

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

Race Relations

P. 01



To: For Ms. Afee
cc: Rasco files

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 ? : Accept Pending Regret

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: _____

Date: 06/06/95

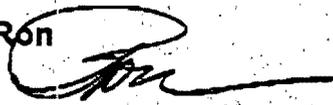
Pages including this
cover page: 4

Dear Carol,

Here is information on both Anytown - our week long leadership program for high school students and Ourtown - our two day and extended sessions on race for leaders in Little Rock.

The first page is an overview of both from our marketing flier. The second page is the Anytown application flier for this summer's program [July 30 to August 5 at Ferncliff Conference Center]. The third page provides a bit more detail about the initial Ourtown and its follow-up sessions.

Please call with any questions. Keep up the tough but necessary struggle to prod us as a people to be better than we otherwise might be.

Ron 

Sheet

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JUN - 6 1995

THE
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE



Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Carol Rasco
Company: The White House
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From: Ron Lanoue
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Date: 06/06/95

**Pages including this
cover page:** 4

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Ron

Combating Bigotry and Bias

For more than three decades, the National Conference has been held in Arkansas. Regardless of the ethnic backgrounds or religious beliefs of the community it serves, the mission of the NCCJ remains the same: To encourage people of all races, religions and ethnic backgrounds to work toward respect and cooperation without compromising their individual heritages. The National Conference, founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, is a non-sectarian, human relations organization.

Greater Little Rock Chamber of Commerce. The program is designed to help leaders in a city or institution focus on race relations issues.

WORKPLACE PROGRAMS The NCCJ's diversity seminars and workshops help develop trust and respect among employees by focusing on fundamental intergroup issues of race, religion, culture, gender, etc. in the workplace. These workshops demonstrate managing diversity as an asset.

WORK WITH THE NEXT GENERATION YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ANYTOWN ARKANSAS This unique leadership program provides youth an opportunity to examine intergroup issues of prejudice and racism and how these issues impact their schools, communities and the nation.

HERITAGE PANEL This two-day training program for students and faculty breaks down communication barriers while participants learn to lead panel discussions in their schools on issues of prejudice, discrimination, cultural diversity and cooperation.

CIVIC ISSUES CONGRESS In February students from across Arkansas gather in Little Rock during National Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week for this student-directed conference. The congress is a learning laboratory in civic affairs and leadership skills.

OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS Green Circle, is an awareness program conducted in the elementary schools. NCCJ also implements development of high school human relations clubs.

Overcoming Racism

Work facing the National Conference is challenging. The honorable Barbara Jordan said it best: "NCCJ, you have a tough job! Why? Because you are trying to make the face of America match the creed of America."

The National Conference promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education. To meet this challenge, the Arkansas NCCJ provides a range of programs for communities and workplaces to foster an understanding and appreciation of diversity as an asset.

DIVERSITY WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS COMMUNITY RELATIONS WORK

ANYTOWN Anytown is a two-and-one-half day workshop developed by the Arkansas NCCJ and co-sponsored by the



"The more people that grow through Anytown, the better place our world will be." Arkansas Anytowner.

ANYTOWNERS

High school students who will be sophomores, juniors or seniors next fall are eligible to attend Anytown (on recommendation from their school, religious institution or other sponsoring organization). Anytowners from across Arkansas live together for one week in the peaceful foothills west of Little Rock. By sharing the experiences of their different cultural, racial and religious backgrounds, delegates learn to understand themselves and others in light of the rich diversity which represents "any town" in the United States.

THE ANYTOWN EXPERIENCE

Anytown is sharing ideas, feelings and individuality. Through projects, recreation and living together, Anytowners learn about and come to respect the diversity of one another.

As an Anytowner, you develop awareness and learn respect as you become friends. You will meet in discussion groups and workshops where you participate by offering your ideas and listening to the thoughts, dreams and hopes of others - including leaders of Arkansas' cultural, professional and religious communities. Evening programs each night give you the chance to express your creativity through events like culture and talent nights and fireside sings.

You will have fun in these planned activities as well as at informal recreational activities such as swimming, volleyball, boating and hiking. Often the most satisfying part of your day will be the last, after "lights out," when you and your cabinmates sit and talk about your experiences.

ANYTOWN ENHANCES:

- Leadership Development
- Race Relations
- Cultural Awareness
- Self Image Development
- Male/Female Roles
- Problem Solving Skills
- Communication Skills
- Parent/Youth Issues

WHY ANYTOWN?

Anytown was established in Arkansas in 1987, based on a model originally developed in Arizona in 1957, by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Anytown helps young people deal with the difficult issues and problems that face them today. NCCJ is a civic intergroup educational organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism and creating understanding, respect and cooperation. The National Conference founded Anytown in order to educate young people in the appreciation and understanding of our pluralistic society. Anytown, U.S.A. is recognized as one of the most comprehensive human relations and leadership programs for youth in America. Anytown was featured on the NBC Nightly News in 1991. The program's long success in 25 other states is a result of listening to the hopes, fears, frustrations and dreams of high school students and helping them achieve their positive goals.

