

MEMORANDUM

TO: TOM FREEDMAN, MARY SMITH

FROM: AMY BLOCK

RE: DOMESTIC POLICY EVENTS

DATE: MAY 13, 1998

Approximately 43 domestic policy events with the President took place from December through April. As the list below shows, there were significantly more health, education, and economic policy events with the President than childcare, race, and tobacco events. Most events received adequate news coverage and three events stood out as dominant lead stories: the President's budget submission, childcare proposal announcement, and Midwest travel and education event at Champaign-Urbana.

Nearly 30 major foreign policy events occurred during the same six month period (events which took place over several days, such as the President's travel to Africa, received only one count).

Attached is an overview of domestic policy events and news coverage (December-April). This summary is not entirely reflective of all White House policy announcements over the past six months -- some policy events such as the equal pay announcement involved the Vice President rather than the President, other agency-wide events such as Kick-Butts Day are not listed here, and headlines and lead stories on major policy events were not always available.

Domestic Policy Events (December 1, 1997 - April 30, 1998)

Healthcare/Welfare (8)

1/6 Medicare Event
1/14 Healthcare Bill of Rights
2/18 Children's Health Initiative
2/20 Healthcare Bill of Rights
3/5 Medicare Commission Meeting
3/13 Healthcare Statement
3/17 Medicare Buy In
4/21 Birth Defects Prevention Act

Education (8)

1/9 Education Events (McAllen and Houston)
1/28 Education (Champaign-Urbana)
2/4 College-School Partnership
3/16 Education Roundtable (MD)
4/8 School Construction (Chicago)
4/21 School Construction
4/24 National Teacher of the Year
4/24 School Safety Meeting

Economy/Social Security (6)

1/5 Budget Meeting
2/2 Budget Submission
2/9 Social Security Event
3/6 Economic Statement
4/7 Social Security Regional Conference
4/30 Regional Event

Crime/Drugs (5)

12/11 Drug Seizure (Miami)
1/12 Drug Testing
3/3 DUI
3/19 School Safety
4/6 Assault Weapons

Science/Technology (5)

12/16 Medals of Science & Technology
12/17 Cong. Space Medal of Honor
2/26 Internet Event (San Francisco)
3/5 NASA Commander Announcement
4/14 Johnson Space Center

Race (4)

12/3 Race Forum (Akron)
12/8 Photo-op w/MIR Astronaut
12/19 Meeting with Conservatives
4/14 ESPN Forum (Houston)

Children/Families (3)

1/7 Childcare event
3/10 Childcare event (CT)
4/23 Childcare event

Agriculture/Food Safety (2)

12/17 Family Farmers
3/4 Food Safety

Tobacco (2)

4/9 Farmers (KY)
4/27 Surgeon General's Report

Foreign Policy Events (28)

12/5 USEU Summit
12/9 Human Rights Day Reception
12/15 PM Ahern
12/19 PM Yilmaz
12/21 Travel to Bosnia
1/16 Baltic Leaders Meeting & Charter Signing
1/20 PM Netanyahu
1/22 Chairman Arafat
2/5-2/6 PM Blair
2/10 Pres. Stoyanov
2/11 NATO Expansion
2/17 Pentagon Mtg & Remarks

2/20 Drop-by Mtg w/Ehud Barak
3/11 Kofi Annan
3/11 International Women's Day
3/11 PM Chernomyrdin
3/13 PM Chuan
3/16 Ambassador Credentials
3/16 Gerry Adams
3/19 PM Ahern
3/19 King Hussein
3/20 NATO Event
3/22-4/2 Travel to Africa
4/10 President Ramos
4/15-19 Chile/Summit of the Americas
4/20 Economic Statement
4/23 President Niyazov of Turkmenistan
4/24 50th Anniversary of Israel Event

DOMESTIC POLICY EVENTS (DECEMBER 1, 1997 - APRIL 30, 1998)

L = Lead

✓ = Story

EVENT (100 total)	ABC	CBS	NBC	NYT	WP	WSJ	USAT	WT	LAT
HEALTHCARE/WELFARE (8)									
1/6 Medicare Event	✓	L	✓	L	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/14 Healthcare Bill of Rights				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2/18 Children's Health Initiative					✓		✓	✓	✓
2/20 Healthcare Bill of Rights		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3/5 Medicare Commission Meeting			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3/13 Healthcare Statement									
3/17 Medicare Buy In		✓		✓	✓	✓	L		
4/21 Birth Defects Prevention Act					✓				
EDUCATION (8)									
1/9 Education Events (McAllen and Houston)					✓			✓	✓
1/28 Education (Champaign-Urbana)	L	L	L		✓				
2/4 College-School Partnership				✓			✓		✓
3/16 Education Roundtable (MD)				✓				✓	
4/8 School Construction (Chicago)				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
4/21 School Construction			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
4/24 National Teacher of the Year									✓
4/24 School Safety Meeting									
ECONOMY/SOCAL SECURITY (6)									
1/5 Budget Meeting					✓	✓		✓	
2/2 Budget Submission	L		✓		L	L	L	L	
2/9 Social Security Event				✓	✓			✓	
3/6 Economic Statement		✓	✓						
4/7 Social Security Regional Conference			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4/30 Regional Event									
CRIME/DRUGS (5)									
12/11 Drug Seizure (Miami)	✓							✓	✓
1/12 Drug Testing	✓								
3/3 DUI	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓
3/19 School Safety		✓	✓		✓			✓	
4/6 Assault Weapons	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY (5)									
12/16 Medals of Science & Technology									
12/17 Cong. Space Medal of Honor									
2/26 Internet Event (San Francisco)	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓
3/5 NASA Commander Annemnt		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
4/14 Johnson Space Center				✓	✓				
RACE (4)									
12/3 Race Forum (Akron)	✓	✓	L	✓	✓	✓		L	✓
12/8 Photo-op w/MIR Astronaut	✓	✓							
12/19 Meeting with Conservatives		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
4/14 ESPN Forum (Houston)	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
CHILDREN/FAMILIES (3)									
1/7 Childcare event	L	L	L	✓	L		✓	L	✓
3/10 Childcare event (CT)				✓	✓				✓
4/23 Childcare event					✓			✓	
AGRICULTURE/FOOD SAFETY (2)									
12/17 Family Farmers									
3/4 Food Safety		✓			✓				✓
TOBACCO (2)									
4/9 Farmers (KY)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4/27 Surgeon General's Report				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Blair Town

301-

718 4368

DOMESTIC POLICY NEWS ANALYSIS (December 1, 1997 - April 30, 1998)

DPL event?

HEALTHCARE/WELFARE (8)

1/6 Medicare Event

ABC: Clinton Proposes Medicare Expansion (2:00)
CBS: (L) Clinton Proposes to Expand Medicare (2:20)
NBC: **President Clinton Announces Plan to Dramatically Expand Coverage of Medicare to Help Uninsured Seniors** lead????
NYT: (L) Clinton Proposes Expanding Medicare to Those 55 to 65
WP: Medicare Expansion Proposed
WSJ: Clinton Seeks Medicare Expansion
USAT: (L) Clinton: Expand Medicare Plan Offers Coverage to Unemployed, Uninsured
WT: Clinton Spells Out Three-Part Plan to Expand Medicare
LAT: Clinton Proposes Extending Medicare to More Workers, Retirees
Other Network Lead: Bono Death
Other Newspaper Lead: DC Control Board

1/14 Healthcare Bill of Rights

NYT: (Photo Caption Only) Democratic Leaders Show Unity
WP: At White House Pep Rally, Democrats Pledge to Push Common Legislative Program
USAT: Clinton, Democrats Push Health Care Bill of Rights
LAT: Democrats to Push For Patient's Rights
Network Leads: Iraq UN Team, Justice Dept. Herman
Newspaper Leads: RJR Documents, Suharto IMF Reforms
TV Headlines: N/A

2/18 Children's Health Initiative

ABC:
CBS:
NBC:
NYT:
WP: Clinton Announces Moves to Expand Children's Medical Care
WSJ:
USAT: Clinton Orders Search for Uninsured Children
WT: Efforts Should Widen Health Coverage
LAT: Plan Widens Health Care for Children
Network Lead:
Newspaper Lead:
Network Lead: Administration Town Mtg on Iraq
Newspaper Lead:

RURAL POVERTY
NEWS ANALYSIS

2/20 Healthcare Bill of Rights

CBS: President Clinton proposes a health-care bill of rights for government health-care programs and those covered by private health insurance
NYT: Clinton Orders Rights Action in Health Care
WP: President to Announce Health Care Protections
WSJ: Clinton to Order Patients' Rights Be Part of Federal Health Plans
USAT: Patient bill of rights ordered for all federal health plans
LAT: Clinton to Sign 'Patients' Rights' Order

3/5 Medicare Commission Mtg

NBC: New Plans For Medicare Fall Through Despite Bipartisan Effort (lead???)
NYT: Study Issued In Bid to Halt Medicare Cut
(3/7) Study Panel on Medicare Begins Work, In Conflict
WP: Commission Tackles Medicare's Solvency Problems
WSJ: Medicare Beneficiaries Spent a Lot on Health In '97, Study Shows
USAT: Study: Care costs seniors dearly 19% of income goes to health expenses
LAT: Commission Vows to Reshape Medicare
WT: Clinton Rebuffs Medicare Panel
Network Lead: WH Scandal

