

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                 | DATE       | RESTRICTION      |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| 001. briefing<br>paper   | DNC Annual Fall Meeting (political) (2 pages) | 09/23/1999 | Personal Misfile |
| 002. briefing<br>paper   | DNC Reception and Lunch (political) (2 pages) | 09/23/1999 | Personal Misfile |
| 003. agenda              | DNC Conference (political) (1 page)           | 09/23/1999 | Personal Misfile |
| 004. briefing<br>paper   | DNC Dinner (political) (2 pages)              | nd         | Personal Misfile |

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
First Lady's Office  
Domestic Policy Council (Nicole Rabner)  
OA/Box Number: 15409

### FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption Numbers Announcement, 9/24/99 [2]

2012-1035-S

kc991

### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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**F**

**THE REMARKS**  
**FOR THE DNC ANNUAL FALL MEETING**  
**WILL BE FORWARDED**

G

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H

**THE TALKING POINTS**  
**FOR THE DNC/DBC RECEPTION AND LUNCH**  
**WILL BE FORWARDED**





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**J**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1999

WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS

DATE: September 24, 1999  
LOCATION: Oval Office  
TIME: 4:30 PM  
FROM: Megan Moloney

I. PURPOSE

You will discuss the need for Congress to raise the minimum wage. You will also call on Congress to schedule a vote on the minimum wage issue, as well as the Patient's Bill of Rights, Medicare and gun control legislation.

II. BACKGROUND

The United States has the best economy in a generation. And yet there are too many families working full-time, 50 weeks a year, who don't earn enough to support a family. Currently, a person working full-time and earning the minimum wage receives only \$10,300 -- not enough to move families from dependency to self-sufficiency. In your State of the Union Address, you called on Congress to pass the Kennedy-Bonior proposal to raise the minimum wage by \$1 over two years, from \$5.15 to \$6.15 an hour. Over 11 million Americans would benefit from this increase -- for a full-time worker, it would mean an additional \$2000 in income. Seventy percent of those who would benefit are adults over 20 and 59 percent are women, many of whom are trying to raise families.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing  
THE PRESIDENT  
Loretta Ucelli  
Gene Sperling  
Sam Afridi

4:30 to 4:45 PM

Taping

4:45 to 5:15 PM

THE PRESIDENT

Megan Moloney

Mary Morrison

White House Communications Agency (WHCA) Personnel

White House Television (WHTV)

White House Photographer

Approx. 80 guests (see attached for list)

**IV. PRESS PLAN**

The ABC, AP, C-SPAN, CBS, NBC, Mutual, Westwood One, Metro, NPR, USA, American Urban, Standard News and Armed Forces Radio networks will carry the address in its entirety to their collective thousands of stations worldwide on Saturday at 10:06 AM ET.

**V. REMARKS**

To be provided by the Office of Speechwriting.

**K**

**THE REMARKS**  
**FOR THE WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS**  
**WILL BE FORWARDED**

**L**



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO: THE PRESIDENT  
WHAT: PRESS PICNIC  
WHEN: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999  
WHERE: SOUTH LAWN  
NOTES: 2,000 GUESTS/CLOSED PRESS/CASUAL ATTIRE  
FROM: CAPRICIA PENA VIC MARSHALL, LAURA SCHWARTZ

---

3:15 p.m. *Guests begin to arrive and proceed to the South Lawn.*

5:30 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT** proceeds to the Rose Garden to greet performers.  
(WH Photo)

5:35 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT** proceeds to the stage located south of the putting green to be announced to honors.

5:40 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT** makes brief remarks and works a ropeline.  
*Note: Rockin' Dopsie, Jr. & The Zydeco Twisters and The Hunter Hayes Band will perform 2-3 songs.*

6:30 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT** departs.  
*Note: Motorcades for departures will be staged at North Portico.*

Approx. 8:00 p.m. *Guests depart Southeast Gate.*

**M**

**THE BRIEFING MEMO**  
**FOR THE SENATOR GRAHAM DINNER**  
**WILL BE FORWARDED**

N

**THE REMARKS**  
**FOR THE SENATOR GRAHAM DINNER**  
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**P**



**THE TALKING POINTS  
FOR THE DNC DINNER  
WILL BE FORWARDED**

**EVENT:** ADOPTION  
**DATE:** FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999  
**TIME:** 9:35 AM – 10:35 AM  
**LOCATION:** PRESIDENTIAL HALL (450 OEOB)  
**PARTICIPANTS:** THE PRESIDENT, REAL PERSON, THE FIRST LADY

**ATTENDING (14):**

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)  
Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)  
Senator Larry Craig (R-ID)  
Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)  
Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA)

