William J. Clinton
Presidential History Project

Briefing Materials
Thomas “Mack” McLarty
July 12, 2002

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June 3, 2002
Mack McLarty is elected to and serves a single term in the Arkansas House of Representatives. (Biography Resource Center, 2002)

McLarty serves as Treasurer for Bill Clinton’s Arkansas gubernatorial campaign. (Biography Resource Center, 2002)

McLarty, CEO of Arkla, Inc., an energy company, joins the Clinton presidential campaign as Campaign Treasurer.

On the 6th, McLarty joins the Clinton Administration transition team. (The Washington Post, 11/06/1992)

On the 7th, President-elect Clinton announces that Vernon Jordan and Warren Christopher will head the transition team. (The Washington Post, 11/07/1992)

On the 19th, McLarty announces that as a Clinton Administration transition team member, he will remove himself from any matters regarding savings and loan cleanup to avoid a potential conflict of interest. McLarty was chairman of Arkla, Inc., a holding company for natural gas distribution companies and a defendant in a $535 million lawsuit by the Resolution Trust Corporation. (The Washington Post, 11/19/1992)

On the 13th, McLarty accepts the offer from President-elect Bill Clinton to serve as White House Chief of Staff. McLarty also had reportedly been considered for the post of Secretary of Energy. (Elizabeth Drew, On the Edge, New York: Touchstone, 1994, p. 34)

On the 26th, McLarty learns from transition team member Howard Paster that Attorney General nominee Zoe Baird has potential confirmation problems related to her hiring of an illegal immigrant as a nanny. (Drew, p. 37)
January


February


On the 9th, President Clinton proposes a reduction of 350 people in the White House staff. The deepest cut is in the Office of National Drug Control Policy which loses 121 employees. Also included in the 350 total are 117 cabinet agency detailees who return to their respective agencies. (*The Washington Post*, 02/10/1993)

On the 15th, McLarty meets with Rev. Jesse Jackson, to discuss Haitian refugee policy after Jackson threatens to organize a U.S. hunger strike. Two-hundred sixty seven refugees are being detained at the Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba after being denied entry to the United States due to their or their family’s HIV status. Clinton states that he wants to reverse U.S. immigration policy that prohibits HIV-infected individuals from entering the country. (*The Washington Post*, 02/16/1993)

At the same meeting on the 15th, Jackson asks McLarty to look into the case of Rep. Harold E. Ford, Sr. (D-TN) who in 1987 was charged with accepting close to $1.5 million in fraudulent bank loans in exchange for political favors. Ford was never convicted due to a hung jury. A second jury in the Ford case was dismissed by the Clinton Justice Department, at the behest of acting DOJ official Webster Hubbell. (*The Washington Post*, 02/26/1993)

On the 18th, Jackson sends a letter to McLarty asking Clinton to reconsider his decision to throw out the first pitch of Major League Baseball’s season opener. Jackson’s Rainbow Coalition threatens to picket major league parks unless officials devise an affirmative action plan for front-office hiring by opening day. (*The Washington Post*, 03/25/1993)

March

On the 11th, former Florida prosecutor, Janet Reno is confirmed by the U.S. Senate on a vote of 98-0 to become U.S. Attorney General. (*CQ Almanac 1993*, p. 303)

April

On the 29th, following a Wall Street Journal article in which one White House staffer blamed another for the failure of Clinton’s economic stimulus package,
McLarty reminds White House staff that they serve at the President’s pleasure. *(The Washington Post, 05/14/1993)*

Also on the 29th, civil rights attorney Lani Guinier is nominated by President Clinton to head the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. *(CQ Almanac 1993, p. 307)*

**May**  
On the 6th, Roy Neel, previously Vice President Gore’s Chief of Staff, is appointed Deputy Chief of Staff to President Clinton. Mark Gearan will remain as Deputy Chief of Staff for long term planning while Neel will be Deputy for day-to-day White House operations. The hire is expected to allow McLarty to focus more on major objectives. *(The Washington Post, 05/07/1993)*

On the 19th, McLarty, Vince Foster, William Kennedy and Webster Hubbell resign from the Country Club of Little Rock. The club, whose golf course President Clinton was criticized for playing during the campaign, has only one African-American member. *(The Washington Post, 05/20/1993)*

