NLWJC-2006-0197-F (seg 3) Kagan

Folder: Native American Issues – Conference [2]

Native American - conference

THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES FOR NATIVE AMERICANS RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION
August 6, 1998

Today, the President will attend a conference, sponsored by the White House and fifteen federal agencies, entitled "Building Economic Self-Determination in Indian Communities," and will announce several initiatives aimed at improving economic self-sufficiency, increasing educational opportunities, and providing health care to Native Americans. The initiatives focus on: improving student achievement in reading and math for grades K-12; assessing the technology infrastructure needs of Indian country; coordinating existing federal economic development programs for Native Americans; creating a one-stop mortgage center in Indian country to streamline the mortgage process; creating technology-based jobs in Indian country; and adjusting the state funding from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to reflect accurately states' populations of Native American children. In addition, the President will call on Congress to pass legislation to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary.

Creating Educational Opportunities for Native American Students

Native American Education Executive Order. The President will sign an executive order at the conference which is designed to improve the academic performance of American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades K-12. The order focuses special attention on the following five goals: (1) improving student achievement in reading and mathematics; (2) increasing high school completion and post-secondary attendance rates; (3) reducing the influence of long-standing factors that impede educational performance, such as poverty and substance abuse; (4) creating strong, safe, and drug-free school environments conducive to learning; and (5) expanding the use of science and educational technology. This order is structured to address Indian educational needs through participation at the federal, regional, and local levels. At the federal level, the order establishes an Interagency Task Force to plan initiatives, develop an education resource guide, and assist in implementing a comprehensive research agenda on Indian education. At the regional level, the order mandates a series of regional forums to identify promising practices. Finally, at the local level, the order establishes pilot sites that will receive comprehensive technical assistance in support of the goals of the order.

Expanding Economic Development in Indian Country

Executive Directive for Economic Development in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities. The President will announce a directive with three components:

- Technology Infrastructure Study. The President will direct the Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and tribal governments, to issue a report within nine months on the technology infrastructure needs within Indian country, including distance learning facilities,

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telecommunications capabilities, and manufacturing facilities.

- Strategic Plan to Coordinate Economic Development. The President also will direct the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, and the Small Business Administration to develop, within 90 days, a strategic plan for coordinating economic development initiatives for Native American and Alaska Native communities. The plan will build upon current efforts in the agencies and detail future efforts on matters such as providing technical assistance, enhancing infrastructure, and developing software.

- One-Stop Mortgage Center. The President also will direct the Departments of Treasury and Housing and Urban Development, in partnership with local tribal governments and in cooperation with other federal agencies, to initiate a project to help streamline the mortgage lending process in Indian country in order to improve access to mortgage loans on Indian reservations. The agencies will initiate this effort through a year-long pilot program on the Navajo Nation and in at least one other location.

Providing $70 Million to Create Technology-Based Jobs in Indian Country. The President will announce that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its Bringing Rural America Venture Opportunities (BRAVO) initiative, will direct $70 million to assist seven American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in establishing small start-up technology companies to obtain government contracts.

Improving Health Care for Native Americans

Legislation to Elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary. The President will call on Congress to pass legislation to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary. This change will strengthen government-to-government relationships; facilitate communication and consultation with the Tribes on matters of Indian health; and raise awareness of Indian health concerns throughout the Department of Health and Human Services and the entire federal government.

Increase Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding in states with large numbers of Native American children by about $20 million. The President will announce a change in the state-by-state allocation of the $24 billion in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to count Native American children appropriately. Under this program, states receive a share of funds based on their proportion of uninsured children below 200 percent of poverty. When the Census Bureau produced these counts last September, it did not count vulnerable Native American children as "uninsured." Thus, even though such children are eligible for CHIP coverage, states with a large number of Native American children did not receive the appropriate share of funds. The President will announce that the Administration will revise these allotments. These revised allotments will be published in October. This effort will build upon the Administration's commitment to improve health care coverage for Native American children. Both the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs and HHS's

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Indian Health Service are committed to increase enrollment of uninsured Native American and Alaska Native children, including through the development and distribution of culturally relevant referral information to schools and social services.

