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BALD TRUTHS
THE BUSINESS OF HAIR LOSS

U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

AUGUST 4, 1997 / \$2.95

EXCLUSIVE

Dangerous Day Care

Some parents have learned in the hardest way that day-care licensing and regulation, even when they exist, are no guarantee of their child's safety

*Return
to Nicole*

First Lady Is Low Key On Overhaul Of Child-Care

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

QUANTICO, Va., Oct. 1 — In a day packed with a half-dozen public events to promote good child care, Hillary Rodham Clinton demonstrated today that she had learned some lessons from the failure of her 1994 campaign to enact national health insurance.

She told an audience in Miami that advocating a number of big changes at once can overwhelm people and that small, incremental changes were more realistic. And she spent the afternoon at the sprawling Marine base here in Virginia highlighting the commitment to child care of an important political ally — the military, which runs the nation's largest child-care system. (At Quantico, child care costs \$120 a week, with the Government paying half.)

In a colorful, toy-filled child-care center, Mrs. Clinton chatted with children and joined them in stringing beads onto necklaces.

Later, in a brief speech outside the base's brick headquarters, with a brass band lending a pep-rally atmosphere, Mrs. Clinton praised what she called the Marines' "model program" of child care. "I wanted to come here to see how we're taking care of the families who are on the front lines for America," she said.

Mrs. Clinton has clearly undertaken a mission to improve the often unreliable, expensive and low quality of child care in America, just as she sought to overhaul health care in the nation and education in Arkansas when her husband was Governor there.

But there has been no splashy announcement, as there was when President Clinton pronounced his wife the most capable person to lead the health-care fight, saying, "Of all the people I've ever worked with in my life, she's better at organizing and leading people from a complex beginning to a certain end."

Rather, the First Lady has set out in a relatively low-key way to prove that she is not trying to usher in the kind of radical changes that her health-care critics accused her of. And she appears eager to signal that she has learned her lesson.

As part of her drive to change health care, Mrs. Clinton gathered a select group of experts, met in secret and emerged with one huge proposal to change the system from top to bottom. Now, with child care, she is

slowly gathering ideas in public events, asking questions and refraining from putting forth a big legislative agenda.

She is convening a conference at the White House on Oct. 23 to promote further discussion. Marsha Berry, a spokeswoman for Mrs. Clinton, said it was too early to say if any legislative proposals would emerge.

To be sure, Mrs. Clinton has not glossed over aspects of child care that could become extremely controversial. She said today that she wanted to explore Government subsidies for day care and that she was seeking ways to limit liability for child-care providers.

"You can't expect businesses or private homes to offer child care unless they have some assurance that they can be protected from the unforeseen and accidental kinds of mishaps that happen in anybody's household," Mrs. Clinton, an erstwhile litigator, said in Miami. "And trying to walk that line between taking out the grossly negligent, reckless, intentional mistreatment from the every-day kinds of problems that we encounter is something we have to deal with on the national level."

In addition, Mrs. Clinton expressed interest in devising a national registry of child-care workers so that parents could check on their employment histories. She said such a registry might include not only people convicted of crimes but those against whom there are only allegations.

But she appears to be avoiding the kind of confrontational approach with Republicans on Capitol Hill and lobbyists for small businesses that marked the health-care debate.

Today Mrs. Clinton said she recognized the difficulties that small businesses have in responding to national policy, and she appealed to community leaders to help devise creative ways for small businesses to be able to afford child care.

"They get spooked off by the nay-saying voices who tell them it's going to be impossible, and it is impossible, if you think about it in a rigid way," she said this morning at a round-table discussion at the Baptist Hospital in Miami. "With small businesses, we often hit the wall."

Later, in a discussion about public interest commercials on radio and television to warn parents about abuse, Mrs. Clinton acknowledged that making 30-second commercials was expensive. When a local television executive suggested that the nation take the money it spends operating Congress and divert it instead to such commercials, Mrs. Clinton instantly warmed to the idea.

"Well, I'll tell you what," she began eagerly, as if a chance to abolish were abolish Congress were a dream come true. But she stopped herself, grinned broadly and let the moment pass in laughter with the audience.

White House Awaits Reno Ruling on Gore

By The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1 — The White House today played down the significance of Attorney General Janet Reno's expected decision to expand a Justice Department inquiry into whether to seek an independent prosecutor to investigate Vice President Al Gore's telephone fund-raising calls.

Ms. Reno has until Friday to decide whether to open a 90-day preliminary investigation into whether there is solid evidence that Mr. Gore violated a criminal law during the 1996 Presidential campaign. She has until Oct. 15 to decide whether to expand a similar inquiry involving President Clinton's fund-raising.

Ms. Reno has not said what she will do, but Government officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Justice Department lawyers had recommended that she move to the next phase of the inquiry, which could lead her to refer the case to an outside prosecutor. Those recommendations are included in a draft of a letter to be sent to the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

The White House press secretary, Michael D. McCurry, told reporters today: "It would not be unreasonable if the Attorney General wanted to take some additional time to review what the law is. It's not unreasonable to assume she might do that."

The New York Times
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1997

Reluctant Witness in Whitewater Case Raises a Fairness Issue

By TODD S. PURDUM

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 1 — It is a curiosity that cuts against the grain of basic American notions of fairness: a citizen not convicted of any crime — or even charged with one — can be held in jail for months on end, simply for refusing to answer a court's questions. It also happens to be a well-settled practice of Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence.

But every now and again, the tactic of jailing a reluctant witness for civil contempt of court catches the public's eye in a celebrated case. The latest example of this phenomenon is the case of Susan Henley McDougal, who has spent 55 weeks in jail cells in Arkansas, Texas and California, often in solitary confinement, for refusing to testify before the special Federal grand jury investigating the Whitewater affair.

By her lights, she is the heroine of a modern-day "Count of Monte Cristo," an innocent hauled off in handcuffs and leg irons by an unjust jailer. To the Whitewater prosecutors, she is a convicted "Federal criminal" who has been promised immunity from further prosecution based on her testimony and has the power to free herself from her contempt citation at any time by answering questions about her former business partner, Bill Clinton.

"This issue comes up from time to time, and there always seems to be dissatisfaction with it," said Erwin Chemerinsky, a professor of constitutional law at the University of Southern California. "It is well established that courts have this power, but it does point up an underlying problem, which is that a court can lock up someone for a very long time without criminal charges, and that's something worth being troubled over."

Stephen C. Yeazell, a professor of law and associate dean at the University of California at Los Angeles law school, called civil contempt "the nuclear bomb of equity jurisprudence, the ultimate kind of personal coercive sanction," one used in a variety of circumstances, not all of them involving a refusal to testify. Unions or corporations are often assessed large daily fines, for example, for refusal to comply with a court order to end a strike or stop polluting, and individuals are jailed for refusing to turn over a disputed piece of a property.

"It runs across the spectrum of judicial issues," Professor Yeazell said. "The question of compelling testimony begins to float closer toward something that often looks like an issue of human dignity."

Under Federal law, a witness who refuses to testify can remain jailed on civil contempt charges for up to 18 months; Mrs. McDougal, 43, has so far been held for just over a year for refusing to testify before the grand jury empaneled by Kenneth W. Starr in the Whitewater case.

Another Federal prisoner, G. Gordon Liddy, spent 18 months in jail for refusing to testify in the Watergate case, a refusal he was proud of.

Various state laws allow witnesses to be held for much longer periods.

Odell Sheppard, a Chicago handyman, has been jailed on a civil contempt citation for a decade for refusing to answer questions about the whereabouts of his daughter. In 1986, he was convicted of abducting her, and he long ago completed his three-year sentence for that crime.

In the late 1980's, Elizabeth Morgan, a Washington doctor, spent 25 months in jail rather than disclose the whereabouts of her daughter, whom she had secretly sent to live in New Zealand in a custody dispute with her former husband.

