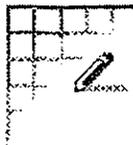


**NLWJC - Kagan**

**DPC - Box 067 - Folder-004**

**Welfare-New York Event Riverside  
Church**

 Christa Robinson  
02/18/97 01:33:28 PM

Record Type: Record

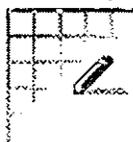
To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Church event

This is perhaps a more serious problem that you should be aware of. We can talk about it later.  
Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Christa Robinson/WHO/EOP on 02/18/97 01:26 PM -----

 Lyn A. Hogan  
02/18/97 11:43:48 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP

cc: Christa Robinson/WHO/EOP, Cheryl M. Carter/WHO/EOP

Subject: Church event

I'm listening to it right now and it is not going well, they are very much off message--I really wish I had gone there this morning to brief the speakers.

Rather than talking about the partnerships and business commitments, Earl Graves attacked the President and the welfare law (the President handled it well) and Anderson recruiters talked about the need for training and DID NOT make the promised jobs commitment (the President talked about how gov't training program shaven't worked..

How do I respond? We may need to do some damage control.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 17, 1997

**Welfare-to-Work Roundtable with Riverside Church**

DATE February 18, 1997

LOCATION Riverside Church  
122nd Street and Riverside Drive  
New York, NY

TIME 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

FROM Bruce Reed

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of your trip to Riverside Church in New York City is to a) participate in a roundtable on the Church's new welfare to work program, Partnership of Hope, and b) challenge the faith community nationally to emulate the Riverside Church approach to meeting your welfare to work challenge .

This event will also give you the opportunity to once again challenge the business community, nonprofit sector and others to help you make the new welfare law a success.

**II. Background**

In January 1997, you held the annual White House Prayer Breakfast at which you challenged the faith community to become involved in the welfare to work effort. One of the many faith community leaders attending the breakfast was Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister of the Riverside Church. When Dr. Forbes heard your challenge to the faith communities, he volunteered to take part and immediately began designing what has become Partnership of Hope.

Partnership of Hope is designed to bring together business, government, community service providers, educational institutions, and individuals in partnerships to move welfare recipients permanently into the labor market. The program's goal is to create jobs through economic development, offer job readiness and job placement services, provide child care, and find housing to successfully move welfare recipients to work.

Partnership of Hope also strives to create economic justice and emancipation from poverty to

break down class and race barriers, all in the context of spirituality.

Though the program was conceived only a month ago, Dr. Forbes has already held focus groups with welfare recipients and community-based organizations to plan a program that is responsive to *real* needs. He has hired a program director and is preparing short-term and long range plans for action. Dr. Forbes has also tapped into those in his congregation who are members of the business community and has received pledges from them to find jobs for welfare recipients.

### **III. Roundtable Participants**

#### **In Speaking Order**

The President of the United States

Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister, The Riverside Church

Rev. Dr. Brenda Stiers, Executive Minister, The Riverside Church

Earl Graves, CEO of Black Enterprise Magazine, member of Riverside Church

Ruth Penn, Former Welfare Recipient, now 5th Grade Teacher, part of the Partnership of Hope community working group

Ted Lewis, Director, Executive Recruiting for the Americas, Anderson Consulting, also member of Riverside Church

Nilda Roman, welfare recipient, part of the Partnership of Hope community working group

Lew Rudin, President, Rudin Management Co., Inc., President, Association for a Better New York

Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry, President and CEO, United Church of Christ, member of Riverside Church

Ed Lewis, Chairman, Essence Communications and Essence Magazine, member of Riverside Church

Rev. Dr. James Washington, Chair, Riverside Church Council (Note: He will close session with a prayer so will be last to speak.)

