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HEADLINE: White House Chronicles: A Bicentennial Salute

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BYLINE: Patricia Dane Rogers, Nancy L. Ross

BODY:

On Oct. 13, 1792, workers laid the cornerstone for the White House. The first of Washington's great public buildings, it was also to be a family home. Now 200 years later, tales of kids and pets and pols resound. But the cornerstone can't be found.

Harry S. Truman called it a "glamorous prison." To Gerald R. Ford it was "the best public housing I've ever seen." Mary Todd Lincoln referred to it as "that Whited Sepulchre."

The White House, which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year, has been the home of 39 presidents and their families since John Adams moved in. The original mansion took eight years to build. When his wife, Abigail, arrived in November of 1800 with her eight servants to become its first chatelaine, she found a house that bore little resemblance to the executive mansion of today. In a letter to her sister and daughter she complained that the main staircase had not been built yet and that the meager supply of firewood had been used to dry the plaster walls.

"It is an establishment big enough to need 30 servants to run it properly. There is a great unfinished audience room [the East Room] I make a drying room of, to hang up the clothes in Bells are wholly wanting and promises are all you can obtain."

Almost two centuries later, First Lady Barbara Bush tells a vastly different tale.

"Thanks to Nancy Reagan, those private quarters are perfectly beautiful," she writes in an essay on these pages. "In fact, because of her work, this is the only old house that George and I have ever moved into ... where everything works."

Nancy Reagan herself would describe the White House with awe. "There's a feeling of wonderment," the former First Lady recalled last week. "Are you really in this beautiful house where so many have lived before you, so much history has been made? The first few weeks you're really in a daze."

In Reagan's memoirs, "My Turn," she details the perquisites that made it feel like a palace. "If we needed a plumber, we'd call the usher's office and he'd be there in five minutes." There were people to wrap packages and wind clocks.

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And just as soon as the president took a suit off, it would be whisked away for pressing, cleaning or brushing. The sheets are changed after every use, even a catnap. It was, her son Ron concluded, "an eight-star hotel."

But for all the grand scale and unsurpassed history of the White House, living there can have its bittersweet moments, according to other former first families who agreed to be interviewed last week for this article. Betty Ford recalled feelings of loneliness after years in an Alexandria neighborhood.

"You also feel very much that you are in that proverbial fishbowl everybody talks about," she said.

Luci Baines Johnson, who was 16 when her father, Lyndon, became president after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, recalls those days with emotion. "For me, it was the best of times and the worst of times but it's a march through history and there's not a moment you live there that you are able to be oblivious to that." She quoted her mother, Lady Bird Johnson, who believed firmly, "We are guests in this house."

"It's your home but not really your home," said Luci. "It was always on loan."

Congress passed the Residence Act in 1790 authorizing a house for the president. The cornerstone of the executive mansion -- which no one has been able to locate during the current renovation -- was laid Oct. 13, 1792. In the years between the family of the second president, who lived there for only four months, and the Bushes, who are about to begin their fourth year, the White House has endured being sacked and burned, gutted, extended, modified, improved, renovated and redecorated. It has survived as a grand symbol of the presidency, as well as the home of the First Family. Its history is an amalgam of public and private life, of statecraft and monkey business within its walls.

"The White House is the first of the great public buildings of Washington," said historian William Seale in an interview. "George Washington's concept of a capital city was visionary. The government was highly experimental yet it flourished. It is the model for the Western world. Eastern Europe has gone our way and that house is a symbol of that first seed of architecture in the Capital City. You can't deny its power."

The main house, designed by James Hoban, now covers 55,000 square feet on four floors, not including basements and wings. There are 130 rooms, give or take a few broom closets. Those most often seen by the public and visitors are the Blue, Red, Green and East reception rooms on the main floor in which official -- and sometimes private -- functions are conducted and the Oval Office in the West Wing.

The living quarters consist of five rooms on the second floor designated as just for private use -- the West Sitting Hall, a dining room, a dressing room, one bedroom and a sitting room -- plus the third floor, which by 1927 had added six bedrooms, three sitting rooms, servants' quarters, storage and utility rooms and a solarium.

There is no constitutional requirement that the president live in the White House, according to Seale. Grover Cleveland disliked it so much that he and his wife lived elsewhere -- in present day Cleveland Park -- as much as they could

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until his second term of office ended in 1897.

Dolley Madison and Julia Grant loved the White House, as did most of the presidential wives of the 20th century.

"All the presidents' wives hated to leave," wrote J.B. West, White House chief usher who served First Ladies from 1941 until his departure in 1969. "They appreciated the services and status that went with their role, no matter how much they yearned to be out of the spotlight of the glass White House."

Privacy -- or the lack thereof -- has always been a major drawback, even as the problems of space and comfort were gradually resolved. Abraham Lincoln's family lived with soldiers sleeping on the floor of the East Room and begging treats from the kitchen. Then as now, the main floors were filled during the day with tourists, visitors, journalists. As a result, first families have long delighted in finding hideaways on the second and third floors.

In her memoir, "First Lady from Plains," Rosalynn Carter remembered how her family found privacy on the White House roof, where they sunbathed.

"There's no place to hide, no place to stomp your feet," Luci Johnson said. "Harry Truman was chastised for building the Truman balcony but he said he did it because he wanted to have a place to sit alone with his wife." As a teenager, she said, she courted in the third floor solarium. So did other presidents' children.

Over the years the White House has seen a lot of living: Ten weddings and seven deaths involving immediate presidential family members (plus a skeleton embedded in the walls found during a 1902 renovation, according to Seale), a number of births, illnesses, courtships and affairs.

Cleveland was the only incumbent to marry in the White House, a place he believed would afford him more privacy from the press than any place except a "federal fort." The quiet Blue Room ceremony uniting him and Frances Folsom in 1886 was modest compared with the 1906 East Room extravaganza for Theodore Roosevelt's daughter, Alice, and Nicholas Longworth, a congressman. A thousand guests and press watched as that wedding party crossed the transverse hall to the accompaniment of the Marine Band. Newspapers related that the young bride commandeered a major's dress sword to cut the cake.

