

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 006 - Folder 017

**Campaign Finance Reform -
Talking Points**

The Honorable Trent Lott
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lott:

This past August, the House of Representatives overcame the defenders of the status quo and adopted the Shays-Meehan bipartisan campaign finance reform bill. The vote to ban soft money and improve disclosure was a heartening sign for the health of our democracy and a rebuke to the cynical view that political reform can never happen.

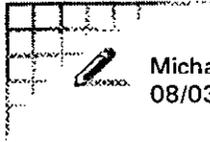
Now only a minority of the United States Senate stands in the way of campaign finance reform becoming the law of the land. I urge you to make passage of the the Senate counterpart to Shays-Meehan, the McCain-Feingold bill, the highest priority for the Senate and ask that you bring this legislation to the floor for consideration before the end of the session. Failure to enact McCain-Feingold this Fall would mean we have lost the best opportunity in a generation to strengthen our democracy.

Talk about reform is easy; the Senate has a rare and fleeting opportunity to act. Each and every member of the Senate must decide whether to take that step -- and the American people are watching. I urge you to make this year the year that Congress confounds public cynicism, and passes bipartisan, comprehensive campaign finance reform.

Sincerely,

WJC

Camp hu: talking points



Michael Waldman
08/03/98 10:11:01 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Draft shays-meehan letter -- short & to the point

Dear [x]:

Today, the House of Representatives can make a bipartisan breakthrough in the effort to strengthen our democracy. The campaign finance reform legislation introduced by Representatives Christopher Shays and Martin Meehan is tough, fair, and would make a genuine difference in the way we pay for elections.

Passage of this legislation would end the soft money system, strengthen disclosure, and curb backdoor campaign spending. Just as important, it would show the American people that it is possible to make bipartisan progress on this most difficult of political reform issues. It would help make sure that our political system upholds the national interest, not narrow interests.

For years, the Congress has delayed, debated, and ultimately denied efforts to reform our campaign finance laws. A partisan minority continues to resist change. But today, the members of the House have a chance to change that pattern. I strongly urge you to vote for the bipartisan Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform legislation.

Message Sent To: _____

**Q & A's on Campaign Finance Reform
May 5, 1998**

Q: What do think of the Republican leadership's recent decision to go forward with a vote on campaign finance reform legislation? Would you sign the "freshman" reform legislation?

A: I am very pleased that the House Republican leadership has relented in the face of public pressure and will allow a vote on campaign finance reform. I strongly support the bipartisan legislation offered by Reps. Christopher Shays and Marty Meehan, which is the best chance in a generation for real reform. While the "freshman" reform bill also contains several good reform measures, Shays-Meehan stands a better chance of passing both houses because it has the support of a majority of Senators (though it so far has been blocked by a minority in the Senate on procedural grounds).

Every Member of the House of Representatives has a responsibility to vote for this measure to ban large soft money contributions, improve disclosure, and restrict backdoor campaign spending. A vote for bipartisan campaign finance reform will be a vote to strengthen our democracy and give ordinary voters the loudest voice.

Campaign Finance -
talking points

Dear Senator xxxxx:

Next week we have an historic opportunity to renew our democracy and strengthen our country. For the first time in a generation, Members of the United States Senate will have the opportunity to cast a vote for bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation that will make our democracy work better for all Americans.

Our democracy is the oldest and most successful in the world. But we know that there is something deeply wrong with the way we pay for elections. Our campaign finance laws were last rewritten 23 years ago. For quite a long while those laws worked well, but they have been overwhelmed by a flood of money and the rising cost of campaigns.

Spending in congressional campaigns has risen sixfold in the last two decades. That's more than three times the rate of inflation. Now both political parties are locked into an ever-escalating arms race, as they compete to raise more and more money. There's simply too much money required for campaigns, it takes too much time to raise, and it raises too many questions.

Our system of campaign finance has placed too much power in the hands special interests who promote own concerns at the expense of the public interest. Too often they operate in secret. Too often they have special privileges ordinary Americans don't even know exist. And elections, where ordinary voters should have the loudest voice, have become so expensive that big money can sometimes drown those voices out.

Yet we have made progress. In 1993, we repealed the tax loophole that lets lobbyists deduct the cost of their activities. In early 1994, Congress passed a law that applies to Congress the laws they impose on the private sector. And in 1995, Congress answered my call to stop taking gifts, meals, and trips from lobbyists, and sent to my desk the bipartisan Lobbying Disclosure Act which is bringing lobbyists out from the darkrooms and into the bright light of public scrutiny.

Now we have the chance to make the way we finance campaigns work better. The Senate is about to consider campaign finance reform legislation that puts an end to the soft money system, expands disclosure requirements, increases penalties for election law violations, and strengthens the rules for so-called independent expenditure campaigns.

For these reasons, I have supported in the past and continue to support the

McCain-Feingold Senate Campaign Finance Reform Act and I urge the Senate to pass it.

As we work to reform campaign finance, we must do everything we can to ensure that we open, not limit, the political process. Our goal is to take the reins of our democracy away from big special interests, from big money, and to put them back into the hands of ordinary Americans where they belong. Our bottom line test should be: Will our efforts make our government more representative, not less representative? Will reform make our elected representatives more likely to promote the public interest, even when it conflicts with powerful special interests. On all these counts, the McCain-Feingold bill meets the test.