#### **No Speaking Role**

Donna Shalala, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Governor George Pataki

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Mayor Rudolph Guliani

Congressman Charlie Rangel

**\*See attachment 2 for Roundtable Participants Bios.**

### **IV. Audience**

There will be approximately 150 people in the audience, including the elected officials of the Riverside Church congregation, the congregation's working group members tasked with

creating the partnerships, and the institutions that will partner with the church in this effort including members from the surrounding business community, clergy of other congregations, and the surrounding academic community (Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary).

## V. Press Plan

Open press.

## VI. Sequence of Events

- Roundtable participants are seated, except Dr. Forbes, prior to the arrival of the President.
- Dr. Forbes escorts the President to the head of the table, all sit
- The President makes remarks (5 minutes), *very briefly* introduces Dr. Forbes
- Dr. Forbes makes remarks (2 minutes)
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- Open Discussion Continues
- The President closes discussion
- Dr. Washington closes with a prayer.**

**The President works the rope line**

## VII. Seating Order in "U" Shape

	President Clinton	
Rev. Dr. Forbes		Nilda Roman
Rev. Dr. Stiers		Lewis Rudin
Earl Graves		Rev. Dr. Sherry
Ruth Penn		Ed Lewis
Ted Lewis		Rev. Dr. Washington
Sec. Shalala		Gov. Pataki
Mayor Guiliani		Senator Moynihan
Rep. Charlie Rangel		

## VIII. Remarks

Talking points from speech writing.

## **Attachment 1, National and New York State Welfare Statistics**

### The Welfare Rolls

**National:** As of October 1996, there were 4.3 million adults receiving cash assistance, or a total of 11.9 million people when including children. The welfare rolls are down from a 1994 peak of 14.4 million people, a drop of almost 18 percent between March 1994 and October 1996.

**New York:** As of October 1996, New York State had 1,124,400 welfare recipients, down from a high of 1,266,350 in January 1995, an 11 percent drop.

### Child Support Enforcement

**National:** Over the past four years, the Administration has toughened child support enforcement, increasing collections nationwide by 50 percent. That's about \$4 billion.

**New York State:** In New York State, child support collections have gone from \$34 million in 1993 to \$42 million in 1996, a 24 percent increase.

## **Attachment 2, Roundtable Participant**

### **In Speaking Order**

**The President of the United States**, opening remarks

**Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister, The Riverside Church** -- Dr. Forbes will thank you for coming and will talk briefly and generally about Partnership of Hope.

**Rev. Dr. Brenda Stiers, Executive Minister and Program Director, The Riverside Church** -- Dr. Stiers will present the program details, highlighting the importance of building partnerships between the faith community, business community, and nonprofit community to provide welfare recipients with the opportunity for economic and spiritual growth.

**Earl Graves, CEO of Black Enterprise Magazine, member of Riverside Church** -- Mr. Graves will talk about his commitment as a business man and member of the Riverside Church congregation to supporting Partnership of Hope.

**Ruth Penn, Former Welfare Recipient, now 5th Grade Teacher, part of the Partnership of Hope community working group** -- Ruth Penn, a former welfare recipient who is now a 5th Grade teacher, will talk about how she accessed available church services when she was on welfare and how she would have fallen through the cracks had those services not been available to her. She will say that this is the reason she has become a member of the Partnership of Hope working group and is the reason she will work hard to make this program a success.

**Ted Lewis, Director, Executive Recruiting for the Americas, Anderson Consulting, also member of Riverside Church** -- Anderson Consulting is a recruiting firm with 70,000 employees worldwide. Anderson recruits headhunters. Ted Lewis will talk about his role in Partnership of Hope as a businessman and member of the Riverside Church congregation. He will also make a specific pledge to support this effort by encouraging those he hires and works with to hire welfare recipients.

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**Lew Rudin, President, Rudin Management Co., Inc., President, Association for a Better New York** -- Mr. Rudin is a leader in real estate management in New York City and sits on a council of corporate leaders that works to improve the quality of life in New York.

**Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry, President and CEO, United Church of Christ, member of Riverside Church** -- Dr. Sherry is the head of the United Church of Christ, a national organization with over one million members. He will work to expand partnership of Hope beyond the New York area nationally to other congregations.