Semi-private as well as official events in the White House were covered by the press well before the photo opportunity was invented. Everyday life tended to be chronicled in letters, diaries, memoirs and biographies.

"When White House occupants move away they tend to see their years there as pictures hanging on the wall," said Seale. "That's why John Quincy Adams's or Polk's or Lady Bird Johnson's or Mrs. Taft's diaries are such incredible records of what happened. It's personal and very different from an autobiography written with an audience in mind."

Abigail Adams's letters were published in 1840. Julia Grant wrote the first memoir by a First Lady in 1891, yet it was not published until 75 years later. Now children and even dogs write about life on the inside. Still other accounts come from former employees, relating the foibles as well as the heroics of the first families. The most comprehensive and authoritative work, which ties

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public and private lives together, is Seale's "The President's House," published in 1986.

His companion work on White House architecture, "The White House: History of an Idea," is to be published in April as part of the bicentennial events being organized at presidential sites and libraries around the country under the aegis of the White House Historical Association. The series of activities, many of them open to the public, begins next week in Washington. Among the events, a major exhibition, "The White House 1792-1992: Image in Architecture," opens Jan. 23 at the Octagon Museum.

"The whole object is to make the American people better informed about the role the White House has played in American History," said Rex Scouten, curator of the White House. "It is the most recognized house in the world. In addition, it is the only home of a head of state in the world that is open to the general public ... free of charge. And other than in times of war and national emergency, it's been that way for 200 years."

Seale described the house at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue as "basically an English country house." Discussing the changes over nearly two centuries, he observed, "We moved so fast in the 19th century that you see American life and customs reshaping the inside of the house while the exterior remains more or less the same."

Among the changing customs is the size of presidential families. While early presidents frequently had large extended families living in the White House and numerous children, smaller arrangements have generally become the rule. In fact, in her book "Simply Barbara," Washington Post reporter Donnie Radcliffe writes that Nancy Reagan had advised Barbara Bush not to have her children live in the White House. Nancy Reagan denied last week that she had offered such advice, but in any case, the Bushes' five children and 12 grandchildren visit but do not live in.

For children, the experience seems to have been mixed. The sons of Abraham Lincoln regarded the mansion as akin to a prison. When he was 7, Tad aggravated visitors by pulling their beards and turning his pet goat loose. He also set up a lemonade stand in the entrance hall and once stood in a window above his father at a military review waving a Confederate flag, according to Seale.

Teddy Roosevelt's six children -- Alice, Quentin, Kermit, Archie, Ted and Ethel -- roller skated on the wooden floors, slid down the banisters and walked up the carpeted stairs on stilts, according to chief usher Ike Hoover's "Forty-Two Years in the White House." The tradition has continued in the latter 20th century. "I roller skated on the marble floors in the walkway between the East and West wings," Susan Ford Bales admitted in an interview.

Charlie Taft and Quentin Roosevelt stuck spit balls that looked like warts on the portrait of Andrew Jackson, Lillian Rogers Parks recounted in "My 30 Years Backstairs at the White House." Margaret Truman and her college friends held slumber parties on the second floor.

Lyndon Johnson's daughters, Lynda and Luci, liked to dance and "kept the staid old halls jumping with the frug, the monkey, the watusi," usher West recalled. But looking back, Luci Johnson said, "I'd have given anything for someone -- a peer -- to tell me how to learn to avoid mistakes. There was

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none."

Although the White House appears to be an enormous mansion when judged by its exterior, the living quarters have drawn complaints from some presidential families. Chester A. Arthur wanted to raze the house but ended up having it redecorated by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Caroline Harrison, wife of Benjamin, whose crowded household included six adults and three children in eight rooms and two baths, tried to enlarge it. It was Teddy Roosevelt who finally succeeded in creating more bedrooms, each with bath, for his large family by shifting offices to the new West Wing.

In 1948, after Margaret Truman's piano leg broke through the floor, the Truman family decamped to Blair House for 3 1/2 years. The entire mansion was gutted and rebuilt.

Some alterations have been prosaic, such as Florence Harding's renovation of Warren's bookcase into her shoe closet; Nancy Reagan commandeered a second floor bedroom for an exercise room; others were state of the art for the era.

Take the plumbing. In 1803 Thomas Jefferson replaced the Adamses' outdoor privy with two custom-made water closets. A ladies room was installed in 1850, yet the custom of passing chamber pots after dinner to gentlemen in the White House dining room lasted until the 1880s.

Andrew Jackson had the first bathtub put in, although it wasn't until 17 years later in 1850 that hot and cold running water were provided. William Howard Taft, who weighed 322 pounds around the time he arrived at the White House in 1909, required a king-size tub. One big enough to accommodate four men, who posed in it for a photograph, was installed.

Lyndon Johnson went through five showers in his search for one with enough water pressure, according to usher West. His successor, Richard M. Nixon, got blasted by LBJ's shower and had it changed back.

Other amenities installed by first families include the first White House furnace in 1850, a refrigerator in 1845, and electric lights in 1891. A primitive air-conditioning system was invented there in 1881 to cool the fever of James Garfield as he lay dying from an assassin's bullet, according to Navy Department records.

Several First Ladies of recent years made improvements that won praise and thanks from their successors. Jacqueline Kennedy added the kitchen and dining room on the second floor and Pat Nixon had a beauty parlor installed.

Almost every chronicler offers a glimpse of how expensive it is to live in the White House. In her memoir, Nancy Reagan expressed surprise that the first family would be charged for every meal they and their personal guests ate in the private quarters and all personal expenses down to the presidential toothpaste.

Jacqueline Kennedy expressed shock when the bills for her first month's champagne and caviar parties were presented. She shifted her personal grocery account from the French Market in Georgetown to the wholesale official supplier for the White House, West recounted. He also remembered that Mamie Eisenhower, whose husband was not wealthy, read the newspapers for food ads and personally called store managers and sent the Secret Service out to take advantage of

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special sales. She also kept track of leftovers.

