

September 30, 1997

Ms. Shirley Sagawa
Executive Director
Learning First Alliance
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Shirley,

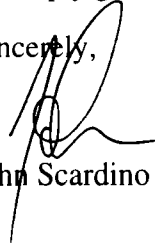
It was good to see you the other night at the AmeriCorps Alums reception. Congratulations on the successful launch of the Learning First Alliance.

I understand from what I've seen in the media coverage of the Alliance that you will not be dealing with the President's proposal for testing fourth and eighth graders in reading and math. Nevertheless, I wanted to send along the enclosed backgrounder on the testing initiative, prepared by the Educational Testing Service, and offer to provide any additional information that may be helpful.

I've also enclosed a bio on Tony Carnevale, an author of the backgrounder and head of the ETS Washington office. Among his other previous positions, Tony was appointed by President Clinton to lead the National Commission on Employment Policy from 1993 to 1995. He has a wide range of experience in issues that may be of interest to the Alliance, including the cost of education, affirmative action and the importance of diversity in the classroom, and preparing students for the new economy.

I hope that we might get together at a time in the future that would be convenient for you, or simply give me a call if ETS could be helpful to the Alliance in any way.

Sincerely,


John Scardino

DESPITE ITS OBSCURE TITLE,
THE ENCLOSED BACKGROUNDER IS A
GOOD SUMMARY OF BOTH THE PROS
AND THE CONS ON THE CLINTON
TESTING INITIATIVE.

CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN.



UNITED STATES



One standard for all pupils?

WASHINGTON, DC

“YOU can keep weighing a hog, but it won't get any fatter.” True enough, but is such earthy logic—from Bill Goodling, the chairman of the House committee that deals with education—reason to sabotage President Clinton's scheme to use nationwide tests to improve the literacy and numeracy of America's children? This week Mr Goodling's colleagues voted 295-125 to ban federal funding of the president's plan. Mr Clinton, who has made education the top priority of his second term, is miffed: the congressmen have “cast a vote for the status quo and against better schools.”

In which case, Mr Clinton himself must take part of the blame. Last February, in his state-of-the-union message, the president committed himself to “these three goals: every eight-year-old must be able to read; every 12-year-old must be able to log on to the Internet; every 18-year-old must be able to go to college; and every adult American must be able to keep on learning for a lifetime.” To help attain those goals (which by most people's arithmetic actually number four), “every state should adopt high national standards, and by 1999 every state should test every fourth-grader in reading and every eighth-grader in math to make sure these standards are met.”

So much for the good intentions. The problem is that neither the president nor

his aides subsequently did enough nationwide flesh-pressing to counter opposition. Conservative groups argue that national testing of America's ten- and 14-year-olds—albeit voluntary under Mr Clinton's proposal—would be a dangerous federal power-grab, an insult to the tradition that schooling is a local matter. Liberals have a different fear: that the tests will stigmatise blacks and immigrants who have little choice but to attend poor schools in poor neighbourhoods. Meanwhile, the detail of the 90-minute tests is undefined, and so gives everyone a chance to lobby: let the maths test be taken in Spanish and with pocket calculators, for example, or let the reading test be a measure of the “whole-language” approach rather than “phonics”, which might reveal bad spelling.

But if Mr Clinton is “disappointed” by this week's vote, he can surely spot a richly silver lining. It is true that only seven states and 15 cities have so far agreed to participate in the tests; but most voters, uncomfortably aware that American schooling leaves much to be desired (almost half of the country's 17-year-olds allegedly lack the reading and mathematics skills needed for a job in a modern car factory), support the idea of national tests. This implies that, come next year's mid-term elections, a Republican-dominated Congress may regret

its opposition to the Democratic president.

Moreover, Mr Clinton has already divided his opponents. Last week he won Senate support for testing by agreeing that it should be controlled by the independent National Assessment Governing Board, rather than the suspect Department of Education. When the Senate and House meet to reconcile their differences, it will surely be foolhardy to provoke a presidential veto, especially since developing the tests will cost a mere \$27m (and administering them perhaps another \$80m-100m). That is peanuts compared with the \$80 billion in discretionary spending in the 1998 appropriations bill for the Departments of Education, Labour, and Health and Human Services.

All of which suggests that Mr Clinton will get his way. His aim is to have 20 states testing their fourth- and eighth-graders in 1999 and all 50 states by 2002. The question then is to what purpose. Anthony Carnevale of the Educational Testing Service (which runs the college-entry, nationally accepted, Scholastic Aptitude Tests or SATs), notes that there is not much point in setting a goal unless you have a device by which to measure it. The best argument for national testing is that it encourages parental choice and competition between schools.

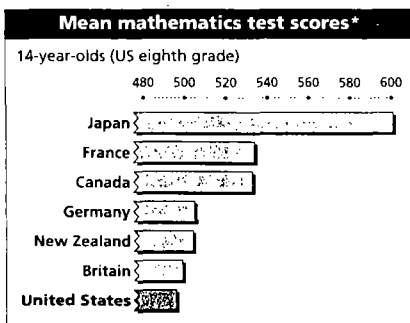
What makes this all the more important is the amazing mobility of American society. Within any year some 17% of Americans will change their place of residence: 39% of 2nd-graders have already been to more than one school, and 12% have been to three or more. Liberals may be right when they say that testing will stigmatise blacks and Latinos by showing how badly they are doing, but that is an argument not to abandon the tests but to give them better schools.

The real fear is that the tests will be “dumbed down”. The National Assessment of Educational Progress tests, which make comparisons between states (but, by law, cannot make them between districts, schools or individual students), reveal just how poorly some parts of the country teach their young. In Louisiana, for instance, only 15% of fourth-graders in 1994 were “proficient” readers; and yet, whatever their weaknesses, most will eventually emerge with a high-school graduation certificate.

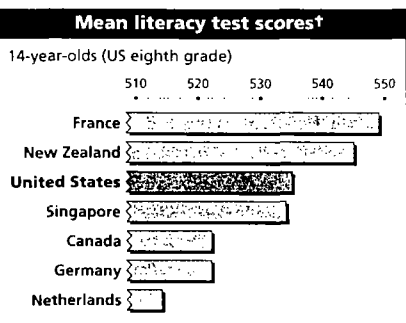
Recent history does not encourage optimism. Mr Clinton's “Goals 2000” programme made all sorts of grand promises of literacy and learning by the time the millennium came round. To that end, states would get federal money if they adopted national standards (code, said the states, for a national curriculum) for history, math-

UNITED STATES

Exam nerves



Sources: OECD; National Centre for Education Statistics



*1995 1992

ematics and the arts. But the reality of Goals 2000 is that the standards were so badly devised that they were more or less abandoned: the states could get federal money (though Virginia still refuses on principle) and still do their own thing.

History might repeat itself with Mr Clinton's present effort. The idea of testing is to be judgmental. The president himself calls for an end to "social promotion",

whereby students move up from one year to the next by virtue of age rather than achievement. Yet the president also promises increased access to higher education. As one *Washington Post* columnist notes, this is hypocritical, since "access... is a code word for the absence of genuine standards." Perhaps, but hypocrisy, as Mr Clinton knows, has never been a sin in politics.

Irrepressible investment

PHILADELPHIA AND WASHINGTON, DC



BAROMETER

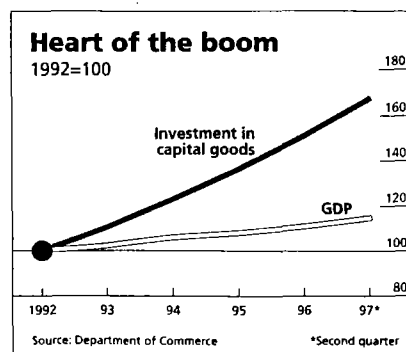
IT IS no secret that America's miracle economy owes much to strong corporate investment. Between 1992 and 1996 gross private investment grew at an average real rate of 7.5% a year, and the Commerce Department's measure of capital investment, Producers' Durable Equipment (PDE), which makes up about three-quarters of all business investment, increased at a real rate of 10.5%.

More spectacular is investment's current strength. In the second quarter of 1997, real investment in business equipment rose by more than 20% on an annual basis, the biggest quarterly rise in this expansion. Ongoing investment in information technology explains part of the boom: as prices for computers continue to tumble, firms' real investment in information technology has been soaring. But recently business spending on non-computer equipment has also risen sharply, up 22% in the second quarter.

Although investment spending is notoriously volatile on a quarterly basis, these gains are impressive. Some forecasters are expecting similar investment surges in the third quarter. David Hensley, an economist at Salomon Brothers, expects equipment investment to rise by more than 20% again. Others expect a slowdown from such torrid

growth, but still reckon investment will rise solidly. WFA and DRI, two big economics consultancies, both forecast growth in real PDE investment of about 11% and 9% during 1997 and 1998.

Strong business investment might provide the added capacity that firms need to meet high demand without inflationary pressures. But despite heavy investment, capacity is increasingly constrained. According to figures published on September 16th by the Federal Reserve, American firms were operating at 83.9% of capacity in August, the highest level for almost two years, and perilously close to the 84% threshold at which inflationary pressures have traditionally appeared. But, as yet, there are no signs of inflation. Consumer prices rose by 0.2% in August, and were only 2.2% higher than a year ago.



Free trade

Into the lion's den

HE WAS asked to be bold, and in the end he was: on September 16th Bill Clinton went up to Capitol Hill, right into a caucus of hostile House Democrats, to plead his case for free trade. He even dared to joke with Richard Gephardt, the leader of the no-more-trade-deals faction in the party; but Mr Gephardt was brittle, and in the end furious that the president seemed to be ignoring the plight of workers short-changed by previous trade deals. Of course most Americans, even Democrats, support free trade in the abstract. But Mr Clinton is seeking renewal of "fast-track" authority to negotiate trade deals, and that is an altogether more difficult sell.

Despite its apparent bolstering of presidential power, "fast-track" is a congressional invention: devised, in fact, by a committee headed by the redoubtable Russell Long in 1974. The measure is really a mutual promise: if the president consults copiously with Congress and lets it know how trade negotiations are going, Congress will vote quickly and without amendment on any bill to implement a trade agreement that Congress has authorised.

The key word is "consultation". Congress naturally wants a lot of input in trade treaties, so if it cannot amend them afterwards it will want to influence them beforehand. The 1993 North American Free-Trade Agreement, the last deal but one to benefit from fast-track, got the process a bad name because NAFTA's opponents were caught on the hop: they had not done enough to influence the deal beforehand, and their amendments afterwards (in the form of "side-agreements" on labour and the environment) have been too puny to make much difference.

On September 16th, therefore (and in the weeks before, as it struggled to write the bill), the administration trod with enormous care. To begin with, it removed the words "fast-track", and "NAFTA expansion" from its vocabulary, replacing them with the tripping "Renewal of Traditional Trading Authority". This was clever packaging. No reminders of the controversial recent past; no hint of undesirable haste or slickness; simply a modest request for a return to the way that things had been done in the good old days. The president's opponents saw through it, of course. But perhaps a few of them will be moved to cast a more reasonable eye on his request.

The administration also promised plenty of consultations with Congress, and said that workers' rights and environmental protection would be among its objec-

Overselling College

Politicians and other public figures continue to ballyhoo the benefits of a bachelor's degree. But promoting the American myth that college is for every kid may not be so smart after all.

BY ROCHELLE L. STANFIELD

It's called the Homer S. Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education at Montgomery College. If you think that sounds awfully grand for a county-run public school that teaches subjects such as auto mechanics and construction trades, you should see the place. Located in the swank Washington suburb of Montgomery County, Md., it has a two-story lobby decked out with a cathedral ceiling, soaring windows and sweeping staircase that could easily grace a high-rent office building downtown.

But it's all part of a deliberate—some might say desperate—ploy to upgrade the image of such technical schools, and thus attract well-prepared students into the institution's post-high school training programs.

"We're making a statement: 'This is a desirable profession,'" Gudelsky Institute director George Payne explained. "So we want the place to look upscale. We emphasize its cleanliness and attractiveness. And we always use the word 'profession.'"

That such tactics are necessary at a time when the Washington area has thousands of unfilled, high-paying technical

jobs is a telling commentary on the lack of reality and practicality in American postsecondary education.

From President Clinton, business leaders and just about anybody else who commands authority, the word has gone out that education after high school is essential to land a good job. But the word that they are using is "college"—and that is giving rise to the misguided canon that a bachelor's degree in liberal arts is the key to success.

House Education and the Workforce Committee chairman William F. Goodling, R-Pa., bluntly summed up the problem earlier this year. "We're overselling college: the four-year, traditional conception of a college education."

Former Labor Department Secretary Robert B. Reich, an avid promoter of higher education and technical training while he was a member of Clinton's Cabinet, agrees. "Too many families cling to the mythology that their child can be a success only if he or she has a college degree," Reich, now a Brandeis University professor, said in a recent interview. "Sadly, far too many young people are going to college who are not finishing col-



Payne: His Montgomery College technical school struggles to seem "desirable" to students.



Don Reiman

A German mechanic would do an apprenticeship, not go to college like Debra Washington.

lege, and who are finding that what they're being trained for in college has little or no relevance to getting a good job."

Nevertheless, the hyping of higher education is snowballing. Clinton on March 20 gave Congress HOPE: the Hope and Opportunity for Post-Secondary Education proposal. The White House in announcing the package—which provides tuition tax credits and deductions, and boosts the Pell grant financial aid program—proclaimed, "Today, the President will send to Congress new legislation to help open the doors of college to more Americans."

During his first term, Clinton had focused on technical education and the transition from school to work for the three-quarters of Americans who don't get a bachelor's degree. But by the 1996 campaign, all the rhetoric pointed toward college. That's what middle-class voters wanted to hear, according to public opinion polls and political pundits, regardless of whether it made sense for national education or economic policy.

Apart from Clinton's initiatives, two other major postsecondary education measures also await Congress's consideration: a comprehensive vocational education plan that would, among other things, provide training vouchers, which failed to pass last year; and the 1965 Higher Education Act, which will have to be reauthorized next year.

The experts see troublesome incongruity in this hodgepodge of higher education proposals. "We've been working closely with the [House] Ways and Means Committee staff to try to figure out how it all fits together," said Victor F. Klat III, the education coordinator for the Education and the Workforce Commit-

tee. "We don't know. I don't think anybody knows."

All of that may need to be sorted out. What is more important for politicians and policy makers to come to terms with, however, is whether they should even continue the current crusade for universal college attendance.

"We have a very flexible [postsecondary education] system, but it's also very messy," said Samuel Halperin, co-director of the American Youth Policy Forum, a Washington-based nonprofit group. "Lots of people's lives get messed up in the process, and lots of money gets wasted."

ITCHING FOR THE IVY

Americans have bought into the dream of a college education for everyone, but not into all the prerequisites for getting a degree.

"Why would parents knowingly spend thousands of dollars, a lot of it borrowed, to send their kids off to almost certain failure?" asked Kenneth Gray, a Pennsylvania State University education professor who advocates technical training, rather than college, for many high school graduates. "Yet that is exactly what is happening."

These days, teenagers don't spend much time fretting over whether they should go to college: 96 per cent of those recently polled by the New York-based Public Agenda Foundation termed it "important." Of 1992 high school graduates, 70 per cent had enrolled in a two- or four-year institution by 1994, according to Clifford Adelman, an Education Department researcher who closely follows statistics in this area.

Yet many who enter the ivy-covered precincts are ill-prepared. Nearly four-fifths of institutions that accept freshmen say that they offer remedial courses, and nearly one-third of entering freshmen take at least one remedial course, according to an Education Department study.

Not surprisingly, ever-greater proportions of college students are dropping out.

American College Testing (ACT), the Iowa-based testing service, reported in 1996 that 27 per cent of freshmen at four-year institutions failed to return for their sophomore year, the highest attrition rate in the 13-year history of its survey. At two-year institutions, 44 per cent dropped out. And Adelman calculates that only 45 per cent of the students who graduated from high school in 1982 and earned at least 10 college credits had received a bachelor's degree by the time they were 30 years old.

Higher education has no money-back guarantees. Because the overwhelming majority of college students get financial aid—and because 57 per cent of that assistance is loans, rather than grants—most dropouts are left with big debts and mediocre immediate job prospects to earn the money they need to pay them off. The New York City-based College Board figured that the average federal college loan in 1996 was about \$3,500, while parents' unsubsidized loans amounted to \$5,700 on average.

Moreover, many of those who obtain a bachelor's degree discover it doesn't live up to its advertising. Many find that they need additional schooling—often in a technical subject at a community college—to get a decent job.

Take Michele Gladieux, who earned a bachelor's degree in French from the University of Virginia (U.Va.) in 1992. "During that whole spring I looked for jobs to teach French," the 26-year-old recalled recently. "I did a fair amount of hunting around, but never really came up with anything."

Meanwhile, she discovered a new, more practical interest: physical therapy. So she spent two years at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) taking all the science courses that she had skipped at U.Va. "Nearly 80-90 per cent of my classmates at NOVA were students who already had a B.A. [but were] trying to go on into different [professions], like physician's assistant or occupational therapist," she said.

Gladieux eventually enrolled in a master's program at the Medical College of Virginia, from which she is about to graduate. "I could have started school and gone for five years and gotten a bachelor of science in physical therapy, and done exactly what I'm doing now," she said.

"But I don't regret it," she added. "I'm lucky. Somebody helped me pay for it."

That somebody was her father, Lawrence E. Gladieux, executive director for policy analysis in the Washington office of the College Board, who views his daughter's saga as one example of a system that's out of control.

"There are a lot of larger questions we need to be asking," he said recently. "How many college-degree holders do we need? How many people do we need in our society who have advanced education? What levels?"

But Gladieux added that policy makers and higher education officials are ill-equipped—or perhaps unwilling—to grapple with such questions. "Instead, at the federal level for the past 25 years, we've taken the path of least resistance and said, 'The marketplace will decide,'" he said. "Now the postsecondary marketplace has a lot of problems."



A big payoff? Students and parents may be blindly overestimating a degree's advantages.

UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM

Students have many reasons to go to college, but the bottom line is the bottom line.

More than three-fourths of freshmen surveyed last fall for an annual study commissioned by the American Council on Education checked off "to get a better job" as a very important reason for going to college, and 72 per cent said "to make more money." Those sorts of answers merely parrot what adults—the President, their teachers and their parents—tell young people all their lives.

Indeed, most official pronouncements made on the issue by the President or by advocacy groups of all stripes are accompanied by charts depicting the so-called wage premium for a college education. The median income of men 25 years and older who had a bachelor's degree in 1994 was 73 per cent higher than that of similar men with just a high school diploma, according to Education Department statistics. Women with a bachelor's degree averaged twice the income of women with only a high school diploma.

Many young people and their parents take such statistics at face value. They deduce that going to college, therefore, must at least double your future income. But some economists are skeptical of such conventional wisdom.

Looking at the question of why college graduates generally make more money, Robert D. Reischauer, a senior fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution, pointed out: "Is it something that college is filling these young empty minds with? Or is it the inherent ability that these people are bringing to their jobs? It's probably more of the latter than the former."

Arthur M. Hauptman, a Washington-based education consultant, agreed with Reischauer's assessment. "We don't control [in computing these figures] for ability, so the fact that people who went to college, by and large, are going to have a better prospect anyway doesn't get factored in," Hauptman said.

Others fear that this skepticism could lead to serious socioeconomic equity problems. "There's a huge payoff to a bachelor's degree—and it's huge for people who started out poor, who are black and brown," insisted Kati Haycock, director of the Education Trust, a Washington-based advocacy and research group.

"The rich will go to college no matter what," she said. "So, any kind of suggestion that not everybody should go basically is a license to higher education, and society generally, to keep poor people out."

Skeptical economists agree with Haycock that everyone should have access to higher education: many say that federal aid and cheaper community colleges already provide wide access. But they still reject the blind acceptance of the numbers used to support widespread college-going.

"We don't do a true rate-of-return calculation," Hauptman said. "How much does it cost you to go to school, and what is the increase in earnings for going to that particular school? There are real data limitations here." For that reason, he is working on convening a group of education economists to take a closer look at these questions.

Perhaps the most insidious fact about the wage premium is that it is a negative measurement. The growing difference between the wages of college graduates

and high school graduates doesn't reflect higher wages for the degree-holders—but rather dramatically lower earnings for those with just a high school diploma.

"The real value of a college education is not going up, it's going down," Anthony P. Carnevale, vice president for leadership in the Washington office of the Educational Testing Service, said. "If you're a kid looking to go to college, you know two things: If you don't go, you're in big trouble. If you do go, you won't do as well when you graduate as the people who went before you."

Thus labor economists worry about the real impact of increasing the proportion of high school graduates who go to college, as the President urges. "Adding a lot more college graduates, I think, would decrease inequality primarily by driving down the wages of college graduates more than they already are declining," said Lawrence Mishel, research director of the Economic Policy Institute, a progressive economic think tank in Washington.

"To me, the problem is, why is it that people who go to high school can't earn a decent wage? I think it's not about their skills, it's about their power in society and the economy," he said.