**Ed Lewis, Chairman, Essence Communications and Essence Magazine, member of Riverside Church** -- Ed Lewis is the chairman of Essence Magazine, the largest magazine for black women.

**Rev. Dr. James Washington, Chair, Riverside Church Council** (Note: He will close session with a prayer so will be last to speak.)

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Governor George Pataki  
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## **Q&A, Welfare Reform and the Church**

**Question:** What does the welfare bill say about the role of religious organizations in welfare reform?

**Answer:** The “Charitable Choice” provisions were signed into law as part of the welfare reform legislation passed by the 104th Congress. The provisions give states the option to contract with charitable, religious, or private organizations, or to allow religious organizations to accept and redeem certificates, vouchers, or other forms of disbursement under any program that is part of the new welfare law on the same basis as any other nongovernmental provider.

**Question:** Isn’t this unconstitutional?

**Answer:** The Supreme Court has held that the Constitution allows many organizations with religious affiliations to participate equally with other private organizations in administering public welfare programs, as long as such organizations do not engage in religious activities when using public funds.

However, the Court has held that the government may not enlist pervasively sectarian organizations in administering welfare programs paid for with public funds. The Administration has offered a technical amendment to the welfare law making clear that the Charitable Choice provision does not apply to such pervasively sectarian organizations. This means that religious organizations should not directly offer government contracted services to welfare recipients, but may set up non-sectarian affiliates to administer government contracted services.

**Question:** If a church or other religious organization hires a new welfare recipient, can the religious organization receive whatever subsidy is given to any other private employer?

**Answer:** There are obviously tricky constitutional questions whenever a program involves governmental expenditures to religious organizations. But the goal of this Administration is to involve as many employers as possible in the effort to move people from welfare to work. And that means including as many employers as possible --including religious organizations --in any program to encourage employers to hire welfare recipients.

**Background:** The law in this area is uncertain. Much may depend on (1) whether the religious organization is “pervasively sectarian” under Supreme Court law (*i.e.*, a church, rather than an organization affiliated with a church) and/or (2) whether the employee is being hired for religious purposes. We should be supportive of including religious organizations generally in employer subsidy programs, without committing ourselves to defending each and every payment that could be made to each and every religious organization under such a program.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
WELFARE REFORM TALKING POINTS  
RIVERSIDE CHURCH, NEW YORK CITY  
FEBRUARY 18, 1997**

**Acknowledgments:** Sec. Shalala; Gov. Pataki; Rep. Rangel; Rep. Moynihan; Mayor Giuliani; Dr. James Forbes, Reverend of Riverside Church; Dr. James Washington, Chair, Riverside Church Council, Professor, Union Seminary.

**In my State-of-the-Union Address, I challenged every state, every business, every community and every congregation to help us move 2 million more people off of the welfare rolls by the year 2000. We are here today because the Reverend Forbes and the Riverside Church have risen quickly and forcefully to meet that challenge in their own community.**

**The Partnership for Hope is an exciting experiment for moving people from welfare to work.** It will unite the forces of business, government and community to create jobs for welfare recipients, and to provide them with crucial services like job readiness training, job placement and child care. And it will encourage members of this congregation to work one-on-one with people on welfare to give them career support . . . and spiritual support, as they make the transition from dependency to independence.

**Over the past four years, we have moved a record 2.25 million people off the welfare rolls.** Last year, we passed landmark legislation to make responsibility a way of life all across America by imposing time limits on welfare benefits, and requiring welfare recipients to work. In two years, the first of those time limits will be coming up. We cannot afford to wait until then to live up to our responsibility to make sure the jobs are there. The Partnership for Hope is taking steps to create those jobs today.

**Our faith communities have a long and powerful history of helping the poor.** I encourage religious congregations and communities around the country to follow Reverend Forbes and the Riverside Church's example by starting a welfare-to-work program that meets your community's needs and fits its resources. And I urge all Americans who have the ability to hire someone off of welfare to do it today.