A critical mass has been reached for campaign finance reform. Citizen groups, spurred by business executives and civic leaders, have gathered one million signatures on a petition to Congress calling for reform. Presidents Ford, Carter, and Bush have been joined by dozens of former lawmakers in calling for reform.

If you want to restore the American peoples faith in our democracy vote for McCain-Feingold.

Sincerely,

William Jefferson Clinton

CFR - talking points ~~###~~

Political and Campaign Finance Reform Talking Points

Key Points

- Since day one of his administration, the President has pursued a far-reaching agenda of political reform.
- Only enactment of real campaign finance reform remains from the political reform agenda the President outlined in ***Putting People First***.
- The President is challenging Congress to pass real, bipartisan campaign finance reform by July 4.
- The President has outlined five principles that form the foundation of acceptable campaign finance reform legislation:
 - 1) It must be bipartisan;
 - 2) It must be comprehensive;
 - 3) It must reduce the amount of money that is raised and spent on federal elections;
 - 4) It must help level the playing field between challengers and incumbents;
 - 5) It cannot favor one party over the other.

Fighting For Real Political Reform

- Made voting easier for more than 11 million Americans by signing the "**Motor-Voter**" Law.
- Fought for and signed into law the **Lobbying Disclosure Act**, the first overhaul of lobbying rules in 50 years.
- Challenged the Congress to **ban gifts**, meals, travel and entertainment from lobbyists.
- Enacted the **Congressional Accountability Act** and the **Presidential Executive Office Accountability Act** to ensure that the same laws apply to Congress and the White House as to the rest of America.
- Closed the **lobbyist tax loophole**.
- Imposed the **strictest Administration ethics guidelines** ever.
- Enacted **line-item veto** legislation to eliminate pork and special interest spending from the budget.
- President Clinton has **stood up to special interests**, such as the NRA and the tobacco industry.

Fighting For Real Campaign Finance Reform

- 1992 Campaign Finance Reform Proposal.** In the 1992 campaign, Governor Clinton proposed spending limits, free TV time, PAC limits and a ban on soft money.
- 1993-1994 Campaign Finance Reform Plan.** The President and the Democratic Leadership proposed a reform plan that included partial public funding for congressional candidates.
- 1995 Bipartisan CFR Commission.** In June of 1995, the President agreed with Speaker Gingrich to create a bipartisan political reform commission. The President named John Gardner and Doris Kearns Goodwin to launch the commission, but they were rebuffed by the Speaker.
- 1996 - 1997 McCain-Feingold/Shays-Meehan.** In the 1996 State of the Union, the President announced his support of the bipartisan bill. He repeated his call for passage of the this bipartisan bill in his 1997 State of the Union.

Backgrounder ***For Internal Purposes Only***Backgrounder

ENDING BUSINESS AS USUAL IN WASHINGTON A Strong Record of Reform

"The fact is, organized interests have too much power in the halls of government. These influence groups too often promote their own interest at the expense of the public interest. Too often they operate in secret. Too often they have special privileges ordinary Americans don't even know exist....We have an historic opportunity to renew our democracy and strengthen our country. If we truly believe in a government that puts ordinary Americans ahead of the powerful and privileged, then we must act and act now."

President Bill Clinton
February 17, 1996

A Record of Accomplishment:

Time and again, President Clinton has exhibited his commitment to curbing the influence of special interests and money in our political system. Since entering office President Clinton has pursued a far-reaching agenda of political reform. The President is committed to reforming the way Washington works and ending business as usual. Among his accomplishments, he has:

- Made voting easier for more than 11 million Americans by creating more accessible voter registration locations through the enactment of the **National Voter Registration Act** ("Motor-Voter"). The Motor-Voter law has already created the greatest expansion in the voter registration rolls since the 19th century.
- Fought for and signed into law the **Lobbying Disclosure Act**. The Act is the first overhaul of lobbying rules in 50 years and requires lobbyists to disclose who they work for and eliminates loopholes that allow lobbying organizations to avoid
- **Gift ban.** In the 1995 State-of-the-Union Address, President Clinton challenged the Congress to ban gifts, meals, travel and entertainment from lobbyists. The Congress subsequently passed the ban on November 16th, 1995.
- Enacted the **Congressional Accountability Act** to ensure that the same laws apply to Congress as to the rest of America.

- **Closing the "lobbyist loophole."** In 1993, President Clinton proposed, and Congress passed, legislation ending the tax-deductibility of lobbying expenses, which had allowed corporations and others to deduct the cost of their lobbying.
- Imposed the **strictest Administration ethics guidelines** ever, including a five-year ban on top officials lobbying their former agencies and a lifetime ban against lobbying for foreign governments.
- Enacted **line-item veto** legislation which significantly enhances the presidential authority to eliminate wasteful spending by allowing the President to cancel wasteful special interest projects and targeted tax breaks that benefit special interests. The line-item veto can help the President close the door on business as usual in Washington by ending breaks for special interests and cutting pet spending projects that sneak into the budget year after year. With this line-item veto, the President will have a valuable new tool to ensure that our public resources are being put to the best possible uses.
- Enacted the **Unfunded Mandates Reform Act** to restrict Congress from passing on new mandates to state and local governments without paying for them.
- **Special Interests.** President Clinton has stood up to special interests, such as the National Rifle Association and the tobacco industry, loosening their tight hold on our legislative process. The President broke six years of congressional gridlock and defeated the gun lobby by enacting a **ban on assault weapons** and the **Brady Law**.
- Enacted the **Presidential Executive Office Accountability Act (PEOAA)** which ensures that the Executive Office of the President lives under the same laws as the rest of the country -- this is the White House analog to the Congressional Accountability Act.