Newspaper Lead: WH Scandal

- 3/13 Healthcare Statement
WSJ: White House, Insurers Square Off Over Curbing Tax Shelter Tied to Corporate-Owned Policies.
LAT: Clinton Calls for Legislation to Grant HMO Patients Appeals

- 3/17 Medicare Buy In
CBS: Clinton Acts To Fix Holes In Health Insurance Portability Law (1:55)
NYT: Clinton Pushes Proposal To Open Medicare To Millions Of People Age 55 to 65
WP: Clinton Touts Plan to Make Health Care More Affordable for Elderly and Others
WSJ: Clinton Touts Plan To Make Health Care More Affordable For Elderly And Others
USAT: (L) Firms Lashed Over Health Coverage Gaps
LAT:
WT:
Network Lead: Willey
Newspaper Lead: Oil Prices, POTUS GOP Budget

- 4/21 Birth Defects Prevention Act
WP: New Law Calls For Data On Birth Defects
Network Lead: SUV, Juice, School Reform
Newspaper Lead: Russia, Tobacco, Linda McCartney

EDUCATION (8)

- 1/9 Education Events (McAllen and Houston)
WP: Recharged Clinton Touts Education, Courts Hispanic Voters on Texas Tour
LAT: Clinton Calls on Latinos to Stay in School
WT: Battle Joined on Hot Issue of 1998; Clinton Fires First In Education Fight
Network Lead:
Newspaper Lead:
- 1/28 Education (Champaign-Urbana)
ABC: (L) President Gets Friendly Reception
CBS: (L)
NBC: (L)
WP: Turn Out in Illinois College Town to Hear of President's Initiatives, Not His Legal and Personal Woes
Newspaper Leads: WH Scandal, Speech Boost POTUS Rating
- 2/4 College-School Partnership
NYT: Clinton Plans Mentors for Low-Income Pupils
USAT: U.S. Aid to Link Colleges to Youths
LAT: Clinton Plan Would Widen College Track
Network Lead: Iraq
Newspaper Lead: Iraq, Starr
- 3/16 Education Roundtable (MD)
NYT: President Proposes Testing
WP: On Clinton Field Trip, Subject Is Education
WT: President Received By High Schoolers Unconcerned About Swirl of Scandals
LAT: Math-Science Panel
Network Lead: Willey
Newspaper Lead: Willey, Vatican Apologizes
- 4/8 School Construction (Chicago)
NYT: Clinton, in Chicago, Presses Congress on School Repairs
USAT: Clinton Rallies Support for Education Proposals
WT: Clinton touts Moseley-Braun education crusade
LAT: Clinton's Classroom Math: \$20 Billion for Buildings
Network Lead:
Newspaper Lead:

- 4/21 School Construction
 NBC: President Clinton and Republicans Fighting Over Differing Plans to Help Give More Money to Education
 NYT: Clinton Derides G.O.P. Tax-Break Plan as Boon for Rich and Threat to Schools
 WP: Education Initiatives Give Parties A Plank for November Races
 USAT: School Subsidy Proposal defeated in Senate vote
 LAT: U.S. School Repair Bill Voted Down In Senate
 Network Lead:
 Newspaper Lead:
- 4/24 National Teacher of the Year
 ABC:
 CBS:
 NBC:
 NYT:
 WP:
 WSJ:
 USAT:
 WT:
 LAT:
 Network Lead:
 Newspaper Lead:
- 4/24 School Safety Meeting
 ABC:
 CBS:
 NBC:
 NYT:
 WP:
 WSJ:
 USAT:
 WT:
 LAT:
 Network Lead:
 Newspaper Lead:

ECONOMY/SOCIAL SECURITY(6)

- 1/5 Budget Meeting
 ABC:
 CBS:
 NBC:
 NYT:
 WP: Clinton to Propose '99 Balanced Budget: Plan Would Beat Target by 3 Years
 WSJ: Clinton to Propose a Balanced Budget For Fiscal 1999, Three Years Early
 USAT:
 WT: Clinton to Propose Balanced '99 Budget; GOP Wants To See More Spending Cuts
 LAT:
 Network Lead:
 Newspaper Lead:
- 2/2 Budget Submission
 ABC: **(L)** President Proposes Balanced Budget
 CBS:
 NBC: President Clinton Announces Balanced Budget Package With Zero Deficit and Surplus to be Used to Save Social Security and Social Programs
 Washington Post: **(L)**
 WSJ: **(L)**: Federal Overhaul: In A March to a Surplus, Government Changed In Many Small Ways
 LAT: **(L)**
 Washington Times: **(L)**
 Other Network Leads: POTUS Polls, Abortion Bombings
 Other Newspaper Lead: Saudis Support US, US Stocks Up

- 2/9 Social Security Event
 NYT: Clinton Opens Campaign for Quick Action on Social Security
 WP: Talking About Social Security to a Younger Crowd
 WT: Solving the Budget Surplus Problem
 Network Lead: Iraq
 Newspaper Leads: Starr, GOP POTUS
- 3/6 Economic Statement
 ABC:
 CBS: Unemployment fell again to 4.6 percent, a 24-year low
 NBC: President Clinton Declares More Jobs Are Being Created
 NYT:
 WP:
 WSJ:
 USAT:
 WT:
 LAT:
 Network Lead:
 Newspaper Lead:
- 4/7 Social Security Regional Conference
 ABC:
 CBS:
 NBC: President Clinton Kicks Off Tour of Town Meetings To Discuss Mucosity of Changes to Social Security Program
 NYT: **(L) President Presses Debate on Change in Social Security????/**
 WP: President's Advisers Stage First Road Show on Social Security Issues
 WSJ: 1. Social Security Debate Begins Amid Misunderstandings
 2. Clinton Rules Out Raising Payroll Taxes To Ensure Solvency of Social Security
 USAT: 1. Clinton: No Tax Hike To Save Social Security
 2. Search is on for Social Security Solution, Clinton Kicks Off Year of National Debate With A Forum in Kansas City
 WT: Clinton Defends Future Social Security; Says Surplus Should Be Used for Reforms
 LAT: Clinton Open to Wider Reform of Social Security
 Network Lead:
 Newspaper Lead:
- 4/30 Economic Event
 ABC:
 CBS:
 NBC:
 NYT:
 WP:
 WSJ:
 USAT:
 WT:
 LAT:
 Network Lead:
 Newspaper Lead:

CRIME/DRUGS (5)

- 12/11 Drug Seizure (Miami)
 ABC: Clinton in Miami for Yet Another Fund Raiser (mentions drug event)
 LAT: Clinton Seeks to Stop Flow of Drugs At Mexican Border
 WT: McCaffrey says anti-drug plan will target border with Mexico
 Network Lead:
 Newspaper Lead:
- 1/12 Drug Testing
 Network Lead:

Newspaper Lead:

3/3 DUI

ABC: President Clinton Made a Public Effort To Make the Nation's Drunk Driving Laws Even Tougher
NYT: (Photo) A Somber President Clinton left a White House event yesterday after endorsing a national limit for blood alcohol content in drivers
WP: Bill Seeks Uniform DWI Level
WSJ: Clinton Backs Measure Pressing States to Cut Drivers' Alcohol Limit
WJ: Clinton Backs Drunken-Driving Change
LAT: Clinton Backs Tighter Blood-Alcohol Limit
Network Lead: Jordan Testifies
Newspaper Lead: Gates Senate, India, Iraq, Jordan Testifies

3/19 School Safety

ABC:
CBS: New Studies Show Violence Is An Unwelcome Trend In Many Public Schools
NBC: The Effects of School Uniforms on Discipline and Learning
NYT:
WP: Study: Violence Hits 10% Of Public Schools
WT: White House Report Shows Violence Plagues One in Ten U.S. High Schools
Network Lead: N/A
Newspaper Lead: Jones, Willey, China

4/6 Assault Weapons

ABC: A Closer Look (assault weapons)
NBC: President Clinton Closes Loophole on Assault Weapons Ban But Many Say It Is Ineffective and NRA Plans to Contest Change
CBS: Assault weapons are growing ever more popular and increasing the firepower among criminals
NYT: Clinton to Impose a Ban on 58 Types of Imported Guns
WP: President Making Gun Import Ban Permanent; Order Will Cover Assault Weapons
USAT: Import Ban Imposed on Assault Guns
WT: Clinton Poised to Expand Gun Ban
LAT: Curbed Imports of Assault Rifles Turns Into Ban
Network Lead:
Newspaper Lead:

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY (5)

12/16 Medals of Science & Technology

Network Lead: N/A
Newspaper Leads: Japan, Iraq, Korea

12/17 Cong. Space Medal of Honor

Network Lead: Microsoft, Iraq, TX Day Care Gunman
Newspaper Lead: Auto Pollution, Microsoft

2/26 Internet Event (San Francisco)

ABC: Clinton Said He Wants to Forbid Taxes On Sales Made Over the Internet For the Next Five Years
NYT: Clinton Talk to Oppose Internet Tax
WP: White House Resists Taxes on Internet; Clinton to Back Bills Imposing Moratorium
WSJ: Clinton, As Expected, Says He'll Support Moratorium on Taxing Internet Sales
LAT: Clinton to Oppose Taxes on Internet, Aides Say
USAT:
Network Lead: POTUS Denies
Newspaper Lead: POTUS Denies