Woodrow Wilson went around turning off the lights. Jimmy Carter turned the heat down when the price of oil skyrocketed. Zachary Taylor, who served for one year in the mid-19th century, saved money by staging stag dinners after his wife, Margaret, fell ill, according to his accountant's memoirs.

In this century all presidential furniture not being used is sent to a warehouse, but in 1860 the White House auctioned off its old curtains, carpets and mattresses to bolster the budget. Public records show that bachelor president James Buchanan's niece and hostess, Harriet Lane, got rid of the fine French furniture ordered 40 years earlier by James Monroe. Eventually, former White House curator Clement Conger bought the pieces back.

"The Nixons wanted it to be the most beautiful house in America," said Conger, "and we did it. It still is except for the damage done by Ted Graber. He put in modern sofas." Graber redecorated for Nancy Reagan.

Not all women relished the moment when they became mistress of the mansion. When Martha Johnson Patterson, daughter of Andrew Johnson, moved into the White House after Lincoln's assassination in 1865, she felt compelled to announce, "We are plain folks from Tennessee. I hope not too much will be expected of us," according to an account in "First Ladies," by Betty Boyd Caroli.

When Lyndon Johnson became president less than a hundred years later after another assassination, daughter Luci recalls her mother's reaction: "I was walking past my parents' bedroom after the assassination and I overheard a conversation that stopped me in my tracks. My father was saying that he had spoken with the Kennedy family and that the best day to move from the Elms to the White House would be Dec. 7. My mother said, 'I can't!'"

"This is the first time I'd ever heard her say 'No. I can't. I absolutely can't do it,' instead of what she'd usually say -- 'I'll do my best.' She was outright belligerent.

"My father needed to choose a date. His response to my mother was, 'Bird, we don't have a choice,' and she said, 'Of course.'

"I recall it because my mother's response was so shocking to me at the time... and now it is the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor."

For the women, taking care of the house was not necessarily part of the job description, although Patterson covered the carpets with muslin. She also kept cows on the lawn.

As interested as Theodore Roosevelt's wife, Edith, was in running the place -- she reorganized the staff, appointing a major domo -- cousin Franklin's wife, Eleanor, had other priorities, ranging from her newspaper column and daily press conference to her travels around the country as a scout for her handicapped husband. She treated the White House like a Grand Hotel, frequently inviting friends and even people off the street to spend the night. But once they were there, she left them to entertain themselves. Consequently the mansion became seedy and dingy, according to West.

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Caroline Harrison involved herself in White House housekeeping, and was attacked by Washington society and the press for her actions. A chef she dismissed for serving the dyspeptic president food that was too rich and a Swiss steward she had fired went to the New York Sun with stories about the president's table and infestations of rats and cockroaches in the mansion. One of her husband's staff recounted in a memoir how, ill and a worrier, Harrison cried out to an aide: "What have we ever done that we should be held up to ridicule by newspapers, and the president be so cruelly attacked and even his little helpless grandchildren be made fun of, for the country to laugh at!"

Bess Truman "kept her own books, went over the bills with a fine-toothed comb, and wrote every check herself," according to West. She sent the servants home on Saturday afternoons and turned down the beds herself.

One presidential wife showed her familiarity with the nuts and bolts of housekeeping. A little boy visiting the presidential palace suddenly announced to the First Lady, "This isn't your house." When she asked why, he replied, "Because I don't see your washing machine." Whereupon Pat Nixon took him up in the elevator to the third floor, walked halfway down the red-carpeted hallway and into the laundry rooms. As the story is related by Julie Nixon Eisenhower in "Pat Nixon: The Untold Story," the boy later told his parents the big house did indeed belong to the lady because he had seen her washing machine.

Nellie Taft, who got used to plenty of servants when her husband was military governor of the Philippines, had a habit of running her finger along surfaces to check for dust, according to Parks, and she decreed there would be no bald butlers in the dining room. Mamie Eisenhower had a fetish about footprints on the thick pile carpets. Before guests arrived, she instructed servants to handbrush them, West remembered.

Since Abigail Adams arrived with eight servants, the White House has been filled with servants, and how to pay for them has been an issue. No servants were provided by the government in the Adamses' day, their letters lamented. Later, a number of presidents born in the South, including James Madison and Jefferson, had house slaves. However, by 1850 pressure from abolitionists persuaded the Taylors to restrict the slaves to the family quarters, according to an aide's letter.

Today, curator Scouten lists 96 people on the executive appropriation payroll.

West recounts the story of the Trumans' inherited housekeeper, Henrietta Nesbitt, who was already in disfavor for serving too many Brussels sprouts. It seems that while butter was rationed during World War II, the president's wife was asked to bring a stick as her contribution to a potluck lunch with her bridge club. The housekeeper refused, saying that the White House's butter ration was almost exhausted. After being assured by the chief usher that she was within her rights to demand the butter, Bess Truman had the housekeeper fired.

All those beautiful rooms and all those servants make the White House a great place to throw a party. For nearly two centuries the presidential mansion has been the center of official entertainment, from levees (the 18th-century equivalent of open houses) to state banquets, diplomatic receptions, glittering balls and concerts.

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Gone are the days when "Old Hickory" Jackson could open the doors of the White House and invite the public to come in for cheese and crackers, as reported in the Washington City Chronicle. In two hours a 1,400-pound cheddar was consumed. (No word on the crackers but the smell and stains on the wooden floor remained for several years.) Today's closest equivalent is the Texas-style barbecue on the back lawn for hundreds of invited guests.

Presidential families have always sought ways to entertain on a more intimate scale as well. In an era when formal French service required a waiter behind every chair, Jefferson dismissed the domestics and had guests serve themselves from a dumbwaiter, as the president wrote to a friend.

He and many of his successors held small dinners in the family dining room, located on the state floor. A billiard room, built in 1869, was the primary symbol of the hospitable good life in the administration of Ulysses S. Grant. After dining alone at 5 p.m., the couple held "at homes" on weeknights at 9 p.m. Friends came over for small talk and parlor games. Talk of politics and public office was prohibited, an aide recalled in his memoirs.