Anytown Arkansas, in its ninth year, has already become an important tradition in helping young Arkansans build a more promising future. Before much longer, their generation will be making decisions that will shape the future for their loved ones, their community and their world. The Anytown experience will better prepare them to make those decisions. Anytown teaches leadership, good citizenship and the trust necessary to make difficult decisions together. Anytown builds a better American Democracy.



"Anytown was the best week of my life. I always seem to have fun, but this week I had fun without being worried about what people were going to think." Arkansas Anytowner.

Anytown makes a positive difference in the lives of its participants, and thereby, in the future of Arkansas and the world. After only a week at Anytown, delegates will have learned the skills and motivation needed to see a new future and shape a better world.

ANYTOWN STAFF

DIRECTORS are specialists skilled in communication and relations issues. This year Co-Directors Xavier Heard (System) and Sue Maddison (Hall High) will again lead the staff.

ADVISORS play an important role at Anytown by providing experienced insight into the world beyond high school. These adults offer a well-rounded view of life which supports delegates' development of skills and insights. All staff members are volunteers who spend this week away from their careers. **COUNSELORS** are college age young people who live with Anytowners to give them constant personal guidance and understanding throughout the week.

RECRUITING

Anytowners are selected by teachers, counselors, community leaders or anyone else representing a specific organization. Anytown must be identified with a sponsoring organization so that recognizing a commitment to share their learning and experience with others in that organization when they return from Anytown. Being a sponsoring organization does not entail a financial commitment to the delegate, although support for special organizations would be welcome. Selection by sponsoring organizations should be based largely on the individual's desire to participate and learn. Anytown applications (the detachable part of this flyer) must include signatures from the sponsoring organization and a parent or guardian.

COST -- The cost of the week-long session includes round-trip chartered bus transportation from the State Capitol in Little Rock, meals, housing, an Anytown T-shirt, insurance, presence of an emergency medical expert and all workshop materials. Anytown participation fee is \$200. Partial financial support may be available to Anytowners who require some aid. If financial participation depends on receiving some financial help, the sponsoring organization should initial the appropriate line on the Application. A Scholarship Application Form will then be sent to the applicant. In all cases, each Anytowner will contribute a portion of the participation fee. Applicants are encouraged to earn as much of the participation fee as possible. Anytown is their program, they must "invest" in it.



"Anytown has been a great experience for me. I have made a lot of friends and feel like a changed person." Arkansas Anytowner.

Ourtown

Ourtown is an adult race relations program designed by NCCJ to foster dialogue among the leaders of Little Rock. Leaders are defined as not only economic and political leaders but also those who head civic and community organizations. The goal of Ourtown is simple, how can we get leaders in the city to talk to one another across racial lines. Implicit in that goal was increased knowledge, understanding, comfort and respect. The Greater Little Rock Chamber of Commerce co-sponsors Ourtown by providing funding and administrative support for recruitment of participants and facility arrangements. The two and one-half day program creates a sense of community and connections among the participants; provides personal and group insight into prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination; examines issues of internalized oppression, group sensitivities/concerns, and individual experiences with prejudice and discrimination; examines three paradigms for change leaders; develops an outline for what participants can do differently when they return home; and reflects on the role of personal responsibility in achieving change in a pluralist democracy.

Ourtown was conducted twice:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Number of Participants</u>	<u>Location</u>
November 12 - 14	49	Lake Hamilton Resort, Hot Springs
February 18 - 20	42	De Gray Lake Lodge, Arkadelphia

Program evaluations from participants have been exceptionally positive (both written and verbal) and an even better evaluation is the positive impact the Ourtowners have had working together on community issues such as police, youth curfew, housing, intergroup learning experiences and creation of "The Good Ole' Girls Network".

Another Ourtown is scheduled for February 1994.

Ourtown Phase II

What became abundantly apparent, based on Ourtown dialogue on February 11 over three major racial incidents in the city, was the need to expand the interracial learning experiences for Ourtown participants beyond the initial two and one-half day session. Using three landmark studies on race relations in the United States [Gunnar Myrdal's 1944 work, The Great American Dilemma, the 1968 Report of the Kerner Commission, and the National Research Council's 1990 study, A Common Destiny: Blacks and American Society] the Arkansas NCCJ proposed a two-year program extension of Ourtown which would bring to Little Rock some leading national authorities to dialogue with Ourtowners on often racially divisive community issues such as education, the media, the criminal justice system and economics/employment. The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation has funded this program designed to enhance the knowledge of Little Rock's leaders on major issues and the role which race plays in working through those issues. A Steering Committee of past Ourtown participants has structured these sessions to be highly interactive exploration and learning experiences. The initial session in September 1993 brought Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum to Little Rock to discuss and interact with participants on Racial/Cultural Identity Development Processes which she has researched, lectured and written about in her professorship at Mount Holyoke College. Subsequent sessions this coming year will bring to the Ourtowners some national authorities in the fields of education, media, criminal justice system, health care, economics, the workplace and public policy.

from the Arkansas NCCJ Annual Report for 1993