

How to best utilize?
4/20 + could use an overview

alt-

Int'd on both committees

1-pager - ind fed agency - awards

Ben Milkman

Committee for Purchase (from People
who are ~~minor~~ SW Disabled)

763-603-7740

(Council for Exceptional Children) *

independent fed ag.

Pres appoints

administer
a fed progr
set out in
statute

ent-prcurment 55 yrs.
officers of major
agency - charged to
develop lists of items

must buy off list
- sheltered work shops

November 21, 1994

MEMORANDUM TO ABNER MIKVA, COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM Carol H. Rasco, Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

SUBJECT National Disability Policy Review

Attached please find memoranda outlining our initial thoughts on the proposed National Disability Policy Review. As we requested, each Department has designated a key policy official to serve as participants in this policy review co-chaired by Alice Rivlin and myself.

We would like your opinion on the possibility of including one of the commissioners at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and/or the executive directors of the three Presidential advisory councils -- the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the National Council on Disability, and the President's Committee on Mental Retardation -- as review participants. More specifically, would bringing these parties on board have an impact on the Federal Advisory Commission Act (FACA) or the Freedom of Information Act?

We hope to move quickly on this decision, as we would like to invite any additional review participants to the first full meeting of the National Disability Policy Review Group on November 30, 1994. Your staff can contact Jeremy Ben-Ami (456-5584) or Stan Herr (456-5570) to discuss this matter in greater detail. Please let us know what you think as soon as possible.

Thank you.



COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM
PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED
FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

703-603-7740
FAX 703-412-7113

Crystal Square 3, Suite 403
1735 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461

DATE: 3/6/95

TO: Diana Fortuna

FROM: Bar M. Korman

NO. OF PAGES (INCLUDING TRANSMITTAL): 6

MESSAGE:

As you requested, I am transmitting some materials on the Committee and the structure and impacts of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the National Disability Policy Review and look forward to hearing about future meetings.

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED



PROVIDING JOBS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled is an independent Federal agency which administers the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program to provide employment and training opportunities for persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities. Under the JWOD Program, the Committee oversees the Government's procurement of selected commodities and services from qualified nonprofit agencies which employ blind and other severely disabled persons.

Created in 1938 to serve blind workers and expanded in 1971 to assist those with other severe disabilities, the Program has helped thousands of individuals to financially support themselves, gain confidence and become more productive members of society.

In recent years there has been sustained growth in the JWOD Program, with annual statistics including:

- Employment for 18,000 to 21,000 blind and other severely disabled individuals.
- Between 13 and 16 million hours of employment.
- Total wages ranging from \$60 to \$80 million.
- Average hourly wages which significantly exceed the minimum wage.

Because of the excessive levels of unemployment experienced by people who are blind or severely disabled, there remains a tremendous demand for JWOD jobs throughout the country. This demand and the JWOD job losses caused by reductions in Department of Defense (DoD) spending make increased support for JWOD Program by Federal agencies particularly important.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Committee consists of 15 Presidentially-appointed members: representatives from 11 Federal agencies and four private citizens who represent the interests of blind and other severely disabled persons. A small staff assists in conducting the work of the Committee which includes:

- Determining which commodities and services the Government procures are suitable for provision by qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind and other severely disabled.

(In the center: Larry Richardson shows paper writing pads to finished size at the Blind Industries and Services of Maryland.)

- Establishing and maintaining a Procurement List of commodities and services which must be purchased from designated nonprofit agencies.
- Determining and revising fair market prices for the designated commodities and services.
- Assisting Federal agencies in expanding their procurement from the nonprofit agencies.
- Assuring nonprofit agency compliance with Committee regulations and procedures.

The Committee is also responsible for designating, establishing appropriate fees and providing guidance to central nonprofit agencies which facilitate the distribution of Government orders, and help the agencies serving the blind and other severely disabled participate in the Committee's Program. The Committee has designated the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) to represent nonprofit agencies serving blind individuals and NISH to represent nonprofit agencies primarily serving individuals with other severe disabilities.