A History Of Fighting For Real Campaign Finance Reform

1992 Campaign Finance Reform Proposal. In the 1992 campaign, Governor Clinton proposed spending limits, free TV time, PAC limits and a ban on soft money. The current McCain-Feingold and Shays-Meehan legislation mirrors this proposal.

1993-1994 Campaign Finance Reform Plan. The President and the congressional Democratic leadership proposed a reform plan that also included partial public

funding for congressional candidates. Reform groups strongly supported the plan. Unfortunately, the legislation was filibustered, despite passage in both chambers.

1995 **Bipartisan CFR Commission.** In June of 1995, the President agreed with Speaker Gingrich to create a bipartisan political reform commission. The President named John Gardner and Doris Kearns Goodwin to launch the commission, but they were rebuffed by the Speaker.

1996 - 1997 **McCain-Feingold/Shays-Meehan.** In the 1996 State-of-the-Union, the President announced his support of the bipartisan bill. He repeated his support throughout 1996. In the 1997 State of the Union Address the President challenged Congress to pass this legislation by July 4th, 1997. On January 11, 1997 the President met with the bipartisan co-sponsors of the House legislation (Shays-Meehan), reiterating his belief that delay will mean the death of reform.

Campaign Finance Reform

Question: *You've announced your support for the campaign finance reform bills introduced in the House and Senate respectively by Representatives Shays and Meehan and Senators McCain and Feingold. Yet, similar legislation was filibustered in the Senate last year and was never considered by the House. Why should the American people expect better results this year?*

Answer: We now have an historic opportunity to enact real bipartisan campaign finance. The national outcry for cleaning up the campaign finance system is much greater than last year, and I believe that Congress should and will respond to the call for reform. If we don't, the American people will hold us all accountable. Finally, I am committed to redoubling my efforts to working with Congress on enacting bipartisan reform, and I will take every opportunity to challenge Congress to act.

Question: *Some have characterized your offer to have the Democratic National Committee(DNC) stop accepting soft money contributions if the Republican National Committee (RNC) agrees to do the same as grandstanding -- particularly since the RNC raises more soft money than the DNC does. If you are really committed to taking bold action, why not just direct the DNC to stop taking such contributions unilaterally?*

Answer: First, I have asked, and the DNC has agreed, to take some unilateral steps to limit contributions. Specifically, the DNC will adopt the position my campaign took of not accepting contributions from non-citizens and foreign-owned businesses. This will put the DNC at a disadvantage in relation to the RNC, but because I believe it is the right thing to do, we are going forward with this decision. However, I am not willing to have the DNC completely unilaterally disarm. The RNC already raises more and spends more than the DNC. But because we need to reduce the cost of campaigns and because the American people want us to take action now, I am willing to put an end to the soft money system. All the RNC has to do is just say yes.

Immigration

Question: *Are you going to push for legal immigration cuts in this Congress?*

Answer: Majority Leader Lott made clear recently that legislation to restrict legal immigration is unlikely to be part of the Congressional agenda this year.

Still, this Administration wants to improve the legal immigration system and there are ways that we can continue to make it work better. This includes improving customer service and taking other steps to make the INS more efficient and effective.

It is important that any immigration reform considered by Congress recognize the contribution of legal immigrants to our country. Legal immigration should not be used as an issue to divide us.

Background: During last year's debate, the Administration supported a moderate reduction in the level of legal immigration consistent with principles that are pro-family, pro-work and pro-naturalization. Republican leadership has pulled back from addressing cuts to legal immigration because it believes that significant blocks of voters in the last election perceived their party to be anti-immigrant. Senator Spencer Abraham, who is strongly pro-immigration, has replaced Senator Simpson, who favored cuts in immigration levels, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Immigration Subcommittee. Abraham and others may well spend time criticizing INS operations.

Question: *What is the latest on the fight against illegal immigration?*

Answer: We are moving forward quickly to implement the illegal immigration enforcement bill, which will help our efforts to reduce illegal immigration. These efforts have resulted in unprecedented border control, stronger worksite enforcement to prevent the hiring of illegal workers, and record removals of criminal and other deportable aliens from this country.

We have also just announced a record \$3.1 billion budget for 1997 to support my priority of securing our country's borders. This is a 17% increase over 1996 and a 105% increase during the past four years. We are hiring 1,000 new Border Patrol agents and 350 inspectors. In addition, the new resources will allow us to increase the removal of criminal and other deportable aliens by at least 36% over the record level of 1996.

Civil Rights

Question: *The Supreme Court has requested that the Administration weigh-in on the Piscataway affirmative action case. How will the Administration respond?*

Answer: The Justice Department is reviewing the Supreme Court's request and will provide me with a recommendation. Before I see that recommendation, and the legal analysis on which it is based, I do not want to comment on the Administration's potential litigating position.

