

3:40 pm - -- HRC departs.
PRIVATE MEETING
4:15 pm Residence
CLOSED PRESS\NO WH PHOTO

4:25 pm **PROCEED** to Old Executive Office Building

4:30 pm- **COUNCIL FOR JEWISH FEDERATION EVENT**
4:45 pm Room 450, OEOB
CLOSED PRESS\WH PHOTO ONLY

FORMAT:

- Lynn Lyss, Chairperson, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, introduces HRC.
- HRC makes brief remarks from podium.
- Following remarks, HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 200 Federation Leaders

5:00 pm **BRIEFING**
5:30 pm Map Room
CLOSED PRESS

5:30 pm - **BRIEFING**
6:00 pm Map Room
CLOSED PRESS

7:25 pm **DEPART** South Portico
EN ROUTE Korean Ambassador's Residence
(b)(6) [redacted] Coos
[drive time: 15 minutes]

7:40 pm **ARRIVE** Korean Ambassador's Residence

Greeters:

- Ambassador Park Kun-Woo
- Mrs. Park
- Al Hunt
- Bill Pierce, President, National Council for Adoption

7:45 pm - **NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION DINNER**
8:05 pm Korean Ambassador's Residence
OPEN PRESS

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1997

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FORMAT:

- Al Hunt will open and introduce Mrs. Lou Davidson.
- Mrs. Lou Davidson makes brief remarks, introduces HRC and presents HRC with the ❖ Bully Pulpit Award❖.
- HRC makes remarks.
- Following remarks, HRC departs.

8:10 pm **DEPART** Korean Ambassador's Residence
 EN ROUTE The White House
 [drive time: 15 minutes]

8:25 pm **ARRIVE** South Portico

RON The White House

WASHINGTON, D.C. EVENTS:

KENNEDY CENTER

- Shear Madness
- The King and I
- Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

ARENA STAGE

- Sunday in the Park with George

FORD'S THEATER

- Paper Moon

NATIONAL THEATER:

- Chicago

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Increasing clouds with a chance for rain showers by evening.
Wind south at 10 to 18 knots. Low 46 High 68.

7:35. INVOCATION.

7:37. AL THEN TELLS THE AUDIENCE THAT MRS. CLINTON IS EXPECTED AROUND _____, THAT WHEN SHE ARRIVES WE WILL PAUSE SO THAT SHE CAN RECEIVE HER AWARD, MAKE ANY REMARKS SHE WISHES, AND THEN SHE WILL DEPART BECAUSE SHE HAS A NUMBER OF ENGAGEMENTS. ~~IN THE MEANWHILE, AL WILL SUGGEST THAT PEOPLE GO AHEAD AND BEGIN THEIR DINNER.~~

7:38. AL AND BILL PIERCE, PERHAPS ALONG WITH AMBASSADOR PARK AND HIS WIFE, GO TO THE ENTRANCE TO AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST LADY.

@ 7:45, THE FIRST LADY MAKES HER ENTRANCE. AL HUNT SAYS THAT BILL PIERCE, NCFA'S PRESIDENT, WILL INTRODUCE ONE OF NCFA'S BOARD MEMBERS TO MAKE THE PRESENTATION TO THE FIRST LADY.

7:46. PIERCE WILL SAY SOMETHING LIKE: THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION IS VERY PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU, MRS. CLINTON, TO THE 1997 ADOPTION HALL OF FAME BANQUET. AS SOMEONE WHO FIRST MET YOU WHEN YOU WORKED AT THE WASHINGTON RESEARCH PROJECT, BEFORE YOU EVER WENT TO ARKANSAS, IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE YOU WITH US AT OUR AWARDS BANQUET. TO GIVE YOU THE AWARD ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION, LET ME INTRODUCE ONE OF THE FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS AND MOST DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION, LOU DAVIDSON. MRS. DAVIDSON HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN MOST OF THE INITIATIVES OF NCFA SINCE 1980. SHE AND HER HUSBAND RALPH HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN OUR PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAMPAIGNS, OUR LONG-RANGE PLANNING, MANY OF OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS, OUR WORK WITH AIDS ORPHANS AND, THANK GOODNESS, WITH OUR FUNDRAISING. LOU IS CO-CHAIR OF TONIGHT'S GALA. LOU, WILL YOU PLEASE DO THE HONORS?

7:48. LOU DAVIDSON. (FOLLOWING IS A SUGGESTED SCRIPT, WHICH LOU MAY OR MAY NOT USE.) IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU TONIGHT, MRS. CLINTON. WHEN OUR BOARD DECIDED THAT YOU SHOULD BE INVITED, WE KNEW THAT YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE WOULD MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT YOU WOULD ACCEPT, SO I KNOW I SPEAK FOR EVERYONE WHEN I SAY WE ARE JUST THRILLED TO HAVE YOU HERE. WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT YOUR WORK ON BEHALF OF ADOPTION, BILL PIERCE - WHO IS NOT EASY TO PLEASE WHEN IT COMES TO ADVOCACY - WAS TALKING ABOUT YOUR STRONG LEADERSHIP ON BEHALF OF THE IDEA THAT ADOPTION SHOULD BE A FIRST RECOURSE FOR CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, OR THOSE WHOSE PARENTS ARE

UNWILLING OR UNREADY TO RAISE THEM. BILL TOLD US THAT THERE HAD BEEN QUITE A BATTLE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, AND THAT STRONG, INFLUENTIAL VOICES HAD CAUTIONED YOU AGAINST ENDORSING ADOPTION. BUT YOU STAYED THE COURSE. AND THE RESULT WAS THE DEC. 14 ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE, FOLLOWED BY THE FEB. 14 RELEASE OF THE DETAILED PLAN, YOUR ADOPTION 2002 INITIATIVE. WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO HAVE A STRONG ADVOCATE AND ALLY FOR ADOPTION LIKE YOU IN THE WHITE HOUSE. AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE PRESIDENT CLEARLY JOINS YOU IN THAT LEADERSHIP ROLE. IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR LEADERSHIP FROM THE WHITE HOUSE THAT WE DECIDED ON THE NAME OF THE AWARD. THERE WAS A MAN BY THE NAME OF GEORGE HAVEN PUTNAM WHO WAS ONE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S ADMIRERS AND BIOGRAPHERS. HAVEN HAD ACCUSED TEDDY ROOSEVELT OF A TENDENCY TO PREACHING, SOMETIME DURING HIS FIRST PRESIDENTIAL TERM. THE PRESIDENT HAD REPLIED, "YES, HAVEN, MOST OF US ENJOY PREACHING, AND I'VE GOT SUCH A BULLY PULPIT." WELL, MRS. CLINTON, YOU ALSO HAVE A BULLY PULPIT AND YOU ARE USING IT, MOST NOTABLY IN THE ADOPTION 2002 INITIATIVE, TO PROMOTE ADOPTION. IN A TIME WHEN PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO PATCH TOGETHER OR REUNITE CHILDREN WITH ADULTS WHO HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THEIR LACK OF CAPACITY TO BE PARENTS, AT A TIME WHEN MANY ARE FORGETTING THE WONDERFUL, PERMANENT, LEGAL, FAMILY-BUILDING OPTION THAT MADE FOUR CHILDREN PART OF MY FAMILY AND SO MANY CHILDREN PART OF YOUR FRIENDS' FAMILIES, YOU ARE STRESSING THE WORD 'ADOPTION.' ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION AND ALL THE CHILDREN ON THIS PLANET WHO WAIT FOR HOMES, I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN GIVING YOU NCFA'S 'BULLY PULPIT AWARD.'

7:51. MRS. CLINTON RESPONDS. AFTER MRS. CLINTON RESPONDS, AMBASSADOR PARK COMES TO THE PODIUM, SHAKES MRS. CLINTON'S HAND, AND ESCORTS HER OUT TO HER WAITING MOTORCADE. AS SOON AS MRS. CLINTON AND THE AMBASSADOR LEAVE THE ROOM, AL HUNT TAKES THE PODIUM AND URGES PEOPLE TO RESUME THEIR DINNER.

@ 8:30, AL AGAIN TAKES THE PODIUM. AT THIS POINT, AL RECOGNIZES FROM THE PODIUM AND ASKS TO STAND AND TAKE A BOW THOSE DIGNITARIES WHO ARE PRESENT BUT WILL NOT BE GIVEN AWARDS. THIS WILL INCLUDE:

FROM CHINA:

FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

FROM ROMANIA:

FROM OTHER COUNTRIES:

SEN. AND MRS. METZENBAUM
REP. AND MRS. OBERSTAR
OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

ANYONE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION WHO IS A POLITICAL
APPOINTEE

ANY OTHER VIPS THAT WILL BE NOTED .

(S. ROSENBAUM AND ASSOCIATES AND/OR MARA WILL LET YOU
KNOW WHAT DIGNITARIES TO RECOGNIZE, AL.)

DAVE BUSHNELL, WOULD YOU COME BACK UP FOR OUR FIRST AWARD
PRESENTATION? AND CASSIE BEVAN, WOULD YOU ALSO COME FORWARD
WITH DAVE?

8:31. DAVE BUSHNELL: THANK YOU, AL. WEREN'T THE FIRST LADY'S
REMARKS WONDERFUL? I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF RECOGNIZING, WITH
NCFA'S DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARD, A PERSON WHO FORMERLY
WAS ON THE STAFF OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION. THIS
PERSON RECEIVED HER DOCTORATE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT FROM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. SHE COMPLETED A POST-DOCTORAL
FELLOWSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN. SHE CAME TO
WASHINGTON ON A CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.
UPON COMPLETING THE FELLOWSHIP, SHE JOINED THE FAMILY IMPACT
SEMINAR STAFF AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY. IN 1984, SHE BECAME A
CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER AND EVENTUALLY THE MINORITY
STAFF DIRECTOR OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND
FAMILIES. SHE LEFT THAT POSITION IN 1993 TO BECOME THE PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR OF NCFA'S CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT, WHICH
INVOLVED RESEARCH AND WRITING ABOUT THE STATE OF AMERICA'S
FOSTER CARE SYSTEM. SHE COMPLETED HER WORK AND WAS AGAIN
ASKED TO RETURN TO BE A STAFF MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, WHERE SHE WORKS UNDER DR. RON HASKINS FOR
CHAIRMAN CLAY SHAW. FOR HER EFFORTS LEADING TO THE
PUBLICATION OF *FOSTER CARE: TOO MUCH, TOO LITTLE, TOO EARLY, TOO
LATE*, NCFA AWARDS HER ITS DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARD. DR.
CAROL STATUTO BEVAN, KNOWN THROUGHOUT WASHINGTON AND THE
COUNTRY AS 'CASSIE,' WON'T YOU PLEASE COME FORWARD? [WAIT FOR
HER TO COME TO THE PODIUM, IF FOR SOME REASON SHE IS NOT UP
THERE, THEN SAY THE FOLLOWING] CASSIE, YOU MAY WONDER WHY I
DO NOT HAVE YOUR AWARD TO HAND YOU. THE REASON IS THAT YOUR
AWARD IS A PIECE OF SCULPTURE, HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY

LARRY WASHBURN OF LDS SOCIAL SERVICES, WHICH PORTRAYS A TODDLER AND HER PARENTS. CONGRATULATIONS, CASSIE, FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP WHEN YOU WERE DIRECTING OUR SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECT FUNDED BY THE SMITH-RICHARDSON FOUNDATION, WITH OTHER SUPPORT FROM THE MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL AND BOYS TOWN. [DAVE, REMAIN AT THE PODIUM WHILE SHE ACKNOWLEDGES THE AWARD, AND LEAVE THE PODIUM WHEN SHE DOES.]

8:34. CASSIE WILL SPEAK BRIEFLY, HOPEFULLY FOR NO MORE THAN THREE MINUTES.

8:37. AL HUNT COMES BACK TO THE MIKE AND SAYS: TO PRESENT OUR NEXT AWARD, I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE DEBORAH STEELMAN, ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOST COMMITTEE FOR THIS EVENING'S DINNER, AND A SEASONED WASHINGTON HAND, TO COME TO THE PODIUM. DEBORAH IS KNOWN AS ONE OF WASHINGTON'S LEADING EXPERTS ON HEALTH ISSUES BUT SHE IS HERE TONIGHT, ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND GREGG WARD, WEARING HER HAT AS AN ADOPTIVE MOTHER OF TWO BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN FROM THE COUNTRY OF GEORGIA. DEBORAH?

8:38. STEELMAN. THANK YOU, AL. [INVITE SHAW TO COME FORWARD AND DO YOUR OWN AD-LIB ABOUT CLAY BUT PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING OR SOMETHING SIMILAR IN THE CONTENTS OF YOUR REMARKS] ONE OF THE MARKS OF TRUE WISDOM IN THIS CITY IS TO HAVE EXCELLENT STAFF AND CLAY SHAW CERTAINLY FITS THAT DESCRIPTION. AS YOU JUST HEARD, DR. BEVAN WORKS FOR CHAIRMAN SHAW. AND THE STAFF DIRECTOR IS DR. RON HASKINS. THIS IS AN INCREDIBLY CAPABLE TEAM, BUT A PERFECT FIT FOR CHAIRMAN SHAW. TONIGHT WE ARE RECOGNIZING MR. SHAW FOR HIS LEADERSHIP ON ADOPTION LEGISLATION, AND SPECIFICALLY HIS WORK ON TWO ISSUES THAT HAVE LONG BEEN ON THE AGENDA OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION - ENDING RACISM IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC CHILD WELFARE AND ADOPTION SYSTEM AND PROVIDING TAX EQUITY FOR THOSE WHO FORM THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPTION. ONE EXAMPLE OF MR. SHAW'S EFFORTS COMES TO MIND OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS, AND THAT WAS HIS DIPLOMATIC CLARIFICATION OF THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM DURING THE FULL WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MARKUP LAST YEAR. AT A CRITICAL POINT, WHEN IT SEEMED THAT PEOPLE WHO WERE IN BASIC AGREEMENT WERE HUNG UP ON LANGUAGE, MR. SHAW, THROUGH A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS, WAS ABLE TO GUIDE THE DISCUSSION TO THE POINT WHERE THERE WAS BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT ON THE COMMITTEE ABOUT THE LANGUAGE AND ITS INTENT. IT WAS A MARVELOUS DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR NEGOTIATING SKILL, MR. SHAW. THIS YEAR, AS YOU MOVE THE CAMP-KENNELLY BILL, THAT WOULD MAKE

DRAMATIC CHANGES IN THE PUBLIC FOSTER CARE SYSTEMS IN THE STATES, YOU'LL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE A CHANCE TO USE THOSE SKILLS AGAIN. MR. SHAW, FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP ON BEHALF OF ADOPTION LEGISLATION DURING THE LAST CONGRESS, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION PRESENTS TO YOU ITS "FRIEND OF ADOPTION AWARD." [DEBORAH CAN READ THE PLAQUE TO HIM OR NOT, AS SHE WISHES. SHE THEN STEPS BACK AND WAITS WHILE REP. SHAW MAKES HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, THEN LEAVES THE PODIUM WITH SHAW.]

8:41 SHAW RESPONDS, NOT MORE THAN THREE MINUTES.

8:44 AL HUNT COMES BACK TO THE PODIUM AND SAYS, "CONGRATULATIONS, MR. SHAW, AND THANK YOU. ELLA MCDONALD, WILL YOU PLEASE COME FORWARD TO PRESENT OUR NEXT AWARD? [AS SHE COMES FORWARD, HUNT SAYS] ELLA MCDONALD IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION. SHE CURRENTLY HEADS THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD. ELLA HAS PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HUMAN SERVICES, AS BOTH AN EXPERT IN HEALTH SERVICES AND SOCIAL WORK, HOLDING DEGREES IN BOTH FIELDS. ELLA WAS THE FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RICHARD ALLEN CENTER, AN AGENCY IN NEW YORK CITY. AMONG HER SERVICES TO NCFA HAS BEEN PARTICIPATION IN THE ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE CASSIE BEVAN PUT TOGETHER AT HERSHEY. ELLA?

8:45. ELLA MCDONALD. [AD LIB, STARTING BY ASKING HIM TO COME FORWARD AND JOIN YOU, BUT PLEASE INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR REMARKS]. AS THE RANKING DEMOCRAT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, MR. RANGEL WIELDS ENORMOUS INFLUENCE. A NOD OF THE HEAD, A THUMBS-UP, AN AGREEMENT IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE. AND ON THIS ADOPTION LEGISLATION, MR. RANGEL DID ALL OF THE ABOVE. WHEN THE LEGISLATION WAS FIRST CONCEIVED SOME YEARS AGO, MR. RANGEL PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN DETERMINING WHAT WOULD BE INTRODUCED. IT WAS MR. RANGEL WHO SAID THAT ADOPTION TAX BREAKS SHOULD BE CREDITS, NOT DEDUCTIONS AND THAT THE BENEFITS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO BENEFIT LOW AND MODEST INCOME PEOPLE MOST. FORMER REPRESENTATIVE BILL LEHMAN AND MR. RANGEL WERE AMONG THE ORIGINAL CO-SPONSORS OF THE BILL TO PROVIDE ADOPTION TAX CREDITS. SO MR. RANGEL WAS IN AT THE BEGINNING. HE WAS ALSO THERE IN THE MIDDLE, AS THIS LEGISLATION WAS MAKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE HOUSE. HE WAS POSITIVE ABOUT THE TAX CREDITS. HE WAS THE KEY DEMOCRAT WHO CLARIFIED THE LANGUAGE BANNING RACISM IN ADOPTION. AND, AT THE END, AS I UNDERSTAND IT FROM BILL PIERCE, MR. RANGEL WAS AGAIN THERE FOR ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN WHO STAND TO BENEFIT. AT A POINT WHEN THINGS WERE

CRITICAL, AND DECISIONS WERE BEING MADE ABOUT ADDING THE ADOPTION PROVISIONS TO THE MINIMUM WAGE BILL, MR. RANGEL SAID YES. SO, FOR THE MAN WHOSE YES WILL MEAN "YES" TO THE QUESTIONS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN WHO ASK IF THEY WILL EVER HAVE A FAMILY OF THEIR OWN TO LOVE AND CARE FOR THEM, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION IS PLEASED TO AWARD YOU ITS "FRIEND OF ADOPTION" AWARD. (ELLA STAYS AT THE PODIUM WHILE MR. RANGEL ACKNOWLEDGES.)

8:48. MR. RANGEL SPEAKS ABOUT THREE MINUTES. THEN HE AND ELLA LEAVE THE PODIUM.

8:51. AL HUNT COMES BACK TO THE PODIUM AND SAYS: OUR NEXT AWARD RECIPIENT IS FROM HOUSTON, SO HEINO (HI-NO) ERICHSEN, WON'T YOU COME FORWARD TO PRESENT IT? HEINO AND HIS WIFE JEAN ARE A COUPLE, LIKE JUDY AND ME, WHO KNOWS FIRST HAND THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE IN THE LOVE ONE HAS FOR ONE'S CHILDREN, WHETHER THEY COME TO US THROUGH ADOPTION OR THROUGH BIOLOGY. HEINO IS THE PROUD PARENT OF THREE CHILDREN, NOW GROWN, FROM COLOMBIA. HEINO AND HIS WIFE ARE ALSO THE PROUD PARENTS OF AN ADOPTION AGENCY, CALLED LOS NINOS INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION CENTER, THAT HAS FOUND FAMILIES FOR MORE THAN 1,500 CHILDREN FROM THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD. HEINO?

8:52. HEINO ERICHSEN. IN HOUSTON, WE ARE VERY PROUD OF BILL ARCHER, THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS. MR. CHAIRMAN, WON'T YOU COME FORWARD AND JOIN ME? HE CERTAINLY HAS SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY CALLING HIS OFFICE, TESTIFYING BEFORE HIM, AND SEEKING HELP. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT HIS OFFICE IS ALSO RESPONSIVE TO THOSE OF US WHO CALL ABOUT ISSUES THAT IMPACT HIS DISTRICT'S PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS, OR EVEN THAT IMPACT THE BROADER HOUSTON AND TEXAS CONSTITUENCIES. LET ME TELL YOU, AS SOMEONE WHO RUNS AN ADOPTION AGENCY, HOW IMPORTANT CHAIRMAN ARCHER'S LEADERSHIP ON THE ADOPTION LEGISLATION WAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE. AS AL HUNT MENTIONED, MY WIFE AND I HAVE THREE CHILDREN FROM COLOMBIA. THEIR SKIN COLOR IS DRAMATICALLY DARKER THAN OURS, OR OUR BIOLOGICAL SON, KURT. BUT DESPITE THIS EXTERNAL DIFFERENCE, AND THE DIFFERENCES IN CULTURE AND LANGUAGE (BECAUSE OUR SON FROM COLUMBIA CAME TO US AT AGE 9), THEY ARE IN EVERY WAY OUR CHILDREN. WE HAD CHALLENGES RAISING THEM, AS WE SAID IN OUR BOOK, BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE, BUT WHAT PARENT DOESN'T? THOSE THREE COULD FIND A HOME BECAUSE WE ADOPTED INTERNATIONALLY, BUT IF THEY HAD BEEN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM IN THE U.S. 20 YEARS AGO, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN REJECTED ON RACIAL

GROUND. THE LEGISLATION THAT CHAIRMAN ARCHER HELPED PASS WILL MEAN THAT MANY FEWER U.S. CHILDREN WILL NEED TO WAIT AND WAIT AND WAIT, WHILE WILLING PARENTS ARE TOLD THEY ARE THE WRONG COLOR. THIS LAW WILL MEAN THAT CHILDREN LIKE MINE WILL REAR THEIR CHILDREN IN A COUNTRY WHERE THE OFFICIAL STANCE IS NO LONGER A KIND OF APARTHEID, THAT ONCE EXISTED IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE TAX ASPECTS ARE ALSO CRITICAL, BECAUSE ADOPTION IS COSTLY AND NOT EVERY PARENT WHO WOULD LIKE TO ADOPT CAN AFFORD THE FEES. CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE U.S. AND OVERSEAS, INCLUDING U.S. CHILDREN LIKE THOSE OUR AGENCY PLACED THAT HAD HANDICAPS BUT WERE NEVER IN THE PUBLIC CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM WILL BENEFIT FROM THE NEW TAX LAW. FOR YEARS, WE SCRAPED TO FIND HELP FOR PARENTS AND OUR SMALL POOL OF DONATED FOUNDATION FUNDS JUST DIDN'T GO FAR ENOUGH. THIS NEW TAX PROVISION WILL BE A LIFESAVER FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN HERE AND ABROAD. IT WILL MEAN THAT PERFECTLY GOOD FAMILIES WHO ARE NOT WELL-OFF FINANCIALLY WILL BE ABLE TO ADOPT. IT WILL MEAN FAIRNESS FOR ADOPTING FAMILIES. IF I MAY ADD ONE PLEA HERE, MR. CHAIRMAN, IT IS THAT YOU BECOME THE WATCHDOG FOR THESE ADOPTION BENEFITS, ENSURING THAT THEY EXIST AND ARE EVEN EXPANDED AS LONG AS THERE IS A SINGLE CHILD OR SINGLE FAMILY WHO COULD BENEFIT. ON BEHALF OF THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE FOUND LOVING, COMPETENT FAMILIES THROUGH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION'S MEMBER AGENCIES, I HEREBY PRESENT TO YOU NCFA'S "FRIEND OF ADOPTION" AWARD. [HEINO STEPS BACK AND WAITS WHILE MR. ARCHER MAKES HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, THEN LEAVES THE PODIUM WHEN ARCHER DOES.]