3/5 NASA Commander Announcement

CBS: First Woman Space Shuttle Commander Introduced At White House (1:55)
NBC: First Woman Set To Command Shuttle Is Introduced At White House (0:15)
NYT: (Photo) First Woman Shuttle Commander
WP: 1. NASA To Name Veteran Pilot 1st Female Shuttle Chief (day before announcement)

2. Stars Come To Students

WT: Woman Tapped To Lead Space Mission

Network Lead: WH Scandal

Newspaper Lead: WH Scandal

4/14 Johnson Space Center

NYT: (Photo) President Clinton met yesterday with Sen. John Glenn on a tour of the Space Shuttle

WP: Reliable Source

Network Lead: Prescription Drug Deaths, Death Rate for 16 yr olds, Air Safety

Newspaper Lead: Raines, FCC Minority Hiring, Air Safety, Prescriptions

RACE (4)

12/3 Race Forum (Akron)

ABC: President Holds Town Meeting On Race

NBC: (L) President Clinton Holds Town Meeting In Ohio TO Discuss Race Reconciliation in America, But Critics Think His Program Is All Talk

CBS: President Clinton takes town hall meeting on race relations to college campuses

NYT: In Akron, Dialogue But Few Changes

WP: Forum Finds No Consensus on Race Issues

WSJ: White House Reworks Troubled Race Initiative As President Heads for a Town Meeting in Ohio

USAT:

WT: Race Forum No Consensus

LAT: Clinton's Race Dialogue Gets Off to Hesitant Start

Washington Times: (L) "Race Forum No Consensus"

Other Network Lead: KY Shooting

Newspaper Lead: Korea Loans, Life Span Study, Motorola Plant

TV Headlines: N/A

12/8 Photo-op w/MIR Astronaut

ABC: First Black Astronaut Honored in Memorial 30 Years After Death (0:30)

CBS: Name of First Black Astronaut Added to Memorial (0:25)

Network Lead: Lawrence, Military Terrorism, Flu Virus From Birds

Newspaper Lead: Gore Speech on Climate Criticized, Reno Defies Congress, Lawrence

12/19 Meeting with Conservatives

ABC:

CBS:

NBC:

NYT: (1) Clinton Debates 9 Conservative on Racial Issues

(2) Excerpts From White House Meeting with Conservatives on Race

WP: Clinton Charms Affirmative Action Foes

WSJ:

USAT:

WT: Preferences A Problem, President Told At Talk

LAT: Clinton Adds Voice of Critics to Race Dialogue

Network Lead:

Newspaper Lead:

4/14 ESPN Forum (Houston)

ABC: Equal Time

CBS:

NBC:

NYT: President Leads TV Discussion on Role of Race in Sports

WP: 1. Race-Sports Talk Focuses Off the Field: Clinton is largely spectator at event

2. All-Star Lineup Joins Clinton in Race Discussion

USAT: 1. Sports' Racial Wins, Losses Tallied

2. Forum on Race Goes Easy On Leagues, Owners

WT: Race Gap in Sports Criticized

LAT: Clinton Headlines Discussion of Race Amid Criticism

Network Lead: Prescription Drug Deaths, Death Rate for 16 yr olds, Air Safety

CHILDREN/FAMILIES (3)

1/7 Childcare Event

ABC: (L) Clinton Proposes Plan to Help Parents Pay for Child Care (0:30)
CBS: (L) President Proposes Spending \$21 Billion on Child Care (1:45)
NBC: (L) Clinton Asks for \$22 Billion For Big New Childcare Program (2:05)
NYT: President Plans on \$21 Billion for Child Care
WP: (L) Clinton Rolls Out Child Care Plan
USAT: \$22 Billion Child Care Package Proposed
WT: (L) Clinton Unveils \$21.7 Billion Child Care Plan
LAT: Clinton Unveils \$21.7 Billion Plan to Boost Child Care
Other Network Lead: Nichols Trial
Other Newspaper Lead: Nichols Trial

3/10 Childcare Event (CT)

NYT: (Photo) A Day For Children
WP: 2 States, 2 Agendas As Clinton Hits Road
USAT: Washington Column
LAT: Clinton Urges Congress To Act On Child Care Initiatives
Network Lead: Midwest Blizzard, Military Sexes
Newspaper Lead: Willey Testifies

4/23 Childcare Event

ABC:
CBS:
NBC:
NYT:
WP: Clinton Pushes for Congressional Action on Child Care Tax Credit
WSJ:
USAT:
WT: Clinton Presses for passage of \$21.7 billion for children
LAT:
Network Lead: James Earl Ray dies
Newspaper Lead: DNC Funds, Health Insurance, Senate School Tax Break, Airlines

AGRICULTURE/FOOD SAFETY(2)

12/17 Family Farmers Mtg

Network Lead: Microsoft, Iraq, TX Day Care Gunman
Newspaper Lead: Auto Pollution, Microsoft

3/4 Food Safety

ABC
CBS: Congress Debates New Bill to Protect Americans Against Health Threat From Imported Foods
WP: Bill Would Allow FDA to Halt Produce Imports
LAT: Clinton, Gore Press Food Safety Issue
Network Lead: SCOTUS Harassment, Senate Alcohol
Newspaper Lead: SCOTUS Harassment, POTUS Denies

4/18 Food Safety Radio Address

TOBACCO (2)

4/9 Farmers (KY)

ABC: The Fight With the Tobacco Companies Goes On
CBS: President Clinton Travels to Tobacco Country to Support Tobacco Farmers But Continues His Fight Against Teen Smoking
NBC:
NYT: Clinton, Visiting Tobacco Country, Tries to Win Over Farmers on Legislation
WP: 'At War' With Tobacco, Clinton Woos Farmers
WSJ: Clinton, In Tobacco Territory, Chastises Cigarette Firms for Resisting Legislation

USAT: Clinton Promises To Do Right By Tobacco Farmers
LAT: Clinton Faces Protests In Travels To Tobacco Country
WT: Clinton Pledges To Look Out For Tobacco Growers
Network Lead: POTUS Tornado Relief
Newspaper Lead: Tornado, Budget Surplus

4/27 Suregeon General's Report on Minorities and Smoking

ABC:
CBS:
NBC:
NYT:
WP:
WSJ:
USAT:
WT:
LAT:
Network Lead:
Newspaper Lead:

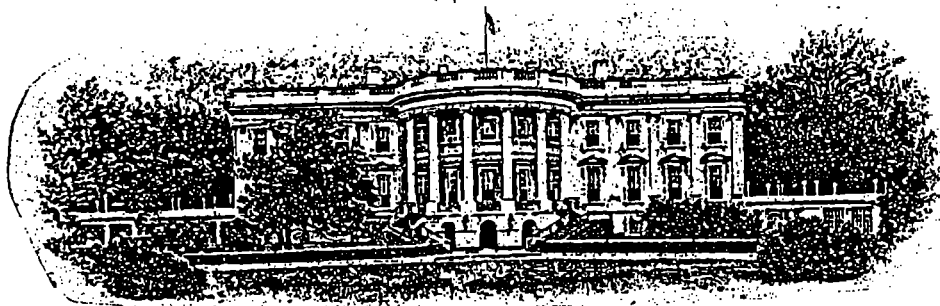
FOREIGN POLICY (28)

12/5 USEU Summit
12/9 Human Rights Day Reception
12/15 PM Ahern
12/19 PM Yilmaz
12/21 Travel to Bosnia
1/16 Baltic Leaders Meeting & Charter Signing
1/20 PM Netanyahu
1/22 Chairman Arafat
2/5-2/6 PM Blair
2/10 Pres. Stoyanov
2/11 NATO Expansion
2/17 Pentagon Mtg & Remarks
2/20 Drop-by Mtg w/EhudBarak
3/11 Kofi Annan
3/11 Intl Women's Day
3/11 PM Chernomyrdin
3/13 PM Chuan
3/16 Ambassador Credentials
3/16 Gerry Adams
3/19 PM Ahern
3/19 King Hussein
3/20 NATO Event
3/22-4/2 Travel to Africa
4/10 President Ramos
4/15-19 Chile/Summit of the Americas
4/20 Economic Statement
4/23 President Niyazov of Turkmenistan
4/24 50th Anniversary of Israel Event

03/22/96 10:42 202-456-2685 WH PRESS OFFICE

*Good copy
- Present
EW*

Office of the Vice President Communications



274 OEOB

Washington, DC 20501

Phone: 202-456-7035 Fax: 202-456-2685

TO: Mary Smith

DATE: 5-22

FAX#: 456-7431

Pages - including cover: 2

From: Patricia Ewing

Lawrence Haas

Jodi Sakol

Nathan Naylor

Tom Rosshirt

Chris Lehane

Eli Attie

Andrei Cherny

Jonathan Spalter

COMMENTS: _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release:
Friday, May 22, 1998

Contact:
(202) 456-7035

VICE PRESIDENT GORE LAUNCHES COMPUTER NETWORK TO FIGHT FOOD-BORNE ILLNESS

New Food Safety System Five Times Faster At Locating Serious and Wide-Spread Food Contamination Problems

Washington, D.C. -- Addressing a problem that affects 33 million Americans each year, Vice President Gore announced today a new national computer network that will be five times faster at identifying and combating food-borne illness.