Background: The Supreme Court recently asked the Justice Department for its views on whether the Court should hear the Piscataway case. The case arose when the Piscataway, N.J. school board fired a white teacher rather than a black teacher with the same seniority. The school board stated that both teachers were equally qualified and that the decision was not to redress past discrimination, but rather to provide diversity in one of the school's departments. The Bush Administration filed a brief in support of the white teacher. In 1993, your Justice Department sought to reverse this position by submitting a brief in support of the school district. The trial court refused to allow the Justice Department to change sides in this way, instead kicking the Department out of the case. The Supreme Court is essentially asking that the Justice Department reenter the case, and the question is which side its brief will support.

Crime & Drugs

Question: *Recently, in response to the Medicinal Marijuana Initiatives passed in those states, the Administration announced that it was going to start prosecuting doctors in California and Arizona for prescribing marijuana. So-called "Cannabis Clubs" in California are now liberally distributing marijuana, yet the Administration has yet to bring a case.*

Is the Administration backing off this initial threat to prosecute doctors in those states?

Answer: There was no threat involved here.

I strongly believe that we need to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and effective medicine. But these two propositions send the wrong message to children. They undermine the concerted efforts of parents, educators, businesses, elected leaders, community groups and others to achieve a healthy, drug-free society.

That is why I directed General McCaffrey to provide me with recommendations on a Federal response to these propositions and to any efforts in other states to pass similar propositions.

And our response has been simple and direct -- we will continue our obligation to enforce Federal drug laws. No one is singled out. It does not matter if you are a doctor, a school bus driver, a Federal contractor, or a nuclear regulatory worker. As both General McCaffrey and Attorney General Reno stated, Federal prosecutors will enforce our laws on a case-by-case basis -- as we always do.

Education

Question: *Last week in Chicago you called for national standards in education. You said they should be national, but not federal. Why do we need them, and, if the federal government shouldn't establish them, how do you propose to create them?*

Answer: We need national standards for what students should learn because every student, every parent, every teacher, and every school must know what is expected of them, and must be able to measure their progress against these standards. While I believe in local control of education -- and we have local control right now -- there must be common expectations for students throughout the country. Algebra ought to be the same no matter where it is taught.

There is much available that states and school districts can use right now. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics has developed widely accepted standards for math. There are similar standards for science. And last week Secretary Riley and I announced that an international test in math and science -- one which shows clearly what world class achievement levels are -- will be available for local school systems and states to use. This will enable them to tell if their students are performing at high levels, and more importantly, if they have a curriculum in place that can help students reach these high standards. I urge as many school districts and states as possible to take advantage of this possibility.

Question: *Last week you announced that students in some wealthy suburban Chicago communities scored very high on an international test in math and science; you called for national standard; and you urged other school systems to test their students in the same way. Don't we know already that students in low income communities will score much lower than the rich students? If all students are held to these same high standards, what will you do to make sure that low income students in our cities, who don't have the advantages that those suburban students have, can do well on the test?*

Answer: First, let me say that the point of giving this international test to more students, including those in our urban systems, is not to see who wins and who loses. It is to make sure that the people running those systems, and the people who send their students to those schools or who teach in them, have an honest assessment of how well they do compared to tough international standards.

Let me also say that I firmly believe that every child in America, no matter what their family circumstances and even if they live in our poorest rural areas or cities, can learn to these world class standards. You just need to think of all those students in inner city Los Angeles that Hymie Escalante -- the subject of the

movie *Stand and Deliver* --helped to take and pass Advanced Placement courses in Calculus when most people didn't even think they could learn algebra, to realize that we can set high expectations for all of our students.

What we have learned from these tests is that the countries that outperform us do so because of what happens in the classroom, much more than what happens outside of it. They have high expectations for their students. They have a challenging curriculum that is focused on a few topics each year. They teach in depth, so that students really understand the material. There is no reason in the world that we can't do that in every school in this country, no matter where it is.

Question: *What is your view on the ongoing ebonics debate? Is this a good way to help African-American students learn English? Should federal funds for bilingual education or Title I be available for this?*

I am opposed to using federal funds to teach ebonics. I agree with Secretary Riley, who said several weeks ago that teaching ebonics is the wrong way to go about helping children reach high standards. All students need to learn to speak Standard English.

If there is one good thing that has emerged from this debate it is the renewed attention to the need to improve minority achievement in our schools. That is the real issue we need to focus on.

Note to the President:

Please be aware that Secretary Riley will be participating in a conference on minority achievement being organized by Jesse Jackson, to be held at the end of February. The conference does not focus on ebonics, but it has gained attention in the context of the ebonics debate. While the Education Department has declined to cosponsor the conference, it is likely that it will provide some financial support for it.

Paul -

Given the new timing, could you try to collect all these by midday.

Elena

012218BY.txt

From: Julie E. Mason@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
*To: DRYE_E@A1@CD@LNGTWY
*To: JENNINGS_C@A1@CD@LNGTWY
*To: WEINSTEIN_P@A1@CD@LNGTWY
*To: BURKE_D@A1@CD@LNGTWY
*To: JOHNSON_DT@A1@CD@LNGTWY
*To: WOZNIAK_N@A1@CD@LNGTWY
*To: Karen L. Hancox@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
*To: Bruce N. Reed@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
*To: Cathy R. Mays@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
*To: Russell W. Horwitz@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
*To: Lanny J. Davis@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
*To: Adam W. Goldberg@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
*To: Michelle Crisci@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
*To: Elisa Millsap@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
*To: Stacey L. Rubin@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
*cc: Phillip Caplan@EOP@LNGTWY@EOPMRX@LNGTWY
Date: 1/22/97 11:21am
Subject: PRESS CONFERENCE BRIEFING BOOK
Message Creation Date was at 22-JAN-1997 11:21:00

Clinton is holding a full-fledged press conference next Tuesday, January 28.