SKILLS V. CREDENTIALS

The college degree as a ticket to a good job is less an indication of the subjects mastered in college, many education skeptics insist, than it is a sign that skills were not adequately learned in elementary and secondary schools.

"A lot of the increase in the gap [between the earnings of high school and college graduates] has been due to em-



John Fische

Reich: A beefed-up high school diploma won't cut it.

ployers' suddenly having a need for numerate-literate kids, but they can't trust a high school diploma to mean anything on those grounds," Frank Levy, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology urban economy professor, said.

Levy—co-author with Richard J. Murnane of *Teaching the New Basic Skills: Principles for Educating Children to Thrive in a Changing Economy*—added that employers these days "are using a bachelor's degree to certify skills that should be certified by the 12th grade."

Taking the same tack, Reischauer said, "The fact that it takes 16 years in the American education system to learn what the Japanese learn in 12 years never causes people to pause and to say, 'There's a lot more efficient way of doing this.'"

Clinton's 10-point education agenda does include proposals to raise the standards for elementary and secondary schools, and calls for voluntary national tests to document whether students are meeting those benchmarks. Little attention has been devoted, however, to that part of the agenda, which has been all but crowded out by the focus on a tax break for college tuition.

"It's sort of a dessert and spinach problem," Levy said. "You put both out there, but the standards—the spinach—are really hard work, while the other is very attractive, so Congress says, 'Let's go for that college thing.'"

Even Reich, who had a hand in developing the Clinton agenda, doesn't envision a beefed-up high school diploma replacing a college degree in employers' eyes any time soon.

"Even if you had national standards, there would still be a lot of discrepancies" between the value of grades earned at different high schools, he said. "And a single test is not going to capture all the nuances of 'learning to learn,' which is the most important reasoning skill that employers say they seek in recruits."

Penn State's Gray says that employers do not look exclusively for the credential. "If you ask employers, they will tell you what they are looking for is people with good grades who can demonstrate that they can survive and be productive in their business environment," Gray said. "Polymer engineering four-year graduates are being displaced by two-year polymer technicians

because, in fact, the technicians graduate knowing how to use the machines."

Others say it all depends on the employer. Large national and multinational firms routinely hire only college graduates because that simplifies their recruitment process, while small and middle-sized companies often hire those with technical certificates and two-year degrees, according to labor experts. All of the businesses concur that some training beyond high school remains crucial. They just disagree on the rationale that dictates that it be a bachelor's degree.

REINVENTING COLLEGE

Debra Washington, 34, is a student at the Gudelsky Institute's automotive mechanics training program in Montgomery County. Her story points out some of the holes in the chaotic American system of postsecondary education.

A high school graduate, Washington used to sell real estate, but she said that she "didn't like the irregular money it brought in."

Her husband always liked to tinker with cars, and together they dreamed of opening their own auto repair shop. Washington discovered, however, that "cars are so high-tech these days, you really need a lot of training and education to diagnose what the problem is." And that led her to seek instruction at Gudelsky.

Montgomery College chief administrative officer Charlene R. Nunley agrees with Washington's impressions. "The technology in today's automobile is similar to the technology that took the first spacecraft into space exploration," she said. "Therefore, it's very difficult for a person to come out of high school without some additional kinds of preparation and training and go into the field of auto mechanics."

Not only does an auto mechanic need to know how to use sophisticated computer equipment to diagnose a car's ills, Nunley said, the repair person needs to be able to read at a 14th-grade level just to understand the manuals put out by automakers.

The payoff, however, can be lucrative. Graduates of the Gudelsky automotive program often get jobs with earnings in the \$35,000 per year range, Payne, the institute's director, said. That's in line with the \$32,500 average earnings for auto mechanics listed in the Labor Department's 1996-97 *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. "There are cases of automotive people in the \$60,000-\$70,000 range, but they are the exceptions," Payne said. "However, upward earnings in all these technical areas are phenomenal."

In Germany, a master auto mechanic would have gone through an apprenticeship program, not to college like Debra Washington. Trying to fashion an American version of the German system was what the 1993 School-to-Work Opportunities Act was all about. Because of that law, which was based on a Clinton Administration initiative, states are quietly working on their vocational education programs. But the President, Congress and the American public still denigrate technical education in favor of the prestige that a bachelor's degree promises.

"We've finally learned that we're not Germans," Carnevale of the Educational Testing Service said. "We have a very sloppy and inefficient postsecondary system; it's probably the least productive industry in America in terms of its outputs. But we're not going to adopt the European apprenticeship system."

His remedy? "We've got to reinvent, restructure, reengineer college so that we can articulate the relationship between secondary and postsecondary education and careers," Carnevale said. "But in the end, what we're going to have to have is something we can call college."

Until the system undergoes such an overhaul, Carnevale and his colleagues agree, hundreds of thousands of young Americans will embark on college educations—only to find frustration, failure, lots of debt and the need, when all is said and done, to learn something practical at a place without ivy. ■

Proposed national tests becoming 'a political football'

By Tamara Henry
USA TODAY

Depending on who's talking, voluntary national tests will enable American kids to soar to new heights or will be the cruelest hoax ever perpetrated on the poor.

President Clinton is calling for fourth-grade reading tests and eighth-grade math tests set to world-class standards to raise academic performance. Already the U.S. Education Department has contracted to have the tests developed and is lobbying for state support.

"It's become a political football," says Anthony P. Carnevale, an economist for the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Competing sides even take issue with a Gallup Poll that shows 57% favoring Clinton's proposal and 37% opposed. Education Secretary Richard Riley says that shows substantial support. But Rep. Bill Goodling, R-Pa., chairman of a key House education committee and a foe of the tests, says the 57% represents a drop from last week's announcements that more than 80% of the public support national tests.

Carnevale says, "The arguments in favor of a national test are fairly compelling. You want more accountability in education; you want to find out what works. We can't do that now. We can't compare students from one state to the next; a student from Dubuque (Iowa) to a student in Boston, to a student in Paris, to a student in Taiwan. Each of those students is competing for the same jobs now. So we better figure out a way to find out if our kids are up to snuff, and we know they aren't."

Only 40% of American children meet basic reading standards in the fourth grade, and only 20% have studied algebra by the eighth grade, compared with 100% in many other countries, ETS studies show. The national tests would be based on the highly respected Nation-

ai Assessment of Educational Progress, mandated by Congress to periodically sample student achievement, and it would be linked to the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, which compares U.S. students with peers in other countries.

Carnevale says "this will be a test to empower parents," rather than to erode local control. "It will end up being discussed at the kitchen table just like the report card is. This will be something that comes in the mail about their child and how that child compares. One assumes this will start some bottom up change in American education."

In opposing the tests, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund worries there will be "harm to children through misuse of the tests." Officials point to using results for retention in grades, ability grouping, tracking, graduation and possibly teacher assessment.

"The test scores will be of little value for parental action to improve the quality of education offered to their children" because officials will not provide such information as the education level of teachers, school funding levels, availability of books and other supplies, and the ratio of students to teachers," says the civil rights group.

Patricia E. Loera of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund says the fact that the tests will not be printed in Spanish "will lead to the exclusion of over 3 million limited English proficient children nationally. We believe that impacts the validity of the test as well as raises serious equity issues for LEP children."

Loera also fears the tests will be culturally biased. Fifteen urban school districts have agreed to participate, and Loera notes that students with limited English proficiency make up 20%, or 700,000, of their student bodies.

JUDY MANN

Testing's Bottom Line

Let's head into the new school year with a few disturbing facts:

Only 40 percent of our nation's students meet basic reading standards in the fourth grade, and only 20 percent have studied algebra by the eighth grade, compared with 100 percent of the students in many other developed countries.

The Czech Republic, which spends a third of what we spend per pupil, ranks sixth in math and second in science, while we rank 28th in math and 17th in science on internationally administered exams.

These grim findings are cited in a discussion, prepared by the Educational Testing Service, of the Clinton administration's proposal for voluntary national testing of fourth- and eighth-graders in reading and math.

Anthony P. Carnevale, an economist who is vice president in ETS's Office for Public Leadership and who co-authored the discussion paper, says the push for testing is part of the reinventing and reengineering that we are seeing in almost every American institution that is affected by the global economy.

The need to adapt to global competition begins in the classroom, both for individuals and for the nation, at the same time that educational resources are growing scarce, he says. "It would cost \$150 billion to drop class size to 20 people and add 15 to 20 school days," Carnevale says. Education and health care, he says, both have serious productivity and service problems and both are highly fragmented. And the public has made it clear with both that it doesn't want the federal government micromanaging.

The way around this is to set up "outcome standards," he says. "The issue is how much efficiency can we drive into these systems. We spend three grand in Utah and nine in New York [per pupil], and Utah does much better. There is an efficiency problem here."

Outcome standards are part of modern management systems that entered the manufacturing sector in the '70s, he says, then spread to the federal government and are now spreading to education. "Money gets tight, and that forces higher performance. It's the people inside the industry that figure out how to do it."

Clinton is proposing testing in areas that are relatively easy to measure and where we can all agree that basic skills are necessary. He has stopped short of backing a high school exit exam, for example, and he has stopped far short of anything that resembles nationally mandated standards.

Instead, the model the administration seems to favor is the one used to develop the National Assessment of Educational Progress exams—known as the "nation's report card"—which test a statistical sample of fourth- and eighth-graders in reading and math every two years. The frameworks for these tests are developed by the National Assessment Governing Board in consultation with a wide range of professionals.

(ETS, a private testing organization, could receive a small fee for consulting work in developing the new tests.)

Carnevale would like to see a strong business presence on any board developing the tests. "This is a role they could be playing in American life that would be very progressive," he says.

What's crucial, he says, is to "build a fire wall between politicians and any test," and to insulate the tests from the latest educational fads. Putting the testing in the hands of a neutral body and outside the U.S. Department of Education, he says, "takes it away from the Big Brother stuff."

National tests have all manner of pitfalls, including how to protect against cheating. But perhaps the most difficult reality we will confront is that, as Carnevale puts it, the schools with "the poorest kids will perform woefully on this test."

"It will be a very precise measure of our collective social failure to give everyone an opportunity to learn.

"If we find out poor Americans don't do as well on these exams, it becomes their enemy. This is a real test of people's willingness to face up to this. If all we are going to do is test them and not teach them, it will explode."

What testing can do is show parents how their children are doing compared with children in other parts of the country. It gives parents the information to push for improvements in schools that aren't educating their children. It is, says Carnevale, a "way to engage parents and build standards from the bottom up."

We spend \$720 billion on education and private-sector training, he points out, and the education system has almost no efficiency standards. "If you could just get 10 percent more efficiency, it could yield \$72 billion."

"Educators ought to remember that you don't go anywhere without going to school," he says. "They are more important than they've ever been, but they haven't kept up with the economics of learning. Their function is becoming more important, and they are about to become modernized."

It's about time.

ANTHONY P. CARNEVALE

Vice President for Public Leadership

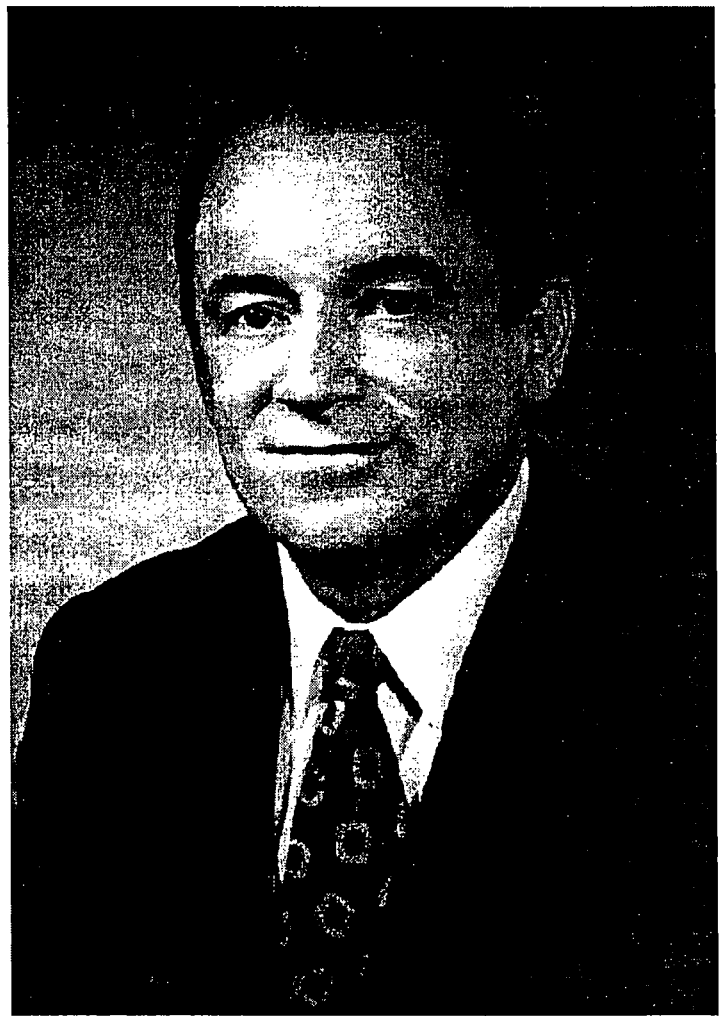
Anthony P. Carnevale is an internationally recognized authority on education, training and employment. He currently serves as Vice President for Public Leadership at Educational Testing Service. Since its creation in 1947, ETS has been the world leader in the development and delivery of instruments for assessing individual competencies; the assessment and certification of competencies in particular occupations; and tools for individual career guidance and planning.

Before coming to ETS, Carnevale served as Vice President and Director of Human Resource Studies at the Committee for Economic Development. The CED, a business think tank, is led by almost 250 trustees who are also Chief Executive Officers in the broad range of the nation's business organizations.

In August of 1993, President Clinton appointed Carnevale as Chair of the National Commission on Employment Policy. Carnevale also serves on numerous other boards and commissions including: the Board of Overseers for the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award; The Kellogg Commission on Lifelong Learning; the human resources committee of the U.S. Council on Competitiveness; The congressional U.S. Competitiveness Policy Council; the National Alliance of Business Workforce Excellence Advisory Council; The Twentieth Century Fund Task Force on Worker Retraining; and the Hudson Institute Advisory Board on Workforce 2000.

Carnevale has written numerous books and articles on competitiveness and human resources. His most recent books are *The American Mosaic: An In-depth Report on the Future of Diversity at Work*, published in the summer of 1995, and *Tools and Activities for a Diverse Work Force*. His other books include: *America and the New Economy: How New Competitive Standards Are Radically Changing American Workplaces*; *Jobs for the Nation: Challenges for a Society Based on Work*; *Workplace Basics: The Essential Skills Employers Want*; *Training in America: The Organization and Strategic Role of Training*; and *Training the Technical Workforce*.

Before joining CED, Carnevale served as the President of The Institute for Workbased Learning, an applied research center affiliated with the American Society for Training and Development, a professional association for human resource specialists in private companies. Before joining ASTD, Carnevale served as senior economist for the Senate Democratic Policy Committee; government affairs director for The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; staff director for employment, education, training, and social service programs for the U.S. Senate Committee on



the Budget; senior staff economist for the Government Operations Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives; and senior policy analyst in the Office of the Secretary in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Prior to coming to Washington, he worked as a research economist with the Syracuse University Research Corporation. During that time, he was involved in the reform of school financing and was a co-author of the principal affidavit in *Rodriguez v. San Antonio*, a U.S. Supreme Court action to remedy unequal tax burdens and education benefits. Carnevale was also a psychiatric social worker and high school teacher in his home state of Maine.

Carnevale received his B.A. from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, and his Ph.D., with a concentration in public finance economics, from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.



Educational Testing Service
Princeton, N.J. 08541

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A National Test:

Balancing
Policy
and
Technical
Issues

Anthony P. Carnevale
Ernest W. Kimmel

Public Confusion Over Secret Deliberations

Senators Are Unsure What They Can Say, and When and Where They Can Say It

By ERIC PIANIN
and GUY GUGLIOTTA
Washington Post Staff Writers

As the Senate prepared to resume its secret deliberations yesterday, Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) urged his colleagues to "use a lot of discretion" in discussing the trial of the president outside the chamber, especially "talking to the media about the details."

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) missed Lott's announcement. He was upstairs at the Capitol reading his speech in favor of acquittal to a roomful of reporters.

"I will take some questions later, but I've got to go down and give my statement in the Senate now," Harkin said, winding it up. "Thank you."

"You're going to go read this now?" a reporter asked.

"That's it, yes."

The muddled state of affairs about who could say what and when confused senators all day yesterday, and they had only themselves to blame. Under the Senate's 19th-century impeachment rules, final deliberations must be secret—"under pain of imprisonment," as the sergeant at arms

reminded the senators at the beginning of the session.

Until yesterday, most of the Senate jurors had taken the admonition to heart and often got testy when asked even in general terms about what was going on behind closed doors.

Then, the Senate voted Tuesday to allow individual senators to publish their closed door remarks in the Congressional Record after the final vote. Harkin immediately asked whether he could give his statement "in public and then give the same statement in closed session and still not violate the rule." Senate ethics committee Chairman Robert C. Smith (R-N.H.) replied, "You have every right to release your statement."

And so he did. By that time, Sen. Slade Gorton (R-Wash.) had already issued a statement describing his speech from the previous day's secret session, saying he would vote "no" on whether to convict Clinton on perjury and "yes" on obstruction of justice.

As the Senate resumed its deliberations early yesterday, Lott once again urged caution. "I don't think there's been any violation, but use a lot of discretion," he said. "I

would prefer we not even talk about which senator spoke or how many spoke."

Then Sen. Paul Coverdell (R-Ga.) confessed, "I'm still a little confused." Could he submit a printed statement in closed session, instead of speaking, and then have it placed in the Congressional Record? Lott replied, "I think the answer to that is yes."

Within a few hours of this interchange, half a dozen other senators joined Harkin in spilling the beans.

There was Carl M. Levin (D-Mich.), saying no on perjury and no on obstruction; James M. Jeffords (R-Vt.), the first no-no Republican; Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.), yes-yes; John H. Chafee (R-R.I.), no-no, and Frank R. Lautenberg (D-N.J.), an emphatic no-no.

Jeffords one-upped Harkin. He didn't announce his position in advance; instead he taped his statement in advance and CNN played it while he was debating Clinton's fate in secret.

"To me ... the most important aspect of the process right now [is] to ensure we do not set a bar so low that any future president would be liable for impeachment for just about anything," Jeffords told CNN.

Then there was Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), who said on national television: "Under Scottish law there are three possible verdicts: guilty, not guilty, and not proved. And I intend to vote not proved as to both articles."

"That is not to say that the president is not guilty," he added, "but to specifically say that the charges in my judgment have not been proved."

In an attempt to clear up the confusion, Smith, the ethics chairman, tried again around midday. "We gave dispensation that you can say what you said, but you can't say what anybody else said without their permission," he said.

The statements continued. And finally, Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (Conn.), the last Democrat to speak before the deliberations recessed for the second day, told reporters that he, too, was a no-no on impeachment. He revealed his decision while waiting for a train in the Senate subway.

"On both charges I found some of the House evidence to be incredible and some of it to be credible," said Lieberman, regarded as a crucial swing vote through-



BY RAY LUSIG—THE WASHINGTON POST

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) tells a news conference he will adopt a Scottish legal practice and vote "not proved" on the charges against the president.

out the impeachment trial.

Smith also was taking the subway to his office and acknowledged that the Senate's pronouncements on disclosure had provoked considerable confusion, even though he insisted that "It's quite simple."

"Some members have gotten a little mixed up," he said. "I don't think it was done with intent. ... But if members are talking then they are violating the rules if they

are talking about what they said," Harkin, he added, may have been "pushing the envelope."

It may be ridiculous, suggested Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.), but those are the rules. "Under the rules we're not supposed to say what we said, but we can say what we think."

So what did he think? "I think it's been very constructive, very thoughtful."

Clinton Attends AmeriCorps Rally

Students, Officials Warmly Welcome President at U-Md. Campus

By EUGENE L. MEYER
Washington Post Staff Writer

While the Senate debated in private whether to keep him in office, President Clinton attended a very public pep rally yesterday at the University of Maryland to build support for his cherished AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps that he first announced six years ago at the College Park campus.

In his second visit to the campus since taking office, Clinton called on young people to enlist in the AmeriCorps program, which he is seeking to boost in the new budget he sent to Congress recently.

Clinton wants to more than double AmeriCorps volunteers from 40,000 today to 100,000 by 2002. He hopes to show, he said, that "this generation of young people is, far from being cynics or slackers, a generation of doers and patriots."

Maryland Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (D), whose uncle John F. Kennedy founded the Peace Corps in 1961, praised Clinton.

"You call out the best in our citizens," she said. "You remind Americans of the good that politics and education can accomplish."

Townsend was followed by Gov. Parris N. Glendening (D), who in the fall canceled an appearance with Clinton in the wake of the Monica S. Lewinsky scandal but yesterday was clearly on the team.