PulseNet -- a national computer network that identifies outbreaks of food-borne illness -- will enable public health laboratories across the country to use the Internet to provide alerts when outbreaks of food-borne disease occur.

"President Clinton and I are committed to finding ways to ensure that the food Americans put on their tables is safe," said the Vice President, who was joined at a White House ceremony by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "With this efficient new computer network, we can more effectively trace widespread foodborne disease outbreaks and warn millions of Americans to stay away from contaminated food products."

In as little as 48 hours, PulseNet can identify rogue E.coli strains in foods by identifying the distinctive DNA fingerprints of pathogens found in both food sources and the patients suffering from gastric illness. In 1993, it took three weeks to track an rogue E.coli contamination in hamburger meat produced by single source.

PulseNet will link food safety investigators at the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, the Agriculture Department, four key area laboratories and state health departments to link directly with the PulseNet database.

As of today, epidemiologists in the following states will be on PulseNet -- Massachusetts, Minnesota, Texas, Washington California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. The CDC plans to have all states on the network by 1999.

This important Administration initiative will reduce the number of Americans who suffer from episodes of food-borne illness and prevent over 9,000 deaths a year. This initiative is part of the Vice President's effort to reinvent government through partnerships at state and federal agencies and make smart use of the latest technology.

The Vice President also announced the formation of FORCG (pronounced Force G), a partnership of federal and state agencies to better respond to food-borne illness outbreaks.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5-25-98

98 MAY 23 PM 12:51

May 22, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

Copied
Reed
Kagan
COS

*Need
Campus
analysis*

1. Tobacco -- Senate Update: As you know, after soundly defeating amendments to (1) cap attorneys' fees, (2) eliminate industry payments, and (3) raise industry payments to the equivalent of \$1.50 per pack of cigarettes, the Senate passed an amendment to the McCain bill to remove the \$8 billion annual cap on industry liability. We are fearful that the passage of this amendment will make the bill appear unbalanced to some Senators and will introduce a kind of open season on further amendments. When the Senate returns from recess, it is scheduled to take up an amendment by Sen. Durbin to increase lookback penalties and an amendment by Sen. Gramm to devote most of the bill's revenues to a tax cut for married couples with income of less than \$50,000 per year (advertised as an elimination of the marriage penalty). Some moderate Republicans might join Democrats to pass the Durbin amendment; just as likely, some Democrats might join Republicans to pass the Gramm amendment, which would wipe out most of the public health and research spending in the bill, but provide a significant tax cut to low- and middle-income people. We will have to decide in the next week whether to develop and/or support a smaller tax cut proposal. Such a proposal would take the pressure off Democrats to vote for the Gramm amendment and if passed, would enhance the attractiveness of the bill to Republicans; inevitably, however, the proposal would diminish the funds available for spending on health research and public health programs.

2. Tobacco -- MMWR Study: The Centers for Disease Control released on Thursday new statistics on teenage smoking patterns and addiction. The data found that: (1) teenagers find it difficult to quit smoking -- 86 percent of teens who smoke daily and try to quit are unsuccessful; (2) teenagers underestimate the addictiveness of nicotine -- 75 percent of teenage daily smokers who expect to quit are still smoking five years later; and (3) casual smokers easily become hooked -- 42 percent of young people who smoke as few as three cigarettes per month go on to become regular smokers. About 36 percent of high school students currently smoke.

3. Crime -- COPS Event: You are tentatively scheduled to participate in an event on Friday to: (1) announce that the COPS initiative has now funded the hiring of 75,000 new police officers and (2) launch a new pilot project to target COPS funding toward distressed and

5-25-98

underprotected neighborhoods. The first phase of the pilot will fund more than 500 officers in 10 large and 10 small cities across the country.

4. Crime -- Police Legislation: Congress passed two pieces of legislation last week that the Administration and law enforcement groups strongly supported. One bill will create a grant program to help local law enforcement agencies purchase additional bulletproof vests; the other will help fund counseling services for dependents of slain officers. We are working with Rahm and the Legislative Affairs Office to schedule a signing ceremony for these bills, perhaps as part of the COPS event described above.

5. Health -- Patients' Bill of Rights: Amidst reports that Speaker Gingrich is trying to stop Congress from passing a patients' bill of rights this year, Rep. Norwood has begun quiet discussions with Rep. Dingell about filing a discharge petition to bring such legislation directly to the floor for a vote. To highlight the necessity for immediate Congressional action on this issue, you are scheduled to participate in an event next week to release a state-by-state analysis showing how many Americans are not currently covered by patient protection laws. This event also will highlight why the protections in the patients' bill of rights are so important to women: in particular, studies show that doctors view health complaints made by women as less urgent than those made by men and as a result, refer women to specialists less often. Nancy Dickey, the newly-appointed first woman chair of the American Medical Association, is scheduled to participate in the event.

6. Education -- Bilingual Education: The House Subcommittee on Children, Youth and Families last week approved a bill offered by Rep. Riggs that would replace the current bilingual and immigrant education programs with a block grant to states to help LEP students learn English. The bill would (1) require states to cut off funds to any local program that does not place all LEP students in regular English-language classes within two years; (2) prohibit states from exempting any student who has been in school for two years from participation in English-language tests; (3) void existing compliance agreements between the Education Department's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and local school districts under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act regarding the provision of services to LEP students; and (4) prohibit OCR from entering into additional agreements until it proposes, and Congress ratifies, new guidelines and compliance standards for Title VI. DPC is working with other White House offices and the Education Department to develop a strategy for addressing the Riggs bill; as part of this strategy, we may wish to propose alternative legislation that reflects the principles you have articulated for strengthening programs for LEP students. We will send you a more detailed report on this issue next week.

7. Education -- New Orleans Schools: You recently asked about how the Education Department's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is handling a complaint brought by parents against a selective magnet school in New Orleans for using high IQ scores as a strict admissions requirement, regardless of grades or other indicators of academic performance. In response to this complaint, the local school board already has agreed to work with OCR to develop new

5-25-98

admissions criteria that will maintain high standards but not rely solely on IQ scores. On OCR's advice, the board will not rescind admission decisions made under the current admissions standard for the next school year. OCR understands the importance of working with the school board to resolve this complaint in a way consistent with the Administration's commitment to high standards and testing, and so far has managed to defuse much of the controversy arising from the complaint's filing.

8. Welfare Reform -- Welfare-to-Work Celebration: You are scheduled to participate in an event on Wednesday to celebrate the success of the welfare-to-work effort, with a particular spotlight on the Welfare-to-Work Partnership. Over the last year, the Partnership has grown to 5,000 businesses, which have hired a total of 135,000 welfare recipients. In a recent survey, 75 percent of the businesses in the Partnership found welfare recipients to be productive employees; indeed, a number of businesses reported that people hired off welfare have higher retention rates than other new employees. At the event, you will announce the latest caseload reduction numbers and the first round of Welfare-to-Work Competitive Grants (from the \$3 billion Welfare-to-Work program in the balanced budget); you also will challenge the Partnership to double the number of people hired by its business partners in the coming year. In conjunction with the event, the Partnership will release a report called the *Road to Retention*, which profiles the successes of 16 large and small businesses in retaining former welfare recipients as employees. The Partnership also will release new PSAs on the welfare-to-work effort.

9. Immigration -- H-1B visas: By a vote of 23-4, the House Judiciary Committee approved on Wednesday legislation authored by Rep. Lamar Smith to increase the cap on H-1B visas. As requested by the Administration, the bill makes substantial reforms in the H-1B program in order to protect qualified U.S. workers from being displaced or passed over in favor of temporary foreign workers. The bill however, does not contain a training component. Prior to the mark-up, Secretary Daley, Secretary Herman, and Attorney General Reno sent a letter to Chairman Hyde indicating that the Administration would support the bill if it were modified to include a meaningful training provision. Also last week, the full Senate passed its version of legislation to increase the cap on H-1B visas. The Senate bill is the mirror image of the current House provision: the former authorizes money for increased training through Title IV of the JTPA, but fails to include any meaningful reforms of the H-1B program. Our SAP on the bill stated that unless the final bill includes meaningful reform of the H-1B program, the Secretary of Labor would recommend a veto.

10. Immigration -- INS Reform: As we expected, Rep. Rogers introduced a bill last week that would disband the INS and reallocate immigration functions among the Justice, State, and Labor Departments along the lines suggested by the United States Commission on Immigration Reform. Soon after the Memorial Day recess, Sen. Kennedy and/or Rep. Watt will introduce legislation implementing the Administration's alternative reform plan, which would preserve the INS but fundamentally reform its operations by separating service and enforcement functions. Sen. Abraham has announced that he will hold hearings in June on

restructuring the immigration system, but has indicated that he does not expect Congress to approve a plan this year.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 28, 1999

copied
Reed
Kagan
Podesta

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

1. Health Care – Patients Bill of Rights Discharge Petition: Congressman Dingell filed a resolution Thursday to begin the process for a discharge petition to bring patients' rights legislation to the House floor. Although Congressmen Norwood and Ganske did not cosponsor the resolution, they were happy with Dingell's decision to file it because they think it may put pressure on the Republican leadership to move a bill through committee. Also at the end of last week, Senators Lott and Daschle began negotiations on a time agreement to bring patients' rights legislation to the floor of the Senate.