Mamie Eisenhower entertained her canasta-playing friends upstairs. The Hardings invited friends up to their bedroom or the library where they kept bottles during Prohibition, as recounted in a Secret Service agent's book. They rationalized that while it wasn't right (or legal) to serve liquor in the state rooms, they might follow their personal standards in the private quarters.

Franklin Roosevelt had a movie theater built in the East Wing and a swimming pool in the old West Wing for recreation. Eisenhower had a golf green constructed and Bush put in a horseshoe pitch. Pony rides on the lawn have been a perpetual favorite among children.

Some White House pets have a way of grabbing the spotlight. FDR's little Scottie, Fala, was one of the most famous presidential animals. In his fireside chats during the 1944 campaign, Roosevelt uttered the memorable sentence, "I don't resent attacks, and my family doesn't resent attacks, but Fala does resent them."

In addition to the usual dogs and cats, the presidential residence has also harbored some unusual pets. The alligator of the Marquis de Lafayette parked in the East Room when he visited John Quincy Adams, wrote Margaret Truman in "White House Pets." Jefferson's mockingbird sang along when the president played his violin. William McKinley's parrot squawked, "Look at all the pretty girls" and whistled "Yankee Doodle." Silent Cal Coolidge's large mynah bird flew free on the second floor, landed on people's shoulders and pinched their ears, wrote Parks.

Pauline, the Holstein, was tethered on the front lawn to ensure a fresh milk supply for Taft, and Woodrow Wilson's tobacco-chewing ram kept the front lawn trimmed. Besides her pony Macaroni, Caroline Kennedy had a hamster that drowned in the president's bathtub, and a gift rabbit named Zsa Zsa that reputedly had a passion for beer drinking and trumpet playing. It was promptly dispatched to an "orphanage."

Former White House residents have their own particular memories of their days in the mansion. They remember the various rooms, events, good times and bad, the maid service (and the Secret Service), the lack of privacy. A return visit

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rekindles impressions it made on them and the impression they left on it.

When Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and her children returned for the first time after the assassination to see the portraits of the late president and herself as First Lady, the family spent several hours with the Nixons visiting old haunts. President Nixon told Caroline, then 13, and John Kennedy Jr., 10, that they would have good luck if they touched the Lincoln Bed. In her memoirs, Julie Nixon Eisenhower describes how the former First Lady wrote the Nixons, "The day I always dreaded turned out to be one of the most precious ones I have spent with my children."

When Susan Ford Bales visited the family quarters for the first time, a decade after her father had left office, she recalls marveling to herself, "I used to live here."

"I couldn't believe how beautiful Nancy Reagan had made it," she said. "We had thought it looked pretty good when we were there."

"When you leave the White House, life will never be the same," said Luci Johnson. "It's left a permanent and precious impression on you and there's a desperate desire for you to leave an impression on it... . My sister may have left a note to the future occupants. I left one for Tricia [Nixon]. I didn't want her to learn about the White House the hard way."

"You desperately want to shake the shoulders of anyone in those halls and say, 'Make the most of every moment,' because you close your eyes and it is over."

Staff writer Donnie Radcliffe contributed to this article.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, THE WATERCOLOR "WASHINGTON CITY 1821," BY BARONESS HYDE DE NEUVILLE, SHOWS IN 1820 THE NORTH FACADE OF THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, AS IT WAS CALLED AT THE TIME, WITH THE STATE AND TREASURY DEPARTMENTS (LEFT) AND THE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS (RIGHT). IT IS AMONG THE ARTWORKS TO BE SHOWN IN THE BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION, "THE WHITE HOUSE 1792-1992: IMAGE IN ARCHITECTURE," OPENING JAN. 23 AT THE OCTAGON MUSEUM.; PHOTO; ILLUSTRATION, (STEVE MCCracken); PHOTO, NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY; PHOTO, CULVER SERVICES; PHOTO, WHITE HOUSE; PHOTO, AP

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HEADLINE: FIRST LADY FROM PLAINS By Rosalynn Carter. Houghton Mifflin. 384 pp.
\$17.95

BYLINE: JONATHAN YARDLEY

BODY:

ROSALYNN CARTER's autobiography is interesting throughout--considerably more interesting and less self-serving than we have come to expect of White House memoirs--but never more so than in its opening chapters. Though what comes later is obviously of greater public consequence, what comes first is surprisingly moving. Mrs. Carter recalls her thoughts at the hour of her husband's inauguration: "Though we face extraordinary responsibilities and will live a life we never even dreamed of, we are first and always Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter from Plains, Georgia." This is not a political fabrication but the truth, which doubtless explains why the chapters about her early years in Plains are the best and most deeply felt in the book.

Eleanor Rosalynn Smith was born in Plains in August 1927; her father, Wilburn Edgar Smith, "drove the school bus, worked in one of the mercantile stores in town on weekends, owned an auto repair shop, and ran his farm on the outskirts of town." He was a religious man, who believed in a stern and punitive God and who would not permit his daughter to cry. Her mother, Frances Allethea Murray, had three other children and managed to keep her household decently fed and clothed through hard times. Those times became much harder when Rosalynn's father died of leukemia; she was 13 years old, and she says that "my childhood really ended at that moment." As the oldest child, she was the one whom her mother "depended on to make all the right decisions." She "had to be very strong . . . or appear to be strong," but "underneath I felt very weak and vulnerable."

She remembers herself then as "ordinary," a girl who "wasn't a wallflower" but whose "prom card wasn't always full," someone of limited self-confidence who was "painfully shy, an introvert." It still seems to amaze her that when she was 17 years old and a freshman at Georgia Southwestern, a junior college, she caught the eye and then the affection of Jimmy Carter, three years older and a cadet at the glamorous Naval Academy: "I knew this was the person I would fall in love with, the person I wanted to have fall in love with me, but I never thought it would happen." When it actually did happen, she was "completely swept off my feet."

