

From the Clinton Archives



MEMORANDUM FOR PROSPECTIVE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

FROM: Counsel to the President

SUBJECT: Standardized Clinton Administration Simplified Personal Data Statement

In order to proceed with your prospective appointment, it will be necessary for you to provide full and complete responses to the following questions. All information will remain confidential (except derogatory information about you, which will be leaked to the press).

1. Full name. Embarrassing nicknames. Aliases. Terms of endearment. Logos. Symbols used in the place of a name. (Include exclamation points used as a part of your name, e.g., "Hillary!" "Lamar!")
2. Current position, business address, telephone number, fax number, cell phone number, e-mail address, pager number, mobile phone number, fingerprints, DNA.
3. Position for which you are being considered. If you are applying for White House intern, please state favorite position.
4. All home addresses for past five years. (The Lincoln Bedroom is not a home address.) (A home page is not a home address.) If you do not like the state in which you are living, you may select New York.
5. Have you ever been charged with a crime? Any conduct that has not resulted in indictment may be omitted. (Lying about—or during—sex is not a crime.) (Lying about virtually anything is not a crime.) (Infidelity, adultery, apostasy, hypocrisy, heresy, and hedonism are not crimes.) (Any act involving a cigar is not a crime.) (Any act involving a cigarette is a crime.)
6. Have you ever used illegal drugs or controlled substances? If not, why not? If so, what is your drug of choice? (It is not a drug if no one can prove that you inhaled.) (It is not an illegal drug if you were a Rhodes Scholar when you did it.)
7. Military Service. (Including service in the reserves, near-service in the reserves, contemplation of service in the reserves, service as a journalist or in a military band or opposition to the war in Vietnam.) You do not need to know how to salute. (Continued)

As the Bush-Cheney Administration takes shape, it will need to recruit thousands of appointees for the new government. Each will have to answer detailed background questions. In our constant effort to be helpful, we pass along the following guide to security clearances developed by the Clinton-Gore Administration, supplied to us by someone who assures us that he/she is a typically reliable Washington source.

8. Have you ever had an intimate relationship with a third person while in a committed relationship or paid hush money to keep such matters quiet? If your answer is yes, go to the next question.

9. Furnish tape recordings, photographs, and letters involving relationship described in (8). Assign a rating of 1-10 for each such third person and the home number of any such person for whom you awarded a grade of 7 or higher. (Do not include residents of the State of Arkansas.) List ways in which any such third person can be discredited.

10. Have you ever lied to the FBI or other law enforcement officials about these events? (Of course you have. If your answer is no, we will assume that answer is, itself, a lie.)

11. List all political contributions for the past ten years. The term, "political contributions," for purposes of this question, does not include monies contributed through foreign nationals or agents, monasteries, or labor unions. Nor does it include soft money, or laundered money, or things of value such as limousine or jet aircraft rides, resort accommodations, alcoholic beverages, food, clothing, or companionship. Include only contributions recognized as such by Janet Reno. In other words, move on to the next question.

12. Have you ever been associated with any controversial organizations or organizations holding controversial views (e.g., Boy Scouts, 4-H, oil company, pharmaceutical, HMO, Christian churches, etc.) that fairly or unfairly could be used to embarrass the President? (If you are a member of the Federalist Society, you will be audited and indicted.)

13. State your gender, i.e., 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

14. Do you know anyone who might, overtly or covertly, attack your appointment? Please identify and explain the basis for the potential attack. Set forth derogatory information that may be used against them.

15. Attach your tax returns for any period in which you paid taxes.

16. State the name, address, and phone number of your lawyer. If you do not have one, one will be appointed for you.

17. Have you ever been treated for any mental disability? If not, explain why you would want a job in government.

18. State the name of your literary agent and book publisher. Attach 25 percent (cash, please) of any advance you may have received, and/or sign the attached licensing agreement for 25 percent of any royalties you may receive in the future for publishing embarrassing facts regarding the President or your service in his administration.