**And now, I would like to turn this discussion over to the Reverend Forbes.**

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## **Q&A, Welfare Reform and the Church**

**Question:** What does the welfare bill say about the role of religious organizations in welfare reform?

**Answer:** The “Charitable Choice” provisions were signed into law as part of the welfare reform legislation passed by the 104th Congress. The provisions give states the option to contract with charitable, religious, or private organizations, or to allow religious organizations to accept and redeem certificates, vouchers, or other forms of disbursement under any program that is part of the new welfare law on the same basis as any other nongovernmental provider.

**Question:** Isn’t this unconstitutional?

**Answer:** The Supreme Court has held that the Constitution allows many organizations with religious affiliations to participate equally with other private organizations in administering public welfare programs, as long as such organizations do not engage in religious activities when using public funds.

However, the Court has held that the government may not enlist pervasively sectarian organizations in administering welfare programs paid for with public funds. The Administration has offered a technical amendment to the welfare law making clear that the Charitable Choice provision does not apply to such pervasively sectarian organizations. This means that religious organizations should not directly offer government contracted services to welfare recipients, but may set up non-sectarian affiliates to administer government contracted services.

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**Background:** The law in this area is uncertain. Much may depend on (1) whether the religious organization is “pervasively sectarian” under Supreme Court law (i.e., a church, rather than an organization affiliated with a church) and/or (2) whether the employee is being hired for religious purposes. We should be supportive of including religious organizations generally in employer subsidy programs, without committing ourselves to defending each and every payment that could be made to each and every religious organization under such a program.

## **RIVERSIDE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP OF HOPE PROGRAM**

In January 1997 in response to President Clinton's welfare-to-work challenge to the Faith Community, Dr. James Forbes, Reverend of Riverside Church, began Partnership of Hope.

Partnership of Hope is bringing together business, government, community service providers, educational institutions, and individuals in partnerships to move welfare recipients permanently into the labor market. Though the program is only one month old and is just beginning its outreach and organization, its goal is to create jobs through economic development, offer job readiness and job placement services, provide child care, and find housing to successfully move welfare recipients to work.

At the same time Partnership of Hope builds relationships with the business and other communities, it will also partner members of this congregation with welfare recipients from the surrounding community to tap into what *each* welfare recipient needs to find a job. Those members of the congregation will volunteer to work with individual welfare recipients to make sure each gets the services she needs in conjunction with the program's community partners.

However, the program's goal is not only to move welfare recipients to work, but to create economic justice and emancipation from poverty. It also strives to break down class and race lines and promote mutual understanding by encouraging one-on-one relationships between welfare recipients and members of this church's congregation, all in the context of spirituality.

Since Dr. Forbes conceived the idea a little over a month ago, he has held focus groups with welfare recipients and community-based organizations to plan a program that is responsive to *real* needs. He has hired a program director, Cathlin Baker, and is preparing short-term and long range plans for action. Dr. Forbes has also tapped into those in his congregation who are members of the business community and has received pledges from them to find jobs for welfare recipients.

Built in 1927, Riverside Church has one of the largest multi-cultural congregations in the country, with over 2,000 members. The church borders Harlem and has a long and rich history of offering social services to residents of Harlem and surrounding areas.

For more information, contact:      Dr. James Forbes  
Riverside Church  
122nd Street and Riverside Drive  
New York, NY  
212-870-6700

**The Faith Community Welfare-to-Work Roundtable  
Riverside Church  
122nd Street and Riverside Drive  
New York, NY  
February 18, 1997**

Announcement

Today, President Clinton traveled to Riverside Church in New York City to participate in a roundtable on the Church's new welfare to work program, Partnership of Hope. In response to President Clinton's January 1997 challenge to the Faith Community, Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister of The Riverside Church, quickly rose to the challenge by immediately beginning Partnership of Hope.

