Katie — I'm happy to go + read this if Meg'd like. - md

E X E C U T I V E   O F F I C E   O F   T H E   P R E S I D E

15-Nov-1995 05:25pm

TO: Katharine M. Button

FROM: Sabrina Corlette
Office of the First Lady

SUBJECT: <u>RESULTS greeting</u>

draft/nr
November 15, 1995

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
GREETING TO THE MICRO-CREDIT PREPARATORY MEETING
WASHINGTON, D.C.
NOVEMBER 20, 1995

I am sorry I cannot join you tonight for the preparatory meeting to the Micro Credit Summit. I am honored to serve as Honorary Chair of the Summit and would like to applaud all of you for your efforts and your commitment to extending credit to 100 million of the world's poorest families by the year 2005.

Microenterprise is the heart of development because micro-enterprise programs work -- they lift women and families out of poverty. It's called "micro," but its impact on people is macro; We have seen that it takes just a few dollars, often as little as $10, to help a wom~~e~~an gain self-employment, to lift her and her family out of poverty. It's not a handout; it's a helping hand.

Through my travels in my own country and around the world, I have seen the profound impact that microenterprise initiatives are having on families. From the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh to the Self-Employed Women's Association in India to FINCA in Nicaragua to Accion and FINAM in Chile to Mi Casa in

Denver, Colorado, I have met women whose lives are being transformed because, for the first time, they have access to credit.

In Bangladesh, one woman told me how with her small loan, she first bought a milk cow, then another milk cow, and then a rickshaw for her husband; she and others knew that by working together, they could do even better by their families.

I met

In Chile, a woman who sews clothing for a living and feel that when she longed to own a sewing machine, ~~which~~ she finally ~~could~~ was finally able to purchase a sewing machine because of a small loan. The ~~machine~~ it meant so much, ~~she said~~, that she couldn't stop kissing ~~it~~ the machine. With it, she would be able to expand her business and prosper in ways before unimaginable. ~~The feeling~~, she said, she felt like " ~~was like being~~ a bird released from its cage."

Another special moment came in Nicaragua at a gathering of women who are small borrowers at the FINCA bank. The women talked proudly about the livelihoods they had carved out from bakery businesses, and from making clothes and mosquito nets. I asked them at the end of our discussion ~~their presentations~~ if they had any questions for me, and one woman asked that I tell her about the women I met in India in a similar setting. I felt at that moment the profound connection women share around the world, from a barrio in Managua to a village in India and beyond.

The fact is: give a woman a seed — that is micro-credit — and she will plant it, she will water it, nurture it, then reap it, share its fruits, and finally, she will replant it. In this way, step by step, the world's poorest women are leading their families, their communities and their countries to a better future. When we help these women to sow, we all reap.

I want to offer a special note of congratulations to the RESULTS Educational Fund for bringing us together and for spearheading the Micro-Credit Summit, to the Citicorp Foundation for being the Summit's first Sponsor, and to my friend Muhammad Yunus for ~~the~~ his extraordinary leadership.

Please accept my best wishes for a fruitful meeting.

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CREATORS SYNDICATE

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Lissa Muscatine

FROM: Katherine Searcy

DATE: 11-15

TIME:

RE: Hillary Rodham Clinton column

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 3

MESSAGE:

Corrected column for Nov 18-19

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
RELEASE: WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 18-19, 1995

I met 16-year-old Lisa DelMauro the other day at Babies and Children's Hospital in New York City. She was in a wheelchair, wrapped in bandages, having just undergone her 50th operation for a congenital birth defect known as spina bifida.

Still, she was upbeat about her life and her future. Her treatments, she said, had enabled her to continue her schooling and read her favorite Nancy Drew novels.

Joshua Lentin, age 6, had a different medical problem but a similar outlook: He was born with a serious heart condition and, after two heart transplants, is thrilled that he can now play roller hockey and dream about a career in the NHL.

These and the other brave children I met -- a 19-month-old baby undergoing radiation treatment for abdominal cancer, a high school student who had just endured a painful bone marrow transplant, and a 4-year-old born with health problems brought on by his mother's drug addiction -- are among thousands of children treated each day for illnesses and injuries at children's hospitals around our country.

Unlike adult hospitals, children's hospitals specialize in diagnosing and treating children. They train pediatricians who become experts in children's care. They conduct innovative research in the causes and cures for childhood diseases. And they provide millions of dollars in free care to needy children.

Today, the average children's hospital relies on Medicaid for 46 cents out of every dollar it uses to function. This long-standing federal commitment is one important reason that children's hospitals offer the unique and vital services they do.

That is why I am worried about the future of children's hospitals -- worried because proposed cuts in Medicaid threaten to compromise the care they give.