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Native American - conference

August 5, 1998

NATIVE AMERICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

DATE:	August 6, 1998
LOCATION:	Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C.
BRIEFING TIME:	12:45 pm - 1:15 pm
EVENT TIME:	1:35 pm - 2:50 pm
FROM:	Bruce Reed Mickey Ibarra Lynn Cutler

I. PURPOSE

To reaffirm your commitment to protecting tribal sovereignty and the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Tribes, and to promote and encourage economic self-determination in Indian country.

II. BACKGROUND

On Thursday, April 6, you will speak to approximately 800 tribal leaders, business representatives, and government personnel at a conference at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the White House (Domestic Policy Council and Office of Intergovernmental Affairs) and 15 federal agencies, entitled "Building Economic Self-Determination in Indian Communities." This event is the first time you have spoken in front of Native Americans since your meeting with tribal leaders in 1994.

Purpose and Structure of the Conference

This conference grew out of your meeting with tribal leaders on April 29, 1994, and the establishment of the Domestic Policy Council's (DPC) Working Group on American Indians and Alaska Natives. The conference will cover topics such as commerce in Indian country; building infrastructure and a positive climate for business; tribal self-government and economic self-determination; agriculture and economic development; rural business; community development in Indian country; electronic commerce; welfare-to-work initiatives; and tourism.

Background on American Indians and Alaska Natives

Indian America is made up of more than 550 tribes, with a total population of

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approximately 2.4 million. Nearly half of the American Indian and Alaska Native population resides on 314 reservations, Indian lands, and Alaska Villages that make up Indian country.

While economic conditions in Indian country have improved in recent years, American Indian and with Alaska Native communities continue to lag behind the rest of the United States. For example, income levels of American Indians and Alaska Natives are substantially below those of all other Americans, with about 34 percent living below the poverty level. Factors such as geographical isolation, under-developed infrastructures, and demographic characteristics (nearly 40 percent of all American Indians are under the age of twenty) are responsible for these difficulties.

In your remarks, you will be make the following announcements:

- An executive order to improve the academic performance of American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades K-12. The order focuses special attention on improving student achievement in reading and mathematics.

- A directive to federal agencies to work in collaboration with tribal governments to: (1) prepare a report on the technology infrastructure needs in Indian country; (2) develop a strategic plan to coordinate economic development initiatives across agencies; and (3) initiate a project to help streamline the mortgage lending process in Indian country in order to improve access to mortgage loans on Indian reservations.

- A plan to direct $70 million to assist seven American Indian and Alaska Native tribes establish small start-up technology companies to obtain government contracts.

- A call to Congress to pass legislation to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary. This change will strengthen the government-to-government relationships; facilitate communication and consultation with the Tribes on matters of Indian health; and raise awareness of Indian health concerns throughout HHS and the entire federal government.

- A change in the state-by-state allocation of the $24 billion in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to count Native American children appropriately. States receive a share of CHIP funds based on their proportion of uninsured children below 200 percent of poverty. When the Census Bureau produced these counts last September, it did not include Native American children with access to the Indian Health Service as "uninsured." Thus, even though such children are eligible for CHIP coverage, states with a large number of Native American children did not receive the appropriate share of funds. Revised allotments will be published in October.

