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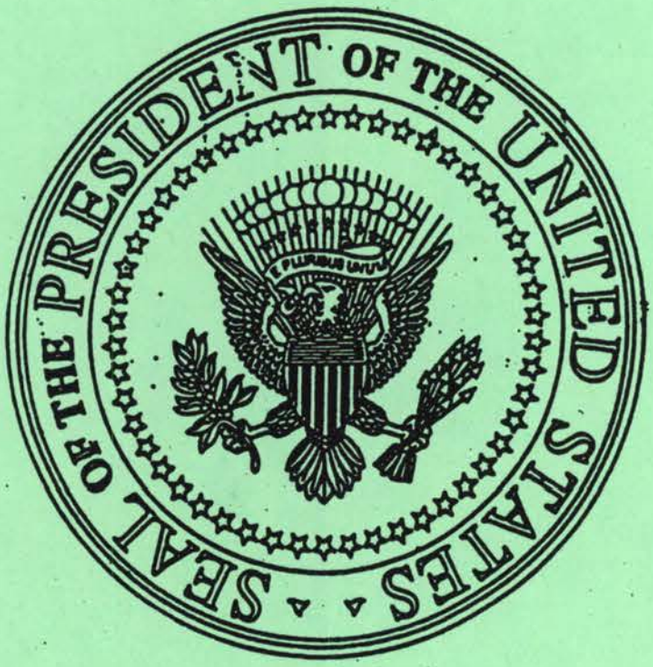


Saturday May 9 -
Monday May 18, 1998

How the First Lady Could Really Help the City

By RUDOLPH A. PYATT JR.
Washington Post Staff Writer

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton continues to be an effective advocate for the District, articulating the need to rebuild its infrastructure and repair its economic fabric.

Recently, she urged Congress to approve an additional $100 million in federal funds for the District next year. As she explained last week, the president included the extra $100 million in his proposed budget for fiscal 1999. The money would be spent on economic development and a Metro station at the proposed site of the new convention center at Mount Vernon Square.

No first lady in recent memory has shown as much interest in District matters, especially in those relating to its economic well-being. But the District's economy and its financial health are more fragile than Mrs. Clinton and the president seem to realize.

Moreover, those advising the president on District issues don't seem to have a clue as to the city's underlying problems and how they have evolved.

Granted, the White House played a crucial role last year in helping the District avert financial collapse by putting together a rescue package that included a federal takeover of some city functions. But the city was forced to give up the long-standing annual federal payment in exchange for the government's assumption of responsibility for some D.C. government functions.

That initiative by the White House provided solutions to some of the District's more pressing fiscal problems. But an emergency rescue package and an occasional $100 million contribution from the federal government can't possibly solve the more serious long-term problem: declining revenue.

Simply put, the District needs more permanent and reliable sources of revenue to offset the loss of jobs, businesses, population and tax revenue.

The president should at least push for restoration of the federal payment, based on a percentage of locally generated revenue or some other formula. The last federal payment, in fiscal 1997, was $665.7 million, or about 20 percent of all revenue raised in the District, according to the D.C. Tax Revision Commission.

Even as the president seeks a $100 million contribution for the District, there are disturbing signs that the city's economy still isn't generating the kind of growth that will improve revenue.

Job growth between February and March of this year showed a slight improvement over the previous month-to-month period. But between March 1997 and March 1998, job growth in the District was a minus 1.2 percent, with increases occurring only in manufacturing, services and finance, insurance and real estate. Even so, growth in each of those sectors was less than 1 percent for the period.

The District's economy lost 4,300 jobs between January 1997 and January 1998, according to the D.C. Department of Employment Services.

And if that wasn't bad enough, consider the fact that the National Association of Securities Dealers is contemplating moving from the District some of the 600 jobs it has here, and perhaps its headquarters.

Another temporary federal aid package won't make up for the economic loss that would result from such a move.

Serious management problems, waste and a bloated bureaucracy figured prominently in the District's recent fiscal crisis. But, given the extent of erosion in the tax base that began with the loss of business and population at least 30 years ago, a fiscal meltdown was inevitable.

Other cities can at least rely on receiving their share of revenue from their respective states as supplements to locally generated funds. Moreover, unlike state governments, the District is prohibited by Congress from taxing the income of nonresident workers.

Although not as onerous as that ban, depriving the District of the federal payment is just as punitive.

If the first lady truly wants to be an advocate for the District, perhaps she will consider some recommendations contained in the D.C. Tax Revision Commission's recent report to the mayor and D.C. Council.

The federal government can provide "revenue certainty" to the District by making a payment in lieu of taxes for federally owned buildings and on properties that the government has exempted, the commission suggested. The commission also further recommended that there be a federal payment based on some formula if the government refuses to lift the ban on taxing nonresident income.

A recent recommendation by D.C. Appleseed, a nonprofit public interest group, is equally compelling. D.C. Appleseed suggests that the District is economically dependent upon the federal government. Thus, the organization recommends that a federal agency be required to prepare an impact statement before it is allowed to move from the District.

If Mrs. Clinton is truly interested in being an advocate for the District, she should consider those recommendations and lobby for their acceptance by the president and Congress.

The Washington Post
MONDAY, MAY 11, 1998

AM-Mrs Clinton,280
Mrs. Clinton offers fast rainy day wisdom
With AP Photos WX105-106

WASHINGTON (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton took one look into the sea of umbrellas and soaking wet graduates and made a fast change of plan. She scrapped 11 pages of prepared remarks, offered some quick advice and sent the Howard University graduates on their way.

``I am deeply privileged to be here, but I think in light of the circumstances this will not be an oration,'' the first lady said Saturday to the crowd of 2,000 drenched students, their friends and families.

Clad in a black cap and gown, Mrs. Clinton pointed to Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu as examples of ``learning to forgive'' and cited the words of Winston Churchill, who on a sunny day once simply told a graduating class, ``Never, never, never, give up'' and sat down.

The first lady also urged the students not to take for granted acts of kindness.

``From my own experience, one of the ways to get through the good and the not-so-good days that lie ahead of you, as with any human being, is to learn the discipline of gratitude,'' she said. ``Find something to be grateful for every single day.''

Mrs. Clinton shook hands with graduates, after herself receiving an honorary doctor of laws degree from the university. Officials from Howard, a historically black university, also saluted Mrs. Clinton for her two recent trips to Africa.

She is a ``portrait of a true and selfless humanitarian,'' Howard University president H. Patrick Swygert said.

The first lady, drawing laughter from those who got the abridged version, also offered to distribute her full written remarks to the university ``for anybody who thinks they might have missed something that I've cut out.''

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 05/09/98 at 13:15EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 05/10/98 at 08:03EDT ****

BC-IRAN-HILLARY
Iran paper lauds Hillary for Palestinian remarks

TEHRAN, May 9 (Reuters) - An Iranian newspaper on Saturday said recent remarks by U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton advocating a Palestinian state were ``soothing words'' based on ``humanity and rationalism.''

The White House has said the first lady's statement on Thursday was personal and did not reflect the views of President Bill Clinton.

``These soothing words were aired from the White House, the residence of the top-most authority of the United States,'' the daily Tehran Times said.

``No doubt these words are personal and not from the pro-Zionist administration or the Congress,'' the English-language paper said in an editorial. ``But Ms Hillary's feelings are shared by common Americans and common peoples in the West along with billions of people in Asia and Africa.''

``We are sure that billions around the globe will join the chorus with Ms Hillary as it is based on humanity and rationalism,'' the Tehran Times said.

Mrs. Clinton made her remarks in a satellite hookup from Washington to a conference in Geneva bringing together young Arabs and Israelis.

Her statement was seized on by Jewish and Arab Americans as a signal from the White House, but spokesman Mike McCurry was adamant it was not.

``That view expressed personally by the first lady is not the view of the president,'' he said.

The first lady said: ``I think that the territory the Palestinians currently inhabit, and whatever additional territory they will obtain through the peace negotiations, should be considered and evolve into a functioning modern state.''

That state would be ``responsible for the well-being of its people and is seen on the same footing as any other state in terms of dealing responsibly with all of the issues that state governments must deal with.''

Iran condemns the Arab-Israeli peace process as a sellout of Palestinian rights, but says it does nothing to hinder it.

Relations between the United States and Iran have been frosty since the 1979 Islamic revolution. The two countries broke off diplomatic ties after militants stormed the U.S. embassy that year and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

But there has been a step-by-step thaw in relations since the election last year of President Mohammad Khatami, who in January called for dialogue between the American and Iranian people.

((Gulf newsroom, +971 4 607 1222, fax +971 4 626982, dubai.newsroom+reuters.com)) REUTERS

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 05/09/98 at 14:36EDT ****

Child Marriage Is Popular in Part of India

By JOHN F. BURNS

MADHOGARH, India — If a wedding is supposed to fulfill a girl's earliest dreams, Hansa's in this tiny hamlet in Rajasthan State seemed more like a nightmare.

Early in the starlit evening, the smoke from the sacred fire began searing her eyes. The rituals pushed the ceremony deep into the night, in a crucible of heat and haze. After the first two hours, Hansa was quietly sobbing. By midnight, with Hindu priests leading Hansa and her new husband, Sitaram, in the climactic ritual, involving seven purifying circuits of the wood-burning fire, Hansa's wailing was drowning the rhythmic mantras of the priests.

"I want to go to bed," she cried. "Please, Mama, Papa. Let me sleep!"

Bafflement can only have worsened the ordeal, since Hansa, the youngest of six sisters being married in a joint ceremony to boys from other villages, was only 4. Her husband was 12.

Such weddings are common in Rajasthan, a state known for its desert landscapes, hilltop forts and maharajahs' palaces, as well as its persistence in feudal traditions, including child marriages, that have kept Rajasthani women among the most socially disadvantaged in India.

Indian law sets 18 as the minimum age for a woman to marry and 21 for a man. When India's Parliament adopted the Child Marriage Restraint Act in 1978, legislators hoped that the statute would curb child marriages and the social ills they perpetuate.

Concern focused on an arc of populous northern states where child marriages are most deeply rooted: Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, with a combined population of 420 million, about 40 percent of all Indians.

According to decades of research, child mar-

Continued From Page A1

riages contribute to virtually every social malaise that keeps India behind in women's rights. The problems include soaring birth rates, grinding poverty and malnutrition, high illiteracy and infant mortality and low life expectancy, especially among rural women.

In Rajasthan, a survey of more than 5,000 women conducted by the national Government in 1993 showed that 56 percent had married before they were 15. Of those, 3 percent married before they were 5 and another 14 percent before they were 10. Barely 18 percent were literate, and only 3 percent used any form of birth control other than sterilization.

Large families and poor health for children and mothers were among the results. The survey showed that of every 1,000 births, 73 children died in infancy and 103 before they reached age 5. Sixty-three percent of children under 4 were found to be severely undernourished. Average life expectancy for women was 58.

In every case, the figures were among the worst for any Indian state.

Social workers say many husbands tire of their marriages after the third, fourth or fifth child, when their wives are still teen-agers. Alcoholism contributes to domestic violence, with sometimes fatal beatings.

In some cases, husbands sell their wives, and even their unmarried daughters, as sexual partners to other men. In scores of cases every year, village women strike back by killing their husbands, only to face long terms in prison.

"It is a tragedy for these little flowers, and for our country, that they are snatched away into marriage before they even have a chance to bloom," said Mohini Giri, 60, chairwoman of the National Commission for Women, a Government agency established in the early 1990's that has become a driving force for raising awareness about the plight of women.

In Rajasthan, child marriages remain so popular that virtually every city, town and village takes on a holiday atmosphere ahead of the day set by astrologers for the annual Akha Teej festival — the moment judged most auspicious for marriages.

On the day of the festival, usually in late April or early May, roads are choked with tractors pulling trailers filled with gaily dressed wedding guests. On the outskirts of every settlement there are open-sided wedding tents in brightly patterned fabrics known as pandals.

Each year, formal warnings are posted outside state government offices stating that child marriages are illegal, but they have little impact.

Three strangers arriving at Madhogarh, the village where Hansa was married, had only to pull off the main road running south from the town of Alwar, 125 miles southwest of New Delhi, and drive a mile to spot a wedding pandal.

Villagers were unhesitating in their welcome, even when one of the visitors was introduced as a reporter.

"Of course, we know that marrying children is against the law, but it's only a paper law," said Govind Singh Patel, a village elder in the cattle-herding Gujjar community, which is among the poorest in Rajasthan and the most resistant to social change.

Sociologists say the Gujjars and similar groups trace the origin of child marriages to Muslim invasions that began more than 1,000 years ago. Legend has it that the invaders raped unmarried Hindu girls or carried them off as booty, prompting Hindu communities to marry off their daughters almost from birth to protect them.

Today, the stories have an echo in the local view that any girl reaching puberty without getting married will fall prey to sexual depredations, some from men imbued with the common belief that having sex with a "fresh" girl can cure syphilis, gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted diseases, including the virus that causes AIDS.

Tradition has been reinforced by necessity. In villages like Madhogarh, a family can be fortunate to have an annual income of $500, less in years when there is drought or flood. Securing early marriages for daughters can mean the difference between subsistence and hunger.

Traditionally, this has meant seeking grooms in neighboring villages, since the fear of inbreeding has generated a taboo against marriage between boys and girls from the same village.

Hansa's father, Shriram Gujjar, 40, works an acre of land beside the family's thatched home of mud and straw, with three cows to supplement his crop of mustard and wheat. Villagers say his troubles were compounded when his wife, Gyarsi Devi, gave birth to seven daughters but no sons.

But Mr. Gujjar's fortunes improved when a network of community contacts found husbands for the first six daughters, ranging in age from 4-year-old Hansa to Dohli, 14.

An infant girl of 18 months, and another child on the way, will await another marriage ceremony in the future.

Mr. Gujjar, a fierce-looking man with a handlebar mustache and a luxuriant white turban, said he had borrowed about 60,000 rupees, about $1,500, to pay for the dowries required by the grooms' families and for the wedding festivities. While the loan will be a problem for years, he said, the weddings mean that he can now look forward to growing old without being trapped in penury by the need to support his daughters.

"Tonight I am a free man again!" he said, grinning as he circulated proudly among the scores of wedding guests seated cross-legged beneath the pandal.

After a moment to check the register in which cash donations from the guests were being entered, he returned, thrust his hands into the air in a gesture of release and added, "Thanks to God, the heaviest of my burdens has been lifted."

The brides spend the night of their weddings in their homes, then join their husband's families the next day for a journey to their in-laws' village.

In Hansa's case, this entailed traveling half a day by oxcart and bus to a village 25 miles away. After a few days there, tradition required that she return to her family in Madhogarh and await the onset of puberty, when another ceremony known as the Gauna would mark her fitness to join her husband's family.

But not all grooms' families are prepared to wait for puberty. In many cases documented by sociologists, girls as young as 6 or 7 have been taken away by their husbands' families to begin working as servants or field hands.

"With the addition of a girl to the household, the in-laws get a laborer, someone who will feed the cattle and clear the house, a servant who comes free of cost," said Ratan Katyani, a social worker in the Rajasthan city of Jaipur.

In 1994 the National Commission for Women urged the national Government, then headed by Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao, to consolidate the separate marriage laws that exist for each of the major religious communities — Hindu, Muslim and Christian — and to include a provision requiring that all marriages be legally registered. That, the commission reasoned, could be used to bar under-age marriages.

But the Government rejected the proposal, as did its successor, headed by Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda, in 1996.

"It has been the consistent policy of the Government not to interfere in the personal laws of the distinct communities unless the initiative comes from the communities themselves," the Government said in a statement. "The Government is of the view that it is only through social and economic upliftment of these sections of the community that the practice can be eradicated."

The New York Times
MONDAY, MAY 11, 1998

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Hillary's Palestine

WASHINGTON

Stipulated: Hillary Rodham Clinton weighs her every public word to advance her husband's policies and interests.

Therefore, her decision last week to declare via global satellite "I think that it will be in the long-term interest of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state" must be taken as a calculated move by both Clintons to ratchet up the pressure on Israel.

"We have been waiting for such a signal from any American Administration for a long time," responded the leading Arab spokesperson here. Hillary's signal was unambiguous; she used the word "state" nine times in promulgating the Clinton policy.

On cue, the Presidential press secretary then dismissed the First Lady's carefully crafted statement as the uncleared mouthings of some ditzy spouse who would not again be "venturing into the Middle East peace process anytime soon." Supposedly not official Administration policy.

But the Clintons' message was received exactly as the Presidential couple intended: unless Israel obeyed the Clinton summons to a summit at which Washington would decide exactly how much territory Israel would hand over to the Palestinians, the U.S. would escalate its intervention.

Not only would the world's superpower "re-examine its approach," as Secretary of State Albright warned. The Clintons have signaled they are prepared to go further — to dictate not just the scope of interim steps, but to impose terms of the final settlement.

Palestinian statehood is an issue that has up to now been reserved for the final talks. Israel takes the position that Palestinian autonomy should suffice for self-government, and that statehood's sovereignty would enable Yasir Arafat to make alliances with Iraq and others to threaten Israel's security.

To be realistic, statehood is in the cards. But no responsible Israeli leader can let it be taken for granted because it is a significant card to play. That major concession to Palestinian aspirations would demonstrate Israel's willingness to take a great risk for peace.

Pundits like Tom Friedman and me can include statehood in a mock "final agreement," and even Arik Sharon can hint at something like it if circumscribed with conditions and defensible borders. But Prime Minister Netanyahu cannot throw away that enormous concession while Arafat demands the whole West Bank and Jerusalem as his capital.

Nor can any mediator, especially the superpower that will have to guarantee a final agreement, allow itself to show any bias in these final, comprehensive negotiations. That's plain bad mediating, betraying a prejudice to determine the outcome — an intrusion into the negotiation that precludes agreement between the parties.

That's what the Clintons have just done. They must have thought it was pretty shrewd, sending her out with a message to weaken the Israeli position that the President could then deny. But the denial was not merely implausible; it was laughable. A little duplicity in diplomacy is sometimes tolerable, but this was Amateur Night.

First Lady confers statehood.

Does a professional mediator subtly lean on both sides, creating formulations that save face and encourage movement? Yes. Should the mediator lose patience, abrogate a solemn assurance recently given one side, trap itself into a fixed-percentage criterion, and tell that side take-it-or-leave-it? Not unless it wants a scapegoat.

The Clintons' calculated fit of pique was an invitation to impasse. Could any Israeli leader come meekly, hat in hand, to accept terms — after being publicly humiliated first by Ms. Albright on an interim step and then by the powerful Mrs. Clinton on the final agreement? Of course not; mediation by paroxysm was doomed.

In the Middle East, if anybody loses, nobody wins, and if anybody wins, everybody loses. This is no time for a reassessment snit or to let loose Carville on Bibi. How can we help Clinton be the Comeback Kid?

Hire a heavyweight pro. Dennis is tired and Madeleine needs help. At the Reagan Building dinner, there was George Shultz. As Secretary of State, he made two huge pro-Arafat mistakes, but still the Israelis trust him. A skilled negotiator with an iron butt, he has the good sense to credit the President with the glory.

Clinton's statehood statement through Hillary launched final-status talks inauspiciously. But the mediation game can still be won if he gets some talent off the bench. □

The New York Times

MONDAY, MAY 11, 1998

The Washington Times
MONDAY, MAY 11, 1998

Castro, riding high, set for high-profile Geneva visit

By Andrew Cawthorne
REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

HAVANA — Cuba's revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, riding an unprecedented wave of international friendliness, looks set to revel in Geneva on his first foreign trip of this year.

Attending the World Health Organization's annual assembly this week should enable Mr. Castro, 71, to bolster a high international profile he has enjoyed since Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Cuba in January.

And the probable presence in Geneva of U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton — maybe even sleeping under the same hotel roof — adds just the sort of political spice to the trip that Mr. Castro both enjoys and knows how to take advantage of.

"He's a wily old soldier," said a Western diplomat in Havana. "He knows he's on a good streak at the moment, and the Geneva visit is designed to milk that for all it's worth."

For security reasons, Cuban authorities do not announce Mr. Castro's travel plans until he is in the air.

A manager of Geneva's luxury Intercontinental Hotel said Cuba had booked 25 rooms from May 13 through May 21, and Mr. Castro was expected to use the same suite as former comrade-in-arms Ernesto "Che" Guevara did in 1964.

The Communist leader's appearance in Switzerland would be his first trip abroad since the Ibero-American Summit on Venezuela's Margarita Island in November. It will be his first time in Europe since the 1996 World Food summit in Rome, where he had what he termed a "miraculous" audience with the pope.

Mr. Castro's other high-profile trips in recent years — always well chosen for their political significance — include the 1995 U.N. Social Summit in Copenhagen followed by a visit to French President Francois Mitterrand, and to South African President Nelson Mandela's inauguration in 1994.

The bearded Marxist leader even entered his archenemy's camp with a 1995 visit to New York to attend the United Nations' 50th anniversary — an occasion he used, predictably, to denounce the U.S. economic embargo on the Caribbean island.

Mr. Castro, used to being shunned and isolated by world leaders over the decades, has basked in the last six months in a remarkable flood of official foreign interest.

The undisputed high spot was the pontiff's trip in January, when the pope called "for the world to open up to Cuba, and for Cuba to open up to the world." That set the stage for last month's groundbreaking visit by Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien — the first time a head of government from a major Western power set foot on Cuban soil in 12 years.

Between those visits, Cuba hosted important business missions from Spain, France and Japan, all of whom are eager to take advantage of the island's cautious opening to foreign capital in the absence of U.S. competition because of the embargo.

Cuba in those months reestablished diplomatic relations with Guatemala, Haiti and the Dominican Republic; ended a diplomatic spat with Spain; and saw the first defeat in years of a U.S.-sponsored vote at the United Nations to condemn its human rights record.

While excluded from the Summit of the Americas last month in Chile, Cuba enjoyed the satisfaction in absentia of topping the agenda and hearing Latin American and Caribbean neighbors call repeatedly for an end to Havana's political isolation.

Hillary will also attend WHO meeting

"[Castro's] a wily old soldier."
— Western diplomat in Havana

Inside Politics

Compiled by Greg Pierce

Too astute

Sen. Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania Republican, thinks first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's advocacy of an independent Palestinian state probably reflects her husband's views, at least in part.

The White House has said she was not speaking for the president.

Mr. Specter, appearing yesterday on CNN's "Late Edition," was asked by host Wolf Blitzer: "Do you accept that White House distancing from the first lady's comments?"

Mr. Specter replied: "I do not, because Mrs. Clinton is simply too astute to make a comment like that, as serious as the implications are, in an offhand way. And there is no doubt from the reaction in the Arab world that there is jubilation, and the whole issue of a Palestinian state is a very key negotiating issue where, if the matter were still on the table, the Israelis might derive quite a lot by way of concessions in order to agree to that. So that there's an unmistakable inference that Mrs. Clinton has to be reflecting to some extent the president's views, and she's just too astute to make an offhand comment of that importance without some understanding."

GOP, Clinton Propose Radically Different Day Care Solutions (Washn) By Melissa Healy (c) 1998, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON At a time when President Clinton is pressing for new ways to subsidize day care for working families, a group of Republican lawmakers is daring to ask: What if Americans didn't have to put their kids in day care?

Clinton has proposed a $21.7 billion, five-year plan that would give businesses tax breaks for helping their employees with child care. It would also provide federal aid to improve day care quality and extend federal day care subsidies to a million more children.

These Republicans, by contrast, are proposing something quite different: They would give tax breaks to families in which one parent goes without an income and instead does what many mothers tell pollsters they would do if only they could afford it: Stay home with the kids. The size and nature of the tax breaks have yet to be determined.

"We all know, if it's possible, that the best possible care is the care of a mom or dad or a grandmother or grandfather or a relative," said Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., one of the conservative lawmakers who is leading the countercharge to Clinton's initiative.

Critics of the Republican approach argue that day care centers should be improved, not undermined, by government policy. And they charge that Republicans are pitting stay-at-home parents against parents in the work force in an unseemly fight over who is best and who deserves the government's help.

The debate comes as the proportion of mothers of infants and toddlers in the paid work force has grown from 25 percent in 1965 to 65 percent at last count. And the 1996 federal welfare reform law is adding to the pressure for more day care by requiring most public aid recipients to work.

At the same time, the day care industry from imported au pairs to family day care homes and bustling centers faces withering criticism from all directions.

Concerns over day care's quality and availability have spurred an unprecedented flurry of state and federal initiatives, including the president's. In Congress, close to 50 bills touch on the issue of child care, and others are still being drafted.

In addition, new research on the brain has prompted questions among some influential academic experts about the wisdom of placing very young children in institutionalized day care. Other academics and children's advocates, citing the same findings, have countered that it has never been more important to lavish both the government's money and its attention on the care of children whose parents work.

Another key study cited by both sides is a landmark 1995 survey that found that all but 14 percent of day care centers deliver care that ranges from mediocre to miserable.

Children's advocates use the results to bolster arguments that day care must be improved. That message is at the heart of Clinton's package and the dozens of Democratic initiatives proposed in the last year.

Conservative groups and a small but growing number of social scientists, however, contend that the 1995 study shows that organized day care is so bad that it should be avoided whenever possible.

Both sides also see ammunition for their arguments in the preliminary results of a six-year study of day care by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Now in its fourth year, the effort is the most comprehensive national study to date of day care and its effects.

Last year, researchers in the study reported that children in the care of someone other than their mother suffered no disadvantage in cognitive or linguistic development. And unless a mother is herself insensitive to her child's needs, the study found that "nonmaternal care" does not negatively affect a child's attachment to her mother.

But Jay Belsky, a professor of human development and family studies at Penn State and one of the principal investigators for the study, recently testified at Coats' Senate hearing that the study is raising many red flags.

By a child's second year, researchers found that children who had spent long hours in the care of someone other than their mother exhibited slightly less affection toward her. And mothers of such children, in turn, were found to be slightly more negative toward their children and less sensitive to their needs.

Beyond that, the researchers found that the mother-child relationship suffered measurably in situations in which a mother's sensitivity to her child was low to begin with and the child spent more than 10 hours a week in "nonmaternal" care or any time at all in poor or unstable care.

Such findings, Belsky said, suggest that those assessing the effects of day care should tread warily until researchers have a better fix on what becomes of young children left in the care of others.

"It makes sense to be cautious about the adoption of public policies that will encourage more and more families to rely upon more and more child care much of it of questionable quality at younger and younger ages," Belsky said.

At the same hearing, Harvard psychiatrist Armand M. Nicholi Jr. testified that parental absence "can exert a profound influence on a child's emotional health. ..."

"Why has our society almost totally ignored this research? The answer is the same reason society ignored for scores of years sound data on the adverse effects of cigarette smoke. The facts demand a change in our lifestyle that we simply do not want to change or have difficulty changing."

But to many Democrats and child-care activists, the maternal care vs. day care debate not only fails to reflect reality but also politically stacks the deck to favor maternal care.

"Many of us feel it in our hearts and stomachs: It's really the right thing for very young children to be home with their mother or someone who will love them like crazy," said Faith Wohl, president of the ChildCare Action Campaign.

But no matter how much the federal government encourages mothers to *stay* at home, Wohl said, millions of children will still need day care either because they have a single parent who must work (one-third of children are now born outside of marriage) or because they have two parents who still want or need to work.

"The experts sometimes do us a disservice because they hold up a standard that can't be met," she said. "I want what's best for children under the circumstances we have to deal with in 1998."

Today, the Census Bureau says, only 17 percent of American households conform to the traditional model of a wage-earner dad, a stay-at-home mom and one or more kids.

GOP Taps Into Anti-Day Care Sentiment (Washn) By Melissa Healy (c) 1998, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON Republicans proposing legislation that would promote mothers' staying at home with their children may be tapping into profound misgivings that the American public feels about institutionalized day care. In a recent nationwide poll conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, 74 percent of those surveyed agreed with the statement, "Too many children are being raised in day care centers these days."

Like many congressional Republicans, Danielle Crittenden, one of the founders of the conservative Independent Women's Forum, asserts that new mothers have been driven into the labor force by the overall burden of taxes on American families and by specific benefits that federal and state laws parcel out to two-income families who incur child-care expenses. But she also takes to task feminist groups, day care advocates and politicians who make a virtue of mothers' paid work, whatever its cost to young children.

The result, she charged, has been an overwhelming cultural bias against women staying home with their infants and toddlers. "I'd like to think that an enlightened society is not one in which all of its economic and cultural forces combine to encourage women to deposit their children in state 'creches' and walk away without a backward glance."

French Town Spruces Up for First Ladies

Wives of Clinton and Chirac Share Interest in Active Political Lifestyles

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Foreign Service

CORREZE, France, May 11—When Bernadette Chirac invited Hillary Rodham Clinton to see for herself what the French heartland looks like, the choice of location was obvious as well as personal.

No one would quarrel that this is *la France profonde*, or deep France, a place where the population is no bigger than it was under Napoleon, and whose reputation for truffles and raspberries extends far. Here in Correze on Tuesday the American first lady will be welcomed by her French counterpart and apparent soul mate, the wife of French President Jacques Chirac.

This hilly, forested corner of central France is where Chirac's family lived for centuries and where he built his political base. But much more importantly today, Correze is where Mrs. Chirac, once a demure young political wife from Paris with nothing to do but follow her glad-handing husband around, launched her own political career.

For nearly as long as Jacques Chirac has been climbing, so has his wife, on a shorter ladder. After reportedly driving her little red car to visit every family in her district, Mrs. Chirac, 64, was overwhelmingly reelected in March as a councillor general of the Correze department. It's an office perhaps a notch or two above county commissioner in the United States.

"What interests me is building *boviducs*," she said in a recent magazine interview. Boviducs are cattle-crossing tunnels beneath roads. "I am an expert in"—and she named a certain kind of road-surfacing technique. When not here, Correze's asphalt queen is entertaining chiefs of state in Paris and occasionally traveling with her peripatetic husband.

It was her parallel political careers—politician's wife and politician—that are said to have intrigued Mrs. Clinton when she listened to Mrs. Chirac talking at lunch during the 1995 industrial nations summit in Lyon.

This week's invitation followed, and today American men in suits were everywhere in sight, test-driving bulletproof motorcade vehicles down roads not much wider, trying in halting French to anticipate with bewildered local officials every move and speech the two first ladies might make. Seldom has Correze seen so much repaving and landscaping.

After visiting a few locations here Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton will fly to Paris for a day of meetings and appearances. On Thursday she is due in Geneva to receive an award, and then will join President Clinton at this year's summit of industrial democracies in Birmingham, England.

As a councillor and as wife of the president—it is hard to establish the proportions—Mrs. Chirac has been able to bring home the bacon, notably a detour in the Tour de France bicycle marathon that will take the course through Sarran (pop. 276), where she is also the vice mayor. Building preparations are underway, too, for the Chirac presidential museum.

Mrs. Chirac will not entertain Mrs. Clinton at the 15th-century chateau the Chiracs purchased in 1971. Cooks from the Elysee Palace, the presidential quarters in Paris, were dispatched to take over the kitchen at Correze's only restaurant of distinction, much to the annoyance of the regular chef in what might have been his finest hour.

Just why the two Mrs. Cs have become soul mates may have to do with the men they married—extroverts, insatiable political animals who are apt to make big mistakes and recover from them.

In the last year, both wives have been stoic as their husbands were battered by the Monica Lewinsky revelations, in the American case, and by an angry electorate in the French one. Chirac made a poor election call last year and lost his government to the Socialists, while retaining his own office in France's strong-presidential system.

The Chiracs and the Clintons met in a strikingly similar fashion while pursuing postgraduate studies. Like Bill and Hillary at Yale Law School, Jacques Chirac and the higher-born Bernadette Chodron de Courcel were students at the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris in the mid-1950s when she noticed him reading at a library table with his leg jiggling nervously up and down. "That guy drinks too much coffee," she remembered thinking to herself.

Like Clinton and his future wife, Chirac was relentless in courting her, and she finally agreed to marry him in 1956. Mrs. Chirac dropped out to go to stenography school so she could type her husband's papers. They have two daughters. Laurence, the elder, has been mentally ill for years and is virtually never mentioned in the French press.

Claude, who is the younger, is a close and powerful adviser to the president, rivaling if not exceeding her mother's influence, according to knowledgeable French accounts.

She is also known for having borne a child out of wedlock as her father prepared his run for the presidency in 1995. The French public scarcely batted an eye.

Mrs. Chirac and Mrs. Clinton do not seem alike. Mrs. Chirac is known for self-effacement and even dark self-deprecation, taking as her own her hard-charging husband's taunt—"the turtle"—about her slow gait.

Mrs. Chirac has also been known for sharp commentaries on being the wife of a politician known as "the bulldozer." Nearly two decades ago, when he was less important and she was more candid, she described to an interviewer her reluctance to see him jump into politics in the mid-1960s.

"We had quite a fight," she recalled. "I was furious, because I could see that he was getting into something that would consume him whole. But I had no choice. I had to either get on the train or go away, and if you believe in your husband, you have to get on the train."

The Washington Post
Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Plugging a friend and other Democrats

Hillary Clinton came to give candidates a boost. Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky was the key recipient.

By Tom Infield
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Poor Ivan Itkin.

The Democratic Party's endorsed candidate for governor got no respect last night when Hillary Rodham Clinton rolled into town on the Metroliner for a trio of appearances.

The first lady didn't even mention Itkin's name when she addressed hundreds of party loyalists at a Democratic City Committee reception at a union hall on Columbus Boulevard.

But Clinton again and again praised Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, the party-endorsed candidate for lieutenant governor — the No. 2 spot in the Pennsylvania executive branch.

Looking over a smoky room, jampacked with ward leaders, committee people and union guys, Clinton talked about how glad she was to be in Philadelphia — how "particularly pleased" she was "to be here with my good friend, Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky."

Itkin, bunched among a score of local elected officials on a stage behind her, presumably was included when Clinton praised "the other great candidates you have running in the Democratic primary."

Margolies-Mezvinsky, of the Main Line, was at Clinton's side all night.

First came the sausage-and-peppers soiree at the sheetmetal workers' hall.

Then came a Women's Way banquet with fruit tarts for about 2,000 business and professional women at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel, an event at which Itkin was not present.

The last event was a $5,000-per-person dinner at Ciboulette restaurant in the Park Hyatt at the Bellevue to raise campaign money exclusively for Margolies-Mezvinsky.

Ivan Itkin, who tops the Pa. ticket, was at one of Clinton's three stops. He escaped her notice.

There were probably two reasons why Itkin was relegated to Clinton's shadow, while Margolies-Mezvinsky got all the limelight.

The first reason was clearly stated.

MMM, as she is sometimes called, is a hero in the Clinton White House. A one-term member of Congress, she cast the decisive vote in the House on Aug. 5, 1993, that ensured passage of President Clinton's economic stimulus plan. That plan is seen by Democrats as having revived a recession economy. But it cost the congresswoman her reelection.

The second reason was not stated, but it lurked in the background at the union gig.

The fact is that Itkin, a state legislator from the Pittsburgh area, is regarded as an almost-certain loser,

See **VISIT** on B6

Hillary Clinton visits the area

VISIT from B1

even by members of his own party. A dour 62-year-old scholar with a doctorate in mathematics, he is given little chance of beating Republican Gov. Ridge in the fall — even if he survives a primary challenge May 19.

The 55-year-old Margolies-Mezvinsky, on the other hand, is seen by many in the Philadelphia area as a rising star in the abortion-rights sector of the Democratic Party. She has conceded in private that she is not very optimistic about being elected this year to succeed Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker — that she is laying the groundwork to run for Republican Rick Santorum's U.S. Senate seat in 2000.

Margolies-Mezvinsky commented from the stage at the union hall that some people might view Hillary Clinton's appearances with her last night "as a payback for my vote."

No one disagreed.

The party members had paid $125 apiece, mostly to stoke party coffers with "street money" for the primary.

Itkin also got to address the crowd — prior to Clinton's entrance at a time when party treasurer Norman Loudenslager was pleading with the audience to "Hold it down!"

Later, at the Women's Way dinner, Margolies-Mezvinsky sat on a flood-lit stage with Clinton and Mayor Rendell. Two video screens cast 10-foot-tall images of her as she leaned over in her chair to whisper into Clinton's ear.

Itkin's most recent campaign-finance reports last month showed that he had raised only $40,000. Ken Smukler, Margolies-Mezvinsky's political consultant, said his candidate expected to gross "easily over $150,000" last night.

Along with President Clinton, the first lady has been a frequent visitor to Philadelphia.

The president was most recently in town — on Oct. 8 and again Feb. 13 — for fund-raising events to enrich the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Hillary Clinton was here most recently on Oct. 22 for a speech to a women's group at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1996, when Clinton was running for his second term, Hillary Clinton was in the area three times in a month — on Feb. 22, to pitch her book, It Takes a Village, at the King of Prussia mall; on Feb. 26, to speak to Democratic women at the Wyndham, and on Feb. 27, to campaign for U.S. Senate candidate Robert G. Torricelli in Cherry Hill. She returned to Philadelphia on two occasions before the fall election — once to attend a reception in the mayor's box at an Eagles game and once to campaign for her husband in Montgomery County.

WASHINGTON

• Clintons' personal assets up; Gore family sees theirs drop

A booming stock market helped push the personal assets of President Clinton and his family to $1,262,018 to $5,756,000 in 1997, their annual financial disclosure statement shows. That's up from $760,000 to $1.7 million in 1996. Their unpaid legal bills remain at about $3 million.

By Ron Edmonds, AP

Pooch smooch: Clinton kisses his $750 dog goodbye Tuesday.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's blind trust grew from less than $1 million in 1996 to $1 million to $5 million last year. An aide said the assets were at the low end of the broad ranges the forms use.

The Clintons reported keeping $14,988 worth of personal gifts, including a $400 cashmere shawl from designer Vera Wang, a $1,200 set of leather-bound books from Oprah Winfrey, $510 in sweaters from Ralph Lauren and golf gear worth $911 from Greg Norman. Buddy, their dog, was also a gift, valued at $750. The Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, accepted $1,027 in Coca-Cola stock as a high school graduation gift from retired millionaire Walter Kaye, a friend who recommended Monica Lewinsky for a White House internship in 1995.

Vice President Gore and his family reported assets of $770,000 to $870,000, down from $880,000 to $1.1 million in 1996. The vice president took out a bank loan to pay nearly $100,000 in legal bills from last year's Justice Department investigation of his 1996 campaign.

USA TODAY • WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1998

Hillary lauds Margolies-Mezvinsky in visit here

by **William Bunch**

Daily News Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Hillary Rodham Clinton caused a small uproar when she sought recognition for the idea of an independent Palestine.

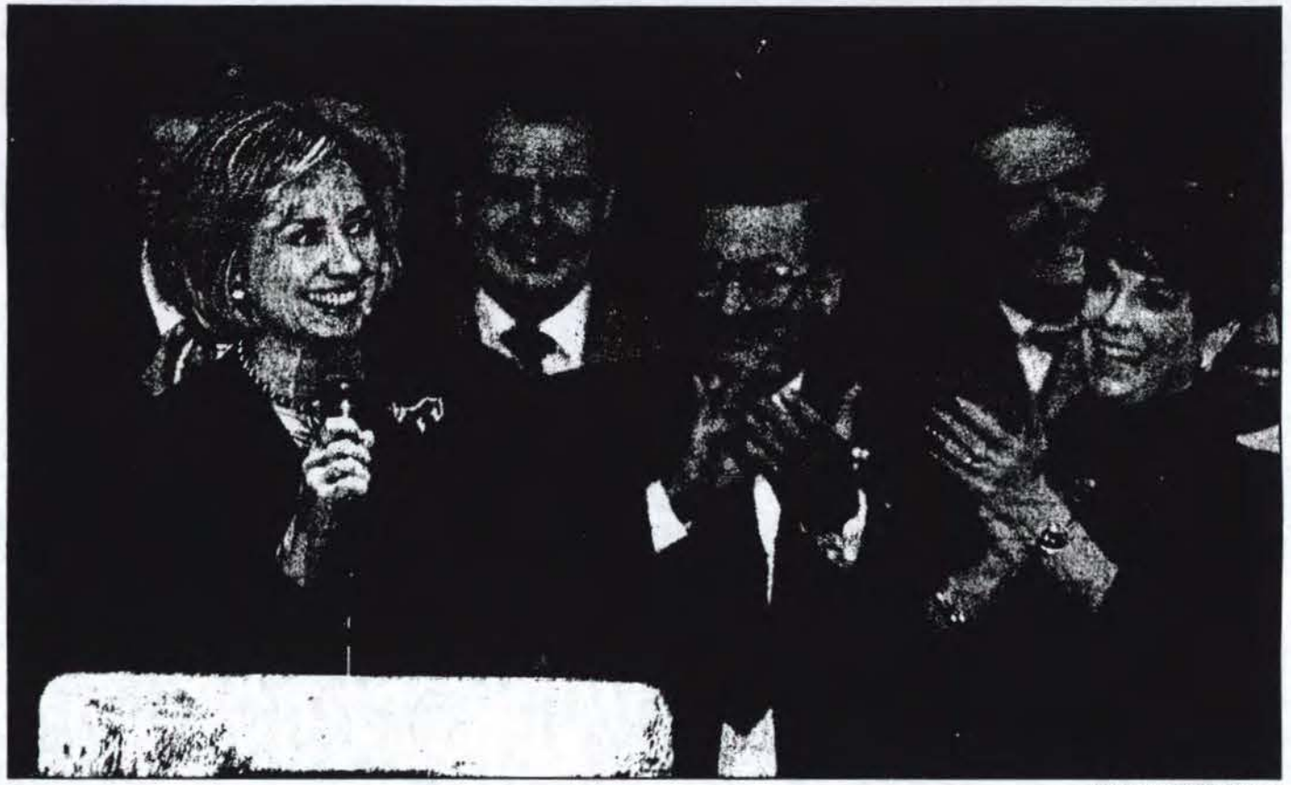
Last night, the first lady came to Philadelphia and sought recognition for a slightly less controversial cause: Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky.

Clinton's whirlwind two-hour visit included a local Democratic Party fund-raiser, a women's rights banquet and an exclusive high-roller dinner at Ciboulette for Margolies-Mezvinsky, the former Montgomery County congresswoman now running for lieutenant governor.

