

# WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK (W.I.N.)

DRAFT

**AGENDA**  
May 28, 1996

DRAFT

7:10-7:30 St. Augustine's Choir

7:30 I. Welcome - Rev. DeVeaux, Metropolitan A.M.E.

7:32 II. Opening Prayer - Rev. Ray East, St. Theresa Avila R.C.

7:34 III. ~~What And Why?~~ Roll Call

7:44 IV. Recognition of Guests

7:46 V. Greetings

A. Congresswoman Norton (2)

B. ~~Senator Jeffords (2)~~

7:50 ~~7:52~~ VI. WHO ARE WE?

What And Why of W.I.N. - Rev. Edmonds, Mt. Lebanon Baptist (2)

7:55 VII. W.I.N. Agenda

A. Jobs - ~~Committee Person~~ JOHN COLLINS - ST. AUGUSTINE'S

~~8:01~~ 7:59 B. Crime and Safety

1. Rev. Leonel Cruz, Augustana Lutheran (2)

2. Rita Grieco - St. Mark's Episcopal (3)

3. Police Chief ~~Selsby~~ SOULSBY (2)

~~8:09~~ 8:07 C. Education and Youth

1. ~~Education Committee Person~~ TOMMYE GRANT - OLV. (3)

2. Ms. Fields - Principal, J.O. Wilson School ~~parental~~ (3)

~~8:25~~ D. Youth

3. Loretta Gray - Teacher, St. Theresa Avila ~~after school~~ (3)

4. Student - (2)

5. Rev. O'Donovan - President, Georgetown (3)

6. Dr. Trachtenberg - President, George Washington (2) (3)

7. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (8)

ALLIES (?)  
RESPONSES

~~132~~ ~~8:34~~ VIII. Choir Selection - St. Augustine's Choir

38 ~~8:40~~ E. Housing

1. John More - St. John's Episcopal (2)

2. Potential Homeowner (2)

3. Church Commitment

~~a. Cardinal Hickey, R.C. Diocese~~ Bishop OLIVIER (2)

~~b. Bishop Haines, Episcopal Diocese~~ (2)

~~c. Bishop Yeakel, United Methodist Conference~~ (2)

~~d. Bishop Jansen, ELCA~~ (2)

~~Federal Government Commitment - Henry Cisneros, Sec'y H.U.D.~~

ALLIES  
RESPONSES (?)

John Collins  
Rita  
Tommye  
John More

parental  
Livelihood  
after school  
support for  
fundraising



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001

FAX TRANSMISSION

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1996

NUMBER OF PAGES (including this page) 5

To: MR. ARNIE GRAF

FROM: ROBERTA ACHIENBERG

VALERIE REED

PHONE: 302-655-5488 FAX  
HOLIDAY INN

202-703-3636 PHONE

202-703-4087 FAX

COMMENTS: THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOUNDATION AND THE  
WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK

DATE: March 19, 1996

SUBJ: The Industrial Areas Foundation and the  
Washington Interfaith Network

In our recent conversation we discussed the formation of the Washington Interfaith Network (W.I.N) by the Industrial Areas Foundation (I.A.F). In particular, I described their plan to create after-hours programs in the D.C. public schools and their request for your participation as First Lady in the kick-off of their efforts on May 28, 1996. I promised to provide you with background information on the I.A.F. and the W.I.N. initiative.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The I.A.F was founded in 1940 by Saul Alinsky. In 1972, Alinsky died and the Board of Directors named Ed Chambers as the Executive Director. Today, the I.A.F is staffed by Mr. Chambers and seven national staff. The national staff have regional responsibilities to oversee local I.A.F. chapters and to organize new efforts in communities that invite the I.A.F. to assist them in creating broad-based, multi-racial economically diverse organizations.

There are fifty organizations in twenty states and Washington D.C., that are affiliated with the I.A.F. These organizations represent approximately 2,000 congregations and two and a half million people. The I.A.F is also affiliated with five organizations in Great Britain as well as experimental efforts in South Africa.

#### **WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK**

W.I.N is the I.A.F affiliate in Washington, D.C. comprised of 50 congregations from every neighborhood and ward. The major thrust of W.I.N's work is to create a Youth and Neighborhood Development Fund. This fund's purpose is two-fold; to create a critical mass of new homeowners, and to keep the D.C. public schools open from 3:00 - 6:00 P.M. It is during this time of day that young people experience the most assaults and the highest rates of teen pregnancy. Through an intensive extended day



program, W.I.N seeks to provide a safe environment in which to conduct academic, recreational and cultural enrichment activities for the District's young people. Further, it is a way to involve parents, church members and community residents in the public schools.