On the 25th, the White House announces that McLarty will review the firing of five White House travel office workers and that the fired workers will be placed on paid leave. *(The Washington Post, 05/26/1993)*

On the 27th, the U.S. House passes Clinton’s budget reconciliation bill/deficit reduction plan by a vote of 219-213. The result is to be a $496 billion cut in the deficit between FY 1994 and FY 1998. McLarty gains the support of conservative oil-patch members by endorsing prospective changes in the BTU tax portion of the bill when the Senate considers it. *(Drew. / 168; CQ Almanac, p. 108; The Washington Post, 05/28/1993)*

On the 28th, Webster Hubbell is confirmed as Associate Attorney General. *(CQ Almanac 1993, p. 33)*

On the 29th, President Clinton announces that David Gergen will work in the Clinton White House as Counselor to the President, with responsibility for communications. George Stephanopoulos, who had been the previous Communications Director, becomes Senior Advisor for Legislative and Political Strategy. Gearan, previously Deputy Chief of Staff for Long Term Planning, becomes Communications Director. The shift leaves a single White House Deputy Chief of Staff, Roy Neel. *(The Washington Post, 05/29/1993, 06/02/1993)*

**June**  
On the 3rd Lani Guinier’s nomination for Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department is withdrawn based on Guinier’s controversial academic writings regarding minority rights. *(CQ Almanac 1993, p. 33)*
On the 25th the U.S. Senate passes President Clinton’s budget reconciliation bill/deficit reduction plan by a vote of 51-50, with Vice President Gore casting the deciding vote. Senate Democrats win inclusion of the controversial fuels tax. *(CQ Almanac 1993, p. 115-7)*

Also on the 25th, Ricki Seidman, who had previously served as Deputy Communications Director, becomes a Counselor to McLarty. *(The Washington Post, 06/27/1993)*

**July**

On the 2nd McLarty releases a report on the White House travel office investigation. McLarty apologizes to the travel office employees who were fired in May and announces that five of the employees who had no financial or management roles would be reinstated. McLarty reprimanded four other travel office employees who were involved in the situation, but none were terminated or demoted. McLarty attributes the firings to an attempt to rectify poor financial management rather than Administration favoritism. McLarty acknowledges that Hillary Clinton knew of the accusations of mismanagement and firings before President Clinton did. *(The Washington Post, 07/03/1993)*

Also on the 2nd, James Carville, Paul Begala, Stan Greenberg, and Mandy Grunwald send a four-page confidential memo to President Clinton, McLarty, and other top White House advisers warning that the President’s popularity and strength will continue to drop unless the economic plan before Congress includes no new taxes on the middle class. *(The Washington Post, 06/07/1994)*

On the 7th, McLarty remains at work at the White House rather than joining President Clinton and his delegation for the G-7 summit in Japan. McLarty explains that he is preparing for the upcoming House-Senate conference on the budget. *(The Washington Post, 07/14/1993)*

On the 20th, Vince Foster, Deputy White House Counsel, commits suicide in a Northern Virginia park. McLarty subsequently deals with the controversy over who had access to Foster’s office and records immediately after his death. *(The Washington Post, 07/30/1993)*

**August**

On the 3rd, the Senate confirms the nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsberg to the Supreme Court by a vote of 96-3. The dissenting votes were cast by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK), and Sen. Robert Smith (R-NH). Ginsberg succeeded Justice Byron White on the Court, and was the first Justice appointed to the Court by a Democrat since President Johnson’s nomination of Thurgood Marshall in 1967. *(CQ Almanac 1993, p. 318)*

On the 10th, President Clinton signs into law the budget reconciliation bill/deficit reduction plan, with the Senate’s fuels tax. The law marks the first major legislative victory of the Clinton Administration. *(Levy, p. 380; CQ Almanac 1993, p. 108)*
**September** On the 22\(^{nd}\) President Clinton releases his health care reform plan. (Levy, p. 380)

On the 30\(^{th}\), the White House announces that it has met President Clinton’s campaign promise to reduce White House staff by 25 percent. Critics charge that staff cuts result from creative definitions of what constitutes White House staff and from layoffs aimed at career workers rather than political aides. Neel, in charge of implementing the 25 percent cut, defends the Administration’s redefined baseline for tallying total White House workers. (*The Washington Post*, 09/30/1993)

