

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	List of invitees (partial) (2 pages)	08/03/94	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Carol Rasco (Meetings, Trips, Events)
OA/Box Number: 5041

FOLDER TITLE:

Americans with Disabilities and the NII [National Information Infrastructure] 4 August
1994 NEOB 5104 2:00-4:00 pm

rw189

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Stan Herr

App. A

Thanks for the notes!

CHP

To: Stan Herr, Bruce McConnell, Roanne Robinson
From: David Lytel, Susan Brummel, Kate Seelman
Re: Overview of mtg with Disability Community 4 Aug in VPs-Ceremonial Office 2:00-4:00
Date: 22 July 1994

Here is what we have come up with. I don't think we need to have a meeting for you to brief your principals, but we can have one if anyone wants one...

2:00 Welcome: Carol Rasco

One of a series of meetings to better understand the needs of Americans with disabilities, this one focused upon improvements in the NII and the full participation of all Americans. Even if we do not know precisely how the NII will develop we know it must be accessible to everyone. The question before us is how to accomplish that.

2:05 Carol invites everyone to introduce themselves

2:15 The NII Initiative: Sally Katzen and Larry Irving

What is the NII; how the IITF is organized; what we have done to make information more accessible; hearings on universal service and NII grants program; next set of applications papers to be released in September include one on Americans with Disabilities and the NII.

(a)

→ Stan - Pls. make sure I see this paper.

2:30 Leading government programs advancing inclusion: Kate Seelman

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) in the Department of Education; Clearinghouse on Computer Accomodation at GSA; Administration on Developmental Disabilities in HHS; NSF program; handout of one page program descriptions.

2:35 Overview of major disability community concerns: Debra Kaplan

[They will do this, to include consciousness raising for IITF and other officials, pending legislation, regulatory activities, enforcement, funding, etc.]

2:45 Open discussion: Kate Seelman, moderator

3:50 Summary and concluding remarks: Larry Irving

Distribution of "Putting the Information Infrastructure to Work Volume I"

(b) What/when is the fall Conf. about which Larry spoke?

(over)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

13 July 1994

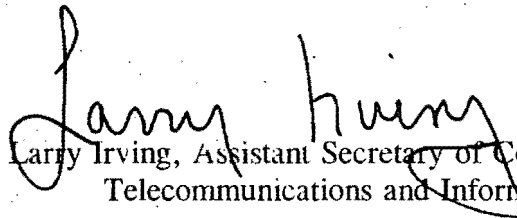
On behalf of the Information Infrastructure Task Force, we would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss Americans with disabilities and the National Information Infrastructure on Thursday August 4 from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Vice President's Ceremonial Office, Room 472 of the Old Executive Office Building. We are concerned about the NII being built in a way that would maximize its accessibility to all Americans and we seek your input on how best to accomplish this.

The size of the room requires that we limit this invitation to you only. If you can attend, please contact Susan Brummel, Director of the Clearinghouse on Computer Accomodation at GSA at 202-501-4906 or via electronic mail at susan.brummel@gsa.gov with your date of birth and social security number. A sign language interpreter will be present at the meeting, but please let us know if other arrangements are necessary.

Sincerely,



Sally Katzen, Administrator of the Office of Information and
Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget



Larry Irving, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Telecommunications and Information

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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App. D.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 27, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN PHONE CALL TO DR. GLENN ANDERSON

The Oval Office

10:26 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Dr. Anderson? Good morning. I want to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as the Chair of the Galludet University Board of Trustees.

I also want to thank you for your great career in rehabilitation work, and your earlier help to me when I served as governor.

I'm glad we can use this telephone network today because I know what an important link it is to millions of Americans. Go ahead.

DR. ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. President. Thank you very much for your kind words.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to speak with you this morning. Thank you for agreeing to make this relay call.

Also, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your appearance at the Galludet University commencement last May. You inspired deaf people all over the country by your appearance and your wonderful commencement address. Go ahead.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the honor was mine. I was very inspired by the students and their dreams.