To support this fund, W.I.N is seeking the assistance of church leaders, the legal community, university presidents, banks and large corporate foundations. On May 28, 1996, at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, 1518 "M" Street, N.W., W.I.N will hold its founding convention. Two Thousand W.I.N members and numerous community leaders are expected to attend.

#### **HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Over the years I.A.F affiliated organizations have created 4,500 homes for low and moderate income people for homeownership. Over 4,000 homes have been built or are currently under construction. Additionally, there are commitments to begin construction in the next year of another 2,000 plus units. Most of these homes have been built under the "NEHEMIAH" concept, i.e., creating a critical mass of new homes in order to recreate "whole" neighborhoods in economically distressed areas. I.A.F has done this in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Prince George's County, Maryland, Los Angeles and Memphis. I.A.F has also been instrumental in creating hundreds of new homes in cities throughout Texas, including San Antonio.

I.A.F. organizations have been successful in getting local and state governments to invest major funding in infrastructure development in many of the cities in which I.A.F operates. The most notable of these has been in San Antonio and throughout South Texas where I.A.F has been instrumental in bringing water and sewerage to the "colonias".

#### **YOUTH AND SCHOOLS**

Two I.A.F organizations in cooperation with the New York City School System have founded and are operating three new public high schools -- two in Brooklyn, and one in the Bronx.

In Texas, I.A.F. organizations have created the "Alliance School Project" to change the culture of the public schools through a partnership initiated by I.A.F with school principals, teachers, parents and students. As a result of intensive extended day programs and other efforts there have been some remarkable results in schools that had previously been performing poorly.

In Baltimore, I.A.F created the College Bound Foundation. Funded by corporate donors and local foundations, the Foundation encourages and offers financial support to public school students to go to college. The Foundation has become a model.

I.A.F in Los Angeles has one of the most extensive efforts in gang prevention in the country. It is known as "HOPE AND YOUTH". It involves I.A.F organizations, churches, the legal community, the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County.

In Baltimore, I.A.F is attempting to create a "child first authority". The legislation to create the authority is now before the Maryland State Legislature. It has the support of both Mayor Schmoke and Governor Glendenning. If passed, it will be the first government entity with bonding capacity to be established for the exclusive benefit of children. The goal of this authority is to finance the effort to keep the schools open from 3:00 - 6:00 P.M. for academic, recreational and cultural enrichment programming.

#### **JOBS**

In Texas, I.A.F has organized QUEST. QUEST is a very large partnership of I.A.F, government and local corporations. QUEST trains low wage workers for better jobs. Last year it was recognized by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Through the Ford Foundation the Kennedy School gave I.A.F in San Antonio the Innovations in Government Award. In San Antonio, QUEST has already trained and placed 500 people in decent paying jobs.

In Memphis, I.A.F has organized the "BETTER JOBS" Program. This is somewhat similar to "QUEST". This program has placed large numbers of people in the allied health field and in truck driving jobs.

In Baltimore, I.A.F in partnership with a large public service employees union has created a low wage workers association. This partnership initiated and worked to pass the first "Living-Wage" Bill through the Baltimore City Council. This bill ensures that thousands of low wage service workers will earn a living wage. (Currently, \$6.50 per hour, the wage will rise to \$7.70 per hour by 1998). This effort has received major national media attention from CNN, ABC, Chicago Tribune, N.P.R., and others.

**CONCLUSION**

I am very supportive of W.I.N.'s efforts and I am enthusiastic about their May 28, 1996 event. I think W.I.N., if properly supported and funded can help improve the quality of life in this community. We have helped W.I.N. make contact with Mr. James A. Johnson, Chairman and CEO of the Fannie Mae Association and have tried to facilitate a local connection between W.I.N. and the Cities and Schools organization (funded, at \$10 million in the HUD Extender Bill to help at-risk youth stay in school). Roberta Achtenberg, Senior Advisor at HUD, has been working as liaison to W.I.N. and can provide your staff with more detailed information concerning the May 28, 1996, event, with whatever information or assistance you may require.

cc: Honorable William J. Clinton  
Vice President Al Gore  
James A. Johnson, Chairman and CEO, Fannie Mae Association

administrators, trainers



## **VAUGHN NEXT CENTURY LEARNING CENTER**

### **Background**

The Vaughn Next Century Learning Center in Pacoima is one of the leading charter schools in the country. The school -- which achieved its charter status in 1993 -- has earned a national reputation for its innovative approaches to education, particularly its strong emphasis on parental involvement. Yvonne Chan, the Vaughn Center's iconoclastic principal, is largely credited for the school's transformation from the lowest-achieving elementary school in the San Fernando Valley into one of the most promising charter schools in the nation.