These cuts will hurt children's hospitals because Medicaid is the primary source of health care coverage for nearly one in four children in America -- and one in three children under age 3. And contrary to what many people think, more than half of the children covered by Medicaid have parents working at low-wage jobs, not receiving welfare checks.

Medicaid is also the main source of health care coverage for millions of children like Lisa, Joshua and the others I met in New York who are disabled or who suffer from chronic illnesses -- the kinds of illnesses that regular health insurance will not cover and that adult hospitals cannot always treat.

Children's hospitals simply cannot exist without government support.

For more than a decade, I was fortunate enough to serve on the board of Arkansas Children's Hospital, chairing the annual telethon and raising money for a newborn intensive care nursery. Recently, I met a group of generous men and women who give and raise money for some of the largest children's hospitals in our country. While I applaud these private efforts, I know that the generosity of individuals alone cannot fill the gap projected by the proposed $186 billion cut in Medicaid.

Every parent knows from personal experience what it is like when a child is sick. Nothing else in the world matters. Will your son or daughter get better? Is the illness something that will pass, or is it life-threatening? You just want your child to get the treatment she needs.

Sometimes, though, when it comes time to make decisions that affect all of America's children, good parental instincts retreat.

As parents, would we ever say that one of our own children with a serious illness or chronic medical condition did not deserve the best available treatment? Of course not. We would make the sacrifices necessary to help our child get well.

Why, then, as citizens or decision makers are we ready to say that only parents who can afford comprehensive insurance will be able to take care of their sick children? What about all the uninsured working parents who care just as much about their kids? What about the poor and low-income parents who, up until now, thought they could at least rely on Medicaid if their kids needed to see a doctor or go to the hospital?

Even if you don't know a soul who has relied on Medicaid for health coverage, and even if your child has never been seriously ill, remember that children's hospitals are there if, heaven forbid, any of our children need them.

Cutting back on our commitment to children's hospitals will not help America's children. It won't help our country, either.

MICRO CREDIT SUMMIT

November 20-22, 1996

Working to ensure that 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, are receiving micro credit loans for self-employment by the year 2005

November 14, 1995

Sabrina Collett
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington DC

Via Facsimile
No. of Pages: 2

Re: The First Lady's video address to the Micro Credit Summit Prep Mtg.

Sabrina,

Please find attached a draft of possible remarks for the First Lady. I hope they're helpful.

If I can provide you with any additional information, please call.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ayala Sherbow

Ayala Sherbow
Chief of Staff

236 Massachusetts Avenue,
NE, Suite 300
Washington, D.C., 20002
202•546•1900

100,000,000 by 2005

Remarks for Hillary Rodham Clinton
Micro Credit Summit Preparatory Meeting
Saturday, November 18, 1995
Washington, DC

I am delighted to address you and applaud your commitment to the mission of the Micro Credit Summit. It's a breathtaking idea: reaching 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, with credit for self-employment by the year 2005.

At the Women's Conference in Beijing I said, "If there is a message that this conference could bring about economic opportunity, it is that we must engage in micro credit...." During my travels through South Asia I had an opportunity to speak with borrowers of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, SEWA in India, and similar institutions throughout that region and Latin America.

I heard the courage in the borrowers' stories, I saw the hope in their faces, and I witnessed the new-found dignity in their lives. I believe that when we commit to reaching 100 million of the world's poorest families with credit for self-employment and grapple with the questions that arise from such a compelling goal, we are part of a much needed revolution, one that can help people move out of poverty and despair and into a future of opportunity--not only in the poorest countries, but also in the United States and other industrialized nations.

This is a movement with room for everyone. Governments must play their role, but so too must the private sector. There's a part for you to play whether you work with an aid agency or a service club, whether you involve your place of worship or your place of business, whether you're one of the practitioners: ACCION or FINCA, the Women's World Banking network, an AEO member, or a part of the other groups doing this important work. Each of us must play our part in the effort to make the goal of reaching 100 million of the world's poorest families a reality.

I want to offer a special note of congratulations to RESULTS Educational Fund for bringing us together and spearheading the Micro Credit Summit, to the Citicorp Foundation for being the Summit's first Sponsor, and to my friend and perhaps the "grandfather of the movement" Muhammad Yunus. It is a privilege for me to work with you as Honorary Co-Chair of the Micro Credit Summit.

As we say in the Summit draft Declaration, "The time has come to acknowledge micro credit as a powerful tool in the struggle to end poverty and economic dependence. The time has come to convene the people and organizations necessary to launch a global movement to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, with micro credit loans for self-employment by 2005."

Thank you for your leadership and for our partnership in this important effort.