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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Presidential Materials Division

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                | DATE       | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 001a. Fax Cover Sheet    | From Donna Brazile to Chris Lehare (1 page)  | 08/04/1999 | PRM         |
| 001b. Memorandum         | From Mark Spengler to Donna Brazil (2 pages) | 07/28/1999 | PRM         |
| 001c. List               | [Photocopied Business cards] (1 page)        | n.d.       | PRM         |
| 002. Report              | [Campaign related] (8 pages)                 | 07/13/1999 | PRM         |

### COLLECTION:

Gore Vice Presidential Records  
Office of Chief of Staff and Administration  
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### FOLDER TITLE:

Papers: Fact Sheet What Has Been Reported AIDS Drugs For South Africa

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### RESTRICTION CODES

#### Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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## **FACT SHEET: WHAT HAS BEEN REPORTED**

### **AIDS Drugs for South Africa**

“I want to state categorically that Vice President Gore has not put pressure, has not given notice to put sanctions, on South African in this matter.”

**-- South African Ambassador to the United States, Sheila Sisulu, from a transcript of the African Diplomatic Corps press conference at the National Press Club -- July 2, 1999**

“The AIDS Action Council, the largest AIDS lobby group in the United States, believes the protests against the veep are misdirected. ‘This is like blaming Roosevelt for the Holocaust,’ says Council director Daniel Zingale.”

**-- Newsweek -- July 12, 1999**

“Vice President Gore would seem an unlikely target for AIDS activists. Under the Clinton administration, funding for AIDS research has soared, new AIDS medicines have dramatically reduced mortality rates, and the government is now pushing to get an AIDS vaccine by 2007.”

**-- Philadelphia Inquirer -- June 29**

“Trehwitt acknowledged that the pharmaceutical industry pushed the administration to label South Africa a “priority foreign country,” which would set a deadline for it to change its disputed policy before trade sanctions would take effect. But under pressure from Gore’s office, the trade representative refused to do so.”

**-- Baltimore Sun -- June 22, 1999**

“Susan Rice, the assistant secretary of State for Africa, asserted that Gore has ‘led the way’ in opposing trade sanctions and other drastic actions pushed by the pharmaceutical industry.”

“‘The Vice President took the position that the health crisis in South Africa really needed to be taken into account,’ Rice said.”

**-- Baltimore Sun -- June 22, 1999**

“The AIDS activists who have heckled Mr. Gore at his early appearances, seeking to drown him out with chants of “Gore's Greed Kills,” manipulate the facts in what is actually a much more complicated and interesting debate.”

**-- Washington Post editorial -- June 24**

“I applaud AIDS activists for bringing some long-overdue attention to Africa’s AIDS crisis. But in their pursuit of Al Gore, they’re barking at the wrong politician. At least he has tried to be part of the solution, while too many other only make the problem worse or pay no attention to it at all.”

**-- Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune -- July 4, 1999**

“Internal memos between Gore and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky in April show that Gore actually opposed efforts by American drug companies to pressure the Clinton Administration to escalate threats of trade sanctions against South Africa.”

**-- Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune -- July 4, 1999**

**“Vendetta Against Gore Based on Lies”**

‘Aids Activists distort facts when accusing US Vice President of bullying SA over drugs law’

**-- Headline, Pretoria News -- July 1, 1999**

“... We in the CBC are concerned with the recent characterizations of your conversations with President Mbeki and your position on trade sanctions against South Africa – characterizations that are entirely out of line with your record.”

**-- Rep. James Clyburn, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, referring to AIDS protestors in a June 24 letter to Vice President Gore.**

“[Congressional Black Caucus Chairman James Clyburn] said he thought the AIDS activists had unfairly targeted the vice president, and now feels “my suspicions as to what this was all about seem to have been well-placed.”

**-- Associated Press -- June 30**

“Exhibit A in the activists case against Gore is a report the state department provided Congress in February describing the administration’s efforts to get 15(c) repealed or amended. Designed to appease pro-industry legislators who wanted to cut aid to SA, the report emphasized the tough line administration was taking and underplayed Gore’s desire for a compromise that would enable Pretoria to achieve its social goals while remaining true to Trips.”

**-- Business Day (South Africa) -- June 30, 1999**

SA’s Washington embassy, careful not to involve itself in US election politics, has guardedly come to Gore’s defence, without fully – on the record anyway – denouncing the protesters ... “We have no knowledge of the vice-president putting pressure on SA in the context alleged,” economic counsellor Sheldon Moulton said, “A major aspect of the bi-national commission has been co-operation in the health sector, especially primary health care.”

**-- Business Day (South Africa) -- June 30, 1999**

Gore has long had good relations with gay rights groups, an important Democratic Party constituency, and the South Africa issue does not appear to be endangering that relationship. David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, one of the largest gay rights lobbying groups, described the patent matter as a "complicated issue" with "no easy solutions" and added, "To single out the vice president is not fair."

**-- Washington Post -- June 18, 1999**

\* [Federal News Service Transcript  
African Diplomatic Corps Press Conference  
National Press Club — July 2, 1999  
MR. HICKMAN: Ambassador Sisulu.

AMB. SISULU: Thank you for the opportunity to clarify on this issue of pharmaceuticals. The two things are completely de-linked. We want to de-link the issue of the 301 issue of the pharmaceuticals, as it relates to South Africa, and the issue of the AIDS campaign.

We have a court case in South Africa, and we agree that, as Ambassador Barshefsky has said, that our disagreement on the issue of intellectual property rights is correctly going through a process -- a legal process where it should be clarified, because the WTO regulations are very liberal and open and therefore open to interpretation.

It is unfortunate that those people who want to want to support people living with AIDS -- more people die of AIDS in Africa-- want to confuse the issue by mixing the two things. They do not come together.

\* [ And I want to state categorically, that Vice President Gore has not put pressure, has not given notice to put sanctions on South Africa on this matter. The 301 is a USTR mechanism that they use. And in our dealings on this matter with Vice President Gore, we have not been under the impression that he has put any pressure on us on this matter.

So first of all, I'd like to de-link the two things. They are not linked, and should not be linked. The pharmaceutical issue is one thing, and the campaign that some people are running on the AIDS issue is quite separate from the pharmaceutical issue.

MR. HICKMAN: Is there a question back here? Did you have a question?

Q Yes. My name is (name off mike.) I'm with the South African () Company. And my question is for Ambassador Sisulu. We were wondering what your response -- (off mike) -- Roll Call, announcing that he is not supporting this bill. What's your response?

AMB. SISULU: I would have expected that you would have received my press release this morning to that issue, and stating categorically that the government of South Africa, which former President Mandela was leading at the time, supports the -- (off mike) -- state. And that the people who are using his name are using it in the same sense that they have used the other organizations.

And incidentally, I understand it on good authority, that they have even used the name of one of the opponents of the bill without his permission, which I find very interesting. (Scattered laughter.)

AMB. JESSERAMSING: Mr. Chairman, if you would allow me to pay a tribute and to thank also Congressman Rangel, who is here, I would like to quote him, and that would be perhaps the best hope that we have in having this bill passed.

The cost of HIV-fighting drugs in South Africa could be greatly reduced if local companies were licensed to produce generic versions.

# Don't blame Gore for Africa's AIDS crisis

WASHINGTON—As if Al Gore didn't have enough to worry about in his budding presidential bid, protesters have been interrupting his speeches by chanting and waving crude banners. Their cause is good, but, like dogs barking up the wrong tree, they are attacking the wrong politician.

The activists are affiliated with the militant group ACT UP, which has a reputation for loud and disruptive impatience with anyone who fails to move quick as a bunny to let ACT UP have its way.

Vice President Al Gore also co-chairs the U.S.-South African Binational Commission. The AIDS activists are inflamed by a State Department report to Congress that says the commission led a "campaign" to stop South Africa from making low-cost generic AIDS drugs available to its 3.2 million AIDS-infected people.

South Africa's problem is economic. HIV drugs can cost \$500 a week, which is about what the average worker in sub-Saharan Africa makes in a year. As a result, sub-Saharan Africa has 70 percent of the new HIV cases worldwide, but less than 1 percent of the AIDS drugs produced in the world.

The cost of drugs in South Africa could be greatly reduced if South African companies were licensed to produce generic versions of the drugs for domestic use. In that spirit, former President Nelson Mandela's government passed the nation's 1997 Medicines Act, which responded to the crisis by calling for "compulsory licensing" and "parallel importing" of AIDS drugs.

The act would enable South African pharmaceutical companies to ignore overseas patents and make lower-cost generic versions of AIDS drugs.

That's why pharmaceutical companies sued the South African government, claiming the Medicines Act violates American and World Trade Organization laws that protect drug companies from having their patents violated abroad.

Clarence Page



ACT UP protesters claim Gore has sided with the drug companies. But there's another side to that story. Internal memos between Gore and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky in April show that Gore actually opposed efforts by American drug companies to pressure the Clinton administration to escalate threats of trade sanctions against South Africa for possible violations of intellectual property rights.

The vice president "understands the urgency of South Africa's AIDS plight and supports efforts to make health care more affordable," a Gore spokesman told me. Gore also has no objection to South Africa's call for the compulsory licensing and parallel importing of AIDS drugs provided that it is in alignment with the WTO's trade and intellectual property agreements.

Gore also met with Thabo Mbeki, who is now president of South Africa, in August to get clarifications of the law and to iron out differences with international trade policies.

Gore charged that the South African law is too vague in its attempt to answer public health needs and protect drug companies at the same time. That's a valid concern that's shared even by South African drug companies, who joined the foreign companies' suit against their government out of fear for their own patent protections. Drug manufacturers say they need patent protection to make more research

worthwhile. Critics accuse the drug firms of exploiting a tragedy. Still, many of them defend Gore. "Drug overpricing is the real culprit, not Gore," says Daniel Zingale, executive director of AIDS Action, a lobbying organization. "Gore's overall record has been good and we hope he will do more on the global AIDS crisis."

AIDS activists also have criticized Gore for supporting the African Growth and Opportunity Act, sponsored by Rep. Philip M. Crane (R-Ill.), which encourages more trade with sub-Saharan Africa, but makes no mention of the AIDS crisis.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-Ill.), has denounced the Crane bill as "NAFTA for Africa," which he does not say as a compliment to either the bill or to NAFTA. He also offered an alternative bill that would, among other major moves, prevent America from applying sanctions to any sub-Saharan African nations trying to make AIDS drugs widely available.

Unfortunately for Jackson there is almost no chance that today's conservative Republican Congress is going to vote for a trade bill as liberal as his, which, among other features, calls for broad job protections for African workers and debt forgiveness for African governments.

That's why the Crane bill is being backed by a bipartisan coalition that includes key African leaders, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, and, not insignificantly, Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., Clinton's special envoy to Africa and father of Rep. Jackson.

So I applaud AIDS activists for bringing some long-overdue attention to Africa's AIDS crisis. But in their pursuit of Al Gore, they're barking at the wrong politician. At least he has tried to be part of the solution, while too many others only make the problem worse or pay no attention to it at all.

Stephen Chapman is on vacation.

PRETORIA NEWS - JULY 01, 1999

RICH MKHONDO REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON

# Vendetta against Gore is based on lies

## Aids activists distort facts when accusing US Vice President of bullying SA over drugs law

In their last joint Press conference in Cape Town's Kirstenbosch Gardens five months ago, US Vice President Al Gore and President Thabo Mbeki wore Aids ribbons made of ornate African beadwork and spoke movingly about their countries' joint efforts to curb the dreaded disease. But if the protesters targeting his presidential campaign trail are to be believed, that show of solidarity was just an act.

The protesters, health and Aids activist groups, accuse him of favouring drug-makers' profits over the lives of millions of South Africans infected with HIV, which causes Aids.

They say the 2000 Democratic Party presidential candidate has threatened President Mbeki, and has said the US would impose sanctions if South Africa proceeds with its aim to manufacture low-cost generic versions of patented drugs used to treat Aids.

His political enemies have accused Mr Gore of selling out for drug-makers' cash contributions to his presidential campaign.

Mr Gore's aides say his critics and Aids activists are ill-informed. A closer look at the facts confirm that Aids activists have ignored or distorted the facts. The real culprits are protectionist phar-

maceutical companies and enemies of free trade led by Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen.

US pharmaceutical companies see the Medicines and Related Substances Control Amendments Act - which allows SA's Health Minister to import less-expensive Aids drugs or use locally produced generics - as an infringement of their patent protections.

The SA law angered the US pharmaceuticals industry, which fears that widespread licensing of its products will lead to a global "gray market" in low-priced drugs and undermine its profits and incentive to spend on costly research. It is this sentiment that has prompted dozens of American and European pharmaceuticals giants to challenge the law in an SA court, where they recently won a temporary injunction.

Here, the pharmaceutical companies wrote to US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky and Mr Gore, urging them to label SA a "priority foreign country" in their annual review of foreign trade barriers which would set a deadline for it to change its disputed policy before trade sanctions would take effect.

But Mr Gore urged Ms Barshefsky to reject the drug company recommendation. "The Vice President took the posi-

tion that the health crisis in South Africa really needed to be taken into account," said Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Susan Rice.

Bending the facts, the activists say Mr Gore authorised Ms Barshefsky to conduct "a sweeping new review of SA policies" - actually Ms Barshefsky's annual review that kept SA on the watch list, the lowest-priority category of foreign trade barriers where it had been the year before. Mr Gore had nothing to do with it.

In another distortion of facts to damage Mr Gore's bid for the presidency, it was not Mr Gore as the Aids activists claim, but Mr Frelinghuysen, who under pressure from his heavy pharmaceutical constituency in New Jersey, demanded that the US Government stop development aid to SA until Pretoria has repealed its Medicines Act.

When Mr Frelinghuysen could not get his wishes, he forced the State Department to insert a rider or clause in a report to the US Congress saying the US administration was "making use of the full panoply of leverage in our arsenal, including the Vice President, to gut the South African law." The report said during his meeting with then Deputy President Mbeki last August, Mr Gore made the issue a "central focus of a concerted

campaign" by top US officials to persuade South Africa to change the law.

To the Aids activists, this document was the "smoking gun" to prove Mr Gore's underhand tactics and insensitivity toward the scourge of Aids.

American and South African officials who attended the Mbeki-Gore meeting said Mr Gore made no threats to Mr Mbeki. Actually Mr Gore assured Mr Mbeki that he realises the disease "is a major threat to the welfare and even the future stability" of South Africa and pledged his support for South Africa's Partnership Against Aids Campaign, launched by Mr Mbeki on October 9 last year.

According to Leon Fuerth, Mr Gore's national security adviser, the US leader has proposed to President Mbeki a framework that would provide South Africans with lower-cost medicines, in a way consistent with international agreements.

Their discussion to resolve the impasse is being delayed by the lawsuit the drug companies have launched against South Africa.

In addition, the US will support the South African Government's HIV/Aids programme by providing \$10-million over five years, through the US Agency for International Development (USAid).

BUSINESS DAY - JUNE 30, 1999

# Detractors hound Gore over AIDS drugs

The 'unfounded' attacks have received widespread publicity, writes Simon Barber

WASHINGTON — At the start of his bid to succeed US President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore is being dogged by heckling AIDS activists who claim he is in cahoots with pharmaceutical industry fat cats to deny affordable AZT and other medicines to the millions of South Africans infected with HIV.

His advisers are baffled, noting that Gore defied the industry earlier this year when he blocked their call for SA to face trade sanctions unless it stopped threatening patents of AIDS drugs and other medicines.

As co-chairman of the US-SA Binational Commission, the activists say, Gore has led US efforts to "bully" Pretoria into scrapping or changing section 15(c) of the SA Medicines and Related Substances Act which is intended to allow government to buy drugs from the cheapest source.

Conceived by James Love, director of the Ralph Nader's Washington-based Consumer Project on Technology who has been a consultant to SA's health ministry, the attacks on Gore have received widespread publicity — and, to his staff's horror, credence. An article in the latest American Prospect, a respected journal founded by centrist "new" Democrats, specifically tied Gore's alleged support of the drug companies against SA to campaign contributions he is receiving from the industry.

Because 15(c) appears to give the health minister carte blanche to obrogate pharmaceutical patents in violation of the World Trade Organisation agreement on trade-related intellectual property (Trips), US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky last year placed SA on a "watch list" of countries where patent rights are deemed at risk, and withheld certain new trade preferences.

This year, Pharmaceutical Re-

search and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the principal US lobby for the industry, urged Barshefsky to declare SA a "priority foreign country", setting the clock ticking on trade retaliation if Pretoria did not satisfy US concerns.

At Gore's insistence, his spokesman said, Barshefsky rejected the industry appeal and opted to keep SA on the list pending a review in September. One factor was that the controversial law remains subject to a court challenge and has not been implemented.

The activists, and the SA government, say that the purpose of 15(c) is to reduce health care costs in SA by permitting government to purchase medicines outside the patent-holders' own marketing channels (parallel imports) and to require that patent-holders license third parties to use their formulae for the local market (compulsory licensing).

PhRMA's Tom Bombelles acknowledges, albeit ruefully, that neither resort is inconsistent with the Trips agreement, under which parallel imports are unchallengeable, "a harm without a remedy", and which specifically allows compulsory licensing in the public interest so long as patent holders are fairly compensated. The trouble with 15(c), the industry contends, is that it is vaguely worded and sets no Trips-consistent limit on the ways the minister might treat patent rights.

Gore, in lengthy conversations with then-deputy president Thabo Mbeki, has "supported SA's efforts to provide lower cost AIDS and other drugs to its people, including through the use of parallel imports and compulsory licensing consistent with Trips", a spokesman for the vice-president said.

Exhibit A in the activist's case against Gore is a report the state

department provided Congress in February describing the administration's efforts to get 15(c) repealed or amended. Designed to appease pro-industry legislators who wanted to cut aid to SA, the report emphasised the tough line administration was taking and underplayed Gore's desire for a compromise that would enable Pretoria to achieve its social goals while remaining true to Trips.

Nader and Love, who recruited the AIDS activists to hound Gore, do not believe Trips in its present form can ever be fully consistent with affordable medicine for developing countries on the grounds it is biased towards patent holders. That is why they have been working with SA health officials to build a case in the World Health Organisation for changing the agreement.

Ideally they would like to see parallel imports positively endorsed and the conditions set on compulsory licensing eased. By the same token the industry, though not monolithic, is strongly opposed to any movement in that direction.

SA's Washington embassy, careful not to involve itself in US election politics, has guardedly come to Gore's defence, without fully — on the record anyway — denouncing the protesters and their placards which read "Gore's greed kills".

"We have no knowledge of the vice-president putting pressure on SA in the context alleged," economic counsellor Sheldon Moulton said. "A major aspect of the binational commission has been co-operation in the health sector, especially primary health care."

"The US government shares the SA government's priority of improving the quality of health care and making it accessible to all citizens.... For us the issue is affordable health care general-

ly, not just for AIDS. We are keen not to allow what we regard as a separate issue to be used out of context."

US concerns may yet be rendered moot by the SA courts. However, if section 15(c) is upheld, Moulton said, "we will work closely with the

US administration to find a solution". Government policy was to comply with Trips.

"We are not about to set any dangerous precedent. That would not be in SA's interest, since SA itself holds patents."

# AIDS protesters track Gore on campaign trail

Activists want change in Africa trade policy

BALTIMORE SUN  
JUNE 22, 1999

By JONATHAN WEISMAN  
SUN NATIONAL STAFF

WASHINGTON — It is an unlikely first issue of the 2000 presidential campaign: the AIDS epidemic in South Africa, and whether Vice President Al Gore has helped block the production and importation of cheap, generic AIDS drugs to southern Africa.

But three jarring protests at Gore appearances last week have pushed the issue to the front of the vice president's consciousness, infuriating Gore's White House staff and raising the stakes

when AIDS activists meet today with the White House AIDS czar.

The activists have pledged to disrupt Gore's campaign events until they win a shift in administration trade policy, which they say favors the powerful pharmaceutical industry over the life-and-death needs of Africa's poor. Protesters say Gore has led a White House drive to force South Africa to scuttle an effort that would bypass U.S. patent laws to provide life-saving medicine to many Africans dying of AIDS.

"Gore has been carrying out the dirty work of the pharmaceutical companies," said Eric Sawyer, co-founder of the AIDS group ACT UP New York. "He's [See Gore, 6A]

putting a higher priority on trade than public health."

But Gore aides — and even some AIDS activists — say the protesters have distorted the vice president's efforts to forge a compromise between protecting U.S. patent law and addressing an AIDS crisis in southern Africa. Susan Rice, the assistant secretary of state for Africa, asserted that Gore has "led the way" in opposing trade sanctions and other drastic actions pushed by the pharmaceutical industry.

"The root of what is wrong in AIDS care is drug pricing, but the vice president is not the culprit — the drug companies are," said Daniel Zingale, executive director of the AIDS Action Council, the nation's largest lobby on AIDS issues. "Of all the people running for president, Gore seems like an unlikely one to target."

To many AIDS activists, the issue is simple: South Africa wants to lower the price of AIDS treatments, and Gore is trying to block those efforts. Three times last week, protesters disrupted his rallies with taunts and signs proclaiming, "Gore's Greed Kills." A rally is planned Monday in Philadelphia outside a hotel where Gore will be raising campaign cash.

"We're not going to go away until this administration changes its policy," Sawyer said.

## Drug companies cry foul

In 1997, South Africa passed a law granting its health minister authority to let local pharmaceutical companies produce generic versions of AIDS drugs, despite U.S. patents on those drugs. With 3.2 million South Africans infected with HIV, and the price of AIDS drugs out of reach for most of them, the government called its actions necessary and legal.

But U.S. and European drug companies cried foul. They rushed to Congress and the U.S. trade representative for help, and to court in South Africa to try to block the law. Industry executives won an injunction.

With the cost of drug development soaring to up to \$500 million for one new medication, patent rights have become critical to companies' survival, industry officials say.

"Patent protection is vitally important to this industry," said Jeff Trehwitt, a spokesman for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, or Pharma, the industry's lobbying arm.