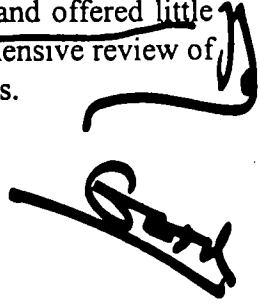
2. Health Care – Jeffords-Kennedy Legislation: The Senate leadership agreed Thursday to schedule a floor vote on the Jeffords-Kennedy Work Incentives Improvement Act immediately after the recess. We believe you should highlight the importance of the bill and its progress through the Congress when you deliver the President's Award of the Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities at an event on Friday.

3. Disabilities – Employment of People with Disabilities in the Federal Workforce: We have worked with the Vice President's office to prepare two executive actions to help increase the employment of people with disabilities in the federal workforce. The first is a directive from OMB to all federal agencies to implement an employment plan for people with disabilities. This directive will ensure that agencies (1) recruit people with disabilities for positions at all levels; (2) establish policies to provide reasonable accommodations for applicants and employees with disabilities; (3) provide people with disabilities with opportunities for training and advancement; and (4) collect data on the percentage of adults with disabilities in the federal workforce. The second action is an executive order, to be followed by regulations, to change the civil service rules to eliminate existing disparities between people with psychiatric disabilities and people with other disabilities. We are discussing making these announcements at next week's disabilities award event (see above) or at the upcoming White House mental health conference.

4. Welfare Reform – GAO Study on Welfare Outcomes: The Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee held a hearing Thursday to publicize a GAO study on the results of welfare reform legislation. The study concluded that welfare reform has dramatically increased the number of people moving from welfare to work. Summarizing

6-3-99

seven state studies of welfare recipients who have left the rolls (most of which we have reported to you previously), the GAO determined that between 61 percent (Tennessee) and 71 percent (Washington) of former recipients were working at the time of follow-up and between 63 percent (Maryland) and 85 percent (Indiana, South Carolina, Washington, and Wisconsin) had worked at some point since leaving welfare. Clay Shaw summarized the findings by saying that welfare reform was "the most successful piece of legislation in this half century." Some other participants at the hearing expressed greater caution, noting in particular that many of the jobs for welfare recipients paid low wages and offered little opportunity for advancement. We will provide you soon with a comprehensive review of the GAO report as well as the other information presented by the panelists.



6-15-99

Copied
Reed
Kagan

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 14, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

'99 JUN 14 PM 12:27

1. **Guns -- Crime Gun Report on Youths Age 18-20:** At a Monday event with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Vice President will release a report by the Treasury and Justice Departments on gun crime by 18-20 year olds. The report shows that this age group leads all others in using guns to commit both homicides and non-lethal crimes, such as assault, rape, and robbery. The homicide findings are particularly striking. In 1997, 18 year olds ranked first, 19 year olds ranked second, and 20 year olds ranked third among all age cohorts in committing gun homicides; together, youths in this age group committed a full 24 percent of all gun homicides. The report also finds that crime guns recovered and traced by law enforcement officials were more likely to have been possessed by 19 year olds than by any other age cohort. Most of the crime guns recovered from these youth were handguns, with an especially large number of semiautomatic pistols. The report concludes from these findings that the high rate of crime in the 18-20 age group is linked to excessively easy access to firearms.

2. **Guns -- Brady Report:** You will release early this week a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report showing that Brady has stopped over 400,000 prohibited users from buying guns. The report shows that between March 1994 and November 1998, Brady background checks stopped 312,000 prohibited purchasers -- including 207,000 individuals with felony convictions or indictments -- from buying handguns. The report also shows that since November 1998, when the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) went into effect, the FBI has blocked another 45,400 gun sales (both long guns and handguns) and states probably have blocked at least the same number (though the state number is an estimate based on the total number of checks they have done). We hope that release of this report, especially in combination with the youth crime gun report discussed above, will give a boost to our gun proposals when they come to the House floor later this week.

3. **Crime -- COPS:** The Senate Appropriations Committee last week reported out a Commerce Justice State bill that would zero out the COPS program (though the bill would fund, through a different office, the part of our new COPS proposal that focuses on law enforcement technology). Administration officials called attention to the elimination of the COPS program at the meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors last weekend. As you

know, the Mayors are strong proponents of the program.

4. Welfare – Two Parent Participation: As you may recall, we announced in December that all 39 states needing to report work participation rates for FY 1997 met the 25 percent work rate required for all families, but that about half these states missed the 75 percent rate required for two-parent families. HHS now has sent letters to the non-complying states notifying them of the amount of penalty incurred and advising them that they may either accept the penalty or submit a corrective action plan showing how they will achieve the work rate target by a future date. For every state except California, the penalties, if imposed, will be very small (ranging from \$224 in Alabama to \$223,000 in Washington) because the amount of the penalty is adjusted for the share of the state's caseload consisting of two-parent families and for the amount by which the state missed the participation rate target. The penalty for California could be \$4.5 million -- a large amount, but still less than one percent of the state's 1997 TANF grant -- because the state has a high proportion of two-parent cases and missed the target by a large amount. While we expect a few states to accept minimal penalties, most probably will submit corrective action plans. We expect to have participation rates for FY 1998 later this summer.

5. Welfare – Civil Rights Guidance: We and the counsel's office are currently reviewing the final version of civil rights guidance to be sent to state welfare agencies and other interested parties. This guidance -- intended for use by welfare caseworkers and other staff -- explains the civil rights laws that apply to federally funded programs and to the workplace, using clear language and numerous practical examples. As you know, civil rights laws apply to TANF programs as they do to any other federally assisted programs, and they apply to employees on TANF just as they do to any other employees. This guidance, prepared by HHS with assistance from the Departments of Justice, Labor, Education, and Agriculture, will be distributed shortly.

 **6. Education – Troops to Teachers:** The defense authorization bill passed by the Senate includes a provision to continue the Troops to Teachers program, but the provision differs from your ESEA proposal in a few important ways. Most important, the defense bill does not include your proposal to extend the Troops to Teachers model to other mid-career professionals interested in teaching high-need subjects in high-poverty schools. We are currently working with OMB to draft a SAP for conferees noting how we would change the provision. In addition, Congressmen Roemer and Davis plan to introduce our Troops to Teachers proposal this week as a freestanding bill.

7. Education – Republican Teacher Empowerment Act/Class Size: House Republicans have introduced a teacher quality bill that in many ways resembles the teacher quality provisions in your ESEA proposal, but attempts to eliminate or undermine two of your signature programs. The Republican bill, like your proposal, focuses on supporting sustained, high-quality professional development and improving alternative routes to teacher certification. The bill, however, turns your class size initiative into little more than an

allowable use of funding by allowing districts to opt out of class size reduction activities for a wide variety of reasons (e.g., lack of facilities or qualified teachers). Equally problematic, the bill appears to preclude federal funding for the National Board for Teacher Certification. We currently expect committee mark-up of this bill before the end of the month. DPC and Department of Education staff will meet with congressional staff this week to try to work out differences on the bill. We will stress that we will oppose the bill unless it continues the class size program and authorizes funding for the National Board.

8. Education – Social Promotion in Los Angeles: Officials of the L.A. Unified School District unveiled a \$71 million initiative on Monday to end social promotion and launch intervention programs for students having difficulty meeting education standards. The District will use the Stanford 9 test and teachers' assessments to determine whether students in grades 2,3,4,5, and 8 meet standards in reading, language arts, and math. The District will provide students in danger of failing with special summer school, after school, and weekend classes. The community has responded very positively to the program, with parents overwhelmingly in favor of the effort and 7,000 teachers applying to provide the special instruction.

9. Education – School Uniforms: You recently requested an update on the number of school districts adopting school uniform policies. The Department of Education has not collected new data on this practice since July 1998. At that time, the Department estimated that 3 percent of all public schools had mandatory school uniform policies -- including schools in New York City, Dade County (Miami), San Antonio, Houston, Chicago, Boston, and Albuquerque. We know that other school districts have adopted mandatory uniform policies since the Department's last report, and Massachusetts is now considering putting the policy into effect on a statewide basis. The Department of Education is currently updating our data; we should have a new report for you within three months.

10. Health Care – Testimony on BBA's Provider Payment Provisions: The CBO, GAO, and Medicare Payment Advisory Commission testified before the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday about the effects of the Balanced Budget Act on health care providers. All three entities said there is little evidence that the BBA is causing significant access or quality problems, and all three counseled against any move to repeal or significantly modify the law. They attributed most of the decline in the Medicare baseline to success in curbing fraud and abuse, an excellent economy with low inflation, and some payment cycle issues that are short term in nature. The single provision of the BBA they all criticized is the physical therapy cap, which we also would like to eliminate. This testimony may take off some of the pressure to enact significant BBA giveback provisions, but given

the significant lobbying efforts of providers, we should not expect it to arrest the move toward changing BBA provisions on teaching and rural hospitals, nursing homes, and other matters. For this reason, we believe that our own Medicare reform proposal must signal some willingness to moderate any excessive burdens on providers' ability to ensure affordable quality care to Medicare beneficiaries.

