

Yes! It would be great for Carol
to go to a Regional conf. instead of Team
work w/ Brian Burke on which one +
exit me. See attached list of
Regional conferences to help w/ this.

— Kim for Bill G.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 6, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR LEON PANETTA
HAROLD ICKES
CAROL RASCO
KITTY HIGGINS
LAURA TYSON
DOUG SOSNICK

FROM: PHIL CAPLAN
PETER YU

SUBJECT: National Rural Conference - Options

start file

MAR - 6 1995

Background

In June 1993, 44 Members of Congress wrote to the President asking that he convene a "summit" on issues facing rural America. In July 1993, the President responded favorably to their request and asked then-Secretary Espy to organize the event. (Both letters are attached; Secretary-designate Glickman was one of the 44 signers of the letter.)

In July 1994, the White House issued a press release announcing that the National Rural Conference would be held December 1, 1994 in Iowa. Also, there would be four "remote sites" in California, North Carolina, Illinois and North Dakota. The remote sites would hold conferences on the same day during the same time the President was in Iowa. Each site was to be located in a Democratic Member of Congress' district and was to be co-hosted by two Cabinet Secretaries (with the exception of North Dakota, which was to be co-hosted by Senator Byron Dorgan and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Rich Rominger.) The Iowa site and the remote locations were to be hooked up by satellite so that the President could conduct a national "conversation" on rural issues. Conceptually, the Conference agenda was to be organized in a similar fashion to the Little Rock Economic Conference.

The event was planned as focusing on the many issues in rural America and not on the farm bill:

- Iowa - President and Secretary Espy (broad rural themes);
- North Carolina - Secretary Reich and Secretary Riley (rural education and retraining);
- California - Secretary Pena and Secretary O'Leary (rural infrastructure and energy);
- Illinois - Secretary Ron Brown and then-Administrator Bowles (rural economic and community development);
- North Dakota (commodity prices).

We postponed the Conference when the GATT vote was scheduled for December 1. All planning and other activity stopped.

Now that a new Secretary of Agriculture has been named and will be soon confirmed, the White House has been asked to reschedule the event. We have been working with Billy Webster and Anne Walley to find a date, and have tentatively set the last week in April.

Because of the commitments made during the previous planning process, expectations are high for the Conference from, in particular, Senator Dorgan and Congressmen Durbin. Dorgan and Durbin, who were the prime originators of the "summit" idea and who we accommodated by placing remote conference sites in their state and district, are very anxious to announce a date and a site.

National Rural Conference - 1995

The tentative date for the Conference is Tuesday, April 25. *Julie* If the President speaks to the Association of Community Colleges Convention in Minneapolis on the 24th, we have discussed with Scheduling that the President could spend the night in Iowa, get up and attend a sort of "down home" farm breakfast and then attend the Conference.

Our recommendations about the Conference are as follows; as noted, we seek your guidance on several aspects of this effort:

*Ames - University
ask land grant
schools to
satellite it.
Over preceding
5-6 town
mtg's
w/ Iowa
finale*

The site--We continue to believe that Iowa is the appropriate site; we would only bring to your attention potential political sensitivity--this could be viewed as a (very) early campaign event.

The timing--By late April, the Administration's position on the Farm Bill should be clear and public and both houses are likely to be holding hearings on Farm Bill issues. Notwithstanding, this does not seem an inappropriate time for the Conference.

The organization--We propose a less elaborate Conference than planned for December--namely, a site in Iowa with one-way downlinks available to any Member who wishes to host his or her own event. Our concerns here are two-fold: first, Dorgan and Durbin may be disappointed by this downsizing. Second, permitting remote sites controlled by Members reduces our control over the Conference's message. Other options include: (i) an Iowa event without downlinks and (ii) the December 1 format. Resources in planning the Conference are always a concern.