I also want to say how very proud I am of the strong support we have been receiving from the deaf and disabled communities on health care reform. Go ahead.

DR. ANDERSON: Great. Yes, we very much care about improving health care services, and we are so glad that you have taken the lead in advocating for health care reform.

Hopefully, you will also be able to remind health care providers of how important it is that they be sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities for health care services and for access to reasonable accommodations. I am very inspired by your hard work, and will do all I can to support your efforts.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, I will be sensitive to those things. And I think you well understand that the only way we can extend those benefits and opportunities to the disabled community is to cover all Americans. If we do that, we will be able to contain costs and empower disabled Americans to work and to live to the fullest of their abilities.

Let me say, also, before we close this conversation, how pleased I am that the ADA is working and giving us things like this telephone relay system. It's a great tribute to the work that millions of disabled Americans have done.

I want to make a special note of the work that your wife Karen has done and the help she gave to our campaign in 1992 and our efforts to reach out for all Americans. Go ahead.

DR. ANDERSON: Great. My wife is here with me, and she's grinning from ear to ear. She enjoyed the opportunity to serve you and work in your campaign.

I also want to say, yes, the ADA is working very well. And it will work even better in the years to come. Our conversation this morning is a living example of how well ADA is working. Go ahead.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to thank you again for all you have done to make the ADA work for people in their everyday lives.

It's been a real pleasure to talk with you today. One of my aides told me that your son, Jamal, and I have a picture together that you would like me to autograph. I'd be glad to do that, and I look forward to seeing you again soon. Signing off.

DR. ANDERSON: Great. Many, many thanks for this opportunity. Thank you, again, and you have a great day, too. Bye bye.

THE PRESIDENT: Goodbye.

END

10:35 A.M. EDT

Kaplan

* Follow up meetings / avenues for info. sharing on this & other topics

* Universal design

* Technology should be for everyone & not categorized

* disability issues shld not be housed only in certain divisions w/in certain departments

* ADAG analogy to NII

Bowe

* Not govt. role: ① standards
② encourage ^{rapid} deployment of network

* dog banking & grandmother's phone
ISDN, then fiber
↓
digital

London Richmond

Speech Access
(cough syrup story)

Paul Schroeder

51822

CCD testimony } encouraged us to review
3 areas efforts need to be directed @ as to Univ. Design:

① IITF > w/in Comm. structure draw
on expertise of those outside govt
as well as those inside govt

② Encourage all agencies to ^{commit to} disability
access

We need a disability impact
statement.

③ Targets

Bregg Vanderhelden

Sec 508

Larry Scadden - NSF

Mosaic / GUT

Paul Hearn

1) Any piece of legis must have

2) FCC reg. actions shld include

p w d in writing

Throw out caveat of adverse impact
on competitiveness

Ron Hatley

AT&T:

* Invite key CEO's / designers fr. major industries related to technology & be ready to share with them what universal design is

Planning your work, working your plan

We need

Deborah Harborough

Target the issue of employ of p.w.d. in this tech. devel. & production

Steve Saleh

Al Sonnenstrahl

Lang. in bills - consis. acc. the span
Enforcement - timely?

Larry Goldberg

Neal Scott

Judy Harkin

Donna Larkin

Consider role of regulatory agencies

Dr. Ken Berman

Bruce McConnell - OMB

ANSI

A meeting?

Marilyn Cade

113P

Rate rec'd the NOV. dis. appointees
mtg on accessibility -
keep in mind what
Michael Nelson said

Sept 7/8 - white paper on N11/ disabilities

Oct 5/6 - Commerce Computer
display

CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK
Written Testimony

S.1822
THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1994

**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE
ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE
AND TRANSPORTATION**

Submitted June, 1994 by

**Alfred Sonnenstrahl, Chair
CAN Telecommunications Committee
8719 Colesville Road, Suite 300
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-589-3786/Voice 589-3006/TTY 589-3797/Fax**

INTRODUCTION

The Consumer Action Network (CAN) is a coalition of national consumer-based organizations of, by, and for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing Americans. Since its founding last year, CAN members have focused their efforts to address federal legislation that affect these Americans daily lives with respect to education, employment, health, and, as is the subject of S. 1822, telecommunications.

