR:** EPA and DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy have published the *ENERGY STAR Purchasing Tool Kit*, a comprehensive resource to

promote the purchasing of high efficiency equipment. The tool kit includes ENERGY STAR specifications and Federal Energy Management Program guidelines for use by state and local governments and other entities to include in their procurements. The kit also provides references to valuable resources for energy efficiency data and a communications guide. The kit is being distributed to Rebuild America partners and State Energy Offices and will be available on the web next month

- **OR Fiber Optic Line:** OR's Bonneville Power Administration will begin construction in early May on a 120-mile fiber optic line along existing rights of way that will connect southern OR coastal communities. Bringing fiber optic technology to rural areas will also connect a Pacific fiber optic cable to China to the fiber optic backbone that runs through the Willamette Valley. Bonneville and a telecommunications firm signed the \$20 million agreement April 5. The telecommunications firm will pay for the cost of the project. Bonneville will retain ownership of the line, which upgrades its communications and control system, and has set aside 25 percent of the fibers for public benefits. The line is expected to be operating by September 15.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **National Youth Violence and School Safety Summit:** On May 3, Bill Modzeleski is participating in a panel being moderated by the OH Attorney General Betty Montgomery in Jackson, MS.
- **CO School Shootings:** On April 21, Secretary Riley issued a press release regarding the Columbine High School shootings. The release expresses sympathy for the students and families, urges gun owners to lock up their guns, encourages parents to slow down their lives and listen to their children, cautions against looking for an easy answer, and highlights DOEd's efforts to prevent such incidents. Secretary Riley has also been in contact with Jefferson County School Superintendent Jane Hammond to offer assistance as other DOEd senior officials work with state and county officials.
- **ESEA Reauthorization Transmittal:** DOEd is preparing legislation for reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for transmittal to Congress on April 29. DOEd staff continues to work through several outstanding policy issues.
- **Final Version of Ed-Flex:** The final version of the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (Ed-Flex) does not include Senate language that would have permitted the use of class-size reduction funds for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) expenses. The legislation contains a provision that revises the IDEA to change the phrase "carrying a weapon to school" to "possessing a weapon in school." DOEd does not consider the change significant, but Hill Democrats have objected to reopening IDEA for any reason.

- **NH School Funding:** The NH legislature's failure to pass a school funding plan that complies with Claremont continues to create numerous problems. Teachers are being notified they cannot be offered a contract for next year and that their health benefits will end on June 30. Parents of children with disabilities are facing an April 30 deadline by which customized, Individualized Education Plan contracts must be signed. If services lapse, the state could be held in contempt for failing its obligations under a consent decree. Local school districts may have to cover the costs of unemployment benefits for secretaries, maintenance, custodial workers, and teachers. If the Legislature does not come up with a constitutional tax plan to fund education within the next few weeks, cities and towns will send out property tax bills that carry no school funding tax.
- **Challenge to 1969 Swann Ruling:** On April 19, a trial began in Charlotte, NC that challenges school desegregation policies established 30 years ago in Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education. The 1969 decision, upheld by the Supreme Court two years later, allowed schools to bus students in order to eliminate segregated schools. A U.S. District Judge decided to revisit the Swann ruling after a Charlotte parent filed a suit alleging that his daughter -- classified by a newspaper article as half Anglo and half Hispanic -- was refused admission to a magnet school because she is non-black.
- **FY95 Federal Education Funds:** In May, DOEd plans to release "The Distribution of Federal Education Funds in FY1995," a preliminary report on the distribution of DOEd funds among school districts and other agencies by type of agency, grant size, economic status of the area, and the area's classification as urban or rural. The findings include the percentage of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities funds used for school security, and the percentage of program funds spent on individual schools and administrative costs, which may be relevant to the Dollars to the Classroom Act proposed by Republicans.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

- **Spinal Cord Injury Course:** An independent study course on Spinal Cord Injury has been designed and produced for all VA physicians. Available for continuing education credit for physicians, the course has been distributed in print form to all VA medical centers and is available on the Internet.
- **Gulf War Veterans:** On April 15, VA's treatment trials for Gulf War veterans, particularly an antibiotic treatment study, received considerable attention after the *Associated Press* picked up a story on the research in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Additional stories appeared that day on *Fox News Channel*, *CNN*, *First Business* (syndicated report), and *Bloomberg Information TV*.

- **VA Medical Centers:** On April 14, *CNN* reported on the issue of VA halting research at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center because of questions about administrative procedures. *CNN* also reported that three more VA medical centers, in Philadelphia, Tampa, and Cincinnati, were being investigated by the National Institutes of Health.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **Livability Agenda:** This week, Administrator Browner continued outreach efforts to discuss the Administration's Livability Agenda. On April 19, Administrator Browner spoke at the Urban Land Institute Smart Growth Conference in Chicago, IL. She also met with Mayor Daley and 50 business, industry, land trust and environmental representatives, as well as state and local officials, to discuss Better America Bonds. From May 2-4, Administrator Browner will participate in the National Town Meeting for Sustainable America, in Detroit, MI. During plenary sessions at the conference, the Administrator will discuss Administration efforts to protect public health and the environment, while revitalizing economies and improving the quality of life for all Americans. On May 3, Administrator Browner and Secretary Slater will co-moderate a luncheon panel, entitled Healthy Communities-Healthy Economies, where they will discuss the Livability Agenda.
- **Visibility at National Parks and Wilderness Areas:** On April 22, the Vice President and Administrator Browner announced a new rule that will help millions of Americans better enjoy national parks and wilderness areas. This rule will reduce the haze caused by air pollution and improve visibility and air quality at more than 150 national parks and wilderness areas, such as the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Mount Ranier, Shenandoah, the Smokey Mountains and Acadia. Over the last several decades, haze has reduced visibility in our national parks by as much as 75 percent in the West and 85 percent in the East. The rule requires states to work with the public to develop haze-reduction plans, but provides the flexibility to find the most cost effective ways to reduce the pollution.
- **Beach Action Plan:** This week, EPA will officially announce the release of its Action Plan for Beaches and Recreational Waters. This Beach Action Plan seeks to reduce risks of infection to recreational water users through improved water quality and risk communication programs with two primary objectives: enabling consistent management of recreational water quality programs and improving the science that supports recreational water monitoring programs. This is a key action item under the your Clean Water Action Plan, announced in February 1998, to restore and protect America's waterways.

UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

- **Trip to Houston:** On April 26, Ambassador Barshefsky will travel to Houston to deliver an address on the Administration's Africa trade policy to the Corporate Council on Africa. While in Houston, she will also meet with several of her counterparts from Africa, conduct a roundtable discussion with Houston community leaders at Rice University's Baker Institute, and conduct an interview with the *Houston Chronicle*.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- **Meeting with Speaker Hastert:** On April 28, Director McCaffrey will meet with Speaker Hastert. The Director will update the Speaker on the *National Drug Control Strategy* and recent developments in drug control issues.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

- **Allied Support for Air Strikes:** Recent polls show public support for NATO action in allied countries is consolidating. Majorities in "traditional" NATO publics supported the air strikes, while those in recent NATO entrants were more tentative. However, support for newly gained NATO membership has held steady and even increased in Poland and Hungary. While there also seems to be a growing belief in many countries that ground troops will be required to resolve the situation, most would prefer a political resolution. Some outside Europe also back NATO's action, notably Australia and Israel.
- **Criticism of Operation Allied Force:** Media in NATO capitals and abroad increased their criticism, charging that "air strikes have not borne the expected results" and blaming "political miscalculations" for the Alliance's inability to achieve its objectives. Among the errors cited was the fact that NATO "showed its cards" by ruling out ground forces and was not prepared for a "protracted mission." Media in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, and Hungary voiced concern that "the strategy adopted by NATO has no convincing and plausible goals" and some advocates for ground deployments worried that "political support for ground action seems to be dwindling, primarily because NATO still has not come up with a clear and uniform political strategy."
- **Russian Opinion:** Only a plurality of Russians (43 percent) feel that their media are depicting the situation in Yugoslavia objectively. The remainder are either unsure (23 percent) or say coverage is unobjective. Favorable opinion of the U.S. has dropped precipitously since late December 1998: from 67 percent feeling "very" or "basically positive" to 38 percent in late March to 34 percent by April 12. Two-thirds (63 percent) believe that the U.S. and NATO are involved to put their own forces into Kosovo and establish military bases there.

- **Japanese Views of U.S.:** Prime Minister Obuchi's upcoming visit to Washington will highlight Japan's role as a key partner for the U.S. in the next century. Results from USIA's mid-March survey show that the Japanese see American and Japanese policies in agreement in several basic policy areas, including the environment, democracy and security. Large majorities of Japanese have a favorable opinion of the U.S. (77 percent), think bilateral relations are in good shape (69 percent), and have regained confidence in U.S. leadership (64 percent, up from only half last November). Eight-in-ten expect the U.S. will still be Japan's closest security partner in 5-10 years, and half think it will remain Japan's closest economic partner (23 percent pick China).