The agenda--We propose an Economic Conference-style event with modules addressing all of the issue areas outlined above. We would note however that this would follow closely on the heels of the Economic Conference planned for late March.

The implementation--In light of Bill Galston's expertise in rural development issues, we propose that DPC and USDA co-chair this effort, with support from other White House offices as appropriate.

024902

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 14, 1993

93 JUN 17 11:17 AM '93

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

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing as members of the U.S. Congress who represent rural areas to ask you to convene a "summit on farm policy and rural development" this year. We ask you to join us in a summit meeting of farm belt legislators, farmers, and farm organizations to develop a plan to restore economic health to the farm belt states.

For over a decade we have been facing slow economic strangulation in rural America. Too many family farmers are unable to make a living and are leaving the farm. Small town businesses are boarding up. And rural states are losing population.

Our economy is in deep trouble in rural America, Mr. President. But our citizens are not protesting in the streets and they are not running tractorcades to Washington.

Rather, their anger has turned to despair as thousands have quietly closed businesses, left farms and gone to the urban centers seeking work and economic survival for their families.

The main culprit in rural America's economic troubles is chronically low prices for the commodities family farmers produce. Low farm prices, as a result, have had a devastating impact on our entire rural economy. For over a decade we've lost jobs and now we are losing people.

Last year we asked President Bush to convene a summit on rural America to explore ways in which the President and Congress can help restore economic health to America's heartland. President Bush was not willing to do that.

Today we appeal to you to join us in holding a summit to discuss issues affecting rural America. We believe the Clinton Administration can offer new hope and new opportunity to a region of the country that has not shared in America's prosperity in the past couple of decades.

We recognize that the economic problems of rural America cannot be solved entirely by the federal government. But current federal farm policies are clearly not working. Unless and until the federal government provides real leadership in creating an agricultural policy that moves farm prices above the cost of

June 14, 1993
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production for family farmers, we will not see any real progress in repairing the damage from a decade of neglect to rural America by the previous Administrations.

A summit conference on farm policy and rural issues hosted by the President of the United States with participation by Congress, farmers and other agricultural leaders will send a message to family farmers, main street businesses and others whose economic survival is at stake, that there is hope for a change in national policies affecting rural America.

We ask you to seriously consider this request and we urge you to work with us to call a summit meeting during this calendar year. We have no time to lose if we are going to restore economic health to a region of our country that has been struggling for too long.

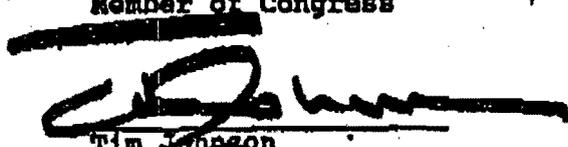
We call on you to offer new hope and a new direction for rural America.

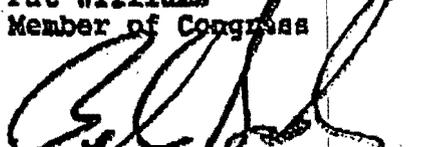
Sincerely,

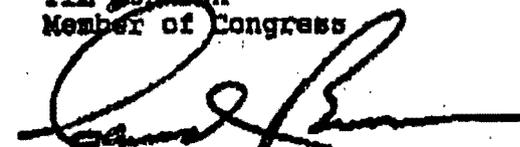

Byron L. Dorgan
United States Senator


Richard J. Durbin
Member of Congress


Pat Williams
Member of Congress


Tim Johnson
Member of Congress

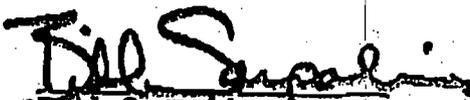

Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress

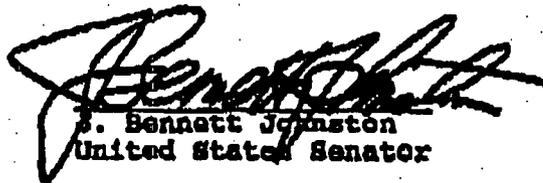

Conrad Burns
United States Senator

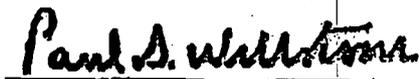

Tom Harkin
United States Senator


Ronald V. Dellums
Member of Congress

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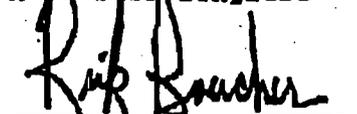