**October** On the 11\(^{th}\), McLarty sends a memo to White House staff asking them to write their own job descriptions in order to assist with a management study he commissioned by Matt Miller from the Office of Management and Budget. (*The Washington Post*, 10/12/1993)

**November** On the 17\(^{th}\), the U.S. House passes NAFTA by a vote of 234-200. With the defection of Majority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-MO) and Democratic Whip David Bonior (D-MI), the vote margin was uncertain. The tripartite trade agreement provided for the elimination of all tariffs between the United States and Mexico over the next 15 years and for removing almost all other trade barriers. (*CQ Almanac 1993*, pp. 36, 171)

On the 20\(^{th}\), the U.S. Senate passes NAFTA by a vote of 61-38. Passage in both houses is due to support from Republicans and moderate to conservative Democrats. (*CQ Almanac 1993*, p. 171)

Also on the 20\(^{th}\), the press reports that Neel plans to resign from the White House and move to the private sector. His last day at the White House will be December 16\(^{th}\). He accepts the position of CEO of the United States Telephone Association. (*The Washington Post*, 11/20/1993; *The Wall Street Journal*, 11/24/1993)


**December** On the 8\(^{th}\), President Clinton signs the North American Trade Agreement legislation. (Levy, p. 380)

On the 10\(^{th}\), McLarty announces that the Clinton White House will undergo a major reorganization. Neel’s responsibilities as White House Deputy Chief of Staff will be divided between two positions. Philip Lader, previously number three at the Office of Management and Budget, will become Deputy Chief of Staff for White House Operations. On the 22\(^{nd}\), Harold Ickes, a New York
lawyer/lobbyist, agrees to become Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Political Affairs, with responsibility for promoting the President’s health care package. Ickes had originally withdrawn his name from consideration for the position in January 1992 after it was disclosed that federal prosecutors were investigating his law firm’s association with organized labor groups which also had ties to organized crime. (The Washington Post, 12/12/1993, 12/23/1993)


1994

January

On the 16th, Inman withdraws his name from consideration for secretary of defense. On the 18th, Inman conducts a press conference in which he charges that the news media and Republican Senators were out to defeat his nomination, including Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and New York Times columnist William Safire. Inman went on to describe himself as a victim of “political McCarthyism.” (Drew, pp. 371-2)

On the 20th, Robert Fiske, a former New York U.S. Attorney, is appointed independent counsel, by Attorney General Janet Reno at President Clinton’s behest, to investigate the Whitewater affair. Some Democrats, led by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY), had joined Republicans in calling for Clinton to appoint the independent counsel. (Levy, p. 380)

On the 24th, President Clinton nominates former Deputy Secretary William Perry to be secretary of defense. The nomination is later unanimously confirmed by the Senate. (CQ Almanac 1993, p. 476)

On the 29th, McLarty announces that the White House has begun talks with the author of the chief rival of the Clinton health care plan in Congress, Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN). Cooper casts his plan as a more moderate version of the Clinton plan and is able to obtain bipartisan support. The Cooper bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Fred Grandy (R-IA), encourages employers and employees to participate in health care plans through incentives but does not require participation. (The Washington Post, 01/29/1994)

March

On the 2nd, McLarty publicly warns senior Administration officials against contact with officials from the Treasury Department, RTC, or individuals outside the White House who are involved with the investigation of Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan. Hillary Clinton represented Madison in the mid-1980s and President Clinton and Hillary Clinton were joint owners of the Whitewater real estate venture with Madison’s owners, the McDougals. Federal investigators are examining whether Madison funds were diverted to Whitewater. McLarty’s warning is the result of the Administration’s disclosure that the Treasury
Department had twice let the White House know the status of the federal investigation into the S&L. (The Washington Post, 03/03/1994)

On the 4th, subpoenas are served on 10 White House and Treasury Department officials in conjunction with Independent Counsel Robert Fiske’s investigation into the Whitewater affair. McLarty is not subpoenaed. (CQ Almanac 1994, Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1995, p. 110)

On the 5th, Bernard Nussbaum is forced to resign as White House Counsel, due in part to his presence at briefings by the Treasury Department on the Whitewater investigation. (The Washington Post, 03/07/1994)

