

It is wonderful to be here with the Thomas Green's of the USA...and I do appreciate your Exec. Director so much...she will always be remembered to me as the woman who gave me a minnow pin to give my grandmother...Majorie had a pin that was a true minnow incased in plastic-because I spent so many wonderful hours as a child fishing with my grandparents I remarked how I wished I could give a similar pin to my grandmother, who incidentally I knew would WEAR it and Marj did. <sup>guest to me</sup> My grandmother even had it pinned to her bed jacket in the hospital during her last days, she treasured it! That story is indicative of the caring spirit that I have seen in Marjorie and Thomas in his work both professionally and activities like PTA where we ended up together on far more than one occasion....a connection to the real people out there who need the concern and skills of each of us.

President Clinton has talked about putting People First. (Use one page, small print)

What can you do/we do together? Let's look at some of the priorities within the Clinton Administration:

Stimulus or jobs package: I've already mentioned some of the components - please try to help us make the summer a productive/positive one for the individuals to be served. We need your help in seeing that the opportunity is really present.

Part of the <sup>long term</sup> investment package includes the EITC: Earned Income Tax Credit. I encourage you to "hook up" with one of the 6500 organizations across the country - many of which may be YOU and your agency- which are part of the EITC outreach network. Packets were mailed this week showing state by state benefits.

Welfare Reform: I encourage you as an organization to prepare your thoughts individually and collectively on the next steps in welfare reform and engage with us in dialogue as we proceed. You not only can be invaluable for ideas on training but we need your best efforts in helping us design a meaningful/productive work experience as described by President CLinton throughout the campaign and as recently as his address to Congress: we will ask persons engaged in training after two years to go to work and if a job cannot be obtained to perform a public service type work...we want it to be maningful. YOU are vital to the concept of linkage throughout the public / private sector as described in your most recent report...we want your best thoughts.

National Service:

As this program is introduced I know that you will want to follow closely the development within your own states and make sure all the right "links" again are being forged....we welcome your input here as well.

## Health Care Reform:

We, through the massive process being carried out, have received input from a number of you through letters, calls, meetings. I encourage you to help us show strong support for the plan when it is announced. We seek to cover with renewed emphasis on preventive and primary care the uncovered, <sup>the uncovered</sup> many of whom you serve day to day through the programs you administer. Your leadership will be key in the reform of health care which is after all a reform most basically in the way we all must think of our health and its care. I envision your strong leadership with other state agencies, particularly your health departments, medicaid agencies, etc. in carrying out prevention and primary care, transportation networks, even recruitment of health professionals and certainly care for the homeless. Please understand: we as a country must decide a very tough question: do we want to revolutionize our own thinking about health in America? Sure there are tough questions to follow as to delivery, financing, but the most basic issue is our willingness to really change our personal thinking and actions about health, health care, and its delivery. You are agents of change, you've shown it in the past and you will be key to making this work.

You are genuine living examples of what President Clinton admonishes us daily to do...remember that all paper, all policies, budgets, all pieces of legislation affect individuals lives...don't forget the Faces of Hope...faces reaching out to us for hope, faces giving us hope.

I know many of you are tired after the last twelve years...without you, many of the key programs for our citizens in poverty would have been gutted. They weren't and you've earned a rest. But we're asking you to go another round. The President can't pass or fund his initiatives alone. He can't break the gridlock alone...he still needs your help, and so do America's citizens.

For the first time in a long time, your efforts do not have to go to literally saving your "zeroed" programs and your efforts to provide services will be supported, not rebuffed by the Administration.

At last a new day is dawning for America's children and their families, the elderly, the homeless...all of us. We will work together with you. We won't always succeed and we won't always be able to do everything that you -- and we -- would want.

But I can promise you this....

we will never relent in our effort to give every person a chance to develop--and fully. Because at the end of Bill Clinton's second term, at the dawn of the third millenium, I want to be able to say to my two children - Hamp and Mary-Margaret Rasco and to all the citizens of this great country with a clear conscience and full heart: I did my best.

And I want all of you at this meeting to be able to join me in looking at one another and saying: We did our best.

Thank you very much.

Notes Prepared By: Bruce Reed  
Paul Weinstein

**Remarks**

**Date:** March 24, 1993

**Time:** 3:00 pm

**BACKGROUND**

On March 24, the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) will begin its annual legislative conference. The Foundation is very interested in how they can utilize their network of agencies to help implement the Clinton Administration's anti-poverty and outreach agenda. 400 to 450 of the people will be in attendance, including board members, directors, and staff from community action agencies around the country.