8:55. ARCHER RESPONDS FOR ABOUT THREE MINUTES.

8:58. AL HUNT TAKES THE PODIUM AGAIN AND SAYS: TO PRESENT OUR NEXT AWARD, LOUIS STERN, WON'T YOU COME FORWARD? LOU IS ONE OF THE GROUP OF FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS, ALONG WITH LOU DAVIDSON, OF NCFA. LOU HAS THE DISTINCTION TO BE THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAS HAD TWO SEPARATE TERMS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF NCFA. HE WAS SO GOOD THAT AFTER A BRIEF REST, THEY CALLED HIM BACK INTO SERVICE. LOU, IN A TOWN WHERE EVEN ONE TERM IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT, COMING BACK TWICE IS SOMETHING THAT ONLY PEOPLE LIKE RICHARD NIXON OR SAM GIBBONS CAN MANAGE. CLAY SHAW, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT LOU AND HIS WIFE CAROL HAVE RECENTLY MOVED TO FLORIDA, SO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THIS MAN - A PHILANTHROPIST, A BATTLER AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN ANY FORM.

Nixon 7

8:59. LOU STERN. (LOU, YOU KNOW ALLAN BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, SO WE WILL LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHAT YOU SAY IN YOUR THREE MINUTES. PLEASE WORK IN HIS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN GETTING US INTO THE 21ST CENTURY WITH OUR OFFICE COMPUTER SETUP, THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, AND THE FACT THAT RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE WILL BE AMONG THE FIRST OF THOSE TO BE NAMED "NCFA FELLOWS." IT WOULD ALSO BE NICE, IF NOT TOO CORNY, IF YOU COULD WORK IN A PLUG FOR TIFFANY'S ALONG THESE LINES "AS A MAN WHO HAS SPENT MANY YEARS WITH JEWELRY, GOLD, DIAMONDS AND OTHER GEMS, IT IS A JOY TO PRESENT A TIFFANY CREATED AWARD TO A JEWEL OF A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE." OF COURSE, YOU ARE INDUCTING HIM INTO THE ADOPTION HALL OF FAME. AS USUAL, STAY AT THE PODIUM WITH HIM AND LEAVE WHEN HE DOES.)

9:02. ALLAN NEUSTADT. HE REPLIES FOR ABOUT THREE MINUTES,

9:05. AL HUNT COMES BACK TO THE PODIUM AND SAYS. MICHAEL BENTZEN, WILL YOU PLEASE COME FORWARD TO PRESENT OUR FINAL AWARD OF THE EVENING? MIKE BENTZEN IS CO-CHAIR OF TONIGHT'S GALA. MIKE ALSO WEARS SEVERAL OTHER HATS FOR NCFA. MOST IMPORTANT, MIKE IS NCFA'S PRO BONO LEGAL COUNSEL, AND IN THAT ROLE COORDINATES NCFA'S EXTENSIVE LIST OF VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS AND THEIR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF ADOPTION, INCLUDING ESPECIALLY THE FILING OF FRIEND-OF-THE-COURT BRIEFS IN IMPORTANT ADOPTION CASES. MIKE IS THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE BARKER FOUNDATION, A LEADING WASHINGTON ADOPTION AGENCY, AND HIS CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES HAVE INCLUDED BOARD SERVICE WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND CIVIC GROUPS. MOST IMPORTANT FOR OUR PURPOSES HERE TONIGHT, MIKE AND HIS WIFE MARTHA ARE PARENTS BY ADOPTION. MIKE?

9:06. MIKE BENTZEN SAYS: IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO BE INVITED HERE TO THIS BEAUTIFUL RESIDENCE. MR. AMBASSADOR, WON'T YOU PLEASE COME FORWARD? [WHILE HE COMES FORWARD, CONTINUE SPEAKING] AMBASSADOR PARK KUN WOO, AS YOU ALL KNOW, IS, WITH MRS. PARK, OUR HOST FOR THIS EVENING, AND IT IS CERTAINLY CONSISTENT WITH THAT SPIRIT OF HOSPITALITY THAT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION WISHES TO RECOGNIZE AMBASSADOR PARK AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. AMBASSADOR PARK HAS A DISTINGUISHED BACKGROUND. PERMIT ME TO SHARE JUST THE BRIEFEST OUTLINE WITH YOU. A GRADUATE OF THE COLLEGE OF LAW, SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, AMBASSADOR PARK JOINED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN 1963. DURING HIS CAREER WITH THE MINISTRY, HE HAS BEEN POSTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK, TO THE EMBASSY HERE AS FIRST SECRETARY IN 1973, AS CONSUL TO ATLANTA IN 1976, TO NIGERIA IN 1981,

TO HEAD THE AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU IN THE MINISTRY IN 1982, AS AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA IN 1985, AS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL FOR THE MIISTRY IN 1988, AS AMBASSADOR TO CANADA IN 1991, AS VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN 1994 AND, SINCE JAN. 17, 1995, AS AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. PARK HAVE ONE SON AND ONE DAUGHTER. BUT THEY CAN TRULY CLAIM TO HAVE MANY OTHER SONS AND DAUGHTERS, THANKS TO THE HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS OF KOREA AND THEIR SUPPORT OF ADOPTION SINCE ASSUMING THE RESONSIBILITIES OF AMBASSADOR IN 1995. KOREA HAS HAD THE LONGEST HISTORY OF HUMANITARIAN INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROGRAMS OF ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. STARTING EARLY ON, THE DECISION WAS MADE THAT NOTHING WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ENSURING THAT EACH AND EVERY CHILD WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM AN ADOPTIVE HOME WOULD HAVE A FAMILY. BECAUSE DOMESTIC ADOPTION WAS RELATIVELY NEW AS A CONCEPT AND THE NATION WAS RECOVERING FROM A DEVASTATING WAR, THE ONLY PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE FOR MANY CHILDREN TO GROWING UP IN AN ORPHANAGE WAS INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION. SO, ALTHOUGH KOREA'S ORPHANAGES AND FOSTER CARE HOMES ARE OF VERY HIGH QUALITY, THE NATION DECIDED THAT ADOPTIVE FAMILIES WERE EVEN BETTER. ONE SUCH ADOPTIVE FAMILY IS REPRESENTED HERE TONIGHT BY OUR M.C., AL HUNT AND HIS WIFE, JUDY WOODRUFF. AN ESTIMATED 60,000 CHILDREN HAVE HAD THE GIFT OF FAMILIES WHO WERE READY AND ABLE TO CARE FOR THEM, THANKS TO THE VISION OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT. WOULD THAT U.S. POLICIES WERE AS ENLIGHTENED, AS WE IN THE U.S. FACE YET ANOTHER DECADE WITH HALF A MILLION CHILDREN, TWENTY PERCENT OF WHOM ARE FREE FOR ADOPTION. BUT THE POSITIVE STORY DOES NOT END WITH THE DECISION TO FREE THE CHILDREN FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION. FAR FROM IT. ONCE THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ADOPTED, THEY ARE STILL BELOVED BY KOREA, AS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED REPEATEDLY BY AMBASSADOR PARK. AMBASSADOR PARK HAS DEDICATED HIMSELF TO MAINTAINING CONTACTS WITH THESE CHILDREN, TO OFFERING HOSPITALITY, PROGRAMS, SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO KOREAN-AMERICAN CHILDREN. IT IS FOR THIS ONGOING GENEROSITY AS WELL AS THE KOREAN POLICIES TOWARD ADOPTION THAT WE HONOR YOU TONIGHT, MR. AMBASSADOR. ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS AWARD INDUCTING YOU INTO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION'S HALL OF FAME. (PRESENT AWARD AND REMAIN AT THE FRONT, LEAVING WHEN THE AMBASSADOR IS FINISHED.)

9:09 AMBASSADOR PARK RESPONDS FOR PERHAPS THREE MINUTES.

9:12. AL HUNT TAKES THE PODIUM AGAIN AND SAYS: BILL PIERCE, COME ON UP ONE LAST TIME. AL REMAINS AT THE PODIUM WHILE PIERCE SHAKES HIS HAND AND THANKS HIM, THEN TAKES HIS SEAT.

9:13. PIERCE THANKS THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE, THE HONOREES, THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE DINNER, HONORED DIGNITARIES, SARA ROSENBAUM & ASSOCIATES AND THE NCFA STAFF, ESPECIALLY MARA DUFFY, TELLS PEOPLE TO COME AGAIN NEXT YEAR, AND SAYS GOODNIGHT AND GODSPEED.

9:15. THE PROGRAM IS OVER AND PEOPLE LEAVE.

DNSCRIPT41297

THE TRACK RECORD OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION (NCFA)

1980 - NCFA, working in a bipartisan manner, convinces the Department of Health and Human Services to broaden its consultation process in order to fulfill the intent of Congress regarding the drafting of a Model State Adoption Act.

1981 - After further consideration, the Department of Health and Human Services withdraws the Draft Model State Adoption Act which would have harmed adoption and issues, instead, a sound Model Act for the Adoption of Children with Special Needs

1982 - NCFA begins the Adoption Hotline, to respond to questions from pregnant women and those who want to adopt, along with a coordinated national public service advertising campaign to publicize the Adoption Hotline

1983 - NCFA is instrumental in getting laws passed in New York, Oregon and Texas establishing "mutual consent registries," a sensitive way for people involved in adoption to agree to meet each other if they agree

1984 - NCFA helps close a loophole in Pennsylvania's Vital Statistics law which had been used to invade the privacy of women who had placed children for adoption and who had been promised confidentiality

1985 - NCFA publishes the first edition of *Adoption Factbook*, containing the first national update of U.S. adoption statistics in a decade

1986 - NCFA launches its "Adopted Kids Have Great Expectations" public service advertising campaign

1987 - NCFA responds to the "boarder baby" crisis, using New York City as its model for intervention and help by private adoption agencies

1988 - First Lady Barbara Bush agrees to serve as Honorary Chair of the National Council For Adoption

(please see other side)

1989 - NCFA publishes the second edition of *Adoption Factbook*, in an expanded format

1990 - NCFA is named as the only social services organization to be part of the U.S. Delegation to The Hague Conference on Private International Law, to begin the drafting of a new Convention on Intercountry Adoption

1991 - NCFA issues alert regarding a bill proposed by Sen. Carl Levin that would have established a Federal databank providing access to confidential records located in the states

1992 - After six years of work by NCFA and others, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws votes for a Uniform Adoption Act with many protections, including confidentiality of records and required home studies for all who want to adopt before the child is placed

1993 - NCFA launches its AIDS Orphan Adoption Project, to help raise awareness of the need for people living with HIV/AIDS to make permanent plans for their children while they are living and competent

1994 - NCFA's push to end racial discrimination in adoption is marked by the passage of Sen. Metzenbaum's Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, banning the practice for those receiving Federal funds

1995 - NCFA's headquarters building, the Ruby Lee Picster Center for Adoption, is formally dedicated in a ceremony marking NCFA's 15th Anniversary

1996 - President Clinton signs two of NCFA's priorities into law by President Clinton - an improved bill which closes loopholes in the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act and tax law changes providing credits for those who adopt and tax-free employer benefits

BROADCAST AND PRINT MEDIA INVOLVEMENT OF NCFA SINCE 1980

NCFA has played the major role in the U.S. since 1980 in representing adoption, through the media, to the American people. Here is a sample of some of NCFA's media credits. NCFA has been involved with several of these media providers repeatedly.

ABC Evening News, Associated Press, Boston Globe, BBC Television, CBN Television, Chicago Tribune, Christian Science Radio, CBS Evening News, Chicago Tribune, CNN Headline News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Fox Morning News, Good Morning America, Larry King Live, Los Angeles Times, Lehrer Newshour, National Empowerment Television, National Public Radio, NBC Evening News, New Republic, New York Times, Nightline, Oprah, People Magazine, Television, Reuters, Sixty Minutes, Time Magazine, The Today Show, Twenty/Twenty. United Press International, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Washington Times, and The Weekly Standard.

April 15, 1997

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION AWARDS DINNER

DATE: Wednesday, April 16
TIME: 7:45 pm - 8:05 pm
LOCATION: Korean Ambassador's Residence
Washington, D.C.
FROM: Brenda Costello

I. PURPOSE

To attend the National Council For Adption's annual Awards Banquet, and to give remarks highlighting the President's commitment to promoting adoption and adoption reform.

II. BACKGROUND

Overview

You are scheduled to attend the National Council For Adoption's annual "Adoption Hall of Fame" Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening at Korean Ambassador Park Kun-Woo's residence, hosted by the Ambassador and Mrs. Park. NCFA will induct two new members into their Hall of Fame at the awards banquet: Ambassador Park Kun-Woo and Allan Neustadt, retiring NCFA Board member and Oklahoma businessman.

Special awards also given to several members of Congress for their work on behalf of adoption, and you will be presented with the "Bully Pulpit" award.

Approximately 150 NCFA members and those with a personal connection to adoption - adoptive parents, adoptees and families - are expected to attend. In addition to honorees, Sen. and Mrs. Metzenbaum (awardee 1982, 1994) and Rep. and Mrs. Oberstar (awardee 1994) are scheduled to attend.

National Council For Adoption

Since 1980, the National Council For Adoption (NCFA) has served as an advocate for children in need of families, adoptive families, and women facing unwanted pregnancies. Through research, public education, and services to agencies and those involved with adoption, this not-for-profit organization has dedicated its resources to providing direct information and guidance to individuals who can benefit from adoption, both domestically and internationally.

During the past year, NCFA focused on three major legislative goals: a \$5,000 tax credit law, passing a law to prohibit discrimination in adoption practices based on race or ethnicity, and improving the Indian Child Welfare Act. In addition to their work on a Foster Care and Adoption research project, which examines the interaction between the foster care system and adoption, and the AIDS Orphan Project, which provides education, direct services and an AIDS

Orphan Adoption Exchange, NCFA's current legislative agenda is focused primarily on gathering support for "Adoption 2002." NCFA opposes state laws opening adoption records for adoptees over 21, citing privacy concerns.

NCFA's several thousand individual members and 120 member agencies contribute approximately 20 percent of the organization's annual funding, with another 30-50 percent from three annual fundraising events, including the Hall of Fame Banquet, and the remainder raised from foundations, corporations and individuals. NCFA receives no public funding.

Awards

Three awards will be presented at Wednesday's Banquet, the first of which is the *Hall of Fame* Award, being presented to two individuals who will be inducted into the NCFA's Hall of Fame. Ambassador Park is being honored in recognition of the contributions of the Republic of Korea to adoption, and for his major support of post adoption services. Allan Neustadt, a retiring member of the NCFA board of directors, will also be awarded the *Hall of Fame* award for his record of outstanding service on behalf of adoption and specifically his work in leading the effort to computerize the Council's operations. The Hall of Fame Banquet began in 1985.

Special awards are being made to four members of Congress and one former member who have provided solid leadership in the consideration of legislation to advance adoption. Reps. Charles Rangel, E. Clay Shaw, Jim Bunning, and Bill Archer, and former Rep. Pete Geren will be presented with these leadership awards. Previous award recipients have been members of Congress and state legislatures, as well as adoption advocates, and include Sens. Kennedy, Metzenbaum, Lloyd Bentsen, Rep. Oberstar (1988), Speaker Gingrich, C. Everett Koop, among others.

Finally, a surprise award "Adoption Researcher of the Year" will be presented to Carol "Cassie" Bevan, for her work on basic public policy research.

For the first time ever, NCFA will present the "Bully Pulpit" award, to you, in recognition of your work on behalf of the *Adoption 2002* initiative. Mrs. Lou Davidson, a long-time NCFA activist, will present you with the award.

Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA)

The Department of Health and Human Services is currently developing the guidance to implement amendments to the MEPA, modified by the Interethnic provisions of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. As you know, the legislation provides significant penalties for non-compliance.

Format

Prior to your arrival, there will be a VIP reception for honorees, VIPs, and major donors. You will arrive after the Invocation and opening remarks and be introduced by Bill Pierce, NCFA President. Mrs. Lou Davidson, NCFA founding Board member and volunteer will present you with the "Bully Pulpit" Award. Dinner and award presentations will take place after you depart.

Note: Award to Cassie Bevan is a surprise and will not be announced until after you depart.

Wall Street Journal Columnist Al Hunt will serve as emcee. Hunt and wife Judy Woodruff are the adoptive parents of Lauren, who was born in the Republic of Korea. Lauren recently appeared in a *Washington Post* photo as Flower Girl at Andrea Mitchell and Alan Greenspan's wedding.

III. PARTICIPANTS

- HRC
- Ambassador Park Kun-Woo
- Mrs. Lou Davidson, NCFA founding board member
- Al Hunt, Wall Street Journal, emcee

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Al Hunt will open and introduce Mrs. Lou Davidson.
- Mrs. Lou Davidson makes brief remarks, introduces HRC and presents HRC with the "Bully Pulpit Award".
- HRC makes remarks.
- Following remarks, HRC departs.

V. PRESS

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Lissa Muscatine.

National Council For Adoption

Attendee List for Banquet Dinner

Revised 4/16

Category	Last Name	First Name	Count
	Akgunay	Mr. and Mrs. Rafet	13
	Andrusko	Mr. and Mrs.	11
	Angelides	Mr. and Mrs.	1
VIP	Archer	Rep. William and Mrs.	3
	Austin	Shawn and Kellie	15
	Barham	Steve and JoDee	15
	Beaulieu	Cindy	10
VIP	Bentzen	Martha and Mike	2
VIP	Bergstresser	Pat	5
VIP	Bevan	Carol Statuto and Larry	5
	Borland	Kevin	10
	Burton	Kent	14
VIP	Bushnell	David	12
VIP	Bushnell	Col. Johnathan F.	12
	Camiler	Linda and David	1
	Carmody	Tim	12
Vip	Carney	Alfonso	3
VIP	Carney	Cassandra Henderson	3
VIP	Charen	Mona	5
	Church	Lynne	14
	Clark	Jim	11
VIP	Crawford	Carol and Ron	6
	Cullen	Katie	14
VIP	Davidson	Lou and Ralph	8
	Davis	Patsy	8
	Dawson	Mimi	12
VIP	Day	Tim	14
	Dozoretz	Beth and Ron	8
VIP Only	Duggan	Juanita	
VIP	Dunlevy	Tom	7
VIP	Erichsen	Heino	3
	Evans	Kathy and Gerry	1
	Finnegan	Eileen and Kevin	1
	Fisher	Linda	14
VIP	Foltz	Greg	11
	Gardiner	Chip	10
	Garett	Paul and Danette	15

Attendee List for Banquet Dinner

	First Name	Last Name	Count
VIP	Gecana	Ambassador and Mrs	9
	Graef	Jason	3
	Gratton	Mr and Mrs David	14
	Griffen	Susan and Daniel	4
VIP	Halle	Peter	13
	Harding	Tommilee and Bob	11
VIP Only	Harrison	Barbara	
	Hartvigsen	Richard	12
	Hogan	Tatianna	5
	Huffington	Arianna	5
	Hughes	Linda and Charles	4
VIP	Hunt	Al	2
	Hyun	Mr. Cho	12
	Jacobson	Beth	13
VIP	Kilmurray	Dan	2
VIP	Kim	Suezy and Ted	4
	Kim	Rev. Dr. Yunkuk David	4
	Kim	Mr. Sukham	8
	Klein	Joel	8
VIP	Kuznetsov	Sergey	13
VIP	Kuznetsov	Marina	13
	Lagerberg	Peter and Martha	15
VIP	Lamm	Carolyn	13
	LeCheminant	Doug and Mary Louise	15
VIP Only	Liberatore	Rob	
VIP	Lynch	May Wall and Walter	1
	Machlin	Barry	13
VIP	Mason	Larisa	9
VIP	McDonald	Ella	2
VIP	Metzenbaum	Senator Howard and Mrs.	6
	Mollura	Dennis	10
VIP	Neustadt	Allan and Marilyn	7
VIP	Neustadt	Julie	7
VIP	Newman	Karen and Bill	5
VIP	O'Connor	Paula	6
VIP	Park	Ambassador and Mrs (+ 2 adult ch	8
VIP	Park	Suzin	9

Attendee List for Banquet Dinner

Reception	Last Name	First Names	Table	Seating
VIP	Park	David	9	
VIP	Parker	Bob	5	
	Pfund	Mr.	9	
	Piccolo	Joann	12	
VIP	Pierce	William	6	
	Poldy	Megan	10	
	Pryce	Rep. Debbie	14	
VIP Only	Pyles	John		
VIP	Quinn	Mr. J.	7	
VIP	Rangel	Rep. Charles and Mrs.	2	
VIP	Reese	Robert	3	
	Reifel	Charles	4	
VIP	Rhyzik	Belle	9	
	Richard	Bill	10	
VIP	Robbins	Liz	2	
VIP	Rutan	Mr and Mrs. Frank	7	
VIP	Savley	Jim	9	
VIP	Scott	Gregg	3	
VIP	Selden	Elliot	10	
VIP	Shaw	Rep. and Mrs	6	
	Shin	Counselor and Mrs.	9	
	Sigmund	Debbie and Don	13	
	Skiles	James	14	
VIP	Staley	Mr. and Mrs.	7	
	Stassinopolous	Helen	5	
VIP	Steelman	Deborah	6	
VIP	Stern	Louis P. and Carol	7	
VIP	Sundermeyer	Michael	4	
	Surh	Mrs. Sung Hyun	8	
VIP	Talarico	Susan	4	
	Van de Water	Read	10	
VIP	Ward	Gregg	6	
	Washburn	Larry	15	
VIP	Wing	Tamara	2	
	Zanes	Maria	14	
VIP	Zhihong	Mr. and Mrs. Liao	3	