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III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:
Bruce Reed
Mickey Ibarra
Lynn Cutler
Julie Fernandes
Mary Smith

Event Participants:
Dominic Ortiz, Lawrence, KS, is college student who owns and operates a wholesale Native American jewelry business

Standing on stage, but not speaking:
-Marge Anderson, CEO, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MN)
-Walter Dasheno, Governor, Santa Clara Pueblo
-Frank Ettewagechik, Chairman, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (MI)
-Roland Harris, Chairman, Mohegan Tribe (CT)
-Kathryn Harrison, Chair, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (OR)
-Henry Kostzuta, Chairman, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma (OK)
-Ivan Makil, President, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (AZ)
-Mary Thomas, Governor, Gila River Indian Community (AZ)
-A. Brian Wallace, Chairman, Washoe Tribe of Nevada (NV)
-John Yellow Bird Steele, President, Oglala Lakota Nation (SD)

Persons Standing on Stage for Signing of Executive Order
-Michael Anderson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Dept. of Interior
-Dr. David Beaulieu, Director, Office of Indian Education, Dept. of Education
-Michael Cohen, Domestic Policy Council
-Lorraine Edmo, Executive Director, National Indian Education Association
-James Kohlmoos, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Dept. of Education
-Melodee McCoy, Native American Rights Fund
-Joann Sebastian Morris, Director, Office of Indian Education, Dept. of Interior
-Yvonne Novack, President, National Indian Education Association
-Sherry Dawn Red Owl, Rosebud Sioux
-Ernie Stevens, Jr., National Congress of American Indians
-Mary Smith, Domestic Policy Council

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

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- Dominic Ortiz will make remarks and introduce **YOU**.
- **YOU** will make remarks.
- **YOU** then proceed to the desk on stage and sign the Native American education executive order.
-**YOU** then work a ropeline and depart.

*Before you enter the stage, **YOU** will take a photo with approximately 30 persons who worked on the Native American education executive order.

VI. REMARKS

Remarks Provided by Speechwriting.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

-Conference Agenda
-Participants List
-Background on American Indians and Alaska Natives

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Draft 8/5/98 11 am
June Shih

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
BUILDING ECONOMIC SELF-DETERMINATION IN INDIAN COMMUNITIES
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 6, 1998

Acknowledgments: Lynn Cutler, the 15 federal agencies co-sponsoring this event with the White House.

In a little more than 500 days, America will celebrate the arrival of a new millennium. I have called upon all Americans to do their part to strengthen our nation for the 21st Century. I believe our Native American communities -- whose ancient cultures have shaped the history of our still very young nation -- have important roles to play in the America of the next millennium.

For most Americans, our understanding of Native Americans is frozen in time -- in sepia-toned photographs of legendary chieftains; in the ancient names of rivers, lakes and mountain ranges; in the chapters of old history books. But as we have seen at this conference, the two million members of our Tribal Nations -- from energetic young entrepreneurs such as Dominic, to innovative leaders like the ones sitting behind me -- are a vital part of America today and have the potential to become an even more vital part of America's future.

We are living in a time of great hope and possibility. Our economy is the strongest in a generation. We will soon have the first balanced budget and surplus in thirty years. Our social problems are finally bending to our efforts -- crime and welfare are the lowest in a generation. We are taking great steps toward the America I envisioned when I first ran for president six years ago -- an America that provides opportunity for all, that demands responsibility from all, that lives as a community of all. It is a time of unprecedented prosperity for some of our tribal nations as well. Gaming and a variety of innovative enterprises have enabled tribes to free their people from lives of poverty and dependence. The new wealth is sparking a cultural renaissance across Indian Country as tribes build new community centers and museums, language schools and elder care centers.

But we also know that on far too many reservations across America, such glowing news means very little. While some tribes have found new success in our new economy, too many more remain caught in a cycle of poverty, unemployment and disease. The statistics have become all-too-familiar: More than a third of all Native Americans live in poverty. While unemployment is at a 28-year low all across America, on some reservations, 80 percent of all adults still do not have regular work. Diabetes in Indian Country has reached epidemic proportions, other preventable diseases, and alcholism continue to diminish the quality of life for hundreds of thousands.

In this time of great prosperity, these statistics are unacceptable. That is why we are here today -- to find new ways to empower our people -- especially our children -- with the tools and the opportunity to build brighter futures for themselves and their families. The federal government alone cannot solve the problems of Indian Country. Nor can the tribal governments

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or individuals be left to fend for themselves. Instead, all of us must take responsibility -- and work together.