This time, she stuck closely to the script: Touting Margolies-Mezvinsky, who cast the decisive vote for President Clinton's 1993 spending plan that included tax increases to reduce the federal deficit — a vote that cost the congresswoman her seat in the next election.

"Marjorie was one of those people who put her country and her state and her constituency above her own political future," said Clinton, who along with Mayor Rendell said last night that the 1993 bill was critical to the end of the federal deficit, lower interest rates and the Wall Street boom.

While most experts agree that Margolies-Mezvinsky's vote caused her to lose in 1994 to U.S. Rep. Jon Fox, the telegenic former newswoman is now making her actions the cornerstone of the Democratic campaign against Gov. Ridge, who voted against the bill as a congressman from Erie.



YONG KIM/ DAILY NEWS

With candidate Margolies-Mezvinsky at right, a smiling Hillary Clinton gets a round of applause

In Philadelphia, the first lady didn't get anywhere near reporters who wanted to ask her about Wednesday's controversial remarks, in which she described what was later called a "personal" view on Middle East policy which is similar to the stance of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat — and which differs from the public policy of her husband.

"It would be in the long-term interests of peace in the Middle East for there to be a state of Palestine ... a functioning modern state that is on the same footing as other states," she said in a satellite video conference with a Mideast youth summit, according to a transcript.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposes an independent Palestinian nation, and the flap came as House Speaker Newt Gingrich and others are accusing the Clinton administration of tilting toward Arafat.

Last night, the first lady seemed thrilled to be on the campaign trail. "I took the train up today, and I looked out the window, and saw the world going by, and felt better and better the further I got from Washington, and the closer I got to Philadelphia," she told about 1,000 cheering Democrats at the sheetmetal workers union hall on Delaware Avenue.

She might have been referring to the Middle East, or she might have been talking about the ongoing probes of the Monica Lewinsky affair and of her Whitewater land dealings with her husband.

"Hillary Clinton has achieved so much, under such difficult conditions," Rendell told 2,000 people at a Womens Way dinner at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza. "No first lady and hardly any elected official has stood up so courageously and well to a torrent of abuse." ■

First Lady Is Welcomed And Grilled

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Foreign Service

TULLE, France, May 12—Hillary Rodham Clinton dipped briefly into the local French political scene today as she visited the home region and longtime political district of France's first lady, Bernadette Chirac.

Mrs. Chirac, as an elected official in the Correze department of central France, greeted Mrs. Clinton in the council chambers in Tulle where she has served on the governing body for nearly two decades.

Although she is known as *la presidente* as the wife of French President Jacques Chirac, Bernadette Chirac has eked out a political career of her own in the remote region she adopted when she married a Correzian politician.

In Tulle, through an interpreter, Mrs. Clinton listened to the welcome and praise of local officials of the Chiracs' center-right party, as well as to a few mildly argumentative remarks by Socialist and Communist members of the Correze council.

Begging her pardon for asking the question, the Socialist, Rene Teulade, asked Mrs. Clinton what her reasons were for "abandoning our [health care reform] project that seemed to us more just, more humane, less costly and more efficient?"

Mrs. Clinton, addressing the council in English, said, "Although I feel strongly about many issues, such as health care, sometimes in a democracy we have to take baby steps and not giant strides."

Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Chirac then drove in a 21-car motorcade that left French villagers agog to the village of Correze for a visit to a nursery school and a church and lunch with local officials. Then Mrs. Chirac took her guest to the village of Chaumeil to see a new cultural center in an old stone farm building converted with funds secured by Mrs. Chirac.

Mrs. Clinton's visit to France continues in Paris Wednesday.

The Washington Post
Wednesday, May 13, 1998

PM-Bankruptcy Overhaul,740
With first lady sounding alarm, lawmakers drafting bankruptcy bills
By MARCY GORDON= AP Business Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) As lawmakers on both sides of the Capitol shape major legislation to rewrite the nation's bankruptcy laws, Democrats backed by Hillary Rodham Clinton are warning that it could harm children of single parents.

Along with consumer and labor groups, some Democrats are trying to slow the legislation's progress. They are calling attention to a provision that, they contend, would make thousands of mothers and children owed support take a back seat to credit card companies in collecting debts from fathers who file for bankruptcy protection.

As the House Judiciary Committee embarked on its drafting task Tuesday, Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., said the House bill was ``pro-family'' because it would help people with good credit records by cracking down on debtor abuse and thereby lowering interest rates for credit cards.

But Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., insisted the measure would result in ``ruined lives, lost homes, broken families.''

Across the Capitol, some 30 senators have written the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, expressing concern about the legislation's potential impact on children and single mothers. Most of those signing the letter are Democrats, joined by three Republicans: Sens. James Jeffords of Vermont, Alfonse D'Amato of New York and John Chafee of Rhode Island.

While the bankruptcy laws need to be revised, they wrote, the legislation in its current form would have ``a strong and disproportionate effect'' on single parents and their children by putting certain types of credit card debt on the same level of priority as child support and alimony payments.

Mrs. Clinton, in her column last week in The Washington Times, said she had no quarrel with responsible bankruptcy overhaul.

``But I do quarrel with aspects of the bill that would force single parents to compete for their child-support payments with big banks trying to collect credit card debt,'' she wrote. ``The welfare of our children must come first.''

President Clinton reprised the idea in his weekly radio address Saturday on a Mother's Day theme, saying some changes to bankruptcy laws are in order, but ``mothers and children should keep their priority.''

As they grapple with bankruptcy legislation, lawmakers are alarmed by the rising number of debtors in a strong economy. The number of Americans filing personal bankruptcies last year jumped to 1.2 million up more than 300 percent since 1980 intensifying criticism that people take court protection from creditors too lightly.

Of those 1.2 million cases, some 300,000 involved court orders for child and spousal support, according to Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn.

Under the House and Senate bills, credit card debt incurred 90 days before an individual files for bankruptcy would be considered nondischargeable, meaning it couldn't be erased or written down. Child support and alimony, federal taxes and student loan debts are nondischargeable under current law.

The Democrats contend that would hurt children because nondischargeable debts usually get paid first, forcing single mothers to compete for payment with credit card companies.

But Rep. George Gekas, R-Pa., chief sponsor of the House measure, disputed that, saying child support would continue to have a higher priority.

Banking industry groups and credit card companies have been lobbying hard for the legislation since early last year. A coalition of those groups said recently they would be willing to accept a provision that would explicitly establish the priority of child-support payments.

But Jeffords said Tuesday that would not be sufficient, since big commercial creditors ``have so many more weapons and ways they can dun people'' for payments.

In another area, Gekas' bill would establish a ``needs'' test to determine how much debt relief people should receive and how much they are able to repay a provision to which many Democrats and some Republican senators have objected.

The Senate measure proposed by Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Richard Durbin, D-Ill., seeks to prevent people who can afford to pay their debts from escaping them. But it also includes tough new fines for abuse by creditors that try to intimidate or harass consumers into giving up their legal protections.

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The Washington Times
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1998

Inside Politics

Compiled by Greg Pierce

INSIDE THE BELTWAY

By John McCaslin

Firm breakup?

Turning from weeds to a more serious threat to the landscape, India, we recall how rosy relations once were between first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and former Indian Ambassador Siddhartha Ray and his wife, Maya.

In fact, Mrs. Clinton let out the secret that she and Mr. and Mrs. Ray — all lawyers — often discussed starting a law firm together.

"And we thought in India it would be 'Ray and Clinton' and, of course, vice versa here in the United States," Mrs. Clinton said at the time. "But we three have admitted we have some other obligations first."

Like keeping the nuclear lid on Asia?

• *John McCaslin can be reached at 202/636-3284 or by e-mail (mccasl@twtmail.com).*

• Geraldine vs. Hillary

Geraldine Ferraro, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate from New York, says first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton made a serious mistake in calling for a Palestinian state.

"It was very bad judgment, and I'm surprised because that's not what Hillary is usually guilty of," Mrs. Ferraro told Albany radio station WROW.

"I really feel that at the present time you have to be very cautious and careful about sending any sort of wrong message with reference to the [Middle East] peace process, because it is on very delicate grounds."

WHO an untiring foe of infectious diseases

Infectious diseases are the world's leading cause of death.

In the last 20 years, we have witnessed the birth of at least 30 new infectious diseases, and news reports of Ebola hemorrhagic fever and the advent of HIV/AIDS have brought the threat into every living room.

This week, I am in Geneva to celebrate the 50th birthday of the World Health Organization. Founded in 1948, this United Nations agency has a simple, but ambitious, mandate: "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health."

Despite successes, though, such as the eradication of smallpox in 1980, WHO faces new threats to global health each day. At the same time, older scourges — such as cholera, malaria, diphtheria and tuberculosis — continue to kill.

Tuberculosis is of particular concern. Declared a global emergency by WHO in 1993, TB is the leading infectious disease and killer of adults in the world. Although we have a treatment that works, one-third of the world's population is infected, and more people will die from TB this year — 2 million — than in any other year in history.

WHO's ambitious TB treatment strategy reminds us of the agency's importance. With experts on the ground in every country and a multilateral mandate, the organization is in a unique position to provide information and technical support across borders, set standards, make epidemiological forecasts and offer treatment guidelines.

Thanks in large part to WHO's global immunization programs, the world's infant-mortality rate has fallen by more than 37 percent. Today, 80 percent of the world's children are protected against six major childhood diseases: diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, tuberculosis and polio. The latter is on target for elimination by 2000.

But new threats such as HIV/AIDS persist, and old ones such as malaria continue to ravage parts of whole nations. For example, malaria causes nearly 3 million deaths a year, and rising resistance to anti-malarial drugs and insecticides threatens even greater increases.

WHO is working to promote child survival, breast-feeding and the control of HIV/AIDS, diarrhea and pneumonia among children. In addition, the agency is working to improve maternal and women's health. Every day, at least 1,600 women die of complications from pregnancy and childbirth, and WHO has resolved to cut this number in half by the year 2000. As the "World Health Report 1998," released just this week, notes: "Women's health is inextricably linked to their status in society. . . . Today, the status and well-being of countless millions of women worldwide remain tragically low."

The World Health Organization was born in the wake of World War II, when the United States spearheaded the creation of the United Nations. The benefits of this world body, which includes WHO, are tangible: the treatment of disease, efforts to protect the world from nuclear calamity, humanitarian programs such as caring for refugees, and international standards that make the skies safer for travelers and food safer for consumers.

Of course, U.N. forces also keep the peace in areas vital to our national interests, from the Balkans to the Persian Gulf, Haiti and the Middle East. I know that the majority of Americans support the work of the United Nations, particularly when its diplomatic efforts work successfully to avert conflict that may involve U.S. troops.

And I know that the majority of Americans think we should pay our bills.

As I review the benefits Americans enjoy from U.N. action — such as public health improvements — I am distressed and embarrassed that political maneuvering in Congress has prevented us from paying our past-due bills of more than $1 billion to the United Nations and its agencies. Our arrears to the World Health Organization alone are $39 million. I hope that every American will support this administration as it continues to urge Congress to appropriate these funds — not only to maintain American leadership, but also to strengthen the work of these important organizations.

We are living at a time of remarkable global integration. Every day, powerful new forces bring us closer together, chipping away the walls that separate us as people and as nations.

As the barriers fall, we are faced with new opportunities, but also with new challenges, including threats to our health, our environment and our national security.

Disease knows no borders. Nor does environmental degradation or terrorism. The real cost of not paying our U.N. debt is the undermining of American leadership around the world at a time when we should be working in partnership with the United Nations and other countries to meet the global challenges we face as we enter the next century.

• *This week, at the meeting of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, the first lady will be awarded a WHO Foundation Prize for her outstanding contribution to health development.*

The Washington Times
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1998

BC-SWISS-HILLARY

Castro applauds Hillary Clinton speech on health

By Stephanie Nebehay

GENEVA, May 14 (Reuters) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton won applause from Cuban President Fidel Castro seated in the front row of her audience when she called in a speech on Thursday for equal access to health care worldwide.

Hours earlier, Castro had assailed the 36-year-old U.S. economic embargo against his island country in a speech to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva. For Clinton's speech, he sat among front-row dignitaries and repeatedly applauded.

The First Lady and Castro, both surrounded by large security details, did not come face to face at the WHO annual meeting held at the United Nations European headquarters. When not speaking, they both sat in the front row, about 10 seats apart.

They are staying at the same luxury hotel in Geneva, where their protocol staffs are at pains to avoid a chance encounter.

Clinton drew the largest round of applause when she denounced female genital mutilation, still a rite of passage in many African countries. She told of having visited a village in Senegal where women put a stop to the cultural ritual.

The First Lady, who arrived from a two-day visit from Paris, received an award at a WHO ceremony from the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation for her pioneering work on behalf of women and children.

UAE Health Minister Hamad Abdul-Rahman al-Madfa presented a plaque to Clinton as well as a $40,000 prize.

She announced the funds would be donated to a community programme to reduce death in childbirth in rural Tanzania, known as the Safe Motherhood Initiative.

The money will provide training for 100 health workers to aid 50 traditional birth attendants in the Kigoma region, where almost one in every 10 women perishes in childbirth.

Clinton, who lost her battle to push through legislation to make basic health care available to all U.S. citizens, said 41 million Americans still had no insurance.

``Health care is a basic human right,'' the First Lady told delegates gathered for the 191-member WHO's ceremony.

``As Dr Martin Luther King Jr once said: 'Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking, and the most inhumane','' she added.

``We don't have one minute or one child to waste.''

The estimated 365,000 children born each day worldwide are entitled to pre-natal care, immunisations as well as clean water and access to health care, according to Clinton.

``To improve health for all, we must make progress in the fight against poverty. To fight poverty, we must ensure health care for all. That is part of the unfinished business of this century.''

Castro, in his speech, hit out fiercely against economic globalisation and ``blind'' market policies that he said were destroying the planet's ecology and creating mass poverty.

``The effort to carry out genocide against our people made us multiply our efforts and our desire to survive,'' he said, referring to the long-standing U.S. embargo.

The First Lady also said President Bill Clinton was working to ``save our children from the death-grip of big tobacco.''

``But none of us can rest until we save all children from the big tobacco companies' advertising and other outrageous efforts that seduce children,'' she added.

Clinton paid tribute to Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Norwegian prime minister, elected WHO chief on Wednesday, who called for a global war on tobacco. The United States had backed Brundtland, a physician who was also in attendance on Thursday.

The U.S. First Lady will attend a dinner hosted in her honour by the UAE in Geneva. She is leaving Geneva on Friday to join her husband in London after attending a ceremony at the new headquarters of the U.N. Human Rights Office.

REUTERS

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The Washington Post
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1998

WORLD
In Brief

EUROPE

Castro Assails U.S., Applauds Hillary Clinton

GENEVA—A defiant Fidel Castro used a U.N. conference yesterday to assail the United States and the evils of capitalism—then applauded a health care appeal by Hillary Rodham Clinton. In a speech to the World Health Organization, Castro criticized economic globalization and "blind" market policies that were destroying the planet's ecology and creating mass poverty.

Castro later enthusiastically applauded Clinton's speech after she received a prize for her work on behalf of women and children. Echoing themes also in Castro's speech, she said universal health care was a basic human right. "To fight poverty, we must ensure health care for all," she declared. Despite Castro's applause the two did not talk to each other.

PM-Saving Moseley-Braun,690
Democrats pull out all the stops to help Moseley-Braun
Eds: Also in Saturday AMs report
By JENNIFER LOVEN= Associated Press Writer=
WASHINGTON (AP) It's become a familiar scene: Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun standing beside President Clinton.
Just last week, Clinton flew to Chicago for the third time to campaign for the embattled Illinois Democrat's re-election. In March, Moseley-Braun was at the White House when Clinton pushed for a stricter drunken-driving law.
The day after the president's State of the Union address, she accompanied him on Air Force One to Champaign, Ill., so he could talk up his education agenda including her own campaign for federal money to repair dilapidated school buildings.
Clinton isn't the only prominent Democrat trying to boost the nation's first black female senator, whom Republicans have chosen as their top target this year as they seek to widen their control of the Senate.

Last month, Moseley-Braun was beside Vice President Al Gore as he touted equal pay for women. Gore and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton have each headlined two fund-raisers for Moseley-Braun this year alone. The Senate's Democratic leadership has staged high-profile news conferences to put her in the spotlight.
Worried that they might lose a Senate seat, Democrats are trying to help Moseley-Braun overcome past miscues as well as to build a big enough war chest to best her deep-pocketed GOP opponent, state Sen. Peter Fitzgerald.
``We have a finite number of members that we can invite to participate in our daily news conferences on the Democratic message,'' said Michael Meehan, political director for Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle. ``We look for ways to include Senator Moseley-Braun in them.''
Occasionally, she proves difficult to help.
The latest example came last week, when Moseley-Braun showed up for a pro-ethanol news conference with Daschle, House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman long after the event was over and the cameras were gone.
Preserving subsidies for the corn-based fuel additive, a popular issue back home, means big bucks for legions of corn farmers and agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland, based in Decatur, Ill. Moseley-Braun blamed her tardiness on a meeting that ran late and the need to vote.
Last month, the Clinton administration tapped Moseley-Braun over higher-ranking colleagues to be the chief Democratic sponsor of a measure to establish a presidential commission on Holocaust victim assets. But she failed to attend that news conference as well, leaving Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato of New York, the co-sponsor, alone in the limelight.
Moseley-Braun said she couldn't get there because her amendment on school modernization funds was being considered on the floor.
``She appreciates all the help that she gets,'' said Moseley-Braun spokesman Michael Briggs. ``But so far we haven't developed the ability to clone her.''
Democratic consultant Karl Struble said such incidents are unfortunate for someone who has made missteps in the past.
Indeed, Moseley-Braun is considered politically vulnerable largely because of questions about judgment. Those doubts were spurred by several episodes, including a 1996 visit with an African dictator accused of human rights abuses and a federal probe, eventually dropped, of alleged campaign spending irregularities by her former fiance and campaign manager.
Regardless, Democrats won't back off on their efforts to help her win a second term.
``It's not just her seat,'' Struble said. ``She's very symbolically important to the Democratic Party.''

The party's image benefits from having a black female senator, and her fight for federal school construction funds provides a potent weapon against Republicans on a key election-year issue, Struble said.
But does all the help help?
Certainly, said Chicago-based Democratic consultant David Axelrod. The assistance is crucial in raising enough money to compete against Fitzgerald, who showed in the GOP primary a willingness to spend lavishly from his personal banking fortune to get elected, he said.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 05/16/98 at 00:19EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 05/18/98 at 09:47EDT ****

BC-GROUP-CONCERT

Good times roll at Blair's musical summit

By John Morrison

BIRMINGHAM, England, May 16 (Reuters) - Tony Blair let the good times roll for his guests at the G8 summit on Saturday with a musical entertainment tailor-made to appeal to Bill and Hillary Clinton.

``Hey everybody, G8's in town!'' sang Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra with a wave to the world leaders in the gallery of Birmingham's Symphony Hall.

Bill and Hillary waved back as Holland, whose 12-piece band is one of Britain's top blues and R&B acts, boogied into ``Let the Good Times Roll.''

Boris Yeltsin, who only boogies at election time, ducked out of Blair's rockfest and opted for an early night after dinner at the city's Botanical Garden.

The other world leaders filed into their large comfortable armchairs in the gallery to waves of applause from an audience already fired up by Holland's footstomping performance of ``Well All Right.''

Hillary Clinton, wearing a pink trouser suit, moved her chair closer to Blair, who 25 years ago was a longhaired student rock guitarist in a band called Ugly Rumours.

Next came red-haired singer Mick Hucknall, a prominent political supporter of Blair, who is often accused of favouring British rock stars over more sober cultural figures.

Blair has often said he wants to give Britain a younger, more modern image abroad and Saturday's concert formed part of the ``Cool Britannia'' pattern.

Hucknall took the summit prize for bathos with a toe-curling tribute to the late Frank Sinatra: ``I think he's right up there in heaven...''

All-female pop quartet All Saints, trying hard to catch up with the better-known Spice Girls, bounced onto the stage and bounced off again two songs later to subdued applause.

Then came rock guitarist Chris Rea with a song about Texas and finally Voice of Gospel, a vocal group who hail from the English Midlands but whose musical roots lie deep in the American South.

The performers were all British, but the music had ``Made in USA'' stamped all over it -- with the exception of Hucknall's final song -- the Beatles' ``All You Need is Love.''

With a little prompting from an unidentified lady who whispered in his ear at the right moment, Blair and his wife Cherie rose to their feet clapping, followed by the Clintons and the rest of the G8 party.

Even Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac, half a generation older than the Blair-Clinton babyboomers, stood and joined in the clapping.

The Clintons, who chose a Country and Western flavour for the concert at last year's Denver summit, clearly enjoyed the experience of crossing the Atlantic and finding the music was just like home.

The U.S. president didn't even mind when Holland looked up from his piano keyboard and threatened to play an old Thelonius Monk composition -- ``Don't Drop That Atom Bomb On Me.''

REUTERS

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 05/16/98 at 18:23EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 05/18/98 at 09:50EDT ****

Drug Is Shown to Shrink Tumors in Breast Cancer Characterized by Gene Defect

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

LOS ANGELES, May 17 — The first full-scale trials of an experimental drug that homes in on a genetic defect in breast cancer cells show significant promise for women with advanced cancer, scientists reported today.

The drug, Herceptin, heightened the benefits of chemotherapy by shrinking tumors and slowing progression of a particular type of breast cancer, one that is responsible for about 30 percent of the 180,000 new cases of the disease in the United States each year, the scientists said at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology here.

The improvement was seen among cases that had failed standard therapies.

Participants at the meeting greeted the reports with cautious optimism, and leaders said they were planning to test the drug, which was developed by Genentech of South San Francisco, Calif., among patients with less advanced forms of the breast cancer and among the 20 percent of ovarian cancer cases involving the same genetic defect.

The University of California at Los Angeles, where much of the initial research on this form of breast cancer was conducted, issued a news release calling the development of the experimental treatment "a significant medical breakthrough."

Other experts agreed that it was a breakthrough. But they said their excitement primarily reflected a hope that with further research similar drugs could be developed for many types of tumors, opening a frontier in cancer therapy. If such therapies do not prolong life, they may help people with advanced cancer work longer and enjoy life more. But the experts cautioned the public not to expect sudden success and stressed that it would take years, and millions of dollars, to complete such research.

Genentech said that the Food and Drug Administration had granted Herceptin "fast track" status and that the agency would decide by Nov. 4 whether to approve it.

Until then, the drug is available only to participants in clinical trials and through a lottery under which Genentech is providing enough Herceptin for 100 women each quarter. The number may expand to 200 each quarter this summer.

Paul Laland, the chief spokesman for Genentech, said the company would be able to provide enough for about 50,000 women — the anticipated need — by the end of the year.

Herceptin is a protein known as a monoclonal antibody that was genetically engineered to bind to other specific proteins. The preliminary success with Herceptin and another monoclonal antibody for lymphoma was expected to revive interest in developing such compounds, a research avenue that scientists abandoned a decade ago because of lack of success.

Although Herceptin can cause heart damage when combined with certain other anti-cancer drugs, the scientists who conducted the studies said it was remarkably safe for an anti-cancer drug.

A therapy shows promise against a fast-killing cancer called HER-2/neu.

The studies reported today were conducted in a number of medical centers throughout the world and involved women with a particularly aggressive form of cancer known as HER-2/neu. The cancer can progress rapidly to cause death sooner than other breast cancers.

At news conferences and presentations at the meeting here, attended by more than 19,000 cancer specialists, the scientists said they were impressed that weekly intravenous injections of Herceptin showed significant benefit among women who had cancers that had not responded well to standard treatment, including the most drastic: bone marrow transplants.

In one trial, women were treated with chemotherapy alone or Herceptin and chemotherapy. The addition of Herceptin led the cancers to completely disappear or shrink by half or more in 114 of 235 women, or 49 percent. This compared with 74 of 234, or 32 percent, in the group that received only chemotherapy.

The New York Times

MONDAY, MAY 18, 1998

1/2

After one year, 78 percent of those receiving Herceptin and chemotherapy were alive compared with 67 percent who received chemotherapy alone.

Because the full-scale studies began in 1995 and patients were still entering the studies last year, it was too soon to know how long the benefits would last, the scientists said.

After one year, about 28 percent of women treated with Herceptin and chemotherapy did not show evidence of cancer progression compared with 14 percent of the women treated with only chemotherapy.

The median duration of response — from the time the cancer shrank to the time it began to enlarge or spread — was nine months in the Herceptin group compared with six months in the chemotherapy group.

The second trial tested Herceptin alone. In this study, the cancer either completely disappeared or shrank by more than half in 34 of 213 participants, or 16 percent. The median duration of response was slightly more than nine months.

There were hints that the effects might be long lasting. Dr. Dennis Slamon of the University of California at Los Angeles and Dr. Larry Norton of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, principal investigators in the research, said they had treated two women in earlier phases of the studies who have survived for six and five years respectively.

The woman who has survived for six years took Herceptin for only 18 weeks and none since, Dr. Salmon said. The woman who has survived five years is still taking Herceptin, Dr. Norton said. Statistically, the women would have been expected to die in less than a year without such treatment, the scientists said.

Although the improvements from Herceptin therapy may seem small to nonphysicians, Dr. Norton said at a news conference that the drug had "a big effect, not a small, minor effect."

Dr. Norton, who was a principal investigator of one study, also said that "this is the biggest difference I have ever seen in advanced breast cancer."

The way Herceptin works — by homing in on a molecule — "is not like anything we have ever seen before" in cancer therapy, Dr. Norton said. Because of its novelty, he said, doctors will have to learn the optimal way to use it in practice.

With experience from additional clinical trials involving women with earlier stages of breast cancer, several experts said they expected that doctors would eventually widely prescribe Herceptin when the cancer was confined to the breast or lymph nodes in the armpit.

The Herceptin studies involved women who have an overabundance of the gene HER-2/neu in their cancerous breast cells. The gene is not inherited and develops for unknown reasons during life. The gene was discovered in 1985 and since then studies have indicated that about 30 percent of women with breast cancer have HER-2/neu.

Tests on the breast cancer itself can detect the gene, but they are not available at all hospitals and Dr. Slamon cautioned that there is wide variation in the quality of the testing that is performed.

The genes produce a specific protein found on the surface of the cancerous breast cell and that acts as a receptor for other molecules, called growth factors, that help regulate cell growth.

Cancer is characterized by uncontrolled replication of cells. Breast cancer occurs when, for unknown reasons, women develop up to 20 extra copies of the gene.

HER-2/neu is also found in about 20 percent of ovarian cancers, and the researchers will expand studies to include ovarian and other forms of cancer.

The scientists said Herceptin lacked the usual serious side effects of standard chemotherapy, like hair loss and significant decreases in blood counts. Herceptin causes chills and mild fever in about a third of women when they first take the drug. But the symptoms are usually quickly relieved with acetaminophen and similar drugs.

Experts said there was no way to know without further studies how long women would need to take Herceptin.

Fran M. Visco, president of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, said her group had urged women to participate in the trials of Herceptin. Dr. Susan Hellmann, Genentech's chief medical officer, said the study leaders would not have been able to enroll as many women in the same period without the group's cooperation.

2/2

The New York Times

MONDAY, MAY 18, 1998

BC-BRITAIN-USA-CHEQUERS

Clintons, Blairs, relax and talk policy at retreat

By Randall Mikkelsen

CHEQUERS, England, May 17 (Reuters) - U.S. President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair retired to the English countryside on Sunday for an informal policy chat between summits.

With their wives Hillary and Cherie, the baby boom-era presidents also had the chance to catch up on a warm personal relationship at Blair's country home of Chequers, northwest of London.

``They really have a good friendship,'' said Marsha Berry, spokeswoman for first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. ``They have a lot of common interests.''

The Blairs and Clintons arrived at the stately 16th century estate on Clinton's presidential helicopter, which as it landed sent ripples through the grass on the vast, lush grounds.

The visit marks an interlude for the two leaders between a weekend Group of Eight summit and a U.S.-European Union summit on Monday.

After dinner at Chequers, the pair, with no more than a couple of dozen key aides, will talk shop away from the results-oriented pressures of summitry.

``They're able to talk about policies you don't normally talk about in bilaterals (one-on-one meetings),'' said a White House official who was preparing to take part. ``The informality provides an opportunity for real thinking, where ideas can be fully explored.''

Such sessions -- this will be the third between Clinton, 51, and Blair, 45 -- give the leaders a chance to compare notes on domestic policies, whereas most summit meetings are driven by foreign policy, the official said.

Clinton has been eager to discuss issues such as job training programs and welfare reform with foreign leaders he has met recently.

Chequers, surrounded by meadows and forests, has served at the country residence of the British prime minister since it was bequeathed to Britain in 1921. The estate is dominated by a broad brick-and-glass mansion house, built in 1565, with many gables and chimneys.

REUTERS

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 05/17/98 at 11:49EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 05/18/98 at 09:59EDT ****

BC-GROUP-WIVES

Birmingham puts on last display for G8 first wives

BIRMINGHAM, England, May 17 (Reuters) - Dancers from Birmingham's many races put on an exuberant display on Sunday for wives of the Group of Eight leaders on their last day in the central English city.

But Hillary Rodham Clinton, probably tired from the busy schedule of entertainments Cherie Blair had laid on for the wives while their husbands discussed world issues, failed to turn up -- to the disappointment of some local people.

Bernadette Chirac, wife of the French president, also passed up the festivities surrounding the start of a ``fun run'' for local charities.

Cherie Blair started the 500 runners off by snipping a red ribbon and sending hundreds of red, white and blue balloons floating into the sunny skies above the town hall.

The drums of India dancers in bright green, orange and white costumes competed with a jazz band and the music of white-clad English Morris dancers in the square in front of the town hall.

Young girls in red and green did Irish jigs and Spanish women danced flamencos for the wives in a vivid celebration of the city's multi-cultural population.

``Is the lady in the yellow suit President Clinton's wife?'' asked one young man.

``Oh, that's a shame,'' he said, when told he was pointing out the Italian prime minister's wife, Flavia Prodi. ``I went to America once and wanted to ask her if she remembered me.'' REUTERS

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 05/17/98 at 06:48EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 05/18/98 at 09:54EDT ****

BC-HEALTH-USA-REFORM (BUSINESS FEATURE)

FEATURE - U.S. takes small steps in health care reform

By Greg McCune

WASHINGTON, May 18 (Reuters) - In 1991, a man named Harris Wofford came out of nowhere to win a U.S. Senate seat in Pennsylvania with a call for a national health insurance scheme. ``It's time to take care of our own,'' was his campaign rallying cry that drew national attention.

Wofford's victory emboldened Democrats across the country and helped propel Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton to the White House in 1992 on a pledge to fix the U.S. health care system.

Now, fast forward seven years.

Wofford is gone, defeated for re-election in 1994 when Republicans seized majority control of Congress for the first time in 40 years. Bill Clinton is in the sixth year of his presidency and the United States still has no comprehensive health insurance scheme, or much prospect of one.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who championed her husband's failed health reform effort in 1993-94, seldom speaks about health care reform anymore.

What happened to the great cause of health care?

``The national health insurance debate is dead, buried and gone,'' said Henry Aaron, a health policy expert at the Brookings Institution think-tank.

``The president and the Democratic party suffered a major political reversal in 1994 which many attributed to the health insurance debate,'' said Aaron. ``Given what happened to President Clinton, no president Democrat or Republican, will try again for years to come.''

HEALTH CARE NO LONGER THE TOP ISSUE

In the 1998 Congressional election campaign, education seems to be the hot issue, not health care.

``It (health care) is still certainly in the top ten and people would like something done. But they certainly don't want anything comprehensive,'' said political pollster John Zogby.

Not surprisingly, most of the health care issues that sparked public outrage in 1991 and 1992 are still around and some new ones have emerged.

The U.S. health system remains an uneasy mix of private and public insurance.

The number of Americans without health insurance of any kind has risen slightly since the beginning of the decade to about 15.6 percent of the population or about 40 million people in 1996. Tens of millions more are under-insured, meaning their coverage is inadequate to protect from financial ruin due to catastrophic illness.

Of those Americans with insurance, about 70 percent get it from private sources, mainly through their jobs. Some 13 percent are insured by the Medicare government programme for the elderly, and 12 percent by the Medicaid government programme for the poor. About three percent are insured through the military.

While some progress has been made in capping costs, the United States still spends more of its total economic output on health care than any other major industrial country -- some 13.6 percent compared with 10 percent for Germany and Canada, and just seven percent for Britain and Japan. And the cost of health services still is rising at more than the rate of inflation -- 4.4 percent in 1996.

Nor do Americans seem particularly content with their health care. A recent national survey of 1,005 adults By Luntz Research Companies found 62.4 percent believed the quality of health care had either stayed the same or deteriorated in the last decade. Only 34.3 percent thought quality had increased.

A new issue is anger at Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), the financial intermediaries that have come to dominate the private sector. They are blamed for abuses such as cutting back on the length of hospital stays and rigid rules that prevent patients from seeing the doctor of their choice. The opinion survey found that a majority of HMO members believe the quality of their health care has deteriorated.

STRATEGY OF BABY STEPS NOT GIANT STRIDES

Unable to reform the system in one fell swoop, the Clinton administration and reform advocates have settled instead for incremental change.

``Although I feel strongly about many issues, such as health care, sometimes in a democracy we have to take baby steps and not giant strides,'' Hillary Clinton said recently in response to a question about U.S. health care.

In 1996, the White House joined veteran Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy and respected Republican Nancy Kassebaum in securing a law making it easier for Americans who changed or lost their jobs to continue health insurance coverage.

Then last year as part of a White House agreement with the Republican Congress on a balanced budget, some significant changes were made to the Medicare and Medicaid programmes, and there were improvements to health care for children.

This year Clinton mentioned just two health care initiatives in his State of the Union address:

-- a so-called patient bill of rights that would set standards for how patients are treated.

-- a proposal to let Americans between the ages of 55 and 64 buy into the Medicare programme in certain circumstances including early retirement, when they are laid off or lose health coverage because spouses retire.

Some form of patient bill of rights could get through Congress this year, analysts said. But Clinton's proposal to expand Medicare has little chance.

This is partly because the booming U.S. economy has improved the outlook for Medicare. The government reported last month that Medicare's Hospital Insurance programme would be solvent until 2008, seven years longer than estimated a year ago.

Another excuse for delaying action on Medicare this year is that Clinton and Congress appointed a bipartisan commission to study how to reform Medicare and report back in 1999 -- conveniently after the congressional elections.

One issue sure to figure prominently in the commission's debate is the impact of the ageing ``baby boomers'' born after World War Two and before the mid-1960s. Currently, one in eight Americans is age 65 or older. But by the year 2030, shortly after the last of the baby boomers has turned 65, the elderly could account for one in five Americans, adding substantially to the health care burden. REUTERS

HRC Clips

Paris News Clips and Translations
Tuesday, May 12, 1998-
Thursday, May 14, 1998

From: USIS/PRESS FLORENCE THOMAS

PARIS - THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1998

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1 Hillary Clinton's Visit To France
2. Nuclear Issues
3. President Clinton To Europe
4. Kosovo
5. Middle East Peace Process

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

Hillary Clinton's last day in France is widely reported in the press and in several AFP dispatches. Right-of-center France Soir titles its photo report of the day "The First Lady's Crazy Parisian Day" and gives details of a program which took the First Lady from the Senate to the Elysee and Matignon. Prime Minister Jospin is quoted in an AFP dispatch: 'Our meeting on Wednesday was extremely pleasant, very frank and direct.'(See Part C)

Washington's decision to apply economic sanctions against India is widely reported. Editorials condemn the fact that Washington treats India, "the largest democracy in the world" like Libya or Iran. (See Part C)

President Clinton's stop in Berlin, his support for Helmut Kohl and the role he played in the EMU and for a 'strong partnership between the EU and the U.S.' is reported. (See Part C)

Right-of-center Les Echos reports on Washington's breakthrough in Kosovo and says that "when U.S. diplomacy wants to, it can be successful." (See Part C)

Left-of-center Le Nouvel Observateur analyzes the reasons behind Netanyahu's "arrogance" toward the U.S. (See Part C)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

Hillary Clinton's Visit To France

"Hillary Charms Chirac"
Right-of-center Le Figaro (05/14): "Hillary Clinton's second day in France was more political than her first day spent in Correze...From the Elysee to Matignon, with a stop at the Senate, Mrs Clinton seems to have 'charmed' her audience, including President Chirac. His wife said about Mrs Clinton:'she is a remarkable woman, with incredible strength of character. Everything interests her. She has a tremendous memory and an incredible power of concentration...She is very kind and courteous, and speaks with ease about almost any subject wherever she is in the world.'"

"Mrs Clinton For President?"
Left-of-center Liberation quotes Mrs Chirac (05/14): "Mrs Clinton rejected the idea of running for the presidency. I believe she is protecting herself a little before possibly making another decision later on."

"The First Lady And The Internet"
AFP Dispatch (05/13): "On Wednesday, Mrs Clinton held a three way dialogue via the Internet between the National School For Chemistry Physics and Biology in Paris, the Washington D.C. Kramer Junior High and Brooklyn's School for Global Studies. A Joint program organized by the CNES and NASA"

Nuclear Issues

"Hypocrisy"
Jacques Amalric in left-of-center Liberation (05/14): "We can no longer make believe the problem will go away. All the more so because China continues with its own nuclear program, with the tacit approval of the West, which discreetly helps Pakistan. This somewhat hypocritical conduct does not excuse India, but it does to a certain extent explain it."

"Deterrence For India And Pakistan"
Pascal Aubert in centrist La Tribune (05/14): "India is not Libya or Iran...The U.S. is putting in the same bag a respectable nation and other regimes such as those of Saddam Hussein or Kadhafi...Could we not imagine that deterrence could work just as well for India and Pakistan, as it has for the East West nuclear balance?"

"Clinton Wants To Sanction India"
Jean-Jacques Mevel in right-of-center Le Figaro (05/14): "The U.S. would like to avoid escalation and dissmiss the feeling that it is impotent...Washington's answer to Delhi is commensurate with the level of frustration and impotence the U.S. is experiencing...But India, which is a growing economic power and the largest democracy in the world, deserves a different treatment than that reserved for Iraq and North Korea."

President Clinton To Europe

"President Clinton Congratulates Kohl"
Patrick de Saint Exupery in right-of-center Le Figaro (05/14): "President Clinton wanted to celebrate the special bond that ties the U.S. to its first European commercial partner...He also wanted to show his support for the European currency, and his friend Helmut Kohl...He also spoke in favor of a 'strong partnership between the European Union and the U.S.'"

Kosovo

"U.S. Diplomacy Breaks Through In Kosovo"
Right-of-center Les Echos in its editorial (05/14): "For the

first time, Milosevic and Rugova will meet thanks to a U.S. initiative. Proof that when U.S. diplomacy wants to, it can win...Washington's position remains modest because it is convinced this is only a first step...With Milosevic, one needs to remain extremely cautious."

Middle East Peace Process

"This Time Its War...Between Netanyahu And The U.S."
Josette Alia in left-of-center weekly Le Nouvel Observateur (05/14): "The new confrontation pitting Israel against the U.S. has the makings of an extremely tough personal confrontation between Netanyahu and Clinton. A confrontation orchestrated by Netanyahu that will certainly leave some scars...The situation is serious because to add to Clinton's humiliation, Netanyahu is attacking Clinton on his own home ground...Furthermore, Netanyahu is convinced that Clinton can do nothing to force his hand." SNOW
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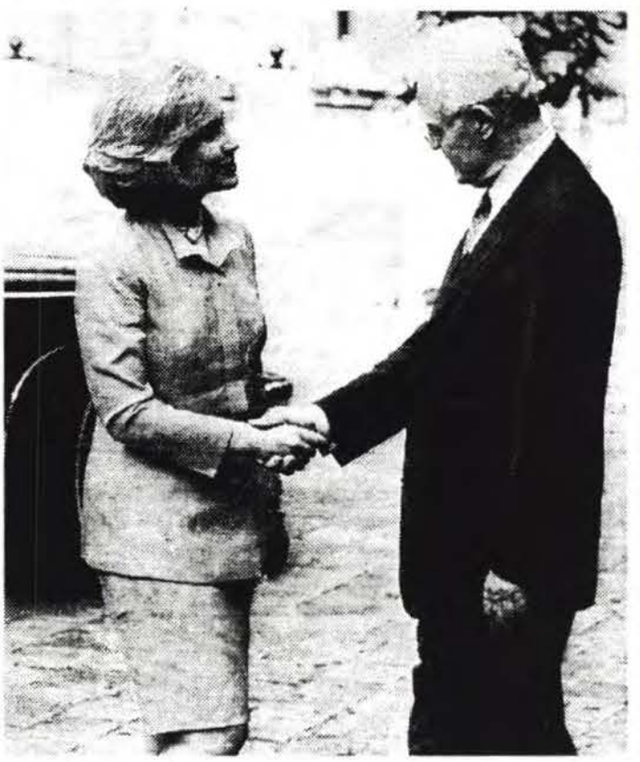
La folle journée de la First Lady à Paris

10 h 20. En tailleur bleu turquoise, Hillary Clinton entame sa journée marathon dans Paris. Première étape, le Sénat, où l'ont accueillie Bernadette Chirac et René Monory. Un président du Sénat particulièrement bien entouré hier puisque, pour sa seconde journée en France, la First Lady rencontrait au palais du Luxembourg une quinzaine de femmes, personnalités de la vie politique et culturelle. Hillary a eu un petit mot pour chacune d'elles.

12 h 30. Big bisou entre Jacques Chirac et Hillary, visiblement ravis de se revoir. Le président de la République et son épouse recevaient leur invitée d'honneur pour un déjeuner à l'Elysée. Bernadette était aux anges et a confié qu'elle verrait bien son amie américaine en première présidente des Etats-Unis.

15 heures. Face-à-face féminin à l'Ecole nationale de chimie, physique et biologie à Paris, où Ségolène Royal a offert une médaille commémorative à la First Lady. Le ministre délégué à l'Enseignement secondaire a ensuite fait les honneurs de l'école à son hôte.