Rep Dave Camp (R-MI)  
Rep Nancy Johnson (R-CT)  
Rep Tom DeLay (R-TX)  
Rep Sandy Levin (D-MI)  
Rep James Oberstar (D-MN)  
Rep Ben Cardin (D-MD)  
Rep Deborah .Pryce (R-OH)  
Rep William Delahunt (D-MA)  
Rep Maxine Waters (D-CA)

**REGRETS:**

Rep Richard Gephardt (D-MO)  
Rep Dennis Hastert (R-IL)  
Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D- NY)  
Senator Trent Lott (R-MS)  
Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD)  
Senator Kit Bond - R-MO

Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH)  
Senator Jim Jeffords (R-VT)  
Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT)  
Senator William Roth (R-DE)  
Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV)  
Senator John Chafee (R-RI)  
Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD)  
Rep Thomas Bliley (R-VA)  
Rep David Obey (D-WI)  
Rep John Porter (R-IL)  
Rep Charlie Rangel (D-NY)  
Rep Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)  
Senator Ted Kennedy (D- MA)  
Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA)

## **FY 1999 Adoption Opportunities Grants**

### Innovations for Increasing Adoptions of Minority Children (\$250,000 each)

Westside Children's Center, Culver City, CA  
The Adoption Exchange, Aurora, CO  
Bethany Christian Services, Grand Rapids, MI  
Michigan Family Independence Agency, Lansing, MI  
Upper Midwest American Indian Center, Minneapolis, MN  
Another Choice for Black Children, Charlotte, NC  
Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau, Shaker Heights, OH  
Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, OK  
Porter-Leath Children's Center, Memphis, TN  
Catholic Family Services, Amarillo, TX  
Medina Children's Services, Seattle, WA

### Research and Service Demonstrations (\$250,000 each)

PACT: An Adoption Alliance, San Francisco, CA  
Child Welfare League of America, Washington, DC  
Lutheran Social Services of New England, Worcester, MA  
Division of Child and Family Services, Carson City, NV  
Cincinnati Center for Developmental Disorders, Cincinnati, OH  
National Adoption Center, Philadelphia, PA  
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC  
Children's Center, Vancouver, WA

### Improving Implementation of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (\$300,000)

American Public Human Service Association, Washington, DC

### Collaborative Planning to Increase Inter-jurisdictional Adoptions (\$100,000 each)

Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Juneau, AK  
Independent Adoption Center, Pleasant Hill, CA  
Colorado Department of Human Services, Denver, CO  
South Carolina Department of Social Services, Columbia, SC  
Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, Austin, TX

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**

**REMARKS ON ADOPTION**

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 1999**

**Acknowledgments:** Olivia Golden, Pat Montoya, HHS; Members of Congress, the Brown, Manis, and Keane [KEEN] families, Carol Williams, former Children's Bureau Director and champion of adoption (t); adoption advocates; and one very special champion of foster children – 8-year old Mackenzie Snyder, who after hearing how so many foster children cannot afford to use anything but garbage bags for luggage, decided to collect suitcases for them. So far she has collected 1,000.

This summer, I saw a photograph that reminded me why the work we are doing to promote adoption in America is so vitally important.

It was a picture of a young woman in a green silk evening gown, high heels and a lace shawl. You could just see the anticipation and delight in her eyes.

It was a picture of 17-year old Deanna Collins -- taken by her adoptive parents on the night of her high school prom. Looking at that picture, it was difficult to believe that that smiling, confident young woman was the same girl I had welcomed to the White House just four years before. Back then, she was thirteen and had already spent eight years in foster care.

With her shoulders slumped, her eyes downcast, she told the audience gathered for National Adoption Month about her dreams of living in a place she could call home, a room she could call her own, a family she could love.

Not long after her visit, Deanna's dream came true. And it has been my privilege to watch this young person's life transformed by her adoption. With the love of her parents, with the confidence that comes from knowing that she will always have a place to go home to no matter what else happens in life, Deanna is thriving. She is a senior in high school now, and plans to major in social work in college.

Every time I need inspiration for our fight to strengthen and increase adoption in America, I think of Deanna. I think of Washington's Mayor Tony Williams, who told us at another Adoption Month commemoration last year how at age 3, he was about to be declared 'unadoptable' and institutionalized by the state when Virginia Williams opened her arms and welcomed him into her family. Mrs. Williams is here today and all of us are grateful that you gave your son his "second chance." And I think of the thousands of foster children in America who are still waiting and hoping for the same chance Deanna and Mayor Williams had to grow and blossom in a loving family.