As president, I have worked hard to honor tribal sovereignty and strengthen our government-to-government relationships. Long ago, your ancestors gave up land, water and mineral rights in exchange for peace, security, health care and education from the federal government. It is a pact that is as solemn and unforsakeable as our Constitution. And while the United States government did not live up to its side of the bargain in the past, we can and must honor it today and into the next millennium.

Four years ago, when I became the first president since James Monroe to invite the leaders of every tribe to the White House, I issued a memorandum directing all federal agencies to consult with the Indian Tribes before making decisions on matters that affect their people. This spring, I strengthened this directive so that the decisions made by the federal government regarding Indian country are always made in cooperation with the tribes. And in the last six months, Jackie Johnson has joined the staff at HUD, Carrie Billy at Education, and Rhonda Whiting at the Small Business Administration to help coordinate and promote Native American initiatives at these agencies. Finally, Raynell Morris will join the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to help Mickey Ibarra and Lynn Cutler with Native American initiatives and outreach. I welcome all of them to my administration.

Today, I'd like to talk about three tools of opportunity that everyAmerican must have to thrive in the 21st Century -- and how we can work together to bring these tools to every person in every corner of Indian Country -- from Pine Ridge, South Dakota to Window Rock, New Mexico to Pembroke, North Carolina.

The first and most important tool of opportunity is education. Throughout our history, education has been the key to a better life for generations of Americans. This will be even more true in a global economy that will reward only those children with the skills to take advantage of the growing number of high-paying, high-tech jobs. Today, fewer than two-thirds of Native Americans over the age of 25 hold high school degrees; fewer than 9 percent go on to college. If this trend continues, then the future for Native American children will become even bleaker; the opportunity gap between them and their peers will widen into a dangerous chasm in the Information Age. That is why later today, I will sign an executive order directing my administration to work together with local officials to improve Native American achievement in reading and math; raise high school and post-secondary graduation rates; reduce the influence of poverty and substance abuse on student performance; create safe, drug-free schools; and expand the use of science and technology.

The second tool is high-quality health care. Native American communities will never reach their full potential if their people continue to be hobbled by disease -- diseases that are often preventable and easily treatable. Last summer, I signed legislation that strengthens research, prevention and treatment of diabetes in our Native American communities. Earlier this year, I launched an initiative to eliminate health disparities in infant mortality, immunizations, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer screening and management, and HIV/AIDS between racial and ethnic minority groups by the year 2010. Today, I am proud to announce an adjustment in our new Children's Health Insurance Program to ensure that eligible Native American children can get the health coverage and care they need.

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And I am proud to announce my support for Secretary Shalala's proposal to promote of the Director of the Indian Health Service, Dr. Ernest Trujillo, to the rank of Assistant Secretary. By elevating the head of the Indian Health Service, we can ensure that the health needs of our Native Americans get the full consideration they deserve when it comes to setting the health policy of this country.

The third tool is economic opportunity in the form of jobs, credit, and small businesses. Too few grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, banks are doing business on reservations. As a result, 85 cents of every dollar earned by Native Americans -- money that could be used to build tribal economies and create jobs -- is spent off-reservation. I have issued a new directive to boost economic development on our reservations. The directive will do three things: First, no tribe will be able to attract new businesses if it doesn't have the phone, fax, Internet and other technology capabilities essential to commerce in the 21st Century. So I am asking the Department of Commerce to work with Interior and the tribal governments to study and develop a plan to meet the technology infrastructure needs of Indian Country. Second, I am calling on several agencies to coordinate and strengthen all of our existing Native American economic development initiatives. Third, I am directing the Departments Treasury and HUD to create one-stop mortgage shopping centers on reservations that will help more Native Americans obtain loans more easily. A pilot program will soon go up in the Navajo Nation.

Finally, I am proud to announce a plan by the USDA to help seven tribes get a foothold in our high-tech economy. The department will help these tribes establish small technology companies to provide the software development and other technological services that are in high demand across America.