17 h 30. Pas de jaloux, Lionel Jospin a lui aussi eu un entretien en tête à tête avec Hillary Clinton à Matignon. Très décontracté, le Premier ministre, qui s'exprimait en anglais, a écouté la première dame des Etats-Unis lui expliquer à quel point elle venait de passer un « wonderful day ». Hillary n'a toutefois pas eu le temps de faire du shopping. Comme souvenir, Bill n'aura le droit qu'à quelques cravates achetées au magasin de l'ambassade américaine.

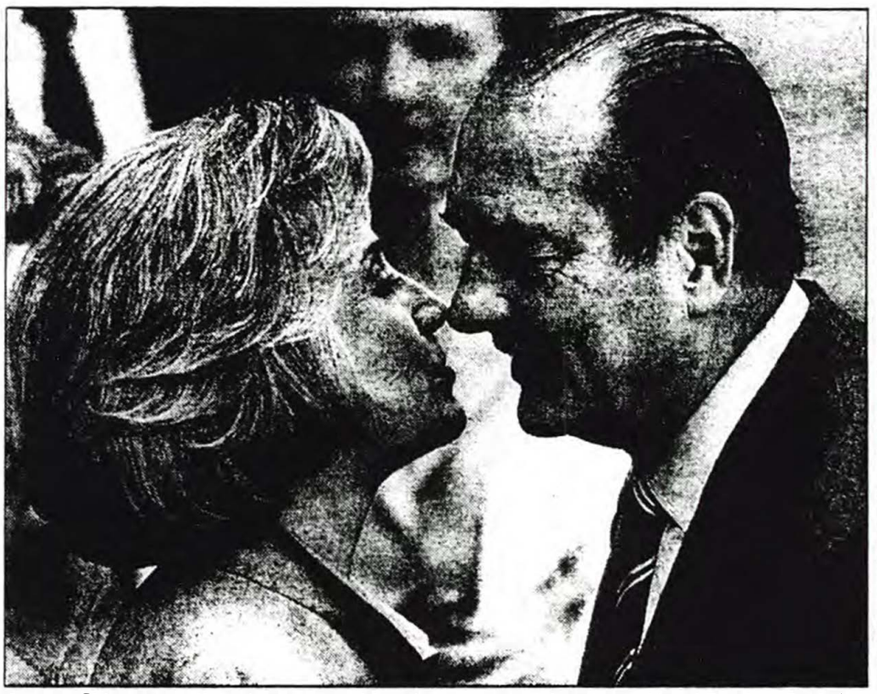
Photos AFP, AP et FRANCE-SOIR (Xavier Lhospice)

// France - Soir // (2)
MAY 14

Une « première dame » à Paris

Hillary Clinton de l'Elysée à Matignon

La deuxième étape de son périple français a été beaucoup plus politique que sa journée en Corrèze, la veille.



Jacques Chirac a eu « l'air absolument subjugué » par son invitée, selon le député Roselyne Bachelot, qui participait à la réception de la première dame américaine. (Photo Jacky Naegelen/Reuter.)

Bernadette vote Hillary. Persuadée qu'*« un jour, une femme sera certainement chef d'Etat en Amérique »*, l'épouse de Jacques Chirac verrait bien celle de Bill Clinton succéder à son mari et elle l'a dit hier, lors de la conférence de presse qui suivait le déjeuner de la « première dame » des Etats-Unis à l'Elysée. La Française a trouvé l'Américaine *« très remarquable »*, douée d'*« une force de caractère peu commune, d'une mémoire considérable »*, *« s'intéressant à tout et possédant une grande faculté d'attention »*. Avec ça, *« très aimable, très courtoise, prenant la parole avec énormément de facilité et capable de parler de n'importe quel sujet dans n'importe quel pays »*. Pas étonnant que Jacques Chirac ait eu *« l'air absolument subjugué »* par son invitée, selon Roselyne Bachelot, qui participait aux agapes en tant que député-femme RPR du Maine-et-Loire.

Comme Bernadette Chirac, pour qui Hillary Clinton *« se protège »* en récusant toute ambition présidentielle *« avant de prendre plus tard, peut-être, une autre décision »*, Roselyne Bachelot n'a *« pas tellement été convaincue par son « non »»* à la question de la presse sur sa candidature à la présidence des Etats-Unis, *« parce qu'elle ne l'a pas motivé »*. Elle a pensé que *« c'était un « non » diplomatique »*.

En tout, le déjeuner élyséen réunissait une quinzaine de femmes françaises, élues et représentantes de la société civile, avec lesquelles Hillary Clinton s'était d'abord entretenue au Sénat, dans la matinée. *« Des femmes toutes remarquables dans leur vie politique et professionnelle »*, selon Bernadette Chirac. Parmi elles, l'académicienne Hélène Carrère d'Encausse, les députés Anne-Marie Idrac (UDF) et Catherine Tasca (PS), Marie-Thérèse Hermange, député européen, Noëlle Lenoir, membre du Conseil constitutionnel, la présidente du CNJA (Centre national des jeunes agriculteurs) Christiane Lambert, ainsi que les proviseurs du Lycée Henri-IV à Paris et d'un lycée de Livry-Gargan (Seine-Saint-Denis).

« Fighting »

Catherine Tasca, qui a trouvé *« Mme Clinton très attentive »*, a visiblement été interloquée par sa description de la situation des femmes qui veulent se lancer en politique aux Etats-Unis : *« Elles doivent faire le choix elles-mêmes avec leurs moyens sans les appareils des partis. »* La présidente socialiste de la commission des lois n'a pas précisé si cette indépendance lui semblait un atout ou un handicap.

Christiane Lambert a profité de l'occasion pour plaider la cause des agriculteurs : *« Je lui ai dit que j'élevais des porcs en Anjou et que je produisais du blé et du maïs, productions sur lesquelles nous avons un vrai « fighting » avec les Etats-Unis. Elle a souri. J'espère qu'elle s'en souviendra dans les futures négociations. »*

Vers 17 h 45, Hillary Clinton s'est rendue à Matignon, dans la limousine blindée spécialement importée des Etats-Unis qu'elle a utilisée dès la première étape de son déplacement, hier, en Corrèze. Contrairement à Jacques Chirac, Lionel Jospin n'a pas embrassé la visiteuse mais lui a longuement serré la main devant les photographes. Il l'a reçue selon le protocole réservé aux chefs d'Etat, avec tapis rouge et gardes républicains. Elle n'a fait aucune déclaration à sa sortie.

J. W.

Figaro MAY 14

Liberation - May 14, 1998

TIQUES

:ment de la loi contre les exclusions.

léputés vont plus in que Besson

uer par le ministre du Logement, va aborder les questions d'insalubrité.

:aient vée». Ils ont également, contre l'avis du rapporteur et du gouvernement, adopté un amendement de Jean-François Mattéi (UDF, Bouches-du-Rhône) facilitant l'accès au FSL des malades atteints du sida. Le rapporteur, Alain Cacheux (PS, Nord), comme le secrétaire d'Etat au Logement, Louis Besson, ont fait valoir que le fonds de solidarité s'adressait à toutes les personnes en difficulté et qu'il n'y avait pas lieu d'établir une liste des *«personnes prioritaires»*. En vain.

Différences de plafonds. Au chapitre des moyens dont est doté le FSL pour accomplir sa mission, Besson a rappelé qu'il s'agissait d'un financement engageant plusieurs partenaires: l'Etat, les départements, les caisses d'allocations familiales... Le fonds de solidarité devrait disposer de un milliard de francs en 1999. Le chevènementiste Georges Sarre (RCV, Paris) est intervenu pour

«Va-t-on être plus frileux que le précédent gouvernement? La chose [la réquisition], vous fait peur et le mot aussi!» Georges Sarre

officiel), de la mixité sociale en HLM ou de la taxe d'inhabitation (sur logements vacants).

La nuit précédente, les députés avaient achevé et adopté les quinze premiers articles, consacrés à l'accès à l'emploi. A 23h20, sans transition ni discours, le passage de relais s'est fait entre marathoniens avertis: Martine Aubry a cédé sa place à Louis Besson. Georges Sarre est parti bille en tête sur la réquisition des logements vacants. A six reprises, le maire du XIe arrondissement de Paris est revenu à la charge, sans mâcher ses mots, réfutant l'appellation de *«malentendus avec le gouvernement»*, pour lui préférer celle de *«désaccords»*. *«Va-t-on être plus frileux que le précédent gouvernement? La chose* (la réquisition, ndlr) *vous fait peur et le mot aussi!»*

«Zinzins». Imperturbable, Besson a aligné ses objections, dont le coût. *«Les 500 premières réquisitions ont coûté*

Bernadette voit Hillary présidente

Au deuxième jour de la visite en France d'Hillary Clinton, Bernadette Chirac a jugé hier que l'épouse du président des Etats-Unis est une femme *«extrêmement remarquable, qui a une force de caractère peu commune, qui s'intéresse à tout, qui est douée d'une mémoire considérable et a une grande faculté d'attention»*. Au cours d'un rencontre le matin au Sénat avec des femmes françaises, élues et représentantes de la société civile, la question d'une éventuelle candidature d'Hillary Clinton à la présidence des Etats-Unis *«lui a été posée par Laurence Parisot»*, PDG de l'Ifop, a raconté Bernadette Chirac.

«Elle a répondu "non". Je pense qu'elle se protège un tout petit peu avant de prendre plus tard peut-être une autre décision», a ajouté l'épouse du président français, pour qui, *«un jour, une femme sera chef d'Etat certainement en Amérique»*.

UDF: les adhérents boudent le questionnaire...

Un vrai bide. Le questionnaire envoyé à tous les adhérents de l'UDF (entre 90000 et 100000) pour décider de l'avenir de leur confédération, n'avait recueilli, hier soir, que 1500 réponses. Les militants ont jusqu'à demain pour renvoyer leurs souhaits. Il s'agit pour eux de décider s'ils souhaitent ou non une fusion des cinq composantes de l'UDF.

Le nombre ridicule de réponses tient au caractère alambiqué des questions et à l'attitude de certains dirigeants, comme Alain Madelin, hostiles à la fusion et décidés à saboter l'opération de consultation de la base.

... et Madelin boycotte le bureau politique

Le bureau politique de l'UDF s'est réuni hier sans Alain Madelin et ses amis, bien décidés à quitter la confédération. En leur absence, François Bayrou et François Léotard ont persisté à demander la fusion des composantes de l'UDF. Mais ils n'ont pas précisé s'ils main-

Europe-Mrs. Clinton 131710 may 9

Mrs. Clinton inaugurates on-line research for French, U.S. schools
APPhotos available
By MARILYN AUGUST
Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton went on-line Wednesday to inaugurate a translantic computer hook-up between French and American students studying satellite images of their cities.

The American first lady, on the second and final day of her visit to France, sat in front of a brightly-colored computer screen at the high-tech lab school in Paris where dozens of teens connected via the Internet to the Kramer Junior High School of Washington D.C. and New York's Brooklyn School for Global Studies.

Students from the American School of Paris were also on hand for the demonstration, and translated the sometimes difficult technical language for Mrs. Clinton.

U.S. Ambassador Felix Rohatyn, his wife Elizabeth and Segolene Royal, France's deputy education minister, also participated, as the students toured their cities' major landmarks, comparing vegetation, water sources and anti-pollution measures.

"You didn't show us where I live," Mrs. Clinton chided a Washington student who didn't point out the White House.

"I want to make sure it's still there while I'm gone."

The Ecole Nationale de la Chimie, Physique et Biologie ranks among France's top science high schools and, unlike the majority of French schools, boasts the latest computer technology.

Mrs. Clinton, who leaves Thursday for Geneva before joining her husband in Birmingham, England, on Friday, had coffee Wednesday morning with Sylviane Agacinski-Jospin, the wife of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

Agacinski-Jospin, a philosopher, rarely meets even privately with visiting dignitaries.

Mrs. Clinton then attended a round table discussion on women in politics at the Senate with a group of prominent French women.

But the highlight of the trip was the hour-long on-line exchange developed jointly by NASA and the French Space Agency to show students that satellite imagery is vital to studying the environment, agriculture, geology and mapping.

"We explore space on behalf of humanity," Mrs. Clinton told the students in a class room on the 15th floor of the newly renovated school. This project allows you to touch space.

"As for the Ariane 5 rocket and space shuttle," she said in an aside to the teachers, "I don't understand anything about it, but I'm glad you do so you can teach it to our students."

NASA administrator Daniel Goldin joined in live from New York, applauding Mrs. Clinton's commitment to reinforcing math and science in public schools.

The students used Titus, French-designed software, to read the satellite images.

"I was a little nervous at first, because she's such an important personality, but things went fine," said Vincent Mentibes, 20, who led the tour of Paris. (ma-eg)

France-USA-Hillary lead
Bernadette Chirac rend hommage à Hillary Clinton, "femme très remarquable"

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Bernadette Chirac a rendu hommage mercredi à Hillary Clinton, "une femme très remarquable", sans exclure qu'elle puisse un jour être élue présidente des Etats-Unis.

Au cours d'une rencontre avec la presse à l'issue d'un déjeuner offert à l'Elysée par le président Jacques Chirac à l'épouse du président des Etats-Unis, Bernadette Chirac a jugé qu'Hillary Clinton était une femme "extrêmement remarquable, qui a une force de caractère peu commune, qui s'intéresse à tout, qui est douée d'une mémoire considérable et a une grande faculté d'attention".

"C'est une femme très aimable, très courtoise, qui prend la parole avec énormément de facilité et peut parler de n'importe quel sujet, dans n'importe quel pays", a-t-elle ajouté.

Ce déjeuner faisait suite à une rencontre avec quinze femmes françaises, élues et représentantes de la société civile, qui s'est déroulée mercredi matin au Sénat. Au cours de cette table ronde, la question d'une éventuelle candidature d'Hillary Clinton à la présidence des Etats-Unis "lui a été posée par Laurence Parisot", PDG de l'IFOP, a dit Bernadette Chirac.

"Elle a répondu +non+. Je pense qu'elle se protège un tout petit peu avant de prendre plus tard peut-être une autre décision", a dit l'épouse du président français pour qui, "un jour, une femme sera chef d'Etat certainement en Amérique".

"Elle nous a répondu +non+. Mais c'est drôle, je n'ai pas tellement été convaincue par son +non+, parce qu'elle ne l'a pas motivé. Et j'ai pensé que c'était un +non+ diplomatique", a pour sa part commenté Roselyne Bachelot, député RPR du Maine-et-Loire, qui a participé à la table ronde au Sénat puis au déjeuner à l'Elysée.

Roselyne Bachelot a également confié que le président Jacques Chirac "avait l'air absolument subjugué par Hillary Clinton" au cours de ce déjeuner "extrêmement sympathique".

"Je lui ai dit que j'élevais des porcs en Anjou et que je produisais du blé et du maïs, productions sur lesquelles nous avions un vrai +fighting+ avec les Etats-Unis", a pour sa part indiqué la présidente du Centre national des jeunes agriculteurs (CNJA) Christiane Lambert. "Elle a souri et j'espère qu'elle s'en souviendra dans les futures négociations".

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AFP /AA1234/131549 MAI 98

France-USA-Hillary
Trois quarts d'heure de rencontre entre Hillary Clinton et Lionel Jospin

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Lionel Jospin a reçu mercredi pendant trois quarts d'heure Hillary Clinton dans son bureau de l'Hôtel de Matignon.

A l'issue de cet "entretien de courtoisie", l'épouse du président américain s'est refusée à toute déclaration, se contentant d'un signe amical de la main à l'adresse de la presse.

Mme Clinton était arrivée à 17h30 à Matignon, où elle avait été accueillie au bas des marches du perron central par Lionel Jospin.

Pour la venue d'Hillary Clinton, Matignon avait mis en place le protocole réservé aux chefs d'Etat, avec tapis rouge et gardes républicains.

Mme Clinton était accompagnée de l'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Paris Felix Rohatyn et de son épouse.

Le matin, Hillary Clinton avait reçu l'épouse de Lionel Jospin, Sylviane, à la résidence de l'ambassade pour un petit déjeuner en tête-à-tête.

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AFP /AA1234/131842 MAI 98

France-USA-Hillary
Lionel Jospin: "un entretien extrêmement agréable, très franc et très direct" avec Mme Clinton

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Le Premier ministre Lionel Jospin a qualifié mercredi "d'extrêmement agréable, très franc et très direct", son entretien avec Hillary Clinton, a rapporté son entourage.

Lionel Jospin a reçu pendant trois quarts d'heure l'épouse du président américain dans son bureau à Matignon, à la demande de Mme Clinton, a-t-on ajouté.

Au cours de cet entretien qui s'est déroulé en anglais, l'éducation et la santé, deux thèmes chers à Mme Clinton, ainsi que l'emploi et les nouvelles technologies ont été évoqués, de même que le prochain voyage de Lionel Jospin en juin aux Etats-Unis.

Hillary Clinton a noté auprès de son interlocuteur qu'elle avait rencontré au cours de son séjour en France des élus de toutes tendances politiques.

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AFP /AA1234/131903 MAI 98

France-USA-Hillary
Hillary Clinton découvre la Maison blanche depuis un lycée parisien

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Hillary Clinton a pu, mercredi à Paris, découvrir et vérifier de visu que la Maison blanche restait "fidèle au poste" pendant son absence.

En visite en France, l'épouse du président des Etats-Unis s'est rendue en effet mercredi après midi en compagnie de Ségolène Royal, ministre déléguée à l'Enseignement scolaire, à l'Ecole nationale de chimie de Paris (ENCP) et y a assisté à un échange d'images spatiales via Internet entre établissements français et américains.

Organisée par la NASA et le CNES, l'expérience permet d'analyser des images provenant des satellites d'observation de la terre et de comparer les données. Ainsi, les lycéens parisiens ont fait visiter leur ville à la première dame américaine lui montrant sur écran la Seine, l'Arc de triomphe, le Louvre et l'ambassade des Etats-Unis.

Parallèlement, des élèves de la Brooklyn school for global studies ont fait apparaître New-York et ses gratte-ciels tandis que ceux de la Kramer Junior High de Washington ont montré la capitale fédérale.

"Qu'est-il arrivé à ma maison, mon chat, mon chien?" a demandé Hillary Clinton soupirant d'aise quand on lui a montré la Maison Blanche. "Je voulais m'assurer qu'elle était toujours là quand je n'y suis pas", a-t-elle dit tandis que Ségolène Royal expliquait aux jeunes américains étonnés la nouvelle législation limitant le nombre de voitures à Paris pendant les pics de pollution.

Pendant la visite, Daniel Goldin, directeur de la NASA, est lui aussi apparu sur Internet pour souhaiter aux jeunes participant à l'échange d'être "un de ceux qui fouleront les premiers la rouge et craquante surface de la planète Mars".

En quittant l'ENCPB, Mme Clinton a offert à l'école une photo prise de la navette spatiale et le drapeau français que l'astronaute Jean-Luc Chrétien avait emporté dans la station orbital Mir.

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AFP /AA1234/131927 MAI 98

France-USA-Hillary prév
Hillary Clinton en France: une journée dans les palais nationaux (PHOTO)
Par Philippe GOULLIAUD

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Hillary Clinton a passé sa journée parisienne de mercredi dans les palais nationaux, du Sénat à l'Hôtel Matignon en passant par l'Elysée, après avoir eu mardi en Corrèze, terre électorale de Jacques et Bernadette Chirac, un aperçu de "la France profonde".

Mercredi matin, après un petit-déjeuner à la résidence de l'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Paris avec Sylviane Agacinski, l'épouse du Premier ministre Lionel Jospin, Hillary Clinton, vêtue d'un tailleur bleu turquoise vif, s'est rendue au Palais du Luxembourg.

La Première dame des Etats-Unis et Bernadette Chirac y ont été accueillies par le président du Sénat René Monory, avant de participer à une table ronde avec quinze femmes, élues ou représentantes de la société civile, qui "se sont imposées dans la vie politique ou professionnelle".

Parmi "ces femmes d'excellence", selon l'expression de Bernadette Chirac, les députés Roselyne Bachelot (RPR), Anne-Marie Idrac (UDF) et Catherine Tasca (PS), le sénateur Hélène Luc (PCF), deux députés européens RPR l'académicienne Hélène Carrère d'Encausse et Marie-Thérèse Hermange, Noëlle Lenoir, membre du Conseil constitutionnel, la présidente du CNJA Christiane Lambert, ainsi que les proviseurs du Lycée Henri IV à Paris et d'un lycée de Livry-Gargan (Seine-Saint-Denis).

L'émergence des femmes en politique, leur activité professionnelle et les questions d'éducation ont été les principaux sujets abordés au cours de cette rencontre. La communiste Hélène Luc a félicité Hillary Clinton pour ses déclarations en faveur d'un Etat palestinien, qui ont suscité la polémique.

Laurence Parisot, PDG de l'IFOP, a posé la question que beaucoup avaient en tête: Hillary Clinton sera-t-elle un jour élue présidente des Etats-Unis?

"Elle nous a répondu +non+. Mais c'est drôle, je n'ai pas tellement été convaincue. Et j'ai pensé que c'était un +non+ diplomatique", a commenté Roselyne Bachelot.

"Elle a répondu +non+. Je pense qu'elle se protège un tout petit peu avant de prendre plus tard peut-être une autre décision", a estimé Bernadette Chirac pour qui, "un jour, certainement, une femme sera chef d'Etat en Amérique".

Bernadette séduite par Hillary

Quoi qu'il en soit, Bernadette Chirac a été séduite par l'épouse du président Bill Clinton, qu'elle avait déjà rencontrée à plusieurs reprises, en France, aux Etats-Unis et en Chine, et qu'elle retrouvera ce week-end au G8 de Birmingham.

C'est une femme "extrêmement remarquable, qui a une force de caractère peu commune, qui s'intéresse à tout, qui est douée d'une mémoire considérable et a une grande faculté d'attention", a-t-elle dit à l'issue d'un déjeuner à l'Elysée avec Jacques Chirac et les participantes à la table ronde du Sénat.

Selon son porte-parole Catherine Colonna, "le président de la République a été particulièrement heureux de la visite d'Hillary Clinton en France à l'invitation de Bernadette Chirac". Pour Roselyne Bachelot, il a même été "subjugué" par la First lady.

Dans l'après-midi, Hillary Clinton est retournée en classe en compagnie de Ségolène Royal, ministre de l'Enseignement scolaire. Elle a eu droit à une démonstration d'échanges transatlantiques par Internet, mettant en connexion écoles en France et aux Etats-Unis et chercheurs dans le domaine de l'espace.

Etape suivante, Matignon pour un "entretien de courtoisie" de trois quarts d'heure avec Lionel Jospin. Pour l'occasion, le protocole réservé aux chefs d'Etat avait été déployé, avec tapis rouge et gardes républicains.

L'entretien, a souligné le Premier ministre, a été "extrêmement agréable, très franc et très direct".

Tirant le bilan de ces deux journées passées avec Hillary Clinton, Bernadette Chirac s'est réjouie de lui avoir donné, en Corrèze comme à Paris, "une jolie image de la France".

phg/gw/swi
AFP /AA1234/131940 MAI 98

France-USA-Hillary
Hillary Clinton dîne dans un bistrot de luxe dans le centre de Paris

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Hillary Clinton devait dîner mercredi soir chez "Benoît", un bistrot de luxe situé dans le centre de Paris, a-t-on appris de sources concordantes.

Ce dîner privé réunissait notamment l'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Paris, Felix Rohatyn, et son épouse, ainsi que des personnalités françaises, a-t-on appris de bonne source, sans plus de précision.

La direction de l'établissement s'est refusée à tout commentaire sur ce dîner de l'épouse du président des Etats-Unis, Bill Clinton.

Le restaurant est un haut lieu de la gastronomie dans le style bistrot, très fréquenté notamment par le monde politique.

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AFP /AA1234/132024 MAI 98

Clinton-Europe,0682 140115 may 9

Clinton says Europe, with U.S. support, at threshold of full integration
AP Photos BER103-105, 108-113
By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press Writer

BERLIN (AP) - In the heart of reunited Germany, U.S. President Bill Clinton praised the country's leadership in building better European relations, even if the ties sometimes become frayed.

"There will be times when we disagree," Clinton said Wednesday, without citing examples. "But occasional lack of consensus must never result in lasting cracks in our cohesion."

Clinton delivered his speech at the Schauspielhaus concert hall in Berlin's formerly communist-controlled eastern sector.

In Germany on the first stop of a week-long European visit, Clinton took a **helicopter** ride to Potsdam, on the outskirts of Berlin, for a **meeting** with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The two **leaders** met at Sans Souci, the 18th-Century palace that served as the **summer** residence of Frederick the Great. After lunch, they visited **Frederick**'s gravesite, then strolled through the palace's terraced garden under bright sunshine.

Clinton said the issues they discussed - the stability of Russia and easing trade barriers, strengthening international institutions such as NATO and encouraging the success of a common European currency - proved that Europe is on its way toward harmonious unity.

"Now, for the first time, the dream is within reach, and not through conquest, but through the decision of free people," Clinton said.

The praise was overshadowed by Clinton's announcement that he is imposing economic sanctions on India in response to its series of nuclear test explosions. Kohl said Germany would study whether to do the same.

Clinton also gave a glowing endorsement of Kohl, Europe's longest serving leader, who faces a tough re-election challenge this year. In his speech, Clinton saluted the leading role Kohl played in European integration.

He offered a quote by former Chancellor Willy Brandt, who was mayor of West Berlin when the Soviet Union erected the Berlin Wall in 1961, to express his sentiment: "Es waechst zusammen, was zusamengehoert" - "What belongs together is growing together."

"This magic moment in history did not simply arrive," Clinton said. "It was made, and made largely by the vision and determined leadership of Germany and its chancellor."

Speaking directly to Kohl, Clinton said: "The world is in your debt."

Noting ceremonies planned for Thursday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-led Berlin airlift, Kohl said the United States has been a reliable friend.

Liberation, May 13, 1998

EN CORREZE, LE G2 DES FIRST LADIES

Bernadette Chirac a fait visiter hier son pays à Hillary Cl

Corrèze *envoyée spéciale*

Quand, il y a quelques semaines, la varicelle frappe à Corrèze (1500 âmes au cœur des terres chiraquiennes), c'est toute la Maison Blanche qui se gratte. C'est qu'Hillary doit aller voir Bernadette. Une poignée d'hommes en noir a débarqué le 1er mai dans le village, histoire de vérifier que les limousines pourront braquer dans les ruelles, histoire aussi de se renseigner sur l'épidémie. A Paris, l'Elysée a fait des points réguliers sur l'avancée des boutons. Finalement, à part un cas à la maternelle, la varicelle n'a pas refait parler d'elle. Le G2 des *First Ladies* pouvait commencer.

Hillary Clinton a inauguré hier la liaison Washington-Limoges. Elle est venue honorer la promesse faite à Bernadette Chirac un jour de juin 1996 lors d'un G7 à Lyon. Ce jour-là, aime à raconter l'épouse du chef de l'Etat français, elle avait été surprise d'apprendre que dame Chirac cultivait son petit jardin politique: maire adjointe de Sarran, elle est aussi conseillère générale depuis dix-neuf ans… sur les terres de son mari.

Mais, hier, foin des bons-hommes et des problèmes qui vont avec. C'était le jour des dames. Pas le modèle corrézien, «*dure à la tâche*» et silencieuse à table, dont Jacques Chirac parlait il y a quelques années avec des trémolos dans la voix. Non, le brushing surgonflé, le tailleur bouton d'or pour l'Américaine, bleu marine avec sac à main pour la Française, le genre femmes de pouvoir qui respirent loin des tracas de leurs présidents de mari. Il fut si peu question d'eux.

Au passage des vingt-deux voitures du cortège, sourire narquois d'un gendarme réquisitionné: «*C'est madame Chirac qui fait visiter sa réserve d'Indiens.*» Première étape: le conseil général sur les hauteurs de Tulle, installé dans les murs d'une ancienne chapelle rénovée. Les services américains sont sur les dents: la France profonde, pas encore remise d'approcher Washington. Jean-Pierre Bechter, président du groupe de la majorité de droite, ne se tient plus: «*Je souhaite à votre pays que vous en soyez élue première femme présidente.*» Le communiste Jacques Chaminade ne goûte plus l'antiaméricanisme que dans son assiette: «*Naturellement, nous préférons la viande limousine et le veau fermier de Corrèze à la viande de MacDo.*» Il n'y a finalement que le socialiste René Teulade – ancien président de la FNMF (Fédération nationale de la mutualité française) – pour la titiller un peu, tout en s'excusant de le faire, sur son abandon de la réforme du système de santé américain.

Hillary Clinton a du métier. Peu importe qu'elle ait pris un simple conseil général pour un gouvernement local. Son ami Bernadette lui a refilé quelques fiches sur la Corrèze. «*C'est un honneur tout particulier de voir la beauté et l'histoire de cette région à travers les yeux de madame Chirac*», dit-elle. Aussi la voilà qui s'émerveille: «*Nous, en Amérique, on aime beaucoup les autoroutes. Je vous félicite pour les nouvelles A 20 et A 89, qui, je l'espère, vous apporteront la prospérité.*» La voilà même – gros effort pour tout Américain – qui s'intéresse à une compétition du Vieux Continent: «*Je vous félicite pour le Tour de France en Corrèze. Je sais que c'est quelque chose pour lequel madame Chirac s'est beaucoup battue.*» Laquelle boit du petit lait.

A l'école maternelle, pas de boutonneux en vue, probablement assignés à résidence. Maîtresse à la guitare et chant de la classe en anglais ne parviennent pas à détendre les gros bras US qui interdisent aux photographes français d'offrir quelques appareils jetables aux enfants. Plus tard dans l'après-midi, œux-ci déposeront, de guerre lasse, leur matériel photo à terre, en signe de protestation.

Vient le déjeuner à la Seigneurie, restaurant réputé de Corrèze. Melon de Cavaillon frappé, suprême de volaille, carottes au jus de haricot vert, profiteroles, le tout arrosé d'un muscat beaume-de-venise et d'un château-mouton-rothschild. En cuisine, le chef fait la gueule. Madame Chirac l'a écarté au profit de celui de l'Elysée.

C'est son jour. Elle fait des bises. Lève les yeux vers les photographes, distribue les sourires. Elle pourrait en donner encore et encore.

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JEAN-LOUP GAUTREAU POUR LIBÉRATION

Le président du conseil général de la Corrèze entouré de Bernadette Chirac et Hillary Clinton. «Beautiful!», s'est exclamée la première dame des Etat…

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EN CORREZE, LE G2 DES FIRST LADIES

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plus l'antiaméricanisme que dans son assiette: «*Naturellement, nous préférons la viande limousine et le veau fermier de Corrèze à la viande de MacDo.*» Il n'y a finalement que le socialiste René Teulade – ancien président de la FNMF (Fédération nationale de la mutualité française) – pour la titiller un peu, tout en s'excusant de le faire, sur son abandon de la réforme du système de santé américain.

Hillary Clinton a du métier. Peu importe qu'elle ait pris un simple conseil général pour un gouvernement local. Son ami Bernadette lui a refilé quelques fiches sur la Corrèze. «*C'est un honneur tout particulier de voir la beauté et l'histoire de cette région à travers les yeux de madame Chirac*», dit-elle. Aussi la voilà qui s'émerveille: «*Nous, en Amérique, on aime beaucoup les autoroutes. Je vous félicite pour les nouvelles A 20 et A 89, qui, je l'espère, vous apporteront la prospérité.*» La voilà même – gros effort pour tout Américain – qui s'intéresse à une compétition du Vieux Continent: «*Je vous félicite pour le Tour de France en Corrèze. Je sais que c'est quelque chose pour lequel madame Chirac s'est beaucoup battue.*» Laquelle boit du petit lait.

A l'école maternelle, pas de boutonneux en vue, probablement assignés à résidence. Maîtresse à la guitare et chant de la classe en anglais ne parviennent pas à détendre les gros bras US qui interdisent aux photographes français d'offrir quelques appareils jetables aux enfants. Plus tard dans l'après-midi, œux-ci déposeront, de guerre lasse, leur matériel photo à terre, en signe de protestation.

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La première dame des Etats-Unis a fait un joli cadeau à son homologue française. Bernadette n'est pas Hillary, et elle le sait bien. Jamais, elle n'aura pour elle des histoires de pompiste, comme celle qui se racontait dans l'avion du matin en direction de la Corrèze. Bill et Hillary sont à une pompe à essence. Le pompiste se traine. Sa femme somnole derrière la caisse. «*Tu vois*, dit Bill à Hillary, *où est-ce que tu serais si tu avais épousé un pompiste.*» Réponse d'Hillary: «*Mais il serait président des Etats-Unis.*»

Bernadette Chirac n'est pas faiseuse de rois. Mais c'est au moment où le sien patauge qu'elle a choisi de faire parler d'elle ●

JUDITH PERRIGNON

La visite d'Hillary Clinton en France

Le sommet corrézien des « first ladies »

Bernadette Chirac a reçu, hier, l'épouse du président américain dans le département dont elle est l'élue. Au programme : réception au conseil général et visite d'école.

TULLE :
Jain BASTIDE

Répondant à l'invitation de Bernadette Chirac, Hillary Clinton, première dame des Etats-Unis, a débuté sa visite de trois jours en France et en Suisse par le Limousin, et plus particulièrement par la Corrèze, fief du président de la République, et terre d'élection de son épouse, élue du canton de Corrèze. Loin des traditionnelles rencontres entre chefs d'Etat, les deux épouses des présidents français et américain ont goûté, pendant quelques heures au charme du massif des Monédières, entre bruyères et genêts en fleur ; l'occasion pour Bernadette Chirac de faire découvrir à Hillary Clinton le département rural dont elle est l'élue, et d'expliquer le rôle d'un conseiller général et les attributions de l'assemblée départementale.

L'idée de la venue de Mme Hillary Clinton en Corrèze date d'il y a deux ans, à l'issue du G7 qui s'était tenu à Lyon. C'est là, au cours d'un déjeuner à Paris avec le président Bill Clinton et son épouse, que Bernadette Chirac avait remarqué l'intérêt d'Hillary Clinton pour le mandat de conseiller général de l'épouse du président de la République française. En fait, les excellentes relations entre les deux femmes remontent au sommet de l'ONU à Pékin en septembre 1995 ; là, Bernadette Chirac remarquera en Hillary Clinton *« une femme remarquable, curieuse de tout, avec qui les dialogues sont très riches »*.

Secret service et varicelle

L'arrivée de la première dame des Etats-Unis en Corrèze a mobilisé un dispositif de sécurité impressionnant. Depuis la semaine dernière, une vingtaine d'agents de sécurité américains sillonnent les routes de Corrèze pour repérer le parcours de la visite. Aux services américains s'étaient joints les services de police et de gendarmerie français ainsi que les services de protection de l'Elysée. Rien n'a été laissé au hasard pour garantir la sécurité : maintien des journalistes et photographes à distance, inspection méticuleuse de tous les lieux visités. Les services de la Maison-Blanche, qui ont passé la semaine en Corrèze, allant même jusqu'à s'inquiéter de deux cas de varicelle affectant les enfants de l'école communale.

Loin des traditionnelles visites officielles, Hillary Clinton et Bernadette Chirac ont goûté, pendant quelques heures au charme du massif des Monédières. (Photo P. Bernard/AFP.)

En Cadillac

12 heures, ce matin, à l'aéroport de Limoges-Bellegarde, le boeing 707 de la présidence des Etats-Unis, en provenance directe de l'aéroport d'Andrews aux Etats-Unis, atterrit avec plus d'une heure de retard sur l'horaire prévu. La capitale régionale du Limousin n'est, en fait, qu'une escale, le temps pour l'épouse du président américain de prendre une légère collation, avant de rallier Tulle par la route. Il faudra plus d'une heure trente à l'énorme limousine blindée pour rejoindre le chef-lieu de la Corrèze, encadrée par d'omniprésentes forces de sécurité, au total un cortège de vingt-deux voitures, y compris la deuxième limousine faisant office de leurre, sécurité oblige.

C'est à quelques kilomètres de Tulle, à la limite de la Haute-Vienne et de la Corrèze, que Bernadette Chirac attendait son invitée, l'accueillait et prenait place à ses côtés dans la Cadillac présidentielle.

15 heures. Arrivée du cortège au conseil général de la Corrèze à Tulle, où les deux femmes sont accueillies à l'hôtel Marbot, siège du conseil, par Paul Giraud de Langlade, préfet de la Corrèze, et Jean-Pierre Dupont, président du conseil général. Hillary Clinton, souriante et très détendue, vêtue d'un tailleur jaune bouton d'or, accompagnée de Bernadette Chirac, tailleur bleu marine, devait ensuite rejoindre la salle de l'assemblée départementale.

La réception de bienvenue en salle du conseil général a été l'occasion pour le président, et chaque président de groupe politique au conseil général de la Corrèze de prononcer des paroles d'accueil. Pour le président, Jean-Pierre Dupont, Hillary Clinton *« a donné, par ses grandes qualités et sa force de caractère, une dimension particulière au rôle de first lady »*. Jean-Pierre Bechter, président du groupe de la majorité, a même souhaité que Hillary Clinton soit un jour élue présidente des Etats-Unis. Tandis que René Teulade, au nom du groupe socialiste, soulignait les difficultés du régime social aux Etats-Unis, et que Jacques Chaminade, président du groupe communiste, félicitait Hillary Clinton pour ses récentes déclarations en faveur de la paix et d'un Etat palestinien.

Dans sa réponse, Hillary

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Dans sa réponse, Hillary Clinton devait rappeler qu'« *aucune nation que la France, n'est plus vieille alliée des Etats-Unis, et représente le mieux la démocratie, l'égalité et les droits de l'homme* ». « *La politique et la démocratie valent la peine de se battre,* devait poursuivre Mme Clinton, *quel que soit le pouvoir en place, nous affirmons nos valeurs afin de construire un monde meilleur pour nos enfants.* » Enfin, l'épouse du président des Etats-Unis devait saluer les efforts constants de Bernadette Chirac et son action de conseiller général en faveur de l'autoroute A20 ou A89 et même pour l'étape du Tour de France qui sillonnera la Corrèze en juillet.

Aristochats

Bernadette Chirac et Hillary Clinton devaient ensuite se rendre au bourg de Corrèze (400 habitants), là même où l'épouse du président de la République est élue. En visite à l'école du village, Hillary Clinton a été accueillie par les enfants, chantant la chanson des Aristochats, *Everybody want to Be a Cat*, accompagnés par l'institutrice à la guitare. Puis ce fut un déjeuner tardif à la Séniorie de Corrèze, puis une promenade dans le bourg, applaudie par la population du village.

Un déjeuner, pris vers 17 heures, et un menu, pour lequel la sécurité américaine n'avait pas souhaité faire honneur à la gastronomie corrézienne, puisque celui-ci avait été préparé à Paris sur commande spéciale de l'ambassade des Etats-Unis.

Etape suivante, le petit village de Chaumeil où les deux premières dames devaient rencontrer une vingtaine de femmes, élues locales ou responsables d'associations, avant de regagner Paris dans la soirée.

Au-delà des collines corréziennes ensoleillées, la rencontre des deux épouses de chefs d'Etat aura été l'occasion pour Hillary Clinton qui, dit-on, rêve secrètement d'une carrière politique, de se rendre compte des réalités de la politique de proximité. Au-delà, comme le précisait Jean-Pierre Dupont, président du conseil général de la Corrèze : « *Cela montre que les femmes de présidents ne sont pas seulement des épouses, mais savent aussi être actives.* »

A. B.

Réception

Balade en Corrèze pour Bernadette et Hillary

Les deux Premières Dames, bien que très différentes, ont un point commun : leur passion pour la démocratie et le combat politique.

Photo AFP

Le Première Dame de France, et conseiller général, a reçu la First Lady sur son fief : échange d'amabilités et visite touristique

De notre envoyée spéciale

Catherine LLOUQUET

Tulle

Tout les oppose et pourtant ces deux-là ont l'air de bien s'entendre, comme l'a encore prouvé hier leur visite en Corrèze. D'un côté, Bernadette Chirac, tailleur strict bleu marine, petite, discrète, un brin sévère. De l'autre Hillary Clinton éclatante dans son tailleur jaune, le brushing impeccable, le regard bleu acier et une incontestable aisance yankee. Séduisante, mais sans nul doute peu commode.

Exception

Très différentes, les deux Premières Dames ont toutefois un point commun : leur passion pour la démocratie et le combat politique. A la différence, que pour Bernadette Chirac, le combat politique passe d'abord, comme son président de mari le lui a enseigné, par le terrain, le local.

Voilà maintenant dix-huit ans qu'elle est élue au conseil général de Corrèze, toujours au premier tour, avec des scores de plus de 60 %. Le 15 mars dernier, elle a été une nouvelle fois la seule épouse de chef d'Etat en exercice à se présenter à une élection locale. Avec succès.

Situation exceptionnelle qui fait sinon des jalouses, du moins des curieuses. Découvrant la singularité de la Première Dame de France, au sommet du G7 à Lyon en 1996, Hillary Clinton n'en était pas revenue. La First Lady avait alors rêvé d'aller voir un jour sur place cette exception française.

Qu'à cela ne tienne. Ravie de l'idée, Bernadette Chirac a bousculé son petit monde corrézien. Et, hier, après s'être retrouvées sur l'aéroport de Limoges-Bellegarde avec près d'une heure de retard, les deux femmes sont arrivées ensemble, à 15 heures, dans une limousine blindée, sur le perron du conseil général de Corrèze à Tulle, précédées d'importantes forces de l'ordre et d'un cortège de 22 véhicules.

Pour l'occasion, l'hôtel du département s'était mis sur son trente et un : dans la salle du conseil, une ancienne église, le président RPR du conseil général, Jean-Pierre Dupont, a souhaité la bienvenue à son hôte américaine, soulignant « le moment fort, le moment rare et l'honneur fait à son département ». Visiblement très ému, le président a même quelque peu gaffé : « Il est de tradition de brosser le procès d'un invité », a-t-il dit au lieu de brosser le portrait.

D'autres allocutions, puis est venu le tour d'Hillary Clinton de prendre la parole, surveillée de très près par son service de sécurité, des géants impassibles dont une impressionnante femme noire.

