

Carol -

Attached is a
Variety of
Paralympics materials
for your review.

-Diana

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PIZZUTO_J@OPD
Sunday August 11, 1996

Sunday August 11, 1996

CALL Sherri Henry: 205-6673, work: 362-3402, home
FYI Tom Butler & family in DC; arrive today
Paralympic Congress, Atlanta, GA // NOTE: CHR departs for Atlanta

2:00p Depart from Alexandria for airport

4:00p Depart National (Delta #1639)

5:46p Arrive Atlanta

* upon arrival, escort service will meet you at the gate w/ sign and take you to Marriott Marquis

PERS RON MARRIOTT MARQUIS, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta

(404) 521-0000, phone

(404) 586-6299, fax

confirmation #: 82610444

CHR pager: 800-759-8888, #216-9789

JED pager: 800-759-8888, #216-8029

PIZZUTO_J@OPD
Monday August 12, 1996

Monday August 12, 1996

1996 PARALYMPIC CONGRESS, ATLANTA, GA// NOTE: JED & FORTUNA depart for Atlanta
Call Sherri Henry: 205-6673, work; 362-3402, home
FYI Tom Butler & family in DC
Republican National Convention

8:30a --- 9:00p: PICK UP WELCOME/REGISTRATION PACKETS @ TWO SEPARATE LOCATIONS

*these are located in Marriott Marquis
(one is marked: Paralympic Congress Conceirge Desk
the other marked: Paralympic Games Welcomes Desk)

8:30a FYI Morning meeting w/ Evelyn; Eliz to cover

9:00a Parent Meeting (w/ Judy Heumann) @ Marriott Marquis (9a-11a)

Skyline RM, South Atrium

10th FL

contact: Cindy Arceneaux, Family Resource Center
(404) 679-0691; (770) 338-2390

*DF flight
9-10⁵¹*

* note: JMP did call Cindy on Friday and left message that CHR would be attending

9:30a FYI Staff Meeting

10:00a FYI DIANA Departs Washington/National (Delta #1611)

11:30a Speakers Luncheon @ Marriott Marquis, 10th floor (11:30a-1p)

*informal luncheon

*meet consensus session chairs & coordinators & educational track chairs

* Who's Who in disability issues leadership

* complete location description available @ concierge desk or Congress Reg table @ Marriott.

11:54a FYI DIANA ARRIVES ATLANTA; en route to Marriott Marquis

1:00p Planning & Coordinating Meeting/Briefing for Consensus Session Speakers (1p-3p)

* will meet the Group Solutions facilitation team, the master facilitator of your session, others staffing your session
* review of sessions, how they'll operate, plan roles & discuss what issues may come up, how to solve them
@ Marriott Marquis

5:00p FYI JED Departs Washington Nat'l (Delta 1543)

5:00p Opening General Session for the Congress (5p-7p)

* RESERVED SEATING UP FRONT (w/ other speakers)

Marriott Marquis

ATTIRE: BUSINESS

6:51p FYI JED arrives Atlanta; en route to Marriott Marquis

7:00p Welcome Reception for the Congress (7p-9p)

PERS RON Marriott Marquis, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta

(404) 521-0000, phone

(404) 586-6299, fax

CHR pager: 1-800-759-8888, pin#216-9789

JED pager: 1-800-759-8888, pin#216-8029

FORTUNA: 1-800-759-8888, pin#216-8015

PIZZUTO_J@OPD
Tuesday August 13, 1996

Tuesday August 13, 1996

1996 PARALYMPIC CONGRESS, ATLANTA, GA
CALL Sherri Henry: 205-6673, work; 362-3402, home
FYI Tom Butler & family in DC; EWWH Tour @ 8:45a.m.; Klein, lunch; JMP WW tour
FYI Sarah Spencer & family in town this week
Republican National Convention

8:00a Co-Chair Congress Consensus Session IV (8a-5p); *Business Casual attire

"Future Paralympians, Making Sports Available to Children with Disabilities"
Marriott Marquis
International Hall South

8:30a FYI Morning Meeting w/ Evelyn; Paul to cover

9:30a FYI Conference Call, Code #4761

10:15a FYI Women's Office Weekly meeting w/ Besty Myers (w/ Lyn), Jackson Place

5:00p Closing of Consensus Session / Day One

PERS EVENING EVENT: Speakers Reception

allows leaders to network in a smaller group setting

PERS RON Marriott Marquis, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta

(404) 521-0000, phone

(404) 586-6299, fax

CHR pager: 800-759-8888, #216-9789

JED pager: 800-759-8888, #216-8029

FORTUNA: 800-759-8888, #216-8015

PIZZUTO_J@OPD

Wednesday August 14, 1996

Wednesday August 14, 1996

1996 PARALYMPIC CONGRESS, ATLANTA, GA
Call Sherri Henry: 205-6673, work; 362-3402, home
FYI / Jill, Vacation Day
FYI Tom Butler & family in DC; depart today
FYI Sarah Spencer & family in town this week
Republican National Convention

8:00a Co-Chair Congress Consensus Session IV / Day Two (8a-5p)

"Future Paralympians, Making Sports Available to Children with Disabilities"

Marriott Marquis
International Hall South

8:30a FYI Morning meeting w/ Evelyn; Eliz to cover

9:30a Conference Call - Code # 3798

10:00a FYI Crime Weekly, RM 211

11:00a FYI Immigration Weekly, RM 211

2:00p FYI/Partnerships Steering Committee Meeting (2-4:00 p.m.) WH Conference Center

726 Jackson Place

contact: Jeanne Jehl, 822-8405

7:00p Disability Film Festival Awards Banquet/ Opening Address (7p-10p)

7:00-7:30p	Cocktails/Cash Bar
7:30p-8:30p	Seated dinner - CHR assigned seat to be up front, near stage
8:40p	Program begins; Comedian introduces Carol
8:45p	CHR Speech (approx. 5 min)
8:50p	band / dancers
9p-10p	Awards
10:00p	End of program

* event open to press

* event will be covered by Kaleidoscope TV

PERS RON Marriott Marquis, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta

(404) 521-0000, phone
(404) 586-6299, fax

CHR pager: 800-759-8888, #216-9789

JED pager: 800-759-8888, #216-8029

FORTUNA: 800-759-888. #216-8015

DF Flight
915-1059

PIZZUTO_J@OPD

Thursday August 15, 1996

Thursday August 15, 1996

1996 PARALYMPIC CONGRESS, ATLANTA, GA
CALL Sherri Henry: 205-6673, work; 362-3402, home
FYI / Jill, Vacation Day
Republican National Convention

8:30a Educational Tour Rehab Technology Center (8:30a-11:30a) *Casual Attire

Georgia Tech

* Shuttle buses will be provided from Marriott

* open to press

8:30a FYI Morning meeting w/ Evelyn; Eliz to cover

9:30a Conference Call - Code #3798

11:30a Shuttle back to Marriott

12:00p TBA Lunch / down time

12:30p HOLD/TBA FOR POTENTIAL MEDIA INTERVIEWS

3:45p FYI SHUTTLE BUSES available to Carter Center: 3:45, 4:15, 4:45 & 5:00

*JED to confirm time departures

4:00p FYI NEC Weekly, contact: Wendy 6-5361

4:30p Opening Gala & Ceremony (4:30-6:30p) *Business/Cocktail Attire

The Carter Presidential Center

*transportation to be provided, departing from Marriott

7:00p Opening Ceremony @ Olympic Stadium (7p-10p)

*CHR seated in Tribune of Honor w/ other VIP's

*TBD VPOTUS Seating

* transportation to be provided

11:00p Dessert Reception @ Tribune of Honor Lounge/Olympic Stadium (11:00p-12:00a)

*transportation will be provided back to hotel

PERS RON Marriott Marquis, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta

(404) 521-0000, phone

(404) 586-6299, fax

CHR pager: 800-759-8888, #216-9789

JED pager: 800-759-8888, #216-8029

PIZZUTO_J@OPD
Friday August 16, 1996

Friday August 16, 1996

1996 PARALYMPIC CONGRESS, ATLANTA, GA competition
Call Sherri Henry: 205-6673, work; 362-3402, home
FYI // CHR/JED return DC
FYI / Jill, Vacation Day (CT-Wedding)
Republican National Convention

8:00a Closing Congress Session (8:00a-10:30a)

@ Marriott Marquis
International South Hall

8:30a FYI Morning meeting w/ Evelyn; Paul to cover

9:30a Conference Call; code #2672

10:30a Press Conference with Judy Heumann & Justin Dart (10:30a-11:30a)

Accompanied by Consensus Session Co-Chairs

11:30a Closing Speaker Luncheon (11:30a-1:30a) *Business Attire

3:00p Abilities Expo International / Opening Day Media Event (3:00p-?)

*CHR will be one of featured speakers; tour to follow

Main Lobby

Georgia International Convention Center Expo

*shuttle buses available immediately following luncheon

5:00p 5:00/5:30 Depart for airport; JED/ TBA transportation to airport

7:25p Depart Atlanta (Delta #266)

9:07p Arrive National ** CHR to return to Alexandria

PERS CHR pager: 800-759-8888, #216-9789 JED pager: 800-759-8888, #216-8029

August 5, 1996

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL H. RASCO

FROM: Diana Fortuna
Gus Chiarello

SUBJECT: Paralympics Congress, Consensus Session IV:
Future Paralympians: Making Sports Opportunities
Available to Children with Disabilities Worldwide

I. LOGISTICS

DATE: Monday, August 12, 11:15 onwards
Tuesday, August 13, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday, August 14, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

LOCATION: Marriott Marquis Hotel
265 Peachtree Center Ave.
Atlanta, GA

II. PURPOSE / BACKGROUND

This is the third Paralympic Congress gathered to kick off the tenth Paralympiad. It is the first time ever that people from all over the world are together during the Paralympic Games to discuss and pro-actively address problems facing people with disabilities. The Congress focuses on three major areas: human rights, economic opportunity, and furthering the disabled sports movement.

Attendees can choose to participate in consensus-driven sessions, a research institute, and educational tracks which include sports medicine, performance enhancement, technology in life and leisure, technology in sport, sports management, community advocacy, children's sports programs, universal design, and employment issues. There will be poster sessions and the film festival as well.

You are the co-chair of Consensus Session IV: Future Paralympians: Making Sports Opportunities Available to Children with Disabilities Worldwide. The other Co-Chairs are Johann Olav Koss and Skip Wilkins.

Mr. Koss is from Oslo, Norway, and won three gold medals as a Norwegian speedskater in 1994, and was named the UNICEF Special Representative for Sports. He has a strong interest in children's issues, and was also an ambassador for Atlanta Olympic Aid 1996, which raises funds for children effected by war.

Skip Wilkins is from Virginia Beach, Virginia, and has been recognized for his ongoing work with children with disabilities. He serves on the National Board of Winners on Wheels, the National Board of Advisors for the National Rehabilitation Hospital, and is an educational advisor to Sunrise Medical/Quickie, an international wheelchair and medical equipment manufacturer. He is active with the Easter Seals telethon.

The issues to be discussed in the consensus session are the status of access opportunities for children with disabilities; the benefits of sports medically, socially, and emotionally; reasons for failure to integrate children with disabilities into existing, non-disabled sports and physical education programs; the messages being sent to children due to exclusion regarding physical potential and how this effects other areas of life; and a review of the best practice solutions.

III. PARTICIPANTS/AUDIENCE

Congress attendees are expected to represent over 100 countries and nearly all U.S. states. About 850 people are registered for the Congress, and approximately 200 will participate in the five consensus session.