Prince George's County Executive Wayne K. Curry (D) was perhaps the most effusive in welcoming Clinton, saying that Prince Georgians were "favored as we are by one of the greatest men of all time to occupy the American presidency."

The president received prolonged standing ovations from the 2,200 who filled Ritchie Coliseum, less than half of whom were students. The largest group were AmeriCorps volunteers, some of whom sat on the stage with Clinton and the bevy of politicians. Also seated with the president were AmeriCorps Director Harris Wolford, Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan and College Park President Clayton Daniel "Dan"

Mote Jr., who thanked Clinton for coming "to our campus, where you'll always be welcomed."

University officials said the event was organized by AmeriCorps and the White House about a week ago and was timed to follow the release last week of the president's proposed budget.

But not everyone accepted the official version. "Obviously, it's a diversion," said Prince George's County Council member Audrey E. Scott (R-Bowie), who said Clinton was seeking to deflect attention from his impeachment trial.

Students were supportive of Clinton, despite an editorial in the campus newspaper calling for discussion of other subjects that are on the minds of students, including the bombing of Iraq, the impeachment trial and the situation in Kosovo. "Signs, crowds, chants, boos and cheers are just some of the tools would-be protesters could use to let the president know what is really on

students' minds," the editorial said.

But the only signs were those held aloft behind police lines by self-described born-again Christian minister Paul Mitchell, of Los Angeles, and a few of his followers who favor impeachment. "Jail to the Chief," said one sign.

Clinton was introduced by Stephen Hellinger, 25, an AmeriCorps member and Vietnamese refugee who works at a school in Baltimore.

Several of the students filing out after the 19-minute speech said they had never heard of AmeriCorps, a program that gives volunteers a grant of \$4,725 for higher education costs after a year of public service.

But they said they were favorably impressed by both the program and its leading cheerleader, Clinton.

"He seemed very authentic," said Brian Detwiler, 19, of Reading, Pa.

And James DeBono, 18, of Long Island, said, "The president was well-spoken. He really related to the students."

See CLINTON, A11, Col. 1

State challenges report on Mexico's 'dismal' war on drugs

By Toni Marshall
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The State Department said yesterday that Mexico is strongly committed to the war on illegal narcotics, but that drug cartels with billions of dollars at their disposal hamper the effort.

Counternarcotics cooperation was high on the list yesterday in a meeting between Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Mexican Interior Secretary Francisco Labastida, who heads domestic security.

The meeting also laid the foundation for President Clinton's visit to Mexico this weekend.

"There is no question that the government of Mexico, under the

courageous leadership of President [Ernesto] Zedillo, is strongly committing to countering what they see as their No. 1 national security threat, and they are cooperating more closely with the United States at virtually every level than ever before," said State Department spokesman James P. Rubin.

Mr. Rubin was responding to a report in The Washington Post that Mexico's anti-drug efforts the past year had been "dismal."

"There is a difference between cooperation and success," Mr. Rubin said. "And [Mexican officials] are cooperating more closely with the United States at virtually every level than ever before."

The article said that by almost any measure, Mexico made no sig-

"There is a difference between cooperation and success."

—James P. Rubin

nificant progress in reducing drug trafficking.

Seizures of cocaine, marijuana and heroin had dropped over the past year, The Post reported.

Mr. Rubin, calling the article "interesting," said he had no information on the contention.

He said Mrs. Albright is expected to make her recommendations to the president about certifying Mexico's cooperation to

Congress in the next two weeks.

Mr. Rubin said the country's performance is not as bad as depicted in The Post's story.

For example, he said, there is extensive behind-the-scenes cooperation on ongoing DEA cases and investigations, with dozens of U.S. agents working side by side with their Mexican counterparts.

Mr. Rubin also cited several transfers of Mexican prisoners to appear as witnesses in U.S. trials.

He said cooperation by Mexico's organized crime unit with the FBI has permitted "controlled delivery" of contraband from Mexico into the United States, leading to seizures, stash locations and the arrest of a U.S. distribution network.

The Clinton administration examines the efforts to combat illegal narcotics of some 30 countries where drugs are produced or through which they are smuggled.

Some members of Congress are critical of Mexico's efforts because it has been certified as fully cooperating every year since the process began in 1986.

Mr. Rubin noted that Mexico recently announced a plan for additional spending of nearly \$500 million over three years for new planes, ships, radar and other law-enforcement equipment.

"We all need to bear in mind that there is the sheer magnitude of the drug trafficking problem that both Mexico and the United States are confronting together," he said.

Helms to press for U.N. reforms Holbrooke ready for Senate hearings

By Toni Marshall
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The United States finally may be getting an ambassador to the United Nations now that Clinton nominee Richard Holbrooke has agreed to pay thousands of dollars to settle civil charges for breaking federal ethics laws.

Mr. Holbrooke said he settled the ethics suit "in order to allow my nomination to proceed. ... I now look forward to appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the confirmation hearings."

Sen. Jesse Helms, chairman of the committee, has not indicated whether he will give Mr. Holbrooke the thumbs up on his nomination.

But some say the North Carolina Republican may use Mr. Holbrooke's nomination as leverage to force some changes in U.S. policy toward the United Nations.

Mr. Helms is said to want an ironclad commitment to U.N. budget cuts and internal reforms agreed to last year but never enacted.

President Clinton went forward with Mr. Holbrooke's nomination after the Justice Department on Tuesday said Mr. Holbrooke agreed to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty to settle accusations he improperly used State Department officials and U.S. ambassadors to promote the business interests of Credit Suisse First Boston.

Mr. Holbrooke, 57, has been vice chairman of the bank since he left the government in February 1996.

"We're going to very closely examine the Justice Department report. We're going to have to walk through their investigation step by step," Mr. Helms' spokesman, Marc Thiesen, said.

Mr. Clinton chose Mr. Holbrooke in June to replace Bill Richardson as the U.S. representative to the United Nations.

Mr. Richardson left in September to become energy secretary. Mr. Holbrooke also is the archi-

tect of the 1995 Dayton Accords, the backbone of the Bosnia peace agreement, and peace envoy for Cyprus as well as Kosovo.

Spokesman James P. Rubin said Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright is extremely pleased that a conclusion was reached in the matter of Mr. Holbrooke's nomination.

"She's greatly pleased that the White House intends to send his nomination to the Hill very soon and that we are hopeful that the Senate will be able to act as well so that we can get Ambassador Holbrooke to New York, where his extraordinary diplomatic services can be brought to bear," Mr. Rubin said.

This article is based in part on force some changes in U.S. policy

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1999

China moves missiles in direction of Taiwan

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A secret Pentagon report to Congress reveals that China is deploying large numbers of short-range ballistic missiles near Taiwan and is sharply increasing production.

The Pentagon report has raised new fears of military confrontation and weapons proliferation involving the People's Liberation Army. It shows that China produced 150 M-9 and M-11 missiles last year, and most are deployed in units stationed along the Chinese coastline near Taiwan.

The report estimates that by this year, China's PLA will have a total of 200 of the missiles; by 2005, it plans a force of 650 short-range missiles.

To reach that goal, the PLA will add 50 missiles a year, the report said.

The production represents a major increase in the short-range missile force. The National Air Intelligence Center, in a separate report released last year, stated there were fewer than 50 M-11s and M-9s deployed.

"This is an alarming missile buildup," said one official familiar with the report.

Disclosure of the Pentagon report comes on the eve of two new reports the Pentagon is about to release to Congress on missile threats in Asia and the military balance near the Taiwan Strait.

"We've seen this coming," said analyst Richard Fisher of Heritage

Foundation. "Both [People's Liberation Army] doctrine and practical facts have led us to conclude that China was and will be in the future relying heavily on missile forces."

The reports were required by laws passed last year by Congress aimed at pressing the Pentagon to focus more attention on the military threats posed by China. Under the administration's "engagement" policy, the Pentagon has taken a conciliatory approach to Chinese military developments and has sought to play down the potential threats they pose.

Several M-9s, which the Pentagon also designates as the CSS-6, were test-fired by the Chinese during the Taiwan crisis of March 1996 during large-scale military exercises. U.S. officials said at the time that those tests appeared to be an attempt to intimidate the Taiwanese on the eve of its first presidential election.

In the 1980s, China covertly exported the M-11, or CSS-7, to Pakistan — a move that led to temporary U.S. economic sanctions for violations of the 29-nation Missile Technology Control regime.

The surge in production has raised concern among some Pentagon analysts that the Chinese are building so many of the missiles because they intend to sell them abroad.

Both of the short-range missiles are solid-fueled, meaning they are based on advanced technology and can be fired with little preparation.

Drop in teen birthrates attributed to abstinence

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A review of national data indicates that teen birthrates have been falling because teens are abstaining from sex, not because they're using more condoms, a group of doctors say in a study released yesterday.

This conclusion "refutes" efforts by federal agencies and advocacy groups to attribute the birthrate declines to contraceptive use, said the Consortium of State Physicians Resource Councils (PRC), which represents 2,000 health care professionals.

The PRC said the data show that both condom use and out-of-wedlock birthrates have increased among sexually active teen-age girls.

If improved condom use was bringing down birthrates overall, its impact should have been seen in this category of girls, said Dr. Joanna K. Mohn of Rahway, N.J.

Instead, the correlation is the "exact opposite" — "increased condom use and higher illegitimacy rates have gone hand in hand," she said.

National data further show that more teens — especially boys — are abstaining from sex, said Dr. John Diggs of South Hadley, Mass.

This behavioral change, which tracks the decline in teen birthrates, is likely due to HIV-AIDS education, abstinence education and growing cultural acceptance of saving sex for marriage, said Dr. Diggs.

Reps. Tom Coburn and Ernest Istook, both Oklahoma Republicans, said the PRC research shows

the federal government's \$50 million-a-year abstinence education program is good public policy.

Abstinence messages are particularly important in light of the rapid spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), said Dr. Coburn. Condoms offer little or no protection against several STDs, including human papillomavirus, which can lead to cervical cancer in women, he said.

The PRC report, which was written by 11 doctors and peer-reviewed, challenges statements by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other groups that say the teen birthrate declines are largely a result of increased contraceptive use.

The CDC did not have an immediate comment yesterday.

The PRC also criticized an anti-abstinence editorial published in May in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

The JAMA editorial accompanied a Princeton University study that found that young teens who were taught about contraception were less sexually active a year later than teens who had abstinence education.

Dr. Mohn said the Princeton study was flawed because it did not use a genuine abstinence program. And the editorial was similarly flawed, said Dr. Coburn. "I will tell you that within JAMA, there is a bias against abstinence," the congressman said.

JAMA senior editor Phil Fontanarosa said yesterday that JAMA evaluates each study "on its own merit, without bias," and editorials are intended to "give context" to the findings.

Clinton seeks funds for AmeriCorps plan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Clinton urged Congress yesterday to expand his AmeriCorps volunteerism program, saying young people deserve an opportunity to prove they are not "a generation of cynics and slackers."

In a rally at the University of Maryland, the president said the number of AmeriCorps volunteers could increase by 25 percent if his fiscal 2000 budget proposal is approved. He said he wants to expand the program every year until it has 100,000 participants by 2003.

AmeriCorps could then be a springboard for volunteerism at home, much like the Peace Corps was for service overseas a generation ago, Mr. Clinton said.

"America needs to think of itself as sort of a giant AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps at home, getting things done together," Mr. Clinton said. "It may be your best chance to change the lives of others for the better and to enrich your own life in the process."

The president, joined by dozens of AmeriCorps volunteers in gray sweatshirts, issued a national "call to service" to help the program begin recruiting additional volunteers.

"I ask you all to help me reach others ... to use this moment to prove that this generation of young

people, far from being a generation of cynics and slackers, is instead a generation of doers and patriots," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton chose to highlight the program in Maryland because the state's high school students are required to perform volunteer work as a condition of graduation. "We must be a passionate, engaged and concerned community," said Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening.

During the rally, the Corporation for National Service, which runs AmeriCorps, unveiled an MTV-produced public service announcement that shows hip-looking teens and young adults performing service projects, while voice-overs extol the virtues of the AmeriCorps experience while cool, pulsing music plays in the background.

"I've learned the rewards of service are greater than the size of your paycheck or salary," said Justin Ward, 23, a 1998 Maryland graduate who coordinates volunteers for Habitat for Humanity in Aberdeen, Md. He was one of four volunteers who spoke at the rally.

A national service program was an early priority of the Clinton administration. Since AmeriCorps was established four years ago, more than 100,000 people have volunteered.

The Washington Times
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1999

AmeriCorps*State and
National Direct
Programs:

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
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Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
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New Hampshire
New Jersey
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Jumpstart Washington

National Direct
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Issue Areas: Education

Jumpstart is a non-profit specifically geared to providing school readiness activities to children and their families, while providing young people who are mostly college students with a training program that results in early childhood certification. Jumpstart engages young people in service to their communities by preparing pre-school age children to enter school. Members are paired with a pre-school child, engaging the child and their families in school readiness activities, particularly around early childhood literacy. Members garner community interest and support through an annual Children Across the City day where parents, their children, and other community members are introduced to a variety of learning activities for preschool age children.

Congressional Hunger Center-DC, Beyond Food/DC, National Direct

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Issue Areas: Other Human Needs

Congressional Hunger Center is a bi-partisan, non-profit organization founded in 1993, working to end hunger through domestic programs and international policy. It also currently sponsors an AmeriCorps VISTA project. Beyond Food AmeriCorps Members provide services addressing hunger, under-nutrition, malnutrition and food security. Members work to eliminate hunger by establishing or expanding community gardens, food banks/ food pantries, school breakfast and summer feeding programs, feeding programs for the homeless, farmer's markets in low-income neighborhoods, food collection efforts, and providing nutrition education.

Los Angeles Veterans Initiative, Inc.-DC, National Collaboration for Homeless Veterans-Metro D.C.

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LAVETSDC@aol.com

Issue Areas: Other Human Needs

L.A. Vets is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 to provide supportive services within the acknowledged continuum of care to homeless veterans in the Los Angeles area. It owns and operates a residential facility providing transitional housing for homeless vets, and works closely with the Los Angeles Veterans' Medical Center, and other homeless services providers. AmeriCorps Members assist homeless veterans to become self-sufficient by conducting outreach to homeless populations, assisting with program intake, providing educational and vocational support, helping veterans access medical and social services, and building working relationships with other service providers.

Public Allies DC

National Direct

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02-82-1199

PANATIONAL@aol.com

Issue Areas: Environment, Education, Public Safety, Other Human Needs

Public Allies is a national non-profit addressing critical issues by building strong communities through young adults capable of practicing leadership. Specifically, Members serve with non-profit organizations to address all four issue areas. They serve in transitional housing facilities finding homes for families, teach adult literacy, develop volunteer programs for community members, and initiate leadership training for youth. In addition, members design and implement community-wide service projects.

Public Allies

National Direct

Michelle Dobbs

1015 18th Street, NW Suite 200

Washington, DC, 20036

phone: 202-822-1180

fax: 202-822-1199

PANATIONAL@aol.com

Public Allies is a national non-profit addressing critical issues by building strong communities through young adults capable of practicing leadership. Specifically, Members serve with non-profit organizations to address all four issue areas. They serve in transitional housing facilities finding homes for families, teach adult literacy, develop volunteer programs for community members, and initiate leadership training for youth. In addition, members design and implement community-wide service projects.

Latin American Youth Center

Columbia Heights YouthBuild

National Direct

Lori Kapla

3045 15th Street, NW

Washington, DC, 20009

phone: 202-483-1140

fax: 202-462-5696

dlcottman@aol.com

YouthBuild USA, Inc., is a national non-profit organization that engages educationally at risk youth in a combination of service and youth development activities. The service activities focus primarily on renovating houses and

buildings for the homeless and low income families. YouthBuild USA has a substantial number of affiliate organizations across the country. Members serve directly with community based organizations to rehabilitate abandoned housing and build new homes for homeless people, persons with HIV/AIDS, the physically challenges, and low income families. They build awareness of community issues and generate volunteers for local service projects.

I Have A Dream Foundation-Washington DC, I Have A Dream Foundation-Washington DC/AmeriCorps

National Direct

Robert Harris

Project Coordinator

c/o Roper Middle School

4800 Meade Avenue, NE

Washington, DC, 20019

phone: 202-724-9716

fax: 202-724-9716

Issue Areas: Education

The I Have a Dream Foundation (IHAD) model connects individuals who want to sponsor a group of children with neighborhood in need. An entire elementary school class or an age group in a housing project become Dreamers and receive academic and social support designed to see them through high school and into productive lives. Those Dreamers who graduate from high school are eligible for college or vocational school tuition assistance. Members enable (IHAD) sites to intensify their outreach to Dreamers, their families and the community. In addition to tutoring and mentoring, providing academic and social enrichment, members recruit and train community volunteers, organize family involvement activities and lead Dreamers in community service projects.

Washington DC LISC, Washington, DC LISC AmeriCorps

National Direct

Phyllis Jones

1825 K. Street, NW, Suite 1100

Washington, DC, 20006

phone: 202-785-2908

fax: 202-835-8931

Issue Areas: Environment, Other Human Needs

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation is a national non profit organization that provides funding and technical guidance to local Community Development Corporations (CDC's) which are rebuilding neighborhoods across the nation. Members engage in community revitalization activities including housing outreach and education, job training, youth education programs, neighborhood planning, and human services planning.

Washington DC/ Teach For America, Inc.

Teach for America-Baton Rouge

National Direct

Kaya Henderson

Executive Director

1450 G Street, Northwest

Atrium Level

Washington, DC, 20005

phone: 202-393-1666

fax: 202-393-1666

Issue Areas: Education

Teach for America (TFA) is a national teacher corps dedicated to improving educational achievement of under-served school age youth. TFA places a diverse group of recent college graduates as teachers in urban and rural school

districts facing critical teacher shortages. AmeriCorps Members teach under-served youth at inner-city and rural public schools. Members assume leadership roles on school committees, sponsoring after school enrichment and recreational opportunities. Members also coordinate and implement service projects addressing specific community needs.

Notre Dame Education Center-DC, Notre Dame Education Center-DC, National Direct

Joanne Schneberger, SND
Director 125 Michigan Avenue, NE-M338
Washington, DC, 20017
phone: 202-884-9063
fax: 202-884-9229

Issue Areas: Education

The Notre Dame Mission Volunteers, Inc., is a non-profit organization founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame, a religious institution which has been serving communities in need for over 150 years. Among other social issues which the organization addresses, the Notre Dame volunteers target the educational needs of the disadvantaged youth and their families. AmeriCorps Members tutor low income children, teach ESL to immigrants and GED and literacy skills to adults such as single mothers and high school drop-outs, and operate after school programs. Members also recruit volunteer parents for enrichment programs, teach conflict resolution skills, and provide school-to-work transition support for migrant farmworkers.

RFK Fellows AmeriCorps Program DC, RFK Fellows AmeriCorps Program--DC, National Direct

Brodrick Clarke III
Program Coordinator
1367 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC, 20036
phone: 202 463 7575
202 463 6606

The Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Memorial works across the county and around the world to carry forward Robert Kennedy's mission for social justice by helping disadvantaged and oppressed people and recognizing, training, and supporting upcoming leaders. It currently sponsors the RFK Fellows program, which is designed to train young people and provides them with public-service placements. AmeriCorps Members, placed at community-based organizations, will assist at-risk youth to gain leadership skills through provision of solutions to neighborhood violence and out-of-school learning activities. Members will serve as mentors and tutors, organize out-of-school activities, teach conflict resolution and violence prevention, youth case management, and integrate community members in service.

Arch Training Center

ARCH Youthbuild AmeriCorps Program
Education Award Only
Sharon Gautier
President and CEO
ARCH Training Center Inc.
2427 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave S.E.
Washington, DC, 20020
phone: 202-889-6344
fax: 202-610-4752

Issue Areas: Environment, Education, Child/Youth

Members will build low-income housing, rehabilitate two playgrounds, remove graffiti, and do lot clean-ups. Members rehabilitate or construct housing for 3

low income families, construct 2 playgrounds for use by children in nonprofit daycare centers, mentor 210 junior and high school students in community environmental clean-up activities and tutor 90 students to raise math and reading grades.

Catholic Network of Volunteer Service

CNVS AmeriCorps Program

Education Award Only

James Lindsay

Executive Director

4121 Harewood Road, NE

Washington, DC, 20017

phone: 202-529-1100

fax: 202-526-1094

Issue Areas: Education, Other Human Needs, Child/Youth

Members will serve in areas of child care, school counseling, tutoring, literacy, elderly outreach, social services, counseling and civic responsibility.

DC Habitat for Humanity

DC Habitat* AmeriCorps

National Direct

Dave Gano

Site Director

1200 U Street, SE

Washington, DC, 20020

phone: 202 610 2575

202 610 1642

DC_Habitat@habitat.org

Habitat for Humanity is a non profit organization incorporated in 1976 in rural Georgia. Its mission is to build affordable housing for low income people, requiring that the prospective homeowner contribute sweat equity hours by working on both her and her neighbor's home. The houses are built by volunteers and with donated funds and materials. Habitat has grown to include more than 900 affiliates in the United States and 40 countries. Members construct and rebuild homes and buildings, including single family dwellings in urban communities. They provide crew leadership, recruit and work with community volunteers, educate homeowners on settlement procedures and basic home repair, and conduct community needs assessment.