NCAF represents nearly one thousand community action agencies that operate a variety of programs, including Head Start, fuel assistance, weatherization, and housing. The organization would probably be interested in your experiences with community action agencies in Arkansas.

**EXPECTATION'S ABOUT YOUR REMARKS**

You are scheduled to speak to the conference from 3:00 to 4:00 pm, however, David Bradley, NCAF's Executive Director, says you should feel free to talk as little or as much as you want. They would like to have a Q&A following your remarks. David Bradley assures me that the questions will be softballs, such as will the administration support community action agencies. There is considerable goodwill among the NCAF membership, who are relieved to have a Democrat in office after twelve years of Reagan and Bush. David Bradley emphasized to me that the membership will be satisfied if all you say is that the Reagan-Bush era is over, and President Clinton is open to the ideas of NCAF.

## TALKING POINTS

- ◆ Putting people first means putting people back in control -- of their lives, their neighborhoods, and their country. There are plenty of ways to do it. Community development banks, Head Start, low-income energy assistance programs.
- ◆ President Clinton has stated that to restore our cities and encourage rural economic development, we must create a partnership at all levels, committed to excellence and community service. The federal government must get involved again, working hand and hand with state and local governments. Non-profit organizations have a major role to play. But most important, community groups and local citizen organizations must serve as the backbone of our rural and urban improvement efforts. *and you are a key linkage for us to those groups.*
- ◆ President Clinton recognizes the need to develop innovative ideas to promote growth in low-income communities. The Working Group on Community Development and Empowerment is already at work developing proposals. *on EZ & CDB.*
- ◆ The President has committed to investing in communities, people, and grass root organizations. His economic plan includes additional funds for Head Start, low-income housing, weatherization assistance, and community development banks.
- ◆ President Clinton understands the effectiveness of ~~community action agencies~~. *the Comm. Service Block Grant*  
~~He used them innovatively as Governor of Arkansas in implementing welfare reform.~~ Our door is open to your ideas on how to utilize the ~~community action agencies~~ *your agencies* in encouraging community development, opportunity, and empowerment.

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Community Action Agencies Program**

- ◆ President Bush tried to eliminate the Community Action Agency program. He proposed zeroing out its budget for Fiscal Year 1993. Congress was able to fund the program at \$372 million, in great part due to the efforts of the National Community Action Foundation
- ◆ For Fiscal Year 1994, the Community Action Program's funding will be frozen at last year's level -- \$372 million. The program is funded out of HHS as part of the Community Service Block Grant. The NCAF is comfortable with this level of funding.
- ◆ The program is up for reauthorization this year. To the best of my knowledge, I do not believe the Administration has taken a position on the legislation yet.
- ◆ The Community Action Agency Program was founded in 1964, as part of Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty.

### **Head Start**

- ◆ Around 700 community action agencies operate Head Start programs.
- ◆ The Clinton Administration's economic package proposes to increase funding for Head Start by \$3.2 billion by 1997, \$8 billion over four years, achieving full funding for an estimated 1.4 million eligible disadvantaged children by 1999.

### **Weatherization Assistance**

- ◆ As part of the stimulus package, the weatherization assistance program for low-income citizens will receive an increase of \$60 million in 1994, and \$100 million per year in 1995-1997.
- ◆ With a leveraging ratio of 1:1 from the states, an additional 450,000 homes will be weatherized over the currently projected number for the 1994-97 period.

### **Community Development Banks (CDBs)**

- ◆ CDBs, community credit unions, revolving loan funds, microenterprises, go to neighborhoods that traditional financial institutions won't serve. Their leaders get to know the people there. They provide money for capital to start small business, for technical aid to keep their businesses going, for loans to

rchab a gutted building. The President's economic plan includes \$354 million (FY94-FY97) for development of a CDB network.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION

2100 M STREET, N.W.  
SUITE 604  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037

Tel (202) 775-0223  
Fax (202) 775-0225

*Reg - need folder  
as this will be a special  
why did this have  
to go thru Cheryl?  
Held  
3:00  
Call room  
mail*

February 11, 1993

Ms. Carol Rasco  
Assistant to the President, Domestic Policy  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

*Accept for  
abt. of March 24,  
any time.*

*Thanks*

Dear Ms. Rasco:

The National Community Action Foundation will be holding its annual Legislative Conference on March 24 through 26, 1993 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill. We expect 400 to 450 people to be in attendance, including Board Members, Directors, and staff from Community Action Agencies across the country. We would be honored if you would accept this invitation to address conference participants on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 24 or the morning of Friday, March 26. Exact timing can be arranged to accommodate your schedule.