Attendee List for Banquet Dinner

NAME	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PHONE NO.
	STAFF		
	Duffy	Mara	
	Bhakta	Sarika	
	McCollough	Susan	
	Medalie	Susan	
	Rosenbaum	Susan	
	Kane	Larry and Isabel	
	Holt	Monica	
	Carrol	Joy	
	McPartland	Tracey	
	Johnson	Kevin	
	Purtill	Patrick and Gwen	
	Mogdec	Albert	

Attendee List for Banquet Dinner

Andrusko	Mr. and Mrs.
Angelides	Michelle
Archer	Rep. William and Mrs.
Austin	Shawn and Kellie
Barham	Steve and JoDee
Bentzen	Martha and Mike
Bergstresser	Pat
Bevan	Carol Statuto and Larry
Broderick	Michael
Burton	Kent
Bushnell	David
Bushnell	Col. Johnathan F.
Camiler	Linda and David
Carmody	Tim
Charen	Mona
Church	Lynne
Clark	Jim
Crawford	Carol and Ron
Cullen	Katie
Davidson	Lou and Ralph
Davis	Patsy
Dawson	Mimi
Dozoretz	Beth and Ron
Erichsen	Heino
Evans	Kathy and Gerry
Finnegan	Eileen and Kevin
Fisher	Linda
Foltz	Greg
Gardiner	Chip
Garett	Paul and Danette
George	Nancy Whorton
Gildenhorn	Mr and Mrs
Gratton	Mr and Mrs David
Griffen	Susan and Daniel
Halle	Peter
Harding	Tommilee and Bob
Harrison	Barbara
Hartvigsen	Richard
Haskins	Ronald and Susann
Heymsfeld	David
Huffington	Arianna
Hughes	Linda and Charles
Hunt	Al
Hyun	Mr. Cho
Jacobson	Beth
Kilmurray	Dan
Kim	Suezy and Ted

Attendee List for Banquet Dinner

Kim	Rev. Dr. Yunkuk David
Kim	Mr. Sukham
Klein	Joel
Kuznetsov	Serge
Kuznetsov	Marina
Lagerberg	Peter and Martha
Lamm	Carolyn
LeCheminant	Doug and Mary Louise
Lynch	May Wall and Walter
Machlin	Barry
Mason	Larissa
McDonald	Ella
Metzenbaum	Former Senator Howard and Mrs.
Neustadt	Allan and Marilyn
Neustadt	Julie
Newman	Karen and Bill
Oberstar	Rep Jim and Mrs.
O'Connor	Paula
Park	Ambassador and Mrs (+ 2 adult children)
Parker	Bob
Pfund	Mr. and Mrs. Peter
Piccolo	Joann
Pierce	William
Pryce	Rep. Debbie
Pyles	John
Quinn	Mr. J.
Rangel	Rep. Charles
Reifel	Charles
Rhyzik	Belle
Richard	Bill
Robbins	Liz
Rosenberg	Jeff and Pat
Rutan	Mr and Mrs. Frank
Savley	Jim
Seiden	Elliot
Shaw	Rep. and Mrs
Shin	Counselor and Mrs.
Skiles	James
Smith	Sally
Staley	Mr. and Mrs.
Steelman	Deborah
Stern	Louis P. and Carol
Sundermeyer	Michael
Surh	Mrs. Sung Hyun
Talarico	Susan
Walsh	Mary
Ward	Gregg

Attendee List for Banquet Dinner

Washburn
Wing
Woodruff
Zanes
Zhihong

Larry
Tamara
Judy
Maria
Mr. and Mrs. Liao

Attendee List for Banquet Dinner

STAFF

Duffy	Mara
Bhakta	Sarika
McCollough	Susan
Medalie	Susan
Rosenbaum	Susan
Kane	Larry and Isabel
Holt	Monica
Carrol	Joy
McPartland	Tracey
Johnson	Kevin
Purtill	Patrick and Gwen

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006. bio	re: Lou Davidson DOB and POB [partial] (1 page)	04/15/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

Foster Care and Adoption 1992 to 1997 [Binder] [2]

2013-0534-S

rc1758

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]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
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]

**Lou Davidson
Mrs. Ralph Davidson
4524 Garfield Street NW
Washington, DC 20007
Phone (202) 362-9885
Fax (202) 686-4194**

Lou Davidson was born in (b)(6) A 1964 graduate of the University of Texas, Mrs. Davidson worked for Lydon Johnson from 1964 to 1966. [006]

She was married to Ken Rosen, president of Warner Communications

She became a volunteer at Sloan Kettering while in New York.

In 1985 she married Ralph Davidson, Chairman of Time, Inc. They moved to Washington in 1989 when Mr. Davidson became Chairman of the Kennedy Center board.

She has four adopted children.

Mrs. Davidson serves on the boards of the Washington Ballet and the National Brain Injury Foundation.

She is in her second term on the Executive Board of the Women's Leadership Forum.

A founding member of the board of the National Council For Adoption she continues to hold membership on the current board.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CAROL "CASSIE" STATUTO BEVAN received her doctorate in Child Development from Columbia University. She completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Bush Program for Child Development and Social Policy at the University of Michigan. Dr. Bevan went to Washington, D.C. on a Congressional Science Fellowship under the auspices of the Society for Research in Child Development and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Upon completion of this Fellowship, Dr. Bevan joined the Family Impact Seminar at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She went to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1984 to work for the newly established Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families and after several years became the Minority Staff Director. Cassie joined the National Council For Adoption in 1993 to become the Principal Investigator of the Child Protection Project and to head the Council's Office of Public Policy. In 1994, Dr. Bevan was appointed by Congress to be a Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. resume	re: Allan Neustadt DOB [partial] (1 page)	04/15/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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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]

ALLAN NEUSTADT

Max Westheimer, Grandfather - Pioneer merchant, rancher and philanthropist
Walter and Doris Neustadt - Pioneer oilman and philanthropist
Walter Neustadt, Jr., Jean Neustadt, and Joan N. Weil, brothers and sister

BORN:

(b)(6)

[007]

EDUCATION:

1942-1946 Mercersburg Academy
1946-1951 University of Oklahoma - BS - Petroleum Engineering
1952 University of Oklahoma - Masters - Petroleum Engineering

1968 Married Marilyn A. Leaman, Ardmore, OK
Stepdaughter 1952 - Linda Leaman Merrick
Stepson 1954 - Matthew M. Leaman
Daughter 1971 - Julie A. Neustadt
Stepgrandson 1975 - Joshua Merrick
Stepgranddaughter 1979 - Mary Katherine Merrick

BUSINESS:

1952-1981 Westheimer-Neustadt Corporation - Vice President, Engineering
1978-1981 Pilgrim Drilling Company - President
1981 to
Present Neustadt Land and Development Company

AWARDS & HONORS:

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA:

College of Engineering Board of Visitors - 1987-93; Chairman 1992
School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering Board - 1988-93
Student Union Board
Regents' Alumni Award- 1993
College of Engineering Distinguished Graduate - 1995

CIVIC:

Ardmore United Way - Drive Chairman, 1977; President 1979
Memorial Hospital of Southern Oklahoma Board of Trustees, 1974-85; Chairman
1985
Oak Hall Episcopal School Board of Trustees, 1977-83; President 1979
Dornick Hills Country Club Board of Directors, 1972-76; President 1976
Ardmore City Schools Enrichment Foundation - 1986-93
Sunshine Industries, Inc. - President 1972
Y.M.C.A. Board
Salvation Army Board
Mercersburg Academy - Member of Board of Regents
National Council For Adoption - Trustee 1993

MASONIC:

Ardmore Lodge 31 - McAlester Consistory 32nd Degree - India Temple

Program

ADOPTION HALL OF FAME 1997 AWARDS BANQUET

WELCOMING REMARKS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Al Hunt

HONORARY GUEST

Hillary Rodham Clinton

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Yunkuk David Kim

DINNER

AWARDS CEREMONY

Recipients:

Representative Clay Shaw

Representative Charles Rangel

Representative William Archer

Allan Neustadt

Ambassador Park Kun Woo

HONOREES...

Ambassador Park, because Korea has been the leading country in terms of promoting ethical, sound adoption practices allowing its children to go to good homes in other countries...by honoring him, we honor by implication 50,000 children adopted by U.S. families

Allan Neustadt, because as a board member he led the drive both personally and financially to move NCFA into the electronic age, with vastly upgraded computing capacity, e-mail and a web site...by honoring him, an active volunteer adoptive parent, we continue the tradition of recognizing NCFA's lay leadership

Bill Archer (R-TX), the Chairman of Ways and Means, because he is the most powerful person on the Committee that had jurisdiction over the tax changes for adoption and the law to ban racism in adoption...his leadership and agreement that these bills were sound was absolutely critical to their making it through his Committee, the House and eventually being added to the minimum wage bill

Charles Rangel (D-NY), Ranking on Ways and Means (and Chairman at the point when Democrats take back the House), because as Ranking he could have stopped the bill or caused roadblocks at any time, but instead he helped give the green light at several points...his role was particularly evident in mark-up, when he negotiated with Clay Shaw an acceptable compromise on the transracial adoption bill, a key move by this powerful African-American lawmaker

Clay Shaw (R-FL), Chairman of the key Subcommittee with jurisdiction over these two bills, he could have stopped things from ever getting to the full Committee...instead, he and his staff, especially Ron Haskins and Cassie Bevan, played a strategic role in fighting to get the bills passed...Shaw was also an original co-sponsor of the Molinari bill, even going to the press conference with NCFA's Conference attendees last year, to announce his support

Jim Bunning (R-KY), a member of Ways and Means who took on the racial discrimination issue and fought hard not just in the House but personally advocated with key people in the Senate to keep them from opposing the bill...as the adoptive grandfather of children who are African-American, his statements about the frustrating discrimination his daughter encountered trying to rescue her kids from the foster care system played a key role in moving many in the Congress to back the bill

Pete Geren (former D-TX), an adoptive father, he personally lobbied Ways and Means to get the IRS to make it possible for people to get their deductions for children adopted even though the adoptions were not finalized...a provision that Ways and Means accepted and which is now part of IRS regulations...he also played a major role in fighting the

attempt to broaden the Indian Child Welfare Act so that it was even more destructive of the rights of women to make voluntary adoption decisions

Carol Statuto "Cassie" Bevan, former NCFA staff member, is being surprised with a small award recognizing her with "Adoption Researcher of the Year" award for her work while at NCFA on basic public policy research...her monograph is the basis for much of the new legislative agenda in the House and will be off the presses in late February...the fact that Cassie is being given this recognition is to be kept a surprise from Cassie (and all others)

WP/ms

awardbios022197.doc

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION DINNER
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APRIL 16, 1997**

Talking Points

- Thank you very much, Lou (Davidson). I want to thank the National Council for Adoption for this very kind "Bully Pulpit" award. But most of all I want to thank you -- the members of the council -- for your consistent, energetic and strong leadership on behalf of adoptive families and the thousands of children in our country and around the world who urgently need safe, loving and permanent homes.
- Let me also congratulate tonight's honorees for their commitment to encouraging and facilitating adoption in our country. Every child deserves the chance to grow up with the love of a permanent family and we should never let anything get in the way of efforts to make sure it happens. I thank you for working together on this issue.
- As a long-time advocate for adoption, I've found much hope in the recent efforts on the part of so many, including most of you in this audience, to reform our foster care and strengthen our adoption systems. The President has worked with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to make it illegal to deny or delay an adoption simply because the adoptive parents and children were not of the same race. And he's very proud of the new \$5,000 tax credit that will help families defray the costs of adoption.
- As you know, this winter, the President asked Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala to find effective ways to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes, and to meet a national goal of doubling the number of children placed annually in permanent homes by the year 2002. The Adoption 2002 report is the result of that research. It is based on extensive interviews, surveys, and consultations with placement agencies, adoption and child welfare advocates, and social workers nationwide. And I am particularly pleased that careful attention was paid to the thoughts and observations of adoptive and foster parents because they know better than anyone the strengths and shortcomings of our system.
- As I travel around the country, I've met many grassroots adoption activists who've told me what a very real difference all of these efforts have made in their communities.
- And I assure you that the Administration will continue to work to ensure that no child ever has to grow up in our foster care system. We will make sure that steps to secure permanent, safe, and loving homes for children -- whether they are with their biological families or others -- begin as soon as a child enters foster care, not after 4 days or 5 months or 6 years of shuttling from placement to placement. And we will work with

partners from all across the community -- businesses, foundations, the media -- to raise public awareness and to encourage more families to experience the joys of adoption.

- Tomorrow, the President and I will host a Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. As science is telling us, the first three years of life are crucial to a child's intellectual, neurological and emotional development. Children who have adults to talk to them, to read to them, and to make them feel secure and loved throughout their earliest years will thrive. Those growing up without these influences are less likely to live up to their God-given potentials. That is why our task is so urgent, why we need to find permanent homes for our children as soon as we can.
- But at the same time, let us remember that it is never too late for a child to join an adoptive family. As many of you can attest, adoption at any stage of a child's life can truly be life-changing -- and life-saving.
- So let us continue to work together to bring the love of permanent families to all our children.

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PRECISELY AT 7:20, THE BARS WILL CLOSE AND WE NEED TO BEGIN MOVING PEOPLE TO THEIR SEATS BECAUSE THE FIRST LADY IS DUE AT 7:45 AND WE NEED TO HAVE EVERYBODY SEATED WELL IN ADVANCE.

AT 7:30, WE WILL BEGIN THE FORMAL PART OF THE PROGRAM.

7:30. DAVE BUSHNELL, NCFA CHAIR, WILL APPROACH THE MIKE AND LEAD OFF.

DAVE: INTRODUCE YOURSELF, THANK AMBASSADOR AND MRS. PARK FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY, WELCOME THE GUESTS ON BEHALF OF NCFA AND INTRODUCE THE M.C., AL HUNT, WITH SOMETHING ALONG THIS LINE:

AS YOU KNOW, I WORK ON WALL STREET FOR SALOMON BROTHERS, SO THE M.C. TONIGHT IS NO STRANGER TO ME. HE WRITES A WEEKLY COLUMN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. AL HUNT'S INSIGHTFUL AND POINTED COMMENTARY REFLECTS A VERY SOPHISTICATED KNOWLEDGE OF THE WASHINGTON POLITICAL SCENE, AND THAT WISDOM EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THE NORMAL SCOPE OF POLITICS TO THE SUBJECT THAT BRINGS US HERE TONIGHT, ADOPTION. AL COMES BY THAT INTEREST NATURALLY, BEING THE PARENT OF AN ADOPTED CHILD, LAUREN, WHO JUST HAPPENS TO HAVE THE HONOR TO BE BORN IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. LAUREN IS A TRUE CELEBRITY, AS YOU WASHINGTON POST READERS KNOW. LAUREN WAS IN A PICTURE WITH ALAN GREENSPAN AND ANDREA MITCHELL BECAUSE SHE WAS FLOWER GIRL AT THAT WEDDING. PRETTY RAREFIED COMPANY, I WOULD SAY. WE'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF SEEING AL M.C. BEFORE, WHEN JUDY WOODRUFF HAD TO COVER THE BREAKING STORY OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S DEATH AND HE STEPPED IN FOR HER. BUT TONIGHT, HE'S THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE FAMILY. AL COULD ALSO FAIRLY BE DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE KEY PLAYERS IN THE DRAMA LAST YEAR IN CONGRESS THAT RESULTED IN THE ENACTMENT OF LANDMARK ADOPTION LEGISLATION. AL SPOKE OUT MORE THAN ONCE IN HIS COLUMN ABOUT THE NEED FOR REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS AND FOR AN END TO RACISM IN ADOPTION. AND THIS YEAR HE'S BACK IN THE FRAY, TELLING PEOPLE IT'S TIME TO GET ACTION ON FOSTER CARE REFORM. SO WE ARE INDEED FORTUNATE TO HAVE AL WITH US TONIGHT, NOT JUST TO THANK HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT OF ADOPTION BUT TO HELP US HAVE A GREAT EVENING HONORING SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE TO TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN. AL HUNT....

7:32. AL HUNT TAKES THE PODIUM. AL THANKS DAVE, MAKES WHATEVER BRIEF REMARKS HE DESIRES IN RESPONSE, THEN ASKS REV. DR. YUNKUK DAVID KIM, WHO WILL BE OFFERING THE INVOCATION, TO COME FORWARD.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 17, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY
AT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

The East Room

10:45 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Please be seated. Welcome to the White House and to this very special White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. We are delighted that you can join us today not only here in the East Room, but I want to give a special welcome to the thousands of people who are joining this conference via satellite from universities, hospitals and schools around the country. There are nearly 100 sites in 37 states.

Now, at first glance, it may seem odd to hold a conference here at the White House devoted to talking about baby talk. But that discussion has never been more important, because science, as we will hear from the experts who are with us today, has now confirmed what many parents have instinctively known all along, that the song a father sings to his child in the morning, or a story that a mother reads to her child before bed help lay the foundation for a child's life, and in turn, for our nation's future.

So the President has convened this conference with a clear mission: to give the leading experts in the field of early childhood development, the scientists and pediatricians, the researchers and all of the others, the opportunity to explain their discoveries and to put this invaluable body of knowledge at the service of America's families.

But this is not just for America's families. This information is crucial for anyone in the position of leaving an impression on a young child's growing mind -- day-care workers, teachers, doctors and nurses, television writers and producers, business leaders, government policy-makers, all of us.

It is astonishing what we now know about the young brain and about how children develop. Just how far we have come is chronicled in a report being issued today by the Families and Work Institute, entitled, "Rethinking the Brain." Fifteen years ago, we thought that a baby's brain structure was virtually complete at birth. Now, we understand that it is a work in progress, and that everything we do with a child has some kind of potential physical influence on that rapidly-forming brain.

A child's earliest experiences, their relationships with parents and care-givers, the sights and sounds and smells and feelings they encounter, the challenges they meet determine how their brains are wired. And that brain shapes itself through repeated experiences. The more something is repeated, the stronger the neuro-circuitry becomes, and those connections, in turn, can be

permanent. In this way, the seemingly trivial events of our earliest months that we cannot even later recall -- hearing a song, getting a hug after falling down, knowing when to expect a smile -- those are anything but trivial.

And as we now know, for the first three years of their life, so much is happening in the baby's brain. They will learn to soothe themselves when they're upset, to empathize to get along. These experiences can determine whether children will grow up to be peaceful or violent citizens, focused or undisciplined workers, attentive or detached parents themselves.

We now have reached the point of understanding that a child's mind and a child's body must be nourished. During the first part of the 20th century, science built a strong foundation for the physical health of our children -- clean water and safe food, vaccines for preventable diseases, a knowledge of nutrition, a score of other remarkable other lifesaving achievements. The last years of this century are yielding similar breakthroughs for the brain. We are completing the job of primary prevention, and coming closer to the day when we should be able to ensure the well-being of children in every domain -- physical, social, intellectual, and emotional.

I have very high hopes not only for this conference, but for what I hope will come from it. But there are, however, two things I hope this conference will not do. The first is I hope this information will not burden or overwhelm parents. Parenting is the hardest job in the world, and the information we offer today is meant to help parents, not to make them anxious or imprison them in a set of rules. If you forget to read to your child one night, please, that's okay. (Laughter.)

Think of this conference as a map. And like any good map, it shows you a lot of different ways to get where you need to go. Many American parents have been asking for just such a map. A new survey, "From Zero to Three," the National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families shows a real hunger on the part of parents for knowledge on how they can play a positive role in their child's early development. And I hope this conference in one of the ways we answer that call.

The second thing I hope does not happen is to create the impression that once a child's third birthday rolls around, the important work is over. The early years are not the only years. The brain is the last organ to become fully mature anatomically. Neurological circuitry for many emotions isn't completed until a child reaches 15. So there is always room for appropriate stimulation, loving and nurturing care by adults who are invested in a child. There's always something that concerned adults can do.

And that has special relevance for adoption. Adoptive parents can make an enormous difference for a child at any time, and especially for older children.

That said, here is what I hope the conference will accomplish. I hope it will get across the revolutionary idea that the activities that are the easiest, cheapest and most fun to do with your child are also the best for his or her development -- singing, playing games, reading, story-telling, just talking and listening. Some of my best memories are reading to our daughter, even if I fell asleep in the nine hundredth reading of "Goodnight, Moon." But reading to her when she was young was a joy for Bill and me, and we think also a joy for her. But we had no idea 15, 16, 17 years ago that what we were doing was literally turning on the power in her brain, firing up the connections that would enable her to speak and

read at as high a level as she possibly could reach.

I hope that the science presented in this conference will drive home a simple message, one supported in great detail by a report being issued today by the President's Council of Economic Advisors. If we, as a nation, commit ourselves now to modest investments in the sound development of our children, including especially our very youngest children, we will lay the groundwork for an American future with increased prosperity, better health, fewer social ills and ever greater opportunities for our citizens to lead fulfilling lives in a strong country in the next century.

There's a quote I particularly like from the Chilean poet, Gabriella Mistral, that reminds us, "Many things we need can wait; the child cannot. Now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood being made, his mind being developed. To him, we cannot say, tomorrow. His name is today." We have known this instinctively, even poetically; now we know it scientifically.

And I'm pleased to introduce someone who has been saying this and practicing it for a long time -- maybe not in poetry, but certainly in the countless stories and books and songs that he has shared not only with our daughter, but with our nephews and, really, any small child who ever crosses his path. As the President of the United States and as a father, he has acted on these beliefs, putting the well-being of children at the very center of national policy. So it pleases me greatly to introduce my fellow reader of "Good Night, Moon," the President, Bill Clinton. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, and welcome to the White House. I was relieved to hear Hillary say that the brain is the last organ to fully develop. It may yet not be too late for me to learn how to walk down steps. (Laughter.) Or maybe I was thinking it was because I was always hugged when I fell down as a child, I did this subconsciously on purpose. (Laughter.)

Let me begin by thanking the members of the Cabinet who are here. I see Secretary Riley and Secretary Glickman. I thank Governor Romer and Governor Chiles for being here. I think Governor Miller is coming. There are many others who are here. Congresswoman De Lauro is either here or coming. Thank you, Governor Miller. I see I was looking to the left there. (Laughter.) He's from Nevada -- he just went up five points in the polls when I said that. (Laughter.)

Let me say, first of all, the first time I met Hillary, she was not only a law student, she was working with the Yale Child Study Center, and she began my education in these issues. And for that, I am profoundly grateful. And I thank her for bringing the scientists, the doctors, the sociologists, the others whose work is the basis for our discussion today here. And I, too, want to thank the thousands of others who are joining us by satellite.