The Morgan case prompted such outrage that Congress passed a special law limiting to 12 months the time that a District of Columbia resident could be jailed on a civil contempt citation.

Civil contempt citations are a time-honored tactic relied on by the courts since medieval times to compel compliance with the legal process, whatever the merits of the case at hand. Legal theory says they are justified because they are meant to persuade a witness to cooperate with a legitimate inquiry, not to punish.

In Mrs. McDougal's case, Mr. Starr has promised her immunity from prosecution for any crime, other than perjury, that her testimony might bring up. That pledge essentially trumps her constitutional right against self-incrimination under the Fifth Amendment. But both because of her determined refusal to talk, and because the case involves the President of the United States, Mrs. McDougal stands out.

Civil contempt charges are not used very often, said Skip Donau, a lawyer in Tucson, Ariz., who is the co-chairman of the lawyers' strike force of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He once represented the reputed Mafia leader Joseph Bonnano, who spent several months in a Federal prison for refusing to testify at the so-called Mafia Commission trial in New York in the 1980's.

Defense lawyers and prosecutors say that in recent years, the tactic has probably been used most often in child custody cases involving parental abductions, in which one parent refuses to tell the other the whereabouts of their child or children.

In Mrs. McDougal's case, what is more controversial than the contempt citation itself is why she was held for seven months in two grim county jails here earlier this year. With her former husband, James B. McDougal, Mrs. McDougal was a manager of the failed Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan. In an inquiry stemming from that failure, she was convicted with him of fraud charges last year and sentenced to serve 24 months in prison.

But before that sentence could take effect, she was sentenced on the contempt citation by Judge Susan Webber Wright of Federal District Court in Little Rock, Ark., and taken on Sept. 9, 1996, to a county jail in nearby Conway. She was transferred to a Federal detention center in Fort Worth, Tex., after Arkansas officials complained that they were not equipped to handle her.

Last December, Mrs. McDougal was transferred here to face separate state charges of embezzling \$150,000 from the conductor Zubin Mehta and his wife, Nancy. A trial in that case has been repeatedly delayed.

For much of the period from December 1996 to last July, her lawyers say, Mrs. McDougal was under lock and key up to 23 hours a day, denied routine visits and forced to wear a red jail uniform generally reserved for serious offenders.

A California judge ordered that she be released on her own recognizance on the embezzlement charge and returned to the Federal jail where she had been held in Texas, but the United States Marshals Service refused to recognize that order as valid. Only in late July, after the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union filed a habeas corpus petition on Mrs. McDougal's behalf and a Federal Magistrate ordered the marshals to show just cause for continuing to hold her, was

she transferred to the Federal Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown Los Angeles.

Mrs. McDougal said in a recent telephone interview that she was now being held under "infinitely better" conditions. She is allowed out of her cell between 6:30 A.M. and 9:30 P.M. daily into a room with tables, chairs, television, telephones and board games like Scrabble, though she said her cell is "about the same," with just a cot, toilet and sink.

Rod Rosenbaum, an associate special counsel in Mr. Starr's office, said, "Ken Starr had nothing to do with the conditions of confinement, and the independent counsel's office has never taken any action to alter Mrs. McDougal's condition of confinement."

But Mark Rosenbaum, the legal director of the A.C.L.U. chapter here, said Mrs. McDougal had ultimately been transferred because Mr. Starr's office did not want the exposure of a public hearing in which it would have been called to explain the conditions in which she was held.

"The only reason she got released to where she should be in the first place was because Starr's office did not want a hearing where they had to justify the exceptional treatment," Mr. Rosenbaum said. "If they'd been on the up and up, they would have resisted the order to show cause. No one I know who's experienced with reluctant grand jury witnesses had ever head of conditions like those Susan was subjected to."

Under court precedents, a civil contempt sentence is meant only to induce compliance, not to constitute punishment, and courts have held that if it is established that a witness will never cooperate, he or she must be released or a prosecutor must bring criminal contempt charges.

"When you get past coercion and into the land of punitive treatment, then the citation should be purged," said Mrs. McDougal's lawyer here, Mark Geragos. But in June, Judge Wright denied Mrs. McDougal's petition for a new hearing or release, saying there remained a "realistic possibility" that she would change her mind and testify.

Prosecutors have made little secret of their hope that Mrs. McDougal might lead them to incriminating information about Mr. Clinton. She was convicted of receiving a fraudulent \$300,000 Government-backed loan from a lending company run by David Hale, a former Arkansas judge; \$50,000 of that money later wound up paying for expenses related to a land development on the White River in Arkansas in which the McDougals were partners with Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary.

Mr. Hale has testified that Mr. Clinton, as Governor of Arkansas, pressured him to make the loan. Mr. Clinton has repeatedly denied that, and he denied it again at the McDougals' trial last year.

Judge Wright originally sentenced Mrs. McDougal to serve 18 months on the contempt citation, or until the expiration of the grand jury's term, which would be Nov. 6. But Mr. Starr could seek an extension of the jury's term for another six months, which would keep Mrs. McDougal in jail until the end of her 18 months, next February. Even then, she has yet to serve a single day of her two-year sentence in the fraud case, and she could face an additional nine years in jail if convicted on the embezzlement charges.

Still, Mrs. McDougal professes to feel a certain peace about her decision not to cooperate. "I don't think I've done anything very different from what any other person in my circumstances would have done," she said.

CAPITAL JOURNAL

By GERALD F. SEIB

Children's Story: Mom, Dad Fret, Clinton Reacts

EVERYBODY IN WASHINGTON is obsessed right now with campaign finances, soft-money abuses and the precise location of telephones from which fund-raising calls were made. All of which is well and good.

But these are hardly the matters that consume Linda Alvarado of McAllen, Texas.

Her big worry—the one she rates as a 10 on the scale of one to 10—is how to find



child care for her three young children while she works as a college secretary and her husband as a bus driver. Her family is middle class, meaning it makes too much money to qualify for government child-care programs for the poor, but not enough to

afford top-flight private child care. For now, the solution is a mother-in-law who steps in as baby sitter. But it isn't a perfect solution. "You can already see the stress in her," Mrs. Alvarado frets. "It can't go on forever."

It's odd that child care, an issue that worries millions and arises again and again in casual conversation, has attracted so little attention as a public-policy question. Compared to the sublime and ridiculous matters that often preoccupy Washington, child care positively rings with relevance.

Or so the Clinton White House hopes. While calls for an independent counsel to investigate campaign finances ring out, the White House is quietly charging ahead with plans for a big, high-profile conference on child care in late October. President Clinton will play a prominent role, as will first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. The proceedings might even be beamed around to parallel child-care confabs in cabinet agencies and elsewhere around the country.

All this is more than a passing fancy. Mr. Clinton is virtually obsessed with questions of how to reconcile work and family pressures, aides say. He rarely misses a chance to mention that he signed the Family and Medical Leave Act, which guarantees workers time off for family crises. The president tells friends that, in the post-Cold War, post-balanced budget era, work and family conflicts will be the defining issues going into the 21st century.

Politically, White House aides are equally convinced that these issues are trump cards. They calculate that Republicans can't maintain their posture as the pro-family party if they fight things such as family leave and more activism on child-care questions.

CERTAINLY THE SHEER SWEEP of the child-care issue is daunting. There are some 35 million American families with children under the age of 18, including some 15 million with children under the age of six. Of families with children under the age of 18, some nine million are led by single parents. And among families that have two parents, almost 40% now have both a husband and a wife who work outside the home.

The simple fact that an issue affects lots of Americans doesn't make it a legitimate issue for government action. Millions of Americans have dandruff, which doesn't mean there should be a White House conference on dandruff.