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

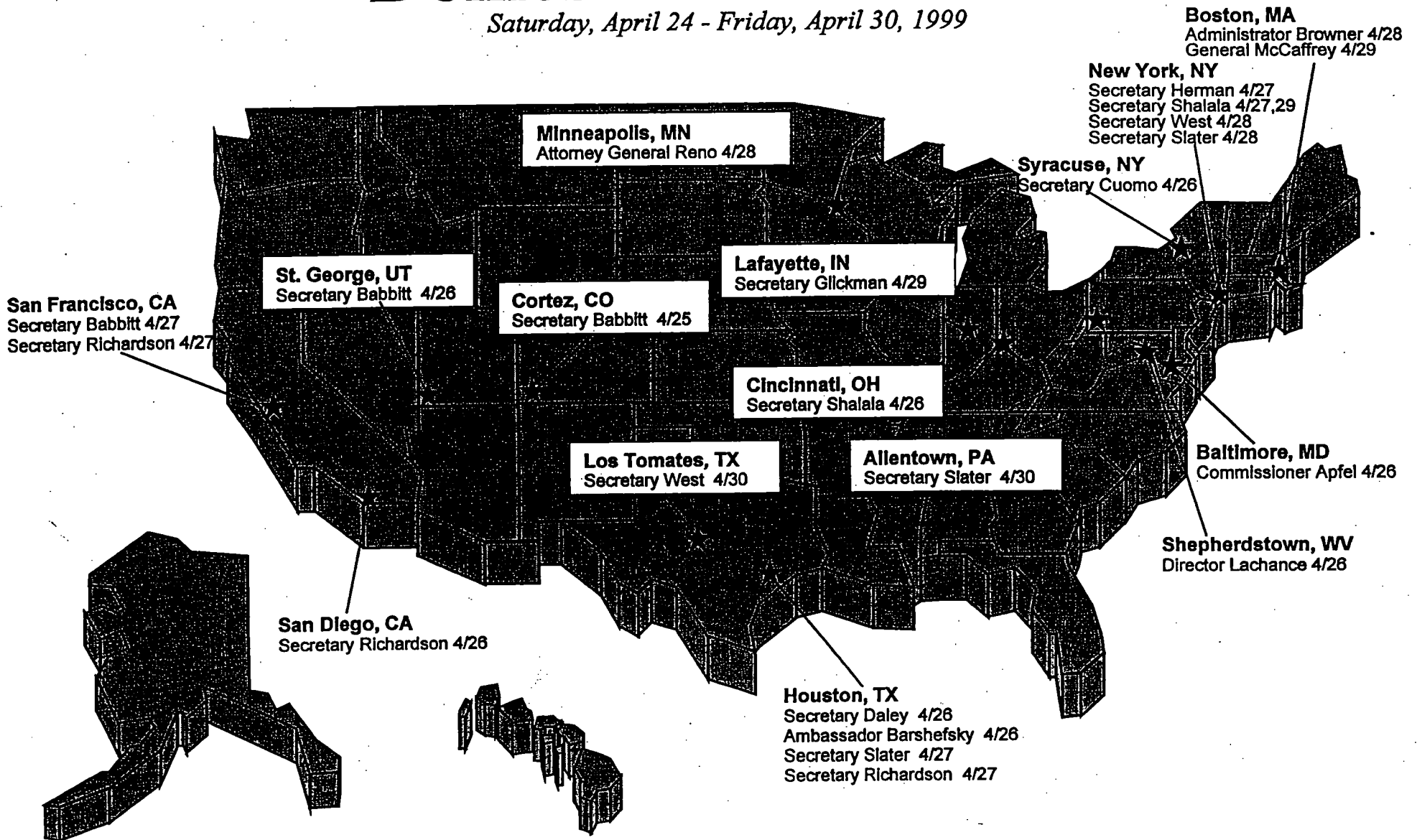
- **National Anti-Fraud Conference:** On May 4-6, SSA will host its 1999 National Anti-Fraud Conference in Baltimore, MD. Commissioner Apfel will open the conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Zero Tolerance for Fraud – Advancing the Fight." The event will bring together SSA employees from the field and Headquarters who share the common goal of enhancing public confidence in SSA's programs and operations. Over 300 employees are expected to participate.

cc:

The Vice President
 John Podesta
 Sandy Berger
 Sidney Blumenthal
 Mary Beth Cahill
 Maria Echaveste
 George Frampton
 Mickey Ibarra
 Ben Johnson
 Janis Kearney
 Ron Klain
 Neal Lane
 Jack Lew
 Ann Lewis
 Joe Lockhart
 Minyon Moore
 Bruce Reed
 Steve Ricchetti
 Doug Sosnik
 Gene Sperling
 Larry Stein
 Loretta Ucelli
 Melanne Verveer

Domestic Cabinet Travel

Saturday, April 24 - Friday, April 30, 1999



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 23, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. **TM**
KRIS M. BALDERSTON

SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
April 17 - 23, 1999

AMPLIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

- **Agency Response to Columbine School Shooting:** Cabinet Affairs continues to convene daily conference calls with Treasury, Justice, Education, HHS, and FEMA, which are the primary agencies involved in responding to the recent school tragedy in Colorado. Agencies report that they remain in contact with their local, county, and state counterparts to respond to needs and requests. Each agency continues to work closely to provide necessary funding and technical assistance. Although the federal role has been limited to date, the long term needs may require an increase in both presence and resources. Secretary Herman was in Denver speaking to the Conference of Black Mayors on April 22. The Attorney General attended memorial ceremonies, met with first responders, children, local officials, and others involved. She also briefed *CNN* on her meetings on Thursday evening.

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

- **Littleton, CO Shooting:** On April 20, at the request of the local sheriff, BATF dispatched investigative teams to conduct bomb disposal and to assist the sheriff's office in mapping the crime scene following the attack on Columbine High School. ATF is also beginning to trace the explosive ordinance and will trace the firearms used in the attack. An ATF crisis counseling team was dispatched to provide support to victims, witnesses, and investigators.
- **G-33 Outreach Seminar:** On April 25, Deputy Secretary Summers and Federal Reserve Board Vice Chair Rivlin will co-host the second International Financial Architecture Seminar for 33 Finance and Central Bank Deputies. The agenda will focus on three of

the six broad architecture topics identified last October: prudential oversight in industrial countries; strengthening financial sectors in emerging markets; and minimizing the human cost of crises and policies to better protect the most vulnerable in society. Several international financial institutions, including the IMF, have been invited to observe.

- **G-7 Ministerial Meeting:** On April 26, Secretary Rubin will meet with G-7 counterparts and Central Bank Governors to discuss the world economic outlook, international financial architecture, and debt relief. A discussion with Russian officials on their economic situation will also take place. Special effort will be made to develop consensus around elements of your proposal to reform the international financial architecture.
- **Promotion of Public Savings:** On May 1, the Bureau of Public Debt will start selling the remaining two denominations of the Inflation-Indexed Savings Bond (I-Bonds). I-Bonds, which earn a guaranteed fixed return over inflation, offer all Americans a way to save that protects their investment by assuring a real return above inflation. Ceremonies will be held to commemorate their introduction and to honor Chief Joseph, who is depicted on the \$200 denomination I-Bond, and Sparks Matsunaga, who is depicted on the \$10,000 denomination I-Bond. This completes the introduction of the family of Series I-Bonds. Currently, more than 10 percent of the total sales of Savings Bonds is from I-Bonds.
- **New Markets Initiative:** Treasury continues to finalize legislation for the New Markets Tax Credit, America's Private Investment Corporations (APIC), and New Markets Venture Firms. Outreach to Congressional staffs, and public and business groups are ongoing. Treasury is working with the NEC to develop a proposal for you to visit low-income communities to focus on issues of poverty, highlight potential policy responses including the New Markets Initiative, and generate greater private sector investment in low-income communities.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **CO School Shooting:** On April 22, the Attorney General Reno met in Denver, CO with local law enforcement officials and workers assisting in the aftermath of the Columbine School shooting tragedy.
- **African American Farmer .Consent Decree:** On April 14, District Judge Paul L. Friedman approved the Consent Decree agreed upon by the parties to settle two class actions brought by African American farmers alleging that USDA failed to investigate or properly respond to discrimination complaints in USDA farm credit and non-credit benefit programs. The Consent Decree affords class members an opportunity to obtain relief for discrimination that they can prove they experienced. Class members who present substantial evidence of discrimination to recover \$50,000 plus forgiveness of

outstanding USDA debt related to discrimination. Those who establish by a preponderance of evidence that they experienced discrimination to recover actual damages as well as forgiveness of outstanding USDA debt related to discrimination.

- **Wilson Bridge Project Failure to Comply with Environmental Laws:** The City of Alexandria, VA, is challenging the proposed Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement. The court allowed several citizens groups to intervene as plaintiff-intervenors. The U.S. settled with the City but not with the plaintiff-intervenors. Last week, U.S. District Judge Sporkin granted a motion for summary judgment filed by citizen groups in Alexandria. The groups contend that DOT and others failed to comply with the Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the DOT Act. The court remanded the proceeding and ruled that "construction on the new bridge can not commence until the agency has fulfilled its responsibilities under these statutes." The court noted that for "the Project to be put on a real time basis might require direct intervention by the Congress, which after balancing all the public interest aspects could 'by pass' the regulatory gridlock that has developed."
- **Firearm Possession for Persons Convicted of a Domestic Violence Misdemeanor:** On April 16, the DC Circuit vacated its prior decision striking down in part as unconstitutional 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(9), which bars persons convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing a firearm. The Court now agrees with DOJ that the statute's failure to address felons hired as law enforcement officers did not render it irrational. The court stated that "on reflection it appears to us not unreasonable for Congress to believe that existing laws and practices adequately deal with the problem of issuance of official firearms to felons but not to domestic violence misdemeanants." The court rejected the other constitutional arguments raised by the Fraternal Order of the Police, including Tenth Amendment and Second Amendment claims.
- **Denver Youth Study Publication:** In early May, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will publish *Highlights of Findings From the Denver Youth Survey*. The Denver Youth Survey is one of three longitudinal studies supported by OJJDP since 1986 through its Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency. The primary goal of the study is to identify social conditions, personal characteristics, and developmental patterns linked to sustained involvement in delinquency and drug use.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

- **National Park Week:** April 19-25 is National Park Week. Its theme is "America's Parks, America's Treasures." With Earth Day falling on April 22 in the midst of National Park Week, 378 NPS areas will host numerous events for VIPs, dignitaries, and their communities.

- **Yellowstone Visitor Center:** Unilever Home and Personal Care, a worldwide manufacturer of consumer goods from Q-tips to Wisk, contributed \$1.25 million toward a new visitor center at Yellowstone National Park. The proposed center, expected to cost \$10 million, will overlook Old Faithful Geyser and feature a 300-seat theater, classrooms for visiting school groups, an exhibit hall with displays on the inner working of geysers and electronic readouts of predicted geyser eruption times. Unilever previously donated recycled plastic material to build new geyser basin boardwalks in Yellowstone. The company plans a new marketing campaign involving store coupons that when used will direct a share of the purchase price of Unilever products to Yellowstone.
- **"Save America's Treasures":** A list of 45 preservation projects, totaling \$30 million, goes for review to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees. The list recommends projects to receive FY99 grants from the Historic Preservation Fund. Among the latest grant nominees are: the Louis Armstrong House and archives; threatened artifacts of the Apollo Space Program; Pelican Island, America's first national wildlife refuge; and a project to preserve and restore American silent films. Each award requires a dollar-for-dollar non-federal match. States, localities, corporations, foundations and private citizens have already pledged to support the suggested projects through financial contributions, donations, and in-kind services.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **Council of Black Mayors:** On April 23, Secretary Glickman will address the Council of Black Mayors in Denver, CO, addressing his civil rights initiative and USDA's rural development and community assistance programs.
- **Kosovar Food Aid Needs:** On April 22, the USDA-chaired interagency food aid group will reconvene to revise estimates for food aid needs for Kosovar refugees, which preliminary USDA estimates put at 27,000 metric tons (MT) of wheat flour through FY99, with perhaps as much more as an additional 80,000 MT next year, both amounts in addition to the 83,000 MT, \$20 million food aid program USDA was supplying to the region prior to the present conflict.
- **Cotton Imports:** Last week, imports of foreign cotton under the step 3 quota program jumped by 25,000 bales over the previous week's level, continuing pressure on cotton prices. The step 3 program tries to keep domestic mills competitive, and has been in effect since USDA exhausted the farm bill's funding for the step 2 program, which also underwrites domestic millers' costs and helps facilitate the export of U.S. cotton. USDA expects that continuing imports, especially if they continue to trend upward, will increase Congressional and public interest in providing new funding for the step 2 program.