At the heart of the Vaughn Center's approach to education is its onsite Family Center, which works to alleviate some of the social obstacles to education facing Vaughn's predominantly poor, Latino and Asian American population. The Family Center serves as a one-stop referral center, helping families of Vaughn students obtain a range of basic health and social services, from primary health services like immunizations and dental care to child care, parenting classes and family counseling. In return for services, the Center asks parents to spend time volunteering at the school. The Family Center also offers a number of programs for students, like after-school tutoring and gang prevention programs. The Family Center is a good example of a public/private investment in education -- in addition to state dollars, the Center receives funds from the United Way and the Los Angeles Educational Partnership, a coalition of local businesses that support educational reform.

The Vaughn Center has found other innovative ways to encourage parental involvement -- for instance, when some parents told Principal Chan that they could not attend parent teacher association meetings because they lacked access to child care or transportation or had inconvenient work hours, Chan drove to their neighborhoods and met with groups of parents in their homes. The school has also instituted a policy of calling students' homes whenever they are absent -- a policy that, according to Principal Chan, has resulted in a daily attendance rate of 99%.

Located in one of the poorest areas of the San Fernando Valley, the Vaughn Center faces an array of challenges -- until last year, for example, the school was located next to several broken-down houses that Principal Chan said were inhabited by crack dealers. At that point, the school was so overcrowded that it needed three rotating schedules to accommodate its students, so the school fought for state funding to bulldoze the crack houses and build new classrooms. In August, the school celebrated the opening of 14 new classrooms and other facilities. During the construction, Principal Chan also obtained permission from the school district to lengthen the Vaughn Center's school year to 200 days, 20 days more than the statewide standard, so that all 1,150 Vaughn students could attend school simultaneously. This year, the Vaughn Center also became the first public elementary school in the Los Angeles Unified School District to institute a mandatory uniform policy.

### **Recent Controversy**

In December, the Los Angeles Unified School District reported the findings of its first comprehensive review of the district's nine charter schools. The review showed marked



improvement in student attendance, minority integration and parental involvement, but found no corresponding increase in student test scores. According to the district review, the Vaughn Center's standardized test scores improved the least among all of the local charter schools, with declines in reading, math and language. Principal Chan has attributed this decline to a new policy of testing all of the school's students, including those who are traditionally exempted from standardized tests (for instance, students who have been recently mainstreamed from bilingual classes). In general, supporters of California's charter schools have objected to measuring academic achievement solely on the basis of test scores, particularly in light of the short time the state's charter schools have been in operation.

In a recent financial review of the Vaughn Center, the L.A. Board of Education found that the school saved a total of \$1 million in 1994 (although Chan claims more savings.) While some of the savings have been attributed to more cost-effective management, the Board of Education calculated that most of the school's surplus came from financial breaks that the district gave the school. Principal Chan is particularly proud of the surplus, and has publicly disagreed with the Board's assessment. Dr. Chan is using the surplus to reinvest in the school.

### Principal Chan

Principal Yvonne Chan's innovative efforts at the Vaughn Center have been lauded on both sides of the political spectrum -- Senator Boxer has honored Chan at her "Women Making History" luncheon; and Mayor Riordan donates computer equipment to the school through his private foundation. Chan is, however, a controversial figure who has had her share of clashes with the school district bureaucracy. She has made her disdain of government regulation well-known, and has been a vocal advocate of dismantling the Los Angeles Unified School District. She has also expressed her support for a block grant approach to the federal school lunch program. Chan's detractors say that she does not give enough credit to the teachers, parents and other administrators who are working to improve the Vaughn Center, and that she is overly concerned with her own publicity. Even Chan's critics, however, acknowledge that she is tremendously committed to the Vaughn Center and its students.