But child care isn't dandruff. It's an issue that not only affects the most important thing in many Americans' lives—their kids—but also one that has a host of public-policy ramifications. Child-care issues touch the workplace, affect child development and complicate efforts to give welfare recipients jobs.

THE BIG QUESTION IS whether the government can do anything to make the child-care situation better — and how it can avoid doing things that make it worse. For starters, Clinton aides aim simply to raise the profile of child-care problems. That might prod states, cities and employers to make available more information about child-care choices. "I can get more good information quickly about how to buy a car than I can about how to take care of my child," says Clinton communications director Ann Lewis.

Beyond that, Margy Waller, a policy analyst at the Progressive Policy Institute, says the government could consider providing capital to build more child-care facilities, and might revamp the existing child-care tax credit so it gives more help to middle-income and lower-income families. The government also might be able to help companies cope with the high cost of liability insurance, which often stops employers from providing workplace child care.

And Clinton aide Paul Begala argues that, much as the government monitors food safety without actually serving the food, it may have a role in monitoring the safety of child care. "We make sure food is safe, but we don't run McDonald's," he says.

Of course, government regulation could easily translate into child care more expensive and harder to find. That's the trap the administration needs to avoid. Similarly, in political terms, child care could parallel health care: People may want the government to do something, but may not trust government to do it right. Still, the topic is important enough that it merits a close look, albeit a careful one.

CC: FLORUS
Jen
Nicole
Melanne

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1997

Sen/Nicole -
FYI.
Elena

Mrs. Uncle Sam wants you

First lady will look to the military for ideas on day care

Preliminary work is underway at the White House for an end-of-the-year conference on improving the quality of child care—a top-priority project for first lady **Hillary Rod-Clinton**. But it is proving easier to document problems than to find solutions. Mrs. Clinton is now looking to the military to see if its experience with on-base day-care programs offers ideas for the civilian world. She plans to visit military installations this fall, including the Marine base at Quantico, Va., near Washington. The conference is expected to address such issues as low pay for child-care workers and demographic trends indicating that an increasing number of families will rely on day care. The administration's deal with Congress to balance the budget by 2002, however, offers little leeway for proposing new programs. The president may have to rely largely on persuading businesses to offer child care for employees.

Trouble brewing

A blue-chip group of more than 30 former lawmakers, diplomats, and foreign affairs experts is preparing to issue an open letter this month opposing **President Clinton's** top foreign policy goal: the expansion of NATO. The formidable list of hawks and doves includes three former senators—Democrat **Sam Nunn**, who was long regarded as the Senate's leading defense expert, and Republicans **Gordon Humphrey** and **Mark Hatfield**. Also on the list are **Jack Matlock**, U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1987 to 1991, and **Paul Nitze**, **President Reagan's** chief arms control negotiator. The group was organized by **Susan Eisen-**

hower, granddaughter of the former president who was NATO's first commander, and other national security analysts. The letter, to be released June 26, will call on Clinton to suspend NATO expansion, arguing that he should concentrate on arms control efforts, which have been hampered by

NATO's 50th anniversary in 1999. The timing of the protest is awkward for the administration, coming just weeks before NATO leaders meet in Madrid to formally invite the three former Warsaw Pact countries to join the alliance. The bipartisan group hopes to spark debate before the Senate votes on

ning to kidnap or kill a U.S. law enforcement agent working along the border in retaliation for the confiscation of a recent drug shipment. A joint FBI-Drug Enforcement Administration team in San Diego is said to be preparing an indictment against the Arellano Felix brothers. FBI and DEA officials say they have increased security and put agents on a heightened state of alert over the past several months. U.S. drug agents are still haunted by the 1985 killing of DEA agent **Enrique Camarena**, who was tortured by Mexican traffickers and their police accomplices.

Foggy Bottom delay

Although the Clinton administration remains worried over the debate on renewing China's most-favored-nation status, it appears to be getting an unexpected break with the delay in the State Department's report on religious freedom that is critical of Beijing. The report, aimed for release this week, now likely won't come out until after Congress votes on MFN next week. As written, it puts special focus on the persecution of Christians around the world, and singles out China for especially tough criticism. Critics, including several Christian groups, want to revoke China's MFN as punishment for what they see as its widespread human rights violations. The administration is committed, though, to extending MFN trade status with China. State Department officials say the report is being held up to broaden its findings.

No cutting corners

In the Marines, the elaborate change-of-command ceremony



Russia's pique over NATO enlargement. It urges Clinton to stick with his proposed Partnership for Peace, a NATO program of cooperation with former Soviet bloc countries that falls short of alliance membership. One organizer says the goal is to demonstrate that credible opposition to NATO expansion exists despite the administration's full-speed drive to admit Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic by

admitting new members, which could happen next year.

Border alert

Federal drug warriors battling Mexican traffickers are growing increasingly concerned about their safety. Sources say the FBI's San Diego office has received substantive intelligence reports indicating that the Tijuana-based Arellano Felix brothers' cartel may be plan-

First Lady Presses Child-Care Reform

In U-Md. Speech, Clinton Praises Center There and One at Quantico

By Jackie Spinner
Washington Post Staff Writer

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited a child-care center at the University of Maryland at College Park yesterday and later in a speech used the occasion to repeat her call for reform in the nation's day-care industry.

Addressing a crowd of 1,300 university students and faculty and staff members in a packed Tawes Theatre auditorium on campus, Clinton said the university's Center for Young Children, and a similar facility she visited at Quantico Marine Corps Base this week, are rare examples of quality child care.

She said the U.S. military's approach in particular should be a model for the workplace.

"There are certainly differences between the military and civilian sector, but I believe the military experience can serve as a beacon for the American workplace in general," Clinton said. "When parents don't have to come to work feeling concerned about how their children are doing, they can make a more positive contribution that benefits all of us."

The first lady's visit was intended to set the stage for a White House confer-

ence on child care planned for Oct. 23. Upon her arrival in the auditorium, she was greeted with thunderous applause and a standing ovation. She gave her address in front of a huge red, white

"We have to do more to support those parents . . . who are trying to do the best they can."

— Hillary Rodham Clinton

and blue banner that proclaimed, "Better Child Care for a Better America."

Clinton had warm praise for the university's child-care center, where she met with a group of 5-year-olds.

"This is a place where children are treasured and valued and stimulated, a place that any of us would happily stay for juice and nap-time any day," she said. "But that center is far too rare."

Later, when audience members were invited to ask the first lady questions, Paula J. Broglio, a university secretary,

told Clinton that she had tried to enroll her own 4-year-old in the Center for Young Children but could not afford the fees.

The center enrolls 120 children, ages 3 to kindergarten. The day-care center has a sliding fee scale, but Broglio said she would still have to pay \$500 a month, which is 25 percent of her salary.

Broglio said that if she didn't have the help of her parents, she would have to quit her job and go on welfare.

"The biggest problem out there is affordable, good-quality day care," Broglio said. "I can't find it."

In response, Clinton said Broglio is "a perfect example of the kind of problem I'm trying to illustrate."

She said the October conference at the White House will address the issue of affordable child care and other issues, including the need for day care for school-age children.

"We need more subsidies for working parents, particularly single parents," Clinton said. "If we are going to have a policy in our country of ending welfare and expecting everyone to work, we have to do more to support those parents with children who are trying to do the best they can."

DEFENSE & DIPLOMACY

Czech President Havel Says Dangers Justify Larger NATO

Czech President Vaclav Havel said yesterday the danger of war still exists and expanding NATO is worth the cost if it contributes to greater security in Europe.

Opponents of the expansion that would bring his country, Poland and Hungary into the 16-nation alliance are "extremely naive, shortsighted and even dangerous," Havel said.

With Czech-born Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright listening and hearings on NATO enlargement to start in the Senate next week, Havel said his country is ready to pay for pushing the alliance's borders eastward toward Russia.

