Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	FLOTUS, Thursday, October 23, 1997 (partial) (3 pages)	10/23/1997	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Records
Domestic Policy Council (Nicole Rabner)
OA/Box Number: 15414

FOLDER TITLE:
White House Conference on Child Care [1]

2012-1035-S
kc1022

RESTRICTION CODES

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

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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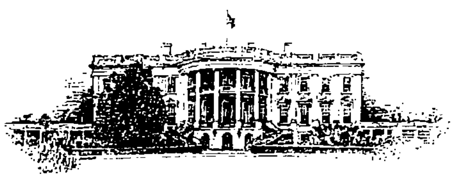
THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON

welcome you on the occasion of

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING: WHAT NEW RESEARCH ON THE BRAIN TELLS US ABOUT OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN



Thursday, April 17, 1997

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks

MRS. CLINTON

THE PRESIDENT

Morning Session

DR. DAVID HAMBURG
Carnegie Corporation of New York
New York, New York

DR. DONALD COHEN
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

DR. CARLA SHATZ
University of California, Berkeley

DR. PATRICIA KUHL
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

DR. EZRA DAVIDSON
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
Los Angeles, California

DR. T. BERRY BRAZELTON
Harvard Medical School
Cambridge, Massachusetts

DR. DEBORAH PHILLIPS
Institute of Medicine
Washington, DC

Luncheon in the State Dining Room

Afternoon Session

MRS. GORE

THE VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. CLINTON

DR. GLORIA RODRIGUEZ
Avance Family Support Program
San Antonio, Texas

MS. HARRIET MEYER
Ounce of Prevention
Chicago, Illinois

MS. SHEILA AMANING
Early Childhood PTA
Charlotte, North Carolina

MR. MELVIN WEARING
Chief of Police
New Haven, Connecticut

MR. ARNOLD LANGBO
The Kellogg Company
Battle Creek, Michigan

MR. ROB REINER
CastleRock Entertainment
Los Angeles, California

GOVERNOR ROBERT J. MILLER
Nevada

"This conference is an exciting and an enormous undertaking. It is a call to action to parents, to businesses, to care givers, the media, the faith community and the government, each to do their part to enhance the earliest years of life. It grows out of our commitment to find new ways to support parents and to help their children reach their God-given potential."

President Clinton

"We're excited that so many people will be able to take part in this event. We all have a role to play in making sure parents have the tools they need to do the best job they can. We believe this Conference can make a valuable contribution."

Mrs. Clinton

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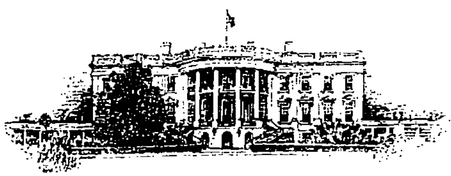

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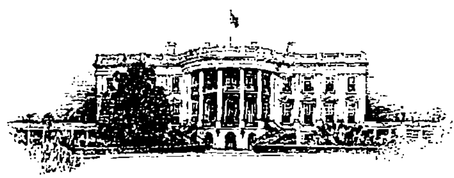

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[001]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997
FINAL

WASHINGTON, DC

AFRICARE

LEAD ADVANCE:	**MWITU NDUGU**	
	P6/(b)(6)	
SITE ADVANCE:	**MICHAEL O'MARY**	
	202/456-5708	**PHONE**
	KATIE BARRY	
	202/456-5959	**PHONE**
SCHEDULER:	**EVAN RYAN**	
	202/456-6751	**PHONE**
	202/456-5340	**FAX**
	P6/(b)(6)	
	WHCA PAGER	**#4223**

RON The White House

6:50 am **PROCEED** to Diplomatic Reception Room

7:00 am-
7:01 am
GOOD MORNING AMERICA INTRODUCTION
Diplomatic Reception Room
ABC NEWS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Lisa McRee

CONTACT: Marsha Berry 202/456-6432

7:12 am-
7:22 am
GOOD MORNING AMERICA INTERVIEW
Diplomatic Reception Room
ABC NEWS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Lisa McRee

CONTACT: Marsha Berry 202/456-2960

7:25 am **PROCEED** to Map Room

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997
PAGE 2

7:35 am- 7:45 am	**TODAY SHOW INTERVIEW** Map Room **NBC NEWS/WH PHOTO** **PARTICIPANTS:** The First Lady Katie Couric **CONTACT:** Marsha Berry 202/456-2960
7:55 am	**PROCEED** to Diplomatic Reception Room
8:09 am- 8:17 am	**GOOD MORNING AMERICA REMOTE INTERVIEW** Diplomatic Reception Room **ABC NEWS/WH PHOTO** **PARTICIPANTS:** The First Lady Lisa McRee 3 Day Care Centers (by remote) **CONTACT:** Marsha Berry 202/456-2960
8:25 am	**PROCEED** to East Reception Room
8:34 am- 8:45 am	**CBS THIS MORNING INTERVIEW** East Reception Room **CBS NEWS/WH PHOTO** **PARTICIPANTS:** The First Lady Jane Robelot **CONTACT:** Marsha Berry 202/456-2960
8:50 am- 9:10 am	**DOWN TIME** **OPTIONAL:** Interview with CBS Radio

9:15 am-
9:45 am

BRIEFING [w/POTUS]
Red Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

CONTACT: Setti Warren 202/456-7195

9:50 am-
10:00 am

MEET & GREET with Session 1&2 Panelists **[w/POTUS]**
Blue Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: see briefing book

CONTACT: Setti Warren 202/456-7195

10:00 am-
12:00 pm

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE - PANEL 1
East Room
POOL PRESS/LIVE SATELLITE/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:
-The President and the First Lady are announced from the Green Room into the East Room.

-The First Lady proceeds to the podium.

-The First Lady delivers remarks and introduces video.

-Video is shown.

-At conclusion of video, Kathy Carliner, parent, makes brief remarks and introduces the President.

-The President makes remarks.

-The President and the First Lady join panelists at the table.

-The President and the First Lady introduce the panelists and moderate the discussion.

NOTE: Each panelist makes brief remarks followed by two questions from the President and the First Lady.

-The President makes closing remarks.

-The President and the First Lady depart.

PARTICIPANTS:
The President
The First Lady
Ellen Galinsky, President, Families and Work Institute
Michelle Seligson, National Institute for Out of School Time, Wellesley College
Velora Washington, Program Officer, Kellogg Foundation
Robert Rubin, Secretary of the Treasury
Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Child Care Provider tbd or Marcy Whitebrook
Patti Siegel, California Resource and Referral

CONTACT: Jennifer Klein 202/456-2599
Nicole Rabner 202/456-7263

12:15 pm- 1:30 pm **LUNCHEON**
State Dining Room
POOL PRESS for remarks only

FORMAT:
-The First Lady makes brief remarks.

-The First Lady invites Members of Congress to make brief remarks.

-Lunch is served.

PARTICIPANTS: 140 guests

CONTACT: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136

1:30 pm- 1:40 pm **DOWN TIME**

1:40 pm - 1:50 pm	**BRIEFING [w/VPOTUS]** Red Room **CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO** **PARTICIPANTS:** The First Lady The Vice-President Secretary Riley Melanne Verveer Bruce Reed Elena Kagan Jennifer Klein Nicole Rabner June Shih **CONTACT:** Setti Warren 202/456-7195
1:55 pm	**MEET & GREET** with Session 2 Panelists Blue Room **CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO** **PARTICIPANTS:** Secretary Richard Riley, US Dept. Of Education Governor Hunt, North Carolina County Official, tbd, North Carolina Jane Maroney, Republican State Legislator General Meyer Doug Price, President, First Bank of Colorado /Chair, Colorado Business Commission Labor Leader, tbd Susan Aronson, Member of AAP Board and Director, PA Early Childhood Education Linkage Program for Health Professionals Religious Leader tbd **CONTACT:** Setti Warren 202/456-7195
2:05 pm- 4:00 pm	**WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE - PANEL 2** East Room **POOL PRESS/LIVE SATELLITE/WH PHOTO** **FORMAT:** -The First Lady and the Vice-President are announced from the Green Room into the East Room.

-The First Lady and the Vice-President are seated at the table with the panelists.

-The First Lady makes remarks and introduces the Vice-President.

-The Vice-President makes remarks.

-Secretary Richard Riley makes remarks.

-The First Lady and the Vice-President introduce Second Session panelists and moderate the discussion.

NOTE: Each panelist makes brief remarks followed by two questions by the First Lady and the Vice-President.

-The Vice-President makes closing remarks.

-The First Lady makes closing remarks and invites guests to South Lawn reception.

-The First Lady and the Vice-President depart.

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
The Vice-President
Secretary Richard Riley, US Dept. Of Education
Governor Hunt, North Carolina
County Official, tbd, North Carolina
Jane Maroney, Republican State Legislator
General Meyer
Doug Price, President, First Bank of Colorado
/Chair, Colorado Business Commission
Labor Leader, tbd
Susan Aronson, Member of AAP Board and Director,
PA Early Childhood Education Linkage Program for
Health Professionals
Religious Leader tbd

CONTACT: Jennifer Klein 202/456-2599
Nicole Rabner 202/456-7263

4:30 pm- 4:40 pm	**CNN INTERVIEW** Map Room **CNN NEWS/ WH PHOTO** **PARTICIPANTS**: The First Lady Eileen O'Connor **CONTACT**: Marsha Berry 202/456-2960
4:45 pm- 5:00 pm	**WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE RECEPTION** Pavilion South Lawn **CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO** **FORMAT**: -The First Lady proceeds to stage and makes brief remarks. -The First Lady invites Members of Congress to make remarks. -Upon conclusion of remarks, the First Lady has the option of working a ropeline. -The First Lady departs. **PARTICIPANTS**: 450 guests **CONTACT**: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136
8:20 pm	**DEPART** South Portico **EN ROUTE** Washington Hilton [drive time: 10 minutes]
8:30 pm	**ARRIVE** Washington Hilton **GREETERS**: Hotel manager, tbd

[001]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997
PAGE 8

8:35 pm- 8:45 pm	**MEET & GREET** Cabinet Room Washington Hilton Hold: Presidential Hold Phone: 202/483-3000 Fax: 202/232-0438 **CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO** **PARTICIPANTS:** The First Lady Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor C. Payne Lucas, President, Africare Freddie Lucas Dr. Maya Angelou Andrew Young **CONTACT:** P6/(b)(6)
8:45 pm- 8:50 am	**PHOTO** w/four children from Zimbabwe Hallway Washington Hilton **CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO** **CONTACT:** P6/(b)(6)
8:50 pm- 9:50 pm	**AFRICARE DINNER** International Ballroom Washington Hilton Attire: Black Tie Optional Hold: Presidential Hold Phone: 202/483-3000 Fax: 202/232-0438 **OPEN PRESS** **FORMAT:** -Master of Ceremonies, Andrew Young, makes brief remarks and introduces the First Lady. -The First Lady enters from offstage. -The First Lady delivers keynote address. -Upon conclusion of remarks, the First Lady is seated at the head table in the audience.

001

-Andrew Young introduces a 10 minute video on the life of Dorothy Height.

-Video is played.

-Dr. Angelou delivers tribute to Dr. Height.

-Andrew Young announces award presentation and introduces Dr. Dorothy Height.

-Dr. Dorothy Height delivers remarks.

-C. Payne Lucas makes remarks.

-The First Lady departs.

CONTACT: P6/(b)(6)

9:50 pm — **DEPART** Washington Hilton
EN ROUTE The White House
[drive time: 10 minutes]

10:00 pm — **ARRIVE** South Portico

RON — The White House

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC: Sunny, breezy and cold. Wind northwest at 7 to 15 knots becoming south at 5 to 10 knots. Low 35. High 53.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release October 23, 1997

PRESS BRIEFING BY THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTOR OF DOMESTIC POLICY BRUCE REED AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DOMESTIC POLICY JENNIFER KLEIN

The Briefing Room

1:05 P.M. EDT

MR. LOCKHART: Good afternoon, everyone. One small piece of business before we start. I'm told that the escort for Panel 2 will be taken at 1:45 p.m., so roughly right when this ends.

We're going to start today with two people who can talk to you a little bit about the child care conference that's been going on this morning and will go on to this afternoon. Bruce Reed, the President's Director of Domestic Policy, Domestic Policy Advisor; and Jennifer Klein, Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and probably the lead staffer in putting this conference together; they've been working for several months on this -- are here today, and they can answer your questions.

MR. REED: I would like to start just for a moment and go over the policy announcements that the President made this morning at the conference. First, he announced a major scholarship program for child care providers that will provide $300 million over the next five years to make available up to 50,000 scholarships a year that are designed to help child care-givers get additional training and also to give child care standards an incentive to increase the pay of those care-givers.

We think that this is the most important thing we can do to raise the quality of child care, is to provide additional training and to make sure that child care-givers are rewarded for getting that additional training, as many people have remarked during the conference. The turnover in the child care profession is remarkable; it's between a third and 50 percent a year. So it's very important to get people good training and give them an incentive to stay in the profession.

The second announcement -- the President said that he would be submitting legislation to Congress to make it easier for states to get background information on child care workers. Currently, many states have prohibitions on the release of criminal background information, so it's difficult for states that want to run background checks to get that kind of information, and the President's submitting legislation that will need to be passed by Congress and then adopted by the 50 states so that a parent or a child care center that wants to run a background check in New York can readily get information from the state of California or any other state.

He also announced that in the coming months, Secretary Rubin will head up a private sector group to reach out to business and develop ideas on how businesses can do more to provide on-site care for their employees and deal with the other concerns of employees. Secretary Rubin spoke out this morning on how central child care is as an economic issue; that businesses need to recognize that this is among the major concerns on their employees' minds, and that if people are going to be good workers they shouldn't be distracted, worrying about who's taking care of their kids.