I believe the next millennium can be a time of great progress and prosperity for our Native American communities. Today's American Indian population is still very young. In the last Census, thirty-nine percent of all Native Americans were under the age of 20. It is a statistic that should bring us great hope -- even as it poses our greatest challenge. We have a new, large generation of young people, who, if given the tools, the encouragement and the opportunity, can work together to lead their people out of the stifling poverty and despair of the past. Let us all work to bring these newest descendents of our oldest Americans a new millennium where all America's tribes will have vanquished poverty and disease, boosted education and reinvigorated the culture of their people.

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Native American conference

President Clinton
A Record of Partnership With American Indians and Alaska Natives

"My administration has worked in partnership with tribal leaders ... to protect American Indian religious freedom, promote tribal self-determination, preserve tribal natural resources and provide economic opportunities for Native Americans. I look forward to continuing this government-to-government relationship in order to build on the progress we have made in Indian Country."

President Bill Clinton

On April 29, 1994, President Clinton became the first President to invite the leaders of all federally recognized Tribes to the White House. On this historic occasion, the President pledged that his Administration would work with Tribal leaders to establish a true government-to-government partnership. The Clinton Administration has delivered on this commitment by:

Strengthening the Relationship Between the Federal Government and Tribal Nations

- In 1994, executed a Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies directing agencies to consult, to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with tribal governments prior to taking actions that affect federally recognized tribal governments.

- On May 14, 1998, issued an executive order that strengthens and makes effective across Administrations the 1994 Government-to-Government memorandum. This executive order serves to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Indian tribal governments in the development of regulatory practices on Federal matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities, to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribal governments, and to streamline the application process for and increase the availability of waivers to Indian tribal governments.

Expanding the role of American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout his Administration

- Appointed 59 Native Americans to all levels of his Administration, including 10 to top positions requiring Senate confirmation and 30 to Presidential appointment positions.

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- Created the Office of Tribal Justice to promote government-to-government relations with Indian Tribes and ensure aggressive representation of tribal sovereignty in the courts.

- Established the American Indian Environmental Office to work with Tribes to protect water quality and the environment in Indian Country.

- Created a permanent White House working group composed of all Executive Branch Departments to advance Tribal sovereignty across the administration.

Protecting Religious Freedom

- Signed an executive order that requires federal agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

- Successfully fought for passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in order to protect the right of free exercise of Tribal religions.

- Directed federal agencies to ensure efficient collection and distribution of available eagle feathers and eagle parts to American Indians and Alaska Natives for traditional religious purposes.

Promoting Tribal Self-Determination

- Supported passage and implementation of the Indian Self-Determination Act and the Tribal Self-Governance Act, which give Tribal governments control of most federal resources spent within Indian Country.

- Successfully fought attempts to penalize tribes for exercising their powers of self-governance and allowing states to tax Tribal governments on new trust lands.

Increasing Educational Opportunities

- Proposed a 59% increase in funding for construction and facilities improvement and repair for Native American Schools in his FY 1999 budget.

- Provided an 10 percent increase (from $60 million to $66 million) for the Indian Education Act in his FY 1999 budget. Serving nearly half a million Native American students, the Act's programs include grants to Local Education

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Agencies (LEAs), Indian tribes and organizations, Indian-controlled schools, and individuals to address special educational and cultural academic needs of Native Americans.

- Signed an executive order that aims to ensure that tribal colleges and universities are more fully recognized as accredited institutions, have access to the opportunities afforded other institutions, and have Federal resources committed to them on a continuing basis.

Providing Economic Development Opportunities in Indian Country

- Established an Office of Native American Programs within the Minority Business Development Association at the Department of Commerce, with eight Native American Business Development Centers and a business consultant, that provides management and technical assistance to Native American businesses.

- Signed the Community Development Banking and Regulatory Improvement Act, which promotes more lending in Indian Country;

Protecting Tribal Natural Resources

- Established for the first time the right of Alaska Natives to fish for subsistence purposes.