For more than 25 years, as an advocate and an attorney, I have worked to address the challenges of foster care and adoption in America. I have represented prospective parents in court, helping them navigate the bureaucratic mazes of adoption. I have listened to their frustrations with the red tape that too often kept them from sharing their lives with the children who so badly need their love. I have met foster children who have spent their childhoods feeling alone and unloved, moving from home to home. Children such as the teenage boy the President and I met in the Oval Office two years ago, who, when asked where he lived, answered, “All over Fairfax County.”

In many ways, giving more of our children the chance to know the love and support of a family has become a personal crusade. I have held meetings, roundtables, and annual celebrations of National Adoption Month here at the White House. I have worked with advocates, and business leaders such as Wendy’s founder Dave Thomas, who as an adopted child himself, has dedicated so much of his time and personal resources to promoting adoption among his employees and across America. With each meeting, I became more and more convinced that the time was long overdue to reform our foster care system. Our children are simply spending too many years – the average is just under three – in foster care.

We need to identify and eliminate the obstacles that keep them there. We need to change our foster care system so that the speedy placement of children in loving, safe, *permanent* homes become its one, simple, driving mission.

Because of the commitment of so many of you in this room, we have made much progress toward that goal. We helped adoptive parents carve out the time they need to care for their new children. The first bill the President signed into law was the Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows new parents – including adoptive parents -- to take time off to care for their children without fear of losing their jobs and health insurance.

We put an end to racial discrimination in adoption. The President signed and strengthened the Multiethnic Placement Act, prohibiting adoption agencies from keeping children of one race from the safe and loving arms of parents of another. We made adoption more affordable, putting in place tax credits for new adoptive families. We are taking steps to use the Internet to help match waiting children with loving homes.



And most important, together we crafted legislation to dramatically reduce the amount of time a child spends in foster care. We said that no child would have to wait longer than 12 months – down from 18 months -- before the court considered his or her permanent placement. For the first time, we offered states financial incentives to move more children out of foster care and into permanent homes; and gave them the flexibility to try new strategies to accomplish that goal. And we set a national goal of doubling the number of children adopted annually – from 28,000 to 56,000 by the year 2002. And though there were moments when it looked like it wouldn't pass, we fought hard to make the Adoption and Safe Families Act law in 1997. In a few moments the President will offer new evidence of our continued success.

But we still have much more to do. Two weeks after the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, I went to California to meet with a group of young people who had “aged out” of foster care. They told me about the struggles they had – about being forced out of their foster homes on their eighteenth birthdays, about living in homeless shelters while trying to finish school, about getting sick and having no one to turn to for medical care or comfort.

These young people are our responsibility. We cannot ignore the potential of anyone of these children. One of the remarkable young women I met is now at Yale Law School. That is why I was pleased to announce a new proposal in the President's balanced budget to help former foster children make the transition to independence. The House, under the bipartisan leadership of Rep. Nancy Johnson and Rep. Ben Cardin, (who are here with us today), has passed a bill that would allow former foster children to remain on Medicaid until age 21, and give them the extra help they need to finish high school, find work and a place to live. Now I call on the Senate to take action on a companion bill sponsored by Sen. Chafee and Rockefeller. There is no reason we can't pass this bill this year.

The progress we celebrate today would not have been possible without so many of you in this room – adoption advocates, social workers, state and local leaders, but most of all our adoptive parents. I will never forget the boy I met three years ago at a Mother's Day roundtable for mothers and their adopted children. At the end of the discussion, we went around the room, asking the children if they had anything else to say. The final boy to speak looked up at the woman sitting next him, and said quietly, "I just want to thank my mother."

With that one simple adoring look and those few words, he summarized what we all had been trying to say all afternoon. So to our parents, we thank you for making that leap of faith, for opening your homes and your hearts, for seeing that spark of possibility and love in every child.

Now it is my privilege to introduce Dawn Keane, who with her husband Steven and son Sean, have just finalized their adoptions of Sarah and Brian.

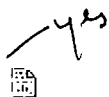
● June Shih

09/23/99 09:08:07 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: here's another cut... may be too long? 

Draft 9/23/99

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
REMARKS ON ADOPTION  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
SEPTEMBER 24, 1999**

This summer, I saw a photograph that reminded me why the work we are doing to promote adoption in America is so vitally important.

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Not long after her visit, Deanna's dream came true. And it has been my privilege these past few years to watch this young person's life transformed by her adoption. With the love of her parents, with the confidence that comes from knowing that she will always have a place to go home to no matter what else happens in life, Deanna is thriving. She is a senior in high school now, and plans to major in social work in college.