CAN member organizations applaud the Committee members for seeking to change the Communications Act of 1934 to meet the needs of every American, now and well into the future. In this testimony, CAN will note several ongoing telecommunications-related issues that need to be addressed now and will propose solutions to maximize the potential of information superhighway for all Americans.

S.1822 COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1994

CAN believes S. 1822 should contain language that would provide clearer form and substance to its stated finding that access to basic telecommunication services is fundamental to safety to life and the ability to participate fully in a democratic society. Under current laws, this is not realized because:

a) telecommunication relay services generally are treated or viewed as "social services" or a subsidy rather than as a utility similar to telephone services which are being regulated by state regulatory commissions;

b) current telecommunication services and equipment are not entirely accessible or meet the needs of about 40% of the general population including all school-aged children, 20 million adults with minimal reading skills, 20 million people with learning disabilities, and 20 million people who use English as their second language, as well as those who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing; and

c) lack of advancement in technologies for this particular population, and lack of concomitant consumer involvement in provision of input on emerging technologies.

I. NEED TO REDEFINE LANGUAGE TO ESTABLISH UNIFORM INTERPRETATIONS OF REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES

In the last several years, we have noticed a tremendous improvement in telephone services to text telephone users, for which we are very appreciative. That is why one of the important issues we hope will be redefined in the Communications Act of 1994 is clarification of the status of TRS as utilities rather than social services, consistent with the language of the ADA. The difference is between an essential service and a charitable act. We do not view

this essential service as dispensable. Consumers use it in everyday life and for business, just as other people who use telephone services. Title IV of the ADA mandated TRS and delegates the responsibility to telephone companies to provide it. Yet, because each state regulatory commission can interpret for itself the definition of "all lines must be accessible" as stated in the Communications Act of 1934, only ten have taken the position that TRS is a utility. As a result, the remaining states do not consider it as part of regular telephone service. So, unlike other essential services such as gas, electricity, and regular telephone service, TRS employees can refuse to serve, as happened during the strike by Minnesota Relay Service last Fall. Therefore, we are recommending that language be written into the Communications Act of 1994 assuring that all communication services for the disabled community, including telecommunications relay services and captioned broadcasts, be put into the same classification as other utility services, giving these consumer services the same legal protections as that given to radio, television, telephone services.

II. INCLUSION OF TEXT WITH ALL VOICE SERVICES

"Universal Access" was mentioned often in testimony. They associated "access" with voice, data, captioning, video description, and braille.

However, we'd like to stress that text should at a minimum be associated at all times with voice-based services, especially with regard to radio, wireless, and emergency broadcast systems.

It should be possible, for example, to send voice and text messages to radios which would be accessed with plug-in text adapters, and easily amenable to conversion into other modes such as telebraille and could possibly in the future include translation into other languages.

III. UNIVERSAL INTEROPERABILITY OF EQUIPMENT

Engineers involved in research and development for improvements to digital technology must be proactive in taking into consideration adverse effects on text legibility, services such as emergency service centers, TRS, and devices such as text telephones and speech to text adapters. This includes, but is not limited to: data compression, data transmission and reception, transmission lines and modes, and interface software and hardware.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF A REVIEW UNIT IN THE FCC

CAN recommends for the purpose of implementing these recommendations that a unit be created within the FCC and funds allocated to review all regulations on behalf of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing, and individuals with other disabilities.

Further, such an unit can provide specialized technical assistance both within the FCC and the public at large, and work with business and industry as a catalyst in promoting across-the-board incorporation of universal design in technological product and service development—from the start, rather than as an afterthought.

Further, CAN strongly encourages the establishment of a blue ribbon committee within this review unit—whereby the majority of constituents on this panel would be consumer representatives from the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing communities, and members of the general disability community—on the development of much-needed universal standards for equipment such as text telephones, adaptive interfaces, and other access-related technology.

