

BOSTON Herald

4 THE BOSTON HERALD, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1995

Hub teens inspired by Clinton meeting

By JASON B. JOHNSON

While not as noteworthy as a Cabinet session or summit with the nation's governors, President Clinton's meeting with a group of Hub youths yesterday served as a lasting inspiration — moving one girl to tears.

Kristy Foster of Mission Hill became overwhelmed with emotion after Clinton pulled from his briefcase a letter Foster had written in 1993 telling him about the friends she had lost to violence.

Foster, choking back

tears, read her letter back to Clinton saying how his response had inspired her to join the Youth Council.

"Your letter made me realize, even though a member of your staff wrote it, that even the president cares," Foster said.

The president met yesterday with 18 members of the mayor's citywide Youth Council at the Parkman House. They raised concerns ranging from education to gun control and youth violence.

"I'm a Republican. (At least) I'm gonna be, I know that," said Elizabeth Sulli-

van, 17, of Roslindale. "(But) he was pleasant and really informed."

"He seems like a nice, down-to-earth guy, and he cared," said Tobias Nanda, 16, of Beacon Hill. "He listened. He wasn't like just the run-of-the-mill politician."

"I liked his 'New Covenant,'" added Marlo Diaz, 17, of Jamaica Plain. "It challenges us. Our role is to be the best counselors to city youth that we can be."

Formed last May, the Youth Council meets twice a month to participate in skill-building workshops



SPECIAL GIFT: President Clinton receives a T-shirt from a member of the Mayor's Youth Council during a meeting with Boston teen-agers yesterday at the Parkman House. At right is Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

Staff photo by Matt Stone

tackling issues facing neighborhood teens.

The Youth Council reassembles the president's

national youth service program, which several Republicans in Congress have threatened to elimi-

nate.

"It would be a great shame if that got eliminated," Nanda said.