The first thing Jimmy Carter did for her, after their marriage in 1946, was to take her out of Plains--a move she had deeply desired for years but had feared would never come because of her family obligations and limited funds. His naval assignments took them from New England to Hawaii, and points in between. As has happened to countless other children of American small towns, Rosalynn Carter saw the world out there and fell in love with it; she "was more content than I had been in years." When her husband's father died and he made the

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now-famous decision to return to Plains and take over the family's peanut business, his wife exploded. She describes her reaction far more vividly than Carter himself ever has:

"I argued. I cried. I even screamed at him. I loved our life in the Navy and the independence I had finally achieved. I knew it would be gone if we went home to live in the same community with my mother and Jimmy's mother. Plains had too many ghosts for me. And what about the children? Jack had been to kindergarten. The others wouldn't have a chance because there was no kindergarten in Plains. There was no swimming pool, no beach nearby. Surely we would never travel anymore, and they would miss those adventures and experiences, too. But Jimmy would have none of it. His mind was made up, and he is a very stubborn man. It was the most serious argument of our marriage, and I wondered how or if I could hide the way I felt or the tension between us from our families."

Yet it is characteristic of this resourceful and determined woman that, after sulking for a few months, she went about making the most of the hand she had been dealt. As her husband began to involve himself in community affairs, she gradually joined him. She also began taking over the bookkeeping at the peanut warehouse, and soon was conducting its financial affairs as well: "I knew more about the books and more about the business on paper than Jimmy did. I knew which parts of the business were profitable, which were not, how much money we had, how much credit, and how much we owed on our debts." Not merely had she learned all this, but she loved it; the apron strings of Plains, as it turned out, were her liberation, providing her with a dignified and invaluable role at which she clearly excelled. The business may have been nominally her husband's, but in that--as in everything else--they had become "full partners."

The rest of the story is largely a matter of public record: Carter's gradual emergence as a moderate voice in a community torn by racial animosities; his election to Georgia's state legislature and, in 1970, to its governorship; the formation of the cadre (Hamilton Jordan, Jody Powell, Charles Kirbo, et al.) that dreamed up the long-shot presidential campaign of 1976; the improbable success of that campaign; the Carter presidency, with its exhilarating high at Camp David and its destructive low in Iran, and Mrs. Carter's own intense involvement in the management of these and other high public matters; the bitter race against Ted Kennedy for the 1980 Democratic nomination, and the subsequent defeat by Ronald Reagan. Mrs. Carter goes dutifully through all of this, from time to time offering revealing and/or unexpected insights.

Of these, unquestionably the most interesting have to do with her own role in her husband's politic career. The common characterization of her as a "steel magnolia" probably is more malicious than factual, but by her own account she is a tough, even cold-blooded, politician. The shy girl from Plains grew into a determined campaigner and a ruthless strategist. She describes herself as "much more political than Jimmy and . . . more concerned about popularity and winning re-election." She says she urged her husband "to postpone certain controversies, such as the Panama Canal treaties or some of the Mideast decisions, until his second term." She speaks repeatedly of her thirst for victory ("I don't like to take a chance on getting beat. I always want to win!") and the anguish she feels in defeat. When a campaign aide congratulated her husband for not seeming bitter about his loss to Reagan, Mrs. Carter said: "I'm bitter enough for both of us." And this is how she ends her book:

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"I would be out there campaigning right now if Jimmy would run again. I miss the world of politics. Nothing is more thrilling than the urgency of a campaign--the planning, the strategy sessions, getting out among people you'd never otherwise meet--and the tremendous energy it takes that makes a victory ever so sweet and a loss so devastating. I'd like people to know that we were right, that what Jimmy Carter was doing was best for our country, and that people made a mistake by not voting for him. But when all is said and done, for me, our loss at the polls is the biggest single reason I'd like to be back in the White House. I don't like to lose."

It is in passages such as this, when Mrs. Carter allows her real passions to surface, that First Lady From Plains is at its most eloquent and persuasive. In others, such as her account of her trip to Latin America or her description of social events at the White House, she seems to be going through the obligatory motions and getting the necessary facts onto the record, though she discharges this duty gracefully. There are, too, some matters that she scants or omits, largely having to do with the various minor scandals involving friends or family (Bert Lance, Hamilton Jordan, Peter Bourne, Billy Carter) with which her husband had to contend; like most who have occupied the White House, she allows herself upon leaving it to take a rather Olympian view of the proceedings. Yet she does not herself emerge as a distant figure; to her enormous credit, she remains in this book the girl from Plains who dreamed of seeing the great world out there, who as an adult ended up seeing far more of it than she could possibly have hoped for, and who has come through all of it with her feet quite firmly on the ground. That is a rare and wholly admirable accomplishment.

GRAPHIC: Picture, Rosalynn Carter

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March 4, 1994, Friday

SECTION: Local; Pg. B1

LENGTH: 549 words

BYLINE: By Paul Rolly and JoAnn Jacobsen-Wells

BODY:

The Answers. Salt Laker Nicholas Curtis, a single dad of four, won our "Women's History Test." He'll be honored Saturday at 1 p.m. at the YWCA's "March for Women" for his 10 hours of research.

-- 1. First woman admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court: Belva Lockwood.

-- 2. First Asian-Pacific woman elected to Congress: Patsy Takamoto Mink, of Maui, Hawaii.

-- 3. Her refusal to go to the back of the bus in Montgomery, Ala., sparked the civil rights movement: Rosa Parks.

-- 4. First woman to run for president: Victoria Woodhull of Homer, Ohio, in 1872.

-- 5. Nobel Peace Prize winner for work in Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: Jane Addams.

-- 6. Latina who is a leading golfer on the LPGA Tour: Nancy Lopez.

-- 7. First woman postmaster in the colonies: Mary Goddard of Maryland.

-- 8. Famous black concert singer barred in 1939 from singing in Washington's Constitutional Hall because of her race: Marion Anderson.

-- 9. She wrote first version of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923: Alice Paul.

-- 10. Cree Indian woman who wrote and recorded songs focusing on Native Americans: Buffy Sainte-Marie.

-- 11. Congresswoman who voted against the U.S. entry into WWI and WWII: Jeanette Rankin of Montana.

-- 12. She was arrested and convicted of attempting to vote in the 1872 national election: Susan B. Anthony.