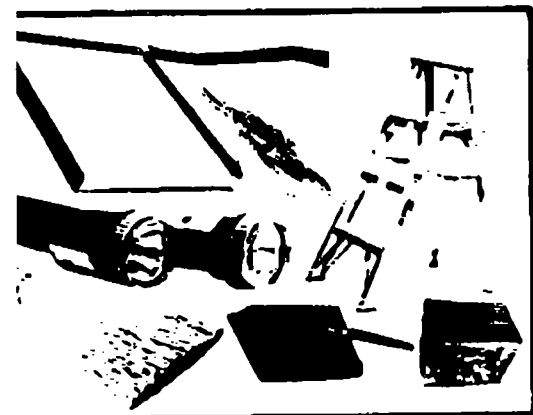
SELECTION OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES

One of the primary responsibilities of the Committee is determining which commodities and services the Government purchases are suitable for provision by nonprofit agencies serving blind and other severely disabled individuals. Once a commodity or service has been selected, it is placed on the Committee's Procurement List, whereupon all Government agencies must purchase that item from the nonprofit agency designated by the Committee. The addition of an item removes it from the competitive procurement market.

A commodity or service proposed for addition must meet the following suitability criteria:

- The item must generate employment and training opportunities for the Committee's target population.
- The item must be provided by a qualified, nonprofit agency, which is capable of furnishing it.
- At least 75% of the direct labor at the nonprofit agency must be performed by blind or other severely disabled persons.
- The item must be provided at the fair market price, established by the Committee.
- The removal of the item from the competitive procurement market must not have a severe adverse impact on the current or most recent contractor for that item.

proposed addition is published in the *Federal Register* for public comment. Comments and other information are reviewed by the Committee. If the Committee decides to add an item, it is announced in the *Federal Register* and is effective in 30 days.



As shown above are a few of the commodities produced under the JWOD Program. Paper trimmers, paper clips, staplers, hole punches, desk sets, and file folders are some of the items produced. Nonprofit agencies participating in the JWOD Program also provide a variety of services such as janitorial/custodial, commissary, sheltered workshops, grounds maintenance, food service, mailroom, microfilming, and parts sorting.

PARTICIPATING NONPROFIT AGENCIES

The number of nonprofit agencies which participate in the JWOD Program has risen steadily since 1971 and, with the reduction in DoD spending, is expected to continue to increase in the coming years. Over 500 agencies in 48 States and the District of Columbia are currently providing products and services to the Federal Government. Of this number, approximately one-sixth are agencies established to serve blind persons, many of whom have other disabilities as well. The other nonprofit agencies serve individuals with a variety of disabilities, including mental retardation, mental illness, and physical impairments.

Nonprofit agencies range in size from the small operation of the Handicapped in New York City, which employs over 400 workers with disabilities and generates over \$14 million in JWOD sales annually, to the Indiana County Blind Association in Indiana, Pennsylvania, with five blind workers and about \$100,000 in sales. The agencies are much like any other commercial business; however, they often provide additional support services such as vocational training, job adjustment, job training, specialized counseling, and transportation.

The nonprofit agencies are required to pay employees with disabilities in accordance with Department of Labor requirements, and must be in compliance with Federal and State health, safety and environmental regulations. Committee staff regularly monitor the operations of nonprofit agencies to assure compliance with JWOD Program policies and procedures. NIB and NISH staff also monitor their operations and provide a wide range of assistance.

Organizations serving blind and other severely disabled persons which are interested in learning more about the JWOD Program should contact the appropriate central nonprofit agency:

National Industries for the Blind
324 Hamburg Turnpike, CN 969
Wayne, NJ 07474-0969
Telephone: (201) 595-9200

NISH
2235 Cedar Lane
Vienna, VA 22182-5200
Telephone: (703) 560-6800

FEDERAL AGENCY PARTICIPATION

Federal agencies participate in the Program by purchasing commodities or services on the Procurement List. Agencies can also participate and support the Program by:

- Recommending commodities or services for addition to the Procurement List.
- Establishing annual Program goals and objectives.
- Converting JWOD contracts to multi-year awards to facilitate production scheduling and continuous employment for nonprofit agency employees.