11. Health Care -- Privacy Legislation: The Senate Labor Committee is scheduled to mark up health care privacy legislation on Tuesday. Two critical issues have not yet been resolved. First, both the standard of liability and the enforcement mechanism are in hot dispute. The Chairman's mark could allow suit only if a violation is willful and intentional (a very hard standard to meet), and could limit non-economic damages to \$50,000 and eliminate punitive awards entirely. All Democrats on the Committee would view these provisions as unacceptably undermining privacy protections. Second, provisions in the bill for protecting minors' privacy have become a concern of both the pro-choice and the pro-life communities because of the potential for these provisions to affect teenagers' ability to get abortions without parental approval. Both sides claim they want to maintain the status quo, but both sides also say the current language does not achieve that end. Senator Jeffords is attempting to work out a compromise on this issue. If he succeeds, he will go forward with the mark-up despite the absence of consensus on the liability and enforcement issues; if he fails, he probably will postpone the mark-up.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONMS -
take a look
'99 JAN 9 PM 1:46

January 9, 1999

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
1-11-99

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed
Elena KaganCopied
Reed
Kagan
COSSUBJECT: DPC Weekly ReportCopied p. 2
Waldman

1. **Health Care -- Disability Package:** You are scheduled to participate in a bipartisan event on Wednesday to unveil the Administration's new work incentives initiative for individuals with disabilities. Your package, which costs \$1.7 billion over five years, includes funds for: (1) the Jeffords-Kennedy Work Incentives Improvement Act, which would allow working people with disabilities to buy into Medicaid (at the states' option) and Medicare; (2) a new tax credit for work-related expenses of disability, such as transportation and personal assistance services; and (3) a program to help fund the development and dissemination of new assistive technologies for people with disabilities. Your proposal will receive strong support from the disability community. The package also should attract strong bipartisan interest in Congress, giving us an excellent chance of enacting Jeffords-Kennedy and the other components of the initiative this year.

2. **Health Care -- Medicare Managed Care:** As required by the Balanced Budget Act, HCFA will announce by Friday a plan to implement a risk adjustment payment mechanism for Medicare managed care plans. This payment mechanism is meant to ensure accurate reimbursement by increasing compensation for plans serving disproportionately sick patients and lowering compensation for plans serving disproportionately healthy beneficiaries. Because current data indicate that HMOs are attracting fairly healthy patients, the implementation of this new system would reduce payment rates to most Medicare managed care plans, in many cases by as much as 15 percent in 2000. Managed care providers are now warning that the system would drive many participating plans out of the Medicare program, adding to the problems caused by last year's HMO withdrawals. In light of this danger, we have decided to use our administrative authority to phase in the risk adjustment payment mechanism over a five- to six-year period; we are also in the process of developing additional policies (in the nature of both carrots and sticks) to minimize the likelihood of plan withdrawals. The delay in full implementation of the risk adjustment system will save the industry hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars. We expect, however, that the industry will petition Congress for further redress, up to and including repeal of the system.

1-11-99

3. Health Care -- Medicare Commission: As the Medicare Commission nears its March 1 deadline, members are intensifying their efforts to come up with reform proposals and the press is paying greater attention to their progress. Most of the attention at last week's meeting focused on a "premium support" approach that Senator Breaux is pushing, but that most other Democrats on the Commission are now reluctant to embrace. "Premium support" is a term coined by Reischauer and Aaron to refer to models that have both a defined contribution and defined benefits. These models essentially guarantee a set of benefits, but limit government payment for those benefits in some way. The Commission's discussion of the premium support approach left many critical issues unresolved, and neither HCFA nor the CBO has yet scored these proposals. (HCFA hopes to complete its estimate within two weeks, while the CBO has declined to do any work for the Commission.) We took no position on the premium support ideas coming out of the meeting, noting that "the devil is in the details" and that we will be analyzing the ideas closely as the Commission gives them greater content. On a related issue, most Commission members now appear to agree that Medicare should include a prescription drug benefit, but have reached no consensus on its scope, design, management, or financing. (As you know, one critical question is whether all beneficiaries or only those in managed care should receive this benefit.) Finally, virtually all members now privately acknowledge (and Bruce Vladeck said publicly last week) that significant new revenues will be needed to extend the life of the Trust Fund.

4. Education -- Education Week Report: In its annual "Quality Counts" report, released last week, Education Week focused on how states are (or aren't) holding schools, educators, and students accountable for results -- and in so doing, provided strong support for our ESEA proposals. The report demonstrates that although states are beginning to adopt accountability measures, relatively few are using the full set of measures needed to ensure high-quality performance. According to the report, 36 states issue report cards for each school, but only 26 place them on the internet and only 13 send them directly to parents. Perhaps even worse, only 19 states publicly identify and provide assistance to low performing schools; of these, 18 have the ultimate power to take over, reconstitute, or close down failing public schools, but only three (New York, Oklahoma and Texas) actually have applied this sanction (to a total of 55 schools). Only 19 states provide rewards to successful schools, with only fourteen giving such schools additional money. And only five states have what the report considers a comprehensive system for holding schools accountable for results -- school report cards and ratings, monetary rewards for success, and graduated sanctions for failure, up to and including reconstitution or closure. Significantly, other studies have shown that two of these five states -- North Carolina and Texas -- can boast the largest overall gains in student achievement and the greatest success in closing the achievement gap between minority and majority students. As you know, our ESEA proposal essentially would require states to adopt and carry out this set of accountability measures, as well as a number of others focusing on ending social promotion and ensuring teacher quality.

Co Billed / Al Waldman

Wagner asked to let him
of them -

✓ 5. **Crime – 21st Century Policing Initiative:** You are scheduled to participate in an event on Thursday to unveil the 21st Century Policing Initiative contained in the FY 2000 budget. This \$1.275 initiative includes (1) \$600 million to continue to hire and redeploy police officers; (2) \$300 million for new crime-fighting technology, such as crime mapping systems; (3) \$200 million to hire community prosecutors; and (4) \$125 million for innovative community crime prevention programs. In addition, you can release new data from the National Crime Victimization Survey showing continued declines in crime in the first six months of 1998.

6. **Crime – Victims Assistance:** The Vice President will announce next week the release of over \$300 million from the Crime Victims Fund to provide assistance for victims. These funds help to support nearly 3,000 victims' service agencies nationwide, including domestic violence shelters, child abuse and sexual assault programs, and programs to assist survivors of homicide. Money in the Crime Victims Fund comes exclusively from fines paid by criminal offenders, collected by U.S. Attorneys, federal courts, and the Bureau of Prisons. All 50 states will receive funding, including: \$43 million for California; \$17 million for New York; \$23 million for Texas; \$15 million for Florida, \$12 million for Illinois, and \$3 million for Arkansas.

7. **Crime – Prisoners Report:** The Justice Department will release a report on Sunday indicating that prisoners, and particularly violent offenders, are serving out more of their sentences. The Bureau of Justice Statistics report, *Truth in Sentencing in State Prisons*, indicates that by the end of 1998, 27 states and the District of Columbia required violent offenders to serve at least 85 percent of their prison sentences -- up from five states in 1993. An additional 13 states have adopted truth-in-sentencing laws requiring violent offenders to serve some substantial portion of their sentences before becoming eligible for release. As you know, the 1994 Crime Act provides additional prison construction funds to states that adopt the 85 percent standard, and the Justice Department has awarded over \$1.3 billion to states through this incentive grants program. The average time served by released violent offenders (those convicted of murder, rape, robbery, or aggravated assault) increased from 43 months in 1993 to 49 months in 1997. In addition, the release rate among murderers was cut in half between 1990 and 1996 -- from 10 percent to five percent of all murderers.

8. **Welfare – Work Participation Data:** We released two weeks ago the first work participation data under the welfare reform law, which was better than anyone had expected. All 36 states (plus the District of Columbia) subject to participation rates in FY 1997 met their target. The data showed that 28 percent of all adults on welfare participated in a direct work activity (employment, work experience, or community service) or another welfare-to-work activity (job search or vocational education). The data also showed that the percentage of welfare recipients in a direct work activity tripled since 1992.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

3-7-99

Wally

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

99 MAR 6 PM 2:53

March 6, 1999

copied
Reed
Kagan
Podesta

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

N

1. Tobacco -- Medicaid Recoupment: The Senate Appropriations Committee decided Thursday to amend the supplemental appropriations bill by adding Senator Hutchison's legislation to waive all federal claims to tobacco settlement funds received by the states. Before the markup, Senator Roth objected to the Appropriations Committee taking up the Hutchison bill, noting that this action would "bypass the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee" and that the bill "has enormous ramifications for the Medicaid program and should be thoughtfully considered through the committee process." He noted that the amendment was not paid for and urged the committee, if it felt compelled to act, to prevent recoupment only in 1999 or 2000 to give the Finance Committee time to act. Senator Stevens apparently asked Hutchison to withdraw her amendment in deference to Roth's objection, but she refused to do so. In the event, the amendment passed by voice vote, with only Senators Harkin, Durbin, and Specter speaking against it. The committee rejected an alternative amendment proposed by Harkin to waive federal claims in exchange for a commitment by the states to dedicate 25 percent of the settlement funds to tobacco control programs.