Then finally, the President announced steps that the national service program is going to take to make -- to provide technical assistance to programs around the country that are providing after-school care, which is another critical child care crunch. There are about 5 million kids between the ages of 5 and 14 who are latch-key kids, who come home to an empty house. And we want to help more communities provide things to keep those kids busy -- programs to keep those kids busy. And one important area is going to be service.

Questions?

Q Can you tell us about the scholarship, how much total money we're talking about, and where the money would come from?

Are these new dollars?

MR. REED: It's $300 million in scholarships over five years. It will be included in the upcoming budget. And we have to live within the constraints of a balanced budget, so we won't be presenting the offsets until the President submits his budget at the first of the year. But it's new money; it will have to be offset by cuts elsewhere.

Q Bruce, with regard to the scholarships, that obviously addresses one of the three main problems, and that is quality of care. Suppose that does its job and produces a cadre of child care that is more proficient than what we now see. Doesn't that then aggravate one of the other two problems, and that is that leads to higher pay which in turn leads to higher prices for child care? How does the President propose to deal with the higher costs to parents of getting good quality child care?

MR. REED: One important aspect of this proposal is that it is money that will go states and child care providers to help not only child care workers to get training, but to actually increase the pay, so that some of this money is going to be helping to deal with that problem. It will be providing child care centers with an incentive to pay with some money that they can use to pay better-trained workers more money.

There certainly is a concern that we don't want quality and affordability to be traded off against each other. In North Carolina, where they run a program called the Teach Program, on which our scholarship proposal is based, they've actually been quite successful in dealing with both quality and affordability and their efforts to get better training and better pay have not driven up the cost of care.

Q And how did they do that?

MR. REED: For one thing, the child care market is very competitive, so costs are kept fairly low. But one thing that North Carolina is doing, which we would like to see other states do, is to simply put more money into their child care systems. And we've done a lot over the last four years to expand the amount of money that states get. We've increased the child care development block grant, which is the major subsidy to states, by 70 percent over the last four years, including $4 billion through the welfare bill, and that's one way that we can help states like North Carolina and others that want to deal with both ends of the spectrum.

Q Bruce, there seems to be a general consensus, I think, here at the White House and among other people in the child care field that the economics of the system don't work. They don't work for parents, they don't work for kids, and that what's needed because this is not a well-functioning market, so to speak, is essentially a massive infusion of cash from somewhere else -- either governments or the private sector. And $300 million for 50,000 scholarships over five years is not, I don't think, what most people would consider a massive infusion of cash.

Is the President considering anything beyond this in terms of tax incentives for businesses, relief from the liability problems involving on-site day care? This is, in the larger frame of things, a big step.

MR. REED: Well, as the President said this morning, he intends to make other proposals in the State of the Union which are likely to address affordability and accessibility as well as quality and safety.

I think the President and Governor Hunt and others made the point this morning that this is not a problem that government can solve on its own. Child care is a lot different -- the child care system is treated a lot differently than the health care system in this country. In most businesses some kind of health care is provided. That's not nearly as common with respect to on-site child care or subsidized child care by businesses. So it's very important to engage the private sector and to get them to recognize that this is in their bottom line interest, as well. But as the President said, this $300 million program is not the only thing we're going to be proposing in the coming year.

MS. KLEIN: Just to build on how you deal with the fact that the public sector is probably not going to be able to solve this problem alone, as Bruce was alluding to, there are states that are doing interesting things -- again, not the end all and the be all, it takes the public side as well -- of building public-private partnerships where they can leverage public dollars against private dollars. Florida is a great example of a partnership like this, and there are other states doing it. So it's not only businesses as employers, but also businesses as sort of a larger community that can take a step also in the right direction.

Q Does the administration support the Kohl bill in that regard in terms of enlisting business support?

MR. REED: We'll be looking at the Kohl bill over the next few months. The Kohl bill is a tax credit that gives businesses some tax -- provides businesses with some tax relief for constructing on-site care. It's one thing we'll look at. There are a variety of options, and the President alluded to some this morning, on what we could do to expand accessibility and affordability.

One option would be to increase, again, the amount of money that we give to the states through the block grant, which is a very efficient way of helping states to increase quality and expand access, especially to low-income families. Another option is to build on the existing dependent-care tax credit, which goes to two-parent -- families with two parents who work. There are -- you can provide tax incentives to business as well. There may be other ideas that we come up with.

Q I'm going to take a little detour. Can you update us on what the White House is doing to get the tobacco deal through? And do you agree with Mr. Carlton's comments that you all will have the legislation through maybe some time next summer?

MR. REED: Well, I think none of us can predict when Congress is going to act. But, we're pleased with the broad support that the President's plan has received, both from Democrats and Republicans, and from the broad range of public health and other interests. We're going to be working with members of Congress in both parties to try to keep this on a bipartisan track, and to make sure that we can see congressional action as soon as possible. Nobody wants it to get caught up in election-year campaign politics. So the sooner that Congress acts, the better for all concerned. But -- and it's hard to say in October of this year what the congressional calendar is going to be next spring.

Q Bruce, I'd like to ask you about the fiscal environment -- the new, more favorable fiscal environment that the administration has, as you look toward the proposals the President's going to make in the State of the Union.

Yesterday, the President came up with $5 billion for global warming tax incentives, and obviously that's not going to bust the budget because your deficit numbers keep going down and down. Today, you have $300 million as just a preliminary down payment.

You're talking about other things that also have dollar tags to them. My question is, is it easier for the President today in this favorable fiscal environment to move toward putting a little bit of money into something like global warming and child care than it would have been, let's say, even a year or three years ago?

MR. REED: I think in fairness to Frank Raines and OMB, none of these budget decisions are easy. We still are living within very tight budget constraints, since we're likely to have a deficit in the coming year even if the projections continue to improve. All of these choices have to involve hard choices on where else to cut.

So I think this is certainly going to be one of the President's top priorities as he works on his next year's budget, but we still have to recognize that money doesn't grow on trees.

Q The President made reference to considering an increase in tax credits, raising the income threshold. I missed what you said. Was he thinking of the EITC, dependent care credit, or even doing something with the HOPE tax credit?

MR. REED: The major options for how to expand affordability are, first, as I said, expanding the child care development block grant which goes through the states and which states use to provide subsidies to low-income working parents, or expanding in some way the dependent care tax credit. And the dependent care tax credit is complicated, but let me try to explain it. It provides families with two working parents up to $2,400 -- a tax credit against up to $2,400 of child care expenses for one child, or $4,800 for two or more children, and if your income is between, what, $14,000 and $28,000 -- is that right?

MS. KLEIN: Like $10,000.

MR. REED: Ten thousand and $28,000, you get to claim 30 percent of that amount as a credit against your tax bill. Above $28,000, you get to claim 20 percent of your child care expenses against your tax bill, and then it phases out in the upper income limits. You could change that in a variety of ways. You could have it phase out more slowly or phase down more slowly for lower-income parents, you could increase the amount of money that is allotted for child care expenses. There are probably other ways as well. You can make it refundable. But I think we have made no decisions on whether we want to go the tax route or the block-grant route.

Q Or both?

MR. REED: Or both, that's right. And then, as you said, there are other kinds of tax credits that you could provide to businesses that would deal with accessibility.

Q Mrs. Clinton, yesterday, said that despite lip service to family values, we don't do enough for families who chose not to go into the work force and into day care. Are there any proposals kicking around that might provide some sort of relief -- tax relief or other relief -- for families who decide to stay home and care for their own kids?

MR. REED: Remember, the President just signed a balanced budget that includes a $500 tax credit for children, which will help many families who choose not to have both parents working to be able to afford that choice. And the President spoke again this morning about the need to give working families a lot more flexibility by extending the Family and Medical Leave Act so that parents can get time off to deal with going to a doctor's appointment or a parent-teacher conference, and passing flex-time, which would give workers a lot more choice on the time they can spend around their children.

I think we'll probably look at other options as well. But I don't have any to give you right

Q Bruce, at the end of the discussion, the President talked about building a systematic patchwork that would prevent kids from falling through the gaps, and I wonder if there is any initiatives being talked about that deal with this -- insuring that there is something that's systematic, that doesn't allow kids to be -- some kids to get worse --

MR. REED: I think that we're not interested in some big federal program directed from Washington that sets one-size-fits-all rules. I think what the President would like to see is an effort to help more states and communities succeed at this, and an effort within the private sector for companies that don't do much in the way of child care to follow the lead of successful companies that do. That's why he's asked Secretary Rubin to go out and preach the gospel among his peers about the importance of child care to companies' bottom lines.

I think we have a long way to go on this issue, but the President and First Lady feel that calling a national spotlight to this issue when we have overwhelming evidence that it's in our economic interest, it's in our collective interest to make sure not only that our kids are safe, but that as they get older, that they're off the streets and not out getting into trouble, and that it's in the emotional, physical interest to help these kids' brains to learn and grow and develop well.

Q A couple of times on some of the things you've mentioned, when the President mentioned them, it was mentioned that there would be battles over budgets and the expense of some of these proposals. That hasn't been said about the bill that would be introduced to allow states to share background information. But was that one considered a breeze to get through Congress and do you know when it would be introduced?

MR. REED: I think we're sending up the legislation today. I can't tell you how controversial that's going to be. Jen, do you want to --

MS. KLEIN: Yes, I don't think I would use the word, "a breeze." I think it has some strong support, but it's a long road to get Congress to pass them and states to ratify it.

Q How open is the administration to the idea of encouraging workers to work two-thirds time if they're married? There is this idea of the four-thirds role, where each parents would only work two thirds of the time so they could spend more time with their children, in terms of encouraging employers to -- on that favorably.

MR. REED: I think we would want to encourage every employer to provide as much flexibility as they can to their workers, and we want to encourage parents to spend time with their children when they can. But this is ultimately a matter of choice and economic necessity based on the individual circumstances of every family. But certainly, we think it's good for the kids to be around their parents as much as they can. It's good for the parents, and it's ultimately, we think, good for the economy to have parents who are focused on work when they are at work and have a chance to focus on their children when they are at home.

Q How do you view some of the proposals kicking around the Hill reducing or eliminating the marriage tax? Are those thing that you think will help on affordability? Or are those not part of your equation?

MR. REED: Well, it's a complicated issue because the tax code serves as a marriage penalty for about half of married couples, and something of a bonus for the other half. We haven't seen any proposals that can fix the problem with the amount of money we have on hand. But it's certainly something that we're looking at -- not necessarily the marriage tax per se -- but any way we can find to help families be able to make the kind of choices they want to make.

Q Again, on the affordability issue, you mentioned the President and Congress got through the $500 child credit, but that, as I remember, is phased in and not until '99 or 2000, the full $500. In what you're looking at for the state of the union and various options, could it be one of your options to either accelerate the phase-in or even to boost the $500 to $600 or index it?

MR. REED: I think I'd get in trouble with Frank Raines if I committed to that.

Q Go ahead.

MR. REED: I think the -- we're very happy with the child care -- the children's tax credit that we got in the balanced budget. It costs a lot of money to provide across-the-board relief like that. And we think we've already gone a long ways, and to deal with the child care affordability question, there may be more targeted ways of doing it.

Q Can you reveal how much money or if there would be an increase or legislation necessary for the national service program to provide technical assistance to after-school --

MR. REED: That's not a -- we are in the midst of -- or well on the road to getting what we asked for for national service in the appropriations battle. But what the President announced today won't cost any new money.

Thank you.

END 1:30 P.M. EDT

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE
THE WHITE HOUSE
OCTOBER 23, 1997

Acknowledgments: From advance.

Welcome to the White House Conference on Child Care.

Welcome to those who are with us in the East Room today, to the hundreds of people gathered at the Departments of Agriculture, Labor, and Health and Human Services here in Washington, and to the thousands who are joining us via satellite from universities, hospitals, and schools around the country.

I'd like us all to take a moment to think about what's happening in America this morning -- about what happens just about every morning. Parents are putting their children in the care of others. And then most, even before they are out the door, are worrying. Some are worrying about the safety of the day care center -- maybe it's the cleanliness; maybe it's a new caregiver they just met for the first time. Others are wondering if they would get better quality care for their child if they paid more; others, whether they'll be able to afford next month's payment -- and if not, how they'll care for their child <u>and</u> hold down that job they need. How many parents have trouble focusing at work because they are wondering how their son or daughter is being treated?
And before we finish today, how many more will keep looking anxiously at the clock, wondering if their child is safe and well-occupied after school?

These are the questions America's parents ask themselves all the time. They are the questions we gather to address today.

Let me tell you a story. Earlier this month, I went to the University of Maryland to visit the school's Center for Young Children. I walked in the door and knew immediately that it was the kind of place just about any of us would be comfortable sending our kids. Frankly, I was tempted to sign up myself.

The walls were painted bright colors. There was lots of natural light. The workers were creative, energetic, and focused. Inside, there were toys and crafts materials. Outside, there was a playground. It was a wonderful place -- and one that makes an effort to be affordable to parents of all incomes.

After I saw the center, I gave a speech. And after the speech, I took questions from the audience. There was one I can't get out of my mind -- from a divorced mother who works as a secretary at the university. To send her four-year-old son to the center I had visited, she told me, would cost $6,000 a year -- a quarter of her income. She just couldn't do it. Fortunately, she was able to send her son to another, less expensive day care center -- but only because of a scholarship and because she had moved back in with her parents. Otherwise, she told me, "I would probably have to quit my job and go on welfare. Who would watch my child during the day?" She and so many women like her are the reason we are here today. Her name is Paula Broglio [Bro-lee-oh]. And I am very pleased that she is with us this morning.

Though 13 million American children spend all or some of their day being cared for by someone other than their parent, a recent study found that child care at most centers in the United States is "poor to mediocre, with almost half of the infants and toddlers in rooms having less than minimal quality." The study also concluded that "fully 40 percent of the rooms serving infants in centers provided care that was of such poor quality as to jeopardize children's health, safety, or development." A recent University of Colorado at Denver survey of child care in four states found only one in seven child-care centers to be of good quality.