-- 13. First Chinese American woman to hold a statewide office in the U.S.: March Fong Eu, elected California's secretary of state in 1975.

-- 14. Woman journalist who traveled around the world in 72 days in 1890: Nellie Bly.

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-- 15. She was rejected by 29 medical schools before being accepted and became the first licensed woman doctor in the U.S.: Elizabeth Blackwell.

-- 16. She worked with Eli Whitney to invent the cotton gin: Catherine Greene.

-- 17. First woman to swim the English Channel: Gertrude Ederle.

-- 18. First woman cabinet member: Frances Perkins became secretary of labor in 1933.

-- 19. First woman to get a pilot's license, plus was the first woman to fly around the world: Amelia Earhart.

-- 20. First American woman writer to receive the Nobel Prize for her book, The Good Earth: Pearl Buck.

-- 21. First woman keynote speaker at a national political convention and the first woman U.S. ambassador: Clare Boothe Luce.

-- 22. First woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize: Bertha von Suttner, for her novels.

-- 23. First woman to hold title of "chef:" Julia Child.

-- 24. First woman administrator in the public school system: Carrie Chapman Catt, as the superintendent of schools in Mason City, Iowa.

-- 25. Founder in 1853 of the first feminist newspaper, The Una: Paula Wright Davis.

-- 26. First formally educated woman minister: Antoinette Brown Blackwell of the Congregationalist Church in 1853.

Bonus question: First female local section-front columnist in The Tribune: Donna Lou Morgan. (Everyone missed this.)

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Winning Pothole: A R&W T-shirt goes to Ted Cundick for his "chuckhole of the week," entry: the "monster" in the parking lot at Olympus High, 4055 S. 2300 East in Salt Lake. Writes Cundick: "Many sophomores were seen in the immediate area of the pothole. Unfortunately, we haven't seen them since."

Keep the entries coming.

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 1995

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The People

February 23, 1997, Sunday

SECTION: FEATURES; Pg. 24, 25, 26

LENGTH: 4120 words

HEADLINE: 101 SILLY LAWS THAT PUT THE 'X' INTO SEX!;
YOU'VE HEARD THE PHRASE "THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST IT"? WELL, THERE MIGHT BE! IF
YOU'RE THINKING OF TAKING A GLOBAL SEX TOUR, DON'T GO WITHOUT MITCHELL SYMON'S
AMAZING GUIDE TO WHAT YOU CAN - AND CAN'T - DO, WITH WHOM AND WHERE...;
101 LAWS ON SEX IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

BYLINE: Mitchell Symons

BODY:

In Ecuador, a man is legally entitled to return a bride to her parents if he decides she isn't a virgin.

In Uruguay, a man who catches his wife in bed with another man has the right to slice off her nose and castrate her lover.

Not only is homosexuality banned in Albania but so too are two people of the same sex banned from sharing a bed - even if they are heterosexual.

In Hungary, it is against the law to have sex with the light on - even the light of a candle.

In Byelorussia, men can beat their wives before making love to them on the basis that men who don't beat their wives don't really love them.

In Willowdale, Oregon, USA, men are forbidden to swear while they're making love to their wives. The women can say whatever they like.

In Indonesia, men who are caught masturbating are liable to be beheaded.

In Guatemala, single women who are suspected of having had sex can be beaten and spat upon in the street.

In Hong Kong, if a woman's husband cheats on her, she is allowed by law to kill him (and his lover) - but only with her bare hands.

In the Ugandan capital of Kampala, if a woman's hand touches any man's private parts (except her husband's), then the offending hand must be put in a pot of boiling oil. A second offence means amputation.

In Oblong, Illinois, it is against the law to make love while fishing or hunting on your wedding day.

In Liberty Corner, New Jersey, courting couples are not fined for "making out" in a car - but they are if the car's horn goes off. That is considered to be an "obnoxious activity".

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When a Tasmanian woman's husband dies, she is required by law to wear her dead husband's penis around her neck.

In Peru, there is an old law which prohibits single men from keeping a female llama in their homes.

In China, women are not allowed to be naked in their hotel bedrooms - only in their hotel bathrooms.

In Riga, Latvia, married couples are not allowed to have sex while arguing.

In Kuwait, it is illegal for a married man to look at another woman "in a sensual manner".

It is also illegal in Kuwait for any man to look lustfully at a statue of a woman or a female animal.

In Matagalpa, Nicaragua, men must divorce their wives if they catch them committing adultery.

In Bhutan, younger brothers are not allowed to get married before their older brothers.

In Tallin, Estonia, couples are not allowed to play chess in bed while making love.

If a couple rent a hotel bedroom in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for just one night, the twin beds have to be a minimum of two feet apart.

In Costa Rica, single women are banned from "any kind of lewd activities or behaviour" with a man.

In the US State of Ohio, skating instructors are not allowed to have sex with their female students.

In Jordan, husbands are legally obliged to make love to wives "at least once every four months".

In Valencia, Venezuela, single men and women are not allowed to have sex with anyone who is a known idiot.

In Burma, a widow is not allowed to have sex in the first year following her husband's death. If she does, her late husband's relatives have the right to kill her.

In rural China, a man is allowed to show his wife's naked body to other men but if they see her feet, then he is obliged to kill them.

Fijian gold miners are given a statutory half-hour break at lunchtime in which to make love to their wives.

In Honduras, a man can only be found guilty of adultery if he has a mistress whom he flaunts.

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In Lithuania, it is against the law to drink vodka when suffering from a sexually transmitted disease.

In Sweden, it is illegal for a woman to pose naked for a photograph in a passport photo booth.

Married couples living in the rice-growing regions of Java are obliged by law to make love after dark in the rice fields to improve the rice crop.

In South-West Ethiopia, a man who "violates" a virgin is punished by having his head (or, if the judge is feeling lenient, his hands) cut off.

Prostitution is illegal in the Yemen. Prostitutes can be - and are - beheaded in public.

Adulterous women of the African Tupuri tribe have a brass ring fitted to their necks which they have to wear for the rest of their lives.