- **Pipeline Route:** On April 13, USDA's Lolo National forest (MT) team briefed members of the ID, MT, and WA congressional delegations, the governor of MT, and Yellowstone Pipeline Company officials on draft environmental impact statement on the company's proposed pipeline along interstate 90 from Missoula, MT to Kingston, ID. When publicly released for comment in June, USDA expects that the study will generate considerable regional controversy.
- **Commodity Markets:** Wheat cash and futures fell last week, on good conditions for the U.S. winter wheat crop, large supplies, and weak export demand. Corn prices were almost unchanged, as supportive news, including strong recent exports, was offset by weak domestic feed demand and competition. Soybean prices moved higher on reports of problems with crops in South America and a strong domestic crush report. Nearby rice futures strengthened on thoughts that deliverable supplies could be tight; cash prices held steady. Cotton prices slumped as export sales were sluggish and reports continued of sales of foreign cotton for import into the United States. Cattle prices moved slightly higher, following higher cutout values. Hog prices rose, as retailers began ordering for late-April featuring. Broiler prices fell slightly; slaughter continues to outpace 1998. Butter prices were up sharply, as some buyers scrambled to lock in supplies at current low prices. Cheese prices were unchanged.
- **Food Safety:** On May 5, USDA's National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspections will meet to evaluate strategies for better controlling campylobacter contamination, incidents of which have generated considerable public, media, and Congressional attention in recent weeks. The committee will also evaluate the policy of mandatory inspection of meat and poultry, as well as personnel qualifications of industry and government personnel involved in implementing USDA's new science-based inspections system, HACCP.
- **Clean Water Funding Announcement:** On April 22, in conjunction with Earth Day activities including planting one of the first of 700 trees the Forest Service is donating to DC for placement along the Anacostia River, Secretary Glickman announced that USDA will award \$155 million in loans and grants under its Water 2000 initiative, to bring clean, safe water systems to rural communities.
- **Loan Repayment Rules:** On April 23, USDA will begin allowing borrowers with shared appreciated agreements that expire before December 31, 2000 to suspend for up to three years their obligation to pay the recapture, thus permitting farmers suffering from low commodity prices a way to alleviate their cash flow problems.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **EU Vice President:** On April 20, Secretary Daley met in Washington with EU Vice President Leon Brittan to discuss China's accession into the WTO, hushkits, International Labor Organization standards in the WTO, the role of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue in the U.S.-EU June Summit, and WTO sectoral liberalization.
- **Andean Trade Ministers:** On April 19, Secretary Daley met with five Trade Ministers of the Andean Community in Washington, DC to seek a permanent extension of the Andean Trade Preference Act before it expires in 2001. The Andean Community fears being disadvantaged by the pending passage of Caribbean Basin Initiative parity legislation.
- **Phone Call with Canadians:** On April 15, Secretary Daley called Canadian Trade Minister Manley to raise U.S. concerns with Canada's failure to implement the patent term provisions of the WTO Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement. U.S. pharmaceutical companies have approached the government regarding this situation as the patent terms of some commercially important products will begin expiring by August.
- **Census 2000:** On April 14, the House approved legislation to require a 45-day local review of preliminary housing unit counts as part of the 2000 census. Lawmakers passed the bill after rejecting an alternative proposal to give the Census Bureau more flexibility in providing opportunities for local officials to review address lists and census maps. In a press statement, Secretary Daley recommended a veto and said the bill would "disrupt census operations by allowing 39,000 local governments to contest counts within their jurisdictions long after April 1, 2000."
- **Korea:** The Government of Korea has accepted U.S.-proposed changes to the intellectual property rights annex of the U.S.-Korea Science and Technology Agreement. After the text of the proposal is drafted in both languages, the agreement will be ready for signature.
- **General Electric Engines for the Singapore Apaches:** The Bureau of Export Administration (BXA) has supported General Electric (GE) in negotiations with the Singapore government so that the Apache Helicopters recently sold to Singapore will use GE engines instead of those built by Rolls Royce of England. The engine sale is worth \$40-80 million, depending on which options Singapore exercises. Singapore must decide by late June which engines it intends to purchase.

- **Encryption:** On April 14, Senator McCain introduced the "Promote Reliable On-Line Transactions to Encourage Commerce and Trade (PROTECT) Act of 1999." The bill would allow the export of encryption with key lengths up to 64 bits, and the export of non-defense encryption above 64 bits to "legitimate and responsible entities or organizations and their strategic partners" or governments that are members of NATO, ASEAN, or OECD.
- **Albania's Accession to the WTO:** Albania has made significant progress in preparing for its WTO accession with negotiations scheduled to be completed this year. An information working group meeting has been scheduled for the end of April to review its progress in bilateral market access negotiations.
- **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC):** On April 13, a National Security Council meeting concluded that DOC will be the lead agency during CWC inspections. DOC will also determine the composition of the inspection teams and be responsible for making on-site decisions regarding what will be revealed to international inspectors.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- **Unum Life Insurance Co. v. War:** On April 20, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld a state law protecting the rights of individuals covered by employee benefit plans and decided that a CA insurance law doctrine favoring employees is protected from ERISA preemption. The CA doctrine, called the "notice-prejudice rule," provides that claims filed late will not be dismissed by the insurer unless they prejudice the insurer's ability to determine whether the claim should be paid. The Court distinguished this law from state laws allowing compensation for bad faith denial of claims which was found to be preempted, or wiped out, in ERISA cases by the Supreme Court in 1987. DOL's *amicus* brief argued that the CA law should be upheld and that the 1987 case should be reconsidered. The decision is helpful because it protects the application of state laws protecting employees in plans covered by insurance. However, tens of millions of workers are covered by plans which are not backed by insurance policies; and legislation is needed to provide patient protections to that population.
- **Worker Memorial Day:** OSHA is organizing an April 28 event highlighting workplace safety and health. The proposed event will recognize workplace heroes including the Atlanta crane operator and the two workers who rescued him from above a burning building on April 12. OSHA also hopes to announce strengthened whistleblower protections for workers who want to improve job safety and health and have the courage to speak out hazards in their own workplaces.
- **Newport News Shipbuilding:** The strike by United Steelworkers Union against Newport News Shipbuilding and Repair entered its third week on April 19 with little

progress and no indication of a settlement. Monetary differences on pay, pensions and healthcare benefits led to the March 30 breakdown in negotiations. This week, more than 600 Local 8888 members traveled to Washington, D.C. for a rally at the West Front of the Capitol and for visits with the VA congressional delegation, the House National Security Committee, the Senate Armed Service Committee, and both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

- **American Airlines:** U.S. District Judge Joe Kendall levied a \$45.5 million fine against the Allied Pilots Association to compensate American Airlines for losses incurred when the union called a sickout in February protesting the pace of negotiations over work rules and pay levels for new pilots integrated into the American system following the acquisition of Reno Airlines. APA President Rich LaVoy said the union would appeal the decision. The dispute over the integration of Reno pilots, which the union claims should be retroactive to the merger in December, 1998, remains unresolved. Talks have continued since March with the assistance of a federal mediator. Agreements over the integration issue were reached with the Association of Professional Flight Attendants on Transport Workers Union on April 8 and 9 respectively.
- **Youth Offender Grants:** On May 3, Secretary Herman plans to announce the award of 14, Youth Offender Demonstration Project grants totaling \$12,147,000 in an event with Senator Specter at the Youth Study Center in Philadelphia, PA. These grants will provide services for youth who are or have been under criminal justice supervision or involved in gangs, as well as out-of-school youth in communities with high poverty and unemployment.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **CO High School Shooting:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) has been in contact with the Colorado State Disaster Mental Health Program Coordinator to offer technical assistance if requested. The State has requested that HHS hold off on any action to provide crisis counselors so as to not overburden them with too many mental health professionals. SAMHSA has also been coordinating with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As part of the occupational health program at HRSA, there is a nationwide network of specialized professionals who have been trained and utilized in crisis response situations. HRSA is ready to support the state should they request assistance in mental health crisis management. CDC's Nation Center for Injury Prevention and Control continues to work with SAMHSA on various violence-prevention activities. In September 1998 through an ongoing collaboration with DOJ, CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control provided \$894,000 to DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs for the purpose of awarding these funds to the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado. These funds are being

used to provide technical assistance and information to schools and organizations to implement the school-based violence prevention activity known as "Blueprints for Violence Prevention Programs." CDC's objective, through these funds, is to help schools select and implement effective violence prevention programs, disseminate information about these programs, and support technical assistance to schools that want to start school-based violence prevention activities.

- **Tobacco Rule:** On April 23, the Supreme Court is expected to decide whether to hear the appeal of the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over tobacco products and the Tobacco Regulations. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids held a press briefing on April 22 to clarify the issues in the court case.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **National Homeownership Rate:** On April 21, Secretary Cuomo announced that America's homeownership rate rose to 66.7 percent for the first quarter of 1999, including a record number of African American and Hispanic families. New Census Bureau statistics showed that the homeownership rate – the percentage of families owning their homes – rose three-tenths of a percentage point in the first quarter of this year, up from 66.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 1998.
- **First Inspections of Public Housing Authorities:** On April 21, Secretary Cuomo announced that the first comprehensive physical inspections of public housing around the nation gave 87 percent of 750 housing authorities good or excellent ratings. A companion HUD survey of public housing residents found that 75 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with their housing units. The survey found that 64 percent of residents would recommend their public housing developments to a relative or friend, and also said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their developments and their neighborhoods.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Summit Airspace Restrictions:** During the 50th Anniversary NATO Summit, DOT will temporarily expand airspace restrictions and enhance airport security in the Washington, DC area to provide an extra margin of safety and security.
- **Kosovo Response Planning:** The Maritime Administration (MARAD) sent to the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center (EADRCC) lists of passenger/car ferries, break bulk, and RO/RO vessels operating recently in the Italian/Albanian Adriatic corridor to assist in NATO response planning for Kosovo. In addition, DOT is providing support on a 24-hour basis to the EADRCC at NATO Headquarters with coordinating NATO civil humanitarian relief efforts in the Balkan Region, and to the Allied Movements Coordination Center with coordinating military movements in support of

operations in Kosovo. A number of NATO civil experts from the shipping industry have been contacted for advice and assistance. MARAD set up a 24-hour alert response network of Planning Board on Ocean Shipping (PBOS) members and civil shipping experts to assist the NATO military and civil authorities as needs arise.