And quality care, when it is available, is often financially out of reach for parents, particularly low-income parents. According to the 1995 Census, families earning under $1,200 a month pay an average of 25 percent of their income for child care. Middle class families are hit hard as well: Families earning up to $36,000 a year pay out 12 percent of their income for child care.

The urgency of improving child care in America is further heightened by new information about the emotional and intellectual development of children. As we learned at the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development in April, what happens to a child in the earliest years can make all the difference in how well he or she can learn for a lifetime. With 45 percent of children under age one in day care regularly, the issue of quality has tremendous bearing not just on individual lives, but on the future of our nation.

What's more, we now know from recent studies that good care -- whether given at home or at a day care center -- is <u>good</u> care. Done right, day care can be beneficial for children. It is worth our investment.

There is another reason that compels us to act: Demand. Demand for quality child care is growing, hastened on by our new economy. In the last 40 years, the American workforce has changed dramatically, and that's meant dramatic changes in family life. For example, half of all mothers with children under one year of age are working outside the home. And not only are more parents working, they are working longer hours. In many instances, child care is an absolute necessity.

And so, too, is the conversation we begin today.

I would like to make a few points about this conference.

First, this conference is a starting point. This is day one of a renewed effort to lift up child care in America.

Second, we must come together around the belief that any solutions to the problem of

The White House Conference on Child Care
Talking Points

- **On Thursday, October 23, the President and First Lady will Host the White House Conference on Child Care** in the East Room of the White House, bringing together parents, caregivers, business and labor leaders, child care experts and others.

- **President Clinton has called child care "the next great frontier" of public policy.** At the National Governors Association Annual Meeting, President Clinton said, "The First Lady and I have worked on [child care] -- she, particularly -- for a long time. We think every child should have access to quality child care, and we think it's the next great frontier if we're going to make sure all Americans can succeed at home and at work."

- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton recently wrote, "If you're a working parent, chances are that you have to struggle to find affordable, quality child care. Like millions of others, you know just how important child care is to your family's well being and to your ability to work without worry. Yet for too long, parents across the country have struggled with too little information, too few choices and too much anxiety."

- **Millions of Americans rely on child care and after-school programs to care for their children for part of each day.** The conference will explore how the public and private sectors can respond to the need for safe, affordable, quality child care for American families who are struggling to be both good parents and good workers.

- **The conference is intended to begin a dialogue on three critical child care issues** -- availability, affordability, and assuring safety and quality. And the conference is intended to highlight the roles that everyone -- including communities, business and labor leaders, child care providers, Federal, state and local governments, and parents themselves -- can play in addressing these issues.

- **The morning panel will discuss availability, affordability and assuring safety and quality in child care** -- exploring why child care is important to our children's development and our nation's economy, and examining what child care looks like in America today. **The afternoon panel will discuss how we mobilize all members of the community to support safe, affordable, quality child care for families who need it** -- focusing on promising child care efforts across the country, both public and private.

- **Interest is so great, the conference has expanded beyond the White House. Several Cabinet Secretaries will be hosting working sessions**; sessions will be held at the Department of Health and Human Services hosted by Secretary Shalala, at USDA hosted jointly by Education Secretary Riley and Agriculture Secretary Glickman, and at the Department of Labor hosted by Secretary Herman.

- **The conference proceedings will be watched across the country**. More than 85 Satellite Conferences will be held across the nation, convening community leaders to watch the White House Conference and participate in discussions on child care.

child care in America must involve the entire national community. The federal government has a role to play, but so do state governments, the private and non-profit sectors, school systems, organized labor, and individual citizens.

Third, we can begin with a sense of hope. There are models of excellent child care around the country -- from the military's day-care system to Smart Start in North Carolina. These initiatives can provide energy and inspiration for what we need to do now. I look forward to hearing more about them today.

Fourth, at the heart of this effort is choice. One-size-fits-all child care will never fit in America. Not only must we expand the child care options available to parents, we must also empower them with information. We have to do a better job of helping parents become good consumers when it comes to child care.

We must do something else: we must find ways to make it easier for parents who want to stay home with their children to be able to afford to do so.

Fifth, and finally, we must approach this conversation with a certain fearlessness. This conference will succeed only if we are willing to ask the hard questions about child care -- and then listen to the answers.

Here are just some of the questions I hope we will address:

How can we ensure the safety of children in child care? How can we keep good caregivers in and keep bad ones out? How do we do a better job of training caregivers? How can we encourage employers to provide child care benefits to their employees? How can we make successful after-school programs more widely available? How do we meet the needs of children with disabilities? How do we better engage all sectors of society in partnership? And how can we support parents who choose, often at significant cost, to stay at home with their children? How do we ensure that quality and affordability do not come at the expense of one another? How do we help model child care programs take root in other parts of the country? Finally, can we leave ideology at the door and honestly address the real needs of America's families?

I would like to close with one thought. We are privileged to live in a time of tremendous bounty. America is at peace. Our economy is booming. Social problems that have held us back for years are receding. Times such as these present a special opportunity. Free from crisis, we can do the work that might not be possible in stormier moments. Let us use this break in the weather to make a difference. Let us turn to and repair American child care. And let today be the beginning.

[Now introduce a video produced by New Screen Concepts in association with the Families and Work Institute: "Why Should We Care About Child Care."]

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 7, 1998

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY AT CHILD CARE ANNOUNCEMENT

The East Room

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much. I am delighted to welcome all of you to the White House. I want to thank Tipper Gore for that introduction, but more than that, for her lifelong commitment to children.

I want to thank the children who walked in with us. You represent millions and millions of other children. And you did a wonderful job, and I think we should applaud for you. (Applause.)

I am pleased that as I look around this East Room, which has seen so many important events in our nation's history, to see so many friends and advocates of our nation's children and families who have helped push child care to the forefront of America's agenda.

Today, we join together with the President in taking this historic step forward for America's children, for our working families, and for our country. We have much to be thankful for in this new year when it comes to the well-being of our children. Immunization rates are the highest in our history. Infant mortality is at an all-time low. And teen pregnancy is down. The President signed the largest expansion of health care coverage in over 30 years to provide health insurance for millions more of our nation's children. And thanks to the adoption bill recently signed by the President, more kids will have a shot at growing up in safe and loving homes.

This administration is also helping parents make the choices that are right for their families, whether that means working or staying home to care for their own children. From the $500 per child tax credit for families with children, to the Earned Income Tax

Credit that lifts millions of working families out of poverty, we are now providing as a nation greater resources and real choices for America's parents.

Today, however, more of America's parents are working, by choice or by necessity. More than ever, parents rely on child care and after-school programs to care for their children for part of the day. We all have a stake in making sure that every child in care is safe and nurtured. This is part of America's unfinished business, because while we've made important progress in strengthening child care in this country, it still fails too many of our children and working parents.

I've worked on children's issues, as many of you have, for more years than I care to remember. I've been privileged to travel around our country, and indeed the world, visiting day care centers, talking to experts, talking to moms and dads. And I've seen firsthand what it means to a family when a child is well cared for while a mother or father has to work. And I've also seen the results of our failures to invest in our children at the most critical stages of their young lives.

I think we all understand how important child care is. But I believe that the daily struggle that many parents undergo to balance the demands of work and family is only now getting the attention it deserves. A few months ago with the help of many of you here, the President and I hosted a first-ever White House Conference on Child Care where we sought to turn the literally millions of private conversations that occur in homes and workplaces and supermarket aisles and after church and in every setting you can imagine -- turn those private conversations into a national dialogue on how to improve the availability, affordability, safety and quality of child care in America.

We were spurred by the recent scientific studies that were discussed at last year's White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning -- studies that confirm what every parent and grandparent has intuitively known, that the love and attention a child receives in that child's earliest years have a direct impact on the development of that child's brain and dramatically affect how children learn and develop over an entire lifetime.

As more of our nation's parents join the work force, and as we reform the welfare system which requires more of our nation's parents to join the work force, more children are spending their early years in child care. Today, over half the infants in this country are in day care and millions more school-age children have both parents or their only parent in the work force. And for many of those parents it is a struggle to find the child care they need. They hobble together relative care, family day care, center day care, anything they can imagine. And then, as their children get older, they have to worry about after-school care. For too long America's parents have struggled with too little information, too few choices, and too many worries.

Today, the President announced an historic child care proposal that seeks not only to give working parents the peace of mind they need and deserve, but also to give more of our children the kind of care they have to have. By helping working families pay for child care and improving the safety and quality of that care, this proposal truly will help parents better balance the demands of both home and family.

We are so privileged to live in a time when America is at peace and our economy is doing so well. It's also a time of enormous change and transition as more parents join the work force of the 21st century. Times like this present unique opportunities for action as well as challenges for leadership. And I believe that we should ensure, as we are attempting to do today, that no family in this time of rapid change falls through the cracks and no child is left behind. I believe the President's proposal will help us all move together in fulfilling our most important responsibility as individuals or as a nation -- the care and nurturing of our children.

And now it is my great pleasure to introduce our Vice President who has not only cared and nurtured, along with Tipper, his own children, but who has provided visionary leadership in improving the lives of America's families and children. Please welcome Vice President Al Gore. (Applause.)

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 7, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN CHILD CARE ANNOUNCEMENT

The East Room

3:27 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House. You know, I was listening to the Vice President and Tipper and Hillary speak, and I was looking at all these people out here, and I was thinking about all the great joys of being President. And one of the greatest joys of being President is that you get to stand up and make an announcement on which other people have done all the work. (Laughter.)

I want to begin by thanking the Cabinet, especially Secretary Shalala who has done so much work on this. But I thank them all. I thank the Congress, not only the Women's Caucus of Republican and Democratic women in the Congress, but the few errant men who are here -- (laughter) -- and those who are not here who care so passionately about this issue in the Senate and in the House.

I thank the children and families who are here and the child advocates who are here. I was looking around this room -- there are some people in this room that I have been listening to on this issue for way over 20 years now. They have waited a long time for this day. (Laughter.)

I thank the Gores. You know, they started their family conference every year in Nashville even before we began our partnership together, and it was a brilliant and unique idea -- the idea of every year focusing on the American family in some aspect of challenge or opportunity and bringing people in from all over America to talk about it. There's really no precedent for it as far as I know in our public policy and it's a remarkable contribution that they have made.

And, of course, I thank my wife who has been talking to me about all these things for more than 25 years now, and is sitting there thinking that I finally got around to doing what she has been telling me to do. (Laughter.) I was thinking it would be nice to have something new to talk about for the next 25 years -- (laughter.) That's one of the major reasons for this event today. (Applause.) And even if the rest of you can't appreciate it as much as I can, you'll just have to live with the truth. (Laughter.)

But mostly I thank these children, for they remind us of our fundamental obligations -- as Americans and as human beings.

You know, throughout our history, our founders told us that they organized our country in order to form a more perfect union. And one of the most important ways we have done that now, for more than 220 years, is to always apply our most fundamental values to the circumstances and challenges of each new age. And the reason we have made it is that we have never forgotten that there is no more fundamental value than the American family, than its strength and its integrity. There is no more important job than raising a child. There is no more important responsibility than to create the conditions and give people the tools to succeed at raising their children. But I think we would all have to admit that as a nation we have not done what we should have done to enable all of our families to meet the challenge of the era in which we live.

For some time now, we have been, at least with one foot, in the 21st century. We know that the 21st century will be dominated by globalization and by information and technological revolutions. And we know that it has brought us many great benefits.

We as Americans should be very grateful today for the prosperity we enjoy. Even though all of you and your fellow Americans have worked hard to earn it, and we've made some tough decisions in Washington to help bring it about, we should still be grateful for it. But we know that this new economy, with all the unprecedented prosperity it has brought us, has also imposed some significant new challenges.

We know, for example, that the average working family is spending more hours a week in the workplace than 25 or 30 years ago, with all the benefits of technology. And we know that more and more parents of young children are in the workplace, either because they're single parent households, or because both parents have to work to make ends meet, or because both parents choose to work and they ought to have that choice.

But there is no more important responsibility on us to apply the values of America, the timeless values of America, to modern conditions, none is more important than making sure every American can balance the dual responsibilities succeeding as parents and succeeding at work. There is no more significant challenge.

Indeed, one of the biggest debates we had when we were working through the welfare reform issue was how we could require people to be responsible and go to work without creating conditions which would require them to abandon their first responsibility to be good parents. That is the universal obligation of every parent, and it should be the dominant concern of our government.

That's what this is about. I don't believe I have ever talked to a parent who was also in the workplace who has not been able to cite at least one example -- and oftentimes many, many more -- of a conflict between -- that he or she felt between the obligations of parenthood and the obligations to the job. And that includes, of course, people who work in the White House -- when the President makes them work too late at night. (Laughter.) But you just -- you know that. Everyone -- I saw a lot of you nodding your heads. You just know that. It's part of the fabric of American life.

We know that the government cannot raise or love a child, but that is not what we're supposed to do. What the government is supposed to do is to help to create the conditions and give people the tools that will enable them to raise and love their children while successfully participating in the American workplace.

Today I am proud to propose the single largest national commitment to child care in the history of the United States. (Applause.) It is a comprehensive and fiscally responsible plan to make child care more affordable and accessible, to raise the quality of child care, to assure the safety of care for millions of American children.

This is an issue that touches nearly every family, and I believe it must rise above politics and partisan interests. I welcome the bipartisan effort to improve child care that is already going on in the Congress. I thank the members who are here and many who could not come today, for their leadership and for demonstrating that this is an American issue that both Democrats and Republicans are embracing.

