

PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES

KEY MISSIONS

The greatness of America lies in the ingenuity of our people, the strength of our institutions, and our willingness to work together to meet the Nation's needs.

The President seeks to build on this special heritage, to encourage still greater contributions of voluntary effort and personal involvement, and to form a strong and creative partnership between the private sector and its public servants for the economic and social progress of America.

The Task Force shares the President's concern for those people affected by the fundamental change now occurring in the servicing of social programs, as responsibility for those programs passes from the Federal level to the state and community levels.

The Task Force also shares the view that while much good work is already being done at the local, state and national levels by private institutions -- the family, religious organizations, business concerns, unions, philanthropic organizations, civic associations and others -- much more can be done with better organization and coordination.

As catalyst in the attainment of this higher level of voluntarism and partnership, the President's Task Force is mandated:

1. To identify existing examples of successful or promising private initiatives and public/private partnerships and to give these models national recognition in order to promote their broader use.
2. To encourage increased and more effective use of the human and financial contribution resources of religious groups, businesses, unions, foundations and philanthropic organizations, including more creative use of leadership, management expertise, training and volunteer work.
3. To encourage the formation and continuation of community partnerships -- private sector organizations working with local government -- to identify and prioritize community needs and then marshal the appropriate human and financial resources.
4. To identify government obstacles to private initiatives and make recommendations for their removal, and to formulate new incentives to inspire and incite the private sector to undertake new initiatives.
5. To contribute to the development of public policy in areas of concern to the Task Force.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES

C. William Verity, Chairman

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December 6, 1981

REMARKS BY C. WILLIAM VERITY, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDENT'S
TASK FORCE ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES AND CHAIRMAN OF ARMCO,
BEFORE THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON VOLUNTARISM, DECEMBER 8, 1981,
LONE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

I'm delighted that I could be here for such an important national workshop. And it's obvious by your presence that you feel just as strongly as I do about the role of voluntarism in this country.

I believe that the future social needs of the United States will depend on a rekindling of a sense of community in our nation where people from all walks of life address the economic and social development of their communities in a coordinated way. More than ever before, this will require the time, talents, and money of volunteers.

As chairman of the President's Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives, I believe that our group has a challenging opportunity to help coordinate these voluntary efforts.

Last week at our first organizational meeting in Washington, the President told us that he expects us to build on the demonstrated willingness of Americans in their private lives and through their private institutions to work together-- to reach out to respond to local, state and national needs.

Americans already volunteer more than any other people in the world. In fact they performed some \$100 billion in labor and contributed \$47 billion in cash to voluntary organizations last year alone.

And yet, I believe that there exist even greater opportunities to mobilize the American people into concerted efforts for tackling this country's problems through the creation of community partnerships. The President hopes that the legacy of our Task Force will be the creation of these public/private partnerships comprised of all elements of the community--including government, business, unions, religious and civic organizations--as a forum for devising new ways to address local needs.

If you're wondering how our Task Force is going to help establish these community partnerships, I would like to share with you the five points of our mission statement.

First, we intend to identify existing examples of successful or promising private initiatives and public/private partnerships and give these models national recognition to promote their broader use. We will not publish a weekly list of the "Top Forty" in private initiatives but will make every effort to publically recognize outstanding examples. I was glad to hear that part of your workshop discussions today will center around the activities and structure of successful public and private volunteer programs.

We will also be encouraging increased and more effective use of human and financial contribution resources of religious groups, businesses, unions, foundations and philanthropic organizations. We will promote more creative use of leadership, management expertise, training and volunteer work. I believe

that the private sector possesses leadership and management skills that could prove invaluable in assisting communities.

Our third mission is to encourage the formation and continuation of community partnerships--private sector organizations working with local government--to identify and prioritize community needs and then marshal the appropriate human and financial resources. In fact, the group that is assembled here today--comprised of local officials, labor, private sector and community leaders--is representative of just the type of mix we hope will begin to take a collective look at problems in communities throughout this country.

In many cities, this type of cooperation is already taking place. Last summer, the New York City Partnership created 14,000 jobs for inner-city youth. Government agencies helped, but it was a private sector initiative and a private sector success. In my home of Middletown we have developed our own community partnership to look at our problems and take appropriate action in a concerted way.

In fact, many citizens across this country are beginning to take a fresh look at the way social services are provided in this nation. They are tired of expensive, inefficient and over-regulated Washington programs which in many cases don't address local needs at all.

This Task Force will not be looking for answers to the broad issues facing this country--such as jobs, health care, housing, and education--but will concentrate instead on making it easier for the private sector to become increasingly involved in community service as an avenue for responding to those problems.

One way in which we intend to do that is by identifying government obstacles to private initiatives and making recommendations for their removal. I noticed that your sessions will include discussions on obstacles as well and we look forward to the results of that workshop. We will also be formulating incentives to inspire and incite the private sector to undertake new initiatives.

And finally, we will contribute to the development of public policy in areas of concern to the Task Force.

We plan to carry out these missions through 10 action-oriented committees chaired by Task Force members who have tremendous experience in each area of concern.

Obviously, we have a big job ahead of us. And our success depends in part on the degree of participation, expertise, and commitment of each Task Force member. But it also depends on the support we receive from local community and business leaders like yourselves.

With the shifting role in the balance of power from Federal to state and local governments, stronger and more active local leadership in planning and managing the future social needs of communities will be essential.

We will need your help in creating these community partnerships, nurturing the personal ties, providing the direction, and sustaining the effort required to develop more effective relationships between the public and private sectors.

I believe that 1982 will be a year of transition-- not only as the President's economic recovery program takes hold but also as more and more decisions are made at the local level instead of in Washington.

Voluntarism at the local level is part of our heritage. It can also play a big role in the future economic and social development of this country. We look to you to help us put America's future back in the hands of its people.

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