Shared
Office
Coffman

For some time now, we have been working with Senator Daschle and others to develop an alternative to the Hutchison bill -- essentially a menu of permissible state uses -- that could attract significant support; we have found, however, that many Senators, including a fair number of Democrats, are under great pressure from state officials to resist any restrictions on use of the money. As a freestanding piece of legislation, the Hutchison bill now has 40 co-sponsors, including nine Democrats (although some of the Democrats say they would be willing to accept an alternative along the lines we have suggested if it gave the states sufficient flexibility over spending). One possible approach to the current situation is to urge the NGA to negotiate an alternative bill with us right now for inclusion on the supplemental; although the NGA believes it has a very strong hand in Congress, it might accept this offer both because it wants immediate use of the money and because it fears a presidential veto. This approach, however, could anger some anti-tobacco Democrats (especially in the House), who still hold out the hope that we can use the recoupment issue as a vehicle for broader tobacco legislation. We are continuing to discuss options with John, Larry, and Jack and diverse people on the Hill (of course, all this is complicated by the other issues raised by the supplemental) and hope to have a recommendation for you shortly.

There could be the value of the alternative legislation

2. Tobacco -- New Evidence on Tobacco Use: Two new studies show that cigarette sales declined sharply in Alaska and Oregon after the states increased tobacco taxes. Alaska tripled its tax from \$.29 to \$1.00 a pack in October 1997, raising the retail price of cigarettes by 39 percent. A study conducted by the state found that tobacco sales declined 17 percent the next year, without any apparent upsurge in smuggling or crime. Oregon raised its tax by \$.30 per pack in February 1997, increasing cigarette prices by 16 percent; it also devoted 10 percent of the proceeds to tobacco prevention programs. A study conducted by the CDC and Oregon Health Division found that tobacco sales fell 11.3 percent as a result. The study noted that this decline was far larger than expected given the size of the price increase, and attributed the additional drop to expanded prevention activities. Most studies have found that every 10 percent increase in price reduces overall smoking by about 4 percent (while reducing youth smoking by about 7 percent) -- essentially the effect found in Alaska. According to this model, the 16 percent price increase in Oregon should have resulted in a 6.3 percent decline in consumption -- far less than the 11.3 percent decline actually achieved. The difference, according to the study, resulted from the state's expenditure of \$8.5 million a year to fund community-based tobacco-use prevention coalitions in every county, a statewide public awareness and education campaign, comprehensive school-based programs, tribal tobacco-use prevention programs, multicultural outreach and education, and a quitters' help line providing smoking cessation support. These findings bolster the rationale for ensuring that states use at least part of their settlement money on tobacco prevention.

X

3. Education -- Ed-Flex Legislation: As you know, the Senate will vote Monday afternoon on a cloture petition filed by Senator Lott to bring the Ed-Flex debate to an end and cut off consideration of the Kennedy-Murray class size amendment. Before the class size issue came to the fore, Democrats succeeded in strengthening the accountability provisions of the bill and providing additional protections for very high-poverty schools. The last (and most) significant issue is class size. (Although Democrats have offered other amendments, including some on dropout prevention and afterschool programs, Senator Daschle is trying hard to focus the message and debate on class size, lest Democrats appear simply obstructionist.) Secretary Riley and Senators Daschle, Kennedy, and Murray held a press conference Friday to urge the Republican Leadership to allow an up-or-down vote on a class size amendment; we released a statement from you at that event, and your radio address this weekend will serve to amplify this message. Secretary Riley and Bruce have met several times with the major education groups, which are now working hard to put pressure on Republicans. The Vice President probably will make a statement prior to the cloture vote on Monday, either at the White House or in a meeting on the Hill that Daschle, Kennedy, and Murray are holding with education groups.

4. Education -- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): We and Secretary Riley agreed to postpone issuance of the Education Department's new IDEA regulation until this coming Friday to give us more time to conduct outreach to Governors and other state officials. Bruce and the Secretary will participate in a conference call with Governors Carper, Leavitt, and Dean (and possibly others) this Tuesday. The postponement also should prevent any dovetailing of the regulation with the current Ed-Flex debate. Even without the regulation as a

catalyst, Republicans may second-degree Democratic amendments (including on class size) with proposals to increase support to the states for special education programs.

In a decision that may further exacerbate the simmering IDEA controversy, the Supreme court held 7-2 last week that the statute requires school districts to provide children with any health services necessary for the children to attend school, as long as the services need not be administered by a doctor. The case involved a quadriplegic student who needs assistance during the day to clear his tracheotomy tube and maintain his ventilator. The Justice Department filed an amicus brief on the side of the student, setting out the Education Department's longstanding interpretation of the statute. The costs of this decision to local school districts may not be exorbitant: only a couple of thousand students across the country need the kind of "high-end" health services involved in this case; fewer than 20,000 need any kind of health services covered by this decision; and Medicaid appropriately covers many of these students and services. The decision, however, may fuel growing public concerns about the costs of complying with IDEA. At the same time, it may intensify worries among Congressional authorizers that states are inappropriately tapping into Medicaid (e.g., for non-health services) to pay for special education programs. At a meeting at the White House yesterday, HHS and the Education Department agreed to release a joint letter explaining the scope of the decision and noting the potential for -- but also the limits of -- Medicaid funding.

good!

5. Health Care -- Regulation on Over-the-Counter Drugs: The Vice President will join Secretary Shalala and FDA Commissioner Henney on Thursday to unveil a new FDA regulation requiring that labels on over-the-counter drug products have a standardized format and large print, which will assist consumers to understand product warnings and comply with dosage guidance. Both consumer advocates and physician and other provider groups will praise this regulation, and even product manufacturers will acknowledge its usefulness. Studies indicate that people often have difficulty determining the correct dosage of over-the-counter medications, and that many of the elderly, who use significantly more over-the-counter drugs than others, have trouble reading the small type on product labels. This regulation will be an effective step toward preventing the thousands of hospitalizations each year caused by misuse of over-the-counter medications.

6. Health Care -- Medicare Commission: Senators Kennedy and Rockefeller and Congressmen Dingell and McDermott were pleased with the meeting on the Medicare Commission that you had with them on Thursday -- particularly with your understanding of the shortcomings of the Breaux plan and your commitment to inform them of any alternative Administration proposal. As you no doubt could tell from the meeting, base Democrats will express strong opposition to virtually anything that comes out of the Commission.

Laura Tyson and Stuart Altman held another meeting on Friday with Senator Breaux, Congressman Thomas, and a number of other Republicans to discuss compromise options. Because it now seems impossible to reach agreement on any detailed plan, Breaux and Thomas tried to convince Stuart and Laura to vote for a report that suggests agreement on a set of general

propositions. Laura and Stuart rejected this approach for fear that Republicans would draft flawed legislation, ostensibly based on the report, and portray Laura and Stuart as having endorsed it. But Laura and Stuart are considering two other options. The first option is to vote for the Commission report (thus giving the Commission the 11 votes necessary to issue it), but insist on detailing in the report their objections to the Commission's proposal and their recommendations for making it acceptable. The second option is to vote against the Commission report, but issue a public statement (because Commission rules do not allow for minority views) that explains why they chose to vote against the proposal and outlines the approach to Medicare reform that they believe is desirable. Laura (and to some extent Stuart) are leaning toward the first option; they believe this option is more likely to provide momentum for Medicare reform, which they see as their first priority. Both Laura and Stuart understand, however, that the press will focus on the Commission's ability to report out premium support and other controversial reforms, and will overlook or minimize their detailed objections. For this reason, they have made no final decisions and wish to discuss these options further next week.

Podesta
 let Stuart
 try to
 make
 the call

7. Crime – Community Prosecutors: Deputy Attorney General Holder plans to use his morning press availability on Thursday to highlight the community prosecutors portion of your 21st Century crime bill, which we plan to send up to the Hill later this month. As you know, your FY 2000 budget includes \$1 billion over the next five years for this proposed new program to hire and train community prosecutors. As the former U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, Holder helped to launch one of the first successful community prosecution programs, and he is personally committed to building public and congressional support for this initiative. On a related note, in testimony before the House Committee on Government Reform on Wednesday, Mayor Giuliani expressed support for community prosecution programs.

all
 must
 get
 ahead
 of
 the
 story

8. Crime – Police Brutality: We and Chuck Ruff are sending you a separate memo this weekend detailing a proposed course of action and set of policy initiatives to address the issue of police misconduct. As you may have seen in Saturday's newspapers, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights voted 3-2 to investigate police practices and police-community relations in New York and other, as yet unspecified cities.

9. Crime -- VAWA Decision: As you may also have seen in the paper today, the en banc Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit invalidated the part of the Violence Against Women Act that permits victims of rape and domestic violence to sue their attackers for violating their civil rights. The Court held that neither the Commerce Clause nor the Fourteenth Amendment gave Congress the authority to pass the law: in the Court's view, "such a statute . . . simply cannot be reconciled with the principles of limited Federal Government upon which this nation is founded." The ruling means that in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and the Carolinas, victims of rape and domestic violence will be able to sue their attackers only under state tort laws and in state courts. We and Chuck will talk with the Justice Department about filing a cert petition to seek Supreme Court review.