"Any judicious person must admit that such expenditure is worth it," he said. "Has it not been established beyond doubt that even the most costly preventive security is cheaper than the cheapest war?"

In the aftermath of the Cold War, Havel declared, the world is "covered with innumerable dangers that are diverse, decentralized and yet intertwined."

Albright introduced the former Czech dissident who helped topple the Communist regime in his country in 1989 as a "serial truth-teller."

He received the 1997 J. William Fulbright Award, named for the late internationalist Democratic senator from Arkansas who sponsored a program under which thousands of Americans have studied abroad.

Past recipients include South African President

Nelson Mandela and former President Jimmy Carter.

—Associated Press

Nigeria Apologizes for Party 'Incident'

■ Nigeria apologized yesterday to the State Department for an incident last month in which Nigerian security forces disrupted a farewell party given in honor of departing U.S. Ambassador Walter Carrington.

Nigerian Ambassador Dato Adamu conveyed the apology for what he called "a most unfortunate incident," department spokesman James P. Rubin said. The ambassador told department officials his government has the utmost respect for Carrington and that it has no intention of slighting or otherwise threatening him, Rubin said.

Rubin added that the Nigerian government will provide a written explanation of the incident within several days.

"We welcome this apology and its acknowledgment of the obligations to allow Ambassador Carrington and the U.S. Embassy to conduct diplomatic business in a safe and secure environment," he said.

The reception for Carrington was hosted by pro-democracy and human rights groups. The security agents broke down the gate at the house where the reception was being held. After entering the residence, they drew their guns and broke up the gathering.

—Associated Press

The Washington Post

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1997

Clinton, Otherwise Fit, to Get Hearing Aids

Checkup Reveals Decades of Exposure to Loud Noise Took Its Toll

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer

AI

PRESIDENT, From A1

A half-century of marching bands, rock-and-roll music and campaign rallies has taken such a toll on President Clinton's ears that doctors yesterday fitted him for hearing aids.

For years, Clinton has suffered from a high-frequency hearing loss that makes it difficult to discern what people are saying in the din of a crowded room. But the condition has worsened to the point where the president even complained that he

could not make out what hecklers were shouting at him during recent speeches.

"It interferes with his understanding of certain words," said James Suen, the hearing specialist who examined Clinton yesterday during his annual physical checkup. "It's not anything like profound deafness."

The president will receive one device for each ear, but will have to use them only in settings where he typically has had trouble hearing, such as receptions or political fundraisers. Unlike older models that are

easily noticeable, the advanced "completely-in-canal" versions chosen for Clinton are so hidden that most people around him will not know when he is wearing them.

While Ronald Reagan used them during his years at the White House, Clinton at 51 is far younger and the image of a baby boomer president with hearing aids could have widespread impact, medical experts said. What is unusual is not that someone as young as Clinton would have trouble hearing; what is rare is that

See PRESIDENT, A10, Col. 1

someone of his age would so readily accept the inevitability of needing artificial help. Of 26 million Americans with hearing loss, only an estimated 6 million wear hearing aids.

"There are a lot of people out there who need these but there's such a stigma attached to them," said Karen Doyle, an ear specialist who is a member of the hearing aid subcommittee of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. "Even old people don't want to wear them because they think it makes them look old."

Sales of hearing aids jumped after Reagan began using them, and industry representatives predicted yesterday that Clinton will make it even more socially acceptable for a generation that was the first raised on rock music and is now suffering the consequences. "The president's decision is really an important one for baby boomers," said Carole Rogin, president of the Hearing Industries Association.

Aides at the White House immediately saw another benefit: Now when reporters shout unwelcome questions, Clinton can mimic the trademark Reagan gesture of cupping his hand to his ear and shaking his head to indicate he did not understand.

The results of his audiograms sullied an otherwise generally upbeat physical checkup for the president. After six hours of tests at Bethesda Naval Hospital, doctors pronounced Clinton in excellent shape, reporting that he has lost 20 pounds and cut his cholesterol significantly. Clinton, who embarked on a rigorous workout regimen after tearing a knee tendon in March, weighed in at 196 pounds; his blood pressure was measured at a healthy 122 over 68 and his cholesterol

ol was 179, well below the recommended maximum of 200.

Doctors reported that Clinton's knee has fully recovered, concluding that his range of motion was equal in both legs and finding no stiffness. However, Clinton complained that his joints feel stiff during temperature changes.

Clinton did have a one-centimeter cyst removed from the left part of his chest, much as he did from his neck last year. Doctors administered a local anesthetic and used two sutures during the five-minute procedure. The cyst will be tested, but Clinton's specialist was unconcerned. "I would be amazed if anything were to show other than totally benign," said dermatologist David Corbett. "This is a very common type of cyst."

Doctors attributed Clinton's deteriorating hearing to age and long exposure to loud noises in his life, dating to his days as a high school saxophone player. According to independent specialists, a person with his condition would have trouble distinguishing words with letters such as "s" or "t," not to mention making it hard to hear noises such as wrist-watch alarms and high-pitched bird chirping.

If the president was bothered by this, he did not show it yesterday. Clinton often seems conscious of the advance of middle age, frequently joking in speeches and other public appearances about how old he is. But when his helicopter landed back on the White House lawn yesterday and reporters asked how he felt, he gave a hearty thumbs up.

"Given where he is on his weight, his blood pressure and his cholesterol, he's more than fine," said his senior adviser, Rahm Emanuel. "This is nowhere near bothering him."

The Washington Post

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1997

WorkingMother

September 22, 1997

Nicole R. Rabner
Office Of The First Lady
Oeob 17th St & Pa Ave Nw
Washington, DC 20500

Baptist
Bunnett
Allstate

Dear Ms. Rabner:

Please accept this copy of the October issue of *Working Mother*, dedicated to our **100 Best Companies for Working Mothers**, and join us in recognition of each one of these admirable organizations. They represent the leading edge of the private sector whose innovations, individually and in partnership with state and federal agencies, are making vital contributions toward making the family-friendly workplace a national reality.

It's often said that what's good for American business is good for America—but what a powerful fusion results when the reverse also holds true!

That's exactly what's been happening as work/family issues pick up steam in the American workplace. Of course, family-friendly policies make sense for the individual. The good news is that they make good corporate sense, too.

When *Working Mother* first decided to highlight the **Best Companies for Working Mothers** in 1985, just 10 pioneering companies were cited. Now, a little over a decade later, we're happy to report that keeping the list to just 100 companies presents an increasing challenge and continually raises the bar.

As our annual honorees have discovered, being cited as one of the **100 Best Companies for Working Mothers** is a great boost for a company's bottom line. As many of these frontline organizations have seen, family-friendly thinking pays off through:

- **Attracting talent:** Recruiters have discovered that personal/professional balance is a growing concern with both new and established prospects.
- **Encouraging loyalty and retention:** Flexibility and personal support are the perks most valued by our nation's increasingly diverse workforce.
- **Great press:** Work/family issues continue to make front page news. From *The Wall Street Journal* to network news, matters of balance continue to make headlines. Our own 100 Best list generates more than 300 million impressions nationwide; featured companies cite their position on the list in their annual reports.

- **Higher share prices:** A 1996 study by *Human Resource Management News* showed organizations on the **100 Best Companies for Working Mothers** list actually saw stock prices rise the day after the list was announced.

As American business gears up to face the demands of the coming century, recruiting and holding onto top talent is more vital than ever. We applaud those companies who have made work/family balance a boardroom priority, and urge them to keep pushing the envelope.

Working Mother will continue to report on the latest issues of work/family balance, and as always, strive to fulfill our mission as the Voice of Authority on behalf of America's working mothers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Litrell".