At the industry's behest, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, a New Jersey Republican, slipped language into last year's budget law requiring the State Department to report to Congress on its efforts to suspend or repeal the South African law. In the meantime, no U.S. foreign aid could be released to South Africa's government.

The State Department came back with a report in February that is now haunting Gore. The report said the nation was "making use of the full panoply of leverage in our arsenal," including the vice president, to gut the South African law. Gore had made the issue "a central focus" of his meeting with then-South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in August, the report stated. Gore met with Mbeki in February and again brought up the issue. To the AIDS activists, this document was the smoking gun.

"Since Gore is the orchestrator of this whole policy, we plan to continue," said Asia Russell, a member of ACT UP Philadelphia. "We're going to escalate until these policies change."

## Wrong about role, aides say

But Gore aides say the activists are wrong about his role. Leon S. Fuerth, the vice president's national security adviser, who attended both meetings with the future South African president, said Gore offered to discuss an import agreement to let South Africa shop for the best price for AIDS drugs worldwide and then import them in bulk. The offer "would likely be controversial with the drug companies," Fuerth said, but Gore favored "a mutually acceptable solution."

And Gore aides said AIDS activists are bending other facts. In an open letter to Gore, for instance, activists asserted that he had authorized the U.S. trade representative to conduct "a sweeping new review of South Africa policies" on April 30.

In fact, the April 30 report was the U.S. trade representative's annual report on intellectual property rights that looked at more than 70 countries. Gore had nothing to do with it. South Africa was one of 37 countries placed on the trade representative's "watch list," the lowest-priority category.

Trehwitt acknowledged that the pharmaceutical industry pushed the administration to label South Africa a "priority foreign country," which would set a deadline for it to change its disputed policy before trade sanctions would take effect. But under pressure from Gore's office, the trade representative refused to do so.

"The vice president took the position that the health crisis in South Africa really needed to be taken into account," Rice said.

But AIDS activists remain unconvinced.

Gore's deputies "want it both ways," said James Love, director of the Consumer Project on Technology and a leading Gore critic on the issue. "They want to sit around with Pharma, negotiate for campaign contributions, then blame everything on Rodney [Frelinghuysen]."

The activists concede that their actions may be shortsighted. Gore has been generally friendly to AIDS groups, pushing for more spending on AIDS research and patient care. Sawyer noted that ACT UP's 1994 campaign against incumbent New York Gov. Mario M. Cuomo might have turned off gay and minority voters, helping elect George E. Pataki, a Republican who, Sawyer says, has been far less attentive.

"But this is a crisis of huge proportions," Sawyer said. "This is a genocide of 30 million to 40 million people of color. It cannot be seen as anything else."

June 29, 1999

# S. Africa dispute hits Gore in Phila.

AIDS activists say he is helping to keep new drugs from South Africans. The vice president denies it.

By Huntly Collins  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Vice President Gore would seem an unlikely target for AIDS activists.

Under the Clinton administration, funding for AIDS research has soared, new AIDS medicines have dramatically reduced mortality rates, and the government is now pushing to get an AIDS vaccine by 2007.

But around the country — and in Philadelphia last night — Gore has encountered noisy protesters who had promised to confront him at every campaign stop.

Led by the AIDS activist group ACTUP, the protesters accuse him of colluding with the drug industry to block South Africans from access to the new AIDS drugs. The issue turns on a major trade dispute between South Africa and the United States.

"As an American, I am ashamed that anyone in my country, much less the vice president, would do anything to interfere with access to lifesaving drugs," said Chris Bartlett, an organizer of last night's demonstration.

About 300 protesters rallied outside the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel last night as Gore spoke inside at a \$1,000-a-plate fund-raising dinner for his presidential campaign. The demonstrators carried a life-size puppet of Gore dangling on the strings of drug-company executives.

The central issue underlying the protests is not Albert Gore, however, but the inequities inherent in Western medicine. In this case, the new AIDS medications cost between \$10,000 and \$12,000 a year, putting them out of the reach of the vast majority of Third World people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS.

In South Africa, for instance, where more than 3 million people have HIV, the average annual income is about \$3,200. As a result, not many South Africans with HIV are on the new medicines, which can greatly prolong life.

Pharmaceutical companies, which acknowledge that they sell relatively few AIDS medicines in

Africa, say the drugs cost so much because they carry patents aimed at allowing the companies to recover the hundreds of millions of dollars spent to develop them.

"It is essential to get a return on investment," said Jeff Trewitt, a spokesman for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, a trade group.

In 1997, South Africa came up with a way to deal with the problem: It amended its national health laws to enable its citizens to purchase the new medications at much lower prices than the drug companies charge. Through a practice known as "compulsory licensing," the amendment would allow

South Africa to make its own generic versions of the new AIDS drugs.

Alternatively, in a practice known as "parallel importing," South Africa could purchase the new drugs from a third party at much lower prices.

These practices are not at issue — the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights agreement, adopted by the World Trade Organization, allows compulsory licensing so long as patent holders are fairly compensated. What constitutes fair compensation is the sticking points.

Drug companies contend that South Africa wanted to set compensation far too low; they saw the legislation as

a direct threat to the cherished international principle of patent rights and filed suit in South African courts. The litigation has prevented the amendment from taking effect.

"It would set a very, very bad international precedent," said Trewitt, who called patent protection "the lifeblood of the industry."

AIDS activists contend that Gore, in his role as co-chairman of the Bi-National Trade Commission on South Africa established by the Clinton administration to deal with an array of trade issues, has supported the drug industry's opposition to the amendment.

The activists also assert that Gore has used his role on the commission to threaten South Africa with trade sanctions if the amendment is not repealed or modified — a point made in a confidential State Department report leaked to AIDS activists.

But in a letter released yesterday, Gore disputed the activists' characterization of his position.

"I support South Africa's effort to provide AIDS drugs at reduced prices through compulsory licensing and parallel importing, so long as they are carried out in a way that is consistent with international agreement," Gore wrote.

Not all AIDS activists agree with the demonstrators last night.

"They missed the mark," said Daniel Zingale, director of the AIDS Action Council, the nation's largest AIDS lobbying group. "The true culprit is not Al Gore but the drug companies."

**The new AIDS  
drugs cost up  
to \$12,000  
a year. South  
Africa's  
average income  
is \$3,200.**

Associated Press June 30, 1999

Gore-Africa AIDS, Bjt, 770

Gore caught between AIDS activists and drug industry

WASHINGTON (AP) Vice President Al Gore is caught in a clash between AIDS activists seeking cheap generic drugs for South African victims of the disease and U.S. laws intended to protect drug companies from having their patents violated abroad.

Gore, wary of appearing to be siding with the drug industry in an emotion-laden dispute, wrote to the Congressional Black Caucus' chairman that he does not oppose South Africa's attempts to produce or obtain generic AIDS medicines as long as those efforts do not violate laws protecting patents.

Gore acted after demonstrators from the group ACT-UP began showing up at his campaign rallies, saying Gore was siding with pharmaceutical companies at the expense of Africans with AIDS. It created a policy dilemma for Gore, and aides worried it would haunt his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"I want you to know from the start that I support South Africa's efforts to enhance health care for its people," Gore wrote in last Friday's letter to Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C. "I support South Africa's effort to provide AIDS drugs at reduced prices through compulsory licensing and parallel importing, so long as they are carried out in a way that is consistent with international agreements."

"What does that mean?" asked Dr. Peter Lurie, an activist with Public Citizen who has performed AIDS research in South Africa. He said if Gore is saying that South Africa's law was inconsistent with international law, "then this letter means absolutely nothing."

Gore's letter was prompted by a letter last Thursday from Clyburn, who chairs the black caucus. He asked Gore to state clearly the position he took with South African President Thabo Mbeki regarding South Africa's Medicines Act.

Donna Christian-Green, the Virgin Islands' elected delegate to Congress, had heard AIDS activists' claims that Gore was helping pharmaceutical companies thwart South Africa's efforts to bypass U.S. patent laws so it could get AIDS medicines at a lower cost.

"All of us got a bit concerned. We thought we generally were on the same page with him on this issue," Clyburn said. He said he thought the AIDS activists had unfairly targeted the vice president, and now feels "my suspicions as to what this was all about seem to have been well-placed."

Chris Lahane, a Gore spokesman, said, "This is one of those situations where emotions are obscuring what the real information is. The vice president supports efforts to provide South Africa with AIDS drugs at reduced prices. He's working to create a

framework to make that happen."

Christian-Green, a family physician for 21 years, said the caucus was satisfied with Gore's explanation. "We would hate to have the ACT-UP groups turn voters away from a person who would be a good candidate," she said.

Nevertheless, ACT-UP promised to keep protesting and said it would challenge other presidential candidates on the issue too.

"This statement is smoke and mirrors. We want action," said Asia Russell of ACT-UP Philadelphia, which amassed 400 protesters outside a Gore event Monday. "We plan to continue our work against Gore until he does more than simply issue a statement about this yearlong effort ... to do the dirty work of the pharmaceutical industry."

South Africa's 1997 law granted the government unspecified power to obtain cheaper AIDS drugs for the country where more than 3 million people are HIV positive and 2.5 million children are expected to be orphaned because of the virus over the next 10 years.

About 40 pharmaceutical companies in South Africa, Europe and the United States are challenging the law in South African courts, fearing it may be used in a way that violates patent rights.

Gore said in his letter that the Clinton administration expressed concerns about the law's vagueness and asked the South African government to assure it would "not undermine legal protections" for patent holders.

According to Gore aides, the misunderstanding began in February after the State Department submitted a report on U.S. efforts to get the Medicines Act amended. A provision inserted into last year's budget required the report as a condition for releasing U.S. aid to South Africa.

In April, pharmaceutical industry representatives asked Gore to push for a tougher trade designation for South Africa because of the Medicines Act dispute. Gore declined, and urged the U.S. trade representative to reject the industry's recommendation.

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JAMES E. CLYBURN

6TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
CHAIRCAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM  
TASK FORCE  
CO-CHAIRCongress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4006

June 24, 1999

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APPROPRIATIONSSUBCOMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
TRANSPORTATIONwww.house.gov/clyburn/  
E-mail: jclyburn@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Albert Gore  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), I am writing with regards to your ongoing efforts in South Africa.

As you know for the past two Congresses, the CBC has made addressing the crisis of AIDS in minority communities a top priority. We applaud your efforts to strengthen U.S.-South Africa ties through the Gore-Mbeki Commission, and we are well aware of your efforts to focus attention on the fight against AIDS in South Africa. You have brought senior-level U.S. health officials with you on your trips to Cape Town, and when the Commission met in Washington, South African health officials had access to America's top minds in the fight against AIDS.

Your willingness to pioneer this new instrument of foreign relations -- and make such a substantial personal investment in the U.S.-South African relationship -- has brought far more help to the South African people's fight against AIDS than they would have had otherwise.

That is why we in the CBC are concerned with the recent characterizations of your conversations with President Mbeki and your position on trade sanctions against South Africa -- characterizations that are entirely out of line with your record.

We know you are committed to a viable U.S.-South Africa relationship and that you are committed to helping those who are suffering of those with AIDS. We urge you to continue a flexible approach toward resolving our trade differences with South Africa over the Medicines Act.

I would be grateful if you could give a brief update on your efforts on this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. James E. Clyburn  
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus



THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

June 25, 1999

The Honorable James E. Clyburn  
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus inquiring into the issue of affordable AIDS medicines in South Africa. I share with the Caucus an abiding interest and affection for the people of South Africa and of Africa as a whole, and I am happy to bring you abreast of developments in our efforts to resolve our differences with South Africa over trade in pharmaceuticals.

I want you to know from the start that I support South Africa's efforts to enhance health care for its people -- including efforts to engage in compulsory licensing and parallel importing of pharmaceuticals -- so long as they are done in a way consistent with international agreements.

As you know all too well, AIDS has reached epidemic proportions in South Africa. More than three million South Africans are HIV positive, and the virus is spreading at an astonishing, horrifying speed -- infecting more than a thousand people a day. AIDS is tearing apart communities and wiping out families, turning wives into widows and children into orphans. At the current pace, more than 2.5 million South African children will lose both parents to AIDS in the next ten years. And the financial means to battle the crisis is itself a casualty; South Africa's economic growth is slowed by 1 percent each year due to the impact of HIV/AIDS.

That is why I put the issue of AIDS at the top of my agenda during my trip to Cape Town last February for a session of the U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission. Then-Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and I had a lengthy discussion on the crisis. He has launched an important campaign of awareness and prevention, but he knows he needs to provide effective treatment to those for whom prevention is no longer an option.

In 1997, in an effort to enhance health care for all South Africans, the National Assembly passed amendments to the Medicines Act that granted the government broad, but unspecified authority to provide more affordable drugs to its people. Out of concern that this new law might be used in ways that violate patent rights, more than 40 pharmaceutical firms -- about one third from South Africa, one third from Europe, and one third from the U.S. -- challenged the law in

The Honorable James E. Clyburn  
June 25, 1999  
Page Two

South African courts, claiming the law violates the South African Constitution. After more than a year, that case is still pending.

Clearly, there is a global consensus on the need to protect intellectual property. That is why the 134 nations of the WTO concluded the WTO/TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement to establish international standards for intellectual property protection.

The Administration has shared its own concerns with South Africa over the more vague provisions of the Medicines Act. We have asked the Government of South Africa to clarify the actions it would take under the Act, and assure us the actions would comply with international agreements and not undermine legal protections for patent holders.

Under her independent authority mandated by Congress, the United States Trade Representative named South Africa to the "watch list" during her Special 301 Annual Review in 1998. Naming a country to the "watch list" -- the lowest designation in the review -- triggers no sanctions or threat of sanctions, but calls for bilateral efforts to resolve the issue. It is also important to note that naming South Africa to the watch list was not done solely in response to pharmaceuticals, but extended to other issues, including protections for computer software, CDs, and other intellectual property.

As you may know, the pharmaceutical industry recommended this year that South Africa be elevated two levels to the designation "Priority Foreign Country." Such a designation would have required the Government of South Africa to resolve this issue to the USTR's satisfaction within a set time, or face trade sanctions. I believe that such an action would have undercut our cooperative efforts to resolve this issue with South Africa, and I urged the USTR to reject the industry recommendation. In the end, USTR maintained South Africa on the "watch list," where it had been the previous year.

X In my meeting with then-Deputy President Mbeki here in Washington in August of last year, he and I agreed to seek a solution that addressed the need to bring better health care to South Africans and, at the same time, account for the legitimate interests of manufacturers. I proposed to then-Deputy President Mbeki that -- to speed the availability of lower-cost pharmaceuticals in South Africa -- we work toward a resolution within a framework that included parallel importing and compulsory licensing, consistent with international agreements.

Our efforts to resolve the issue have been slowed by the ongoing litigation, but my view is the same now as it was then: I support South Africa's effort to provide AIDS drugs at reduced prices through compulsory licensing and parallel importing, so long as they are carried out in a way that is consistent with international agreements.

The Honorable James E. Clyburn

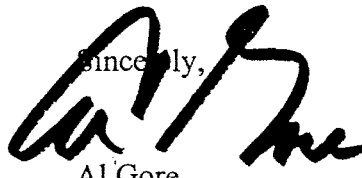
June 25, 1999

Page Three

During our meeting in Cape Town in February of this year, then-Deputy President Mbeki and I again reviewed the issue and agreed to continue our efforts to resolve our differences. I am confident that we will reach a mutually satisfactory agreement.

Meanwhile, I thank you for your support of the U.S.-South Africa friendship, and for the commitment of the Congressional Black Caucus to confront the growing crisis of AIDS in Africa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Gore", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Al Gore

648-3941

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11

# Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

## Presidential Materials Division

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                               | DATE       | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 001a. Fax Cover<br>Sheet | From Donna Brazile to Chris Lehare (1 page) | 08/04/1999 | PRM         |

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**COLLECTION:**

Gore Vice Presidential Records  
Office of Chief of Staff and Administration  
Public Liaison Files  
OA/Box Number: 00832

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**FOLDER TITLE:**

Papers: Fact Sheet What Has Been Reported AIDS Drugs For South Africa

2006-0003-F  
JLO1

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**RESTRICTION CODES****Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]  
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]  
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]  
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]  
P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]  
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]  
(b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]  
(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]  
(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]  
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(b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]  
(b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]  
(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

# Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

## Presidential Materials Division

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                | DATE       | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 001b.<br>Memorandum      | From Mark Spengler to Donna Brazil (2 pages) | 07/28/1999 | PRM         |

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Public Liaison Files  
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### **FOLDER TITLE:**

Papers: Fact Sheet What Has Been Reported AIDS Drugs For South Africa

2006-0003-F

JL01

### **RESTRICTION CODES**

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]  
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]  
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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## Presidential Materials Division

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| 001c. List               | [Photocopied Business cards] (1 page) | n.d. | PRM         |

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### **FOLDER TITLE:**

Papers: Fact Sheet What Has Been Reported AIDS Drugs For South Africa

2006-0003-F  
JLO1

### **RESTRICTION CODES**

#### **Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM TO: All EOP Staff

FROM: Charles F.C. Ruff   
Counsel to the President

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTS

Congressman Bob Barr has filed a lawsuit alleging that the White House maintains files on him in violation of the Privacy Act. To allow us to respond to these allegations, please conduct a thorough and complete search of all your records -- whether in hard copy, computer form, or any other form -- for any of the following material:

**Any and all files identified as pertaining to Congressman Barr by his name or any other identifying number, symbol or other information that is particular to him, and which contains any item, collection or grouping of information about Congressman Barr. Individual documents that are not maintained in a file identifiable by Representative Barr's name or other information particular to him need not be provided. To the extent that the file is responsive, please provide a copy of the file jacket as well as all the contents of the file.**

Every employee is responsible for searching his or her own files and records to ensure a comprehensive search. Each office head or Assistant to the President must certify that his or her staff has done a complete and thorough search.

In addition, if you believe that files from your office that have been sent to the Office of Records Management may contain responsive information, please advise us so that we may ensure that all responsive documents have been located.

**All materials must be provided to Shelli Peterson (OEOB Room 482) by noon on Thursday, August 12, 1999.** If you have any questions, Shelli can be reached at 456-7804.

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The New York Times

August 14, 1999, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 6; Column 5; National Desk

LENGTH: 1153 words

HEADLINE: Revised Military Guidelines Fail to Quell Gay Concerns

BYLINE: By PHILIP SHENON

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Aug. 13

**BODY:**

The Pentagon today announced its first major revision of guidelines for its "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuals in the military, including a new requirement that commanders seek approval from senior civilian officials at the Pentagon before opening certain types of investigations of troops who acknowledge that they are gay.

The revised guidelines failed to satisfy gay rights advocates, who say that the new directives do not go far enough and that pervasive hostility toward homosexuals in uniform continues to result in violent harassment. They pointed to the murder last month of an Army private in Kentucky as evidence of the entrenched hostility.

Under the guidelines, the Pentagon ordered that commanders institute anti-harassment training at all levels of the military, beginning with basic training, and that low-level military lawyers consult with senior lawyers before opening an investigation of anyone suspected of being gay.

The new directives also require commanders to seek approval from the military secretary that they serve -- the Army Secretary, in the case of an Army commander -- before opening an investigation in the dozen or so cases a year when "a service member made a statement regarding his or her homosexuality for the purpose of seeking separation" from the service.

The requirement appears to have been designed to answer criticism from gay rights advocates that the military has conducted intrusive investigations into the sex lives of troops who admit their homosexuality and are preparing to leave the service.

The investigations, the advocates charge, are an effort to find damaging information that can be used to force troops to pay back military scholarships

and other benefits.

"I've made it clear there is no room for harassment or threats in the military," Defense Secretary William S. Cohen said in issuing the directives, which the Pentagon described as an effort to spell out the policy more clearly to avoid abuses.

"I've instructed the military services to make sure that the policy is clearly understood and fairly enforced," Mr. Cohen said. "The department is determined to implement the homosexual conduct policy with fairness to all concerned."

While the five-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy was designed by the Clinton Administration to make it easier for homosexuals to serve in uniform, gay rights advocates contend that the instances of anti-gay harassment in the military have increased.

And the numbers of gay and lesbian soldiers facing discharge from the service has grown dramatically under the policy. Last year, 1,145 people were discharged from the armed services for homosexuality, compared with 997 in 1997 and 617 in 1994, the year the policy took effect.

The military continues to bar openly gay people from serving in uniform. Under the policy, homosexuals can serve in the armed forces as long as they do not discuss their sexual orientation, and commanders are barred from asking troops whether they are gay.

The new guidelines also remind commanders that they cannot begin investigations of the sexual orientation of troops without credible information, that they must promptly investigate when troops complain that they are being taunted because of the perception or accusation that they are gay, and that those troops cannot be the subject of retaliation for filing complaints.

They also for the first time give a specific order to internal investigators in each of the branches of the military -- the inspectors general -- to review whether commanders and military lawyers are properly carrying out the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The new directives were the subject of heated last-minute negotiations today between the Pentagon and the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a prominent Washington group that represents soldiers who are prosecuted over their perceived sexual orientation.

The Defense Network has considerable clout in the White House, especially on the staff of Vice President Gore, who is heavily courting homosexuals in his campaign for the Presidency.

"The Pentagon's new guidelines seek to insure fairness, leave no room for harassment and insure the law is better understood," said Alejandro Cabrera, a Gore spokesman. "The Vice President has said that he believes the current policy should be implemented with more compassion. He supports every effort to that end."

Michelle M. Benecke, a retired Army captain who is co-director of the Defense Network, said that while the group was pleased with the wording of Mr. Cohen's statement and with some elements of the directives, the new guidelines would leave many members of the military vulnerable to harassment and violence. "This is not a new day," Ms. Benecke said.

She said the guidelines, which have been delayed for months, did not provide the detailed direction to commanders that might prevent the kinds of abuse that appear to have led to the death last month of a soldier at Fort Campbell, Ky.

