

September 19, 1996

→ Fed Police Officer  
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**MEMORANDUM TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

**FROM: John Hilley**

**RE: POTENTIAL BILL SIGNINGS**

Following is a breakdown of bills that are potential candidates for signing ceremonies and provisions that may be included in the Continuing Resolution.

**Potential Candidates For Signing Ceremonies**

1. **The Immigration Bill:** The conference agreement on the immigration bill would generally clamp down on illegal immigration by increasing border guards, increasing penalties for falsifying documents or smuggling people into the country, and restricting benefits to both legal and illegal immigrants. A number of Administration concerns with the bill need to be addressed, such as: the Gallegly amendment, legal immigrants, and worker protection issues. The bill is likely to pass Congress overwhelmingly if the Gallegly amendment is removed.

Yes

2. **VA/HUD Appropriations:** This 1997 Appropriations bill covers Veterans, Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Corporation for National Service, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and others. The conference report will likely contain three Senate-passed provisions: setting a 48 hour minimum hospital stay for newborns and new mothers; mandating coverage of veterans' offspring with spina bifida linked to agent orange; and requiring partial parity in mental health coverage by group health plans.

Yes

3. **The Antarctica Environmental Protection Act:** This bill is expected to arrive at the White House soon. This legislation implements an international agreement signed by the United States in 1991. Among chief proponents of that agreement is Vice President Al Gore.

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4. **FAA Reauthorization:** This bill would reauthorize the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for three years and renew the expired 10 percent airline ticket tax. The bill primarily would reauthorize AIP, under which airports receive grants to improve infrastructure such as runways and taxiways. It would authorize \$2.28 billion in fiscal 1997, \$4.6 billion in fiscal 1998, and \$7 billion in fiscal 1999. This bill would also codify increased airline security measures proposed by the President. The bill was passed overwhelmingly by the Senate on September 18, 1996.

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5. **DOD Authorization:** This bill has passed both the House and Senate. The conference completed its report and the bill has been submitted to the President for his signature. Included in the conference report is an anti-stalking provision making it a federal crime to cross state lines to harass or threaten someone. The President has stated publicly that he will sign the bill and has until September 25, 1996, to act on the bill.

6. **The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act:** The House passed by unanimous consent the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, clearing the bill for Presidential action. The bill, introduced and sponsored by Rep. Danner and named after the late Rep. Emerson, shields those who donate food for the needy from liability if the food causes harm, except in cases of gross negligence or intentional harm.

7. **Magnuson Act:** This bill reauthorizes the Magnuson Act which governs the management of fish stocks. The Administration had four major objectives in the reauthorization, all of which were essentially met in the House and Senate bills. The bill unanimously passed the Senate on September 19, 1996.

8. **FTC Reauthorization:** Cleared by Congress, this bill would reauthorize the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) until fiscal 1998. As passed by the House, the measure would authorize \$107 million in fiscal 1997 and \$111 million in fiscal 1998. Bill sponsors say that because the Federal Trade Commission Act was significantly modified during its last reauthorization in 1994, the measure would not revise FTC regulatory authority.

9. **Maritime Bill:** The Senate is considering a bill which would rework the federal relationship with the U.S. maritime industry. The House-passed bill would replace existing subsidies, which are now an entitlement, with a new annual stipend for owners of merchant ships who agree to allow the government to use their ships in times of national emergency. The stipend would be subject to appropriations, but vessel owners who were not paid would not have to make their ships available.

12. **Methamphetamines:** On September 17, the Senate passed a bill calling on the U.S. Sentencing Commission to increase penalties for convictions related to the manufacturing, importing and trafficking of methamphetamines.

13. **Carjacking:** This bill would clarify Congress' intent to consider sexual assault "a serious bodily injury" when it passed the 1994 crime bill. The measure responds to a decision by the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals in the *United States v. Rivera* carjacking case. The court said that defining rape as a "serious bodily injury" would overly broaden the categories of injuries that qualify for tougher punishment. The bill has passed the House by voice vote.

Provisions That May Be Included in a Continuing Resolution <sup>6 Dec</sup> Deadline

1. **Financial Institutions Regulatory Relief Act of 1995 (BIF-SAIF):** This legislation would restore the Savings Association Insurance Fund to full capitalization and would assure the continued payment of interest on FICO bonds, issued to assure depositors in failed thrifts would not lose their deposits. The bill would likely contain a provision relating to regulatory "relief" for banks.

2. **Brady Bill Expansion:** This bill would prohibit persons convicted of a crime involving domestic violence from owning or possessing firearms. The expansion has passed twice in the Senate, most recently on the Treasury-Postal Appropriations bill.

3. **Terrorism Funding:** Provisions in the President's \$1.1 billion proposal to combat terrorism may be included in the Continuing Resolution.

4. **Aviation Security:** There could be provisions in the Continuing Resolution which address the concerns and recommendations raised by the Gore Commission regarding increased airline security measures.

5. **Drug Funding:** The Administration has requested \$250 million in anti-drug resources in the Continuing Resolution.

6. **Sallie Mae / Connie Lee Privatizations:** If these proposals do not find other vehicles for consideration, it is possible they may be included in the Continuing Resolution.