Barbara Litrell
Vice President/Group Publisher

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6 GREAT FREEZE-AHEAD FAMILY MEALS WHY KIDS NEED PRIVACY

WorkingMother

SPECIAL ISSUE



TWELFTH ANNUAL SURVEY

BEST COMPANIES FOR WORKING MOTHERS

10> OCTOBER 1997
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The Reasons Why We Need To Rely Less On Day Care

By Stanley I. Greenspan

On Thursday, the White House will direct its attention—and probably much of the nation's—to a subject that desperately needs attention: the state of day care for the young children of millions of working parents in this country.

The White House Conference on Child Care will focus on the quality, the affordability and the supply of child care, among other topics. It plans to figure out how best to help parents identify high-quality child care and discuss how best to bring good child care to under-served populations, such as welfare mothers headed to work.

These are important questions, of course. But in the rush to improve and increase child care, we are ignoring a more fundamental reality: Much of the child care available for infants and toddlers in this country simply isn't good for them.

This isn't the parents' fault and, in many respects, it's not the child-care providers' fault, either. A growing body of recent research indicates that most of our children are cared for in child-care centers and in other out-of-home day-care arrangements that have significant limitations. Recent studies by the University of Colorado, the Families and Work Institute of New York, and the National Institute of Child Health and Development, for example, have concluded that more than 80 percent of day care in child-care centers is inadequate and that, for infants, out-of-home care, especially day-care centers, tend to be inferior to parental care.

This negative conclusion about day care is not motivated by the misguided nostalgia of the Christian Right for the days when fewer women worked outside the home nor by a conservative hostility to government social programs aimed at helping children. Nor am I unmindful of the economic realities that force many parents to rely on day care. But rather than increase our reliance on day care, we should begin fundamentally rethinking the way we organize work and child care.

The best way to begin is to review and
See DAY CARE, C2, Col. 4

Stanley Greenspan is author of *"The Growth of the Mind: The Endangered Origins of Intelligence,"* and clinical professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at George Washington University Medical School.

The Washington Post
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1997

DAY CARE, F1 C1

understand the best research into the effects that different types of care have on the development of very young children.

President Clinton identified this basic issue at last April's White House Conference on the Brain and Early Development. The conference, which helped kick off a national discussion on how best to help children's early development, attracted hundreds of participants, including pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton, Carla Shatz, professor of neurobiology at the University of California at Berkeley and David A. Hamburg, then president of the Carnegie Corp. There was a healthy consensus that early interactions between infants and caregivers are essential not only for a healthy mind, but also for the physical growth and wiring of the brain.

When Clinton asked those of use at the conference what kinds of experiences are most important for babies' development and how much is needed, he opened up a subject that is far more politically sensitive than he probably anticipated. That's because I—and many other researchers—have identified the quantity and quality of experiences that babies and young children need to develop optimally. There are six stages that families with children who are emotionally and intellectually healthy provide to their children. A review of these six stages makes clear why most out-of-home child care cannot provide a number of essential building blocks for a child's healthy mind and brain. Briefly, children need:

- An ongoing, loving and intimate relationship (lasting years, not months) with one or a few caregivers in order to develop caring, empathy, trust and relating.

- Sights, sounds, touches and other sensations tailored to the baby's unique nervous system in order to foster learning, language, awareness, attention and self-control.

- Interactions made up of long sequences of back-and-forth smiles, smirks, sounds, reaching and the like. This "emotional dialogue" between adults and babies fosters the beginnings of a sense of self, logical communications and the beginnings of purposefulness.

- Discussions without words—long negotiations with gestures to solve problems (such as when a toddler takes a caregiver to the fridge to get the juice) to foster early types of thinking and social skills.

- Shared use of creative ideas through pretend play between a caregiver and a child and creative negotiations of basic needs ("Juice!") in order to foster language and creativity.

- Logical use of ideas through a caregiver eliciting a child's opinion ("I like this because...") and debates in order to promote logical thinking, planning and readiness for reading and math.

These aren't interactions that can occur on the fly. Child-care experts suggest that during the first two years of life, these types of experiences need to be available one-half or more of a baby's waking hours. Many parents provide these interactions during feeding, bathing and diaper changes. Yes, children get fed and get their diapers changed in day care, but even at excellent centers with outstanding, well-trained staff, there are significant limitations. Because day-care workers are often caring for several infants, their interactions with each baby tend to be brief, which means the infants aren't getting the long interactive "dialogues" through words and gestures that many parents provide at home.

Even in good day-care centers, we've seen many an eager, expectant 8-month-old baby give up and stare at the wall as his caregiver stops by his crib briefly but then hurries away to attend to a crying rival.

Even more important, day-care workers don't get a chance to build long relationships with the children in their care because, at most centers, babies change caregivers each year as they move on to the toddler room. And in centers where there is less training, lower wages and high turnover, caregivers may change even more frequently.

In short, three of the six essential building blocks are compromised due to the very structure of center-based day care: ongoing,

intimate relationships; interactions made up of lengthy, forth emotional dialogues; and 3 problem-solving discussions with gestures.

The other three components of good care—providing stimulation appropriate to the baby's nervous system; shared use of creative ideas; and logical use of ideas through eliciting opinions and debates—vary significantly, depending on the staff and the chemistry between caregivers and the children.

There is some resistance to this idea. For example, the initial results of an ongoing day-care study conducted by the National Institute of Child Health and Development have been interpreted by many media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, CNN and popular parents' magazines as "good news for parents." In fact, the news isn't quite as upbeat as all that. The study is finding that babies in relatively full-time day care have compromised attachments unless their parents were especially sensitive to their needs and adept at reading their emotional signals in the evenings—that is, providing the types of experiences missing in the day-care centers.

The child-care challenges we face cannot be dismissed. Current patterns of out-of-home child care have significant limitations that endanger the growing minds of future generations. An entirely new set of guiding assumptions is necessary. We need to re-evaluate the professed value we place on children. Children and the care of them must be elevated to a higher priority, both within families and society. This will be unrealistic for parents who, no matter how much they want to stay home, have no choice but to work. So we need to gradually bring about social arrangements which maximize at home care of young infants by their parents.

I believe many two-parent working families would do well to consider the "4/3 Solution," or some variation of it. Under this plan each parent works two-thirds time to pursue career goals and together they provide 4/3 of a single income. Thus, one-third of each parent's time is left for direct baby and child-care. Obviously, some families will elect other part-time arrangements. This will mean a significant pay cut, which clearly not all families can afford. But if those who do will make child care the significant part of their lives that it deserves to be.

In the short run, parents and future parents need to more carefully plan their careers and lifestyles so they can fit in the time and the attention that children need. In the long run this solution will involve considerable government and industry support, to put it mildly. Options that will need to be considered will include government incentives, including tax incentives for employers to provide part-time work options for men and women and more flextime to employees, so parents can arrange more flexible work schedules.

Unpaid parental leave should be extended from three months to six months and, whenever possible, parents should be permitted to return to full- or part-time work schedules gradually.

To facilitate the 4/3 solution over the next generation, our education system needs to get involved. Subjects like child development and family life need to become a core part of school curriculums in order to prepare students for their futures. We now have a detailed body of knowledge about how children develop the best. Kids should learn about it in school to better prepare them for parenthood.

For two-parent families and single-parent families where full-time work is essential to provide food, shelter and medical care, we must improve the quality of child care, including having caregivers stay with the same group of babies for three years or longer.

Impersonal child care is but the most obvious symptom of a society that is moving toward more impersonal modes of communication, education, and health and mental health care. Intimate ongoing interactions between children and their parents, we're learning, are essential for the proper growth of the brain and mind. These types of interactions also makes for reflective citizens as well as a sense of cohesion that makes societies work.