Très sûre d'elle, la First Lady a sorti son petit discours plié en quatre de la poche de son tailleur avant de se lancer dans un vibrant plaidoyer pour la démocratie : « L'un des grands dons que la France et les Etats-Unis ont apporté au monde, c'est que la politique et la démocratie vaillent la peine qu'on se batte pour elles », a-t-elle dit.

Petit détail amusant : connaissant l'attachement que la conseillère générale Bernadette Chirac porte à certains dossiers, Hillary Clinton s'est également félicitée de « l'étape du Tour de France qui doit passer en Corrèze », des autoroutes A20 et A89 qui « vont apporter la prospérité à ce département » et pendant qu'elle y était, à la Coupe du monde de football.

Promenade

Après l'échange d'amabilités, les visites. Pour l'occasion, tous les Corréziens étaient sortis sur leur pas de porte. Seuls mécontents, les joueurs de pétanque délogés de la place de la mairie. Car c'est à la mairie que Bernadette Chirac a ensuite présenté à Hillary Clinton les élus municipaux de Corrèze, avant de l'entraîner dans une promenade touristique.

Le voyage d'Hillary Clinton en France n'est pas terminé : la First Lady doit se rendre aujourd'hui au Sénat pour s'entretenir notamment avec une quinzaine de femmes, des personnalités de la politique ou de la culture. Une rencontre est également prévue ensuite avec Lionel Jospin et son épouse Sylviane.

France-Soir

CORREZE ▶ La « first lady » américaine reçue hier comme une reine au pays des Chirac

Hillary et Bernadette bras dessus, bras dessous...

Tulle
De notre envoyé spécial

INVITEE, il y a deux ans, par Bernadette Chirac, lors du G 7 de Lyon, à venir découvrir, « sur le terrain », la démocratie locale, Hillary Clinton avait aussitôt dit (en anglais) : « Chiche ! » Elle aura tenu parole puiqu'elle a passé la journée d'hier, avec son amie Bernadette, en pays limousin. La première dame américaine voulait se rendre compte elle-même, a-t-elle confié, de ce qu'était une conseillère générale.

Lapsus et panégérique

Vêtue d'un tailleur bouton d'or, Hillary s'est donc installée, à peine arrivée à l'hôtel du département, au premier rang de l'hémicycle, à côté de Bernadette Chirac, conseillère générale du canton de Corrèze depuis 1979. Jean-Pierre Dupont, président RPR du conseil général, est tellement ému qu'il en bafouille.

Il finit même par commettre un énorme lapsus : « La tradition veut que, en des instants solennels comme celui-ci, l'orateur brosse le procès... pardon, le portrait de son hôte. » Personne n'ose rire.

Jean-Pierre Bechter, chef de file des élus RPR et UDF, se charge du panégérique de M^me^ Clinton, flattant sa « réputation de surdouée », sa « volonté inflexible », son « immense talent » et son « opiniâtreté, qui nous rappelle celle de Bernadette Chirac ». Et l'élu RPR, dans son élan, d'espérer que M^me^ Clinton sera « la première femme à être élue présidente des Etats-Unis ». L'épouse de Bill reste impassible. Et elle souhaite à la Corrèze « beaucoup de prospérité, grâce aux autoroutes A 20 et A 89 ». Les élus locaux sont bluffés. Seul, un communiste égratigne l'hôte du jour : il préfère, dit-il, « le veau du Limousin aux menus McDo ». A Corrèze, chef-lieu du canton de Bernadette Chirac, les deux femmes, bras dessus, bras dessous, vont un peu plus tard improviser un vrai bain de foule de dix minutes : bises aux enfants et compliments aux dames. Seule fausse note : la partie de pétanque demandée par M^me^ Clinton a été annulée faute... de temps. Jean et Jacques, les deux boulistes « volontaires », sont un peu déçus : « Ce n'est pas grave car ils ont remis à neuf le terrain de boules ! »

CORREZE, HIER. *Dans son chef-lieu de canton, Bernadette Chirac a entraîné Hillary Clinton dans un bain de foule de dix minutes.* *(Photo AFP/Jean-Loup GAUTREAU.)*

« It's beautiful »

Mais, déjà Hillary et Bernadette sont remontées dans la Cadillac officielle. Direction Chaumeil, un autre village du canton, célèbre pour sa foire aux agneaux. Là, une cinquantaine de femmes ont déployé leurs productions locales : pâté, confiture, miel, broderie, vannerie... « It's beautiful », s'émerveille l'épouse de Bill Clinton, qui croque à pleine dents une tartine de pâté.

Bernadette Chirac, elle, a abandonné le cortège quelques instants pour récupérer son discours. « Ma chère Hillary, votre présence est le plus magnifique hommage que vous puissiez rendre à la France profonde », conclut la conseillère générale, pas peu fière de son « coup ». Son homologue américaine n'est pas mécontente non plus. Elle s'éternise quelques minutes, et discute (en français) avec les invités. Dehors, les agents de sécurité ont relâché la pression. Et le soleil se couche sur le plateau des Millevaches...

Bruno JEUDY

Le Parisien, Aujourd'hui, 1998

LA MONTAGNE

MAY 12. 1998

(Photo d'archives)

Hillary hôte de Bernadette

CE matin, un Boeing transportant Hillary Clinton, se posera sur l'aéroport de Limoges-Bellegarde. L'épouse du chef de l'Etat se rendra alors à Tulle, à l'hôtel Marbot, où siège Bernadette Chirac en tant que conseiller général. Hillary Clinton vient en Corrèze découvrir, sur le terrain, comment son homologue française accomplit son mandat d'élue locale.

Les deux premières dames rencontreront ensuite les enfants de l'école maternelle de Corrèze et différents élus locaux. Elles se rendront également à Chaumeil, pour visiter « La Maison des Monédières ». En fin d'après-midi, Hillary et Bernadette regagneront Paris.

Dans une interview à *La Montagne*, Bernadette Chirac explique la genèse de ce voyage et parle de ses relations privilégiées avec Hillary Clinton.

PAGES 3 ET 12

passer trois mois avec sa femme et ses deux enfants. Il y conserve même une voiture dont il avait fait l'acquisition aux Etats-Unis, une 405 immatriculée dans le Colorado.

Gilles Camps et sa « girl friend » Emmanuelle ont découvert les « States » en vacances ; quant à Guillaume, il y a vécu et a appris à vivre en « Yankee ».

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Une journée à la campagne pour la « First Lady »

La Cadillac présidentielle d'Hillary Clinton a été livrée, hier, à l'aéroport de Limoges-Bellegarde par avion c imposant dispositif de sécurité d'une quarantaine de personnes a précédé l'arrivée (aujourd'hui, à 11 heu « First Lady ».

LIMOGES. — Le Limousin accueille aujourd'hui un hôte de marque. Mme Hillary Clinton débutera sa visite de trois jours en France et en Suisse par une journée en Limousin, et plus spécialement en Corrèze, où elle rencontrera Bernadette Chirac sur ses terres. L'idée de cette visite est née en juin 1996, lors d'un dîner offert par le couple Chirac au couple Clinton à l'issue du Sommet du G7 de Lyon.

Bernadette Chirac avait alors évoqué son travail de conseiller général, et Hillary Clinton avait manifesté l'envie de venir la voir sur le terrain.

Le Boieng 707 de la « First Lady », en provenance directe de l'aéroport d'Andrews aux Etats-Unis, doit atterrir vers 11 heures ce matin à l'aéroport de Limoges Bellegarde.

La capitale régionale ne sera qu'« une escale technique », comme l'ont souhaité les services de sécurité américains. Ni conférence de presse ni photographes. L'épouse du président américain ne désire en aucun cas croiser l'objectif des photographes à sa descente d'avion au terme d'un vol de près de huit heures et avec le contrecoup de sept heures de décalage horaires (il sera pour elle l'équivalent de 5 heures du matin).

A sa descente d'avion, Mme Hillary Clinton sera accueillie par Bernadette Chirac. Elle sera ensuite conduite sous bonne garde à l'intérieur de la Cadillac présidentielle blindée, livrée hier matin par un avion cargo de l'US Air Force. Elle rejoindra alors le « Relais et Château » de La Chapelle-Saint-Martin, proche de l'aéroport où elle prendra une légère collation et se refera une beauté avant de rallier Tulle où elle est attendue à 14 heures à l'hôtel Marbot, siège du Conseil général.

Assise au premier rang à côté de Bernadette Chirac, Hillary Clinton répondra aux mots de bienvenue du président RPR du Conseil général Jean-Pierre Dupont et des présidents de groupes.

Mmes Chirac et Clinton se rendront ensuite à Corrèze, au cœur du canton de l'épouse du président de la République, où elles visiteront l'école maternelle. Bernadette Chirac aura à cœur de faire découvrir à la première dame des Etats-unis le département rural dont elle est l'élue.

Avec les maires des neufs communes du canton, le président du Conseil général et le préfet de la Corrèze, Paul Girot de Langlade, un déjeuner tardif est prévu à la Seniorie de Corrèze, ancien pensionnat de jeunes filles transformé il y a 20 ans en hôtel-restaurant quatre étoiles.

Elles effectueront ensuite une promenade dans le vieux bourg au riche patrimoine architectural et se feront présenter les membres du Conseil municipal de Corrèze par le maire, Jean Tourneix.

Etape suivante, le petit village de Chaumeil, où elles visiteront, avec le maire, Denise Martinie, la Maison des Monédières, vitrine de l'artisanat et de la culture locale.

Les deux premières dames rencontreront une vingtaine de femmes, élues locales ou responsables d'associations, avant de s'envoler vers Paris en fin d'après-midi.

SÉCURITÉ MAXIMUM

Sécurité oblige, l'arrivée de Hillary Clinton mobilise depuis plusieurs jours un imposant dispositif. Depuis la semaine dernière, une vingtaine de membres de la sécurité américaine et de l'ambassade des Etats-Unis en France sont à Limoges et en Corrèze. Cette équipe a été renforcée par l'arrivée, hier, par l'avion cargo d'une vingtaine de personnes supplémentaires.

L'avion américain transportait également à son bord une seconde limousine présidentielle qui a été débarquée dans la capitale où elle assurera les déplacement d'Hillary Clinton, mercredi, à Paris.

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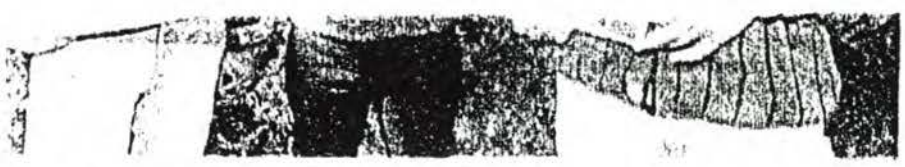

imps et sa « girl friend » Emmanuelle ont découvert les « States » en vacances ; quant à Guillaume, il y a vécu et a appris à vivre en « Yankee ».

ginables pour nous. « Pomper » durant les examens, pratique très française, est impossible. Traverser hors de clous n'est pas concevable, rouler au-dessus de la vitesse autorisée, idem. Ce que montrent les films ou les séries est avant tout un exutoire fantasmatique : la sécurité est partout là-bas, les flics aussi et la délation s'as-

dit comme une culture. Leurs porte-feuilles sont bourrés de cartes de crédit avec lesquelles ils jonglent toute la journée ».

Une culture de la consommation exploitée par le souci de simplifier au maximum l'acte d'acheter : « L'Américain, on le livre à domicile, on le fait gagner à des jeux commerciaux, on lui offre des réductions...

laume. Celui-ci, il l'admet : « Il est clair qu'être blanc aux Etats-Unis est un gros atout. Je pense que l'on ne peut pas y réussir aussi bien quand on est noir. Mais je ne peux pas l'affirmer, je ne suis pas black. Et, aux USA, blancs et noirs ne se mélangent pas ».

E. D.

e à la campagne
'st Lady »

a été livrée, hier, à l'aéroport de Limoges-Bellegarde par avion cargo. Un rantaine de personnes a précédé l'arrivée (aujourd'hui, à 11 heures) de la

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Chirac et Clinton se nsuite à Corrèze, au nton de l'épouse du le la République, où ront l'école mater- adette Chirac aura à faire découvrir à la fame des Etats-unis ment rural dont elle

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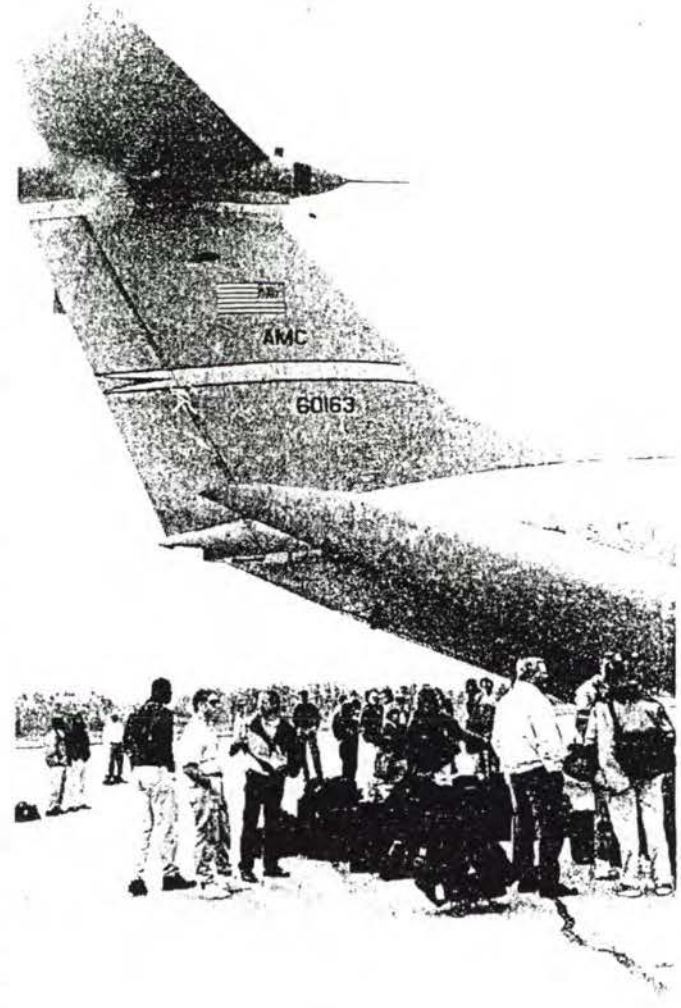
Jeudi, Mme Clinton doit être reçue à Genève où elle assistera à l'assemblée générale de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé. Elle retrouvera dans la capitale suisse, la Cadillac présidentielle... livrée, hier, à Limoges.



Outre la Cadillac présidentielle d'Hillary Clinton, un avion cargo transportait une vingtaine de personnes supplémentaires chargées du dispositif de sécurité, pour ce voyage en terre corrézienne.

BERNADETTE - HILLARY

Sommet corrézien au féminin

Hillary Clinton est aujourd'hui en Corrèze. Séduite par le fait qu'une femme de chef d'Etat soit elle-même une élue locale, elle vient visiter la terre d'élection de Bernadette Chirac.
Dans un entretien accordé à La Montagne, *l'épouse du président français rend un hommage appuyé à son homologue, explique les raisons de ce voyage et livre sa réflexion sur la place des femmes dans la vie publique en France.*

Comment vous est venue l'idée d'inviter Mme Hillary Clinton en Corrèze ? Quels liens privilégiés vous unissent à l'épouse du président américain ?

Il y a deux ans, à l'issue du G7 qui s'était tenu à Lyon, j'avais eu l'occasion de dîner à Paris avec le président Bill Clinton et son épouse.

Au cours de la conversation, j'avais évoqué mon mandat de conseiller général de la Corrèze. Mme Hillary Clinton était apparue très intéressée, me demandant à ce sujet de nombreuses explications : comment se passaient les élections, quel était le rôle du conseiller général, ce que représentait le canton, etc. ; elle me dit en nous quittant qu'elle serait très heureuse de venir voir, sur place, comment j'exerçais mon mandat et avec qui je travaillais. Je l'ai invitée.

Les choses ont mis un peu de temps à se réaliser, ce qui est normal car l'agenda du président des Etats-Unis est fort chargé comme on peut l'imaginer. Mais enfin, ce projet se réalise. J'ai rencontré à plusieurs reprises Mme Hillary Clinton aussi bien lorsque j'étais l'épouse du maire de Paris que depuis que nous sommes à l'Elysée. C'est une femme très remarquable, fort intelligente, curieuse de tout. Les dialogues avec elle sont très riches.

Hillary Clinton est une femme remarquable

On dit Mme Hillary Clinton admirative du fait qu'une épouse d'un chef d'Etat, c'est votre cas depuis 1971, soit élue au suffrage universel...

Je ne sais pas si elle est admirative ; il faudrait le lui demander, mais ce qui est certain c'est qu'elle a été très intéressée d'apprendre que j'étais une élue locale.

Plus généralement, quelle est votre position sur la place des femmes dans la vie publique. Les estimez-vous suffisamment représentées ?

Cette question fait actuellement débat en France et je n'ai pas à y prendre part. Je suis moi-même une élue. Les femmes représentent plus de la moitié du corps électoral. Elles sont à l'évidence insuffisamment représentées même si on commence à noter, ici ou là, certains progrès. Seulement 11 % de femmes ont été élues à l'assemblée nationale en 1997 ; c'est le taux le plus faible d'Europe. Je pense qu'il faut que les formations politiques fassent des efforts pour accueillir davantage de femmes sur leur liste. Certaines l'ont d'ailleurs fait non sans succès, mais il faut encore progresser. Cela étant, il faut aussi trouver des femmes volontaires pour s'engager dans la vie politique qui est très prenante et qui n'est pas toujours compatible avec les nombreuses charges d'une femme, surtout quand elle est mère de famille.

La venue de Mme Clinton peut-elle déboucher sur des échanges particuliers, économiques ou culturels, entre l'Arkansas et la Corrèze ?

Je compte profiter de cette journée pour montrer à Mme Clinton tous les charmes du Pays vert.

« Hillary Clinton est une femme fort intelligente, curieuse de tout. Avec elle, les dialogues sont très riches », confie Bernadette Chirac. *(Photo d'archives).*

Comme vous le savez, nous irons au Conseil général à Tulle, mais aussi à Corrèze, et nous finirons notre déplacement à la Maison des Monédières à Chaumeil.

Toute cette région est absolument magnifique et je suis certaine qu'elle sera séduite. Je lui parlerai aussi des petites unités industrielles que nous implantons pour retenir les jeunes au pays ou pour les attirer.

S'il y a des possibilités d'échanges, je chercherai à les exploiter au mieux.

Hillary Clinton en mai, le Tour de France en juillet, quelles retombées attendez-vous pour la Corrèze de ces deux événements exceptionnels que vous avez suscités ?

Je crois que la visite de Mme Hillary Clinton et, le 18 juillet prochain, l'épreuve du Tour de France, vont être de formidables coups de projecteurs sur notre région. J'espère que, grâce à ces deux événements et les images que le monde entier va recevoir, nos amis étrangers et aussi les Françaises et les Français connaîtront mieux le Limousin et auront envie d'y séjourner pendant leurs vacances.

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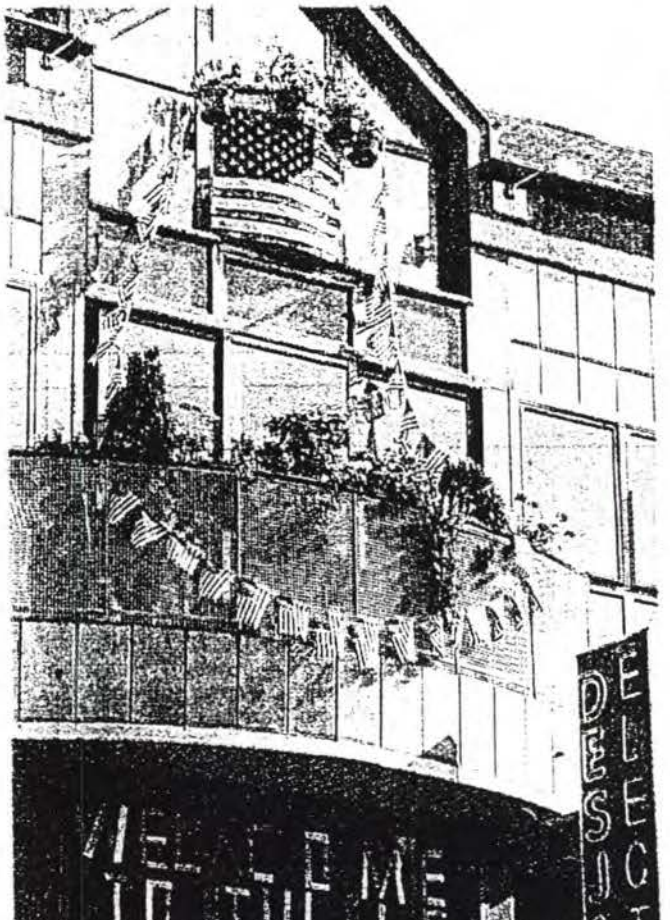
Hello Hillary

A TULLE

Judy a hissé les couleurs



Comme elle l'avait annoncé (voir notre édition de samedi), Judy Desjacques, compatriote et fan d'Hillary Clinton, a affiché la couleur, dès hier, sur la façade du magasin tenu par son mari dans l'avenue Victor-Hugo, à Tulle. L'épouse du président des Etats-Unis n'aura toutefois pas l'occasion de voir cette bannière étoilée et ce mot de bienvenue puisque sa Cadillac ne traversera pas la ville : venant de Limoges, elle se rendra directement au Conseil général, où elle est attendue en tout début d'après-midi.

ÉCHOS

Le

Originaire du
24 ans au lyce
Hillary aujourc

TULLE. — Frank Howson n'en revient toujours pas. Que le président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, dont il est l'aîné d'à peine deux ans, ait pu avoir les mêmes camarades de jeu que lui, voire qu'ils aient eu l'occasion de se croiser un jour dans les rues de Hope, dans l'Arkansas, le transporte d'un mélange de fierté et d'étonnement : « Pour moi, c'est quelque chose d'extraordinaire ! ».

Agé de 53 ans, professeur d'anglais au lycée Pierre-Caraminot d'Egletons depuis vingt-quatre ans, Frank Howson avoue une grande admiration aussi bien pour Bill Clinton que pour son épouse Hillary, qui enseigna à l'université d'Arkansas, avant de devenir avocate. La visite de la première dame des Etats-Unis aujourd'hui à Tulle et à Corrèze, à deux pas de son pavillon de Soudeilles, soulève en lui un même émerveillement, presque enfantin.

CAPITALE DE LA PASTÈQUE

Bill Clinton et Frank Howson partagent le même berceau familial : Hope, en Arkansas, un « village » à l'échelle américaine, pas plus étendu qu'Egletons à l'époque de leur jeunesse commune, et qui compte

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« La Corrèze, j'y ai vécu à peine quelques mois, précise-t-il. Depuis 1990, je navigue entre les Etats-Unis, la Nou-

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FRANK HOWSON

Le « pays » de Bill Clinton

Originaire du même « village » que Bill Clinton, Hope dans l'Arkansas, Frank Howson enseigne l'anglais depu 24 ans au lycée d'Egletons. Admirateur du couple présidentiel américain, il caresse l'espoir secret de rencontr Hillary aujourd'hui en Corrèze.

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CAPITALE DE LA PASTÈQUE

Bill Clinton et Frank Howson partagent le même berceau familial : Hope, en Arkansas, un « village » à l'échelle américaine, pas plus étendu qu'Egletons à l'époque de leur jeunesse commune, et qui compte aujourd'hui 9.600 habitants. Le président des Etats-Unis y a vu le jour en 1946. Né dans le Mississippi, l'enseignant d'Egletons y a passé tous les étés et toutes les vacances scolaires jusqu'à l'âge de 17 ans.

Virginia Cassidy, la mère de Bill Clinton, repose dans le cimetière de Hope où Frank Howson s'est rendu le mois dernier pour saluer les siens, nombreux, qui y sont enterrés.

Nés en Grande-Bretagne, les grands-parents de Frank Howson sont arrivés à Hope alors qu'ils étaient très jeunes, au tournant du siècle, avec leurs parents émigrants. « J'ai passé beaucoup de temps chez eux, se souvient Frank. A l'époque, Hope était une petite ville paisible, presque endormie, parcourue de maisons de bois et réputée pour ses pastèques ».

La grand-mère de Frank Howson était à la tête de l'hôtel Below de Hope. Le grand-père de Bill Clinton tenait également un commerce en ville, dont Frank Howson a retrouvé le souvenir lorsqu'il a su que le gouverneur de l'Arkansas était enfant de cette cité.

CHEMIN RETOUR

Frank Howson a étudié l'anglais et la musique à l'université avant de découvrir les joies de la langue française. Trois de ses oncles de Hope avaient combattu en France pendant la guerre. L'un en 14-18, les deux autres pendant la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. « L'un d'eux a été tué en Normandie et y est enterré. J'ai bien connu les deux autres qui m'ont parlé de la France et des Français qu'ils avaient rencontrés avec beaucoup d'admiration », raconte-t-il.

Professeur de français aux USA, Frank Howson est venu en France, alors qu'il était âgé de 27 ans, pour approfondir sa connaissance de la langue de Molière. A Montpellier, il s'est lancé dans un doctorat et a rencontré celle qui allait devenir son épouse et qu'il allait suivre en Corrèze.

C'était il y a 24 ans. Frank Howson fut nommé au lycée d'Egletons quatre ans après sa femme. Tous les deux y enseignent l'anglais. Frank se sent cependant toujours américain. « Et exclusivement américain ! J'ai émigré trop tard », précise-il, en avouant son désir de faire un jour le chemin du retour.

Les trois enfants du couple sont parfaitement bilingues. « Je ne savais pas parler aux bébés autrement qu'en anglais », s'excuse-t-il. La fille aînée vit à Londres, le cadet étudie l'anglais à l'université de Limoges, et le benjamin, brillant pianiste, est en terminale à Egletons. « Je crois qu'ils se sentent autant américains que français. Je suis content de cela. C'est ma part d'héritage ! ».

Soucieux de ne pas se couper du monde universitaire, Frank Howson a rouvert il y a quatre ans la parenthèse de recherches qu'il avait refermée à Montpellier. En octobre dernier, il a soutenu, avec succès, une thèse en anglais sur les écrits de la sixième et dernière épouse d'Henri VIII, Katherine Parr, dont on célèbre cette année le 450e anniversaire de la disparition. « La première femme anglaise à avoir publié des œuvres personnelles, et la troisième à avoir publié ».

Une femme de la trempe de la « First Lady » américaine ? « Hillary Clinton est une femme extrêmement généreuse, qui possède une conscience sociale très vive », reconnait Frank Howson, qui caresse le rêve secret de la rencontrer aujourd'hui.

La traduction française de Hope n'est-elle pas espoir ? « I still believe in a place called Hope », affirme le slogan de la cité de l'Arkansas.

J.-M. L.

Frank Howson : « Hillary Clinton est une femme géné reuse qui possède une conscience sociale très vive ».

GUILLAUME CAMPS

GUILLAUME CAMPS

Le Corrézien qui voulait être américain

Il a tout essayé, sans succès, et aujourd'hui sans regret. Guillaume Camps, 28 ans, de Saint-Privat, a passé près de deux ans aux Etats-unis avec l'espoir de devenir américain. Il est toujours français, mais son séjour lui a fait découvrir la réalité d'une nation au-delà des poncifs de la culture « télé ».

TULLE. — Guillaume Camps n'a pas l'accent de la Nouvelle-Orléans, ni celui d'Orlando. Son parler a la chaleur de Montpellier, où il est né, et est teinté de Xaintrie, où vit sa famille depuis dix ans.

« La Corrèze, j'y ai vécu à peine quelques mois, précise-t-il. Depuis 1990, je navigue entre les Etats-Unis, la Nouvelle-Calédonie, Hong-Kong... ». Une vie de globe-trotter justifiée par son métier, cadre au « Club Med'», et inoculée en Louisiane en 1991.

Parti effectuer un stage de six mois, le jeune homme est tombé sous le charme de l'Amérique et de son gigantisme. « Là-bas, tout est grand, ils ne savent pas construire petit. Un simple stade universitaire représente deux fois le Stade de France. Une petite avenue ne peut pas faire moins de trois voies... ».

Mais l'Amérique, pour lui, c'est surtout le pays de la vie facile. « Sitôt rentré, je n'ai pensé qu'à une chose : repartir. L'Américain, dans son pays, est quelqu'un de formidable, et le Français qui débarque, —sa débrouillardise en bandoulière— y est le roi ».

Gilles Camps et sa « girl friend » Emmanuelle ont découvert les « States » en vacances ; quant à Guillaume, il y a vécu et a appris à vivre en « Yankee ».

Embauché comme serveur dans une chaîne française à Disneyworld, Guillaume va passer quinze mois à Orlando (Floride) de 1995 à 1997. Grâce à ce qu'il baptise le « système 22 », un peu d'entregent et beaucoup de sens des affaires, il touche chaque mois près de 4.000 dollars (24.000 F).

« Quand on veut travailler et faire de l'argent, il suffit de se baisser ».

Et Guillaume se baisse, au point de ne plus penser qu'à devenir américain. « J'ai tout essayé, jusqu'à la loterie de l'immigration ». Un vrai tirage au sort pour obtenir la citoyenneté, sous réserve de remplir quelques conditions. Plusieurs millions de candidats, très peu d'élus.

TOUT SAUF FRANÇAIS

« Pour comprendre la vie là-bas, il faut tirer un trait sur ce que nous montre la télé, souligne Guillaume. Ce qui caractérise les Américains, c'est un patriotisme et un civisme inimaginables pour nous. « Pomper » durant les examens, pratique très française, est impossible. Traverser hors de clous n'est pas concevable, rouler au-dessus de la vitesse autorisée, idem. Ce que montrent les films ou les séries est avant tout un exutoire fantasmatique : la sécurité est partout là-bas, les flics aussi et la délation s'assume avec fierté ».

Un respect extrême de la loi conditionné par le poids de la sanction. « Pour nous, les peines encourues semblent disproportionnées. Quant à la pègre et à la violence, elles sont concentrées, quasiment enfermées, dans des quartiers où il vaut mieux ne pas mettre les pieds ».

Une multitude de régles et d'interdits que Guillaume résume ainsi : « Lorsque vous voulez vivre à l'américaine, faites l'inverse de ce que ferait un Français. Avec eux, il ne faut jamais plaisanter sur le pays et le drapeau. Ils ont une fierté démesurée à être les maîtres du monde. Tout ce qui se passe en dehors de leur pays les indiffère. Ils savent à peine où se trouve la France, alors Saint-Privat... ».

L'autre caractéristique du « Yankee » est d'être un consommateur invétéré, ajoute le jeune homme.

ACHETER, ACHETER !

« Acheter, pour eux, c'est un mode de vie. Ce n'est pas qu'ils débordent de dollars, ils ont simplement institué le crédit comme une culture. Leurs porte-feuilles sont bourrés de cartes de crédit avec lesquelles ils jonglent toute la journée ».

Une culture de la consommation exploitée par le souci de simplifier au maximum l'acte d'acheter : « L'Américain, on le livre à domicile, on le fait gagner à des jeux commerciaux, on lui offre des réductions... Toutes les astuces entrent en jeu. Et il suit, car son seul objectif, c'est de se faciliter la vie ».

Un mode de vie simple qui a séduit Guillaume. « Les taxes sont minimales, les débats d'idées inexistants, les valeurs morales très clinquantes mais absolument creuses. Seules comptent la satisfaction individuelle et la faculté de faire du business sans se prendre la tête ».

Le jeune Corrézien a tellement bien compris la formule qu'il a cherché à tout prix à s'américaniser. Il a réussi par le mode de vie, pas pour sa carte d'identité.

« C'est en Floride que j'ai trouvé la possibilité d'entrer au Club Med'. Cela m'a permis d'aller partout dans le monde sauf... aux Etats-Unis. J'ai ainsi pu découvrir que le business était partout possible. Le capitalisme favorise l'initiative dans tous les pays, sauf... en France ».

Les valeurs du capitalisme représentent le plus gros de l'héritage américain de Guillaume. Celui dit, il l'admet : « Il est clair qu'être blanc aux Etats-Unis est un gros atout. Je pense que l'on ne peut pas y réussir aussi bien quand on est noir. Mais je ne peux pas l'affirmer, je ne suis pas black. Et, aux USA, blancs et noirs ne se mélangent pas ».

E. D.

ée à la campagne

nes 98

ns du festival, un hommage
uppert qui préside, mercre-
cérémonie d'ouverture, un
r l'image du cinéma fran-
e supplément de douze

te à l'ozone

e niveau 2 ont été atteints
dizaine de villes mardi
grève à la SNCF a fortement
fic automobile. p. 11 et 20

ins contaminés

sur la contamination radio-
onvois de combustibles usés
entrales nucléaires a été re-
emier ministre. Il dénonce
ue de rigueur » d'EDF. p. 34

i 68, le roman

épisode du roman-feuilleton
Rambaud consacré à Mai
13 mai : la Sorbonne, rou-
Georges Pompidou, est oc-
proclamée « université auto-
opulaire ». A Paris, syndicats
its manifestent. Des slogans
t le départ du général de
Dix ans, ça suffit ! ».
p. 14 et 15

Marseille et à Creil, ont replacé dans l'actualité le débat sur la politique en matière de sécurité. Le Centre de recherches sur le droit et les institutions pénales observe que, depuis dix ans et surtout depuis 1993, les actes de violences chez les mineurs sont en croissance plus rapide que parmi les adultes.

Interpellé à l'Assemblée nationale par l'opposition, mardi, lors des questions d'actualité, le ministre de l'intérieur, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, a estimé que ces actes sont *« révélateurs d'une crise extrêmement profonde »*. Les *« conflits de bandes (...)s'enracinent*

plusieurs années un renforcement de la répression et un développement de mesures coercitives, comme la mise en place d'allocations familiales « à points », sur le modèle du permis de conduire, ou des mesures d'éloignement de leur milieu pour les jeunes *« les plus ancrés dans la violence »*. En Grande-Bretagne, le gouvernement de Tony Blair a adopté une politique de fermeté et de *« tolérance zéro »*, selon les termes utilisés par le premier ministre, envers la délinquance juvénile.

Lire pages 6 et 7

régime du président Suharto. Les forces de l'ordre ont de nouveau tiré mercredi, à Djakarta, sur les étudiants, qui ont reçu le renfort de nombreux opposants. Un jeune homme a été tué. Principaux soutiens du régime, les classes moyennes pourraient se retourner contre le président Suharto, au pouvoir depuis 1967. En visite en Egypte, ce dernier a pris mardi une journée de détente. Les Etats-Unis ont *« instamment prié les forces de sécurité de s'abstenir de toute violence »*.

Lire page 2 et notre éditorial page 16

Hillary et Bernadette, au bonheur des premières dames

CORRÈZE (Corrèze)
de notre envoyée spéciale

Bernadette Chirac existe, Hillary Clinton l'a rencontrée. *« En voilà une, au moins, qui a su négocier son statut »*, avait confié récemment Bernadette Chirac à des proches, à propos de la première dame des Etats-Unis, avant d'ajouter d'un ton sévère : *« En France, le président de la République est veuf... »* A voir la jubilation avec laquelle elle a guidé Mme Clinton tout au long de sa visite officielle, mardi 12 mai en Corrèze, on pouvait mesurer la délicieuse revanche que Mme Chirac prenait sur la modeste place que lui concède la République française.

Cette visite était leur affaire. A elles, rien que pour elles, le cortège officiel d'une vingtaine de voitures, dont une limousine américaine à bord de laquelle Bernadette et Hillary ont pris place après l'atterrissage de l'avion présidentiel, en provenance directe de Washington, sur le tarmac de Limoges. Pour elles toujours, la presse, les photographes et les caméras, auxquels, en grandes professionnelles, elles n'ont jamais manqué de sourire. A elles enfin, à elles surtout, la parole.

Ce fut d'abord, à Tulle, au siège du conseil général dont Bernadette Chirac est l'élue, un modèle de discours politique délivré par Hillary Clinton, debout à la tribune, tête haute, mains croisées dans le dos. Une citation de Tocqueville, une envolée lyrique – *« Ce que la France et les Etats-Unis ont appris au monde, c'est la conviction que la politique et la démocratie valent la peine de se battre »* –, puis l'évocation précise des préoccupations locales : cette étape du Tour de France arrachée par le département, et *« à laquelle tenait tellement Mme Chirac »*, ces projets d'autoroute, *« the highway 20 and the highway 89 »*, qui ne manqueront pas *« d'apporter la prospérité dans cette région »*.

Bernadette Chirac s'était, elle, réservée pour la dernière étape de la visite, qui conduisait les deux femmes dans le petit village de Chaumeil, à la maison des Monédières, où les attendaient Mme le maire de la commune, une trentaine d'élues du canton et de présidentes d'association. A sa *« chère Hillary »*, l'épouse du chef de l'Etat a longuement expliqué le fonctionnement et l'historique du département, ne lui épargnant aucun détail sur le montant du budget, la répartition des dépenses et les réalisations de l'assemblée départementale.

Et les hommes, dans tout cela ? Oh, certes, il y en avait. Des hommes endimanchés et un peu intimidés par la solennité du moment. Des hommes, il devait y en avoir aussi devant la mairie de Corrèze, entre deux rangées de pots de géraniums. Pour agrémenter le décor, on leur avait même demandé de disputer une partie de pétanque. Mais à quelques minutes de l'arrivée du cortège officiel les deux figurants de la France profonde ont été poliment priés de déménager. *« Le programme a changé, il n'y a plus de joueurs de boules devant la mairie »*, est venu leur annoncer un gendarme, vaguement penaud.

Des hommes, enfin, il y en avait quelques-uns à la maison des Monédières, réquisitionnés par la préfecture pour servir, en gants blancs, rafraîchissements, madeleines et tartines de confiture de framboises ou de myrtilles. Avant de partir, l'épouse du chef de l'Etat a glissé aux dames : *« Cette journée doit marquer le début de notre amicale de femmes élues de Corrèze. On va se réunir bientôt, on échangera les photos et on se rappellera le si bon souvenir de cette journée... »*

Pascale Robert-Diard

Loi Chevènement, mode d'emploi

LA LOI sur l'immigration entre en application. Au lendemain de sa publication au *Journal officiel*, le ministre de l'intérieur, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, a envoyé, mardi 12 mai, aux préfets la circulaire d'application précisant son mode d'emploi. Elle détaille les conditions d'attribution des cartes de séjour, donnant, au passage, une définition restrictive du nouveau titre *« vie privée et familiale »*. Devant les sénateurs, M. Chevènement a dénoncé les *« fantasmagories »* des appels en faveur des sans-papiers et précisé que 49 000 irréguliers avaient bénéficié d'un titre de séjour. Dans un entretien au *Monde*, Patrick Weil, inspirateur de la réforme, salue le tournant *« libéral »* incarné par la loi tout en s'inquiétant de ses conditions d'application.

Lire page 10

L'automobile allemande en surpuissance

QUI L'IMAGINAIT, il y a cinq ans ? En 1993, année terrible pour l'automobile européenne, Volkswagen, Daimler-Benz, Porsche

du modèle allemand, qui s'effondrait, englouti dans la réunification et dans des relations sociales handicapantes à l'heure de la mondia-

nique, pour 430 millions de livres (plus de 4 milliards de francs). Daimler-Benz vient de prendre le contrôle de Chrysler, troisième

« Le printemps automobile est là. L'industrie automobile sera cette année la locomotive de la conjoncture et le moteur de la croissance », relève

L'homme mémoire

Le Monde / Jeu 14 / 1998

Libération
Mai 14 98

4 MAI 1998

TIQUES

ement de la loi contre les exclusions.

léputés vont plus in que Besson

nier par le ministre du Logement, va aborder les questions d'insalubrité.

taient vée». Ils ont également, contre l'avis du rapporteur et du gouvernement, adopté un amendement de Jean-François Mattéi (UDF, Bouches-du-Rhône) facilitant l'accès au FSL des malades atteints du sida. Le rapporteur, Alain Cacheux (PS, Nord), comme le secrétaire d'Etat au Logement, Louis Besson, ont fait valoir que le fonds de solidarité s'adressait à toutes les personnes en difficulté et qu'il n'y avait pas lieu d'établir une liste des *«personnes prioritaires»*. En vain.

Différences de plafonds. Au chapitre des moyens dont est doté le FSL pour accomplir sa mission, Besson a rappelé qu'il s'agissait d'un financement engageant plusieurs partenaires: l'Etat, les départements, les caisses d'allocations familiales... Le fonds de solidarité devrait disposer de un milliard de francs en 1999. Le chevènementiste Georges Sarre (RCV, Paris) est intervenu pour

«Va-t-on être plus frileux que le précédent gouvernement? La chose [la réquisition], vous fait peur et le mot aussi!» Georges Sarre

officiel), de la mixité sociale en HLM ou de la taxe d'inhabitation (sur logements vacants).

La nuit précédente, les députés avaient achevé et adopté les quinze premiers articles, consacrés à l'accès à l'emploi. A 23h20, sans transition ni discours, le passage de relais s'est fait entre marathoniens avertis: Martine Aubry a cédé sa place à Louis Besson. Georges Sarre est parti bille en tête sur la réquisition des logements vacants. A six reprises, le maire du XIe arrondissement de Paris est revenu à la charge, sans mâcher ses mots, réfutant l'appellation de *«malentendus avec le gouvernement»*, pour lui préférer celle de *«désaccords»*. *«Va-t-on être plus frileux que le précédent gouvernement? La chose* (la réquisition, ndlr) *vous fait peur et le mot aussi!»*

«Zinzins». Imperturbable, Besson a aligné ses objections, dont le coût. *«Les 500 premières réquisitions ont coûté*

Bernadette voit Hillary présidente

Au deuxième jour de la visite en France d'Hillary Clinton, Bernadette Chirac a jugé hier que l'épouse du président des Etats-Unis est une femme *«extrêmement remarquable, qui a une force de caractère peu commune, qui s'intéresse à tout, qui est douée d'une mémoire considérable et a une grande faculté d'attention»*. Au cours d'un rencontre le matin au Sénat avec des femmes françaises, élues et représentantes de la société civile, la question d'une éventuelle candidature d'Hillary Clinton à la présidence des Etats-Unis *«lui a été posée par Laurence Parisot»*, PDG de l'Ifop, a raconté Bernadette Chirac.

