

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	Child Care Conference Briefing [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	10/22/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 20079

FOLDER TITLE:

Press Info/Releases - Child Care

2015-0275-S

rc1938

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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Child Care Conference Briefing
October 22, 1997
9:30 am

✓ Helen Thomas UPI
✓ Terry Hunt *Southern Sunday* AP
✓ Larry McQuillen - Reuters
✓ John Broder New York Times
334-7430 ✓ Barbara Vobejda * Washington Post -
✓ Mimi Hall USA Today
✓ Melissa Healy - *Liz Shogan?* LA Times
✓ Jackie Calmes - ? Wall Street Journal
✓ Ann Compton ABC
✓ Scott Pelley CBS
✓ Eileen O'Connor CNN 696-7942
✓ David Bloom NBC 638-5234
✓ Linda Kulman US News (b)(6)
✓ Karen Tumulty Time (b)(6)
✓ Pat Wingert * *Kelly* Newsweek
✓ Susan Garland Business Week 383-2204
Jayne Jamison *Anne Meyer* Parents Magazine 383-6035
✓ ~~Rachel Jones~~ *Tony Rush* Knight-Ridder → (b)(6)
✓ Nancy Mathis Houston Chronicle
✓ Marie Cocco Newsday 343-5630

Working Mother

(b)(6)

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White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility

May 10, 1999

Participants

Administration

Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General
Honorable Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Honorable Richard Riley, Secretary of Education
General Barry McCaffrey, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy
Honorable John Podesta, Chief of Staff to the President
Honorable Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Director, Domestic Policy Council
Honorable William Kennard, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

Students

Shane Cambroner, City Year Staff member and former Americorp member
Terrence Gray, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High
Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School
Maria Montiel, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High
Simonna Woodson, Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School

Gun Manufacturers and Gun Owners

Honorable Bill Brewster, President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates; NRA Board Member
Paul Jannuzzo, VP & General Counsel, Glock Inc.
Georgia Nichols, Vice-President and General Counsel, O.F. Mossberg and Sons
Robert Ricker, Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council
Ed Shultz, President and CEO, Smith and Wesson

Law Enforcement

Judge Alan Page, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
Steve Young, National Vice-President, Fraternal Order of Police

Television/Motion Pictures

Leslie Moonves, President and CEO, CBS Television
Bob Iger, Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International
Jack Valenti, President, Motion Picture Association of America
Decker Anstrom, President, National Cable Television Association
Edward Fritts, President, National Association of Broadcasters
Andrew Shue, Actor, Founder, Do Something Foundation

Internet/Video Games

Steve Case, Chairman and CEO, America On-Line
Doug Lowenstein, President, Interactive Digital Software Association

Music

Gloria Estefan, Recording Artist
Hilary Rosen, President and CEO, Recording Industry Association of America

Teachers/Parents/Mentors

Bob Chase, President, National Education Association
Pam Eakes, President and Founder, Mothers Against Violence
Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers
Ginny Markell, President-Elect of the Parents-Teacher Association
Mary Ellen Maxwell, President, National School Board Association
Dr. Samuel Sava, Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals
Roxanne Spillett, President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Faith-based Leaders

Abraham Foxman, National Director, Anti-Defamation League
Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA
Monsignor Thomas McDade, Secretary of Education, US Catholic Conference
Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation

Experts

Dr. Maya Angelou, Professor and Poet
Jonathan Barnett, Professor of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania
Carl Bell, M.D., President and CEO, The Community Health Council and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois
James Garbarino, Ph.D., Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University
Robert Pynoos, M.D., Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service, Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute

Foundations/Non-profits

Drew Altman, President and CEO, Kaiser Foundation
Sarah Brady, Handgun Control, Inc.
Nancy Dickey, President, American Medical Association
Governor Roy Romer, Chairman, Policy Advisory Committee, The Advertising Council, Inc.
Honorable Eli Segal, President and CEO, Welfare to Work Partnership

Elected Officials

Honorable Ken Salazar, Attorney General, Colorado
Honorable Sharon Sayles Belton, Mayor of Minneapolis

Members of Congress

Honorable (Rep.) Richard Gephardt, D-Missouri
Honorable (Senator) Harry Reid, D-Nevada
Honorable (Senator) Sam Brownback, R-Kansas
Honorable (Rep.) Jennifer Dunn, R-Washington

TOTAL (56)

**PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE HOST
STRATEGY SESSION ON
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY
*Monday, May 10, 1999***

Today, President Clinton will lead a strategy meeting to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem. The meeting will include a broad cross section of Americans, including parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The President will announce several initiatives to address the problem of youth violence, including a Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence, gun industry support for gun legislation in five important areas, and public and private commitments to ensure the effective implementation of the V-Chip.

SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Today, the President will announce that he is asking the nation's Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, to prepare a landmark report on youth violence -- the first such study on this subject in more than a decade. This report will bring together leading experts to review and evaluate existing research, and build on the findings of the 1972 Surgeon General Report on Television and Violence, as well as the 1985 Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence. Much is already known about how to reduce and prevent youth violence, but this report will add to the nation's understanding in this field. It also will address media that have emerged since previous reports, such as the Internet and video games.

GUN INDUSTRY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION IN FIVE KEY AREAS

Today, leaders in the firearms industry will announce their support for working out legislation in five areas. Specifically, the American Shooting Sports Council (ASSC), the gun industry's trade association in Washington, which represents 350 firearms manufacturers and distributors around the country, will release a statement supporting legislation in five areas:

- **Closing the gun show loophole on Brady background checks.** The Treasury Department estimates that 25-50 percent of the sellers at gun shows are unlicensed and sell guns without the benefit of a background check purchasers. As a result, gun shows can provide a forum for illegal firearms sales and gun trafficking. The President has proposed background checks, based on the existing Brady law, for firearms transferred at gun shows.
- **Extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles.** Although violent youth convicted in adult courts are barred from owning firearms as adults, the same is not true for youth convicted of serious violent crimes in juvenile court. The President has proposed permanently banning all violent juveniles from buying guns -- so that they cannot purchase a gun on their 21st birthday.

- **Raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age.** Federal law generally bans the possession of handguns by juveniles under the age of 18, and prohibits federal gun dealers from selling firearms to anyone under 21 years of age. However, it is perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns or to buy them from unlicensed sellers -- even though law enforcement traces more crime guns to 18- and 19-year-olds than all other age groups. The President has proposed raising the legal age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21 years, while maintaining current exemptions for employment, hunting, target shooting, ranching, and military service.
- **Holding adults responsible for child access to guns.** Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to firearms and ammunition. The President has proposed imposing felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury.
- **Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes.** Over the past two years, the President has expanded comprehensive crime gun tracing to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The President has proposed expanding comprehensive tracing nationwide, starting by doubling the program to 75 cities.

MAKING THE V-CHIP WORK

The V-Chip is a device that allows parents to block television programming they consider inappropriate for their children. President Clinton and Vice President Gore led the successful fight for legislation that requires that the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session, the President will announce two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents.

- **V-Chip Task Force.** To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will establish a V-Chip Task Force. The Task Force will: (1) ensure that the V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively; (2) promote parental awareness about the V-Chip and work closely with organizations sharing this goal; (3) encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip and; (4) study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system. FCC Chairman William Kennard has appointed Commissioner Gloria Tristani to chair the Task Force.
- **The V-Chip Survey and Education Project.** According to a survey released today by the Kaiser Foundation, while many parents (77%) say they want to use the V-Chip, fewer than four out of ten parents (39%) have ever seen information on how the system works. The Kaiser Foundation and the Center for Media Education announced today a major national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system. The educational campaign will include free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The free parent information will be available through a toll-free telephone number and will be promoted through

partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, newspapers, and television stations.

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE

Recognizing that youth violence is a problem that government cannot solve alone, the President, the First Lady, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore will call for a national campaign to reduce youth violence. This campaign will work with all sectors of our society – the media, education groups, parents, religious leaders, and young people – to focus on this problem, find what is working, and spread it to new communities, while also helping to ensure that the media sends the right message to our children.

This campaign is modeled after two extremely successful efforts launched by the Clinton Administration. Four years ago, the President asked for a national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy. Today, under the leadership of Governor Tom Kean, former governor of New Jersey and now the President of Drew University, that campaign is playing an important role in reducing teen pregnancy rates nationwide. Two years ago, the President called for a national effort by businesses to hire people off welfare, to make sure the welfare reform effort would work. Today, under the leadership of Eli Segal, the Welfare to Work Partnership has grown to 10,000 companies that have helped move more than 40,000 people from the welfare rolls to the job rolls.