In D.C., Targeted Tax Breaks Miss the Mark

By Martin A. Sullivan

Surprise, D.C.! The U.S. Congress has a gift for you. It's not what you asked for. It's not easy to use. But it did cost the government a lot of money and no other city has it: a billion-dollar package of tax breaks exclusively for the residents and businesses of the nation's capital, worth about \$400 per resident.

The intention was admirable: to stimulate business, investment and new-home ownership in the District. But before you start hiring and investing and buying condos in the District, check with your accountant. Restrictions apply. The catch is that new federal income tax cuts for D.C. are "targeted"—which means most folks don't get anything and a few lucky District businesses and individuals get a lot. Consult your map of the city, because what you get depends not only on *what* you do and *how much* you make but also on *where* you are.

For tax purposes, Congress has chopped the District up into dozens of small zones, and then put each of these zones into one of three categories. First, there are the zones with poverty rates of 20 percent or more—collectively dubbed the "D.C. enterprise zone." In these areas, all the new tax breaks apply. Second, there are the zones with poverty rates between 10 percent and 20 percent. In these areas, only the home-buyer credit and the zero-percent capital gains rate are available. Third, there are all the other areas of the District with poverty rates below 10 percent. The only tax break available in these areas is the home-buyer

credit. Because Congress has resorted to mechanical use of poverty rates to define these areas, the result is a patchwork quilt of tax breaks distributed in a pattern that sometimes seems random and arbitrary.

Poverty rates tell us which areas of the District have *residents* most in need—which is not necessarily the same as telling us which *areas* are in need of private-sector economic development. Many parts of downtown have high rates of poverty, but are among the most economically developed areas of the District. These areas are already home to some of the city's most highbrow business establishments and have much new construction underway. Nevertheless, the businesses in these areas will become eligible for the same economic development incentives as those in Southeast's Anacostia and Marshall Heights in Northeast.

Another problem is that many college students living on and around university campuses are considered "poor" residents when the Census Bureau calculates poverty rates, even though they may come from well-to-do families. The result: Big portions of the high-rent districts around George Washington and Georgetown Universities are included in the D.C. enterprise zone. The ultimate irony under the new law is that many well-to-do college students living in Georgetown will be classified

as "high-risk youth." If they get hired to sell records or tend bar, their employers will walk away with a tax credit of up to 33 percent of wages.

District residents will ask: Why should a restaurant on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue with 50 employees get \$100,000 of tax credits each year while its competitor directly across the street gets nothing?

And, if the goal is to revitalize the district, why should any store in well-to-do Georgetown get tax breaks when the small retail stores of Brookland, a deserving middle-class neighborhood in Northeast, get nothing?

Why should a large luxury hotel two blocks east of the White House get roughly \$2,000 each year for every District resident it employs while a large luxury hotel two blocks north of the White House gets nothing?

And why is the federal government helping luxury hotels to tax relief while turning away struggling businesses in Kingman Park, a worthy working class neighborhood near RFK Stadium?

Besides the arbitrary geography of these incentives, there are other problems with the new tax laws for the District. Because the wage credit is only available on the first \$15,000 paid to each employee, it gives employers an incentive to favor less-skilled over more-skilled employees, and it encourages them to hire part-time rather full-time employees. It also encourages temporary over permanent employment.

For example, an employer can get \$6,000 of tax credits for hiring two workers in successive six-month periods for \$15,000 each. The employer would only get \$3,000 for hiring one worker for \$30,000 to fill the same slot for the entire year.

The zero-percent capital gains rate has a flaw, too. It is an incentive for entrepreneurship, but if a new business expands any significant portion of its operations outside impoverished areas, it no longer qualifies.

What was Congress thinking? Perhaps the senators who drew up this tax package behind closed doors last July did not realize its consequences and effects. Ignorance of the law should be no excuse—especially if you wrote it.

Will these tax breaks actually increase employment and reduce poverty in the District? Nobody knows. Despite all the statistical studies, economists simply cannot say with any accuracy whether tax incentives for local economic development actually work.

We do know that these new laws are complicated. We do know that the short, five-year lifespan of most of these incentives greatly diminishes their potential to lure businesses into the District. We know that a lot of D.C. businesses and individuals will get a windfall for doing what they were going to do, anyway. And we know that a lot of others will reshuffle their business in a manner that qualifies them for the tax break but does not do much for the overall District economy.

As the carelessly drawn legislation indicates, Congress has engaged in a lot of wishful thinking in spending this billion dollars. If Congress is going to throw tax breaks at the District's problems, it should come up with ones that will do more good.

What was Congress thinking? Ignorance of the law should be no excuse—especially if you wrote it.

Martin Sullivan, an economist at Tax Analysts, is reviewing changes in federal tax law for the District of Columbia Tax Revision Commission.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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New York educators and policy makers speak out on early learning.

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Q&A

Early learning expert Mary Mahoney.

Early childhood education has moved from the fringes of education to center stage.

PAGE 14

In Our Schools

From scientific research to school readiness, find out what's happening in classrooms around the state.

PAGE 10

Early education programs to expand in state

by Clorinda Valenti

The number of public school prekindergartens will increase across the state next year under a new law making them universal for four-year-olds.

The initiative, now being finalized by the state Education Department, will provide 75 percent to 90 percent funding to districts opting to offer a pre-K program. However, critics claim these figures are overly optimistic. They charge that taxpayers will pay more for pre-K, since the state's per pupil grant would not cover the full cost. Although it will not be mandatory for districts to provide pre-K, many education observers believe most districts eventually will offer a program. Funding also will be available to districts that wish to institute full-day kindergartens.

"This is a landmark piece of legislation," says David Hunt, executive director of the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, which promotes child care services across the state. "This shows a new commitment to early learning."

November pre-K public forums

(Meetings scheduled for 4-6 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.)

- 5:** Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Holbrook, 10 a.m.-noon
Saxton Middle School, Patchogue
Sweet Home Middle School, Amherst, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- 6:** Brookside Junior HS, Merrick, 10 a.m.-noon
Long Beach Senior HS
Lehman College, Bronx (tentative)
- 10:** Martin Luther King HS, Manhattan
- 12:** O'Brien Academy, Albany
Nottingham HS, Syracuse
- 25:** NYNEX/Bell Atlantic, Brooklyn

Call (518) 474-5807 for more information.

Local control in instituting a program is an important component of the pre-K measure, Hunt says. Existing resources, such as Head Start, child care centers, and nursery schools, will be eligible to function as pre-K programs if they meet state requirements and existing pre-K standards. With this flexibility districts can decide to start a new program or adapt an existing service provider into a pre-K.

"This creates a very mixed model," Hunt says, "but it puts the decision-making at the local level where it belongs." Using the site of another program like Head Start for a pre-K also may help

Continued on page 7

NYU project assists Head Start teachers

Encouraging a child-centered early learning environment is the focus of a 4-year-old pilot project in four New York City Head Start centers.

Teaching for Success — a collaboration among the department of curriculum and teaching at New York University's School of Education, the Robin Hood Foundation, and Head Start — emphasizes staff development as the means to meet this goal, according to Maris Krasnow, the project's coordinator and an adjunct professor of education at NYU. The project educates teachers to help promote independence and initiative in their students, along with the social skills necessary to get along with others, she says. For instance, the children learn to move independently from activity to activity and learn to make choices.

Taking part in the project are nine Head Start

classrooms in East Harlem, the South Bronx, Washington Heights, and Lower Manhattan. The centers were identified by the foundation, a New York City-based charitable group, as those that needed the staff development and welcomed the support offered by the project.

The initiative has led to "major improvements" in these classrooms, Krasnow explains. When teachers spend less time on classroom management and more time with individual students, she says, they can learn more about the children and their interests. In turn, the teachers taking part in the project design the curriculum around the children's needs and interests. Through encouraging teachers at the Head Start centers to educate other teachers in the child-centered philosophy, the project seeks to create more continuity in the students' education.