This proposal will be an important part of the budget I send to Congress next month. It will be the first balanced budget in 30 years. It will build on the achievements of the year just passed, one that was very good for working families. As has already been mentioned, last summer's historic balanced budget agreement provided working families with a $500 per child tax credit; it made the first two years of college -- community college -- virtually free for almost every American family, made college more affordable for American families; expanded health coverage to 5 million uninsured people; advanced the cause of placing more children into solid, adoptive homes; and continued our efforts to collect more child support.

Over the past five years we have worked hard to abandon the false choices of the past, including the false choice of having to choose between responsibilities at work and responsibilities at home. Our new economic strategy is designed in no small measure to get over that divide. From the Family and Medical Leave Act, to the Earned Income Tax Credit, to the minimum wage increase, we have tried to demonstration that it is not only possible but imperative to the survival of the American Dream to help people meet their responsibilities at home and at work.

Strengthening child care has always been a part of this strategy. Since we came here, we've helped a million children and their families to afford that child that they need, but we have to do a lot more. Now, this new proposal has three fundamental goals: first, to make child care more affordable and available to all Americans. With increased block grants to states, we will double the number of children receiving child care subsidies to more than 2 million.

One of the reasons welfare reform has worked as well as it has is because of the increased investment in child care. Now, we have to help the lower income families who have never been on welfare in the first place, but still struggle to pay for child care. We also will help more than 3 million working families to meet their child care expenses by dramatically expanding the child care tax credit. These tax credits will mean that a family of four making $35,000 and saddled with high child care bills will no longer pay one penny in federal income taxes.

(Applause.)

I'm also supporting new tax credits to encourage more businesses to provide child care for their employees. When I met the members of Congress before coming in here, that's the first thing Congresswoman DeLauro said. She had just come from the opening of a corporate child care center. We need more businesses to do more, and we need to help the smaller businesses who can use this tax credit and cannot afford to do it on their own without a little help from the public.

Second, we must make sure that every child has a safe and enriching place to go after school. As the Vice President said, there are simply too many children who through no fault of their parents are left to fend for themselves in the hours between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. -- too many children roaming the streets, idling in front of a television, or getting into trouble.

I cannot emphasize the importance of this too much. The crime rate in this country has dropped dramatically in the last five years. All Americans should be proud of that. The juvenile crime rate has not dropped so much. And where it has dropped, almost without exception, it has dropped because people have found something positive for children to do in the hours between the time school ends and the time their parents come home at night.

We do not need to keep building jail after jail after jail to house children who wouldn't be there in the first place if we took care of them while they're out free and able to build constructive, law-abiding, positive lives. (Applause.)

I am proposing the expansion of before and after school programs to help some 500,000 children say no to drugs and alcohol and crime, and yes to reading, soccer, computers and a brighter future for themselves. I thank the Vice President especially for his hard work on this issue.

Third, we have to improve the safety and quality of child care and make sure that child care advances early childhood development. I am proposing an early learning fund to help to reduce child-to-staff ratios in child care centers, train child care workers and educate parents. We have to also strengthen the enforcement of state codes and licensing requirements, weed out bad providers, and through tougher criminal background checks, make sure that the wrong people aren't doing the right mission that we all need done properly.

Finally, we ought to offer scholarships to talented care-givers.

Now, let me take a minute to thank our state leaders, from North Carolina to Washington State, from Rhode Island to Minnesota, for their efforts at improving child care and promoting early learning across America. I know Governor Almond of Rhode Island is here, and I want to especially thank him for Rhode Island's Child Opportunity Zone program. It is a national model.

We are living in what may well be the most exciting era of human history. But the globalization, the information and technology revolution, they continue to alter the way we live and work, the way we do business, and the way we relate to each other and the rest of the world. They make some jobs easier, they render others obsolete. But nothing must be permitted to undermine the first responsibilities of parenthood.

No raise or promotion will ever top the joy of hugging a child after work. Nothing can be more bittersweet than sending a child you once cradled off in your arms, off to college for the first time. (Laughter.) Nothing weighs more heavily on a parent's mind than the well-being of a child in the care of others. No issue is more important to any family.

You know, a lot of us have had our own experiences with child care. I've often wondered how my mother, when she was widowed, would have been able to go back to school if I hadn't been able to move in with my grandparents. I was lucky and it turned out reasonably well for me. (Laughter.)

But how many children are out there with exactly the same potential, who never got the same break by pure accident of family circumstance? You don't know the answer to that and neither do I. But we know what the answer should be. The answer should be, not a single one.

Thank you very much, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END 3:44 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release October 23, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY AT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE

The East Room

10:00 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you and please be seated, and welcome to the White House Conference on Child Care. We are delighted to have with us in the East Room today members of Congress and the President's Cabinet, other officials from the government here in Washington. We have many elected officials from around the country and a great group of distinguished guests, including parents and experts in this important issue.

I also want to greet the hundreds of people gathered at the Departments of Agriculture, Labor, and Health and Human Services here in Washington, and to the thousands more who are joining us via satellite from the more than 100 sites at universities, hospitals and schools and businesses around the country.

I'd like to take a minute for all of us to think about what's happening in America this morning, and about what happens every morning. Parents are making the preparations to get to work, and those preparations include for most working families putting their children in the care of others. And most, even before they're out the door, are worrying about the logistics of the care that their children will receive. Some are even worrying about the safety or quality of that care.

There are many who are wondering whether they would get better quality care if they could pay more. Others are struggling to determine how they'll be able to afford next month's payment. And there are many who are in the work force who worry every day about how they'll care for their child and hold down the job that they need. Many parents will go to work, but have trouble focusing on work because they are worried about the sniffle that their daughter had or wondering how their son is faring.

And before we finish today, many more working parents will keep looking anxiously at the clock and will murmur into telephones the instructions that their children need after school, because their concerns don't end at the end of the day for their children's school time, because parents won't get home, so that they have to worry about what happens to keep their child safe and well occupied during those hours, as well

These are just some of the questions that America's parents are asking themselves this morning and every morning that they prepare to go to work. Some parents ask themselves these questions in the afternoon, as they prepare to go to a swing shift, or at midnight as they start to work in one of the other jobs that are essential to keeping our economy strong.

Earlier this month I went to the University of Maryland to visit its center for young children, and as soon as I walked in the door I knew immediately it was the kind of place any of us would feel comfortable sending our children. I was, frankly, tempted to sign up myself. The walls were painted bright colors. There was lots of natural light. The workers there were creative, energetic and focused. Inside there were toys and crafts material. Outside there was a playground. And the children looked happy and occupied and full of energy.

Now, later I left the center to make a speech, and after the speech I opened the floor to questions. And the very first question was one that I thought summed up the dilemma that we face today. It came from a divorced mother who works full-time as a secretary at the university. To send her 4-year-old son to the center I had visited, she told me, would cost $6,000 a year, a quarter of her income, and she just couldn't do it. She had to do some real juggling to get the situation that she told me about. She was able to send her son to another less expensive center because she qualified for a scholarship, and she moved back in with her parents. Otherwise, she said, I would have to quit my job and go on welfare, and then I would have to worry about who would watch my child as I looked for a job.

She and so many women like her are the reason we are here today, and parents like Paula Broglio, who is here with us in the East Room, represent the millions of parents who worry about this important issue. Thirteen million American children spend all or some of their day being cared for by someone other than their parent. Yet, a recent national study found that child care at most centers in our country is, "poor to mediocre, with almost half of the infants and toddlers in rooms having less than minimal quality."

The study also concluded that fully 40 percent of the rooms serving infants in centers provided care that was of such poor quality as to jeopardize children's health, safety or development. A recent University of Colorado at Denver survey of child care in four states found only one in seven child care centers to be of good quality.

And quality care, as Paula and so many others know, when it is available is often financially out of reach. According to the 1995 census, families earning under $1,200 a month or less than $15,000 a year pay an average of 25 percent of their income for child care.. Middle class families are hit hard as well. These families, earning up to $36,000 a year pay 12 percent of their income for child care.

The urgency of this conference today to focus on child care is heightened by the new scientific information we have about the emotional and intellectual development of young children. As we learned at the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development in April, what happens to a child in the earliest years affects how well he or she learns for a lifetime. With 45 percent of our children under the age of one in day care regularly, the issue of quality has tremendous bearing not just on individual lives, but on the future of our nation.

What's more, we now know from other studies that good care, whether given at home or in a day care setting, is good care. Done right, day care can be beneficial for children, and it is, therefore, worth our investment.

There's another reason that compels us to act, and that is demand. Demand for quality child care is growing, hastened on by our new economy, which has meant in the last 40 years dramatic changes in the American work force and in the American family's life. We know, for example, that half of all mothers with children under one year of age are working outside the home, and not only are more parents working, they are working longer hours. Also, with welfare reform we know that many more children will be needing quality child care.

So this conference is meant to start a conversation. It is only one day, but we hope it is a day that will renew our efforts to improve child care in America. We also hope it will involve our entire national community, because every aspect of our life together must be involved in looking for solutions. The federal government has a role to play, but so do state governments, business and labor, the nonprofit and religious communities, school systems, individual citizens, and especially parents.

We also know there are models of excellent child care around the country and we will hear about some of them -- like the military's day care system or the Smart Start Program in North Carolina. These initiatives provide examples of best practices and can energize and inspire us to do more.

We also know how important it is to ensure choice for parents in their selection of child care. One size fits all child care does not fit America's families. We don't work the same hours, we don't have the same economic or other kinds of pressures that we're dealing with, so we have to provide more options and we have to empower parents with good information to enable them to become good consumers. We also have to find ways that would make it easier and more affordable for parents who want to stay home with their children for some period of time to be able to afford to do so.

So I hope we approach this conversation with a certain fearlessness, with the same kind of energy that I see on the face of a three or four-year-old who's going about some task that he knows will occupy himself. We need to have the same kind of fearless approach, asking the hard questions and then listening to the answers.

There will be a lot of questions raised today -- questions about how to ensure the safety of every child in child care: how to do a better job of training and paying care-givers: how to encourage more employers to provide child care benefits of some variety to employees: how to make successful after-school programs more widely available: how to meet the needs of children with disabilities: how to better support parents who choose, often at significant cost, to stay home with their children: how to ensure that quality and affordability do not come at the expense of one another: and how to learn from the good models that we have in every community and state of our country: and, also, how do we leave ideology at the door and honestly address the real needs of America's families.

These are tough questions, and there are many more that we will be considering today. But we consider these questions at an opportune time. And we hope that this conference will spur the conversations around kitchen tables and water coolers and standing in supermarket aisles or at soccer games, or while going to or from work in the carpool -- whatever it takes to engage more Americans in this discussion, to make it clear that we want American parents to succeed at the most important task they have, caring for the next generation, and to be good workers who contribute to the economy and the quality of life that we enjoy in our country.

Now I'd like to address your attention to a video produced by New Screen Concepts, in association with the Families and Work Institute, entitled, "Why Should We Care about Child Care?"

(Video is shown.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House. Thank you very much, Kathy Carliner, for your remarkable statement. And I thought you were very good in the film. Rob Reiner wants to give you a screen test. (Laughter.)

I am so happy to see all of you here. There are many people here who might well be introduced, but I think I must start with the people who are terribly important to whether we will be able to fully achieve our part of the great agenda we are going to lay out today -- the members of Congress who are here. And I'd like to call their names, and then when I finish, ask them all to stand.

Senator Herb Kohl, who sponsored legislation on child care; Senator Jack Reed; Congressman Bill Clay; Congressman Sandy Levin; Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro; Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey; Congresswoman Sue Kelly; Congresswoman Maxine Waters; Congressman Xavier Becerra; and Congressman Nick Lampson. Would the members of Congress who are here please stand. Thank you for coming. (Applause.)

I'd also like to thank my longtime friend -- Hillary and I have been friends of Governor Jim Hunt and his wife, Carolyn, who are here, for almost 20 years now. And I think Governor Romer is here or on his way. Mayor Clever, we're glad to see you. And John Sweeney, the head of the AFL-CIO, and others who have come to be with us today, I thank you very much.

This is a happy day at the White House, first for all the people in the administration and all those who have worked with them for months and months and months to help this day come to pass; and second, and even more important, from my point of view, this is a happy day because I have been listening to the First Lady talk about this for more than 25 years now -- (laughter) -- and it may be that I will finally be able to participate in at least a small fraction of what I have been told for a long time I should be doing. (Laughter.) And I say that in good humor, but also with great seriousness.

This is an anniversary of sorts for me. It was six years ago today as a newly-announced candidate for President that I went back to my alma mater at Georgetown and began a series of three speeches outlining what I thought America ought to look like in the 21st century and what I thought we would have to do to create a country in which everyone had an opportunity, everyone was expected to be a responsible citizen, and where we came together across all the lines that divide us into one community.

There are many things that are necessary for that to be done, but clearly two of them are, first, people in this country have to be able to succeed at work and at home in raising their children. And if we put people in the position of essentially having to chose one over the other, our country is going to be profoundly weakened. Obviously, if people are worried sick about their children, and they fail at work, it's not just individual firms, it's the economic fabric and strength of the country that is weakened. Far more important, if people fail at home, they have failed in our most important job, and our most solemn responsibility.

Second, we'll never be the kind of country we ought to be unless we believe that every child counts and that every child ought to have a chance to make the most of his or her God-given abilities.

That's why we're here today -- to examine where we are and what we still have to do. And what we still have to do is quite a lot, to make sure we live by what we believe when we say that all parents should be able to succeed at home and at work and that every child counts. No parent should ever have to chose between work and family; between earning a decent wage and caring for a child. Especially in this day and age when most parents work, nothing is more important, as you have just heard Kathy Carliner say, than finding child care that is affordable, accessible, and safe. It is America's next great frontier, in strengthening our families and our future.