MANY Latin American Youth Center

National Direct

Ernest Yombo

Program Coordinator

3045 15th Street, NW

Washinton, DC, 20009

phone: 202-483-1140

fax: 202-462-5696

WRINO@aol.com

Issue Areas: Education

The Mid-Atlantic Network of Youth and Family Services (MANY) is a regional network of 50 community-based agencies providing services to runaway, homeless and other youth in high-risk situations. MANY provides coordination, training, and technical assistance to affiliates in six states. AmeriCorps Member tutor and mentor runaway, homeless and at-risk youth. They lead after school and summer education and enrichment programs, teach independent living, engage in intergenerational projects such as renovation of facilities for use by the elderly, build recreational facilities for adventure-based programming, conduct drug and alcohol prevention workshops, and organize volunteers for

Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Please go to the **Applying to AmeriCorps** page

Can't find one of our programs near you?
Still want to volunteer in your community?
Try this:



- **More About SERVEnet**
- **More About YSA**

Please send questions or comments to: acorps@biospherics.com.

Copy for Ann Lewis
Anne McGuire

MEMORANDUM

TO: Morgan Binswanger
Nick Bollman
Dan Dutko
John Gomperts
Peter Hart
Melinda Hudson
Deb Jospin
Debbie Klingender
James Martin
Shirley Sagawa
Eli Segal
Roy Spence

FROM: John Scardino

RE: Follow up to 4/7/99 meeting

DATE: April 12, 1999

CC: AnnMaura Connolly

Feel free to join any of
these mtgs - would
love to have you

Shirley

AnnMaura will coordinate the fundraising efforts of the campaign. She will also work with Morgan on the effort to develop a web initiative and other multi-media possibilities, including a possible network television production. Questions on these issues should be directed to her.

I will coordinate issues related to the media campaign, including polling, advertising and earned media. As such, I will facilitate the efforts of Peter Hart Research Associates, GSD&M, and the Corporation's communications office.

Tomorrow at 2:00pm, Peter Hart and Debbie Klingender will meet at the Corporation (CNS) with Tara Murphy and the CNS communications staff, as well as Jospin, Gomperts, Hudson, and Scardino to discuss the focus of the polling effort.

On Wednesday, April 14th, at 11:30am Eastern, the CNS communications staff, Gomperts, Hudson, Sagawa, Scardino and others at CNS will meet to discuss the priorities of the media and advertising campaign. James Martin will join the discussion by phone at 12:00noon Eastern with others from GSD&M.

THE NEXT GENERAL DISCUSSION: A conference call with the 12 people on the distribution list for this memo is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 21st**, at 3:00pm Eastern. At that time, we'll review the target audiences for the media campaign. Also, AnnMaura will review the status of the fundraising effort and we'll cover other issues related to the campaign. I will circulate an agenda on Monday, April 19th. If there's an issue you would like to add to the agenda, please let me know by the end of this week.

The next general meeting is planned for **Wednesday, May 12th**, 9:30am, at the Hay Adams. All campaign issues will be reviewed. Everyone who attended last week's meeting will be contacted and asked to attend.

If you have a scheduling conflict with the conference call on 4/21 or the meeting on 5/12, please let me know immediately. Please don't hesitate to contact me or AnnMaura for questions on other issues related to the campaign.

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN PODESTA

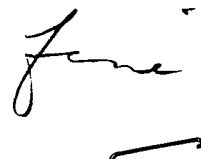
FROM: Melanne Verveer and Shirley Sagawa

RE: AmeriCorps television special

DATE: May 21, 1999

To clarify: The AmeriCorps television special will be produced by the Fox Family channel, with the assistance of the Creative Artists Agency Foundation. Because the Foundation is interested in making sure the special furthers the goal of promoting AmeriCorps, they have asked for our input on the talent that will be involved in the special. We have no formal affiliation with the project itself. We are not selecting or even proposing who should work on the project or which celebrities should be featured in it. The Corporation for National Service is assisting in identifying AmeriCorps programs and members to feature.

We have brought this to your attention because we want to preserve the option of showing the special at a premier or other function to promote AmeriCorps when the project is completed in the fall, after we have screened it to make sure it is consistent with our message. Our window for commenting on the involvement of Joel Schumacher as director will close on Monday. Because Creative Artists sees him as essential to the deal, we recommend that we not raise an objection.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fene", with a horizontal line underneath it.

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
★ SERVICE

TO: Karen Tramontano

FROM: John Gomperts
Corporation for National Service

DATE December 4, 1998

RE: Increasing Public Awareness of AmeriCorps

Following our recent meeting and in response to your specific request, we have outlined a 6 - 9 month plan for ways in which the President and other White House principals and Administration surrogates can increase the public's understanding of AmeriCorps. Indeed, our aim should be to make AmeriCorps a household word, one in which the great majority of people take pride.

Of course, we are delighted by the interest the White House is showing in helping us promote AmeriCorps and national service, and we want to work with you to craft ideas that meet our objectives and fit into your broader plans to use the time and resources of the White House. As you suggested, we have organized our thinking around the themes and objectives that we expect to be pursuing in the coming weeks and months. So first I describe our own focus and plans for the coming months. Second, I present the themes that the President and others can use in support of our efforts. Then, I lay out a timeline of possible events and activities that would help to amplify the themes and achieve the objectives.

* * *

OUR STRATEGY AND GOALS

Naturally, White House efforts will work best if they are part of our overall strategy. Much of our thinking is reflected in the materials and campaign we put together in preparation for the event celebrating the 100,000th AmeriCorps member. Although the White House celebration had to be postponed, we saw that benchmark as the beginning of a campaign that we always planned to continue. The key elements of that campaign are as follows:

Focus on the members. As I described in our meeting, too much attention has been focused on Washington political battles about AmeriCorps. We want to shift attention to AmeriCorps members and what they are doing. This refocusing extends from planning our own activities to framing our message to the outside world. From our ongoing conversations with the elite media, to pitches to local newspapers and television stations, to conversations with elected officials, presenting AmeriCorps members as new patriots is our most consistently successful



approach. This focus on the members is reflected in the positive press and editorial coverage we have already received, and it will be our continuing emphasis in our events and travel of our principals.

Growing AmeriCorps. As you know, in separate venues we are pressing hard for a significant increase in the size of AmeriCorps. While we have reached the 100,000 member mark in total AmeriCorps members, we want to get to the point where there are 100,000 AmeriCorps members *every* year by the end of the Administration. The visibility plan we are presenting should help to realize this specific policy objective.

Stepped-up recruiting campaign. We need idealistic, energetic, young Americans to join AmeriCorps. To fill AmeriCorps slots (and hopefully more slots soon) we will launch an aggressive recruiting campaign including a new PSA produced by MTV, a mailing to more than 300,000 college seniors, print ads featuring AmeriCorps members, and a number of AmeriCorps member-organized events and service projects on college campuses.

Continue to build bipartisan support. From the time when the President asked Senator Wofford to head the Corporation, our overriding objective has been to build bipartisan support for national service, especially AmeriCorps. That means courting Governors and Mayors as well as members of Congress. (This also means working hard to present AmeriCorps in a non-political fashion to the greatest extent possible, and recognizing that as we bring more positive attention to AmeriCorps, our detractors will escalate their efforts as well.)

Energize the field. Unfortunately, to date, the national service field has not been a strong voice supporting or defending national service. From our efforts with major non-profit partners, to Governor-appointed state commissions on national and community service, to AmeriCorps Alums, to key allies such as America's Promise and the Points of Light Foundation, strengthening the national service field continues to be one of our key strategic objectives.

KEY THEMES FOR WHITE HOUSE

AmeriCorps has come of age. No longer a small, "boutique" program, AmeriCorps recently passed its 100,000 member milestone -- a mark it took the Peace Corps more than 20 years to achieve. This year more than 40,000 AmeriCorps members will be recruited by programs all over the country, approximately 7,000 more than the Marines are recruiting. (N.B. A proposal to substantially increase the size of AmeriCorps would make the "coming of age" point even more pertinent.)

AmeriCorps solves problems. When it comes to improving childhood literacy, providing quality after-school programs, reducing violence in schools and neighborhoods, preventing drug abuse by teens, responding to natural disasters -- AmeriCorps is getting the job done. We will be able to release timely research and evaluation reports to support these claims of AmeriCorps' success.

AmeriCorps is creating America's future leaders and building communities. When the President declared "the era of big government is over," he also said that "the era of big challenges is not, and so we need an era of big citizenship." Like many others, the President was looking to individual citizens and to our civic institutions to take on-- or share-- some of the responsibilities that had previously been the province of government. AmeriCorps does just that, through partnerships with more than a thousand national, state, and local non-profit, educational, religious and civic organizations. Like their counterparts in the Peace Corps and the military, AmeriCorps members are serving their country. But in the case of AmeriCorps members, the new patriotism they demonstrate is in service on the homefront, in tackling some of the most urgent problems of our hard-pressed communities. AmeriCorps members serve with—and strengthen—the local non-profits that are on the frontlines of some of our most difficult problems.

AmeriCorps is a model of local control and reinventing government. The general perception remains that AmeriCorps is a top-down, Washington-run operation. Nothing could be further from the truth – most AmeriCorps grants are made and most AmeriCorps positions are allotted through governor-appointed, bipartisan state commissions. This structural point is the key to AmeriCorps' popularity and bipartisan support among governors. And an even more fundamental kind of devolution is in the fact that projects using AmeriCorps members are run by the local, state, and national non-profits who recruit, select, and support the members. The sooner people understand that AmeriCorps is a model of devolution to the states and the civic sector and of reinventing government, the sooner we will win the full public acceptance and enthusiasm we need.

TIMELINE OF SUGGESTED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

December 1998

Service on December 21/22. We are told that the President and the First Lady are interested in performing service in connection with the holidays, most likely on December 21 or 22. In a separate memo, we have proposed sites that include AmeriCorps members that would be appropriate venues for this service. In addition, we suggest that this might be an opportunity to announce the following initiatives:

- ◆ AmeriCorps Promise Fellows grants (representing more than 550 new AmeriCorps members). AmeriCorps Promise Fellows is a joint initiative between AmeriCorps and America's Promise. The grant announcement, a total commitment of nearly \$10 million, is the realization of the idea the President announced in his speech at City Year's convention in Cleveland in June. It is tremendously appreciated by General Powell and the leaders of the state and local efforts around the country to achieve the goals for children and youth set at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

- ◆ President's Student Service Award. Modeled on the President's Physical Fitness Awards, this new award program will recognize (with a Presidential letter and a pin) students who have served at least 100 hours. This is a key goal of the Presidents' Summit which the President has repeatedly championed: that young people should be challenged and given opportunities themselves to serve, not just to be served.
- ◆ Martin Luther King Day grants. This year we have doubled the amount of mini-grants to support service on the King Holiday to \$500,000 with 100 communities receiving grants. These grants have played a key part in turning the holiday more and more into "a day on-- not a day off," a day of service throughout the country. Last year the President announced the grants in a radio address.

January 1999

Event marking AmeriCorps' 100,000 member milestone. The news for this event would be the President's request for increase in AmeriCorps' funding. We also propose using this as the opportune moment to release an independent report on AmeriCorps' accomplishments. This new research covers the last three years and provides very positive outcome data. The event might include swearing in new AmeriCorps members (representing the 100,000 who have served) to give the event strong regional media opportunities.

MLK Day (January 18th). In 1994, President Clinton signed legislation making the Martin Luther King holiday a day of service. Last year, the President and Mrs. Clinton celebrated this day by participating in two different service events in Washington, DC. This year, hundreds of service projects are taking place across the country. The President, other principals and surrogates should participate in high profile service projects on the Monday holiday. Alternatively, the actual day of Dr. King's birthday-- January 15, three days before the holiday, could be an occasion for the President to do something symbolic to make the call for service on the holiday itself.

State of the Union. While we realize the intense competition over the material to be included in the State of the Union, being in the speech is also one measure of the significance of an issue. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the President refer to the 100,000 member milestone in the speech and that he make his request for a significant funding increase for AmeriCorps as part of a more general call to citizen service. In addition, we suggest that Millard Fuller, President of Habitat for Humanity International, and one of the more than 500 AmeriCorps members who serve with Habitat be invited to sit in the box with the First Lady. Fuller is a big fan of the First Lady and vice versa—and of AmeriCorps—and his presence will help us to make the point about the partnership between AmeriCorps and faith organizations and major non-profits.

NGA Meeting. As noted above, the structure of AmeriCorps depends heavily on Governors. That is why many Governors, Democrats and Republicans alike, are enthusiastic

about AmeriCorps. This enthusiasm includes, notably, Govs. Carper and Leavitt, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the NGA. The President's talk to the NGA meeting is an excellent opportunity for the President to thank Governors for their leadership on this issue, and to ask them to join him in the general call to service to all Americans. (We have State Profiles on all that AmeriCorps and the other streams of national service do in each state. These State Profiles can be released at any time.)

February 1999

Launch the "Call to Service" recruitment drive and campus tour. In February AmeriCorps will launch a major new, member-led recruitment drive. All White House principals and key Administration surrogates can play a role in this campaign. We hope that the President will make a major "Call to Service" speech (probably on a college campus) promoting the broad ethic of service and asking students to serve their country through AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps, or the military. Possible venues include, the University of Michigan (where President Kennedy first raised the idea of the Peace Corps), Notre Dame University (where the President gave his major address on national service during the 1992 campaign), a historically black college, or any other college with a strong ethic and history of service.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows training. The President or a White House principal should address this gathering of some 500 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, the new group of AmeriCorps members that is the result of the partnership between AmeriCorps and America's Promise. Colin Powell is expected to speak to this group on February 26. The White House participation can be timed to precede, coincide with, or follow Gen. Powell's appearance. The event will likely be in the Washington DC area.

March 1999

Event to emphasize AmeriCorps' partnership with the religious community. We would like to plan an event designed to call attention to this partnership; to emphasize the fact that more than 8,000 AmeriCorps members now serve with religious organizations, and to recognize the tremendous work that churches are doing to strengthen communities. Possible venues include: National Prayer Breakfast (may be in February) or a gathering of religious youth organizations.

Alternative Spring Break build with Habitat for Humanity. The President and White House principals and/or surrogates should participate in a build with AmeriCorps, Habitat and hundreds of college students as part of the Collegiate Challenge. This year we expect that more than 8,000 college students will participate in this event at 10 main sites between February 14 and April 10.

April 1999

AmeriCorps All-Stars. As part of our effort to focus more on AmeriCorps members, we propose to create a new recognition program called AmeriCorps All-Stars. We would select 25 exceptional AmeriCorps members from around the country who would come to Washington to be recognized during National Volunteer Week, perhaps on National Youth Service Day. The ceremony would be similar to the Teacher of the Year event, and it would afford the opportunity to focus on the extraordinary people who join AmeriCorps and their accomplishments as AmeriCorps members.

National Volunteer Week/National Youth Service Day/Earth Day. These annual events provide extremely good opportunities to reinforce the messages being promoted as part of the overall public awareness effort. The President, Vice President and other surrogates could serve alongside AmeriCorps members. This is also a perfect opportunity for surrogates to participate in the Call to Service tour. During National Volunteer Week AmeriCorps will be hosting a number of recruitment activities on college campuses. Participation by principals and cabinet members in these events would significantly increase the visibility of this effort.

May - June 1999

College Commencements. The Call to Service should be a consistent and leading theme in the commencement addresses of the President and other Administration officials. Once again, young people should be asked to give at least one year of their life to their country through service in AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps or the military.

AmeriCorps and America Reads event. Do an event, either at a tutoring site or as a press briefing, with Secretary Riley to release an independent study on the success of AmeriCorps' childhood literacy programs.

Annual City Year Conference. City Year, one of the most notable and successful sponsors of AmeriCorps members, holds an annual gathering of all City Year members, called CYZYG. The President spoke at this conference last June in Cleveland. The First Lady spoke to the 1997 CYZYG in Providence, Rhode Island. The 1999 conference will be held in Washington DC, probably at Howard University. This might be a very good setting for the Vice President to perform service or speak to the group— or for a return visit by the First Lady. (June 2-5)

National and Community Service Conference. We co-sponsor this annual conference with the Points of Light Foundation. This year the conference (which attracts more than 2000 participants) will be held in Las Vegas from June 6-10. A videotaped message from the President and/or the First Lady would be a way to reach this group of key partners and leaders in volunteering and service.

September 1999

5th year anniversary celebration. September marks the five year anniversary of the AmeriCorps launch. We expect major national, state, and local events marking this milestone. We recommend the President and all White House principals participate in one or more events to celebrate the accomplishments of the nearly 150,000 people (at that point) who have served their country and community through AmeriCorps. This celebration will be another occasion to bring attention to exemplary AmeriCorps members.

Anytime

Meetings with AmeriCorps members. Any White House principal or other Administration official can meet with AmeriCorps members in the course of their travels. These meetings are thrilling for the members, and are often powerful learning experiences. We encourage these types of encounters, and can arrange meetings, either at service sites or otherwise, in many locations around the country.

Rally the field. Through the course of the year we will have a number of instances in which significant participants in the national service field will be gathered in Washington and other places around the country. These gatherings of members of Governor-appointed state commissions, significant non-profit partners in the youth service and volunteer field, board members of grantee organizations, and philanthropic and private sector partners, are terrific opportunities to motivate the national service field.

* * *

Again, I want to emphasize how pleased we are by your interest in working with us to advance AmeriCorps and promote the cause of national service. At your urging, we have laid out an ambitious plan. I recognize that we are asking a great deal, but we hear the clock ticking and want to make the most of the time remaining. Naturally, the suggestions in this memo are a starting point for further discussions, and we can be flexible in shaping events and activities. In any case, we believe that this undertaking, whatever form it ultimately takes, will not only help us achieve our strategic objectives, but will also reflect extremely well on the President and his Administration.

Cc: Bruce Reed
Ann Lewis
Gene Sperling
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Shirley Sagawa

BY DAVID GERGEN / EDITOR AT LARGE



The nation's new patriots

A generation of idealists shuns politics and turns instead to volunteering

The news these days suggests that America is now raising a generation of hellions: Two young men stand accused of brutally murdering a college kid in Wyoming because he was gay; a 20-year-old girl was found guilty of inducing her boyfriend, a cadet at the Air Force Academy, to kill another young woman whom she detested; Eric Rudolph, hiding out in the Appalachian Mountains, is accused of planting that bomb at the Atlanta Olympics when he was 30; young punks show up on morning television shows with the damndest personal stories. And on and on.

But as is so often the case, the real news is contained in the stories that aren't snatching headlines. Last week, for example, the four-year-old AmeriCorps program inducted its 100,000th volunteer. Nearly all the young men and women are giving at least a year of service to their country. It's a remarkable feat: The Peace Corps took 20 years to reach the same milestone.

More to the point, almost every one of these AmeriCorps volunteers has been weaving an important thread into the fabric of community life. In Clearwater, Fla., a young woman named Sherry Thomas, who was living in the streets at the age of 14, helps to build community playgrounds and assists in neighborhood cleanups as she prepares for a career in law enforcement. Serving with Habitat for Humanity, Army veteran Phillip Wu and 22 other members on his team recruited 1,500 college students to come to Miami over a spring break to complete 50 new homes for working families. Monisha Poudyal, a Yale graduate from an immigrant family, worked for a year in California on HIV and substance-abuse issues with at-risk kids. She is now pursuing a career in nonprofit management. A graduate of Notre Dame, Robert Peters, joined the Sisters of Notre Dame AmeriCorps program and tutored migrant farm children and illiterate adults.

Doing something good. "We are tapping into a new patriotism among young people," says Harris Wofford, the former U.S. senator who now heads the Corporation for National Service, which runs AmeriCorps. "They have a

tremendous cynicism about politics but not for doing something for their neighborhood or for children."

Wofford's opinions are borne out by recent survey data. UCLA's mammoth survey of college freshmen found that last year's incoming class demonstrated the lowest levels of political interest in the 32-year history of the poll, even as volunteer work was at record levels. A recent survey for Public Allies, a multicultural group supporting civic service, found that today's young people are very public spirited, but they are "actively looking for new and distinctive

ways to connect to the people and issues surrounding them."

AmeriCorps is not the only organization experiencing a surge in interest. Teach for America, the volunteer program started nearly 10 years ago by Wendy Kopp after she graduated from Princeton, receives 3,000 applications a year for 500 slots. Some 10,000 apply to the Peace Corps for 3,500 places, and young people often wait up to two years to gain a coveted spot.