This unique conference is a part of our constant effort to give our children the opportunity to make the most of their God-given potential and to help their parents lead the way, and to remind everyone in America that this must always be part of the public's business because we all have a common interest in our children's future.

We have begun the job here over the last four years by making education our top domestic priority, by passing the Family Leave act and now trying to expand it and enact a form of flex time which will give parents more options in how they take their overtime

in pay or in time with their children, by the work we have done to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act and by the work we've tried to do to give parents more tools with the v-chip and the television rating system, and the work we are still carrying on to try to stop the advertising and marketing and distribution of tobacco to our children, and other work we've done in juvenile justice and trying to keep our kids away from the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

All these are designed to help our parents succeed in doing their most important job. Now it seems to me maybe the most important thing we can actually do is to share with every parent in America the absolutely stunning things we are learning from new scientific research about how very young children learn and develop. In that regard, I'd like to thank Rob Reiner and others who are committed to distributing this information, and I'd like to thank the media here in our Nation's Capital and throughout the country for the genuine interest that they have shown in this conference.

I think there is an instinctive understanding here that this is a very, very big issue that embraces all of us as Americans, and that if we learn our lessons well and if we're patient in carrying them out, as Hillary said, knowing that there is no perfect way to raise a child, we are likely to have a very positive and profound impact on future generations in this country. So I want to thank, again, all of you for that.

Let me say there are some public programs that bear directly on early childhood development -- the Head Start program, which we've expanded by 43 percent over the last four years; the WIC program, which we've expanded by nearly 2 million participants. I have to say that I was a little disappointed -- or a lot disappointed to see a congressional committee yesterday vote to underfund the WIC program. I hope that if nothing else happens out of this conference, the results of the conference will reach the members of that congressional committee and we can reverse that before the budget finally comes to my desk.

I would also like to remind all of you that this conference is literally just a start. We have to look at the practical implications of this research for parents, for care-givers, for policy-makers, but we also know that we're looking at years and years of work in order to make the findings of this conference real and positive in the lives of all of our children. But this is a very exciting and enormous undertaking.

This research has opened a new frontier. Great exploration is, of course, not new to this country. We have gone across the land, we have gone across the globe, we have gone into the skies, and now we are going deep into ourselves and into our children. In some ways, this may be the most exiting and important exploration of all.

I'm proud of the role that federally-funded research has played in these findings in discovering that the earliest years of life are critical for developing intellectual, emotional and social potential. We all know that every child needs proper nutrition and access to health care, a safe home and an environment; and we know every child needs teaching and touching, reading and playing, singing and talking.

It is true that Chelsea is about to go off to college, but Hillary and I have been blessed by having two young nephews now -- one is about two and one is about three -- and we're learning things all over again that, I must say, corroborate what the scientists are telling us.

We are going to continue to work on this, and I know that you will help us, too. Let me just mention two or three things that we want to work on that we think are important. We've got to do a lot more to improve the quality, the availability and the affordability of child care. Many experts consider our military's child care system to be the best in our country. I'm very proud of that, and not surprised.

The man responsible for administering the Navy's child care system, Rear Admiral Larry Marsh, is here with us today. He leads a system that has high standards, including a high percentage of accredited centers, a strong enforcement system with unannounced inspections, parents have a toll-free number to call and report whatever concerns they may have, training is mandatory and wages and benefits are good, so, staff tends to stay on.

I am proud that the military places such importance on helping the families of the men and women who serve our country in uniform. But it's really rather elementary to know that they're going to do a lot better on the ships, in the skies, in faraway lands if they're not worried about how their children are faring while they're at work serving America.

To extend that kind of quality beyond the military, I am issuing today an executive memorandum asking the Department of Defense to share its success. I want the military to partner with civilian child care centers to help them improve quality, to help them become accredited, to provide training to civilian child care providers, to share information on how to operate successfully, and to work with state and local governments to give on-the-job training and child care to people moving from welfare to work.

I think this is especially important. Let me say in the welfare reform bill, we put another \$4 billion in for child care. In addition to that, because the states are getting money for welfare reform based on the peak case load in welfare in 1994, and we've reduced the welfare rolls by 2.8 million since then, most states, for a period of time until an extra session comes along, will have some extra funds that they can put into more child care. This gives states the opportunity they have never had before to train more child care workers, to use funds to help even more people move from welfare to work and perhaps even to provide more discounts to low-income workers to make child care affordable for them.

This welfare reform effort, if focused on child care, can train lots of people on welfare to be accredited child care workers and expand the availability of welfare in most of the states of the country. It's not true for every state, because some of them have had smaller drops in the case load and three have had no drops. But, by and large, the welfare reform bill, because of the way it's structured, gives all of you who care about child care about a year or two to make strenuous efforts, state by state, to create a more comprehensive quality system of child care than we have ever had before. And I certainly hope that what we can do here, plus the support of the military, we'll see dramatic advances in that regard.

I'd like to thank the people here who have done that work. And I'd like to say that we are going to hold a second conference, this one devoted exclusively to the child care issue here at the White House in Washington this fall. And I hope all of you who care about that will come back.

The second thing we want to do is to extend health care coverage to uncovered children. The budget I have submitted will

extend coverage to as many as 5 million children by the year 2000 with the children's health initiative in the budget proposal -- to strengthen Medicaid for poor children and children with disabilities, to provide coverage for working families through innovative state programs, to continue health care coverage for children of workers who are between jobs. There is an enormous amount of interest in this issue in both parties, I'm happy to say, in the Congress in this session. And I quite confident that if we'll all work together, we can get an impressive expansion in health care coverage for children in this congressional session.

I'm pleased that Dr. Jordan Cohen, the President and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges is with us today to lend his association's strong support to these efforts. With the support of leaders in medicine, again I say, I am convinced we'll have a bipartisan consensus that will extend coverage to millions more uninsured children.

The third thing we want to do is this: Because we know the great importance of early education, we're going to expand Early Head Start enrollment by at least one-third next year. Early Head Start was created in 1994. It's been a great success in bringing the nutritional, educational and other services of Head Start to children aged three and younger and to pregnant women. It has been a real success and we need to expand it.

Today we are requesting new applications for early Head Start programs to accomplish the expansion. And to help parents to teach the very young, we developed a tool kit called, "Ready, Set, Read," part of our America Reads challenge, designed to make sure that every child can read independently by the 3rd grade. This kit gives tips on activities for young children. It's going out to early childhood programs all across the country along with a hotline number for anyone else who wants the kit.

The fourth thing we're going to do is to protect the safety of our children more. In particular, we have to help young children more who are exposed to abuse and violence. Let me tell you, as you might imagine, I get letters all the time from very young children. And my staff provides a significant number of them for me to read. The Secretary of Education not very long ago gave me a set of letters from children who were quite young, a couple of years ago gave me a set of letters from children who were in the 3rd grade. But sometimes I get them from kindergarten children and 1st grade children, talking about what they want America to look like.

And it is appalling the number of letters I get from five- and six-year-olds who simply want me to make their lives safe; who don't want to worry about being shot; who don't want anymore violence in their homes; who want their schools and the streets they walk on to be free of terror.

So, today the Department of Justice is establishing a new initiative called "Safe Start," based on efforts in New Haven, Connecticut, which you will hear about this afternoon. The program will train police officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers in child development so that they'll actually be equipped to handle situations involving young children. And I believe if we can put this initiative into effect all across America, it will make our children safer. And I'm glad we're announcing it today during Victims of Crime Week.

We all know that it's going to take a partnership across America to help our children reach their full potential. But the toughest job will always belong to our parents -- first teachers,

main nurturers. Being a parent is a joy and a challenge. But it's not a job you can walk away from, take a vacation from, or even apply for family leave from. (Laughter.) The world moves too fast, and today, parents have more worries than ever. Work does compete with family demands, and finding a balance is more difficult than before. That's why this must always be part of the public's business.

Let me come now to the bottom line. The more we focus on early years, the more important they become. We know that these investments of time and money will yield us the highest return in healthier children, stronger families and better communities.

Now, let me say, finally, I know that none of us who are in politics, none of us who are just parents, will ever know as much as the experts we're about to hear from today. But what they're going to tell us is the most encouraging thing of all, which is, they have found out that we can all do the job. No matter how young, a child does understand a gentle touch or a smile or a loving voice. Babies understand more than we have understood about them. Now we can begin to close the gap and to make sure that all children in this country do have that chance to live up to the fullest of their God-given potential.

Again, I thank you all for being here. I thank our experts, I thank the First Lady. And I'd like to ask Dr. David Hamburg to come up and sit there and take over the program.

David?

Thank you. (Applause.)

END

11:10 A.M. EDT

1ST STORY of Focus printed in FULL format.

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April 3, 1997 Thursday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: YOUR MONEY; Pg. 7; ZONE: C; Personal Finance.

LENGTH: 850 words

HEADLINE: A FAMILY AFFAIR;
NEW TAX BREAKS LIKELY TO INCREASE NUMBER OF COUPLES WHO WANT TO ADOPT

BYLINE: Kathy Kristof, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

BODY:

There's welcome news for individuals who hope to adopt a child this year--or in the next several years. A provision in the 1996 minimum wage law created lucrative tax breaks for adoptive parents, who often find themselves spending \$10,000--or substantially more--to pay the legal, medical and social service expenses required when adding an adopted child to the family.

For many middle-income families these tax breaks can mean the difference between actually adopting a child and wishing that you could.

"The upfront costs are so high that there are families who simply couldn't afford to adopt a child," says Patrick Purtill, director of government relations at the National Council for Adoption, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy, education and adoption research group. "We are hoping (the tax breaks) will expand the universe of couples who can afford to adopt."

The adoption tax credits--worth \$5,000 to \$6,000, depending upon whether the child has disabilities or other "special needs"--bring adoptive families much closer to economic parity with biological parents, who also bear costs from having children, but who often have a good portion of these costs offset by health insurance and tax benefits, Purtill adds.

In fact, parents who adopt hard-to-place children out of the foster care system are likely to find that their costs are completely offset by the newly instituted tax benefits.

Just how do these new rules work? Here's a question-and-answer look.

Q--Precisely what are these adoption tax breaks?

A--They fall into two categories. There is an "income exclusion" for people who work for companies that provide adoption assistance programs. These companies can pay up to \$5,000 on behalf of an employee for "qualified adoption expenses" and the employee does not have to report the adoption assistance as income on their tax return. The bottom line: Someone in the 28 percent federal tax bracket who got \$5,000 in employer-paid adoption assistance would pay \$1,400 less in income tax thanks to this break.

The second break is a tax credit of up to \$5,000 per child adopted. A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the tax that you pay. In this case, if you have \$5,000 in qualified adoption expenses, you can reduce your income

tax by \$5,000 in the year following the one that you incurred the expenses, or in the year that the adoption becomes final, whichever comes first. If you owed less than \$5,000 in tax in the applicable year, you can roll the remaining amount of the credit forward to reduce your next year's tax. (In fact, these credits can be rolled forward for five years.)

Q--Do you have to choose one or the other--the employer-paid assistance versus the adoption tax credit--or can you claim both?

A--You can't get two tax breaks for the same expenses. However, you can use both if you have enough qualified expenses to go around. In other words, if it costs \$10,000 to adopt a child and your employer pays \$5,000 of that cost, you can use the credit to offset the remaining \$5,000. But, if it only costs \$4,000 to adopt, you would only be able to claim enough assistance and credits to offset those costs, not more.

Q--Who gets the \$6,000 tax break?

A--Those who adopt children with special needs get an extra \$1,000 in tax breaks, which also come in the form of the tax credit or income exclusions. These children include kids who have physical, emotional and mental disabilities, as well as those who are considered hard to place by state adoption officials. Generally, a child can be classified "special needs" for reasons of age, race, sibling group or medical condition. However, the \$6,000 credit can only be applied to domestic adoptions. Those who adopt foreign children, no matter how needy, get a maximum credit of just \$5,000.

Q--What is a qualified adoption expense?

A--All reasonable and necessary expenses involved in legally adopting a child that is unrelated to you or your spouse. These expenses can include legal fees, court costs, social worker and psychological counseling visits, medical expenses for the mother (where allowed) and even home renovation expenses that are required by the state to meet the needs of the child.

Q--What happens if you attempt to adopt a child, but the adoption falls through? Can you deduct expenses even when you didn't complete an adoption?

A--In the case of a domestic adoption these expenses are eligible for the credit in the year following the year that they are paid. Or, if you pursue another adoption, you can add these expenses into the cost of the new pursuit. If you do adopt the second child, any unreimbursed expenses from the failed adoption attempt would qualify for the credit in the year following when they were paid or when the successful adoption becomes final.

With foreign adoptions, the expenses only qualify for tax breaks when the adoption is successful.

Q--Are there any limitations on who can claim these credits?

A--Yes, the credits begin to phase out for taxpayers who earn more than \$75,000 annually.

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April 8, 1997, Tuesday

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COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS HUMAN RESOURCES PROMOTON ADOPTION

BODY:

Testimony

of

William L. Pierce, Ph.D.,

on behalf of the

National Council For Adoption

on

H.R. 867,

(Adoption Promotion Act of 1997)

April 8, 1997

Before the

Committee on Ways and Means

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting the National Council For Adoption to present its views on H.R. 867, the Adoption Promotion Act of 1997. We are pleased to wholeheartedly endorse the Adoption Promotion Act of 1997.

The National Council For Adoption (NCFA) is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization founded in 1980 to work on a variety of issues related to adoption. We do this through research, dissemination of information, services to agencies, organizations, attorneys and individuals who are involved with adoption and advocacy on behalf of adoption. Our membership consists of several thousand individuals and more than 120 member agencies. Our membership, along with adoption-friendly foundations and corporations, provides our financial support. At the present time, NCFA receives neither federal nor state funding.

NCFA is committed to promoting adoption for all children who need this service. Our mission involves both domestic and international adoption, the

promotion of better services for those confronting an unplanned pregnancy and appropriate services for those in the adoption circle once an adoption is legally completed. Our agenda includes topics as varied as AIDS orphans and work with firms that are exploring ways to use the internet to promote adoption.

This legislation builds on and is the logical next step after the successes of the last Congress in passing the adoption tax credit and improving the law banning racism in adoption. You have a record to be proud of. The present bipartisan spirit of the President's ADOPTION 2002 Initiative, is carried forward in H.R. 867.

Here are some of the reasons we support H.R. 867

1. The bill would clarify reasonable efforts to ensure that the safety of the child is the paramount consideration. This has been a long-standing agenda item for NCFA. Our concerns about child safety were a major reason why we studied the issue for more than two years, a project which culminated in the publication of a report that is summarized in an appendix to my statement. This legislation incorporates several of the recommendations contained in that report. This legislation also reflects much of the intent of the Administration's ADOPTION 2002 Initiative, which also contains recommendations similar to those enumerated in our report. We strongly support this provision.

2. We support the bill because it would promote adoption over other permanency options. The bill should help in differentiating between adoption and guardianship by focusing on the stability factor in these arrangements. NCFA believes that the bill properly recognizes that caution should be used before kinship care and other non-adoption alternatives are recommended. We strongly support Section 3's changes, which would require an earlier review of a child's status. We strongly support this provision.

3. The bill would empower foster parents to receive notice and to be heard on decisions related to children in their care. It is a well-known fact that, of the children adopted out of foster care, more than half are adopted by their foster parents. We strongly support this provision.

4. We support the bill's call for a report and recommendations on kinship care. We do have some minor, friendly suggestions to offer which we believe would improve Sec. 6. Because there are concerns that kinship care may be improperly used so as to avoid placements based on the best interest of the child and instead focus on ethnic or racial matching, we suggest that Sec. 6 (a) (2) (A) (ii) be amended to provide that the racial or ethnic characteristics of the kinship care providers and the children who are or may be candidates for kinship care be included. Secondly, because non-public agencies and organizations, especially voluntary agencies, currently play a major role in the delivery of services to children, we suggest that representatives of voluntary agencies, including those with divergent views about kinship care, be added to the seven categories listed in Sec. 6 (b) (1). NCFA is one of the few organizations that has consistently urged caution in turning to kinship care as one of the preferred ways of addressing the foster care crisis. We strongly support this provision.

5. We think the provision to provide an adoption bonus to the states is a good one and we hope that in Subcommittee deliberations, you will keep in mind that many States are moving toward a managed care concept in child welfare.

Simply put, that means that some of the Federal funds will flow to and much of the work will be done by the private sector. It is our recommendation that States be allowed to pass the bonus funds through to contracting agencies and organizations. It is our view that these innovative private groups will play the major role in helping States achieve the goals of this legislation and that specific language should be added to authorize States to share the bonus funds. We strongly support this provision.

In closing, I know you realize that much of adoption law is on a state-by-state basis and is outside the scope of Congress. However, children in state custody receiving Federal subsidies of any kind should benefit from Federal oversight. In particular, we believe these children will benefit from this landmark legislation.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 9, 1997

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The reality of foster care was brought home to Bill and me when we met a teenage boy at the White House this winter. Bill asked him where he was from. "Fairfax County," the boy said. When Bill asked where in the county, the boy shrugged and answered, "All over."

Unfortunately, thousands of children in our foster care system today have similar stories to tell. Because of the complex regulations, outdated assumptions, and understaffed and overwhelmed agencies of our child welfare system, too many children spend their formative years shuttling from one foster home to another. Today, even children lucky enough to find adoptive families will have waited an average of three years or more in a series of temporary homes.

But that can change. The Senate and the House of Representatives are both considering bills that will take important steps toward making sure that no child languishes in foster care.

Currently, a child's case can drag on for years in the foster care system as authorities make repeated attempts to reunite a child with his or her biological parents. Often, these parents, for a variety of reasons, are unable to change the behavior that caused them to lose their child in the first place. If either bill becomes law, "reasonable efforts" to return a child to his or her family would not be required in extreme cases such as torture, abandonment, or physical or sexual abuse. Court hearings to determine the placement of a child would be required within 12 months -- instead of the current 18 months -- of his or her arrival in the foster care system. To make clear their purpose, these hearings would be renamed "permanency planning hearings."

As a children's advocate and lawyer who has represented parents and children in their struggles with the foster care system for more than 25 years, I believe these steps are long overdue. In 1973, I wrote an article about children's rights under the law, specifically their rights in family situations that pose serious threats to their health and safety. Even a few years ago, some considered this view controversial. Critics suggested that by supporting a child's right to a loving family, I advocated giving government more power to break up biological families and giving children the right to bring trivial disputes with their parents -- such as bedtime or who takes out the garbage -- to court.

Thankfully, that erroneous interpretation of my views has given way to a new bipartisan consensus around the idea that protecting our children from harm and working to provide them with permanent, loving families -- even when that may entail separating

6/24/97 Talking it Over

them from their biological parents -- should be a priority of our child welfare system. Finally, we are recognizing that there are parents who will never be able to care for their children. And, in order to secure a foster child's well-being and stable development, we as a society have the responsibility to decide as quickly as possible whether a child can return home safely.

Many of the provisions in the House and Senate bills reflect recommendations made in Adoption 2002, a report prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services in response to the President's directive to identify the barriers to adoption and double the number of children placed annually in permanent homes by the year 2002.

Over the years, my husband has dedicated a great deal of time and energy to improving foster care and promoting adoption. As a result of the Administration's efforts, it is now illegal to deny or delay an adoption simply because the prospective parents and child are not of the same race. And last year, the President signed into law a \$5,000 tax credit to help families adopt children.

Federal leadership is crucial, but it will take the commitment of people from all corners of our country to bring about the sweeping change our child welfare system requires. This week, I'll be speaking at a national conference on adoption and child welfare reform sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The conference will bring together business and religious leaders, policy-makers, elected officials, judges, child advocates, and foster and adoptive families to discuss strategies to reduce the number of waiting children and limit the time a child spends in foster care to no more than one year.

The Kellogg Foundation has been working to reform child welfare systems in 11 states and localities. Last year alone, the foundation helped find permanent families for 7,000 children. This was possible because the foundation worked with churches and mounted aggressive media campaigns to recruit prospective adoptive families. And it helped child welfare agencies reform case work procedures, consolidate records and modernize data collection methods so that no child becomes lost in the system.

Now we must build on their work. With thousands of children leading transient lives in foster care, we cannot afford any more delays. We need to encourage Congress to pass the best adoption bill possible. Thousands of innocent children are counting on us.

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SEATING CHART

X HRC

X Carol Adams

X Margaret and William
Fitzgerald

X Lorraine Adams

X Jeremy Lincicome

X Joey Stinger

X Jude Lincicome

X Julie Stinger

X Keith Antrobus

X Duncan Ward

X Pat Antrobus

X Adrienne Ward

Potential Questions

Mother's Day Event

1. Tell me about your child(ren)?
2. What have been the major joys?
3. What have been the major challenges?
4. What led you to decide to adopt?
5. What was your child's life like prior to coming to you?
6. How have you seen your child grow?
7. For you, what are the major differences in parenting by adoption and parenting by birth?
8. What has adoption meant to your family (immediate and extended)?

ADOPTION

THE FACTS:

- ▶ In December 1993 (the last year for which data are available), there were approximately 21,000 foster children in the U. S. waiting to be adopted.
- ▶ Of the children awaiting adoption at the end of 1993, approximately 41% had already waited two years.
- ▶ Eight out of ten waiting children have special needs (e.g. special medical, developmental, behavioral or psychological needs; minority children; older children; or sibling groups).

THE RECORD:

HR 4, the welfare reform bill vetoed by President Clinton would have impeded Federal efforts to find safe, loving, adoptive homes for children caught in the foster care system. For example, HR 4 would have:

- ▶ **Eliminated funding for one-time adoption costs** -- Under current law, families that adopt eligible children with special needs are entitled to reimbursement for their one-time adoption costs. HR 4 would have eliminated funding for these payments, potentially making it impossible for a willing family to adopt a foster child, because the family could not afford the one-time adoption costs.
- ▶ **Curtailed recruitment and training** -- Currently, states are guaranteed partial reimbursement of their expenses for recruiting and training foster and adoptive families. HR 4 would have ended this guarantee, and capped and cut funding, making it harder for states to find adoptive homes for children with special needs.
- ▶ **Repealed the Adoption Opportunities program** -- The Adoption Opportunities program is a targeted program that facilitates national and community-level innovations to overcome barriers to adoption and to find adoptive families for special needs children. HR 4 would have repealed this important effort, and folded it into a large block grant.

In addition, the version of HR 4 originally approved by the House Ways and Means Committee and passed by the House of Representatives in March of 1995, would have repealed the current federal entitlement for adoption assistance payments for children with special needs (Title IVE of the Social Security Act) and replaced this essential program with a block grant to the states. Under the current IVE program, families that adopt children with special needs (children with special medical, developmental, behavioral or psychological needs; minority children; older children; or sibling groups) are entitled to receive ongoing subsidies to help them support these children. The repeal of this guaranteed assistance would have made it even more difficult to find loving adoptive homes for these children. Both the Senate and the Conference Committee rejected this House proposal in HR 4.