On the 14th, Associate Attorney General Webster Hubbell resigns from the Justice Department due to charges that he had over-billed the Rose Law Firm and its clients, where he and Hillary Clinton had been partners. (CQ Almanac 1993, p. 308; The Washington Post, 04/01/1994)

On the 15th, McLarty instructs the White House staff to complete the paperwork for their personal FBI background checks. Some White House staffers had already begun work before problematic personal situations were discovered by the FBI. Other staffers had never completed the paperwork at all. (The Washington Post, 03/17/1994)

May

On the 16th, President Clinton nominates Federal appeals court Judge Stephen Breyer to the U.S. Supreme Court, to replace the retiring Justice Harry Blackmun. The only significant criticism of the nomination comes from Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) who questions why another finalist, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, was not chosen. (The Washington Post, 05/16/1994)

On the 25th, McLarty investigates Director of the White House Office of Administration David Watkins’s use of the Marine One helicopter to go golfing in New Market, Maryland with Director of the White House Military Office, Alphonso Maldon, Jr. Watkins, who had previously been disciplined for his role in the firing of seven White House travel office employees, resigns the following day and Maldon is reassigned. (The Washington Post, 05/27/1994)

On the 30th, the press reports speculation that Secretary of State Warren Christopher will succeed McLarty as Chief of Staff and that McLarty will be named Chairman of President Clinton’s re-election committee. (U.S. News and World Report, 05/30/94)

June

On the 9th, McLarty issues a directive to President Clinton’s political consultants, specifically Carville, Begala, Grunwald, and Greenberg, that they complete a financial disclosure form to include their clients, assets, liabilities, and sources of income. The directive follows pressure from Congressional Republicans. (The Washington Post, 06/10/1994)
On the 27th, President Clinton announces that McLarty will step down as White House Chief of Staff to become a Senior Counselor to the President. The move marks another major White House reorganization. Leon Panetta, formerly Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director, will assume the position of Chief of Staff. Alice Rivlin will replace Panetta at OMB. Gergen is shifted from his role of Counselor to the President to Foreign Policy Adviser for both President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. (*The Washington Post, 06/28/1994*)

On the 30th, President Clinton signs the reauthorization of the independent counsel law. The law, which allows independent prosecutors to investigate the executive branch, had lapsed. (*CQ Almanac 1994, p. 109*)

Also on the 30th, Independent Counsel Robert Fiske releases his preliminary report in the Whitewater investigation. Fiske finds no obstruction of the RTC probe or foul play surrounding Vince Foster’s suicide. (*CQ Almanac 1994, p. 111*)

**July**

On the 26th, Congress begins Whitewater investigations. (Levy, p. 380)

Also on July 26th, the U.S. Senate confirms the nomination of Stephen Breyer to the U.S. Supreme Court by a vote of 87-9. Dissenting votes were cast by Sens. Smith (R-NH), Nickles (R-OK), Lott (R-MS), Helms (R-NC), Coverdell (R-GA), Coats (R-IN), Burns (R-MT), and Murkowski (R-AK). (*CQ Almanac 1994, pp. 303, 310*)

**August**

On the 2nd, the Senate Banking Committee begins hearings as part of a Whitewater investigation. (CQ Almanac 1994, p. 108)

On the 9th, Kenneth Starr is appointed new Whitewater independent counsel. (Levy, p. 380)

On the 17th, McLarty, Martin Indyk, National Security Council Director for Middle Eastern Affairs, and Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Robert Pelletreau, Jr. meet with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to assure him of U.S. support in the wake of the civil war in neighboring Yemen. The war in Yemen had ended a few days before the meeting when Saudi-supported insurgents were defeated in southern Yemen. (*The Washington Post, 09/23/1994*)

Also on the 17th, Deputy Secretary Roger Altman resigns from his position at the Treasury Department. Members of the Senate Banking Committee had accused Altman of misleading them regarding his role in the Whitewater affair. (*CQ Almanac 1994, p. 108*)

**September**

On the 18th, in the face of an armed invasion by U.S. forces, Haitian military dictators restore Jean-Bertrand Aristide as leader. (Levy, p. 380)
On the 8th, Republicans win control of both the U.S. House and Senate in midterm elections. (Levy, p. 380)