### California and Charter Schools

In 1992, California became the second state in the nation to pass a charter school law, permitting a limited number of public schools in the state to operate independently of their school districts while continuing to receive district funding. The Vaughn Center was the second of nine charter schools established in the Los Angeles Unified School District. As you know, you discuss the President's Charter Schools Initiative and the Improving America's Schools Act in *It Takes A Village* (pp. 263 - 264). See attached background paper for budgetary status and talking points on charter schools.

### Format

You will be greeted at the Vaughn Center by Dr. Chan, who lead you on a short tour of the school's "Write to Read" computer lab, where kindergarten and first-grade students will be working on computers, followed by a drop-by to a classroom of second-graders. After the



To: Lisa Fr: June This one has  
Melanne's  
change.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK  
METROPOLITAN A.M.E. CHURCH  
MAY 28, 1996

I am so happy to be here. Thank-you so much for inviting me to be a part of this very momentous evening for the citizens -- especially the children -- of this great city.

I want to congratulate the Washington Interfaith Network for bringing together such a remarkable, committed group of individuals, church congregations, and organizations from every neighborhood and every ward in this city.

It is impossible not to feel the energy, the hope, and the spirit of everyone in this magnificent sanctuary. And fellow Washingtonians, I have no doubt that we can all translate this energy, this great potential, this abundant hope into something wonderful for our children, their parents, our neighborhoods and our schools.

The decisions and commitments we are making tonight are just as important as any that are made in other parts of this city whether at the White House, Capitol Hill or City Hall. Tonight we are making a commitment to the future, a commitment to education, and a commitment to bringing more hope into the lives of our children.

We are deciding that we can't just sit and worry over news reports on the state of education in this city. We can't just allow our parents to lower their expectations and our children to limit their ambitions ~~for the future~~ while we sit at home and pray for things to change. Tonight we are deciding to make things happen. We are making sure that the children living in the capital city of the richest country of the world can achieve the American Dream if they are willing to work for it.

There are many things that can wait in this world. But our children cannot. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Each child presents all of us with an opportunity to mold citizens who will never depart from a path of personal responsibility and civic duty, and who will enrich our society by making the most of their innate gifts and talents. But the time between youth and adulthood is short. There is so much our children must learn before they can make their ways safely and successfully through life. That is why we all must work together for our children's sake.

The initiative to keep our public schools open past three o'clock is crucial. If we all work together, our children will soon be able look to the halls of learning not as places to flee come three o'clock, but as places of academic, recreational and cultural enrichment. Schools that once sat dark in the



afternoons will be enlivened by the sounds of children practicing their multiplication tables or reading aloud and of teachers and parents meeting to find ways of fulfilling the needs of their children.

Not only will our children have a quiet sanctuary for study and a safe venue for exercise, they will be surrounded by volunteers from the community. These mentors will let our children know that there are many more of us in this city who believe in them, who do care if they finish their homework, who do care if they are having trouble keeping up with the classwork, who do care if they make it to graduation day.

One of my predecessors, Lady Bird Johnson once said, that "children are likely to live up to what you believe of them." Tonight, we are saying that we believe they can be anything they want to be, that their choices are not limited by their surroundings -- and that we -- all of us -- will help them.

I am confident that our effort will be successful. [As a young college student, I had the privilege to meet Saul Alinsky, the father of this community participation movement. You are demonstrating that his ideas are as relevant today as they were in the 1960s.]

I have met with communities across this nation who have made the commitment we are making tonight. I have seen vibrant, first-class schools in some of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia, in Corpus Christi and in the San Fernando Valley in California. These schools succeeded because of the efforts of committed teachers, parents, and community members who took an active role in volunteering and mentoring students.

As sojourners in this city, my family and I have benefitted from the great warmth and hospitality of Washingtonians. And I want you to know that I will do everything I can to help you make your goals for children a reality.

There is no subject more important, no issue that should be more decisive, than how we see and treat our children. Children have no say in the political, business and economic decisions made by our nation. That is why we can and must be their voice.

And by the grace of God, together we will make a difference.

###



FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK  
METROPOLITAN A.M.E. CHURCH  
MAY 28, 1996

Thank-you so much for inviting me to be a part of this momentous evening for the citizens -- especially the children -- of this great city.

I want to congratulate the Washington Interfaith Network for bringing together such a remarkable, committed group of individuals, church congregations, and organizations from every neighborhood and every ward in this city.