As the Catholic Conference has noted, no government can love a child and no policy can substitute for a family's care. But there is much that we can do to help parents do their duty to their children. From my days as governor of Arkansas to my service as President, strengthening families has been a central goal of what I have worked on. I'm very proud that the first bill I had the opportunity to sign into law as President was the Family and Medical Leave Act, so that no parent has to choose between caring for a child or keeping a job when a family member is ill.

The expanded earned income tax credit helps to ensure that parents who work don't have to raise their children in poverty. No one who is out there working full-time with children should have to worry about that. Expanded Head Start programs are serving more families than ever before. We've collected record sums of child support enforcement. The historic balanced budget I signed this summer provides a $500-per-child tax credit and helps parents to pay for their children's college education through IRAs, expanded loans and Pell Grants, the HOPE Scholarship and other tax credits.

The Congress has before it now a program of Secretary

Riley's called 21st Century Community Schools in which we ask for funds to help our states keep our schools open after classroom hours for children who have no place else to go and need that environment.

We've also made some progress on child care. Since 1993, child care assistance has increased by 70 percent to help families pay for nearly a million children. Last year in the welfare reform debate, we fought and won the battle to expand child care assistance by $4 billion over the next six years, giving states an unprecedented opportunity to lead, to innovate in efforts to make child care more affordable.

But we have to do more. With more families required to rely on two incomes to make ends meet, with more single-parent families than ever, more young children are left in the care of others even in their earliest years. And as the First Lady said, we learned at our Conference on Early Childhood and the Brain, that's when children develop or fail to develop capacities that will shape the entire rest of their lives. It's also true that more and more schoolchildren are returning to empty homes after school.

The first thing we have to do is to make it possible for parents to spend time with their children whenever possible. That's why I hope the Congress will vote to expand the Family and Medical Leave law so that parents at least can take some time off for their children's medical appointments, teacher conferences and other basic duties. And I support flex-time laws that will allow workers to choose between receiving overtime in pay or in time off with their families.

But during those times when children can't be with their parents, they must get care that keeps them safe and that helps them to learn and grow. As we all know, too often that isn't the case. Too often, child care is unaffordable, inaccessible and, sometimes, even unsafe. The cost, as Hillary said, strains millions of family budgets. And government assistance meets just about a quarter of the need. Even for those who can afford it, sometimes good care is hard to find, as Kathy said in her remarks. Waiting lists sometimes takes months or years to move, forcing many parents to cobble together unstable arrangements.

The shortage of care puts older children at risk, as well. Five million of them between the ages of five and 14 are left to fend for themselves after school. And as they get older, that increases the chances that they'll be exposed to drugs, tobacco and crime.

Finally, studies have shown that too many child care facilities are literally unsafe. The tragedies that have befallen families who depended on child care continue to make headlines all across our nation. This conference is an important step forward in addressing all these issues. What we learn today should spur us on to find ways to help parents, all parents, afford safe, affordable, high quality child care, whether it's at home, a child care center or a neighbor's house.

In the coming months, our administration will develop a plan to be unveiled at the next State of the Union, to improve access and affordability, and to help to ensure the safety of child care in America. In the meantime, I want to announce four specific things we can do right now.

First, I'm asking Congress to establish a new scholarship fund for child care providers. (Applause.) Too many care-givers don't have the training they need to provide the best possible care. Those who do have training are rarely compensated with higher wages. The scholarship program I propose will help students earn their degrees as long as they remain in the child care field for at least a year, and it will ensure that care-givers who complete their training will receive a bonus or a raise.

Second, we have to weed out the people who have no business taking care of our children in the first place. I am transmitting to Congress the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, which will make background checks on child care providers easier and more effective by eliminating state barriers to sharing criminal histories for this specific purpose. I urge Congress to pass and states to ratify this legislation.

Third, I've asked Secretary Rubin to oversee a working group on child care, composed primarily of business leaders working with labor and community representatives to find ways more businesses can provide child care or help their employees afford high quality child care. And again, I thank John Sweeney for his important support of this initiative. (Applause.) In some ways the most gripping part of that film we saw was the father talking about how he was just consumed with worry at work. No parent should ever have to go through that.

Finally, we must use community service to strengthen and expand access to after-school programs. Today, the Corporation for National Service through its To Learn and Grow Initiative will pledge to help after-school programs all across our country to use volunteers to provide better care to children. It is releasing a how-to manual for groups who want to incorporate community service into after-school programs. And I think that, Secretary Riley, if we can win in our little budget battle here on the 21 century community schools, then together, we can do some real good out there on this issue.

My friends, for centuries, over two now, the American Dream has represented a compact that those who work hard and play by the rules should be able to build better lives for themselves and for their children. In this time, and even more into the future, child care that is too expensive, unsafe or unavailable will be a very stubborn obstacle to realizing that dream. So let us commit ourselves to clearing the obstacle, to helping parents fulfill their most sacred duty, to keeping the American Dream alive for them and most important, for their children.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

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7% - Children
Asthma

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release
October 14, 1997

Contact: 202-456-7150

REGIONAL SITES TO PARTICIPATE IN WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE

On October 23, 1997, the President and the First Lady will host the *White House Conference on Child Care* in the East Room of the White House. The conference will examine the state of child care in this country and explore how Americans can better respond to the needs of working families for affordable, high quality care.

There will be two panel discussions. The morning panel will address: (1) why child care is important to our children's development, the health of American communities, and the nation's economy; and (2) how to ensure that the children who need it have safe, quality child care. The afternoon panel will provide an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of child care in America and highlight promising efforts across the country. List of regional downlink sites follows agenda.

I. OPENING SESSION

II. PANEL DISCUSSION: WHY DOES GOOD CHILD CARE MATTER AND HOW DO WE KNOW IT WHEN WE SEE IT?

Part 1: Why is Child Care Important?

This panel will include presentations by experts addressing the relationship between child care and the economy and workforce; child care and children's healthy development, particularly in the earliest years of life; and child care and the health of our communities, with a focus on the need for adequate care for children of school age.

Part 2: What Is "Good" Child Care?

This panel will include presentations by a state legislator, a child care provider, and a parent about how to ensure that the children who need it are in healthy, safe, quality child care.

III. WHITE HOUSE LUNCHEON AND WORKING SESSIONS AT FEDERAL AGENCIES

Several Cabinet Secretaries will host working sessions at their agencies during the White House luncheon.

IV. PANEL DISCUSSION: HOW DO WE MOBILIZE THE PIVOTAL SECTORS TO SUPPORT AFFORDABLE, QUALITY CHILD CARE?

Part 1: What is Going On In Child Care Across the Country?

Secretary Shalala will give an overview of the strengths and gaps in child care across the country.

Part 2: What Promising Models Can We Learn From?

This panel will include presentations by state and local officials about efforts in their state, military personnel on their child care system, a religious leader, and representatives from business, labor, and the health care community.

V. SOUTH LAWN RECEPTION

The conference will conclude with a reception on the White House South Lawn. In addition to closing remarks by White House principals, Cabinet Secretaries who have held working sessions at their agencies will report on those meetings.

White House Conference on Child Care
Regional Satellite Downlink Sites

Alabama

Birmingham
Alabama Power Company, 600 18th Street, North
Contact: Gussie Harris (205) 581-5036

Arkansas

Little Rock
University of Arkansas Medical Science Center, Arkansas Cancer Research Center, 44301 Markham
Contact: Pat Montoya (Health and Human Services) (214) 767-3301

California

Fresno
California State University, Fresno Satellite Student Union
Contact: Rich Brassfield, USDA Rural Development Director (209) 487-5010

Los Angeles
University of Southern California, Davidson Executive Conference Center
Contact: Regina Jones (213) 299-8998 (Tel) (213) 295-9095 (Fax)

Oakland
Oakland City Hall, One City Hall Plaza
Contact: P.J. Ballard, Office of the Mayor (510) 238-3141

Colorado

Denver
Governor Romer will host.
Contact: Maggie Cary (303) 844-3372

Connecticut

Hartford
Trinity College
Contact: Beth Bye (860) 297-5291

Delaware

Newark
University of Delaware
Contact: Jack Holloway (302) 577-880? x196

Florida

Miami
Miami Dade Junior College
Contact: Ophelia Brown (305) 347-4615

St. Petersburg
University of South Florida, Dept. of Environmental Protections Building, Florida Marine Institute
Contact: William Fillmore, Head Start Association President (813) 547-5925

Georgia

Atlanta
Georgia Public Broadcasting, 260 14th Street. N.W.
Contact: Nancy Hall (404) 685-2415

Iowa

Cedar Rapids
Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids. Amana Room in Iowa Hall, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd., S.W.
Contact: Karl Sefl (319) 398-5684

Illinois

Chicago
University of Illinois at Chicago. Eye and Ear Infirmary Auditorium, 1855 W. Taylor
Contact: Dr. David Loebach, Illinois Department of Human Services (217) 785-9230

Rosemont
Comdisco, 6111 North River Road
Contact: Mary Moster or Bobbie Wasserman (847) 518-5147

###

Indiana

Indianapolis
Ivy Tech State College, 1 West 26th Street
Contact: Mary Burris (317) 921-4458

Kansas

Manhattan
Kansas State University, Waters Hall Room 137
Contact: Marlene Glasscock, School of Family Studies and Human Services
(785) 532-1484

Kentucky

Louisville
Humana Inc., 500 W. Main Street
Contact: Linda Walker (404) 331-4762

Maine

Portland
University of Southern Maine
Contact: Elaine Guiney (617) 565-8415

Maryland

Arnold
Anne Arundel Community College
Contact: Remy Agee

Towson
Towson University
Contact: Elyn Garrett-Jones (410) 767-7701

Hughesville
Southern MD Electric Coop
Contact: Becky Stevens (307) 475-4633

Takoma Park
Montgomery College
Contact: Kerry Hoffman (301) 650-1517

Massachusetts

Boston
T.P. O'Neil Federal Building
Contact: Elaine Guiney (617) 565-8415

Michigan

East Lansing
Michigan State University, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 55 South Harrison
Contact: Michigan Primary Care Association (517) 281-8000

Minnesota

St. Paul/Minneapolis
State Office Building, Room #5, 100 Constitution Avenue
Contact: Michelle Barnes Lewis, Minnesota Department of Health (612) 282-3854

Mississippi

Cleveland
Delta State University, Ewing Building, Room 211-212
Contact: Jennifer Beane (601) 254-9957

Jackson
University of Mississippi Medical Center, Administrative Conference Center, 2500 North State Street
Contact: LuAnn Ainsworth (601) 359-4556

Starkville
Mississippi State University, Bost Extension Building, Theater Building B
Contact: Linda Breazeale (601) 325-1717

Missouri

Kansas City
Rockhurst College, Richardson Hall Room 115
Contact: Joe Whited (816) 501-4151

New Jersey

Princeton
Princeton University
Contact: Pat Parisi (212) 637-6284

New Mexico

Albuquerque
University of New Mexico, Continuing Education and Community Service
Contact: Matt Barnett (505) 277-8833

New York

Syracuse
Syracuse University School of Education
Contact: Mary Speno Mahoney (315) 469-8986

North Carolina

Raleigh
North Carolina State University, 302 Ricks Hall
Contact: Ellen Devlin (919) 515-3173

Ohio

Columbus
Ohio Department of Human Services, 150 East Gay Street, 18th Floor
Contact: Paul Frauholtz, Ohio DHS Child Care Bureau (614) 752-6223

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia
Community College of Philadelphia
Contact: Linda Wallace (215) 751-8082

Rhode Island

Providence
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
Contact: Lori Patrone (401) 277-1185 x159

South Carolina

Rock Hill
Winthrop University
Contact: Dean Thomas Powell, College of Education (803) 323-2154

Texas

Austin
University of Texas at Austin, Bass Lecture Hall, 2315 Red River
Contact: Pat Montoya (Health and Human Services) (214) 767-3301

Vermont

Burlington
University of Vermont (UVM)
Contact: Kim Kiser (Governor's Office) (802) 241-2233

Virginia

Chantilly
Westfields Marriott
Contact: Gail Bjorklund (703) 324-8825

West Virginia

Charleston
St. Capitol Complex
Contact: Cathy Forsythe (304) 523-9540

Wheeling
WV Northern Community College, B&O Building Auditorium
Contact: Cathy Forsythe (304) 523-9540

Washington D.C.

General Services Administration Auditorium, 18th & F Streets, N.W.

United States Capitol (Senate Downlink will be open to members and overflow)
Contact: Kimberly O'Connor (202) 224-6770

Washington

Spokane
Downtown Doubletree Hotel
Contact: Marty Jacobs, Executive Director of WAEYC

Wyoming

Cheyenne
Laramie County Community College
Contact: Health and Human Services

Child Care Conference - Satellite Contact List

Elaine Guiney, Boston	617-565-8415
Allison Greene, New York NY, NJ, PR, VI	212-264-4600
Lynn Yeakel, Philadelphia WV, VA, DE, MD, PN	215-596-6492
Barbara Kelly, Atlanta FL, MS, AL, NC, SC, GA, TN, KY (Or Pat Ford-Roegner 404-331-2442)	404-562-2000
Hannah Rosenthal, Chicago OH, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN	312-353-5160
Sandra Walker, Kansas City NE, KS, IA, MO	816-880-4000
Pat Montoya, Dallas TX, OK, AR, LA, NM	214-767-3301
Margaret Cary, Denver ND, SD, CO, MT, UT, WY	303-844-3372
Grantland Johnson, San Francisco CA, HI, AZ, GU	415-437-8500
Carla Nuxholl, Seattle AK, WA, OR, ID	206-220-7802
Kimberly O'Connor Congressional Site	202-224-6770

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE
October 23, 1997

> *"I hope that this conference will be the beginning of a national dialogue about how best to care for all of America's children and will make a valuable contribution to our effort to improve child care in this country."*
> -- President Clinton, July 23, 1997

Today, the President and First Lady are hosting the first-ever *White House Conference on Child Care*. The day-long conference will address the need that America's parents struggling to be both good parents and good workers have for safe, affordable child care for their children. Millions of Americans rely on child care and after-school programs to care for their children for part of each day. Exploring the roles of both the public and private sectors, the Conference is intended to begin a dialogue on three of the most pressing child care issues -- availability, affordability and assuring safety and quality.

