

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 055 - Folder-009

Race - Weekly Meetings

September 17, 1997

AGENDA

I. RACE INITIATIVE (Judy Winston)

Ask for advice on:
- engaging leadership
- imp. of diversity
- uniting factors - solutions for America

- Overview of 9/30/97 Advisory Board Meeting Plans
Presentation of polling, demo & data
- Overview of 9/26/97 Little Rock Event
- Review Bob Thomas Workplan

II. MINORITY ISSUES (Sylvia Mathews)

- Little Rock Planning
- Hot Issues: EPA and Convent, Louisiana / University of Texas
- Affirmative Action
 - Procurement Reform / Benchmarks
 - HUBZone legislation and empowerment contracting Executive Order
 - Rep. Wynn and contract bundling
 - Dept of Ed. Investigation of California Admission Policies
- Congressional Update
 - Bill Lee Nomination
 - ISTEA/NEXTEA minority set-asides provisions
 - Sen. Gorton's anti-Indian sovereignty rider (withdrawn)
- Rep. Clayton - USDA proposals for a meeting with minority/small farmers

↳ minority (Clayton) = Black (Wash) or just small?
advocates or actual farmers?

Race: wealthy utgs

AGENDA

- Procurement Reform Update
- ✓• Minority School Enrollment
- ✓• Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- ✓• New \$50 Bill
- ✓• Military Sexual Harassment Cases
- POTUS meeting with Congressional Black Caucus

> Did I miss these?

Race - Weekly meetings 216165

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
April 25, 1997

Silver - send to
Grant - send to
97 APR 26 PM 3:25

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES

FROM: SYLVIA MATHEWS AND ANDREW MAYOCK *SM* *AM*

SUBJECT: UNITY PLAN

In his State of the Union address, the President reaffirmed that one of his top priorities was bringing the citizens of the United States together as "One America." To help fulfill this priority, we are developing and implementing a comprehensive plan that focuses on uniting Americans. This memorandum outlines the following two items for implementing the plan: 1) recent and future activities; and 2) developing issues and events. In addition to these components, we will continue to develop policies and events to address this issue. (Also, I continue my bi-weekly minority issues meeting, which proactively addresses issues of unity and equality as they arise.)

Recent and Future Confirmed Activities

- **Radio Address on Racial Harmony:** On March 29, the President delivered a radio address on racial reconciliation and understanding in which he asked the American people to reaffirm their commitment to the idea that "we are many people, but one nation, bound together by shared values."
- **Women's Leadership Conference:** On April 3-5, the White House Women's Office and the Center for Policy Alternatives hosted "The Women's Economic Leadership Summit" which brought together over eighty women leaders. On April 4, the President addressed the summit. The conference will produce an action plan on such issues as family, child care and health, and the Administration will review its recommendations.
- **Prop. 209:** On April 3, a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a district court injunction staying implementation of Proposition 209 and ruled that the proposition was constitutional. In a press conference on April 3, the President stated his disappointment with the panel's decision. The U.S. is a party to the case as amicus curiae and had argued forcefully at the preliminary injunction stage that Prop. 209 was unconstitutional. The Department of Justice is considering what next steps can be taken by the U.S. in its role as amicus in the case.
- **Disability and the Internet:** On April 7, a letter from the President was read to the participants of an event launching the Web Accessibility Initiative. This initiative is an effort to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the Internet's World Wide Web. The Department of Education will provide funding for the initiative, which was launched by computer industry sponsors and the Yuri Rubinski Foundation.

- **AIDS czar:** On April 8, the President announced the appointment of Sandra Thurman as the new director of the Office of National AIDS Policy. Sandra's appointment was generally well-received by the AIDS community, including the gay and lesbian community.
- **National Council on Disability:** On April 10, the President announced his intention to nominate Yerker Anderson, Gina McDonald, Bonnie O'Day and Shirley Welsh Ryan to the National Council on Disability. The council is responsible for promoting the integration, independence and productivity of individuals with disabilities into the community, schools and the workplace.
- **Jackie Robinson:** On April 15, the President attended the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in major league baseball. At the ceremony in New York, the President stated, "We have achieved equality on the playing field, but we need to establish equality in the boardrooms of baseball and throughout corporate America. And we need to make sure...[that] even more of our young people from all walks of life get their master's degrees and help to make more of their lives in this country." On April 5, the President taped an interview with Peter Maer of NBC radio which was part of a commemoration program. The program was available to program commemoration. The program was available to over 2000 radio affiliates. Additionally, segment's of the President's interview were used as part of NBC radio news broadcasts on this issue on April 15. On April 15, NBC made the President's interview available to the other major radio networks.
- **FDR Memorial:** On April 23, President Clinton announced his intention to send legislation to Congress to modify the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial to reflect President Roosevelt's disability. White House staff has been working with disability groups, members of the Roosevelt family and Members of Congress to determine the best way to bring these sides together. This position will be incorporated into the President's remarks at the memorial's dedication on May 2.
- **ENDA Announcement:** On April 24, the President hosted an event at the White House with the co-sponsors of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, commonly known as "ENDA." The event highlighted the President's support of the bill which would ban discrimination in the workplace (e.g. hiring, firing, promotions) on the basis of sexual orientation.
- **Tuskegee Announcement:** On May 16, the President will announce a formal apology to the victims and families of the Tuskegee syphilis experiment. This announcement will be accompanied by federal efforts to repair the breach between the African-American community and research community that was created by the Tuskegee incident.