- **Decision on Conformity:** On April 16, EPA, DOJ, and DOT jointly decided not to appeal a DC Circuit Court of Appeals decision which invalidated several EPA regulations implementing the transportation conformity requirements of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990. The decision not to appeal was made despite an April 14 letter to Administrator Browner from Representatives Shuster, Petri, and Rahall urging the Administration to appeal the decision. DOT and EPA will issue interim guidance on how states will be able to advance transportation projects in light of the decision. In the long-term, EPA must modify its conformity regulations to conform with the Court's decision.
- **Environmental Studies for Woodrow Wilson Bridge:** A federal judge found that the FHWA failed to give adequate consideration to alternatives to the proposed 12-lane drawbridge spanning the Potomac River, as noted in the DOJ Weekly Report.
- **Smoking on International Flights:** DOT is revising its web site and issuing a press release on the status of smoking on international airline flights to reflect that 97 percent of all flights to and from the U.S. are smoke-free. Smoking is prohibited on all domestic flights and DOT continues to work toward its goal of smoke-free travel in all public transportation.
- **AR Repeat Offender Bill:** On April 5, AR Governor Huckabee signed repeat drunk driving offender legislation into law. On March 30, the AR House of Representatives approved the repeat offender legislation previously passed the Senate.
- **Managing Diversity:** DOT is viewed as the "Best in Government" by the National Performance Review (NPR) Task Force on Diversity. DOT's Diversity Advocate has been asked to serve as a consultant to the NPR Task Force.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **"Green Power for Green LA":** On May 13, Secretary Richardson is scheduled to participate in the launch of the "Green Power for Green LA" program in Los Angeles to provide customers of LADWP, the nation's largest municipal utility, the opportunity to purchase electricity from green power suppliers, install renewable energy systems in homes and buildings, and improve the environment and air quality.
- **ENERGY STAR:** EPA and DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy have published the *ENERGY STAR Purchasing Tool Kit*, a comprehensive resource to

promote the purchasing of high efficiency equipment. The tool kit includes ENERGY STAR specifications and Federal Energy Management Program guidelines for use by state and local governments and other entities to include in their procurements. The kit also provides references to valuable resources for energy efficiency data and a communications guide. The kit is being distributed to Rebuild America partners and State Energy Offices and will be available on the web next month

- **OR Fiber Optic Line:** OR's Bonneville Power Administration will begin construction in early May on a 120-mile fiber optic line along existing rights of way that will connect southern OR coastal communities. Bringing fiber optic technology to rural areas will also connect a Pacific fiber optic cable to China to the fiber optic backbone that runs through the Willamette Valley. Bonneville and a telecommunications firm signed the \$20 million agreement April 5. The telecommunications firm will pay for the cost of the project. Bonneville will retain ownership of the line, which upgrades its communications and control system, and has set aside 25 percent of the fibers for public benefits. The line is expected to be operating by September 15.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **National Youth Violence and School Safety Summit:** On May 3, Bill Modzeleski is participating in a panel being moderated by the OH Attorney General Betty Montgomery in Jackson, MS.
- **CO School Shootings:** On April 21, Secretary Riley issued a press release regarding the Columbine High School shootings. The release expresses sympathy for the students and families, urges gun owners to lock up their guns, encourages parents to slow down their lives and listen to their children, cautions against looking for an easy answer, and highlights DOEd's efforts to prevent such incidents. Secretary Riley has also been in contact with Jefferson County School Superintendent Jane Hammond to offer assistance as other DOEd senior officials work with state and county officials.
- **ESEA Reauthorization Transmittal:** DOEd is preparing legislation for reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for transmittal to Congress on April 29. DOEd staff continues to work through several outstanding policy issues.
- **Final Version of Ed-Flex:** The final version of the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (Ed-Flex) does not include Senate language that would have permitted the use of class-size reduction funds for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) expenses. The legislation contains a provision that revises the IDEA to change the phrase "carrying a weapon to school" to "possessing a weapon in school." DOEd does not consider the change significant, but Hill Democrats have objected to reopening IDEA for any reason.

- **NH School Funding:** The NH legislature's failure to pass a school funding plan that complies with Claremont continues to create numerous problems. Teachers are being notified they cannot be offered a contract for next year and that their health benefits will end on June 30. Parents of children with disabilities are facing an April 30 deadline by which customized, Individualized Education Plan contracts must be signed. If services lapse, the state could be held in contempt for failing its obligations under a consent decree. Local school districts may have to cover the costs of unemployment benefits for secretaries, maintenance, custodial workers, and teachers. If the Legislature does not come up with a constitutional tax plan to fund education within the next few weeks, cities and towns will send out property tax bills that carry no school funding tax.
- **Challenge to 1969 Swann Ruling:** On April 19, a trial began in Charlotte, NC that challenges school desegregation policies established 30 years ago in Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education. The 1969 decision, upheld by the Supreme Court two years later, allowed schools to bus students in order to eliminate segregated schools. A U.S. District Judge decided to revisit the Swann ruling after a Charlotte parent filed a suit alleging that his daughter -- classified by a newspaper article as half Anglo and half Hispanic -- was refused admission to a magnet school because she is non-black.
- **FY95 Federal Education Funds:** In May, DOEd plans to release "The Distribution of Federal Education Funds in FY1995," a preliminary report on the distribution of DOEd funds among school districts and other agencies by type of agency, grant size, economic status of the area, and the area's classification as urban or rural. The findings include the percentage of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities funds used for school security, and the percentage of program funds spent on individual schools and administrative costs, which may be relevant to the Dollars to the Classroom Act proposed by Republicans.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

- **Spinal Cord Injury Course:** An independent study course on Spinal Cord Injury has been designed and produced for all VA physicians. Available for continuing education credit for physicians, the course has been distributed in print form to all VA medical centers and is available on the Internet.
- **Gulf War Veterans:** On April 15, VA's treatment trials for Gulf War veterans, particularly an antibiotic treatment study, received considerable attention after the *Associated Press* picked up a story on the research in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Additional stories appeared that day on *Fox News Channel*, *CNN*, *First Business* (syndicated report), and *Bloomberg Information TV*.

- **VA Medical Centers:** On April 14, *CNN* reported on the issue of VA halting research at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center because of questions about administrative procedures. *CNN* also reported that three more VA medical centers, in Philadelphia, Tampa, and Cincinnati, were being investigated by the National Institutes of Health.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **Livability Agenda:** This week, Administrator Browner continued outreach efforts to discuss the Administration's Livability Agenda. On April 19, Administrator Browner spoke at the Urban Land Institute Smart Growth Conference in Chicago, IL. She also met with Mayor Daley and 50 business, industry, land trust and environmental representatives, as well as state and local officials, to discuss Better America Bonds. From May 2-4, Administrator Browner will participate in the National Town Meeting for Sustainable America, in Detroit, MI. During plenary sessions at the conference, the Administrator will discuss Administration efforts to protect public health and the environment, while revitalizing economies and improving the quality of life for all Americans. On May 3, Administrator Browner and Secretary Slater will co-moderate a luncheon panel, entitled Healthy Communities-Healthy Economies, where they will discuss the Livability Agenda.
- **Visibility at National Parks and Wilderness Areas:** On April 22, the Vice President and Administrator Browner announced a new rule that will help millions of Americans better enjoy national parks and wilderness areas. This rule will reduce the haze caused by air pollution and improve visibility and air quality at more than 150 national parks and wilderness areas, such as the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Mount Ranier, Shenandoah, the Smokey Mountains and Acadia. Over the last several decades, haze has reduced visibility in our national parks by as much as 75 percent in the West and 85 percent in the East. The rule requires states to work with the public to develop haze-reduction plans, but provides the flexibility to find the most cost effective ways to reduce the pollution.
- **Beach Action Plan:** This week, EPA will officially announce the release of its Action Plan for Beaches and Recreational Waters. This Beach Action Plan seeks to reduce risks of infection to recreational water users through improved water quality and risk communication programs with two primary objectives: enabling consistent management of recreational water quality programs and improving the science that supports recreational water monitoring programs. This is a key action item under the your Clean Water Action Plan, announced in February 1998, to restore and protect America's waterways.

UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

- **Trip to Houston:** On April 26, Ambassador Barshefsky will travel to Houston to deliver an address on the Administration's Africa trade policy to the Corporate Council on Africa. While in Houston, she will also meet with several of her counterparts from Africa, conduct a roundtable discussion with Houston community leaders at Rice University's Baker Institute, and conduct an interview with the *Houston Chronicle*.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- **Meeting with Speaker Hastert:** On April 28, Director McCaffrey will meet with Speaker Hastert. The Director will update the Speaker on the *National Drug Control Strategy* and recent developments in drug control issues.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

- **Allied Support for Air Strikes:** Recent polls show public support for NATO action in allied countries is consolidating. Majorities in "traditional" NATO publics supported the air strikes, while those in recent NATO entrants were more tentative. However, support for newly gained NATO membership has held steady and even increased in Poland and Hungary. While there also seems to be a growing belief in many countries that ground troops will be required to resolve the situation, most would prefer a political resolution. Some outside Europe also back NATO's action, notably Australia and Israel.
- **Criticism of Operation Allied Force:** Media in NATO capitals and abroad increased their criticism, charging that "air strikes have not borne the expected results" and blaming "political miscalculations" for the Alliance's inability to achieve its objectives. Among the errors cited was the fact that NATO "showed its cards" by ruling out ground forces and was not prepared for a "protracted mission." Media in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, and Hungary voiced concern that "the strategy adopted by NATO has no convincing and plausible goals" and some advocates for ground deployments worried that "political support for ground action seems to be dwindling, primarily because NATO still has not come up with a clear and uniform political strategy."
- **Russian Opinion:** Only a plurality of Russians (43 percent) feel that their media are depicting the situation in Yugoslavia objectively. The remainder are either unsure (23 percent) or say coverage is unobjective. Favorable opinion of the U.S. has dropped precipitously since late December 1998: from 67 percent feeling "very" or "basically positive" to 38 percent in late March to 34 percent by April 12. Two-thirds (63 percent) believe that the U.S. and NATO are involved to put their own forces into Kosovo and establish military bases there.