Clinton Administration Commitment to Strengthening Child Care. President Clinton has worked to improve and increase funding for child care. Under President Clinton's leadership, federal funding for child care has increased by nearly 70%. The 1996 welfare reform law increased child care funding by $4 billion over 6 years to provide child care assistance to low-income working families and parents moving from welfare to work. And he assured that a percentage of these funds are set aside for efforts to improve the quality of child care. Funding for Head Start has increased by 43% since 1993 and will continue to expand until it reaches the President's goal of serving 1 million children by the year 2002.

The President also initiated the Early Head Start Program to expand the proven benefits of Head Start to low-income families with children age three and under. He has also worked to ensure that children in child care are in safe and healthy environments with the Healthy Child Care America Initiative. And to expand the benefits of after-school care, the President has, among other things, supported and signed the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act to fund after-school programs; called for an increased number of community schools that stay open longer and provide valuable resources to families and communities; and published a guide on *Keeping Schools Open as Community Learning Centers*. Because the Department of Defense child care system has become a model of employer-sponsored child care and after-school programming, the President asked the DOD to share its expertise and lessons learned with the civilian child care community.

Clinton Administration Commitment to America's Working Families. This Conference builds on the President's record of helping America's working families. To take a few examples, the President fought for passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act to allow workers to take unpaid leave when their families need them. And he signed into law the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act to extend important new protections for an estimated 25 million Americans who move from one job to another, or who have pre-existing medical conditions. And in August 1997, the President signed the Balanced Budget Act which included $24 billion for the Children's Health Initiative -- the single largest investment in health care for children since 1965. President Clinton has also fought to expand economic opportunity for working families, including a $500 per-child tax credit for children under age 17 -- helping 27 million families with 45 million children. The Administration also expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to give 15 million families tax relief and increased the minimum wage by 90 cents.

Conference Program and Participants. During the morning session, experts will discuss why child care matters both to our children's development and to the economy, and will examine the state of affairs in child care in this country. The panelists for this first session are: Ms. Ellen Galinsky, Families and Work Institute; Ms. Michelle Seligson, National Institute of Out-of-School Time; Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin; Secretary of HHS Donna Shalala; Governor James Hunt, North Carolina; Ms. Valora Washington, W.K. Kellogg Foundation; and Patty Siegel, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. The afternoon session will focus on learning from what we know works in child care. Panelists are: Major General John G. Meyer, United States Army; Representative Jane Maroney, Delaware State Legislator; Dr. Susan Aronson, American Academy of Pediatrics; Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan, Diocese of Brooklyn; Ms. Beatriz Otero, Calvery Bi-Lingual Multicultural Learning Center; Mr. John J. Sweeney, AFL-CIO; and Mr. Doug Price, FirstBank of Colorado.

Broad Participation Across the Country. The entire conference will be broadcast by satellite to over 100 locations across the country and to several Federal agencies. The satellite conferences will be co-hosted by regional federal agencies, local officials and children's and other organizations.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE

On October 23, the President and the First Lady will host the White House Conference on Child Care in the East Room of the White House, bringing together parents, caregivers, business and labor leaders, child care experts and others. The conference will explore how the public and private sectors can respond to the need that Americans who are struggling to be both good parents and good workers have for safe, affordable child care.

Many parents choose to stay home and care for their children themselves. Yet millions of Americans, by choice or necessity, rely on child care and after-school programs to care for their children for part of each day. The conference is intended to begin a dialogue on three critical child care issues -- access, affordability, and assuring safety and quality -- and to highlight the roles that everyone -- including communities, businesses, child care providers, Federal, state and local governments, and parents themselves -- can play in addressing these issues.

I. OPENING SESSION

II. PANEL DISCUSSION: THE CHALLENGE: AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND ASSURING SAFETY AND QUALITY CHILD CARE

The President and First Lady will moderate this session.

Part 1: Why Does Child Care Matter? This panel will address: the relationship between quality child care and children's healthy development, particularly in the earliest years of life; the importance of good after-school programs for youth; and the need for child care given dramatic changes in the workforce and economy.

Part 2: How Are We Doing in Meeting the Challenge? This panel will provide an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of child care in communities across the country.

II. WHITE HOUSE LUNCHEON AND WORKING SESSIONS AT FEDERAL AGENCIES

During the White House luncheon, Secretaries Shalala, Herman, Riley and Glickman will host working sessions at several agencies.

III. PANEL DISCUSSION: LEARNING FROM WHAT WORKS

The Vice President and the First Lady will moderate this session. State and local officials, along with representatives of the military, business, health, labor, and faith communities, will highlight promising efforts around the country and discuss how all members of the community can address the challenges of assuring safe, affordable child care for working families who need it.

IV. SOUTH LAWN RECEPTION

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE
October 23, 1997

> *"I hope that this conference will be the beginning of a national dialogue about how best to care for all of America's children and will make a valuable contribution to our effort to improve child care in this country."*
> -- President Clinton, July 23, 1997

Today, the President and First Lady are hosting the first-ever *White House Conference on Child Care*. The day-long conference will address the need that America's parents have for safe, affordable child care for their children. Millions of Americans, struggling to be both good parents and good workers, rely on child care and after-school programs to care for their children for part of each day. Exploring the roles of both the public and private sectors, the Conference is intended to begin a dialogue on three of the most pressing child care issues -- availability, affordability, and assuring safety and quality.

Clinton Administration Commitment to Strengthening Child Care. President Clinton has worked to improve and increase funding for child care. Under President Clinton's leadership, federal funding for child care has increased by nearly 70%. The 1996 welfare reform law increased child care funding by $4 billion over 6 years to provide child care assistance to low-income working families and parents moving from welfare to work. A percentage of these funds are set aside for efforts to improve the quality of child care. To ensure that children in child care are in safe and healthy environments, the President also launched the Healthy Child Care America Initiative. And because the Department of Defense child care system has become a model of employer-sponsored child care and after-school programming, the President asked the DOD to share its expertise and lessons learned with the civilian child care community.

During President Clinton's time in office, funding for Head Start has increased by 43%. This funding will continue to expand until it reaches the President's goal of serving 1 million children by the year 2002. The President also initiated the Early Head Start Program to expand the proven benefits of Head Start to low-income families with children age three and under.

To expand the benefits of after-school care, the President has, among other things, supported and signed the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act to fund after-school programs; called for an increased number of community schools that stay open longer and provide valuable resources to families and communities; and published a guide on *Keeping Schools Open as Community Learning Centers*.

Clinton Administration Commitment to America's Working Families. This Conference builds on the President's record of helping America's working families. To take a few examples, the President fought for passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act to allow workers to take unpaid leave when their families need them. And he signed into law the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act to extend important new protections for an estimated 25 million Americans who move from one job to another, or who have pre-existing medical conditions. And in August 1997, the President signed the Balanced Budget Act which included $24 billion for the Children's Health Initiative -- the single largest investment in health care for children since 1965. President Clinton has also fought to expand economic opportunity for working families, including a $500 per-child tax credit for children under age 17 -- helping 27 million families with 45 million children. The Administration also expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to give 15 million families tax relief, and increased the minimum wage by 90 cents.

Conference Program and Participants. During the morning session, experts will discuss why child care matters both to our children's development and to the economy, and will examine the state of child care in this country. The panelists for this first session are: Ms. Ellen Galinsky, Families and Work Institute; Ms. Michelle Seligson, National Institute of Out-of-School Time; Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin; Secretary of HHS Donna Shalala; Governor James Hunt, North Carolina; Dr. Valora Washington, W.K. Kellogg Foundation; and Patty Siegel, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. The afternoon session will highlight promising efforts around the country and discuss how all members of the community can meet critical child care challenges. Panelists are: Major General John G. Meyer, United States Army; Representative Jane Maroney, Delaware State Legislator; Dr. Susan Aronson, American Academy of Pediatrics; Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan, Diocese of Brooklyn; Ms. Beatriz Otero, Calvery Bi-Lingual Multicultural Learning Center; Mr. John J. Sweeney, AFL-CIO; and Mr. Doug Price, FirstBank of Colorado.

Broad Participation Across the Country. The entire conference will be broadcast by satellite to over 100 locations in over 45 states across the country, as well as to several Federal agencies. Satellite conferences will be co-hosted by regional federal agencies, local officials, and children's and other organizations.

THE PRESIDENT URGES SERVICE AS A STRATEGY IN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
The White House Conference On Child Care
October 23, 1997

Today, at the White House Conference on Child Care, President Clinton announced steps to use community service to strengthen after-school programs.

Helping Communities Link Service and After-School Programs. To enable more communities to use community service to enrich their after-school programs, the President announced actions by the Corporation for National Service's new To Learn and Grow Initiative, a public-private partnership dedicated to expanding access to and enhancing the quality of after-school programs through service. The initiative will:

- Release a "How-To Manual" that shows after-school programs how they can use service to strengthen their efforts (prepared by the Corporation for National Service with the National Institute on Out-of-School Time at Wellesley College); and

- Provide training and technical assistance to after-school programs that want to use national service and volunteers to help meet their needs.

Building on What Works. Today, communities use both volunteers and those engaged in full-time service commitments such as AmeriCorps to extend the reach and improve the quality of many child care and after-school programs. These individuals work alongside child care providers, educators, and community-based professionals across the country. Two-thirds of national service programs supported by the Corporation for National Service, including AmeriCorps, address the needs of children and youth, many in child care and after-school programs. The To Learn and Grow Initiative will build on this experience to show programs across the country how to use volunteers and others engaged in service to provide better care to more children.

Young people can also benefit from serving others after school hours. For example, Big Brothers/Big Sisters committed at the Presidents' Service Summit that its mentors would participate with young people in service projects. In addition, the Corporation's Learn and Serve program supports service-learning programs across the country, where young people serve and then reflect on that experience. The To Learn and Grow Initiative's manual and training activities will guide after-school programs in incorporating service into their activities.

Successful Programs Exist. Successful programs where service strengthens after-school programs today include Jumpstart AmeriCorps, where AmeriCorps members get needy children and their families ready for school; Columbia University's Community Impact program, where AmeriCorps members provide educational enrichment, mentoring, and tutoring for youth from K-3rd grade in collaboration with the YMCA; the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program in St. Paul, Minnesota, which pairs seniors and middle school students in after-school programs with 900 children in K-3rd grade; and the Sheridan Family Resources Center in Colorado, where AmeriCorps members tutor at-risk youth, run after-school and summer camp programs, and help youths and senior citizens have access to health services offered by school-based and community clinics.

Caring for America's Children

The Clinton Administration and Child Care

October 23, 1997

> *Over the past decade, the number of American families with working parents has expanded dramatically. Making high quality child care more affordable and accessible is critical to the strength of our families and to healthy child development and learning..... Each of us --from businesses to religious leaders to policy-makers and elected officials --has a responsibility and an important stake in making sure that children of all ages have the best possible care available to them. From infancy through adolescence, in child care settings and after-school programs, children can learn and thrive with the right care, attention, and education.*
>
> -- President Clinton, July 23, 1997

President Clinton is hosting the first-ever White House Conference on Child Care to focus the nation's attention on the importance of addressing the need for safe, affordable, quality child care. This Conference underscores and builds upon the President Clinton's commitment to strengthen the American family by giving parents the tools they need to fulfill their responsibilities and giving children the ability to reach their full potential.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES

- **Putting Families First.** Throughout his presidency, President Clinton has worked hard to help America's working families. That is why the President fought for the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to allow workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a newborn or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or to care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse. In June 1996, President Clinton proposed expanding FMLA to allow workers to take up to 24 unpaid hours off each year for school and early childhood education activities, routine family medical care, and caring for an elderly relative. The President also has fought for greater health security for America's families. He signed into law the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act which includes important new protections for an estimated 25 million Americans who move from one job to another, who are self-employed, or who have pre-existing medical conditions. And in August 1997, President Clinton signed the Balanced Budget Act which included $24 billion for the Children's Health Initiative -- the single largest investment in health care for children since 1965 -- to provide meaningful health care coverage to millions of uninsured children.

- **Providing Economic Opportunity.** In 1993, President Clinton put into place an economic strategy that invests in people and provides real opportunity. President Clinton has fought for policies that help working parents fulfill their responsibilities, including winning inclusion of a $500 per-child tax credit for children under age 17 in the Balanced Budget Act -- helping 27 million families with 45 million children. The new Child Tax Credit is in addition to the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (tax credits President

Clinton protected during the balanced budget negotiations). President Clinton also expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to give 15 million working families tax relief. In 1997, the average tax credit is $1,450 on family income up to $29,290. And the President proposed and signed into law an increase in the minimum wage from $4.25 to $5.15. For a full-time, year-round worker at minimum wage, this 90-cent increase raises yearly income by $1,800 -- as much as the average family spends on groceries over seven months.

INVESTING IN CHILD CARE

- **Increasing Child Care Funding.** Because of President Clinton's leadership, federal funding for direct child care subsidies has increased by nearly 70 percent since he took office, providing child care services for over one million children. The 1996 welfare law increased child care funding by $4 billion over six years, providing child care assistance to low-income working families and parents moving from welfare to work.

- **Increasing Participation in Head Start and Improving Program Quality.** For more than thirty years, Head Start has been one of our nation's best investments ensuring that low-income children start school ready to learn. President Clinton has made expanding and improving Head Start a priority of his Administration. Since 1993, funding for the program has increased by 43 percent -- in fiscal year 1997, Head Start will serve nearly 800,000 low-income children four years old and younger. The Balanced Budget continues the expansion of Head Start toward the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002. Over the last three years, the Clinton Administration has also invested significantly in improving program quality, providing local programs with the resources they need to attract and retain high quality teachers, and ensuring the safety of Head Start centers.