Background

In January 1997, the President and Mrs. Clinton held their annual White House Prayer Breakfast at which the President challenged the faith community to become involved in the welfare to work effort. One of the many faith community leaders attending the breakfast was Dr. James Forbes. When Dr. Forbes heard President Clinton's challenge to the faith communities, he volunteered to take part and immediately began designing what has become Partnership of Hope. President Clinton hopes Reverend Forbes and Partnership of Hope will spur religious leaders and their congregations around the country to do the same.

The Riverside Church Story

Partnership of Hope is designed to bring together business, government, community service providers, educational institutions, and individuals in partnerships to move welfare recipients permanently into the labor market. The program's goal is to create jobs through economic development, offer job readiness and job placement services, provide child care, and find housing to successfully move welfare recipients to work.

The program also strives to create economic justice and emancipation from poverty while breaking down class and race barriers, all in the context of spirituality.

Though the program was conceived only a month ago, Dr. Forbes has already held focus groups with welfare recipients to plan a program that is responsive to *real* needs. He has hired a program director, Cathlin Baker, and is preparing short-term and long range plans for action. Dr. Forbes has also tapped into those in his congregation who are members of the business community and has received pledges from them to hire welfare recipients.

The Clinton Strategy

The Faith Community effort is only one piece of President Clinton's strategy to make welfare reform a reality. The President's plan includes: Tax credits and other incentives for businesses that hire people off welfare; incentives for job placement firms and states to create more jobs for welfare recipients; and training, transportation, and child care to help people go to work. The President is now talking with state legislatures to share the country's best welfare to work practices, including job subsidies to employers and the use of intermediary job placement organizations. He has enlisted key members of the business community in his effort, soliciting pledges of help from Sprint, Monsanto, UPS, Burger King, United Airlines, and Marriot. He has included money in his FY 1998 budget for an expanded Work Opportunities Tax Credit for employers who hire welfare recipients and money for cities and states to put the hardest to place welfare recipients to work.

## Q&A, Welfare Reform and the Church

Question: What does the welfare bill say about the role of religious organizations in welfare reform?

Answer: The “Charitable Choice” provisions were signed into law as part of the welfare reform legislation passed by the 104th Congress. The provisions give states the option to contract with charitable, religious, or private organizations, or to allow religious organizations to accept and redeem certificates, vouchers, or other forms of disbursement under any program that is part of the new welfare law on the same basis as any other nongovernmental provider.

Question: Isn't this unconstitutional?

Answer: The Supreme Court has held that the Constitution allows many organizations with religious affiliations to participate equally with other private organizations in administering public welfare programs, as long as such organizations do not engage in religious activities when using public funds.

However, the Court has held that the government may not enlist pervasively sectarian organizations in administering welfare programs paid for with public funds. The Administration has offered a technical amendment to the welfare law making clear that the Charitable Choice provision does not apply to such pervasively sectarian organizations. This means that religious organizations should not directly offer government contracted services to welfare recipients, but may set up non-sectarian affiliates to administer government contracted services.

Question: If a church or other religious organization hires a new welfare recipient, can the religious organization receive whatever subsidy is given to any other private employer?

Answer: There are obviously tricky constitutional questions whenever a program involves governmental expenditures to religious organizations. But the goal of this Administration is to involve as many employers as possible in the effort to move people from welfare to work. And that means including as many employers as possible --including religious organizations --in any program to encourage employers to hire welfare recipients.

Background: The law in this area is uncertain. Much may depend on (1) whether the religious organization is “pervasively sectarian” under Supreme Court law (i.e., a church, rather than an organization affiliated with a church) and/or (2) whether the employee is being hired for religious purposes. We should be supportive of including religious organizations generally in employer subsidy programs, without committing ourselves to defending each and every payment that could be made to each and every religious organization under such a program.

# The Riverside Church



The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.  
*Senior Minister*

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

On June 1, 1989, The Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr. was installed as the fifth Senior Minister of The Riverside Church.