Each of these programs has its critics but is building wider support. Republicans once bashed AmeriCorps as President Clinton's pet project, but Senate conservatives like Rick Santorum and Charles Grassley now back it. Millard Fuller, the inspirational figure behind Habitat for Humanity, was once a skeptic, too, but, after seeing volunteers in action on Habitat sites, has written enthusiastically about national-service programs to House Speaker Newt Gingrich. With 1 in 7 AmeriCorps members now serving in faith-based projects, support for the program among religious leaders has risen, too.

None of this, however, should obscure the central point: Contrary to myths that they are slackers, generation X-ers are actually brimming with idealism, far outstripping what we saw only a decade ago. Instead of knocking young men and women, we ought to be providing more opportunities for them to give back. The day is not far off when a year or more of service to the country will once again be enshrined as an essential part of becoming an American citizen. ■

Contrary to myths
that they are
slackers, gen X-ers
are actually brimming
with idealism.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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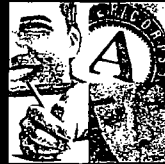
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[Amer Corps - Changing lives, Changing America]



*Changing
lives,
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AmeriCorps: Five Years of Getting Things Done



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AmeriCorps: Five Years of Getting Things Done

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE: A CALL TO SERVICE

February 10, 1999

"Our ethic of citizen service is coming back. AmeriCorps is more than a momentary solution to our problems -- it embodies the basic American ethic that every citizen has the duty to give back to our communities and to each other." ✓

President Bill Clinton
February 10, 1999

Today, at the University of Maryland, College Park, President Clinton will call on Congress to expand the yearly participation level in AmeriCorps to 100,000 members by 2002. The President will also kick off AmeriCorps' largest national recruitment campaign ever to challenge young people to provide service to their communities.

Giving More Americans A Chance To Serve Their Community. When he came into office in 1993, President Clinton outlined a vision for a national service program that linked responsibility to opportunity by allowing young people to serve our nation while earning funds for a college education. The result of that vision is AmeriCorps, which is bringing people of different racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds together to solve community problems and improve the lives of Americans. In the four years since its launch, over 100,000 AmeriCorps members have risen to the challenge. They have tutored children in school and after-school, organized block watches and book drives, renovated housing for low-income families, and recruited people in the neighborhood to volunteer alongside them. The President seeks to build on this success by creating more opportunities for Americans to serve through AmeriCorps. The President's fiscal year 2000 budget request includes:

- * \$533 million for AmeriCorps, an increase of \$106 million over last year. This new funding will enable AmeriCorps to expand to nearly 70,000 members in 2000 and 100,000 members each year by 2002. This expansion also will allow high school students to join AmeriCorps -- by serving part-time during the school year and full-time during the summer.

The Largest Recruitment Drive Ever To Get Americans Involved In Service. President Clinton is announcing the launch of the AmeriCorps Call To Service campaign, the largest-ever national recruitment drive for AmeriCorps. The President is challenging all Americans, especially young people, to get involved in service. The Call to Service campaign will:

- * Provide young people with information on how they can serve in AmeriCorps to help strengthen local communities;
- * Include a new television public service announcement produced by MTV, print advertisements, campus visits, and other local recruitment efforts.

Building On A Record Of Success. In just four years, over 100,000 young people have joined AmeriCorps to serve more than 4,000 communities. AmeriCorps provides needed human resources to schools, churches, community groups, and non-profit organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, Big Brother/Big Sister, and the American Red Cross. Since 1994, AmeriCorps members:

- * Have served 32 million people;
- * Mobilized nearly 2 million volunteers;
- * Taught, tutored or mentored more than 2 million children;
- * Organized after-school programs for more than a half million at-risk youth;
- * Helped more than 200,000 senior citizens live independently; and
- * Built or rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
PROMOTING CITIZEN SERVICE TO IMPROVE AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES**

August 9, 1999

"You have built tens of thousands of homes, immunized hundreds of thousands of children, taught millions of students, planted tens of millions of trees. AmeriCorps is showing that citizen service is one of the most powerful forces for change in our society. We must work toward the day when citizen service is the common expectation and common experience of every American."

President Bill Clinton
August 9, 1999

Today, at the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps graduation ceremony held in Washington, D.C., President Clinton touted AmeriCorps' strong record of success and pledged not to sign any bill that would abolish funding for the program. The President also reiterated his call for Congress to expand the participation level in AmeriCorps to 100,000 members each year.

A Strong Record of Success. When he came into office in 1993, President Clinton outlined a vision for a national service program that linked responsibility to opportunity by allowing young people to serve our nation while earning funds for a college education. The result of that vision is AmeriCorps, which brings people of different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds together to solve community problems and improve the lives of Americans throughout the country. After a year of full-time service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards to help finance college or pay back student loans. In just over four years, AmeriCorps has:

- * brought over 100,000 Americans together to solve problems in more than 4,000 communities;
- * served nearly 33 million people;
- * mobilized nearly 2 million volunteers;
- * taught, tutored or mentored more than 2 million children;
- * organized after-school programs for more than a half million at-risk youth;
- * helped more than 200,000 senior citizens live independently; and
- * built or rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes.

Opposing Republican Efforts to Eliminate Opportunities for Citizen Service. Last week, Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee voted to eliminate all funding for the AmeriCorps national service program. President Clinton denounced this short-sighted step, urging Congressional Republicans to build on bipartisan support for the thousands of AmeriCorps members who are bringing change to communities across the nation. The President pledged not to sign any bill that abolishes the AmeriCorps program.

Giving More Americans a Chance to Serve. The President reiterated his call for Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps and to create opportunities for 100,000 young people to serve in AmeriCorps every year. President Clinton's Fiscal Year 2000 budget proposes to expand AmeriCorps to nearly 70,000 members by the year 2000, with the goal of reaching 100,000 members serving each year by 2002. The FY 2000 budget request includes \$533 million for AmeriCorps, an increase of \$106 million over last year. This expansion would also allow high school students to join AmeriCorps by serving part-time during the school year and full-time during the summer.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 14, 1995

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Let me begin by saying that Hillary and I send our prayers and our good wishes to all the families who are suffering in the terrible California floods. Our administration is doing everything in our power to make sure you get the relief you need. And I pledge to you that the American people will stand by you in this time of crisis as they have in the past.

On Monday, we'll all celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King on what would have been his 66th birthday. Dr. King was one of the great moral prophets of our time. He never held public office, but no one ever did more to redeem the promise of American life or stir the soul of our nation.

One of Martin Luther King's greatest lessons was that every American deserves a piece of the American Dream, the chance to pull ourselves up and work our way into the middle class. He taught us that we have more uniting us than dividing us; that no matter our race, our religion, our income, we all share the same hope of building better lives for ourselves and our children.

The most important civil right is the right to dream the American Dream and to have the opportunity to live it. I ran for president because I feared we were in danger of losing that right. At a moment of great change in our history, as we move from the Industrial Age into the Information Age, as we end the Cold War and move into the global economy of the 21st century, I believe our purpose has to be to keep the American Dream alive for all Americans.

To do that, I have fought for three things. First, a new economic strategy to help our people compete and win in the new global economy; second, a new covenant with the American people that offers more opportunity to everyone willing to assume personal responsibility for their own lives; and third, a new kind of government -- a leaner, but not a meaner government that cuts yesterday's programs and bureaucracy to make room for tomorrow's solutions, rooted in responsibility, empowerment of our citizens, the strength of our communities.

In two years we've made a good start. We have a strong economy with 5.6 million new jobs. We've made historic cuts in the deficit, enough to take \$11,000 in debt off of every family's future. We've cut the size of government. There are 100,000 fewer people working for the federal government than there were on the day I became President. And we've made lots of programs more efficient and more effective. And we've offered the American people new opportunities that demand more responsibility, from more affordable college loans, to the family leave program, to giving our local communities the resources they need to lower the crime rate.

But despite this progress, too many Americans are still working harder for less. They don't have the security they need and deserve because they work hard and play by the rules. As we face the challenges of the 21st century, too many Americans remain in danger of falling behind or fear that they will still be left behind as they

have been in years past.

That's why I proposed the Middle Class Bill of Rights, which might be better called the Middle Class Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. It gives Americans the chance to arm themselves for the new economy and to lift their incomes. It gives middle-class families the opportunities they need to raise their children, pay for college, save money for the things families need, and get the training and skills they need to prosper.

It offers a tax deduction for all education after high school. It offers lower taxes for families with young children. It offers an individual retirement account with tax-free withdrawals for costs other than retirement that are devoted to the future -- costs for education, for health care, for care of an elderly parent, for buying a first home. And it offers a training account of over \$2,600 for those who are unemployed or who are lower-wage workers who want to get more skills to improve their own futures.

This program furthers all three of my objectives. It helps all of us to meet the challenges of the new economy. It helps us to build that new covenant of opportunity in return for responsibility. And it cuts government and changes the way it works to make it more modern, less bureaucratic, more flexible, more focused on personal empowerment. I hope the new Congress will pass the Middle Class Bill of Rights, and I welcome anyone else's ideas that advance these same goals.

In the new Congress, my test will be: Does an idea expand middle class incomes and opportunities? Does it promote values like family and work, responsibility and community? Does it contribute to strengthening the new economy and to building a better future for all of us? If it does, I'll be for it, no matter who proposes it. And if it doesn't, I'll oppose it.

One of the best examples of what we're trying to do is something we've already begun to do -- our national service program, AmeriCorps. It helps those who help themselves and America. It says, take responsibility to serve your country at the grass-roots level, and we'll give you the opportunity to get the education you need to build a better future for yourself. Already there are 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers serving their communities while earning money for college. There are more people now in AmeriCorps in this year than ever served in the Peace Corps in a single year.

On Monday, Martin Luther King Day, I've called for a National Day of Service. And AmeriCorps volunteers will be hard at work all across our country rebuilding a school in Atlanta, rebuilding housing in Memphis, helping the flood victims in Los Angeles. I hope you will join them because the idea and the ideal of service -- service to country, service to community, service to our fellow citizens -- is central to our nation's future.

Dr. King's most profound lesson was that in America, "me" depends on "we." As he said, "We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied into a single garment of destiny." In the end, we will rise or fall together. Martin Luther King knew that we all have to do our part. What he wanted was for all Americans to have not a hand-out, but a hand-up. That's what the National Day of Service is all about.

Of course, there are no guarantees that the future will be easy for all of us. We will face great challenges. But if we'll all join together and do our part as citizens, we can -- we can receive the American Dream that Martin Luther King envisioned.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 9, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO AMERICORP'S NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS
GRADUATION CEREMONY

Department of Interior
Washington, D.C.

12:16 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. When I came up here, Josh said, "I warmed them up for you." (Laughter.) He certainly did that. Now he's sitting in my seat, which might be -- (laughter and applause.) Might be a good omen. (Laughter.)

Let me thank all of you for being here today. I want to say a special word of thanks to Harris Wofford, who, as you heard from his own speech, his public service to America goes all the way back to World War II. He was a major player in the civil rights revolution, the establishment of the Peace Corps. He served in the United States Senate. He agreed to come back and run our national service program, and to do it in a way that reached out to all Americans from all walks of life and all political backgrounds. And he has done a superb job. I'm very grateful to Senator Harris Wofford for his leadership of AmeriCorps. He's been great in our whole national service program. (Applause.)

I want to thank General Chambers and Kate Becker for their leadership, and welcome all of you here, but especially the AmeriCorps NCCC graduates. Senator Wofford mentioned that on the morning you were sworn in with great symbolism in front of the FDR Memorial, it was quite cold. But without, literally, 24 hours, many of you were already off to Texas and Puerto Rico to help the victims of a hurricane and a flood. After a year of such duty -- I think you call them "spikes," just like these fellows did so many years ago -- you have fulfilled your AmeriCorps pledge. You have made a difference; you have gotten things done for America.

So to all the parents and family members and friends here today, let me say that your sons and daughters may look about the same as they did a year ago, but they have grown in remarkable ways. They are now firefighters, home builders, relief workers, community organizers, mentors, educators. They are confident, they are leaders. They are also servants as they lead.

Congratulations to Class Five of D.C. Like the CCC alumni here today, you have touched lives and changed communities in ways that will be remembered and appreciated for years and years to come.

You know, in so many ways, AmeriCorps is the embodiment of the deal I struck with the American people in 1992. At the time, unemployment was high, the debt had quadrupled in the previous 12 years. Social division was increasing. Political stagnation was the order of the day in Washington. And I wanted our country to change course and come together. I acknowledged that government can't solve all the problems, but we can't leave the people that you've been helping out

there to sink or swim on their own, either. And so I wanted to create a government that would give people the tools to solve their own problems and live their own dreams; and to basically have a new compact in which we said, we will attempt to create opportunity for all Americans who are, themselves, responsible, and we will attempt to build an American community of all responsible citizens.

AmeriCorps embodies that. You go out there creating opportunity every day. You are fulfilling your citizen responsibilities. And you have certainly helped us to build one American community.

So far, as Harris said, there have been 100,000 of you. You have built tens of thousands of homes, immunized hundreds of thousands of children, taught millions of students to read, planted millions of trees, and are now in New Jersey enrolling in the new Children's Health Insurance Program, an initiative I hope to take nationwide because we have still over 8 million children without any health insurance in America today, and we now have the funds in Washington to cover most of them. We just have to get them enrolled.

Now we're trying to take AmeriCorps up to 100,000 a year. Think what we could do -- just think about everything you've done in this last year. Think how we could change the face a future of America if there were 100,000 of you out there every single year from now on doing what you have done. Think how many more young people would also be able to use the AmeriCorps scholarship to go on to college. Think how that would change the face and future of America, the range of opportunities available, the lives that people would live.

I think this is a very important moment for America. We have the strongest economy in a generation, the lowest minority unemployment rate ever recorded, the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years, the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years, the lowest crime rate in 26 years, highest budget surplus we've ever had, highest home ownership in history. What are we going to do with it?

I think we should use it to meet our big long-term challenges. The baby boomers, people like me, when we retire, if we don't do something now, Social Security and Medicare won't be able to sustain the burden of our numbers. But we now have the ability to fix Social Security and Medicare in a way that enables us to retire without imposing burdens on you -- so that you will be able to raise your children without having to spend your hard-earned money to support your parents. I think that is very important. (Applause.)

Because of the surplus, we can get this country out of debt, for the first time since Andrew Jackson was President in 1835. And if we don't that, if we do that, it means that when you go out into the world, interest rates will be lower, businesses will be stronger, jobs will be more plentiful, incomes will be higher, homes will be more affordable. And so will college education -- that's important.

It means we can invest in the education of all of our children and meet our other fundamental responsibilities, and still afford a modest -- not a big, but a modest -- tax cut designed to help people deal with the biggest challenges they face.

It means that we can go out into the areas that you know all too well, which, in spite of this fabulous economy, have not yet felt this recovery. I was in Appalachia, in the Mississippi Delta, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, in South Phoenix and East St. Louis, and Watts and East L.A.. And you know as well as I do that for all the economic progress of the last few years, there are still some people who are living only in the shadows of this prosperity.

All of this we can do now. And I think it is my responsibility -- and not just my responsibility as President, but my responsibility as a member of my generation, and that of every other member of my generation to leave you an America in the 21st century that is strong and that is worthy of the service you have just rendered. That is really what we're discussing up here.

You heard Josh talking -- we don't have to put up with things we don't agree with in America, with conditions and human suffering and problems that we know we can change. It doesn't have to be this way. You have proved that lives can be changed. You have proved that circumstances can be improved. You can prove that dreams can be realized -- not only yours, but the people you've tried to help. And this is sort of a magic moment for our country, and if we do the right things now, then the feelings you have from your service as AmeriCorps volunteers are things that you will be able to put into practice, to good effect for your country and for young people that come along behind you for the rest of your lives.

I can tell you now, having lived a good deal longer than you have, there are two things that I want to tell you about the difference in my age and yours. One is, it doesn't take long to close the gap. (Laughter and applause.) Right? Is that right? I mean, when I said that, every person here in this room that's at least 50 years old was thinking the same thing -- it seems like yesterday when I was 20. (Laughter.) Isn't that right? We're all sitting here thinking the same thing.

By the way, I'd let you be President for a year and a half if you'd let me be 20. (Laughter and applause.) I'd take my chances on doing it again. One. Number two, there are certain chances that come along every day, and others that just come along once in a lifetime.

For example, my parents' generation won World War II and endured and whipped the Great Depression. The youngest of them are about Senator Wofford's age. He looks a lot younger than he is -- and acts even younger than that. And they did that, and they were called upon to do that when they were young -- to save freedom and to beat a Depression.

Then in the intervening generation, they dealt with the civil rights revolution in America and gave us an America that looks more like this AmeriCorps class. And thank God for them, all of them.

Our generation was blessed to be raised with enormous material satisfaction, and when I was young it was the last time the economy was about as good as it is now. And we have waited a long time for the time when we would be presented with our one great opportunity and responsibility of a lifetime. We have it now in the present economic conditions of America.

I've tried to fulfill our generation's responsibility by giving you the chance to serve and by helping to build one America across all the racial and religions and cultural and other lines that divide us. But we are being tested now, and our values are being defined.

One of the things that is most amazing to me is that there are still some Republicans -- and I want to say the word, "some" -- we've had good bipartisan support for AmeriCorps. But there are still some who are determined to zero out funding for AmeriCorps. In other words, ideological argument in the face of all the evidence of all the good you've done. Well, if they zero out the funding, their bill has zero chance of becoming law, because I will veto it. (Applause.)

But the AmeriCorps budget is just one example of what will happen, or would happen, if their big tax cut could become law. I mean, politicians normally, when they have money, like -- you give it back to people in an election season, say, this is your money, I'm going to give it back to you, please vote for me. And that's normally a better political position than the one I'm in, which is, it's your money, but I don't think we can give it back to you -- at least we can't give as much back as they want to give back to you. You can readily see which is the more appealing position, can't you?

Remember when you were kids, you used to argue about your parents, you know. You can just hear them arguing up there -- "my tax cut is bigger than your tax cut." (Laughter.) But that's not really the question.

The question is, what does it take to save America's future in the face of the aging crisis? It means you have to lengthen the life of Social Security past the life span of the baby boomers. That's what it means. And my plan takes Social Security out to 2053. A lot of you will be around then, but I probably won't. But we owe it to you, to lengthen Social Security beyond the life span of the baby boomers.

It means we should strengthen Medicare and provide for a prescription drug benefit because of medical revolutions which enable people to live longer and better if they can access medicine.

It means we should get out of debt, so we can give you the strongest possible economy. It means we should invest in education and the environment and health care and national defense, and saving our farmers that are in so much trouble today, and the care of our veterans. And then we should give what is left in a tax cut.

The reason that you have people up there trying to zero AmeriCorps is they know they can't pay for their tax cut without big cuts. There are special interest tax breaks in this tax bill that I threatened to veto, just special interest provisions, that would fund AmeriCorps ten times over. And I would urge the American people to look at the fine print of this bill because it also has big cuts in education, in research and development, in the environment. It could even force closure of some of the national parks you worked on.

And again I say, this doesn't have to be a partisan issue. This should be a generational issue. And just like when you go out on a project, you have to do first things first. If you're working on a mountain, you've got to put the right kind of shoes or boots on before you go up there. This debate over this tax cut in Washington has not actually been a very good object lesson for the older generation to you. This debate is like a family getting around the table and saying, hey, let's take the vacation of our lifetime, the vacation of our dreams, and when we get home we'll see if we can't pay the mortgage and send the kids to college. That's what's going on.

It is the reverse of what you have done -- getting things done for your country, making a difference, thinking about the future.

So I say to all of you, I hope you will always believe you can make a difference. And I hope all of the leaders here in Washington will realize that we have the chance of a lifetime to make a difference.

When you leave this program, I hope you will remember the other thing I said to you, which is that the distance between your age and mine is shorter than you think. It looks like a very long way from where you are, but from where I am it looks like it happened in the flash of an eye. What you have done for your country -- and also what

you have done for yourselves -- proves that it is truly more blessed to give than to receive, and that in giving you do receive.

All over the world today there is turmoil -- from the Balkans, Kosovo and Bosnia, to Northern Ireland to the Middle East to the tribal conflicts of Africa, where people are fighting and dying because their vision is so limited that they believe their life only counts if they can lift themselves up by putting someone else down -- someone of a different race, someone of a different religion, someone with a different slant on life. Someone in Africa of a different tribe. All over the world this is happening.

AmeriCorps is living, daily, practical, flesh-and-blood proof that there's a better way to live; and that what we have in common is more important than what divides us; and that if we work together and hold hands and believe we're going into the future together, we can change anything we want to change.

You are the modern manifestation of the dream of America's founders. And I hope when you leave here you will never, ever, ever stop being proud of what you've done. And I hope you will never stop preaching the lessons you have learned. For in the end, if we're all working toward one America, the chances are we'll get where we're going.

Good luck and God bless you. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END 12:36 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 18, 1999

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS AND REGENCY HOUSE RESIDENTS**

Regency House
Washington, D.C.

1:53 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everyone.