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gave your son his "second chance." And I think of the thousands of foster children in America who are still waiting and hoping for the same chance Deanna and Mayor Williams had to grow and blossom in a loving family.

When did  
Ever  
get  
married?  
a couple  
years  
ago

For more than 25 years, as an advocate and an attorney, I have worked to address the challenges of foster care and adoption in America. I have represented prospective parents in court, helping them navigate the bureaucratic mazes of adoption. I have listened to them as they described their frustration with the red tape that can delay adoption, even deny worthy couples the chance to share their lives with the children who so badly need their love and care. I have met foster children who have spent their childhoods feeling alone and unloved, moving from home to home with all their worldly possessions stuffed into shopping bags. Children such as the teenage boy the President and I met in the Oval Office two years ago, who, when asked where he lived, answered, "All over Fairfax County."

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more than  
when?

are?

not  
done

We have made much progress toward that goal. We helped adoptive parents carve out the time they need to care for their new children. The first bill the President signed into law was the Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows new parents to take time off to care for their children without fear of losing their jobs and health insurance. We fought to make sure the law included adoptive parents, who, just like any other new parents, need those precious first months to forge bonds with their new children.

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We put an end to racial discrimination in adoption. The President signed and strengthened the Multiethnic Placement Act, prohibiting adoption agencies from keeping children of one race from the safe and loving arms of parents of another. I have met so many parents and children who have told me that while they didn't share the same race, they shared unconditional love, a bond so much stronger.

We made adoption more affordable, putting in place a \$5,000 tax credit for new adoptive families, and a \$6000 tax credit for parents who adopt children with special needs.

And working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services, we crafted legislation to dramatically reduce the amount of time a child spends in foster care. We said that no child would have to wait longer than 12 months – down from 18 months -- before the

court considered his or her permanent placement. We offered states financial incentives to move more children off the foster care rolls and into permanent homes; and gave them the flexibility to try new strategies to accomplish that goal. And we set a national goal of doubling the number of children adopted annually – from 28,000 to 56,000 by the year 2002. And though there were moments when it looked like it wouldn't pass, we fought hard to make the Adoption and Safe Families Act law in 1997. In a few moments the President will report on the success of this law. *not just law.*

But we still have much more to do. Two weeks after the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, I went to California to meet with a group of young people who had “aged out” of the foster care system – and cut off from state support -- before they could find families to adopt them. They told me about the struggles they had – about being forced out of their foster homes on their eighteenth birthdays, about living in homeless shelters while trying to finish school, about getting sick and having no one to turn to for medical care or comfort.

America cannot afford to cast these young people out into the streets, into the rough and tumble of adulthood, without making sure that they have the tools they need to land on their feet. They are our responsibility. These young people need health insurance. They need job training and education. That is why I was pleased to announce a new proposal in the President's balanced budget to help former foster children make the transition to independence. The House, under the bipartisan leadership of Rep. Nancy Johnson and Rep. *Ben Cardin* — Carl Levin, has passed a similar bill, that would allow former foster children to remain on Medicaid until age 21, and give them the extra help they need to finish high school, find work and a place to live. Now I call on the Senate to take action on a companion bill sponsored by Sen. Rockefeller and Chafee. *I believe can get this done this yr.*

The progress we celebrate today would not have been possible without so many of you in this room – adoption advocates, social workers, but most of all our adoptive parents. I will never forget the ten year old boy I met three years ago at a Mother's Day roundtable we held for mothers and their adopted children. At the end of the discussion, we went around the room, asking the children if they had anything else to say. The final boy to speak looked up at the woman sitting next him, and said quietly, “I just want to thank my mother.” With that one simple adoring look and those few words, he summarized what we all had been trying to say all afternoon. So to our parents, we thank you for making that leap of faith, for opening your homes and your hearts, for seeing that spark of possibility and love in every child.

Now it is my privilege to introduce



June Shih

09/22/99 02:40:24 PM

→ Tony Williams

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: here's a first cut of adoption speech



Draft 9/22/99

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
REMARKS ON ADOPTION  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
SEPTEMBER 24, 1999**

This summer, I saw a photograph that instantly reminded me why the work we are doing to promote adoption in America is so vitally important.

It was a picture of a young woman in a green silk evening gown, high heels and a lace shawl. Her red hair was pulled back into an elegant bun; and you could just see the anticipation and delight in her eyes.

It was a picture of 17-year old Deanna Collins -- taken by her adoptive parents on the night of her high school prom. Looking at that picture, it was difficult to believe that that smiling, confident young woman was the same girl I had welcomed to the White House just four years before. Back then, she was thirteen and had already spent eight years in foster care. With her shoulders slumped, her eyes downcast, she told the audience gathered for National Adoption Month about her dreams of living in a place she could call home, a room she could call her own, a family she could love.