Standing here, I can't help but feel the energy, the hope, and the spirit of everyone in this magnificent sanctuary. And I have no doubt that we can all translate this energy, this great potential, this abundant hope into something wonderful for our children, their parents, our neighborhoods and our schools.

The decisions and commitments we are making tonight are just as important as those made elsewhere in this city whether at the White House, Capitol Hill or ~~City Hall~~. <sup>The District of Columbia</sup> Tonight we are making a commitment to the future, a commitment to raising the quality of life in this city, and a commitment to bringing more quality education and hope into the lives of our children.

We are deciding that we can't just sit and worry over news reports on the state of education in this city. We can't just allow our parents to lower their expectations and our children to limit their ambitions while we sit at home and pray for things to change. Tonight we are deciding to make things happen. We are deciding that each of us has a stake in the success of our schools and our children. And we are vowing to make sure that the children living in the capital city of the richest country of the world can achieve the American Dream if they are willing to work for it.

There are many things that can wait in this world. But our children cannot. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Each child presents us with an opportunity to mold citizens who will follow a path of personal responsibility and civic duty, and who will enrich our society by making the most of their innate gifts and talents.

But the time between youth and adulthood is short. There is so much our children must learn before they can make their ways safely and successfully through life. That is why we all must work together to prepare them.

The initiative to keep our public schools open past three o'clock is crucial. If we all work together, schools that once sat dark and empty in the afternoons will be enlivened by the



sounds of children practicing their multiplication tables or reading aloud and of teachers and parents meeting to find ways of fulfilling the needs of their children.

Not only will our children have a sanctuary where they can study, exercise and explore their imaginations through the arts and music, they will be surrounded by volunteers from the community. These mentors will let our children know that there are many more of us in this city who believe in them, who do care if they finish their homework, who do care if they are having trouble keeping up with the classwork, who do care if they make it to graduation day.

One of my predecessors, Lady Bird Johnson, once said that "children are likely to live up to what you believe of them." Tonight, we are saying that we believe they can be anything they want to be, that their choices are not limited by their surroundings and that we -- all of us -- will help them.

I am confident that our effort will be successful. [As a young college student, I had the privilege to meet Saul Alinsky, the father of this community participation movement. You are demonstrating that his ideas are as relevant today as they were in the 1960s.]

I have met with people in communities across this nation who have made the commitment we are making tonight. I have seen vibrant, first-class schools in some of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia, in Corpus Christi and in the San Fernando Valley in California. These schools succeeded because of the efforts of committed teachers, parents, and community members who took an active role in volunteering and mentoring students.

As sojourners in this city, my family and I have benefitted from the great warmth and hospitality of Washingtonians. And I want you to know that I will do everything I can to help you make your goals for children a reality.

There is no subject more important, no issue that should be more decisive, than how we see and treat our children. Children have no say in the political, business and economic decisions made by our nation. That is why we can and must be their voice.

And by the grace of God, together we will make a difference.

###



FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK  
METROPOLITAN A.M.E. CHURCH  
MAY 28, 1996

I am so happy to be here. Thank-you so much for inviting me to be a part of this very momentous evening for the citizens -- especially the children -- of this great city.

I want to congratulate the Washington Interfaith Network on bringing together such a remarkable, committed group of individuals, church congregations, and organizations from every neighborhood and every ward in this city. *- For what good day for JoBS, Hsin*

It is impossible not to feel the energy, the hope, and the spirit of everyone in this magnificent sanctuary. And fellow Washingtonians, I have no doubt that we can all translate this energy, this great potential, this abundant hope into something wonderful for our children and our schools. *Education*

You know, a great many important decisions are made everyday in the White House down the road and across town on Capitol Hill, but I think those decisions are not nearly as important as the decision and commitments we are making tonight. Tonight we are making a commitment to the future, a commitment to education, and a commitment to bringing more hope into the lives of our children. *merit*

We are deciding that we can't just sit and cluck over news reports on the state of education in this city. We can't just allow our parents to lower their expectations and our children to limit their ambitions for the future while we sit at home and worry and pray for things to change. Tonight we are deciding to make things happen. We are recognizing the role each of us can play in making sure that the children living in the capital city of the richest country of the world can achieve the American Dream if they are willing to work for it. *worry?*

There are many things that can wait in this world. But our children cannot. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Each child presents all of us with an opportunity to mold citizens who will never depart from a path of personal responsibility and civic duty, and who will always make the most of their innate gifts and talents. But the time between youth and adulthood is short. There is so much our children must learn before they can make their ways safely and successfully through life. That is why we all must work together for our children's sake.