Thirty-eight participants are confirmed for the session you will chair, including representatives from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; the American Therapeutic Recreation Association; the Arthritis Foundation; the Boys and Girls Clubs; CDC; Children's Specialized Hospital; the Disability International Foundation; the Girl Scouts of the USA; the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity; the National Fitness Leaders' Association; the National Parent Network on Disabilities; the National Therapeutic Recreation Society; the National Youth Sports Coaches Association; NIH; Paralyzed Veterans of America; the Dole Foundation; UNICEF; and the United Way.

IV. FORMAT

This is a two day session. Preparation will be on Monday, August 12. A luncheon from ^{11:30}~~11:15~~ a.m. to 1 p.m. will provide an introduction to the process for those leading the consensus sessions. Then at a meeting Monday at ¹⁻³~~2~~ p.m., the logistics of the consensus sessions will be laid out and discussed in detail.

The first day opens with remarks by the three co-chairs (2-5 minutes each). Barbara Trader of the Paralympics has suggested that the three co-chairs can decide among themselves on Monday what order to speak in.

There will be 10-minute presentations by the authors of the four papers commissioned for the Consensus session.

A company called Group Solutions will act as facilitators of the session. Each session also has a coordinator. Jan Elix will coordinate your session. She is a past competitor, a certified therapeutic recreation therapist, and runs one of the most acclaimed wheelchair sports program for children in the U.S. She will act as greeter, be available for ideas on direction of the discussion, handle details that the co-chairs or the facilitator don't have time for, and generally support the session.

V. MEDIA

The media has access to all events and sessions. New Mobility Magazine plans to have someone at each consensus session.

VI. OTHER

Draft remarks for the opening session are included.

July 30, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL H. RASCO

FROM: JULIE DEMEO

CC: DIANA FORTUNA

SUBJECT: Abilities Expo International

I. LOGISTICS

DATE: August 16
TIME: 3:00 pm
LOCATION: Georgia International Convention Center Expo
CONTACT: Rod Ellis/Barbara Glinsky
phone: (203)256-4700
fax: (203)256-4730

II. PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

This is to celebrate the actual opening of the Expo. This event will be the first and largest international event produced in America exclusively for people with disabilities. More than 300 companies, groups, and organizations plan to have exhibits on the floor.

III. PARTICIPANTS/AUDIENCE

Participants will include Rod Ellis. Vice President of Abilities Expo International, and Andy Fleming, Chairman and CEO of the Atlanta Paralympic Committee, along with about 35 other VIPs.

IV. FORMAT

Very informal

3:00 pm - 1. Gather in the registration area in the hall
2. The band "Van Gogh" will play
3. Rod Ellis will open
4. Andy Fleming will speak
5. Carol Rasco will speak
6. Other speakers????
7. Van Gogh plays again
8. Everyone is free to walk around the Expo

*Shuttle buses will run between the Marriott and the Expo

V. MEDIA

Broadcast and print media present



(203) 256 4730

GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

AUGUST 16-18, 1996

During the 1996 Paralympic Games

ABILITIES EXPO™ INTERNATIONAL

July 24, 1996

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House, West Wing 2nd floor
Washington, DC 20502

Dear VIP

Your are invited to be a special guest at the dedication ceremony at 3:00 pm on August 16, 1996, the opening day of ABILITIES EXPO INTERNATIONAL, a key event happening in Atlanta along with the Paralympic Congress and the Games. Staged in conjunction with the Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee, the Expo will be the the first and largest international event produced in this country exclusively for people with disabilities. Currently, there are over 300 companies, groups and organizations with exhibit space on the show floor.

To celebrate the opening of this event, a special dedication will be held at 3:00 pm on August 16th, in the main lobby of the Georgia International Convention Center Expo. It is scheduled to follow the closing luncheon of the Paralympic Congress.

We are extending a special invitation to you as a "VIP" and a Congress participant to join in this celebration. There will be some entertainment, a few brief remarks from distinguished visitors followed by a conducted tour of the show floor for anyone interested. We are planning both broadcast and print media coverage.

Please let us know by August 9th if you can join us so we can add your name to the list being distributed to the press before the opening. Please reply as soon as possible to Barbara Glinsky at (203) 256-4700 ext 114.

Sincerely

Rod Ellis
Vice President

11⁰⁰ am open

exhibitors
moving in
8⁰⁰ - 8⁰⁰ am 8⁰⁰ f



Expo Information

During the 1996 Paralympic Games

ABILITIES EXPO[®] INTERNATIONAL

Date/Place:

August 16 - 18, 1996

Georgia International Convention & Trade Center
Atlanta, Georgia

General Information:

Now entering their 18th year, ABILITIES EXPOS are the largest Shows in the nation planned expressly for people with disabilities and open to the public. Offers people with disabilities, seniors who are physically limited, health care and education professionals an opportunity to see, try, compare and buy products and services that can enhance their lifestyle.

The Expo will be staged during the opening weekend of the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games. ABILITIES EXPO has a working relationship with the Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee (APOC), a portion of the revenue will go the Paralympics to support the Games.

Exhibitor Profile:

Consists of national manufacturers, distributors, local dealers, private service agencies, organizations of and for people with disabilities, employers of the disabled, government agencies, hospitals, and rehab centers. Exhibits include vans, clothing, lifts, wheelchairs, toys, 3-wheel scooters, computers, support organizations, sports and exercise equipment, daily living aids, personal care products, books and publications.

Attendee Profile:

Disabled consumers including children and seniors, health care professionals, clinicians, rehabilitation and special education professionals, medical equipment dealers come from literally thousands of miles to attend.

Attendance will be international. The 1996 Paralympic Games will host 4,000 athletes from over 100 nations. It is estimated the games will attract over 1.5 million spectators. Athletes, coaches, families and the general audience will visit the Expo.

A Seattle consulting firm, Tradec, has been retained by APOC to identify and bring overseas buying delegations into the Expo.

Special Events:

Various organizations are planning receptions and other activities during the Show. A Computer Center with a large array of assistive technology and workshops will be held daily. There will be workshops and seminars presented on subjects of interest to the disabled community.

Promotion Program:

ABILITIES EXPO International will be promoted nationally in major publications serving people with disabilities. Prior to the Expo thousands of posters, discount flyers and show previews will be mailed to large and carefully selected lists. The week of the event a saturation campaign of advertising spots will be on TV, radio; advertisements will appear in major newspapers.

More Information:

Tel: (203) 256-4700 Fax: (203) 256-4730

Exhibiting – Dawn Pratt, ext.123 or Kathleen Sackett, ext. 138

Attending – Linda Worobel, ext. 114

Expocon Management Associates, Inc. • 363 Reef Road • P.O. Box 915 • Fairfield, CT 06430-0915

Tel: (203) 256-4700 • FAX: (203) 256-4730 • E-Mail: abilities@expocon.com

*ABILITIES EXPOS are produced and managed by Expocon Management Associates, Inc.,
a major producer of both domestic and international trade and consumer expositions and
professional conferences and a publisher of related industry directories.*

press
packet

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of Media Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 1996

Contact: Jill Pizzuto
202-456-2249

**PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR CAROL RASCO
ATTENDS THE 1996 ATLANTA PARALYMPIC GAMES AND
CO-CHAIRS PARALYMPIC CONGRESS CONSENSUS SESSION**

Washington, DC -- The President's top domestic policy advisor, Carol Rasco, will join Vice President and Mrs. Gore at the Opening Ceremonies for the 1996 Paralympic Games. Ms. Rasco will also represent the White House at the Third Paralympic Congress by co-chairing a two day policy Consensus Session and speaking at several Paralympic events.

"I am looking forward to hearing from people throughout the week on disability issues and sharing what I've learned with President Clinton as we continue to work towards achieving a national disability policy based on the President's goals of inclusion, independence and empowerment," Rasco said.

Rasco's schedule for the week follows:

Tuesday, August 13 from 8:00am-5:00pm and Wednesday, August 14 from 9:00am-5:00pm, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Rasco will co-chair a Paralympic Congress Consensus Session: "Future Paralympians - Making Sports Available to Children with Disabilities Worldwide."

Wednesday, August 14 at 8:30pm at the Marriott Marquis Hotel (Marquis Ballroom), Rasco will give welcoming remarks at the first international **Disability Film Festival Awards Banquet**.

Thursday, August 15 from 8:30-11:30am Rasco and other Paralympic Congress participants will visit the **Center for Rehabilitation Technology** at Georgia Tech to see demonstrations of cutting edge design projects and meet people with disabilities who have benefited from these projects.

Thursday, August 15 at 8:00pm, Rasco will attend the **1996 Atlanta Paralympics Opening Ceremonies** with Vice President and Mrs. Gore.

Friday, August 16 at 10:30am at the Marriott Marquis Hotel (Imperial B), Rasco will attend the **Paralympic Congress Closing Press Conference** with Judy Heuman, Justin Dart and other Consensus Session co-chairs.

Friday, August 16 at 3:00pm in the main lobby of the Georgia International Convention Center Expo, Rasco will speak at the dedication ceremony of the **Abilities Expo International**, followed by a tour of interactive displays and product exhibits benefiting people with disabilities.

All of Rasco's events and Paralympic Congress events are open to the media. For more information on Rasco's schedule, please contact Jill Pizzuto at 202-456-2249 or page Julie Demeo at 1-800-759-8888, pin # 216-8029. For more information on the Paralympic Congress, please contact Lisa Cape at 404-814-1669.

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

Carol Hampton Rasco

Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

Carol Hampton Rasco serves as President Clinton's top domestic policy advisor at the White House.

In this role, Carol directs the President's Domestic Policy Council, which consists of Cabinet Secretaries and heads of domestic agencies, and is responsible for helping to shape, implement and articulate the President's domestic policy agenda. In addition, Carol monitors the legislative process and implementation of initiatives.

Carol is from Arkansas and worked as President's Clinton's chief policy advisor in the Arkansas Governor's office for ten years, serving as his Senior Executive Assistant. From 1985 through 1992, she was Governor Clinton's liaison to the National Governors' Association, while he served as chairman as well as lead Governor on welfare reform, child care and health care reform.

Carol received a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas and earned a master's from the University of Central Arkansas. She has taught in the public school system and worked as a middle school counselor.

Prior to joining Governor Clinton's staff in 1983, Carol worked extensively as a volunteer in Arkansas with arts organizations, disability advocacy groups and the United Methodist Church.

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Staff Contact: Julie Demeo or Jill Pizzuto

AT HOME WITH

Carol Rasco

She's Become the Advocate She Herself Once Needed

By JASON DePARLE

AT first glance, it seems a simple portrait of privileged Southern living — a sparkling backyard pool, a family gathered in a comfortable den, a four-foot-wide television that flickers with camcorder images of a relative's sprawling new home.

Only one thing suggests that Carol Rasco has seen more than suburban comfort. That is the figure strapped in a wheelchair. That is her son, Hamp.

He is probably the only mentally retarded 19-year-old to have taught a Presidential confidante. Ms. Rasco, the White House domestic policy adviser, says nothing has taught her more about the need for responsive Government than the challenge of raising a son born retarded and with cerebral palsy.

"My children so much form the core of what my view of domestic policy is about," said Ms. Rasco, who also has a healthy 12-year-old daughter, Mary-Margaret.

Ms. Rasco can tell excruciating details of getting the runaround from government agencies, and she often does. Her long and lonely road as a mother has shaped one of her policy goals, which she says is to "help all parents be the best they can be."

Carol Rasco and her son, Hamp, 19, at home in Little Rock, Ark.

Some women in power might view their domestic lives as an inappropriate topic for inquiry; profiles of the President's men, after all, do not usually focus on their roles as fathers. But Ms. Rasco invites such inquiries, turning questions about her policy views into a conversation about motherhood.