- Requested more than $160 million (a 15 percent increase) in his FY 1999 budget for EPA supoort of tribal environmental protection programs on reservations. As a part of this program, EPA will continue to build an support tribal capacity to implement, operate, and enforce Federal environmental laws.

- Supported the exercise of Northwest Tribes' treaty fishing rights.

Improving Health and Safety for American Indian and Alaska Native Families

- Supported funding for continued implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act and tribal consensus amendments to protect Indian families and culture.

- Signed into law the Indian Tribal Justice Support Act to improve criminal law enforcement in Indian Country.

- Directed the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior to work with tribal leaders and propose improvements for public safety and criminal justice in Indian Country. As a result of this process, the President's FY 1999 budget contains a $182 million initiative within the Justice and Interior Departments to raise the level of law enforcement in Indian country to national standards.

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- Devoted $54 million in his FY 1999 budget to hiring police officers through the COPS program exclusively in Indian country.

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Native Americans - conference

Mary L. Smith
08/03/98 12:59:25 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP

cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP, Julie A. Fernandes/OPD/EOP, Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP

Subject: Re: Meeting on Native American Economic Development Conference

Here are the proposed policy announcements for the conference:

Education

Native American Education Executive Order. This executive order is designed to improve the academic performance of American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades K-12. The order focuses special attention on the following five goals: (1) improving student achievement in reading and mathematics; (2) increasing high school completion and post-secondary attendance rates; (3) reducing the influence of long-standing factors that impede educational performance, such as poverty and substance abuse; (4) creating strong, safe, and drug-free school environments conducive to learning; and (5) expanding the use of science and educational technology. This order is structured to address Indian educational needs through participation at the federal, state, and local levels. At the federal level, the order establishes an Interagency Task Force which will plan budget initiatives, develop an education resource guide, and assist in implementing a comprehensive research agenda on Indian education. At the regional level, the order mandates a series of regional forums to be convened to identify promising practices. Finally, at the local level, this executive order sets up pilot sites which will receive comprehensive technical assistance in support of the goals of the order.

Economic Development

Executive Directive to Study Technology Infrastructure Needs in Indian Country and to Prepare a Strategic Plan to Coordinate Native American Economic Development. This memorandum will direct the Departments of Commerce and Interior, in cooperation with other agencies, to issue a report within 180 days on the technology infrastructure needs within Indian country, including distance learning facilities, telecommunications, manufacturing facilities, and access to capital. In addition, this memorandum will direct the Department of Commerce, Department of Interior, and the

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Small Business Administration to develop, within 90 days, a strategic plan that will coordinate efficiently economic development programs across agencies for Native American and Alaska Native communities. The plan will build upon current efforts as well as look toward future efforts in collaborating on such matters as establishing programs, enhancing infrastructure, and developing software.

One-Stop Mortgage Shopping Centers in Indian Country. The Department of the Treasury will develop a pilot one-stop mortgage shopping center on the Navajo Nation. This one-stop center is needed because residents of Indian reservations encounter several unique issues when seeking to obtain a mortgage. Trust land status, tribal sovereignty, and requirements to gain clear title from the Bureau of Indian Affairs are examples of issues that lenders and borrowers must grapple with during the mortgage lending process. In addition, individuals seeking to acquire a homesite lease and a residential mortgage are required to obtain approval from several federal, tribal, state, and local agencies as well as private providers. This one-stop mortgage center would permit individuals seeking to acquire a homesite lease and residential mortgage to visit only one location that would coordinate with the required agencies and private providers. The basis for creating such an entity on the Navajo reservation already exists through an organization called the Navajo Partnership for Housing, which was created by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation.

Providing $70 Million to Create Technology-Based Jobs in Indian Country. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its Bringing Rural America Venture Opportunities (BRAVO) initiative, will direct $70 million of its contracting dollars through Fiscal Year 2000 to assist seven American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in establishing small start-up technology companies that will provide software development, maintenance, and technical support services. Through the 8(a) program, USDA, large technology companies doing business with USDA, and the Tribal Colleges and other land-grant educational institutions will work with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to mentor and assist them in setting up these businesses to bid on government contracts.