- **Commencement Address:** On May 18, the President will give the commencement address at Morgan State University, a historically black college. We do not plan to announce the race initiative here. This speech will most likely address science or religious issues as it relates to the President's unity theme.
- **New \$50 Bill:** On June 12, the Treasury Department is scheduled to unveil its new \$50 bill, which has low-vision features for the sight-impaired. In developing the \$50 note, Treasury worked closely with disability groups on creating the low-vision features of the design. The \$50 bill will go into circulation this fall.
- **Radio Message:** In early June, as part of our video/audio recordings, a recorded message by the President will be aired on the American Urban Radio Network (AURN). AURN has over 500 national affiliates which reach ninety percent of the African-American population in the U.S. The recorded message will be played for a telethon hosted by "100 Black Men of America." The telethon is to raise money for this group which encourages economic development and provides mentoring to youths.

Developing Issues and Events

- **Race Initiative:** We are working on developing a comprehensive race initiative for the President, which may include a commission, to address building a strong and united America for the 21st Century.
- **White House Conference on Hate Crimes:** We are working on developing a White House Conference on Hate Crimes, possibly this fall. The conference would provide a broad umbrella for addressing our opposition to violence against those who may be different from others, and bring key constituencies together to identify commonalities and possible solutions. (This week, we plan to submit a decision memorandum to the President.)
- **Procurement reform:** This week, we will send the President a memorandum that outlines the proposed Administration announcement on procurement reform regulations. We have taken a number of steps in our roll-out of the Administration's proposed regulation that changes the Federal Acquisition Regulations to conform to the Justice Department's procurement reform proposal. We have resolved all outstanding legal issues concerning the regulation and are prepared to send the regulation to Office of Federal Procurement Policy, which is the final step prior to publication. We have conducted briefings for members of the Congressional Black Caucus and House and Senate staff members informing them of the imminent publication of the proposed regulation.
- **National Gay and Lesbian Leaders:** As part of our unity efforts, we are considering a scheduling request for a meeting between the President and national gay and lesbian leaders sometime this summer (possibly June which is "Gay Pride" month). The President last met with them in spring 1993.

weekly
Race-meetings

AGENDA

- Proposition 209 letters
- Crack/Powder Cocaine Council/ADPC meeting - interagency.
Ask Darrin - what/when?
- Voting Rights Act
- Procurement Reform -- Scheduling briefings for Hill and Civil Rights Groups
- Alternative Dispute Resolution clauses
- Other Hispanic economic issues

NEC/CEA/OPL

Planning series of mtgs
academician's group.

consultations w/ other leadership

Forum suggested focus on ed effort

Pres Advisory Com'n ~~III~~ - current

Misapplying the Voting Rights Act

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 assigns the Justice Department a major role in protecting the rights of minorities in the electoral process. But the department lost sight of its mission last week when it held up approval of hard-won changes in the governance of New York City's public schools approved last December by the State Legislature.

These changes, as Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew stressed at a meeting with Attorney General Janet Reno last Thursday, are essential for improving education and opening opportunities for the city's largely minority student population. Fortunately, Ms. Reno can still avoid lasting damage by approving the plan in time for the Chancellor to assert his new powers over the selection of school superintendents. The three-year contracts of nearly all local superintendents expire at the end of June.

Under the Voting Rights Act, New York City must obtain pre-clearance from the voting rights section at Justice before putting into effect changes in the rules governing voting and elections. The city wrote to the department on Feb. 14 seeking pre-clearance for those provisions of the new law directly related to voting and candidate qualifications for school board elections. But relying on an earlier Supreme Court ruling on the scope of pre-clearance, the city did not submit some of the law's most significant changes, those that would transfer authority from the corruption- and patronage-prone local boards to the Chancellor.

This partial submission did not go over well in Washington. In a letter to New York State officials made public last week, Isabelle Katz Pinzler, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the civil rights division, asserted that the missing provisions would lead to "de facto replacement" of the local school

boards, an action that requires Justice Department approval lest the votes of minorities be rendered meaningless. This raised the possibility that the most important reform in the city school system in a generation would be delayed or blocked.

Yet by carefully reading the law and consulting more closely with Chancellor Crew, Ms. Pinzler and her colleagues could have avoided this confrontation, which left the unfortunate impression that Justice Department officials were stretching a venerable and important civil rights statute to defeat the educational interests of minority students.

Far from being a power grab, the city's new law is a careful attempt to increase accountability for poorly performing schools and thus improve educational opportunities. The law involves some redistribution of authority, but within clearly acceptable limits. Though it reduces the powers of the city's 32 elected community school boards, it falls well short of the sort of "de facto replacement" that might warrant scrutiny by the Justice Department.

In fact, the local boards retain significant authority. While the law gives the Chancellor veto power over the selection of district superintendents, for example, no superintendent may be hired unless he or she is a candidate of the local board. The Justice Department should not interfere with a change that will be constructive for everyone, including minorities.

Timing now is critical. After meeting with the Mayor and the Chancellor, Attorney General Reno promised an expedited review. By letting the new system go into effect by April 1, and letting Dr. Crew exert his new powers over the hiring of school superintendents, she can make amends for her department's overwrought initial reaction.

The New York Times

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1997