She did that recently before a group of company chief executives. She scrapped her prepared remarks on global competitiveness to extemporize on reasons why their future labor force, today's children, needed strong advocates.

She remembers thinking, "Oh dear, do I risk this?" But knowing that other speakers would cover abstract statistics, she told the executives how her experiences had led her to see the need for child advocacy. "Without a strong advocate, my own son would not have gotten what he needed," she says.

As a former elementary-school teacher in a White House thick with Rhodes Scholars, Ms. Rasco occupies an odd Presidential niche. She has nothing of the national reputation enjoyed by her two counterparts, Robert E. Rubin, the economic adviser, or W. Anthony Lake, national security adviser.

She is happy to describe herself as an implementer of policies rather than their grand architect, and she seems to have taken a back seat on major issues like the budget and health-care reform. Her colleagues often grasp at straws when trying to describe her ideology, or even, sometimes, her policy positions.

But virtually all agree that she has



Mike Serrano for The New York Times

at least one coveted credential: a deep reserve of Presidential trust, earned during a decade spent as a senior aide to Mr. Clinton when he was Governor of Arkansas. "He loves her," said John Podesta, the White House staff secretary.

Ms. Rasco began as a human-services aide to Mr. Clinton in 1983 and rose to the point where she ran much of the state's daily business for the year that Mr. Clinton was out campaigning for the Presidency. She now provides him with daily briefings on staff and policy developments across the domestic agencies, and she has shown a talent for brokering disputes between warring bureaucracies.

Still, no one is quite sure what Ms. Rasco intends to do with her access, which seems to have remained undiminished by the recent White House upheavals and the arrival of David Gergen as Presidential counselor.

If her colleagues call her views mysterious, Ms. Rasco says that's fine with her. "I don't expect that in four, or hopefully eight, years, people will say, 'Carol Rasco is the godmother of X policy,'" she said. "The Clintons know that I'm in tune and that I can help coordinate their goals."

Asked for a definition of an underclass, for example, she answers, "I'm not going to give you big streams of words." Asked whether she identifies

with so-called new Democrats or the old ones, she contends that neither camp has given "a very specific definition of what all that encompasses."

Ms. Rasco, who is 45, has a form of Southern charm that sometimes seems more evocative of the Junior League than the Oval Office. She has a sixth sense for putting guests at ease. She uses words like *bumfuzzled*, as a synonym for confused.

But she can also be unusually direct. The conversation turns to her son, and the air suddenly fills with vivid images: misshapen hip sockets and a broken femur, body casts and their effects on body smells. Ms. Rasco shows no hesitation stepping before a toilet and fumbling with imaginary straps to illustrate the complexities of her son's daily living.

Her father, Frank Barnes Hampton, said he admired what he called his daughter's purposefulness. "She's learned that a million tears don't change anything," he said.

Ms. Rasco grew up in De Witt, Ark., 65 miles southeast of Little Rock, the daughter of a pharmacist and a homemaker. At the University of Arkansas she worked for a fellow student who was campaigning for student-body president. That student, Thomas F. McLarty Jr., is now Mr. Clinton's chief of staff.

In 1969, at 21, she married Terry

Rasco, who is an architect in Little Rock. Four years later, an uneventful pregnancy culminated in a traumatic 24-hour labor. It was a Saturday, her doctor was out of town, and today's health-care reformer found herself in the hands of what she calls an inattentive hospital staff.

"I've always wondered if there wasn't more interest in the Razor-back game that afternoon," Ms. Rasco said, referring to the state's passion for the University of Arkansas football team. She still believes that the doctors should have performed a Caesarean section, though she cannot say for sure that it would have prevented the brain damage.

Hamp (his full name is Hampton) turned 5 before he talked, and he was 6 before he was out of diapers. With her husband at work, Ms. Rasco's life shrank to a thousand daily tasks — bolting her son's sandals onto his tricycle, sticking Velcro on his forks and spoons. "There were nights I was so tired, I would think: 'Why am I doing this? Is it ever going to show fruition?'" she said.

She said her son's subsequent development represented their mutual triumph over doubters and unhelpful bureaucrats. She ignored doctors who suggested she institutionalize him as an infant. She fought the elementary school that had wanted to separate him from nondisabled children. She chased the school-bus bureaucracy until it provided him with a seat belt.

Her fights, she said, gave her empathy with those who were reliant on government, from the elderly to young mothers on welfare.

Ms. Rasco's efforts reached a milestone on June 2, when her son joined the graduation at Hall High School and received a certificate of attendance and a standing ovation.

Hamp speaks slowly, with a hint of a slur, and he has been announcing, with a hint of mischief, the onset of a new disease: "senioritis."

"That's when seniors want to get out," he said.

He left home last summer for an Easter Seals group home, where the staff helps him in and out of bed. He said he is looking for a job that will allow him to use his "social skills."

A training program has taught him to fold napkins and stack sugar baskets, and at restaurants he is quick to fault imperfect ratios of sugar and artificial sweeteners. "It's a hoot," his mother said. His favorite activity is to listen to his portable police radio (his sister, her eyes rolling, notes that he carries it even to the mall).

He attended the news conference at which his mother's appointment was announced, but he carried Kleenex with him, knowing it meant her departure from Little Rock. His old friend Bill Clinton, alarmed at his emotion, waded into the audience to soothe him afterward. Hamp will not reveal what they said. "I call that personal," he said.

Ms. Rasco describes their separation as the kind of difficult-but-healthy experience that all parents and children go through. They stay in touch through visits, phone calls and he fax machine in Hamp's room.

Ms. Rasco's daughter plans to move to Washington in the fall, but her husband's architecture practice will keep him, along with Hamp, in Little Rock.

Ms. Rasco first met Mr. Clinton in 1976, when he was a candidate for state attorney general and spoke to a

neighborhood coffee gathering. She later befriended Hillary Rodham Clinton as a fellow member of the First Methodist Church.

During his first term as Governor, Mr. Clinton appointed Ms. Rasco to a state board that ran homes for the

Clinton's listening.

disabled. She pushed for programs that placed more disabled people in mainstream settings, like those her son has enjoyed. When Mr. Clinton returned to the Governor's office, in 1983, he brought Ms. Rasco as his liaison to the departments of human services and health.

She brought her mediating talents to bear on the nation's governors, helping forge the consensus for the 1988 Family Support Act, which required some welfare recipients to seek education or training.

But she was also overseeing human services policy when the state's child-welfare system fell apart, as state workers failed to investigate complaints of child abuse and placed children in unsafe foster-care settings. It took a Federal lawsuit to force Mr. Clinton, then an embarrassed Presidential candidate, to raise money to hire and train more workers.

Ms. Rasco said a tightfisted Legislature prevented the changes from coming sooner. "Any time there are children dying, you always should be doing more," she said. "Could we have done it faster? I question that."

The low profile, but high access, that Ms. Rasco brings to her current work can be seen through her role in immunization policy. Earlier this year, Department of Health and Human Services wanted to distribute free vaccines to all children, regardless of family income; the Office of Management and Budget wanted a cheaper plan that gave free vaccines only to the needy.

The decisive moment came in March, when Ms. Rasco went to the President and came back with his decision in favor of the more expensive option, which was subsequently rejected by Congress. She said Mr. Clinton understood the risks and made his own choice. But even now, Ms. Rasco's own views have to be discerned by reading between the lines. She says she wasn't "passionately and vociferously" for the plan, but she "would have been happy to have it go through."

A memorable moment in Ms. Rasco's call for a more helpful Government occurred last winter at a Camp David retreat, when she told her colleagues about a woman she had known in Arkansas. The woman, calling a state agency, had been hung up on by a worker eager to get to lunch. She had gone to Federal buildings that were marked "handicapped accessible," only to find they were not. She had seen her child rejected by state programs for the disabled because he was not indigent and the family was not allowed to pay.

Ms. Rasco caught her colleagues by surprise when she explained why those images would never leave her. "Because," she said, "those experiences were my own."

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 6, 1996

It gives me great pleasure to join all Americans in welcoming the athletes, officials, and spectators who have traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, for the Games of the Xth Paralympiad.

As the premier competition for elite athletes with physical disabilities, the Paralympic Games will bring together approximately 3,500 competitors, representing more than 125 nations, to participate in the world's largest celebration of the achievements of people with disabilities. With skill and courage, these world-class athletes will put themselves to the test, exemplifying both individual accomplishment and the universal quest for excellence, equality, and dignity.

As Honorary Chair of the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games, I ask you to join me in support of this powerful demonstration of the ability of people with disabilities to compete at the highest levels of athletic achievement and in celebrating the triumph of the human spirit.

Bill Clinton

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

"Opportunity is critical to what we have to do as a nation to meet the great challenges we face and to move forward into the next century...We will not allow Americans with disabilities to be kept from realizing their dreams by closed doors or narrow minds."

President Bill Clinton

July 26, 1995

President Clinton came to Washington with a plan to put people first by making the government more accountable and accessible to all Americans, including those with disabilities. From the White House to every federal agency, this Administration has demonstrated an unprecedented commitment to address the concerns of Americans with disabilities. The President is committed to supporting the 49 million Americans with disabilities in their efforts to exercise their full rights and responsibilities, to live as independently as possible and to be productive throughout their lives.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Fighting Discrimination:** Under President Clinton, federal agencies have vigorously enforced the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and other critical civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in schools, workplaces and public areas across the nation. President Clinton strongly opposes attempts to weaken these laws.
- **Protecting Health Care:** The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities and has rejected proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. President Clinton has preserved Medicaid coverage for 6 million persons with disabilities, including 1 million children. Without Medicaid, many families would have to impoverish themselves to pay for a child's medical care, give up their jobs to stay home to care for a child or seek placement in an institution. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with disabilities and allows many children and adults to receive services at home rather than in institutions.
- **Improving Education for Children with Disabilities:** President Clinton is fighting to increase the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's focus on educational results for children and cutting unnecessary paperwork so that more time can be spent on teaching and learning. The Administration has recommended a 12% increase above the 1996 funding level for the basic state grant program and opposes weakening the guarantee of a right to education for children with disabilities.
- **Increasing Home and Community-Based Programs:** The Clinton Administration's flexibility in granting state waivers has spurred an increase in home and community-based services. As a result, the number of people with developmental or cognitive disabilities served in home and community waiver programs more than doubled to 149,000 in 1995.

- **Support for Families:** President Clinton fought for and enacted the Family and Medical Leave Act making workplaces more accommodating for many families that include a child or adult with a disability.
- **Increasing Access:** By enacting the National Voter Registration Act and the Telecommunications Reform Act, President Clinton has made voting easier and communications technology more accessible for Americans with disabilities.
- **Transportation and Housing:** The Clinton Administration is helping to connect people with disabilities to employment, educational opportunities and a full range of public activities by implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act and Fair Housing Act requirements for accessible bus and rail transit systems, paratransit services and housing.
- **Employment of People with Disabilities:** The Clinton Administration is offering individuals with disabilities the opportunity to increase their independence through rehabilitation services and work incentive programs.
- **Appointees with Disabilities:** The President has appointed an impressive group of people with disabilities to high-level policy-making positions, including many people prominent in the disability community. Many of these appointments are to key positions that are not directly related to disability issues.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- Under President Clinton, federal agencies will continue to vigorously enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act with a balanced approach that emphasizes voluntary compliance wherever possible.
- The President has proposed a balanced budget that maintains meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities and supports insurance reforms to prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of pre-existing conditions.
- President Clinton is committed to expanding employment options for people with disabilities and challenging all Americans to understand that people with disabilities can contribute to this country when given access to the workplace, health care, community services and technology.
- The Clinton Administration will work to maintain a strong Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for children with disabilities and to improve educational results for students with disabilities.