Health Care

Support Elevating the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary. You should call on Congress to pass legislation to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to the Assistant Secretary level. The Administration will continue to work with Senator McCain and other members of the Congress to get this vital legislation passed. On matters of health care, the head of the Indian Health Service acts principally as the administrator of the vast Indian Health Service system, as well as an advocate on behalf of the needs of the Nation's more than 550 federally-recognized Indian tribes. Elevating the IHS Director to the position of Assistant Secretary will strengthen the government-to-government relationship; facilitate communication and consultation with the Tribes on matters of Indian health; and raise awareness of Indian

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health concerns throughout HHS and the entire federal government.. The current director, Dr. Michael Trujillo, would become only the second full-blooded Native American to be an Assistant Secretary.

Not completed yet Enroll Native American Children in the CHIP program. Jeanne Lambrew and Chris Jennings suggested that we might be able to make an announcement that Indian children who receive health benefits from the Indian Health Service are not insured for purposes of the CHIP program, making them eligible for CHIP benefits. However, we would need to work out the funding -- money would be taken away from the states.

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Native Americans - conference

3-5-98
7:30 p.m.

Executive Order

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AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, in affirmation of the unique political and legal relationship of the Federal Government with tribal governments, and in recognition of the unique educational and culturally-related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Goals. The Federal Government has a special, historic responsibility for the education of American Indian and Alaska Native students. Improving educational achievement and academic progress for American Indian and Alaska Native students is vital to the national goal of preparing every student for responsible citizenship, continued learning, and productive employment. The Federal Government is committed to improving the academic performance and reducing the dropout rate of American Indian and Alaska Native students. To help fulfill this commitment in a manner consistent with tribal traditions and cultures, Federal agencies need to focus special attention on six goals: (1) improving reading and mathematics; (2) increasing high school completion and postsecondary attendance rates; (3) reducing the influence of long-standing factors that impede educational performance, such as poverty and substance abuse; (4) creating strong, safe, and drug-free school environments; (5) improving science education; and (6) expanding the use of educational technology.

Sec. 2. Strategy. In order to meet the six goals of this order, a comprehensive Federal response is needed to address the fragmentation of government services available to American Indian and Alaska Native students and the complexity of intergovernmental relationships affecting the education of those students. The purpose of the Federal activities described in this order is to develop a long-term, comprehensive Federal Indian education policy that will accomplish those goals.

(a) Interagency task force. There is established an Interagency Task Force on American Indian and Alaska Native Education ("Task Force") to oversee the planning and implementation of this order. The Task Force shall confer with the National Advisory Council on Indian

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Education ("NACIE") in carrying out activities under this order. The Task Force shall consult with representatives of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and organizations, including the National Indian Education Association ("NIEA") and the National Congress of American Indians ("NCAI"), to gather advice on implementation of the activities called for in this order.

(b) Composition of the Task Force. (1) The membership of the Task Force shall include representatives of the Departments of the Treasury, Defense, the Interior, Agriculture, Justice Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, and Education, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the National Science Foundation. With the agreement of the Secretaries of Education and the Interior, other agencies may participate in the activities of the Task Force.

(2) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the head of each participating agency shall appoint a senior official who is responsible for management or program administration to serve as a member of the Task Force. The official shall report directly to the agency head on the agency's activities under this order.

(3) The Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education of the Department of Education and the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior shall co-chair the Task Force.

(c) Interagency Plan. The Task Force shall, within 90 days of the date of this order, develop a Federal interagency plan with recommendations identifying initiatives, strategies, and ideas for future interagency action supportive of the goals of this order.

