does not include 2.1 million Puerto Ricans living in the U.S. ...,” Grace said, adding, “900,000 live in New York, and they’re all on food stamps. So this food stamp program is basically a Puerto Rican program.”

The Congressional Budget Office and the General Accounting Office criticized the commission for seeking to change government policy instead of simply identifying waste and inefficiency. In fact, Grace acknowledged that some 70 percent of the commission’s recommendations would require congressional approval.

Now Citizens Against Government Waste has taken up the cause. Grace is chair of the organization; newspaper columnist Jack Anderson is co-chair.

In the packets sent out this year, Grace tells readers that he is seeking their support “on behalf of the commission.” The official-looking letters, signed by Grace, ask citizens to work to help cut the federal deficit, which he says is almost entirely made up of waste. He claims that $110 billion has already been saved by implementing Grace Commission proposals and that $424 billion could be saved if all its guidelines were followed.

A spokesman for Citizens Against Government Waste says the group has received about 350,000 contributions, totaling about $7 million, in response to the call for cost-cutting. Asked if using the name of the Grace Commission so prominently could be misleading, he says, “not really,” claiming the organization is the “successor to the Grace Commission” and that it’s merely “using a name that’s well-known to people.”

—D.K.

SEEING CRIMSON

In the heat of last year’s presidential campaign, George Bush attacked Michael Dukakis for espousing liberal policies “born in Harvard Yard’s boutique.” And he boasted to a Houston audience last June, “when I wanted to learn the ways of the world, I didn’t go to the Kennedy School [at Harvard]. I came to Texas.”

One year later, President Bush’s Harvard-bashing days seem to be behind him. Of the 200-plus appointments made by the Yale-educated president, more than four dozen are Harvard University graduates or faculty members. Some Texans may also be surprised that several high-ranking White House aides have ties to Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, for example, was director of the Kennedy School’s Institute of Politics.

A review of more than 225 Bush appointees—biographies for some aides were not available—reveal that at least 10 have been professors, lecturers or fellows at Harvard. More than two dozen have law or other advanced degrees from Harvard, while more than a dozen were undergraduates at the university. Many of the appointees have multiple degrees from the Ivy League school.

A White House spokesman says it is policy not to comment on presidential hiring trends and would not discuss Bush’s Harvard-related appointments.

Among those appointments are Roger B. Porter, Bush’s assistant for economic and domestic policy, who earned a PhD from Harvard and served as an IBM professor of government at the school. Robert D. Blackwill, a special assistant to the president for European and Soviet affairs, was an associate dean and faculty member at the Kennedy School between 1983 and 1985. And White House insider C. Boyden Gray, counsel to the president, graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1964.

The top Massachusetts resident working in the White House—deputy chief of staff Andrew H. Card Jr. —attended the Kennedy School. The ambassador to Israel, William A. Brown, has three Harvard degrees, while Robert R. Glauber, undersecretary of the Treasury for finance, earned two Harvard degrees and joined the university faculty in 1964. The man who helps choose Bush’s staff, director of presidential personnel and Texan, Chase Untermeyer, also has a degree from Harvard.

As for other Texans, well over a dozen top administration officials, including four cabinet members, have personal or academic ties to the Lone Star State.

—Dinah Wisenberg

(Dinah Wisenberg first wrote about President Bush’s change of heart for the States News Service.)