19. List the three journalists to whom you plan to do the most leaking. (George Stephanopoulos doesn't count.)



The Gore-Boies Recession

Wednesday

Here is the thought that's on my mind night and day: Americans are the greatest people there ever were. The basic generosity of the American spirit is simply without historical precedent, except maybe the precedent of Love Your Enemies.

I'm thinking of this because I am reading one of the best books I have ever read, *Robert E. Lee: The Last Years*, by a man named Flood. The most fascinating part is this: Immediately after Lee surrendered at Appomattox, he hesitantly asked Grant if Grant could spare any rations. Lee hoped Grant would send over a few thousand. But Grant said he would immediately send over 25,000 rations, and tears of gratitude came to Lee's eyes.

Lee was further moved when Grant said that the soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia could keep their swords, pistols, and horses. From then on, Lee would never allow a harsh word about Grant to be spoken in his presence. (Years later, at Washington College, when a faculty member was damning Grant, Lee said that if the man ever spoke similarly in front of him again, either the faculty member or Lee would be gone in the morning.) When Lee rode away from Appomattox, still straight and dignified aboard *Traveler*, Grant said of him and his men, "They will live in history."

Two days later, when General Gordon led the tattered remnants of the Stonewall Brigade to stack arms in surrender, a federal general who had fought in many a bloody contest against the Southerners ordered his men to carry

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arms for the defeated Rebels, a move of respect that will live forever in decency and brotherhood.

But most remarkable of all, when the headquarters of the defeated Army of Northern Virginia was struck and Lee went home, he simply walked into his rented house in Richmond, lay down, and had a long nap. He was not arrested. He was not hanged. Even though he had led the major army of a rebellion of questionable legality, Lee was suffered to simply go home and rest. I can't imagine another nation where that could happen. Let's do homage to Lee for his genius and courage and to his men for their fortitude and duty, but also to the incredibly magnanimous Union, as represented by Grant, Lincoln, and Andrew Johnson and millions of others.

But this is only part one of many parts. The American people are so magnanimous that they shine forth like diamonds across all of the ages of history.

Think of how well the U.S. treated Germany and Japan after their defeats in World War II. Think of how generous the U.S. has been to the former Soviet Union after the end of the Cold War. Or go back farther to the U.S. generosity to Germany after World War I. If it had been matched by all of the allies, there might have been no Hitler.

Generosity, even wild generosity, is built into the American soul.

I am thinking about this particularly now as I get out of bed at a funny little hotel called the Country Inn, and go to speak to a huge crowd at a lovely school called St. Olaf in Northfield, Minnesota. The kids are so friendly, have such sweet looks on their faces, ask such touching questions, by and large. I think of the Minnesota regiments fighting the Mississipp-

ians and Texans in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg, then a few years later, all joining together for the goodness of America.

I am especially thinking of Hubert Horatio Humphrey, late statesman from Minnesota. I suspect he is my favorite public servant on the Democrat side ever. This fine man came from St. Paul to Washington as a U.S. senator. He was so committed to civil rights that he lived in a modest neighborhood because it was not restricted against Jews. He said he would live his beliefs and he did. When he ran against JFK for president in 1960, he was cheated out of the nomination by Joe Kennedy's money and gangland connections. Kennedy traveled in a private plane. Humphrey in an old bus. When JFK stole the West Virginia primary, Humphrey conceded in tears. Then he rode back home in his bus with a folk singer in the back singing, to the tune of "Give Me That Old Time Religion," "I'm gonna vote for Hubert Humphrey, I'm gonna vote for Hubert Humphrey, he's the man for you and me," while Humphrey stared straight ahead, a deer run over by the Kennedy limousine.

I always think of Humphrey when I am thinking about the contemporary Democrats. They remind me a lot more of Kennedy than of Humphrey. But the ordinary Democrat who works for a living is still (I think) every bit as good as any other man or woman. And a lot harder-working and better than I am.

This is a great country of great people.

Tuesday

I am back in L.A. We're taping my talk show today, election day. I went to vote at my son's school before taping. The registrar gave me two ballots by