(d) Agency Participation. To the extent consistent with law and agency priorities, each participating agency shall adopt and implement strategies to maximize the availability of the agency's education-related programs, activities, resources, information, and technical assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native students. In keeping with the spirit of the Executive Memorandum of April 29, 1998 on Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments and Executive Order 13084 of May 14, 1998, each participating agency shall consult with tribal governments on their education-related needs and priorities, and on how the agency can better accomplish the goals of this order. Within six months, each participating

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agency shall report to the Task Force regarding the strategies it has developed to ensure such consultation.

(e) Interagency Resource Guide. The Task Force shall identify, within relevant Federal agencies, all education-related programs and resources that support the goals of this order. Within twelve months, the Task Force, in conjunction with the Department of Education, shall develop, publish, and widely distribute a guide that describes those programs and resources and how American Indians and Alaska Natives can benefit from them.

(f) Research. The Secretary of Education, through the Office of Educational Research and Improvement and the Office of Indian Education, and in consultation with NACIE and participating agencies, shall develop and implement a comprehensive Federal research agenda to:

(1) establish baseline data on academic achievement and retention of American Indian and Alaska Native students in order to monitor improvements;

(2) evaluate promising practices used with those students; and

(3) evaluate the role of native language and culture in the development of educational strategies. Within one year, the Secretary of Education shall submit the research agenda, including proposed timelines, to the Task Force.

(g) Comprehensive federal Indian education policy. (1) The Task Force shall, within two years of the date of this order, develop a comprehensive Federal Indian education policy to support the accomplishment of the goals of this order. The policy shall be designed to:

(A) improve Federal interagency cooperation;

(B) promote intergovernmental collaboration; and

(C) assist tribal governments in meeting the unique educational needs of their children, including the need to preserve, revitalize, and use native languages and cultural traditions.

(2) In developing the policy, the Task Force shall consider ideas in the Comprehensive Federal Indian Education Policy Statement proposal developed by the NIEA and the NCAI.

(3) The Task Force shall develop recommendations to implement the policy, including ideas for future interagency action.

(4) As appropriate, participating agencies may develop memoranda of agreement

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with one another to enable and enhance the ability of tribes and schools to provide, and to coordinate the delivery of, Federal, tribal, state, and local resources and services, including social and health-related services, to meet the educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

(h). Reports. The Task Force co-chairs shall submit the comprehensive Federal Indian Education Policy, and report annually on the agencies' activities, accomplishments, progress toward meeting the goals of this order, to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sec. 3. Regional partnership forums. The Department of Education and the Department of the Interior, in collaboration with the Task Force and Federal, Tribal, state and local government representatives, shall jointly convene, within eighteen months, a series of regional forums to identify promising practices and approaches on how to share information, provide assistance to schools, develop partnerships, and coordinate intergovernmental strategies supportive of accomplishing the goals of this order. The Departments of Education and the Interior shall submit a report on the forum to the Task Force, which may include recommendations relating to intergovernmental relations.

Sec. 4. School pilot sites. The Department of Education and the Department of the Interior shall identify a reasonable number of schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") and public schools that can serve as a model for schools with American Indian and Alaska Native students, and provide them with comprehensive technical assistance in support of the goals of this order. A special team of technical assistance providers, including Federal staff, shall provide assistance to these schools. Special attention shall be given, where appropriate, to assistance in implementing comprehensive school reform demonstration programs that meet the criteria for those programs established by the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Pub. L. No. 105-78) and to providing comprehensive service delivery that connects and uses diverse Federal agency resources. The team shall disseminate effective and promising practices of the school pilot sites to other local educational agencies. The team shall report to the Task Force on its accomplishments and its recommendations for improving technical support to local educational agencies and schools funded by the BIA.

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Sec. 5. Administration. The Department of Education shall provide appropriate administrative services and staff support to the Task Force. With the consent of the Department of Education, other participating agencies may provide administrative support to the Task Force, consistent with statutory authority, and may detail agency employees to the Department of Education, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 6. Termination. The Task Force established under section 1 shall terminate not later than five years from the date of this order.

Sec. 7. General provisions. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person. This order is not intended to preclude, supersede, replace, or otherwise dilute any other Executive order relating to American Indian and Alaska Native education.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

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