ADOPTION Fact Sheet

How does the adoption system work?

- ▶ Under state and federal laws, before exploring adoption possibilities, state child welfare agencies are required to try to reunite children with their parents when a child's safety can be assured. States are required to make a determination regarding reunification or adoption within one year.
- ▶ Between 50 and 70% of all children initially placed in foster care eventually are returned to their parents.
- ▶ When reunification is not possible, state and federal laws require efforts to find a permanent home for a child, preferably through adoption. All state laws require that, before an adoption can take place, the legal rights of the biological parents be severed through a state court proceeding.

Who are the children who need adoptive homes?

- ▶ One group consists of children, primarily infants, whose parents voluntarily relinquish them for adoption; little is known about these children or the nature of their adoptive placements because their parents generally deal with private adoption agencies or make private placements with adoptive families.
- ▶ A second group of children are those who have been placed in foster care based on court determination that they were abused or neglected, and for whom reunification efforts have been unsuccessful.
- ▶ In December 1993, there were approximately 86,000 foster children in the country for whom state agencies had determined that adoption was the appropriate goal. Approximately 21,000 of these children were legally free to be adopted (their parents' legal rights to ever regain custody had been terminated) and were waiting to be adopted.
- ▶ Thirty-Two (32.4%) percent of the children awaiting adoption were white, 52% (51.8%) African American, 5.5% Hispanic. Only two percent of these children were under age 1; 28% were between the ages of 1 and 5; 45% were 6-12 years of age; and 25% were over the age of 12. The median age was 9 years.
- ▶ Eight out of ten waiting children have special needs: medical, developmental, behavioral or psychological.

How long do children wait for adoption?

- ▶ Of the children awaiting adoption at the end of 1993, approximately 41% had already waited two years.
- ▶ It takes substantially longer to find homes for minority children. Older children and sibling groups irrespective of race also have longer waits.
- ▶ Many children are never adopted, even though their biological parents' parental rights have been terminated.

Why does it take so long and why do so many children go unadopted?

- ▶ Finding adoptive homes for older children and those with emotional or physical problems requires aggressive action by agencies, and most of the children waiting for adoption fall into these categories.
- ▶ In 1993, 45% of the children waiting for adoption were 6 to 12 years old; only 2% were infants. Eight out of ten children -- nearly a 75% increase since 1984 -- had some special need: they were disabled, older, had siblings, or were minority.
- ▶ Lengthy processes to terminate parental rights, lack of financial resources for adoption, excessive caseloads and difficulty in recruiting foster and adoptive families contribute to the slow adoption of many of these children.
- ▶ There is some evidence that the adoption of minority children is being slowed because some foster care and adoption agencies are unwilling or reluctant to place these children with non-minority families. Some state agencies have followed explicit or implicit policies that make race or ethnicity the primary consideration in placement thus reducing the pool of available families.

What is the Clinton Administration doing to increase adoptions?

- ▶ The Administration is ensuring that states make full and effective use of the Adoption Assistance program, which provides critical economic support to families who adopt special needs children, since they may have large medical and other expenses. Under the Clinton Administration, the number of children for whom adoption subsidies are provided has increased by about 60%.
- ▶ Grants have been provided to public and private agencies to develop successful models for recruiting families, provision of post-legal adoption services, support for parent groups, and the development of training curricula.
- ▶ The Administration has conducted national and regional leadership conferences to build the capacity of public and private agencies to facilitate the adoption of minority and special needs children.
- ▶ The Administration provides support for the National Adoption Exchange, the Adoption Clearinghouse, the National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption, and the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance.
- ▶ The Administration is committed to fully enforcing the Multiethnic Placement Act, whose non-discrimination and recruitment provisions should increase the number of children who are adopted.
- ▶ The Clinton Administration has expressed strong concerns about "welfare reform" proposals that would jeopardize these programs and eliminate the guarantee of federal funds to help support adoptions.
- ▶ November is National Adoption month. The Administration is providing national leadership in showcasing America's waiting children and the need for stable, permanent, nurturing families.
- ▶ Under the Clinton Administration, the Children's Bureau is developing a National Strategic Plan for Adoption with the input from States, national organizations, adoptive parents, foundations and adopted children.

ADOPTION: HELPING CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Promoting adoption is one of the most important things we can do to strengthen American families and give more children what every child in America deserves — loving parents and a healthy home.

—President Clinton

For many children in the United States, adoption is their only opportunity to become part of a permanent and loving family. Adoption assistance programs help thousands of children and parents each year to form new and happy families.

Adoption enriches the lives of adults by enabling them to become parents and share their love with children who desperately need the support that can only be provided by nurturing parents. Because strong, loving families are the cornerstones of stable and caring communities, adoption also strengthens our nation.

Today, there are tens of thousands children in the nation's foster care system who can not return safely to their homes, who need permanent placement in new families and for whom adoption is a goal. Almost one third of these children are legally free and are waiting to be adopted. Almost half of these waiting children had been waiting for more than two years. More than half of waiting children have special medical, developmental, behavioral or psychological needs; they are minority children, older children and/or sibling groups.

President Clinton has taken key steps to encourage and increase adoptions of special needs children and to support the families that choose to open their hearts and their homes to these children. He has championed programs that find and assist adopting families, and is committed to breaking down barriers, including high adoption costs and complex regulations.

Removing Barriers to Adoption

The Administration supports Titles I and II of the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1996. Title I provides an adoption tax credit for families who want to adopt and Title II is consistent with current law, the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1995 (MEPA), and with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act which prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin in all federally funded programs. This policy will alleviate a significant barrier to adoption and allow middle class families, for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive, to adopt children to love and nurture. It will put parents seeking to build a family through adoption on a more equal footing with other families. In October 1994, President Clinton signed the Multiethnic Placement Act, which helps increase the number of adoptions by prohibiting discrimination based on race or ethnicity, and by increasing recruitment of parents. Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia are now in compliance.



**Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families**

370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20447

Phone: (202) 401-9215 \ May 1996

Increasing Special Needs Adoptions

During this Administration, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with Federal adoption assistance has increased by over 50 percent.

Improving Court Operations

The Administration is working with state courts in 49 states to improve the timeliness and quality of decision-making that leads to adoption. More timely decisions will ensure children do not languish in foster care and can more quickly be placed in permanent, stable families that can nurture and protect them.

Preserving Critical Supports

The President has also stood firm throughout the budget debate to protect funds for key supports such as Medicaid benefits for special needs adopted children, SSI for children, and adoption assistance -- these services are critical for many adoptive families and children. The President vetoed the Congress's welfare reform legislation because it did not provide enough incentives and support to help parents move from welfare to work and the bill would hurt children. The bill dissolved the guarantee to states for open-ended funding for foster care and adoption assistance which might have been put the most vulnerable children at risk of danger and harm.

Supporting Parents

This Administration has championed the Family and Medical Leave Act, the first bill signed into law by the President, which enables parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance.

Strengthening Families

The Family Preservation and Support Act, passed in 1993, provided almost \$1 billion over five years for the development of community-based preventive and supportive services for families with children. States can use these funds to support and alleviate the crisis in adopting for families.

Increasing Public Awareness

Both President and Mrs. Clinton have made it a priority to increase the public's awareness about the importance and benefits of adoption. Through speeches, radio addresses, public service announcements and special events, the First Family has spoken out about adoption. The First Lady dedicated two of her nationally syndicated columns to adoption and included the importance of adoption in her recently published book.

National Adoption Month

In November 1995, the First Lady held a moving and memorable event at the White House to promote adoption during National Adoption Month. The event featured Dave Thomas of Wendy's, HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala, adoptive parents, a community organization recruiting adoptive parents and children awaiting adoption. A public service announcement featuring Mrs. Clinton was aired in over 50 major cities across the country.

Focusing on Outcomes and Accountability

The Administration is shifting the Federal government's role from a focus on how well forms are filled out to a focus on how well children are doing. Permanent placement is a critical outcome. States have been given increased flexibility and technical assistance so that they can reform their child welfare systems. We are working with 48 states to automate their child welfare systems and reduce the paperwork burden on caseworkers.

Working Women Count Honor Roll

The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor enlisted honor roll pledges from corporations and state and local governments to encourage and recruit parents to adopt and make adoption easier for workers and their families.

Expediting Adoptions from Foster Care

The Clinton Administration has provided every state with technical assistance to speed the adoption of children in foster care. This help comes through the National Resource Center on Special Needs Adoption and regional adoption conferences. In April, HHS brought together state foster care and adoption managers and court officials to work in partnership to designing systems that work better for children and families.

Statistics

During 1993 (most current data available,) an estimated 18,000 children who had been in foster care had their adoptions finalized. Another 86,000 children in the foster care system had the goal of adoption, 21,000 of whom were legally free (i.e. parental rights had been terminated.)

In 1996, about 120,000 children are expected to receive adoption assistance which is the federal subsidy to encourage and support the adoption of children with special needs. Eighty percent of children in the foster care system have special needs including physical or mental disabilities, older children and sibling groups.

For more information

To get more information on how to become an adoptive parent, interested persons and the general public can call the National Adoption Center at 1-800-TO-ADOPT.

**Background for
H. R. 3286 "Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1996"**

The Act contains two principal substantive provisions relating to nondiscrimination in adoption and foster care placement to further its objective of increasing the number of children who are adopted.

- The Act prevents discrimination in the placement of children on the basis of race, color, or national origin by prohibiting states or public and private foster care and adoption agencies from delaying or denying the placement of any child solely on the basis of race, color or national origin.
- The Act promotes the recruitment of foster and adoptive parents to meet children's needs.

Any violation of the Act's provisions would trigger a process that can result in financial sanctions.

- o The pending legislation (H.R. 3286 "Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1996") introduced by Congresswoman Susan Molinari would tighten the anti-discrimination provisions of MEPA, impose financial sanctions to states in non-compliance with the bill's provisions and provide a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children.
- o The Clinton administration supports Titles I and II of H.R. 3286. Title I will provide an adoption tax credit and allow middle class families, for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive, to adopt children to love and nurture. Title II, the interethnic provision, removes barriers to interracial adoption and is consistent with the Administration's policy and longstanding goal to end the historical bias against interracial adoptions. (H.R. 32286 is scheduled for discussion on the House floor on Friday - May 10th)
- o The Clinton administration is very supportive of any and all efforts that encourage adoption and make it easier for states and parents to strengthen families by providing a safe and nurturing home for children. In particular, the administration believes the bill strengthens the anti-discrimination prohibitions.

May 9, 1996

MOTHER'S DAY DISCUSSION WITH ADOPTIVE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

DATE: Friday, May 10th
LOCATION: Roosevelt Room
TIME: 11:15 - 12:30
FROM: Nicole Rabner

I. PURPOSE

To highlight adoption on the occasion of Mother's Day, listen to a wide range of stories from adoptive mothers and their children and demonstrate the Administration's commitment to promoting adoption.

II. BACKGROUND

As you know, this is a particularly appropriate time to focus attention on adoption, both because of Mother's Day and because of the legislation pending in the Congress. For this listening session, we have assembled six mothers and their children whose adoption stories reflect the wide range of adoption experiences - from adopting a newborn to transracial adoption to special needs adoption to older-child adoption.

Program

You will first have a chance to greet the discussion participants informally in the Map Room. While they proceed to the Roosevelt Room and are seated for the discussion, you will have some briefing time. You will then proceed to the Roosevelt Room and take your seat (you are seated between Carol Adams, 26, and Margaret Fitzgerald (with 4-year-old William on her lap). Following your opening remarks, you will initiate the discussion and act as moderator. The mothers will each tell her unique adoption story. You will close the discussion.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Discussion

-HRC

-Six adoptive mothers and six children (see attached annotated list)

Observers

-Ann Rosewater, DHHS

-Carol Williams, DHHS

-Karen Dorsey, DHHS

-Carol Johnson, President, National Adoption Center

-Gloria Hochman, Director of Communications and Marketing, National Adoption Center

-Reginald Fitzgerald, husband of Adrienne (discussion member)

IV. SCENARIO

- HRC proceeds to Map Room to meet and greet discussion participants
- While discussion participants proceed to Roosevelt Room, HRC has briefing time
- HRC proceeds to Roosevelt Room and is seated for discussion
- HRC makes opening remarks and initiates discussion
- Discussion continues for approximately 45 minutes
- HRC closes discussion.

V. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

VI. REMARKS

Opening remarks provided by Jen Klein. Sample questions also provided.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

FAMILIES FOR KIDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE – 6/25/97

Divider Title: _____



 Click here to go to the Governor's home page

KANSAS

BILL GRAVES (Republican), was elected the forty-third Governor of Kansas on November 8, 1994. By securing 64 percent of the vote, Graves garnered the largest percentage of any 1994 non-incumbent state's gubernatorial candidate in the United States. In addition, he carried 102 of the 105 counties. Prior to assuming office on January 9, 1995, (his 42nd birthday), Graves served eight years as Kansas Secretary of State -- first elected in 1986 and re-elected in 1990. A native of Salina, Graves grew up involved in Graves Truck Line, the family business. Throughout high school and until 1975, when he graduated from Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Graves continued to work in all aspects of the family business. He later pursued graduate studies in business administration at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. He married Linda Richey in 1990. Involved in civic and community activities, the Governor has served on a number of executive boards including the executive committee of the Jayhawk Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the board of the Sunflower State Games. He is a member of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce & Industry, a graduate of the 1985 class of Leadership Kansas and Commander in Chief of the Kansas Cavalry, a private sector-based business recruitment team. As Governor, Graves serves on the Natural Resources Committee of the National Governors' Association and is Commander in Chief of the Kansas Army and Air National Guards.

Term expires January 1999

House Adoption Bill

(H.R. 867 - Primary Sponsors: Representatives Camp and Kennelly)

Major Provisions

- Clarifies reasonable efforts by requiring each state to define legislatively the categories of aggravated circumstances under which reasonable efforts *are not required*. In addition to the State's list, the bill provides several specific egregious circumstances in which no reasonable efforts would be required, such as if a parent had murdered or tortured a child, or if parental rights to a sibling had previously been terminated involuntarily. The provision further notes that child health and safety should be the paramount consideration in determining whether or not reasonable efforts should be made to prevent a removal or reunify a child.
- Provides financial incentives to states to increase the number of adoptions from the public child welfare system (per child bonuses).
- Clarifies the purpose of dispositional hearings by renaming them permanency hearings and shortens the timeframe until such a hearing is required from 18 months to 12 months.
- Require states to file a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petition or join TPR proceedings after a child under 10 years old has been in foster care 18 of the past 24 months unless (1) at the state's option, if the child is in relative care; (2) a State court or State agency has determined there are compelling reasons why TPR is not in the child's best interests; or (3) the State has not provided the services the State deems appropriate.
- Requires reasonable efforts to find an adoptive home or other permanent living arrangement if reunification is not pursued.
- Requires an annual report on states' performance regarding adoption and permanency for children.
- Increases from 10 to 15 the number of child welfare demonstration waivers authorized.
- Provides that foster parents must be given notice of and an opportunity to be heard in reviews and hearings, although they would not become parties to the case.

Relation to the Adoption 2002 Report

With the exception of the requirement to initiate proceedings to terminate parental rights after a child has been in foster care for 18 months and the foster parent notification, the other major provisions of the bill were all elements of *Adoption 2002*. The one major item from *Adoption*

2002 which was not included in the House measure is funding to identify and remove barriers to permanency and adoption.

Costs

This bill is cost neutral. No additional money would be spent.

Current Status

The bill passed in the House on April 30, 1997 by a vote of 416 to 5. The Administration sent a letter strongly supporting the bill.

Senate Adoption Bills

(Several related proposals are active, the primary of which is S. 511, the Safe Adoptions and Family Environments Act, nicknamed SAFE, sponsored by Senators Chafee and Rockefeller.)

Major Provisions of the Chafee-Rockefeller Proposal

- Clarifies the reasonable efforts requirement by emphasizing child safety and providing for some circumstances under which reasonable efforts are not required. The language in the bill is similar to that in the House bill, although not identical.
- Accelerates the schedule of permanency hearings so that one must be held by the time a child is in foster care 12 months (rather than the current 18). The Senate provision also requires that after the initial permanency hearing, subsequent hearings shall be held every 6 months while the child remains in care. (The House bill does not require these additional hearings.)
- Revises adoption assistance eligibility to remove income of the birth family as a key eligibility criteria.
- Expands the definition of IV-E maintenance payments to include a year's reunification services, including substance abuse and mental health services, etc.
- Authorizes a new series of grants to reduce backlogs/barriers regarding adoptions, authorized at \$50 million per year.
- Amends the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant to broaden the current preference for services to pregnant women to include also parents with children who have been referred to treatment by child welfare agencies.
- Allows foster care payments on behalf of children living in residential treatment programs with their mothers.
- Broadens the use of foster care training funds for training collaborating agencies on child protection/child welfare issues.
- Requires reasonable efforts to find an adoptive home or other permanent living arrangement if reunification is not pursued.
- Increases from 10 to 15 the number of authorized child welfare demonstration waivers
- Requires each state to implement a child death review team, and requires a federal child death review team to investigate deaths on military bases and Indian Reservations.

- Requires States to develop and implement guidelines for out of home care akin to accreditation.

Other Senate Proposals

While S. 511 has received primary consideration in the Senate, there are several additional child welfare/adoption proposals being considered as well. Senator DeWine has introduced a measure that includes items from the House passed bill that are not included in the Chafee-Rockefeller proposal. Senator Craig has introduced in the Senate a bill nearly identical to the House-passed measure (as S. 827). In addition, Senator Grassley has also expressed an intention to put forward a competing bill, but no such bill has yet been introduced.

Relation to the Adoption 2002 Report

The Senate bill contains many of the elements from *Adoption 2002*, but goes well beyond it with respect to providing additional funding to address barriers to sound child welfare practice. The Senate bill does not include the concept of financial incentives (bonuses) to states for increasing the number of adoptions beyond current levels.

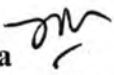
Costs

No official cost estimates for S. 511 have been released, but it is expected that the current version of the bill will be scored by CBO with a cost of approximately \$3 billion, most of that in the provision which would remove Adoption Assistance eligibility restrictions based on birth family income.

Current Status

Senators Chafee and Rockefeller tried to have their bill considered as part of budget reconciliation, but the proposal was ruled non-germane. Senator Lott has attempted to have the Senate vote on the House bill as passed, but that effort was blocked as well. It is not clear at this time what strategy Senators Chafee and Rockefeller, and others, will next take.

Remarks

TO: HRC
FROM: Lissa 
RE: Kellogg speech
DATE: June 25, 1997

Here is a new draft. We still haven't gotten final language from OMB on the legislation. We should have it later tonight or tomorrow morning.

Nicole has vetted this draft and Jen will look at it this evening.

I couldn't find anything in the files about specific cases you had worked on. But I added the story from your book about the child in Arkansas whose foster parents wanted to adopt him. It seemed a good example of how children's needs get overlooked in the current system. Pam is also looking for a letter that you received from the mother of a 16-year-old girl who you helped to place some years ago.

Let me know if you need anything else.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION (NCFA)

In 1980, the National Council For Adoption was born because of the commitment of many individuals and 18 charter member agencies who believed that adoption needed and deserved a national voice to proclaim its value and to assure that it was done properly.

For 17 years, NCFA has served as a national and international advocate for children in need of families, those who have been adopted, women facing problem pregnancies, birthparents and families formed by adoption. NCFA is a non-profit, nonsectarian organization which helps to create and support sound, ethical adoption services.

As part of its public education efforts, NCFA works to promote a positive image of adoption as a loving way to build permanent, happy families. The primary mission is to provide direct information and guidance to thousands of individuals who can benefit from adoption. In addition, NCFA monitors national and state legislation, supports efforts which will encourage and facilitate adoption and addresses the policies and laws that form barriers to children getting the permanent families they need. For example, in response to the challenge posed by 100,000 children living in the US being orphaned by HIV/AIDS by the year 2000, NCFA has launched its AIDS Orphan Adoption Project.

NCFA has members in all 50 states and works with community based agencies, national groups and individuals to find families for any child in need...regardless of whether the child is an infant or older...has physical, mental or emotional challenges...or is from another country.

PARENTING Magazine picked NCFA as one of the five smaller charities which works "effectively to improve the lives of children" and has a "major impact on kids." It also recognized NCFA for spending 85% of its budget directly on programs.

National Council For Adoption
1930 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-1200



Adoption Hall of Fame

1997 Awards Banquet

Host Committee

Adoption Services Information Agency (A.S.I.A.)

Grace and Morton Bender

Martha and Michael Bentzen

Mary and Dave Bushnell

Mona Charen and Bob Parker

Cradle of Hope Adoption Center

Lou and Ralph Davidson

Mimi and Rhett Dawson

The Glenmede Trust Company

Michael Jaffe

Daniel Kilmurray

Carolyn Lamm and Peter Halle

LDS Social Services

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Maclaury

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Neustadt, Jr.

Karen and William Newman

Deborah Steelman and Gregg Ward

Janet and Peter Simon

Carol and Louis Stern

Susan Talarico and Michael Sundermeyer

May Wall and Walter Lynch

The Board of Directors
of the National Council For Adoption

cordially invites you to the

**ADOPTION HALL OF FAME
1997 Awards Banquet**

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Award Recipients:

Ambassador Park Kun Woo

Allan Neustadt

Representative William Archer

Representative Jim Bunning

Representative Charles Rangel

Representative Clay Shaw

Former Representative Pete Geren

Master of Ceremonies:

Al Hunt

The Residence of
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea
4801 Glenbrook Road
Washington, DC 20016

7:00 p.m. General Reception
7:45 p.m. Dinner
RSVP Card Enclosed

June 25, 1997

FAMILIES FOR KIDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

DATE: June 26, 1997
TIME: 5:00 p.m.-5:50 p.m.
LOCATION: Renaissance Hotel Ballroom West
Washington D.C.
FROM: Brenda Costello and Rebecca May

I. PURPOSE

To deliver the keynote address at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's *Families for Kids* national conference, highlighting the President's priorities on adoption.

II. BACKGROUND

On Friday morning you will address the *Families for Kids National Conference: Policy Perspectives on Permanency*, a Kellogg Foundation sponsored conference on adoption, foster care and child welfare reform. This two day conference will bring together 250 business leaders, religious groups, the news and entertainment media, community activists, top child welfare policy makers, the judiciary, state and local elected officials, Congress, and children and their families. The participants will examine policy options to eliminate the backlog of waiting children and reform the child welfare system.

Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, will be speaking earlier at the conference and will be seated on stage with you. As you recall, Dave Thomas was a participant in the National Adoption Month event at the White House in November of 1995. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Governor Bill Graves and First Lady Linda Graves of Kansas will also address the conference and may be there when you speak.

Families for Kids

Families for Kids (FFK) organized the conference which you will be addressing on Thursday, as well as the *African American Leadership Summit* on adoption in May of this year. The *Families for Kids* initiative, created in 1991, is designed to eliminate the backlog of children waiting for permanent homes and reform the adoption system based on five goals:

- One year maximum wait before permanent placement
- One stable foster care placement.
- Continuity through the placement process by having only one caseworker or casework team for the duration.
- One comprehensive assessment of family and child needs

- Support for care givers to help families stay together.

In January 1995, the *Families for Kids* initiative gave three-year grants, each worth an average \$3 million, to 11 communities to enable them to participate in the adoption reform movement and eliminate the backlog of waiting children. The *Families for Kids* sites are New York City, Kent County in Michigan, Pima County in Arizona, nine locations in Ohio, Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Washington.

The work by *Families for Kids* has helped place many children in permanent homes and develop partnerships and models for successful adoption reform. At the eleven FFK sites in 1996, 7,000 waiting children were placed with permanent families. Some of the local efforts with FFK include parenting classes for parents wishing to adopt, privatizing the adoption system, and finding foster homes for children through churches. A fact sheet on *Families for Kids* is attached.

Adoption in the U.S.

- There are about 500,000 children in foster care.
- The number of children in foster care rose 89% between 1982 and 1995.
- 16,000 teens each year reach 18 and "age out" of foster care. Of these teens, 66% have no high school diploma, 34% will end up on welfare, and 25% end up in the streets.
- 60% of children in foster care are children of color.

[Source: *The Kellogg Foundation Families for Kids Initiative and the National Center for Youth Law*]

The status of related legislation and information on the administration's record is attached.

W. K. Kellogg Foundation

As you know, the Kellogg Foundation is a nonprofit organization which makes grants to organizations and people, both nationally and internationally, in order to fulfill its mission "to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations." Over the past five years, the Kellogg Foundation has committed \$335 million to philanthropy, volunteerism, and youth projects.

Format

You will be seated on stage with Valora Washington, Program Director for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Dave Thomas, and Jann Heffner from the Dave Thomas Foundation. Valora Washington will introduce you. Following your remarks, you will proceed backstage for a photo receiving line. You will depart after the photo receiving line.

III. PARTICIPANTS

- The First Lady
- Valora Washington, Program Director, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Dave Thomas
- Jann Heffner, Dave Thomas Foundation

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Program

- The First Lady will be announced on stage by Valora Washington, Program Director, W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- The First Lady enters stage left and is seated to the left of the podium.
- Valora Washington, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, makes brief remarks and introduces The First Lady.
- The First Lady delivers remarks.
- Upon conclusion of remarks, The First Lady exits stage right, and work a rope-line right to left.
- The First Lady proceeds backstage for brief photo receiving line.

Photo Receiving Line

- The First Lady does a photo receiving line.
- The First Lady departs.

V. PRESS

Program

Open press.

Photo Receiving Line

WH Photo

VI. REMARKS

Remarks provided by Lissa Muscatine

Rebecca May
*2026456-2239***Valora Washington**

Valora Washington has worked for over six years as Program Director for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, where she served concurrently as program vice president between 1991 and 1995. She has created and managed a variety of initiatives in excess of \$86 million around the theme of expanding community engagement in supporting children, youth and families. Examples:

- \$2 million targeted to science education in low achieving elementary schools, raised test scores, and increased parent and community involvement.
- \$17 million in school readiness and child care focused on core variables of success across a variety of community/cultural/school contexts.
- \$42 million for "Families for Kids" supported reform of the adoption and foster care systems in 11 states, including increased rates of child permanency, streamlined judicial processes, improved data systems, and public education.

During her tenure at the Kellogg Foundation, Dr. Washington has also observed programs in several countries including Austria, Costa Rica, Mexico, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and the Dominican Republic (where she resided last year). In 1994, she organized and chaired in Salzburg an international seminar on child well-being with the U.S. Committee on UNICEF.

Prior to joining the Foundation, she was vice president and tenured professor of Antioch College in Ohio. Previously she held both faculty and administrative posts at American University, Howard University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The author of six books and over 40 additional publications, Dr. Washington has served on a number of boards and commissions. As a founding co-chairperson of Michigan's Children, a state-wide advocacy organization, she is now the elected secretary of that group. She is also an appointed member of President Clinton's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and the National Commission on Head Start Fellowships.

For her work on behalf of children and families, Dr. Washington has received several honors. In February 1997 she was named one of "25 most influential working mothers by "Working Mothers Magazine". Also, she has been honored as a distinguished alumna of the Indiana University School of Education, as well as her junior high school and high school. In 1980 she was named one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Women of America."

Dr. Washington took her Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University and Ph.D from Indiana University. In 1992 she received an honorary doctor of humane letters from Bennett College. Previously she held post-doctoral fellowships with the Institute for Children, Youth and Families at Michigan State University; with the Society for Research in Child Development; and with the National Academy of Education/National Institute of Education.

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR

June 27, 1997 Friday METROPOLITAN EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL/WORLD; Pg. A15

LENGTH: 973 words

HEADLINE: Kansans prominent at adoption forum
Wichita activist, Gov. Graves share their experiences at meeting.

BYLINE: DAVID GOLDSTEIN, Washington Correspondent

BODY:

WASHINGTON - Near Christmas in 1976, two police officers in Wichita picked up an abandoned baby in an empty apartment. They wrapped the 23-month-old boy in a coat and took him to Kansas' child welfare services.

He was thought to be extremely retarded, blind and quadriplegic.

His adoption prospects were dim.

But six weeks later, he had a mother and father. And these days, he's a college junior, cruising around the Emporia State campus in an electric wheelchair.

"For my husband and I, it was just one of those moments in our lives that if we truly believed what we've said all our lives, if we know of these children, how can we say there's no room in our hearts?" said Linda Weir-Enegren, the boy's adoptive mother and a Wichita child-welfare activist.

It was the kind of message that resonated well at a Washington policy conference Thursday on foster care and adoption attended by Weir-Enegren and others looking for solutions to the crisis.

"I'm actually more optimistic than I've ever been that we will see the systemic changes that are needed," said first lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, "that we will bring together people from different professions and disciplines and backgrounds who will put aside some of the differences that have stood in the way of reform in the past and we will join hands and heart on behalf of our children in our foster care and adoption systems."

Nearly half a million children, many of them abused and neglected, are now in foster care, according to government estimates, an increase of 89 percent since 1982. And the length of time they remain in temporary homes also is rising.

Meanwhile, nearly two dozen states, including Kansas and Missouri, are embroiled in legal problems over their child protection systems.

A recognition that the traditional system of state-sponsored foster care just isn't working is growing among child-welfare

advocates and politicians alike.

"Our children were languishing too long in foster care," said Kansas Gov. Bill Graves, who spoke at the conference. "They were being shuffled from one home to another, and adoption for most Kansas kids was taking way too long, more than a year to complete. Even more alarming, we were having problems with abuse and neglect."

Graves' advocacy for reform has a dimension beyond being just one more item on his statehouse agenda. Two years ago, he and his wife, Linda, adopted an infant, whom they named Katherine.

"There is a Katie factor in my life and it has certainly made a big difference in terms of public policy decisions and how I've conducted myself as governor," Graves said in an interview. "When somebody talks to me about nutrition programs at schools, I visualize that more than I used to. When someone talks to me about how we're trying to create day-care opportunities for mothers who are on welfare, I have a very clear vision now of what day care is."

Kansas also had a high profile at the conference because last October it became the first state to privatize its publicly run adoption system. To get there, the state had help from Families for Kids, a Michigan-based group started by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and sponsor of the conference.

Since then, Kansas, which contracted with Lutheran Social Services to run the system, has finalized 284 adoptions. Of those, more than 70 percent have been siblings who were placed together.

Kellogg began Families for Kids in 1990 to study the problem of children languishing in foster care. By last year, it had awarded grants averaging about \$ 3 million to 11 states, including Kansas, and localities to pay for programs to improve the foster care and adoption system.

The goal of Families for Kids is to eliminate the backlog of children waiting for permanent homes by reducing the waiting period to a maximum of one year. The group also hopes to give children one stable foster home placement instead of bouncing them from home to home, one assessment of their needs instead of constant reviews and one set of case workers.

"What had been missing all this time was anybody asking the question, 'What happens to the children?' " said Topeka Mayor Joan Wagnon, former director of Kansas **Families for Kids**.

The conference on adoption comes at a time when issues involving children are gaining political momentum, or at least a higher degree of visibility. Congress is considering legislation to speed up the adoption process and give more consideration to not reunifying children with their parents if safety is a concern.

The White House also has proposed a program to double the number of adoptions by 2002. And last year, Congress passed a \$ 5,000 tax credit for parents who adopt a child, whether in foster care or not.

The law also prohibited adoption agencies from delaying placements to find parents of the same race as the child.

Weir-Enegren, who adopted six children, said she was glad that more people are finally becoming aware that the system is broken and needs repair. Hopefully, she said, more children can be saved.

"We felt like we were trying to empty the ocean with a teaspoon," she said. "Sometimes at night I would look at my children sleeping, and I would think, at least I fished these children out before they went over the falls."

LOAD-DATE: June 27, 1997

FOCUSTM

Search: General News;families for kids conference and hillary w/2 clinton

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

Example: House of Representatives

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FAMILIES FOR KIDS: AN OVERVIEW

The Families for Kids Vision: A Permanent Family for Every Waiting Child

Nothing is more basic to a child's development or more essential to strong communities than nurturing, permanent families. Yet large and growing numbers of America's children are being deprived of the hope, love, and security that only lasting family connections can provide.

Children are entering the public child welfare system because of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Although the vast majority of children return to their families or are living with relatives, many will not. Children who are eventually legally free for adoption stay too long in the foster care system, and are typically in a series of foster homes or institutions. Too many exit the system at age 18 without ever having experienced a permanent family.

Here are a few of the disturbing facts as outlined in a 1997 report published by the Congressional Research Service and other authoritative sources:

- In 1995, 494,000 children were in foster care, up from 468,000 in 1994. The number of children in care in 1995 has risen by 24 percent since 1990, 76 percent since 1986, and 89 percent since 1982.
- Data from selected states show that between 1983 and 1993, the number of children in foster care rose by 158 percent in Illinois, 154 percent in California, 123 percent in Texas, and 120 percent in New York.
- The number of foster children adopted annually through the child welfare system averaged about 19,000 between 1983 and 1992 and did not fluctuate widely during those years. In 1991, adoptions were finalized for only about 20,000 foster children, and about half were adopted by their foster parents. Approximately 7,000 were permanently placed in legal guardianship.
- Although an additional 69,000 foster children had permanency goals of adoption, less than a third (about 20,000) were actually free for adoption. Of these children, almost half had been waiting for an adoptive placement for two years or longer.
- Those fortunate enough to be adopted are likely to have spent, on average, 3.5 to 5.5 years in a series of different foster homes.
- Nationally, children of color make up 63 percent of children in the foster care system -- nearly twice their representation in the general child population. The percentage is much higher in cities like New York and Chicago where an estimated 75 - 85 percent of children in child welfare are African American.

It is a national tragedy that children waiting for permanent homes are among the most vulnerable and poorly served citizens in our society. There are reasons but no excuses. The many system-wide barriers to child welfare reform include:

- A child welfare system that is fragmented and uncoordinated;
- Lengthy delays including court processing of cases;
- Children and youth getting "lost" due to non-existent or inefficient computer data management systems;
- Inadequate staffing; overworked, undertrained and high turnover of workers;
- Invisibility of foster children;
- Limited child placement options;
- Families and communities with too little influence in the system; and
- Cultural insensitivity to children, families, and communities of color.

- over -

W.K.KELLOGG FOUNDATION

One Michigan
Avenue East
Battle Creek, MI
49017-4058
USA
616-968-1611
TDD on site
Telex: 4953028
Facsimile: 616-968-0413

*To help people
help themselves
through the practical
application of knowledge
and resources to improve
the quality of life and
that of future generations*



FAMILIES FOR KIDS OF COLOR

The situation for children of color in the public child welfare system is particularly alarming. Nationally, children of color constitute an estimated 60 percent of the nearly 500,000 in the foster care system, nearly twice their representation in the total U.S. child population.

In major metropolitan areas like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago, children of color are an estimated 75 to 85 percent of foster care populations. Three-quarters of the children in the child welfare system nationally reside in foster homes or with relatives. Although foster care is temporary by design, children waiting for a permanent home are spending, on average, from 3.5 to 5.5 years each in such care, often moving from one foster home to another. Based on 1994 data from 21 states, the U.S. foster care population is

- 47 percent African American (compared to 15 percent of the U.S. population under age 18)
- 32 percent white (compared to 67 percent)
- 14 percent Hispanic (compared to 14 percent)
- 1 percent Native American/Alaskan Native (compared to 1 percent)
- 1 percent Asian/Pacific Islander (compared to 4 percent)
- 4 percent unknown ethnic origin

Overall statistics on children in foster care mask the more dramatic differences among racial groups. According to a report by the American Public Welfare Association, the number of white children entering foster care in a given year is greater than the number of African American children. Yet, African American children make up a disproportionate, and increasing, share of those who remain. The percentage of Hispanic children in foster care has doubled from 7 percent in 1982 to 14 percent in 1994.

In terms of their chances for adoption, African American foster children are more likely to be waiting for adoption than to be adopted. In 1990, African American children were 29 percent of the children who had finalized adoptions, but were 43 percent of the children who were legally available for adoption and waiting for an adoptive home. A study of children in California who entered foster care in 1988 and early 1989 found that African American children were five times less likely than white children to be adopted during their first 3.5 years in care. Adoptions by families of color also took longer to finalize than those by white parents.

If current trends continue, a growing number of children will enter adulthood without permanent families. The impact of this trend will be felt most heavily by African American children.

How Families for Kids Is Helping Children and Families of Color.

Families for Kids is designed to speed permanence for those children who cannot return to their biological parents and are languishing in foster care. Because children of color make up such a large portion of this target group, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and its Families for Kids partners are making special efforts to understand and address the cultural dimensions of child welfare system reform. While there is still much work to be done, progress is being made, including:

W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

One Michigan
Avenue East
Battle Creek, MI
49017-4058
USA
616-968-1611
TDD on site
Telex: 4953028
Facsimile: 616-968-0413

*To help people
help themselves
through the practical
application of knowledge
resources to improve
the quality of life and
that of future generations*

Launching Families for Kids

In 1990, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation began to examine the problem of children languishing in foster care. To determine whether it could play a meaningful role in solving this problem, the Foundation convened the nation's leading experts including parents, professionals in child welfare, clergy, judges, attorneys, policymakers, academics, and child advocates. They convinced the Foundation to undertake a major national initiative, Families for Kids (FFK).

These early consultations led to a year-long planning process called "community visioning" that involved more than 14,000 people from 15 states. In 1995-96, 11 states and localities were awarded grants averaging \$3 million each to participate in a reform movement aimed at eliminating the backlog of waiting children and bringing fundamental change to the system.

The Families for Kids sites are New York City; Kent County (Grand Rapids), Michigan; Pima County, Arizona; nine counties in northern Ohio; and the states of Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Washington. Other grant programs were also begun to improve courts, achieve legal and policy reform, strengthen the voices of communities of color, and encourage employer-paid adoption benefits.

Families for Kids has two important goals:

- To eliminate the backlog of children waiting for permanent homes; and
- To reform systems so that each child has the following:
 - ◆ One year maximum waiting before permanent placement;
 - ◆ One stable foster care home;
 - ◆ One family-friendly assessment of the child's needs;
 - ◆ One caseworker or casework team; and
 - ◆ Comprehensive support for caregivers.

Achievements of Families for Kids

In 1996, 7,000 waiting children were placed in permanent families in the eleven sites. Many promising new partnerships and models of service have been developed to achieve Families for Kids goals. For example, to ensure only one year before placement, FFK sites have developed an aggressive campaign to place waiting children, sophisticated family recruitment campaigns, extensive church-based family recruitment and support, powerful new public/private partnerships, significant advances in legal and court reform, and special agencies and efforts to place children of color.

To ensure that children are placed in only one foster home, FFK partners have expanded case planning models to eliminate multiple placements. To ensure that only one assessment and casework team works with the child, FFK has developed new interdisciplinary teams and case-processing methods, and arranged more family involvement in decision making. To ensure comprehensive family support, Families for Kids has promoted more flexible and available services to families and new family advocacy groups to push for sustained reform.

All FFK sites have learned that a critical element of reform is data collection and analysis that provides regular, accurate information on the numbers of children in care, length of stay, families ready to adopt, and legally free children waiting for families. This is one important way families and communities can hold child welfare agencies accountable for the children they serve.

Sources: McKenzie, Judith K., Adoption of children with special needs. *The Future of Children: Adoption* (Spring 1993) 3, 1: 69; Spar, Karen, "Foster Care and Adoption Statistics," *CRS Report for Congress*, Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress, January 15, 1997; and, "Adoption, Foster Care, and Child Welfare: Issues for Congress," *CRS Report for Congress*, Congressional Research Service of The Library of Congress, February 5, 1997; "A Comparison of Child Substitute Care Exit Rates Among Three Different Racial/Ethnic Groups in 12 States, FY84 to FY90," *VCIS Research Notes No. 10*, Voluntary Cooperative Information System, American Public Welfare Association, Washington, June 1994.

Special Planning and Leadership Activities. In 1993-94, during the planning or "community visioning" phase of Families for Kids, the Foundation sponsored a series of dialogues involving child welfare system experts from African American, Hispanic, and Native American communities. These sessions, documented in a special publication called *Families for Kids of Color*, defined challenges and actions needed to address the problems of children and families of color. Representatives from each dialogue group have since undertaken Families for Kids projects and continue to participate in the reform efforts. In 1996, FFK supported the release of *Latinos and Child Welfare* by the National Latino Child Welfare Advocacy Group. It is a comprehensive study of six states representing the diversity among the nation's Latino population that includes 75% of the Latino child population.

Family Recruitment. Recruiting more families of color to adopt is essential to reduce the number of waiting children. Many sites have engaged special recruiters to focus on outreach to communities of color and developed sophisticated adoption marketing campaigns targeted to media channels in communities of color. African American churches are important partners in recruitment drives. In Mississippi, for example, "The Fortune 500 Churches," a network of both African American and white churches, "adopts" social workers and helps them recruit families. The African American Adoption Center, affiliated with One Church, One Child and the Reid House of Christian Associates, provides streamlined, personalized recruitment and assessment services to people of color interested in adopting waiting children in South Carolina.

Culturally Sensitive Services. The child welfare system has historically lacked cultural sensitivity. Families and children usually have little power in system decision-making and find their cultural traditions completely ignored in permanency plans for their children. Families for Kids' sites are developing models of service that are much more family-friendly and culturally sensitive than before. The Family and Community Compact program of Kent County Families for Kids in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a case in point. Instead of initiating court action and foster care placement when children are removed from their families for abuse and neglect, the Compact offers biological parents the opportunity to participate in a conference with extended family members, friends, neighbors, and other community members. The group is empowered to assess the needs of the family, and determine who will care for the child while parents undergo treatment with a priority given to family members or kinship care. Culturally diverse casework and assessment teams also are critical elements for success.

Family Advocacy Groups. Each site is in the process of developing grassroots-level family advocacy groups to offer support to parents, to advocate on behalf of particular cases, and to educate policy makers. Parents and teens of color are playing leadership roles in many of these groups.

In May 1997, Families for Kids will convene a National African American Leadership Summit, co-sponsored by National Black Child Development Institute; National Association of Black Social Workers; Children's Bureau/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; National One Church, One Child; Black Administrators in Child Welfare; and Multicultural Network. The goal of the Summit is to expand the number of African American leaders knowledgeable about and committed to work on behalf of African American children now languishing in foster care.

Sources: McKenzie, Judith K., Adoption of children with special needs. *The Future of Children: Adoption* (Spring 1993) 3, 1: 69; Spar, Karen, "Foster Care and Adoption Statistics," *CRS Report for Congress*, Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress, January 15, 1997; and, "Adoption, Foster Care, and Child Welfare: Issues for Congress," *CRS Report for Congress*, Congressional Research Service of The Library of Congress, February 5, 1997; "A Comparison of Child Substitute Care Exit Rates Among Three Different Racial/Ethnic Groups in 12 States, FY84 to FY90," *VCIS Research Notes No. 10*, Voluntary Cooperative Information System, American Public Welfare Association, Washington, June 1994.



ADOPTION RESOURCES ON-LINE

The Internet includes information on a range of adoption and child welfare topics: federal and state child welfare policy updates; resources for employers interested in offering adoption benefits; guidance on how to adopt; and advances in child welfare legal reform, among others. Below are some excellent resources for investigating these issues on-line.

