

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR GENE SPERLING

FROM: Paul Weinstein  
Paul Dimond  
Sheryll Cashin

SUBJECT: Community Development Bank and Financial Institutions  
Legislation

Despite our best efforts, we still have not been able to secure floor time in the Senate for consideration of the President's Community Development Bank and Financial Institutions legislation (S. 1275) -- otherwise known as the Community Development, Credit Enhancement, and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1993. As you know, this legislation passed out of the Senate Banking Committee 18 to 1 last September and was approved by voice vote in the House of Representatives last November. We had been told to expect consideration in the Senate in February, however nothing has happened yet. We almost had a vote this week, but apparently the Republicans are playing hardball on any allowing any Presidential initiatives to reach the floor, including bills with bipartisan support like the CDBFI bill (both Chairman Reigle and Ranking Minority Member D'Amato support this S. 1275).

We are close to passing this Presidential initiative, but Majority Leader Mitchell has been hesitant to bring the legislation to the floor because he is under the mistaken impression that the bill will take several days of floor time. In fact, the legislation could be passed in a few hours.

At our request, Steve Ricchetti called John Hillely of the Majority Leader's office to secure a time commitment, but was not successful. Bruce Reed believes that a call from George S., reiterating the President's strong support of this legislation and his desire that the bill be acted upon quickly, would go along way in insuring passage in the next week or so. We cannot afford to let this window of opportunity pass. With the defeat of the Balanced Budget Amendment and passage of Goals 2000, there is a short period during which the Senate could act, before the onset of the crime bill, the budget, and several other major pieces of legislation. In addition, in order to insure that the Appropriations Committees fund the program, we need the authorization language to be enacted before the summer.

By the way, if we can pass S. 1275 in the next month and a half, the President could sign the bill on the anniversary of the Los Angeles riots.