

March 30, 1994

NOTE TO TONY COELHO

Thank you very much for your call today and for your plans to call Mr. Naschinski soon to defuse this situation. I understand that you will find a way for his Committee on Disabled Veterans to air their policy concerns to Secretary Reich.

As background for your planned call, attached is the letter from the Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the ultimate letter from Leon Panetta clarifying that there are no plans in FY 95 to merge the functions of Labor Department's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) into that Department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). I do not include the President's more equivocal reply of Dec. 27th since Panetta's letter is meant to clarify that the status quo will prevail at least until a full review of this NPR recommendation and consultation with the Veterans are arranged. So that issue which is so prominent in Mr. Naschinski's letter seems to have been laid to rest for now. Hope this helps you.

Could you please let me know of the outcome of your intervention. My phone number is (202)456-5570. Thanks!

Stan Herr

bcc: Carol Rasco

Carol, FYI. Tony also feels the veterans should

be concerned with the common problems of persons with disabilities. An indisputable point

*Followup: I'll call H. Gobar once I hear back from Coelho since he seems concerned that our response be proactive. Query: Coelho doesn't know if he'll be attending the meeting of the overall Committee with J. Reich on April 13th. He asked me if I was going (I think partly as a stand-in/buffer in case he wasn't). Should I? Or should I encourage him (to take a trip that is not so convenient for him)? Any views?
Thanks.*

**The White House
Washington**

FAX COVER SHEET

Office of Domestic Policy

**Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500
FAX: (202)-456-7028**

To: Tony Coelho

FAX No: 212 492-7037

From: Stan Herr

Phone: (202) 456-5570

Date: 3-28-94

Pages (Including cover): 3

Comments: Thanks for calling
me today. As before,

I look forward to

meeting you one day

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

042115 RL



THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

October 25, 1993

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We share your goal of making the entire federal government both less expensive and more efficient. However, the recommendation of the National Policy Review (NPR) Committee, to transfer the Labor Department's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) to the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), would severely undermine the Administration's efforts to enhance job opportunities for veterans.

Based on the NPR committee recommendation, the current level of services to veterans could not be maintained through programs administered through the ETA. There simply is no adequate substitute for the checks and balances that are already in place at VETS, for ensuring that veterans receive the priority and preferential employment services they are entitled to.

From the justification statement accompanying the NPR recommendation, it is evident that a full understanding of the vital services VETS provide to the veterans community is lacking. We request that you reconsider such a transfer, until such time as staff members of the NPR committee have fully assessed the serious implications of their recommendations.

In order to hear a diversity of opinions, not the least of which is the veterans who would be served, we recommend that an appropriate forum be convened in order that all view points may be considered.

Your consideration of this important issue is appreciated.

Respectfully,


GEORGE R. CRAMER
Commander-in-Chief

Jan. 13. 1994 4:48PM WH CABINET AFFAIRS

No. 4144 P. 2/2



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

January 13, 1994

Mr. George R. Cramer
Commander in Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-5799

Dear George:

I have been asked by the President to follow up with you on his letter of December 27, 1993 concerning the Veterans Employment and Training Service and Department of Labor. As you are aware, the President has a special respect for the men and women who have served our nation. It is important that the nation recognize their sacrifices and that they receive the rewards of a grateful nation.

I want to assure you that the Fiscal Year 1995 Budget that the President will submit to Congress will not contain a proposal to merge the Veterans Employment Administration Service into the Employment and Training Administration. No further action will occur on this proposal until the President personally has reviewed the recommendations.

Secretary Reich is in the process of analyzing all employment and training programs. The Veterans Employment and Training Service will be included in this vital review. The Administration, of course, remains committed to creating a more efficient, cost effective government.

The President has great respect for the opinion of veterans leaders such as yourself and will consult with them before implementing any change in the structure of the Veterans Employment and Training Service.

Sincerely,

Leon E. Panetta
Director

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 27, 1993

*Carol -
FYI,
(I did not
send this to
Coelho since
his message was
not quite right*

Mr. George E. Craver
Commander in Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars
300 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-3799

Dear George:

Thank you for your sharing your thoughts about my plans to consolidate the Labor Department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service and the Employment and Training Administration. I appreciate hearing about your concerns as we attempt to create a better, more responsive Federal government.

I agree that the VETS program provides many vital services for our nation's veterans. I would not put forward a proposal that would adversely affect those who have put their life on the line for our country.

The current system, with two separate employment and training programs in the same department, however, has proven to be wasteful and inefficient. I believe that by moving VETS into the DHEW, we can eliminate duplicate services and excessive bureaucracy -- a result that would benefit both veteran and non-veteran recipients of these services.