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Children, Violence and Responsibility

--The Clinton-Gore Administration Record --

GIVING PARENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN

Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System. Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the President and Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if TV shows are appropriate for viewing by their children and to identify which programs they may want to block from their homes through screening technology (the V-chip). The voluntary rating system includes age- and content-based ratings.

Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip. Four years ago, the President and the Vice President used the Family Policy Conference in Nashville to call for V-chip legislation -- to give parents new tools to help them screen out television programs that are not fit for their kids. Under strong leadership from the White House, the following year saw Congress enact the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. Now, by January 2000, all new televisions are scheduled to include this screening technology.

Hosting the White House Conference on Children's Television. In July 1996, the President and Vice President convened the White House Conference on Children's Television to improve and expand educational television for children. Conference participants included parents, industry representatives, advocates, experts and advertisers. At the Conference, the television industry joined with the President and agreed to air more educational and instructional children's shows.

Encouraging More Educational Television. At the President's urging, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted clear and concrete rules to encourage the development and promotion of TV programming that would be both welcomed by parents and watched by children. The rules require three hours of regularly scheduled, half-hour weekly educational and instructional programming as a requirement for license renewal.

Promoting a "Family Friendly" Internet. The President and Vice President have worked to make cyberspace a safe place for children. The Administration has enlisted the assistance of numerous stakeholders, including industry leaders, teachers, parents, Internet users and librarians to work towards the creation of a "family friendly" Internet. The Administration's three part strategy includes: (1) industry commitments to provide blocking, filtering and labeling technology for use by parents and teachers using the 'Net; 2) effective enforcement of existing laws; and 3) increased parental awareness and involvement. This strategy is designed to give parents and teachers the tools they need to prevent children from getting access to inappropriate material on the Internet, and to guide them towards high-quality educational resources.

Keeping Children Safe on the Internet with the Parents' Protection Page. Recently, the Vice President announced the parents' protection page, an important new commitment by 15 of the country's premier Internet companies to give parents the resources they need to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The parents' protection page, which will be available for use by July 1999, will provide parents with the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities. In addition to giving parents blocking, filtering and monitoring tools, this page includes information for parents, teachers and children on how to report crime or other troubling activity online. The parents' protection page also can serve as a guide to finding the vast array of high quality educational materials online.

PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY

Creating a New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton has proposed \$12 million in his FY 2000 budget for School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last school year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the Federal government to assist local communities in much the same way that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assists in response to natural disasters.

Hiring School Resource Officers, Targeting Assistance to Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give schools with crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President announced a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence. The President recently announced the first installment of the initiative; this funding will allow an additional 600 School Resource Officers to serve in 336 communities across the country.

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September 1998. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using principles of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.

Launching a Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President launched a new Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative designed to help 50 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. In April 1999, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services announced that they will provide over \$180 million this year, and a total of \$380 million over three years through the Initiative for communities to fund comprehensive school safety plans that include anti-truancy initiatives, mentoring, mental health services, conflict resolution programs, school resource officers, and more -- helping to promote healthy development and to prevent youth violence before it occurs. Communities will have until June 1, 1999 to apply for the funds.

Helping to Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. Safe and Drug-Free Schools currently provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97 percent of the nation's school districts. At the White House Conference on School Safety, President Clinton announced his plan for a significant overhaul of this nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

Responding to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action steps to prevent and respond to school violence. More than 200,000 copies of the guide have been distributed, and additional copies may be obtained through the websites of the Departments of Education and Justice.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for More than a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded to \$200 million. This funding is already supporting hundreds of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia, including weekend and summer programs. This year, the President proposed to triple this initiative -- to \$600 million -- to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 1.1 million school-age children in communities across the country. In addition, the Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kid*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

Targeting Young People with a National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in the 1997 national drug control strategy. The 5-year, \$2 billion campaign (which includes private sector matching contributions) is designed to let teens know -- when they turn on the television, listen to the radio, or surf the 'Net -- that drugs are dangerous, wrong and can kill you.

KEEPING GUNS AWAY FROM YOUTH

Won Passage of the Brady Bill. Since taking effect in 1994, the Brady Law has helped to prevent over a quarter of a million felons, fugitives, stalkers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying handguns. In November 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) took effect under the Brady Law, allowing access to a fuller set of records that law enforcement officials can use to conduct checks of all prospective gun purchases -- not just for handguns. To date, NICS has conducted over 3.4 million background checks on gun purchasers, and the FBI has stopped over 36,000 illegal gun sales.