On the 8th, President Clinton signs the global tariff agreement (GATT) legislation. The bill made significant changes in U.S. law to bring them into agreement with the international trade accords. The bill reduces trade tariffs worldwide by almost 40 percent and reduces other barriers to trade such as import quotas. The bill also provides financing to offset a projected $12 billion in lost tariff revenue over the first five years of the agreement. (CQ Almanac 1994, p. 123)

1995

On the 3rd, the Senate Banking Committee issues its final report on the Whitewater investigation. The report, which was written by the Committee’s Democratic majority, gives accounts of contradictory testimony offered by Administration officials, including Deputy Treasury Secretary and former RTC acting chief Roger Altman. However, the majority report does not find any criminal wrongdoing in the White House’s handling of the Whitewater matter. Committee Republicans issue a minority report calling Altman a liar. (CQ Almanac 1994, p. 115)

On the 31st, President Clinton authorizes an executive order known as the 1995 Mexican Peso Stabilization program. The program grants Mexico $20 billion in credits from the Treasury Department’s Exchange Stabilization Fund. The program also includes $17.8 billion in credits from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and $10 billion in credits from the Bank for International Settlements. (CQ Almanac 1995, p. 10-17)

On the 25th, McLarty testifies before a grand jury investigating the White House travel office. (The New York Times, 10/19/2000)

On the 4th, McLarty releases a statement saying he will not run for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. David Pryor (D-AR). (The Washington Post, 05/05/1995)

On the 28th, Hubbell is sentenced to twenty-one months in prison for mail fraud and tax evasion. (Levy, p. 381)

On the 14th, the U.S. Government is shut down due to a budgetary impasse between President Clinton and the Republican-controlled Congress. (Levy, p. 381)

On the 16th, the federal government shuts down for a second time due to the budget impasse. This time the government remains closed until January 5, 1996. (Levy, p. 381)
1996

January On the 26th, in his State of the Union address, President Clinton declares, “The era of big government is over.” (Levy, p. 381)

March On the 20th, McLarty calls for a new hemispheric summit conference as early as 1997 to push for a regional free-trade accord. *(The New York Times, 03/20/1996)*

April On the 17th, the White House announces that Arab countries have agreed to provide $100 million in cash to help pay for U.S. efforts to train and equip the Bosnian army. The announcement immediately follows a trip by McLarty and State Department officials to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates to emphasize the importance of the programs to the success of the Dayton Peace Accords. *(The Washington Post, 04/18/1996)*

May On the 9th, President Clinton testifies via videotape in the trial of Whitewater defendants Susan and James McDougal. (Levy, p. 382) On the 28th, James and Susan McDougal and former Governor Jim Guy Tucker are convicted of fraud. (Levy, p. 382)

June On the 25th, terrorists attack the U.S. military complex in Saudi Arabia, killing nineteen Americans. (Levy, p. 382)

July On the 27th, a terrorist bombs the Olympic Games in Atlanta, killing 1 and wounding 110 people. (Levy, p. 382)

August On the 5th, the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee releases depositions obtained regarding the White House travel office investigation. McLarty testifies that three days before the 1993 firing of White House travel office employees, First Lady Hillary Clinton expressed her concerns about the need to respond to the alleged mismanagement by seven employees. Hillary Clinton’s role has come into question since a 1993 memo from David Watkins, former White House Administrative Chief, became public and refers to Hillary Clinton’s insistence that the employees be fired. *(The Washington Post, 08/06/1996)*

December On the 13th, McLarty addresses the Miami Conference of the Caribbean and Latin America in order to reiterate President Clinton’s support for hemispheric free trade, known as the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, and says that a pact with Chile is a top priority. *(Journal of Commerce, 12/13/1996; Miami Herald, 12/13/1996)*

On the 20th, the White House announces that McLarty will be designated Special Envoy to Latin America. *(The Washington Post, 12/20/1996)*
On the 21\textsuperscript{st}, President Clinton asks McLarty to organize a Presidential trip to Latin America in March or April 1997. Clinton did not visit Latin America or the Caribbean during his first term. \textit{(The New York Times, 12/21/1996)}

On the 29\textsuperscript{th}, Guatemalan President Alvaro Arzu and leftist rebel leaders sign a final peace agreement which would end Central America’s last and longest civil war. McLarty leads the U.S. delegation in the signing. \textit{(The Washington Post, 12/30/1996)}