- **Created Early Head Start for 0-3 Year Olds.** Initiated by the President in 1994, there are now 143 *Early Head Start* programs across the country, expanding the proven benefits of Head Start to low-income families with children age three and under. The program provides early, continuous and comprehensive child development and family support services, preparing children for a lifetime of learning and development. In FY 1997, the program will have served nearly 25,000 children and their families.

- **Developed a Full-Day, Full-Year Head Start Initiative.** In March 1997, the Administration announced a new Head Start initiative that will expand Head Start services for children while also helping parents, including those moving from welfare to work. Under the new initiative, child care providers will be given priority for Head Start expansion funds to deliver full-day, full-year Head Start services in partnership with Head Start. Children will stay in one place all day rather than attending Head Start for half a day then moving to child care for the remainder of the day.

- **Expanding Child Care in Rural America.** Under the Clinton Administration, the Agriculture Department's Rural Housing Service's Community Facilities program is directing its efforts towards meeting the need for quality child care in rural areas. As a part of this effort, 31 child care centers were created in FY 1997 and the program will expand in FY 1998. In addition, the Rural Housing Service has been forming partnerships with other federal programs (including Head Start) and the private sector to help provide child care in rural America.

- **Providing Child Care in Urban Communities.** Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is supporting working families and those moving to work by providing both quality child care for their children and opportunities for parents to become self sufficient. Community Development Block Grants fund initiatives that include education/training opportunities, on-site after-school child care and construction of child care and youth centers. The Ounce of Prevention Program enhances efforts already underway in Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities with summer and after-school education/recreation activities and mentoring and tutoring programs. In 1997, the Department awarded $550 million in urban revitalization (HOPE VI) funds which will be used to physically revitalize communities and fund initiatives such as on-site day care centers and transportation services that provide access to employment centers and health care facilities. In 1997, the Administration funded $42 million for the Family Economic Development and Supportive Services (EDSS) program that will include child care services, youth leadership and mentoring skills and family/parental development counseling.

- **Serving Children with Special Needs.** Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Justice has worked hard to make sure that children with disabilities have access to child care along with non-disabled children. For instance, the Justice Department has entered into agreements regarding children with disabilities with the two largest child care companies in the country -- KinderCare has agreed to do "finger-prick" tests as requested by doctors and parents for children with diabetes and, in another agreement with KinderCare, the company has agreed to develop a model policy to enable a child with mental retardation to attend one of its centers with a state-funded personal care attendant. In addition, La Petite Academy has agreed to do the same "finger-prick" tests, to keep epinephrine on hand for severe and possibly-life-threatening allergy attacks, and to make changes to some of its programs so that children with cerebral palsy can participate. The Justice Department also provides information through its ADA information hotline (1-800-514-0301, 1-800-514-0383 TDD) and produces *Commonly Asked Questions about Child Care Centers and the ADA* for distribution. Additionally, the HHS Child Care Bureau has launched a special initiative to assist ten states to develop and implement effective plans aimed at improving and expanding their child care service delivery system. The project, "Map to Inclusive Child Care," will expand to other states over the next three years.

- **Easing the Commuting Dilemma for Families.** The President is fighting for welfare-to-work transportation grants to assist states and local communities in moving individuals from welfare-to-work -- including helping parents with small children obtain transportation to their jobs *and* to child care. Proposed legislation is included in the transportation authorization bills currently before Congress. In addition, as a part of the Transportation Department's Livable Communities Initiative, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has provided opportunities for on-site community services -- Head Start facilities, a health clinic, and child care centers -- at transit facilities across the country to help parents obtain child care for their children on their commuting routes to work or training.

ENSURING HEALTH AND NUTRITION IN CHILD CARE

- **Improving Health and Safety with Healthy Child Care America**. In an effort to improve the health and safety of child care programs and to provide child health education to child care providers and parents, in 1995, the Clinton Administration launched the Healthy Child Care America initiative. This effort has established partnerships between child care providers and health care services in 46 states, helping to ensure that children in child care are in safe and healthy environments.

- **Ensuring that Children in Child Care Settings Are Properly Immunized.** In July 1997, President Clinton proposed new child care regulations to ensure that children in child care receive the immunizations they need on time. The proposed rule would require that all children in federally subsidized child care be immunized according to state public health agency standards. This proposed regulation will particularly affect those children in child care arrangements that are legal but exempt from state licensing requirements.

- **Providing Quality Nutrition to Children in Child Care**. President Clinton has maintained the commitment to providing quality nutrition in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a federal program that provides healthy meals and snacks in child and adult day care facilities. In 1997, the program provided meals to about 2.5 million children and almost 50,000 adults in approximately 35,000 child care centers (including after-school centers), 195,000 family and group day care homes, and 1,500 adult day care centers. Child care providers in the CACFP must serve meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines, and must offer free or reduced-price meals to those eligible. The General Accounting Office identified CACFP as one of the most effective vehicles for reaching family child care providers and enhancing the care they provide because of its unique combination of resources, training, oversight and peer support. Notably, 87 percent of family child care homes that are considered to be providing good quality child care are participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, according to the Families and Work Institute's *Study of Children in Family Child Care and Relative Care.*

CARING FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

- **Convened the 1997 School-Age Child Care Forums.** The Child Care Bureau at the Department of Health and Human Services convened ten regional conferences to share promising initiatives for school-age children among child care, education, and community based organizations from nearly every state. These conferences spurred additional dialogue among participants and stimulated planning to address "out of school time" in states and communities across the country.

- **Keeping Schools Open as Community Learning Centers -- A Guide.** In May 1997, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton released *Keeping Schools Open as Community Learning Centers: Extending Learning in a Safe, Drug-Free Environment Before and After School.* The Department of Education, along with the National Community Education Association, Policy Studies Associates, and the American Bar Association, wrote the step-by-step guidebook on how school facilities can be used for after-school programs.

- **Providing After-School Activities Through 21st Century Learning Centers and Title I.** The Clinton Administration's Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This law included a new statutory requirement that encourages schools receiving funding to enhance their instruction with such programs as extended school years, before- and after-school programs, and summer programs -- effectively giving "teeth" to after-school options. For instance, Title I -- which is funded by the Improving America's Schools Act and provides extra help with basic and advanced skills to disadvantaged students in elementary and secondary schools -- has been successful in helping Title I funded schools provide after-school programs. In addition, under this law, the 21st Century Community Learning Center program has been developed -- a program that once fully implemented will benefit urban and rural schools and their communities, allowing schools to stay open beyond the normal hours, offering expanded learning opportunities to children after-school. The President's current budget request includes $50 million to fund 350 21st Century Community Learning Center programs in FY 1998.

- **Supporting Positive After-School Choices with the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Communities Act.** Because children unsupervised after school are more likely to engage in risky behaviors like substance use, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act funds before and after-school programs. In the 1994-95 school year, over 2,700 school districts used these funds to support before- and after-school activities.

- **Staying Safe After School with Community Schools.** In the Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Initiative, the President has called for 1,000 new after-school initiatives across the country. Schools that stay open longer and are open on weekends and during the summer can provide students, parents and communities with access to valuable resources. Turning schools into after-hour safe havens can help to prevent violent crime and violent behavior while boosting our children's academic achievement.

- **Helping Children Through Service.** As co-chair of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, President Clinton helped bring businesses, nonprofits, states and communities, and volunteer groups to Philadelphia in April 1997 to focus on service and to ensure that every child in America has five key resources -- a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, a marketable skill, and a chance to serve. Many of the hundreds of corporations and nonprofits that made commitments at the summit pledged to become involved in after-school and mentoring programs. America's Promise, the nonprofit organization founded to follow up on the summit promises, is now working with these organizations to ensure that they do so.

- **Enhancing Child Care and After-School Care with the Corporation for National Service**. Established by President Clinton in 1993, the Corporation for National Service, through AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America and the National Senior Service Corps, is addressing the needs of children through service activities. Approximately two-thirds of the national service programs work to address the needs of children and youth often in child care and after-school settings. AmeriCorps members, college students, and senior volunteers, working alongside child care providers, are serving as tutors and mentors, health and nutrition educators, in both child care and after-school programs across the country.

- **Aiding the Boys and Girls Clubs of America**. The Clinton Administration is providing resources to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to establish and enhance more clubs throughout the United States. These Clubs are situated in at-risk communities and reach thousands of kids through violence prevention and reduction, educational health programs and youth leadership development. For instance, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America was awarded an AmeriCorps grant to provide education awards to 100 full-time and 800 part-time AmeriCorps members in up to 100 clubs early next year. The AmeriCorps members will be either older (17 and 18 year-olds) Boys or Girls Clubs members or club member alumni who will serve as tutors, mentors, and recreation activity coordinators in after-school programs.

PROVIDING INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- **Providing Child Care Information**. In 1995, the Clinton Administration established the Child Care Bureau at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to streamline child care program operations and improve the quality and efficiency of service. In addition, HHS launched the National Child Care Information Center to disseminate child care information, publications and resources to help providers start up child care centers, parents locate child care in their communities, and researchers and policy makers attain access to policy information. Through the Technical Assistance Project, HHS has brought states together to share promising practices and has held special forums on school-age care, consumer education, Tribal child care programs, and a range of other topics.

- **Promoting Public/Private Partnerships**. The Child Care Bureau has launched a nationwide effort to promote public/private partnerships in child care by providing technical assistance to states on promising initiatives going on across the country.

- **Providing a Resource and Referral Clearinghouse for Working Families**. The Department of Labor Women's Bureau recently published a report entitled: *What Works! The Working Women Count Honor Roll Final Report* which highlights employers who have made real change in the areas that working women and their families care about most -- pay and benefits, family friendly workplaces (including child care) and respect and fair treatment on the job. Hundreds of employers accepted this challenge to deliver real change -- especially in child care. This guide was a result of the Working Women Count national questionnaire which surveyed 250,000 working women -- the largest questionnaire of working women ever. Notably, child care was identified as a top issue for working women. In addition to this guide, the Labor Department has expanded its resource and referral clearinghouse for employers and working families. The agency has established a toll-free number (1-800-827-5335) and provides materials like the *Work and Family Resource Kit* and *Care Around the Clock: Developing Child Care Before 9 and after 5.*

- **Training Caregivers -- a Nationally Acclaimed Program.** The Education Department's Office of Educational Research and Improvement supports the regional laboratory in San Francisco, California called WestEd. WestEd has developed a nationally acclaimed Infant/Toddler Caregiver Training Program which teaches caregivers how to provide nurturing and stimulating environments to promote quality child care. Research-based videos and printed materials are available in Spanish, Chinese, and English. Eight thousand caregivers have been trained in California and the program has been expanded across the nation.

LEARNING LESSONS FROM THE MILITARY CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- **Providing High Quality Child Care -- The Military Model.** Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Defense (DoD) has made important strides to improve the quality of child care for the children of the men and women who serve our country. The DoD Child Care System serves over 200,000 children (age zero to 12) daily making the U.S. military system the largest employer-sponsored child care program in the nation. The DoD Child Care System, known as the Child Development Program, includes Child Development Centers, Family Child Care homes, School Age Care programs, and Resource and Referral services. Through this system, the military offers full-day, part-day, and hourly child care, part-day preschools, before- and after-school programs for school age children, and extended hour care which includes nights and weekends to accommodate shift workers. Because of the Department of Defense's commitment to excellence in child care, since 1992, the number of military child care facilities that are accredited by the independent National Association for the Education of Young Children has risen from 55 to 353. Currently, over 75 percent of military child care programs are accredited, as compared to only 7 percent of other child care facilities nationwide. Since the early 1990s, the DoD has focused on improving the quality, availability, and cost of child care for military families.

- **Sharing the Military's Expertise**. Because of the DoD's high quality, comprehensive child care programs, in April 1997, President Clinton directed the Secretary of Defense to share the expertise and lessons learned from the Military Child Development Programs with Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies, as well as with private and nonprofit groups, that are responsible for providing child care. In his Directive the President stated, "The Military Child Development Programs have attained a reputation for an abiding commitment to quality in the delivery of child care. The Department of Defense's dedication to adequate funding, strict oversight, improved training and wage packages, strong family child care networks, and commitment to meeting national accreditation standards is laudatory. I believe that the military has important lessons to share with the rest of the Nation on how to improve the quality of child care for all of our Nation's children." In response to the President's directive, the Pentagon is implementing a plan to reach out to states and civilian child care centers to share its expertise.

SUPPORTING A FAMILY-FRIENDLY FEDERAL WORKPLACE

- **Promoting Family-Friendly Initiatives**. Under President Clinton's leadership, the federal government, striving to be a model employer for other private and public employers, has implemented family-friendly leave initiatives that enhance the ability of employees to balance family and employment obligations. In addition to leave initiatives, the federal government offers compressed or flexible work schedules to many workers so that they may spend more time with their families.

- **Providing Child Care for Federal Workers**. In addition to the Department of Defense's model child care program, there are more than 230 child care centers for civilian government employees in federal buildings in as many as 36 states. The General Services Administration (GSA) oversees 108 of these centers, making GSA the largest civilian sponsor of work-site child care in the nation. Under this Administration, the emphasis on quality has continued -- with 73 percent of GSA sponsored centers accredited by the independent National Association for Education of Young Children, and with a goal of reaching 100 percent accreditation within two years. Striving to meet the needs of parent workers, 89 percent of GSA centers have infant care, 74 percent have drop-in/emergency care, and 42 percent provide summer programs for school aged children. In addition, more than 80 percent of centers are open 11 or more hours per day. Nearly 70 percent of the child care center directors have ten or more years of experience in early childhood education.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRUCE REED
MELANNE VERVEER

CC: THE FIRST LADY

RE: WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE

On October 23, you and the First Lady will host the White House Conference on Child Care in the East Room. This memorandum outlines the purpose and structure of the conference, the policy initiatives that we recommend you announce at the conference, and the process and direction of our work on a child care proposal to unveil this winter.