*OK plz  
Cheryl  
Hills  
3-1-93  
cu*

We are aware of your long-standing relationship with the Community Action Agencies of Arkansas. These agencies are part of a nationwide network of nearly 1000 Community Action Agencies that operate a variety of programs with the purpose of helping low-income Americans achieve self-sufficiency. These programs include Head Start, Low-Income Energy Assistance, Community Services, McKinney Homeless programs, food and nutrition, employment and training programs, etc.

The Community Action Program is excited about the Clinton Administration and is willing to do whatever it can to contribute to the new Administration's success, including offering a ready network of agencies that are available to help implement the anti-poverty and outreach agenda of the White House. We would look forward to hearing your views on how low-income programs, particularly Community Action, fit in to President Clinton's emerging domestic policy agenda.

We have included a list of conference speakers from previous years. We appreciate your consideration of this invitation and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

*David Bradley* → *Valerie*  
David Bradley  
Executive Director

**The National Community Action Foundation Annual Legislative Conference--  
Past Speakers Include:**

**1992**

*Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV  
Representative Barney Frank  
Rep. Bruce Vento  
Rep. Matthew Martinez  
Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Rep. Vin Weber  
Rep. William Goodling  
Catherine Milton  
Adam Yarmolinsky*

**1990**

*Senator Paul Simon  
Senator Chris Dodd  
Senator Carl Levin  
Senator Kent Conrad  
Senator Orrin Hatch  
Rep. Joseph Kennedy  
Rep. Jolene Unsoeld  
Rep. Major Owens  
Hon. Lowell Weicker*

**1988**

*Senator Edward Kennedy  
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV  
Senator Ernest F. Hollings  
Senator Don Riegle  
Senator Kent Conrad  
Senator Charles Grassley  
Senator Mark Hatfield  
Rep. William Gray III  
Rep. Mary Rose Oaker  
Rep. Martin Frost  
Rep. Silvio Conte  
Hon. Sargent Shriver*

**1986**

*Senator Lowell Weicker  
Senator Carl Levin  
Senator Patrick Leahy  
Senator Warren Rudman  
Senator Mark Hatfield  
Rep. Jim Jeffords  
Rep. Charles Rangel  
Rep. George Miller  
Rep. Vic Fazio  
Rep. Pat Williams*

**1991**

*Senator Tom Harkin  
Senator Jim Sasser  
Senator Mark Hatfield  
Rep. Matthew Martinez  
Hodding Carter, III  
Eunice Thomas  
Peter Edelman  
Bruce Morton  
Michael Duffy*

**1989**

*Secretary Louis Sullivan  
Rep. Bruce Morrison  
Rep. Donald Payne  
Rep. Dave McCurdy  
Rep. Tom Ridge  
Rep. Tom Tauke  
Lynda Johnson-Robb  
Dr. Isabel Sawhill*

**1987**

*Senator Tom Harkin  
Senator Jim Sasser  
Senator Dale Bumpers  
Senator Bennett Johnston  
Senator Tom Daschle  
Senator Mark Hatfield  
Senator Lowell Weicker  
Rep. William Gray III  
Rep. Leon Panetta  
Rep. Dick Gephardt  
Rep. Mike Lowry  
Rep. Dale Kildee  
Rep. Phil Sharp  
Rep. Sander Levin  
Rep. Tom Tauke  
Rev. Jesse Jackson*

**1985**

*Senator Ernest Hollings  
Senator Charles Grassley  
Senator Robert Stafford  
Senator Nancy Kassebaum  
Rep. Pat Williams  
Rep. Dale Kildee  
Rep. Dave Obey*

A fax from ...

Marjorie Witherspoon at..... NASCSP



Date: April 7, 1993

Number of Pages  
(including this one): 2

To:  
Carol Hampton Rasco  
Domestic Policy Advisor to the President  
The White House

Comments:  
Hard copy to follow

NASCSP's fax number is (202) 624-8472.

If there are any problems with this transmission, please call  
(202) 624-5866.