«Elle a répondu "non". Je pense qu'elle se protège un tout petit peu avant de prendre plus tard peut-être une autre décision», a ajouté l'épouse du président français, pour qui, *«un jour, une femme sera chef d'Etat certainement en Amérique»*.

UDF: les adhérents boudent le questionnaire...

Un vrai bide. Le questionnaire envoyé à tous les adhérents de l'UDF (entre 90000 et 100000) pour décider de l'avenir de leur confédération, n'avait recueilli, hier soir, que 1500 réponses. Les militants ont jusqu'à demain pour renvoyer leurs souhaits. Il s'agit pour eux de décider s'ils souhaitent ou non une fusion des cinq composantes de l'UDF.

Le nombre ridicule de réponses tient au caractère alambiqué des questions et à l'attitude de certains dirigeants, comme Alain Madelin, hostiles à la fusion et décidés à saboter l'opération de consultation de la base.

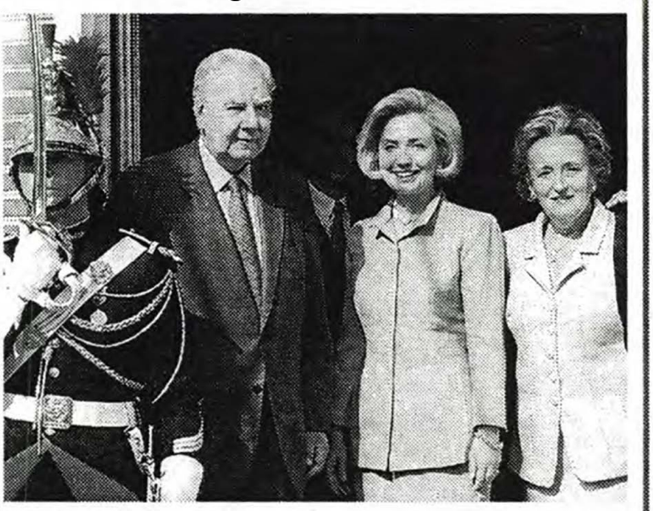
... et Madelin boycotte le bureau politique

Le bureau politique de l'UDF s'est réuni hier sans Alain Madelin et ses amis, bien décidés à quitter la confédération. En leur absence, François Bayrou et François Léotard ont persisté à demander la fusion des composantes de l'UDF. Mais ils n'ont pas précisé s'ils main-

France - Soir

JEUDI 14 MAI 1998

La folle journée de la First Lady à Paris



10 h 20. En tailleur bleu turquoise, Hillary Clinton entame sa journée marathon dans Paris. Première étape, le Sénat, où l'ont accueillie Bernadette Chirac et René Monory. Un président du Sénat particulièrement bien entouré hier puisque, pour sa seconde journée en France, la First Lady rencontrait au palais du Luxembourg une quinzaine de femmes, personnalités de la vie politique et culturelle. Hillary a eu un petit mot pour chacune d'elles.

12 h 30. Big bisou entre Jacques Chirac et Hillary, visiblement ravis de se revoir. Le président de la République et son épouse recevaient leur invitée d'honneur pour un déjeuner à l'Elysée. Bernadette était aux anges et a confié qu'elle verrait bien son amie américaine en première présidente des Etats-Unis.

15 heures. Face-à-face féminin à l'Ecole nationale de chimie, physique et biologie à Paris, où Ségolène Royal a offert une médaille commémorative à la First Lady. Le ministre délégué à l'Enseignement secondaire a ensuite fait les honneurs de l'école à son hôte.

17 h 30. Pas de jaloux, Lionel Jospin a lui aussi eu un entretien en tête à tête avec Hillary Clinton à Matignon. Très décontracté, le Premier ministre, qui s'exprimait en anglais, a écouté la première dame des Etats-Unis lui expliquer à quel point elle venait de passer un « wonderful day ». Hillary n'a toutefois pas eu le temps de faire du shopping. Comme souvenir, Bill n'aura le droit qu'à quelques cravates achetées au magasin de l'ambassade américaine.

Photos AFP, AP et FRANCE-SOIR (Xavier Lhospice)

« France – Soir »

Une « première dame » à Paris

Hillary Clinton de l'Elysée à Matignon

La deuxième étape de son périple français a été beaucoup plus politique que sa journée en Corrèze, la veille.

Jacques Chirac a eu « l'air absolument subjugué » par son invitée, selon le député Roselyne Bachelot, qui participait à la réception de la première dame américaine. (Photo Jacky Naegelen/Reuter.)

Bernadette vote Hillary. Persuadée qu'*« un jour, une femme sera certainement chef d'Etat en Amérique »*, l'épouse de Jacques Chirac verrait bien celle de Bill Clinton succéder à son mari et elle l'a dit hier, lors de la conférence de presse qui suivait le déjeuner de la « première dame » des Etats-Unis à l'Elysée. La Française a trouvé l'Américaine *« très remarquable »*, douée d'*« une force de caractère peu commune, d'une mémoire considérable »*, *« s'intéressant à tout et possédant une grande faculté d'attention »*. Avec ça, *« très aimable, très courtoise, prenant la parole avec énormément de facilité et capable de parler de n'importe quel sujet dans n'importe quel pays »*. Pas étonnant que Jacques Chirac ait eu *« l'air absolument subjugué »* par son invitée, selon Roselyne Bachelot, qui participait aux agapes en tant que député-femme RPR du Maine-et-Loire.

Comme Bernadette Chirac, pour qui Hillary Clinton *« se protège »* en récusant toute ambition présidentielle *« avant de prendre plus tard, peut-être, une autre décision »*, Roselyne Bachelot n'a *« pas tellement été convaincue par son « non »»* à la question de la presse sur sa candidature à la présidence des Etats-Unis, *« parce qu'elle ne l'a pas motivé »*. Elle a pensé que *« c'était un « non » diplomatique »*.

En tout, le déjeuner élyséen réunissait une quinzaine de femmes françaises, élues et représentantes de la société civile, avec lesquelles Hillary Clinton s'était d'abord entretenue au Sénat, dans la matinée. *« Des femmes toutes remarquables dans leur vie politique et professionnelle »*, selon Bernadette Chirac. Parmi elles, l'académicienne Hélène Carrère d'Encausse, les députés Anne-Marie Idrac (UDF) et Catherine Tasca (PS), Marie-Thérèse Hermange, député européen, Noëlle Lenoir, membre du Conseil constitutionnel, la présidente du CNJA (Centre national des jeunes agriculteurs) Christiane Lambert, ainsi que les proviseurs du Lycée Henri-IV à Paris et d'un lycée de Livry-Gargan (Seine-Saint-Denis).

« Fighting »

Catherine Tasca, qui a trouvé *« Mme Clinton très attentive »*, a visiblement été interloquée par sa description de la situation des femmes qui veulent se lancer en politique aux Etats-Unis : *« Elles doivent faire le choix elles-mêmes avec leurs moyens sans les appareils des partis. »* La présidente socialiste de la commission des lois n'a pas précisé si cette indépendance lui semblait un atout ou un handicap.

Christiane Lambert a profité de l'occasion pour plaider la cause des agriculteurs : *« Je lui ai dit que j'élevais des porcs en Anjou et que je produisais du blé et du maïs, productions sur lesquelles nous avons un vrai « fighting » avec les Etats-Unis. Elle a souri. J'espère qu'elle s'en souviendra dans les futures négociations. »*

Vers 17 h 45, Hillary Clinton s'est rendue à Matignon, dans la limousine blindée spécialement importée des Etats-Unis qu'elle a utilisée dès la première étape de son déplacement, hier, en Corrèze. Contrairement à Jacques Chirac, Lionel Jospin n'a pas embrassé la visiteuse mais lui a longuement serré la main devant les photographes. Il l'a reçue selon le protocole réservé aux chefs d'Etat, avec tapis rouge et gardes républicains. Elle n'a fait aucune déclaration à sa sortie.

J. W.

Figaro - May 14, 1998

Europe-Mrs. Clinton 131710 may 9

Mrs. Clinton inaugurates on-line research for French, U.S. schools
APPhotos available
By MARILYN AUGUST
Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton went on-line Wednesday to inaugurate a translantic computer hook-up between French and American students studying satellite images of their cities.

The American first lady, on the second and final day of her visit to France, sat in front of a brightly-colored computer screen at the high-tech lab school in Paris where dozens of teens connected via the Internet to the Kramer Junior High School of Washington D.C. and New York's Brooklyn School for Global Studies.

Students from the American School of Paris were also on hand for the demonstration, and translated the sometimes difficult technical language for Mrs. Clinton.

U.S. Ambassador Felix Rohatyn, his wife Elizabeth and Segolene Royal, France's deputy education minister, also participated, as the students toured their cities' major landmarks, comparing vegetation, water sources and anti-pollution measures.

"You didn't show us where I live," Mrs. Clinton chided a Washington student who didn't point out the White House.

"I want to make sure it's still there while I'm gone."

The Ecole Nationale de la Chimie, Physique et Biologie ranks among France's top science high schools and, unlike the majority of French schools, boasts the latest computer technology.

Mrs. Clinton, who leaves Thursday for Geneva before joining her husband in Birmingham, England, on Friday, had coffee Wednesday morning with Sylviane Agacinski-Jospin, the wife of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

Agacinski-Jospin, a philosopher, rarely meets even privately with visiting dignitaries.

Mrs. Clinton then attended a round table discussion on women in politics at the Senate with a group of prominent French women.

But the highlight of the trip was the hour-long on-line exchange developed jointly by NASA and the French Space Agency to show students that satellite imagery is vital to studying the environment, agriculture, geology and mapping.

"We explore space on behalf of humanity," Mrs. Clinton told the students in a class room on the 15th floor of the newly renovated school. This project allows you to touch space.

"As for the Ariane 5 rocket and space shuttle," she said in an aside to the teachers, "I don't understand anything about it, but I'm glad you do so you can teach it to our students."

NASA administrator Daniel Goldin joined in live from New York, applauding Mrs. Clinton's commitment to reinforcing math and science in public schools.

The students used Titus, French-designed software, to read the satellite images.

"I was a little nervous at first, because she's such an important personality, but things went fine," said Vincent Mentibes, 20, who led the tour of Paris. (ma-eg)

France-USA-Hillary lead
Bernadette Chirac rend hommage à Hillary Clinton, "femme très remarquable"

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Bernadette Chirac a rendu hommage mercredi à Hillary Clinton, "une femme très remarquable", sans exclure qu'elle puisse un jour être élue présidente des Etats-Unis.

Au cours d'une rencontre avec la presse à l'issue d'un déjeuner offert à l'Elysée par le président Jacques Chirac à l'épouse du président des Etats-Unis, Bernadette Chirac a jugé qu'Hillary Clinton était une femme "extrêmement remarquable, qui a une force de caractère peu commune, qui s'intéresse à tout, qui est douée d'une mémoire considérable et a une grande faculté d'attention".

"C'est une femme très aimable, très courtoise, qui prend la parole avec énormément de facilité et peut parler de n'importe quel sujet, dans n'importe quel pays", a-t-elle ajouté.

Ce déjeuner faisait suite à une rencontre avec quinze femmes françaises, élues et représentantes de la société civile, qui s'est déroulée mercredi matin au Sénat. Au cours de cette table ronde, la question d'une éventuelle candidature d'Hillary Clinton à la présidence des Etats-Unis "lui a été posée par Laurence Parisot", PDG de l'IFOP, a dit Bernadette Chirac.

"Elle a répondu +non+. Je pense qu'elle se protège un tout petit peu avant de prendre plus tard peut-être une autre décision", a dit l'épouse du président français pour qui, "un jour, une femme sera chef d'Etat certainement en Amérique".

"Elle nous a répondu +non+. Mais c'est drôle, je n'ai pas tellement été convaincue par son +non+, parce qu'elle ne l'a pas motivé. Et j'ai pensé que c'était un +non+ diplomatique", a pour sa part commenté Roselyne Bachelot, député RPR du Maine-et-Loire, qui a participé à la table ronde au Sénat puis au déjeuner à l'Elysée.

Roselyne Bachelot a également confié que le président Jacques Chirac "avait l'air absolument subjugué par Hillary Clinton" au cours de ce déjeuner "extrêmement sympathique".

"Je lui ai dit que j'élevais des porcs en Anjou et que je produisais du blé et du maïs, productions sur lesquelles nous avions un vrai +fighting+ avec les Etats-Unis", a pour sa part indiqué la présidente du Centre national des jeunes agriculteurs (CNJA) Christiane Lambert. "Elle a souri et j'espère qu'elle s'en souviendra dans les futures négociations".

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AFP /AA1234/131549 MAI 98

France-USA-Hillary
Trois quarts d'heure de rencontre entre Hillary Clinton et Lionel Jospin

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Lionel Jospin a reçu mercredi pendant trois quarts d'heure Hillary Clinton dans son bureau de l'Hôtel de Matignon.

A l'issue de cet "entretien de courtoisie", l'épouse du président américain s'est refusée à toute déclaration, se contentant d'un signe amical de la main à l'adresse de la presse.

Mme Clinton était arrivée à 17h30 à Matignon, où elle avait été accueillie au bas des marches du perron central par Lionel Jospin.

Pour la venue d'Hillary Clinton, Matignon avait mis en place le protocole réservé aux chefs d'Etat, avec tapis rouge et gardes républicains.

Mme Clinton était accompagnée de l'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Paris Felix Rohatyn et de son épouse.

Le matin, Hillary Clinton avait reçu l'épouse de Lionel Jospin, Sylviane, à la résidence de l'ambassade pour un petit déjeuner en tête-à-tête.

jlb-sm/gw/phb
AFP /AA1234/131842 MAI 98

France-USA-Hillary
Lionel Jospin: "un entretien extrêmement agréable, très franc et très direct" avec Mme Clinton

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Le Premier ministre Lionel Jospin a qualifié mercredi "d'extrêmement agréable, très franc et très direct", son entretien avec Hillary Clinton, a rapporté son entourage.

Lionel Jospin a reçu pendant trois quarts d'heure l'épouse du président américain dans son bureau à Matignon, à la demande de Mme Clinton, a-t-on ajouté.

Au cours de cet entretien qui s'est déroulé en anglais, l'éducation et la santé, deux thèmes chers à Mme Clinton, ainsi que l'emploi et les nouvelles technologies ont été évoqués, de même que le prochain voyage de Lionel Jospin en juin aux Etats-Unis.

Hillary Clinton a noté auprès de son interlocuteur qu'elle avait rencontré au cours de son séjour en France des élus de toutes tendances politiques.

sm-jlb/id/phb
AFP /AA1234/131903 MAI 98

France-USA-Hillary
Hillary Clinton découvre la Maison blanche depuis un lycée parisien

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Hillary Clinton a pu, mercredi à Paris, découvrir et vérifier de visu que la Maison blanche restait "fidèle au poste" pendant son absence.

En visite en France, l'épouse du président des Etats-Unis s'est rendue en effet mercredi après midi en compagnie de Ségolène Royal, ministre déléguée à l'Enseignement scolaire, à l'Ecole nationale de chimie de Paris (ENCP) et y a assisté à un échange d'images spatiales via Internet entre établissements français et américains.

Organisée par la NASA et le CNES, l'expérience permet d'analyser des images provenant des satellites d'observation de la terre et de comparer les données. Ainsi, les lycéens parisiens ont fait visiter leur ville à la première dame américaine lui montrant sur écran la Seine, l'Arc de triomphe, le Louvre et l'ambassade des Etats-Unis.

Parallèlement, des élèves de la Brooklyn school for global studies ont fait apparaître New-York et ses gratte-ciels tandis que ceux de la Kramer Junior High de Washington ont montré la capitale fédérale.

"Qu'est-il arrivé à ma maison, mon chat, mon chien?" a demandé Hillary Clinton soupirant d'aise quand on lui a montré la Maison Blanche. "Je voulais m'assurer qu'elle était toujours là quand je n'y suis pas", a-t-elle dit tandis que Ségolène Royal expliquait aux jeunes américains étonnés la nouvelle législation limitant le nombre de voitures à Paris pendant les pics de pollution.

Pendant la visite, Daniel Goldin, directeur de la NASA, est lui aussi apparu sur Internet pour souhaiter aux jeunes participant à l'échange d'être "un de ceux qui fouleront les premiers la rouge et craquante surface de la planète Mars".

En quittant l'ENCPB, Mme Clinton a offert à l'école une photo prise de la navette spatiale et le drapeau français que l'astronaute Jean-Luc Chrétien avait emporté dans la station orbital Mir.

MPL/swi
AFP /AA1234/131927 MAI 98

France-USA-Hillary prév
Hillary Clinton en France: une journée dans les palais nationaux (PHOTO)
Par Philippe GOULLIAUD

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Hillary Clinton a passé sa journée parisienne de mercredi dans les palais nationaux, du Sénat à l'Hôtel Matignon en passant par l'Elysée, après avoir eu mardi en Corrèze, terre électorale de Jacques et Bernadette Chirac, un aperçu de "la France profonde".

Mercredi matin, après un petit-déjeuner à la résidence de l'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Paris avec Sylviane Agacinski, l'épouse du Premier ministre Lionel Jospin, Hillary Clinton, vêtue d'un tailleur bleu turquoise vif, s'est rendue au Palais du Luxembourg.

La Première dame des Etats-Unis et Bernadette Chirac y ont été accueillies par le président du Sénat René Monory, avant de participer à une table ronde avec quinze femmes, élues ou représentantes de la société civile, qui "se sont imposées dans la vie politique ou professionnelle".

Parmi "ces femmes d'excellence", selon l'expression de Bernadette Chirac, les députés Roselyne Bachelot (RPR), Anne-Marie Idrac (UDF) et Catherine Tasca (PS), le sénateur Hélène Luc (PCF), deux députés européens RPR l'académicienne Hélène Carrère d'Encausse et Marie-Thérèse Hermange, Noëlle Lenoir, membre du Conseil constitutionnel, la présidente du CNJA Christiane Lambert, ainsi que les proviseurs du Lycée Henri IV à Paris et d'un lycée de Livry-Gargan (Seine-Saint-Denis).

L'émergence des femmes en politique, leur activité professionnelle et les questions d'éducation ont été les principaux sujets abordés au cours de cette rencontre. La communiste Hélène Luc a félicité Hillary Clinton pour ses déclarations en faveur d'un Etat palestinien, qui ont suscité la polémique.

Laurence Parisot, PDG de l'IFOP, a posé la question que beaucoup avaient en tête: Hillary Clinton sera-t-elle un jour élue présidente des Etats-Unis?

"Elle nous a répondu +non+. Mais c'est drôle, je n'ai pas tellement été convaincue. Et j'ai pensé que c'était un +non+ diplomatique", a commenté Roselyne Bachelot.

"Elle a répondu +non+. Je pense qu'elle se protège un tout petit peu avant de prendre plus tard peut-être une autre décision", a estimé Bernadette Chirac pour qui, "un jour, certainement, une femme sera chef d'Etat en Amérique".

Bernadette séduite par Hillary

Quoi qu'il en soit, Bernadette Chirac a été séduite par l'épouse du président Bill Clinton, qu'elle avait déjà rencontrée à plusieurs reprises, en France, aux Etats-Unis et en Chine, et qu'elle retrouvera ce week-end au G8 de Birmingham.

C'est une femme "extrêmement remarquable, qui a une force de caractère peu commune, qui s'intéresse à tout, qui est douée d'une mémoire considérable et a une grande faculté d'attention", a-t-elle dit à l'issue d'un déjeuner à l'Elysée avec Jacques Chirac et les participantes à la table ronde du Sénat.

Selon son porte-parole Catherine Colonna, "le président de la République a été particulièrement heureux de la visite d'Hillary Clinton en France à l'invitation de Bernadette Chirac". Pour Roselyne Bachelot, il a même été "subjugué" par la First lady.

Dans l'après-midi, Hillary Clinton est retournée en classe en compagnie de Ségolène Royal, ministre de l'Enseignement scolaire. Elle a eu droit à une démonstration d'échanges transatlantiques par Internet, mettant en connexion écoles en France et aux Etats-Unis et chercheurs dans le domaine de l'espace.

Etape suivante, Matignon pour un "entretien de courtoisie" de trois quarts d'heure avec Lionel Jospin. Pour l'occasion, le protocole réservé aux chefs d'Etat avait été déployé, avec tapis rouge et gardes républicains.

L'entretien, a souligné le Premier ministre, a été "extrêmement agréable, très franc et très direct".

Tirant le bilan de ces deux journées passées avec Hillary Clinton, Bernadette Chirac s'est réjouie de lui avoir donné, en Corrèze comme à Paris, "une jolie image de la France".

phg/gw/swi
AFP /AA1234/131940 MAI 98

France-USA-Hillary

Hillary Clinton dîne dans un bistrot de luxe dans le centre de Paris

PARIS, 13 mai (AFP) - Hillary Clinton devait dîner mercredi soir chez "Benoît", un bistrot de luxe situé dans le centre de Paris, a-t-on appris de sources concordantes.

Ce dîner privé réunissait notamment l'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Paris, Felix Rohatyn, et son épouse, ainsi que des personnalités françaises, a-t-on appris de bonne source, sans plus de précision.

La direction de l'établissement s'est refusée à tout commentaire sur ce dîner de l'épouse du président des Etats-Unis, Bill Clinton.

Le restaurant est un haut lieu de la gastronomie dans le style bistrot, très fréquenté notamment par le monde politique.

jlb/mst
AFP /AA1234/132024 MAI 98

Clinton-Europe,0682 140115 may 9

Clinton says Europe, with U.S. support, at threshold of full integration
AP Photos BER103-105, 108-113
By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press Writer

BERLIN (AP) - In the heart of reunited Germany, U.S. President Bill Clinton praised the country's leadership in building better European relations, even if the ties sometimes become frayed.

"There will be times when we disagree," Clinton said Wednesday, without citing examples. "But occasional lack of consensus must never result in lasting cracks in our cohesion."

Clinton delivered his speech at the Schauspielhaus concert hall in Berlin's formerly communist-controlled eastern sector.

In Germany on the first stop of a week-long European visit, Clinton took a helicopter ride to Potsdam, on the outskirts of Berlin, for a meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The two leaders met at Sans Souci, the 18th-Century palace that served as the summer residence of Frederick the Great. After lunch, they visited Frederick's gravesite, then strolled through the palace's terraced garden under bright sunshine.

Clinton said the issues they discussed - the stability of Russia and easing trade barriers, strengthening international institutions such as NATO and encouraging the success of a common European currency - proved that Europe is on its way toward harmonious unity.

"Now, for the first time, the dream is within reach, and not through conquest, but through the decision of free people," Clinton said.

The praise was overshadowed by Clinton's announcement that he is imposing economic sanctions on India in response to its series of nuclear test explosions. Kohl said Germany would study whether to do the same.

Clinton also gave a glowing endorsement of Kohl, Europe's longest serving leader, who faces a tough re-election challenge this year. In his speech, Clinton saluted the leading role Kohl played in European integration.

He offered a quote by former Chancellor Willy Brandt, who was mayor of West Berlin when the Soviet Union erected the Berlin Wall in 1961, to express his sentiment: "Es waechst zusammen, was zusamengehoert" - "What belongs together is growing together."

"This magic moment in history did not simply arrive," Clinton said. "It was made, and made largely by the vision and determined leadership of Germany and its chancellor."

Speaking directly to Kohl, Clinton said: "The world is in your debt."

Noting ceremonies planned for Thursday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-led Berlin airlift, Kohl said the United States has been a reliable friend.

Le Monde

SUMMARY 15/14

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE

May 13, 1998

HILLARY AND BERNADETTE, HAPPY FIRST LADIES

Pascal Robert-Diard writes a front page report on Mrs Clinton's visit to Correze. This is the full text:
"Bernadette Chiracs exists. Hillary Clinton has met her. Bernadette Chirac recently confided to her inner circle about the First Lady, 'She, at least, knows how to negotiate her status,' before adding astringently, 'In France, the President of the Republic is a widower...' The amount of pleasure Mrs Chirac showed in escorting Mrs Clinton in Correze is indicative of her sweet revenge over the modest role France assigns to its First Lady.

It was a woman's affair. It was their thing, including the official motorcade with an American limousine, fresh from the U.S., in which sat Bernadette and Hillary after the First Lady's arrival in Limoges. Theirs were the journalists and photographers to whom they very professionally never forgot to smile. But, most of all, it was their chance to speak.

First in Tulle, where Bernadette Chirac is an elected official of the Conseil General. Hillary Clinton gave an exemplary political speech, standing self-confidently at the lectern, her hands behind her back. She quoted Tocqueville and spoke with lyricism: 'What France and the U.S. have taught the world is the belief that politics and democracy are worth fighting for.' Then she spoke of local concerns, like the Tour de France, one of Mrs Chirac's pet projects, and 'highway 20 and highway 89, which will undoubtedly bring prosperity to the region.'

Bernadette Chirac reserved her address for the last leg of the visit, which took the two ladies to Chaumeil, and La Maison des Monedieres, where the village's woman mayor and thirty local women officials and presidents of associations welcomed the First Ladies. To her 'dear Hillary', France's First Lady explained at great length the department's history and how it functions, sparing no details about its budget.

And what about the men? Of course there were some. Dressed in their Sunday suits, they were a little intimidated by all the ceremony. Others were supposed to stand in front of the Correze city hall, next to the geraniums. To add some local color, a couple of men had even been asked to play a game of petanque (a sort of lawn bowling). But a few minutes before the motorcade's arrival, a sad-faced gendarme asked them to move on. 'The program has changed. There will be no game of petanque today.'

There were also some white-gloved men at the Monedieres serving cool drinks, petits fours and raspberry and blackcurrent jam. Before leaving, Bernadette Chirac said to the ladies; 'This day should mark the beginning of our club of elected officials from Correze. We will soon meet again and exchange photographs. We will share our fond memories of this day.'"

Draft: Florence Thomas; clr: Chris Rochester
Distr: The Ambassador; the DCM; Mr. Medeiros; Mr. Parmly; Mr. Snow; Col. Herrly

Hillary et Bernadette, au bonheur des premières dames

CORRÈZE (Corrèze)
de notre envoyée spéciale

Bernadette Chirac existe, Hillary Clinton l'a rencontrée. *« En voilà une, au moins, qui a su négocier son statut »*, avait confié récemment Bernadette Chirac à des proches, à propos de la première dame des Etats-Unis, avant d'ajouter d'un ton sévère : *« En France, le président de la République est veuf... »* A voir la jubilation avec laquelle elle a guidé Mme Clinton tout au long de sa visite officielle, mardi 12 mai en Corrèze, on pouvait mesurer la délicieuse revanche que Mme Chirac prenait sur la modeste place que lui concède la République française.

Cette visite était leur affaire. A elles, rien que pour elles, le cortège officiel d'une vingtaine de voitures, dont une limousine américaine à bord de laquelle Bernadette et Hillary ont pris place après l'atterrissage de l'avion présidentiel, en provenance directe de Washington, sur le tarmac de Limoges. Pour elles toujours, la presse, les photographes et les caméras, auxquels, en grandes professionnelles, elles n'ont jamais manqué de sourire. A elles enfin, à elles surtout, la parole.

Ce fut d'abord, à Tulle, au siège du conseil général dont Bernadette Chirac est l'élue, un modèle de discours politique délivré par Hillary Clinton, debout à la tribune, tête haute, mains croisées dans le dos. Une citation de Tocqueville, une envolée lyrique – *« Ce que la France et les Etats-Unis ont appris au monde, c'est la conviction que la politique et la démocratie valent la peine de se battre »* –, puis l'évocation précise des préoccupations locales : cette étape du Tour de France arrachée par le département, et *« à laquelle tenait tellement Mme Chirac »*, ces projets d'autoroute, *« the highway 20 and the highway 89 »*, qui ne manqueront pas *« d'apporter la prospérité dans cette région »*.

Bernadette Chirac s'était, elle, réservée pour la dernière étape de la visite, qui conduisait les deux femmes dans le petit village de Chaumeil, à la maison des Monédières, où les attendaient Mme le maire de la commune, une trentaine d'élues du canton et de présidentes d'association. A sa *« chère Hillary »*, l'épouse du chef de l'Etat a longuement expliqué le fonctionnement et l'historique du département, ne lui épargnant aucun détail sur le montant du budget, la répartition des dépenses et les réalisations de l'assemblée départementale.

Et les hommes, dans tout cela ? Oh, certes, il y en avait. Des hommes endimanchés et un peu intimidés par la solennité du moment. Des hommes, il devait y en avoir aussi devant la mairie de Corrèze, entre deux rangées de pots de géraniums. Pour agrémenter le décor, on leur avait même demandé de disputer une partie de pétanque. Mais à quelques minutes de l'arrivée du cortège officiel les deux figurants de la France profonde ont été poliment priés de déménager. *« Le programme a changé, il n'y a plus de joueurs de boules devant la mairie »*, est venu leur annoncer un gendarme, vaguement penaud.

Des hommes, enfin, il y en avait quelques-uns à la maison des Monédières, réquisitionnés par la préfecture pour servir, en gants blancs, rafraîchissements, madeleines et tartines de confiture de framboises ou de myrtilles. Avant de partir, l'épouse du chef de l'Etat a glissé aux dames : *« Cette journée doit marquer le début de notre amicale de femmes élues de Corrèze. On va se réunir bientôt, on échangera les photos et on se rappellera le si bon souvenir de cette journée... »*

Pascale Robert-Diard

From: USIS/PRESS FLORENCE THOMAS

PARIS - WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1998

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1. Hillary Clinton's Two-day Visit To France
2. President Clinton To Europe
3. U.S.-Europe Economic Relations
4. Nuclear Issues
5. Middle East Peace Process

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

Washington's First Couple is at the center of today's reporting. Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit to Correze with France's First Lady, Bernadette Chirac, is widely covered. Details of her program are highlighted in several reports. (See Part C)

President Clinton's visit to Berlin gives several commentators an opportunity to report on the status of relations between the U.S. and Europe. (See Part C)

On a lighter note, the Cannes Film Festival opens today with Primary Colors.

The Festival gives the economic press an opportunity to comment on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. Negotiations between Washington and Europe on the Helms-Burton legislation and its impact on European companies are also reported. (See Part C)

India's nuclear testing and the Middle East are the two major international stories reported. (See Part C)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

Hillary Clinton's Two-Day Visit To France

"Disgruntled Journalists"
AFP dispatch (05/12): "Photographers and cameramen dropped their equipment to the ground as Mrs Clinton was leaving the village of Correze, in a protest against their treatment by U.S. secret servicemen. French and foreign journalists accredited to cover the Clinton visit in Correze were forced to give in to demands by the First Lady's secret servicemen, in spite of attempts by the Elysee press people to intervene."

"Hillary Clinton Visits Bernadette's Fiefdom"
Mathieu Castagnet in Catholic La Croix (05/13): "Rarely have two First Ladies been so dissimilar. Hillary Clinton has always wanted to play a major role in American politics, but never really managed to. On the other hand, she often gets involved in foreign policy. Bernadette Chirac, who does not, is a locally

elected official...Hillary Clinton's foreign trips are rarely dictated by leisure. From Africa to the former Soviet Union, Mrs Clinton's trips follow the trail of a map in which U.S. diplomacy wants to earn points...Often, she will take the liberty of stepping on her husband's 'proverbial feet, or those of U.S. diplomacy. The last example dates back to her recent declaration about the need for a Palestinian state."

"A First Ladies' Summit"
Alain Bastide in right-of-center Le Figaro (05/13): "Jean-Pierre Bechter, Correze's majority leader, expressed the hope of one day seeing Hillary Clinton elected president of the U.S. Rene Teulade, in the name of the Socialist group, underscored the difficulties experienced by the American social system, and the leader of the Communist group congratulated the First Lady for her recent declarations in favor of peace and a Palestinian state."

"The First Ladies' G-2"
Judith Perrignon in left-of-center Liberation (05/13): "Yesterday, Hillary Clinton inaugurated the Washington-Limoges connection...The American First Lady knows her business, even if she confused the Conseil General with a local government...At a local kindergarten, even the children's song in English could not lighten the mood set by U.S. secret servicemen who did not allow French photographers to give the children disposable cameras...Later that afternoon, these same photographers laid their equipment on the ground as a sign of protest."

"A Rural Visit To Correze"
Catherine Llouquet in right-of-center France-Soir (05/13): "Everything about them should set them apart, and yet they seem to get along splendidly...Mrs Clinton, in a stunning yellow suit, her hair impeccably done and her blue eyes sending a steely look, demonstrated undeniable Yankee assurance. Good looking, but without a doubt not easy to get along with...Feeling very sure of herself, she took out her speech from her suit pocket and made a vibrant appeal for democracy...She also mentioned the Tour de France, knowing how important it is to Mrs Chirac."

President Clinton To Europe

"The U.S. And Europe Need Each Other"
Joseph Limagne in regional Ouest France (05/13): "Unlike General De Gaulle, the U.S. President wants Europe integrated in NATO and open to transatlantic trade...Fifty years after Berlin's siege, our Europe still needs the U.S. and its flourishing economy. But the U.S., whose world hegemony is suffering some setbacks, cannot do without Europe."

"U.S. Domination: Toward A Uniform Planet"
Hubert Coudurier in regional Le Telegramme de Brest (05/13): "Europe is going toward German economic domination, legitimized by the Euro, and American military domination...Of course, U.S.

hegemony has its limits, as witnessed by its incapacity to get the peace process back on track or its inability to keep India from testing its nuclear weapons. Europe, on the other hand, is much more receptive to everything that the American model sends our way: a strong domination in the cultural, economic and military sectors. Hence this uniformity for our planet which will be celebrated in Birmingham at the G-8."

U.S.-Europe Relations

"Clinton Visits Europe To Work Out Some Difficulties"
Right-of-center Les Echos from its Brussels Correspondent (05/13): "Clinton's visit to Europe will be an opportunity to clear the skies of the few clouds still darkening transatlantic relations...Today's transatlantic relations are hampered by a conflict over the Helms Burton and D'Amato legislation...Talks in Washington between Leon Brittan and U.S. officials, including today's meeting with Stuart Eizenstat and Friday's with Madeleine Albright, should help find a solution...The feeling shared by Brittan's colleagues is decidedly 'optimistic,' while EU ambassadors insist that a diplomatic solution should give a permanent guarantee to European companies--such as Total--protecting them from American sanctions. This permanent guarantee seems to be the last difficulty which needs to be ironed out."

"The Multilateral Agreement On Investment Will Come Back"
Gilles Bridier in centrist La Tribune (05/13): "The reprieve will be short lived: just six months...The MAI will be back...All sectors of activity are going through transformations, and the movie industry will also be affected--like the aerospace industry before it...France's 'cultural exception' annoys Paramount like it annoyed Boeing...Washington knows that without the support of politicians, France's movie industry will be incapable of fighting the changes to come...On this issue, France has not found European support. Thus France's 'cultural exception' remains vulnerable."

Nuclear Issues

"One Test Too Many"
Left-of-center Le Monde in its editorial (05/13): 'Is Armageddon back? India's latest test is a setback for disarmament and... the elimination of weapons of mass destruction...Technically speaking, India's initiative falls within the realm of its sovereignty and infringes no international law...While India's stand may be legitimate, it can nevertheless open up a Pandora's box...What this test raises is the question of nuclear deterrence on a regional level...During the Cold War, (nuclear deterrence) saw the birth of a concept called MAD (Mutual Assured Destruction). On a world wide level, deterrence worked...The danger today would be to imagine that it can work on the regional level, when most of today's conflicts are regional. Such a step should not be taken lightly...This precedent could look terribly tempting to some 'Dr Strangelove' in power...This is why

Washington's ambiguous reaction, 'deploring' the test but stopping short of announcing sanctions, is disturbing...The U.S. seems to have chosen India as a base for its new post-Cold War strategy in the region...It would be nice to be sure that its motivation is not the economic windfall of selling military technology..."

"Nuclear Proliferation Returns"
Georges Suffert in regional Nice Matin (05/13): "Asia's geopolitical map is changing right under our eyes...India knows that in the long term, the danger will come from China...not Pakistan...Slowly but surely India will join the world's club of nuclear powers... bringing in its wake other nations, including Pakistan...Israel, South Africa and others. It is once again the age old question of nuclear proliferation that is coming back."

Middle East Peace Process

"Madeleine Albright Hangs On"
Jean-Jacques Mevel in right-of-center Le Figaro (05/13): "As one takes off, the other lands...Rather than being present for a new Israeli confrontation, President Clinton has chosen to stay away...There is nothing to indicate that Netanyahu's arrival in Washington is a good omen...No one can say if this time Netanyahu will give in to U.S. pressure or whether he will once again remain obstinate...Meanwhile, Madeleine Albright insists that the U.S. will not sweeten its offer...even if she still believes that a compromise can still be reached." SNOW ##

Precede TULLE
Mrs. Clinton tours French heartland, visits city of light
EDS: AMs. UPDATES with Mrs. Clinton visiting school, color, changes dateline.
AP Photos Available
By MARILYN AUGUST
Associated Press Writer

CORREZE, France (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton swooped down for bird's-eye view of rural France on Tuesday, on the first leg of a two-day visit with French First Lady Bernadette Chirac.

Elementary school children, showing off newly acquired English skills, entertained Mrs. Clinton with two songs before presenting her with a bouquet of flowers.

In nearby Tulle, a medieval town built atop seven hills in the heart of lush, rolling countryside, Mrs. Clinton took in a special session of a regional council meeting.

This trip to the French heartland that is the home-away-from-home for the Chirac family allowed for a cozy encounter for the first ladies of the two nations, longstanding allies whose relations are spiced with occasional differences.

Mrs. Chirac, a reserved first lady, who is much admired by the French for her discretion, is one of the 37 elected officials on the council which handles issues ranging from roads to the elderly.

Mrs. Clinton is a lawyer known for her liberal views on issues ranging from child care to health insurance. She has had a major role in policy-making and is one of her husband's most ardent defenders.

Born into wealth and privilege, Mrs. Chirac has always cut a figure of discretion. Despite her active role in local politics, she has remained in the shadows as husband Jacques Chirac, long France's leading conservative and twice prime minister, climbed the political ladder to the presidential Elysee Palace.

In Correze, hundreds of local people lined the route, cheering the 15-car motorcade.

"Having Mrs. Clinton is wonderful for Correze and shows tremendous support for what Bernadette has done for the region," said Yvonne Genestine.

The two women went on to visit a community center displaying a wide array of local specialties. Mrs. Clinton sampled a tiny piece of rye bread smeared with homemade jam made from wild blueberries.

International politics were not on Mrs. Clinton's agenda.

The only reference to her recent statements concerning the creation of a Palestinian state came from a local Communist official.

He thanked Mrs. Clinton for voicing support for a Palestinian state, saying it added credibility to the French Communist position. Mrs. Clinton did not respond.

Security was tight, and several townspeople were disappointed that American secret service officials kept them at bay.

"She seemed so lovely so interested in everything. It's a shame we couldn't talk to her," said Arlette Merveille, a retiree who waited several hours in the sun to shake Mrs. Clinton's hand.

(ma-dgs)

USIS

FRS0104 4 G 0832 FRA /AFP-FA75
Agenda-France flt1
Journée du mercredi 13 mai

(La couverture rédactionnelle des événements de la journée vous sera adressée séparément)

Elysée :
- 10H00 : Conseil des ministres
- 12H00 : Jacques Chirac reçoit Jean Matteoli, président du Conseil économique et social
- 13H15 : déjeuner de Jacques et Bernadette Chirac avec Hillary Clinton
- 16H00 : Jacques Chirac reçoit Philippe Toussaint et une délégation de l'UNAPEL

Matignon :
- 16H30 : entretien de Lionel Jospin avec le président du Burkina Faso Blaise Compaore
- 17H30 : entretien de Lionel Jospin avec Hillary Clinton

Assemblée nationale :
- 09H30 - Mission d'information sur le Rwanda : audition ouverte à la presse de Robert Galley, puis à 10H30 : audition à huis clos de Jean-Michel Marlaud, ancien ambassadeur au Rwanda (salle Victor Hugo)
- 10H00 - Commission des Affaires étrangères : audition ouverte à la presse de Wole Soyinka, Prix Nobel de littérature (salle Lamartine)
- 10H30 : bureau du groupe PS et à 11H15 : réunion du groupe PS
- 11H00 : réunion du groupe RPR et réunion du groupe PCF
- 15H00 et 21H00 : questions au gouvernement, projet de loi sur la lutte contre les exclusions
- 16H15 - Commission des Lois : audition ouverte à la presse de Jean-Pierre Chevènement sur le cumul des mandats (salle Lamartine)
- 16H30 - Commission d'enquête sur Superphénix : audition de Hubert Curien, ancien ministre puis de Jean Pronost, expert près de la Cour d'appel de Paris

Sénat :
- 15H00 : examen du projet de loi instituant une commission consultative du secret de la défense nationale (deuxième lecture), examen de la proposition de loi tendant à la détermination des conditions juridiques de l'exercice de la profession d'artisan boulanger

- 08H30 - 17, rue Hamelin - Groupement des Industries de Télécommunications et d'Electronique Professionnelle (GITEP) : réunion de presse sur les résultats 1997, la situation présente et perspectives d'avenir des industries de télécommunications et d'électronique professionnelle
- 08H45 - Insee : Prix à la consommation, indice provisoire d'avril
- 09H15 - Ecole normale supérieure - 45, rue d'Ulm : IIIème journée d'étude de CERC-association sur le thème "revenu minimum et protection sociale : quels droits, quelles obligations ?"
- 10H00 - CNIT - La Défense - Total : Assemblée générale mixte
- 11H00 - Direction de la sûreté des installations nucléaires (DSIN) - 68, rue de Bellechasse - Salle 108 : conférence de presse du patron de la sûreté nucléaire, André-Claude Lacoste sur le rapport remis au Premier ministre sur l'affaire des convois contaminés
- 1, Place de Valois : réunion du comité exécutif du Parti Radical, présidé par Thierry Cornillet (12H15 : conférence de presse)
- AULNAY-SOUS-BOIS - Cité nouvelle vers le Lycée Jean-Zay - 14H00 : marche silencieuse à la mémoire du lycéen, Jean-Michel Téhoué, décedé après une bagarre
- 16H00 - Hôtel Marigny : point de presse du porte-parole de l'Elysée, Catherine Colonna avant le Sommet du G8 qui se tiendra du 15 au 17 mai à Birmingham
- 16H15 - 25, avenue Charles Floquet : bureau politique de l'UDF
- 16H30 - ACF - 5 place de la Concorde - CNPF-AFB réunion-débat avec Egor Stroev, président du conseil de la fédération de Russie
- 18H00 - Centre de Conférences internationales - 19, avenue Kléber (16ème) : cérémonie de passation de pouvoirs du médiateur de

USIS

FRS1254 4 PI 0710 FRA /AFP-EJ92
France-USA-Hillary prév
Hillary Clinton s'initie à la démocratie locale en Corrèze avec Bernadette Chirac (PHOTO)

CORREZE, 12 mai (AFP) - Hillary Clinton, l'épouse du président américain Bill Clinton, s'est initiée, mardi en Corrèze, à la démocratie locale à la française, sous la conduite de Bernadette Chirac, épouse du président français et conseillère générale du département depuis 1979.