The Riverside Church is an interracial, interdenominational, and international church built by John D. Rockefeller Jr. in 1927. The 2,400 member church is affiliated with the American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ.

Forbes is the first African-American to serve as Senior Minister of one of the largest multicultural congregations in the nation. He is an ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches and the Original United Holy Church of America.

Before being called to Riverside's pulpit, Dr. Forbes served from 1976-1985 as the Brown and Sockman Associate Professor of Preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. From 1985-1989 he was Union's first Joe R. Engle Professor of Preaching. Union named him the first Harry Emerson Fosdick Adjunct Professor of Preaching in 1989, when he accepted the pastorate at Riverside. Dr. Forbes also serves on the Core Teaching Staff at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York.

In national and international religious circles, Dr. Forbes is known as the *preacher's preacher* because of his extensive preaching career and his charismatic style. Newsweek recently recognized Forbes as one of the 12 "most effective preachers" in the English speaking world in their March 4, 1996 issue. This Pastor, Educator, Administrator, Community Activist and Interfaith Leader was designated as one America's greatest Black preachers by Ebony Magazine in 1984 and 1993. He won the Alumni Charter Day Award of Howard University for Distinguished Post Graduate Achievement In Ministry. In 1995 he emerged in the Baylor University Survey as one of twelve remarkable and most effective preachers in the English-speaking world.

Dr. Forbes learned to preach and pastor in the parish. He has held pastorates at St. John's United Holy Church of America, in Richmond, VA from 1965-1973; Holy Trinity Church, in Wilmington, NC, from 1960-1965; and at St. Paul's Holy Church, in Roxboro, NC, from 1960-1969. He also worked as campus minister for Virginia Union University, in Richmond, VA from 1968 until 1970.

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**D**r. Forbes has earned three degrees and has been awarded 10 honorary degrees. He earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, NY in 1975; a Master of Divinity Degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City, NY in 1962; and a Bachelor of Science, in Chemistry, from Howard University in Washington D.C. in 1957. He earned his Clinical Pastoral Education Certificate from the Medical College of Virginia, in Richmond, VA in 1968.

His honorary degrees are: Doctor of Humane Letters, Keuka College, in Keuka Park, NY, 1993; Doctor of Divinity, Franklin College of Indiana, in Franklin, IN, 1992; Doctor of Divinity, Lehigh University, in Bethlehem, PA, 1991; Doctor of Divinity, Trinity College, in Hartford, CT, 1991; Doctor of Humane Letters, DePauw University in Greencastle, IN, 1990; Doctor of Laws, Fairleigh Dickenson University, in Rutherford, NJ, 1990; Doctor of Divinity, Colgate University, in Hamilton, NY, 1989; Doctor of Divinity, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, 1987; Doctor of Divinity, Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 1986; Doctor of Sacred Theology, Dickinson College of Carlisle, PA in 1983.

A well-known preacher and lecturer in the United States and abroad, in 1986 Dr. Forbes gave the Lyman Beecher Lecture at Yale University. The lectures in this series have been published by Abingdon Press as The Holy Spirit and Preaching, 1989. In 1993 he gave the Sixth Annual Leslie R. Smith Lectures in Preaching, entitled "Spiritual Revitalization of the Nation through Preaching" and in 1995 his "Healing the Spirit of America" was edited from The Davison Lectures at Warren Wilson College. He has participated in the Charles Finney Colloquium at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, and the World Pentecostal Fellowship in Nairobi, Kenya. His sermons are aired weekly on WLIW 106.7 FM in New York City, NY.

Forbes has led numerous workshops, retreats and conferences for the National Council of Churches of Christ USA, the National Association of Campus Ministry, the American Baptist Churches, the United Church of Christ, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Episcopal Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Born in 1935 in Burgaw, North Carolina, Dr. Forbes is married to Bettye Franks Forbes, formerly of San Antonio, TX. They are the proud parents of one son, James A. Forbes III.