The soldier, Pfc. Barry Winchell, was allegedly beaten with a baseball bat by a member of his unit after his homosexuality became known on the base, one of the nation's largest.

"Pfc. Winchell is only the latest example of the severe anti-gay harassment that service members face every day," Ms. Benecke said.

"We've pressed Secretary Cohen for two years now to tell commanders the investigative limits and how to properly implement these policies, and there's nothing in the package today that does that," she said. "What's here is inadequate to address the magnitude of the problem."

Kenneth Bacon, the Pentagon's senior spokesman, said as a result of today's negotiations with the Defense Network, changes had been made in the wording of one of the guidelines issued today.

The draft of the guidelines had called for low-level military lawyers to consult with "the general court-martial convening authority," a military term referring to senior lawyers in the military criminal justice system, before opening an investigation of a service member's sexual orientation.

Those words were replaced with "senior legal officers at higher headquarters," which Mr. Bacon said was an effort to remove any implication that the investigations were being handled as criminal proceedings. "We did not mean to leave that impression so we changed it," he said.

David M. Smith of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights group, said that while the Pentagon's new guidelines were "welcome, in and of themselves they are not going to solve the problem."

"What it's going to take is a commitment from uniformed and non-uniformed leadership through the armed serves stating unambiguously and clearly that anti-gay harassment will not be tolerated under any circumstances," Mr. Smith said. "It's shameful that it has taken a tragedy such as Private Winchell's death to wake up the leadership to this problem."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 14, 1999

provided him a vote, he would have been confirmed. The Government of Luxembourg "welcomed" his nomination.

The only reason he has been denied an up or down vote in the Senate is because a few senators objected to his nomination because he is gay. I think that this is wrong and discriminatory; and that under all these circumstances, as a matter of basic fairness, Mr. Hormel should be given this opportunity to serve his country.

**Q: What's your position on needle exchange?**

**A:** I firmly believe that we must do everything possible to address the twin epidemics of HIV and substance abuse. The Secretary of HHS made clear that appropriate needle exchange programs can decrease HIV transmission without increasing drug use. However, in order to prevent the politicization of needle exchange, I think funding for such programs are best handled at the local level.

**Q: Would you seek to expand HIV/AIDS research under your Administration?**

**A:** I would certainly seek to build on the success of this Administration on this issue. Under the Clinton-Gore administration, AIDS research funding at the National Institutes of Health by 67% in the past five years -- that includes a 33% increase in funding for vaccine related research in last year's budget.

**Q: What's your position on Gays in the military?**

**A:** I'd like to see the policy implemented differently. I don't think there's been enough compassion in that policy.

**If pushed:**

I would want to work with the military on the issue, but I would want to bring about changes in the way it's being implemented.

**Q: What is your position on Gay adoption?**

**A:** There are too many children in the world that do not have a safe and secure place to call home. We must not let discrimination, bias or intolerance stand in the way of a child having the opportunity to be raised in a loving, caring and stable home.

Further, I believe that all decisions regarding adoption, foster care, and placement of children should be decided by adoption professionals which would determine in each individual case what's in the child's best interest -- these issues should not be determined by legislative policy.

**Q: What is your position on Gay marriage?**

From: Alejandro G. Cabrera on 08/03/99 09:50:07 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Christopher S. Lehane/OVP@OVP

cc:

Subject: partnership Q&A

**Q: What is your position on Gay marriage?**

**A:** I think <sup>domestic</sup> gay partnerships can be and should be recognized, and be legally protected. But I don't think that they should be <sup>maintained</sup> viewed as the same as a marriage between a man and a woman.

- Overall the <sup>maintained</sup> style is to save just legislative recognition to domestic partnership.
- The U.P.'s support of gay & lesbians can be traced back <sup>principles</sup> to the values instilled in him by his father -- namely that every human being deserves to be treated w/ respect, dignity & equality. These principles guide the U.P.
- Give couples the rights to have certain defined rights such as hospital visitation <sup>health insurance</sup> and <sup>and would right to inherit</sup> review other rights if one could be made
- me & P. Ill., NY, DC, Chicago; HRC  
UP DC, LA (Fall)

Validators:

Jeff Trummel 714-5123

Jeff Sanchez 312 255 5700

Eli. Berch

628-4160

Historically unique  
role merge has  
pld it needs  
to be maintained

**A:** I think that gay partnerships can be and should be recognized but I don't think that they should be viewed as the same as a marriage between a man and a woman.

**Q:** **What is your position on the Knight initiative?**

**A:** I don't think this has any practical effect, it doesn't solve any problems. I wonder if it's purposely meant to be divisive?

As to the broader issue at hand here, I think that gay partnerships can be and should be recognized but I don't think that they should be viewed as the same as a marriage between a man and a woman.

**Q:** **What is your position on ENDA?**

**A:** I strongly support protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Yet, as with many new issues, we need to continue to educate the public on the specifics. In that, ENDA does not create any special rights. It simply affords to all Americans basic employment protection from discrimination based on irrational prejudice -- and I'd sign this as President.

There is strong support for equal rights for Lesbians and Gays in the workplace. Many corporations from Microsoft to Harley Davidson to Quaker Oats have endorsed ENDA. In addition, several states have passed laws covering discrimination in employment, but we need to continue our press for a Federal law.

## **GAY AND LESBIAN Q&A**

**Q: What is your message to the gay and lesbian community?**

**A:** I want to work together with the gay and lesbian community to ensure that America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is a place where our economy is expanding, opportunities are growing, and our families are strong.

I want every exhausted person, fighting to balance work and family without enough hours in the day, to know we're on their side, working hard to help them strengthen their families. And I want every family under stress to know we're working hard to help them, whether they're battling time pressure or irrational prejudice or discrimination of any kind.

Together we can create an America where neighbors are looking out for each other in communities, where we can join as one America against hate crimes. Together we can practice, and teach a way of life in which these terrible acts never happen.

We are a great nation. And working together, we can build an America that makes our country's families not just better off, but better, in every way.

**Q: What is the most important issue facing the Gay community?**

**A:** The issues important to the Gay and Lesbian community are the issues important to America: the strength of our economy, the safety of our communities, and the security of our families.

I want every exhausted person, fighting to balance work and family without enough hours in the day, to know we're on their side, working hard to help them strengthen their families. And I want every family under stress to know we're working hard to help them, whether they're battling time pressure or irrational prejudice or discrimination of any kind.

Together we can create an America where neighbors are looking out for each other in communities, where we can join as one America against hate crimes. Together we can practice, and teach a way of life in which these terrible acts never happen.

We are a great nation. And working together, we can build an America that makes our country's families not just better off, but better, in every way.

**Q: How will your Gay and Lesbian focused policies or priorities be different from President Clinton's**

**A:** First of all, I think this Administration has made real progress -- both in our policies and our appointments. But there's still much more that needs to be done to bring America together. And that's why I want to build on that progress and move forward.

**Q: Why were there protesters during your campaign announcement?**

**A:** Well, currently there's a terrible crisis in South Africa. AIDS has hit that country with the force of a hurricane and these individuals are upset. I'm upset.

But I think there's more information out there this group needs to know. Some of the large pharmaceutical companies pushed for this Administration to impose sanctions. Now, I was against that and I fought it.

Now I think we're near a solution that will much more aggressively help move inexpensive drugs into the hands of the people who need them without endangering our domestic patent rights.

**Q: How long will this take? When can we expect this to be resolved?**

**A:** We've already begun our discussions with the new government to resolve this issue.

**Q: Why are you in the middle of all this?**

**A:** Because I care and I think this group knows that I care. I've been working very closely with President Mbeki on this issue for some time. In many ways they've come to the right person, just not in the right way.

**Q: What is your position on Hate Crimes legislation?**

**A:** If we allow even a small number of Americans to harbor and act upon malice and intolerance, we all feel the bitter sting of injustice. Let us send a clear message to those would commit crimes of hate: it is wrong, and we will punish you with the full force of our laws. Crimes of hate against all people -- including gays and lesbians -- should carry a punishment that is swift and severe.

**Q: Why did the President take the extraordinary step of recess appointing James Hormel?**

**A:** I think Mr. Hormel is uniquely qualified to serve in this position.

He has the strong support of Secretary Albright and former republican Secretary of State Schultz. He was supported by a majority of the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and his nomination was favorably voted out of that committee. An overwhelming majority of Senators supported his nomination, and had the Senate

## **APPROVED LANGUAGE ON CREATIONISM & THE KANSAS SCHOOL BOARD DECISION:**

The Vice President favors the teaching of evolution in public schools; however, localities should be free to decide to teach creationism, as well, as part of religion courses.

First, the Vice President believes evolution should be taught in public schools. Second, as a matter of national law and long-standing policy, state and local governments decide their own curricula. In his view, creationism should not be taught as science in public schools. Therefore, he believes the Kansas decision is a mistake and he opposes it.

## **FOLLOW UP ON ACTIONS THE VP WOULD TAKE AS PRESIDENT:**

He would review the controversy and any pending litigation and act accordingly -- in keeping with his strong view that evolution should be taught in public schools, and respecting the long-standing American principle that state and local governments define their own curricula.

He believes evolution should be taught in public schools and ~~he believes~~<sup>that</sup> the Kansas decision was a mistake. Creationism should not be taught as science in public schools. However, localities should be free to teach creationism as part of religion courses.

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Daily News of Los Angeles

June 20, 1999, Sunday, BULLDOG EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. N3

LENGTH: 844 words

HEADLINE: GORE, BRADLEY COURT CALIFORNIA VOTERS IN VISITS

BYLINE: Daily News Wire Services

BODY:

Vice President Al Gore made his first trip to Los Angeles on Friday since officially declaring his candidacy for president.

Gore, accompanied by his wife, Tipper, stood before hundreds of students, administrators and invited guests in Fairfax High School's packed gymnasium to run a forum called ''Safe Schools, Safe Kids, Safe Streets.''

After an introduction by California first lady Sharon Davis, Gore told the crowd Los Angeles is almost like a second home to him, because he has been here so often. That apparently was a subtle reminder of the things the Clinton administration has done for the city over the years.

''It's so wonderful to be back in the City of Angels. It's great to be at Fairfax High School,'' he said days after announcing his candidacy in his hometown of Carthage, Tenn.

The vice president got the crowd going by saying ''if anybody wants to know what the United States of America is all about, they just ought to come to Los Angeles and you'll feel the American spirit.''

Gore told the students he wanted to ''use the occasion to focus on how we can concentrate the attention of our whole country on ways to make our schools safer and make our children more secure.

''Early in this decade, we began under President Clinton's strong leadership to put people back to work and strengthen our economy. And today, the gifts we have are great: We have a very strong and growing economy, and for many families it's a time of firsts - first mortgage on a first home, first child to go to college, first regular paycheck.

''And I want to keep that prosperity going. I know how to do it. I want to do it the right way, not by letting people fend for themselves or hoping for crumbs of compassion. I want to give people the training and education and skills to do it for themselves in their own right, the right way, with supportive programs.''

In that brief campaign speech, he seemed to be drawing a distinction between his way of doing things and that of the most serious obstacle to him moving into 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in January 2001: Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

Gore's remark about ''crumbs of compassion'' doubtlessly was directed at the son of the former president, who calls himself a ''compassionate

*Hussing  
event*

The Daily News of Los Angeles, June 20, 1999

conservative'' and - based on recent polls - could defeat Gore easily were the election held today.

But while Gore might have been coy about going after Bush, the elected officials who spoke before him were not.

About 30 were at the event, most of them Democrats, including Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa of Los Angeles, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin, LAUSD Superintendent Ruben Zacarias, and county Supervisors Zev Yaroslavsky and Gloria Molina.

''The other candidate, George Bush, signed into law a bill that would protect gun manufacturers for their negligent operation and manufacturing of guns, and disallow cities from being able to sue them,'' said Villaraigosa, who is weighing a run for mayor of Los Angeles.

''Well, I can tell you something: That might fly in Texas, but it's not gonna fly in California.''

Yaroslavsky said ''we need a professional. We need some experience. We don't want to take a chance on an amateur in the White House as we enter the new millennium.''

Gore's rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley, was holding his own forum in nearby Glendale during a 10-day campaign swing through California.

Bradley and his wife, Ernestine, toured a cancer center and held a round-table discussion with breast cancer survivors and doctors.

Bradley planned to deliver his own speech on gun control late Friday night. On Thursday, he called for requiring background checks at gun shows and banning ''junk'' handguns as ways to combat firearms-related violence.

Gore's forum was more scripted than Bradley's have been in recent weeks, but the famously reserved vice president appeared loose, shedding his suit coat and mixing with the audience before and after the speech.

Gore took questions from high school students.

One Fairfax High girl described how she was tormented for being a lesbian and had considered suicide a few years ago. As she urged Gore not to forget about gays and lesbians during his campaign, she broke into tears.

The vice president walked over to her and hugged her, evoking the biggest applause of the afternoon.

Before the event, about 20 protesters from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the Peace Center Coalition demonstrated outside the high school.

PETA's Jane Garrison said her group is against a bill Gore supports that would lead to the killing of animals for laboratory testing. The Peace Center Coalition was against the bombing of Yugoslavia.

Two vertical lines are drawn on the right side of the page. To the right of these lines is a large, stylized handwritten symbol that resembles a star or a cross with a diagonal slash through it.

The Daily News of Los Angeles, June 20, 1999

Gore was scheduled to head for an event in Seattle on Saturday afternoon.

He will avoid the fund-raising arena during this visit, but is expected to return to the Southland on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for a series of events aimed at raising money for his campaign, an aide said.

GRAPHIC: 2 photos;

Photo: (1) Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley of New Jersey tours a YWCA breast cancer screening facility in Glendale.;

Shaun Dyer/Special to the Daily News (2) Rose Marie Lopez greets Vice President Al Gore on his arrival at LAX for a 2000 campaign stop.;

Victoria Arocho/Associated Press

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 23, 1999

**JUNE 24**

**AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE**

June 24, 1999 07:26 GMT

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 559 words

**HEADLINE: US candidate Gore seeks gay, lesbian vote in California**

**BYLINE: Karen Lowe**

**BODY:**

LOS ANGELES, June 24 (AFP) - Staking out broader political ground for his White House bid, US Vice President Al Gore will visit one of the country's most active gay and lesbian community centers here Thursday.

During his two-day fundraising swing through California Gore will visit the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center in Hollywood, which has a 24-bed unit for ill gay youths and an HIV counseling center.

The visit to the center comes a week after Gore, 51, announced his presidential bid, claiming family values as a cornerstone of his candidacy -- a concept that gays in the United States would like to share.

Gore has supported gay rights, but it remains to be seen whether he will stand together with the US gay community on such core issues as adopting children and the legalization of gay marriages.

While there is no stated political agenda, Gore's visit will show the country that gays and lesbians are an essential part of US society, said Sky Johnson, the center's policy director.

"It shows inclusion, acceptance and promotion of diversity in society," he said.

That message comes as the nation's gay community commemorates the 30-year anniversary of "Stonewall Inn," a New York City police raid on a club for homosexuals that quickly escalated into five nights of confrontations.

That dark episode contrasts with President Bill Clinton's appointment in

early June of openly gay businessman James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg.

Clinton infuriated congressional conservatives by making the appointment while the Senate was in recess, bypassing senators that refused to confirm Hormel because he is gay.

A recent national survey conducted by the Washington Post and ABC television gave Texas Governor George W. Bush a commanding 53-to-36 percent lead over Gore if elections were held immediately.

But a Los Angeles Times poll put the two candidates in a dead heat in California, an voter-rich state that could play a pivotal role in the 2000 presidential election.

Jeremy Bauman, president of the Stonewall Democratic Club that supports gay rights, said his organization will aggressively work to bring out support for Gore in the primary next year.

California's primary is scheduled for March 7, on the heels of the weathervane New Hampshire and Iowa primaries. But with 54 electoral votes -- one-fifth of the US electoral votes needed to win the presidency -- California will clearly upstage the two earlier primaries.

It could take very little to tip the scales here.

"The gay vote in California is not huge," said political analyst Lichtman, "but every vote counts. It is a primary (Gore) absolutely, positively must win."

Between 5.5 and 6.75 percent of last year's California voters identified themselves as gay, according to polls. Yet that number is likely to be higher because of the reluctance of some voters to identify themselves as homosexual, Bauman said.

Bauman believes that Gore's courage to stand up for gays -- a position certain to be attacked by the religious right in the Republican party -- will draw respect and support even from those who may not agree with him on all issues.

"This is a man who believes in inclusion, not exclusion," Bauman said.

"That is essential since we've been through political, hyper-polarizing time in this country," he added.

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Gore said he is encouraging the US Trade Representative, the South African government and the pharmaceutical industry to explore solutions to settle disputes over getting patented drugs to AIDS and HIV victims.

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**AP ONLINE**

Copyright 1999 Associated Press

June 25, 1999; Friday 03:31 Eastern Time

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 462 words

**HEADLINE: Lawmakers Fight Gay Discrimination**

**BYLINE: MELISSA B. ROBINSON**

**DATELINE: WASHINGTON**

**BODY:**

Hoping to finally pass a federal law to ban job discrimination against homosexuals, New England lawmakers are stressing that the measure wouldn't extend any special rights to gays.

"It is the next important step for civil rights in America," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., who is sponsoring the Employment Non-Discrimination Act with Sens. James Jeffords, R-Vt., and Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn.

Similar bills have failed in three Congresses. In 1996, an ENDA bill was defeated by one vote in the Senate.

Vice President Al Gore, campaigning in Los Angeles at a gay and lesbian center, voiced support for the legislation.

"It does not confer any special rights, but it does outlaw the kind of discrimination that has become all too common in our society," he said.

This year, lawmakers have rewritten the bill to explicitly state that preferential treatment of homosexuals, such as hiring to meet quotas or affirmative action standards designed to make up for past discrimination, is

prohibited.

That is intended to disarm opponents who have successfully argued in years past that gays would be granted special rights under the legislation.

ENDA would extend basic civil rights protections in the area of employment to cover sexual orientation. Such protections are already afforded to people on

"It is special protection," insisted Robert H. Knight of the conservative Family Research Council, which plans to renew its lobbying campaign against the bill.

Eleven states California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, New Hampshire and Nevada already prohibit job discrimination against gays.

In the other 39 states, it is legal to fire someone because they are homosexual.

Knight said such firings should be allowed because sexual orientation, unlike race, gender or disability, involves behavior. Employers should be able to fire workers because of behavior they find disagreeable, he said.

ENDA would prohibit employers of 15 or more, employment agencies and labor unions from using an individual's sexual orientation as the basis for employment decisions, such as hiring, firing, promotion or compensation.

The bill would exempt the military and religious organizations. It would not require benefits for workers' same-sex partners.

Jeffords plans to pass the bill out of his Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and then try to force consideration by the full Senate.

House supporters hope Senate action would force debate by the House, which is also led by conservative Republicans. If the bill is debated, it will pass because most Americans are in favor of it, they said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 1999

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**BYLINE: Karen Lowe**

DATELINE: = (PICTURES)

BODY:

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LOS ANGELES, June 25 (AFP) - Tattooed on both arms and wearing sandals, Javier Garcia, 20, asked US Vice President Al Gore what he plans to do for homosexuals if elected president.

Gore, 51, the front-runner for the nomination of the Democratic Party in the 2000 elections, met Garcia while visiting a gay community center here Thursday.

The visit comes one week after Gore announced his presidential bid, claiming family values as a cornerstone of his candidacy -- a concept that gays in the United States would like to share.

"I believe you will be president," Garcia said as he sat in an overstuffed chair, elbows on his knees and face-to-face with Gore.

Sitting on a nearby sofa, Gore acknowledged his comment by knocking on a wooden coffee table for luck.

But Garcia was not letting Gore off easily.

"What can you say to make us believe you will help the gay community?" Garcia asked firmly.

It was a direct question -- but probably the most polite challenge Gore has received from the gay community after hardcore AIDS activists shouted and used whistles to get his attention at several earlier campaign stops.

Gore pledged to Garcia his support for legislation that would bar workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation, and said he would support laws against hate crimes "based on a fear of differences."

In turn Garcia gave the vice president an in-house published book called, "When the Bough Breaks," a gritty collection of poems and pictures about life on the streets for straight, transsexual and gay youths.

In the past Gore has supported gay rights, but it is unclear whether he will stand with the US gay community on such core issues as adopting children and the legalization of gay marriages.

On Thursday Gore also met privately with directors of the LA Gay and Lesbian Center, the largest center of its type in the United States. It has a 24-bed unit for homeless youths and an HIV/AIDS counseling service.

While there was no stated political agenda, Gore's visit will show the country that gays and lesbians are an essential part of US society, said Sky Johnson, the center's policy director.

"It shows inclusion, acceptance and promotion of diversity in society," he said.

It could also be a shrewd move on Gore's part to sew up the gay vote early, before the primaries.

National polls repeatedly show Texas Governor George W. Bush far ahead of Gore if the November 2000 vote were held immediately.

A recent Los Angeles Times poll however places the two candidates in a dead heat in California, a voter-rich state likely to play a pivotal role in the 2000 presidential election.

Jeremy Bauman, president of the Stonewall Democratic Club that supports gay rights, said his organization will aggressively work to bring out support for Gore in the primary next year.

Polls show that between 5.5 and 6.75 percent of California voters identified themselves as gay.

"The gay vote in California is not huge," said political analyst Allen Lichtmann, "but every vote counts."

California analysts however believe the number is higher, because many voters are reluctant to identify themselves as homosexual.

California's primary is scheduled for March 7, on the heels of the weathervane New Hampshire and Iowa primaries. With 54 electoral votes -- one-fifth of the US electoral votes needed to win the presidency -- California will clearly upstage the two earlier primaries.

Absent from the Los Angeles center visit were the AIDS activists who last week disrupted Gore's speeches in New Hampshire and Tennessee.

The protestors were from a group called 'AIDS Drugs for Africa.' Gore released a statement Thursday pledging to work with newly-elected South African President Thabo Mbeki to develop ways to prevent and combat AIDS.