Bill Sarpalius
Member of Congress


S. Bennett Johnston
United States Senator


Paul Wellstone
United States Senator


Dody Beruter
Member of Congress


Harry Johnston
Member of Congress


Rich Boucher
Member of Congress


Paul Simon
United States Senator

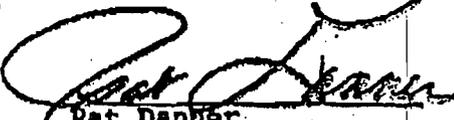

Max Baucus
United States Senator

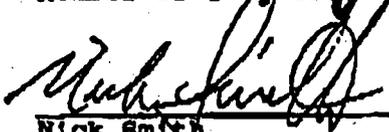

David Minge
Member of Congress


George E. Sangmeister
Member of Congress

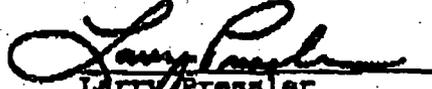

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator


Calvin W. Cooley
Member of Congress


Pat Danner
Member of Congress


Nick Smith
Member of Congress


Thomas J. Barlow, III
Member of Congress


Larry Pressler
United States Senator

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Russ Feingold
Russell Feingold
United States Senator

Glenn English
Glenn English
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

David R. Obey
David R. Obey
Member of Congress

Jerry F. Costello
Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress

Kent Conrad
Kent Conrad
United States Senator

Thomas A. Daschle
Thomas A. Daschle
United States Senator

Gary A. Condit
Gary A. Condit
Member of Congress

Herb Kohl
Herb Kohl
United States Senator

W. James Exon
W. James Exon
United States Senator

Ed Pastor
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

Lee H. Hamilton
Lee H. Hamilton
Member of Congress

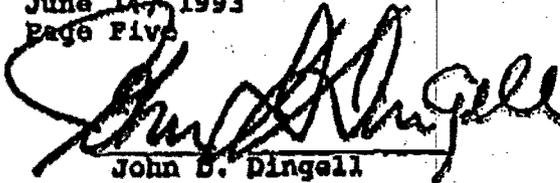
Max Baucus
Max Baucus
United States Senator

Dan Glickman
Dan Glickman
Member of Congress

Blanche M. Lambert
Blanche M. Lambert
Member of Congress

Earl Pomeroy
Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress

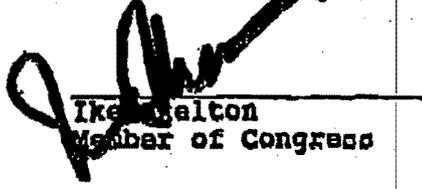
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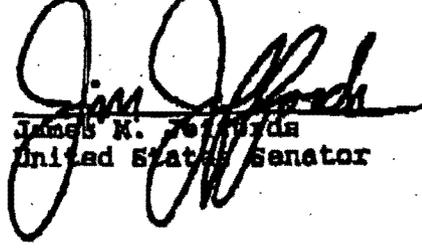
John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Carol Moseley-Braun
United States Senator



Ike Skelton
Member of Congress



James K. Jeffords
United States Senator

BLD:xmd

SENT Oct. 5. 1993 1e 2:58PM 702GWH CABINET AFFAIRS :

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No. 137458 tp. 2/2.2

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 20, 1993

Dear Dick:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 14. I agree that the problems of rural America can no longer be ignored and deserve sustained attention. I also agree that the best way to begin is by getting interested parties together to discuss the critical issues facing rural families and communities.