Not long after her visit, Deanna's dream came true. And it has been my privilege these past few years to watch this young person's life transformed by her adoption. With the love and support of her parents, with the confidence that comes from knowing that she will always have a place to call home, Deanna has blossomed. She is a senior in high school now, and plans to major in social work in college.

Every time I need inspiration for our fight to promote adoption in America, I think of Deanna. And I think of the thousands of foster children in America -- children with boundless capacities to love, to bring new joy and energy to a family -- who are still waiting and hoping for permanent homes.

For more than 25 years, as an advocate and an attorney, I have worked to address the

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challenges of foster care and adoption in America. I have represented prospective parents in court, helping them navigate the bureaucratic mazes of adoption. I have listened them as they described their frustration with the red tape that can delay adoption, even deny worthy couples the chance to share their lives with the children who so badly need their love and care. I have met foster children who have spent their childhoods feeling alone and unloved, moving from home to home with all their worldly possessions stuffed into shopping bags. I will never forget a teenage boy the President and I met in the Oval Office two years ago, who, when asked where he lived, answered, "All over Fairfax County."

Over the past seven years, I have met with scores of adoption advocates, parents, children, social workers, foundation and business leaders. And with each meeting and each conversation, I became more and more convinced that the time was long overdue to reform our foster care system. Our children were simply spending too many years – the average is three – in foster care. We needed to identify and eliminate the obstacles that kept them there. We needed to change our foster care system so that the speedy placement of children in loving, safe, *permanent* homes became its one, simple, driving mission.

Over the past seven years, we have made much progress toward that goal.

We helped adoptive parents carve out the time they need to care for their new children. The first bill the President signed into law was the Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows new parents to take time off to care for their children without fear of losing their jobs and health insurance. We fought to make sure that the law included adoptive parents, who, just like any other new parents, need those precious first months to forge bonds with their new children. *some older*

We put an end to racial discrimination in adoption. In 1994, the President signed the Multiethnic Placement Act, prohibiting adoption agencies from keeping children of one race from the safe and loving arms of parents of another. *strengthened by later executive power*

We made adoption more affordable, putting in place a \$5,000 tax credit for new adoptive families, and a \$6000 tax credit for parents who adopt children with special needs.

And working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services, we crafted legislation to dramatically reduce the amount of a time a child spends in foster care. We said that no child would have to wait longer than 12 months – down from 18 months -- before the court could consider his or her permanent placement. We offered states financial incentives to move more children off the foster care rolls and into permanent homes; and gave them the flexibility to try new strategies to accomplish that goal. And we set a national goal of doubling the number of children adopted annually, ~~from 27,000 to 54,000 by the year 2002~~. And though there were moments when it looked like it wouldn't pass, the Adoption and Safe Families Act became law in 1997. In a few moments the President will report on the success of this law.

But we still have much more to do. Two weeks after the President signed the Adoption



and Safe Families Act, I went to California to meet with a group of young people who had "aged out" of the foster care system -- and cut off from state support -- before they could find families to adopt them. They told me about the struggles they had -- about being kicked out of their foster homes on their eighteenth birthdays, about living in homeless shelters while trying to finish school, about getting sick and having no one to turn to for help or comfort.

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America cannot afford to cast these young people out into the streets, into the rough and tumble of adulthood, without making sure that they have the tools they need to land on their feet. They are our responsibility. These young people need medical insurance. They need job training and education. That is why I was pleased to announce a new proposal to help former foster children make the transition to independence. The proposal, which has already passed the House with bipartisan support, would allow former foster children to remain on Medicaid until age 21. It would give them the extra help they need to finish high school, find work and a place to live. I call on the Senate to pass this bill.

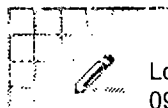
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[Conclusion TK] Intro of next speaker?

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Lowell A. Weiss  
09/23/99 03:23:43 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: remarks

Nicole,

I'd like to try to get the remarks to Staff Sec. for circulation. Do you want to make changes before I do so?

Draft 9/23/99 3:20 pm

Lowell Weiss

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
REMARKS ON ADOPTION GRANTS  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
September 24, 1999**

Acknowledge: Dawn Keane [KEEN] and the whole Keane family; Sec. Shalala; Olivia Golden, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families; Pat Montoya, Commissioner of HHS's Administration on Children, Youth and Families; children's advocates; Members TK; the Manis and Brown families behind me on this podium and the other families that have opened their homes and their hearts to adopted and foster children.