CONCLUSION

If these recommendations are included, then we are sure our needs and that of all Americans will be met well into the next century. Thank you.

Consumer Action Network Organizations
contributing to the development of written testimony

American Association of the Deaf-Blind
American Athletic Association of the Deaf
American Society for Deaf Children
Association of Late Deafened Adults
Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf
Conference of Educational Administrators Serving the Deaf
Deaf Women United, Inc.
Gallaudet University Alumni Association
National Association of the Deaf
National Black Deaf Advocates
National Congress of the Jewish Deaf
National Fraternal Society of the Deaf
National Hispanic Council of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People
Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc.

Additional National Organizations
contributing to the development of written testimony

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, Inc.
Oral Hearing Impaired Section of the AGBAD

~~THE~~ TALKING POINTS RE: CCD WHITE HOUSE MEETING 8/3/94

SUMMARY

I. INTRODUCTION OF DISABILITY PERSPECTIVE

UNIVERSAL DESIGN CONCEPT

- A. Economics of special equipment
- B. Building in Accessibility
- C. Disability Is Not a Way to Categorize People
- D. Individuals with Disabilities are Part of Community
- E. Employment/Unemployment
- F. Development of Standards

II. INTEGRATION OF CONCEPT THROUGH ADMINISTRATION

- A. Resource Persons for FCC and NTIA
- B. IITF take up Universal Design Concept
- C. NIST Take Up Universal Design Concept
- D. Universal Design Mandate in NII Development
- E. NSTC Take Up Universal Design
- F. NIDDR Take Up Universal Design in RECs and other Initiatives.

III. NEED FOR INTEGRATED FEDERAL PRESENCE

IV. EXAMPLES OF WHERE STATUTE AND REGULATIONS FAIL THE COMMUNITY

- A. Federal enforcement of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act
- B. Current problems: MOSAIC/Graphical User Interfaces.
- C. Speech Integration. ADA Title IV
- E. RFP process, grantmaking

V. CURRENT LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY ISSUES

- A. "Going Beyond the Bells"
- B. FCC Implementation
- C. Redefining Universal Access/Service
- D. CCD and Advocacy Role

Jenifer Simpson, Policy Associate
Government Activities
Community Services Division
United Cerebral Palsy Associations, Inc.
Tels: (800) USA-5UCP or (202) 842-1266. Fax: (202) 842-3519
email: JENIFERJS@AOL.COM

8-3-94

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

JUL 18 RECD

To: Pat

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: Aug. 4 12-130 DDC
SR. STAFF

Imp to see me on Tues.
a.m on this

To: Carol Rasco, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
From: David Lytel, Office of Science and Technology Policy (telephone 6-6037)
Date: 18 July 1994
Re: Meeting on Americans with Disabilities and the NII on 4 August 2:00-4:00 in VP's Ceremonial Office

yes JUL 18 REC'D
OHRIS schedule
will attend

Carol,

I am one of the staff organizing this meeting, which will be hosted by Sally Katzen of OMB and Larry Irving of NTIA. They are the chairs, respectively, of the Information Infrastructure Task Force's Information Policy and Telecommunications Policy committees. Our goal is to provide a forum for advocates in this community. We want them to help us devise the most effective strategies for ensuring accessibility to advanced communications services. Since we know of your special interest in this area we would very much like to have you attend. We can share with you or your staff the invitation list and agenda. We are having the Clearinghouse on Computer Accomodation (COCA) at GSA (run by Susan Brummel) send out the invitations and collect dates of birth. We will be meeting at 11:30 on Thursday morning at COCA (Rm. 1234 of GSA) if you would like to send someone to work on planning the meeting. If you yourself would like to attend the planning meeting we can move it to OEOB.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to involve you and your office in this activity.

David Lytel

- Stan Hess
- will attend

2:00 pm

Carol - This is the disability community's preliminary outline--

~~HOME~~ TALKING POINTS RE: CCD WHITE HOUSE MEETING 8/4/94

We expect them to reduce its comprehension

The second document is a distillation of industry perspective

Perhaps scan pp. 3-4 for its gist.