*The*  
This initiative to keep our public schools open past three o'clock is crucial. If we all work together, our children will soon be able look to the halls of learning not as places to flee come three o'clock, but as places of academic, recreational and



*total parental involvement*

W. H. Cole  
of San Francisco

cultural enrichment. Not only will they have a quiet sanctuary for study or a safe venue for exercise, they will be surrounded by volunteers from the community. These mentors will let our children know that there are many more of us in this city who believe in them, who do care if they finish their homework, who do care if they are having trouble keeping up with the classwork, who do care if they make it to graduation day.

*Vol*

One of my predecessors, Lady Bird Johnson once said, that "children are likely to live up to what you believe of them." Tonight, we are saying that we believe they can be anything they want to be -- police officers, doctors, teachers, hairdressers, presidents -- and that we -- all of us -- will help them.

*not ltd by men boundaries*

I am confident that our effort will be successful. [As a young college student, I had the privilege to meet Saul Alinsky, the father of this community participation movement. His ideas are as relevant today as they were in the 1960s.]

*Lynne demonstrates (has you want to add anything?)*

I have met with communities across this nation who have made the commitment we are making tonight. I have seen vibrant, first-class schools in some of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia, in Corpus Christi and in the San Fernando Valley in California. These schools succeeded because of the efforts of committed teachers, parents, and community members who took an active role in volunteering and mentoring students.

As sojourners in this city, my family and I have benefitted from the great warmth and hospitality of Washingtonians. And I want you to know that I will do everything I can to help you make your goals for our public schools a reality.

*children*

There is no subject more important, no issue that should be more decisive, than how we see and treat our children. Children have no say in the political, business and economic decisions made by our nation. That is why we can and must be their voice.

And by the grace of God, together we will make a difference.

###



FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK  
METROPOLITAN A.M.E. CHURCH  
MAY 28, 1996

~~I am so happy to be here.~~ Thank-you so much for inviting me to be a part of this ~~very~~ momentous evening for the citizens -- especially the children -- of this great city.

I want to congratulate the Washington Interfaith Network for bringing together such a remarkable, committed group of individuals, church congregations, and organizations from every neighborhood and every ward in this city.

*standing here, I can't help but feel*  
~~It is impossible not to feel the energy, the hope, and the spirit of everyone in this magnificent sanctuary. And fellow Washingtonians,~~ I have no doubt that we can all translate this energy, this great potential, this abundant hope into something wonderful for our children, their parents, our neighborhoods and our schools.

*more made possible*  
The decisions and commitments we are making tonight are just as important as ~~any that are made in other parts of this city~~ whether at the White House, Capitol Hill or City Hall. Tonight we are making a commitment to the future, a commitment to raising the quality of life in this city, and a commitment to bringing more quality education and hope into the lives of our children.

We are deciding that we can't just sit and worry over news reports on the state of education in this city. We can't just allow our parents to lower their expectations and our children to limit their ambitions while we sit at home and pray for things to change. Tonight we are deciding to make things happen. We are deciding that each of us has a stake in the success of our schools and our children. And we are vowing to make sure that the children living in the capital city of the richest country of the world can achieve the American Dream if they are willing to work for it.

There are many things that can wait in this world. But our children cannot. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Each child presents ~~all of us~~ *us* with an opportunity to mold citizens who will ~~never depart from~~ *follow* a path of personal responsibility and civic duty, and who will enrich our society by making the most of their innate gifts and talents.

But the time between youth and adulthood is short. There is so much our children must learn before they can make their ways safely and successfully through life. That is why we all must work together to prepare them.

The initiative to keep our public schools open past three o'clock is crucial. If we all work together, schools that once



sat dark and empty in the afternoons will be enlivened by the sounds of children practicing their multiplication tables or reading aloud and of teachers and parents meeting to find ways of fulfilling the needs of their children.

Not only will our children have a quiet sanctuary for study and a safe venue for exercise, they will be surrounded by volunteers from the community. These mentors will let our children know that there are many more of us in this city who believe in them, who do care if they finish their homework, who do care if they are having trouble keeping up with the classwork, who do care if they make it to graduation day.