L'idée de cette visite sur les terres électorales de Bernadette Chirac était née lors d'une rencontre des deux premières dames, à l'issue du Sommet du G7 de Lyon en juin 1996. Elle se concrétise, deux ans plus tard, à quelques jours du G7 de Birmingham, ce week-end.

Entretemps, l'épouse de Jacques Chirac a été réélue en mars conseillère générale du canton de Corrèze dès le premier tour avec 61% des voix.

La journée a commencé, sous un chaud soleil, à l'Hôtel du département à Tulle, où Hillary Clinton, vêtue d'un tailleur jaune bouton d'or, et Bernadette Chirac, en tailleur bleu marine, ont été accueillies officiellement par le président RPR du conseil général, Jean-Pierre Dupont, successeur de Jacques Chirac à l'Assemblée nationale.

Les trois présidents des groupes de l'assemblée départementale y sont allés de leur compliment. Le communiste Jacques Chaminade a félicité l'épouse du président américain pour ses récentes déclarations en faveur d'un Etat palestinien qui ont suscité une polémique.

Le président du groupe de la majorité départementale RPR-UDF, Jean-Pierre Bechter, n'a pas hésité à souhaiter qu'Hillary Clinton soit la première femme élue présidente des Etats-Unis.

Le socialiste René Teulade, ancien ministre des Affaires sociales, a regretté que le projet de réforme de la protection sociale américaine, envisagé par Hillary Clinton, ait été abandonné alors qu'il paraissait "plus juste, plus humain, moins cher et plus efficace" que le système actuel.

"Quelquefois, dans une démocratie, il faut avancer à tous petits pas, à petits pas de bébé, et non pas à grands pas de géant", a répondu Mme Clinton, reconnaissant qu'elle aurait bien aimé que son projet aboutisse.

"C'est à la France profonde que vous rendez visite"

Faisant preuve de professionalisme, elle a présenté ses félicitations pour l'étape du Tour de France qui se déroulera en Corrèze le 18 juillet, en rappelant que ce projet était particulièrement cher à Bernadette Chirac.

Dans la limousine blindée venue spécialement des Etats-Unis, les deux premières dames se sont ensuite rendues à Corrèze (1.145 habitants), au coeur du canton de Bernadette Chirac. Premier rendez-vous, auquel elles sont arrivées avec plus d'une heure de retard, l'école maternelle où, pendant une demi-heure, elles ont écouté les enseignants parler de leurs méthodes éducatives, et les enfants chanter des chansons folkloriques américaines, en anglais.

A l'heure du thé, Mmes Clinton et Chirac ont partagé un déjeuner avec les maires des neuf communes du canton qui ont exposé leurs réalisations et leurs projets communaux. Melon de Cavaillon frappé, suprême de volaille au parfum de truffes, carottes au jus et haricots verts, profiterolles au chocolat, composaient le menu typiquement français.

Devant la mairie de Corrèze, les deux "first ladies" ont répondu aux applaudissements de la population où Mme Chirac retrouvait des têtes connues.

Dernière étape, la petite commune de Chaumeil, au coeur du Massif des Monédières, sur le plateau de Millevaches. Accueillies par le maire Denise Martinie, Hillary Clinton et Bernadette Chirac ont visité la Maison des Monédières, vitrine locale de l'artisanat et de la culture. Elles ont rencontré une vingtaine de femmes élues dans le canton, parmi lesquelles Michèle Chezalviel, dirigeante agricole du Limousin, qui a évoqué les questions agricoles dans un a-parte avec l'épouse du président américain.

"C'est à la France profonde que vous rendez visite", a déclaré Mme Chirac, après avoir expliqué à son hôte la marche des conseils généraux.

Mercredi à Paris, Hillary Clinton et Bernadette Chirac

rencontreront au Sénat des élues nationales et des représentantes de la société civile, notamment du secteur éducatif, avant de déjeuner à l'Elysée avec le président Jacques Chirac.

phg-lm/mst

AFP /AA1234/122125 MAI 98

USIS

FRS1121 4 IPA 0113 FRA /AFP-DY48
France-USA-Hillary
Visite de Mme Clinton: protestation des photographes et cameramen de presse

CORREZE (Corrèze), 12 mai (AFP) - Photographes et cameramen ont posé leur matériel par terre lors du départ d'Hillary Clinton du village de Corrèze mardi vers 18h30, pour protester contre l'attitude du service de sécurité américain à leur égard.

Les journalistes français et étrangers accrédités pour rendre compte de la visite d'Hillary Clinton en Corrèze ont été contraints, toute la journée, de se plier aux exigences des gardes du corps américains de l'épouse du président des Etats-Unis, malgré l'intervention des responsables du service de presse de l'Elysée.

lm/npk/chm

AFP /AA1234/121929 MAI 98

USIS

FRS1035 4 IP 0450 FRA /AFP-DQ16
France-USA-Hillary
Hillary Clinton et Bernadette Chirac au Conseil général et dans une maternelle de Corrèze

TULLE, 12 mai (AFP) - Hillary Clinton, l'épouse du président américain, a commencé sa visite en Corrèze par un accueil officiel au Conseil général du département, où Bernadette Chirac siège depuis 1979.

Plus tard dans l'après-midi, Mmes Clinton et Chirac ont visité une école maternelle du village de Corrèze (1.145 habitants), où elles ont passé une demi-heure en compagnie des enfants.

A Tulle, à l'Hôtel Marbot qui abrite l'Hôtel du Département, les deux Premières dames --tailleur bouton d'or pour l'Américaine, tailleur marine pour la Française-- étaient assises côte à côte au premier rang de la salle du conseil.

Le président RPR du Conseil général, Jean-Pierre Dupont, et les présidents de groupe à l'assemblée départementale, Jean-Pierre Bechter (majorité départementale RPR-UDF), Jacques Chaminade (PCF) et René Teulade (PS), lui ont, chacun à sa manière mais tous avec chaleur, souhaité la bienvenue.

Jean-Pierre Bechter a salué les talents de "surdouée" d'Hillary Clinton et son engagement politique qui, selon lui, illustre "la devise de la République française: Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité".

Jacques Chaminade, élu de Brive, a quant à lui félicité l'épouse du président américain pour ses récentes déclarations en faveur d'un Etat palestinien.

René Teulade, ancien ministre des Affaires sociales de Pierre Bérégovoy, a regretté que le projet de réforme de la protection sociale américaine, envisagé par Hillary Clinton, ait été abandonné alors qu'il paraissait "plus juste, plus humain, moins cher et plus efficace" que le système actuel.

"Quelquefois, dans une démocratie, il faut avancer à tous petits pas, à petits pas de bébé, et non pas à grands pas de géant", a reconnu Hillary Clinton dans sa réponse.

Faisant preuve de professionalisme, elle a présenté ses félicitations au conseil pour l'étape du Tour de France qui se déroulera en Corrèze à la mi-juillet et a exprimé sa certitude que les autoroutes A-20 et A-89 "vont certainement apporter la prospérité dans cette région".

A Corrèze, les deux Premières dames ont été accueillies par la directrice de l'école, Simone Verdier, et deux enfants qui leur ont offert des bouquets de fleurs. D'autres enfants, plus âgés, ont interprété deux chansons folkloriques américaines, en anglais.

Mmes Clinton et Chirac ont ensuite visité la maternelle. Certains enfants, munis d'appareils photos-jetables, ont immortalisé leur venue.

Mme Clinton a notamment félicité, en français, pour son travail manuel Julie, 4 ans, au T-shirt du même jaune que le tailleur de la First Lady.

phg-lm/fg/chm

AFP /AA1234/121836 MAI 98

Morteza Firouzi, journaliste iranien, risque la lapidation

■C'est le journal conservateur *Ressalat* qui vient de donner l'information : la Cour suprême iranienne a rejeté la demande en annulation de la peine de mort par lapidation prononcée contre Morteza Firouzi. Ancien rédacteur en chef du quotidien iranien en langue anglaise *Iran News*, Morteza Firouzi est accusé d'espionnage en faveur de la France, de la Corée du Sud et du Japon. Mais on lui reproche surtout d'avoir eu des relations extraconjugales. Pour le premier cas, l'accusé aurait reconnu avoir été en contact avec ces ambassades à qui il aurait fourni des rapports en tant qu'expert. Ce qui a aggravé la situation de Morteza Firouzi, c'est les nombreuses relations extraconjugales qu'il aurait eues. La loi iranienne interdit en effet toute relation en dehors des liens du mariage. Grand, barbe bien taillée et élégant, Morteza Firouzi dirigeait jusqu'à il y a un an l'un des quatre quotidiens iraniens en langue anglaise, un titre plutôt proche du ministère des affaires étrangères. Lui-même a joué, selon certains journaux iraniens, un rôle de conseiller politique auprès du candidat malheureux des conservateurs, Ali Akbar Nategh Nouri, qui dirige aujourd'hui le Parlement. En fait, Morteza Firouzi semble avoir de solides amitiés parmi les conservateurs, ce qui lui aurait sauvé la vie jusque-là, la justice étant dirigée par ces derniers. Selon certaines sources, Morteza Firouzi aurait commis l'imprudence de fréquenter la femme ou la fille d'un responsable haut placé, qui refuse d'accorder son pardon et exige un châtiment exemplaire. Pour le moment, les amitiés politiques de Morteza Firouzi mais aussi l'intervention du président Khatami et la campagne des organisations internationales de défense des droits de l'homme semblent jouer en sa faveur. D'ailleurs, le journal *Ressalat* affirmait, lundi, que la confirmation de la peine n'avait pas été transmise aux responsables compétents chargés de son application. Ce qui laisse encore une toute petite lueur d'espoir.

Siavosh GHAZI
(À Téhéran)

Hillary Clinton visite sur ses terres Bernadette Chirac

La first lady se rend dans le fief corrézien de la première dame française. Une expérience pour celle qui rêvait d'une carrière politique

Rarement deux « premières dames » auront paru si dissemblables. Hillary Clinton a toujours souhaité jouer un rôle de premier plan sur la scène politique américaine. Sans vraiment y parvenir. En revanche, elle multiplie les échappées sur le terrain de la politique étrangère.

Bernadette Chirac, au contraire, reste presque invisible sur la scène politique nationale. Mais elle cultive son enracinement local qui lui a valu d'être réélue pour la quatrième fois conseillère générale de Corrèze en mars dernier et conseillère municipale de Sarran.

Cette expérience inhabituelle a piqué la curiosité de la first lady américaine, lors d'un dîner qui réunissait les deux femmes à l'issue du sommet des sept principaux pays industrialisés (G 7), à Lyon, en juin 1996. Mardi, Hillary Clinton sera donc au côté de son homologue française pour sillonner les terres de Bernadette Chirac. Le lendemain, à Paris, elle rencontrera le président et le premier ministre français.

Pour Hillary Clinton, arpenter le terrain où une épouse de chef d'État parvient à se faire élire, mérite à coup sûr un détour. Longtemps, elle-même a rêvé d'occuper un poste de premier plan.

La pièce maîtresse du couple

Que l'on se souvienne ! Lorsque Bill Clinton entre pour la première fois à la Maison-Blanche, elle pense son heure arrivée. À Washington, elle passe pour la pièce maîtresse du couple présidentiel et gagne le surnom de « Billary ».

Sûre d'elle et de son talent, Hillary Clinton n'entend pas se cantonner dans les tâches de représentation habituellement dévolues aux first ladies. C'est alors qu'elle prend en charge l'épineux dossier de la réforme du système de santé. Ce sera une catastrophe. Elle qui voulait briller se brûle les ailes. Le Congrès démolit et enterre son rapport de 1 300 pages.

Le coup est rude. Il ne fait que marquer le début de sa chute. Hillary Clinton est bientôt rattrapée par le scandale Whitewater qui ne la lâchera plus.

En janvier 1996, elle touche le fond et doit même témoigner devant un grand jury fédéral pour son rôle dans cette sombre affaire de faillite immobilière. Elle dont on disait qu'elle était l'atout numéro un de son mari, est devenue un boulet. À tel point que, durant la campagne présidentielle de 1996, elle sera cantonnée dans les coulisses.

Des voyages plus politiques que distrayants

Depuis cette période douloureuse, Hillary semble rentrer dans le rang qui sied à une first lady. Elle voyage beaucoup, multiplie les discours sur les thèmes sociaux et écrit même un livre — devenu un best-seller (1).

Malgré tout, Hillary Clinton reste un animal politique. Ses voyages, par exemple, obéissent rarement à une logique d'agrément. De l'Afrique aux Républiques de l'ex-URSS, ils suivent le plus souvent la carte des zones où la diplomatie américaine cherche à marquer des points.

Souvent, elle s'autorise une intrusion toujours remarquée sur les plates-bandes de son mari ou de la diplomatie américaine.

La dernière ne remonte qu'à quelques jours. Mercredi dernier, elle avait ainsi affirmé qu'il serait « dans l'intérêt à long terme du Moyen-Orient que la Palestine soit un État ». La riposte de la communauté juive américaine a été violente, celle de la Maison-Blanche très embarrassée.

Par le recul qu'elle a pris avec la politique au quotidien, Hillary Clinton est parvenue à se rebâtir une image. L'ancienne avocate vedette a regagné pas à pas les faveurs de l'opinion, retourné les sondages. À tel point qu'aujourd'hui, elle est en position de force pour voler au secours de son mari, pris dans la tourmente des affaires de barcèlement sexuel.

L'histoire semble bégayer

À vrai dire, le rôle n'est pas nouveau pour elle. Avant même l'élection présidentielle de 1992, c'est elle qui avait sauvé une campagne qui menaçait de s'effondrer. À la télévision, devant l'Amérique tout entière, elle était apparue tenant la main d'un Bill Clinton soupçonné — déjà — d'infidélités pour lui renouveler sa confiance.

Ces derniers mois, l'histoire semble bafouiller. Hillary se retrouve à nouveau dans le rôle de la carapace, du dernier rempart pour protéger le président malmené par le scandale Lewinsky. C'est elle qui a sonné la charge contre « le complot de droite » et « la campagne de diffamation ». C'est elle qui mène la contre-attaque contre « les motivations politiques du procureur ».

Et comme chaque fois qu'elle monte en première ligne, les rumeurs reprennent : Hillary Clinton n'a peut-être pas définitivement renoncé à mener, un jour, une carrière politique pour son propre compte.

Mathieu CASTAGNET

(1) *Il faut tout un village pour élever un enfant*, Éd. Denoël, 1996, 356 p., 127 F.

***Bernadette Chirac et Hillary Clinton** pendant la rencontre du G 7 à Lyon.*

Brèves

Le Pape r brésilien

Ronaldo, la vedet l'équipe nationale Jean-Paul II, au Vat *(photo AFP)*. Il avai en Italie, l'été derr l'épiscopat brésilie nier, n'a visiblemer

Le bœuf b revenir dar

Le bœuf britanniqu pour cause de ma retrouver ses lettre risé dans les assiet européen en charg senter avant la pau l'embargo pour les indiqué Franz Fisch

MEXIQUE
Le gouvernemer xicain, poursuivan litique d'isolemen guérilla zapati « sous-commandar cos », a expulsé 40 membres d'une d'observateurs ital leur reproche de s' vrés à du « tourisme tionnaire » dans le pas, au sud du pays.

CANADA
Un enfant sur cinq dans la pauvreté a nada en 1996, selo étude publiée lundi Conseil du bien-être Cet organisme cons gouvernemental a c vert que la pauvreté augmenté ces der années, bien que le d cycle de récession é mique ait pris fin en

IRAK
Tarek Aziz, le vic mier ministre irakie arrivé en France, lun pour une visite offici quarante-huit heu doit rencontrer le dent de la Republiq premier ministre et nistre des affaires gères. L'ONU a an qu'il verrait aussi son taire général, Kofi A

Air du temps

British Airw pour le pant

La nouvelle ligne a spécialisée dans les v avec des années de personnel volant fém pantalon et non plus la compagnie — sera un tee-shirt. Le prem 22 mai.

La Croix, May 13, 1998

LATE NIGHT FINAL
Evening Mail
VOTED BT NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1998
30p
1998 SUMMIT SPECIAL EDITION

MARGE MAKES IT

And she did get her hair done!

By DAVID BELL

"YOU are my poster girl - I've got pictures of you all over the White House."

That's what US President Bill Clinton told Brummie Marge Potter, the 69-year-old propelled from obscurity to overnight fame as the star of Birmingham's poster campaign to welcome the most powerful men in the world to the city.

Marge shook hands and received a friendly cuddle from the American President, whose visit she had promoted with the hit city-wide poster carrying the slogan: "Get your hair done Marge, Bill Clinton's coming to town."

SUMMIT SOUVENIR SPECIAL
PAGES 2-13 & BACK PAGE

Mr Clinton made a bee-line for Marge as soon as he walked among the 350 VIPs summoned to the Council House to give a warm Brummie greeting to the G8 Summit leaders.

"I think I'll be the envy of all the girls in Birmingham," said Marge.

"He said he was very pleased to meet me because I was his poster girl."

"Tony Blair was there at the time and the President turned around to him and explained that he'd got pictures of me all over the White House.

"I still can't believe this has happened. Never ever did I think I would experience a moment like this."

1998 THE BIRMINGHAM SUMMIT

IT'S THAT OLD

Bill dazzles in sunshine Brum

By DAVID BELL

UNITED States President Bill Clinton, oozing charisma, was the star of the show as he toured Birmingham Council House banqueting suite shaking outstretched hands.

And Clinton was equally impressed by the city as it reached out the hand of friendship to the world's leaders.

Clinton told me last night that he had been "stunned" by his earlier canalside walk around Birmingham.

"I was totally unprepared for what I saw, I was walking down the waterfront and it was really fabulous," he told me as he and other G8 summit leaders of the world's richest countries mingled with Brummies.

"It was really fabulous. Fantastic. I was stunned."

His praise of the new-look city centre was shared by wife Hillary who told Birmingham historian Carl Chinn: "I was very surprised by what a beautiful city it is although my husband had told me it was a nice place.

"He played basketball for Oxford here against Birmingham University in 1969".

Lovely face

If Bill was stunned by Birmingham, the feeling was certainly reciprocated.

One of those belonged to Coun Sue Anderson who becomes Birmingham's new Lord Mayor next week. And she'll never forget the experience.

"He is gorgeous.

"He's got a lovely hand, a lovely face, and I'm never going to wash the hand he shook again," she said.

Also impressed was Northern Ireland- born Birmingham councillor Mike Nangle who, wearing a shamrock in his buttonhole, congratulated President Clinton for the efforts he had made to bring peace to his homeland.

"He thanked me very much," said Coun Nangle.

Even the drinks waitresses were impressed. He asked Amandip Dhesi for a simple glass of water.

"He made my day," she said.

One disappointment was the non-appearance of Boris Yeltsin. The Russian leader, who had to be ushered away from a long public hand-shaking session with crowds outside the Council House, ran late and went straight to dinner in the museum and art gallery.

And the 20 stone figure of Helmut Kohl was surrounded by German bodyguards who let him shake hands, but little else.

Meanwhile, French President Jacques Chirac was being, well, typically Gallic.

"I asked him if he'd come over for Birmingham's sunny weather," recalled Evening Mail editor Ian Dowell.

"He told me it had blown over from France."

Earlier Lord Mayor Coun Sybil Spence had told the G8 leaders she was proud to welcome them to Birmingham - and spoke of her absolute confidence that their choice of the city to stage their summit would be justified.

Pride, and Brummie pride at that, was very much the lingering feeling of the guests at the reception.

■ THE most powerful men on earth: (from left) Jean Chretien (Can Romano Prodi (Italy), Ryutaro Hashimoto (Ja

■ WARM WELCOME: Bill Clinton gets a kiss from Cherie Blair as world leaders arrived for the Council House recep

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■ FIRST LADY: Hillary Clinton arrives at Snow Hill Station on her way to London today

PM returns to human

PRIME Minister Tony Blair broke off from G8 talks to return to Birmingham and meet one of the biggest human chains the city has ever seen.

Mr Blair agreed to return from the Summit country house retreat to meet organisers of the Jubilee 2000 coalition at St Philips Cathedral which has masterminded the mass demonstration against World debt.

He joined Ladywood MP and international development secretary Clair Short to accept a petition from all over the world calling for action to be taken over the debts of the poorest countries.

Ann Pettifor, Director of the coalition said: "I am delighted that the chairman of the G8 has finally acknowledged the extraordinary world wide movement present in Birmingham today.

By MARK LANGFORD and DIANE PARKES

"We said all along that 50,000 people in the streets of Birmingham were as important as eight men in a country house.

Armed with whistles and good humour, people of all ages gathered in glorious sunshine in Birmingham to form a chain around the city centre.

Among them was retired nurse Margaret Williams, aged 67, originally from Erdington but now living in Sussex.

Accompanied by a friend from her village church she said: "We have come because it is really important to us that we support this project.

"We really wanted to be a part of this chain. We feel events like this are not only the way forward for the poor countries but the rich as well. This issue must be resolved."

Jubilee Coalition 2000 is a campaign group of more than 70 organisations ranging from church groups to trade unions calling for action over debts totalling around £100 billion that they say are crippling the economies of the worlds poorest countries.

Justin Macmullan, campaigns officer for Christian Aid one of the coalition groups, said: "The number of people here is absolutely fantastic. There are people here from all over the world who want to tell these powerful leaders that

Brum is UK's shop window - Blair

By SHAUN CONNOLLY
Political Editor

TONY Blair today vowed to use Birmingham as Britain's "window for the world" during the G8 summit to prove the UK was roaring ahead into the next century.

In an exclusive interview with the *Evening Mail*, the Prime Minister said that he wanted global leaders to take away the image of Birmingham as Britain's "can do" showcase enterprise centre.

Mr Blair, who was delighted with the warm welcome given to G8 leaders in the city, said: "I am delighted Birmingham is hosting the G8.

"It is the first time that it has been held outside London and I couldn't think of a better place for it to be."

Impression

"That is because the centre of Birmingham is exactly the type of impression of Britain we want people to take away.

"There are wonderful facilities here and I am not one of those people who thinks that modern Britain stops at the M25.

"I am sure everyone will return to their countries with memories of the warm welcome they have received.

"The wonderful facilities here show just what can be achieved by a partnership approach between the Labour council and business."

SHAKIN' STEVEN'S!

1998 THE BIRMINGHAM SUMMIT

Three-hour wait brings reward for boy of 7

■ DREAM COME TRUE: Steven Bache sits on his father Graham's shoulders

LITTLE Steven Bache waited three hours to meet the world's most powerful man.

Sometimes he sat on his dad's shoulders and wore a flapped Foreign Legionnaire's hat. Then he'd grow a bit tetchy and wriggle down to stretch his legs.

Then everything happened at once to the seven-year-old. After his father hoisted him aloft again, Cherie Blair kissed his hand and told him what a tall boy he was and, 10 minutes later, Bill Clinton shook his hand. Steven's father, Graham, a BT jobs' controller, was left wiping his brow at the thought his shoulders had carried his small son into Birmingham history.

"D'you really know who that was, son?" he asked Steven, as his daughter, 11-year-old Elizabeth, looked shocked that her mother had been so prophetic.

"Keep one hand free all the time," mum Valerie Bache had told her children, from Bournville. "You never know how close you might get to one of the leaders."

Directly opposite the Council House, in position since 2pm, lovely little Mrs Winnie Hill, from Quinton, had kept the crowd in fits of laughter as she commented on the minor official arrivals at the Council House.

By MAUREEN MESSENT and MARTIN McGLOWN

Then, Winnie's wait was rewarded with the arrival of Tony and Cherie Blair, the latter in a floor-length palest lilac silk skirt and three-quarter jacket.

And miraculously for Winnie, Cherie Blair walked up and shook her hand. For once our friend - who used to run a confectionery and newspaper shop in the Hagley Road West at Quinton - was lost for words. "Oh, Cherie," she breathed. "Oh, Cherie. Nice to meet you, love."

Jeers greeted the Japanese leader and his tiny wife for a second or so, then a voice shouted: "Come on, we can't be mean," and the boos faded to a handclap sparse as a summer rain. At which point two friends on a day out proved themselves fashion experts.

"Look at Cherie's shoes", breathed Mrs Bridgett Coghlan of Hall Green to her oldest friend, Mrs Pat Preece, of Marston Green. "Look at those beautiful shoes."

Sure enough, twinkling in and out of that silken hemline were the palest lavender strapped high-heeled sandals. "Shoes to kill for," said Bridgett and Pat.

The French, the Italians, the Canadians arrived and entered the Council House without crossing to meet the crowd. President Kohl lumbered over, greeting Winnie in a voice like Newcastle Brown rumbling in a vat.

But it was Clinton they were shouting for. America's First Lady got from the stretched black-and-silver limousine first, her hair seeming to have been sprayed on above her black suit with its salmon lapelled jacket.

Then good old Bill ambled across, putting on the boyish grin despite the make-up and grey hair. "Oo-er," said Winnie, after she'd pumped his hand up and down. "I can't wait to get home now to telephone all me friends. I'll exaggerate, of course, and say I kissed him."

Hillary enthusiastically shook the hands of Brummies and told them she was "thrilled and delighted" to be in the city. Diana Yiend, from Hollywood, said Mrs Clinton looked "radiant". Three pensioners - Joyce Tredwell and Joan Wilkes, both from Kings Norton, and Hildegard Leek, from Selly Oak - spent a minute with the First Lady. "She was very friendly. She thanked us for coming. She's extremely attractive," said Mrs Tredwell.

Next in line was Lillian Watson and her friend Ann Parish, both from Sutton Coldfield. "Mrs Clinton looked a lot younger than we thought," said Mrs Watson.

"She has very distinctive blue eyes and she comes across as being extremely confident of herself, whereas Cherie seems quite reserved."

Birmingham Poet Laureate David Hart was there behind a poetic-looking beard and under an unpoetic white cotton hat.

He said: "They wield so much power. Yet when I see them in the flesh, they are no bigger than the rest of us, no stronger-looking, just as fallible. Poetry lies in the city welcoming them, calling out cohorts of cleaners and sniffer-dogs, calling out all the dark-suited men from the various council departments. Dear old Birmingham's pulling their strings this weekend."

hain protest

want something done about a
em that is claiming the lives of
ns because their countries can't
proper health care as they are
d with these enormous debts that
an't possibly repay."
crowd member Mandy Laing, of
n Road, Kings Norto, who was
ating her 40th birthday said: "I
t think of a better way of spending
rthday than with all these Chris-
who are here protesting against
World debt."
today, there was expected to be
er demonstration from 'Reclaim
treets' an anti-car group who
ed to hold a street party in the city.
night the G8 leaders and their
were all dining together at the Botanical Gardens before moving on to a star-studded concert at the majestic Symphony Hall where Simply Red's Mick Hucknall was top of the bill with girl band All Saints and Jools Holland.

Live pictures from that concert were to be beamed into Cannon Hill Park where the People's Party would already have been in full swing with Lionel Richie the star attraction.

Tomorrow sees Cherie Blair and some of the other G8 wives starting off the Run the World fun-run event in Colmore Row (10.45am) with the runners making their way to the finish line at Alexander Stadium.

Later in the day the leaders then issue their end of Summit communique before jetting home.

HUG: Russian leader Boris Yeltsin embraces Tony Blair as the world leaders mix with the public of Birmingham outside the Council House

THAT OLD CLINTON MAGIC - PAGES 6 & 7

HRC Clips

Paris-Correze Wire Stories
Tuesday, May 12, 1998-
Thursday, May 14, 1998

LE MONDE
SUMMARY 15/14

May 13, 1998

HILLARY AND BERNADETTE, HAPPY FIRST LADIES

Pascal Robert-Diard writes a front page report on Mrs Clinton's visit to Correze. This is the full text:
"Bernadette Chiracs exists. Hillary Clinton has met her. Bernadette Chirac recently confided to her inner circle about the First Lady, 'She, at least, knows how to negotiate her status,' before adding astringently, 'In France, the President of the Republic is a widower...' The amount of pleasure Mrs Chirac showed in escorting Mrs Clinton in Correze is indicative of her sweet revenge over the modest role France assigns to its First Lady.

It was a woman's affair. It was their thing, including the official motorcade with an American limousine, fresh from the U.S., in which sat Bernadette and Hillary after the First Lady's arrival in Limoges. Theirs were the journalists and photographers to whom they very professionally never forgot to smile. But, most of all, it was their chance to speak.

First in Tulle, where Bernadette Chirac is an elected official of the Conseil General. Hillary Clinton gave an exemplary political speech, standing self-confidently at the lectern, her hands behind her back. She quoted Tocqueville and spoke with lyricism: 'What France and the U.S. have taught the world is the belief that politics and democracy are worth fighting for.' Then she spoke of local concerns, like the Tour de France, one of Mrs Chirac's pet projects, and 'highway 20 and highway 89, which will undoubtedly bring prosperity to the region.'

Bernadette Chirac reserved her address for the last leg of the visit, which took the two ladies to Chaumeil, and La Maison des Monedieres, where the village's woman mayor and thirty local women officials and presidents of associations welcomed the First Ladies. To her 'dear Hillary', France's First Lady explained at great length the department's history and how it functions, sparing no details about its budget.

And what about the men? Of course there were some. Dressed in their Sunday suits, they were a little intimidated by all the ceremony. Others were supposed to stand in front of the Correze city hall, next to the geraniums. To add some local color, a couple of men had even been asked to play a game of petanque (a sort of lawn bowling). But a few minutes before the motorcade's arrival, a sad-faced gendarme asked them to move on. 'The program has changed. There will be no game of petanque today.'

There were also some white-gloved men at the Monedieres serving cool drinks, petits fours and raspberry and blackcurrent jam. Before leaving, Bernadette Chirac said to the ladies; 'This day should mark the beginning of our club of elected officials from Correze. We will soon meet again and exchange photographs. We will share our fond memories of this day.'"

Paris, May 13 -- AFP: Fifteen women from different political and professional backgrounds met Mrs. Clinton and Mrs Chirac for close to two hours in the Salons Boffrand of the French Senate.

Three different topics were discussed during the closed- door meetings: women's professional role, education and women's role in politics.

Mrs Roselyne Bachelot, an elected official from Maine-et-Loire, said after the meeting: 'The talks took place in a very free and easy going atmosphere. Mrs Clinton gave me the impression she felt quite at ease.' Mrs Bachelot added that Mrs Clinton dismissed the idea of ever becoming president of the U.S.

Mrs Catherine Tasca said: 'The meeting was a little too short for my taste, but interesting. The women who participated were outstanding examples, far ahead of most French women. But examples are good. They are important,' she added. 'I found Mrs Clinton to be very attentive and very interested in what the fifteen women had to say. She indicated to us that in the U.S., the situation for women who want to go into politics is different. They must make their own decision to run and rely on their own resources, without the support of political parties.'

Mrs Helene Luc, president of the communist group in the Senate, said the talks were very interesting. 'I spoke to her about the role of women in politics, about the Revolution and the Resistance.' Mme Luc congratulated Mrs Clinton for her declaration about the need for a Palestinian state. 'It was very courageous' Mme Luc added.

AM-Mrs Clinton,0355
Mrs. Clinton inaugurates online research for French, U.S. schools
AP Photo PAR111
By MARILYN AUGUST= Associated Press Writer=

PARIS (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton went online Wednesday to inaugurate a translantic computer hookup between French and American students studying satellite images of their cities.

The American first lady, on the second and final day of her visit to France, sat in front of a brightly colored computer screen at a high school where dozens of teens connected via the Internet to the Kramer Junior High School in Washington and New York's Brooklyn School for Global Studies.

Students from the American School of Paris were on hand for the demonstration and translated the sometimes difficult technical language for Mrs. Clinton, who traveled to Europe with her husband. President Clinton visited Germany on Wednesday for the 50th anniversary of the Berlin airlift.

U.S. Ambassador Felix Rohatyn, his wife Elizabeth and Segolene Royal, France's deputy education minister, also participated as the students toured the cities, comparing vegetation, water sources and anti-pollution measures.

``You didn't show us where I live,'' Mrs. Clinton chided a Washington student who didn't point out the White House. ``I want to make sure it's still there while I'm gone.''

Mrs. Clinton, who leaves Thursday for Geneva before joining her husband in Birmingham, England, on Friday, met with Prime Minister Lionel Jospin after a roundtable discussion at the Senate on women in politics.

The 45-minute meeting centered on social issues, Jospin's aides said later, with the first lady speaking in favor of small jobs that help America keep unemployment down and showing special interest in the generous French welfare system.

But the highlight of the trip was the hourlong online exchange developed jointly by NASA and the French Space Agency to show students that satellite imagery is vital to studying the environment, agriculture, geology and mapping.

``We explore space on behalf of humanity,'' Mrs. Clinton said. ``This project allows you to touch space.''

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 05/13/98 at 14:54EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 05/14/98 at 08:49EDT ****

BC-FRANCE-HILLARY (PICTURE)

Hillary Clinton wins hearts and minds of Chiracs

PARIS, May 13 (Reuters) - Kisses and compliments flowed on Wednesday as U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton won over French President Jacques Chirac and his wife Bernadette.

``She is an extremely remarkable, extremely charming woman,'' Bernadette told reporters after Clinton lunched with the Chiracs and a group of women politicians at the Elysee presidential palace.

Minutes earlier Jacques Chirac had waved Clinton off from the sunbathed courtyard of his official residence, gallantly kissing her hand as she stepped into her limousine and then blowing kisses at her with both hands as she prepared to depart.

``The President was enthralled by her, completely enthralled,'' said Gaullist deputy Roselyne Bachelot, who was present at the lunch.

Bernadette Chirac thought that one day Hillary might reverse the tables on her husband and become U.S. president in her own right.

Mrs Chirac said her guest had been asked if she wanted to become president and had replied ``no.''

``I think she was protecting herself a little bit before perhaps taking a different decision at a later date,'' Bernadette said. ``In any case a woman will certainly one day be U.S. president.''

Hillary Clinton has spent two days in France on an official visit. She is due to address the World Health Organisation in Geneva on Thursday before travelling to Britain on Friday to meet up with her husband for a Group of Eight summit in Birmingham.

REUTERS

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 05/13/98 at 10:05EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JMAS) on 05/14/98 at 08:52EDT ****

BC-SANDERS-COLUMN:FT op-ed
First lady has right idea about Palestine
By Bob Ray Sanders
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)

Hillary Rodham Clinton is usually right. That's ``right'' in terms of being correct, not in terms of some peculiar political spectrum.

She is perhaps the smartest first lady this country has ever known, so when she speaks (even unofficially), we should pay close attention.

Despite the naysayers from the Republican Party, the American Medical Association and billion-dollar health care conglomerates, she was right on target about the need to overhaul health care programs in this country. Most members of Congress knew she had some good answers to one of the nation's greatest dilemmas, but they would never admit it.

The first lady was also right when she borrowed an old African proverb to declare in the late 20th century that it takes a village to raise a child.

Yes, Clinton was right about the right-wing conspiracy against her husband and the office of the presidency.

And she is most certainly right about something she said last week that caused another great gasp heard 'round the world, especially in the snobby quarters of political and diplomatic circles.

In a satellite-transmitted question-and-answer session with teen-agers attending a peace conference in Geneva, Clinton lent her voice to the eventual creation of a Palestinian state.

What she said exactly was: ``I think that it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state, to be a state that is responsible for its citizens' well-being, a state that has responsibility for providing education and health care and economic opportunity to its citizens.''

She is absolutely right, and anyone with any sense, foresight, compassion and understanding of the term ``self-determination,'' knows that the first lady was speaking what is (or ought to be) a universal truth.

There will be no lasting peace as long as people continue to be oppressed and discriminated against, as the Palestinians are.

Many people felt that Clinton's remarks were ill-timed because they came right in the middle of the president's attempts to get the Middle East peace talks restarted, and in the middle of Israel's 50th anniversary as a state.

Well, the truth can't always wait for the right timing, for if it came along only when people wanted to hear it, I'm afraid truth would be left waiting in the wings most of the time.

Frankly, I don't think the timing could have been better.

Sure, these are anxious moments as the fragile peace process is once again in jeopardy. Some critics felt that Clinton's remarks unjustly served to put added pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is being asked to give up more land on the West Bank in exchange for peace.

Part of the problem in the past has been that this country did not apply enough pressure on Israel; now that we're doing it, we're accused of being heavy-handed and insensitive.

As far as Israel's 50th anniversary is concerned, we must also realize that one person's cause for jubilation is another person's reason for mourning.

Palestinians endured incredible hardships and persecutions during the creation of the Israeli state, and those pains continue.

Perhaps those pains will never cease, but they can be eased somewhat by the creation of a Palestinian state.

Clinton surely understands that. I wonder why it is so difficult for others to comprehend it?

X X X

(Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may write to: 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.)

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X X X

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**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 05/14/98 at 08:44EDT ****

BC-FRANCE-HILLARY

Hillary Clinton praises French child care

PARIS, May 14 (Reuters) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday ended a two-day visit to France, praising its child care and early education system.

``I was struck by our common struggles to balance work and family, and by how much we have to learn from your nation's deep commitment to child care and early childhood learning,'' Clinton, said on departure for Geneva.

Clinton, who won over French President Jacques Chirac and his wife Bernadette, said she was leaving with ``fond memories of old friendship renewed and new friendship begun.''

She toured the Chirac's rural home region of Correze to learn about French local government traditions, and lunched at the presidential palace with prominent French women during a visit to Paris.

Clinton, who focuses on health care and children, was due to address the World Health Organisation in Geneva on Thursday before travelling to Britain on Friday to join her husband at a Group of Eight summit in Birmingham.

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 05/14/98 at 06:43EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 05/14/98 at 08:44EDT ****

HRC Clips

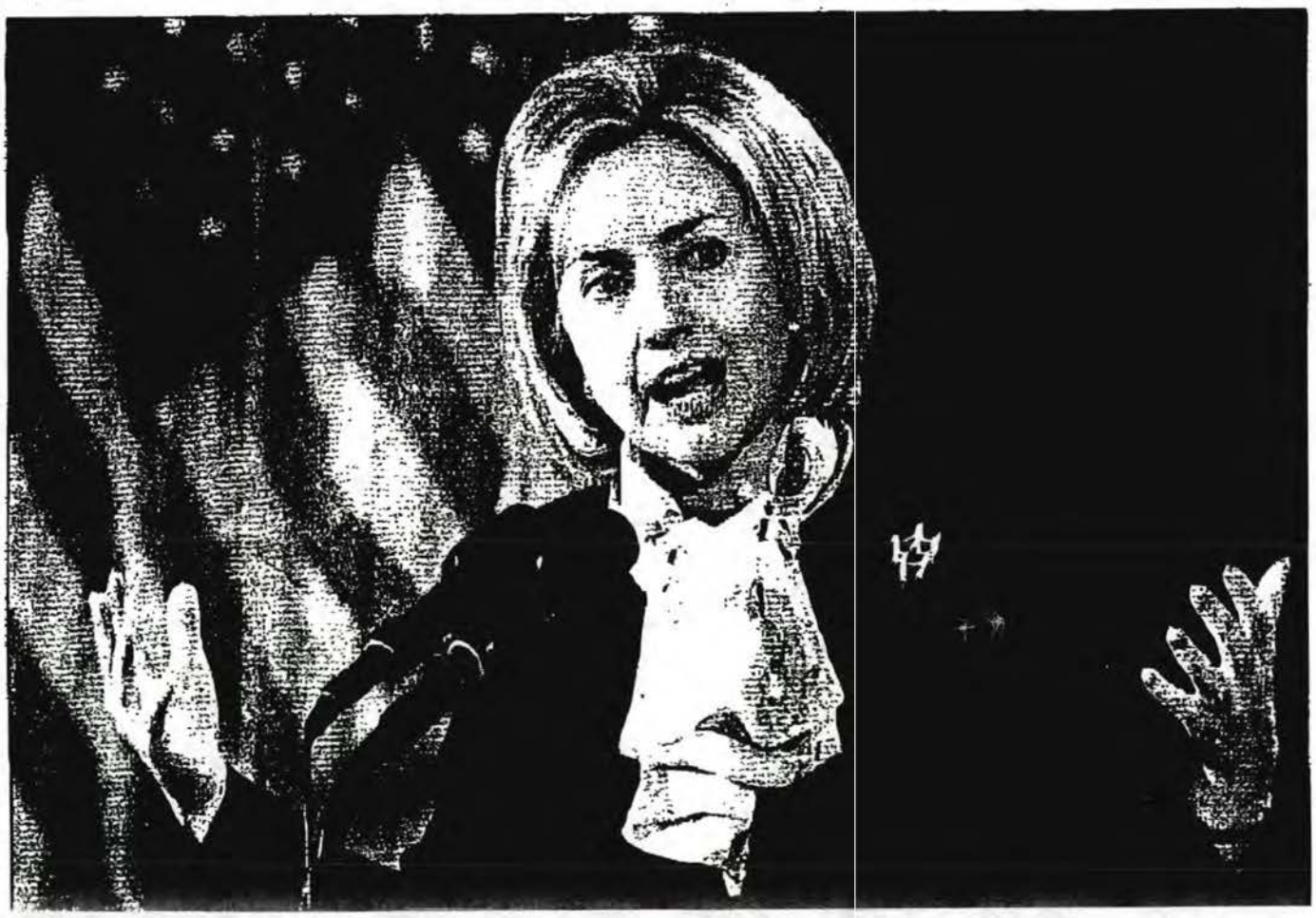
Monday, May 18-
Friday, June 5, 1998

06/05/98 FRI 13:22 FAX 508 754 0982 McGovern-WORCESTER TO WORCESTER
JUN 5 '98 12:12 FROM
PAGE.003 002

THE SUN CHRONICLE

Attleboro - North Attleboro, MA ■ Friday, June 5, 1998 $3.50 per week 50¢

Hail to Hillary



First lady, city sing praises to each other

BY JIM HAND
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

ATTLEBORO — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was about to leave a pre-school class at Fine Elementary School when one of the students, Ben Nunes, blocked her path.