In Sierra Leone, sodomy is illegal and punishable by burning to death at the stake.

In Bengal, married Kurni women have to wear a ring on their arms. Their husbands can divorce them simply by removing it.

In Rajasthan, India, women are legally obliged to eat carrot seeds as a form of contraception.

In Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, men are obliged to pay for their wives with a varying scale which sees them pay less for a widow or divorcee. However, a woman who has had two husbands costs nothing.

In Cracow, Poland, sex with an animal is punishable by death - on a third offence.

In Taiwan, it is permissible for a bridegroom's relative or friend to stand in for him on his wedding night if he is unable to consummate the marriage.

In Saudi Arabia, the authorities are so keen to segregate the sexes that no man is allowed even to enter a girls' school on punishment of death.

In remote parts of Malaysia, when a man dies, his eldest son inherits all his father's wives (except the wife who is his mother).

In Caracas, Venezuela, newly-married couples are allowed to commit adultery. But after one year of marriage they are legally obliged to remain faithful to each other.

In Samoa, it is against the law for a woman to marry or have sex with an uncircumcised man.

In Singapore, a man who cannot father a child may nominate another member of his family to impregnate his wife. The resulting baby is deemed to have been fathered by the wife's husband - even though he isn't the biological husband.

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In Colombia, a cuckolded husband is allowed to shoot his wife if he finds her in bed with her lover.

In Sienna, Italy, there is a law forbidding any woman named "Mary" from working as a prostitute.

In Sverdlovsk in Russia, it's against the law to have sex on a tombstone which is within 50 feet of the road.

In Missouri, USA, it is forbidden to have sexual intercourse with anyone under the age of 16. But if the victim is 14 or 15, the offender will be freed if they say they believed the victim was 16.

In Plovdiv, Bulgaria, male prostitution is against the law. Offenders are declared "non-citizens" and can be sent to a labour camp.

In Nepal, adulterers can be drowned on a ducking stool.

In Bangkok, Thailand, a man who has sex with a female dog faces an even bigger fine if the dog is on heat.

In Bandar Lampung, Indonesia, cohabitation by unmarried people of the opposite sex is deemed to be "prostitution" and is punishable by a fine or even imprisonment.

In China, dancing cheek-to-cheek is banned in public.

In Yerevan, Armenia, women are forbidden from standing naked in front of their husbands with the lights on.

In the Central African Republic town of Banqui, pimps can be punished by having molten lead poured down their throats.

In Georgetown, Guyana, nude bathing is prohibited and offenders could find themselves coated in paint.

In the town of Ploiesti in Romania, couples are forbidden from having sex during the day.

In Laos, where a woman's feet are regarded as erotic, husbands have the right to punish their wives by refusing to allow them to wear shoes - effectively keeping a decent woman housebound.

In Springfield, Massachusetts, USA, taxi drivers are not allowed to have sex in their cabs during "working hours".

Adultery is against the law in Saudi Arabia and adulterers can be (and are) stoned to death. In El Salvador, a wife who cheats on her husband faces a prison sentence - and a...

In El Salvador, a wife who cheats on her husband faces a prison sentence - and a fine which is paid to the cuckolded husband.

In Russia, it is against the law for a couple to hug or kiss on a park bench.

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In Greece, any man who persuades a virgin to go to bed with him by proposing marriage and afterwards refuses to marry her, is obliged to pay the girl compensation.

Homosexuality is banned in Panama and offenders run the risk of castration.

In Gdansk, Poland, women participating in lesbian acts can expect to be sent to a labour camp.

In rural Cambodia, a husband can kill his wife's lover if they have had sex in his (the husband's) home.

If, however, the adultery took place outside the marital home, the husband can't kill the lover but can kill his wife instead.

In Belize, the punishment for any man who has sex with or marries his aunt is a severe flogging.

In Lebanon, a man is allowed to have sex with an animal - provided that the animal is female. Sex with a male animal is punishable by death.

In Guinea-Bissau, a cuckolded husband is entitled to decapitate his wife's lover. He can also force the man to cut off one of the cheating woman's fingers or toes and eat it.

A man isn't allowed to stare, wink at or whistle at any woman - except his wife - in Dresden, Germany.

In Guatemala, only married couples can have sex outdoors.

In Colorado, USA, adultery is only prohibited for the married person - if one of the two parties is unmarried then that's OK.

In Skopje, Macedonia, a wife who cheats on her husband is taken out of town and has her head shaved.

Homosexuality is prohibited by the Benin tribe in Africa. However, they do allow mutual masturbation.

In Sofia, Bulgaria, it is considered "inappropriate" for a husband and wife to enjoy making love.

In Kaunas in Lithuania, a man is allowed to banish his mother-in-law from the home when he wants to make love to his wife.

In Indonesia, if a man has sex with another man's wife, he faces a flogging and/or a jail sentence. He also faces long-term unemployment as employers cannot engage a known adulterer.

In Heraklion, Crete, it is against the law to put graphic words or drawings on a hotel bedroom wall.

In Turkey, if a man marries a woman who isn't a virgin, he must spend three consecutive nights making love to her.

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In Minsk, Byelorussia, husbands are not allowed to refuse their wives sex after two sex-free weeks have passed.

In Luanda, Angola, prostitutes are obliged to bare their breasts at all times.

In Warrenville, Connecticut, a man is banned from taking snuff while making love to his wife without her permission.

In Parnu, Estonia, convicted rapists face long jail sentences - without parole - and they must spend all their time in jail wearing leg-irons.

In Bhutan, adulterers are stoned to death.

In Montana, USA, any "deviate sexual relations between two persons is a felony".

In Panevezys, Lithuania, a woman may only divorce her husband if she discovers boils on his penis.

In Nepal, sex between unmarried people is forbidden and is punished by flogging the offenders.

In some parts of the Philippines a groom-to-be must prove his manhood by having sex with his future bride's sisters before their wedding.

In Brazil, the Semi Indians punish adulterous women by whipping them and then exposing their wounds to stinging ants.

In some remote parts of Taiwan, a girl wishing to get married must "prove" her virginity by stripping off in front of witnesses.