Banned the Manufacture and Importation of 19 of the Deadliest Assault Weapons. The 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, while specifically protecting more than 50 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs -- not hunters and sportsmen. A recent Justice Department study found that the 1994 assault weapon ban contributed to a decrease in criminal use of the banned guns and a reduction in the overall gun murder rate.

Cracking Down on Illegal Gun Trafficking with the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. In 1996, President Clinton launched the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 17 cities to help trace crime guns to their source, as well as identify and arrest the adults who traffic firearms to children. Over the past two years, the President has expanded the YCGII initiative to 37 cities ATF agents have conducted more than 200,000 crime gun traces for local law enforcement. Last year alone, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. Additionally, over the last two years the

President has proposed hiring more than 280 new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) agents and more than 40 new Federal prosecutors to arrest gun traffickers and violent criminals, and crack down on illegal gun sales.

Requiring Child Safety Locks for Handguns. Child safety locks and other safety devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. Many youth have to look no further than their own home to get their hands on a gun: an estimated one-third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. In March 1997, the President signed a directive to every Federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with all handguns issued to Federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers followed the President's lead and have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns.

Signed into Law the Youth Handgun Safety Act. In 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which generally banned the possession of handguns or handgun ammunition by juveniles under the age of 18, and made it a Federal offense for adults to transfer handguns to juveniles, with limited exceptions. In 1997, the President directed the Treasury Department to require that signs be posted on the premises of Federal firearms licensees and that written notification be issued with each handgun sold to non-licensees to help ensure compliance with the Youth Handgun Safety Act.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring school districts to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce the "zero tolerance" policy for guns in schools, consistent with the Gun-Free Schools Act. In school year 1996-97, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Introduced the Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act. The President recently announced new legislation to strengthen the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, restrict access to guns by our youth and crack down on illegal gun traffickers. The President's proposed bill will: (1) raise the age of the youth handgun ban from 18 to 21 years of age; (2) ban youth possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (3) prohibit violent juveniles from ever owning guns; (4) require child safety locking devices for guns; (5) reduce illegal gun running by limiting the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month; (6) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; (7) require Brady background checks for the purchase of explosives and at gun shows; and (8) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source.

In press
for child
care file

Mrs. Uncle Sam wants you

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

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

Trouble brewing

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

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

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

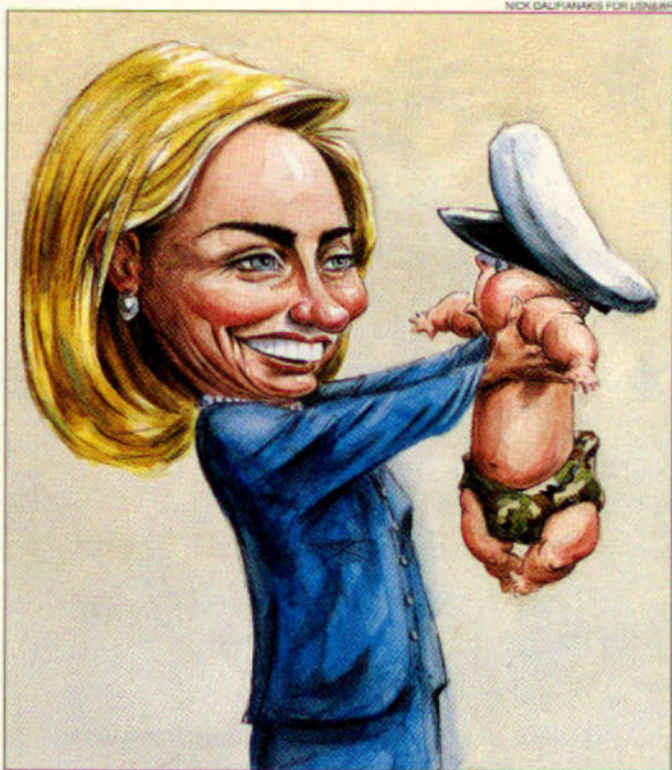
ning to kidnap or kill a U.S. law enforcement agent working along the border in retaliation for the confiscation of a recent drug shipment. A joint FBI-Drug Enforcement Administration team in San Diego is said to be preparing an indictment against the Arellano Felix brothers. FBI and DEA officials say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

Foggy Bottom delay

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

No cutting corners

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



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

admitting new members, which could happen next year.