Stan

SUMMARY

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8-3-94

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THIS PAPER DOES NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, INDUSTRY OR ANY ONE FIRM. IT IS A DISTILLATION OF INTERVIEWS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WORK TO PROMOTE ACCESSIBILITY WITHIN THEIR FIRMS.

By Steven Saleh

BACKGROUND

To be accessible to individuals with disabilities, the National Information Infrastructure, here must be a common data protocol at each stage of the information chain, a term defined as accessible interoperability. Audiotext and videotext information must flow unhindered through five types of players responsible for completing the digital loop.

Player	Example
1. Information Producer	Touchstone Pictures
2. Information Provider	Disney Channel
3. Information Transporter	cable, satellite, wireless, telephone wire infrastructure
4. Network Access Provider	Delphi, America On Line
5. Customer Premise Equipment	Television, Computer, Set-Top Box

At each of these steps the data protocol may require changes to be existing hardware and software, and new design elements need to be considered in the next generation of products. The greatest challenges an individual with a disability faces is interaction with the end user interface of equipment and software. It is there that the researcher focused most of his attention.

Customer Premise Equipment

Firms competing in the software/electronic appliance industries make decisions based on profitability, competitive advantage, and risk.

1. Firms decide to develop new features based on factors such as market size, and ability to complete product design with limited time and financial resources.
2. Though the disabled population is large, the audience size for features to address specific disabilities is smaller than other, more broad based features. Company

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strategy on this issue varies substantially. With an aging population, market potential for disability features is expected to increase. Most companies have yet to adapt the framework of universal design. Under this paradigm of business decision making, increasing accessibility to the community of individuals with disabilities also makes the products more accessible to able-bodied people.

- 3. Since the marketplace is extremely competitive as is the demand for new features, accessibility features have difficulty getting high or any priority within companies. Historically, the most effective way in raising priority is through legislation and regulation.

However, regulatory requirements must meet three goals. They must be broad enough to apply to current diverse technologies, effective enough to insure truly usable accessibility, yet flexible enough to not hinder the development of new technologies and applications.

When all players are required to develop features that meet user accessibility requirements, the chance of any one firm losing some degree of competitive advantage on other features is minimized.

- 4. Many areas of industry lack experience and expertise to define and implement accessibility features for their technologies. This is due in part to the absence of a sophisticated demographic ergonomic database available to industry. Other groups in industry, government, and the disability community have a level of expertise. Information sharing mechanisms are lacking and need to be developed.

Industry would benefit from the availability of independent testing organizations who could evaluate the accessibility of products under development. This would allow manufacturers to pinpoint specific improvements without the need to become experts in assistive technology.

- 5. All stakeholders must recognize that the standards needed to define levels of accessibility for new appliances are needed today and not 24 months from now. Steps need to be taken to speed up the process of developing standards.

- 6. All appliances need to have some capability to interface with people with disabilities. Currently, some appliances such as computers are at least partially configurable, but may be placed in settings where the user is prevented from configuring them. Many appliances such as ATM's are not configurable, so it is even more important to build a level of accessibility into them during manufacture.

MOTIVATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

Governments's strongest influences in achieving accessibility to date has been

UNOFFICIAL DOCUMENT

availability of government research funding and legislation. Sources of research on human factors include NIDRR, and to a lesser extent, NSF.

- 1. Section 508 has historically been ineffective in motivating industry to build in accessibility features due to its spotty application and enforcement. Only in recent years have federal agencies begun including specific accessibility requirements in RFP's, and thus created the possibility of real financial risks for non-compliant companies. However, Section 508 only affects firms who sell to the government, especially in large quantities.

COCA has made substantial progress in defining language that includes coverage for most disabilities. However, there is concern that the goals of 508 will be eliminated in the process of reinventing government.

