

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 062 - Folder-011

Welfare-Internet

March 11, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: CYNTHIA RICE AND CHRISTA ROBINSON
SUBJECT: INTERNET JOB BANK PILOT PROJECT

The Atlanta-based Software Technology Corporation (STC) currently has in place an Internet Site called HeadHunter.NET which provides free access to job data banks. This service is free -- meaning that there is no charge to the job seeker or the employer listing a job opening -- but it does require the user to have access to the world wide web. STC has offered to work with other private corporations to establish a pilot project that puts computers with access to the HeadHunter job databank in welfare offices in a particular region.

We propose an event where the President praises this new pilot project, calls on other private corporations to participate in providing similar equipment to welfare offices, and challenges Governors to make job listing information available in all welfare offices. The President would visit a welfare office and watch a welfare recipient punch in their information and get a list of job openings in their area. This would highlight the need to make employment information easily accessible to welfare recipients and how the private sector can play a vital role in this.

We should also try to include in this event a commitment from computer executives i.e. Bill Gates to donate some computers to welfare offices around the country so that the cost to states who want to take on this idea is minimal. This is important since the vast majority of welfare offices do not already have computers that are capable of accessing the Internet. We should also highlight a few good examples of welfare offices that currently supply job information without computers to demonstrate that our goal is to provide employment information to every welfare recipient.

ISSUES:

The biggest concern with this idea is not duplicating or stepping on the Labor Department's databank. It seems that we would need DOL to make sure that their databank could be accessed by the computers used in the pilot project. If this is impossible we still could have a solid event praising the work of one private sector initiative and calling on other states to follow suit.

We would also have to address the following issues:

- Confirm that the job bank listings are suitable for lower skilled workers.
- Vet the Software Technology Corporation (STC) and other companies involved.
- Work with STC on where the pilot project is located and decide what role we would want Gingrich to play. He first brought this idea to our attention and it would send a strong bipartisan message about welfare to work if he were to attend.

WR - internet project



Cynthia A. Rice

03/21/97 03:49:18 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc: Lyn A. Hogan/OPD/EOP, Christa Robinson/OPD/EOP

Subject: Internet Proposal



int0321.9

Lyn and I would like your reaction to the attached proposal. As you will see, it involves a series of Presidential actions which will help welfare recipients obtain jobs by linking them to job listings via the internet. It will also involve praising private sector efforts in this area.

March 21, 1997

To: Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan

From: Lyn Hogan
Cynthia Rice

cc: Diana Fortuna

Re: Welfare Reform and the Internet Project

The following is a proposal to give welfare offices around the country access to the World Wide Web and the Internet in order to access valuable information on employment, child care resources, available social support services, and other information relevant to both welfare recipients and caseworkers.

Proposal

We propose to expand Internet access to high traffic welfare offices around the country. Providing Internet access to key welfare offices will accomplish several goals: 1) welfare recipients and caseworkers will have access to Internet job banks, including the Department of Labor's America's Job Bank; 2) welfare recipients and caseworkers will have access to other relevant information including training programs, job placement organizations, and child care resources; 3) welfare intake offices would be able to link to the DOL one-stop shops; 4) welfare recipients could market themselves on the Internet by posting resumes, and; 5) welfare offices around the country could share information on best practices.

Background

There are approximately 6,500 welfare field offices in the country. About one third of those offices are already connected to the Internet or have adequate computer hardware to easily link to the Internet. To ensure that every welfare office has at least two computers connected to the Internet, we would have to provide hardware and software at a cost of approximately \$40,365,000 initially plus additional annual operating costs of \$14,235,000.

[Through computer donations and executive orders we can defray most of the start-up costs. Further, by targeting high traffic welfare offices or those in high poverty areas, we can better target our scarce resources. However, even if computers are donated, operating costs will still be incurred.

Actions

I. Help Welfare Offices Connect to the Internet to Access Electronic Job Listings and Other Work-Related Information

- Expand Executive Order 12999 to cover welfare offices. EO 12999 streamlines the transfer of excess and surplus Federal computer equipment to the Nation's classrooms. By expanding this executive order to cover welfare offices in addition to classrooms, we can access available computers for some of the 6,500 welfare offices.
- Announce private sector commitments to donate computers and provide training, technical, and maintenance services. (These donations would hopefully come from a wide variety of sources including companies involved with Work Now, high tech firms that are members of the Association of Chief Information Officers, and a consortium formed by Software Technology Corporation of Georgia.)
- Direct Federal agencies to encourage their computer suppliers to donate used computers following contract refresh periods. (Refresh contracts with suppliers require those suppliers to update or "refresh" the government's computers on a regular basis.)
- Announce annual Presidential awards to companies that donate computers to this and other government efforts, and honor each company on the White House web page.
- Direct HHS and the Department of Labor to notify state welfare agencies how they could obtain donated computers and access job data banks. The agencies would also track how many donations were made.

II. Expand Job Listings on the Internet and Increase Access to More Web Sites

- Issue an Executive Order directing federal agencies and government contractors to electronically file all job listings with America's Job Bank, increasing the number of job listings on the internet.]
- Direct the Department of Labor to link America's Job Bank to OPM and any other private sector job banks that wish to be linked. America's Job Bank, a nationwide Internet job bank, lists approximately 750,000 openings, 95 percent of which are private sector, from state organized job banks and national entries. The OPM directory lists all available federal jobs. Software Technology Corporation in Georgia is running HeadHunter.NET, a fully

automated job search and posting service that provides free access to all job listings and allows recruiters, companies and businesses to post their listings at no charge.

- Direct White House staff to expand the White House welfare reform web site to provide links to America's Job Bank and other related web sites.

Next Steps

Before announcing these actions, we would want to ensure that:

- Adequate private sector commitments can be announced.
- State representatives (i.e., APWA and NGA) will welcome the plan.
- ✓ Adding welfare offices to EO 12999 won't interfere with the Administration's computers in the classroom goals.
- Department of Labor is ready to execute new actions (i.e. link to other databanks).
- Plans are discussed with Software Technology Corporation and Speaker Gingrich.
- We have decided whether to target this initiative only to certain welfare offices and which criteria, if any, should be used.

WR-internet



Cynthia A. Rice

03/12/97 10:20:04 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP

cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Lyn A. Hogan/OPD/EOP, Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP, Christa Robinson/WHO/EOP

Subject: The CEO of Internet firm called--he spoke to Gingrich's chief of staff last night, Nancy Desmond

She said the Speaker would very much want to be involved in whatever we do, but that he did not want to be seen as endorsing our federal hiring initiative but instead as fostering private solutions.

Question: Should I send an fyi note to Hilley?