- **Japanese Views of U.S.:** Prime Minister Obuchi's upcoming visit to Washington will highlight Japan's role as a key partner for the U.S. in the next century. Results from USIA's mid-March survey show that the Japanese see American and Japanese policies in agreement in several basic policy areas, including the environment, democracy and security. Large majorities of Japanese have a favorable opinion of the U.S. (77 percent), think bilateral relations are in good shape (69 percent), and have regained confidence in U.S. leadership (64 percent, up from only half last November). Eight-in-ten expect the U.S. will still be Japan's closest security partner in 5-10 years, and half think it will remain Japan's closest economic partner (23 percent pick China).

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

- **National Anti-Fraud Conference:** On May 4-6, SSA will host its 1999 National Anti-Fraud Conference in Baltimore, MD. Commissioner Apfel will open the conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Zero Tolerance for Fraud – Advancing the Fight." The event will bring together SSA employees from the field and Headquarters who share the common goal of enhancing public confidence in SSA's programs and operations. Over 300 employees are expected to participate.

cc:

The Vice President

John Podesta

Sandy Berger

Sidney Blumenthal

Mary Beth Cahill

Maria Echaveste

George Frampton

Mickey Ibarra

Ben Johnson

Janis Kearney

Ron Klain

Neal Lane

Jack Lew

Ann Lewis

Joe Lockhart

Minyon Moore

Bruce Reed

Steve Ricchetti

Doug Sosnik

Gene Sperling

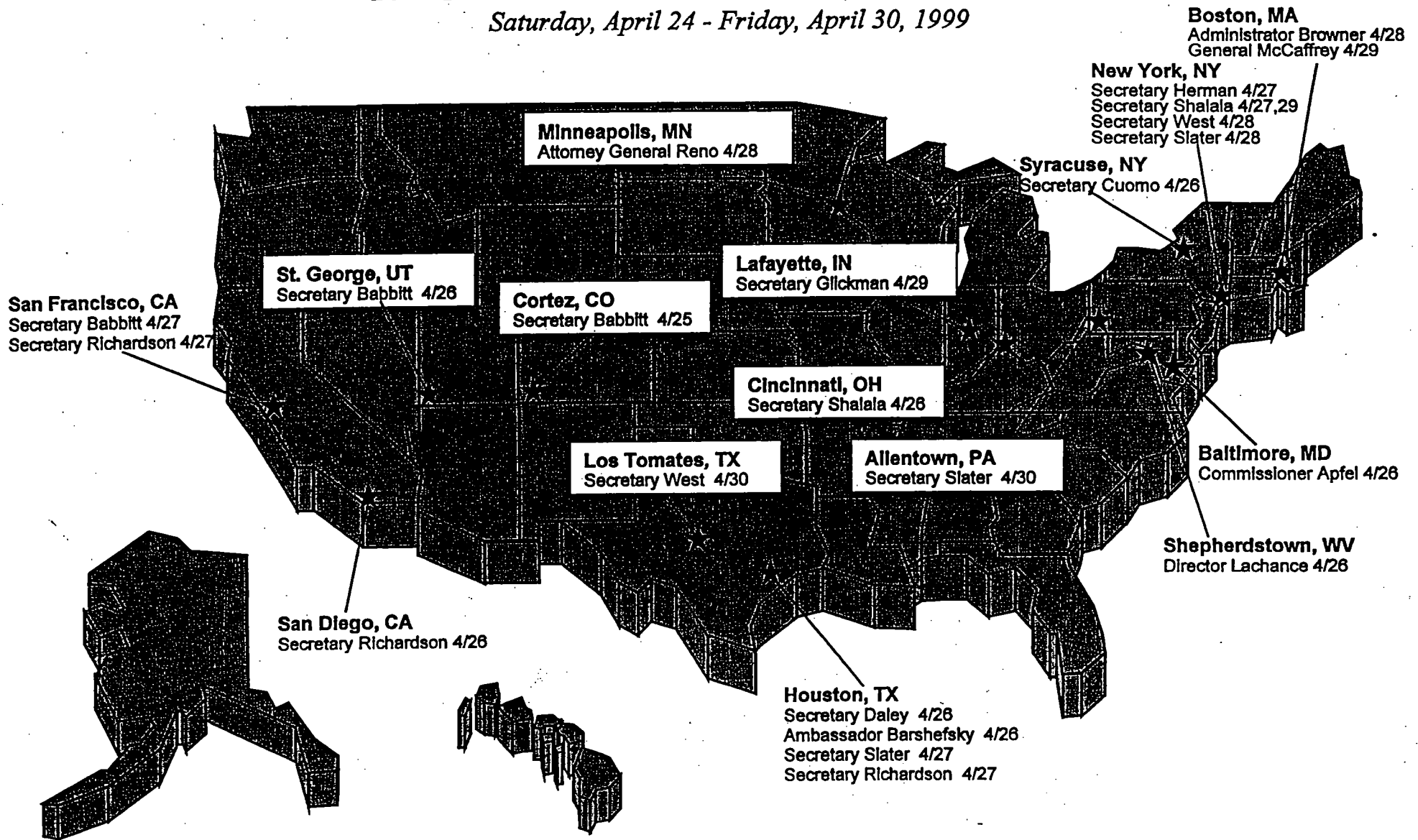
Larry Stein

Loretta Ucelli

Melanne Verveer

Domestic Cabinet Travel

Saturday, April 24 - Friday, April 30, 1999



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. T.M.
KRIS M. BALDERSTON

SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
April 24 - 30, 1999

AMPLIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

- **Agency Response to Columbine School Shootings:** Cabinet Affairs continues to convene daily conference calls with DOJ, HHS, DOEd, and FEMA, which are the primary agencies involved in responding to the school shooting aftermath. The federal government continues to play a limited but important role in responding to the long term needs of the Columbine community. The Governor of CO created a task force through an Executive Order asking representatives from the federal government to help create an effective response over the next several weeks, months, and years. DOEd officials recently met with local school officials to request additional counselors and increased security presence. OPL is coordinating with agency counterparts to help channel offers of assistance to the appropriate agency contacts. On May 3, the National Youth Violence and School Safety Summit will take place in Jackson, MS, and will be attended by Bill Modzeleski, from DOEd's Safe and Drug Free Schools. The State of CO is planning to submit an application for a competitive School Based Partnership grant that may provide program money for long term costs.

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

- **Columbine CO Shootings:** ATF has 13 investigators and other experts assisting Littleton authorities with the ongoing investigation. In addition, ATF is involved in the tracing of the firearms used in the shootings, and sent a peer support team, including a chaplain, to provide assistance to the victims, witnesses, and investigators.
- **Kosovo:** On April 27, Secretary Rubin attended a joint IMF-World Bank meeting on international financial institution and donor approaches for assistance to the countries

affected by the Kosovo conflict. Secretary Rubin noted that assistance should be provided in a way that preserves, and preferably increases, incentives for reform and market transformation. He also stressed the importance of a central role for the international financial institutions in assessing the scope of the economic problems, assistance strategies for dealing with them, and in financing the immediate needs of the affected countries of the conflict. The World Bank and IMF agreed to continue to monitor and assess the economic and financial needs in the region, to review with an eye toward augmenting existing programs in the short run, and to devise a strategy for reconstruction in the long run. The EU and World Bank agreed to take a leading role in donor coordination.

- **Hedge Funds:** On April 29, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets released their report, "Hedge Funds, Leverage, and the Lessons of Long Term Capital Management." This report describes the principal conclusions and recommendations reached by the Working Group during its study of hedge funds. These recommendations include legislative and regulatory actions. During the week of May 3, Under Secretary Gensler will testify before the House Banking Committee or the House Financial Institutions Subcommittee on the report's findings.
- **G-7 Ministerial:** On April 26, Secretary Rubin hosted his G-7 counterparts to discuss the world economic outlook, financial architecture, debt relief, and the situation in Kosovo and its ramifications for neighboring countries. They also met with Russian officials to discuss the economic situation in Russia. The group agreed that the G-7 can help to improve the overall global outlook by promoting sustainable domestic growth in the G-7 economies. The group confirmed that the international community should help countries affected by the crisis in Kosovo and that the International Financial Institutions should play an important role in this response.
- **IMF Interim Committee Meeting:** On April 27, Secretary Rubin attended the IMF Interim Committee meeting. The most important outcome was the Committee's endorsement of an IMF Executive Board decision to establish a new instrument – the Contingent Credit Line (CCL) – to help insulate countries that are pursuing sound policies but are nevertheless vulnerable to financial contagion. The establishment of the CCL broadens the array of instruments at the IMF's disposal to prevent and deal with financial crisis, and culminates months of intensive efforts following your September 1998 proposal.
- **New Dollar Coin:** On May 4, Secretary Rubin and the First Lady will unveil the design of the new dollar coin at an event to honor American Indian and Alaska Native women. The coin depicts the image of Sacagawea, the Shoshone interpreter who was a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The design was chosen after extensive public input and outreach to various tribal, industry, and consumer groups. Mint Director Diehl, Members

of Congress, and tribal leaders will also participate in this event. The new coin was mandated by Congress and will replace the Susan B. Anthony coin, whose stocks are nearly depleted.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- **Tobacco Regulation Case:** On April 26, the Supreme Court granted a DOJ petition for *certiorari* in FDA V. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. At issue is whether tobacco products are subject to regulation by the FDA.
- **Police Use Of Force Publication:** In mid-May, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) will publish *Use of Force by Police: 1998 Summary of National and Local Data*. The thrust of the report provides an overview of what is known about police use of force. What is known “with substantial confidence”: police use force infrequently; relatively minor types of force dominate statistics on police use of force; and use of force typically occurs when police are attempting an arrest and the suspect is resisting. What is known “with moderate confidence”: use of force appears to be unrelated to an officer’s personal characteristics, such as age, gender and ethnicity, and that a small proportion of officers are disproportionately involved in use-of-force incidents. What is as yet “unknown”: how often police use force in ways that can be judged as wrongful.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

- **Salton Sea:** In early May, BOR and the Salton Sea Authority will host a series of workshops to discuss Salton Sea restoration alternatives.
- **Casitas Dam Modifications:** DOI held a public meeting on the issues of the Casitas Dam modification and early warning system. It is believed that the dam could fail during a major earthquake — one of 6.5 magnitude or greater — resulting in lethal flood waters which could inundate much of west Ventura and downtown where 14,000 people reside. BOR will begin a \$4 million construction project to reinforce the dam which is scheduled to be completed by December 2000.
- **Virgin Islands Economy:** In May, officials from the White House and DOI will meet again with Virgin Islands representatives to continue discussing ways in which the territory can revitalize its economy. Federal officials who met earlier with local officials were pleased with the initial discussions, but stress that the Virgin Islands’ fiscal problems will not be easy to overcome. Federal officials offered the territory \$400,000 to begin a long-overdue financial audit, and the Administration is asking Congress to increase the Virgin Islands’ share of the federal rum excise tax by an estimated \$12 million.

