

Pauline M. Abernathy

02/23/97 10:06:01 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Corrected action/event ideas

I apologize for not getting back to you last week on action ideas. I was staff contact for events on Friday, Weds., and Friday for HRC and/or the POTUS. I'm not sure what form people gave you ideas, so I will just briefly list some and I can put them into your format if someone circulates it to me.

DC: Bruce said DPC ought to get more active on education and crime in DC. Regarding education, Becton has not been as aggressive as Mayor Daley in Chicago and does not seem to have surrounded himself with the kind of people Daley has and he needs to. Melanne and I have discussed the idea of helping Becton create a small high-level advisory committee for him made up of the real stars in the field. This approach would enable us to do more while addressing the Dept.'s concerns about getting too involved in local education reform. I was planning to discuss the idea with Mike C, OMB, and the Dept. unless you recommend otherwise.

Regarding DC events, the FLOTUS has now done events on microenterprise, challenging law firms to partner with schools, and on colleges partnering with schools and pledging reading tutors. I worked with Ann Lewis, Steve Silverman, and Carol Thompson-Cole on the memo to the President on coordinating DC events, but did not yet hear whether Thursday night's meeting with the President on DC responded to that memo. The memo both described a process for coordinating events, and listed some of the ideas I have been kicking around for a while, such as White House involvement in DC net days, a big cleanup effort on Earth Day, and highlighting agency efforts, including NASA's involvement in the schools and GSA's donation of computers.

DC School Construction Event: Next Thursday 2/27 we expect the privatization of Connie Lee to be completed, making it possible for us to do a high profile event with Rubin and one of the White House principals announcing that we are making millions of dollars available for school construction and repair in DC -- more than would be available for DC under our national school construction proposal. Treasury will be submitting an event proposal to the White House.

DC Economic Development: The POTUS is scheduled to announce the specifics of his DC economic development proposal on Friday March 7.

DC summer jobs: We could help ensure there are jobs available for DC teens this summer in at least two ways: by convening DC employers and challenging them to do more and by continuing and expanding the federal agencies' summer jobs and internship programs. Last summer the federal government hired hundreds of DC youth. The Treasury Dept. has powerful letters from students who interned there over the summer. One DC public school student said the internship was her first experience in the work world, taught her how to use a computer, and allowed her to visit the White House for the first time -- after having lived in DC for 18 years!

Pediatric Drug Labeling: Elizabeth Drye, Patsy, OVP, and I have held some meetings with FDA and

outside groups on the lack of pediatric safety and dosing information on many drugs with pediatric applications. FDA has made it relatively easy for drug companies to provide this data, but still most do not do it, leaving it up to doctors to decide whether to prescribe the drug for children and in what doses. This issue has become *very* hot now for two reasons: it is now clear that the actions Kessler took to encourage companies to submit this data have not worked, and many doctors are afraid to prescribe the highly effective anti-HIV protease inhibitors to children without better information because the drugs are so toxic. Further Administration action on this issue could generate industry opposition, but would likely earn broad public support and attention. There seem to be several views within the Administration on how best to proceed on this issue, and I believe it is ripe for DPC to step in and develop a consensus. Elizabeth and I would be happy to brief you on this issue.

| ?

Child Care: I do not have a specific initiative in mind, but as you and Bruce have stated before, we need to take some actions on child care, perhaps on quality/safety. I would think we need to ask HHS, DOL and others to give us some proposals. Were you planning on doing this as part of our 0-3 working group?

0-3: List of possible actions being developed.

Education: I won't attempt this without seeing what Mike has already given you. As I mentioned before, we could do a great POTUS or FLOTUS event on the release of a new Education Dept. manual on how to establish a community school, similar to the manual on school uniforms. It is very well done and ready to go. Rahm had initially scheduled a POTUS event to release the manual, but it fell through and I don't believe it has been rescheduled.

Family Medical Leave: Rahm and Gene have a list of reports on the FMLA that DOL is preparing an which could be the subject of future events. I can get a copy of the latest to you if you are interested and do not already have it. While recent discussions have focused on linkage with flex-time, I think there are some additional expansion proposals that the Administration might entertain and would be much less controversial than lowering the firm-size threshold to 25 employees -- such as making family emergencies related to domestic violence subject to the FMLA. I know Gene will be assigning someone from the NEC to be working on family and work issues, but am unclear how active you expect DPC to be.

| *

I hope this is helpful.