\textbf{1997}

\textit{February} On the 20\textsuperscript{th}, McLarty meets with Mexico’s foreign minister Jose Angel Gurria at the White House to discuss the implications of the arrest of Mexico’s senior government official in charge of anti-drug efforts, General Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, on corruption charges. The corruption charges bring into question the U.S. annual certification of Mexico’s anti-drug efforts. Countries that are not certified can face economic sanctions. \textit{(The Washington Post, 02/21/1997)}

\textit{March} On the 5\textsuperscript{th}, McLarty, Sandy Berger, and Anti-Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey meet with Mexico’s President Ernesto Zedillo in Mexico City to discuss anti-drug efforts before President Clinton’s April 1997 visit to the country. \textit{(The Washington Post, 03/06/1997)}

On the 11\textsuperscript{th}, the U.S. Senate approves an investigation into campaign fundraising irregularities by the Clinton Administration and members of Congress. (Levy, p. 382)

On the 21\textsuperscript{st}, the White House announces that due to a knee injury, President Clinton will postpone the previously scheduled April 1997 trip to Mexico and the May 1997 trip to Latin America to discuss fast track trade negotiating authority. The trips’ cancellation comes in the wake of opposition by House Democratic leaders to fast track trade negotiation authority. \textit{(The Washington Post, 03/22/1997, 11/15/1997)}

\textit{April} On the 1\textsuperscript{st}, McLarty states that while he was White House Chief of Staff, he as well as Erskine Bowles, then head of the Small Business Administration, contacted business friends to obtain financial help for Webster Hubbell while he was being investigated by Whitewater prosecutors. Hubbell, who resigned as Associate Attorney General in March 1994, was hired for consulting by the Indonesia-based Lippo Group as well as for unspecified duties by Arkansan Truman Arnold. Arnold also called upon others to hire Hubbell. Mark Middleton, a former aide to McLarty who went on to work as a consultant for Lippo, offers to testify in exchange for immunity from prosecution. \textit{(The Washington Post, 04/02/1997, 04/22/1997)}
On the 3rd, McLarty is subpoenaed to testify before the Little Rock grand jury investigating Hubbell. (*The Washington Post*, 04/04/1997)

On the 24th, the U.S. Senate approves a chemical weapons test ban treaty. (Levy, p. 382)

**May**

McLarty, who is planning trips to Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, announces his staff assignments for the Office of Special Envoy to the Latin Americas. Nelson Cunningham, previously General Counsel to the White House Office of Administration will be Staff Director. Andrew Friendly, previously Trip Director, will serve as Outreach Director. Steve Ronnel, who had worked for former Senator David Pryor (D-AR), will handle communications and Congressional relations. Ann Duque, who previously served in the White House personnel office, will handle scheduling. Three other staff members will join the office on detail from the State Department and the Agency for International Development. (*The Washington Post*, 05/14/1997)

**June**

It is reported that President Clinton and McLarty met with Democratic donor Roger Tamraz at fundraising events in the executive mansion in the spring of 1996. Clinton had been advised by staff against meeting with Tamraz due to suspicion that Tamraz might be misrepresenting his ties to the Clinton Administration to potential business partners. At the time Tamraz met with Clinton and McLarty, both the National Security Council and the Department of Energy had decided not to support Tamraz’s proposal for a foreign oil pipeline from the Caspian Sea to Turkey. After the meeting, McLarty reportedly contacted a Department of Energy official to request a review of the initial decision which, in the end, was not changed. (*The Washington Post*, 6/4/1997) An Energy Department official, Jack Carter, later testifies before a grand jury that he was told that if Tamraz got a review of the project, then he would contribute $400,000 to the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign. Tamraz is also arrested in June, 1997 in the Republic of Georgia on an Interpol request based on Lebanese embezzlement charges. (*The Washington Post*, 06/15/1997)

**August**

On the 1st, President Clinton authorizes U.S. defense contractors to sell combat jets and other advanced military equipment to South American nations. The move marks the reversal of more than two decades of U.S. policy. McLarty praises lifting the ban. (*The Washington Post*, 08/02/1997)