~~One of my predecessors~~, Lady Bird Johnson, once said, that "children are likely to live up to what you believe of them." Tonight, we are saying that we believe they can be anything they want to be, that their choices are not limited by their surroundings and that we -- all of us -- will help them.

I am confident that our effort will be successful. [As a young college student, I had the privilege to meet Saul Alinsky, the father of this community participation movement. You are demonstrating that his ideas are as relevant today as they were in the 1960s.]

I have met with <sup>people in</sup> communities across this nation who have made the commitment we are making tonight. I have seen vibrant, first-class schools in some of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia, in Corpus Christi and in the San Fernando Valley in California. These schools succeeded because of the efforts of committed teachers, parents, and community members who took an active role in volunteering and mentoring students.

As sojourners in this city, my family and I have benefitted from the great warmth and hospitality of Washingtonians. And I want you to know that I will do everything I can to help you make your goals for children a reality.

There is no subject more important, no issue that should be more decisive, than how we see and treat our children. Children have no say in the political, business and economic decisions made by our nation. That is why we can and must be their voice.

And by the grace of God, together we will make a difference.

###



## Filling after-school needs

■ **Child First:** *Innovative idea will make schools even more important to neighborhoods.*

IT'S A SHAME THAT a new after-school education idea didn't come from the Baltimore public schools administration. Other systems are successfully guiding "community school" programs that use their buildings to provide evening classes for children and adults. Addressing that need in this city seems to have fallen to the church-based anti-poverty group, Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development, which has written a proposal that is before the City Council for approval.

BUILD is creating a Child First public authority, similar to the Maryland Stadium Authority, that will be largely financed by private funds, including contributions from the Orioles and Ravens, Baltimore's professional sports franchises. The state legislature recently passed an enabling act for the authority and approved \$400,000 in bond money to help with equipment and minor school renovation costs.

The city is also expected to kick in some money, but BUILD doesn't want Child First dependent on any budget as prone to economic crises as Baltimore's. It doesn't want to take money from other city agencies that need it.

Child First will begin with 10 schools and increase that number to 40 in four years. Public school teachers and parents will be depended upon to donate their time and skills. Initially, the tutoring, cultural and recreational activities will only be available for children. But as the program grows, so will the number of adult and family-oriented classes.

BUILD says it hopes the Child First authority can do for family development what the stadium authority has done for economic development. If effective, this after-school program will enliven school buildings that sit dark and empty during evening hours now. Schools will be reinvigorated as neighborhood meeting places where parents and teachers can get to know more about each other and the children they both take care of. Child First is a good idea that deserves the council's support.

## Taking care of Grandpa

■ **Government's shrinking role:** *Cuts in funds for the elderly will hurt more as time goes by.*

BEFORE THE ERA of two-income families, the job of caring for the elderly fell mostly to relatives. Families were bigger, so siblings were available to help share the burden from time to time.

Today, many households depend on outside sources for help with their elderly. In the Baltimore region, where the number of old people is growing, public services for the elderly are extremely popular. They cannot, however, be a priority for cash-strapped local governments, which are having a hard enough time meeting demand for police and schools. Departments of aging are facing continuing budget cuts — unfortunate for those who depend on them, but inevitable given the economic situation.

The long-term ramifications of this change are significant.

In Baltimore County, the budget crunch this coming fiscal year will be most felt by families of 100 to 140 seniors with severe dementia, who have been using publicly run adult day-care centers with the help of government subsidies to offset the \$57-a-day cost. The county is clos-

ing the centers, which are expensive to run, and offering families the same subsidies they now receive for use at private day-care facilities. The disruption will pose a hardship for some. Still, the government is not cutting off seniors, or leaving them to fend for themselves.

In Anne Arundel County, officials are considering a minuscule \$10 annual fee for the use of senior centers. Howard County may ask seniors to pay on a sliding scale for services they use, reserving public dollars for the care of people without resources. These all seem to be reasonable proposals, especially considering that the elderly receive a bigger chunk of the federal tax dollar than any other constituency.

Eventually, local governments must make tougher decisions than this regarding the elderly. Local governments' revenue prospects are not expected to improve. The scarcer money gets, the greater the emphasis on schools, police and infrastructure. There likely will come a time when counties will not be able to subsidize day care or provide seniors with transportation and social outlets.

Meanwhile, families are growing smaller, which means fewer sons, daughters, nieces and nephews to look after the elderly. Who will take care of old folks then?