- **Devils Lake:** In an attempt to reduce high water conditions surrounding the city of Devils Lake, ND, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed a project to build a channel and water control structure from Devils Lake to Stump Lake. The proposed channel could add 40 feet of water to Stump Lake, effectively destroying the Stump Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Although the proposal also would inundate private land, a state park, and a federal highway, this project has the support of ND and its Congressional delegation. The National Audubon Society maintains that the project would have questionable flood control benefits, and set a dangerous precedent at the expense of refuge protection.
- **OK City Memorial:** According to the OK City National Memorial Foundation, the project is on schedule and on budget and should be finished in time for the fifth anniversary of the Murrah Building bombing on April 19, 2000. About \$19.7 million of the estimated \$29.1 million cost of the memorial has been raised. The money will pay for the Park, a museum, and offices for the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism.
- **Secretary's Travel:** On May 4, Secretary Babbitt will travel to Cartagena, Colombia, for meetings with the Colombian Minister of the Environment.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **Aid for Kosovar Refugees and Others:** On April 29, Secretary Glickman announced USDA's purchase of 700,000 metric tons (MTs) of wheat for use as humanitarian aid to help Kosovar refugees in the Balkans, as well as famine victims in North Korea and other areas. This buy is in addition to a one million MT purchase announced March 26. USDA will also announce provision of 27,000 MTs of wheat flour in FY99 to aid Kosovar refugees, with an additional 80,000 MTs for the next FY; in FY99, USDA will provide 10,000 MTs of flour to both the World Food Programme and Catholic Relief Services for distribution in the region, and will solicit requests for the balance. On April 21, 76 MTs of USDA-purchased corn-soy blend – used primarily for infant formula – arrived in Tirana, Albania for distribution to Kosovar refugees.
- **Delta Development:** On April 28-29, USDA rural development officials met with other signers of the Delta Compact at AR State University, to develop a long term economic development strategy for the region.
- **Commodity Markets:** Wheat prices fell due to good conditions for U.S. winter wheat, and weak demand for exports. Corn prices moved higher as fears of planting delays arose. Soybean prices were up slightly, boosted by strength in soybean oil. Nearby rice futures were supported by good export sales. Cotton futures fluctuated, but ended higher

as the May contract expired, however, cash prices dropped in a quiet market. Cattle prices fell slightly last week, despite a rise in cutout values. Hog prices also moved up on improved demand for pork. Broilers slipped again, but retail featuring of chicken parts remains robust.

- **New York Travel:** On May 10, Secretary Glickman will participate in an event with Representative Hinchey, in NY.
- **“Healthy Eating, Healthy Kids”:** On May 12, Secretary Glickman will host a USDA “Healthy Eating, Healthy Kids” MOU signing ceremony.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **EU Vice President Brittan:** On April 20, Sir Leon Brittan, Vice President of the European Commission, and Secretary Daley met in Washington to discuss China’s accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the WTO Director-General race, and hushkits. The two also briefly discussed problems affecting a mutual recognition agreement on cosmetics and the Transatlantic Business Dialogue’s participation in the June U.S.-EU Summit.
- **Hushkit Negotiations:** On April 29, the Council of the EU met to discuss the hushkit regulation. DOC opposes this regulation and has proposed that instead to develop an international standard on noise reductions through ICAO.
- **Japan Visit:** During his April 22-25 visit, Deputy Secretary Mallett urged Japan to stimulate its economy, comply with its trade agreements, and vigorously pursue deregulation and structural reform to further open its markets to competitive U.S. goods and services. The Deputy Secretary met with counterparts at the Ministries of Health and Welfare, Construction, International Trade and Industry, Transportation, and Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries as well as with U.S. industry representatives.
- **School Violence:** In response to the April 20 tragedy at Columbine High School, in Littleton, CO, the National Technical Information Service created a new link on its homepage to provide students, parents, and school officials with information regarding school violence.
- **DSL Services:** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is reviewing petitions by several local exchange carriers who wish to market digital subscriber line (DSL) services to Internet service providers at a discounted rate. The issue is whether those reduced rates would be subject to a further discount for competitive local exchange carriers. This week a draft filing of NTIA’s position may become available through the Federal Communications Commission.

- **Interagency Spectrum Measurements:** At the request of the FAA, National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Institute for Telecommunication personnel is conducting measurements of a radio transmitter recently installed by a Federal agency in NM. These measurements will assess this new transmitter's spectral characteristics and evaluate the possible impact to FAA navigational aids and local aircraft. These real-time measurements will be analyzed by NTIA, and an initial assessment will be provided to the FAA in about a week. These results will be used to help resolve the interagency spectrum issues, ensuring that both agencies are able to use the radio spectrum simultaneously to perform their respective missions.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- **Phillip Morris (Louisville, KY):** KY has set a target date of May 17 to have a career center, including a computer lab and job search workshops, established on site at Phillip Morris to service the approximately 1,400 employees who will be laid off between July and December. Phillip Morris has indicated it will file a WARN Notice with the State in early May for the first wave of layoffs scheduled for July. The State, which has been meeting with the representatives of all unions involved, continues to meet with the company's Human Resources Director to discuss additional training options through the company's training fund and continues the process for setting up a Labor-Management Committee (LMC).
- **Youth Offender Demonstration Project:** On May 3, Secretary Herman plans to announce the award of fourteen Youth Offender Demonstration Project grants totaling \$12,147,000 in an event with Senator Specter at the Youth Study Center in Philadelphia, PA.
- **Youth Summer Jobs Initiative:** On May 5, Secretary Herman plans to participate in a press conference call to launch DOL's Youth Summer Jobs initiative.
- **Work Safe This Summer Initiative:** On May 6, Secretary Herman plans to participate in a kick-off event for DOL's Work Safe this Summer initiative.
- **Boeing Dislocated Workers (WA):** By May 7, DOL expects to announce a Title III grant (amount to be determined) to provide job training and other reemployment services to workers who are being dislocated from the Boeing Corporation in WA State. These dislocations are attributed to decreased aircraft sales in Asia, Europe, and South America.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Columbine Shooting:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) continues to be in close contact with CO state officials as the state assesses its long-term mental health needs. HHS and other federal agencies have been asked to participate on a task force established by the Governor. The first meeting is scheduled for May 5 in Denver, CO.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **"Places Left Behind in the New Economy":** On April 28, Secretary Cuomo spoke at the National Press Club to discuss findings from a new HUD report titled *Now Is The Time: Places Left Behind In The New Economy*. The report presents four findings about the new urban challenge: unacceptably high unemployment remains in one in six central cities; steady population loss affects one in five central cities; persistently high poverty plagues one in three central cities; one in seven cities faces "double trouble" (a combination of high unemployment plus either significant long-term population loss or persistently high poverty rates – or all three).
- **Work-Study Program:** On April 22, Secretary Cuomo announced \$2.9 million in grants under a work-study program to help pay college expenses of more than 100 low-income and minority graduate students preparing for careers in community planning and development. The Program will fund two-year grants to institutions of higher education and regional planning organizations. The grants will be used to provide up to \$15,000 per year in work stipends to individual students for two years to help pay for college tuition, travel and books.
- **March Housing Starts:** Builders started construction of 1,766,000 dwelling units on a seasonally adjusted annual basis in March, a decline of 1.3 percent from February but 11.6 percent higher than the rate in March 1998. In the first three months of 1999, construction of new homes and apartments is running 14.5 percent higher than the same period in 1998. More American families -- including more minorities than ever -- owned homes in 1998 than in any year in U.S. history.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Corporate Council on Africa Conference:** On April 27, Secretary Slater traveled to Houston to address the Corporate Council on Africa Conference regarding transportation infrastructure and economic development, and the Intertanko Conference regarding marine transportation safety.

- **Buckle Up America:** On April 30, Secretary Slater joined Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART) in a joint press conference at PA's Nazareth Speedway to unveil print ads, a television public service announcement, and other activities for the 1999 racing season aimed at promoting seat belt use. DOT and CART also will be partnering to tie CART's safety technology and emphasis to DOT's promotion of vehicle safety for the consumer.
- **Woodrow Wilson Bridge:** During the past week, internal meetings and three Congressional briefings have taken place to discuss the effects of the April 15 DC District Court decision that granted a motion filed by a number of private party intervenors in a suit aimed at forestalling construction of a replacement for the aging Woodrow Wilson Bridge. In granting the motion the court ruled that construction of a new bridge cannot proceed because FHWA had not given adequate consideration to issues relating to the National Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Historical Preservation Act, and the Department of Transportation Act.
- **Buckle Up America (BUA) Billboard Campaign:** NHTSA prepared 4,000 posters featuring two ethnically and gender diverse children with the text, "He'll/She'll do what you do. Buckle Up," to be displayed on outdoor billboards. The Outdoor Advertising Association of America advertised the availability of the boards to its members and all the posters were ordered quickly. NHTSA is also printing a Spanish version of the BUA poster. Donated billboard space and posting fees equal nearly \$6 million to date.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **"Green Power for Green LA" Program Kickoff:** On May 13, Secretary Richardson is scheduled to participate in the launch of the "Green Power for Green LA" program in Los Angeles, CA. The program was developed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). It will provide customers of LADWP, the largest municipal utility in the country, the opportunity to purchase electricity from green power suppliers, install renewable energy systems, and improve the environment and the air quality in the Los Angeles area.
- **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):** Following the successful completion of interstate transfers of transuranic waste from DOE sites in NM earlier this month, DOE sites outside NM have begun preparation for shipments across state lines to WIPP. On May 27, the first shipment of transuranic waste will be made from the ID National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory to WIPP. As of April 19, the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site had 280 drums completely certified and ready for shipment. The Site received certification from the EPA on March 24 with the authority to characterize and ship debris transuranic wastes to WIPP.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **Columbine Shootings:** On April 30, Secretary Riley spoke about the Littleton shootings before an audience of about 100 people, mostly parents, at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, MD. The Secretary will discuss the shootings, interact with parents, and also discuss what the federal government is doing to curb school violence and help the people of Littleton.
- **Anti-Violence CD-ROM:** DOEd's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program plans to join DOJ, the Music Television Network (MTV), and the National Center for Conflict Resolution Education to announce the release of "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence," a CD-ROM guide designed to curb youth violence. After the announcement, tentatively scheduled for May 7 at MTV's studios in New York City, one million free copies of the CD-ROM will be available through an 800 number.
- **Safe and Drug-Free Schools Recognition Program:** On May 14, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools (SDFS) Program, will make final recommendations for the schools to be recognized for having developed exemplary SDFS programs. DOEd has not yet set the date for the recognition program ceremony.
- **DC/MD/VA Student Mediation Conference:** On May 21 and June 4, as they have done for the last seven years, the Fairfax County Public Schools and those in surrounding communities will provide an opportunity for elementary, middle, and high school students in the DC metropolitan area to attend a one-day conference on peaceful resolution of conflict. The conference, cosponsored by the George Mason University Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, is expected to draw over 2,300 students and staff to its facilitated workshops.
- **NH School Funding Plan:** On April 22, NH took a major step in its efforts to pass a school funding plan that complies with the State Supreme Court's Claremont decision, as the House and Senate passed similar bills, which rely heavily on a statewide property tax, but vary in relatively minor details. Conferees are expected to send an acceptable compromise bill to Governor Shaheen that will resolve the differences in the two plans. One problem remains: a lawyer for the Claremont plaintiffs, five property-poor communities, claims that the two plans are unconstitutional.
- **FL Vouchers:** On April 28, FL's legislature was expected to pass the first statewide plan of state-paid tuition vouchers for children attending private schools. FL students in failing schools would receive vouchers of up to \$4,000 to transfer to public, private, and religious schools.