Clinton might be the first lady and she might be escorted by Secret Service agents and she might be on a tight schedule, but Nunes had a more important agenda.

He had just built a house out of blocks, and he wanted Clinton to see it. She obliged and praised the boy for the quality of his building.

It was that kind of day.

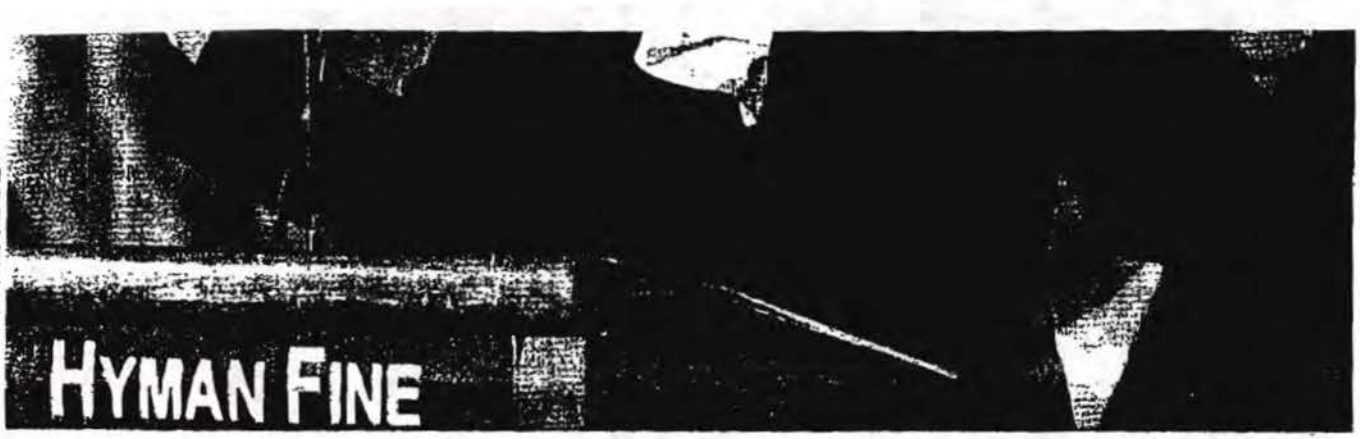
A lot of small things that take place at the school every day took on a larger significance because the first lady of the United States was there to share in them.

Clinton came to the school to see the work

▼

'You are giving a gift to the

06/05/98 FRI 13:22 FAX 508 754 0982 McGovern-WORCESTER PAGE.002
TO WORCESTER 003



MIKE GEORGE / THE SUN CHRONICLE

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at Attleboro's Fine Elementary School Thursday.

First lady leaves city buzzing

Y JIM HAND
UN CHRONICLE STAFF

ATTLEBORO — It was one of the ıost exciting days in Attleboro histo-/.

That was the consensus of people ıside and outside Fine Elementary :hool Thursday as first lady Hillary linton came to visit.

"It's so exciting. We're very hon-red to have the first lady coming to ttle old Attleboro," said Christine hapman, who stood outside the :hool hoping to catch a glimpse of linton.

"It's real exciting, and I'm proud ı be here. This is a real proud mo-ent for Attleboro," said Judy Dono-an McCurdy, a social service rovider who was one of 400 people ıvited to hear Clinton speak.

City Councilor George Ross said at even though he is a Republican nd Clinton is a Democrat, he found er "inspirational."

"I thought she was dynamic. For ttleboro to get recognized on a na-onal level is really unique. The ıeer fact that she came here is remendous for the city," he said.

SEE CITY, PAGE 2 ▶

KEITH NORDSTROM / THE SUN CHRONICLE

Focusing on children

U.S. Rep. James McGovern and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton speak to 22 preschool students at Attleboro's Project Connect Thursday.

▼

'You are giving a gift to the future by investing in the children and families of Attleboro.'

Hillary Rodham Clinton

▲

done by Project Connect, an early childhood program that has gained national recognition for its deep community involvement that combines the efforts of the public school system and private day care and pre-schools.

U.S. Rep. James McGovern, D-Worcester, and Project Connect Director Lynn Schweinshaut escorted Clinton through the school.

At the pre-school, which has a mix of students from different income levels and ethnic backgrounds, Clinton sat with three groups of students working on projects. Two were doing artwork while the third was building with blocks.

Clinton admitted to Schweinshaut that as a child she favored blocks.

"I can do blocks. I could never do art, but I could do blocks," the first lady said.

Clinton would gently stroke the backs of the heads of the children as she talked to them in hushed tones, looking them straight in the eye.

One of the students, Victoria Wagner, gave her a homemade greeting card.

Clinton then went into a brief private meeting with students and parents from one of Project Connect's play groups.

SEE CLINTON, PAGE 2 ▶

INSIDE

THE FIRST LADY speaks to Harvard Medical School graduates; she will be joined by her husband later today in Massachusetts. **PAGE 3**

ATTLEBORO should be proud of what it is doing for its children. **EDITORIAL, PAGE 8**

IT'S BEEN A WILD week for the city of Attleboro. **PAGE 12**

▶CITY: First lady's visit had everyone in Attleboro excited

FROM **PAGE 1**

Susan Fullerton, a parent of a Fine student, said her son got her up at 7:30 a.m. to buy flowers to give to Clinton.

She said Clinton's visit was a historic day for the city, and she wants her son, Ben Keough, to understand how lucky he is to be an American.

"It's important to me because I want him to know what American government is, and what an important part of it Hillary Clinton is," Fullerton said.

Clinton toured pre-school programs at the school and then spoke to the audience about the importance of a community providing support to parents and families.

Like a rock star

She had many in the crowd beaming. As she left the schools, dozens of adults, including several city officials, ran to a door to a balcony to get a peek at her limousine pulling away as if they were teenagers and she were a rock star.

"This is such a cool experience," City Council President Carolyn Tedino said as she jogged to the balcony.

Some stood on furniture to get a look.

U.S. Rep. James McGovern, who invited Clinton to Attleboro, said he was not surprised by the ecstatic reaction to the first lady.

"Mrs. Clinton seems to have this kind of impact on people. She seems to bring out the best in people," he said.

As people filed out of the school, many came up to McGovern to thank him for bringing Clinton to Attleboro.

McGovern, D-Worcester, has worked with the first lady and President Bill Clinton on a number of issues relating to early childhood development.

He said he wanted the first lady to see the good work being done by Attleboro's Project Connect, a pre-school program that provides a number of services to young children and their families.

Heaping praise

Clinton and McGovern heaped praise on the program, saying it should be copied around the country.

"We have a system that can be and should be replicated across Massachusetts and across the country," Clinton said.

McGovern agreed.

"Project Connect is a program that works. It is a program that unites the community in support of children. And it is a program that serves as a national model for communities everywhere.

"And that's why we wanted the first lady to come here to Attleboro to see first hand how one community is standing in support of its youngest and most vulnerable citizens," McGovern said.

After Clinton had left, people young and old said she had left them with a day to remember.

"I liked it when Mrs. Clinton walked in. When I am a grown-up, I will tell my kids I saw her," said Kaly Parrett, 7, a first-grader at the school.

Ann E. Robbins, 36, of 132 West Main St. died at the Boston Medical Center in Boston about

06/05/98 FRI 13:24 FAX 508 754 0982 McGovern-WORCESTER 003

CLINTON: First lady, Attleboro sing each other's praises

FROM PAGE 1

The play groups are part of the organization's Family Network, which sends teachers into homes to instruct parents on child development issues and conduct screenings of children.

The visit started with a brief appearance in front of all 560 of the school's students in the gymnasium.

The students stood, cheered and waved American flags, when Clinton walked in. They then sang a song welcoming her to Attleboro.

"You're our first lady, we're so happy you are here," they sang.

"I loved that song, and I want to thank you for singing it," she told them.

Clinton told the children she was there because some of the programs at the schools are "really great and different and special, and that's why I wanted to see it."

Project Connect praised

The visit ended with a speech before 400 invited guests.

Clinton told the audience that parents are the most important people to a child, but the whole community needs to support the parents with services like those offered by Project Connect. She said Project Connect works in Attleboro and it can work across America.

Quality day care, after school programs and excellent schools can prevent children from getting in trouble and prepare them for a successful adulthood, she said.

"You are giving a gift to the future by investing in the children and families of Attleboro," she said.

Her husband, President Clinton, has proposed funding to add 100,000 teachers to public schools to lower class sizes, funding to rebuild aging school buildings, and expanded access to day care. Congress, however, has not acted on his proposals, she said.

She said McGovern, who recently had his first child, has made education and early childhood issues a priority in Congress but others have not.

"We still have some convincing to do" with the rest of Congress, she said.

School Superintendent Ted Thibodeau told Clinton that Attleboro schools are dedicated to preparing students to be active citizens in a democracy.

She responded that her tour of the pre-school programs showed her Attleboro is a "picture-perfect advertisement for public education and the mission of this school district.

Promoting citizenship "is the most important function" of a public school, she said.

KEITH NORDSTROM / THE SUN CHRONICLE

Getting a laugh

U.S. Rep. James McGovern shows off his baby pictures, to the delight of, from left, Project Connect director Lynn Schweinshaut, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Yolanda McFadden, Attleboro Superintendent Ted Thibodeau and Mayor Judith Robbins during Thursday's visit by Mrs. Clinton.

McGovern touts parenthood

McGovern, who invited Clinton to Attleboro, acted one part congressional advocate for children's issues and one part proud father. He had his wife Lisa stand and show off his 45-day-old son Patrick to the crowd.

He joked about how, with the arrival of his son "sleep is but a distant memory."

Then he pulled out his baby photo album and offered to show the pictures to everyone in the audience.

"Being a parent is the most wonderful, exciting and frightening experience of my life. And that is why I am so grateful for a program like Project Connect," he said.

"From its storefront early childhood center for children three years and younger; to the partnership created between Attleboro Public Schools and private child care programs; to working with home-based and neighborhood-based child-care providers; to providing training and support networks to parents; to its early classroom and early learning programs, Project Connect is integrated into the heart and soul of the Attleboro community.

"The message it sends is clear: Attleboro cares about all its children," he said.

JUN 5 '98 12:13 FROM ---------- TO WORCESTER PAGE.004

THE FIRST LADY VISITS

First lady was there for the children

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kids' day

First lady Hillary Clinton visits a Project Connect class at the Fine Elementary School, at left greeting Ryan Nunes, age 5, with a pat on the head, and above listening to a student explain her project. Below, 3-year-old Kyle Taylor, with his mother Elizabeth, is less impressed with Mrs. Clinton's speech as he sits in the back of in the Fine School auditorium.

Song, questions, awe greet Clinton at school

BY BETSY JOHNSON
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

ATTLEBORO — Teresa Pelletier, age 7, a first-grader at Fine Elementary School, captured the sentiments of many people who craned Thursday for a glimpse of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"I never saw her before," said Teresa in awe, "and it will never happen again."

While the first lady sent a surge of pride through the adult crowd jammed into rows of folding chairs at Fine School, the schoolchildren who were her main focus were downstairs in the gymnasium, regrouping from a wild morning of flag waving and hand clapping and singing.

Melissa Reed, 7, said she really liked the part when Mrs. Clinton walked in to greet the children. So did classmates Nicholas Fernandes, 7, and Steven Petrucci, 7 — who said he'd like to ask the first lady her age — and Jasmine Cumbow, 7.

"I liked it when the Secret Service man came because it made me feel safe," said Jasmine.

The children had prepared for the visit with letters and tiny flags and a song entitled "First Lady," written by Dr. Robert Stromberg of Norfolk, who retired last year as principal of North Attleboro Junior High School. It was all part of an exuberant welcome for the famous visitor.

"I looked up, and I saw 1,000 flags," said Melissa.

Her class was among those which composed letters to present to Mrs. Clinton, along with a smattering of bouquets.

Tyler Angelo, 7, brought in red roses from his backyard. He had

For openers ...

"Welcome...
Welcome...
Welcome...
You're our lady
Our first lady
We're so happy
You are here

We have so
Much to show you
And hope that
You enjoy your day!"

— Composed by Dr. Robert Stromberg for Hillary Rodham Clinton

▼

'I'd ask if her life is good and happy.'

Kayla Castro, 7, if she could meet Mrs. Clinton

▲

Kathleen Trahan, Sarah Faulkner and Stephanie Croteau, each 10 and in the fourth grade, took a moment to talk about what they would ask Mrs. Clinton, if they had the chance.

"What's it like at the White House, and what importans jobs are there," said Sarah, who noted that she especially enjoyed the flurry of flag waving.

"What does she do while her husband is working?" wondered Stephanie. "How come she chose Hyman Fine out of all the schools?"

"Because it's the best," said Kathleen.

If Kayla Castro, 7, had one question to ask the first lady, she said, it would be this: "I'd ask if

P.P. Opinion At Sun church 6/5/98

First lady reminds city to be proud

At one point in her visit to the Hyman Fine School in Attleboro on Thursday, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said she "felt like I was at a pep rally for early childhood education."

It was an apt comparison. Clinton's visit raised the level of excitement in Attleboro for days before her visit. And before she left she had made citizens very proud of the work that is being done in the city on behalf of the young.

Visiting politicians often bring gifts, in the form of grants or aid announcements, when they visit the city. Not so for the first lady, who came to inspect the work of Project Connect and take away the good news about this program, which coordinates public and private resources to serve young children and their families. "I hope what you're doing here will spread far and wide," she told an enthusiastic audience in the school auditorium.

The program has already received some national recognition and been described by child development authorities as a model. Clinton's visit, with its attendant media coverage, is certain to raise its reputation further.

Project Connect director Lynn Schweinshaut said it has served more than 500 children and their families in the past year. It has used state grants to promote training for early childhood educators, offers childcare centers assistance in obtaining accreditation and helps their staff members earn credentials. Among its many other activities it offers regular programs to improve parenting skills and sponsors play groups.

Among the program's success stories is Yolanda McFadden, who gave an inspiring talk during the first lady's visit. She went to Project Connect with her daughter five years ago and received support from the program while simultaneously going to school herself, holding down a job and raising her family, which also includes a foster son. In December she earned her degree and this week was promoted to lead teacher at the child care center where she works.

Project Connect is a program that should spread across the nation.

Politics, of course, had its place in the visit. U.S. Rep. James McGovern, D-Worcester, who arranged Clinton's visit, railed against Congress's failure to date to pass major child care legislation. Clinton spoke in favor of the president's education bill, which would bring in 100,000 new teachers and fund school repairs and construction, and of McGovern's early learning and opportunity bill. She noted that the Bay State Congressional delegation is already in favor of these initiatives "so write your friends outside of Massachusetts."

Maybe Clinton was preaching to the converted at times. But she was telling them that the commitment to children shown in Attleboro is something to be proud of. By doing so, she may well have lent new strength to this commitment.

THE FIRST LADY VISITS

KEITH NORDSTROM / THE SUN CHRONICLE

Invited guests line the balcony over the entrance to the Fine Elementary School to get a glimpse of first lady leaving Thursday afternoon.

Motorcade begins, ends big day

BY JAMES A. MICROLLA
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

ATTLEBORO

As the long dark motorcade carrying first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton crossed the Attleboro city line, 73-year-old Town Crier Larry Fitton was asked by police to move his motorcycle.

"I guess I parked it in the wrong place," Fitton laughed.

Fitton wouldn't be the only person moved by the unprecedented local visit of the president's wife.

As the black limousine, escorted by Attleboro Police Sgt. Richard Wade approached, parent Karen Ortendahl beamed at the entrance to Fine Elementary School.

Her son Ryan was one of the school's fourth-graders meeting the first lady. Alongside her was parent Jeanne Force, whose son Matthew was one of the children who sang a song appropriately called "Welcome" to Mrs. Clinton.

"He's been practicing all week. He's very, very excited," Force said. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that he'll always remember: singing to our first lady."

As the limo turned the corner past Ortendahl and Force, the women waved and clapped. Opposite them, Don Girard and a half-dozen people held aloft anti-abortion signs, the only signs of protest exhibited near the school during Clinton's arrival.

"We don't want any trouble," Girard said. "We just hope to impress a number of people with this."

Dogs sniff out school

The motorcade passed dozens of [illegible] police, stationed every [illegible]

MIKE GEORGE / THE SUN CHRONICLE

Project Connect director Lynn Schweinshaut, left, sits with Hillary Clinton and Rep. James McGovern.

everyone in Attleboro in be a real joy," McGovern said.

These thoughts were echoed by Police Chief Roland Sabourin.

"There was a lot of cooperation with the agencies involved, the Secret Service, the White House staff, the

entirety, angrily quieted a 3-year-old who was fidgeting behind her.

"Clearly, the message was lost on her," said photographer Bob Wystalt.

As the first lady finished her message, she was whisked off the stage to her waiting limousine to the classical

RICK FOSTER

Attleboro is special

ATTLEBORO

First Mom Hillary Clinton delivered a presidential pat on the back to Attleboro's teachers and parents following her tour of an innovative preschool program Thursday.

"What you have," said Mrs. Clinton, "is the kind of commitment to this city and to these children that I want to see all across America."

The object of the first lady's admiration is Project Connect, a grant-supported effort that provides parents with easier access to day care, preschool classes and expert advice on child rearing.

While Mrs. Clinton often sounded like a cheerleader for her husband's educational initiatives Thursday, there was general agreement with her basic premise: Something special is happening in Attleboro.

The fact that this city routinely beats itself up over the dog pound or naming a public park tends to obscure a lot of positives. And one of these is a school system that can legitimately be counted among the state's most innovative.

Project Connect got most of the attention Thursday because of the first lady's focus on the earliest years of childhood. But other programs developed in Attleboro are also attracting national notice.

The city has been a leader, for instance, [illegible]

...sing for their German shepherds once into their black vans.

The dogs had sniffed out the school, making sure it "was clean," according to the school department's business administrator Joel Lovering.

Lovering said the preparation of the school for Clinton's visit actually began with a two-hour meeting on Sunday. The Secret Service and White House staff met with all school administrators.

"Anybody actually coming in contact with her had a background check," Lovering said. "Superintendent Ted Thibodeau, Principal Mary Fishbeck. They checked Ted out and immediately had 10 secret servicemen here. Do you think that meant anything?"

"He's just kidding," said school committee member Jackie Romanieckl.

The White House advance team left the school Sunday with a completely laid out route for the first lady, including her entourage and the establishment of an exclusive holding area with a private phone line, a fax machine and other communication tools.

U.S. Rep. James McGovern, D-Worcester, who had invited the first lady to Attleboro, said the secret service told him they thoroughly enjoyed their experience on this trip. "They found working with the police and the first lady's visit.

Flags are waving

As the 400 invited guests entered the auditorium to see Clinton, Fine students, carrying small American flags, waved them in.

One of them was Ami Popat who was assigned to greet the first lady as well. "I'm giving her flowers," Popat said shyly.

Lovering looked around the auditorium at the cookies and lemonade served by the hospitality division of Attleboro High School, the high-powered incandescent lights installed in front of a Navy blue backdrop and speaker system (rented) and a portable podium that folds up, brought in especially for the occasion.

"But the flags are ours," Lovering said.

Bathrooms not working

As Clinton met the more than 600 students at Fine School downstairs in the gymnasium, the 61 news agencies with press credentials readied their cameras. One Boston TV reporter repeatedly fixed his tie in the lens of his camera just before Clinton walked in.

Suddenly, a small panic.

"The bathrooms aren't working," said Romanieckl. "The city flushed the hydrants in this area, and there's no water pressure."

Speaker Yolanda McFadden

Too late now. The buzz turned into silence.

As proud school custodians, who made the auditorium shine, stood in the back, Clinton entered, standing under a giant student-made sign that showed hundreds of children holding hands along all four corners.

The audience rose as one.

The mayor's words

Mayor Judith Robbins greeted Clinton with these words. "We are honored she selected one of our programs. We think she chose correctly. We're glad you came to visit, we love having you here and we hope you can come again when you can stay longer."

During Clinton's speech, which emphasized how important children are, a woman, trying to tape the speech in its

As she left the Fine School entrance, people waved to her limo from chaise lounges propped on their lawns. Incredibly, she actually turned around and waved back.

A little story for some

The Boston Globe gave the first lady's visit to Attleboro a one-column headline and less than 10 inches of copy on the fifth page of its Metro/Region section. The story ran below one of similar length on Mrs. Clinton's speech at the Harvard medical school graduation, again without a photo.

Mrs. Clinton made the front page of today's Providence Journal, with a longish story accompanied by three photographs. Another story and several photos started on the Journal's Massachusetts section front. The "jump" of the story and more photos filled nearly an entire inside page.

The Times of Pawtucket published one photo, on Page 1, of Mrs. Clinton and covered the visit in one story.

The Boston Herald carried two photos from Fine School but only gave her visit a one-paragraph acknowledgement in a 10-inch story that focused on her appearance at Harvard University.

Among other media coverage was a five-minute report on National Public Radio this morning that included a recording of the song written for children to sing in greeting the first lady.

The idea has worked so well, said Superintendent Ted Thibodeau, that it is now used in every grade in every school in the city. It also won Attleboro prominent recognition in a recently published handbook on the subject.

The school system gets dozens of visits a year from educators around the nation wanting to see exactly how looping works here.

Outsiders are also noticing the city's integrated arts program, which strips away artificial boundaries between the disciplines of art and music.

The school system recently put on a demonstration of its students' work at Wheelock College that brought together members of art, music and physical education classes.

In the sciences, too, the Attleboro school system has tended to challenge old assumptions.

Perceiving the close interrelationship between chemistry and biology, educators devised a unified science program at the high school in which those subjects are combined.

Even language has not escaped scrutiny by educators seeking ways to teach children better.

At the Studley School, children whose first tongue is Spanish attend a two-way, bilingual classroom with English-speaking pupils. Teachers instruct the class in English half the time and Spanish the rest.

The class is so popular among parents that there's a waiting list for students waiting to get in.

Attleboro educators also recognize that the quest to help children learn is tightly bound with the need to help families solve their problems.

For that reason, the schools launched ABACUS, a program that provides child care on a sliding fee basis for kids who would otherwise be "home alone." Pupils are cared for in their own schools and receive snacks along with educational activities.

Toward the end of her speech, Mrs. Clinton reflected on the example of a large corporation that recently announced the gift of millions in priceless art to museums as its "millennium gift" to America. It occurred to her, she said, that Attleboro's teachers and parents had acted with similar foresight.

"What you have done here," she said. "Is to make a gift to the future by investing in the children and families of Attleboro."

From a first lady who has made children her crusade, you are unlikely to hear a greater — or more sincere — compliment.

RICK FOSTER is a Sun Chronicle news editor.

MARTIN GAYEN / THE SUN CHRONICLE

MIKE GEORGE / THE SUN CHRONICLE

Goodbye, Hillary

Hillary Clinton, above, waves goodbye to students in the Fine School. At right, 2-year-old Jillian Tully rest on the shoulder of her mother, Sue, as the motorcycles escorting the Clinton motorcade leave the school Thursday afternoon.

AP

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton watches a student from the Project Connect class at Hyman Fine Elementary School in Attleboro.

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First lady we comed to 'vi age'

Attleboro school shows off childhood development program

By Timothy J. Connolly
Telegram & Gazette Staff

ATTLEBORO — Hillary Rodham Clinton has found her village.

In the first lady's best-selling book, "It Takes a Village," she suggested that it takes more than parents to raise a child. Parents are important, she said, but an entire community influences a child's upbringing.

"Welcome to our village," Theodore Thibodeau, superintendent of schools, said yesterday when Mrs. Clinton visited Hyman Fine Elementary School.

In the state to speak at the graduation ceremony at Harvard University Medical School, the first lady took a side trip to Attleboro to learn about an innovative early childhood development program and to boost the re-election campaign of U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern, D-Worcester.

"If there is one person in the United States who has moved the issue of child care and early childhood development to center stage of the national debate, it is our remarkable first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton," McGovern said. "... I am just one member of Congress whom she has influenced and affected so profoundly."

Last year, the first lady convened two White House conferences focusing on early childhood and child care.

PROJECT CONNECT

Hyman Fine turned out all its 560 pupils to wave miniature American flags and sing the first lady an original song. After a quick chat with pupils and their teachers in the gymnasium, she was whisked down a corridor to a preschool program called Project Connect.

Mrs. Clinton and McGovern sat on tiny chairs and talked to seven preschoolers who were creating pictures around black disks glued to construction paper. Victoria Wagner, 4, gave the first lady a handmade greeting card.

Among a group of youngsters playing with blocks, Mrs. Clinton hit it off with Ryan Nunes, 4. She sat on the floor and asked the kids to explain their buildings. Ryan shook her hand talked about his work-in-progress. "I could never do art, but I can do blocks," Mrs. Clinton said.

After a brief visit with another art group, the first lady's departure was cut off by Ryan, who wanted to show her his finished product. "It has a nice balance to it," she said.

Project Connect served more than 500 children and their families in the 1997-98 school year. The program offers parent workshops, support groups, home visits, developmental screenings, play groups, story hours and child care subsidies.

600 EDUCATORS

The project, financed through the state Department of Education, also paid for training for 600 early childhood educators and provided help to private child care centers in Attleboro.

Yolande McFadden said her daughter, Charlene, attended Project Connect's school program while she worked and attended college. In December, she received an associate's degree and now is working as a teacher in a day care center.

"I have worked with children from 6 weeks to 5 years old," McFadden told an audience of more than 300 adults in the school auditorium. "And I just learned that I'm going to be a lead teacher."

McGovern followed McFadden to the podium. He talked about his commitment to getting federal funding for early childhood programs and day care. He criticized the Republican leadership in Congress for not acting on President Clinton's $20 billion proposal for child care.

"Six weeks ago, I became a father for the first time," McGovern said. "My wife, Lisa, and I were blessed with a beautiful, perfect son, Patrick George McGovern, who, in 44 brief days, has totally turned our lives around. ... Certainly sleep is a distant memory."

McGovern called fatherhood "the most wonderful, exciting and frightening experience." From his perspective, he said, Project Connect should serve as a national model.

Mrs. Clinton, who announced Lisa McGovern's pregnancy at a White House conference, said she was impressed with the Hyman Fine school, which was scrubbed and decorated for the first lady's visit.

"Some schools I go to have ceilings that are, literally, falling down," Mrs. Clinton said. "They have tape on the windows, toilets that don't work and whole sections of the building closed off. How can we then tell our children they are the most important thing in the world? The kids are smarter than that."

She said that some critics of her book "truly believe that it should be every family for itself." She said that idea is unrealistic. In Attleboro, it seemed, the whole community was standing behind its parents, she said.

"You are giving a gift to the future," the first lady said.

While at Harvard's Medical School, Mrs. Clinton called on the graduates to fight for improved health care in America.

The first lady asked the 161 medical and 53 dental school graduates to support the president's proposal to increase the budget for the National Institutes of Health by at least 50 percent over the next five years.

For the United States to remain a leader in world medicine, it must continue to fund research, education and training of doctors. And it must care for the indigent, she said.

An estimated 41 million Americans are without health insurance, she said.

Health care reform cannot succeed, she said, "when access to care depends on the color of one's skin or their neighborhood, or the amount of money in their wallets."

She also said leaders should not give up on efforts to reform the health care system.

She called on Congress to pass a law that would safeguard medical information in an effort to end genetic discrimination. And she exhorted the students to support the Medicare program.

Material from The Associated Press was used in this story.

Boston Herald 6/5/98

KIDDING AROUND: Hillary Rodham Clinton gestures to students at the Hyman Fine Elementary School and gets a big wave back from the flag-bearing schoolchildren. The first lady visited the Attleboro grade school and spoke at Harvard University Medical School's graduation yesterday. Staff photos by Nancy Lane

First lady brings message to students, young and old

By AZELL MURPHY CAVAAN

Doctors ushering in the next millennium must ensure that the business of medicine does not compromise medical ethics, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said at Harvard University's Medical School commencement yesterday.

"When you pledge today to promote health and prevent disease, you do so at a time when there are extraordinary breakthroughs," said Clinton. "But it will do little good if we discover genes that cause cancer if people who are at risk are afraid to be tested because they worry that the information will cause them to lose their job or insurance."

Clinton made her remarks during a joint ceremony that marked the 210th Harvard Medical School graduation and the 129th Harvard School of Dental Medicine commencement.

Harvard faculty and students said Clinton's visit was symbolic of the graduating class because for the first time in its history, the university graduated 8 percent more female dentists than men.

"First lady Hillary Clinton is a woman who has used her position to speak to the health-care concerns of women, children and families everywhere," said Joseph B. Martin, dean of Harvard Medical School. "She's been inspirational to all of us who have battled inadequate health care."

And yesterday the first lady offered hope to new doctors who will continue to fight that battle.

CRIMSON GRADS
Page 29

Citing a bill that would prohibit the use of genetic information to discriminate in health insurance or employment, Clinton said Congress should "act now and pass legislation safeguarding the medical records of every American."

"You should be able to look your patients in the eye and say 'information about your genes will be used to heal you, not deny you a job or affordable health insurance,'" she told graduates.

Also during her visit to New England yesterday, the first lady stopped at Hyman Fine Elementary School in Attleboro, where she addressed the issue of early childhood education.

First lady visits toddlers in Attleboro

ATTLEBORO – Hillary Rodham Clinton wanted to get up close to the building block creation 5-year-old Ryan Nunes had pulled her over to see, so she sat on the floor next to him and gushed about what a beautiful design it was.

It didn't matter that she was scheduled to give the commencement address at Harvard Medical School in less than two hours. The president's wife appeared as eager to get on eye level with the children in Project Connect at the Hyman Fine Elementary School as to talk to any medical students.

Clinton spent two hours visiting the innovative children's program yesterday as part of a longstanding crusade for early childhood education.

In a speech before about 300 people in the school auditorium, Clinton had high praise for Project Connect, a public-private collaboration funded through the state Department of Education and private businesses. It offers free programs to all Attleboro children from birth to age 5 and their families, including preschool, parenting classes, home visits by certified parent educators, infant-toddler play groups, and child care subsidies for working parents. All are the types of support Clinton has said America must offer more families.

"In years to come," Clinton told the elated crowd of parents, teachers, officials, and residents bearing babies and binoculars, "the health and success of this community will be enhanced because of what you did. And I believe people will look back and say thank you to the farsighted citizens of this community for understanding what really matters."

US Representative James P. McGovern of Worcester, who invited Clinton, said he shares her passion for strong early childhood development programs.

DOREEN IUDICA VIGUE

Pawtucket Times, 6/5/98, p. 1, below fold

"You are giving a gift to the future by investing in the children and families of Attleboro ... In years to come, people will look back and say 'thank you' to the far-sighted citizens of this city for knowing what really matters."

➤ First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hillary attends city's 'pep rally'

First lady hails Attleboro program Project Connect

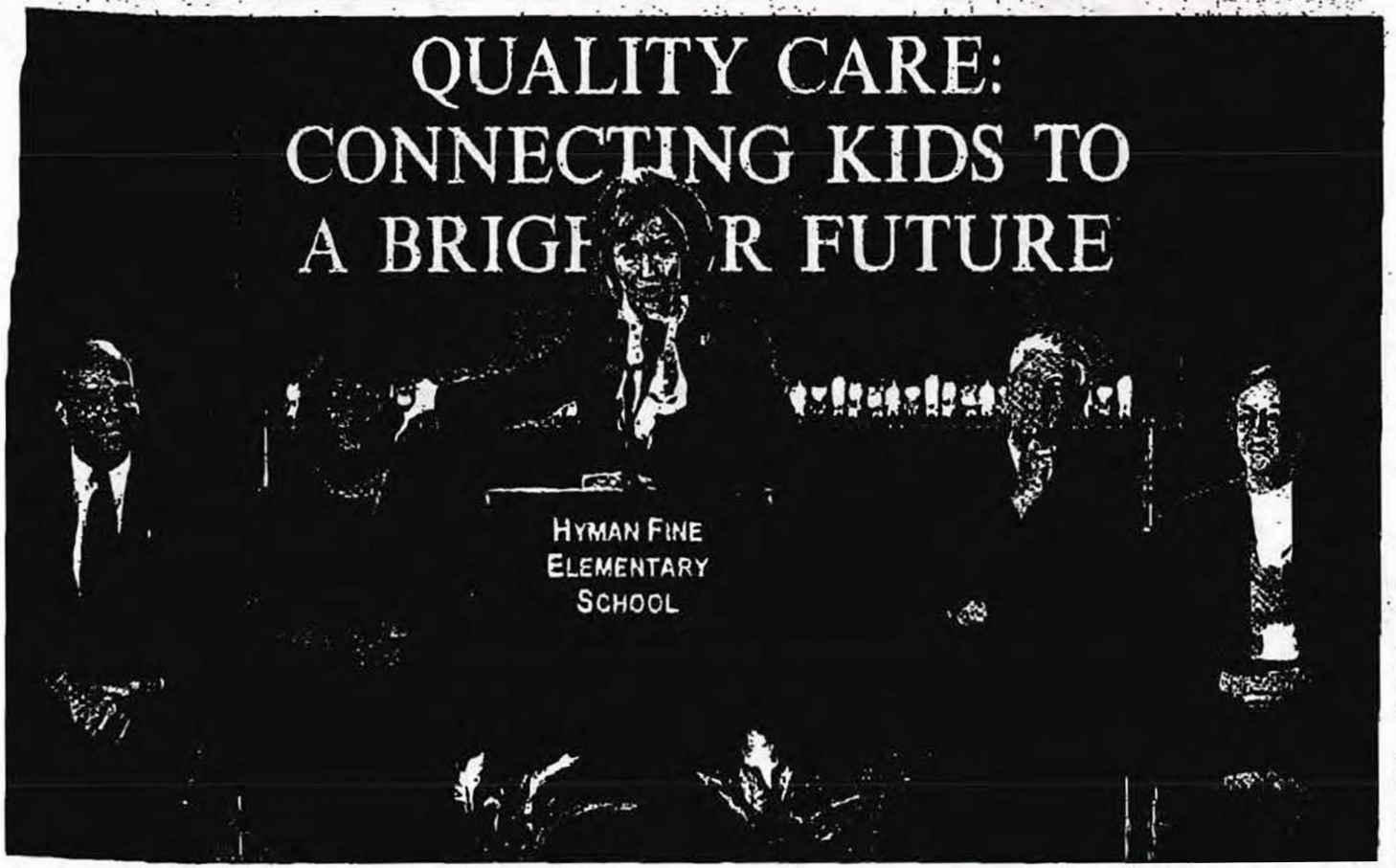
By JIM BARON
Times staff writer

ATTLEBORO — Hillary Rodham Clinton, a veteran of countless of her husband's election campaigns and a prolific speaker in her own right, is no stranger to enthusiastic crowds.

But at the city's Hyman Fine Elementary School Thursday, even she noticed that some of the loudest and most robust shouts and cheers were for Project Connect, Fine's one-of-a-kind early childhood program that the first lady came to town to promote.

Watching the proceedings from the stage, Mrs. Clinton told an audience of about 250, many of them linked to Project Connect or the School Department, that "I felt that I was at a pep rally for early childhood learning and education." That was OK by her.

See HILLARY, page 5



RICH DUGAS/The Times

A VERY SPECIAL GUEST — Hillary Rodham Clinton gestures toward Yolanda McFadden of Attleboro, living proof of Project Connect's success, Thursday at Hyman Fine Elementary School. Also pictured, from left, are U.S. Rep. James McGovern, Attleboro Schools Supt. Ted Thibodeau and Attleboro Mayor Judith Robbins.

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Pawtucket Times 6/5/98 P.6

Hillary comes to Attleboro –

– Continued from page 1

"I could tell from your pride and your applause and your standing ovations for the achievements of the people who were up here that you do have the kind of commitment to this city and these children that I want to see throughout America," she said.

"You are giving a gift to the future by investing in the children and families of Attleboro," Mrs. Clinton continued. "The health and success of this community will be enhanced because of what you are doing. In years to come, people will look back and say 'thank you' to the far-sighted citizens of this city for knowing what really matters."

The standing ovations the first lady talked about were for Yolande McFadden, a former single welfare mother who, with the help of enrolling her daughter, Charleen, in Project Connect, went back to school, earning an associate's degree from Fisher College and just recently being promoted to lead teacher at Precious Sounds Child Academy in North Attleboro.

"Thanks to Project Connect," McFadden told Mrs. Clinton, "my children were having a wonderful time in an environment fit for learning," while she went back to school. As her friends and associates whooped, McFadden said, "I achieved my associate's degree in December, 1997. Since then I have worked as an early childhood teacher, caring for children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age."

Schools Supt. Theodore Thibodeau asserted that Project Connect "is led by people who share Mrs. Clinton's belief that 'it takes a village to raise a child.'" Mrs. Clinton wrote a book with that title last year.

"The city is indeed a village," Thibodeau said, "when you consider its many social service agencies, its hundreds of volunteers and its spirit of caring."

Mrs. Clinton, wearing a navy blue suit with a print scarf, was brought to Attleboro by U.S. Rep. James McGovern, who represents the city in Congress.

"If there is one person in the United States who has moved the issue of childcare and early childhood development to the center stage of national debate," McGovern told the assembly, "it is our remarkable first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton . . And that's why we wanted the first lady to see here, to Attleboro, to see firsthand how one community is standing in support of its youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

"I hope the good people of Attleboro and the good people all across the state will add their voices to those of other mothers and fathers, community leaders and child-care providers from across the country who are calling upon the leaders of Congress to act on child care today."

The first lady also used her speech to thump the tub for President Clinton's education initiatives now before Congress.

Just like the anti-crime initiative of putting 100,000 cops on the street, Mrs. Clinton said, her husband wants to "put 100,000 new teachers in classrooms to reduce class sizes.

"You know how significant it is," she told the educators in the audience, "for you to get more time with individual students, especially now that so many kids bring so many needs to schools. And it's not just the poor kids who bring these needs. With broken families and with what they see on television, kids from all classes and all walks of life and from every race and background are coming with all kinds of things going on in their little lives at home that they require more adult help and support."

Besides that, she said, "we have to do something to repair a lot of our older school buildings, and in rapidly growing districts, we need to help provide more school buildings. Too many kids have gone their entire elementary and high school year in trailers in a lot of our fast-growing districts."

Holding classes in trailers, she said, "is not a sign that we take the importance of education seriously."

As to be expected, security was high for the visit. Uniformed Attleboro police stood sentry at every intersection for several blocks on either side of Hyman Fine School. A heavy presence of police and plainclothes Secret Service agents kept things orderly inside.

Many Attleboro residents who wouldn't get to hear Mrs. Clinton speak broke out the lawn chairs and lined the road leading to the school. Some were protesters; others were just there to gawk. Some held signs with anti-abortion messages; others hel

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Providence Journal
Pg 1 6/5/98
1 of 2

A SPECIAL VISITOR IN ATTLEBORO

■ Hillary Clinton brings crusade for children to the Hyman Fine Elementary School.

By MARK JOHNSON
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

ATTLEBORO — Before crowds of cheering parents and flag-waving boys and girls, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday brought her crusade for children's issues to the Hyman Fine Elementary School, where she visited and praised the city's innovative early-childhood program.

HILLARY CLINTON

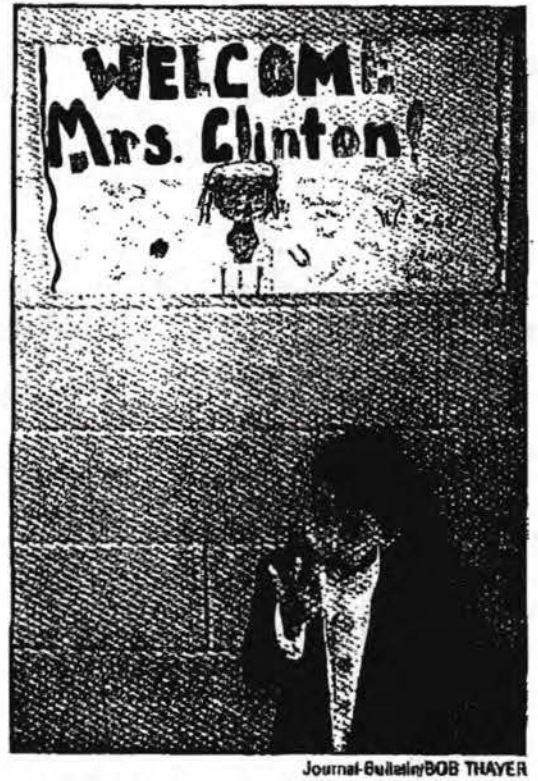
Mrs. Clinton used the occasion to tout the president's education and child-care proposals — including the hiring of 100,000 teachers and the repair of aging school buildings — and to push for congressional support.

"I do hope that the president's child-care bill will pass so that there will be some funding that will serve as incentive for schools and communities to do what you've done," Mrs. Clinton said after meeting with children in the city's Project Connect program.

"But I think the most important ingredient in your success — and I saw it as I sat up here and listened to the speakers — I felt like I was at a pep rally for early-childhood learning and education."