I want to say a special hello to the Badeau [bah-DOE] family. Almost two years ago, Sue and Hector Badeau joined us here at the White House when I signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act – and they brought 18 of the 22 beautiful children they have adopted. This past summer, they also welcomed into their loving home a family of 8 Kosovar refugees. If you ever need proof that there is no limit to the goodness in this world, I say: just look at Sue and Hector Badeau.

Finally, we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to the First Lady. For as long as I have known her, helping children find stable and loving homes has been a consuming passion in her life. I remember when we were newly married, and she waged a long and often lonely legal battle for two wonderful foster parents who desperately wanted to adopt the foster child they loved very much. And while many people have played a role in the successes we are here to celebrate today, no one deserves more credit than my wife. If you ever need proof that there is no limit to the good that one can do through public service, I say: Just look at my wife.

Over the years, there has been much heated debate over the proper role of government in America. But I believe that a new consensus on the proper role of government is emerging across America. A consensus that recognizes that government does not have all the answers,

but also that we cannot leave people to sink or swim on their own. A consensus that believes that government has a unique ability and deep responsibility to provide the tools to help people make the most of their own lives. And if you ever need proof that this new consensus has the right idea, I tell you: Just look at what governments at every level have done to increase the number of good, caring adoptions across the United States.

While we know foster parents provide caring homes for children, we also know that there is no substitute for the love of parents who will always be there – and the discipline and values they impart over a lifetime. We know we cannot allow our children to get stuck in the foster care system when there are open arms waiting to welcome them into permanent homes. That is why I directed my Administration to develop a plan to double the number of children we help move from foster care to permanent homes by the year 2002 and why we all worked so hard to pass the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Today, we have new evidence that efforts at every level are bearing fruit. The Department of Health and Human Services has just presented me with a comprehensive report that tracks America's progress in meeting our ambitious adoption goals. It shows that the number of adoptions from the foster care system increased from 28,000 in 1996 to a remarkable 36,000 in 1998 – putting us on track to meet our goal of 56,000 in 2002. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was created nearly 20 years ago.

As pleased as I am by this news – as pleased as I am for all of the children and families involved – I am not surprised. If you look at the HHS report, you will see all the hard work that lies behind this success story. You will see that, together, we have acted on each and every one of the 11 recommendations set forth in the original Adoption 2002 report – by breaking down barriers to adoptions, ensuring accountability, rewarding innovation, and supporting adoptive families themselves. You will see that we have fundamentally changed the approach to foster care and adoption in America.

One of the key recommendations we adopted into law in 1997 was to give states, for the very first time, financial incentives to help children move from foster homes to adoptive homes. Under these new bonus system, states are entitled to \$4,000 or \$6,000 – depending on whether the child has special needs – for each adoption above their previous average. The bonus is not just a general incentive; the states that receive a bonus will use it in a direct way to fund even greater efforts and catalyze even greater success.

112% Today, I have the honor of presenting the first round of these awards, worth \$20 million, to 35 states. The good news is that these states produced remarkable results – using creative new approaches and exceeding their own high goals. Illinois, for example, increased its adoptions by 53%. The bad news – if you could even call it that – is that Congress did not anticipate just how successful the states would be, and they appropriated too little money. But the fact is, we are incredibly proud of what all of these states have done for some of their most vulnerable citizens, and we are committed to working with Congress to make up the shortfall and give the states their full awards.

Today, I also have the honor of awarding \$5.5 million in Adoption Opportunities Grants to outstanding public and private organizations in 16 states. The grants will help fund rigorous research, new ways of increasing adoptions of minority children, and new ways of increasing interstate adoptions. Together, the bonuses and grants we are awarding today will help spark even more remarkable progress than we have seen in the past two years.

Of course, even if we meet all of our adoption goals, every year there will still be many young people in foster care who reach their 18th birthday and "age-out" of the system. This past June, thanks in great measure to the leadership of Nancy Johnson and Ben Cardin, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed legislation to ensure that these foster children are not cast out in the cold when their time in foster care ends. This is a vital issue, one that Hillary has championed for many years.

Unfortunately, the Senate has not yet scheduled a vote on <sup>ib</sup> a comparable bill, sponsored by TK and TK, that has been awaiting action for TK months. It has overwhelming bipartisan support. The Senate should pass it now. Together, let's resolve to help foster children make the transition to independence. Let's give them the tools - the help with health care, education, housing, and counseling - to make the most of their lives.

Conclusion TK.