Border alert

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

BY JOHN LEO



A dubious 'diversity' report

While clicking from channel to channel in search of the basketball game last week, I came across a bit of "diversity" reporting on CNN. "Diversity" reporting is similar to ordinary reporting, except that facts are usually avoided and the central message is that life in America is essentially a racial struggle between whites and nonwhites, which the nonwhites, or people of color, will win by becoming the majority in the year 2050.

The point of the CNN report—a dubious one supported by no evidence—was that young blacks and Latinos are starting to form a strong alliance. The correspondent said, "The once deep divisions between these groups are now blurring, as little by little, consciously or not, young African-Americans and Latinos are creating a common culture, one that will be in the majority by the year 2050." This emerging black-Latino culture isn't discussed much, though one youth worker says that blacks and Latinos now dress alike and listen to each other's music and that both came from "the same slave ship."

All suspense as to what the two groups are uniting against disappeared when CNN's correspondent said they "are beginning to realize they're not fighting each other for jobs. Instead they share a far greater challenge." This undefined challenge was immediately defined by a teenage student. She said: "I don't think there's competition between the blacks and the Latinos. I think it's us against the whites."

No interest. Oddly, the report introduced two rather impressive young men, one black and one Latino, who talked about getting ahead by perseverance and hard work. But they apparently didn't much interest the correspondent, who seemed more interested in racial politics.

The basic question raised by "diversity" reporting is this: Is it really news, evidence of something actually happening in the outside world, or is it the expression of a reporter's or editor's wish, in this case that blacks and Latinos ought to unite in hostility toward whites? A real news account of a dawning black-Hispanic culture or alliance should presumably include some facts indicating that it actually exists. And the reporting would have to take into account how the "deep divisions" between the groups are supposedly fading. Relations in prisons between Latinos and blacks are so bad that the American Civil Liberties Union supports segregated cellblocks in some cases.

Also, journalism has its familiar 2050 problem. Some projections indicate that by the middle of the next century, the United States will be about 53 percent non-Hispanic white, 47

percent minority, with the white plurality supplied mostly by older citizens. The fastest-growing segment of the population, Hispanics, will be about 25 percent of the national total and, when added to the black and Asian-American totals, will produce enough political power to neutralize or overthrow the existing order.

Maybe. But this assumes that people always vote their ethnicity, not their interests or beliefs. A lot of very different peoples come under the heading of "Hispanic," but if you look at surveys of Hispanic attitudes, they seem very close to traditional American values. Family solidarity, the work ethic, religion,

and patriotism rank very high. Polls show that 90 percent of Hispanics think anyone living here should learn English as quickly as possible. About 75 percent think that we have way too many immigrants and that continued immigration depresses wages. Professor Rodolfo de la Garza at the University of Texas held a focus group in which all 14 Hispanics in the room supported California's Proposition 187, which limited benefits for illegal immigrants.

In de la Garza's Latino National Political Survey, people of Mexican, Cuban, and Puerto Rican origins didn't acknowledge having much in common, and each group said it was fonder of Great Britain than of Latin America. Only a few called themselves Latino or Hispanic. Most wanted to be called "American." About 90 percent said they were "proud" or "extremely proud" of the United States.

It's certainly true that Hispanics will have a lot to say about America's future. But what they apparently intend to say does not seem out of line with what earlier Americans of all races have believed. The other problem with the picture of a nonwhite majority coalition is that Hispanics are blending into the general population at least as fast as earlier white ethnic groups did. Forty percent of Americans of Puerto Rican ancestry who were born here are married to Anglos. About a third of all young American-born Hispanics are marrying non-Hispanic whites. Will their children identify themselves as Hispanic, or as generic whites, like the Italian Irish or the Polish Swedes?

It's a fluid situation that can't be summed up by the simple math of 2050 demographics. A large number of Hispanics are moving into well-off suburbs, and a large number of newcomers seem trapped in communities with few jobs, no education, and segregated schools. But on the evidence so far, it's hard to believe Hispanics will become part of a victim movement or an antiwhite coalition. Diversity reporters, take note.



'Is it really news... or is it the expression of a reporter's or editor's wish?'