The **W.K. Kellogg Foundation's** home page contains information about Families for Kids (FFK) including an overview of the initiative, past issues of their monthly fax *Successes and Challenges*, and links to key child welfare organizations. You can also read and download FFK publications, including *Families for Kids of Color: A Special Report on Challenges and Opportunities*; *Families for Kids Who Wait: Promising Directions in Community-Based Adoption Reform*; and *Families for Kids: Building the Dream, How Nineteen Communities Planned Adoption Reform that Put the Needs of Children First*. To get there from the main WKKF home page, click on the "Search" tab and go to "FFK" under "Education Initiatives." (www.wkkf.org)

The **University of Michigan Child Welfare Law Program** home page features FFK's innovations in legal education reform, including information about local child welfare law offices, law school education in child welfare, direct legal reform assistance and the Michigan Child Law Resource Center. (www.law.umich.edu/childlaw/)

Faces of Adoption is a service of the National Adoption Center and Children Awaiting Parents, supported in part by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. This site contains AdoptQuest, a library of adoption information and resources that includes topics such as how to adopt; financial assistance; employee adoption benefits and a listing of employers offering them; special needs adoption; adoption legislation; agency and organization listings; catalogues and resources to order; and conferences and seminars. (www.adopt.org/adopt)

W.K.KELLOGG FOUNDATION

One Michigan
Avenue-East
Battle Creek, MI
49017-4058
USA
616-968-1611
TDD on site
Telex: 4953028
Facsimile: 616-968-0413

From the Faces of Adoption home page, link to the **Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption** site for information about the Foundation's programs and strategies, funding priorities, and information employee adoption benefits. (www.wendys.com/rdavidf.htm)

The **University of Minnesota Children Youth and Family Consortium AdoptINFO** site includes sections on research, opinion and policy documents, special needs adoption and issues facing adoptive families. You can also search for the latest adoption policy developments by state. (www.cyfc.umn.edu/Adoptinfo/)

Link to the **North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)** home page from the AdoptINFO site for information about adoption assistance (subsidies), including eligibility, technical assistance, state programs and how to apply. It also includes information about adoption advocacy, awareness and NACAC publications. (www.cyfc.umn.edu/Adoptinfo/nacac.html)

The **National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)** site includes an overview of their programs and information about their affiliates. (www.nbcdi.org)

Adoption and the African American Family, part of the **Buppies on Line** web site, gives information and some statistics on the need for African American families to adopt. (www.buppie.com/Fam.html)

To help people
help themselves
through the practical
application of knowledge
resources to improve
quality of life and
that of future generations

Handsnet is a comprehensive on-line resource for a variety of public interest issues, including child welfare. It includes a "welfare watch" feature that reports the latest developments in welfare reform at the local, state and national levels. It also posts action alerts and hosts a child welfare forum managed by the Child Welfare League of America. (www.handsnet.org)

The Child Welfare League of America's own home page includes excellent data on children in the child welfare system, advocacy tips, and action alerts, as well as other information. (www.cwla.org)

The American Public Welfare Association site offers current information about child welfare news and policy, including an analysis of recent federal welfare reform legislation, state-by-state activity updates, and a history of welfare reform over the past four years. It also links to federal, state and private agencies involved in welfare issues. (www.apwa.org)

The Administration for Children and Families' site contains information on President Clinton's *Adoption 2002* initiative, the latest federal press releases on welfare reform, and reports such as guidelines for implementing the new welfare reform laws for American Indian and Alaskan Native tribes. You can also link from here directly to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and White House home pages. (www.acf.dhhs.gov/)

Go to the Thomas, Legislative Information on the Internet site, maintained by the Library of Congress, for current Congressional activities, committee reports and information, bill summary and status information, major legislation and an on-line Congressional Record searchable by keyword. (thomas.loc.gov)

Adoption Advocates - Adoption Policy Resource Center contains legislative news and analysis, information on court decisions and statutes as well as links to other sites. They also feature selected articles from their bi-monthly newsletter, *Issues in Adoption Advocacy*. (www.fpsol.com/adoption/advocates.html)

Adoption Information, Laws and Reforms is another good resource on adoption-related issues with a feature on pending federal adoption legislation and many links to other sites. (www.webcom.com/kmc/)

AdoptionNetwork includes a feature on the *Adoption 2002* initiative. From this site you can go directly to "AdoptionNews," a feature that links directly to a listing of current adoption articles from newspapers on the Internet. In addition, AdoptionNetwork has a wealth of information, resources and links covering federal programs, adoption agencies, legal resources, national organizations and federal agencies concerned with adoption. It also contains lists of books, magazines and newsletters about adoption; newsgroups and discussion groups; a calendar of upcoming conferences and speakers on adoption; as well as other adoption-related sites on the Internet. (www.adoption.org)

Adopt: Assistance, Information, Support has a site full of adoption resources. It contains links to other sites and agencies as well as a listing of regional and national adoption resources with addresses and phone numbers. It also posts information on a variety of adoption topics including adoption Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's), how to adopt, adoption law and much more. (www.adopting.org)

The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law home page posts information about legal and court related issues. This includes a section where longer documents of interest can be downloaded. (www.abanet.org/child)

Adoption Information on the Internet links to adoption-related sites organized by topics such as agencies, facilitators, attorneys; information, support and publications; usenet newsgroups, mailing lists, bulletin boards, telnet; and law and government. (adoption.com/precious/others.html)

Adopting.com maintains a list of adoption resources on-line on topics including "getting started" (for parents who want to adopt); resources for special needs children; and general adoption information, support and resources. (www.adopting.com)

Families for Kids Legal and Court Reform Efforts In Brief: Recognizing that comprehensive legal and court reform are essential to the achievement of the Families for Kids goals and outcomes, the Foundation has made such reforms a major priority. Judges and other legal personnel are major players in all participating FFK sites, and site efforts are proceeding on many fronts.

Statutory Changes. Many sites have made changes in the law to streamline case processing in the courts, by:

- reducing time frames for abuse and neglect hearings (WA, SC, OH)
- improving compliance with existing legal standards for judicial review of cases (SC, AZ)
- making it easier for judges to terminate the parental rights of parents who cannot parent effectively (MT, NY, and SC)
- reducing the number of changes in court venues (MS, MA)
- making courts more uniform in operations (WA, MA, MS)
- embracing the "one-case-one judge" principle by lengthening judicial assignments, improving court calendaring, and exploring the development of family courts (WA, MA, AZ, OH, NC)
- supporting coordinated, interdisciplinary assessments of a child's needs (NC, KS).

Improving the Legal Representation of Children and Families. The University of Michigan Law School's Child Advocacy Law Clinic, an FFK grantee, has taken a leading role in advancing legal education for judges, attorneys, and other child welfare professionals through:

- technical assistance to new child advocacy law clinics at major universities in site states (active: SC, WA, AZ, MT; planned: MS and MA)
- development of a network of child welfare law offices in FFK-site states
- a child welfare law resource center offering training and assistance to judges and lawyers
- special fellowships for law students and senior judges and law from FFK grantee communities.

Developing A Comprehensive Policy Framework. The child welfare system is really an interdependency of several systems, including the courts. FFK is in the process of refining a framework to identify the central elements of policy, law, court structure, funding, and management practices necessary to implement the FFK goals and outcomes.

Participation in the Court Improvement Program (CIP). The National Center for State Courts, an FFK grantee, is assisting 46 participating states (including all the FFK sites) in a federally-funded evaluation of court performance in child abuse and neglect cases. In some states, improvements consistent with the FFK philosophy and outcomes are already being put in place.

For more information on court and legal reform, contact: Donald N. Duquette, Clinical Professor of Law, The University of Michigan Law School, Child Advocacy Law Clinic, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1215, (313) 763-5598, duquette@umich.edu.

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President's List

ADOPTION BILL SIGNING EVENT - Tuesday NOV 18 1997 - 12:00 PM White House - Business - East
Visitors Entrance For Official Government Use Only

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THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND FIRST LADY

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Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Pauline Abernathy
Department of Education

Hon. Eleanor Dean Acheson
Assistant Attorney General for Policy, Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Ms. Marylee C. Allen
Children's Defense Fund
Washington, DC

Mr. Kenneth S. Apfel

Mr. and Mrs. Hector Badeau
Guests: Mr. Aaron Badeau, Miss. Alysia Badeau, Mr. Wayne Badeau, Mr. Adam Badeau,
Mr. Dylan Badeau, Mr. Todd Badeau, Miss. Joelle Badeau, Mr. Raj Badeau, Mr. Issac
Badeau, Miss. Florinda Badeau, Miss. Chelsea Badeau, Mr. George Badeau, Mr. Jose
Badeau, Miss. Sue Ann Badeau, Mr. Abel Badeau, Mr. David Badeau, Ms. Renee Badeau,
Mr. Daniel Badeau, Mr. David James Hoag, Mr. James David Jones
Ms. Melissa B. Baker
Policy Associate, American Public Welfare Association
Washington, DC

Ms. Betty Bobbie Bass

Ms. Sandra L. Bell
Social Worker

Ms. Mary M. Bellor
Philip L. Graham Fund C/O The Operation Post Company
Washington, DC

Ms. Christine Benero
Director, Washington Office, Association of Junior Leagues International
Washington, DC

Ms. Sharon Knight (Substitute for: Mae Best)

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Phillip Bevan

Mr. Thomas L. Birch
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
Washington, DC

Ms. Mary Bissell

Ms. Ellen Block
Hasbro Children's Foundation
New York, NY

Mr. Joseph Bock
Children's Bureau Staff
Washington, DC

Ms. Nora Kathleen O'Connell (Substitute for: Kathy Bonk)
junior Project Associate, CCMC
Washington, DC

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Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Mary Bourdette

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation, US Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC

Ms. Ann Burds

Judge William R. Byars

Camden, SC

Mrs. Brooke A. Byers-Goldman

Alexandria, VA

Mr. Calvin Cafritz

President & Chairman of the Board, Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Washington, DC

Hon. (Rep.) David Camp

R/Michigan, House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Ms. Ellen Wiggins Carey

Adoption Specialist, Children's Bureau
Washington, DC

Ms. Karla Carpenter

Ms. Caroline Cephus

Hon. (Sen.) John H. Chafee

R/Rhode Island, United States Senate
Washington, DC

Mr. Ernest Chambers

Mr. John Edward Christian

Ms. Barbara Clark

Washington, DC

Mr. James T. Clark

Ms. Cherese Coates

Ms. Sheila Coates

President, Black Women United For Action
Springfield, VA

Ms. Gail Collins

Children's Bureau Staff
Washington, DC

Mr. Hugh Collins

Conference of State Court Administrators

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Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Deborah Colton

Professional Assistant, House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Ms. Linda Susan Cox

Holt International Children's Services
Eugene, OR

Hon. (Sen.) Larry E. Craig

R/Idaho, United States Senate
Washington, DC

Ms. Sharon Daly

Ms. Karen Davenport

Ms. Ronessa Day

Ms. Ann Delorey

Hon. (Sen.) and Mrs. Mike DeWine

R/Ohio, United States Senate
Washington, DC

Guest: **Ms. Anna DeWine**

Ms. Sheryl Dicker

Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children
White Plains, NY

Mr. Peter Digre

Director, Los Angeles County Department of Children's Services
Los Angeles, CA

Ms. Karen Dorsey

Ms. Barbara Driggins

Mr. Leonard Dunston

National Association of Black Social Workers

Ms. Connie Fails

Proprietress, Connie Fails, Inc.
Little Rock, AR

Ms. Laura Feig

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Ms. Shardy Fields

Ms. Eleanore Fletcher

Mr. George Fletcher

Mr. Behrends Foster

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Accepts and No Responses

Honorable James A. Garner
Office of Mayor James A. Garner
Hempstead, NY

Mr. John Gaudiosi
Children's Bureau Staff
Washington, DC

Mr. Richard Gelles
Professor, University of Rhode Island, Department of Sociology
Kingston, RI

Mr. Sean Gilleylen

Ms. Olivia Golden

Ms. Shirley Gorka

Mr. Joshua Gotbaum
Executive Associate Director, Office of Management & Budget

Mr. Eric Gould

Mr. Nicholas Graham

Mr. John Guzik
Administrative Assistant, Congressman Dave Camp's Office
Washington, DC

The Honorable Eugene Hamilton
Superior Court of DC
Washington, DC

Hon. Katherine Hanley
Fairfax County Chair
Fairfax, VA

Mr. James A. Harrell
Administration on Children, Youth and Family
Washington, DC

Ms. Kathleen M. Hayes
South Carolina Families for Kids
Columbia, SC

Mr. Thomas Henderson
National Center for State Courts
Arlington, VA

Ms. Lyndell Hogan

Hon. Edward Houck

Mr. Steven Humerickhouse
Adoption Advocate
Minneapolis, MN

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Accepts and No Responses

Hon. Christopher Jennings

Deputy Assistant to the President for Health Policy, The White House
Washington, DC

Ms. Carolyn Johnson

National Adoption Center
Philadelphia, PA

Mr. Jeffery Paul Katz

Rhode Island Adoption Group

Ms. Christine Kaucher

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Washington, DC

Ms. Jurate Kazickas

New York, NY

Mr. Robert Keith

Hon. (Rep.) Barbara B. Kennelly

D/Connecticut, House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Ms. Katherine Kim

Honorable Nancy K. Kopp

Bethesda, MD

Mr. Joseph Kroll

Executive Director, North American Council on Adoptable Children
St. Paul, MN

Ms. Christal Anne Lamar

Ms. Jeanne Lambrew

Associate Director, National Economic Council

Hon. (Sen.) Mary L. Landrieu

D/Louisiana, United States Senate
Washington, DC

Rep. Sandy Levin

Mr. Daniel Lewis

Children's Bureau Staff
Washington, DC

Mr. John Longbrake

Presidential Advisory Committee
Washington, DC

Mr. Ernesto Loperena

NY Council on Adoptable Children
New York, NY

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
009. list	re: Adoption Bill Signing Event [partial] (2 pages)	11/18/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

Foster Care and Adoption 1992 to 1997 [Binder] [2]

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- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- 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]

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Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Rita Lowry

Ms. Miranda Lynch

Presidential Management Intern, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
Washington, DC

Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney

D/New York, House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Mr. John Marks

Common Ground Network for Life and Choice
Washington, DC

Mr. James Martin

Ms. Kathleen McHugh

Mr. Matthew McKearn

Ms. Cheryl McMillen

Mr. Ulysses Medley

Ms. Elizabeth Meitner

Child Welfare League

Mr. Theodore Reynolds (Substitute for: Gwendolyn Menefee)

Ms. Margaret Meyer

Executive Director, Resources for Adoptive Parents
Minneapolis, MN

Mr. John Monahan

Administration for Children and Families
Washington, DC

Hon. Connie Morella

Ms. Jane Morgan

Oklahoma Department of Human Services
Oklahoma City, OK

Mrs. Anna Murdoch

President, Children's Institute International
Los Angeles, CA

Ms. Jane Nast

Mr. Bernell Neal and Ms. Della Neal

(b)(6)

[009]

Guests: Miss. Jamie Nicole Neal, Miss. Jessica Shauntay Neal, Miss. Sharlette Neal, Mr. Christopher Neal, Miss. Christa Neal, Miss. Kimberly Neal, Miss. Talyah Neal, Mr. Rodrigues Neal, Mr. Clinton Neal, Mr. Bernell Eric Neal, Miss. Shantel Austin (Neal), Mr. Anthony Austin (Neal)

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Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Ashley Neyer-Gardiner

Ms. Cynthia Woodside (Substitute for: Josephine Nieves)

Hon. (Rep.) James L. Oberstar
D/Minnesota, House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Ms. Sophia Pao
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget

Ms. Jackie Parker
Office of Senator Pryor
Washington, DC

Sister Mary Paul
Center for Family Life in Sunset Park
Brooklyn, NY

The Honorable Thomas Royal Phillips

Mr. William Pierce
President, National Council for Adoption

Ms. Karabelle Pizzigati
Director of Public Policy, Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC

Ms. Diane Powell
Children's Bureau Staff
Washington, DC

Ms. Margaret Pratt

Ms. Barbara Pryor

Ms. Linda F. Radigan
Children & Families Program Office
Tallahassee, FL

Ms. Linda Reese-Smith
Children's Bureau Staff
Washington, DC

Ms. Brook Roberts

Sen. Jay Rockefeller

Ms. Julie L. Rogers
President, Meyer Foundation
Washington, DC

Hon. (Gov.) Roy R. Romer
Governor of Colorado (D), State of Colorado
Denver, CO

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Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Elizabeth Oppenheim (Substitute for: Betsey Rosenbaum)

Ms. Laurie Rubiner

Ms. Daishana Salman

Ms. Marilina Sanz
City of New York
Washington, DC

Ms. Torin Scott

(b)(6)

Guests: Ms. Maria Scott, Mr. Cody Scott, Ms. Stephanie Scott, Ms. Carolyn Scott, Mr. Justin Scott

Honorable Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Health & Human Services, Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC

Rep. Clay Shaw

Mr. Jon Sheldon

Ms. Marjorie Sims
Women's Policy, Inc.
Washington, DC

Mr. Dennis Smith

MS. Karen Spar
CRS

Mr. Douglas Steiger
OMB

Ms. Sheri Elissa Steisel
Senior Committee Director, Human Services Committee
Washington, DC

Rev. Imogene Stewart
African American Women's Clergy

Ms. Beverly Stripling
Office Director, YWCA of the USA
Washington, DC

Ms. Stephanie Swirsky
Office of Policy, US Department of Labor
Washington, DC

Ms. Shirley Linda Tabb

Rev. Wilbert Talley
Board President, North American Council on Adoptable Children
St. Paul, MN

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Accepts and No Responses

Ms. Carla Taylor

Ms. Joan Taylor

Ms. Claudia Thomas

Mr. R. David Thomas

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Dublin, OH

Guest: **Ms. Jann Heffner**

Mr. Gordon Walker

Ms. Sandra L. Wallace
Pasadena, CA

Mr. Jason Michael Ward

Ms. Taryn Allison Marie Ward

Dr. Valora Washington

Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Battle Creek, MI

Mr. Matthew Weidinger

Ms. Katrina Weinig
Department of Justice

Ms. Lori Jill Weinstein

Ms. Linda Well

Resource Unit Specialist, Post Adoption Resources of Athens County Children's Services
Athens, OH

Mr. Reginald Wells

Administration for Developmental Disabilities
Washington, DC

Ms. Maxine B. Stokes (Substitute for: Kathy Whelpley)

Vice President, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

Mr. Robert Wilkins

Ms. Carol Williams

Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau
Washington, DC

Mr. Jack Williams

Senior News Anchor, WBZ-TV4
Boston, MA

MEMO

Subject: H.R. 867: The Adoption Promotion Act

Date: May 28, 1997

From: Carrie

H.R. 867, The Adoption Promotion Act passed in the House on April 30, 1997, with a 416-5 vote. Rep. Barbara B. Kennelly (D-CT) and Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI) co-wrote the bill.

Background

The measure changes a 1980 Child Welfare Act requirement that "reasonable efforts" be made to keep children with their parents or reunite them in cases where children are removed from a home because of neglect or abuse.

According to the sponsors, approximately half a million children are currently in the foster care system- nearly double the number of a dozen years ago- and most spend an average of three years moving from home to home. The administration reports that of the 450,000 children in foster care in 1995, only 20,000 were adopted. The administration has set a goal of doubling the number of children placed in permanent homes by 2002.

The Adoption Promotion Act

- In instances where they have been abandoned, tortured or, or physically or sexually abused, or when a sibling has been killed, states would no longer be required to make every "reasonable effort" to return foster children to their parents.
- States would be required to terminate parental rights to children under age 10 who have been in foster care for at least 18 of the previous 24 months and to begin efforts to find a permanent home.
- States that increase adoption levels would be rewarded with payments of \$4,000 for each child and \$6,000 for each special-needs child. Payments would be capped at \$108 million over five years.
- States would be required to conduct criminal background checks on prospective foster parents and foster-care workers.
- States would be required to enact laws allowing the foster child's parents to name a guardian to care for the child in case the parent dies or becomes physically incapable of providing care.

- It would shorten the timetable for initial hearings for children removed from their homes from 18 months to twelve months.
- It would inform foster parents and relatives who care for children of hearings and permit them to make statements.
- It would authorize \$30 million over three years to help states promote adoption.

Reps. Tom Campbell (R-CA), David McIntosh (R-IN), Donald Manzullo (R-IL), Ron Paul (R-TX), and Patsy Mink (D-HI), voted against the bill.

Note: One reason that the measure garnered such widespread support, was the withdrawal of a controversial conservative Republican amendment requiring states to seek to end parental rights in cases of children younger than 13 who spend 12 months of an 18 month period in foster care.

*Information compiled from the *States News Service*, *The Columbus Dispatch* and *The Associated Press*.

Foster Care & Adoption

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

Under the strong leadership of President and Mrs. Clinton, the Clinton Administration has compiled a strong record of promoting the well-being of children and providing them permanent, loving homes. In 1998 there were a record 36,000 adoptions from foster care, the first significant increase in the history of the program. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent -- from 28,000 to 36,000 -- and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. Among the President's other steps to improve child welfare and encourage adoption:

Enacting the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. The President signed this landmark bill, based largely on the Administration's FY 2000 budget request, to ensure that young people who leave foster care get the tools they need to make the most of their lives. It empowers those leaving foster care by authorizing \$700 million over five years to provide them better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling and other services.

Enacting the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. Based on the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, this landmark law made the health and safety of children a clear priority, provided the first-ever financial incentives for states to increase adoptions, tightened the time frames for making permanent placements of children, and removed other barriers to adoption.

Making Adoption Affordable. In 1996, President Clinton enacted a \$5,000 tax credit for families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the President provided more support for families who adopt with a \$500 per-child tax credit. And under the Family and Medical Leave Act, parents can take time with a newly adopted child without losing their jobs or health insurance.

Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption. New inter-ethnic adoption provisions signed into law by the President ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity.

Giving States Flexibility and Support. The Clinton Administration has given 25 states waivers to test innovative strategies for improving state child welfare systems. The Administration has provided states technical support to improve court operations and grants to support local adoption projects, and has also secured federal funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program to serve at-risk children and families.

Using the Internet to Promote Adoption. In November 1998, the President issued a directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. HHS will develop a national Internet site by the year 2002.

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4TH REFERENCE of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Newsmakers 1994

1994; Issue 4

LENGTH: 1031 words

NAME: Rosie O'Donnell

PERSONAL:

Born in 1962 in Commack, Long Island, NY.

OCCUPATION: Comedienne and actress

ADDRESSES: Agent---International Creative Management, 8899 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048.

EDUCATION: Attended Dickinson College and Boston University.

CAREER:

Comedienne, 1978---; television comedienne, 1986---; actress in feature films, 1990---. Principal television roles include Gimme a Break, 1986-87; Stand By Your Man, 1992; host of Stand-Up Spotlight, 1991---. Principal film appearances include A League of Their Own, 1992; Sleepless in Seattle, 1993; Another Stakeout, 1993; The Flintstones, 1994; Exit to Eden, 1994.

SIDELITES:

Rosie O'Donnell has brought her cheeky Long Island wit to stage and screen a successful career as a stand-up comedienne and supporting actress. O'Donnell received national recognition with film appearances in A League of Their Own and Sleepless in Seattle, as well as her own cable comedy show, Stand-Up Spotlight. She became a major star, however, with her 1994 send-up of Betty Rubble in the Steven Spielberg blockbuster The Flintstones. Not one to indulge in vain attempts to hoard the spotlight, O'Donnell says she is quite pleased with the string of supporting roles that have kept her busy in feature films since 1991. "I'll be the best friend forever," she told the Los Angeles Times. "It's fine with me. I mean, in my first movie I'm best friends with Madonna; my second movie, I'm best friends with Meg Ryan. That's not a bad career right there."

O'Donnell acquired her wise-cracking New York ways during a childhood spent on Long Island. She was born in 1962, the third of five children in a blue-collar Irish Catholic family. She always liked to clown and perform, but her ambition crystallized after her mother died of cancer at an early age. Unable to express her sorrow in a conventional manner, Rosie threw herself into stand-up comedy and the busy round of activities at her local high school. "I was Miss High School Everything," the comedienne told Newsweek. "I was the prom queen. I was the homecoming queen. I was class president. I was class clown. And something else...Oh, Most School-Spirited, which comes in handy in life. You never know when you might have to do a cheer."