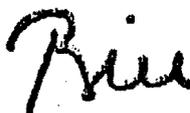
To promote this objective, I will ask Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy to take the lead in organizing the meeting you have requested, and I have directed my staff to closely monitor the progress of this event. Secretary Espy has already organized a first-rate summit on hunger and nutrition issues, and I have complete confidence in his ability to spearhead this new rural endeavor.

Let me take this opportunity to state my belief that the summit should be both inclusive in its participation and comprehensive in its subject matter. The problems of rural America go well beyond agriculture. Rural manufacturing is also under great pressure, and national policy in areas such as health care reform, communications and transportation has only added to the pressure.

I look forward to working with you to turn your summit proposal into a reality.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 12, 1993

The Honorable Mike Espy
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mike:

Recently, 44 U.S. Senators and Representatives wrote to me, asking that I convene a summit on farm policy and rural development. I know you will agree with me that this is an ideal way to address the problems of rural America.

As you will see in the enclosed correspondence, I have committed this Administration to bringing all of the intended parties together, and I hope that you can take the lead in organizing the meeting. After seeing the results of your superb efforts in organizing the summit on hunger and nutrition, I look forward to a very productive meeting.

Representation at the summit should be inclusive, and the subject matter should be comprehensive. Rural America is affected by issues related to rural manufacturing, health care reform, communications, and transportation as well as farm policy.

I look forward to meeting with representatives of our nation's rural areas to discuss these critical issues. My staff will work closely with you and provide any assistance you need to make this meeting as successful as possible.

Sincerely,

Rice

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 27, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES NATIONAL RURAL CONFERENCE

President Clinton today announced that he will lead a first-ever National Rural Conference on the future of America's rural communities Thursday, December 1, 1994 in Iowa. The conference will bring together Administration officials, Members of Congress and those living and working in rural America for a discussion on farm policy and the challenges facing rural America.

"Rural America, which makes up a quarter of our population, is vital to the overall development of our nation's economy and future. This administration is committed to working closely with rural communities in tackling the important issues of jobs, trade and the preservation of the family farm as our nation enters the next century," the President said.

The conference will be moderated by the President and will link communities from North Carolina, Illinois, Iowa and California via satellite, allowing for an exchange of ideas over the information super highway. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy and officials from throughout the Administration and Congress will join the President to discuss a wide range of issues, including job creation, business development, education, infrastructure, agriculture, health care and the environment.

The President looks forward to the conference and to working with those who worked hard to bring it about, including Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Representative Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA).

-30-30-30-

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Brian Bruce

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: _____

For your information: _____

Reply using form code: _____

File: _____

Send copy to (original to CHR): _____

Schedule 7: Accept Pending Regret

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: As lists are put together for
Oral Summit - pls. ensure
Bishop Jordan is included.
Let Rasco know if any
problems.

Roy - Pls. call or fax
Bishop Jordan's office
telling him we got
this, will turn in
to approp. folks.

Keep a cc of
this in a Kural
Summit folder.



The United Methodist Church

Iowa Area

1019 Chestnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1498

Phone (515) 283-1996 Ext. 102

Fax (515) 283-8672

CHARLES WESLEY JORDAN
RESIDENT BISHOP

J. ROBERT BURKHART
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

NICKY M. WYNNE
SECRETARY TO THE BISHOP

March 28, 1995

MAR 28 1995

Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Rasco:

At the recent Black Methodists for Church Renewal meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, you suggested that I contact your office to make certain that I was on the invitation list for the President's Rural Summit to be held April 25, 1995, in Ames, Iowa. My understanding is that I am to be invited representing the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society and as the United Methodist Bishop of Iowa.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Grace and Peace

Charles Wesley Jordan,
Bishop, Iowa Area United Methodists Church

CWJ:nw