Gore and threatens to neutralize the Democratic Party's traditional advantage on such key issues as promoting education and protecting the middle class.

American-Statesman Capitol Bureau Chief Ken Herman contributed to this report.

GRAPHIC: Javier Garcia, 20, of Ventura, Calif., questions Vice President Al Gore about his views on homosexuality during a tour of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center on Thursday. Gore has said he favors certain legal protections for domestic partners but opposes 'a change in the institution of marriage.'

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 1999



## **THE HOTLINE**

Copyright 1999 The National Journal Group, Inc.

June 25, 1999

SECTION: WHITE HOUSE 2000

LENGTH: 974 words

## **HEADLINE: GORE: WANTS A PIECE OF THE LIBERAL VOTE TOO**

### **BODY:**

Al Gore visited the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center 6/25 and "spoke individually to several AIDS patients." Gore "told the small group he would support legislation to end discrimination because of sexual orientation in the workplace and said he wants more laws against hate crimes." Gore "said hate crimes stem from 'hatred based on a fear of difference,' adding that they should be 'recognized and punished when (they) occur.'" Gore also "expressed sympathy for gay youths who have to study 'in an atmosphere of prejudice and discrimination'" (Elias, Washington Times, 6/25).



**THE WASHINGTON TIMES**

Copyright 1999 News World Communications, Inc.

June 25, 1999, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: PART A; NATION; Pg. A8

LENGTH: 582 words

**HEADLINE: Vice president visits Los Angeles gays and lesbians;  
Gore says he'll fight for hate-crime law**

**BYLINE: Thomas D. Elias; SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES**

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

**BODY:**

LOS ANGELES - One day after stressing his "own values of faith and family" to a 600-member San Francisco audience, Vice President Al Gore paid a quiet visit yesterday to America's largest homosexual community center.

Mr. Gore's hourlong visit to the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center was the only stop on a two-day swing through California in which he did not meet exclusively with \$1,000-per-person campaign donors.

In his walk-through of the center, which includes a hospice and health clinic serving 8,000 patients a month, Mr. Gore made no public comments but spoke individually to several AIDS patients.

The visit came a week after Mr. Gore, 51, announced his presidential bid, proclaiming family values as a cornerstone of his candidacy.

In his first official campaign speech in Carthage, Tenn., Mr. Gore referred to families 27 times, saying, "With your help, I will take my own values of faith and family to the presidency." At several campaign stops last week, AIDS activists disrupted his speeches, blowing air horns and shouting: "Gore is killing Africans. AIDS drugs now."

His visit to the clinic came just days after the Clinton administration quietly awarded the Stonewall Inn a coveted place on the National Register of Historic Places in an emotional ceremony at a party in New York. The Greenwich Village homosexual bar was the site of riots that started the gay rights movement in June 1969.

The stop also came just weeks after Mr. Clinton's appointment of openly

homosexual businessman James C. Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg.

Mr. Clinton infuriated congressional conservatives by making the appointment while the Senate was in recess, bypassing senators who refused to confirm Mr. Hormel because he is homosexual.

Reporters did not see yesterday's visit with AIDS patients because of the center's insistence on patient privacy. They were allowed to cover only a meeting with four youths who are using the center to help them make the transition from living on the streets of Hollywood to jobs and homes.

When one man, Javier Garcia, 20, told Mr. Gore "I believe you will be president," the vice president knocked on wood for good luck.

He told the small group he would support legislation to end discrimination because of sexual orientation in the workplace and said he wants more laws against hate crimes.

Mr. Gore said hate crimes stem from "hatred based on a fear of difference," adding that they should be "recognized and punished when they occur." And he expressed sympathy for gay youths who have to study "in an atmosphere of prejudice and discrimination."

When Mr. Garcia asked Mr. Gore why he came to the center and what he thinks about homosexuality, the vice president replied "I am here to learn."

Earlier yesterday, Mr. Gore spoke at a mostly black gathering in the ritzy Bel Air district on affirmative action.

"The time has not come to abandon the special efforts" that have brought America closer to equality in fields like education and employment, he said.

That session helped bring Mr. Gore's take to almost \$1.3 million during his California tour, part of a four-state, four-day trip that also included Colorado and ends with stops in Iowa and Michigan today. He took in \$125,000 at a quick stop in the San Diego suburb of La Jolla, Calif., on Tuesday evening. He then gathered another \$600,000 at the San Francisco dinner and more than \$500,000 in two Los Angeles functions.

GRAPHIC: Photo, Javier Garcia, 20, of Ventura, Calif., questions Vice President Al Gore on his views on homosexuality., By AP

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**AP ONLINE**

Copyright 1999 Associated Press

June 24, 1999; Thursday 03:27 Eastern Time

SECTION: National political

LENGTH: 506 words

**HEADLINE: Gore On California Fund-Raising Trip**

**BYLINE: SCOTT LINDLAW**

DATELINE: SAN FRANCISCO

**BODY:**

Al Gore concedes that Americans probably aren't ready for the 2000 presidential campaign, but he is.

At one campaign appearance after another, the vice president returned to the same themes: Stay the economic course that has brought prosperity. Improve public schools. Stiffen gun control laws.

In four back-to-back TV interviews and two speeches Wednesday, the vice president stayed relentlessly "on message," hammering those themes from San Diego to San Francisco and often using them to extract himself from uncomfortable questioning.

When a reporter asked him whether he is paying a political price for President Clinton's scandals, Gore responded he knew "how to keep the prosperity going."

Questioned about attempts to shed his wooden image, Gore said he wasn't about to change his style and then added, "I know how to keep the prosperity going."

In both speeches and all four interviews, Gore made it clear he will seize on gun control as a defining campaign issue. He also took aim at Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the Republican front-runner.

"We have to make sure that the agenda for America's future is set by the American people, not by organizations like the National Rifle Association," he told 600 donors in San Francisco who responded with a standing ovation.

"Instead of shielding gun manufacturers against being held responsible for their activities, we should be shielding children and families against violence," Gore said.

His comments were references to a bill Bush signed into law last week that makes it harder for municipalities and counties to sue firearms makers.

Gore steered the conversation to gun control at every pass.

Asked whether a Bush- Gore general election race would be a dull contest between two men of privilege, he said: "If that's how it turns out, you'll see a major debate about whether or not we should shield children and families from gun violence, or shield gun manufacturers with special protection."

The vice president acknowledged to another interviewer that "a lot of people aren't ready" for the presidential race.

"Most people don't have time to worry about this right now because they know the election's a long way off," he said. "As we get closer to it, you'll see a lot more attention paid to it, and then they'll see who is for shielding the gun manufacturers and who is for shielding children and families against gun violence."

Gore spoke on the first day of a two-day fund-raising blitz through California that aides said would bring in \$1.1 million.

He was scheduled today to tour a gay and lesbian center in between fund-raising stops in Los Angeles.

California voters are likely to face a ballot measure on same-sex marriage on primary day next year. The proposal would declare that only heterosexual marriages are legally binding. Gore said in San Francisco he favors certain legal protections for domestic partners but opposes "a change in the institution of marriage as we now know it between men and women."

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## **AP ONLINE**

Copyright 1999 Associated Press

June 24, 1999; Thursday 18:57 Eastern Time

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 519 words

## **HEADLINE: Lawmakers Fight Gay Discrimination**

**BYLINE: MELISSA B. ROBINSON**

### **BODY:**

WASHINGTON Democratic and Republican lawmakers from New England revived efforts Thursday to pass a federal law prohibiting job discrimination against homosexuals.

To boost the measure's chance of passage, lawmakers have rewritten it to explicitly prohibit preferential treatment of homosexuals, such as hiring to meet quotas or designing affirmative action standards to make up for past discrimination.

Opponents of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, known as ENDA, have successfully fought it in three previous Congresses on the grounds that it extend special protections to homosexuals.

"ENDA will achieve equal rights not special rights for gays and lesbians," said Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., who plans to pass the bill out of his Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and then try to force consideration by the full Senate.

In 1996, the Senate defeated a similar bill by one vote.

Vice President Al Gore, campaigning in Los Angeles at a gay and lesbian center, voiced support for the legislation.

"It does not confer any special rights, but it does outlaw the kind of discrimination that has become all too common in our society," he said.

The bill was introduced by Jeffords and Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and in the House by Reps. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Christopher Shays, R-Conn.

"If they're able to get it out of the Senate, that would create tremendous pressure on the House," said Shays, an influential moderate.

Shays and other ENDA supporters argue that the bill would pass the House if conservative Republican leaders allow it to come up for debate because it is backed by a majority of Americans.

ENDA would extend basic civil rights protections in the area of employment to cover sexual orientation. Such protections are already afforded to people on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, age and disability.

Eleven states California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, New Hampshire and Nevada already prohibit job discrimination against gays.

ENDA would prohibit employers of 15 or more, employment agencies and labor unions from using an individual's sexual orientation as the basis for employment decisions, such as hiring, firing, promotion or compensation.

The bill would exempt the military and religious organizations. It would not require benefits for workers' same-sex partners.

Opponents aren't buying the argument that the bill won't confer special rights.

Robert H. Knight of the conservative Family Research Council said sexual orientation shouldn't be a category that receives federal protection from job discrimination because it involves behavior. Other specially protected categories, such as race, gender and disability, do not.

"What if that person was representing a company and it became known that that person had wild and bizarre sexual tastes?" he asked. "That reflects on his employer. An employer should have the right to say, 'I don't want to have that kind of person working for me.'"

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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#### **AP ONLINE**

Copyright 1999 Associated Press

June 24, 1999; Thursday 19:28 Eastern Time

SECTION: National political

LENGTH: 444 words

**HEADLINE: Gore Defends Affirmative Action**

## **BYLINE: SCOTT LINDLAW**

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

### **BODY:**

Vice President Al Gore attacked critics of affirmative action Thursday, saying it's not time to abandon "special efforts" that have achieved progress.

Gore defended the goals of affirmative action and toured a gay and lesbian center during campaign stops meant to show him as an inclusive leader. He was finishing a two-day California fund-raising blitz expected to bring in over \$1 million.

Speaking to a largely black audience at a campaign fund-raiser in the affluent suburb of Bel Air, Gore listed some of the advances for minorities a shrinking wage gap between blacks and whites and high school graduation rates that are close to even.

But he said the overall wealth of black and Hispanic families \_ wealth built up over years and handed down through generations is less than one-tenth that of white families.

This "captures the accumulated impact of history cascading down throughout the generations," he said.

Gore did not lay out an affirmative action plan of his own. But he quarreled with those who argue that in racial relations, "we've had a generation of success and so we can abandon the special efforts that have brought us this far."

An Urban League report last year found black families lag far behind whites in the accumulation of wealth and personal assets. Even among households earning \$50,000 or more, where the wealth gap is narrowest, blacks have barely half the median net worth of white families, the report said.

About 125 people paid \$1,000 each to attend the fund-raiser.

Later he visited the Gay and Lesbian Center, touring the community center's residential wing and talking with three members in front of the press.

Two of them were openly skeptical about Gore's visit, which came a week after his opponent for the Democratic presidential nomination, former Sen. Bill Bradley, stopped by.

"I want to know exactly why you're here," said 20-year-old Javier Garcia.

## The Clinton-Gore Administration

### A Record of Progress for Gay and Lesbian Americans

"[W]e have to make sure that for every single person in our country -- all Americans means all Americans." -- President Clinton, November 8, 1997

"It is time for all Americans to recognize that the issues that face gays and lesbians in this country are not narrow, special interests -- they are matters of basic human and civil rights."

--Vice President Gore, September 15, 1997

#### Working for Basic Fairness and Against Hate

**Fighting For Hate Crimes Legislation.** Last year, the President announced his sponsorship of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act during the historic White House Conference on Hate Crimes. This crucial legislation would strengthen and expand the ability of the Justice Department to prosecute hate crimes by removing needless jurisdictional requirements for existing crimes. And it would give Federal prosecutors the power to prosecute hate crimes committed because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability.

The President and Vice President continue to push Congress to pass this important legislation and to speak out against hate. As the Vice President said on September 19, 1998: "If we allow even a small number of Americans to harbor and act upon malice and intolerance, we all feel the bitter sting of injustice. Let us send a clear message to those would commit crimes of hate: it is wrong, it is illegal, and we will punish you with the full force of our laws... Crimes of hate against all people -- including gays and lesbians --should carry a punishment that is swift and severe."

Additionally, as part of the 1994 Crime Act, President Clinton signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, providing for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime based on sexual orientation.

**Ending Discrimination Against Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Civilian Workforce.** President Clinton issued an Executive Order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Federal civilian workforce. This makes the Federal Government the largest employer in the world (1.8 million civilian employees) with a non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation. And the President, working with a bipartisan coalition in the House of Representatives, successfully defeated an attempt to overturn this policy. The President also issued an Executive Order mandating that security clearances no longer be denied based on sexual orientation.

**Endorsing Legislation that Outlaws Discrimination in the Workplace.** President Clinton and Vice President Gore endorsed and are fighting for passage of the Employment Non Discrimination Act, a bill outlawing discrimination in hiring, firing and promotions based on sexual orientation. This makes them the first U.S. President and Vice President ever to back civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians. The legislation would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace, extending basic employment protections to gay and lesbian Americans.

**Standing Up for Basic Fairness.** President Clinton blocked Republican efforts to pass legislation prohibiting unmarried couples from jointly adopting children in the District of Columbia and legislation which would have denied certain Federal funds to localities with

domestic partnership laws.

**Working to Stop Discrimination Against People With AIDS.** President Clinton directed the Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to vigorously prosecute those who discriminate against people with AIDS, leading to actions against health care providers and facilities that violate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Opposing Anti-Gay Ballot Initiatives.** President Clinton strongly opposed anti-gay ballot initiatives in Colorado and Oregon. His two nominees to the Supreme Court voted to overturn Colorado's Amendment 2, declaring such initiatives unconstitutional violations of the Equal Protection clause of the Constitution.

**Fighting Discrimination Against People with AIDS in the Military.** President Clinton successfully fought for the repeal of the Dornan amendment, which required the expulsion of all HIV-positive military service members regardless of their ability to do their jobs. Prior to its repeal, President Clinton took the highly unusual step of unilaterally declaring the law unconstitutional and instructing the Department of Justice not to defend it in court, becoming the first president since Franklin Roosevelt to take such action.

**Helping Those Fleeing Persecution Because of Their Sexual Orientation.** President Clinton's Administration is the first ever to grant asylum for gays and lesbians facing persecution in other countries. The President sent gay human rights activist Keith Boykin to Zimbabwe as part of an official United States delegation. Mr. Boykin investigated human rights abuses of gays and lesbians there.

**Banning Insurance Discrimination.** President Clinton fought for and signed the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which bans insurance discrimination against people with pre-existing medical conditions including HIV/AIDS. In addition, President Clinton issued a directive that ensures that all providers of Federal health insurance abide by non-discrimination rules including sexual orientation.

**Fighting Harassment of Students Based on Sexual Orientation.** President Clinton's Department of Education has issued landmark guidance that explains Federal standards against sexual harassment and that prohibits sexual harassment of all students regardless of their sexual orientation.

## An Administration that Includes All Americans

**President Clinton Has Created an Administration That Is Highly Talented and the Most Inclusive Administration in History.** President Clinton is the first President to appoint an openly gay or lesbian person to an Administration post. The President has appointed more than 150 openly gay and lesbian appointees, including:

- **Virginia Apuzzo**, Assistant to the President for Management and Administration (the first openly gay or lesbian Assistant to the President) and **Karen Tramontano**, Assistant to the President and Counselor to the Chief of Staff. They are the highest ranking openly gay or lesbian people to ever serve in the Federal Government;
- Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office **Bruce Lehman**, the first openly gay man to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate;
- **Fred Hochberg**, Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the first openly gay person to be appointed Deputy in a U.S. cabinet-level agency;
- Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development **Roberta Achtenberg**, who served in this position from 1993 to 1995;

· **Gail Shibley**, the Director of External Communications for the Federal Highway Administration;

· The President has also nominated **James Hormel** to be U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg --if confirmed he would be the first-ever openly gay United States ambassador.

**Reaching Out to All Communities.** This Administration is committed to a policy of inclusion. President Clinton named the first Presidential Liaison to the gay and lesbian community, Marsha Scott. Later, he named the first openly gay senior policy adviser on civil rights issues, Richard Socarides. President Clinton became the first sitting president to speak before a gay and lesbian organization on November 8, 1997, when he delivered the keynote address to the Human Rights Campaign National Dinner. In September 1997, the Vice President addressed the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the first Vice President to speak at a gay rights event. This year, the Vice President spoke before the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C., and the Empire State Pride Agenda in New York City. Both the President and the Vice President regularly meet with gay and lesbian leaders.

### **Improving Health Care Quality and Increasing Access**

**Providing National Leadership.** President Clinton has worked hard to invigorate the response to HIV and AIDS, providing new national leadership, substantially greater resources and a closer working relationship with affected communities. Funding for AIDS research has increased by over 65 percent, and funding for HIV prevention has increased 34 percent. Funding for the Ryan White CARE Act has increased by over 240 percent. Although much work remains to find a cure, progress has been made. In 1996, the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic, the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS declined. And between 1996 and 1997, HIV/AIDS mortality declined 47 percent, falling from the leading cause of death among 25-44 year olds in 1995 to the fifth leading cause of death in that age group. There has been a decline in the number of AIDS cases overall and a sharp decline in new AIDS cases in infants and children.

**Protecting Medicaid and Social Security Coverage.** The President fought for and won the preservation of the Medicaid guarantee of coverage which serves more than 50 percent of people living with AIDS -- and 92% of children with AIDS -- who rely on Medicaid for health coverage. He also revised eligibility rules for Social Security Disability Insurance to increase the number of HIV+ persons who qualify for benefits.

**Focusing National Efforts on an AIDS Vaccine.** On May 18, 1997, the President challenged the nation to develop an AIDS vaccine within the next ten years. He announced a number of initiatives to help fulfill this goal, including: dedicating an AIDS vaccine research center at the National Institutes of Health and encouraging domestic and international collaboration among governments, medical communities and service organizations.

**Dramatically Increasing Overall AIDS Funding.** The Clinton Administration has responded aggressively to the significant threat posed by HIV/AIDS with increased attention to research, prevention and treatment. President Clinton increased public health spending for major HIV/AIDS programs by over 100 percent, funding for the Ryan White CARE programs has increased 241 percent and support for AIDS-related research has increased by over 65 percent.

**Increasing AIDS Drug Assistance and Accelerating AIDS Drug Approvals.** Funding for AIDS drug assistance has increased from \$52 million per year to \$385 million per year during the Clinton Administration. This program provides new life-prolonging drugs to people with HIV and AIDS. In addition, President Clinton convened the National Task Force on AIDS Drug Development, and removed dozens of bureaucratic obstacles to the effective and decent treatment of people with AIDS. Since 1993, the Food and Drug

Administration has approved dozens of new AIDS drugs, new drugs for AIDS-related conditions and new diagnostic tests.

**Historic \$156 Million Effort to Address HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color.** African Americans make up the fastest growing portion of the HIV/AIDS caseload. As part of the FY99 budget, the Clinton Administration fought for a comprehensive new initiative that invests an unprecedented \$156 million to improve the nation's effectiveness in preventing and treating HIV/AIDS in the African American, Hispanic and other minority communities.

**Making Research a Priority.** In one of his first acts in office, President Clinton signed the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993, placing full responsibility for planning, budgeting and evaluation of the AIDS research program at NIH in the Office of AIDS Research. The Administration has increased NIH AIDS research funds by 67% in five years.

**Promoting Lesbian Health Issues.** Under President Clinton's leadership, the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have commissioned scientific panels to study lesbian health issues and to suggest research methods for scientists who want to study specific lesbian health issues. This is the first time a U.S. Government agency has commissioned an examination into this subject.

**Focusing on Prevention: Supporting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** The Administration has increased funds for HIV prevention at the CDC by 34% in five years. Under the leadership of the Clinton Administration, the CDC reorganized its AIDS prevention efforts to foster greater overall coordination and enhance efforts to reduce sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis.

**Educating Young People about the Dangers of AIDS.** The Clinton Administration launched the Prevention Marketing Initiative, focusing on the risk to young adults (18-25) with frank public service announcements recommending the correct and consistent use of latex condoms for those who are sexually active.

**Requiring the Federal Workforce to Understand AIDS.** The Administration issued a directive on September 30, 1993, that requires every Federal employee to receive comprehensive education on HIV/AIDS.

**Established a White House AIDS Office and Created a Presidential Advisory Council.** President Clinton created a White House Office of National AIDS Policy to bring greater direction and visibility to the war on AIDS. At the same time, the Administration has sharpened the focus of its AIDS programs. The President also created the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS to provide him and his Administration with expert outside advice on the ways in which the Federal government should respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Dr. R. Scott Hitt, an openly gay California physician, chairs the panel.

**Convened the First Ever White House Conference on HIV and AIDS.** On December 6, 1995, the President convened the first White House Conference on HIV and AIDS in the history of the epidemic, bringing together more than 300 experts, activists and citizens from across the country for a discussion of key issues.

"I think if we really could create a society where there is opportunity for all and responsibility from all and we believed in a community of all Americans, we could truly meet every problem we have and seize every opportunity we have." -- President Clinton, November 8, 1997

**REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE  
FIGHTING CRIME FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES**

**Monday, July 12, 1999**

It is wonderful to be here in Boston this morning – a city that is winning an extraordinary victory against violence and fear. I know that is due in large part to the remarkable leadership of Mayor Menino, together with Boston's outstanding police.

Your success here is an inspiration: for eighteen months here in Boston, not a single precious child was killed. Youth homicide is down by 75 percent. So far, in all of 1999, not a single parent has lost a child to handgun violence. This summer could be the safest in Boston's recent history. And I applaud you.

I want to build an America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century where that kind of progress is not astonishing, but expected. Where even one act of violence or cruelty on the evening news is a shock to the American spirit.