AUDIENCE: Good afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I'd like to say that I am very grateful to be here at Regency House with all of you. I want to thank the Residency Council for making us feel welcome -- Sarah Beaner, Kenneth Brown and others.

I want to say to the members of the press here -- you know, the press, they all think that we're all on automatic, because they give us little notes here to read about every place we go. But I think it would be interesting for you to know the note I got on Regency House here: Sarah Beaner is the president of the Residency Council; Kenneth Brown is the past president and is now serving as the vice president -- not such a bad idea. (Laughter.) The Regency House has 157 tenants. The tenant population is made up of seniors and the disabled. They are all current in their rent. (Laughter.) Good for you, that's great. (Applause.)

Let me say to the Mayor and Councilmember Patterson and Delegate Norton, I am honored to be here to participate in Martin Luther King Day as a day of service, as provided by law and in the spirit of what Dr. King said. And I am proud that I now live in a city with truly outstanding leadership. Eleanor Holmes Norton has been my friend for a very long time and is one of the most remarkable women in any leadership capacity of any kind in the United States. D.C. is fortunate to have her.

The Mayor, in his former life, was actually a member of our administration in the Agriculture Department. And you know, it didn't really offend me that we'd already torn the wall down by the time he showed up -- (laughter) -- because he's working hard and he's got a lot of things to do. And I feel good about what he's going to achieve. And, Mr. Mayor, you just stay on the job and I'll tear a wall down for you any day you want, any time, anywhere, and I thank you. (Laughter and applause.)

I want to thank David Gilmore, of the D.C. Housing Authority; and my great member of the White House staff, Ben Johnson, who did used to be a former director of D.C. Public Housing. The others whom the Vice President mentioned with AmeriCorps -- Deb Jospin, John Gomperts. But mostly I want to thank these young volunteers behind me. (Applause.)

Near the end of Dr. King's life he envisioned a partnership in America across racial lines. He could never have imagined that America would become so diverse as it is today. But

AmeriCorps, it seems to me, is the living, breathing embodiment of the way Martin Luther King thought all of America ought to work. And that's what I wanted to do when we established it.

You might be interested to know that in only four years, since we've set AmeriCorps up and got it going, more than 100,000 volunteers have joined AmeriCorps. It took the Peace Corps 20 years to reach that milestone. And they have done unbelievable things to make America a better place: helping to deal with natural emergencies, helping to build houses, helping to tutor children, helping to immunize children, working in a thousand communities across this country.

And if you just look at these young people standing behind me, you know they come from all different parts of America, they come from all different backgrounds, they had different kind of reasons for joining AmeriCorps. They came here after different points of experience in their lives. And I'm very, very proud of them and I thank them.

You should know that today more than 100,000 volunteers are out there keeping Dr. King's dream alive. AmeriCorps members, seniors, students, soldiers are rehabilitating buildings, painting schools, cleaning neighborhoods, reading to children. They are doing what Dr. King would want us to do.

I also want to mention on other thing. The Vice President talked about the need to continue to fight discrimination. Dr. King believed that every American, regardless of race, religion or background should be able to live in a home without discrimination. Today, on this Martin Luther King Day, I am pleased to announce the largest settlement in history in a lending discrimination, for home lending. (Applause.)

Let me tell you about it, it will affect a lot of people's lives. Thanks to the efforts of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the leadership of Secretary Cuomo, the Columbia National Mortgage Company will offer -- listen to this -- \$6.5 billion in home mortgages and extra effort to help 78,000 minority and low and moderate income families unlock the door to homeownership. This settlement was made under the Fair Housing Act which Congress passed just six days -- just six days -- after Dr. King was killed. He had worked for years to outlaw discrimination in housing. And many who voted for the measure said they did it in tribute to him. So here all these years later -- 31 years later, to be exact -- we're proud that it's happened on Dr. King's national holiday.

Now let me just say one final thing. Yesterday in the church that Hillary and I attend they observed Dr. King's birthday with some special music. They had a wonderful singer from the Army Chorus, they did a lot -- but one of the songs they sang that I love so well was one of Martin Luther King's favorite hymns and it embodies what we are doing here today. The first line of the hymn is, "If I can help somebody," and the last line is, "then my living will not be in vain."

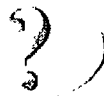
All these people are here not only because they want to help you, but because their lives are richer because of it. And we're all learning and growing. And besides that, as the press pointed out, it did the Vice President and me a lot of good to pick up those hammers and crow bars and tear something down. (Laughter.) You know, we do this desk work all the time and we do this word work all the time, and there's not always a beginning, a middle and an end. There was a beginning to that wall, a middle and it is no longer, it is over. (Laughter.) So we are very grateful that you gave us the chance to be part of this today and we thank you. (Applause.)

Again, I want to say I hope all across America people will hear this. Look at these young people -- they're here with you, they're getting something out of this, too. Their lives will be richer and better. They will be wiser sooner. They will be more sensitive and more understanding more quickly in their lives because of the experience they've had here and the other experiences in AmeriCorps. Every American needs to serve. And remember what Dr.

King said, everyone can be great because everyone can serve.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

Now, I know we're done, but I want to say a special word of recognition to Melodie Scales and Beth McCarthy of AmeriCorps who work with me, and to Donald Stokes, who is a resident here. I'd like for them to come up and be recognized, since they work with the Vice President and me. Come on up here. (Applause.) This is our crew and if you need a wall torn down, you couldn't do better than this. (Laughter and applause.)



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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 12, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
VIA SATELLITE
IN SWEARING-IN CEREMONY
OF AMERICORPS PARTICIPANTS

The Oval Office

2:46 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. In just a moment, I'll speak to thousands of you young people and those of you who are young in spirit around the country about our national service program, AmeriCorps. But before I do, let me say just a few words about what occurred here this morning.

As you know, a plane came down here early this morning, and the pilot lost his life. An investigation is taking place that will determine how and why this happened. We take this incident seriously because the White House is the people's house. And it is the job of every president who lives here to keep it safe and secure.

On his second night in the White House, our second President, John Adams, wrote: "I pray heaven to bestow the best blessings on this house and on all that shall hereafter inhabit it." That prayer has been answered. In times of war and peace, in hard times and good, the White House is an enduring symbol of our democracy. It tells our people and those around the world that the mission of America continues as it does on this happy and important day.

So let me assure all Americans, the people's house will be kept safe, it will be kept open, and the people's business will go on.

We stand at the start of America's new season of service. For 20,000 Americans this year all over our great land, this moment marks the beginning of a journey that will change their lives forever. For our nation, the moments of service that will follow will change our lives for many seasons to come.

Service is never a simple act, it's about sacrifice for others and about accomplishment for ourselves, about reaching out, one person to another, about all our choices gathered together as a country to reach across all our divides.

It's about you and me and all of us together -- who we are as individuals and what we are as a nation. Service is a spark to rekindle the spirit of democracy in an age of uncertainty.

We hear a great deal about values now. I encourage America in that conversation. But all the lofty talk comes down to three simple questions: What is right; what is wrong; and what are we going to do about it.

Today, we're doing what is right. Just look around you.

You're what is right with America. Twenty thousand of you this year and 100,000 over the next three years will be getting things done in hundreds of places around the country. You will be saving babies in South Texas, walking the police beat in Brooklyn. You will work on boats to reclaim the Chesapeake Bay and work on new housing to rebuild parts of Roxbury. You will take seniors safely to the doctor in St. Louis and teach children in Sacramento to read.

Every generation in our history has learned to take responsibility for our future. And your generation is no exception. We look at you now. And we know you are no generation of slackers. Instead you are a generation of doers. And you want to give something back to the country that has given so much to you. The only limit to our future is what we're willing to demand of ourselves today. Generations of Americans before us have done the groundwork. Now, it falls to all of us to build on their foundations.

In just a minute, I'll lead nearly 20,000 AmeriCorps members gathered across America in a pledge. I ask all Americans to reflect on the words they will say, because with words like "action" and "commitment", "community" and "common ground", this is much more than a pledge of service. It's a creed for America as we move forward to renew our great country. And to all of you who will help to lead us in that journey, I say God bless you and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And now, it's my great pleasure to swear in the first members of AmeriCorps around the nation, including these fine young people who are here with me. Would you all raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I will get things done for America to make our people safer, smarter and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps member, and I am going to get things done.

(The pledge is repeated by participants.)

Thank you and good luck.

END1:49 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 10, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT AMERICORPS CALL TO SERVICE EVENT

Richie Coliseum
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

2:34 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, when I was listening to Stephen and Leslie and Justin and Pepe talk, I was reminded of why I wanted to be President -- so that I could give young people like them the chance to make America a better place. (Applause.)

I want to thank all those who are here today who have supported our efforts. I thank Harris Wofford for his outstanding leadership of the Corporation of National Service. (Applause.) Deb Jospin and John Gomperts of AmeriCorps. I thank Governor Glendening and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend for making Maryland America's leading state for citizen service. They have really done -- (applause.) I thank my good friend, Prince George's County Executive Wayne Curry; Senator Mike Miller, my longtime friend; and Mayor Jacobs, thank you for making us welcome. Carson Dailey, thank you for the work MTV did on those wonderful spots, the PSAs.

I would like to thank also the mother of the Lt. Governor, my good friend, Ethel Kennedy, for being here today. (Applause.) And I thank Mark Gearan, our Peace Corps Director, and I'll say a little more about the Peace Corps in a minute and its relationship to AmeriCorps.

I'd like to thank one person who is not here today, but who was on the front lines of creating AmeriCorps, Senator Barbara Mikulski, your United States Senator from Maryland. I thank her. (Applause.) I want to thank the President of the University of Maryland, on my right; and the President of the Student Government of the University of Maryland, on my left -- (applause) -- for making me welcome. Avery and Dr. Mote, thank you. (Applause.)

You have already heard from Dr. Mote and others that six years ago I came here to celebrate the end of the Summer of Service, which was our dry run for this national service program. We wanted to work out the kinks and see whether we could make this idea go. There were three people who are here who were instrumental on that day; I would like to thank them: Georgia Sorensen, Marilyn Smith and my former White House staffer, whom I miss very much, Bill Galstone. Thank you all very much for what you have done. (Applause.)

And I thank the University of Maryland for the College Park Scholars, the Team Maryland Athletes -- (applause) -- the work-study students that are tutoring, and the others from the students and faculty who demonstrate the power of citizen service.

Let me say to all of you, when I ran for President in 1992 I wanted to get America working again and moving again, but I also wanted to bring America together again. It seemed to me that we had two great problems. One is that our economy was not functioning very well and we seemed to be getting weaker, but also that we seemed to be letting our divisions overcome what we have in common.

Martin Luther King once said that the old law of an eye for an eye sooner or later leaves everyone blind. I always believed that America's differences could be the source of our strength if we respected and we celebrated our differences, but we understood that, underneath it all, there was something that bound us together that was more important.

So, as I look back on the last six years, I think we can all take a great deal of pride in what our country has achieved together -- economically, the longest peacetime expansion in history; the lowest peacetime unemployment rate since 1957, 42 years ago -- (applause) -- welfare rolls cut nearly in half; the lowest crime rate in over a quarter-century. I think those are great things.

But I think we can also celebrate the evidence that we are coming together -- over 90 percent of our children across all racial and ethnic lines immunized against serious childhood diseases for the first time in history; the doors of college literally open to all with the HOPE scholarship, the lifetime learning tax credit, the more generous Pell grant, more affordable student loans, more work-study slots. Those things matter.

But maybe most of all, those of you here in Americorps, and those in citizen service -- whether in the Peace Corps, serving our country in the military, or serving in some other way -- embody the determination of America to draw closer together as we grow more diverse. And that, I think, is terribly important.

When you saw the four Americorps volunteers up here speaking, and each of you identifying with them in turn -- if they worked in your project or you knew them -- you know they were a picture of America, of the changing face of America, and the best of America that never changes.

If you look around the world today, at many of the challenges that I face as your President and that the United States faces -- the sad trip that the First Lady and I recently took to Jordan for the funeral of our friend, the King of Jordan, who survived decades of assassination attempts -- literally decades of assassination attempts, probably 50 in all -- to stand as a symbol of peace among people in a very tough neighborhood, who use religion as a reason to find their differences more important than their common humanity. All over the world today you see that. If the United States wants to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity in a new century in a new millennium, it is actually quite an advantage for us to have within our borders people from all races, all religions, all ethnic groups, all cultural backgrounds doing all kinds of different things.

But we cannot do good around the world unless we are good at home. And, therefore, we have to find this magical balance, being honest about our differences of opinion on matters from the serious to the mundane -- and I'll leave it to you to decide whether it was serious or mundane when the President asked

me take sides in the basketball game. (Laughter.) You've got a great team here, though, I'll tell you that, I've watched it. (Applause.) We have to find a way to do that, to say, this is what I believe, this is where I stand, this is what I'm for -- and also to say how lucky we are to stand on the verge of a new millennium in a totally global society, where people are being brought closer together than ever before, and we are finding ways to relish, to celebrate, to honor our differences in a way to bring us closer together, instead of driving us apart.

AmeriCorps is the living, breathing symbol of the answer to that. Where we do not ask people to check their differences at the door, but we do ask them to reaffirm our common humanity. We do not ask for a handout, but we do ask for a hand up for everyone who needs it, and we say we are going forward together. That is what you represent. That is my fondest hope for America. And I thank you for your service. (Applause.)

You know, all during the 20th century, the tradition of citizen service grew stronger in America. In the great Depression I remember my parents telling me about the chance President Roosevelt gave able-bodied, unemployed people to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps -- the CCC. They cleared trails, they fought fires, they planted trees. They built whole state parks -- the Appalachian Trail, Skyline Drive in Virginia; parks in my home state that Hillary and I have stayed in, with rather interesting names like Petit Jean, and Devil's Den. I have in the back office of the White House an old CCC cap -- a cap that one of the volunteers wore in the '30s, that I found wedged in between a chimney and a wall, in a cabin in a state park in the mountains of north Arkansas. And I have kept it with me all these long years, to remember the unifying power of citizen service in one of the most difficult moments of the 20th century for the United States.

President Kennedy in the 1960s asked young people to serve in the Peace Corps -- to teach English, to provide health care, to bring running water and electricity to some of the most remote villages in Africa, Asia and South America. My brother-in-law served in the Peace Corps in Colombia. And the other night, he was getting together with some of the people who served there with him. When we were getting ready to come out here today, and Senator Wofford came in with Mark Gearan, the present Peace Corps Director, we were celebrating the fact that, if our new budget passes, we will have more people serving in the Peace Corps in the next two years than have ever served in any given year. We'll be back at an all-time high.

And we were lamenting the fact that we just had to withdraw our Peace Corps volunteers from Eritrea and Ethiopia, two countries that I have felt particularly close to in the last couple of years, because of the trouble the two countries are having -- the threat to go to war. And the Peace Corps volunteers, going all the way back for decades, have volunteered to try to come in and solve the conflict and deal with the disputed area of land. I don't know if they will accept it, but think of that. All these years later, people that were there years and years and years ago remember what it was like -- not to give a handout, but to give a hand up, and to ask people to understand that their differences are not as important as what they have in common.

So I thank our Peace Corps volunteers, I thank Mark Gearan, and I thank all of you in AmeriCorps, because you are in

the rich tradition of America's citizen service, from the CCC to the Peace Corps to AmeriCorps.

Now, six summers after I first came here, AmeriCorps is thriving. There now have been over 100,000 people serve in AmeriCorps in just four years of the full-time program. Everywhere I go around the country I see you -- I see you in all kinds of different contexts. I was in San Jose right before the election and there were a lot of -- the Peace Corps volunteers had just come to start their mission, and so I saw them standing on the street as I pulled into the hotel. And I asked them all to come see me and we took a little picture -- and they were from everywhere.

And then when I went home to Arkansas after the terrible tornadoes a couple of weeks ago, in both the communities I visited there were AmeriCorps volunteers there and there were people there who, believe me, would never have come to Arkansas in their lives if they hadn't been in AmeriCorps. (Laughter.) I know it was good for the people they were helping and I think it was pretty good for them.

This has been an astonishing encounter for tens of thousands of people. Now, all of you know what it's like -- I love talking to people who have been in AmeriCorps because I always hear two things -- number one, they're proud of what they did to help people -- teaching a child to read, or immunizing a child, or having a playground that's safe in an area that used to be dominated by gangs, or cleaning up some polluted site, or doing something to preserve the environment. I love that.

The second thing I always hear is, "I like the people with whom I serve;" "I met people I never would have met;" "I got to know people I never would have gotten to know;" "we were all so different and, yet, when we worked together, we grew together, and it made my life different and better." That is what AmeriCorps needs to do -- and that is what America needs to do.

America needs to think of itself as sort of a giant AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps at home, getting things done together. Getting things done together. (Applause.) If our budget passes this fall, we can boost the number of AmeriCorps volunteers by one quarter, to 50,000 members. In our new budget we want to keep expanding AmeriCorps every year so that by the year 2003, and there forward, every year 100,000 young people will be serving in AmeriCorps. (Applause.)

But I want to challenge the young people of this country -- and the not so young who are willing to do it -- to sign up for AmeriCorps, to see for yourselves what you can do to solve America's problems and reap America's promise. I want to challenge high school students, as well. Maryland has done a wonderful job as the Governor and the Lt. Governor said, being the only state in the country to actually require community service as a part of a public education. In our balanced budget we propose to allow high schoolers for the very first time to join AmeriCorps by serving part-time during the school year and full-time in the summers.

And I want to challenge, again, the young people beyond this room, to dedicate a year or two of your lives to a cause larger than yourselves. It may be your best chance to change the lives of others for the better, and to enrich your own life in the process.

Today, so many young people have the time and freedom

and energy they will never have in the future, to tackle the kind of challenge Americorps represents -- to pack a bag at a moment's notice, to fight a forest fire, or move into our most remote towns or Native American reservations to teach children, or work with churches in some of our toughest neighborhoods. At the end of your service, as all of you know, Americorps will provide help to pay for college or pay off student loans. So I ask you all to help me reach others -- to take advantage of this opportunity, to use this moment to prove that this generation of young people, far from being a generation of cynics and slackers, is instead a generation of doers and patriots. (Applause.)

Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend quoted something her father said. I would like to close with a quotation from Senator Robert Kennedy, in a speech he gave to college students in South Africa when I was a young man. It resonated around the world, and every person my age, which was then your age now -- every young person I knew, without regard to their party or their opinions or anything else, was riveted by the notion that a United States Senator could go to South Africa and talk to the young people about building a different future, a long time before, for the first time in over 300 years, all South Africans had a chance to choose their future.

This is what he said: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

That is still true today. For those in AmeriCorps, I thank you for sending forth those ripples of hope. I thank you for bringing out the best in yourselves and others.

For those who could still yet serve, I ask you to join the rest of your fellow citizens in building that bridge to the 21st century that all can walk across, arm-in-arm, to the best days of America.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

2:54 P.M. EST

TALKING IT OVER

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

March 17, 1998

Hundreds of thousands of America's college students are on spring break this week. Some are playing volleyball at the beach. Others are earning some extra cash at part-time jobs or just hanging out at home.

Seven thousand, though, are spending their vacation building homes with Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge. Under the leadership of several hundred AmeriCorps members, these student volunteers are learning valuable skills at Habitat sites from Lynchburg, Va., to Miami.

Elsewhere this week, AmeriCorps members are collaborating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Red Cross to recruit and train high school and college students to work in areas that have been devastated by natural disasters.

Among my husband's accomplishments that I am most proud of is his success in returning national service to the national agenda. The centerpiece of this effort is the Corporation for National Service and its three initiatives -- AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps.

AmeriCorps provides an opportunity for all Americans to serve, in exchange for which they can receive education awards worth \$4,725 a year to pay for college or to repay student loans.

Learn and Serve America offers grants to teachers and community members for projects that involve students in service activities that complement their classroom studies. Through a Learn and Serve America program in Minnesota, for example, high school students test the water quality of the St. Louis River as part of their chemistry class, and in New York, nursing students help operate a community health center serving low-income people.

The National Senior Service Corps helps people over 55 find service opportunities related to their interests. Foster Grandparents provide support to children with special needs; Senior Companions enable more than 32,000 frail elderly individuals to live independently; and Retired and Senior Volunteers care for a variety of local services that range from leading local museum tours to teaching adult education computer classes.

This week, my husband will submit bipartisan legislation to Congress reauthorizing the Corporation for National Service. Serving others and giving back is part of what it means to be an American and part of what it means to be a citizen in a democratic society. Extending Congressional support for national service into the 21st century will give millions more Americans the opportunity to serve and strengthen their communities.

Over the course of the last five years, communities in every corner of America have discovered the value of national service. What they have learned is that national service works. It works for the country, and it works for those who serve.

Vanesse Backe postponed medical school in order to join an AmeriCorps project here in Washington. Her experience changed her professional goals: She has decided to use her medical knowledge to help under-served populations.