Staff Secretary has asked for the briefing book by the weekend, so deadline for talking points is COB Friday (1/24). We can update on Monday if necessary.

BRIEFING BOOK

Same routine as usual. Please e-mail me the top 3 -5 Qs&As on your subject(s)

. McCurry wants to keep them concise and clear, and please stick to the hot topics. If you think it necessary to include any further background and info, please add it below the Qs&As. Call me if you'd like to see an sample format.

Shouldn't be more than 1-2 pages per subject.

TOPICS/CONTACT:

(I know people have been shifting around recently - let me know i

012218BY.txt

f I have

the

wrong person assigned.)

political - Hancox

crime, drugs, youth violence - Emanuel, Burke (incl. medical marijuana)

campaign finance - Weinstein

counsel's issues - Davis

domestic - Reed

foreign affairs - Johnson

health care - Jennings

budget - Sperling, Horwitz

legislative agenda - Hilley

Thanks (x62712).

Medical Marijuana

Q. Recently, in response to the Medicinal Marijuana Initiatives passed in those states, the Administration announced that it was going to start prosecuting doctors in California and Arizona for prescribing marijuana. So-called "Cannabis Clubs" in California are now liberally distributing marijuana, yet the Administration has yet to bring a case.

Is the Administration backing off this initial threat to prosecute doctors in those states?

A. There was no threat involved here.

I strongly believe that we need to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and effective medicine. But these two propositions send the wrong message to children. They undermine the concerted efforts of parents, educators, businesses, elected leaders, community groups and others to achieve a healthy, drug-free society.

That is why I directed General McCaffrey to provide me with recommendations on a Federal response to these propositions and to any efforts in other states to pass similar propositions.

And our response has been simple and direct – we will continue our obligation to enforce Federal drug laws. No one is singled out. It does not matter if you are a doctor, a school bus driver, a Federal contractor, or a nuclear regulatory worker. As both General McCaffrey and Attorney General Reno stated, Federal prosecutors will enforce our laws on a case-by-case basis -- as we always do.

Dennis Burke DPC/ 6-5568
January 23, 1997

Campaign Finance Reform Question and Answers:

Question: *You've announced your support for the campaign finance reform bills introduced in the House and Senate respectively by Representatives Shays and Meehan and Senators McCain and Feingold. Yet, similar legislation was filibustered in the Senate last year and was never considered by the House. Why should the American people expect better results this year?*

Answer: I believe we have an historic opportunity to enact real bipartisan campaign finance if the Congress acts now. I think the national outcry for cleaning up the campaign finance system is much greater than last year, and I believe that Congress should and will respond to the call for reform. If we don't, the American people will hold us all accountable. Finally, I am committed to redoubling my efforts to working with Congress on enacting bipartisan reform, and I will take every opportunity to challenge Congress to act.

Question: *Some have characterized your offer to have the Democratic National Committee(DNC) stop accepting soft money contributions if the Republican National Committee (RNC) agrees to do the same as grandstanding. Particularly since the RNC raises more soft money than the DNC does. If you are really committed to taking bold action, why not just direct the DNC to stop taking such contributions unilaterally?*

Answer: First, I have asked, and the DNC has agreed, to take some unilateral steps to limit contributions. Specifically, the DNC will adopt the position my campaign took of not accepting contributions from non-citizens and foreign-owned businesses. This will put the DNC at a disadvantage in relation to the RNC, but because I believe it is the right thing to do, we are going forward with this decision. However, I am not willing to have the DNC completely unilaterally disarm. The RNC already out raises and out spends the DNC. However, because we need to reduce the cost of campaigns and because the American people want us to take action now, I am willing to put an end to the soft money system. All the RNC has to do is just say yes.



REGAS_D @ A1
01/23/97 05:49:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Paul J. Weinstein Jr.

cc:

Subject: Q & A for press conference- CEQ is also reviewing

Q & A for January 28:

Q: The Republican leadership has identified Superfund as one of their top priorities this session. Do you support their Superfund legislation?

A: The Superfund toxic waste cleanup program of today is far different from the program we inherited 4 years ago. Because of our reforms we will clean up two-thirds of the toxic waste sites before the end of the century. Already, we have accelerated the pace of clean-ups by 20%, and significantly reduced costs.

I would like to see responsible, bipartisan, legislation to further reform Superfund. I would also like to see Brownfields provisions to create jobs in areas that may have toxic contamination, and we need to reinstate the funding for the program. Any Superfund legislation must meet our basic goals, build on the reforms that we have already put in to place, and ensure that those responsible for pollution pay their fair share.

Elena -

These are my draft welfare questions.
I'm not sure if this is what you want.

Q: How much money does the President's budget contain for welfare reform?

A: As you know, I have not yet sent my budget to Congress. My staff and I are making final funding decisions and expect to send the budget to the Hill by Feb. XX. However, I can say this. There are two sets of numbers for welfare reform in my budget: money for the Welfare to Work Initiative and money to improve areas of the welfare law I earlier indicated I would address.

Q: You already passed welfare reform. Why do you need another new welfare to work program?