As I begin to implement the recommendations of the National Performance Review, I will certainly keep your views in mind. I hope you will continue to help us build a government that works better and costs less.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

TELEFAX TRANSMISSION MEMO

ATTN: Stanley Herr

ORGANIZATION: Domestic Policy

TELEFAX NO: 202 456 7028

FROM: Robert L. Jones, Special Assistant to the Secretary

ORGANIZATION: Department of Veterans Affairs

TELEFAX NO: 535-8989

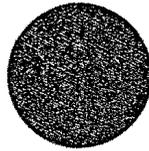
NO. OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 3

(Card all 3 letters
Cramer,
the President,
+ Mr. Pirella's
more)

DATE: 3/29/94

MESSAGE: Per Tele/con This was provided to
Emil WASCHWSKI's Boss AND The Other
VETERANS Groups.
Bob Jones

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY



CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Staw

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by: _____

Draft response for CHR by: _____

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by: _____

Please advise by: _____

Let's discuss: on 3/28/94

For your information: _____

Reply using form code: _____

File: _____

Send copy to (original to CHR): _____

Schedule ? : Accept Pending Regret

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: This is Hershel Prober (originally from Arkansas). Please meet on Monday to discuss the attached.



The Deputy Secretary of
Veterans Affairs
Washington DC 20420

3-25-94

Carol - Please see the attached. I did not know who should get this but I know you do.

We should address this issue quickly. We must not let this Veterans group withdraw from Committee. It will be bad politically & we will receive much negative media.

Hershel

212 492-7037 MAR 25 REC'D

P6/(b)(6)

The Honorable Tony Coelho, Chairman
The President's Committee on Employment of
People with Disabilities
c/o 763 Battery Place
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Chairman Coelho:

It is with deep regret that I inform you that the representatives of the veteran service organizations (VSOs), who are members of the Committee On Disabled Veterans (CODV), have elected not to participate in the meeting with the Secretary of Labor on April 13, 1994. The reasons for our decision are as follows.

Traditionally, CODV has met, when appropriate, with the secretaries of various cabinet level agencies to share our concerns and to explore ways of working together to promote employment and training opportunities for disabled veterans. In January we met with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown, and key members of his staff.

One of the objectives included in CODV's FY 1994 work plan reads (in part) as follows:

Public Policy. CODV will continue to pursue public policy questions regarding the employment of disabled veterans by meeting with Federal agency officials.

Another portion states that the one of CODV's strategic plan priorities will be to, "Educate and support the new Administration on disability employment issues and policy." I must point out that these objectives, as well as the others contained in CODV's current work plan, were reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee of the President's Committee.

Several months ago, the Clinton Administration introduced a proposal that called for the elimination of the Department of Labor's (DoL's) Office of the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training. Under that proposal, responsibility for all veterans' employment and training programs would have been transferred to the agency's Employment and Training Administration.

Because the members of CODV believed that implementation of that proposal would have had a very

negative impact on DoL's ability to provide quality employment services to disabled veterans, we felt it was imperative that CODV meet with Secretary Reich as soon as possible.

On September 15, 1993, several VSO representatives met with the executive director of the President's Committee to discuss implementation of CODV's FY 1994 work plan. During that meeting the executive director forbade CODV from seeking a meeting with Secretary Reich. The reason for his decision was because he wanted to include representatives from all of the standing committees in any meetings with the secretary. When we took exception with his decision, the executive director told us that the conversation was closed.

In reviewing the proposed agenda for the April 13th meeting with Secretary Reich, we note that with the exception of Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP), all of CODV's other concerns have been completely ignored.

As the VSOs understand the operation of the President's Committee, policy is set by the individual standing committees and that that policy is subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Because our work plan has been approved, we believe that CODV should be allowed to pursue its objectives.

As a result of the executive director's dictate, it is now more than six months later and CODV still is not allowed to meet with the secretary to discuss the very serious questions we have about DoL's future roll in providing employment services to disabled veterans. As veterans' advocates, we find this situation to be totally intolerable!

It is also our understanding that as a paid employee of the President's Committee, the executive director's role is not to dictate policy, but rather, to provide the standing committees with whatever support, guidance and administrative assistance they might need to accomplish their work plan objectives.

If our beliefs about the role of the executive director are incorrect, I want to know. If we are incorrect then we will reconsider our continued affiliation with the President's Committee. Let me be very clear about this: If the VSOs cannot continue our advocacy for this country's 2.2 million disabled veterans through our work with the President's Committee, then we will find a more appropriate venue for meeting our mission.

In closing, I would like to point out that CODV is the oldest and most active of the standing committees. In

fact, the President's Committee is an outgrowth of the committee that was established by President Truman to serve the employment needs of disabled World War II veterans. We are extremely proud of our past accomplishments and we look forward to continuing our role as one of this country's leading advocates for the disabled.