Senior volunteer Joe Whitlow is a hero to a classroom of 4-year-olds in the Head Start program at Bellevue Community College in Bellevue, Wash. For more than 10 years, he has volunteered his time and talents on a weekly basis. Wednesday is "Joe Day," when he brings bags filled with wood, hammers, drills, glue guns, nails and screws. He and the children create toy boats and birdhouses, and learn about woodworking and working together.

Four years ago, Marilyn Concepcion was a high school dropout working on an assembly line. Then, she joined the AmeriCorps program in Providence, R.I., where she tutored and taught English to elementary students. During her year of service, she earned her GED and gained the confidence to apply for college. She is now studying to become a pediatrician at Brown University.

Sherry Thomas grew up in Clearwater, Fla., in the predominantly black, low-income North Greenwood neighborhood. At the age of 14, she was living on the streets because of an abusive situation at home. Today, in her second year as an AmeriCorps member, Sherry is helping to build community playgrounds and participating in neighborhood cleanups, crime patrols, crime prevention and after-school programs for at-risk youth. Sherry has become a role model for the disadvantaged kids in the very neighborhood where she grew up.

Luis Pizarro is a former gang member and drug dealer. He turned his life around by serving as an AmeriCorps member in Milwaukee, Wis. In the same community where he used to deal drugs, he now helps at-risk youth build self-esteem and find alternatives to joining gangs.

At a time when we look at each other across so many divides -- economic, political, racial, religious, cultural -- our country cries out for a common connection to bring us together. National service can provide that connection -- helping us rediscover the bonds of friendship, teamwork and community that tie us together. ✓

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Talking it Over

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**REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
IN COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS TO
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

May 1, 1993

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you, President Duderstadt and thank you, regents, other honorary degree recipients, faculty, alumni, family members and citizens who are gathered here. But most of all, thank you to the graduates of the class of 1993 for letting me be part of this celebration. (Applause.)

It is a real pleasure for me to be here on a glorious Saturday afternoon that does remind us of football Saturdays, in which the celebration is not in terms of downs or yardage, but in terms of accomplishments and achievements of each of you. This is a university steeped in tradition, whose reputation for excellence goes far beyond the borders of this state.

Having grown up in the Midwest myself, I have always thought of Michigan as one of those institutions whose commitment to academic excellence and to public service certainly made it stand out above so many others. And of course, also being from the Midwest, I always thought of Harvard as the Michigan of the East. (Applause.)

Excellence is not just a word, it is a benchmark. And it represents what you have achieved. Because for those of you who are graduating, you are still in a minority of young Americans, most of whom do not go on to college or, even if they do, do not graduate from a four-year institution. So your excellence is not only about you, but it is about your generation and your country.

And when I talk about excellence, let me just expand for a moment about what I mean. To me, excellence is not found in any single moment in our lives. It is not about those who shine always in the sun, or those who fail to succeed in the darkness of human error or mistake. It is not about who is up or down today or this week. It is about who we are, what we believe in, what we do with every day of our lives. And for me, it is always telling when I think about excellence as to how someone deals with adversity and challenge. And I really believe, standing here in this great university, that the Fabulous Five are excellent and Chris Weber deserves the kind of thanks that we can give him for going on and going forward. (Applause.)

When life, as a friend of mine has often said, hits you in the jaw and knocks you down, the real challenge is whether you get up and how you feel about yourself from that time forward. That's not only true in the lives of individuals, it's true also of institutions and even of countries.

I graduated from college 24 years ago, before MTV or rap or CDs or cellular phones. Back then if you had said 10,000 Maniacs, you probably would have been talking about Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco.

The '60s were a time of momentous change in our country, but also a time of dislocation; a time of activism and optimism

flowing from the civil rights movement, the Peace Corps, the space program. But our ambitions for a better world were also scarred by deep societal wounds, President Kennedy's assassination, the murders of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, the divisions of the Vietnam era, and the combustible mix of racism and poverty that exploded in so many of our cities.

When I graduated in 1969, I, like many of you, had dreams for my own life, but also for the world into which I was going. In a commencement speech, I talked about that. And going back and reading it now, I see the idealism, I see the excitement, and I know that at 21, I was perhaps unable to appreciate the political and social restraints that one faces in the world. But I am glad I felt like that when I was 21, and I have always tried to keep those feelings with me. I want to be idealistic. I want to care about the world. I want to be connected to other people. And I hope that you will as well. (Applause.)

The world has changed a lot in the intervening years. As one of the student speakers has already said, the Cold War is over. We are grateful for the opportunity to reach across in friendship to a former enemy like Russia. We have achieved greater rights for minorities and women. We remain the most powerful nation on Earth.

And yet we, too, have our challenges. We, too, must face the new problems that afflict our country. We see still too much inequality. We see too many people working too hard, but not getting ahead any longer. We see too few of our people being able to take advantage of the changes that this new world represents, because they are not prepared. They don't have the educational background, they are not given the kind of stability and structure within their families that enables them to understand how to deal in this new world. We see, too, a society that is often coming apart instead of coming together. But that is the world as it is. And we can bemoan it, or we can be challenged by it to change.

Certainly we face obstacles. Even though we do celebrate the end of the Cold War, we have new problems. Places with names like Bosnia and Somalia that I never heard of when I graduated from college are now on the front pages of our newspapers. We worry about nuclear proliferation, ethnic hatred, starvation, political instability, and terrorism. And at home, we watch our cities crumbling under the dual assault of drugs and guns that create a level of violence that is unacceptable. It is not any longer possible for us to postpone confronting what we are doing to our children in these cities where they cannot even leave their homes in safety to walk to school. (Applause.)

We need to take a collective, deep breath and decide how we will proceed in this moment of history to deal with the challenges we face. And you each will have a role in that. You each, either by effort and planning, will shape a life and make a contribution, or by an abdication of responsibility for your life, you will have your life shaped for you. Like generations of Americans before you, you will look for the right balance in your lives -- a balance of work, family, and service; a balance between your rights as individuals and

your responsibilities to your families, your communities, and your country.

Perhaps your experience here at Michigan will help serve as a guide, because here you have met people from diverse backgrounds; you've had your ideas and beliefs tested; you've had to learn what you are willing to stand for and stand against.

Universities are incubators of ideas and havens for free speech and free thought. And I hope that each of you has taken advantage of that because we will need your best thinking as we struggle to find that proper balance between rights and responsibilities. Regrettably that balance has been thrown out of kilter over the last years. Throughout the 1980s we heard too much about individual gain, about the ethos of selfishness and greed. We did not hear enough about what it meant to be a member of a community; to define the common good; to repair the social contract.

An exaggerated emphasis on "me" as opposed to "we" has accentuated the gaps between us and has resulted in the problems that I have referred to. And so what we now have an opportunity to do is work to right that balance again, to develop shared goals and to be part of reaching them. It does not mean sacrificing individual rights. It does not mean stifling the spirit of any of us. But it does mean that promoting the common good in our democratic system requires us to work together to provide each other with certain rights and opportunities. And in return it requires each individual to be responsible to themselves for themselves and on behalf of their families.

This is what we now must work to define. During the 1960s we argued endlessly over that as we worried about the proper position to take with respect to the major issues of that decade. What was the individual's responsibility to speak out and act out against conditions that he or she thought were wrong.

And the most eloquent explanation I have heard about the individual's responsibility to society comes from Vaclav Havel, the playwright who is now the President of the Czech Republic. He went to prison during the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia because he could neither be free as an individual nor responsible as a member of a community. And he wrote from prison to his wife Olga, "Everything meaningful in life is distinguished by a certain transcendence of human experience beyond the limits of mere self-care toward other people, toward society, toward the world. Only by looking outward, by caring for things that in terms of pure survival, you needn't bother with at all, and by throwing yourself over and over again into the tumult of the world with the intensity of making your voice count -- only thus will you really become a person."

And there are two great issues now on the horizon of our country where all of us have a chance to feel that intensity and make that contribution. The first is national service. And in many ways, the roots of the idea of national service were planted in this university in 1960 at a rally on this campus at the student union by President John F. Kennedy. (Applause.) When President Kennedy, at 2:00 a.m. in the morning, asked how many students were willing to

contribute to their country, to use their skills and their intelligence to help people around the world, he was challenging that generation to seek a greater purpose in life. And he knew that a free society's ability to compete in the world depends upon the willingness of citizens to help others to help themselves. Don't just, as the old saying goes, give a fish to a hungry person; do that, but then help that person to learn how to fish. Reach out and give that person the tools needed to become self-sufficient and responsible. (Applause.)

And today, the need for that call to responsibility is as great as ever. During the last presidential campaign, President Clinton stood on the steps of Rackham and talked about service programs, and called, in his inauguration for a season of service, a call which more than 4,500 students on this campus have already answered with community service this year.

And then yesterday, my husband offered his own national service plan, a domestic Peace Corps that will help young people pay for college or job training by performing community service, helping children learn to read and write, working in hospitals, helping the homeless, cleaning up the environment. Helping yourself by helping others -- the classic way that we try to reconcile right and responsibilities, and which really fuels the meaning of citizenship in this country.

And for many of you who are not yet sure about your own futures -- what kind of job you will get, where you will live, what kind of life you will lead -- this opportunity to contribute is still available, because there are always ways for you to look around and help. The small ways, added one to the other, make big differences.

And the second great issue is health care. Because if we do not deal with the health care crisis that is affecting all of us, we will not be able to put our country on a firm and stable footing for the future. We have to be determined to deal with all of the other problems -- to reduce the deficit, to create jobs, to provide better opportunities for people.

But at the root of our economic and human challenge lies the fact that, although we are the richest country in the world, we spend more money and take care of fewer people than many countries that are not as rich as we when it comes to health care.

What I have heard as I've traveled around this country, from state to state, are stories of people who are employed with insurance, not sure whether they will have it next year, worried about the layoffs; worried about the plant picking up and moving ; worried about the end of what they thought they didn't have to worry about at all before. And so many others who work every day for a living have no insurance at all.

Most people in this country who are uninsured get up every day and go to work. They would be a lot better off when it comes to health care if they went on welfare. What kind of signal is that to our citizens, if we provide opportunities for people who do not work and turn our backs on the people who are in this stadium

today who have sacrificed to enable you to attend this university, but themselves can't count on health care if they need it when they leave here this afternoon? (Applause.)

And it is not just an economic issue, and not just an individual human issue. If we look at a state like Michigan we can see how competitively we have given away advantage after advantage over the past years, because our auto companies, for example, pay more in health care benefits because they cannot control costs in a system that has gone crazy, and the expense of those health care costs make the automobiles produced in this state much more expensive than those with which we compete from around the world. We have essentially said to our manufacturers, tie both arms behind your back; be at a disadvantage; have to lay off workers because we, your government, will not control the health costs that you face every day.

If we do nothing, the current money we now spend, which is 14 percent of all goods and services produced in America, will rise by the year 2000 to over 18 percent. That means that unless we change now, by the year 2000 almost \$1 out of every \$5 that you and every American earn will be spent on health care. And we will not have insured one more American, provided better health care in our rural areas or inner cities. This is a problem we can no longer ignore.

We need to give peace of mind and security to every American, and we need to have the courage to change. The plan that the President will come forward with will do just that. You will have the right to choose your own doctor. You will have the right always to have health care no matter who you work with. If you change jobs, if you lose your job, you will not lose your health care. (Applause.)

If you have a preexisting condition, you will be insured. (Applause.) And if you are an older American, you will get some help on prescription drug costs and a beginning of a long-term health care system to give you the dignity and respect you deserve to have. (Applause.)

And if you are a physician or a nurse or a pharmacist or a dentist from one of the schools here on this campus, you will no longer be spending 20 to 40 percent of your time and income on filling out countless, meaningless forms that have to be sent to the checkers who check the checkers in the current system. (Applause.)

And if you are an employer, you will see these extraordinary premiums that you have been paying and struggling with stabilize and begin to decrease. And what we will find is a society where, once again, all of us have a right to be taken care of, have a right to have access to the finest health care in the world, but have to be responsible by taking care of ourselves, by seeking out primary and preventive health care so that we don't permit our health to deteriorate.

There will be something in this proposal for everyone to do. And there will be ways for all of us to change. But this is one

of these moments in history when we talk about national service and health care that give us the opportunity to feel fully alive and engaged, and to know that we will not only be helping ourselves but we will truly be building the kind of community that we will be proud and grateful to live in.

These are very exciting and difficult times. But each of you can make a contribution. And I expect that in your various ways you each will be looking for ways to do that. Be involved. Make your voice heard. Embrace the challenges and don't lose heart when the buzzer sounds, because there will always be ways for you to demonstrate your excellence if you don't give up.

And it is the same for our country. We really are at a fork in the road. Will we end the denial of the last years in which everything was fine and those on the top prospered, while those in the middle and the poor saw their opportunities diminish? Will we continue to live in a sense of unreality that we don't have to get our deficit down, we don't have to balance our budget, we don't have to provide jobs for people who, through no fault of their own, are being replaced by machines and automation and robots? Will we take on the challenges of our disintegrating family structure and our violent communities? I think we will. And I think the class of 1993 will be there to make sure that we do.

Thank you. And Godspeed. (Applause.)

END

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City Year 10th Anniversary Celebration

Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Boston, Massachusetts
June 4, 1999

Thank you so much. Thank you, Jamie Lee, for your service and for your introduction. I am deeply grateful for the honor that you have bestowed upon me today, but I'm even more grateful for the work you do every day and the example you set. I want to applaud all the members of Boston City Year who have given so much to this community. And besides that, you can perform, you can recite, you can work, and you can set all of our hearts just bursting with pride and gratitude.

As I was watching Lauren and Rosa and as I was seeing what they have done for us today, I thought of all the City Year members I've met all over this country, wearing your red jackets, usually with big smiles and with more energy than I can possibly keep up with. And I want you to know how important what you're doing here is for our country.

You are honoring three of us today, and it is a great honor for us to be with you. It is also an honor to be here with the Governor who has supported City Year, and I am very grateful also to Mayor Menino for his support of City Year and the leadership of many from this city and this Commonwealth. It is literally transforming the streets and neighborhoods where people live and work. I've often thought that if we could just ignite the spirit of City Year and national service and AmeriCorps, we would see such a revolution sweep our country. Well, indeed, that is what is happening. From the early ideas and vision that Michael and Allen brought to City Year along with their colleagues, to this day 10 years later. I believe we are seeing the deeply held effects of what you and others like you are doing.

It takes a long time to change a heart. It takes a long time to change a culture. But that is what is happening. And it's hard to imagine a better place to celebrate this tenth anniversary than here, in this historic hall. A place where Samuel Adams rallied the citizens of Boston for the cause of independence. Where George Washington toasted the nation on its first birthday. Where people have always gathered to replenish our commitment as Americans to liberty, justice, and citizenship.

Now City Year is keeping those values alive. You are carrying forward the vision that brought people here in decades and centuries past: to unite in a common purpose; to celebrate our diversity; to stand for the idealism that has always been the hallmark of America's best days.

I want to thank all of you who are part of this extraordinary and very worthwhile effort. Let me start by recognizing the two men who, along with all of you, have really made this day possible. Allen and Michael had an idea and, as social entrepreneurs, they were able to act upon that idea. They recruited many leaders like Executive Director Robert Lewis, who throughout

our country and at every City Year site has similarly inspired the spark of social entrepreneurship and city involvement.

There are many people in this hall today who have worked to make this day possible. I know that many are good friends and supporters of City Year. I want to congratulate my co-honorees, because I know that Dean Jones, as he's often referred to, is not just the Dean of Education but the Dean of Social Justice, and is not just an example of honor here, but someone who is looked to around our country for his leadership.

I know that the Swartz family has a fine tradition of city involvement in this community. And now by spreading out and enabling City Year to grow even stronger, their contributions are more important than ever. Leaders like one of your City Year trustees, a friend of mine, Rosabeth Moss Kanter, who takes the work that she does every day at the Harvard Business School and checks it into City Year to keep that spirit of change and action going. But there are many of you who are really responsible for what we celebrate today. As energetic as all of you who are currently corps members happen to be, we have to continue to reach out to our fellow citizens on behalf of the goals of City Year.

When my husband and I began to think about the millennium and the change of the century, we wanted it to be a time for America to take stock and perhaps spend a few reflective moments considering what it is what we want for our future. One of the themes we adopted was to "Honor the past; imagine the future." Honor the past by bringing forward those values and aspirations that are the best of America, but imagine an even better future that leaves no American out.

What you are doing is really fulfilling that need to honor the past because you keep faith within a loving community. You understand the need for "Big Citizens" in our time and you are literally helping to transform the country and to build, I'd imagine, a better future. Giving gifts to the future is what you do every day when you visit an elderly person, or help plan a community garden, or work at a community soup kitchen, or tutor a child who needs help, or become a friend or mentor to another child, or open a school vacation camp where kids would otherwise have no other place to go, or help change neighborhoods that used to be warzones to places that are once again filled with happy playing children. You have mentored and tutored in the last 10 years almost 400,000 children. You've worked on the front lines for the city disaster victims. You have helped immigrants prepare to become citizens. You've taught students how to resolve their problems peacefully. You've helped in infinite ways to engage middle school and high school students in service themselves. And because you have done all of that for 10 short years, you have helped to launch a national movement that will make service a common expectation and experience on every young person growing up in America.

Too often today, we have a very distorted view of our young people. Look at the stereotypes when you hear the stories of tragedy and disaster. I know that that is not in any way representative of the young people I meet every day, everywhere in America. I know that there are young people in this generation who are doing as much if not more than anyone has ever done before to help build a better, more peaceful, helpful America. I know that young people

today often have a more difficult time navigating to adulthood than the people I grew up with, that it seems much more difficult to sometimes find your footing. That is why what you're doing here -- what the Governor said is an anecdote to allowing the other problems to besiege our society -- it is not only life changing for those of you who participate, but it can be completely life changing for our entire nation by helping to shatter stereotypes.

You have helped to bring people together from every segment of American society. And you know, and I'm sure that Allen and Michael have told you, that my husband and I looked to City Year when he was elected President as a model for the kind of national service program that we hoped could fill the entire country with the same kind of energy and enthusiasm that is brought to you now that the City Year Corps members wear the AmeriCorps emblem on your signature red jackets, because you are part of the huge growing national network of service.

This fall, we will all celebrate the fifth anniversary of AmeriCorps, and I hope you are all once again with us at the White House. Because since the President swore in the first corps members in 1994, more than 100,000 young Americans have served in AmeriCorps -- including 40,000 serving this year alone, representing every part of America and serving in 4,000 communities in every state.

Now that it's up to us to make City Year and AmeriCorps a permanent part of the fabric of America's civil life, I'm pleased that the President has proposed to expand AmeriCorps to 100,000 members each year by 2002. And I hope the Congress supports that request. Because when, in the wake of Littleton, we ask ourselves, "What can we do?" Well, one answer is, "Let's provide service opportunities for every young man and woman in America so that they can live and work together side-by-side in common purpose to make this country all it should be."

But we know that government cannot -- and should not -- shoulder that burden and that mission alone. We all have to be part of making service live in our lives. And towards that end, it is my great pleasure and honor to announce the creation of the first-ever endowment fund for City Year. This fund will enable thousands more young people to serve in their communities.

Now most of us, when we think about endowments, we think about universities and hospitals and museums, and in helping them endure into the future. But now we also must ensure that our civic institutions are equally supported. We have to take seriously the call to service and create continuing commitments to that call. What deTocqueville called "the habits of the heart" are what we need to be sure our youth are nurtured in every generation to come.

You know, at the end of the last century, people came together here in Boston and around the country to create enduring civic institutions like Boys and Girls Scouts, the YMCA, and the Urban League. Well now it is up to us to endow youth service and civic engagement to help to make sure that as we go into this new century, we are equally committed to the kind of future we want to make.

And I want to recognize those who have contributed to this beginning endowment who have already helped to raise \$6 million. I want to thank the following for their legacy gifts: Bank

of Boston and CEO Chad Gifford; Bain Capital and Mark Nunnally; Timberland and CEO Jeff Swartz. There have been numerous individuals who have also given generously: Holly Davidson; Paul and Phyllis Fireman; Sidney and Judy Swartz. I would like personally to thank Sidney and Judy who have dedicated this gift, the civic innovation initiative, in the President's and my name. And I hope that it will serve to spur all of us on, to do even more to find new ways to engage young people in national service. And finally, I want to thank Compaq Computer Corporation and Hans Guetsh for their national sponsorship of City Year. Now we often talk about a "wired world." Well that has several meanings – these are wired people. You know the energy that comes from these young people is something that we must awe moving forward.

I know that we will be able to reach the goal of \$10 million because of the public/private partnership that this represents. And I know that as we do, we're going to be even more committed to making City Year available in every community around our country.

I started today with my husband in the Roosevelt Room in the White House speaking with young people; speaking about what we can do in the wake of Littleton and other violence that strikes our streets and takes too many of our children too soon. We talked about a lot of different things. We talked about trying to get some sensible gun control measures. We talked about the culture of violence and what we needed to do to convince those who control the media – from the Internet to the movies and everything else – to understand the impact that has on children. We talked about how to make our schools smaller and to give more opportunities for adults to have meaningful interaction with every individual child, and for peers to mediate and avert problems and avert violence. We talked about how important it was for parents and other adults to spend real time with children and young people -- to listen; to respond; to help be part of making the aspirations, the fears, the hopes of all of our young people understandable so that we can manage our own.