In the past several weeks, I have spoken a great deal about the crisis facing families in America today – about the growing forces that make it harder, not easier, to raise a strong family. From the erosion of discipline in our schools, to a culture that glorifies mayhem and cruelty, to the time deficit too many working parents face – our families face challenges that economic abundance alone cannot overcome.

And nothing does more to tear families apart than guns, gangs, drugs, and the fear that walks alongside those terrors. Our children cannot reach for their dreams if they are ducking for cover. We cannot restore a sense of community and decency if people are afraid to walk in any neighborhood – if they feel they have lost the public spaces that are rightfully theirs. A parent struggles to pass on the right values in a culture that practically screams out that chaos and cruelty are cool. And a good parent is undermined in trying to teach the great, simple lessons of right and wrong, of the rule of law and responsibility, when a burdened justice system lets criminals off too easy.

In the past six and a half years, we have made dramatic progress in the war against crime. Remember the chronic fear that used to be part of the way things just were in America's cities? That fear has lifted. In many communities, we have reversed a decades-long rise in crime. And we, together with men and women in local law enforcement, did it by breaking out of the rigid and rusted debates that had stalled action for too long.

When I served the people of Tennessee in the Senate, fighting for the Brady Bill and for stronger anti-drug laws, we were still caught between those who thought the sole answer was to be tougher on criminals, and those who thought the sole answer was to be tougher on the causes of crime. President Clinton and I believed we needed a new way, and we found it. Together with the law enforcement community, we created a new crime-fighting strategy that not only took on the gun lobby, it fought crime on every

single front: we targeted smarter prevention to save decent kids; we put more police on the streets; and we made certain that truly savage criminals knew they would face tougher punishments – punishments that could include the death penalty – if they dared to terrorize the innocent any longer.

We lived up to every promise to you and your loved ones: we're funding 100,000 new community police, and fighting for up to 50,000 more – and I believe that should be just the beginning. We funded 100,000 new prison cells, and expanded the death penalty. Criminals don't laugh at the legal system any more. And we stood up to the powerful gun lobby, and did the right thing for our kids, by passing the Brady Bill and banning deadly assault weapons at last.

Now crime is at its lowest level in 25 years. Murder is at a 30-year low. We're breaking up violent teen gangs and turning the good kids' lives around.

The statistics are significant – and they are gratifying. But we must be honest: too many families, and too many communities, still live in fear. And that is because parents share a growing sense that the line between right and wrong is being blurred – a sense that too many children don't even know when they have crossed it.

To truly win the war against crime and drugs, we must redraw the fundamental line between right and wrong in our own minds and hearts. And then we must write it in ink in our lawbooks and etch it in stone in our criminal justice system and in our institutions.

And so I make you this pledge today: if the people of this country entrust me with the Presidency, I will fight to protect America's families by launching the most effective and comprehensive anti-crime strategy our nation has seen.

I will change a political culture in Washington that puts the interests of the gun lobby ahead of the needs of American families, too many of whom now feel they have to draw the curtains at midday because they fear their children's becoming living targets.

I will reform a justice system that spills half a million prisoners back onto our streets each year – many of them addicted to drugs and alcohol, unrehabilitated and unrepentant, walking timebombs of violence.

I will revolutionize a court system that is overloaded and understaffed, and that often seems less like Law and Order and more like Let's Make a Deal. It's time to put the rights of victims and families first again.

I will work with our communities to restore the sense of order that says to children as well as to criminals: don't even think about committing a crime here.

And I will take on those who deliberately peddle degradation and violence to our children and work for self-restraint in TV and on the Internet, along with the V-Chip and related tools, to guarantee that parents finally get real choices – and real control.

Good values are the best anti-crime insurance to begin with.

And what I am proposing today puts that idea into action: a criminal justice system with real consequences for those who choose crime – and new respect for the rights of victims; communities and schools that make it easier to raise a strong family; gun laws that are written for families, not for gun lobbyists and their apologists; and a shared commitment by each one of us – to teach our children right from wrong, so we can stop crime and drug abuse before they even start – that's how we etch that line in stone once more.

Let us build a criminal justice system that reflects our values -- through fundamental changes in the way we administer justice and enforce our laws.

We cannot keep our families safe if our criminal justice system is too often a revolving door, where even violent criminals get a slap on the wrist. Though the Bible says that justice without mercy is cold-hearted, it also reminds us that mercy at the expense of justice is a desecration of our humanity. Crime must have serious consequences – and the rights of victims should be at the center of all justice. How can we expect children to choose the good if our very system of justice too often fails to side with the good guys?

I am not satisfied. I am not satisfied with a criminal justice system in which the average time between arrest and sentencing is nearly seven months. I will lead a major overhaul of our court system to make it faster and better. I want to hire more prosecutors and public defenders, and use new management techniques to make it more efficient. It's time to apply the reforms that are working in the private sector, and at many levels of government, to revolutionize our justice system.

I am not satisfied with empty benches. I agree with Chief Justice Rehnquist: “[federal court] vacancies cannot remain at such high levels indefinitely without eroding the quality of justice.” There are now 72 empty seats on the federal bench. Yet instead of confirming highly qualified nominees, the Republican Senate continues to hold our justice system hostage. So I say to the Senate: if you are really serious about protecting America's families, then stop playing politics with our federal courts.

I am not satisfied with outdated laws: our newest threats must be met with the most trusted weapon we have: swift and certain punishment.

I am not satisfied as long as even one child remains at the mercy of predators. We need tougher penalties against sex offenders; we need to make it a federal crime if anyone dares to stalk our children on the Internet.

I am not satisfied as long as even one criminal traumatizes a child through violence: if you commit any violent crime in front of a child, you should pay an even higher price for it: more time in jail.



And it astonishes me that, just two weeks after the terrible crimes of hate in Illinois and Indiana, some still deny that hate crimes merit stiffer punishment. When a killer on the rampage picks Jews, Blacks, and Asian Americans as his victims, I don't understand how some can still argue that hate crimes are no different than all other crimes. Hate crimes are often among the most vicious, and the most violent of crimes. But more serious still is the fact that their very purpose is to dehumanize and to stigmatize – not only to wound the victim, but also to distort the American conscience. We will not have it. It's time for Congress to stop stalling, and pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Let's punish crimes of hate with the full force of our laws.

The revolving door or recidivism pivots on drug abuse – and access to drugs even in prison. I believe there is a way to shut the revolving door of drug-related crime – with mandatory drug testing, drug treatment, and more prison time for those who don't break the habit. Let's make prisoners a simple deal: before you get out of jail, you have to get clean. And if you want to stay out, then you'd better stay clean.

We must crack down on drugs in every corner of our society. Drugs cause 16,000 deaths each year in America – and more than a million crimes that lead to arrest. One recent study showed that nearly one-fifth of all state prisoners committed their crimes just to feed their drug habits.

As President, I will send a strong message to every American child: drugs are wrong, and drugs can kill you.

I will lead a national crusade to dry up drug demand, hold up drugs at the border, and break up the drug rings that are spreading poison on our streets.

I'll expand drug treatment for at-risk youth. I'll fund more drug courts, to speed justice for drug-related crime. I will double the number of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas – drug hot-spots where we aggressively target our enforcement efforts. I will place a special emphasis on the fast-growing problem of methamphetamines. And I will make sure that our anti-drug strategy does not neglect the problem of alcohol abuse, an underlying cause of far too many crimes.

And I will never be satisfied so long as one victim is forgotten. Too often, we bend over backward to protect the right of criminals, but pay no attention to those who are hurt the most. Victims should have a voice in trial and other proceedings. Their safety should be a factor in the sentencing and release of their attackers. They should be notified when an offender is released back into their community. And they should have a right to compensation from their attacker. That is why I will lead the fight to pass a

Victims' Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution – so our justice system puts victims and their families first again.

And in our vigilance to crack down on criminals, we must do more to make sure we never unfairly target those who are innocent. No one believes more strongly in tough, vigorous law enforcement than I do. But we need to end the hateful practice of racial profiling in America – and I will ensure that we do. If I am elected President, that will be the first civil rights action of the new century.

For law enforcement to fully understand and protect a community, they must better reflect the community. That is why I will support scholarships for communities that have been historically underrepresented in our criminal justice system, in a manner that is consistent with recent Supreme Court decisions. I want to see the day when America's police, prosecutors, and public defenders reflect the full diversity of our nation.

And we need to increase assistance for professional development and re-training through our nation's police academies. That is the best way to ensure that police catch every criminal – and also respect every law-abiding citizen.

We need a criminal justice system that reflects our values. But we also need to build communities that are safer and stronger, and make it easier for parents to instill the right values.

We cannot have strong families without strong, safe, livable communities. And as President, I will work to give communities unprecedented new tools to instill order and safety.

We can begin by making it easier for local law enforcement to track the latest crime trends – block by block, crime by crime. I will work to give police new computerized crime mapping software -- so they know which hotspots to target, and which places still need to be made safe. Earlier today, I announced with Attorney-General Janet Reno that our Justice Department and our National Partnership for Reinventing Government are releasing a new plan to make crime mapping technology available to every community in America.

Once communities are fully able to track and analyze crime, they need more help stopping it. I will fight for a federal law that helps communities establish “gang-free zones” – with curfews on specific gang members, a ban on gang-related clothing, and the specific legal authority to break up gangs once and for all. When this approach was pioneered in parts of Los Angeles, it dramatically cut juvenile crime. Let's take our streets back from the gangs, once and for all.

As we forge new coalitions in an all-out effort to prevent crime, let us also raise up our nation's faith-based organizations. I have seen the difference that Reverend

Eugene Rivers and other faith leaders have made here in Boston. They have found that overcoming problems such as youth violence and drug addiction often requires something more than new cops and tough laws – it requires discipline and courage, deep within the individual. Faith is often the missing ingredient, the leaven that rises the bread. That is why I want to build a New Partnership with our nation's churches, mosques, and synagogues. Through carefully-tailored efforts, we can unleash the power of faith to stop crime at the grassroots.

And I want the heart of our crime prevention efforts to be safe, strong, disciplined schools – places where children can learn in safety, and where parents know their children are secure. I will insist on a policy of zero tolerance toward guns and drugs in our schools. Parents have a right to know if a child has brought a gun to their children's school – and schools should be required to tell them. I call for the creation of second-chance schools – where kids headed for trouble, and those caught with guns, can receive the strict discipline and intensive services they need. As President, I will quadruple America's commitment to after school programs, to keep children out of harm's way in the afternoon hours when most juvenile crime takes place.

We need more discipline and character education, to reinforce the values parents teach at home. And we need more parental involvement in our schools. I recently visited Arlington Technical High School in Indianapolis, where fathers actually walk the halls to make their children's schools safer. They call themselves "security dads." I want to support similar efforts all across the nation.

A safe community is a place where all women are safe from domestic violence. I will make sure all battered women have the legal protection and support they need to be safe in their communities, and keep their attackers away.

A safe community is a place where seniors are safe from fraud, abuse, and every kind of elder-crime. I believe we should raise the penalties for those who commit crimes against the elderly. We should give federal prosecutors new tools to fight fraud and abuse. And we should take dramatic new steps to shut down fraudulent telemarketers who prey on the elderly.

For all the challenges we face in the fight against crime, there is one that looms over the rest: it is too easy for a child or a criminal to get a gun in America. And there are too many political leaders who take their marching orders from the gun lobby. I call upon you to join with me, to create a family lobby that is greater and more powerful than the gun lobby – so we can get the guns away from children and criminals, once and for all.

We're working now to raise the age for handgun possession from 18 to 21. To pass strict background checks for those who buy guns at gun shows. To enact stiff, new penalties for adults who sell guns to minors. And to require child-safety locks on guns. I recently saw a billboard here in Boston posted by the Newton, Massachusetts group Stop

Handgun Violence. It said: "It's a lot easier to child-proof a gun than it is to bullet-proof a child." I agree.

We need to pass all these measures right away. But we need to do much, much more. I respect the rights of qualified gun owners. But we have lost too many children to have our safety held hostage by the gun lobby.

As President, I will do whatever it takes to get the guns away from children and criminals, and close every loophole in our lawbooks. And here is how I want to start. I will fight for a national requirement that every state issue photo licenses for anyone who wants to buy a handgun. States would have broad discretion in how to administer and implement this program. But one thing would be clear: unless you obtain a license, pass a background check, and pass a gun safety test, you could not buy a handgun. Not in a gun shop, not at a gun show, not on a street corner, not anywhere in America.

We know background checks work. Since we passed the Brady Law, gun crimes have dropped by 38 percent. The Brady Law has stopped nearly a quarter of a million felons and fugitives from buying guns, and saved countless lives. But today's patchwork of background checks just isn't good enough.

We require a license to drive a car in this nation, to keep unsafe drivers off the road. Now we should require a license to own a handgun – so people who shouldn't have them can't get them.

It's time. The gun lobby is sure to have a fit. But to me, it is worth it, and I am sure the decent people of America will agree: because too many illegal guns are flooding our communities – and too many precious lives are being lost.

And it is time to get tougher on dealers and sellers who violate our gun laws. We need to crack down on open air gun markets – where criminals are known to gather and buy guns – and all places where guns are sold illegally to kids and criminals.

We should say to every rogue gun dealer in America: the first time you willfully break our gun laws by selling guns to a felon or a child, we'll suspend your license. And if you do it again, we'll take away your license for good. No excuses.

We also have to improve a spotty system of record-keeping, to make it easier for law enforcement to catch gun-toting criminals. I believe all gun manufacturers and federally licensed dealers should have to report handgun sales to a state authority, so we can trace the guns used in violent crimes.

We need to ban so-called "junk guns" – cheap, easily concealed handguns that are causing havoc in too many communities.

I believe we need tougher penalties for gun trafficking, and all crimes committed with guns. And I will work with states that want to end the practice of plea bargaining for crimes committed with guns. Innocent defendants shouldn't feel pressured to plead guilty to get a lighter sentence. And those who are truly guilty shouldn't be able to bargain their way out of the full sentence they deserve.

Let me tell you what we must not do: we must not loosen the restrictions on concealed weapons. I will lead the fight against legislation that makes it easier to hide a handgun in America.

After all the gun tragedies in this nation – after Columbine, and Jonesboro, and Conyers, Georgia, and all the future massacres it is up to us to prevent – it is time for a new, bipartisan consensus on this issue. Some want to enact new protections for gun manufacturers. I want to pass new protections for families. Some want more concealed weapons – but they can't conceal the fact that they're just doing the NRA's bidding. Some want to overturn local gun control laws. I want to overturn the influence of the gun lobby. And I need your help to do it.

You know, we can do all this – put new cops on the street, fix the system, crack down on the guns – and yet the real solution will still elude us if we don't look deeper, all the way to how we teach the spirit of our children in this country.

Do we give our kids something to believe in? Then the lure of cheap sensation will not hold sway over them. Do we model decency and honor to them? Then they will remain untempted by theft and deceit.

Parents can become more involved in the lives of their children – they can spend time with them and talk with them. We can teach our children even greater responsibility – why drugs are deadly and wrong, and why crime and violence hurt us all – but even deeper than that, why their own purity of conscience is their most precious possession in a world of bright lights and brazen icons.

Together, one act of goodness following another, we must replace a culture of meanness with one of meaning.

Some of you may be familiar with the theory of crime prevention called “broken windows.” It says that if there is a community with broken windows, and litter on the street, and graffiti on the walls, that sends a powerful unspoken message: if you want to commit a crime, then you've come to the right place. We tolerate disorder here.

As a nation, we need to send the opposite message: that we have more than just the right policies – we also have the right values. We need a culture that does not assault the innocent, a legal system that never rewards the guilty, and a shared moral universe of basic right and wrong. One act of goodness following another, we build that nation of order and support for the rule of law.

That is the nation I will work to build in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Then, one day, all cities can celebrate the kind of progress you have brought to the great City of Boston. And all Americans can come out from behind their locked doors; we can reclaim our lost communities; and we can raise the families we love – with safety, security, and the fullest faith in a peaceful future together. Thank you and God bless your work.

***VICE PRESIDENT  
GORE***



***Working on Behalf of  
African Americans***

*Please review  
before I make  
copies!  
Thanks,  
Stanna*

***Vice President Gore: Working on Behalf  
of African Americans***

- I. Clinton-Gore Efforts on Behalf of African Americans**
- II. Remarks Delivered by the Vice President**
- III. News Articles on the Efforts of the Vice President**

## PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

### *Working on Behalf of African Americans*

#### Economy

**Closing the Book on A Generation of Deficits.** In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be at least \$76 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

**Saving Social Security First.** President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight to save every penny of any future surplus until a bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted.

**Nearly 18 Million New Jobs.** More than 90 percent of the new jobs have been created in the private sector, the highest percentage in 50 years.

**Record-Low African American Unemployment.** The unemployment rate for African Americans has fallen from 14.2 percent in 1992 to 8.9 percent in 1998 -- the lowest annual level on record (data first collected in 1972).

**The Lowest Inflation in More than 30 Years.** Since 1993, the inflation rate has averaged just 2.5 percent -- the lowest average inflation rate since the Kennedy Administration.

**Strong Private Sector Growth.** The private sector of the economy has grown 3.9 percent annually --the fastest rate of private-sector growth since the Johnson Administration.

**Median Income of African American Households Is Up \$3,354.** The median income of African American households rose 4.3 percent (or \$1,029) in 1997. And since 1993, the median income of African American households has increased from \$21,696 to \$25,050 -- \$3,354 or a 15-percent increase, adjusted for inflation, between 1993 and 1997.

**Real Wages Are Rising for African Americans.** The real wages of African Americans have risen rapidly in the past two years, up about 5.8 percent for African American men and 6.2 percent for African American women since 1996.

**Tax Cuts For Low-Income Working Families.** President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan provided tax cuts to 15 million hard-pressed working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family with two kids who received the EITC received a tax cut of \$1,026. In 1997, the EITC lifted 1.1 million African Americans out of poverty.

**Largest Four-Year Drop in African American Poverty in More than Twenty-Five Years.** Since 1993, the African American poverty rate has dropped from 33.1 percent to 26.5 percent -- the largest four-year drop in African American poverty in more than a quarter century (1967-1971) and 26.5 percent is the lowest level on record (data collected since 1959). While this decrease marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.

**Child Poverty Among African Americans Down To Lowest Level on Record.** In 1997, the African American child poverty rate fell from 39.9 percent in 1996 to 37.2 percent -- its lowest level on record (data collected since 1959). Since 1993, the child poverty rate among African-Americans has dropped from 46.1 percent to 37.2 percent -- the biggest four-year drop on record.

**Minimum Wage Increased.** The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefitting 1.3 million African American workers.

**Fighting for Paycheck Equity.** The President has called on Congress to pass legislation to

strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination. In 1997, the median earnings of African American women represented 65 percent of the median earnings for all men.

**Two and a Half Times More Small Business Loans to African American Entrepreneurs.** Between 1993 and 1997 the Small Business Administration (SBA) approved more than 9,000 loans to African American entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. In 1997 alone, the Small Business Administration granted 1,900 loans, worth \$286 million, to African American small business owners, two and a half times the number of loans granted in 1992.

**Supporting Minority Business Communities and Increasing Access to Capital.** Building on the efforts of the SBA, Vice President Gore unveiled aggressive plans to increase lending and business services to the African American and Hispanic business communities nationwide. The SBA has set a goal of providing an estimated total of \$1.86 billion in loans to African American small businesses over a three-year period. In addition, the Vice President announced an unprecedented agreement between SBA and the "Big Three" U.S. automakers to increase subcontracting awards to minority businesses by nearly \$3 billion over the next three years -- a 50 percent increase over current levels.

**Ensuring Minority Business Owners Have a Fair Opportunity to Compete.** The President signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century into law on June 9, 1998. The Act protects the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, a program that ensures that minority and women owned businesses have an opportunity to compete for transportation projects. The Administration helped defeat an amendment to the House version of this bill that would have eliminated the DBE Program. In a different measure, the President also approved the creation of a new program to target assistance to minority-owned businesses in industries that continue to reflect the effects of discrimination. As a result, thousands of minority-owned businesses will be able to compete more effectively for government contracts.

**Working on Behalf of Minority Farmers.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working to strengthen programs and increase outreach targeted to underserved communities, including increasing its lending to minority and women producers. Between 1993 and 1998, direct lending to these groups has nearly doubled -- from \$46.5 million in FY93 to \$91 million in FY98. The Administration is committed to righting any past wrongs by federal employees and worked with the Congress in 1998 to craft language contained in the Agriculture Appropriations bill that waives the two-year statute of limitations on discrimination complaints against USDA's farm and housing loan programs. This waiver allows compensation to be provided to many minority farmers who were victims of discrimination by USDA from the early 1980's through the 1990's. On Jan. 5, 1999, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced an historic agreement to settle the discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture brought by African American farmers. As President Clinton said regarding the settlement, "Today's action is an important step in Secretary Glickman's ongoing efforts to rid the Agriculture Department of discriminatory behavior and redress any harm that has been caused by past discrimination against African-American family farmers."

**Expanding Access to Capital with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI).** The President has expanded access to capital through the creation of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which supports banks and other entities that specialize in lending and investing in under-served communities. The FY99 budget included a \$15 million increase in CDFI funding (from \$80 million to \$95 million), a 19 percent increase.

**Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas.** Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities that are creating new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. The FY99 budget included \$60 million in flexible discretionary funding for the next round of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

**Helping People Get to Work.** The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century authorizes \$750 million over five years, and the FY99 budget included \$75 million, for the President's

Access to Jobs initiative and reverse commute grants to help communities design innovative transportation solutions so that families who need to work can get to work.

**Providing Incentives to Save.** The President signed into law a five-year, \$125 million demonstration program for Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low income families to save for a first home, higher education, or to start a new business, effectively completing his 1992 community empowerment agenda.

**Assisting Families with Housing Vouchers.** Congress approved the President's full request for 50,000 new vouchers exclusively for people who need housing assistance to make the transition from welfare to work.