# National Association for State Community Services Programs

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Marjorie J. Witherspoon

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James/Erna Reed  
Pennsylvania

444 North Capitol Street NW

Suite 348

Washington, DC 20001

202/624-5566

Fax: 202/624-8472

April 6, 1993

Ms. Carol Hampton Rasco  
Domestic Policy Advisor to  
the President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Carol:

I cannot begin to tell you what a thrill it was to meet with you in the West Wing of the White House. When I was leaving so was Barbara Walters. We were up close and personal in the guard house. Quite an afternoon all in all.

Thank you again for agreeing to speak at the Spring Conference of the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP). Thomas was delighted when I asked him to introduce you. You are the keynote speaker and are scheduled to address the Association at the Opening Plenary on Wednesday, April 14, 1993, in Salon II in the Ritz Carlton hotel in Arlington, Virginia, 1250 Hayes Street, Arlington, Virginia. It is at the Pentagon City Metro stop. We will begin at 9:00 am. As I recall, you have an early morning meeting. We will be happy to hear from you at anytime during the morning. Please have someone call me to let me know what time you think you will arrive. Please plan to speak from twenty to thirty minutes.

As we discussed, the members will be anxious to hear anything you can tell them about the support the Clinton administration has for anti-poverty programs. Given the Senate Republicans' actions on the economic stimulus package, this would also be an opportune time to charge the audience with advocacy on behalf of the President's "Vision of Change for America." I also remember that you suggested talking about cooperation and coordination among state agencies as well as local agencies. This is a necessary message and one that gives the audience something specific to do.

I am as anxious as everyone else in the Association to hear your speech and look forward to seeing you next week.

With warm personal regard,

Marjorie J. Witherspoon

car pick up @ 8:20

Call & tell them I'll be there at 9.  
Ask the car place how much time to allow to get there when you call to set up a driver. I would like to arrive around 8:45 a.m.



# National Association for State Community Services Programs

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Rodney Huenemann  
Iowa
- REGION VIII**  
Ann Kagie  
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- REGION IX**  
Karen Novachek  
Arizona
- REGION X**  
Ed Musslewhite  
Idaho
- CSBG Chair  
Grey Warrner  
Illinois
- Weatherization Chair  
JamesEtta Reed  
Pennsylvania

444 North Capitol Street NW  
Suite 548  
Washington, DC 20001  
202/624-5866  
Fax: 202/624-8472

February 18, 1993

Ms. Carol Rasco, Assistant  
to the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Carol:

Congratulations. I am thrilled that a person with the kind of commitment to solving public problems you embody is in charge of the domestic policy agenda for the White House.

I am writing on behalf of the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASPCSP) to ask you to be the keynote speaker at our Spring Conference. It will be held at the Ritz Carlton at the Pentagon City Metro-stop. The theme of the conference is "A New Vision: Turning Point" and we are looking for someone, ideally you, to describe the Clinton administration's vision for dealing with low-income Americans' problems. The date for the speech is Wednesday, April 14, 1993. We would want you to begin your remarks at 9:30 in the morning.

NASPCSP members are state directors of the CSBG and the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program. Many of them also administer the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). As you are aware all of these programs were slated annually for extinction by the Reagan and Bush administrations.

We recognize the deficit and the many sacrifices that will have to be made, but both the CSBG and Weatherization programs have proven to be cost effective, and I think are investments in the future of this country.

I hope you will be able to be with us. I know that you are the kind of speaker that can captivate and energize an audience. I hope that you will have the time to speak to these state administrators. It would be like a shot in the arm to hear from you where the administration is going.

*what you can do for us -*  
*BC said the hard things -*  
*can you back him? Tell your Gov, your delegation.*  
*Accept*  
*When you call her tell her I'm thrilled to be asked that I want to speak before the speech.*  
*Will come to you March 18th @ 2:00pm*

*Shrinker suit -*  
*Callabration among Dept. lines*  
*BC vision for poor - Community empowerment*

Ms. Carol Rasco  
February 18, 1993  
page 2

I realize that there are many demands on your time and that a number of organizations must be clamoring for your attention. The state directors can further the new administration's agenda and I hope that you will favor us with your presence.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marjorie J. Witherspoon', written in a cursive style.

Marjorie J. Witherspoon  
Executive Director

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**Community Services  
Block Grant  
Statistical Report 1990**

**National Association for  
State Community Services Programs**