July 1996

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 6, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT 1996 PARALYMPIC TORCH RELAY LAUNCH

South Lawn

10:11 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. First of all, welcome to the White House. Welcome to the lawn. Welcome to summertime. (Laughter.)

I want to thank Al Mead and Andy Fleming for being here today; and Randy Snow and all the members of the 1996 U.S. Paralympic Team. We are so delighted to have you here, so excited that this is the beginning of the torch relay. We know the torch that we launch here today will ignite the world's second largest sporting event and the first Paralympic Games ever to be held here in the United States.

I want to echo what has just been said. It is very fitting that the torch was lit yesterday by the eternal flame at the tomb of Dr. Martin Luther King. His life has come to symbolize the struggle and the promise, the opportunity and the responsibility of our nation. This is the first time his flame has been shared for any other purpose. And I'd like to thank Coretta Scott King and Dexter King, the entire King family, for sharing it with these games. It is a remarkable statement and an altogether fitting one. (Applause.) Thank you.

I know that our American team, many of whom are gathered here today, and the other teams around the world will thrill people all around the world with their courage and their achievements. And we will be reminded everywhere, but especially here in the United States, how much more we can accomplish when all people everywhere are given the chance to participate fully in our national life.

The people in these Olympics got here because they believed in themselves and worked hard to achieve their goals. The Organizing Committee of the Atlanta Paralympic Games, under the leadership of Andy Fleming and Al Mead and many others here today, have also worked very hard to make these games the best ever. This year's games are the result of an unprecedented partnership between the committee, the corporate community and the federal government. And APOC has done an outstanding job of educating corporate America about the value of being associated with these games.

For the first time there will be network television coverage. The dedication to these games for the members of my own administration I can tell you has been very heartfelt, and I want to thank them. Education Secretary Riley himself is now down on the Mall waiting to receive the torch. The Vice President will have the great honor of declaring the games open on August the 15th and, as all of you know, there will now be more than 3,500 athletes there from 120 different nations.

Our American team includes some of the finest athletes and some of the finest individuals in the world. Aimee Mullins, a student at Georgetown, my alma mater, who is here with us today, is the only disabled member of an NCAA Division One track team. And I thank her for being here and for her contribution. (Applause.)

MORE

She's a world record holder in the 100 and 200 meter dashes and in the long jump, and she'll be competing in all three of those events in Atlanta. Trischa Zorn is a swimmer from Indiana who's been competing since the age of seven and has won more than 30 gold medals in her career. Fourteen-year-old LeAnn Shannon from Orange Park, Florida, is the youngest member of our team and the youngest member ever. At this year's trials, she finished first in the 100, 200, 400 and 800 meter races. The joys of youth. (Laughter.) She also volunteers in a rehabilitation hospital in her community, helping other people.

In addition to being a world stage for some of the greatest athletes, the Paralympic Games will also give us an opportunity to reflect on where the disability movement is heading worldwide -- in the areas of equal opportunity, economic opportunity and access to sports for all people with disabilities. I'm determined to press on with meeting the challenge to our nation that I put forward in 1992 -- a national disability policy based on inclusion, independence and empowerment. (Applause.) The Paralympic Games are a powerful demonstration of what can happen when inclusion, independence and empowerment become realities in individuals' lives with great abilities and great hearts.

In Atlanta, experts from around the world will be discussing these issues in the Third Paralympic Congress, chaired by our good friend, Justin Dart, who's also here with us today and who in his own way has the most Olympian spirit I believe I've ever come across. We thank you for being here, sir. (Applause.)

My Domestic Policy Adviser, Carol Rasco, will cochair a session on how to make the athletic experience available to children with disabilities around the world. And we know this will be a very successful Congress.

In a few minutes, the Paralympic torch, representing the triumph of the human spirit, will be formally presented to me on behalf of the 1996 Paralympic team, by Paralympic swimmer, Diane Straub. I want to thank her not only for bringing the flame to the White House, but also for her selflessness, her determination and her achievement. The flame of her life burns just as brightly as the flame of these games and is lighting the way to others. Even with her demanding medical school studies and her training schedule, she still finds time to help disadvantaged children. She is truly a Paralympic champion and an American hero. (Applause.)

I'd also like to thank the Co-chair of the President's Commission on Physical Fitness, Tom McMillen, for being with me here today and for supporting the concept that physical fitness is every bit as important, if not more important, for Americans with disabilities than for other Americans. We are committed to that. And I thank you Tom for being here. (Applause.)

Now, this torch is beginning its journey home to Atlanta carried by one of America's best. Randy Snow has been a member of six United States National Wheelchair Basketball teams. An accident when he was 16 left him a paraplegic. His enthusiasm and excellence in sports, however, did not diminish. He's gone on to have an outstanding career in both basketball and tennis. He devotes a lot of his time to extolling the value of recreation and wellness to people with disabilities. And in 1994, the National Council of Disability presented him with its Outstanding Citizenship Award. In 1989, he won the coveted Jack Gerhardt Award as the Wheelchair Athlete of the Year.

He will hand the torch off to Georgia Congressman John Lewis who was, as many of you know, an associate of Dr. King, who will take it off the White House grounds. One thousand people will participate in the relay that will cover 1,000 miles. When the torch reaches Atlanta on August 15th, it will take its place in the Olympic

Stadium, the most accessible arena of its kind in the world.- I am proud that we have worked hard to make this a reality.

Dr. King once said, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." That is the great lesson of these games. In their dedication to excellence, equality and community, APOC, the athletes, their families, their coaches are the best examples of what is right with our country. May this torch serve as an inspiration to all Americans to give their best in every endeavor, to make the most of their God-given abilities and to recognize that we are all stronger and more vibrant when we develop, recognize and support the talents of all of our people. May that be the lasting legacy of the 1996 Paralympics.

It is now my honor to invite Diane Straub, a member of the 1996 Paralympic team, to bring the torch to the stage.

Diane. (Applause.)

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- **Protecting Health Care:** The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities and has rejected proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. President Clinton has preserved Medicaid coverage for 6 million persons with disabilities, including 1 million children. Without Medicaid, many families would have to impoverish themselves to pay for a child's medical care, give up their jobs to stay home to care for a child or seek placement in an institution. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with disabilities and allows many children and adults to receive services at home rather than in institutions.
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- **Increasing Home and Community-Based Programs:** The Clinton Administration's flexibility in granting state waivers has spurred an increase in home and community-based services. As a result, the number of people with developmental or cognitive disabilities served in home and community waiver programs more than doubled to 149,000 in 1995.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 6, 1996

It gives me great pleasure to join all Americans in welcoming the athletes, officials, and spectators who have traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, for the Games of the Xth Paralympiad.

As the premier competition for elite athletes with physical disabilities, the Paralympic Games will bring together approximately 3,500 competitors, representing more than 125 nations, to participate in the world's largest celebration of the achievements of people with disabilities. With skill and courage, these world-class athletes will put themselves to the test, exemplifying both individual accomplishment and the universal quest for excellence, equality, and dignity.

As Honorary Chair of the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games, I ask you to join me in support of this powerful demonstration of the ability of people with disabilities to compete at the highest levels of athletic achievement and in celebrating the triumph of the human spirit.

Bill Clinton

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1993

AT HOME WITH

Carol Rasco

She's Become the Advocate She Herself Once Needed

By JASON DePARLE

AT first glance, it seems a simple portrait of privileged Southern living — a sparkling backyard pool, a family gathered in a comfortable den, a four-foot-wide television that flickers with camcorder images of a relative's sprawling new home.

Only one thing suggests that Carol Rasco has seen more than suburban comfort. That is the figure strapped in a wheelchair. That is her son, Hamp.

He is probably the only mentally retarded 19-year-old to have taught a Presidential confidante. Ms. Rasco, the White House domestic policy adviser, says nothing has taught her more about the need for responsive Government than the challenge of raising a son born retarded and with cerebral palsy.

"My children so much form the core of what my view of domestic policy is about," said Ms. Rasco, who also has a healthy 12-year-old daughter, Mary-Margaret.

Ms. Rasco can tell excruciating of getting the runaround government agencies, and often does. Her long and lonely road as a mother has shaped one of her policy goals, which she says is to "help all parents be the best they can be."

Carol Rasco and her son, Hamp, 19, at home in Little Rock, Ark.



Mike Stewart for The New York Times

Some women in power might view their domestic lives as an inappropriate topic for inquiry: profiles of the President's men, after all, do not usually focus on their roles as fathers. But Ms. Rasco invites such inquiries, turning questions about her policy views into a conversation about motherhood.

She did that recently before a group of company chief executives. She scrapped her prepared remarks on global competitiveness to extemporize on reasons why their future labor force, today's children, needed strong advocates.

She remembers thinking, "Oh dear, do I risk this?" But knowing that other speakers would cover abstract statistics, she told the executives how her experiences had led her to see the need for child advocacy. "Without a strong advocate, my own son would not have gotten what he needed," she says.

As a former elementary-school teacher in a White House thick with Rhodes Scholars, Ms. Rasco occupies an odd Presidential niche. She has nothing of the national reputations enjoyed by her two counterparts, Robert E. Rubin, the economic adviser, or W. Anthony Lake, national security adviser.

She is happy to describe herself as an implementer of policies rather than their grand architect, and she seems to have taken a back seat on major issues like the budget and health-care reform. Her colleagues often grasp at straws when trying to describe her ideology, or even, sometimes, her policy positions.

But virtually all agree that she has

at least one coveted credential: a deep reserve of Presidential trust, earned during a decade spent as a senior aide to Mr. Clinton when he was Governor of Arkansas. "He loves her," said John Podesta, the White House staff secretary.

Ms. Rasco began as a human-services aide to Mr. Clinton in 1983 and rose to the point where she ran much of the state's daily business for the year that Mr. Clinton was out campaigning for the Presidency. She now provides him with daily briefings on staff and policy developments across the domestic agencies, and she has shown a talent for brokering disputes between warring bureaucracies.

Still, no one is quite sure what Ms. Rasco intends to do with her access, which seems to have remained undiminished by the recent White House upheavals and the arrival of David Gergen as Presidential counselor.

If her colleagues call her views mysterious, Ms. Rasco says that's fine with her. "I don't expect that in four, or hopefully eight, years, people will say, 'Carol Rasco is the godmother of X policy,'" she said. "The Clintons know that I'm in tune and that I can help coordinate their goals."

Asked for a definition of an underclass, for example, she answers, "I'm not going to give you big streams of words." Asked whether she identifies

with so-called new Democrats or the old ones, she contends that neither camp has given "a very specific definition of what all that encompasses."

Ms. Rasco, who is 45, has a form of Southern charm that sometimes seems more evocative of the Junior League than the Oval Office. She has a sixth sense for putting guests at ease. She uses words like *bumfuzzled*, as a synonym for confused.

But she can also be unusually direct. The conversation turns to her son, and the air suddenly fills with vivid images: misshapen hip sockets and a broken femur, body casts and their effects on body smells. Ms. Rasco shows no hesitation stepping before a toilet and fumbling with imaginary straps to illustrate the complexities of her son's daily living.

Her father, Frank Barnes Hampton, said he admired what he called his daughter's purposefulness. "She's learned that a million tears don't change anything," he said.

Ms. Rasco grew up in De Witt, Ark., 65 miles southeast of Little Rock, the daughter of a pharmacist and a homemaker. At the University of Arkansas she worked for a fellow student who was campaigning for student-body president. That student, Thomas F. McLarty Jr., is now Mr. Clinton's chief of staff.