- **NYC Schools:** On April 22, Mayor Giuliani proposed a pilot voucher plan that would allow students in one of New York City's 32 community school districts to use the per-pupil board allocation -- between \$6,000 and \$7,000 -- for costs at private and parochial schools throughout the city. Mayor Giuliani also said he wants to "blow up" the city's educational system and appoint a school commissioner to replace the elected school board. Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew, saying the Mayor's voucher proposal would take already scarce dollars from public schools, has threatened to quit if the plan is enacted. Governor Pataki has backed the Mayor, saying he endorses the proposal to scrap the school board.
- **Vouchers Nationwide:** The Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF) has announced that \$160 million will be distributed to 40,000 students nationwide so that they can attend private schools. Students will receive an average of \$1,200 a year for four years. Opponents, including teachers unions and People for the American Way, argue that the CSF's backers are simply trying to build support for publicly funded school vouchers. CSF's board of directors includes Senators Daschle and Moynihan, Erskine Bowles, Andrew Young, Colin Powell, Martin Luther King III, and Barbara Bush.
- **FY95 Education Funds:** In May, DOEd plans to release *The Distribution of Federal Education Funds in FY 1995*, a preliminary report on the distribution of DOEd funds among school districts and other agencies by type of agency, grant size, economic status of the area, and classification as urban or rural. A more comprehensive report will be completed later this year. Programs described include Title I, Eisenhower, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Title VI, Impact Aid, Bilingual Education, Magnet Schools, Goals 2000, School-to-Work, IDEA, Vocational Education, and Adult Education. The findings include the percentage of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities funds used for school security, and the percentage of program funds spent on individual schools and administrative costs.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

- **Medical Smart Cards:** To expedite the delivery of care for veterans, VA plans to store brief medical histories on patient "smart cards." VA is conducting a pilot test on the use of "smart cards" at the Charleston, SC, VA Medical Center and Charleston-area hospitals and clinics where veterans often go for specialty or after-hours treatment. Non-VA hospitals and clinics must first verify a veteran's eligibility and wait for electronic receipt of a veteran's medical records. Through use of a "smart card," demographic, insurance, immunization and medical records are produced immediately, avoiding any undue delay in the treatment of a veteran.
- **Armed Forces Week:** On May 12, Secretary West will deliver an Armed Forces Week address in Scranton, PA.

- **NY State Veterans Home:** Secretary West approved the transfer of approximately 22.5 acres of land to the State of NY for establishment of a new veterans home. Through VA's State Home Construction Program, VA will award a grant to the State for construction and operation of this new veterans home.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **Strengthened Tailpipe Emission Standards:** In the next week, EPA will announce a proposed rule which for the first time ever strengthens tailpipe emission standards for cars and light duty trucks, such as sport utility vehicles, minivans and pick-up trucks. These emission standards will likely be in place for 10-15 years. The 1990 Clean Air Act required EPA to review the standards set by the Act and, if necessary, set new standards effective for model year 2004. Last summer, EPA, in determining that new emission standards were necessary to ensure continued clean air benefits for the nation, recognized that it is necessary for the oil industry to reduce the level of sulfur in gasoline if automobile emissions control systems are to operate properly and if tailpipe emissions are to be reduced. The rule will address the level of sulfur in gasoline at the same time as new tailpipe standards.
- **National Town Meeting for Sustainable America:** On May 2-3, Administrator Browner will participate in the National Town Meeting for Sustainable America in Detroit, MI. During plenary sessions at the conference, Administrator Browner will discuss the Administration's Livability Agenda. On May 3, Administrator Browner and Secretary Slater will moderate a luncheon panel, entitled "Healthy Communities / Healthy Economies".
- **Asthma Screening Program:** On May 4, Administrator Browner will join the First Lady and Secretary Shalala in kicking off the Nationwide Asthma Screening Program at Draper Elementary School in Washington, DC. The program, which consists of asthma specialists who volunteer their time to diagnose and treat asthma in children, is aimed at preventing the permanent lung damage that often afflicts children with untreated asthma.

UNITED NATIONS

- **Haiti Transition from Peacekeeping:** USUN is working with other countries to explore the feasibility of establishing a UN program in Haiti under the Economic and Social Council to replace the Security Council peacekeeping mission which expires this fall. The new program would have police mentoring, elections assistance, good governance and development programs. This would be the first effort of a reformed and reinvigorated council to create and manage a peace-building country program.

UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

- **Super 301 and Title VII Enforcement Provisions:** On April 30, USTR released simultaneously the annual “Super 301” and “Title VII” reports. This year’s Super 301 report identifies as key priorities the launch of the new round of global trade negotiations and strategic enforcement of bilateral, regional, and multilateral obligations of our trading partners. The Title VII report addressed discriminatory practices by foreign governments in the procurement of U.S. products and services. This year’s report provides information on government procurement practices in Korea with respect to airport construction in Japan with respect to computers and construction, and in Germany with respect to heavy electrical equipment. These practices are either being addressed under the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, do not meet the criteria for identification, or are being scrutinized as a result of a previous identification.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- **Address to the World Presidents Organization:** On May 3, Director McCaffrey will address the World Presidents Organization, a group of corporate presidents and CEOs representing a variety of American and foreign companies. His remarks will focus on ONDCP’s mission and the *National Drug Control Strategy*.
- **Address to the 49th Washington Conference:** On May 3, Director McCaffrey will address the 49th annual Washington Conference, focusing on ONDCP’s efforts regarding the conference’s theme, “Helping Parents Help Kids Stay Drug Free”.
- **National Day of Prayer Observance:** On May 6, Director McCaffrey will give brief remarks to approximately 500 Christian leaders at the 48th annual National Day of Prayer Observance.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- **New Markets:** On April 26, as part of SBA’s efforts to reach out to untapped markets and further partnering with the Black Ministers Association of York (PA), SBA hosted a “Pathway to Profits in the Millennium” economic workshop . In addition, on April 29, SBA briefed the Heartland Conference comprised of 150 labor and financial leaders on your New Markets Initiatives.
- **Women Business Centers:** SBA will award 25 grants to open new Women’s Business Centers across the country by June 1.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

- **FL Disaster Declaration:** On April 27, the State of FL received an emergency declaration as a result of fires impacting the State on April 15 and continuing.
- **Operation Sustain Hope:** FEMA continues to operate the Donations Coordination Center and has received over 40,000 calls. Monetary donations make up more than 85 percent of the calls to date. Detailed information about the various humanitarian agencies and how to contact them is included in the site administered by InterAction (<http://www.interaction.org>), an umbrella group for many humanitarian relief organizations.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

- **Columbine Shooting:** OPM issued guidance this week to all departments and agencies providing information on the Federal benefits and programs that are available to assist Federal employees and their families who are victims of the tragedy in Littleton, CO. These include the granting of excused absence, family-friendly leave policies, the Employee Assistance Program, and help with life and health insurance matters.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

- **Foreign Reaction on NATO Summit:** Opinion in NATO member states diverged sharply on whether the NATO summit was a success, with most publics basing their assessments on their reading of the Alliance's new strategic concept. Several, including papers in Britain, France, Greece, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey, were "dissatisfied" with the summit results. The harshest criticism came from Lisbon and Athens, which argued that NATO was "weakening the UN." Papers in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Poland said the summit was "a true victory" and hailed the new concept for stressing the importance of "humanitarian concerns, at least within the Euro-Atlantic area." A large number of opinion makers from major and minor NATO states fell in the middle: While praising the "unity" and spirit of "compromise" exhibited by its leaders, they were skeptical about the Alliance's ability to agree on a mutually acceptable interpretation of the new concept.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

- **DC Visitor Information Center:** On May 7, GSA will join the DC Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the grand opening of the DC Visitor Information Center at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The event celebrates a "one-stop" information center for visitors to the Nation's Capital.

- **DC Businesses:** On April 13, GSA hosted a forum for 8(a) vendors in Washington, DC. Topics included the FAST Program, partnering with GSA through effective marketing strategies, GSA's new web-based task order system, and networking to increase business opportunities. Over 100 8(a) vendors from the Washington metropolitan area attended the event. In addition, on April 28, GSA hosted a Business Opportunities Networking Fair in Washington, DC.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

