

Tim

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

A MEETING WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS
THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

DATE: AUGUST 11, 1989
TIME: 10:50 A.M.
LOCATION: ROOSEVELT ROOM
THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST, ASSISTANT TO THE
PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS
FROM: BOBBIE KILBERG, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO
THE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

11:55 - Notes to Ross.

AD

BK

I. PURPOSE:

To discuss the Americans with Disabilities Act with business leaders. To acknowledge business community concerns with the legislation and to encourage their support for ADA.

II. BACKGROUND:

This meeting with association and individual corporation representatives will follow your meeting earlier that morning with the disabled community. The disabled and business constituencies hold disparate views as to the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

While the disabled community is generally pleased by the legislation, the business community was strongly opposed to the original bill. The business community supports the intent of the law, but remains concerned with certain provisions in the compromise version of ADA, which the Administration recently endorsed.

In order to accommodate potential employees as well as customers, some businesses will be required to modify their existing structures. They are concerned that the costs imposed on the business community to comply with the bill may prove to be excessive. It is our position that the compromise bill achieves a balance by bringing the disabled community into the mainstream while minimizing undue hardship and costs to the business community.

This group represents the business community leaders whom Administration officials have relied on for input throughout the negotiating process with the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

The President

C. Boyden Gray, Counsel to the President

Roger Porter, Assistant to the President for Economic and Domestic Policy

Bill Roper, Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Director, Office of Policy Development (negotiating leader for Administration on ADA)

14 business association and individual corporation representatives (see list attached)

IV. PRESS PLAN:

Press pool.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

The President enters the Roosevelt Room

Photo op

The President makes brief remarks

The President participates in general discussion

The President departs

Discussion continues with Administration officials

Talking points provided by public affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ATTENDANCE LIST FOR ADA PRESIDENTIAL MEETING

Benjamin Brewer
American Institute of Architects
President

Fred Currey
Greyhound Bus Lines, Inc.
Chairman and CEO

William Kay Daines
American Retail Federation
Executive Vice President

Paul Emerick
Associated General Contractors
President

William P. Fisher
National Restaurant Association
Executive Vice President

James Herr
National Federation of Independent Business
Vice Chairman
CEO, Herr Foods

Ken Hine
Hotel and Motel Association
Executive Vice President

Martin Jack Kaeufer
Foot Management, Inc.
President

Bill Kartoizian
National Association of Theatre Owners
President

Richard Leshner
United States Chamber of Commerce
President

Susan Meisinger
American Society for Personnel Administration
Vice President for Governmental Affairs

John Moore, Jr.
National Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
President

ATTENDANCE LIST FOR ADA PRESIDENTIAL MEETING (cont'd)

**Sandy Trowbridge
National Association of Manufacturers
President**

**Robert Turner
American Building Contractors
President**

TALKING POINTS -- BUSINESS GROUPS

- o I want to thank you all for coming in today to discuss the Americans with Disabilities Act and to note the unique consensus we've reached with key Senators on this legislation.
- o As you might remember, in my Inaugural address I talked about this being the "age of the offered hand." This historic legislation is important because it offers a hand that can draw disabled Americans into the mainstream of our society.
- o Overall this bill is a good one.
 - It will eliminate the proliferation of frivolous lawsuits that previous versions of the legislation have unfortunately brought about.

-2-

- Second, public accommodations will be required to make only those modifications that are "easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense."
- o We believe this bill strikes a good balance between allowing disabled Americans to enter the mainstream, and at the same time, not unduly burdening those businesses and public sites which must comply.
- o It's a good bill, and I hope you will support it. I want to thank you all for coming in -- and throw it open for a general discussion.

###

DOOR

DOOR

Boyden Gray



William P. Fisher



Benjamin Brewer

Fred Currey



Susan Weisinger

Robert Turner



Richard Leiser

Ken Hine

James Herr



THE PRESIDENT

William Kay Daines

Paul Emerick



Sandy Trowbridge

Bill Kartoian



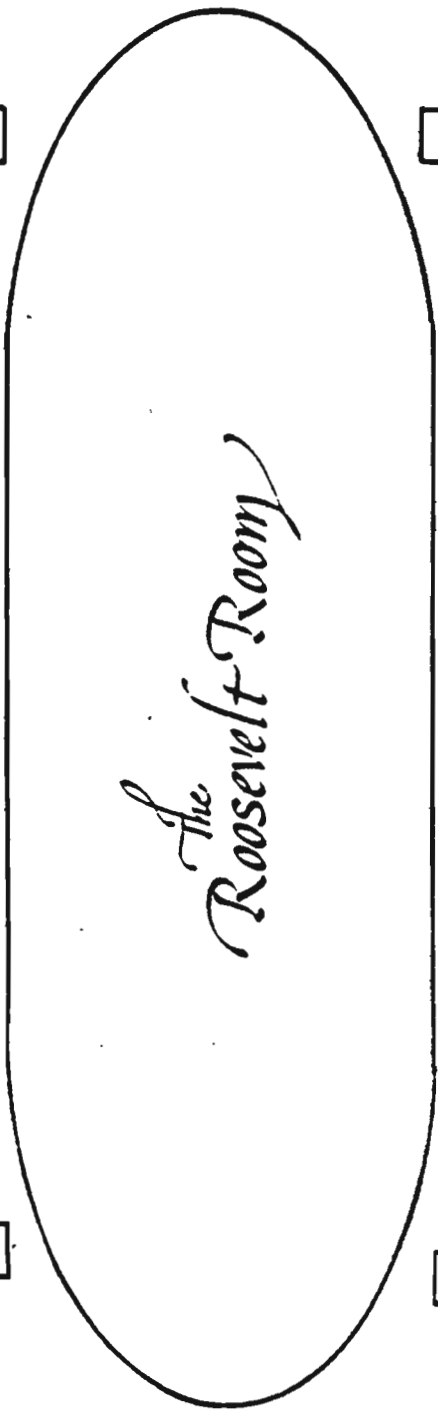
John Moore, Jr.

Bill Roper



Martin Jack Kaeufer

Roger Porter



DOOR