In 1969, at 21, she married Terry

Rasco, who is an architect in Little Rock. Four years later, an uneventful pregnancy culminated in a traumatic 24-hour labor. It was a Saturday, her doctor was out of town, and today's health-care reformer found herself in the hands of what she calls an inattentive hospital staff.

"I've always wondered if there wasn't more interest in the Razor-back game that afternoon," Ms. Rasco said, referring to the state's passion for the University of Arkansas football team. She still believes that the doctors should have performed a Caesarean section, though she cannot say for sure that it would have prevented the brain damage.

Hamp (his full name is Hampton) turned 5 before he talked, and he was 6 before he was out of diapers. With her husband at work, Ms. Rasco's life shrank to a thousand daily tasks — bolting her son's sandals onto his tricycle, sticking Velcro on his forks and spoons. "There were nights I was so tired, I would think: 'Why am I doing this? Is it ever going to show fruition?'" she said.

She said her son's subsequent development represented their mutual triumph over doubters and unhelpful bureaucrats. She ignored doctors who suggested she institutionalize him as an infant. She fought the elementary school that had wanted to separate him from nondisabled children. She chased the school-bus bureaucracy until it provided him with a seat belt.

Her fights, she said, gave her empathy with those who were reliant on government, from the elderly to young mothers on welfare.

Ms. Rasco's efforts reached a milestone on June 2, when her son joined the graduation at Hall High School and received a certificate of attendance and a standing ovation.

Hamp speaks slowly, with a hint of a slur, and he has been announcing, with a hint of mischief, the onset of a new disease: "senioritis."

"That's when seniors want to get out," he said.

He left home last summer for an Easter Seals group house, where the staff helps him in and out of bed. He said he is looking for a job that will allow him to use his "social skills."

A training program has taught him to fold napkins and stack sugar baskets, and at restaurants he is quick to fault imperfect ratios of sugar and artificial sweeteners. "It's a hoot," his mother said. His favorite activity is to listen to his portable police radio (his sister, her eyes rolling, notes that he carries it even to the mall).

He attended the news conference at which his mother's appointment was announced, but he carried Kleenex with him, knowing it meant her departure from Little Rock. His old friend Bill Clinton, alarmed at his emotion, waded into the audience to soothe him afterward. Hamp will not reveal what they said. "I call that personal," he said.

Ms. Rasco describes their separation as the kind of difficult-but-healthy experience that all parents and children go through. They stay in touch through visits, phone calls and a fax machine in Hamp's room.

Ms. Rasco's daughter plans to move to Washington in the fall, but her husband's architecture practice will keep him, along with Hamp, in Little Rock.

Ms. Rasco first met Mr. Clinton in 1976, when he was a candidate for state attorney general and spoke to a

neighborhood coffee gathering. She later befriended Hillary Rodham Clinton as a fellow member of the First Methodist Church.

During his first term as Governor, Mr. Clinton appointed Ms. Rasco to a state board that ran homes for the

Clinton's listening.

disabled. She pushed for programs that placed more disabled people in mainstream settings, like those her son has enjoyed. When Mr. Clinton returned to the Governor's office, in 1983, he brought Ms. Rasco as his liaison to the departments of human services and health.

She brought her mediating talents to bear on the nation's governors, helping forge the consensus for the 1988 Family Support Act, which required some welfare recipients to seek education or training.

But she was also overseeing human services policy when the state's child-welfare system fell apart, as state workers failed to investigate complaints of child abuse and placed children in unsafe foster-care settings. It took a Federal lawsuit to force Mr. Clinton, then an embarrassed Presidential candidate, to raise money to hire and train more workers.

Ms. Rasco said a tightfisted Legislature prevented the changes from coming sooner. "Any time there are children dying, you always should be doing more," she said. "Could we have done it faster? I question that."

The low profile, but high access, that Ms. Rasco brings to her current work can be seen through her role in immunization policy. Earlier this year, Department of Health and Human Services wanted to distribute free vaccines to all children, regardless of family income; the Office of Management and Budget wanted a cheaper plan that gave free vaccines only to the needy.

The decisive moment came in March, when Ms. Rasco went to the President and came back with his decision in favor of the more expensive option, which was subsequently rejected by Congress. She said Mr. Clinton understood the risks and made his own choice. But even now, Ms. Rasco's own views have to be discerned by reading between the lines. She says she wasn't "passionately and vociferously" for the plan, but she "would have been happy to have it go through."

A memorable moment in Ms. Rasco's call for a more helpful Government occurred last winter at a Camp David retreat, when she told her colleagues about a woman she had known in Arkansas. The woman, calling a state agency, had been hung up on by a worker eager to get to lunch. She had gone to Federal buildings that were marked "handicapped accessible," only to find they were not. She had seen her child rejected by state programs for the disabled because he was not indigent and the family was not allowed to pay.

Ms. Rasco caught her colleagues by surprise when she explained why those images would never leave her. "Because," she said, "those experiences were my own."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Carol Hampton Rasco

Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

Carol Hampton Rasco serves as President Clinton's top domestic policy advisor at the White House.

In this role, Carol directs the President's Domestic Policy Council, which consists of Cabinet Secretaries and heads of domestic agencies, and is responsible for helping to shape, implement and articulate the President's domestic policy agenda. In addition, Carol monitors the legislative process and implementation of initiatives.

Carol is from Arkansas and worked as President's Clinton's chief policy advisor in the Arkansas Governor's office for ten years, serving as his Senior Executive Assistant. From 1985 through 1992, she was Governor Clinton's liaison to the National Governors' Association, while he served as chairman as well as lead Governor on welfare reform, child care and health care reform.

Carol received a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas and earned a master's from the University of Central Arkansas. She has taught in the public school system and worked as a middle school counselor.

Prior to joining Governor Clinton's staff in 1983, Carol worked extensively as a volunteer in Arkansas with arts organizations, disability advocacy groups and the United Methodist Church.

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press
packet

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of Media Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 1996

Contact: Jill Pizzuto
202-456-2249

**PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR CAROL RASCO
ATTENDS THE 1996 ATLANTA PARALYMPIC GAMES AND
CO-CHAIRS PARALYMPIC CONGRESS CONSENSUS SESSION**

Washington, DC -- The President's top domestic policy advisor, Carol Rasco, will join Vice President and Mrs. Gore at the Opening Ceremonies for the 1996 Paralympic Games. Ms. Rasco will also represent the White House at the Third Paralympic Congress by co-chairing a two day policy Consensus Session and speaking at several Paralympic events.

"I am looking forward to hearing from people throughout the week on disability issues and sharing what I've learned with President Clinton as we continue to work towards achieving a national disability policy based on the President's goals of inclusion, independence and empowerment," Rasco said.

Rasco's schedule for the week follows:

Tuesday, August 13 from 8:00am-5:00pm and Wednesday, August 14 from 9:00am-5:00pm, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Rasco will co-chair a Paralympic Congress Consensus Session: "Future Paralympians - Making Sports Available to Children with Disabilities Worldwide."

Wednesday, August 14 at 8:30pm at the Marriott Marquis Hotel (Marquis Ballroom), Rasco will give welcoming remarks at the first international Disability Film Festival Awards Banquet.

Thursday, August 15 from 8:30-11:30am Rasco and other Paralympic Congress participants will visit the **Center for Rehabilitation Technology** at Georgia Tech to see demonstrations of cutting edge design projects and meet people with disabilities who have benefited from these projects.

Thursday, August 15 at 8:00pm, Rasco will attend the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics Opening Ceremonies with Vice President and Mrs. Gore.

Friday, August 16 at 10:30am at the Marriott Marquis Hotel (Imperial B), Rasco will attend the Paralympic Congress Closing Press Conference with Judy Heuman, Justin Dart and other Consensus Session co-chairs.

Friday, August 16 at 3:00pm in the main lobby of the Georgia International Convention Center Expo, Rasco will speak at the dedication ceremony of the **Abilities Expo International**, followed by a tour of interactive displays and product exhibits benefiting people with disabilities.

All of Rasco's events and Paralympic Congress events are open to the media. For more information on Rasco's schedule, please contact Jill Pizzuto at 202-456-2249 or page Julie Demeo at 1-800-759-8888, pin # 216-8029. For more information on the Paralympic Congress, please contact Lisa Cape at 404-814-1669.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Domestic Policy Council

Mission

The Domestic Policy Council oversees development and implementation of the President's domestic policy agenda. Established on August 16, 1993, by Executive Order 12859, the Council ensures coordination and communication between the heads of relevant federal offices and agencies.

The Council provides a forum through which:

- Cabinet agencies with responsibility for components of the domestic agenda coordinate their work on key cross-cutting issues;
- decisions on policy of critical importance to the President can be debated, focused, and ultimately brought before the President for decision;
- communication is fostered on initiatives and issues affecting multiple agencies;
- implementation of key Presidential initiatives is monitored.

The Council, headed by the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, also works with legislators, advocacy groups, constituent communities and all levels of government to ensure that a full range of voices participates throughout the policy making process. The Council functions through committees, task forces, and interagency working groups which facilitate the development of national policy on such issues as health care reform, welfare reform, crime, immigration, and Americans with disabilities.

Members

The President
(Chairman)

Vice President
Attorney General
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Secretary of Education
Secretary of Agriculture
Secretary of Commerce
Secretary of the Treasury
Secretary of the Interior
Secretary of Labor
Secretary of Energy
Secretary of Transportation
Secretary of Health & Human Services

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Senior Advisor to the President, Policy Development
CEO, Corporation for National & Community Service
Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Director, Office of Science & Technology Policy
Commissioner of the Social Security Administration

 (Revised April 11, 1995)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

"Opportunity is critical to what we have to do as a nation to meet the great challenges we face and to move forward into the next century...We will not allow Americans with disabilities to be kept from realizing their dreams by closed doors or narrow minds."

President Bill Clinton

July 26, 1995

President Clinton came to Washington with a plan to put people first by making the government more accountable and accessible to all Americans, including those with disabilities. From the White House to every federal agency, this Administration has demonstrated an unprecedented commitment to address the concerns of Americans with disabilities. The President is committed to supporting the 49 million Americans with disabilities in their efforts to exercise their full rights and responsibilities, to live as independently as possible and to be productive throughout their lives.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Fighting Discrimination:** Under President Clinton, federal agencies have vigorously enforced the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and other critical civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in schools, workplaces and public areas across the nation. President Clinton strongly opposes attempts to weaken these laws.
- **Protecting Health Care:** The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities and has rejected proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. President Clinton has preserved Medicaid coverage for 6 million persons with disabilities, including 1 million children. Without Medicaid, many families would have to impoverish themselves to pay for a child's medical care, give up their jobs to stay home to care for a child or seek placement in an institution. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with disabilities and allows many children and adults to receive services at home rather than in institutions.
- **Improving Education for Children with Disabilities:** President Clinton is fighting to increase the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's focus on educational results for children and cutting unnecessary paperwork so that more time can be spent on teaching and learning. The Administration has recommended a 12% increase above the 1996 funding level for the basic state grant program and opposes weakening the guarantee of a right to education for children with disabilities.
- **Increasing Home and Community-Based Programs:** The Clinton Administration's flexibility in granting state waivers has spurred an increase in home and community-based services. As a result, the number of people with developmental or cognitive disabilities served in home and community waiver programs more than doubled to 149,000 in 1995.