Continued on page 15

CENTRAL NEW YORK

Panel Echoes U.S. Concern about Child Care

■ Discussion at the Newhouse School of Communications is part of a daylong national conference.

By PAUL RIEDE
The Post-Standard

A panel of seven experts agreed Thursday there are plenty of reasons to worry about the local child care system.

Their concerns ranged from parents being unable to find affordable care to the low pay and poor training of many child-care providers. Some panelists also pointed to a lack of understanding among both parents and providers about the crucial importance of early childhood education.

"If we don't do something with an organized approach, we're going to have a lot of children suffering,"

said Sarah Merrick, executive director of Success by Six, a local group focusing on preparing children to succeed in school.



The panel found room for hope in the growing attention being given to child-care issues. Their discussion at the S.I. Newhouse

School of Public Communications at Syracuse University followed a live satellite transmission of the start of the White House Conference on Child Care.

The daylong conference, with President and Hillary Clinton as hosts, was beamed to dozens of sites around the country. It was called to draw attention to the growing national need for afford-

able, quality child care.

Hillary Clinton said 13 million American children spend some time in child care every day, and the nation must take a "fearless approach" to ensure that care is affordable, dependable and of high quality. She noted that families making minimum wage now spend a quarter of their income on child care, if they can find it.

President Clinton said he will announce a major initiative on child care in his State of the Union Address in January. In the meantime, he proposed a new scholarship fund to improve education for child-care providers, an expansion of community service jobs devoted to after-school day care, and a plan to make it easier to track care-givers' criminal histories across state lines.

He also announced the formation of a working group on child care, chaired by Treasury Secretary Rob-

ert Rubin, to get more businesses involved.

"We'll never be the country we ought to be unless we believe that every child counts," the president said.

"Hallelujah." was the reaction of one panel member, Peggy Liuzzi of the Child Care Council of Onondaga County, to the White House conference. About 75 people, mostly child-care professionals, attended the Newhouse session. Said Liuzzi: "It's about time."

She said the time is right for Central New Yorkers to come together to create a quality child-care system.

Recent research on the brain — a topic of a similar White House conference in April — has convinced most experts that early childhood education is crucial to later learning.

The state this year pledged fund-

ing money to guarantee pre-kindergarten opportunities to all 4-year-olds. And school systems across the state are focusing on early intervention programs to help students reach higher academic standards.

"I think what we really have to focus on is not to create more poorly functioning, fragile programs," Liuzzi said. "We need quality."

At the White House and at Newhouse, panelists agreed that more money must be pumped into the child-care system to increase the wages and training of child-care workers.

Lisa Anderson, director of the child-care center at O'Brien & Gere Engineers in East Syracuse, said a first step would be for the county to increase its day-care subsidies for low-income children. Anderson said the subsidies are not covering the expenses of day-care centers.

Many had involvement in event on child care

To the Editor:

Please allow me to offer some comment on Paul Riede's Oct. 24 article, "Panel Echoes U.S. Concern about Child Care."

Syracuse was the official New York state satellite site for the first White House Conference on Child Care and was opened by Secretary of Education Richard Riley's regional director, John Mahoney.

Dr. Stephanie Leeds, president of the Syracuse Association for the Education of Young Children, acknowledged the community/state co-hosts, NYSAEYC, American Academy of Pediatrics, Success by 6 and Syracuse University.

The seven expert members on our local panel which followed the conference and was moderated by Karin Franklin were: Dr. Robert Corwin, treasurer of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Leeds, director of child studies, Cazenovia College; Dr. Alice Honig, professor emeritus at Syracuse University and international consultant on infant and toddler care; Peggy Liuzzi, executive director of Onondaga Child Care Council; Dr. Melissa Clawson, College of Human Development at Syracuse University; Sarah Merrick, executive director of Success by 6; and Chris Vogel-sang, director of pre-K for the Syracuse City School District.

We appreciate and acknowledge the commitment and dedication and

service of all who attended the conference and look forward to working together with our community to provide the best quality education and care for our youngest children and families.

MARY SPINO MAHONEY
Syracuse

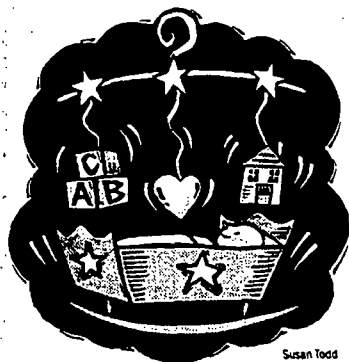
Mahoney is White House representative for Child Care Conference in New York State.

for child care - studies

Here's the Bottom Line On All Those Reports Of Child Care's Impact

IF YOU'RE confused by the news on child care, you're not alone. A raft of new child-care research has sparked reports that conclude, among other things, that child care is good for school readiness, is bad for mother-child bonding or has no effect at all.

In fact, there aren't any simple answers. Researchers are only beginning to understand how dozens of factors combine and interact to shape



children's development. Still, these latest studies are delving deeper into the effects of child care than they ever have before, and doing a better job of separating cause and effect.

The picture of how the nation's patchwork of child-care services is affecting kids is mixed. After plowing through a three-inch stack of studies, I offer my best attempt at a working parent's brief guide to the risks and rewards of child care:

School readiness: The mother of all child-care studies, by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, has been tracking 1,103 children since 1991, recently releasing the third series of reports on its continuing research. It has found no overall difference in the cognitive and language skills of three-year-olds in their mother's care vs. those in full-time child care, after controlling for many family and home factors.

Kids in high-quality child-care settings, as gauged by care-giver sensitivity, responsiveness and conversation, did better than all other children, even those in their mother's care, on cognitive and language tests. Kids in child-care centers, as opposed to those with nannies or in family day-care homes or other settings, did best. Children in poor-quality child care did worst.

A separate study, a four-university Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes study, tracking 800 children through second grade, also found that children who attended high-quality centers had better language, math and social skills through kindergarten.

BONDING: Some studies have suggested that extensive use of child care early in life can damage children's emotional bonds with their mothers. NICHD findings so far have tempered but not erased those concerns. When measured at 15 months old, children's attachment to their mothers wasn't hurt by child care alone, researchers found. But there was some slight damage to bonding when mothers were less sensitive. That is, child care puts kids with insensitive mothers at greater risk.

When those same children were

three years old, their attachment to their mothers, as measured by whether they seek contact and closeness after a brief separation, wasn't affected. Researchers will continue to track the children.

Sensitivity: Here's a twist: Child-care use affects parents. The NICHD study shows that the more hours of child care a child receives from infancy through age three, the less sensitive the child's mother is. Mothers' sensitivity was rated by the supportiveness, warmth and respect they showed their children during videotaped play sessions. Mothers whose children were in high-quality care tended to be more sensitive, suggesting parents draw support from good care-givers.

Aware that mothers who are already insensitive by nature might be choosing to use more child care in the first place, researchers controlled the results for many factors that tend to indicate or cause insensitivity—including mothers' attitudes toward separation from their children, emotional state, personality, income, education and family support.

What do the findings mean? Tuning in to a child is a skill that takes practice, time and effort, a process parents need consciously to safeguard when using lots of child care.

Other studies suggest dads are affected by child care, too. Jay Belsky, a child-care researcher at Pennsylvania State University, found in a study of 120 families that using more day care led to slightly less positive interaction by fathers with their children. And Deborah Lowe Vandell at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, another veteran researcher, found in a study of 500 families that heavier use of child care for infants was tied to increased depression and marital worries in fathers, among other things.

PARENT POWER: There's growing evidence that parents have the power to mediate any bad effect of child care. One study found good parenting sharply reduced the bad effect lots of early child care seemed to have on kids' behavior. Also, in the NICHD study, children of working mothers who believed that their employment benefited their children developed better skills in child care.