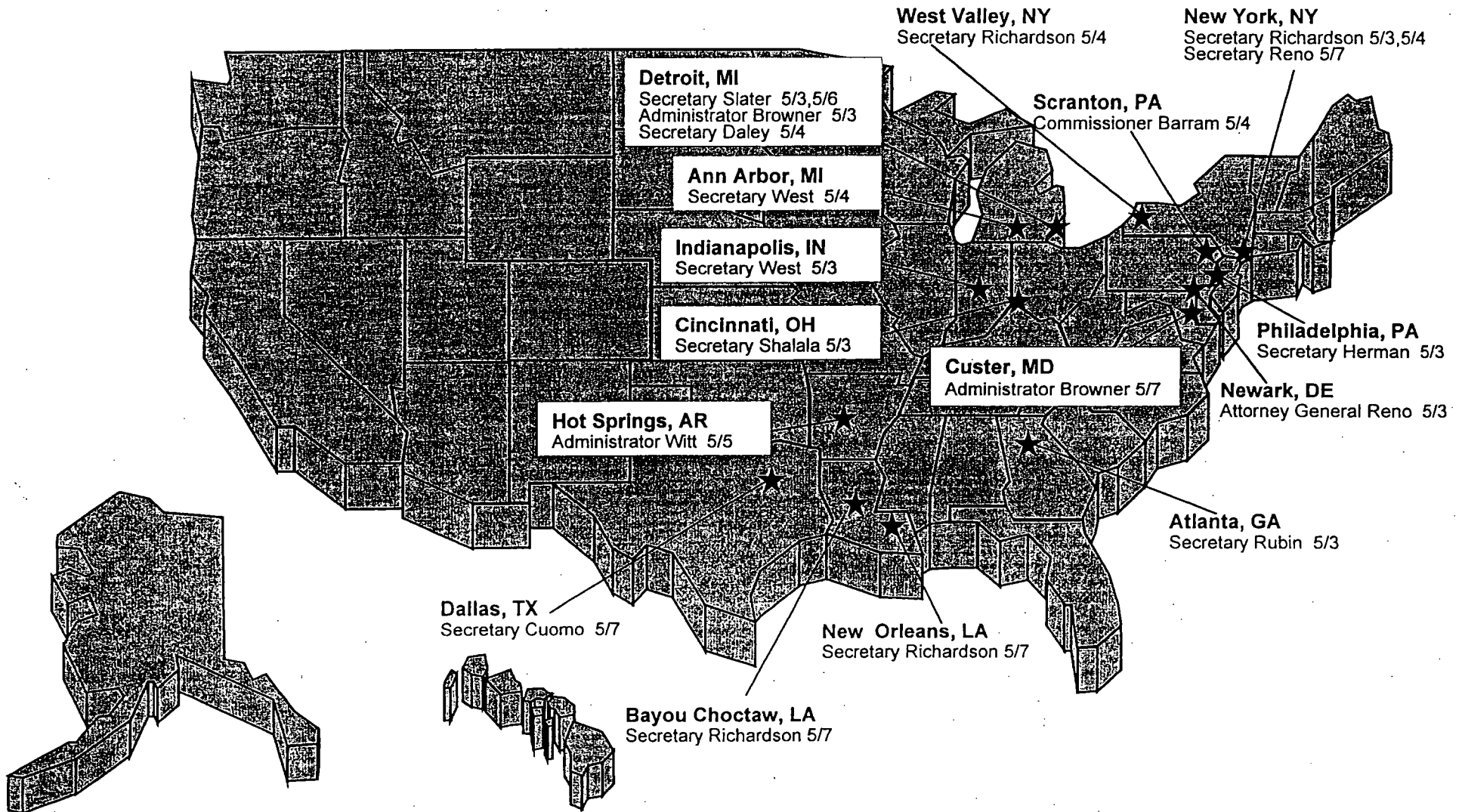
- **National Anti-Fraud Conference:** On May 4-6, the SSA will host its 1999 National Anti-Fraud Conference in Baltimore, MD. The theme of this year's conference is "Zero Tolerance for Fraud – Advancing the Fight". Over 300 employees from around the country are expected to participate.
- **Social Security Summit:** On May 10, Commissioner Apfel will participate in a summit with Senator Graham entitled "20/20 Vision: Planning Retirement Security for the Future."

cc:

The Vice President
John Podesta
Sandy Berger
Sidney Blumenthal
Mary Beth Cahill
Maria Echaveste
George Frampton
Mickey Ibarra
Ben Johnson
Janis Kearney
Ron Klain
Neal Lane
Jack Lew
Ann Lewis
Joe Lockhart
Minyon Moore
Buddy MacKay
Bruce Reed
Steve Ricchetti
Doug Sosnik
Gene Sperling
Larry Stein
Loretta Ucelli
Melanne Verveer

Domestic Cabinet Travel

Saturday, May 1 - Friday, May 7, 1999



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR.
Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary

SEAN P. O'SHEA
Special Assistant to the Cabinet Secretary

SUBJECT: Cabinet Activity Outlook

CABINET ACTIVITY OUTLOOK

August 16 - 22, 1999

The Department of State

- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Albright will address the Seeds of Peace organization at the State Department.
- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Albright will meet with the Foreign Minister of El Salvador.
- On Tuesday, August 17, Secretary Albright will meet with the President of Eritrea.
- On Tuesday, August 17, Secretary Albright will attend the Principals Meeting on Colombia.

The Department of the Treasury

- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Summers will meet with Director McCaffrey.
- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Summers will meet with the Ambassador of Japan.
- From August 17-30, Secretary Summers will be on vacation.

The Department of Defense

- From August 16-31, Secretary Cohen will be on vacation.

The Department of Justice

- On Monday, August 16, Attorney General Reno will meet with the Justice Minister of El Salvador.
- On Tuesday, August 17, Attorney General Reno will attend a White House event regarding COPS and the Kaiser Foundation Grant.
- On Wednesday, August 18, Attorney General Reno will meet with Director McCaffrey.
- On Friday, August 20, Attorney General Reno will address DOJ Kids Day.

The Department of the Interior

- On Wednesday, August 18, Secretary Babbitt will meet with Governor Davis in Sacramento, CA.
- On Thursday, August 19, Secretary Babbitt will meet with the Resource Advisory Council in Cortez, CO.

The Department of Agriculture

- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Glickman will attend the Erie Canal Corridor Event with Secretary Cuomo in Buffalo, NY.
- From August 18-20, Secretary Glickman will be on vacation.
- On Saturday, August 21, Secretary Glickman will attend a Farmer's Market Event in New York City, NY.

The Department of Commerce

- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Daley will meet with Secretary Albright and National Security Advisor Berger to discuss Biological Weapons Convention Protocol.
- On Tuesday, August 17, Secretary Daley will give an interview to *Industry Week* Magazine.
- From August 18-22, Secretary Daley will be traveling with Senator Stevens in AK.

The Department of Labor

- From August 15-29, Secretary Herman will be on vacation.

The Department of Health and Human Services

- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Shalala will meet with former Rep. Fazio and former Rep. Derrick to discuss HIV/AIDS issues in South Africa.
- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Shalala will meet with former Senator Hartke to discuss Medicare.
- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Shalala will meet with Director McCaffrey to discuss U.S. drug policy.
- On Tuesday, August 17, Secretary Shalala will participate in the GE Medical Systems Community Day of Service in Milwaukee, WI.
- On Tuesday, August 17, Secretary Shalala will attend a Medicare event with Rep. Kleczka at a senior center in Milwaukee, WI.
- On Wednesday, August 18, Secretary Shalala will hold a press conference regarding the Household Survey on Drug Use with Director McCaffrey.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development

- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Cuomo will participate in events to promote HUD's investment and tourism opportunities on the Erie Canal Corridor in Rochester, NY. The Secretary will announce Small Cities and Canal Corridor Initiative Grants to municipalities in Central New York.
- On Tuesday, August 17, Secretary Cuomo will participate in events with Rep. McNulty and County Executive Breslin to promote HUD's investment and tourism opportunities on the Erie

Canal Corridor in Albany, NY. The Secretary will announce Small Cities and Canal Corridor Initiative Grants to municipalities in the North Country, Mohawk Valley, and the Capital District.

- On Wednesday, August 18, Secretary Cuomo will dedicate a waterfront marina with Rep. McHugh in Fulton, NY.
- On Wednesday, August 19, Secretary Cuomo will preside over the grand opening of Coleman's Irish Pub on the Canal in Oswego, NY.
- On Thursday, August 19, Secretary Cuomo will participate in a major economic development event with Rep. McNulty in Green Island, NY.

The Department of Transportation

- From August 15-September 4, Secretary Slater will be on vacation.

The Department of Energy

- On Monday, August 16, Secretary Richardson will be in Turkey.
- From August 17-18, Secretary Richardson will be in Azerbaijan.
- From August 19-20, Secretary Richardson will be in Turkmenistan.

The Department of Education

- On Wednesday, August 18, Secretary Riley will meet with the Undersecretary of Spain.
- On Wednesday, August 18, Secretary Riley will deliver remarks to the PFIE Fall Meeting.
- On Thursday, August 19, Secretary Riley will attend the Baby Boom Echo Press Conference.
- On Friday, August 20, Secretary Riley will give an interview to the *New York Times* regional news group regarding a preview for back-to-school efforts.
- On Friday, August 20, Secretary Riley will attend Omaha 2000 dinner in Omaha, NE.
- On Sunday, August 22, Secretary Riley will be in San Francisco, CA.

The Department of Veterans Affairs

- On Tuesday, August 17, Secretary West will address the 100th Annual Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Kansas City, MO.
- On Wednesday, August 18, Secretary West will address the opening session of the Blinded Veterans Association National Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- On Friday, August 20, Secretary West will address the Blacks in Government's 21st Annual National Training Conference Banquet in New Orleans, LA.
- On Saturday, August 21, Secretary West will address the Disabled American Veterans National Convention in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

The Environmental Protection Agency

- From August 16-20, Administrator Browner will be on vacation.

The United States Trade Representative

- From August 5-September 1, Ambassador Barshefsky will be on vacation.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy

- On Monday, August 16, Director McCaffrey will meet with Secretary Summers.
- On Monday, August 16, Director McCaffrey will meet with Secretary Shalala.
- On Tuesday, August 17, Director McCaffrey will meet with National Security Advisor Berger.
- On Tuesday, August 17, Director McCaffrey will attend the Principals Meeting on Colombia.
- On Wednesday, August 18, Director McCaffrey will meet with the Ambassador of Brazil.
- On Wednesday, August 18, Director McCaffrey will meet with Attorney General Reno.
- On Wednesday, August 18, Director McCaffrey will attend the press conference release of the annual Household Drug Survey with Secretary Shalala.
- On Thursday, August 19, Director McCaffrey will meet with the Ambassador of Peru.
- On Friday, August 20, Director McCaffrey will hold a press conference regarding his South American trip next week.

The Small Business Administration

- On Monday, August 16, Administrator Alvarez will give an interview to *Nexus* magazine.
- On Tuesday, August 17, Administrator Alvarez will attend a Town Hall Event with Washington, DC Mayor Williams.
- On Thursday, August 19, Administrator Alvarez will attend the Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony with the National Council for Negro Women, the National Association of Black Accountants, and the Phelps Stokes Fund.
- On Friday, August 20, Administrator Alvarez will address the African-American Women on Tour in Washington, DC.
- On Friday, August 20, Administrator Alvarez will give an interview to Edward Jones.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency

- From August 16-20, Director Witt will be on vacation.

The Office of Personnel Management

- From August 16-22, Director Lachance will have no public schedule.

The United States Information Agency

- On Monday, August 16, Director Kemble will be in New York City, NY.

The General Services Administration

- On Monday, August 16, Administrator Barram will attend the dedication of the Robert Byrd Courthouse and Federal Building in Beckley, WV.

The Social Security Administration

- From August 13-23, Commissioner Apfel will be on vacation.