A: Passing the welfare law was an historic accomplishment that represents a significant step forward in social policy for this country. We are already seeing results. As you know, I recently announced that, since the beginning of my term, the welfare rolls have fallen by an unprecedented 2.1 million people. Much of this is due to my earlier aggressive welfare waiver strategy and the new welfare law. However there is more work to do. Now that the welfare law has passed, we have to work tirelessly to ensure its success.

To truly succeed, states and localities need additional funds targeted specifically toward helping the hardest to place welfare recipients find jobs. The Welfare to Work initiative would provide funds to states that they could then leverage with existing welfare to work funds to move large numbers of hard to place recipients in the labor market.

Q: What do you propose to do in your welfare to work initiative?

A: I announced the welfare to work initiative last August during the Democratic Convention. The Welfare to Work Initiative, still in the design stage, would help move **hard-to-place** welfare recipients off of the welfare rolls and into work. The initiative would likely be two-part: 1) a performance-based welfare to work jobs challenge to help states and cities create job opportunities for the hardest to employ recipients, and 2) an enhanced and targeted Work Opportunity Tax Credit to provide the private sector with powerful and new financial incentives to hire the hard to place welfare recipients.

Q: How are you going to move people from welfare to work when there are no jobs?

A: I recently announced that, since the beginning of my first term, the welfare rolls have fallen by an unprecedented 2.1 million people. A significant portion of this drop is due to the aggressive welfare waiver strategy we earlier pursued as well as the new welfare law.

I believe jobs are available and I expect the welfare rolls to continue to decline. Minimum wage jobs have always been open, but the package of welfare benefits previously available offered more to recipients than a minimum wage job. Now, with increases in the Earned Income Tax Credit, child care subsidies, and other provisions that makes work pay, welfare recipients can afford to take those available minimum wage jobs. Once working, former welfare recipients will gain the employment experience necessary to move up the ladder of

work.

But, we will need more jobs and jobs that pay more than the minimum wage if we are ensure the success of the new welfare law. I believe that a combination of private sector commitments, such as those made by the CEOs with whom I recently met, economic development, tax credits, additional welfare to work funds, and a focus on jobs in the growing technology industry will create the new, higher paying jobs we need.

Q: How can you guarantee that jobs going to welfare recipients aren't displacing hard working Americans already in the labor market?

A: This is an issue we are, of course, very sensitive to. In the structure of the welfare law, I made sure to include strong non-displacement language so that no existing employee would be displaced by a welfare recipient. I and my staff worked with union leaders to draft this language and we think it is good.

And, as you all know, we have had a tremendous surge in job growth, which I announced last week. Welfare recipients are moving into either newly created jobs or vacant positions. The recent pledges I've received from some of this nation's top CEOs is more evidence that we will continue to see welfare recipients successfully move from welfare to work.

Q: You are pursuing "fixes" to the welfare law, an effort with CEOs, tax breaks, and more money for jobs programs. Why didn't you address these problems before you signed the welfare law?

A: Passing the welfare law was an historic accomplishment that represents a significant step forward in social policy for this country. I am proud to say I signed the welfare law. This law represents the best opportunity for the disadvantaged in this country to move out of a life of dependence on welfare and into a life of self-sufficiency through work.

However, I said when I signed the welfare bill that I knew it was not perfect, and I detailed areas of the bill that I said I would work to improve. I am working to correct provisions that hurt legal immigrants, food stamp recipients, and children who receive SSI.

Further, the welfare law I signed gives states the flexibility to create welfare to work programs targeted to the resources and needs specific to each state. This doesn't mean that we stop trying to create jobs. It means just the opposite. The Federal government has a responsibility to help states create as many private sector jobs as possible. That is what I am trying to do.

Now that the welfare law has passed, we have to work tirelessly to ensure its success.

OUTLINE FOR QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON GENERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

MEDICARE

Q. Didn't you demagogue last year on Medicare, and will you have to fess up this year?

- Our current plan is a serious and real plan. It's a plan that's good health care policy and meets the most recent Republican plan halfway. The difference between our two plans has decreased and I look forward to serious discussions.
- We have always followed reasonable and sound plans. We have had a proposal on the table for almost two years that extends the life of the Fund well into the next decade. In 1993, we extended the Trust Fund three years without any Republican support.
- The Republican budget included flawed policies as well as \$270 billion in cuts -- more than was needed which would have increased premiums \$1700 over the seven years of the budget. That did not represent sound policy.
- The Republicans have moved back towards our direction, but as I stressed during the campaign their tax cut would have imposed even larger cuts in Medicare than the budget I vetoed. But I am encouraged by Chairman Archer's and Chairman Kasich's comments on our Medicare reform plan and I look forward to working in good faith and extending the Trust Fund well into the next decade.
- So now we must work together to create a productive bipartisan process to protect Medicare.

Q. Republicans reduced the size of their savings to \$158 billion -- which is close to your proposal. Why did you continue to criticize them?

- My criticism was directed at the \$270 billion in unnecessary cuts which Senator Dole continued to defend. I was also concerned about the implication of further cuts from their \$500 billion tax cut. Hopefully, when we sit down to the table this time, we won't face the same circumstances.

Q. Medicare Commission?

- We need to develop an effective bipartisan process that will require serious negotiation to deal with long term issues.
- For now, we need to concentrate on taking the first step toward balancing the budget and protecting Medicare well into the next decade.