- **Support for Families:** President Clinton fought for and enacted the Family and Medical Leave Act making workplaces more accommodating for many families that include a child or adult with a disability.
- **Increasing Access:** By enacting the National Voter Registration Act and the Telecommunications Reform Act, President Clinton has made voting easier and communications technology more accessible for Americans with disabilities.
- **Transportation and Housing:** The Clinton Administration is helping to connect people with disabilities to employment, educational opportunities and a full range of public activities by implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act and Fair Housing Act requirements for accessible bus and rail transit systems, paratransit services and housing.
- **Employment of People with Disabilities:** The Clinton Administration is offering individuals with disabilities the opportunity to increase their independence through rehabilitation services and work incentive programs.
- **Appointees with Disabilities:** The President has appointed an impressive group of people with disabilities to high-level policy-making positions, including many people prominent in the disability community. Many of these appointments are to key positions that are not directly related to disability issues.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- Under President Clinton, federal agencies will continue to vigorously enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act with a balanced approach that emphasizes voluntary compliance wherever possible.
- The President has proposed a balanced budget that maintains meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities and supports insurance reforms to prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of pre-existing conditions.
- President Clinton is committed to expanding employment options for people with disabilities and challenging all Americans to understand that people with disabilities can contribute to this country when given access to the workplace, health care, community services and technology.
- The Clinton Administration will work to maintain a strong Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for children with disabilities and to improve educational results for students with disabilities.

July 1996

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT SUMMARY

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides civil rights protections for persons with disabilities parallel to those established by the Federal government under the Civil Rights Act.

1. Employment: The ADA requires employers to make reasonable accommodations to the known physical and mental limitations of a qualified applicant or employee unless that imposes an undue hardship on the employer. Accommodations in most cases can be made at little or no cost, and could include making worksites accessible, modifying equipment or work schedules, providing new devices, restructuring jobs, or providing readers or interpreters.

Administrative enforcement is done by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, after which individuals have the right to sue in court; however, compensatory damages are limited to \$300,000 plus back pay.

The ADA excludes people who currently use illegal drugs from its protections, but it does prohibit discrimination against recovering drug addicts and alcoholics and against individuals who have successfully completed rehabilitation.

2. Transportation: The ADA requires that individuals with disabilities have access to transportation. All new public buses must be accessible to persons with disabilities. No retrofitting of buses is required. Transit authorities must provide paratransit or other special transportation services to those individuals who cannot use regular bus service. All new rail vehicles and stations must be accessible. Existing rail systems and stations are given specific deadlines by which they must comply with ADA standards.

3. Public Accommodations: Public accommodations include all sales and service establishments, as well as educational institutions, recreational facilities, and social service centers. The ADA requires such facilities to make reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, unless those modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the services provided. All new construction and alterations in public accommodations, as well as in commercial facilities such as office buildings, must be accessible. Retrofitting of existing buildings is only required when "readily achievable." Such facilities may not use eligibility criteria that screen out individuals with disabilities, unless such screens are necessary for their operation.

Individuals can sue for an injunction that requires an accommodation to comply with the ADA. Monetary relief is limited to attorney fees and court costs. Only the Attorney General can seek monetary damages and then only in suits of general public importance.

4. Telecommunications: All carriers offering phone service to the general public must provide telecommunications relay service that permit individuals who use non-voice devices the opportunity for communication equivalent to what is provided to other customers. The system must operate 24 hours a day, and users must pay no more than other customers. The Federal Communications Commission is responsible for enforcement.

AGREEMENT ON KENNEDY-KASSEBAUM LEGISLATION

- The President is extremely pleased that we have achieved a long-overdue victory for millions of Americans who live in fear of losing their health insurance when they change or lose their jobs. He is very appreciative that the Congress responded to his State of the Union Address challenge to pass this important legislation.
- The President is particularly grateful for the extraordinary efforts by Senator Kennedy and many other Democratic Members who worked tirelessly to assure that this bill emerged from Congress as meaningful and important health reform.
- No longer will Americans live in fear of losing their coverage just because they have a pre-existing condition. No longer will Americans face the dilemma of hesitating to go to a new and better job for fear of losing their insurance coverage. And because of the bill's guarantee issue provisions, no longer will small businesses be denied the ability to provide coverage for their employees.
- As many as 25 million Americans will benefit from the important **portability, guarantee renewal, and guarantee issue** insurance reform provisions included in the Kennedy-Kassebaum legislation. The President looks for signing this bill into law as soon as next week.
- Although the health insurance provisions are the heart and soul of this important legislation, **there are numerous other measures that the President has long advocated for that are included in this legislation:**

Preventing Fraud and Abuse. The President, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor and the Attorney General have long sought statutory changes that strengthen their hand in targeting and prosecuting "bad apple" health care providers who are bilking the system of billions of dollars from Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance. This legislation provides for the expansion of penalties and permanent funding to enable the Federal Government to combat fraud.

Making the Health Care System More Simple. The legislation would modernize, streamline and cut costs of health insurance paperwork by providing for a common electronic system for paying health care claims that all private insurers would use. This bill also provides the Secretary the authority to establish Federal privacy protections that would prohibit inappropriate disclosure of this information.

Clarifying the Tax Treatment of Long-Term Care Policies and Providing for Consumer Protection Standards. The legislation would make private long-term care insurance more accessible and affordable by clarifying that these policies have the same tax favored status as traditional health plans. In order to sell these policies, however, the health policies would have to meet appropriate consumer disclosure requirements and other design standards that protect consumers.

Eliminating the Discriminatory Health Care Tax Treatment of the Self-Employed. The bill moves toward assuring that the self-employed are treated the same as all other employers who are purchasing health insurance by phasing up the self-employed tax deduction to 80 percent. This is a long-overdue change that the President has long advocated.

- Clearly there remains many unaddressed problems in our health care system. The 40 million Americans without insurance in this nation attests to this fact. We must work vigilantly to assure that the quality of health care that Americans are receiving remains the best in the world. And, we must work to assure that no American is discriminated against on the basis of a particular diagnosis. As such, as the President has indicated, he is very disappointed that the Republican Leadership did not see fit to include the Domenici/Wellstone mental health parity compromise provisions into the final conference report.
- This legislation does, however, provide for a strong foundation from which we can address the many other health care challenges facing this nation. The President looks forward to signing the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill and continuing his work and commitment to providing affordable, quality health care to all Americans.

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IDEA UPDATE

From Judy Hermann's
office

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott vowed to move IDEA under unanimous consent (this means all Members agreed to accept the Committee's recommendations and there would be no vote when the bill came to the floor). Senate staff had worked to address concerns raised by several Senators. They developed amendments that were to be offered as a "manager's package of consensus agreements." They apparently came very close, but at the request of Senators Ashcroft, Gorton and Gregg, the package of consensus agreements was changed in ways that were unacceptable to the Democrats.

Furthermore, on Friday, Senator Lott announced that, following debate on the minimum wage and health care bills at 6 p.m., there would be no additional votes. At 5:30 p.m., a proposed "time agreement" for consideration of IDEA amendments to be offered on the floor was circulated which would have required a vote. Senator Lott had said he would not permit any votes after 6 p.m. Thus, by definition, it was impossible to get the proposal through the Senate before the August recess.

There were two substantive issues that caused the breakdown in the agreement.

Assistive Technology: Current policy, the House bill and the Consensus document that was developed by the disability and education groups prior to House action all acknowledge that assistive technology devices and services are a part of the IEP proceedings. Late Friday evening, the Republicans insisted that it be dropped. Democrats did not agree.

IEP. The Republicans insisted that the IEP include a description of the child's discipline record. Democrats refused. The Democrats did agree to a provision in the IDEA specifying that a child's RECORDS may include disciplinary action information to the same extent that such information is kept/transferred for non-disabled children.

The Senate returns from recess on September 4. They plan to adjourn for the year on October 4. This means that the bill would have to pass the Senate, the conference with the House would have to be completed and the conference agreement would have to be passed by both the House and Senate prior to October 4. That is why you may be hearing from the field

that the bill is "dead". The Administration is proceeding with the hope that the Senate will pass the bill and it will go to conference. That is, we are continuing to review the the House and Senate bills to determine the Administration's preference where there are differences.

On the appropriation's front, the Senate is expected to take up the Department's appropriations bill when it returns from recess.

MAKING A GOOD LAW BETTER:
Summary of the
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1995

This is Dept's proposal of 1995.

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IMPROVING THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT: A SUMMARY OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL

The administration's proposal for improving education for children with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is designed to ensure that the fundamental objective of the law is achieved: that all children with disabilities are provided the equal educational opportunity that the Constitution guarantees. Our proposal is based on six principles that support our mission to improve educational results for children with disabilities.

1. Align the IDEA with State and local education reform efforts so students with disabilities can benefit from them.

- Ensure that the IDEA supports State and local efforts to meet the individual needs of each child with a disability as part of overall efforts to help all children meet challenging standards and make a successful transition to further education and employment.

2. Improve results for students with disabilities through higher expectations and meaningful access to the general curriculum, to the maximum extent possible.

- Enhance participation of children with disabilities in the general curriculum through improvements to the individualized education program (IEP).
- Increase parental involvement by requiring regular reporting to parents on their children's progress, by means such as report cards, and by including parents in decisions about their children's placement.
- Increase involvement of regular education teachers in developing the IEP.
- Focus on improving educational results by providing for the inclusion of children with disabilities in State and district assessments, the development of State performance goals for children with disabilities, and regular reports to the public on progress toward meeting the goals.

3. Address individual needs in the least restrictive environment for the student.

- Make student evaluation and re-evaluation procedures more instructionally relevant and eliminate unnecessary testing.
- Encourage eligibility determinations that focus on each child's educational needs by de-emphasizing the 13 disability categories and eliminating reporting by disability category, while ensuring that all children who are currently eligible are served.
- Discourage over-identification of children and facilitate State early intervention and pre-referral activities by changing the formula for grants to States to distribute new dollars on the basis of population, not the number of children with disabilities served under the program.

- Eliminate disincentives for appropriate placements by requiring States that distribute State funds based on the type of setting in which the child is served to show that their formulas do not result in inappropriate placements.
- Promote appropriate services for minority children who currently encounter over-identification, inappropriate placement in separate classrooms, and low expectations.

4. Provide families and teachers--those closest to students--with the knowledge and training to effectively support students' learning.

- Increase effectiveness and efficiency of federal categorical resources by replacing the 14 categorical competitive grant programs with five comprehensive, coordinated authorities, with special attention to ensuring that current knowledge reaches teachers, administrators, and families.
- Provide flexible resources to States to carry out their own State Improvement Plans designed to improve the performance of students with disabilities through better teacher preparation and other improvement strategies.
- Streamline notice requirements so families receive appropriate information on their rights when they need it.
- Facilitate the resolution of disputes between parents and schools by requiring States to offer mediation to parents.
- Promote coordination of services to meet children's education, health, and social service needs by allowing States and school districts to use a fixed percentage of IDEA funds to develop coordinated services systems.

5. Focus on teaching and learning.

- Eliminate unnecessary paperwork requirements that discourage the use of IDEA resources for services in the regular classroom.
- Reduce paperwork and improve State administration by streamlining requirements for how States and districts apply for funds, and by allowing for more flexible use of administrative funds.
- Enhance the ability of schools to maintain safe and disciplined classrooms by allowing schools to move a student who has brought a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school to an alternative educational setting for up to 45 days and by permitting hearing officers to authorize the temporary removal to an alternative setting of a student who is substantially likely to injure himself or others.

6. Strengthen early intervention to ensure that every child starts school ready to learn.

- Promote the inclusion of children who are at risk of developmental delay in the comprehensive system of early intervention services under Part H by providing States flexibility regarding the services to provide if they choose to serve at-risk children.