Melissa Shockley and Hamp Brown trimming helmet covers for the military at Abilities Unlimited of Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

The purchases that Federal agencies make enable thousands of persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities to work and lead independent, productive lives. The purchases also provide such individuals an opportunity to develop job skills and work habits so that they can obtain competitive employment. As noted above, because of reduced DoD procurement, increased support by all Federal agencies is essential to maintaining and expanding vocational opportunities for this segment of the population.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE JWOD PROGRAM

For additional information about how to support the Program and its goal of generating employment and training opportunities for individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities, contact:

Committee for Purchase From People
Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled
1735 Jefferson Davis Highway
Crystal Square 3, Suite 403
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461
Telephone: (703) 603-7740
FAX: (703) 412-7113

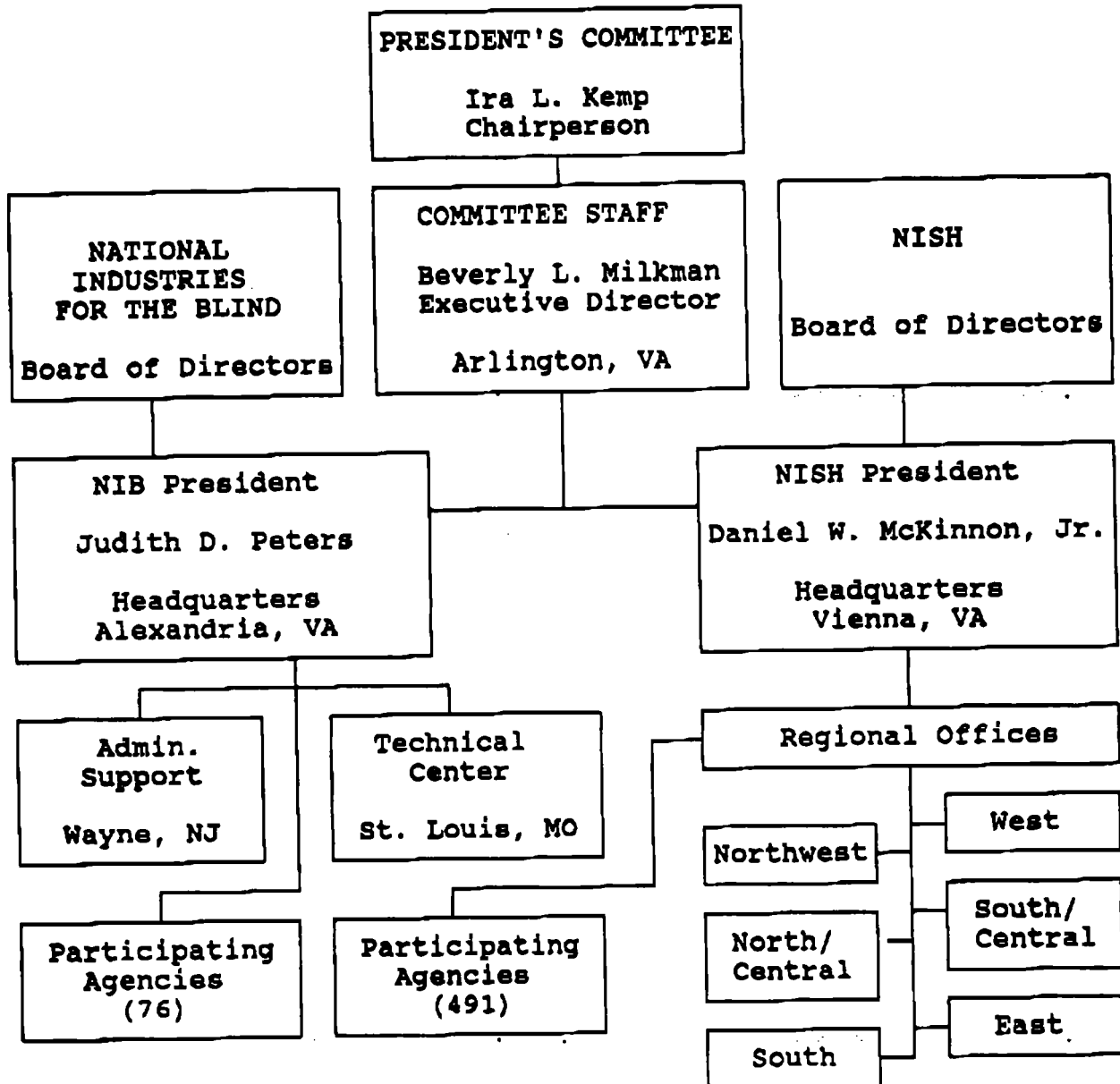


Ira L. Kemp
Committee Chairman
Beverly L. Milkman
Executive Director

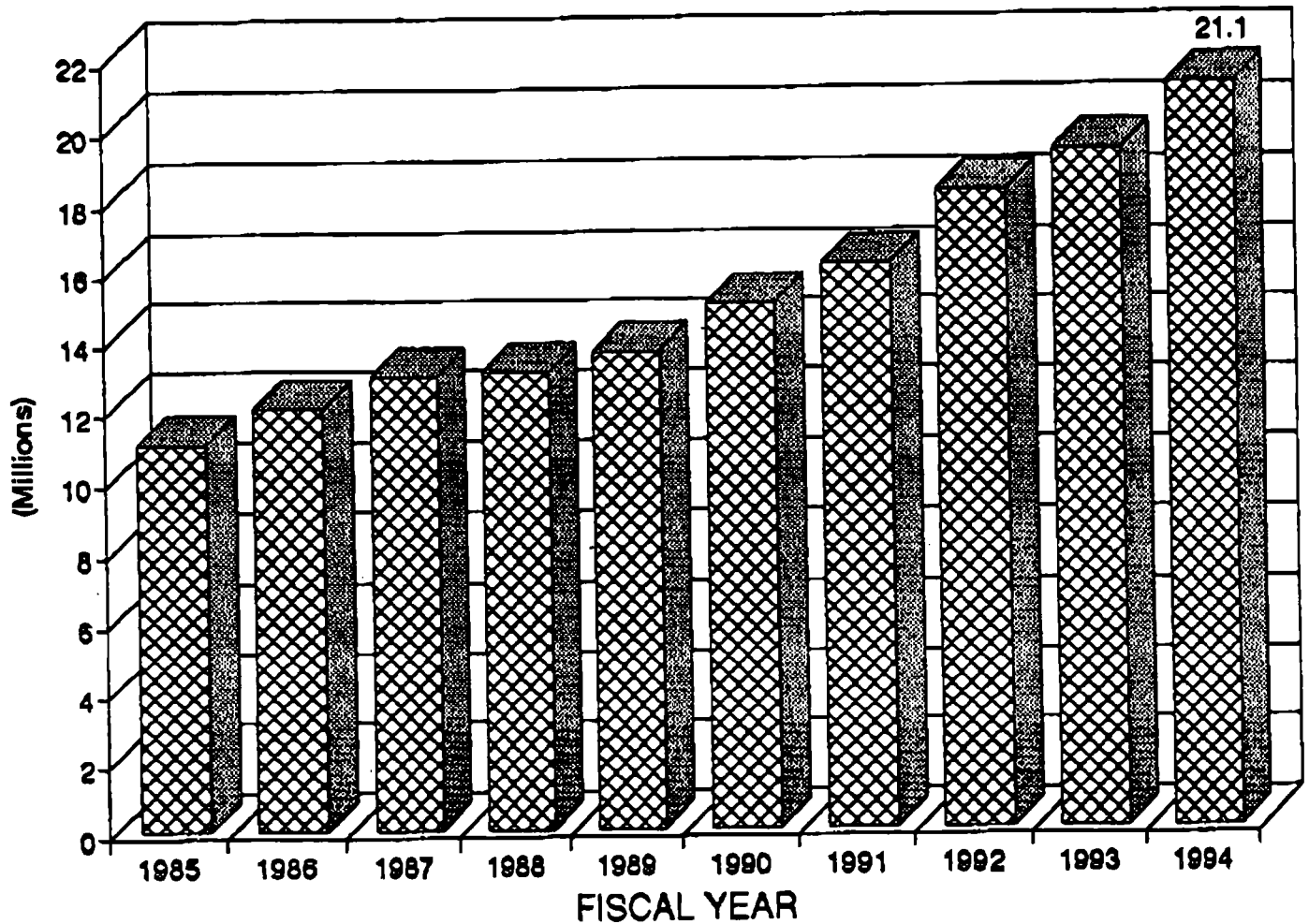
An Independent Agency of the United States Government
Established by the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act

This publication was printed at the UNICOR Print Plant, Federal Correctional Institution, Sandstone, MN.

12/92

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE / FISCAL YEAR 1994**COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE
WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED**

JWOD DIRECT LABOR HOURS



JWOD WAGES