Sen 5 Crofee & Rockefeller

Draft 9/23/99 8:45 pm  
Lowell Weiss

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**REMARKS ON ADOPTION GRANTS**  
**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**September 24, 1999**

Acknowledge: introducer Dawn Keane [KEEN] and the whole Keane family; Sec. Shalala; Olivia Golden, Asst. Sec. for Children and Families; Pat Montoya, Commissioner of HHS's Admin. on Children, Youth and Families; Sens. Harkin, Levin, Craig, Landrieu, Specter; Reps. Dave Camp, Nancy Johnson, Ben Cardin, Maxine Waters, Sandy Levin, James Oberstar, Deborah Pryce, William Delahunt, Tom DeLay; children's advocates; the Manis and Brown families behind me on this podium and the other families that have opened their homes and their hearts to adopted children.

I want to say a special hello to the Badeau [bah-DOE] family. Almost two years ago, Sue and Hector Badeau joined us here at the White House when I signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act – and they brought 18 of the 22 beautiful children they have adopted. This past summer, they also welcomed into their loving home a family of 8 Kosovar refugees. If you ever need proof that there is no limit to the goodness in this world, I say: just look at Sue and Hector Badeau.

Finally, we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to the First Lady. For as long as I have known her, making sure every child has a stable and loving home has been a consuming passion in her life. I remember when we were newly married, and she waged and won a long and often lonely battle to help two wonderful parents surmount legal obstacles and adopt their foster child. While many people have played a role in the successes we are here to celebrate today, I have never known a more dedicated activist than Hillary. If you ever need proof that there is no limit to the good that one can do through public service, I say: Just look at my wife.

After years of often heated debate, I believe that a new consensus on the proper role of government is emerging across America. One that recognizes that government does not have all the answers, but also that we cannot leave people to sink or swim on their own. A consensus that believes that government has a unique ability to provide the tools to help people make the most of their own lives. And if you ever need proof of the power of this new consensus, I tell you: Just look at what governments at every level have done to increase the number of good, caring adoptions across the United States.

You have already heard about – and many of you have participated in – our ambitious efforts to double the number of children we help move from foster care to permanent homes by the year 2002. Today, we have new evidence that these efforts are bearing fruit. The Department of Health and Human Services has just presented me with a comprehensive report that tracks America's progress in meeting our adoption goals. It shows that the number of adoptions from the foster care system increased from 28,000 in 1996 to a remarkable 36,000 in

1998. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was created nearly 20 years ago. We are well on our way to meet our goal of 56,000 in 2002.

As pleased as I am by this news, I am not surprised. If you look at the HHS report, you will see all the hard work and bipartisan cooperation that lies behind this success story. You will see a stunning example of what we can accomplish when we put politics aside and put our children first. You will see that by working together we have fundamentally changed the approach to foster care and adoption in America. You will see that together we have acted on each and every one of the 11 recommendations set forth in the original Adoption 2002 report – by breaking down barriers to adoptions, ensuring accountability, rewarding innovation, and supporting adoptive families themselves.

One of the key recommendations we adopted into law in 1997 was to give states, for the very first time, financial incentives to help children move from foster homes to adoptive homes. Under this new bonus system, states are entitled to up to \$4,000 or \$6,000 – depending on whether the child has special needs – for each adoption above their previous average.

Today, I have the honor of presenting the first round of these awards, worth \$20 million, to 35 states. The good news is that these states produced remarkable results – using creative new approaches and exceeding their own high goals. Illinois, for example, increased its adoptions by 112%. The bad news – if you could even call it that – is that we did not anticipate just how successful the states would be, and too little money was appropriated. But the fact is, we are incredibly proud of what all of these states have done for some of their most vulnerable citizens. We are committed to working with Congress to make up the shortfall and give the states their full awards.

Today, I also have the honor of awarding \$5.5 million in Adoption Opportunities Grants to outstanding public and private organizations in 16 states. The grants will help fund not only rigorous research but also new ways of increasing interstate adoptions and adoptions of minority children. Together, the bonuses and grants we are awarding today will help accelerate the remarkable progress we have seen these past two years.

Of course, as the First Lady has pointed out, even if we meet all of our adoption goals, every year there will still be many young people in foster care who reach their 18th birthday and “age-out” of the system. I join Hillary in calling on the Senate to schedule a vote on Senators Chafee and Rockefeller’s bipartisan bill to ensure that these foster children are not cast out in the cold when their time in foster care ends. The bill will surely pass with the same overwhelming support that we saw in the House this past summer. Together, let’s resolve to help foster children make the transition to independence. Let’s give them the tools – the help with health care, education, housing, and counseling – to make the most of their lives.