**October**

On the 3rd, the Justice Department concludes that President Clinton did not violate any laws during the 1996 campaign fundraising in meeting with Chinese businessmen. (Levy, p. 382)

On the 12th, President Clinton makes his first trip to South America, starting with a trip to Venezuela followed by Brazil and Argentina. Clinton signs U.S.-Venezuelan agreements regarding petroleum investment and anti-drug efforts, and promotes fast track trade authority. (*The Washington Post*, 10/13/1997)
November On the 15th, President Clinton assures Mexico and other Latin American nations that the Administration remains committed to free trade despite the House’s recent failure to pass fast track trade negotiating authority for the President. (*The Washington Post*, 11/15/1997)

1998

February On the 3rd, McLarty and the U.S. delegation are joined by First Lady Hillary Clinton at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. (*The Washington Post*, 02/03/1998)

April On the 15th, President Clinton and McLarty travel to Santiago, Chile for the Summit of the Americas, a chance to meet with all the leaders of Latin America. The summit’s main issue will be establishing the Free Trade Agreement of the Hemispheres by 2005, despite the fact that fast track authority has not passed the U.S. Congress. (*The Washington Post*, 04/15/1998)

Timelines


Selected Writings and Public Statements by Thomas McLarty


White House Structure


Chief of Staff


Counselor to the President


- John F. Harris, “General’s Arrest to Figure in Review of Mexico Drug War; Clinton Praises President Zedillo for Taking ‘Strong Action’ Against State Corruption,” *The Washington Post*, 02/21/1997.


THOMAS F. “MACK” MCLARTY, III SUGGESTED TOPICS

Prepared By Hannah Bradley St. Leger
The Miller Center

Joining the Clinton Administration

- At what point in the transition were you selected as White House Chief of Staff? What kind of discussions and understandings did you have with the President and others about your role? How did you view your role?

White House Chief of Staff

- Staffing. Your role (if any) in staffing the White House and executive branch. The personnel selection process. Relations with other White House offices and the EOP. With which members of the White House staff did you work most closely? Relationships with Panetta, Bowles, Podesta, Nussbaum, Reno, Lindsey, and Foster. Changes you noticed in the White House management and organization under subsequent Chiefs of Staff.
- What consumed most of your time the first 100 days? Were those efforts what you expected? Gays in the military. Health care policy. Relationship with First Lady Hillary Clinton. Incorporating her work into West Wing operations.
- Relationship with Congress. Did you work closely with the White House legislative affairs office or work independently? Relationship with Paster, Patrick Griffin. Targeting Republicans and moderate-to-conservative Democrats. Relations with the interest group community, especially business groups.
- Budget and Economics. Work on the National Economic Council. Failure of the stand-alone economic stimulus. Deferring new spending. Success of deficit reduction as part of the budget reconciliation bill. No Republican support for the measure. Relationships with Rubin, Greenspan, Bentsen, Tyson, Moynihan, Kerrey. Who else were key players on economic issues? Was Wall Street support of deficit reduction significant to passage?
- NAFTA. Relationship with Bill Daley and Mickey Kantor. Opposition from Gephardt and Bonior. Support from Foley. GATT.
- White House reorganization in December, 1993. What was Harold Ickes’ role in addition to promoting the health care reform plan? How successful was Philip Lader at managing day-to-day White House operations?
- Whitewater affair. Senate hearings. Independent counsel investigation. Affect on morale and degree of distraction from preferred items on your agenda.

Counselor to the President/Special Envoy to Latin America

- How did your responsibilities change when you became Counselor to the President? What were your priorities in this role?
1994 mid-term elections. The White House adjustment to the new political reality on Capitol Hill. Role of Dick Morris in this process.


1996 Presidential Campaign. Was there any change in your White House responsibilities during the campaign? How was coordination handled between the White House and the campaign team?

The development of the second term agenda and your role, if any, in the process.

Did you continue to advise the President informally after your departure from the staff? Your observations about the period 1998-2001.

**The Clinton Presidency in Retrospect**

- Strengths and weaknesses of the Clinton Administration. What features of the presidency (and your roles in it) were overlooked or misunderstood by the press?
- Your views on Clinton’s decision-making style and managerial style. Your views on Clinton as a public leader, legislative leader, world leader.
- How should the Clinton presidency be viewed in history?