The first lady presided over that pep rally from

Turn to **FIRST LADY**, *Page A-16*



Journal-Bulletin/BOB THAYER

JAHBEE McFADDEN, 4, licks frosting off his fingers at a party honoring Mrs. Clinton.

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Journal-Bulletin/BOB THAYER

FIRST LADY Hillary Rodham Clinton shares a laugh with parent Yolande McFadden on the school's stage.

First Lady

Continued from Page One

he moment she arrived at the school around 11:45 a.m. in a motorcade ed by police motorcycles and cruis-rs.

Residents, some of whom had been waiting two hours, lined the streets to cheer as the motorcade passed. Secret Service agents, conspicuous in their crew cuts and dark suits, inspected camera lenses and checked parked cars with a bomb-sniffing German shepherd.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime thing," said Christine Chapman, 34, who came to the school more than an hour early and brought a video camera to record the event.

Chapman said that when her 6-year-old son, Shane, learned that Mrs. Clinton would be visiting his school, he wanted to wear a tuxedo, just as he had for his uncle's wedding.

Mrs. Clinton, known for her 1996 treatise, *It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us*, was invited to visit the school by U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern, who said he has spoken out for child-care issues "in large measure because of the leadership and vision of the first lady."

The first lady began her visit by meeting 22 children in a preschool classroom, part of the wide-ranging Project Connect program, which provides several hundred children and parents of all backgrounds with child care, parenting workshops and other services.

In the classroom, Lynn Schweinshaut, director of Project Connect, led the first lady to tables where boys and girls painted and worked with blocks, and Mrs. Clinton patted the heads of the children and spoke softly to them.

Then, at a brief assembly in the school gymnasium, 560 children in grades 1 through 4 greeted the first lady with a song written especially for her arrival.

"You're our first lady," they sang. "We're so happy you are here."

Mrs. Clinton told the children that their schoo, 'vas special, "and that's why I wantec to see it."

Finally, the first lady headed to the school's auditorium, where a crowd of 400 people waited. She appeared quietly at a side door to the auditorium and the crowd recognized her instantly and stood and cheered.

"Welcome to our village," said Supt. Theodore Thibodeau, playing off the title of Mrs. Clinton's book. "Our city is indeed a village when you consider its many social-service agencies working together, its hundreds of volunteers and its spirit of caring."

On stage, Mrs. Clinton sat next to Yolande McFadden, a 27-year-old single parent who enrolled her daughter in Project Connect's day-care program while she worked as a teacher's assistant at another day-care program.

"Project Connect touches lives," McFadden said, telling the crowd that as she worked she was comforted by the thought that her daughter "was receiving the highest quality child care."

McGovern said he was "humbled by the words and deeds" of McFadden. "She is the reason we are here today."

2 of 2

[illegible] home the day's theme, commending Attleboro for its early-childhood program and declaring, "I also hope that what you're doing will spread wide and far."

The first lady stressed that parents play the greatest role in the development of their children, but added that the best results come when "the whole community stands behind the mothers and fathers who are raising our children."

"Just looking around any city," Mrs. Clinton said, "whether it's Attleboro, or Fall River or Worcester or Boston, we know that it takes a community that is connected, a community that cares about its citizens, a community that — not to sound corny — tries to live by the Golden Rule, tries to say, 'What do we need to make it possible for everybody to be successful?' Because the more others that are successful, the more likely I and my children will be successful . . .

"So what we're doing here is extremely important."

The first lady finished her speech to a standing ovation, then walked through the crowd shaking hands.

Before departing for a speech later yesterday at the Harvard Medical School commencement, Mrs. Clinton hugged McGovern.

"That was fabulous," she said.

JUN 5 '98 10:02 TO 15087540998 PAGE.005

HILLARY CLINTON IN ATTLEBORO

IN TUNE: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Rep. James P. McGovern listen to a song by Hyman Fine Elementary School students in the school gym.

It was a big day for children — and their parents

Compiled by staff writers Elisa Crouch and Mark Johnson

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit yesterday to the Hyman Fine Elementary School did what such events often do for smaller cities and towns — boost civic pride.

"We're honored to have somebody of her caliber here in the city," said Robin Horton as she waited with her seven-month-old daughter, Kayla, for the first lady's arrival.

Horton said the last time she could remember a visit to Attleboro generating so much excitement was some two decades ago when "The Fonz," television actor Henry Winkler, came to the city.

"Things of this magnitude don't often happen in a city like Attleboro," remarked Kevin Romaniecki, a senior who will graduate from the high school on Sunday.

Romaniecki said that the last time the city got such attention it was bad news that brought the reporters, the March 4 natural gas explosion that killed two city workers.

□□□□□

The class officers at Hyman Fine School lined the ramp leading up to the auditorium, and greeted adults as they walked by. Matthew Brousseau, president of his third-grade class, was dressed to the nines in wing tip shoes, a tie and a pale green suit. A white carnation was pinned to his lapel, thanks to his mother, he said, who was the one responsible for slicking his blond hair back. Matthew said she was as excited as he was about Clinton visiting his school. Well, he added, maybe a little more.

□□□□□

given women more confidence to show that they can move forward in business and do just as good a job as the men. She's a woman and women make great leaders."

"I give her a lot of credit," said Michele Lemieux. "I'm sure it's a very difficult job. With all the uproar with the president, she's handled it extremely well. I admire her greatly."

□□□□□

Some of the children who met the first lady found themselves understandably tongue-tied in the presence of someone so famous. Marian Castanho said her daughter, Kelly, a 5-year-old in the Project Connect preschool, had asked many questions in the days leading up to Clinton's visit.

"Is she a mommy?"

Yes, Castanho told her.

"Does she have a little girl?"

Yes she does.

"What's her name?"

Chelsea.

Kelly told her mother she thought that Chelsea was a pretty name. Castanho told her she could tell the first lady.

But afterward Kelly said she didn't really talk to Clinton. She just said "hello."

Claude "C.J." Richardson, also 5, didn't have a long conversation either. The first lady asked, "How are you doing?"

"I'm good," C.J. said.

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Members of the media were roped off, and stood in the back of the auditorium where TV cameras had assigned spots and reporters were many yards from Clinton.

It's fair to say most of the media were unused to the strict rules that accompany such a high-security event, and they were difficult rules

1 of 2

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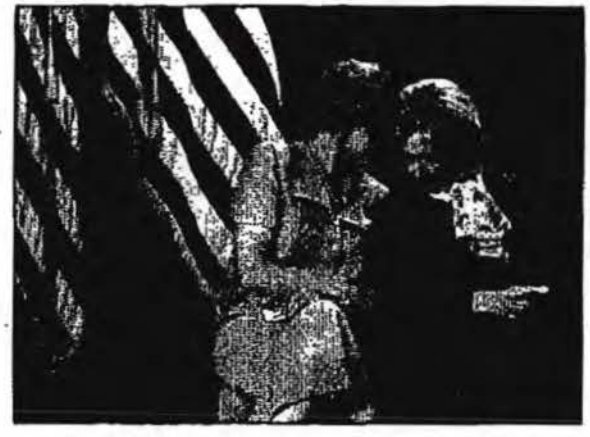
Journal-Bulletin/ROB THAYER

HOPING FOR A GLIMPSE: Chrissy Laroux, left, tries to get a view of Clinton leaving the Hyman Five school yesterday. She is a junior in the culinary arts program at Attleboro High School.



GETTING THE WORD: Program coordinator Lynn Schweinhaut, left, tells Clinton about Project Connect, the social services program designed to help children by providing services for them and their mothers.

2 of 2

Clinton

Continued from Page C-1

work that needed to be done.

"It was very weird," said fourth-grader Katie Fischback. Glancing around the front lobby, where she was assigned to hand out programs and greet the adults, she said, "Everything's all nice and neat. They've really cleaned."

An extra custodial team cleaned the school top to bottom, and the lobby had new carpeting. Temporary carpeting cushioned the chairs in the school's auditorium, where Clinton spoke to an audience of 600.

The lawn outside was freshly mowed and landscaped. Newly planted flowers bloomed around the building, including around a week-old flagpole. A fresh flag flapped in the wind.

But the job of preparing the school went far beyond physical appearances. All week teachers instructed students on how to act, how to shake someone's hand, and what to say when Clinton walked through the door.

"They told us not to say 'yup,' or 'yeah' or 'cool' and words like that," said fourth-grader Paul Phelps. "It's 'yes ma'am' and 'yes sir.' 'No thank you' instead of 'nope.' And 'yes please.'"

Youngsters don't normally say such things, Paul added, except for the smartest ones.

As for his classmates, "They're excited and jumpy," he said. "Outside the cameramen were doing the news and every one was jumping in front of the cameras trying to get on TV. The fourth grade was the jumpiest, I'd say."

City Councilors, School Committee members, lawyers and store owners left work to attend. And judging from the faces, there must have been only a few city employees at City Hall between 10 a.m. and noon.

Sue and Scott Tully beamed as they held their 3-year-old twins, who attend Project Connect at the school. The family had met the first lady before she gave her speech, and the Tullys said it was an incredible honor.

"All the parents have been playing it up to their kids about meeting her," Scott Tully said. His son, Connor, was sound asleep on his shoulder. Tully said that when the little boy met the first lady he hugged her. The problem was, he didn't want to let go

lon are en route from Attleboro to Cambridge.

Six students and two chefs worked Tuesday evening and yesterday morning to prepare the gourmet orange chicken sandwich and penne pasta salad. The students, under the direction of Kevin Descheres and Peter Lacasse, also made snack trays filled with tiny sandwiches and fancy finger food, as well as the homemade cookies in the auditorium.

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Many residents on hand expressed high praise for the job Clinton has done as first lady.

"I think she'll make a good president some day," said Christine Chapman as she waited for the first lady's motorcade to arrive. "I just think she's a great leader. She's

n't get close enough to hear what she was saying.

□□□□□

In addition to Clinton's visit, yesterday was also Favorite Stuffed Animal Day at Hyman Five. It's seemed to annoy fourth-grader Paul Phelps, who said his classmates were throwing stuffed toys in the air in front of camera crews in the schoolyard, in attempts to get on TV.

Although the event ran smoothly, from the way Paul talked he probably could have done a better job organizing the morning. As he looked at the button pinned to his shirt, he said he would have made name stickers instead. And he would have found a way to make the other fourth-graders a little less jumpy.

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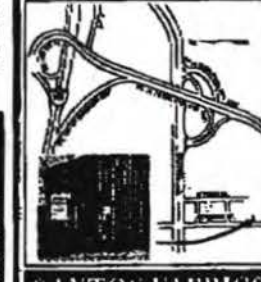

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FR Herald News pg1 1 of 2 6/5/98
(Fall River)

Associated Press Photo

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton watches a child work on a project at the Hyman Fine Elementary School in Attleboro Thursday. Mrs. Clinton visited the school with Rep. James P. McGovern.

First lady 'connects' with kids in Attleboro

Special to The Herald News

ATTLEBORO — Hillary Rodham Clinton is no stranger to enthusiastic crowds.

But at the city's Hyman Fine Elementary School Thursday, even she noticed that some of the loudest and most robust shouts and cheers were for Project Connect, Fine's one-of-a-kind early childhood program that the first lady came to town to promote.

Watching the proceedings from the stage, Mrs. Clinton told an audience of about 250, many of them linked to Project Connect or the School Department that, "I felt that I was at a pep rally for early childhood learning and education." That was OK by her.

I could tell from your pride and your applause and your standing ovations for the achievements of the people who were up here that you do have the kind of commitment to this city and these children that I want to see

▶ Turn to VISIT, Page A5

FR. blocked 2 of 2

Visit: Mrs. Clinton travels to Attleboro

throughout America," she said.

"You are giving a gift to the future by investing in the children and families of Attleboro," Mrs. Clinton said. "The health and success of this community will be enhanced because of what you are doing. In years to come, people will look back and say thank you to the far-sighted citizens of the city for knowing what really matters."

The standing ovations the first lady talked about were for Yolande McFadden, a former single welfare mother who, with the help of enrolling her daughter, Charleen, in Project Connect, went back to school, earning an associate's degree from Fisher College and most recently being promoted to lead teacher at Precious Sounds Child Academy in North Attleboro.

"Thanks to Project Connect," McFadden told Mrs. Clinton, "my children were having a wonderful time in an environment fit for learning."

Superintendent of Schools Theodore Thibodeau said Project Connect "is led by people who share Mrs. Clinton's belief that "it takes a village to raise a child."

"The city is indeed a village," Thibodeau said, when you consider its many social service agencies, its hundreds of volunteers and its spirit of caring."

Hillary, Attleboro connect

KEITH NORDSTROM / THE SUN CHRONICLE

This sign at Briggs Corner in Attleboro welcomes first lady Hillary Clinton, who is visiting the city's Fine Elementary School today.

Spectators seek glimpse of first lady

BY DAVID LINTON
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

ATTLEBORO — In the most eagerly-anticipated visit to the city in memory, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was scheduled to arrive in Attleboro late this morning.

About 50 spectators hoping to catch a glimpse of Clinton lined Oak Hill Avenue where a motorcade with six officers was to escort her to the Fine Elementary School, adorned this morning with red-white-and-blue signs and balloons.

There, she was scheduled to tour a pre-school program for low-income students and a play group before speaking to about 400 invited guests in the school auditorium.

After dropping off her 9-year-old daughter Jennifer at the Fine School where she'll be seeing Clinton, Kristine Healy of Attleboro was among the first to wait outside the school with her 5-year-old son Ryan to catch a glimpse of the first lady.

"It's a great experience for both of them," Healy said of her children. "This is something my daughter will always remember."

A group of four anti-abortion protesters quietly held signs across the street opposite the entrance to the school. The signs read: "Abortion kills children," "Childhood development begins in the womb, choose life:" and "Give all children a head start, choose life."

"We hope to impress a number of people with this," said Don Girard, a spokesman for the protesters. He said he was referring specifically to the first lady and U.S. Rep. James McGovern, the city's congressman who invited the first lady to Attleboro, "as well as anybody else who supports abortion."

Donna Dorrance, among the invited guests, arrived with daughter Abby shortly before 10 a.m. "We've never been this close to the paparazzi before," said Dorrance, who lives nearby and joked of the first lady, "we're going to invite her to lunch."

One neighbor, Michelle St. Pierre stopped by just to see the motorcade [illegible]

Her success story also program's

City woman to tell first lady how Project Connect saved child, her

BY BETSY JOHNSON
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

ATTLEBORO — Yolanda McFadden of Attleboro spent nine years in foster care.

She has been homeless at times, and she has been on welfare.

She became a single parent at age 20.

[illegible] story thanks to her own initiative [illegible]

'They can look at my beautiful little girl, and that's the result.'
Yolanda McFadden

first lady, who was in Attleboro at the invitation of U.S. Rep. James McGovern, D-Worcester.

"Young mothers like myself tend not to have a support system," said McFadden. "They seem to get lost in the shuffle. Then in comes Project Connect. It played a very large role in where I am today and where my daughter is."

The city woman, whose life once [illegible]

Sun Chronicle June 4, 1998

06/05/98 FRI 13:40 FAX 508 754 0982 McGovern-WORCESTER 023

06/05/98 FRI 13:40 FAX 508 754 0982 McGovern-WORCESTER 024

Sun Chronicle
June 4, 1998

Clintons speak at Harvard, MIT

BOSTON (AP) — When it comes to commencement ceremonies, Harvard and MIT scored some big coups this year.

Hillary Rodham Clinton was set to address graduates of Harvard's Medical School today.

Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was preparing for Friday's arrival of President Clinton, who chose the school as the site of one of three presidential graduation addresses.

Mrs. Clinton was not expected to discuss any major policy initiatives.

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▶CLINTON: Dozens seek a peek of first lady

FROM PAGE 1

Another city resident, Donna Marchand, said she was proud just to be able to see Clinton pass by. "She makes a great first lady," she said, adding that the president "private life should be left alone."

Another fan, Beverly Rooney of Attleboro, said she had been plagued by health problems and was "thankful for everything Hillary's done for health care."

Charles Robinson, a professor at Bridgewater State College, professed to be a supporter of Clinton and her cause.

"I think it's good for her to support public education," he said. "She's always been an advocate for early childhood education. It's too bad she's not running for president."

Kathryn Lamontagne, a summer intern working in the Fall River mayor's office, saw President Clinton during his visit to that city last summer.

"I want to see the whole family," said Lamontagne, a student at Providence College who joked that she'd transfer to Stanford to see Chelsea. She wondered what she'd do if she actually had a chance to talk to the first lady.

"I'd be so nervous," Lamontage admitted. "Probably afterward I'd think of a million things I wanted to ask her."

Bethany Paquette, who is studying early childhood education at Lesley College, said she is glad her field is getting such a boost from the first lady.

"I think it's very important. A lot of schools and states don't realize the importance" of educating young children, said Paquette, whose mother works for Project Connect.

"I think it's really good that she's coming here. I think it will be good for everyone."

The normal laughter of the school playground was mixed today with the excitement and nervousness associated with greeting the wife of the president of the United States.

Ten-year-old Kyle Hanscom said he "always wanted to see the president or the wife of the president."

Courtney Hazelton admitted she was nervous as well as excited. The 7-year-old wants to ask the first lady, "How is the White House?" Seven-year-old Chelsea Phelps wants to ask Clinton, "How do you feel to be the president's wife?"

Clinton came to Attleboro at the invitation of McGovern, who has supported the president and first lady on a number of early childhood education initiatives.

McGovern, D-Worcester, whose district includes Attleboro, said he wanted Clinton to see firsthand the great work being done for preschoolers by Attleboro's *Project Connect*.

Project Connect is an umbrella organization that runs preschools, play groups, parenting forums, training for private day-care providers and a program called Parents As Teachers.

National organizations have recognized Project Connect for its far-flung involvement of the private sector in its programs. Its advisory board includes more than 100 representatives of private day care centers.

Project Connect helps the centers gain national certification. It also provides training and gives subsidies for needy families so they can afford day care and preschool.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

First cat

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton cuddles Socks, her pet cat, in this Christmas 1994 file photo. Mrs. Clinton is writing a book about the first pets. PAGE 8

▶SUCCESS: Project Connect helped to turn her life around

FROM PAGE 1

She is a graduate of Fisher College, having received an associate's degree in early childhood education.

She has worked her way through the ranks of the area's child-care system, starting as teacher assistant at Attleboro's Markman Daycare; she is now lead teacher at Precious Sounds Child Academy in North Attleboro.

There, she says, she supervises three teachers, manages curriculum, promotes the philosophy of the center and tries to create a nurturing environment.

But when she rises today from the head dias to speak, at the invitation of Project Connect's director, Lynn Schweinshaut, it is the praises of that program that she will sing.

"Thank you, is basically what I want to say," said McFadden during an interview this week. "They can look at my beautiful little girl, and that's the result."

Went further

Services of Project Connect, from parent-support groups to child care, said McFadden, have helped her and Charleen, 6, who was in the audience at the Fine School today.

"Some people expected me not to come as far as I've come," she said. But the staff of Project Connect and other social service workers in the city, McFadden said, helped write a different ending. They include Linda Vitale, Suzanne Silvia and Linda Barden, who have all been affiliated with the city's homeless shelter, an agency represented on the early childhood advisory council; and Andrea Kelor, a former employee of Project Connect, who evaluated Charleen's early developmental progress. In fact, it was Kelor who set an example for the work McFadden has chosen for herself.

"I like what she does, what she stands for, the advice she gives parents," McFadden said during an earlier interview. "She assured me that the way I was going about things with my daughter was perfectly fine."

Special visit

When Clinton visited a preschool run by the Young Children's Community Center, a branch of project Connect, she viewed the school which Charleen attended while her mother completed college.

McFadden received her degree on Dec. 5, 1997 and Charleen is now attending Sneakers Kindergarten, which is also run by Project Connect.

While the degree is a great achievement, it is the example she is providing for Charleen that is most important to McFadden. When her daughter is an adult, she once said, she would like her to look back and remember the lessons of these days.

"I want her to be proud of me," said McFadden, who has also become legal guardian of her nephew, Jahkne McFadden, age 4. "I want her to be able to model what I've done."

McFadden said her progress sometimes ran up against depression, doubt and despair.

But her spirituality and the support of two friends, LaTanya Steele and Willa Patterson, each of Attleboro, helped ease her path, she said.

Steele ministered to Charleen while McFadden attend Fisher College, situated at Bishop Feehan High School.

"She kept my daughter without a blink of an eye," she said. "She was the one who kept my little girl, fed her and nurtured her."

Patterson, she said, "is my rock."

While McFadden studied, he'd watch Charleen. He also picked McFadden up from her Fisher classes.

"I almost dropped out a couple of times but he told me to shake it off," she said.

While McFadden said she is excited about Clinton's visit, it is the chance to tell the first lady about Project Connect that has fired her up.

"This is truly an honor. I've never known the kind of kindness I've known through the shelter and Project Connect."

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PM-MA--Harvard Commencement, Bjt,0610
UN Rights Commissioner, First Lady, address Harvard grads
AP Photos

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights will turn 50 this year. But its message is as relevant today as it was after World War II, the United Nation's high commissioner for human rights told Harvard University graduates.

Mary Robinson, the former president of the Republic of Ireland, described the story of a 15-year-old Cambodian girl who was forced into work at a brothel.

There are millions of other women and children like her, Robinson said.

``There is a trafficking in human persons. It's modern slavery,'' she said during the school's 347th commencement Thursday. ``Rights for far too many remain little more than words on paper.''

At Harvard's Medical School, meanwhile, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton called on the graduates to fight for improved health care in America.

The first lady asked the 161 medical and 53 dental school graduates to support the president's proposal to increase the budget for the National Institutes of Health by at least 50 percent over the next five years.

For the United States to remain a leader in world medicine, it must continue to fund research, education and training of doctors. And it must care for the indigent, she said.

An estimated 41 million Americans are without health insurance, she said.

Health care reform cannot succeed, she said, ``when access to care depends on the color of one's skin or their neighborhood, or the amount of money in their wallets.''

She also said leaders should not give up on efforts to reform the health care system.

She called on Congress to pass a law that would safeguard medical information in an effort to end genetic discrimination. And she exhorted the students to support the Medicare program.

``I hope all of you and all of your colleagues will ensure that all decisions are made in the best interests of patients,'' said Mrs. Clinton, who visited an elementary school in Attleboro earlier in the day.

Back in storied Harvard Yard, Robinson asked the graduates to use their prestigious educations to participate in the human rights debate.

The 50th anniversary of the human rights declaration is a year to reaffirm our commitment to change, she said. Extreme poverty, illiteracy, homelessness, and the vulnerability of children to exploitation are all areas requiring much greater work, said Robinson, a graduate of Harvard Law School.

And economic and social rights are every bit as important as civil and political rights, the commissioner said, noting some have criticized her for appearing to forsake the latter in favor of the former.

``It's because I'm so strong on civil and political rights that I recognize you cannot truly advance them unless you're also prepared to advance strongly economic and social rights,'' said Robinson, who later quoted from a poem by Seamus Heaney, who also received an honorary degree from Harvard on Thursday.

Other honorary degree recipients were: Samuel Hutchison Beer, a scholar of British politics and American federalism who has taught thousands of Harvard students; Robert A. Dahl, a professor emeritus of political science at Yale University and a leading theorist of democracy; Gertrude B. Elion, a recipient of the 1988 Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine; Heaney, poet and winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize in literature; John Harold Johnson, publisher, chairman and chief executive officer of Johnson Publishing Company Inc.; Jaroslav Pelikan, a leading authority on the history of Christianity; Robinson; Henry Rosovsky, professor emeritus of economics at Harvard; and mathematician Jean-Pierre Serre.

Harvard Medical School
1998 Graduation

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Addresses Graduates

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton presented the graduation address to the 210th Harvard Medical School and the 129th Harvard School of Dental Medicine graduation classes on Thursday, June 4.

Mrs. Clinton spoke about the importance of academic health centers and their mission of education, research and care, the need for universal health care, and the sanctity of patients' medical records, in particular their genetic records.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Dr. Joseph B. Martin, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, share a laugh during the graduation ceremony.

- **Highlights of First Lady's Address**
- **Class Oath**
- **Teaching Awards**
- **HMS History**
- **Graduating Class Statistics**
- **Graduation Photo Gallery**
  Check back on Friday, June 5
- **First Lady's Biography**
- **HMS Facts and Figures**

Education & Admissions | Research | Administration & Faculty
Harvard Medical Web

Created: June 4, 1998

Highlights of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's Graduation Address

"Information about your genes should be used to heal you, not to deny you health insurance."

"You should be able to guarantee your patients' privacy of their medical records."

"Your overriding responsibility is to make sure that the bottom line of profits never eclipses the bottom line of good health care."

"It is critical that we do not give up on what must still be done (in extending access to care)."

"As a nation, we have to continue to work toward universal health care for every single American."

"I come from the school of small steps. We need to make changes to help some people rather than do nothing and help no one."

"Congress should pass a patients' bill of rights -- and pass it this year."

"Supporting academic health center is in the best interests of us all."

"Academic health centers have many missions. The three main ones are research...training...and care for the most vulnerable."

Graduation 1998
Education & Admissions | Research | Administration & Faculty
Harvard Medical Web

Created: June 4, 1998

The Washington Post
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1998

Mrs. Clinton's Pet Project

■ She's tried to overhaul the nation's health care system, spoken out sharply for reproductive rights in developing nations, campaigned for decent day care and given her husband the benefit of her steely resolve and formidable intellect.

And now, for one of her next acts, **Hillary Rodham Clinton** is writing "Dear Socks, Dear Buddy," a selection of the many letters children have sent to the White House pets.

The publisher says it will be a "charming keepsake." Clinton will pen a foreword encouraging children to write and teaching their parents how to help them.

Hey, this worked for **Barbara Bush.** She earned about $1 million for her literacy foundation from "Millie's Book," the 1991 volume "dictated" by the springer spaniel then living in the White House. With Clinton already a proven bestseller—more than half a million copies of "It Takes a Village" are in print in this country—Simon and Schuster happily would have published a coffee-table art book of her headbands.

"Here's a person who could write a serious policy book and . . . could also put together a book that is much softer and much more entertaining and [could] appeal to adults and children," says **Bob Barnett,** Clinton's personal attorney and a negotiator of big political book deals. "It's a rare author and rare public figure who can do both."

Clinton donated her royalties of nearly $1 million from her last book to children's hospitals. This time around, Simon and Schuster will donate her earnings directly to the National Park Foundation to benefit the National Park Service. **Linda Kulman** of U.S. News & World Report will help research the book.

And maybe a special section will be written by that bulldog of a White House counsel, **Charles F.C. Ruff-Ruff.**

FILE PHOTOS

Dear Buddy . . . how are things? Does Socks ever get on your nerves? Is the White House dog food tasting any better?

Working Women's Ills Focus of Conference

By Desson Howe
Washington Post Staff Writer

If modern life has become an impossible juggling act for most working adults, it's women who get stuck with most of the responsibilities.

That was the operative principle that drew 170 women (and a handful of men) from the business, public and journalistic sectors, to the University of Maryland yesterday.

"We're struggling to keep all the balls in the air and, each passing day, they seem to be heavier and heavier," said Maryland Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, who convened the conference. At "Solutions: Women's Juggle for Time," women voiced their frustrations at a still-patriarchal society that has allowed them into the work force but still leaves them pulling double duty at home.

Panelists and participants acknowledged some accommodations, such as the Family and Medical Leave Act, that give parents the right to take off work to care for children and other family members. But, speakers pointed out, myriad problems continue to plague working mothers.

Political pollsters Lori Gudermuth and Celinda Lake cited surveys that show many more women than men report feeling stress and that they still do almost all the chores at home.

"I feel like I'm always in overdrive," said Lorraine Glennon, a senior editor at Ladies Home Journal who has a 14-year-old daughter and an 11-year-old son. "Like my old days in college, life has become a constant all-nighter."

Public policy and the 40-hour workweek are still based on "the male life cycle. ... You're born, you work, you die," said Heidi Harmann, an economist with the Institute for Women's Policy Research. That doesn't account for the more complex life cycle of a woman, which can include transitions in and out of the workplace, and child rearing.

"We need to change to new norms," Harmann said.

Townsend, who developed the largest statewide effort to provide middle-school children with after-school supervision, urged the conference participants to find solutions to their complaints.

Many advocated increased government spending and legislation in support of better child care, training for child care workers and equal pay for women. Others recommended tax incentives for businesses with positive family-leave policies.

Some pointed to existing solutions. Mashi Blech, a senior manager at Elderplan, one of three U.S. nonprofit health maintenance organizations, said Americans should redefine their concept of work and allow those now seen as "takers" to contribute to society while getting something in return.

For example, the elderly, the young and the unemployed could earn tax-exempt "time dollars" when they spend time caring for the sick or the elderly, or cleaning neighborhoods. Those dollars could be spent on groceries, computers or could even be used by mothers on public assistance to satisfy workfare requirements.

The Rev. Vashti MacKenzie advocated public subsidies for her own Payne Memorial Church, which offers community-wide assistance for working mothers, the aged and children in Baltimore.

Of course, women aren't the only ones coping with the competing demands of work and family, pollster Gudermuth said. She cited a recent survey that identified a growing number of male parents in their twenties and early thirties who are spending more time on family matters, or "the so-called fuzzy issues."

Other participants said that some solutions that were supposed to be women- and family-friendly can have the opposite effect on female business owners.

Marsha Reeves Jews, publisher of two magazines for women of color in Baltimore, said that when she heard panelists advocating paid family leave, "the hair on my arms stood up."

If one or two of her 40 employees take off one week to deal with sick family members, "I will be out of business," she said. "I still need to get a magazine out on time."

The Washington Post
Thursday, June 4, 1998

Honestly derived views hallmark of Goldwater

Every time I'm asked at the end of a long day to "shake just a few more hands," I think of Barry Goldwater.

I first met the senator during the 1964 presidential campaign. My best friend, Betsy, and I were "Goldwater Girls." We wore cowboy hats and red-white-and-blue sashes anchored by gold buttons reading AuH2O. Our job was to pass out brochures at an outdoor rally in suburban Chicago.

Our clearest memory of the event is that we got to shake hands with the candidate himself. Even though it was the end of a long, tiring day, the senator patiently greeted and thanked all of the workers there, including the teen-agers like myself. This is the Barry Goldwater I think of so often.

I supported Barry Goldwater in 1964 partly because my father was a congenital Republican (that is, until he met Bill Clinton) and because my hometown, Park Ridge, Ill., voted overwhelmingly Republican in every election. We used to joke that the only reason he didn't get all the votes in Park Ridge was because a few people thought he wasn't conservative enough.

But what really won me over was the senator's book, "The Conscience of a Conservative," which I read for a high school social studies class. In August of 1964, I signed up to volunteer at the little campaign headquarters in Park Ridge — my first foray into presidential politics. Even though my responsibilities were limited to stuffing envelopes, making phone calls and donning cowboy hats, I was hooked on the importance — and fun — of citizen involvement in our nation's politics.

Later, as my political beliefs evolved, they did not always match the senator's. But they remained rooted in the same commitment to American leadership and individual responsibility, and I always respected his positions because I knew they were honestly derived and based on his patriotism and sense of fair play.

I supported Barry Goldwater in 1964, partly because my father was a congenital Republican (that is, until he met Bill Clinton).

Despite our political differences, my admiration for him never waned. Of course, I also appreciated his personal support for both Bill and me.

Although some might have found our friendship odd, I never did. We shared a deep love of country, and over time, we found ourselves once again agreeing on some things — including the hot peppers, salsa and chili he made sure I had plenty of in the White House.

The last time I saw him was during a visit to his home in Phoenix on Oct. 15, 1996. Sharing time with him and his wife, Susan, gave me a keener sense of the man. He was surrounded by the things he loved most — an expansive view of the Arizona skyline, his photographs that so vividly captured the rustic feel of the West, pictures of his family and models of airplanes he had flown.

We swapped stories (and opinions), and I found him as outspoken and plain-spoken as ever. I renewed the president's invitation for him to ride on Air Force One, which he had helped design, and he promised he would when he felt well enough again. Regrettably, that day never came, but it was one of the few adventures he didn't have.

I, along with Americans everywhere, salute Barry Goldwater and thank him for a lifetime of dedication to our country, which he loved so much.

The Washington Times
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1998

For women in Iran, challenge is one thing, change is another By John Donnelly Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

TEHRAN, Iran ``Love,'' proclaims the cover of Iran's leading women's magazine, ``is banned here.''

The declaration brought a smile to Shahla Sherkat's lips. As editor of Zanan, with a circulation of more than 100,000, Sherkat relished the idea of challenging religious authorities by discussing the issue of illicit love.

``Love is a taboo subject in Iran,'' she said, sitting in her office underneath a photo of a young woman removing a veil from her mouth. Draped in the traditional Iranian black cape called the chador, Sherkat boldly explained, ``You can't talk about love in films, literature or in public. That's why we write about it.''

Still, for women in Iran these days, challenge is one thing, change another.

Nearly 20 years ago, the Islamic Revolution ushered in restrictive new laws, including many that affected women. But the election of progressive President Mohammed Khatami last year has sparked a heated debate over women's rights. And women are lining up on both sides of the issue.

Some are allied with Iran's religious establishment, which is fighting the challenge to its authority. In fact, religious conservatives recently proposed two laws that would further restrict women.

The first calls for hospitals to treat women and men separately and only by doctors of the same gender.

The second, which already has passed in general form, would allow parliament to censor photographs or articles it believes depicts women in an un-Islamic light. Zanan's June issue on love probably would b prime candidate for such censorship, but the battle over details of th media legislation will not be resolved for several weeks.

Many Iranian women, such as legislator Manijeh Nobakht, support the media legislation.

``For seven months, we studied all the articles of women in the press and we found problems with more than 90 percent of these articles,'' said Nobakht, who introduced the bill. ``We also found that in most cases the use of women's pictures was to attract attention and sell newspapers.''

Such photographs, according to Nobakht and other female conservatives, are an example of the degrading commercial exploitation of Western women.

Moderates believe the media legislation will be gutted during parliamentary debate. Even if it is, the message has been sent: Khatami's election doesn't guarantee new rights for women.

Farzenieh Entzarmadhi, a book publisher, warns that Iran's liberal women are provoking religious authorities into passing more restrictive legislation.

``There is a difference between men and women, and if you have respect for that difference, you should not create these problems,'' she said. ``These women fighting for their own rights don't see where this is all going to end up.''

Entzarmadhi, for example, supports the government's demand that women wear Islamic dress in public, covering their hair, arms and legs. She said Islamic dress guarantees women greater respect as they walk down Tehran streets. And, she argued, Islamic dress has greatly reduced sexual harassment as women pursue higher education, and compete in politics and the workplace.

Without the dress code, Entzarmadhi said, Western liberal morals would seep into the culture, weakening families and enticing men to view women as little more than sex objects.

Like Entzarmadhi, many Iranian women support Islamic dress, especially since the chador and even head scarves were banned under the late Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

But Western-oriented women in Iran, encouraged by Khatami's victory, want to end the restrictive dress for women.

Said a 21-year-old woman as she entered an upscale Tehran apartment, removing her scarf and coat to reveal long black hair and a low-cut black dress, ``I'm hoping someday that I can wear a miniskirt in Iran. It's not that I need to wear a miniskirt. It's that I want the choice.

``I think what we'll see in the future are new models of the chador, maybe shorter, or maybe only the head scarf will remain. Right now, I cannot bike, I cannot run in these black coats. I would love to bike and run.''

The chador, some young women believe, is being challenged in subtle ways, most notably with sports. Recently, the country's sports federation body approved women playing soccer and polo. And it's hard not to notice the recent insurgence of women exercising in Tehran parks.

Early one recent morning at National Park, dozens of women in long black coats did jumping jacks or ran around the tree-shaded sidewalks.

``When you run with a chador, you are making a point that says, 'Look at how ridiculous this is to wear long clothes and a head scarf on a hot summer day,'' said a 27 year-old woman who asked not to be identified.

At the same park, other women in Islamic dress batted around volleyballs, swatted at badminton birdies and smacked table-tennis balls, scoring points against male opponents. A year ago, such a sight would have turned heads; until recently, men and women weren't allowed to play sports together.

But some women complain that Khatami's election has not brought about many substantive improvements for women, notably in legal rights such as divorce. It is still far easier for a man to divorce his wife than vice versa.

``Unfortunately, Mr. Khatami's powers are limited here,'' said Mehranguiz Kar, a prominent Iranian woman. ``It's not his fault. He is not the head of the parliament, he is not the head of the religious powers.''

Yet other young women from Western-oriented families say they enjoy more freedom than a year ago. Khatami's election, they believe, is the reason the Morals Police are backing off. The police roam neighborhoods looking for unmarried couples without chaperones. While unmarried couples legally can meet in public under some circumstances, they cannot be alone together in a car, for instance.

Now, young women say, it's a little safer to meet their boyfriends in parks without chaperones. They don't fear applying their makeup before going to secretive parties although no savvy young woman forgets to pack away chewing gum (to disguise alcohol on their breath), or the local version of Visine (to reduce redness in their eyes).

``We used to have checkpoints along the road at night, and police asking if we were related to our boyfriends,'' said one 20-year-old woman who has been arrested twice for riding in a taxi with young men.

More than a year ago, she was whipped 30 times on her back for one of the offenses, although ``I paid them about $30 so they wouldn't whip me so hard.''

And until recently, it would have been unthinkable for a magazine such as Zanan to talk about love in a cover story.

Love is allowed ``only after marriage'' in Iran, editor Sherkat explained. ``Otherwise, it is not accepted for two unmarried people to fall in love.''

Despite her boldness in challenging authorities, Sherkat sees trouble ahead. ``We will have to pay some price for the article,'' she said. The worst-case scenario is the government shuts down the magazine. But Sherkat said she won't close without a fight.

``Let's just say if they close us down,'' she said without a trace of a smile this time, ``we have a series of photographs and articles that we've been saving for the last issue.''

PM-Mrs Clinton-Book,0296
Mrs. Clinton plans book of kids' letters to first pets
NEW YORK (AP) Following in the paw prints of Barbara Bush's dog Millie, Socks and Buddy will be publishing a book of letters they've received while living in the White House.
Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to put together ``Dear Socks, Dear Buddy,'' which will include letters from children to the first family's pets plus 50 to 60 photos of the animals, the Simon & Schuster publishing company said Wednesday.
Mrs. Clinton will write an introduction emphasizing the importance of writing to children's development and giving parents advice on how to help kids enjoy writing and receiving letters, the publisher said.
``If the most important thing a parent can do to help a child grow is to read to her, then encouraging her to write probably runs
a close second,'' said Carolyn Reidy, president of the trade division at Simon & Schuster, which plans to publish ``Dear Socks, Dear Buddy'' in November.
Linda Kulman, a Washington, D.C.-based journalist, will help Mrs. Clinton write the book.
Mrs. Clinton will receive no advance, and all her royalties and other earnings will be donated to the National Park Foundation, a non-profit partner of the National Park Service, a statement from Simon & Schuster said.
The company said it would also donate a portion of its own proceeds to the foundation.
Mrs. Clinton's first book, ``It Takes a Village,'' was published in 1996.
Socks and Buddy are not the first presidential pets to venture into publishing. ``Millie's Book,'' ostensibly dictated to Barbara Bush by her dog Millie, sold more than 300,000 copies in its first year and raised nearly $900,000 for the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

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PM-BRF--Mrs Clinton-Book,0206
Mrs. Clinton plans book of kids' letters to first pets
NEW YORK (AP) More tails from the White House: First pets Socks and Buddy are venturing into publishing.
Actually, Hillary Rodham Clinton will do the work, compiling letters from children to the family's cat and dog with 50 to 60 pictures of the pets into a book called ``Dear Socks, Dear Buddy.''
Simon & Schuster will publish the book in November, the company said Wednesday. Linda Kulman, a Washington journalist, will help write it.
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BC-CLINTON-GOSPEL

Clintons host tribute to American gospel music

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Wednesday evening hosted a tribute to traditional American gospel music.

``Gospel lives in our hearts and minds, and soothes our souls,'' Clinton said. ``Its roots were nourished by the blood and sweat and tears of many millions of people held captive in slavery.''

The nearly two-hour performance, the seventh in the ``In Performance at the White House'' series, featured the powerful but elegant voice of 10-time Grammy Award winner CeCe Winans, and performer and singer Phil Driscoll.

More than 500 invited guests, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder and president of the Rainbow Coalition, clapped and swayed during the performance, which will be televised on public television Feb. 3, 1999.

``I know this is the White House but we're going to do it as if it is my gospel at the White House,'' Winans said. ``So, it is my church.''

To close out the evening, Driscoll belted out the start of ''Amazing Grace'' on his blue and yellow-colored trumpet, later joined by Winan, singer and songwriter Mickey Mangun, and the Morgan State University Choir.

Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, an Illinois Democrat, Sen. John Rockefeller, a West Virginia Democrat, and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat, also attended the concert.

REUTERS

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**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 06/04/98 at 09:00EDT ****

M-Clinton-Gospel Music,210

linton hosts gospel music performance at White House

WASHINGTON (AP) President Clinton sang along from his dinner table with me of American gospel music's greats, including the Grammy-winning CeCe nans, at a special White House performance.

The president saluted American gospel music as ``a sustaining force for untless Americans,'' and welcomed the performers Wednesday night under a nted pavilion on the South Lawn. From his stage-side chair, Clinton sang the rds to ``Reach Out and Touch Someone,'' performed by contemporary gospel nger and trumpeter, Phil Driscoll.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton thanked the performers for the music at has ``contributed so much to the life and culture of our nation.''

Winans, an eight-time Grammy winner who gained duo fame singing with her other, BeBe, hosted the evening event.

``Gospel is a living music,'' Winans said. ``Every generation needs to be rt of it.'' She stirred up the crowd with her renditions of favorites such ``I'll Take You There.''

The Morgan State University Choir and singer-songwriter Mickey Mangun also rformed.

The evening was part the ``In Performance at the White House'' series that produced by public television station WETA. It will be broadcast on PBS in bruary 1999.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 06/04/98 at 03:13EDT ****
**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 06/04/98 at 08:57EDT ****