Awareness is parents' best tool. In past studies, "kids whose mothers were perceptive about the potential effects were doing really well in child care," says NICHD researcher Margaret Tresch Owen of the University of Texas, Dallas. These mothers were making "an effort to monitor, to moderate" any risks of child care and "encourage the good potential."

Quality: High quality is the closest thing to a magic bullet you will find in nonmaternal child care, erasing nearly every risk and yielding benefits in cognitive, language, math and social skills and behavior. Trouble is, the NICHD found only 9% of U.S. child care is excellent and only 30% is rated "good." Three-fifths of child-care settings fail the high-quality test, with 53% rated fair and 8% rated poor.

As complicated as all that is, the findings ring true in my experience. And they shed light on our best path as a society: to shore up child-care quality, and to shore up parents as well, expanding the choices they have early in children's lives, and affirming them in the monumental role they play in shaping kids.

Best Place to Live? Follow the Moving Van

By ALEJANDRO BODIPO-MEMBA

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Whenever they try to determine the best places to live in America, surveyors and magazines typically rate metropolitan areas by quality-of-life factors. A Federal Reserve Bank economist took a simpler approach: He looked at where people are actually choosing to live—and found some surprises.

The economist, Howard J. Wall of the St. Louis Fed, made a list of what he designated the country's most livable big cities solely by tracking migration data—where people moved—between 1990 and 1997. People's choices about where to live are rational, based on what gives them the greatest satisfaction, Mr. Wall says. Americans judge, and demonstrate, "livability" with their feet, he adds.

Mr. Wall sees his "livability index" as an alternative to the lists of livable cities that "Places Rated Almanac" and Time Warner Inc.'s Money magazine have been publishing for more than a decade. Those publications assess factors like the cost of living, employment outlook, education, recreation and home prices, and their lists usually turn out to be different from one another: Most recently, the only city to appear on both was Seattle. Los Angeles, No. 3 on Money's regional list for 1998, was 34th in the "Places Rated Almanac" list for 1997, the most recent year the book was published.

Topping Mr. Wall's list of 59 cities is Las Vegas, followed by second-place Atlanta and third-place Phoenix. Mr. Wall's list puts Money's highly ranked Los Angeles dead last. Nine out of the top 10 on his list are Sun Belt cities.

Published in April this year, the Wall list is based on U.S. Census Bureau data showing how many people moved to and from U.S. cities with a population of at

least one million between 1990 and 1997. He concedes that the Money and "Places Rated Almanac" selection systems produce interesting information, like the probability of natural disasters or the proximity to museums and zoos. But some of the variables on these lists—like the quality of skiing—are hard to quantify, Mr. Wall says, and even quantifiable variables like clean water are very important to some people, less so to others.

In the end, Mr. Wall says, such subjective information doesn't indicate livability the way moving patterns do.

David Savageau, author of "Places Rated Almanac," retorts that some cities with a great influx of people—like Las Vegas and Phoenix, at the top of Mr. Wall's list—have high crime rates. Further, Mr.

Savageau says, Mr. Wall's list reflects where people move for jobs—and usually lower-paying service or trade jobs at that.

"The people who move with their feet are really after any kind of job, because that's where the action is," Mr. Savageau says. People with higher-level, career-track jobs are less likely to uproot voluntarily unless transferred by their employer, he says, because they want to stay where their jobs are. He adds: "If Las Vegas is the best city to live in, what is [Mr. Wall] doing in St. Louis?"

Mr. Wall replies: "His question proves my point exactly. My ranking is based on the population's preferences. I didn't impose my preferences on the ranking. His ranking is based on his own prefer-

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ences. Plus, I live in St. Louis because I want to live there."

Mr. Wall, "Places Rated Almanac" and Money all used the U.S. Census Bureau's definition of a metropolitan area as any city with a population of at least 50,000, or an urbanized area of at least 50,000, located in a county or counties with a total population of at least 100,000.

Every other year for the past 15 years, "Places Rated Almanac" has rated 351 metropolitan areas in North America based on nine factors: cost of living, job outlook, transportation, education, health care, crime, the arts, recreation and climate. Published by Macmillan Publishing USA, a unit of Viacom Inc., the almanac uses data from private groups like the National Golf Foundation, which provides information on the number of golf holes per capita in a metropolitan region.

In its most recently published list, in 1997, the almanac ranked Orange County, Calif., just outside of Los Angeles, No. 1; Seattle and Houston were Nos. 2 and 3. Mansfield, Ohio, near Akron, was last. Only two of the top 10, Atlanta and

Phoenix, were among Mr. Wall's 59 livable cities.

Money's 12th annual ranking of the best places to live in America, published in 1998, didn't pick an overall "winner." Rather, it listed the top cities in three size categories—small, medium and large—in the four major regions of the country.

To determine livability, the magazine had Roper/Starch Worldwide do a telephone survey of 512 randomly selected households, asking respondents to rank 37 "quality of life" factors like crime and public schools on a scale of one to 10 in importance to them. Then Fast Forward, a demographic consulting firm in Portland, Ore., correlated the phone-survey results with U.S. government statistics on the nation's 300 largest metropolitan areas to create the Money lists.

Money, which replaced national with regional listings in 1998, named Seattle, Denver and Los Angeles as tops in the West; Washington, D.C., Boston and New York as leaders in the Northeast; Norfolk, Va., Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, N.C., and Orlando, Fla., in the South; and Minneapolis, Cleveland and Chicago in the Midwest.

Some People Whistle On the Job, Others Do It to Get the Job

* * *

SEC Public-Affairs Director,
The International Champ,
Performed for Interview.

By JUDITH BURNS

Dow Jones Newswires

WASHINGTON — Want to work for Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Arthur Levitt? It helps if you can whistle.

Just ask Chris Ullman, the SEC's public-affairs director. He listed "competitive whistling" on his resume, and during his job interview in 1997, the SEC chairman asked him to whistle a tune.

Knowing the SEC chairman is an opera buff, Mr. Ullman had the right stuff: "Vesti la giubba," an aria from Ruggiero Leoncavallo's "I Pagliacci."

Mr. Ullman, who began whistling at age five, and started competing in 1993, demonstrated his award-winning act before a larger crowd last week, playing to a packed noontime audience at the SEC.

Accompanied by pianist Bill Harris, Mr. Ullman provided a mix of classical and pop tunes, including "The Star-Spangled Banner," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "In the Mood," "Summertime," and "As Time Goes By."

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's "Go Daddy O," which helped Mr. Ullman clinch the international pop-division title in this year's whistling contest, made its way into the act, along with a blues medley customized for the crowd: "The 12b-1, ECN, microcap fraud, plain English blues."

SEC staff, accustomed to focusing on mutual-fund distribution expenses, also known as 12b-1 fees, electronic-communication networks, stock fraud, and plain-English filings by public corporations, relished the change of pace, and even whistled along to the theme song from "The Andy Griffith Show." But they didn't loosen up entirely.

"Stop acting like securities lawyers and clap," Mr. Ullman directed the crowd at one point.

Mr. Ullman, the current international whistling champion, who first secured the title in 1996, has whistled on the mall with the National Symphony, performed with a half-dozen other orchestras, appeared on the "Today Show," the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno," and whistled the National Anthem before a crowd of 20,000 at a Los Angeles Lakers basketball game.

What's the secret to whistling success? Mr. Ullman recommends bringing an athlete's discipline to competition, saying lips are like other muscles and must be trained to sustain a pucker.

Under questioning by an SEC attorney, Mr. Ullman acknowledged he has a strict no-kissing policy the day before competing against other world-class whistlers.

"Kissing makes the lips mushy," he explained, "and mushy is bad."