Chairman Coelho, I wish that this letter had not been necessary. If you would like to meet with us to discuss this matter, and our other grievances with the executive director, we will be happy to make ourselves available to you.

We look forward to a prompt response.

Sincerely,



Emil W. Naschinski, Chairman
Committee On Disabled Veterans

March 30, 1994

NOTE TO TONY COELHO

Thank you very much for your call today and for your plans to call Mr. Naschinski soon to defuse this situation. I understand that you will find a way for his Committee on Disabled Veterans to air their policy concerns to Secretary Reich.

As background for your planned call, attached is the letter from the Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the ultimate letter from Leon Panetta clarifying that there are no plans in FY 95 to merge the functions of Labor Department's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) into that Department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). I do not include the President's more equivocal reply of Dec. 27th since Panetta's letter is meant to clarify that the status quo will prevail at least until a full review of this NPR recommendation and consultation with the Veterans are arranged. So that issue which is so prominent in Mr. Naschinski's letter seems to have been laid to rest for now. Hope this helps you.

Could you please let me know of the outcome of your intervention. My phone number is (202)456-5570. Thanks!

Stan Herr

bcc: Carol Rasco

— Don't need my veterans
Bob Jones (get copy)
letter from
Pick Panetta
couple
story —
Prentice Taylor
— (NPR —
mistake) department
hold off

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T .

01-Apr-1994 11:19am

TO: Carol H. Rasco

FROM: Stanley S. Herr
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: RE: in response to Hershel Gober's concerns

I've placed calls to Mr. Gober and to Robert Jones (the assistant to Sec. Brown to whom Mr. Gober referred me for follow-up) to inform them that Mr. Coelho assured me that he would reach out to the Committee on Disabled Veterans. Since the former is on travel and the latter out of the office, I left messages about Coelho's intentions to accomodate the disabled veterans.

I hope this satisfies everyone!

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

31-Mar-1994 08:13pm

TO: Stanley S. Herr

FROM: Carol H. Rasco
 Economic and Domestic Policy

SUBJECT: RE: in response to Hershel Gober's concerns

Thank you! Have you updated Herschel Gober on this? If not,
please call him. Thanks again.

5:15
63025

Exam of correspondence - printing

Council of Veterans Wars
NPR - - sent implement to Sec of Labor
to revise Veterans Employment
training
no implement

study

1090
632 75

Bib Jones --

will FAX

Jim Hubbard -- FAXED letter)

(last subcommittee)
VA - general legislative

Comm on Disabled Veterans --
All Major Veterans Organ

Bush -- comm interested
See Reich --

March 25th --

- LT □ Dissolving -- death w/
- 2nd □ Employment opportunities

high-handed
downplayed - headaches --
pleasant, not worked

Chair, Tony Coehlo
(Hullman Exec Dir)
current admin (⊖)

- transition
- workload
-

terrible signal (⊖)

Employment record

John Wheeler - Viet Vet
lack of veterans' prof

Pidy Bernstein

⊖ serious concern/

Bad blood

met w/ Douglas
Kochanski

Orchestra --

some points from Reed (Wish
Preston Taylor)

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Could you please let me know of the outcome of your intervention. My phone number is (202)456-5570. Thanks!

Stan Herr

April 14

83

535-8623



To: Robert Jones
From: Stan Kern

THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

FYI, This seems to have inadvertently been faxed here along with your other materials.

Thanks for the help and information. Any idea why Lepore's letter would not have satisfied Emul's immediate concerns? Phone 456-5570

TELEFAX TRANSMISSION MEMO

ATTN:

Kern, Steadman

ORGANIZATION:

VFW

TELEFAX NO:

202 543 6719

FROM:

Robert L. Jones, Special Assistant to the Secretary

ORGANIZATION:

Department of Veterans Affairs

TELEFAX NO:

535-8989

NO. OF PAGES TO FOLLOW:

2

DATE:

3/29/94

MESSAGE:

Per Tele/con

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

28-Mar-1994 09:43am

TO: Stanley S. Herr

FROM: Carol H. Rasco
Economic and Domestic Policy

SUBJECT: RE: DD Reauthorization Act

As to the Herschel Gober concern...I know nothing more than what I read in that letter. I think you should talk with Herschel if you wish and also the folks at the committee, find out what you can without creating a bigger focus on it.

On briefing materials for Friday's meeting with Heuman...I don't need the department preparing anything. I just thought if you had materials on what they are thinking about IDEA over there then I would like to see them early Friday a.m. when I come in as well as any thoughts you have on the other agenda items Judy's staff mentioned. Roz has that list. Again, there is nothing Dept. of Ed. needs to prepare or be bothered with.

Thanks.