

people of Tanzania today. We join our friends in Tanzania and Africa in celebrating his achievements and mourning his death. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his fellow citizens.

Memorandum on Individual Training Accounts for Federal Workers

October 14, 1999

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Personnel Management

Subject: Individual Training Accounts for Federal Workers

Thank you for forwarding the options and recommendations of the Task Force on Federal Training Technology on establishing individual training accounts (ITAs) for Federal employees.

Your report provides a thoughtful and thorough review of the ways ITAs may be used to improve the quality of training available to Federal workers. The skills needed by Federal workers, the technologies available for training, and the institutions capable of delivering high-quality training are all changing rapidly. Individual employees may be in the best position to discover opportunities in this fast changing market; ITAs can give them needed flexibility.

Improving the efficiency and quality of Federal Government services in the years ahead will require educated workers to fill new jobs and allow incumbent workers to continuously upgrade their knowledge and skill base. We have an obligation to explore the use of new technologies to provide cost-effective, high-quality, and accessible training to ensure that we provide the kind of working environment that attracts and retains outstanding working men and women.

After reviewing your report, it is clear that ITAs merit further exploration because of their potential for improving Federal training. The Task Force points out that while a number of private firms, State governments, and foreign governments are currently implementing ITAs, the programs are not fully tested. I support the Task Force recommendation that Federal agencies should begin a series of pilot projects and

develop tools for evaluating their success. I therefore direct that OPM work with the Task Force to develop a guidance for agencies to use in developing and evaluating ITA pilot projects.

I understand that the Task Force also is making steady progress in developing recommendations for Federal agencies to make effective use of technology to improve training opportunities. I look forward to reviewing the final Task Force report and learning more about the development of the demonstrations of advanced learning technologies being proposed by the Executive departments. Particularly valuable are the Task Force's recommendations regarding how agencies can use their combined procurement power to stimulate development of high-quality training technologies conforming to standards used in commercial and university instruction. Your work will serve not only to strengthen the Federal workforce and ensure that the American taxpayers receive the best service possible, but can also accelerate the development of technologies useful in schools and companies throughout the Nation.

I appreciate your leadership, the commitment of the Task Force, and the dedicated service of your staff, particularly Emzell Blanton, the Executive Director of the Task Force, in ensuring the success of this important effort.

William J. Clinton

Remarks Honoring the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Champions

October 14, 1999

The President. Thank you very much. Well, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the White House. I want to say a special word of welcome to Purdue Coach Carolyn Peck and UConn Coach Jim Calhoun and their wonderful teams. And we're honored to be joined by two Members of Congress from Connecticut, John Larson and Nancy Johnson. [Applause] Thank you.

Usually, you know, the Members of Congress, they stand in front of the team, and I shake hands with them, and then I go shake hands with the team. And I started shaking

hands with the UConn team, and Nancy Johnson was the fourth person in the line, and I wondered what position she could possibly have played. [Laughter]

Well, we're delighted that they're both here, and the two Connecticut Senators, Joe Lieberman and Chris Dodd were also here. They had to go vote, and they're going to try to get back before we finish. But we thank them for coming.

It's a great honor for me today to welcome the Purdue Lady Boilermakers and the UConn Huskies, two talented basketball teams who remained focused enough to win the most coveted prize in college basketball. It's a kind of a joke around the White House that I am a fanatic basketball fan, that I frequently misbehave during the NCAA tournament—[laughter]—especially if the Arkansas Razorbacks aren't playing well that year.

But I studied these teams very closely. I'd like to—I think that I would like to begin by making two acknowledgements that are important to the human element of basketball. First of all, the Lady Boilermakers lost one of their teammates, Tiffany Young, last August in a car accident, and her parents are here. And I'd like to acknowledge their presence and thank them for coming. Would you—well, they're here somewhere. There they are. [Applause] Thank you.

And in this week, I can't help noting that on Monday we lost one of the greatest basketball players of all time, Wilt Chamberlain, whose dedication, determination, and performance inspired countless Americans, most of whom never scored 100 points in a single game.

Wilt Chamberlain once said, in his rather wry and funny way, "They say nobody is perfect. Then, they tell you practice makes perfect. I wish they'd make up their mind." [Laughter] One thing is clear. With practice and talent, UConn and Purdue got pretty close to perfect. They both beat two very talented Duke Blue Devil teams.

This was a season of firsts. First time a men's team from New England had won the NCAA tournament since Harry Truman lived in the White House; the first time the Purdue women or the UConn men ever won a national championship.