**Homeownership Is Up.** There are more than seven million new homeowners since the President took office. African American homeownership has increased 20 percent with 974,000 new African American homeowners since the first quarter of 1994.

**Helping More Families Become Homeowners with the "Play-by-the-Rules" Homeownership Initiative.** The FY99 budget included \$25 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to start this new initiative that will make homeownership more accessible to families who have a good rental history but have difficulty purchasing a home; 10,000 lower-income and minority families who are currently renting will benefit from this initiative.

**Expanding Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by 40 Percent.** In 1993, President Clinton fulfilled his promise to permanently extend the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, spurring the private development of low-income housing and helping to build 75,000-90,000 housing units each year. President Clinton has proposed to expand the credit by 40 percent. Over the next five years, this expansion would mean an additional 150,000 to 180,000 quality affordable rental units.

### **Fighting for Equal Opportunity**

**Building One America.** The President has led the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the common values that unite us. Dr. John Hope Franklin, Advisory Board Chair, and Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook served on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort. The President, the Administration and the Advisory Board were actively involved in public outreach efforts -- including holding numerous public meetings and town halls -- to engage Americans across the nation in this historic effort. One of the critical elements of the President's Initiative on Race was identifying, highlighting and sharing with the nation promising practices -- local and national efforts to promote racial reconciliation. The Advisory Board presented their final report to the President on September 18, 1998, and recommended that conversations on race continue.

**Creating an Administration that Looks Like One America.** The President appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. The Clinton Cabinet includes three African Americans: Rodney Slater, Secretary of the Department of Transportation; Togo West, Jr., Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor. Additionally, African Americans serve in the Administration as Surgeon General, Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Justice, Director of the National Park Service, Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Department of Education General Counsel and as the Department of Education's Chief of Staff. Thirteen percent of Clinton Administration appointees are African American, which is twice as many African Americans as any previous administration. White House appointees include: Bob Nash, Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel; Thurgood Marshall, Jr., Assistant to the President and Director of Cabinet Affairs; Minyon Moore, Assistant to the President and Director of Political Affairs; Cheryl Mills, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Counsel and Ben Johnson, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison; Alphonso (Al) Maldon, Deputy Assistant

to the President for Legislative Affairs; and Tracey Thornton, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

**Increasing the Number of Judicial Appointments.** President Clinton has named 14 African Americans as U.S. Attorneys and 12 African Americans as U.S. Marshals. The President has nominated 57 African Americans to the Federal bench, 16 percent of his total Federal bench nominations.

**Ordered an Assessment of Affirmative Action Programs.** The President ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. This review of federal affirmative action programs has helped to ensure that these programs are fair and effective and that they can survive legal challenges. As a result, programs that benefit African Americans, including students, working men and women, and business owners, remain in effect and are more likely to be upheld by the courts.

**Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).** The FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years.

**Creating a National Memorial to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** In July of 1998, President Clinton signed a new measure authorizing the creation of a national monument to Dr. King on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

**Opposed California Prop. 209 and Similar Measures.** The Clinton Administration strongly opposes state and local initiatives to eliminate affirmative action programs that expand opportunities for African Americans and others. The Administration opposed Proposition 209 in California and filed *amicus* briefs opposing Prop. 209, which currently prohibits state affirmative action programs. The Clinton Administration opposed a similar initiative in Houston, which was defeated and opposed an initiative in Washington that is similar to Prop. 209. In all these cases, representatives of the administration have spoken out strongly against these initiatives as unfair and a barrier to equality.

**Ensuring Election Fairness.** The Clinton Administration defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional and prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties.

**Increasing Voter Registration.** During 1995 and 1996, the National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law registered nearly 14 million new voters and made voting easier for millions more. Notably, 1996 saw the highest percentage of voter registration since 1960. [FEC, 6/97]

**Working for Fair Housing.** To respond to the increase in reported cases of serious fair housing violations, HUD will double the number of its civil rights enforcement actions by the year 2000. HUD has also committed \$15 million to 67 fair housing centers around the country to assist in fighting housing discrimination. In addition, the President proposed and won a major expansion of HUD's Fair Housing programs. The FY99 budget expands HUD's Fair Housing programs from \$30 million in FY98 to \$40 million in FY99. That 33-percent increase includes \$7.5 million for a new audit-based enforcement initiative proposed by the Administration.

**Working to Ensure Fairness and Remove Barriers to High Quality Education.** The Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education is working to eliminate discriminatory educational practices within schools that contribute to deficiencies in minority student

achievement. These priorities included the inappropriate placement of minority students in special education, limited access of minority students to challenging curricula and programs such as gifted and honors classes and the lack of comparable resources.

**Defended Fairness.** The Clinton Administration has filed more cases between 1993 and 1997 to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). For instance, this Administration desegregated a Vidor, Texas, public housing complex and ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers who were unfairly denied loans by the bank.

**Eliminated Discriminatory "Redlining" Practices.** The Clinton Administration negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory "redlining" practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

**Apologized to the Victims of Tuskegee.** President Clinton apologized to the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment and their families, and directed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to issue a report about how best to involve communities, especially minority communities, in research and health care. HHS awarded a planning grant to Tuskegee University to help it establish a center for bioethics in research and health care.

**Working to Ensure a Fair and Accurate Census.** The Clinton Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is the most accurate census possible using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. Nationally, 4.4 percent of African Americans were not counted in the 1990 census. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law. The President is determined to have a fair and full count in 2000.

### **Children and Families**

**Protecting Families.** The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Sixty-seven million Americans -- over half of all workers -- are covered by the FMLA and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.

**Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities.** In 1998, President Clinton announced an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities. The effort sets a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. For example, African Americans suffer from diabetes at 70 percent higher rates than white Americans. The President announced a five-step plan -- led by Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. David Satcher -- to mobilize the resources and expertise of the Federal government, the private sector, and local communities. In the FY99 budget, Congress took a critical first step in investing in the President's multi-year proposal.

**Addressing HIV/AIDS in Minority Community with an Historic \$130 Million Effort.** Minority communities make up the fastest growing portion of the HIV/AIDS caseload (44 percent of all new HIV cases). In FY99, there will be an unprecedented \$130 million investment that will improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to cutting edge HIV therapies and other treatment needed for HIV/AIDS.

**Focused Health Efforts.** Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop

culturally-competent systems for the care of children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program.

**Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights.** President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

**Protected and Strengthened Medicare, Benefiting the 3.4 Million African Americans Enrolled in Medicare.** The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits. The President has also put forth a proposal that, if enacted, will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.

**Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).** Because of the President's leadership, the Balanced Budget of 1997 included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to up to five million more children, the largest children's health care budget increase since Medicaid was created in 1965. Minority children make up a disproportionate number of the over 10 million uninsured children. African American children make up 25 percent and Hispanic children make up 30 percent of all uninsured children -- more than twice their percentage of the overall population. The Administration is actively reaching out to communities to target and enroll eligible, uninsured children in CHIP.

**Increased WIC -- \$1 Billion Higher.** Under President Clinton, participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has expanded by 1.7 million -- from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1998, with funding rising from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion (FY99). Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth. In 1996, 25 percent of the infants who benefited from WIC were African American.

**Expanded Head Start By More than 60 Percent.** Since 1993, President Clinton has expanded Head Start by 57 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.4 billion in FY98. Of the estimated 830,000 children that were enrolled in Head Start in 1998, 36 percent of the children were African American. The President proposed and won an increase of \$313 million to Head Start in FY99, meaning Head Start funding will be 68-percent higher in 1999 than in 1993. The President is committed to meet his goal of enrolling one million children in Head Start.

**Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History.** In 1998, the President proposed an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families by helping families pay for child care, building the supply of good after-school programs, improving child care quality and promoting early learning. The President won \$182 million to improve the quality of child care for America's working families in the FY99 budget.

**Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for A Quarter of A Million Children Each Year.** In the FY99 budget, the President and Vice President proposed and won \$200 million for after-school programs, expanding the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 250,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities each year.

## Education

**Made the Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years.** Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

**Established the First African American Advisory Board.** Established the President's Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to strengthen the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide quality education and advised on ways to increase the private sector's role in these institutions. In addition, the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Education has been vigilant in its efforts to expand college opportunities through enforcement to eliminate vestiges of discrimination in formerly racially segregated higher education systems. The Office for Civil Rights at Education works to ensure minority student access to higher education, impacting both HBCUs and historically white universities.

**Increased Funding and Grants for HBCUs.** Increased funding for Historically Black Colleges by over \$250 million between FY92 and FY98 -- an increase of nearly 25 percent. Today, America's 105 HBCUs are educating almost 300,000 African Americans.

**AmeriCorps College Support.** Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with African Americans comprising 20 percent of all participants (1996 data). In 1998 alone, nearly 50,000 young people had the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

**Expanding Investments In Youth Education And Training.** While House Republicans attempted to eliminate the successful Summer Jobs program in FY99, President Clinton prevailed with his request for \$871 million in funding, which will finance up to 530,000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youth. The Summer Jobs program provides an estimated 25 percent of the summer jobs held by African American 14-15 years olds and at least 16 percent held by Hispanic 14-15 year olds. The Youth Opportunity Area Initiative program provides high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 with academic and job-skills training, as well as apprenticeships building and rehabilitating affordable housing. The President proposed and won \$250 million for this new innovative program in the FY99 budget.

**Record Enrollment.** A record percentage of African Americans were enrolled in post-secondary education in 1996 -- 35.7 percent of African American high school graduates.

**Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, and Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years.** The President is making the first two years of college universally available with \$1500 HOPE Scholarship credits and a 20 percent tax credit helps offset tuition costs for college or lifetime learning. The expanded education IRA allows penalty- and tax-free withdrawals for education. And in 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever. In the 1995-96 school year, 57 percent of all African American students enrolled full-time in college received a Pell Grant.

**Fostering Diversity.** In 1998, the White House awarded Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring Grants to both individual mentors and institutions that foster mentoring, helping to ensure that America's future scientists and engineers come from all of the nation's racial and cultural segments of the population.

**Modernizing Our Schools.** The President has proposed federal tax credits to help rebuild, modernize, and build over 5,000 public schools nationwide.

**Reducing Class Size.** In the FY99 budget, the President won a down payment on his initiative to reduce class size to a national average of 18 students in grades 1-3, by helping local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that minorities, and low-income students in particular, benefit academically from smaller classes.

**Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade.** More than 1000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In the FY99 budget, the President won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal.

**Greater Access to Education Technology.** The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into schools. In the FY99 budget, President Clinton won \$75 million to fund technology training for teachers and \$10 million for new grants to public-private partnerships in low-income communities to provide residents access to computer facilities for educational and employment purposes. Education technology has always been a top priority for the President and Vice President; since 1993, they have created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund and increased overall investments in educational technology by thirty-fold, from \$23 million to \$698 million this year. The Administration has also secured low-cost connections (the e-rate) to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals.

**Striving for Excellence.** Thanks to President Clinton's leadership, the **Title I program** is helping millions of disadvantaged students reach high academic standards by giving them extra help with basic and advanced skills. The FY99 budget provides \$7.676 billion for Title I, a \$301 million increase over FY98. This funding will support educational services for nearly 11 million students, over 400,000 more than last year. In the 1994-95 school year, 26 percent of the children benefiting from the Title I program were African American.

**Establishing the GEAR-UP: College Mentoring Initiative To Help Up to 100,000 Students Prepare for College.** The President won \$120 million to create a new mentoring initiative to help low income middle school children prepare for college. GEAR-UP (a program that incorporates the President's "High-Hopes" proposal) will expand mentoring efforts by states, and provide new grants to partnerships of middle schools, institutions of higher education, and community organizations, to provide intensive early intervention services to help prepare up to 100,000 students at high-poverty middle schools for college.

**Getting Good Teachers to Underserved Areas.** The FY99 budget contained \$75 million for new teacher quality initiatives -- programs that will help recruit and prepare thousands of teachers to teach in high-poverty urban and rural communities and will strengthen teacher preparation programs across the country.

### **Fighting Crime**

**Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes.** As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime.

**White House Conference on Hate Crimes.** President Clinton hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America. The President announced significant law enforcement and prevention initiatives to get tough on hate crimes, including: support for legislation to expand the federal hate crimes law to cover crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability; the creation of a network of local hate crime working groups; the addition of approximately 50 FBI agents and federal prosecutors to enforce hate crimes laws; improved collection of data on hate crimes; and the production of materials to educate the public -- especially youth -- about hate crimes.

**Took Action Against Church Burnings.** Focused the nation's attention and resources to help stop the rash of church burnings across the country, prosecuted those responsible, and sped the rebuilding process.

**Falling Crime Rates.** Overall crime rates are down to the lowest levels in a generation --and all incomes and races are benefitting. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Victimization Survey, property and violent crime victimization rates are at their lowest levels since 1973. Between 1993-1997, decreasing victimization trends were experienced about equally for all race, sex and income groups. In addition, the murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years.

**Putting 100,000 New Police on the Streets and Providing COPS Grants to Underserved Areas.** In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Administration will meet its commitment of 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase police presence and community policing in underserved neighborhoods. Under this initiative, 18 cities will share \$106 million to hire 620 new community policing officers. The pilot cities were selected following an analysis of crime, demographic and economic data.

### **Safe and Clean Environment**

**Environmental Justice and Redevelopment.** President Clinton issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. The Administration identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

**Toughest New Air Quality Standards in a Generation.** The Administration approved new clean air standards for smog and soot that will prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year and improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses.

**Accelerating Toxic Cleanups and Brownfields Redevelopment.** This Administration has cleaned up nearly three times as many Superfund sites in six years as the previous administrations did in twelve. Brownfields grants have leveraged nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment for brownfields redevelopment.

**Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe.** President Clinton proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. The Clinton Administration required America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

**Reducing the Threat of Global Warming.** The Administration negotiated an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way; and secured \$1 billion in FY99 for research incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

**Committed to Preserving Our Land.** The Clinton Administration has protected or enhanced nearly 150 million acres of public and private lands, from the red rock canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades. And the Administration has reached agreements to protect Yellowstone from mining and save the ancient redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest.

### **American Leadership**

**Made an Historic Presidential Trip to Africa.** In 1998, President Clinton made the first trip by a sitting U.S. President to Ghana, Uganda, Botswana and Senegal. While in Africa, President Clinton focused on key issues of development, trade, investment, empowerment of women and the environment. The trip increased and enhanced ties with Africa and built upon the work and achievements of late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Transportation Secretary Slater and Presidential Special Envoy Jesse Jackson.

**Assisted South Africa's Transition to Democracy.** Provided over \$600 million in the first

three years to the newly-elected democratic government of South Africa to support democracy and development. Established the Gore-Mbeki Bi-National Commission to promote cooperation in trade, development, the environment and security.

**Hosted the First-Ever White House Conference on Africa in July 1994.** This Conference brought together key American policy-makers and leaders to discuss the future of US-Africa relations.

**Restored Democracy for Haiti.** Restored democracy to Haiti and ended the military dictatorship.

**Launched the President's Partnership for Economic Opportunity in Africa Initiative.** This initiative deepens trade and investment between Africa and the United States and is the cornerstone of the Administration's Africa policy. The President supports passage of the bipartisan African Growth and Opportunity Act which complements his "Partnership Initiative" by further strengthening U.S.-Africa trade relations.

***Remarks Delivered by the  
Vice President***

**AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY REMARKS FOR VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE**  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 1999**  
**January 18, 1999**

Three times each year, this nation pauses to remember the life and legacy of an extraordinary American. As President Clinton has reminded us in the past, we remember George Washington, who helped create this great nation; Abraham Lincoln, who helped save it; and today, we remember Martin Luther King, Jr. who lived and died to perfect it.

When you look back at the twentieth century through the eyes and ideals of Martin Luther King, you look from the highest possible mountaintop --because Martin Luther King was a man who led by example, who preached love not hate, and who believed that "everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

It is in that spirit that we come here today --together with tens of thousands of Americans across this nation from all walks of life --who have made this a "day on, instead of a day off." Today, we join Americorps volunteers --who have worked since this time last year to rehabilitate thousands of homes, tutor hundreds of thousands of young people, and plant millions of trees. This day serves as a reminder of how much we could accomplish as a nation if we all just gave a little more of ourselves.

As we were reminded last year, "if just the people in America with the last name Clinton or Gore gave just two hours a week, we could paint every classroom in every public high school in America before Dr. King's next birthday."

We also come here today to rededicate ourselves to overcoming the barriers that prevent us from achieving Dr. King's dream of a color-blind society. We've come a long way together the past 30 years.

Under President Clinton's leadership, America is enjoying record prosperity and opportunity. But we still have work to do. The tap root of racism still runs deep. At times, we still see the kind of violent, offensive discrimination we saw 30 years ago --discrimination with a fist. But in other cases, we see a more subtle but more insidious discrimination --discrimination with a smile. It's the banker who says, "sorry you didn't qualify for a loan." Or the rental agent who says, "sorry, there are no apartments available."

A year ago, from Dr. King's pulpit at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, I was proud to announce that, as part of the President's Initiative on Race, we were making the largest single increase in the enforcement of our civil rights laws in nearly two decades.

Today, we are building on that progress. Earlier today, I was proud to announce that as part of the balanced budget we will be submitting to Congress next month, we are proposing to invest \$663 million for civil rights enforcement --which is a 15 percent increase over last year's funding.

This increase will help provide the tools that our critical agencies need --such as the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of Housing, and the EEOC --to ensure that no American is denied a job, a home, or an education because of their race, color, creed, gender, or religion; but instead, ensures equal opportunity for all Americans.

There is no person who has worked harder to turn that goal into a reality than President Bill Clinton. Martin Luther King reminded us that, "we shall overcome, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Thanks to the leadership and energy of President Clinton, today, citizens across America are doing much more than painting a few walls --we are extending that arc and renewing our bonds as neighbors and citizens. He is here today to tell us how we are going to build on that progress.

It is my pleasure to introduce the man who is working hard every single day to turn Dr. King's dream into a reality. Ladies and gentlemen . . . President Bill Clinton.

**REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT ALBERT GORE, JR.**  
**AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY**  
**NAACP ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**Thursday, July 16, 1998**

It is truly a deep personal honor for me to come before America's premier civil rights organization, to talk about a goal we share -- closing the opportunity gap, so that every child in America can share in the American dream.

Thank you for what you do every day, and what you have done for nearly 90 years. The NAACP has been one of the mightiest forces for justice, righteousness, and human rights that our nation has ever known. As Joe Madison has said, "if a black person gets into trouble, he calls out two names -- Jesus and the NAACP." Well, I believe all Americans need the NAACP -- now more than ever.

It is true that this is a time of great prosperity for America. Some farmers are suffering, but our economy is enjoying good times -- and it is a prosperity that is shared by many.

Since President Clinton and I took office 5 ½ years ago, we have seen a renewal of America's economy. Over 16 million new jobs. The lowest unemployment in a generation -- and the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment on record. Living standards are rising, and the gap between the rich and the poor is closing. We are seeing progress: the highest home ownership on record. More small businesses created than ever before in our history.

But for all our progress, we know that too many never get into the winner's circle of this new economy. We need to do more. As Kweisi Mfume has said on so many occasions, "we can do better." I believe we must use today's prosperity to expand that winner's circle -- by closing the opportunity gap in our schools, by closing the opportunity gap in our workplaces; and by building stronger families and communities all across the United States of America -- to include everyone in the winner's circle.

Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and do better. As Julian Bond has said, quoting his slave-born grandfather: "forward in the struggle."

Today, I want to talk about how we move forward in the struggle -- with a clear understanding of our past, a frank accounting of our present, and a bold and audacious vision for the future.

Let us start by confronting and understanding the past. Some people like to believe that the past is completely gone, and has no relevance in our present. They are wrong. I read a story in National Geographic last year. This article told of a town called Krakow, in Poland. Every day, to this day, in a church tower, a lone trumpeter sounds an alarm every hour on the hour -- to commemorate an invasion that happened seven centuries ago, when Mongols were about to

storm their walls. The trumpeter ends his clarion mid-note -- evoking the moment at which a Mongol arrow pierced his throat, and cut off his trumpet mid-note.

So when people say the time has come to silence our clarion call for justice, I'm tempted to say: look around you. Look at the dark shadows and lingering poisons of our own past.

We hear voices now in America arguing that our nation's historic struggle is over -- that we've already reached the promised land -- that we have a color-blind society. These people who now call for the end of policies to promote equal opportunity say there's been so much progress that no more such efforts are justified. What are they thinking? Don't they recognize that the tap root of racism is hundreds of years long?

What was their reaction to Jasper, Texas? That it was a bolt from the blue? That heinous crime wounded not only the Byrd family and the Jasper community, it wounded the American spirit. And God bless the Byrd family for leading us toward healing and reconciliation. What courage and amazing grace.

And even though Jasper was a lightning bolt, but it was not the only one.

Last year in Virginia, an African American man was doused with gasoline, burned alive, and decapitated by two white men.

This month in Lawrence, Massachusetts, an interracial couple celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary was subjected to racial slurs -- and when the husband protested, he was beaten by men with baseball bats.

And just twelve days ago, on America's Independence Day, a richly diverse neighborhood in Virginia Beach was covered in racist graffiti, swastikas, and slurs.

Don't tell me that our persistent vulnerability to racism has suddenly disappeared, and that we now live in a color-blind society. We've left Egypt, but don't tell me we've arrived in Canaan.

We're not just talking about the past. Ask the watchmen in the belltowers of America. All around us, there are arrows of hatred still flying through the air -- still silencing dreams, and cutting short hope like the lost notes of that trumpet, so many centuries ago.

We need a shield from those arrows -- and that means tough, uncompromising measures to enforce our civil rights laws and make certain that they are abided by.

This January, from Dr. King's pulpit at Ebenezer Baptist Church here in Atlanta, I was proud to announce, as part of the President's Initiative on Race, the largest single increase in the enforcement of our civil rights laws in nearly two decades. And I want to say to all who would

discriminate in employment, discriminate in education, discriminate in housing, discriminate in health care: we will catch you, we will enforce the law, and we will punish you.