IMPROVING THE IDEA: IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL RESULTS

Not all schools have high expectations for children with disabilities and not all schools take responsibility for their academic progress. The individualized education program (IEP) document that is developed for each child often reflects low expectations and fragmented goals. About half of all children with disabilities are excluded from general State and local assessments of student performance.

To improve the IEP process, our proposal would:

- **Focus the IEP on enabling the child to participate and achieve in the general curriculum** in order to ensure that students with disabilities are not shortchanged academically. The IEP would describe services and program modifications needed to provide for participation in the general curriculum.
- **Require at least one regular education teacher to participate in the IEP meeting**, in addition to the special education teacher, when a child is or may be participating in the regular education environment.
- **Require schools to regularly apprise parents of their child's progress toward meaningful, measurable annual objectives**, by means such as report cards, as least as often as parents of nondisabled children are informed of their progress.

To ensure accountability for educational results, our proposal would:

- **Require States to include students with disabilities in general State and district-wide assessments, with appropriate accommodations**, where necessary, to ensure access. For the small number of students with significant cognitive disabilities who could not appropriately be included in such assessments, States would conduct alternate assessments.
- **Require each State to report on the performance of students with disabilities on both general and alternate assessments** with the same frequency and in the same level of detail that it reports on the assessment of nondisabled children.
- **Require each State to establish goals for the performance of children with disabilities** and develop indicators for assessing their progress toward meeting their goals. Indicators would include assessment results, drop-out rates, and graduation rates. States would report to the secretary and the public on their progress every two years.

IMPROVING THE IDEA: FOCUSING RESOURCES ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

To improve educational results for children with disabilities, States, districts, and educators must be able to focus on teaching and learning rather than on paperwork requirements that are not necessary for educational improvement. Our proposal would:

- **Streamline student evaluation and re-evaluation procedures and eliminate unnecessary testing.** Districts would no longer be required to do a full battery of tests every three years to determine whether the child is eligible for special education when the parents and school agree that this determination is unnecessary. These changes would free up significant resources to better help students and their families.
- **Focus the individual education program on access to the general curriculum, whenever appropriate, and on goals designed to improve educational results.** New requirements would ensure regular reporting to parents on their children's progress toward measurable annual objectives, while the development of detailed, short-term objectives for each student would no longer be mandated.
- **Promote less categorical approaches to eligibility determinations** by eliminating the requirement that States classify children by particular disability category, so long as all children who are currently eligible are served. This would permit States to move toward less categorical eligibility criteria and promote a focus on what children know and what services they need rather than on what disability label they should be given.
- **Reduce burdensome tracking of federal funds** by allowing schools to use IDEA funds to pay for special education services provided in regular classrooms that primarily benefit students with disabilities, without having to track the costs of benefits to nondisabled children in the classroom.
- **Improve parent notice requirements** so that parents will receive a useful explanation of important information when they need it and additional information when it is relevant or requested by parents.
- **Ensure that mediation is made available to all parents**, by requiring all States to offer mediation as an option to parents to resolve disputes. Mediation will provide a less adversarial and less costly method of resolving disputes for both parents and school districts.
- **Promote coordination of education with health and social services** by allowing States and school districts to use a fixed percentage of IDEA funds to develop coordinated services systems and by requiring the State to have an effective method of ensuring that responsible agencies provide related services to students that are mandated under the IDEA. This will help to connect schools and families with other public and private agencies that can assist them in meeting the needs of students with disabilities so that teachers can focus on teaching and learning.

- **Streamline requirements for State plans and school district applications for funds;** by requiring only that States and school districts update information rather than submit a new plan or application every three years.
- **Reduce data collection requirements substantially** by eliminating the requirement that States collect data by disability category.
- **Permit consolidation of federal funds for administering the Grants to States and Preschool Grants programs** to reduce paperwork and give States greater flexibility in administering these programs.

IMPROVING THE IDEA: HELPING FAMILIES HELP THEIR CHILDREN

Families are children's first and best teachers and their most important advocates. While the IDEA creates a strong framework for family-school collaboration, more can be done to assist families to help their children and to strengthen working relations between families and schools. Our proposal would:

- **Provide parents with regular reports on their children's progress**, by means such as report cards, at least as often as such information is reported to the parents of non-disabled students. This would give parents of children with disabilities, who now often receive no meaningful information about their children's progress until the end of the school year, the information they need to help their children succeed.
- **Include parents in the team that decides their children's placement.** This would ensure that families are not excluded from fundamental decisions regarding the education of their children.
- **Ensure that mediation is made available to all parents**, by requiring all States to offer mediation as an option to parents to resolve disputes. Mediation will provide a less adversarial and less costly method of resolving disputes for both parents and school districts.
- **Promote coordination of education with health and social services** by allowing States and school districts to use a fixed percentage of IDEA funds to develop coordinated services systems. This will help to connect schools and families with other public and private agencies that can assist them in meeting the needs of students with disabilities so that teachers can focus on teaching and learning. Each State would also be required to establish an effective mechanism for interagency coordination, including defining each agency's financial responsibility, if any public agency, other than the educational agency, is responsible for providing any necessary services such as health or transition services.
- **Support Parent Training and Information Centers** in every State to assist parents to better understand the nature of their child's disability and their educational needs and to participate effectively in the development of their child's individualized education program. A number of Community Parent Resource Centers would also be supported to assist underserved parents, including low-income parents, parents of children with limited English proficiency, and parents with disabilities.

Description of features for people w/ disabilities in Telecommunications Act of 1996,

ACKGROUND

The FCC Disabilities Issues Task Force (DITF) was created in March 1995 by FCC Chairman Reed Hundt. The DITF is an internal, FCC-wide Task Force with representatives from every Bureau and Office. The DITF is dedicated to ensuring that people with disabilities, to the greatest extent possible, will be able to access telecommunications equipment and services in the Information Age.

The DITF has many roles:

- it serves as a single point of coordination and communication for all disability-related issues, in all areas of telecommunications regulated by the Commission;
- it advises the Chairman, Commissioners and other FCC officials on disability access issues;
- it educates FCC staff about the need to include disability access, wherever possible, in all Commission initiatives; and
- it works with Bureau and Office staff on rulemakings and in identifying the potential impact of proposed rules on people with disabilities.

In its first year of operation, however, the DITF found that its most important role was as a "bridge-builder" between the telecommunications industry and people with disabilities. The DITF reached out to both industry and consumers, and sought to bring former adversaries into forums where disputes could be resolved without the need for extended rulemakings. This proactive, consensus-oriented approach is highly effective in today's fast-paced and competitive telecommunications environment. This approach also has significant long-term benefits, because it provides consumers with disabilities and the industry with the opportunity to form strategic alliances.

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

On February 8, 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-104 (1996 Act). This legislation represents the most sweeping overhaul of American telecommunications law since the Communications Act of 1934.

In the 1996 Act, Congress reaffirmed the goals and purpose of the Disabilities Issues Task Force, and gave the Commission several specific mandates designed to enhance accessibility of the information infrastructure to Americans with disabilities.

Section 255 of the 1996 Act requires all manufacturers of telecommunications equipment and customer premises equipment (CPE) to ensure that their equipment is designed to be accessible to individuals with disabilities, if readily achievable. Section 255 also requires

providers of telecommunications services to ensure that their services are accessible to and usable by people with disabilities, if readily achievable. Manufacturers and service providers are also required to ensure that their equipment and services are compatible with peripheral devices commonly used by people with disabilities (i.e., TTYs and screen readers), if direct access is not readily achievable.

The 1996 Act also contains a historic mandate requiring providers of video programming to ensure that their programming is accessible to people with hearing and vision disabilities. Section 713 of the Act requires the Commission to report to Congress on the current availability of closed-captioned video programming, and to develop regulations promoting closed-captioning within 18 months of enactment of the 1996 Act. The Commission is also directed to conduct a study on the use of video description services for people with visual disabilities.

The DITF has taken a lead role in implementing the disability access sections of the 1996 Act. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has primary responsibility for the implementation of Section 255, and WTB staffers have been working closely with DITF members and staff from the Common Carrier Bureau and the Office of Engineering and Technology. The Commission will be coordinating its efforts with those of the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) in developing equipment accessibility regulations, and the Commission will also initiate proceedings on accessible equipment and services in the summer of 1996.

The Cable Services and Mass Media Bureaus have also worked closely with the DITF as they implement the video programming requirements of the 1996 Act. In fact, in anticipation of the new video programming requirements, the DITF coordinated, with the Mass Media Bureau, the release of a historic Notice of Inquiry on closed-captioning and video description in December 1995. This Notice of Inquiry has now become the basis of the Commission's implementation of Section 713.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: MARCH 1995 - APRIL 1996

Disabilities Issues Task Force launched, March 1995

In March 1995, Chairman Hundt officially established the Disabilities Issues Task Force, and named himself to serve as Disabilities Issues Commissioner. Speaking before the American Foundation for the Blind in Washington, D.C., Chairman Hundt remarked:

The Task Force will serve as a monitor and educator, ensuring that the interests and needs of the disability community are represented at the Commission and in industry. It will ensure a vigorous exchange of information from the disability community to the Bureaus, and vice versa. Working together, we can ensure that everyone has access to the information highway.

Advocates of disabled sing of hope, fear to Clinton aides in town for congress

By Doug Cumming
STAFF WRITER

Singing an odd version of a Frankie Valli tune, three advocates for disabled children in Georgia made their case to two top Clinton administration officials Monday.

"Let's hold on ... to what we got," sang the trio of moms that included Jenni H. Clark, local co-

ordinator for Family Voices and mother of a 3-year-old with severe epilepsy, lung disease and other health conditions.

The mothers were among a score of advocates and disabled children taking advantage of Washington officials being in town for the Third Paralympic Congress, an international summit linked to the Paralympic Games. At a hotel breakfast, they

lobbied Judy Heumann, assistant U.S. secretary of education for special education and rehabilitation, and Carol Rasco, President Clinton's chief adviser for domestic policy.

Heumann and Rasco said they share the moms' worries about the need to "hold on ... to what we got." Heumann said sections of the federal law underlying special education are being held up for reauthorization in the Senate.

Rasco, the Arkansas mother of a 23-year-old with mild retardation and cerebral palsy, said federal school-to-work training programs need to be fully available to the disabled, to help lower an unemployment rate as high as 65 percent. "We often feel that the education we struggled to get for Hamp [her son] has brought him to the edge of a cliff," she said.

Clark, a Lawrenceville mother with the national advocacy

group Family Voices, said the group's concerns did not favor one political side over another. She pointed out that advocates for the disabled were not happy with provisions in the welfare reform Clinton signed.

The advocates expressed particular concern about the fate of the so-called Katie Beckett Deeming Waiver, which deems parents of disabled children eligible for Medicaid even though

their income may be too high. The Georgia Coalition for Health, asked by Gov. Zell Miller to look at Medicaid, has representatives from business and other groups, but no one who is disabled, Clark said.

A spokesman for the coalition acknowledged this, but said members had listened closely to many disabled advocates during 14 hearings held around the state since May.

VERY IMPORTANT!