10. Welfare Reform -- Cuts in TANF Block Grant: As you know, the Senate Appropriations Committee last week proposed paying for part of the emergency supplemental by cutting \$350 million in TANF block grant funding in FY 1999. (Of course, there are also numerous other objectionable offsets in the bill.) Although the bill would restore the cut in later years, this provision would establish a precedent of raiding TANF to pay for other measures. The governors will oppose the cut strongly, claiming it breaks Congress's commitment in 1996 to provide five years of full block grant funding. Some in Congress will defend the cut by pointing to unobligated balances in the TANF program. State data compiled by HHS (but not yet released) show that in FY 1998, states spent or obligated 84 percent of the \$16.5 billion TANF block grant, leaving \$2.7 billion or 16 percent unobligated. There is considerable state variation -- 19 states have obligated all their FY 98 funds, while 12 states account for three-quarters of the unobligated balances. We will provide you with a more complete report on these trends in a separate memo. For now, we note only that unobligated balances may result from sensible decisions by states to put off allocation of some TANF funds until they fully implement their welfare reform programs and/or they begin to experience an economic downturn. We are fearful that agreeing to cuts in TANF will undercut welfare-to-work efforts just as work requirements increase and the caseloads become more concentrated with the hardest-to-employ recipients.

not
sum
exp.
as
light

11. Immigration -- Report on Declining Use of Public Benefits: The Urban Institute will issue a report on Monday showing that between 1994 and 1997, use of public benefits by noncitizen families declined more than use of such benefits by citizen families. The study found that receipt of cash benefits (AFDC/TANF, SSI, and state-funded general assistance) by noncitizens declined 35 percent, while use by citizens declined only 15 percent. Similarly, the study found that use of Medicaid and Food Stamps declined 22 and 30 percent, respectively, among noncitizens, but only 7 and 21 percent among citizens. The report concludes that because most legal immigrants were still eligible for federal and/or state benefits through 1997, the difference in take-up rates was due to the welfare law's "chilling effect" -- i.e., misunderstandings about new eligibility rules and/or fear that receipt of benefits would adversely affect immigration status. We have been working closely with the Department of Justice and HHS on these issues, and we expect to issue guidance this month on the use by noncitizens of public benefits. The guidance will include a resolution of the "public charge" issue -- i.e., the question of when the receipt of public benefits renders a noncitizen a "public charge," so as to affect his or her ability to reenter the country -- that we expect immigrant advocates to greet warmly. In addition, of course, we will continue to press for our budget proposals to restore additional health, nutrition, and disability benefits to vulnerable legal immigrants.

*

✓

✓

12. Civil Rights -- Report on Paired Testing: The Urban Institute also issued a report last week on the usefulness of paired testing to combat discriminatory practices. As you know, "paired testing" programs use two individuals similar in all relevant characteristics except racial or ethnic background to check for discrimination. Paired testing is now used primarily in the housing area, and your budget includes \$7.5 million to expand HUD's current testing program. The Urban Institute report recommends extending the use of paired testing in other settings, such as the workplace. The EEOC conducted a pilot project two years ago on paired testing in the

employment context, but is still in the process of evaluating the data. When Republicans objected to the pilot project during last year's appropriations battles, the EEOC agreed not to do any testing this year -- which it was not planning to do anyway, given the unfinished evaluation -- in exchange for significantly increased funding for its general activities. We expect to face this issue again in this year's appropriations bill.

3-2-99

EW 99 MAR 1 PM 9:15

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 1, 1999

Copied
Reed
Kagan
Rdesta

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan

SUBJECT:

DPC Weekly Report

1. **Health Care -- Prescription Drug Benefit:** Senator Breaux is talking with Laura Tyson and Stuart Altman about incorporating a prescription drug benefit into his Medicare proposal, but they remain far from reaching any agreement. Laura and Stuart are demanding that the benefit be available to all Medicare beneficiaries, whereas Senator Breaux is limiting the benefit to beneficiaries in private health plans plus (perhaps) low-income beneficiaries in the fee-for-service program. Laura and Stuart have pointed out that Breaux's approach would fail to provide millions of beneficiaries in rural and other areas that will not attract private health plans with any access to a drug benefit; the two also believe that effective price competition between the fee-for-service program and private plans can occur only if they offer the same benefits. In response to Breaux's request, Laura and Stuart are developing their own drug benefit proposal; we expect the plan to offer an optional benefit with a 50 percent subsidy of the premium (as compared to the normal 75 percent subsidy), a \$300-500 deductible, and a 25 percent copayment. You should be aware that your comments last week about prescription drug benefits made many Democrats fearful that you would endorse the Breaux approach to this issue. (You seemed to indicate that not all beneficiaries needed to have access to this benefit.) In response to questions, we construed your remarks as meaning only that the benefit should be optional, so that beneficiaries who already have good drug coverage could decline it.

2. **Crime -- Assault Weapons Report:** The Justice Department released on Monday a report from the National Institute of Justice on the impact of the 1994 assault weapons ban. The report's findings are limited because of a short study period, but are generally quite encouraging. The study estimates that murder rates declined by 6.7 to 10 percent in the year following the ban's enactment after controlling for other factors, such as pre-existing state assault weapons bans, juvenile handgun bans, California's three-strikes law, and New York's quality-of-life policing. The study also indicates that criminal use of assault weapons decreased by 20 percent in the first year after the ban (as compared with 11 percent for all guns), as reflected in declining law enforcement requests for ATF traces. Finally, the report notes that no police officers died as a result of assault weapons in the year after the ban, while such weapons were involved in 16 percent of all killings of police the year before. The report notes, however, that such police killings are extremely rare to begin with and that it is difficult to draw firm conclusions about this data.

Def | **3. Crime – Diallo Shooting:** You asked last week about the recent shooting of Amadou Diallo. Four white officers of the New York City Police Department shot Diallo, an immigrant from Guinea, in front of his apartment building in Harlem. A total of 41 shots were fired, and Diallo died at the scene. The officers did not find a weapon on or near Diallo. The four officers were part of a specialized street crime unit reportedly searching for a serial rapist. The Department of Justice's Civil Rights and Criminal Divisions, the FBI, and the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York are all working closely with the Bronx District Attorney's Office on the investigation; in addition, the Community Relations Service has conducted conciliation services in the neighborhood. The Department is also now considering whether to expand an ongoing investigation of whether the New York Police Department has engaged in a "pattern or practice" of police misconduct; the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York is leading this inquiry, and the City is cooperating with it. Finally, we are working with the Justice Department to develop a set of policy initiatives addressing this issue, mostly involving police recruiting and training, for inclusion in the crime bill we will unveil later this month. We are attaching an op-ed by Bill Bratton, which appeared in the New York Times this weekend, offering a similar set of proposals.

4. Education – NAEP Reading Scores: The National Center for Education Statistics will release on Thursday a report showing state-by-state reading scores on NAEP between 1994 and 1998. As you recall, the Vice President and Secretary Riley recently announced the national scores from this report, which showed small but statistically significant gains in reading among 4th, 8th, and 12th graders. The state-by-state data is still being compiled, but the Education Department expects that most states will show improvements during this four-year period. Secretary Riley will hold a press conference in Washington, D.C. to highlight the results, and the Vice President will highlight New York and Connecticut scores in an event in New York City.

5. Education – Report on Title I: The Department of Education released on Monday a Congressionally mandated report on the Title I program. The report found that academic achievement in high-poverty schools has improved, largely as a result of reforms made in the 1994 ESEA reauthorization: for example, math scores for fourth graders in the highest-poverty schools have improved by almost one grade level, and reading scores for those students have also improved significantly. The report found, however, that a substantial gap between high-poverty schools and other schools remains: the percentage of high-poverty 4th grade students who met the basic performance level was only about half the national rate on NAEP reading tests and two-thirds the national rate on NAEP math tests. We released a statement from you welcoming the positive results, but urging stepped-up efforts to improve these schools, in particular by passing your Education Accountability Act and class size initiative.

6. Welfare – Working Families in Poverty: The research group Child Trends issued a report on Thursday on working poor families. The report, based on 1996 census data, found that children of working parents were seven times less likely to be poor than children of non-working parents. Only 9 percent of children whose parents work were poor, compared to 63 percent of children with non-working parents. The report also found, however, that work does

not guarantee an escape from poverty: the study found that fully 35 percent of poor children have working parents. In making this calculation, the report used the official measure of poverty, which does not include as income the Earned Income Tax Credit or non-cash supports such as Food Stamps. Many analysts have pointed out how EITC and Food Stamps provide families with resources to move above the poverty line. The CEA has reported that the EITC lifted 4.3 million people out of poverty in 1997 and that over half the decline in child poverty between 1993 and 1997 resulted from changes in the EITC and other taxes. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has calculated that a family of four can reach the \$17,100 poverty line through a full-time minimum wage job (\$9,800), the EITC (\$3,700), and Food Stamps (\$3,600).

7. Community Empowerment -- Yankee Stadium: As you requested, we contacted Congressman Rangel about his interest in preserving Yankee Stadium and keeping the Yankees in the Bronx. Rangel appears to want help in identifying funds to improve transportation access (both highway and rail links) to the stadium and promote commercial development in the surrounding area. He is not asking for funds to help rehabilitate the stadium. We will discuss with OMB, NEC, and HUD how we can best address this request.