And let me say a special word to America's black farmers: it is time to redress the decades of discrimination you faced. You deserved far better from your government. And President Clinton and I pledge to you: this is a problem we will solve, not bury.

We need to do more. We need strong measures to ensure equal opportunity.

I've heard the critics of affirmative action. I've heard those who say we have a color-blind society. They use their color blind the way duck hunters use a duck blind -- they hide behind it and hope the ducks won't notice. And consider this: they're in favor of affirmative action if you can dunk the basketball or sink a three-point shot. But they're not in favor of it if you merely have the potential to be a leader of your community and bring people together, to teach people who are hungry for knowledge, to heal families who need medical care. Don't tell me we have a color-blind society. I have a different view: I believe that America still needs affirmative action.

So let's understand the influence the past has on the present. It is with us, and it has shaped us. And it is not sufficient to heal the wounds of our past. Before we can plan for the future, we must take stock; we must understand: what is the state of opportunity in America's present?

We have cut in half the gap between black earnings and white earnings over the past 30 years. But the wealth of black and Hispanic households still averages less than one-tenth that of white households. I say: we can do better. Forward in the struggle.

Today, more and more, people of all races and ethnicities are learning from one another, listening to each other's music, reading each other's books, living and working together. But still, too much of our culture is dangerous and destructive -- with gangs, guns, and drugs tearing apart families and communities -- with too many broken homes, too many absent fathers who fail to accept responsibility for their children. We can do better. Forward in the struggle.

In 5 ½ years, President Clinton and I have appointed more African Americans, more Hispanics, more Asian Americans, more Native Americans to Cabinet positions and judgeships and other high posts than ever before in American history. We have named African Americans as Secretary of Energy; Secretary of Agriculture; Secretary of Commerce; Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Secretary of Transportation; Secretary of Labor; Surgeon-General; Budget Director; Drug Czar; Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Chairman of the FCC; Deputy Attorney General; Deputy Secretary of State; Secretary of the Army; Director of the National Parks Service; Director of Presidential Personnel; White House Director of Cabinet Affairs; and White House Director of Public Liaison.

My friends, the most diverse administration in history is also one of the most successful in history. And -- that's not in spite of our diversity; it's because of it!

But in so many places and professions, the glass ceiling still has not been shattered. We can do better. We know we can do better. Forward in the struggle.

We are expanding health coverage to up to five million uninsured children. And I'm proud that we are now targeting nearly 60% of our HIV prevention funds, and more than half of our funds for AIDS services, to people of color.

But there are still crushing racial disparities in health care -- in infant mortality, in cancer, in stroke and heart disease. And HIV and AIDS are growing fastest among African Americans -- accounting for 57 percent of all new infections, and 70 percent of new infections among young women. That is why we proposed a ten-year, \$400 million crusade to end disparities in American health care. And that is why we must all fight to meet the crushing burden of AIDS in the African American community. We should be proud of President Mfume's leadership in this effort. He knows we can do better. Forward in the struggle.

Friends, we have work to do. It can't all be done from the White House. And let's face it: it won't be done by this Congress. I've seen the NAACP's civil rights scorecard for this Congress: for the House, 21 out of 100. For the Senate, 36 out of 100. No wonder they're trying to cut education. With test scores like those, they're the first people we'd keep after class.

Closing the opportunity gap is a mission not just for government, but for all of us. Today, the NAACP is in the vanguard of our most critical battles -- not just for justice in our courts, but to reduce drop-out rates through your Back-to-School/Stay-in-School program. To fight for quality health care, and for economic advancement. And I applaud your brand new initiative to combat recidivism and prevent crime. You are preparing and inspiring tomorrow's leaders today -- and must help us achieve our vision for the future.

We must start with education opportunity, above all else. In a typical year, Dr. King traveled 780,000 miles, and made more than 200 speeches. And on nearly every stop, he made a point of going to a schoolhouse door, or a library, or a college campus. He preached simultaneously integration and education because he knew that even if we are judged by the content of our character, it is education that will truly move us from separate to equal.

Incidentally, I have the high honor of formally announcing that today at this moment in the Oval Office in your White House, President Clinton is signing a new measure that will authorize the creation of a national monument to Dr. King -- right on the national Mall from which he led and moved our nation. It's about time.

As we honor him, let us remember that Dr. King was not alone in the fight for education. When the NAACP led the charge for opportunity in our nation's courts, the desegregation of

our schools became the first and most important battleground of the second reconstruction. Let us recognize the towering genius of the NAACP's chief counsel during those years, Thurgood Marshall. And let me acknowledge his son, Thurgood Marshall, Jr., who works with President Clinton and me every day in the White House as Secretary of Cabinet Affairs.

We have more to do. Today, more than four decades after Brown v. Board of Education, two-thirds of minority students still attend schools that are predominantly minority. On average, in these schools, class sizes are larger, curricula and teaching materials are lower in quality, and teachers have less training in the fields they teach. And they are 16 times more likely to be overwhelmingly poor.

I believe we must hold ourselves and our children to a higher standard. I believe that if we give them the opportunity, all children can learn. And I believe it's time to stop pointing fingers and start joining hands to fix our schools. We don't have a child to waste.

I see an America where there are well-trained teachers in every classroom -- and every school has the resources to reach high standards of excellence. I see an America with tough standards for safety, discipline, and character in our schools. We can turn these dreams into reality.

Today, I challenge every state and school district to work to cut in half the achievement gap between rich and poor, and between racial and ethnic groups, in the next decade. We must close these gaps if we are to have One America.

At a time when our nation is becoming more diverse, I challenge every state and school district to recommit to the goal of integration -- to use voluntary tools such as charter schools, magnet schools, and public school choice to seek more diversity, not less, in our schools. Schools are our best hope to break the chains of racial isolation in our nation.

And there is a lot we can do right now, in this Congress. Let's pass President Clinton's plan to hire 100,000 highly trained teachers to reduce class size in the early grades from an average of 22 to 18.

We're working with Senator Carol Moseley-Braun to pass our \$22 billion plan to rebuild and modernize our schools -- because we can't lift our children up in schools that are falling down.

We're working with Congressman Chaka Fattah to pass our High Hopes program -- to tell children as early as elementary school: if you work hard and stay in school, we'll give you mentoring and tutoring, and we'll guarantee you the help you need to pay for college.

And in this new economy and Information Age, let us close the digital divide that throws up new barriers to opportunity, and to the high-paying jobs of the future. Think about it: if we

put computers and the Internet in every classroom and school library in America, along with teachers who are trained to use them, all of our children, from the poorest inner-city schools to the most remote rural school districts, will have access to the same vast store of knowledge.

Now we need the E-Rate -- a special rate to make Internet connections greatly discounted for 30,000 schools, and almost free for the poorest schools. Some in Congress are now trying to block the E-Rate. I believe it is wrong to unplug our children's education.

We are fighting for economic opportunity. Just yesterday, I hosted our fourth annual White House Conference on Community Empowerment, to show how we are lighting up our central cities with the spark of private investment.

Our goal is to make our communities not just better off, but better. Better places to raise a family, with community gardens and green spaces instead of contaminated waste dumps. Better places to live and work, with thriving businesses and community police making the streets safe again. Through community empowerment, we're helping communities recapture that sense of Main Street community that has been lost for too long.

Today, I am pleased to make a brand new announcement, pending the approval of the NAACP Board of Directors, that will provide greater access to capital in our communities. Today, we are signing a letter of intent between the NAACP and our Small Business Administration that will enable us to significantly increase lending to African American businesses. The NAACP, in partnership with us, will now be able to provide crucial technical assistance, and also direct loans through your eight Community Development Resource Centers. Starting here, starting now -- for minority businesses across America -- let us open the doors to this new economy wider than ever before.

Let us open untapped markets abroad as well as at home. I am proud of President Clinton's historic trip to Africa, to help integrate Africa into the global economy. I am proud that my own binational commission with South Africa's Deputy President Mbeki has helped to strengthen the ties between our nations. We will meet again for the fifth time just next month. Now it is high time for us to take action to deepen trade and partnership between Africa and America -- because a stable, prosperous Africa is good for the United States of America, and good for the whole world. I say to Congress: pass the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

In this global economy, we also have an obligation to lead the world. I believe that God's hand has touched the United States of America -- on purpose, not by accident. He has given us not just a chance, but a mission to prove to men and women throughout this world that people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds, of all faiths and creeds, can not only work and live together, but can enrich and ennoble both themselves and our common purpose.

We learned in school about the "lowest common denominator," America is about the highest common denominator.

That is why, every time the Republicans tried to roll back affirmative action -- three times so far this year -- we fought back. And hear me well: if they try again, we'll fight them again. And if they try again, we'll fight them again. And if they try again, we'll fight them again, and again, and again.

That is not the only fight we face in this Congress. We are fighting for \$1.5 billion to turn around failing schools, expand public school choice, and reform our poorest schools. The Congressional majority has refused to fund this initiative. They said no to opportunity. But we are fighting back. Our eyes are on the future.

We are fighting for quality after-school care -- to engage our children during those crucial hours after the school bell rings, but before the work whistle blows. The Congressional majority passed a budget that would squeeze down on after-school care. They said no to opportunity. But we are fighting back. Our eyes are on the future.

We are fighting for summer jobs for America's children. The Congressional majority voted to shut down the entire summer jobs program. They said no to opportunity. But we are fighting back. Our eyes are on the future.

We are fighting to clear the backlog of civil rights cases before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and do more to prevent and punish crimes of bias. The Congressional majority voted to cut the historic increase in civil rights enforcement we requested. I thought there was bipartisan agreement to fight at least the most basic forms of discrimination. Amazingly, they said no to opportunity. But we are fighting back. Our eyes are on the future.

The Republicans know theirs is the wrong agenda for African Americans. They don't even want to count you in the Census! They'd probably look out at this crowd, and tell us there were about 300 people here.

We believe America needs a full and accurate Census -- and we need each and every one of you to help us achieve it. This nation cannot work for all Americans if we cannot even count all Americans.

And by the way, there is one more place you must stand up and be counted -- and that is the ballot box this November!

I believe in my heart that we can close the opportunity gap in America, that we can finish the unfinished work of the first and second reconstructions -- if we are willing to see and understand the past, to understand the influence of the past on the present, and to use the present to move boldly into the future.

But we will also need all of you. You are the grassroots activists of today, and the leaders of tomorrow. My friend and fellow Tennessean Ben Hooks has said, "there will always

be a need for the NAACP.” And so, today -- and for all time -- I ask you to work with me, to reform our schools and lift up all our children. Stand with me, for the economic empowerment that is the next great civil rights frontier. Lead with me, toward an America that fulfills its God-given mission and destiny, and proves to the world that our diversity is a great strength.

And as it is written in the scripture: “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep; be of the same mind one toward another.” And “the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.” Thank you.

*News Articles on the Efforts of  
the Vice President*

**AP**  
**Gore Recalls Dad and Civil Rights**

**By Sandra Sobieraj**

Associated Press Writer

Tuesday, August 3, 1999; 4:37 p.m. EDT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Vice President Al Gore, recalling his father's fights with bigots spewing the "N-word," told the Progressive National Baptist Convention: "I want to create a future where nobody knows that term."

While convention president C. Mackey Daniels introduced the campaigning Democrat as "President Al Gore, one of the greatest leaders of all time," Gore said he was speaking Tuesday as "someone who is a child of the Kingdom and a person of strong faith."

He juiced up his standard campaign speech with Biblical references and a preacher's cadence. Many in the audience of black religious activists leapt to their feet when Gore said school districts should "recruit more African-American teachers as role models for these boys and girls to look up to."

Government should help parents with after-school care so young people can be safe and productive, "without going home to the 'Jerry Springer Show' or some other trashy program," Gore said.

The vice president cast the Democrats' fight with Republicans in Congress over tax cuts in stark class-warfare terms: The GOP leadership wants "a risky tax scheme aimed at those at the top -- who already have much -- at the expense of our economy just at the time when it's starting to work for those at the bottom."

He spoke at length of his father, Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore Sr., who died last December, and his battle through the 1940s, 50s and 60s for civil rights.

"He supported the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and lost his next re-election. But his conscience won and he taught me that was more important than any election."

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**HEADLINE: Once Down, NAACP in Fighting Form; New Initiatives Rekindle Oldest Rights Group**

**BYLINE: Michael A. Fletcher, Washington Post Staff Writer**

DATELINE: NEW YORK, July 15

**BODY:**

According to NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, executives at some major hotel chains all but laughed three years ago when the civil rights group announced that it would begin issuing report cards on their hiring, contracting and corporate gift-giving policies with regard to African Americans.

And who could blame the hotel executives for not taking the NAACP seriously?

At the time, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights group was still emerging from a near-fatal leadership crisis that had left it deep in debt, its organizational structure crippled and its agenda in tatters.

Even the group's threat to boycott those hotels that failed was unconvincing.

Fewer than half of the 14 hotel chains initially surveyed even bothered to respond.

"They thought we were engaging in some genuflecting to remind ourselves of who we are," Mfume said.

What a difference three years make. When the NAACP announced the results of its third annual economic reciprocity survey this week, corporate representatives awaited the results anxiously.

Many of the companies have made significant efforts to improve their minority hiring and contracting, in part to improve their grades on the report card. "We take this quite seriously," said Mearl Purvis, a vice president for Promus Hotels.

Nor are business executives the only ones taking the NAACP seriously once

again. The organization has used its 90th annual convention, which concluded here tonight, to showcase a broad range of new initiatives that are winning the old civil rights group new respect.

The NAACP announced this week that it is teaming with gun control advocates to file a federal lawsuit claiming that the gun industry recklessly distributes its products. But rather than seeking damages, the group is asking the courts to impose the kinds of strict gun controls that Congress and many state legislatures have rejected.

The group also criticized the nation's four major networks--CBS, NBC, ABC and Fox--for having no black stars in the 26 new prime-time shows in the fall television lineup. Network executives quickly responded to the criticism, which came with a threat of a boycott, litigation or both, by tallying up the number of black roles in existing shows and requesting meetings with NAACP leaders.

Today, Vice President Gore appeared at the convention to applaud the NAACP's efforts to ensure that black "role models" remain on network television and praise the planned gun suit. Gore also touted his proposal to require states to issue photo identification cards for anybody who wants to buy a handgun and, without mentioning GOP presidential campaign front-runner George W. Bush by name, continued his week-long assault on the Texas governor's gun record, saying "some are [for] concealed weapons, but they can't conceal the fact that they are doing the bidding of the NRA." (As governor, Bush signed "conceal and carry" gun legislation in Texas and a measure limiting civil liability for gun manufacturers.)

The new NAACP initiatives rely heavily on time-tested tools the group has used throughout its history: threats, protests, legal action, and corporate and government partnerships. But now, NAACP leaders say, they are beginning to retool those weapons for the contemporary civil rights struggle, whose targets are more scattered and far less obvious than they were in the past.

"We marched and picketed and protested against state-sanctioned segregation and brought that system crashing to its knees," said NAACP Chairman Julian Bond. "Today's times require no less, and in fact, insist on more."

Indeed, the convention's broad agenda reflected the myriad challenges confronting African American communities and the NAACP. Freddie Mac, the congressionally chartered mortgage bank, announced an alliance with the NAACP aimed at increasing home ownership rates among blacks, which are far below the national average. The group announced a partnership with Black Entertainment Television to push NAACP memberships and devote air time to issues concerning the group. And AT&T announced plans to help establish technology labs at NAACP facilities in several cities, in an effort aimed at bringing more African Americans in closer contact with computer technology.

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright addressed the convention and answered criticism that the United States does more to back Europe than Africa by promising greater U.S. effort to support peace in the Sudan and other war-torn African countries. She also told the NAACP that the government is committed to doing more to curb the spread of AIDS in Africa.

"The United States has helped by . . . steering to Africa more than one half of the billion dollars we have invested in the global fight against AIDS," Albright said. "But so much more needs to be done."

The group also heard from civil rights veterans Jesse L. Jackson and Al Sharpton and from Gore's challenger for the Democratic presidential nomination, Bill Bradley.

Ron Walters, a University of Maryland political scientist who attended the conference, said he was impressed with the range of the NAACP's work but said the group's efforts are far from sufficient to address the core economic, educational and other problems affecting African American communities.

"They seem to be fashioning an agenda for the future and demonstrating their renewed clout," Walters said. "They are much better in terms of focus and infrastructure. In short, they have returned to normalcy. But we need more than that." NAACP President Kweisi Mfume announced plans to take on the gun industry in his keynote convention speech in New York this week. Mfume and Jesse L. Jackson chat before Jackson's Wednesday convention speech.

**AP ONLINE**

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**HEADLINE: Gore Defends Affirmative Action**

**BYLINE: SONYA ROSS**

DATELINE: SEATTLE

**BODY:**

Vice President Al Gore urged Americans on Friday to reject ballot initiatives that chip away at affirmative action and to examine the attitudes that make such efforts popular. He said he would "fight for fundamental fairness" as president.

Speaking to a convention of minority journalists, the vice president decried I-200, a Washington state initiative that wiped out affirmative action programs in public education, employment and contracting. Voters approved it in November.

"Some will try to convince you that we need to go back to the broken policies of the past," Gore said. "I never, ever want to go back and I never want to see this country go back. I will lead the fight for fundamental fairness."

Gore, who is hoping to succeed President Clinton, originally focused on the "digital divide" that locks many minorities out of the high-tech economy. But he wound up elaborating on affirmative action.

Without offering specifics, Gore said he believes "we have to continue the use of tools that accelerate the removal of these barriers that come from the kind of tragic history that slavery represented, and that the injustices against other groups have represented."

He said Americans sometimes look at indicators such as increased high school graduation rates and conclude minorities have surmounted the discrimination that led to affirmative action in the first place. He said family wealth better indicates how far behind minorities lag.

"The average wealth of African-American families and Hispanic families is less than one-tenth the average wealth for majority families. For Native

American families, it would be much worse still," Gore said.

"If a young African-American or Latino child graduates from college, wants to become an entrepreneur in this new innovation economy and has a great idea, how do you raise the capital? In a majority family, I'll tell you what the first move is: Pick up the telephone and call a member of the family and start working that network to find some capital that can be invested."

Gore then told of a Hungarian village that sounds a trumpet to commemorate a 600-year-old tragedy. Yet, he said, some Americans wrongfully feel the country is "colorblind" so soon after the 1954 Supreme Court ruling that struck down segregation in public schools and removed other racial barriers.

"I pledge to you I will do all I can to close the opportunity gaps," Gore said. "We don't need more scapegoats or more phony ballot propositions like I-200. We need to all examine the kinds of attitudes that crop up in response to national problems and national debates."

Gore was responding to Derrick Jackson of the National Association of Black Journalists.

"Instead of ... calling I-200 phony, which is easy to do, would you do something that Clinton did not do, which is fight for affirmative action in the white communities and the white boardrooms of America?" Jackson asked.

Gore defended Clinton, saying the president took an active role in trying to preserve affirmative action programs in California's colleges and universities. "My recollection is he did speak out," Gore said.

The vice president also sought to modify his statement that all Americans "are immigrants to this land, it just depends on how many generations back."

Jackson reminded Gore that as descendants of slaves, blacks "were not willing immigrants coming through Ellis Island."

"Well, I hope I didn't imply that I thought otherwise," Gore replied.

Gore was the fourth presidential candidate to appear at Unity '99, an umbrella gathering of groups representing African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic and American Indian journalists. About 6,000 people are attending the convention, which ends Sunday.

Gore's Democratic opponent, Bill Bradley, addressed the gathering on Thursday. Republican candidate George W. Bush initially declined an invitation to speak, but showed up Thursday to work the crowds as did Republican candidate John McCain.

**NEWSDAY (New York)**  
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## **HEADLINE: GORE'S RACIAL ROADMAP / FACT-FINDING DINNERS WERE 'TURNING POINT**

**BYLINE: By William Douglas. WASHINGTON BUREAU**

DATELINE: Washington

### **BODY:**

Washington - A long evening was winding down for guests at the Detroit NAACP chapter's annual dinner, but Vice President Al Gore was just getting wound up.

Speaking with the staccato cadence and deep growl of a Sunday preacher, Gore criticized police officers who stop African-American motorists for "DWB" - driving while black - and blasted conservatives who say the need for affirmative-action programs has ended.

"They talk about a color-blind society," Gore said on a recent Sunday before the nation's largest NAACP chapter. "Give me a break! Hel-lo! They use their 'color-blind the way duck hunters use their duck blind. They hide behind it and hope the ducks won't figure it out."

Gore looked into the crowd of 5,000 and assured them he was sure-footed on civil rights and that he feels a "connection to your struggle and your history."

The vice president's views today are a reflection, in part, of an unusual effort launched in 1995, when he felt the need to re-examine the issue of race relations in America and in the process re-examine his own views on race. Two years before President Bill Clinton launched his very public initiative on race, Gore quietly conducted his own.

In the privacy of the vice president's mansion behind the gates of Washington's Naval Observatory, Gore held three dinners, inviting some of the most influential people in politics and academia to take a highly structured, seminar-like look at the often emotional and explosive subject of race and race relations.

"Those dinners represented a turning point for me," Gore said recently

aboard Air Force Two as he flew from Detroit back to Washington. "I still think about race very much from the frame that emerged in my mind from those intensive discussions."

Gore said he first gained understanding on race from his father, Al Gore Sr., who served in the Senate from 1953 to 1971. The senior Gore (D-Tenn.) broke from his southern Senate colleagues and supported civil-rights legislation in the 1950s and 1960s, an action, along with his opposition to the Vietnam War, that the vice president said led to his father's defeat in 1970.

Attending private school and living the privileged life of a senator's son in Washington and Tennessee, Gore said that when he was 8 years old his father took him to an open house near their Carthage, Tenn., home that opened his eyes to the legacy of racism.

"Instead of stopping in the parlor, or the ornate dining room, or the grand staircase with all the other guests, my father took me down in the basement and pointed to the dark, dank stone walls, and the cold metal rings lined up in a row," Gore said.

