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a job. [*Laughter*] Or neither did it ever occur to me that every white man I appoint is going to hit a home run every day. But that is the kind of rhetoric you see running beneath so much of the characterization when we try to change 12 years of attitudes.

The same people that were criticizing the previous administrations for being insensitive to civil rights immediately turned around and say, ''Oh, there's too much, too much attention being given to ethnicity and gender, and that's why no appointments are being made.'' So the record comes in, and I'm still waiting for the acknowledgement.

I tell you, folks, I refuse to believe that we cannot go forward together, that we cannot set an example, that we cannot make progress. I refuse to believe that you can't be committed to civil rights and to civic responsibility. I refuse to believe that we can't create economic opportunity by empowering people to seize control of their destiny and changing the Government's policies.

I think that if this leadership council should have any mission today, it should be to break through those barriers that push us all into one extreme camp or the other and make us mute in the face of reality and common sense. Surely we can bring the experience of our own lives and the lives of our fellow Americans beyond the borders of this city to the policymaking process that will dominate Washington for the next year. That is what we ought to do if we want civil rights to come alive in this country.

You know, when I ran for this job I spent a lot of time in African American churches because I always had, and because I felt at home. When I got this job and I sought to protect the religious and civil liberties of every American, it was because I wanted mine protected and because I have a sharp memory of what it was like to live in a society where half the people I knew, because of their color, were treated as second-class citizens.

I also have a sharp memory of those who had the courage to try to change that position. And now that I am President, I want you to know that I'll make my mistakes from time to time, but I'm going to keep trying to move the ball forward. I believe we can make advances. I don't believe that our fights are over. I know that there are still civil rights battles to be fought, but I know that they need to be fought today in the context of making a real difference in real people's lives. And we should not be intimidated, those of us who believe in the cause of civil rights for all Americans, into thinking that somehow that can be separated from the fight for economic justice and economic progress and making our free enterprise system work better.

We should not let people who basically don't care whether we make progress in civil rights think that you can separate civil rights from the fight for substantive improvements in education and for meaningful advances in health care or any other area of our national life. Let us resolve tonight that we're going to spend the next 4 years breaking down the gridlock by tearing down the artificial barriers in people's minds to bringing us together, saying we don't have a person to waste and lifting up everybody's God-given potential and doing what we can to see that they achieve it.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Ralph Neas, executive director, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Benjamin L. Hooks, former executive director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Dorothy I. Height, president and CEO, National Council of Negro Women; and Raul Yzaguirre, president and CEO, National Council of La Raza.

Appointments to the Commission on Presidential Scholars

May 11, 1993

The President today appointed 32 members of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. Among them is New Jersey Governor Jim Florio, who will serve as Chair of the Commission.

The Commission on Presidential Scholars is responsible for selecting 141 graduating high school seniors from around the country to become Presidential Scholars, the Nation's highest honor for high school students. The scholars are chosen on the basis of their ac-

complishments in many areas, such as academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in their schools and communities.

"The Presidential Scholars Program is an important vehicle for recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of our country's young people," said the President. "I am glad that Governor Florio and the rest of this distinguished group of Americans have agreed to serve on this Commission, and I look forward to welcoming the students they choose to the White House."

In addition to Governor Florio, the members of the Commission are:

Margaret R. Blackshere, Illinois, assistant to the president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers; former elementary school teacher; holds a master's in urban education from Southern Illinois University.

Francis J. Bonner, Jr., Pennsylvania, chair of the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Mt. Sinai and Graduate Hospitals, Philadelphia, and Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown.

Thomas E. Britton, New Hampshire, chair of the Monadnock Region District School Board and marketing representative for the Millipore Corp. and North American Pharmaceutical Field Marketing.

Rev. S.C. Cureton, South Carolina, pastor of the Reedy River Baptist Church; member of the president's executive board of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A.

John Davidson, New Mexico, member of the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education; shareholder and director in the law firm of Erwin and Davidson.

Joseph D. DiVincenzo, New York, commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority; president of DiVincenzo & Associates Insurance Agency; and adjunct professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Jim R. Fotter, Wyoming, president of the Wyoming Education Association; member of the Education Commission of the States; and delegate at the 1992 Democratic National Convention.