- 2. To date the American with Disabilities Act has been ineffective in insuring access to electronic appliances. This is because there is no specific coverage of electronic information systems in existing federal access guidelines. These guidelines have been the responsibility of the Access Board, technically known as the Architecture and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.
- 3. The threat of loss of government business combined with the risks of breaking well enforced laws are strong drivers that would be effective in influencing the decision process of what features will be allocated resources.
- 4. Developing accessibility features is not considered a high profile job within the design culture, both within the companies and in the trade press. It is critical that steps are taken to recognize accessibility achievements. This could be another effective tool at raising the priority of these features.

SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS

To significantly speed up the process of developing accessibility features in new appliances, such as the set-top box, as well as existing appliances such as the computer, the following steps should be considered:

- 1. Develop standards from a user perspective on what makes an appliance accessible. This includes an demographic ergonomic database that helps define levels of accessibility.
- 2. Establish target dates with associated levels of accessibility.
- 3. Insure that construction of accessibility features do not limit the development of creative technology.

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4. Consider the implementation of a joint stakeholders working group, on accessibility features and the NII. The stakeholders would include industry, government, and representatives from the disability community.
5. Allocate R&D for the development of user accessibility standards of accessibility that can be adapted by industry. This is especially critical for emerging technologies such as animated, verbal, three dimension and virtual reality.
6. Detail the benefits and drawbacks of strategies to finance the cost of developing accessibility features. Possible strategies include: 1) passing cost to all consumers, 2) subsidy by the government, 3) passing costs on by the consumer who has disabilities or 4) funding by vendors themselves.
7. Address problems where existing copyright laws restrict the development of close captioning, translations, descriptive video, or simplified user interfaces for pre-existing materials.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM TO CAROL H. RASCO

FROM: Stanley S. Herr *Stan*

SUBJ: Talking points and background for Aug. 4th meeting on
Americans with disabilities and the National Information
Infrastructure

DATE: August 3rd

Time and Place: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Thursday, Aug, 4, 1994
Room change to NEOB 5104

Point of Contact:

David Lytel: x66037. He is an information infrastructure
specialist in the Office of Science & Technology Policy.

Audience:

Some 38 participants are expected. They are mainly
representatives of various disability organizations, with a few
industry representatives, and federal officials. There will also
be some signers and personal assistants.

Deborah Kaplan, Vice-President of the World Institute on
Disability, and a member of our NII advisory group, is likely to
be a vocal participant. You may recall that she was one of the
speakers at the Annenberg Washington Program.

Session:

You will open the meeting, offering brief remarks of welcome and
inviting folks to introduce themselves. For an overview of the
meeting structure, see Appendix A.

Suggested welcoming remarks:

1. We are delighted to welcome you to the White House and to host this meeting on Americans with disabilities and the National Information Infrastructure. We see this as a chance to learn more about how the NII can be improved so that all Americans can be full participants.

2. This meeting is a natural extension of the wonderful gathering on the South Lawn last week when over 3300 people came to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The President chose that day to also highlight one of the great accomplishments of the ADA by using the telephone relay system to speak with Dr. Glenn Anderson. Dr. Anderson, the new chairman of the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University, informed him that "the ADA is working very well," would work even better in the years to come, and that their conversation was "a living example of how well the ADA is working."

3. The Administration understands the important role of technology in including people with disabilities in every aspect of society. I chair a series of meetings with the Administration's appointees with disabilities and can assure you that the issues of accessibility, the ADA, and assistive

technology has come before our group. And those issues will likely be revisited in the months to come.

4. The President's strong belief that we have not "a single person to waste" is important to keep in mind as we design the information superhighway. As President Clinton emphasized at the ADA anniversary event, that commitment to every person is "why we are here to rededicate ourselves to an america where every man, woman and child can reach the fullest of their God-given potential.

5. As planning for the National Information Infrastructure moves forward, the Clinton Administration recognizes the importance of the concept of universal design and the diverse needs of all our people.

6. I look forward to learning from your expertise, and now invite you to go around the room and briefly introduce yourselves.

Other appendices:

- App. B Letter of invitation from Sally Katzen and Larry Irving
- App. C List of invitees
- App. D Transcript of President Clinton's telephone relay call to Dr. Glenn Anderson