On Norwegian beaches where nude or topless (by women) sunbathing is forbidden, people found sunbathing are obliged to put on the black plastic sacks they're given or face arrest.

In Valparaiso, Chile, it is against the law for a man to marry any woman who has ever committed adultery.

In Guam, female virgins are not allowed to marry and so they pay special men to rid them of their virginity.

In Equatorial Guinea, a man who has sex with another man's wife is executed by drowning.

In Georgia, USA, "it is a misdemeanor for an unmarried person to voluntarily engage in sexual intercourse with another person".

In Minnesota, fornication between a man and a single woman resulted in a misdemeanor action as recently as 1967.

In Wroclaw, Poland, a wife whose husband has cheated on her is allowed to beat her husband's lover - to death if she chooses - with a club.

The People, February 23, 1997

GRAPHIC: THAT'S FISHY: Angling for love in Illinois (11);; BODY BEAUTIFUL: But her feet could prove fatal in China (28);; UNKIND CUT: Some Samoan men live on a knife-edge (46);; ANIMAL HARM: Beastly activities can kill in Poland (41);; OLD PAL'S ACT: But the bride might not be too happy in Taiwan (42)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 25, 1997

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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February 15, 1997, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 12; Column 3; National Desk

LENGTH: 349 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Urges Plan to Speed Adoptions

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Feb. 14

BODY:

Fretting about children who "languish forever in foster care," President Clinton today proposed bonus payments for states that increase their adoption rates.

The proposal was part of a campaign intended in five years to double the rate of adoptions, which last year totaled only 20,000 of the 450,000 children the White House said were in foster care in 1995.

Surrounded by adopted children, their parents and strings of valentine hearts, the President said, "Putting this plan into action today will mean that we are insuring that no child will languish forever in foster care when loving families are out there -- ready, willing and able to open their hearts and their doors."

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has for years supported the cause of foster children, added, "No child should grow up in foster care."

The Clintons accepted the Department of Health and Human Services' goal of placing 54,000 children into new homes in five years by reducing bureaucratic barriers to adoption.

Among the department's recommendations are these:

- *Legislation to give states Federal money for every child adopted over the total the state recorded in the previous year. Larger bonuses would be given when children with special needs find homes. The White House did not provide further details, but Mr. Clinton said savings from foster care costs would pay for the bonuses.

- *A total of \$10 million for technical assistance and grants for state agencies, courts and communities to help find ways to recruit parents and place children.

- *Legislation requiring a court hearing no later than 12 months after a child enters the foster care system, instead of the current 18 months before a hearing.

A bipartisan plan to be introduced in the House would take a similar approach to speeding adoption hearings.

The New York Times, February 15, 1997

Earlier this year a law took effect allowing families with incomes below \$10,000 to receive a tax credit of up to \$5,000 if they adopt a child. People who adopt hard-to-place children, like those who are minorities, older, disabled or have siblings, are eligible for a \$6,000 credit.

GRAPHIC: Photo: President Clinton, with his wife, Hillary, and adopted children and their parents looking on, yesterday proposed a plan to increase adoptions as Edward Taubert, 6, left, played in a valentine-decorated Oval Office. (Agence France-Presse)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 15, 1997

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The New York Times

December 15, 1996, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 34; Column 5; National Desk

LENGTH: 620 words

HEADLINE: President Tells Government To Promote More Adoptions

BYLINE: By ALISON MITCHELL

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Dec. 14

BODY:

President Clinton today directed the Federal Government to take steps to double the number of children moved from foster care to adoption over the next six years.

He announced the initiative in his weekly radio address, and was joined on the air by his wife, Hillary, by adoptive families and by children hoping for a permanent home.

"I can think of no better way to fulfill the promise of this season than to bring a child into a family, and a family to a child," Mr. Clinton said.

This drive to increase adoption continues the family-centered themes that he stated throughout his election campaign, and it is not likely to be contentious. House Republicans made an adoption tax-credit a plank in their Contract With America campaign agenda in 1994. Earlier this year, Mr. Clinton signed Republican-initiated legislation that gave a tax credit of \$5,000 to families adopting children and made it easier for parents to adopt children of a different race.

There are now 450,000 children in the nation's foster-care system, which is run by the states with Federal aid and supervision. Of those children, 100,000 are considered to have no parent to return to and are ready to be placed in a permanent new home. But only 27,000 of those children a year are moved from foster care to adoption, officials say.

Mr. Clinton today told the Department of Health and Human Services to report to him in 60 days on steps that can be taken to insure that 54,000 foster children a year are adopted by the year 2002. He said the department should consider possible changes in Federal laws and regulations.

Officials said that among steps the department is examining, the Federal Government would work with states to set specific targets for adoptions. In return, the Government would provide a new financial incentive per child for states to increase the number of adoptions from the public welfare system.

The officials said that as part of the budget plan he will announce in February, Mr. Clinton would propose financial assistance to states for developing strategies to promote the adoption of difficult-to-place children who have been languishing in the foster care system and for studying what barriers

block states from finding permanent homes for children.

Elissa T. Skolfield, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said the amount of financial assistance that would be proposed for the states had not yet been determined. And although she said the financial incentive to states for each child adopted had not yet been settled on, the action was not expected to require new Federal funds because increased adoptions would reduce foster care spending.

Mr. Clinton today also called for a Government-wide public relations campaign to make Americans aware of adoption opportunities. As if beginning that campaign themselves, the Clintons asked the parents and children accompanying them to tell their stories on the air.

"My name is Daniel," said one 13-year old boy from a local foster care program, who was not further identified. "And I've been waiting for a family for a long time. And hopefully in a short amount of time I will probably get what I'm looking for in a family. My brother has already been adopted, and hopefully I'll get adopted by his family at one point of time."

Mrs. Clinton has been a strong proponent of adoption, even telling Time magazine earlier this year that she and her husband might consider an adoption because they would love to have another child. White House officials said the Clintons had decided to postpone any decision on an adoption until after the President is out of office because he would not have the time to devote to a new child.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DATE: December 16, 1996