Susan F. Friebert, Wisconsin, former teacher and currently a high school team leader for guidance counselors and community volunteers to develop and implement programs to direct student academic planning and achievement.

Susan E. Gaertner, Minnesota, director of the human services division of the Ramsey County, MN, attorney's office, where she directs legal services for child support enforcement, paternity actions, and civil commitments for the second largest jurisdiction in the State.

Felicia Gervais, Florida, president of Leonard L. Farber, Inc., a shopping center development firm. She also serves on numerous non-profit boards, including Outreach Broward (a program for troubled adolescents) and Center One (the Nation's first AIDS center).

Freman Hendrix, Michigan, assistant Wayne County executive for legislative affairs; member of many civic groups, including the Northwest Detroit Community Leaders Council.

Patricia Jean Henry, Oklahoma, president of the National PTA; member of the boards of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce and the Academy for State Goals; co-founder of Pathway House, a rehabilitation program for drug-addicted children.

Barbara Holt, Maine, director of Franklin Pierce College in Portsmouth, NH; served as the chair and director of Victory '92 in Maine.

Gloria Jackson, Florida, retired public school administrator in Ft. Lauderdale; alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Nathaniel Hawthorne LaCour, Louisiana, president of the United Teachers of New Orleans; vice president of the American Federation of Teachers; national board member of the A. Philip Randolph Institute; and member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Dhyan Lal, California, principal of Carson High School in Los Angeles; focus of a PBS documentary exploring how a principal communicates with a culturally diverse student population to create a

positive learning environment in post-riot Los Angeles.

Ronnie Fern Liebowitz, New Jersey, partner in the Newark law firm of Hellring, Lindman, Goldstein & Siegal; former general counsel to Rutgers University.

Bill Marshall, Ohio, law professor; served as the State director of Maine for the Clinton campaign.

Penny Miller, Kentucky, assistant professor of political science at the University of Kentucky; chair of the Kentucky Commission on Women.

Sandy Miller, Nevada, First Lady of the State of Nevada; former teacher and advocate for children with learning disabilities.

Marilyn Monahan, New Hampshire, secretary-treasurer of the National Education Association.

Dan Morales, Texas, attorney general of Texas; first Hispanic elected to a statewide constitutional office in the State of Texas.

Daniel Morris, Colorado, former teacher and president of the Colorado Education Association; former Peace Corps volunteer.

Carla Nuxoll, Washington, President of the Washington Education Association; chair of the board of PULSE.

James Shimoura, Michigan, former special assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan; shareholder in the law firm of Kemp, Klein, Umphrey, and Edelman.

Eddie L. Smith, Jr., Mississippi, former high school teacher; Mayor of Holly Springs, MS.

Dawn Steel, California, president of Columbia Pictures from 1987 to 1990, the first woman to head a major motion picture studio.

Niara Sudarkasa, Pennsylvania, president of Lincoln University in Chester County, PA; previously the associate vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan, where she was the first African American woman to receive tenure.

Nancy Verderber, Missouri, administrative liaison for disability-related issues for the St. Louis County School Districts and a member of the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Greater St. Louis.

Margaret M. Whillock, Arkansas, executive vice president of the Baptist Medical Systems Foundation in Little Rock; director of development at the University of Arkansas.

Tracey Bailey, Florida, National Teacher of the Year.

Nomination for Assistant Secretaries at the Departments of Transportation and the Interior

May 11, 1993

The President named a total of four officials at the Departments of Transportation and the Interior today. He expressed his intention to nominate Frank Kruesi to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Transportation Policy and Ada Deer to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs. The President also approved the appointment of Richard Mintz to be the Director of Transportation's Office of Public Affairs, and Patricia Beneke to be Associate Solicitor for Energy and Resources at Interior.

"I am gratified that these individuals will be joining me in Washington," said the President. "Frank Kruesi has been an innovative and successful policy adviser to Mayor Daley. Ada Deer has been a powerful and eloquent voice for changing national Indian policy. Both will be valuable parts of this administration, as will Richard Mintz and Patricia Beneke."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Interview With Don Imus of WFAN Radio in New York City

May 12, 1993

Mr. Imus. Good morning, Mr. President.

The President. Good morning. How are you?

Mr. Imus. I'm fine. How are you?