



Research-in-Brief

TRANSITION DOCUMENTS AND ECONOMIC AGENDAS

In the past several months, various think tanks and organizations have released agendas filled with policy recommendations to be considered by the new administration. Most recently, analyses of the President's economic plan have emerged. Following is a list of those documents, with a short description and information about how to get them.

TRANSITION DOCUMENTS AND AGENDAS

The Progressive Policy Institute

Mandate for Change, edited by Will Marshall and Martin Schram, 388 pages, The Berkley Publishing Group, NY, \$11.95, available in bookstores.

The Progressive Policy Institute was founded in 1989 and has served as the policy think tank of the Democratic Leadership Council, chaired by Governor Clinton from 1990-91. *Mandate for Change* includes chapters written by seventeen contributors on topics ranging from health care reform to welfare reform, and foreign policy to national service. Each chapter concludes with a collection of policy recommendations listed under the heading of "Mandate for Action". Ideas promoted by PPI include: using the Earned Income Tax Credit to boost wage earners out of poverty; creating a new system of managed competition for health care; creating a youth apprenticeship program; and limiting AFDC eligibility to two years for able-bodied recipients.

Citizens Transition Project

Changing America: Blueprints for the New Administration, edited by Mark Green, 780 pages, Newmarket Press, NY, \$19.95, available in bookstores.

The Citizens Transition Project, formed in 1991, was a nonprofit group of several dozen advocates, authors, scholars, and government officials. The goal of the group was to prepare an agency by agency transition report to be used in the event that the 1992 elections brought a new administration to Washington, D.C. The product that emerged from the Project, entitled *Changing America*,

is divided into the following sections: Economic Policy, International Affairs, Justice Policy, Social Policy, Regulatory Policy, Environmental Policy, and Other Recommendations. IWPR members might take particular interest in the chapters entitled "Reducing Poverty," "Family Policy," "Children", and "Reproductive Rights".

The Cuomo Commission on Competitiveness

America's Agenda: Rebuilding Economic Strength, edited by Lee Smith, 350 pages, available from M.E. Sharpe Publishers, Armonk, NY, telephone: 1-800-541-6563.

The Commission on Competitiveness, appointed in 1987 by New York Governor Mario Cuomo, has produced this agenda for use by policymakers in both New York and the nation as a whole. The commission is composed of 28 members from the worlds of business, labor, government, finance, and academia. These individuals formed task forces to focus on six areas: public and private investment, industrial competitiveness, urban poverty, health care, international strategies, and the United States' relationship with Latin America. The recommendations provided by this report foster the idea that the country must find ways to strengthen its economy without losing its social cohesion.

Governor Bill Clinton and Senator Al Gore

Putting People First, 232 pages, Times Books (division of Random House), NY, \$7.99, available in bookstores.

Putting People First was published as a part of the Clinton/Gore Presidential Campaign. It provides an outline of what actions a Clinton/Gore administration would plan to take if elected by the American people. Chapters are relatively short and general in nature. The book does attempt to cover a wide range of issues including the areas of: welfare and work, health care, families, children, and women(!). Reproductive rights is the women's issue most thoroughly covered; briefly mentioned are the issues of childcare, family and medical leave, women's rights in the workplace, violence against women, and women's health care.

Institute for Women's Policy Research

The Labor Market, The Working Poor, and Welfare Reform: Policy Suggestions for the Clinton Administration, Heidi Hartmann and Roberta Spalter-Roth, 9 pages, available from IWPR (202) 785-5100.

The Institute's transition document proposes policies which the new administration could implement to improve the lives of America's working poor and welfare recipients. Suggestions include: raising the minimum wage, encouraging stronger enforcement of equal opportunity, and packaging work and welfare.

Economists' Policy Group on Women's Issues

Women's Policy Agenda, 1992, 5 pages, available from IWPR (202) 785-5100.

A group of economists co-chaired by Heidi Hartmann, Director of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, and Barbara Bergmann, professor of economics at American University, proposed this women's policy agenda prior to the 1992 Presidential election. The agenda was endorsed by nearly eighty economists, including several Nobel prize winners. The six point agenda calls for welfare reform, guaranteed health care, anti-discrimination measures, abortion rights, improved childcare, and an increase in taxes.

Arlington Hill Working Group

Arlington Hill Working Paper, 6 pages, available from IWPR (202) 785-5100.

The Arlington Hill Working Group, convened by Betty Friedan with the assistance of Linda Tarr-Whelan (Center for Policy Alternatives) and others in December of 1992, was composed of fifty women leaders seeking to develop an economic agenda that could complement the new administration's economic priorities for the "first 100 days". The Arlington Hill paper emphasizes the importance for women of the following: flexible work structures, equal pay for work of equal value, expansion of women's entrepreneurship, and a re-structuring of our country's welfare system.

National Displaced Homemakers Network (and coalition)

The Women's Job Training Agenda, available from the NDHN, \$5.00, (202) 467-6346.

The Women's Job Training Agenda has been created by a coalition of national organizations. The report has been in development for over a year and now seeks to respond to President Clinton's declaration that education and job training are a national priority. It lays out a series of recommendations highlighting the unique needs of women in employment and training programs. The agenda covers the areas of job creation, education and training program content, apprenticeships, welfare-to-work programs, and support services.

ANALYSES OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ECONOMIC PLAN

President Bill Clinton

A Vision of Change for America, 145 pages, for sale by the Government Printing Office, \$7.50 (202) 783-3238.

A Vision of Change for America is the report submitted by President Clinton as an accompanying document to his address made to the Joint Session of Congress on February 17, 1993. This report provides the specifics of the economic plan proposed by President Clinton. The plan is composed of three major elements: an economic stimulus to provide immediate job creation while establishing a foundation for long-term economic growth; long-term public investments; and a balanced deficit-reduction plan.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

A New Direction: The Clinton Budget and Economic Plan, by Robert Greenstein and Paul Leonard, 60 pages, available from the CBPP at (202) 408-1080.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities released this analysis of the Clinton budget and economic plan in March of 1993. It examines the stimulus package, the investment package, the spending cuts, and the tax increases proposed by the new administration. The report dedicates one section specifically to analyzing the affect of President Clinton's plan on low-income Americans. The CBPP report concludes that while the new plan is the most significant since Reagan's plan of 1981, it is not without its flaws.

National Women's Law Center (202) 328-5160

Women's Legal Defense Fund (202) 986-2539

Statements in Support of the President's Economic Plan

Both the National Women's Law Center and the Women's Legal Defense Fund have released one page statements supporting President Clinton's economic plan. The two groups both view the new plan as a means of helping women and their families by addressing the human needs deficit, the investment deficit and the budget deficit. The groups acknowledge that there are aspects of the plan with which they disagree, however overall they believe the outlined plan is likely to improve the lives of women and their families.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) is an independent, nonprofit, research institute dedicated to conducting and disseminating research that informs public policy debates affecting women. This Research-in-Brief was prepared by Melinda Gish in May 1993. Members and affiliates of IWPR receive several Briefs and additional papers and materials. The introductory membership fee is \$35 per year for individuals; additional categories of membership, with additional benefits, are available for individuals and organizations. For more information call (202) 785-5100.