Now, in a way, I think that what you are doing here is one of the best answers that we can give to what we as a nation have to do to respond. We've made progress in so many areas in the last 6 ½ years. It is not just enough to end the violence that taught and molds our children by just saying "No" to them. We have to give every other person a chance to say yes and a chance to contribute, a chance to make a difference, a chance to serve. We, every one of us, has a stake in the healthy development of every boy and girl in America. And each of you understands that because you're turning that into helping lift up even young people. There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be fixed by what is right in America. That's something my husband has said over and over again.

Well, I want to say to all the corps members here that to your 40,000 colleagues around our country, you are what's right in America. And I thank you for what you do every day and for helping us to imagine a better future. I love that saying: "For every one of me, there are a thousand of me." Let's keep going until every one of those thousands can be reached, and every one of them can have the same experience that you had -- to serve, to give back, to grow, and to be part – to make America what it should be. "Imagine, recruit, transform, and inspire." Those are not only good words for City Year – those are good words for America in the 21st Century.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Ellen McGuire

FROM: AnnMaura Connolly
John Scardino
Co-Directors, AmeriCorps Anniversary Committee

DATE: August 5, 1999

RE: Requests for AmeriCorps Anniversary Web Site

Yahoo! has agreed to host, develop and maintain the AmeriCorps Anniversary web site, which will promote and support the activities of the AmeriCorps Anniversary Committee related to the fifth anniversary of AmeriCorps this fall. They have also agreed to promote the anniversary celebration on the Yahoo! home page and through the Yahoo! network of related online properties.

The purpose of the AmeriCorps Anniversary web site is to raise awareness of the contributions AmeriCorps members are making across the country, as well as the program as a whole. The web site will include links to other appropriate sites, including the Corporation for National Service and AmeriCorps Alums. There may also be Anniversary-related chat rooms, an on-line "scrapbook", a charity auction, an essay contest, on-line clubs and a supporters page with links to the foundations and companies that are supporting the anniversary.

On the front page of the web site, we would like to include a photograph and a message of support for AmeriCorps from the President and the First Lady. We are also interested in exploring whether there may be items that the President and the First Lady would be willing to donate for the charity auction. Proceeds from the auction will be used to defray costs associated with the Anniversary advertising campaign and celebration.

Please let me know the best way to move forward with these requests.

Thank you.

Cheryl -

Any problem with
this?

- Shirley
- 1) FINE FOR P.X;
 - 2) NO ON CHARITY
AUCTION ITEMS

quotes from speeches

Picture of
Hillary
w/ AmeriCorps
hat.

Event Number: 022081**AMERICORPS: CALL TO SERVICE****Start Date:** Wednesday, 10
February 1999**End Date:** Wednesday, 10
February 1999**Event Location:** COLLEGE
PARK, MARYLAND**Photographer:** SHARON
FARMER**Event Codes:** 100 105 115 440 450 459 489**Contact Description:**

PRESIDENT CLINTON ARRIVES RITCHIE COLISEUM, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND. HE GREETES ETHEL KENNEDY, GOV. PARRIS GLENDENING, LT. GOV. KATHLEEN KENNEDY TOWNSEND, STATE SENATE PRESIDENT MIKE MILLER, WHO PRESENTS THE PRESIDENT WITH A MARYLAND BASKETBALL SHIRT; PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE WAYNE CURRY, COLLEGE PARK MAYOR MICHAEL JACOBS, AND OTHERS. THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSES THE "AMERICORPS: CALL TO SERVICE" KICK-OFF CELEBRATION. DAIS PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE: GOV. GLENDENING, LT. GOV. TOWNSEND, WAYNE CURRY, MIKE MILLER, MAYOR JACOBS, DR. DANIEL MOTE, HARRIS WOFFORD, STEPHEN HELLINGER, JUSTIN WARD, LESLIE MAYO AND SUSAN CARRASCO.

Images

Contact Sheets: P70071 P70072 P70073 P70074 P70075 P70076
P70077 P70078

p70071

29A

Event Number: 023104**CITY YEAR****Start Date:** Monday, 24 May
1999**End Date:** Monday, 24 May
1999**Event Location:** WASHINGTON,
D.C.**Photographer:** Sharon Farmer**Event Codes:** 115 489 459 505 486 332 105**Contact Description:**

PRESIDENT CLINTON ARRIVES HOWARD UNIVERSITY. HE GREETES DR. H. PATRICK SWYGERT, PRESIDENT, HOWARD UNIVERSITY; AND SONYA SWYGERT. INCLUDES A MEET AND GREET RECEPTION. THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSES THE CITY YEAR EVENT IN CRAMTON AUDITORIUM. DAIS PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE: DR. SWYGERT, HARRIS WOFFORD, CEO, CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE; ALAN KHAZEI, CO-FOUNDER, CITY YEAR; AND STEPHEN SPALOSS. THE PRESIDENT IS PRESENTED WITH AN AMERICORPS JACKET. THE PRESIDENT GREETES STUDENTS IN THE CROWD. SHOWS HIM WITH LOWELL WEISS, MICHELE KREISS AND OTHERS.

Images

Contact Sheets: P72701 P72702 P72703 P72704 P72705 P72706
P72707

P72704 #13

Event Number: 018425

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY AT CARDOZO HIGH SCHOOL

Start Date: Monday, 19 January 1998

End Date: Monday, 19 January 1998

Event Location: WASHINGTON, D.C. **Photographer:** SHARON FARMER

Event Codes: 105 115 148 151 332 459 486 489 920

Contact Description:

PRESIDENT CLINTON ADDRESSES VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON THE RENOVATION OF CARDOZO HIGH SCHOOL. THE PRESIDENT PAINTS A WALL WITH A ROLLER PAINT BRUSH (JUMBO P59721-20). THE PRESIDENT GREETES STUDENTS (JUMBO P59714-17A, JUMBO P59716-32A). EVENT PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE: PRINCIPAL REGINALD BALLARD; TERRI GREEN, PTA PRESIDENT; WILMA HARVEY, PRESIDENT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SCHOOL BOARD; HARRIS WOFFORD, THE HEAD OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE; DC. CITY COUNCIL CHAIR CHARLENE DREW JARVIS AND OTHERS. THE PRESIDENT JOINS AMERICORPS MEMBERS FOR A GROUP PHOTO. HE ALSO POSES WITH THE SECRET SERVICE CAT TEAM FOR A GROUP PHOTO. THE PRESIDENT IS WEARING A "STANFORD" T-SHIRT. SHOWS HIS RETURN TO THE WHITE HOUSE WITH KRIS ENGSKOV. THE PRESIDENT GREETES A CHEF, A UNIFORMED DIVISION OFFICER AND OTHERS. HE WALKS THROUGH THE WEST GARDEN ROOM WITH ANN LEWIS.

Images

P59719 #12

Contact Sheets: P59713 P59714 P59715 P59716 P59717 P59718
P59719 P59720 P59721

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 20, 1999

Dear Friends:

It was a pleasure to join with you at the White House to celebrate the fifth anniversary of AmeriCorps. Each time I have had the opportunity to meet with young men and women who are tutoring children, helping to build houses, creating safe zones in schools and neighborhoods, responding to disasters, I am reminded of the powerful influence a single individual can have on his or her community. AmeriCorps members are changing the faces of communities across America, and I am grateful for their dedication and hard work.

Over the past five years, 150,000 AmeriCorps members have enabled communities in every corner of America to discover the value of national service. I am grateful for the efforts of the AmeriCorps Anniversary Committee to ensure that these stories are told. It is my hope that your endeavors will inspire others to renew the spirit of citizen service that is so vital to our democracy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Hillary Rodham Clinton



New York University
A private university in the public service

Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Psychology
Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology

6 Washington Place, Suite 468
New York, NY 10003-6634
Telephone: (212) 998-7979
FAX: (212) 995-4292

Susan M. Andersen
Professor of Psychology
(Social Psychology and Clinical Psychology)
Tel: (212) 998-7799
e-mail: anderson@psych.nyu.edu

October 26, 1999

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Melanne:

I'd hoped I might see you at Broadway for Hillary last night, and ran into Lisa Caputo who said you were on the same side in front of me but I still couldn't see you while milling around. It was great to be relatively near the President and the First Lady. The show was fabulous, as were the presentations, and his tribute to her and their long loving hug, well, wonderful.

About the AmeriCorps 5-year anniversary celebration, thank you again. At that event, I was delighted to hear the President praise the First Lady and your office for the initiative and hard work in pushing and developing a televised ad campaign to promote AmeriCorps! I have hoped such an effort might get underway some time, as you know, and was thrilled to hear it now is. Was also happy to hear the President use language you and I used in our June, 1996, meeting when talking about a public affairs initiative to promote National Service and AmeriCorps. The precipitating predicament then was much the same as it is now, as the President said: Although those of us who know about AmeriCorps are enormously proud of its accomplishments, most people still don't even know AmeriCorps exists or what it is! I'm so pleased the First Lady has adopted the task of making AmeriCorps better known and hopefully of inspiring more youth to participate. It's great these ads have been made.

I hope to see them sometime (with sound intact -- you must have been beside yourself about the sound glitch). And if the ads are PSAs, I hope they will in fact be aired at civilized hours, preferably at prime-time, and where both kids and Boomer parents will see them. Is there now a way to ensure this? Of course, if they are to be shown in paid-ad slots, you deserve a medal for somehow securing the considerable extra funding this will entail; either way I wish you Godspeed.

My heartiest congratulations to you and Shirley and the First Lady. My hope is that still more new ads will be made in the upcoming year. The message needs to be persistent, visible, exciting, empowering, and inspiring.

As ever,

SMA/s

✓ cc: Shirley Sagawa

GINZBERG VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

1136 Evelyn Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

(510) 528-9116 (phone) • (510) 528-2810 (fax)

October 25, 1999

Shirley Sagawa
Office of the First Lady
Old Executive Office Bldg.
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Shirley,

Thanks so much for inviting us to the lunch and event for the 5th anniversary of AmeriCorps. We really appreciated meeting you and having a few minutes to talk before the event. As always, one never knows where the leads will take us, but we are following up on all of them.

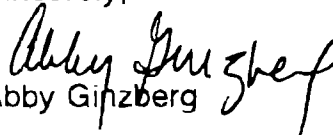
Both Rick and I felt privileged to be at the White House and grateful to meet more of the key players in the national service world. We both thought the South Lawn event was very moving. I only wish the national media had done more with it. The picture in the New York Times, with the AmeriCorps member out of focus, was infuriating.

One of the small world connections for me was seeing Tracy Gray at the alumni event. She and I went to high school together and had lost contact, and her name had not surfaced over the past year while we were working on the film. So it was great to see her there and reestablish contact.

We came back to the West Coast all fired up to complete the film. Hopefully, we will locate the additional funds we need sooner rather than later. In the meantime, I am working on putting a table together for the First Lady when she is out here for a tea on November 6th. There are a lot of former New Yorkers like myself that think she will make a great Senator.

Thanks again for all you have done to support us and our film. Best of luck with your maternity leave. We look forward to being in touch when you get back.

Sincerely,


Abby Ginzberg

SARGENT SHRIVER
1325 G STREET, N.W., SUITE 500
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Loon 98
—

October 21, 1999

The President
and Mrs. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. President and Hillary:

You certainly gave your all yesterday to the celebration of the Fifth Anniversary of AmeriCorps. It's almost impossible for me to figure out how both of you can devote so much time and talent to one event when you have so many demands constantly made upon you. I surely hope that radio, television and your own PR experts will find it possible to transmit much of what happened yesterday in the White House and under the large tent where you both performed so brilliantly.

How you can be so cool and calm and yet inspirational I will never truly understand, but I admire you both not only for your commitment to good causes like AmeriCorps, but also for your ability to reach out successfully to all sections of American life.

It was an honor, of course, for me to be present and even have a chance to say a few words myself. The audience was excellent, but most of all you were superb.

With kindest regards to you both and with warm best wishes.

Respectfully yours,

Sargent Shriver
Sargent Shriver

**CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
FAX COVER SHEET**

**CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE**

TO: SHIRLEY SAGAWA

FAX NO.: 456-6244

FROM: GARY KOWALECZK

RETURN FAX: 202-565-2780

RETURN PHONE: 202-606-5000x 340

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW, INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 8

MESSAGE:

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

**Draft: For review and discussion purposes only
November 23, 1998**

**New Education Tax Credits and Interest Deduction
vs.
Exclusion of Education Award from Taxable Income**

Impact on AmeriCorps Members

Summary

Following up on our recent discussions regarding the taxability of the AmeriCorps education award, this document provides the requested examples (attached) of the actual tax effects on a number of hypothetical members.

The data, pending review by Treasury, confirm much of our earlier discussions:

1. Most AmeriCorps members who utilize the credits to attend school will be worse off under a blanket exclusion of the education award from taxable income. How much worse off? The examples show that a member with an annual income of \$8,000 will pay \$159 more in federal taxes.
2. Not all members who attend school would be worse off under a blanket exclusion. In particular, members attending low cost institutions in the junior year and beyond will actually pay slightly more taxes under the credit if they use the award in a single year.
3. All members who use the educational award to pay off loans are clearly better off under an income exclusion proposal than under the current interest deduction. How much better off? This depends heavily on the member's plan to use the award. An individual with an income of \$8,000 who makes a lump sum payment of \$4,725 on a \$5,000 loan will pay \$700 in additional federal taxes under the deduction; one who pays off the loan over a five-year period will pay \$456 more, or an average of \$91 per year, over that five-year period.

In the aggregate, it would appear that there may be modest revenue gains at the federal level from a blanket exclusion, although this depends heavily on one's assumptions about the income levels of AmeriCorps members, their enrollment patterns immediately following service, and their sophistication as tax filers. The Corporation does not collect data concerning these items. Under certain assumptions, revenue gains under a blanket exclusion from taxable income could be \$1-2 million annually.

The aggregate impact also depends heavily on the assumption that AmeriCorps members, who are in the group that typically file using the E-Z form, amend their practices to take advantage of the credit. In fact, if more than 10-15% do not take advantage of the

credit and interest deduction, then there would be a negative effect on revenues if an income exclusion was adopted. Aside from the policy issue, what is more problematic is the significant negative impact on the individual. Under the current treatment of the education award as taxable income, an AmeriCorps member with an income of \$8,000 plus the education award who fails to claim the credit, will end up paying \$866 more in federal taxes!

Finally, the above does not yet take into account the effect of state and local taxes. We are currently researching that effect. In general, consideration of that impact will favor the blanket exclusion of the education award from taxable income.

The policy options at this stage are: (1) propose a blanket exclusion of the education award from taxable income; (2) propose only to address the loan repayment problem; or (3) propose no changes. The Corporation continues to favor options 1 or 2.

**A Comparison of Tax Effects on the AmeriCorps Education Award:
Taxed Under Current Law (Including Education Credits) vs. Treatment as
Nontaxable Income**

A. MEMBERS USING AWARD TO PAY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #1

- Income: \$8,000 + \$4,725 ed. award
- Enrollment: Freshman
- Qualified educational expenses: \$3,000
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 1 yr.

TAX RETURN	CURRENT LAW W/ CREDIT	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$12,725	\$8,000
Tax	866	159
Education Credit	1,500	none
Tax Due	0	\$159

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #2

- Income per year: \$8,000 + \$2,363 (1/2 ed. award)
- Enrollment: Freshman
- Qualified educational expenses: \$3,000
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 2 yrs.

TAX RETURN	CURRENT LAW W/ CREDIT	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$10,362	\$8,000
Tax	514	159
Education Credit	1,500	none
Tax Due	Both Years 0	Both Years \$159

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #3

- Income: \$8,000 + \$4,725 ed. award
- Enrollment: Junior
- Qualified educational expenses: \$3,000
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 1 yr.

TAX RETURN	CURRENT LAW W/ CREDIT	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$12,725	\$8,000
Tax	866	159
Education Credit	600	none
Tax Due	\$266	\$159

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #4

- Income: \$8,000 + \$2,362 (1/2 ed. award)
- Enrollment: Junior and senior
- Qualified educational expenses: \$3,000
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 2 yrs.

TAXPAYER	CURRENT YEAR CREDIT	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$10,362	\$8,000
Tax	514	159
Education Credit	600	none
Tax Due	Both Years 0	Both Years \$159

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #5

- Income: \$8,000 + \$4,725 ed. award, parental income of \$50,000
- Enrollment: Freshman
- Qualified educational expenses: \$3,000
- Dependent
- Use award in tax year (s): 1 yr.

CHILD:

TAXPAYER	CURRENT YEAR CREDIT	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$12,725	\$8,000
Tax	1,271	566
Education Credit	Ineligible	none
Tax Due	\$1,271	\$566

PARENTS:

TAXPAYER	CURRENT YEAR CREDIT	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$50,000	\$50,000
Tax	6,456	6,456
Education Credit	1,500	1,500
Tax Due	\$4,956	\$4,956

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #6

- Income: \$8,000 + \$4,725 ed. award
- Enrollment: Grad School
- Qualified educational expenses: \$3,000
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 1 yr.

TAX RETURN	CURRENT YEAR CREDIT	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$12,725	\$8,000
Tax	866	159
Education Credit	600	none
Tax Due	266	\$159

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #7

- Income: \$8,000 + \$2,362 (1/2 ed. award)
- Enrollment: Freshman
- Qualified educational expenses: \$8,000
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 2 yrs.

TAX RETURN	CURRENT YEAR CREDIT	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$10,362	\$8,000
Tax	514	159
Education Credit	1,500	none
Tax Due	Both Years 0	Both Years \$159

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #8

- Income: \$8,000 + \$2,362 (1/2 ed. award)
- Enrollment: Junior
- Qualified educational expenses: \$8,000
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 2 yrs.

TAX RETURN	CURRENT YEAR CREDIT	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$10,362	\$8,000
Tax	514	159
Education Credit	1,000	none
Tax Due	Both Years 0	Both Years \$159

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #9

- Income: \$8,000 + \$4725 ed. award
- Enrollment: Junior
- Qualified educational expenses: \$3,000
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 1 yr.

TAX RETURN	CURRENT TAX W/ DEDUCTION	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$12,725	\$8,000
Tax	866	159
Education Credit	LLC 600	none
Tax Due	\$266	\$159

B. MEMBERS USING AWARD TO REPAY EDUCATION LOANS**AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #10**

- Income: \$8,000 + \$4,725 ed. award (\$4694 principal, \$31 first month's interest) + \$388 in lump sum payment of interest that accrued over 12-month term.
- Loan Payment
- Qualified educational expenses: NA
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 1 yr.

TAX RETURN	CURRENT TAX W/ DEDUCTION	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$13,112	\$8,000
Deduction	418	none
Tax Due	\$859	\$159

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #11

- Income: \$8,000 + \$2,362 (1/2 ed. award) + \$387 \$388 in lump sum payment of interest that accrued over 12-month term.
- Loan Payment
- Qualified educational expenses: NA
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 2 yrs.

TAX RETURN	CURRENT TAX W/ DEDUCTION	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	\$10,749	\$8,000
Deduction	387	none
Tax Due	Both Years \$514	Both Years \$159

AmeriCorps Member Circumstance: #12

- Income: \$8,000 + various amounts depending on student loan
- Loan Payment
- Qualified educational expenses: NA
- Independent
- Use award in tax year (s): 5 yrs.

Use award so as to try to maximize the deduction for interest over a 60 month period (lump sum payment towards interest that accrued over 12 month term of service, separate monthly payments on loan over 48 months, followed by balance of award to pay down loan in year 5.

TAX RETURN	CURRENT LAW W/ DEDUCTION	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	Year 1 Allotment 8K + 388 accrued interest + 359 interest + 340 principal	Year 1 Allotment 8K + 388 accrued interest + 359 interest + 340 principal
Tax Due	\$208	\$159

TAX RETURN	CURRENT LAW W/ DEDUCTION	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	Year 2 Allotment 8K + 329 interest + 369 principal	Year 2 Allotment 8K + 329 interest + 369 principal
Tax Due	\$212	\$159

TAX RETURN	CURRENT LAW W/ DEDUCTION	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	Year 3 Allotment 8K + 296 interest + 398 principal	Year 3 Allotment 8K + 296 interest + 398 principal
Tax Due	\$216	\$159

TAX RETURN	CURRENT LAW W/ DEDUCTION	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	Year 4 Allotment 8K + 260 interest + 433 principal	Year 4 Allotment 8K + 260 interest + 433 principal
Tax Due	\$223	\$159

TAX RETURN	CURRENT LAW W/ DEDUCTION	NO TAX ON EDUCATION AWARD
Income	Year 5 (60 mos. interest paid off) 8K + 1553 principal	Year 5 (60 mos. interest paid off) 8K + 1553 principal
Tax Due	\$392	\$159