Purpose and Structure of the Conference

The White House Conference on Child Care has two purposes. First, it will call national attention to an issue that political leaders and policy makers historically have ignored, notwithstanding its enormous importance to working families. Second, it will provide a basis from which to launch a child care initiative in the State of the Union. (As noted later in this memo, we will provide you with policy options for this initiative -- including a range of price tags -- as part of your normal budget process.)

The conference will address three critical child care challenges -- availability, affordability, and safety and quality. Many parents choose to stay at home and care for their children themselves. Yet millions of Americans, by choice or necessity, rely on child care and after-school programs to care for their children for part of each day. The conference will explore how the public and private sectors can respond to the need that Americans struggling to be both good parents and good workers have for safe, affordable child care.

Morning Session. The morning session will begin with remarks by you and the First Lady and will include a video of children, parents, caregivers and others talking about child care. We believe your remarks should address the importance of child care for America's working families, note past Administration accomplishments on this issue, and announce several new policy initiatives as well as a commitment to unveil a broader child care proposal this winter.

You and the First Lady will then moderate a panel with two parts. The first three panelists will discuss why child care matters -- both to our children's development and to the nation's economy. The second four panelists will examine how well we are doing in meeting the challenge of assuring that good child care is available to working families. The first three panelists are:

- Ellen Galinsky, President, Families and Work Institute, who will discuss the relationship between quality child care and children's healthy development, particularly in the earliest years of life;
- Michelle Seligson, Founder and Director, National Institute on Out-Of-School Time, Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, who will discuss the importance of good after-school programs for youth;
- Secretary Rubin, who will discuss the need to address child care given dramatic changes in the workforce and economy.

The second four panelists are:

- Secretary Shalala, who will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of child care across the country;
- Governor James Hunt of North Carolina, who will discuss how states are doing in meeting the challenge of assuring that working families have access to safe, affordable child care;
- Dr. Valora Washington, Program Director, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, who will discuss community efforts to meet this challenge;
- Patty Siegel, Executive Director, California Resource and Referral, who will share the experiences of parents.

Afternoon Session. The afternoon session will begin with remarks by the Vice President and Secretary Riley. The afternoon panel will consider the roles that states, business and labor leaders, the faith community, health care professionals, and others can play in addressing this challenge. The panelists include: Major General John G. Meyer, Jr., Chief of Public Affairs United States Army; Dr. Susan Aronson, Member, American Academy of Pediatrics; Jane Maroney, State Legislator, Delaware; Bishop Joseph Sullivan, Vicar of Human Services, Brooklyn, New York; and Doug Price, President, FirstBank of Colorado.

Agency and Satellite Sites. An additional 300 people will view the conference at three Federal agencies, and Secretaries Shalala, Riley, Glickman and Herman will host working sessions at these agency sites during the luncheon at the White House. In addition, the entire conference will be transmitted to satellite sites in at least 48 states. The Administration's regional administrators have helped to organize these satellite conferences, and Cabinet Affairs has encouraged subcabinet officials to participate in them.

<u>Policy Announcements to be Made at the Conference</u>

We recommend that you indicate at the conference that you will propose a child care initiative in your State of the Union address and your fiscal year 1999 budget. We also recommend that you announce three policy proposals at the conference.

1. Child Care Working Group. You can name Secretary Rubin as chair of a working group on child care primarily made up of business leaders, with representation from labor and other community leaders. The Child Care Working Group would report to you within 45 days on efforts that business leaders should undertake to help working families overcome the challenge of managing child care and work responsibilities.

2. Scholarships for Child Care Workers and Background Checks on Child Care Workers. Experts link the quality of child care to the quality of the caregiver. Yet child care providers often receive little training, and occasionally have unsuitable backgrounds for the profession. You can announce steps to support caregivers by ensuring that they are able to afford adequate training. At the same time, you can urge Congress to pass and states to ratify the "National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact" to protect children from child care workers who have committed crimes.

Scholarships. To help child care workers afford training, you can instruct the Department of Education to develop an outreach plan to inform students and institutions of the potential availability of Pell Grants. You also can announce a new scholarship program for child care workers. Even with Pell and other education programs that you have put in place, many child care workers cannot afford training. The new program would provide assistance to full- or part-time students working toward a Child Development Associate Credential or other degree in child development who agree to remain in the child care field for at least one year.

Background Checks. You can also announce steps to make background checks on child care workers more effective. Today, many states prohibit the release of criminal history records for purposes other than ongoing criminal investigations. The Department of Justice is prepared to transmit to Congress on October 23 the "National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact." The compact, which must be passed by Congress and ratified by the states, will enable states to share criminal history information for limited other purposes, including background checks on child care workers.

3. Service and School-Age Care. You can launch the "To Learn and Grow Partnership," a partnership of public and private organizations that will work together to expand access to and improve the quality of after-school programs through service activities. The partnership will encourage national service participants and community volunteers to teach in child care programs, and will engage children in service as part of after-school programs. You also can release the "How-To Manual," describing how to integrate service and school-age care, identifying opportunities for children to learn through service, and highlighting programs that are currently using service to enrich out-of-school time.

<u>Child Care Initiative To Be Announced After the Conference</u>

For the past several months, the Domestic Policy Council and the First Lady's Office have been leading a policy process on child care. The National Economic Council, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Education, Labor, Defense, Justice, and Agriculture have participated.

We have identified three key areas: affordability; availability; and safety and quality. In the weeks after the conference, we will prepare a memorandum for you outlining policy options, of several different shapes and sizes, in these areas. We are also exploring ways to support parents who want to stay at home to care for their children.

Affordability. Increasing numbers of working families cannot afford decent child care, which can cost at least $4,000 a year for one child, and even more for infants and toddlers. While the average family pays about 7 percent of its income for child care, low-income families spend about a quarter of their income.

The Federal government spent $2.9 billion in direct child care subsidies in fiscal year 1997 through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which provides payments for about one million children. HHS estimates, however, that we are currently providing child care subsidies to less than a quarter of the families eligible for them. In addition, the Dependent Care Tax Credit provides more than $2 billion annually in tax relief for child care expenses. We are analyzing whether to expand either of these mechanisms.

Availability. Access to child care is a problem for low-income and middle-income families alike. We are looking at two areas of particular concern -- helping businesses expand on-site care for their employees, and helping states and communities increase their supply of school-age care. We are exploring whether to provide tax credits for businesses that build and operate child care centers for their employees (the Rubin-Weill working group may make additional suggestions). We also are looking at a variety of ways -- including simplifying Federal requirements and funding streams -- to help states and communities create an adequate supply of after-school programs.

Safety and Quality. The quality of child care in this country is too often mediocre or poor. A recent four state study of child care centers found that one in eight centers expose children to unsafe or unsanitary conditions. Infants and toddlers are at the greatest risk, with 40 percent in care that poses a threat to their health and well-being. Only 14 percent of centers provide high quality care -- care that actually enhances growth and development. A study of child care in family-based settings found equally disturbing patterns. Over one-third of programs are rated inadequate, meaning that quality is low enough to harm children's development, and only 9 percent offer high-quality care.

States are currently required to spend 4% of the funds they receive through the CCDBG on quality improvement. We are looking at ways to help states improve quality by providing additional funding to states that agree, for example, to improve and enforce health and safety standards, invest in training for caregivers, or create networks to support family day care providers. We are also developing a consumer information campaign to arm parents with the information they need to chose high quality care for their children.

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*REMARKS BY

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U.S. SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WHITE HOUSE CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

*THIS TEXT IS THE BASIS OF SECRETARY SHALALA'S ORAL REMARKS. IT SHOULD BE USED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME MATERIAL MAY BE ADDED OR OMITTED DURING PRESENTATION.

Whether I'm talking to parents struggling to make ends meet or women trying to balance work and family, there are two words that always come up: child care. Parents usually talk in whispers: Most would rather tell their bosses they have a flat tire than admit they have a child care problem. Now, thanks to the President and Mrs. Clinton, we've brought the issue of child care into the spotlight and turned the private conversations families have into a national discussion we all must have.

This is not the first time in our history that we've faced this challenge. When Rosie the Riveter entered the work force during World War II, her family needed child care. So President Roosevelt and Congress acted to provide it.

Today, as Secretary Rubin pointed out, millions of daughters and granddaughters of the World War II generation are in the work force – not to win a war, but to win financial security for their families and independence for themselves. So once again, families need child care. And, once again, the national government must be a partner with states, communities, businesses and families to meet our nation's growing child care needs. Why? Because investing in child care and after school programs is one of the best investments we can make in our economic future.

As a big Cleveland Indians fan, I've obviously been thinking a lot about the World Series. And when I think about where we stand in understanding and addressing the child care issues facing our nation, I see us in the 7th inning stretch – knowing that we're doing better, but not as well as we should. Knowing that the picture of child care is uneven – some communities are doing well and others are not stepping up to the plate. And knowing that the most important part of the game is yet to come.

Because of the leadership of the President and First Lady, the early innings have brought real progress. We're spending more. This year we invested $3 billion in the Child Care Development Block Grant – an increase of almost 70 percent since 1993. This grant, combined with state funds, is helping to care for 1 million children from welfare families and the working poor. Since President Clinton took office, our investment in Head Start has almost doubled to $4 billion – and now serves nearly 800,000 children a year. And our Dependent Care Tax Credit – valued at $2.5 billion – will help 5 million families pay for child care this year.

We're learning more. Research funded by our National Institute of Child Health and Human Development found a direct link between high quality child care and a child's subsequent cognitive and language development. And we're reaching out more. We started a National Child Care Information Center to share information with states and communities. We're fostering public-private partnerships. We're providing states with technical assistance and models that work to help them address quality and other important issues. And we're linking child care and health care agencies to improve safety and give children the health care services they need.

But as the President made clear this morning we must DO more – and we need to do better. Because today only about one million children receive federal child care assistance even though 10 million are eligible. And because the 7th inning stretch is a time not only to stand up, but also to look out – to engage in a real national dialogue about where we are, and what each of us must do to take us where we need to go.

Let me give you a snap shot of where the gaps are on three issues: Availability, affordability, and quality. For parents, these areas really boil down into three basic questions about child care: Can I get it? Can I afford it? And can I trust it?

First, can I get child care? We don't have a big centralized child care system. We have a diverse system that includes everything from company sponsored day care centers to family day care to informal arrangements with friends and relatives. Yet, too many parents don't have access to even one of these options. As the General Accounting Office report made clear, parents are running up against major shortages of care – especially for infants, for children with disabilities, for school age children, and for families working nontraditional hours.

Over half of our schools do not offer after-school services to children – and those same children – especially in low-income communities – often cannot find after-school care in their neighborhoods either. It's especially tough for middle school and junior high kids. As they move through adolescence, they desperately need imaginative programs and caring adults after school – but too few of them are getting it.

Even when child care is available, it is often inaccessible, because there is no transportation from home, work, or the place of care. But assume that parents can find and get child care: It still has to be affordable or it doesn't do them much good.

Which brings me to the second question every parent is asking about child care: Can I afford it? As Mrs. Clinton has pointed out, families earning less than $1200 dollars a month pay about a quarter of their income for child care. The federal government is trying to ease this burden. And we've done a pretty good job of helping people move from welfare to work by expanding child care. For example, most federal assistance goes to families at or near the poverty line. For a family of four, that would be income of just over $16,000 dollars.

But this problem extends far beyond poor families. It is a challenge that faces all working families. It's great that many states are trying to make child care more affordable by linking eligibility to income instead of welfare status. But we need to be careful. Because even as many states increase eligibility, they are also increasing the amount they expect parents to pay.

And even when parents can get – and afford – child care. They still need to ask themselves: "Can I trust it?" That is the third and last piece of the child care problem I want to highlight: quality and safety.

No matter where you live or what kind of care you choose, parents should always have confidence that their children are getting the best. We have many extraordinary child care settings that we should be proud of. They're in the military, in businesses, in schools and in communities. Yet, many child care arrangements have serious shortcomings. Part of the problem is low reimbursement rates from many states.

Another part is inadequate licensing. All states have some form of child care licensing. But many children – even infants – are in care that is exempt from it. To make matters worse, in some states our Department found numerous instances where child care facilities did not comply with the states' health and safety standards. And unlike the military, where child care centers are inspected many times each year, in the civilian sector, too many child care programs don't receive even a single inspection during the year.

Perhaps the biggest threat to quality are poor training and low wages for child care workers. Most child care staff only earn around $12,000 dollars a year with few, if any, benefits. These low wages cause a third of child care workers to leave their jobs every year, which can be damaging to young children who need stable care.

In addition, last year, more than half the states required little or no training for child care staff before they started work. We're trying to close that gap. Under our new Child Care Development Fund, all states using federal funds are required to provide basic health and safety training. To prevent SIDS deaths in child care settings, our department is educating child care workers about the importance of putting infants to sleep on their backs – and the importance of telling their parents to do the same. And we believe that all child care centers receiving federal funds should have to make sure that the children they serve are immunized.

As I said, I consider this conference to be our 7th inning stretch. But reaching the end of the game will be the tough part. It means making sure that all parents have the information and the personal assistance they need to make one of the toughest decisions of their lives. It means making sure that states don't have to make impossible trade-offs when choosing which children are eligible, how much parents pay, and how much child care providers are reimbursed.

And, it means making sure that parents don't ever have to make impossible trade-offs either – trade-offs between keeping their jobs and keeping their children safe.

As the other panelists will make clear, that's only going to happen if all of us continue to share information and invest resources – from the federal government, to the states, to the private sector, to communities and parents. And that's only going to happen if we judge ourselves not on what we say today, but on what all of us do tomorrow.

Thank you.