- There are four principles we are going to meet.

1.) We have a clear amount of Medicare savings and the number is reasonable and serious.

2.) We extend the life of the Trust Fund well into the next decade

3.) Our reforms will be based on sound policy that will strengthen the program as well as contributing to a balanced budget in 2002.

4.) They are consistent with our overall policies of not placing any new additional burdens on beneficiaries or hospitals that will result in bad health policy.

Q. You have included a home health care transfer gimmick in the budget? How can you possibly defend it?

- First of all, this proposal is not included in the \$138 billion worth of savings. The reallocation of some of the Home Health Care expenditures into the Part B program is consistent with the treatment of Home Health Care prior to 1992. It simply reinstates the traditional division of Part A and Part B between acute care services and more chronic non-hospital based services in the Part B part of the program. In addition, as part of our overall cost containment strategy, we are including a new prospective reimbursement system as well provisions to crack down on fraud and abuse in Home Health Care that will achieve \$15 billion in scorable Home Health Care savings.

- Our home care proposal includes a brand new prospective payment system for home health services, as well as fraud and abuse component, which

would reduce excess utilization and achieve scorable savings for the program.

[House Republicans voted for a similar reallocation last year.]

Q. Why don't you include the home health expenditures reallocated to the Part B side of the program in the calculation of the premium?

- Neither the Republicans last year nor the Administration included the reallocated portion in the premium calculation. We were and always will be concerned about program changes that increase costs for beneficiaries. Our budget proposal makes clear our concern discretionary costs for beneficiaries.
- The typical older American already spends one-fifth of their income on health care.

Q. Are there deeper cuts in your new budget than last year?

- Yes, we increased savings this year (\$124 billion to \$138 billion over 6 years), but we looked at the best health care policy for Medicare and Medicaid -- not arbitrary numbers.
- Our budget includes sound and prudent savings to strengthen the Trust Fund, increase choices and competition, and extends the life of the Trust Fund to at least 2006.

Q. Press reports say you declined including a high-income premium, but are still open to it in negotiations.

- We believe that we have the proposed the best plan to balance the budget. If you look at our savings, you can see that we have proposed a serious budget. I am not philosophically opposed to considering higher premiums for the most well-off beneficiaries, but we are going to try and pursue the plan we have presented.

Q. HMO Payment Cuts.

- Clearly all providers and insurers who contract with Medicare are going to contribute savings to strengthen the Trust Fund.
- Most respected studies have found that Medicare is overpaying HMOs.
- While per person payments to Medicare managed plans have grown by 16% over the past two years, private-sector payments to these plans have been virtually flat.
- Our plan addressed the flaws in Medicare's current payment methodology for managed care plans in a variety of ways: The phased in reduction of HMO payments rates from 95% to 90% which as attracted a great deal of speculation, is just one of those ways.

MEDICAID

MEDICAID

Q. Are you going to cap the Medicaid program even though program spending has declined?

■ While I will not give out exact details of my proposal at this time, it will meet four principles:

1.) Protect the fundamental guarantee of Medicaid, recognizing its importance to our core values -- protecting health care for children in poor families, the disabled, and safeguarding health care for millions of middle class families with family members in nursing homes.

2.) Must have a real long term budget safeguard that ensures that outyear spending does not rise too quickly, and overall entitlements do not grow out of control.

3.) Provide more coverage for uninsured children.

4.) Provide states with the flexibility to meet their unique needs, while covering more people and ensuring the integrity of the individual guarantee of solid Medicaid health benefits.

Q. Are you concerned about reports that Democrats, your base support groups and some governors are opposed to a Medicaid policy similar to your past proposals.

- No. I believe that many of the people you referred to will be less concerned when they see the proposal as a whole. I believe I share common ground with these individuals -- we all have a strong commitment to the Medicaid program and the people it serves.

BUDGET SPECIFICS

Q. Overall answer to any question on what's in the budget.

- My budget will be presented on February 6th. It will lay out our specifics on our priorities. It will show that we can balance the budget while protecting our values.

Q. Your budget only balances with gimmicks, backloading or triggers.

- The best way to judge if our budget is real or credible is to look at our record. We have cut the deficit by 63% and the deficit has fallen in each of the last four years. In each of the last four years, growth has been higher and the deficit lower than CBO estimated. Following a decade of exploding deficits, I'm proud of our record.

Q. Won't you have to resort to gimmicks to achieve balance using CBO estimates?

- Our budget achieves balance in 2002 under both OMB and CBO estimates.
- The difference between the two baselines is much smaller than last year. We are looking forward to sitting down at the table.
- In the event that more deficit reduction is needed to balance in 2002 than is shown now, we are prepared to make further policy changes to achieve balance.

Q. Discretionary cuts are unrealistic.

- Look at our record. We have cut the deficit in each of the last four years -- it's 63% smaller from the day I took office. So I am very confident of our ability to get the deficit down to zero by 2002.

IMMIGRATION

Are you going to push for legal immigration cuts in this Congress?

Majority Leader Lott made clear recently that legislation to restrict legal immigration is unlikely to be part of the Congressional agenda this year.

Still, this Administration wants to improve the legal immigration system and there are ways that we can continue to make it work better. This includes improving customer service and taking other steps to make the INS more efficient and effective.