"Slave rings," he recalled. "I'll never forget the shock I experienced in realizing what that said about the history of this town where I thought the relationship between blacks and whites was very good."

Improving race relations has already emerged as a major campaign theme for both Gore and former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley, another candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, ironically an attendee at one of the 1995 dinners. The dinners provide a window into how Gore takes on an issue, how he gathers and digests information, and to whom he turns for guidance.

The 40 people on Gore's guest list read like a page from Who's Who. Among them: Harvard professors Henry Louis Gates and Cornell West; Lani Guinier, whom Clinton nominated in 1992 to head the Justice Department's civil rights division but later withdrew amid conservative criticism about articles she wrote espousing a "weighted voting" system; columnist and essayist Stanley Crouch; conservative author Shelby Steele; Martin Peretz, editor of the New Republic and Gore's mentor during his student days at Harvard; University of California-Berkeley ethnic studies professor Ronald Takaki; and historian John Hope Franklin, who went on to chair Clinton's race initiative. The Rev. Jesse Jackson - who at the time was considered a possible challenger to Gore - was also a dinner guest.

Gathering scholars and lawmakers to thrash out a problem over a dinner table is not new to Gore. Since becoming vice president, he's hosted sessions on subjects ranging from missile defense to the use of metaphors.

Gore maintains that race dinners had nothing to do with his presidential ambitions, though some of his guests believed otherwise.

"I thought he was getting ready for the presidency," Takaki said. "I think he was looking out for his political future. He knows race is at the top of the agenda in the 21st Century."

The vice president did say the dinners were born of politics, specifically the 1994 congressional elections that saw Republicans - whose campaign agenda included eliminating affirmative action programs - wrestle control of the House and Senate from Democrats.

"I felt that the context within which our country was dealing with the issue of race was changing," Gore said. "The mood in the country as reflected in the elections of the fall of 1994 made me think that it was a good time to really dig in to develop a better understanding . . . that would make it more likely that we could turn back the effort to attack the progress that we've made."

So Gore hit the books and the telephone, contacting people with opposing views ranging from Harvard's West, who wrote the book "Race Matters," to San Jose State University's Steele, who authored articles titled "White Guilt" and "Affirmative Action: A Negative Vote," to ask questions.

The vice president approached the dinners as if he were preparing for a college class, according to those who helped him. He asked guests to submit their favorite writings on race, which he converted into briefing books for the guests to pore over prior to the dinners.

Each dinner was designed to cover different territory. The first tried to outline the nature of the problem; the second focused on the kind of racial future America wants; and the third on how the nation achieves its vision for race relations.

Each evening, the guests listened to one or two lectures before retreating to four dining tables. Guests then discussed the lectures among themselves, with a person in charge at each table to help facilitate the conversation. After dessert, the entire group would reconvene to recount what was talked about at the tables.

"It was about getting together and brainstorming about public policy," said Harvard's Gates, author of "Colored People." "It was like being back at Harvard at a seminar, but the professor didn't have all the answers. He brought us there so we could educate him."

What Gore got, according to some dinner attendees, was a civil but intense conversation on race in which the philosophical arguments among some of the

guests mirrored the disagreements that occur in society.

For example, Takaki said he and Peretz got into a heated discussion across tables during the second dinner over the immigrant experience.

"What he was arguing was a myth that European immigrants were different from Asian and other immigrants," Takaki said. "I argued with civility, but I did it with force."

Such exchanges broaden Gore's perspective on the dynamic between races other than black and white, according to Skila Harris, a former Gore assistant who helped organize the dinners.

While guests like Peretz called the sessions "immensely refreshing," others were less than impressed.

"We weren't getting down to the issues," said Steele, who attended one dinner. "It was just relentless speech-making. It was too much ego, too many people, too formal."

Gore proclaimed himself satisfied with the sessions. He said they helped him draw a "pretty good roadmap" for dealing with race issues, although he didn't reveal any specific proposals.

Instead, Gore speaks generally about the lessons he learned: The need for better enforcement of civil-rights laws and an increased effort to get Americans to understand and appreciate each other's differences.

"The first step is the establishment of mutual respect," Gore said. "Only after mutual respect is established - not just in words - only after that can we move to the second step, which is to transcend their differences to an emphasis to what we all have in common as Americans . . . Too frequently, there's a tendency in all of us who think our hearts are in the right place to move to Step Two and bypass Step One."

Some of the thoughts culled from Gore's dinners made their way into Clinton's race initiative. During a 1996 White House meeting on the focus of the initiative, Gore spoke of the uniqueness of the African-American experience in the United States, quoting extensively from a talk that John Hope Franklin gave during one of the dinners.

"In our meetings, he Gore would reference the dinners," one White House official said. "The dinners were an anchor that he returns to. It's something that really helped shape his focus."

In his student days at Harvard, books and talks with an African-American

roommate also helped shape his outlook on race. As racial unrest broke out in some major cities in the late 1960s, Gore began reading books like "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" and then Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver's "Soul on Ice." And he turned to John Tyson for perspective.

"Al would say, 'How could a guy like Eldridge Cleaver be such an intellect and a thug?' " said Tyson, who shared a bunk bed with Gore at Harvard. "I told him that there's a real calculus to being a black man in America: You have to figure out white racism, you have to figure out black racism."

Gore's interest in race then did not extend to the protest line. "We were not demonstration kind of guys," said Tyson, now a Maryland entrepreneur who is doing fund-raising for Gore's campaign.

As a member of the House and the Senate, Gore faithfully cosponsored and voted for civil rights-related legislation, but was not regarded as a leader in Congress on the issue, some political experts say.

"He is a traditional Democrat on all votes regarding race," said David Bositis, senior research associate of the Joint Center for Political and Economic studies, a nonpartisan, Washington-based think tank. "His prime agenda was not a civil-rights agenda. He wasn't like Ted Kennedy. It wasn't like he was a lightning rod for people who had a civil rights agenda."

Gore's supporters bristle at such an assessment and point out that, as senator, he was one of a few southern senators to be an original cosponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1990, a measure designed to strengthen anti-discrimination laws. The act passed the Senate, but was vetoed by President George Bush.

"He Gore may not have been one of the two or three who always popped up in Senate debate," said Thurgood Marshall Jr., head of Clinton's cabinet affairs and a former staffer for Gore in the Senate, "but he voted and spoke passionately on the subject of race."

These days it's hard to miss Gore talking about race. Last year alone, he spoke at the national meetings of the NAACP and the National Association of Black-Owned Broadcasters. He also delivered a Martin Luther King Day speech from the pulpit of King's Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, an address that included themes discussed during the dinners, he said.

". . . Race is always present," Gore said. "Pretending it isn't is naive. But if properly acknowledged and sensibly dealt with, race can be transcended."

GRAPHIC: AP Photo - Gore announces federal grants in Charlotte, N.C., yesterday.

# **CHATTANOOGA TIMES/ CHATTANOOGA FREE PRESS**

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April 28, 1999, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A13

LENGTH: 564 words

## **HEADLINE: Gore Evokes Ties to Dad's Support of Blacks**

**BYLINE: By SCOTT SHEPARD Cox News Service**

### **BODY:**

WASHINGTON -- Vice President Al Gore is evoking his personal "connection" to the modern civil rights movement, giving him a valuable calling card with African Americans as he pursues a presidential bid.

"The Gore name means something to the black community," Rep. John Lewis, a Georgia Democrat who was at the forefront of voting rights demonstrations in the Deep South in the 1960s, said in a recent interview.

Indeed, Wednesday night in New York, Gore will be the subject of a special tribute at the Black Leadership Forum's annual gala. About 500 African American leaders will be on hand for the Gore salute.

The gesture comes as Democrats are trying to secure the backing of a constituency vital to its hopes in next year's elections, and as Gore battles Bill Bradley for the chance to compete as the party's presidential candidate.

Gore benefits tremendously from the near-legendary rapport of President Clinton with black voters and from the administration's steadfast defense of affirmative action programs.

But the vice president's most personal link to black America came just three weeks before his eighth birthday.

It was March 1956 and his father, then a U.S. senator, refused to sign the "Southern Manifesto" calling on Southern lawmakers to support their states in defying desegregation rulings by the Supreme Court. Al Gore Sr. and fellow Tennessean Estes Kefauver were the only two senators from old Confederacy states who did not sign it.

Gore, in a speech Sunday night to the Detroit chapter of the NAACP, paid tribute to his father's stands against racism, and in doing so, subtly reminded African Americans of a political debt owed to his family.

"I feel a connection to that struggle and to the NAACP in a personal way," Gore said. "My father was a United States senator from the South who had courage. He fought against the poll tax in the 1940s, and for civil rights in the '50s. He was one of only two senators to refuse to sign the hateful Southern Manifesto. He voted for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and he voted against Supreme Court nominees whose commitment was respect. And those brave stands probably cost him his career."

The senior Gore's career ended in 1970, for a variety of reasons, some of which had nothing to do with his positions on racial matters. But clearly, his progressive stands on race, including a vote in his final term in the Senate against a ban on using busing to integrate schools, endeared him to civil rights leaders.

Bradley, a former U.S. senator from New Jersey, a basketball Hall of Famer and Gore's sole rival for the 2000 presidential nomination, has also stood with African Americans in times of difficulties.

Following George Bush's 1988 presidential election, a campaign that featured the notoriously racist Willie Horton ad that benefited Bush, Bradley delivered a speech to the National Press Club drawing on his pro basketball career in an eloquent challenge to the president to do more to improve race relations in America.

And after the police beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles, Bradley went to the floor of the Senate to condemn the brutality, dramatically hitting the lectern with a pencil 56 times to simulate the blows delivered to King's body.

And in a speech last week, Bradley promised that racial tolerance would be a key element of his presidency, if elected.

## **FDCH FEDERAL DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY DOCUMENTS**

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January 8, 1999; Friday

LENGTH: 746 words

AGENCY: WHITE HOUSE

SIC-MAJOR-GROUP: 09 - General Classification

### **HEADLINE: PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE: THE LONGEST PEACETIME ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN HISTORY**

CONTACT: 202-456-7150

#### **BODY:**

Today's Strong Jobs Report Means That We Have the Longest Peacetime Economic Expansion In American History. The President's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) now believes that December will be the 93rd month of the current expansion, making it the longest peacetime expansion on record. The current expansion -- which officially began in March 1991 -- is now longer than the economic expansion of the 1980s, which lasted 92 months (from Nov. '82 to July '90). As today's report from the CEA shows, the current expansion is different from previous ones in many respects:

Inflation Has Declined During This Economic Expansion. As measured by the core Consumer Price Index, the rate of inflation over the past year -- the eighth year of the expansion -- is lower than the inflation rate in the first year of the expansion (about 2.5 percent vs. about 4 percent). This is an important difference because the expansions in the 1960s and 1980s were both choked off by the price acceleration in the later part of the expansion.

This Economic Expansion Has Been Investment-Led, Instead of Government-Led. During the current economic expansion, the contribution of investment to growth has been almost twice as great as it was in the expansions during the 1960s and 1980s. Indeed, in the past six years, productive business investment has grown at a 12-percent average annual rate -- the fastest in more than three decades. In the 1980s, government spending provided a larger contribution to growth than investment. In the 1990s, according to the CEA report, "federal government spending has provided no stimulus..."

Productivity Growth Has Increased During This Economic Expansion. In previous economic expansion in the 1960s and 1980s, the rate of productivity growth declined late in the expansions. During this

economic expansion, the rate of productivity growth has continued to be relatively strong well into the eighth year of the expansion -- increasing 1.9 percent over the past year, about 50 percent higher than the trend rate of productivity growth.

**Real Hourly Wages Are Rising During This Economic Expansion.** During the 1980s expansion, real hourly wages fell as the expansion lengthened. During the current economic expansion, hourly wages have risen by more than 5 percent, adjusted for inflation. Over the past year, real hourly wages have increased about 2.5 percent -- the fastest real wage growth in 20 years.

**As The Economy Continues to Grow Strongly, Employers Are Hiring Additional Workers, Helping Many People Previously Left Behind During Economic Expansions:**

**Wages Are Rising for Lowest-Paid Workers.** Since 1996, male and female workers in the lowest-paid 10 percent of workers have increased their earnings by about 6 percent, adjusted for inflation.

**Real Wages Are Rising for African Americans and Hispanics.** The real wages of African Americans and Hispanics have risen rapidly in the past two years, up about 5.8 percent for African American men, 4.0 percent for Hispanic men, 6.2 percent for African American women, and 2.6 percent for Hispanic women since 1996.

**More People Are Finding Work Than Ever Before And They Are Finding it Faster Than Before.** The average length of unemployment among workers searching for a job has declined by about one quarter since 1994, from 18.8 to 14.1 weeks. The number of workers who are not employed and who have not looked for work in the past month because they do not think they could find a job -- so-called discouraged workers -- has shrunk by one-third in the past four years.

**Record-Low Unemployment for African Americans and Hispanics.** Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the African-American unemployment rate has fallen from 14.2 percent in 1992 to 8.9 percent in 1998 -- its lowest annual level on record (data first collected in 1972). And the Hispanic unemployment rate has dropped from 11.6 percent in 1992 to 7.2 percent in 1998 -- its lowest annual level ever.

**REGION:** 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals - Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington, D.C.

**INDUSTRY-CODE:** Executive, legislative, and general government, except finance

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SECTION: Vol. 47; No. 46 ; Pg. 1a

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**HEADLINE: Are you teaching your kids how to surf? Gore pushes to add Internet to inner-city schools**

**BYLINE: Jones, Tony**

**BODY:**

Are you teaching your kids how to surf? Gore pushes to add Internet to inner-city schools

While the Thanksgiving holiday's origins holds little real rationale for Black Americans, as we sit down to our heavy, mostly well-earned meals, the opportunity to rest and contemplate for a moment offers the opportunity to reflect upon our triumphs here.

As many of us sit before a table filled with feasts unimaginable throughout most of the world, a new challenge has arisen which will require every ounce resolve displayed by the ancestors whose sacrifices brought us in-to our present status as one of the world's richest ethnic groups.

According to the Census Bureau, the number of poor African Americans in the nation decreased significantly between 1996 and 1997, while the real amount of money African-American households controlled increased. (Though it has been criticized for inaccuracy because many Blacks don't respond, it is still the most credible information available.) The percentiles and real figures are reflected on the streets of America everyday, just look around.

But for every new car in the driveway, each diamond ring pushing that fork through the plate and every mega-screen color television awaiting our post-feast digestive spate, Black America is making a crucial mistake by not being as greedy for the attainment of computer knowledge.

Face it, the new world is here folks. While we spend copious amounts of our income on consumer items, and prepare to rush out of the door the day after Thanksgiving to start flashing plastic and the ugly new dollars on everything from needed teddy bears to incomprehensible items like a television for the bathroom, in just the past week, the Information Age solidified itself in ways that cannot be ignored by any citizen that are downright dangerous for Blacks to

ignore.

Consider: While Bill Gates sat strapped in government hearings seemingly intent on his not becoming the Andrew Carnegie of the Information Age, for the first time computer technology became a primary force in the nation's stock market. A new computer giant was formed when America Online bought Gates's main accuser Netscape to create the next world computer giant (think GM and Ford).

The news so buoyed the financial markets that the ripples even shored up the sagging Japanese capital markets, but it is the fact that these new changes mark a plateau for the computer age as an accredited industry that will affect every American home in the same way that steel set the railroad industry to control the Industrial Age.

Every American household that does not make computer education, knowledge, access and ownership an absolute priority can immediately begin to teach its children to expect less out of life. For the African-American community, it is both an opportunity and a challenge.

Congressman Harold Ford Jr. has been pressing the issue since his first campaign. In a report prepared by his office entitled "The Digital Divide: Bridging The Gap," he said "If we expect to move into the 21st century as a stronger, more competitive nation, we must give every one the skills they need to compete for the high wage, high-technology jobs in the global marketplace."

It is no exaggeration. According to the 1998 Occupational Outlook Handbook, compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, from 1996 to 2006, computer and data processing services will constitute the highest number of job hires, a 108 percent increase, the fastest growing job sector in the nation. Combined business, health and education services come in second at 70 percent.

For 500 years we've fought and overcome oppression, building and proving a spirit historic for its force, resilience and adaptability. Inequities, unfair capitalistic practices and racism will plague as until Pharaoh is put away for the final time, but we have come forth to a position Russians cannot imagine. Now, we must overcome our impulses to buy everything the television offers us and make the most prevalent screen in the home the computer monitor.

Ford cites the U.S. Department of Commerce's Falling Through the Net II: New Data on the Digital Divide to point to key factors facing his constituents that we must heed. African American and Hispanic households lag behind the national average for telephone penetration, PC ownership and on-line access...

Income is of course a factor, but as the new age approaches, we must change our priorities. The money is there. Cut the cable bill, cut the long distance calls, cut the excesses in half, and you can buy a computer on time. Poverty is

not an excuse. As we spiral forward with our material dreams, the time has come to settle down for a new push for computer knowledge in the same way which we attained civil rights, then consumer spending power. The Census Bureau reports that African-American households experienced an increase in real median income of 4.3 percent between 1996 and 1997, from \$24,021 to \$25,050. The billion total aggregate income for Black America paints us as one of the richest nations on the earth, easily in the top 20.

It is a known fact that we are spending this money on consumerables, but for every movie ticket we buy, it is time we spend that money buying computer books and renting time on computers. Even when the school systems are brought on-line, there is still a huge wall to climb. We can no longer continue to spend more on personal care and services (\$352 million) than we do on education (\$206 million). Even more frightening, while reading skills are becoming just as important as breathing, Black Americans spend \$74 million, on reading, while we spend \$1 billion, 803 million on Tommy Hil-figer and his co-horts' apparel and services.

Yet, a computer in the average African American home is a rarity. And while they are expensive, the new I-Mac comes Internet ready for \$1,299. Compact's new computer will reportedly retail for well under \$1,000 brand new.

Waiting on the government will not do it. The United States education system is just beginning to become refurbished to reap the new electronic wind, but when Congress resumes, a fight is brewing over the funding. The proposal to wire the nation's schools has already been cut from 50 percent from the original \$2 billion, but a few successes are beginning to trickle down the pipeline.

Vice President Albert Gore's proposal to spend \$2 billion to install computers with Internet access in all the nation's public schools has run into a few road-blocks, but the plan contains absolutely imperative proposals for the Black community. Internet access in the public schools will substantially remove an obstacle of an increasing growth in the Black community, the lack of computer access for school-age children. But the schools in no way can plug the gap we face. While the nation is grappling with a more competitive world, we cannot wait for the schools to begin to play catch-up in three years.

Gore's proposal's first initial influence in Tennessee will begin in Fayette County. The plan is mainly based on the percentage of the school systems' number of students qualifying for free and reduced lunches. Memphis will have to wait because of requirements within the plan. "We must wait for the latter part of the funding, because we will need internal wiring for the classrooms," said Memphis City Schools Linda Mainord, Director of Information Technology. "We are expecting a large portion of our schools to make the funding cut because most of them meet the 80 to 90 percent (allocated) percentile. We are now preparing to apply for the second round, which will take

care of the rest of our schools."

We must join our children and help them work harder to prepare themselves for the next age. California and Texas are leading the way in scuttling education gains fought through by Affirmative Action, giving an ominous legal precedent for decreased access for people of color in the nation.

"There isn't any natural equilibrium that's going to give us the diversity we're after," Scott Miller, head of the College Board Task Force of Minority High Achievement told the Boston Globe.

"People don't grasp the scope and scale of the investment required to deal with these challenges. In the absence of getting a lot more high-performing Black kids, and quickly, it's going to be a long time before admissions decisions are not politically quite divisive."

And we must now commit to band together to help the most needy. It's time to give up stained glass and premium carpet, because the neighbors need help.

From the same report: "Low income Black students perform worse than their White low-income peers on SAT and the National Educational Assessment Program...And middle-class Black students score lower than middle-class White students, according to the College Board."

The battle line has been drawn. We now must make computer access a community mantra. The libraries have terminals, but time there is limited. Yet, the librarians say that too many hours go unused. Computers are cheap as televisions, yet they go unpurchased. The future is wide open, will we sleep while it passes?

ETHNIC-GROUP: African American/ Caribbean/African

**MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL**  
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Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

September 23, 1998 Wednesday Final

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**HEADLINE: Black Milwaukeeans greet vice president warmly**

**BYLINE: FELICIA THOMAS-LYNN**

SOURCE: Journal Sentinel staff

**BODY:**

Vice President Al Gore was warmly embraced by members of the African-American community on Tuesday as they gathered at America's Black Holocaust Museum to ask questions not of scandal but of issues germane to their lives.

More than 50 local and state governmental officials, as well as community activists and members of the clergy, spent almost an hour with Gore at the museum, 2233 N. 4th St.

To a thunderous round of applause, Gore ticked off a number of positive changes he said the administration was responsible for: "New jobs, higher wages, lowest African-American poverty rate in the history of the United States of America, historical low unemployment among African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, all Americans. Unemployment's down, jobs up and the Packers are 3 and 0."

Part of the new direction, he said, includes having the largest number of African-Americans ever appointed to a White House administration.

After his opening statement, members of the media were asked to leave while Gore and the audience continued the town-hall-type meeting.

Participants interviewed later said they had an opportunity to ask questions. Some of the questions addressed improving and creating low-income housing, and trying to get Milwaukee established as one of the nation's so-called empowerment zones.

Margaret Henningsen, one of three African-American women set to open a bank on the north side, said it was important that dollars come into the city for

economic development. State Sen. Gwen Moore (D-Milwaukee) wanted to know how the federal government plans to handle the lack of affordable low-income housing for the poorest of the poor.

# Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

## Presidential Materials Division

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                | DATE       | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 002. Report              | [Campaign related] (8 pages) | 07/13/1999 | PRM         |

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Gore Vice Presidential Records  
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### **FOLDER TITLE:**

Papers: Fact Sheet What Has Been Reported AIDS Drugs For South Africa

2006-0003-F

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