Let me begin by saluting the Lady Boilermakers. All America was awed by your performance. I understand it was fueled by power naps and peanut butter. [Laughter] If that's true, I think I'll stay with them both. [Laughter]

They had a dazzling 34–1 season record. I told the coach when we were starting this that I happened to see one night, on television, their early-season victory against Tennessee. And—because, you know, Tennessee's coming here has become a kind of regular event—[laughter]—Coach Summitt and her husband and her wonderful son have become friends of ours. And Al Gore was in a slump the next day. [Laughter] And he said, "Well, they must have had an off night." And I said, "Al, I watched the game. They didn't have an off night." [Laughter] "That Purdue team is great. It's going to be hard for anybody to beat them." And it turned out to be right.

I want to mention the extraordinary contributions of the co-captains of the team. MVP Ukari Figgs turned around the final game with 18 points. All-American Stephanie White-McCarty amassed the second-highest number of points in the history of Purdue.

Basketball is a team effort. It depends upon everyone working together and relies heavily on good leadership. The Boilermakers had a lot of both. As the first African-American woman ever to win the NCAA championship as a coach, Carolyn Peck has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, carrying Purdue to two Big 10 tournament championships in only two seasons. And I'm glad she's back here with her team today. She's just finished her first season as a pro coach, where she missed the playoffs, I think she said, by one game. And next year is your second season; you've got to deliver. And we wish you well. [Laughter] So I'd like to call on Carolyn Peck and give her the microphone now. Thank you.

[A this point, Coach Peck made brief remarks.]

The President. I also want to acknowledge, before I leave the State of Indiana, the presence here of a man who has been my friend for 20 years, the former Senator from Indiana and the father of the current Senator

from Indiana, Mr. Birch Bayh. Thank you, Senator. Thank you. I'm glad to see you. Thank you.

Now, the Huskies. I watched them all year, too. They won 34 games, and they were supposed to be a big underdog in the championship. They had a team that was determined not to be defeated. Richard Hamilton's outside touch and the tough defensive play of Ricky Moore and Khalid El-Amin gave them a 77-74 down-to-the-wire thriller that will never be forgotten by people who love basketball.

I also want to say that I'm glad Richard is coming to Washington to help the Wizards. We need it. *[Laughter]* Jim Calhoun's achievements as the Huskies' coach are tremendous. He's the only coach in NCAA history to win 250 games at two different Division I programs. He's the winningest coach in UConn history, with the third most wins in all of college basketball in the last six seasons.

When I called Jim to congratulate him on the victory, we had a wonderful talk about a lot of things, and I'll always remember our conversation. But I told him, and I thought that the Duke coach, Mike Krzyzewski, gave him and these fine young men, the ultimate compliment; you can only imagine how disappointed he was. He has all those great players; they were supposed to win everything easily. It was a fabulous game.

The truth is, UConn was better than they thought they were. And it was—at a moment of enormous disappointment, he got before the national television cameras and he said, "We did not lose this game. We were defeated by a better team." And that says a lot about this coach and these players.

So, Coach, the microphone is yours.

[Coach Calhoun made brief remarks, and the team captains presented a jersey and ring to the President.]

The President. Look at this. I think it's a little big for me, don't you? *[Laughter]* Thank you. I really love this, thank you.

Now, when does practice start? *[Laughter]*

Coach Calhoun. I'll see you Saturday morning at 11.

The President. Thank you very much.

Coach Peck. Can we make a presentation?

The President. Sure. Give them another hand, guys. *[Applause]*

[Coach Peck and the team's senior captains presented a jersey to the President.]

The President. I can wear this. It's the right size, right? It's the right size. I love it.

[A Purdue senior captain thanked the President and congratulated the University of Connecticut Huskies.]

The President. You know, in a year and a half when I'm not President anymore, people will, all of a sudden, start treating me as an elder statesman or something, and they will all want my advice on various things. One of the things people ask me all the time is, isn't it hard to keep your feet on the ground and the sense of basic humility when, you know, the Secret Service are with you, you fly around on Air Force One, every need is just at your fingertips? And I think I will have two pieces of advice: One is, have regular press conferences; that'll cut you down to size. *[Laughter]* And the other is, always meet with the champions of the men and women's NCAA basketball tournament. They will make you feel very small.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:08 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Tiffany Young's parents, Gloria and Billy Ray Young, and Pat Summitt, coach, University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers.

Remarks on Unveiling Public Service Announcements on Youth Violence

October 15, 1999

The President. Thank you very much, Epatha; welcome back to the White House. She was here back in February, again trying to help children, when we unveiled the PSA to help our children get the health care they need. So she is becoming the Federal Government's number one volunteer for America's children, and we're grateful for her.

I think she knows that if she and the rest of us could do enough for our children in a preventive and preparatory way, we'd put