UPDATED SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS
(as of 11/1/95)

1996 ATLANTA PARALYMPIC GAMES

August 15 - 25, 1996



CALL 404/724-2TIX

FOR A

TICKET ORDER FORM

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EVENT CODE	EVENT	PROPOSED COMPETITION VENUES	DATE
001	Opening Ceremonies	Olympic Stadium	Th 8/15
002	Closing Ceremonies	Olympic Stadium	Su 8/25
003	Archery	Stone Mountain Archery Center	M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, Th 8/22, & F 8/23
004a	Athletics - Track	Olympic Stadium	S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, Th 8/22, F 8/23, S 8/24, & Su 8/25
004b	Marathon (Free Event)	The City of Atlanta	Su 8/25
005a	Basketball	Alexander Memorial Coliseum	F 8/16, S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, Th 8/22, F 8/23, & S 8/24
005b	Basketball	Morehouse College	F 8/16, S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, & Th 8/22
006	Boccia	Emory University	Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, & Th 8/22
007a	Cycling - Track	Stone Mountain Cycling Center	S 8/17, Su 8/18, & M 8/19
007b	Cycling - Road (Free Event)	Stone Mountain Park	T 8/20, W 8/21, & Th 8/22
008	Equestrian	Georgia International Horse Park	M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, & Th 8/22
009	Fencing	Mercer University, Sheffield Building	S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, & W 8/21
010	Goalball	Georgia State University	S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, Th 8/22, & F 8/23
011	Judo	Atlanta Metro College	SU 8/18, M 8/19, & T 8/20
012	Lawn Bowls	Clark - Atlanta University	S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, & Th 8/22
013	Powerlifting	Atlanta Marriott Marquis	S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, & W 8/21
014	Rugby	Location Pending	F 8/16, S 8/17, Su 8/18, & M 8/19
015	Shooting	Wolf Creek Shooting Complex	M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, Th 8/22, F 8/23, S 8/24, & Su 8/25
016	Soccer/Football	Clark - Atlanta University	S 8/17, M 8/19, W 8/21, F 8/23, & Su 8/25
017	Swimming	Georgia Tech Aquatic Center	S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, Th 8/22, F 8/23, S 8/24, & Su 8/25
018	Table Tennis	Gwinnett Civic & Cultural Center	S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, Th 8/22, F 8/23, & S 8/24
019	Tennis	Stone Mountain Tennis Center	F 8/16, S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, Th 8/22, F 8/23, & S 8/24
020	Volleyball - Standing & Sitting	OMNI	F 8/16, S 8/17, Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, Th 8/22, & F 8/23
021	Yachting (Free Event)	Lake Lanier, Chattahoochee Bay	Su 8/18, M 8/19, T 8/20, W 8/21, & Th 8/22



IMPORTANT CHANGES

SITE CHANGE FOR THE THIRD PARALYMPIC CONGRESS.

The Atlanta Marriott Marquis located at 265 Peachtree Center Avenue is the designated host hotel for The Third Paralympic Congress. All congress sessions will be held in this location.

Special meeting rates for attendees at the Congress are available at the following:

Atlanta Marriott Marquis	265 Peachtree Center Ave	\$138/sgl/dbl/triple/quad
The Westin Peachtree Plaza	210 Peachtree Street	\$120 sgl/dbl/triple/quad
Best Western American Hotel	160 Spring Street	\$ 98 sgl/dbl/triple/quad
Ramada Hotel-Downtown Atlanta	175 Piedmont Ave	\$ 96 sgl/dbl/triple/quad
The Clarion Hotel Downtown	70 John Wesley Dobbs Ave	\$ 88 sgl/dbl/triple/quad
Emory University Dorm-Harris Hall	1340 Clifton Road	\$ 27.25 sgl/\$ 20.50pp dbl

TO RECEIVE THESE SPECIAL MEETING RATES, RESERVATIONS FOR HOUSING MUST BE MADE THROUGH DESTINATION TRAVEL, INC., 800-243-1203 (404) 584-7458. Please refer to page 13 of the Congress Registration brochure for additional specific information.

Opening Ceremonies for the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games is now scheduled for August 15.

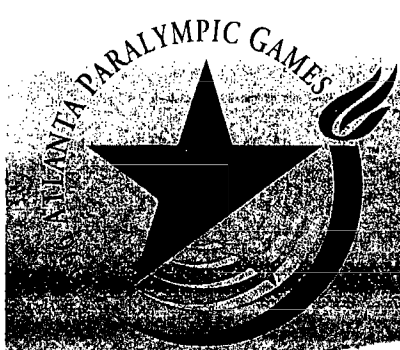


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THIRD PARALYMPIC CONGRESS

1996 Paralympic Games

Hyatt Regency

Atlanta, Georgia

August 12 - 16

A World Congress on Disability

HUMANITY • EQUALITY • DESTINY





U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

TELEFACSIMILE COVER SHEET

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FAX:

FROM:

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

FAX NUMBER: 202-514-0293

PHONE: 202-514-4279

COMMENTS:

Re Paralympic Torch
Ceremony, please see conversation
Re: [unclear]

NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED (INCLUDING THIS SHEET) 4

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Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1996

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1996 OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPICS
TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO SPECTATORS WITH DISABILITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Calling it "the most accessible stadium in the world," Assistant Attorney General Deval L. Patrick today toured the Olympic Stadium, home to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. The site will also host the 10th Paralympiad, which begins on August 15.

"The eyes of the world will be upon us," said Patrick. "Everyone will be able to see world class events in a world class stadium providing world class access to athletes and spectators."

The Justice Department began working together with organizers of the summer Olympics three years ago to ensure that the sports venues were built to be accessible to people with disabilities. The Department's efforts focused on the Olympic Stadium, as well as other venues including the Olympic aquatic center, the Stone Mountain Memorial tennis center, and the Morris Brown College and Clark Atlanta University field hockey stadiums.

Patrick announced that the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) has agreed to ensure that the construction of these five newly-built venues are completed in compliance with the

(MORE)

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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The agreements set out the way in which the stadium and other venues will be accessible during the Olympics as well as when they are converted for future use after the Paralympics.

The Olympic Stadium, which has a seating capacity of 85,000, will:

- designate 1% of its seats for wheelchair users and disperse the spaces throughout the stadium, including in suites and on the Club level;
- ensure that each wheelchair space is next to a conventional seat so that spectators with disabilities can sit next to family and friends;
- ensure that virtually all wheelchair seats have a comparable "line of sight," so that wheelchair users can still see the playing surface even when spectators in front of them stand up during the event;
- make concession stands, restrooms, parking areas, bank machines, locker rooms, and employee work areas accessible.

"This agreement sets a new standard for stadium access," added Patrick. "The Olympic Stadium will serve as a model for all future stadiums."

Following the summer games, the Olympic Stadium will be converted for use by the Atlanta Braves and the other venues will continue to be used as sporting facilities.

The ADA, passed in July 1990, prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities. Title III of the Act requires public accommodations built prior to January 26, 1993, including stadiums, to remove physical barriers to access when it is readily achievable to do so. Buildings constructed after that

(MORE)

- 3 -

date must be built in accordance with architectural standards known as the ADA's Standards for Accessible Design. Under Title II of the Act, new state and local government buildings must also be accessible. Metropolitan Atlanta Olympic Games Authority, a state entity created to stage the Olympics with ACOG, also signed today's stadium agreement.

"We have been working closely for some time with the Olympic organizers and are pleased with their efforts to make their facilities accessible for all people with disabilities," said Patrick. "We also appreciate the assistance of members of the disability rights community during the past few years."

The Olympics, scheduled to begin on July 19, will host over 12,000 athletes. The Paralympics, scheduled to begin on August 15, will host more than 3,500 athletes with disabilities from more than 120 nations.

In 1994, Attorney General Janet Reno launched a national campaign to educate Americans about their rights and obligations under the ADA. She is committed to reaching out to businesses to urge voluntary compliance with the law. The campaign, which included television and radio public service announcements, promotes a toll-free ADA Information Line. The number is 800-514-0301 or 800-514-0383 (TDD).

#

96-222

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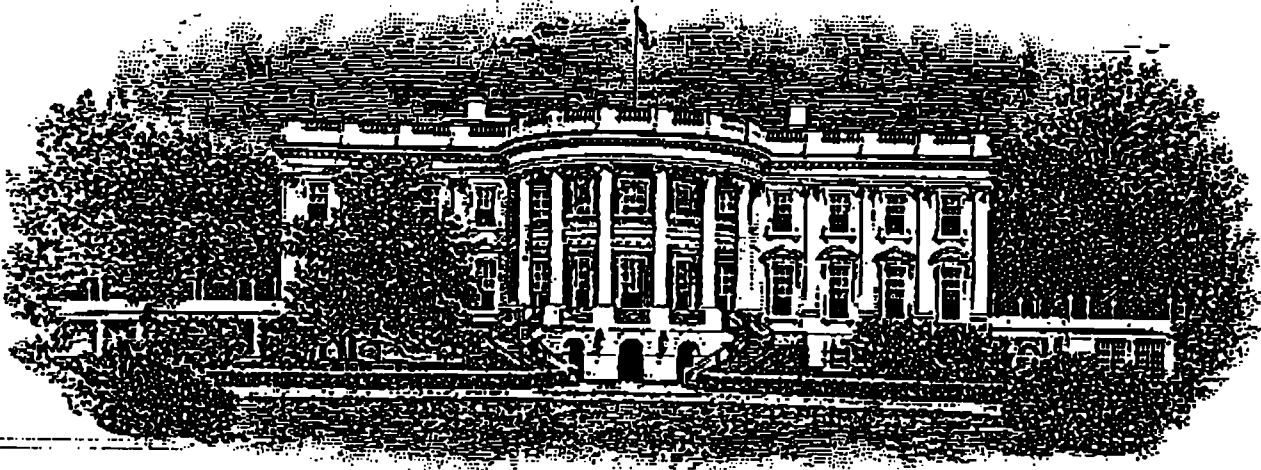
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COMMENTS: Please review & call Janet

Hope you're having a great time -
Janet & Emily

DRAFT

Aug. 14 - 10:50AM

Remarks
Vice President Al Gore

Opening Ceremonies for the Paralympic Games
Atlanta, GA
August 15, 1996

Thank you, Bob Steadward for that introduction and for all of the work the International Paralympic Committee has done. And thank you Andy Fleming and the Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee for being such terrific hosts for this historic event.

Two weeks ago this wonderful stadium and this whole city were brimming with world-class athletes . . . screaming spectators . . . and achievements we will never forget.

Tonight as we open the Paralympic Games, for the very first time in the United States, we tell the world . . . "You ain't seen nothing yet!"

With this ceremony -- with the Paralympic Games and the Third Paralympic Congress -- we honor not only great athletes, but tremendous men and women. In their pursuit of excellence they will show the world not just what an athlete can accomplish, but the very potential of the human spirit.

And by so doing, they train our eyes and focus our thoughts on the following simple idea: all of us may have different abilities, but each of us has the ability to triumph . . . on the playing field . . . in the schools . . . at the workplace . . . and in the highest levels of government.

to perform at his or her personal best
~~How can we say it any other way? In order for these athletes to compete, they had to overcome what might have defeated most of us.~~

In addition to the obstacles that any great athlete must overcome, these athletes have faced other barriers -- and surmounted them.
To be able to participate in the high jump, they had to leap barriers that must have looked impossible. For them to swim for gold medals, they had to persevere when the tide was against them. Before they could bench press a bar and lift their lives, they had to push away stereotypes and ugly assumptions that they were not equals.

We know that this is only the beginning. Only with equal access can we have true success.

We know that just as this torch was lit by the eternal flame at the tomb of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we must strive for the same ideals he did: unity and opportunity . . . inclusion and respect.

3 And most of all, we know in our minds, in our hearts and in our souls that through the example of these athletes, and through the example of all those living with disabilities in the United States and throughout the world disability does not disadvantage. Disability does not disenfranchise. And disability does not -- and must never -- disqualify. too much?

So, on behalf of President Clinton and a proud nation eagerly awaiting the Paralympics to begin . . . I declare the Games of Atlanta open.

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Look at torch relay
speech

Want to be acknowledged
as athletes, not
prod / st