Although we still have more to do, we’ve worked hard to do our part to increase the number of children who find the stable, caring homes they desperately need. But ultimately, we know that the only way we can reach our goals is if good people in every community – people like the Keanes, the Manises, the Browns, and the Badeaus – look within and decide to adopt a child and share their unconditional love. To those of you who have already done so, I say: You

are the proof that there is unlimited goodness in this world. I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you all and God bless you.

# # #

## **ADOPTION EVENT**

### **Q&A**

**September 24, 1999**

**Q: Reports indicate that because the states did so much to increase adoptions, the amount of money set aside for bonus awards is not sufficient. How does the Administration propose to make up the shortfall in adoption incentive funds?**

A: We are very encouraged that the adoption incentive program has been such a powerful tool. States did so well in 1998 that they exceeded the \$20 million appropriated by Congress for bonuses. The law specifies that when the incentive payments earned by the states exceed the authorized limit, the awards will be pro-rated for each state according to its performance. The pro-rated adjustment has been made and those funds will be distributed to the appropriate states. Even with this cap, however, these are very substantial bonuses.

The Administration supports the effort to provide states with full bonuses for their 1998 efforts to increase adoptions. The House has approved legislation to do so, H.R. 1802, and the Administration will work closely with Congress to achieve a bipartisan solution to the shortfall.

**Q: Not all states received bonuses. Why have adoptions declined in some states?**

A: We believe that some of the decline is a result of reporting systems that are still under development, particularly in states with new computer systems. The shift to the new systems may be having an impact on the accuracy of the reporting. Also, some of the decline may reflect a normal variation in the number of adoptions finalized in the states. As states continue to implement the new adoption law, we expect their number of adoptions to increase.

**Q: How do you respond to the claim that the Administration is not serious about ensuring that the adoption process is free from racial discrimination?**

A: That is simply not true. In 1993, the President signed the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act and strengthened it further through the inter-ethnic provisions of the Small Business Job Protection of 1996. These laws ensure that the adoption process is free of discriminatory practices and delays based on race, culture or ethnicity. To ensure compliance, HHS has issued guidance to states and has pushed states to change their laws and policies accordingly. Furthermore, any complaints on this front are taken very seriously – and are quickly and thoroughly investigated by the Civil Rights Division of HHS. Finally, by making adoption more affordable through tax relief and by breaking down a host of barriers to adoption, the Administration has helped ensure that families of all backgrounds have the opportunity to consider adoption.



**Q: What was the "Adoption 2002" report?**

A: In response to a 1996 executive memorandum issued by President Clinton, HHS issued the "Adoption 2002" report. The report took its name from of the President's central goal -- to at least double, by the year 2002, the number of children adopted or permanently placed each year. "Adoption 2002" outlined administrative and legislative recommendations to set and meet urgent new adoption targets. We are very pleased that Adoption and Safe Families Act signed by the President in November 1997 was largely based on the report's recommendations.

**Q: What does our nation's child welfare system look like today? How many children are in it and how long do they stay in foster care on average?**

A: Today, approximately 520,000 of America's children live in our nation's foster care system. More than 100,000 of those children cannot return safely to their homes and need adoptive families. Our most recent data indicates that nearly half had been in care 24 months or longer. Of the children in care, the average age is 9 years old; 35 percent are white, 45 percent are black and 14 percent are Hispanic. Also, five percent of children turn 18 and leave the foster care system without having a permanent home.

**Q: What is the racial breakdown of the children who were adopted in FY 1998?**

A: The racial breakdown of the 36,000 children adopted in FY 1998 was: 38 percent white, non-Hispanic; 46 percent black, non-Hispanic; 13 percent Hispanic; 1 percent Asian Pacific; and 1 percent American Indian. These numbers roughly mirror the racial breakdown of the approximately 520,000 children in foster care overall.

**Q: How much funding does the federal government invest in foster care and adoption services?**

A: The federal government provides over \$5.5 billion to states to run their foster care, adoption and child welfare programs. The funding provides a variety of supports to states which include: preventive services, investigations of child abuse and neglect, caseworkers and administrators, foster care adoption benefits to families, training, recruitment of foster and adoptive families, demonstration grants to test innovative programs, services for teenagers who are leaving foster care to be on their own, and supports for children with special needs. States must provide matching funds in order to access a majority of these funds.

**Q: Does the number you are announcing today cover all adoptions?**

A: No. The adoptions reported today were those that qualified to be counted for payment of adoption incentive funds. There may be other adoptions where the state was involved but did not qualify for incentive payments -- for example, where a state provided one-time non-recurring legal costs or adoption assistance for a child with special needs. We do not have a firm count of these additional adoptions. As data collection and reporting by the states improve, we expect to capture all the children adopted from the state child welfare systems.