It is important that any immigration reform considered by Congress recognize the contribution of legal immigrants to our country and immigration should not be used as an issue to divide us.

Background: During last year's debate, the Administration supported a moderate reduction in the level of legal immigration consistent with principles that are pro-family, pro-work and pro-naturalization. Republican leadership has pulled back from addressing cuts to legal immigration because it believes that significant blocks of voters perceived their party to be anti-immigrant during the last election. Senator Spencer Abraham, who is strongly pro-immigration, has replaced Senator Simpson, who favored cuts in immigration levels, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Immigration Subcommittee. One area that this Congress has signalled that it will emphasize is criticism of INS operations.

What is the latest on the fight against illegal immigration?

1) Implementation of the enforcement legislation. We are moving forward quickly to implement the illegal immigration enforcement bill which supports our efforts to reduce illegal immigration. This includes unprecedented border control, stronger worksite enforcement to prevent the hiring of illegal workers and record removals of criminal and other deportable aliens from this country.

2) Record Immigration Budget. We have just announced a record \$3.1 billion budget for 1997 to support my priority of securing our country's borders. This is a 17% increase over 1996 and a 105% increase over four years. We are hiring 1,000 new Border Patrol agents and 350 inspectors. In addition, the new resources will allow us to increase the removal of criminal and other deportable aliens by at least 36% over the record level of 1996.

CIVIL RIGHTS

The Supreme Court has requested that the Administration weigh-in on the Piscataway affirmative action case. How will the Administration respond?

[Counsel's Office may provide a Q & A, but if not:]

The Justice Department is reviewing the Supreme Court's request and will provide me with recommendations.

Background: The Justice Department, reversing the Department's position taken during the Bush Administration, had sided with the Piscataway, N.J. school board against a white teacher who claimed discrimination when she was fired instead of a black teacher with the same seniority. The school board had acknowledged both teachers were equally qualified and that the decision was not to redress past discrimination, but to provide diversity by retaining the only African American teaching business.

prsc ont

Education Issues

Q. Last week in Chicago you called for national standards in education. You said they should be national, but not federal. Why do we need them, and, if the federal government shouldn't establish them, how do you propose to create them?

- . I am convinced that we need national standards for what students should learn because every student, every parent, every teacher and every school must know what is expected of them, and must be able to measure their progress against these standards. While I believe in local control of education -- and we have local control right now -- there must be common expectations for students throughout the country. Algebra ought to be the same no matter where it is taught.
- . I will be talking in greater detail over the coming weeks and months about how we can accomplish this, and how the federal government can help states and local school systems carry out their responsibilities for determining what should be taught.
- . Let me say now though that there is much available that we can use right now. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics have developed widely accepted standards for math. There are similar standards for science. And last week Secretary Riley and I announced that an international test in math and science -- one which shows clearly what world class achievement levels are -- will be available for local school systems and states to use. This will enable them to tell clearly if their students are performing at high levels, and, more importantly, if they have a curriculum in place that can help students reach these high standards. I urge as many school districts and states as possible to take advantage of this unique possibility.

Q. Last week you announced that students in some wealthy suburban Chicago communities scored very high on an international test in math and science, called for national standards, and urged other school systems to test their students in the same way. Don't we know already that students in low income communities will score much lower than the rich students? If all students are held to these same high standards, what will you do to make sure that low income students in our cities, who don't have the advantages that those suburban students have, can do well on the test?

- . First, let me say that the point of giving this international test to more students, including those in our urban systems, is not to see who wins and who loses. It is to make sure that the people leading those systems, and who send their students to those schools or who teach in them, have an honest assessment of how well they do compared to tough international standards.
- . Let me also say that I firmly believe that every child in America, no matter what their family circumstances and even if they live in our poorest rural areas or cities, can learn to these world class standards. You just need to think of all those students in inner city Los Angeles that Hymie Escalante -- the subject of the movie Stand and Deliver -- helped to take and pass Advanced Placement courses in Calculus when most people didn't even think they could learn algebra, to realize that we can set and meet high expectations for all of our students.
- . What we have learned from these tests is that the countries that outperform us do so because of what happens in the classroom, much more than what happens outside of it. They have high expectations for their students. They have a challenging curriculum, that is focused on a few topics each year. They teach in depth, so that students really understand the material. There is no reason in the world that we can't do that in every school in this country, no matter where it is.
- . Finally, while education is a local and state responsibility, the federal government can and will help. That is why I have fought so hard for funding for programs like Head Start and the Title 1 program that helps disadvantaged students, and Goals 2000 that helps set high standards.

Q. What is your view on the ongoing ebonics debate? Is this a good way to help African-American students learn English? Should federal funds for bilingual education or Title 1 be available for this?

- . I am opposed to using federal funds to teach ebonics. I agree with Secretary Riley, who indicated several weeks ago that teaching ebonics is the wrong way to go about helping children reach high standards. All students need to learn to speak Standard English.

- . If there is one good thing that has emerged from this debate it is the renewed attention to the need to improve minority achievement in our schools. That is the real issue we need to focus on.

Note to the President:

Please be aware that Secretary Riley will be participating in a conference on minority achievement being organized by Jesse Jackson, to be held at the end of February. The conference does not focus on ebonics, but it has gained attention in the context of the ebonics debate. While the Education Department has declined to cosponsor the conference, it is likely that it will provide some financial support for it.