At 17, O'Donnell accepted a dare to perform stand-up comedy at an amateur night in the Round Table Restaurant on Long Island. She was quickly hooked, although she admitted in Newsweek that her tender years gave her little

Liz Thomas

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material from which to create her own jokes. After high school she attended Dickinson College and Boston University briefly, but she preferred working the comedy clubs. In 1984 her decision to pursue comedy paid off when she became a finalist on the syndicated television show Star Search. Having won \$ 14,000 for her appearance on that show, she moved to Los Angeles. "If you want to surf, you have to go to the water," she told Newsweek.

O'Donnell's progress was slow at first, but in 1986 she landed a part on the National Broadcasting Company situation comedy Gimme a Break. After two seasons with that show she moved on to the cable television channel VH-1. Initially hired as a vee-jay to introduce music videos, she soon moved into comedy and was rewarded with her very own show, VH-1 Stand-Up Spotlight. The show, with O'Donnell as host, made its debut in 1991 and has been running ever since.

The exposure on VH-1 helped O'Donnell to move into another lucrative branch of entertainment: feature films. In 1992 she appeared in the hit movie A League of Their Own as a tough-but-tender professional baseball player during World War II. According to Chris Willman in the Los Angeles Times, O'Donnell's character in A League of Their Own uttered the "most-used sound bite of 1992" when she told Madonna's character: "You think there's a man in this country who ain't seen your bosoms?"

From A League of Their Own, O'Donnell moved to another major motion picture, Sleepless in Seattle, released in 1993. In that film she played a more sophisticated, college-educated editor and foil to Meg Ryan's wistful character. Asked in the Los Angeles Times why she always seems to be cast as someone else's best friend, O'Donnell replied: "I don't know, I think I'm just very...best-friend-ish. I think everybody thinks I'm the kind of girl they'd like to go have a beer with. Madonna provokes people in every way, forces them to look at who they are and what they're about and their sexuality and their feelings about interracial things. That's her essence---she's provocative. I'm really not. I'm kind of like a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and she's some wild, exotic food. It's hard to know what your own appeal is. I think it's relatability, if I was to sum it up in a word."

That "relatability" and peanut-butter-and-jelly appeal certainly helped O'Donnell to land the role of Betty Rubble in the Flintstones film. The actress told the Los Angeles Times that she was surprised to have won the Betty role, since the cartoon character was so svelte, but that she enjoyed working on the project. "I never thought there'd be a Flintstones film, to tell you the truth," she said. "I was interested in playing Scooby Doo at one point, but I don't know if that's still in development."

O'Donnell, who is single, lives in a modest home in California's San Fernando Valley. Her decor reflects her fascination with the blue-collar mundane: she owns a collection of Happy Meal figurines from McDonald's and describes her decorating tastes in Newsweek as "very Long Islandy with a little Laura Ashley." If she has one sensitivity, it is her weight, which ranges from 140 pounds after a rigorous diet all the way to 170 pounds on occasion. In the New York Times, O'Donnell quipped that she is "Size 15. I am too big for the Gap, but too small for Lane Bryant." Asked about plans for her future in Newsweek, the comedienne responded: "I just want to go on shows and say, 'They said, "Who can we get? Sharon Stone? No, Rosie O'Donnell.'" That's generally how all movie scripts go."

SOURCES: Mademoiselle, August 1993.

Newsweek, August 16, 1993.

New York Times, May 31, 1992.

Time, July 20, 1992.

Rolling Stone, July 1993.

---Anne Janette Johnson

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 22, 1994

MEMORANDUM ON FOSTER CARE

TO: Rosie O'Donnell
FROM: Lissa Muscatine, Erika Batcheller
RE: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's accomplishments on foster care
Date: April 20, 2000

The First Lady has worked tirelessly for more than 30 years to reform our nation's foster care system and promote adoption. She has devoted her time to numerous child advocacy groups, including the Carnegie Council on Children, the Children's Defense Fund, and Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, and as an attorney she has represented both prospective parents and foster children. As First Lady, she has been the Administration's most prominent advocate on these issues, and her leadership has been instrumental to the passage of groundbreaking legislation to make it easier for children to move from foster care to permanent homes and to increase the number of adoptions. Her deep commitment to children in foster care also has been key to raising public awareness of the importance and rewards of adoption.

The First Lady's interest in foster care and adoption dates to her first year at Yale Law School. After reading an article in Time magazine about child advocate Marian Wright Edelman and her lobbying group, the Washington Research Project (which later evolved into the Children's Defense Fund), Mrs. Clinton contacted Edelman and secured an internship with the organization for the summer. Her experience there would set the stage for a lifelong commitment to a wide range of children's and family issues.

Returning to New Haven her sophomore year, Mrs. Clinton volunteered at Yale's Child Study Center and the New Haven Hospital, where she worked with the staff to draft guidelines for the treatment of abused children. She also volunteered at Legal Services, a legal aid group that provided free assistance to the poor.

One of Mrs. Clinton's first legal aid cases left an indelible imprint on her thinking about the needs of children in foster care. The case involved a black child and her low-income, white foster mother, who wanted to adopt the girl. Mrs. Clinton argued successfully that the mother should not be denied permanent custody simply because of racial or financial reasons. She argued that the child's best interest was to stay with her foster mother, who had provided a safe, stable home and family for more than two years. The many foster care cases she handled at Legal Services would give her a deep appreciation for the importance of ensuring the best interests of the child remain paramount during placement proceedings.

During a postgraduate year at Yale's Child Study Center, Mrs. Clinton wrote a chapter for a family law professor's book, *Beyond the Best Interests of the Child*, that documented her conviction that America's judicial system had failed abused and neglected children. She also challenged deeply rooted traditions about the factors that should inform adoption decisions, presenting a legal argument that a child's happiness should outweigh considerations such as wealth, race or birth family.

After her husband was elected governor of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton continued to press forward to protect children from abuse and neglect. In 1977, she founded Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, an organization dedicated to providing parenting skills and health and education services for Arkansas children. She also joined the Board of Directors of the Children's Defense Fund in 1976, and chaired the board from 1986 to 1992.

Throughout her husband's presidency, Mrs. Clinton has used her position as First Lady to champion a host of children's and family issues, focusing on some of our nation's most vulnerable children – those trapped in the foster care system. In the summer of 1995, she convened a meeting of policy experts to examine some of the most pressing issues surrounding adoption, including long-term foster care and institutional barriers within the child welfare system, including cross-racial adoptions.

That year, Mrs. Clinton, together with the President, launched a national public awareness campaign to promote the benefits of adoption and improvements to foster care. During National Adoption Month in 1995, she hosted the first in a series of events on the issue at the White House. She held numerous meetings and public events with adoptive families and children in foster care, and devoted a significant number of speeches and writings to the cause of adoption. Her efforts during this period would culminate in one of her most rewarding achievements, passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, landmark legislation that reformed our nation's child welfare system by putting considerations of children's health and safety first.

Throughout 1995 and 1996, Mrs. Clinton quietly convened a series of meetings with officials at the Department of Health and Human Services, foundation leaders and other policy experts to discuss ideas for reforming foster care and speeding up adoption procedures. Publicly, Mrs. Clinton also pressed for passage of new tax credits for those who adopt and the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, which would remove race or ethnicity as an obstacle to adoption. She also strongly supported an extension of Family and Medical Leave Act benefits to adoptive parents who wished to take time off work to care for their children. Her vocal advocacy helped usher these key bills through Congress.

As a result of her meetings with adoption policy experts, Mrs. Clinton and her staff in 1996 began to formulate specific proposals for legislative reforms. In November, she held a White House forum on adoption that was broadcast live from the Oval Office. At the event, she announced that the President would sign an Executive Order directing his administration to develop a plan to double the number of adoptions by 2002.

Mrs. Clinton was deeply involved in the development of the report and worked closely with Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to craft policies that would ensure the health and safety of the child remained the guiding principles during placement proceedings. The formal report, "Adoption 2002," was unveiled on Valentines Day 1997 and included a series of incentives for states to expedite adoption procedures and limit the amount of time children spend in foster care. The goal was to double the number of children moving into permanent homes from 27,000 a year in 1996 to 54,000 a year by 2002. The report was based on three key principles; that every child deserves a safe, permanent family; that children's health and safety should be the paramount concern; and that foster care is by definition temporary.

With the unveiling of the report, Mrs. Clinton turned to Capitol Hill to pursue legislative reforms. The White House secured bipartisan co-sponsors in the House who introduced a bill based on Mrs. Clinton's recommendations, and she began holding numerous private meetings with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to generate support for the measure. The legislation, backed by Reps. David Camp, R-Mich., and Barbara Kennelly, D-Conn., easily passed the House that summer.

Throughout the fall of 1997, Mrs. Clinton continued to work quietly behind the scenes, holding countless meetings and personally lobbying lawmakers to ensure the bill had bipartisan sponsors in the Senate. She also continued to deliver speeches and hold other events to draw public support for the measure. The First Lady's strong leadership on behalf of the Adoption and Safe Families Act led to its passage on November 14, and it was signed into law four days later. The bill took historic steps to prevent children from languishing in foster care by dramatically speeding up adoption procedures, limiting the amount of time children can spend in foster care to 12 months, removing institutional barriers to adoption and including innovative financial incentives for states to improve adoption rates each year.

The First Lady's most recent efforts on foster care have focused on addressing the unique challenges faced by older, unadopted foster children as they age out of the system. She provided key leadership in the development and enactment of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, a bill designed to assist older teens in foster care as they transition into independent living as adults. She worked very closely with Republican and Democratic sponsors in the House and Senate to shepherd the legislation through Congress. The bill, signed into law in December 1999, will help ensure that young people who leave foster care have the tools they need to succeed, including better educational opportunities, access to health care, training and housing assistance, counseling and other services.

Mrs. Clinton's efforts to make foster care work better, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down barriers to adoption have transformed our nation's child welfare system. Between 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent and is on pace with the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago.

Attached you will find additional background information, including:

- Remarks by the President and First Lady at Presentation of Adoption 2002 Report (2/14/97)
- Remarks by the President and First Lady at signing of Adoption and Safe Families Act (11/19/97)
- Background press briefing on Adoption and Safe Families Act (11/19/97)
- Fact sheet on Adoption and Safe Families Act (11/19/97)
- Remarks by First Lady on New Efforts to Support Transitioning Foster Care Youth (1/29/99)
- Remarks by the President and First Lady at White House Adoption Event (9/24/99)
- Fact Sheet on Administration Progress Report on Adoption Efforts (9/24/99)
- Remarks by the President and First Lady at signing of Foster Care Independence Act (12/14/99)
- Fact Sheet on Foster Care Independence Act (12/14/99)



PUBLIC RELATIONS

ROSIE O'DONNELL

Rosie O'Donnell grew up "wanting to be" Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler, Carol Burnett and Lucille Ball -- her ideals of the all-around performer. A versatile actress, musical performer and comedienne, O'Donnell is about to add another dimension to her considerable talents as she takes on the assignment of host and executive producer of the new nationally syndicated talk/variety series "The Rosie O'Donnell Show."

Regarded as one of Hollywood's top comedic actresses, O'Donnell made her motion picture debut just four years ago in Penny Marshall's smash comedy film "A League of Their Own" starring opposite Tom Hanks, Geena Davis and Madonna. O'Donnell recalls that she got the role because she was the only actress in Hollywood who could throw a baseball from third to first base.

She has gone on to star on the big screen in: "Now and Then" with Demi Moore, Melanie Griffith and Rita Wilson; Nora Ephron's "Sleepless In Seattle" with Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks (reuniting her with Hanks and resulting in her garnering an American Comedy Award nomination); "The Flintstones" with John Goodman, Rick Moranis and Elizabeth Perkins (O'Donnell's Betty Rubble won her a Nickelodeon's "Kid's Choice Award" for Favorite Movie Actress); Garry Marshall's "Exit to Eden" opposite Dan Aykroyd and Dana Delaney; and "Another Stakeout" and Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez (for which she received another American Comedy Award nomination). Most recently, she starred in "Beautiful Girls" with Uma Thurman, Timothy Hutton and Mira Sorvino.

This July, she stars in "Harriet the Spy," the story of an 11-year-old girl (played by Michele Trachtenberg) who spies on her parents, neighbors and friends, candidly scribbling every detail of their comings and goings in her secret spy notebook. O'Donnell stars as Golly, Harriet's beloved companion and mentor.

An extraordinarily successful stand-up favorite who has crisscrossed the country innumerable times playing clubs, concerts and major showrooms, O'Donnell the raconteur received an Emmy nomination for her HBO Comedy Hour special this past year.

Ever increasing her accomplishments, the multi-talented O'Donnell added Broadway to her repertoire in 1995, when she made her Broadway debut starring as Rizzo in Tommy Tune's revival of "Grease." O'Donnell is not a complete stranger to hosting or to executive producing a series, she hosted the top-rated cable show "Stand Up Spotlight" on VH1 and served as the series' executive producer. And, adding yet another creative feat to her achievements, O'Donnell has agreed to write a book for Warner Books that chronicles her life -- from childhood to today.

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	From: Bruce Reed re: HHS Delivery of the Adoption 2002 Report [partial, page 3 in full] (3 pages)	02/13/1997	b(6)
002. profile	re: adoption program [partial] (1 page)	02/13/1997	b(6)
003. bio	re: National Adoption Exchange (1 page)	02/13/1997	b(6)
004. letter	To the President from child re: adoption (1 page)	02/13/1997	b(6)
005. schedule	Schedule for Hillary Rodham Clinton [partial] (1 page)	04/16/1997	b(6)
006. bio	re: Lou Davidson DOB and POB [partial] (1 page)	04/15/1997	b(6)
007. resume	re: Allan Neustadt DOB [partial] (1 page)	04/15/1997	b(6)
008. bio	re: Mother's Day Adoption participants (2 pages)	n.d.	b(6)
009. list	re: Adoption Bill Signing Event [partial] (2 pages)	11/18/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

Foster Care and Adoption 1992 to 1997 [Binder] [2]

2013-0534-S

rc1758

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]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
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]

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

**ROSIE O'Donnell Show W/
FIRST LADY – 1/27/97**

Divider Title: _____

To: Mrs. Clinton

From: Marsha Berry

Re: Rosie O'Donnell Show

Date: January 27, 1997

You are taping the Rosie O'Donnell Show on Wednesday at 12:30 pm. The other guests on the program are Oscar the Grouch and Michael J. Fox. The show will open up with Rosie's traditional monologue. There will be a break and then you will be introduced and will come out to the theme of the Mary Tyler Moore Show. Your portion of the program will be divided into three segments with the rough outline as follows:

Segment One (seven minutes)

- You will give the gifts for Parker and Rosie
- If you are comfortable, the show's producer will provide you with some trivia on the Mary Tyler Moore show so you can try and stump Rosie. Rosie is a huge Mary Tyler Moore fan.
- Discussion about the Children's Defense Fund

Segment Two (six minutes)

- You and Rosie will sing Bye Bye Birdie.
- Conversation about your Grammy nomination with 15 seconds of your audio

Segment Three (two minutes)

- Oscar the Grouch will come out and you will give him your gift.
- You, Rosie and Oscar will sing the ABC song

Some of the areas of conversation that you could ad lib with Rosie are:

--How you and the President chose Chelsea's name. They will have the music to "Chelsea Morning" ready if this comes up.

--Chelsea going to college

--Socks, the First Cat

--Growing up in Chicago

--Meeting the President

--The best part about living in the White House

You may have heard that for months Rosie talked about how she wanted Tom Cruise to come on her show. She tried to get help from everyone in arranging the interview. Well she was successful. Now, she is equally obsessed with getting Barbara Streisand on the show. So, any funny stories you might have about her or advice on how to connect with her would go over well.

Lastly, as one of the twenty-five most influential working mothers, Rosie has been invited to come to the White House on February 10.

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View Related Topics

January 31, 1997, Friday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: HOUSTON; Snippets; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 440 words

HEADLINE: Snippets

BYLINE: Staff, wire reports

BODY:

Busy O'Donnell delays book
Rosie O'Donnell is too busy to finish writing her much-awaited book. Her publisher, which reportedly is going to pay her \$ 3 million, isn't too upset with the talk-show hostess, however.

""Due to the success of her show, she can only deal with what she can deal with," a Warner Books representative said.

Speaking of her talk show, O'Donnell's guest on Monday will be first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who will break the news that she can't sing very well.

In the segment taped this week, Clinton talked about her high-school performance in "Bye Bye Birdie," noting that she can't carry a tune ""even in the shower. "

Clinton presented O'Donnell with official White House M&M's and the children's book Woodrow the White House Mouse.

Prompted by O'Donnell, she said the White House does indeed have mice, and humane traps are used to get rid of them.

But, she added, ""When we get tired of them, we nuke them. "

Tinsel Town East

Folks in Savannah, Ga., should have no trouble spotting stars this year as two movies will be filmed there.

First up is John Grisham's first original screenplay, The Gingerbread Man, with Robert Downey Jr. a new addition to the cast. The film stars Kenneth Branagh as a lawyer who has problems with the local police and a woman using him for mysterious purposes. Downey plays a detective hired to aid in the case, and Daryl Hannah is the lawyer's associate.

USA Today says Clint Eastwood is due in town in May to make Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil. Eastwood is currently revising the script.

Light the candles

Celebrating birthdays today are actress Carol Channing, 74; actress Jean Simmons, 68; actress Suzanne Pleshette, 60; actress Jessica Walter, 53; singer Phil Collins, 46; singer Johnny Rotten of the Sex Pistols, 41; actor Anthony LaPaglia, 38; and singer-musician Lloyd Cole, 36.

Saturday's birthday list includes actor Stuart Whitman, 71; actor-comedian Garrett Morris, 60; singer Don Everly of the Everly Brothers, 60; singer Ray Sawyer of Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show, 60; actor Sherman Hemsley, 59; actor-writer-director Terry Jones, 55; actor-writer-producer Billy Mumy, 43; singer Exene Cervenka of X, 41; actress Sherilyn Fenn, 32; Lisa Marie Presley, 29; actor Pauly Shore, 27; and rapper Big Boi of Outkast, 22.

Celebrating Sunday will be comedian Tom Smothers, 60; rock singer-musician Graham Nash, 55; actor Bo Hopkins, 55; actress Farrah Fawcett, 50; rock musician Robert DeLeo (Stone Temple Pilots), 31; rock musician Ben Mize (Counting Crows), 26; and rapper T-Mo (Goodie Mob), 25.

GRAPHIC: Photo: Rosie O'Donnell

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 2, 1997

FOCUSTM

Search: General News;hillary w/2 clinton or Rosie w/2 o'donnell

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

Example: House of Representatives

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 Multimedia Publishing of North Carolina, Inc.
Asheville Citizen-Times (Asheville, NC)

January 5, 1997, Sunday

SECTION: Lifestyle; Pg. D2

LENGTH: 1307 words

HEADLINE: EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSIE IT'S BEEN A YEAR OF ACCOLADES FOR TALK TV'S O'DONNELL

BYLINE: By Matt Roush USA TODAY

BODY:

NEW YORK - If there's a year-end list, odds are Rosie O'Donnell is going to be on it.

She's among People's 25 most intriguing names. "Entertainment Weekly" anointed her "entertainer of the year." She made the cut of Barbara Walters' 10 most fascinating people and is in prime-time again Monday night on CBS in a special devoted to Ladies Home Journal's most fascinating women.

Why argue?

Since the June morning she launched her daytime-TV tonic of high-octane cheer, "The Rosie O'Donnell Show," this raucous stand-up-comic-turned-movie-star has become a happy daily habit. Her variety-comedy hour is a throwback to Merv Griffin and Mike Douglas - "and Dinah Shore," she'll remind you - yet with a hip energy rivaling late night. It ranks atop USA TODAY's list as the best TV show of 1996.

Her vehicle may be pure show-biz gush, but it's distilled through the unquenchable and earnest eagerness of the ultimate pop-culture fan.

She makes nice, but mostly she makes merry. She can strike the "Charlie's Angels" pose with Kate Jackson. She can show off, knowing Barry Manilow's lyrics almost better than he does. She can surprise and startle, sharing with Mary Tyler Moore her childhood notebook of trivia she jotted down while watching each episode of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show."

As for Tom Cruise ... crushes don't come giddier and funnier than hers. "I just want you to do yard work around my house," she giggled after he kissed her during his highly rated appearance last month.

"It's her honesty people are responding to. She's totally real. It's heightened for TV, but not by much," says her band leader sidekick, John McDaniel. They became friends when he was conducting her on Broadway in "Grease!" "She's really goo-goo ga-ga about these people. It's hilarious.

And people are ga-ga over Rosie. "I tell you, when people have said to me, The way you feel about Barbra Streisand is the way I feel about you,' I think,

Well, that's not possible,' " says the reflective and admittedly exhausted star an hour after a morning's taping. (It was the Monday after her "Saturday Night Live" appearance, and she didn't get her usual weekend's rest.)

"Barbra Streisand was part of my childhood, part of the fantasy of what I wanted my life to become, some ideal I was striving for since I was 4. But I'm only in the game a few years. So until 30 years from now, when I'm 60 and some 28-year-old kid comes over to me and goes, You know what, when I was in the first grade your show came on and I watched it until it went off the air,' then I'll be like, I get it.' But I feel so new at it. I don't understand the attention."

You might say she's doing this show for the kids. Not just for the sake of her adopted son - 18-month-old Parker, a towheaded cutie she dangles playfully before the interview in her toy-strewn office - but for all those young viewers underserved by the sordid excesses of much of her competition.

"There wasn't a show you could come home and sit with your grandmother and watch and enjoy. That's what I would do every day. After school my Nana and I would watch Steve and Eydie Gorme on Merv Griffin.' " Her desire is to be on either before or after "Oprah," although in many markets she competes directly, "which is upsetting to me."

She gets loads of mail and hand-crafted gifts, but her favorites come from kids. "I get a lot of letters from kids who say, I'm 10, and I used to think my mom was a weirdo, but now after watching you she reminds me of you.' Because there are these women who are probably sitting at home listening to Partridge Family records, eating Cap'n Crunch and remembering their childhood."

Rosie, who offers a visitor bite-size Nestle's Crunches from a plastic bag before he can sit down, makes regression seem normal, even healthy.

Bless her heart.

Her kid-friendly approach includes giving autographs only to fans 16 or under. They line up in the aisles after each taping. "I see in their eyes the excitement, I see them shaking. They're 12 years old, and for them I've been in a movie every summer since they were 8. I've been in their consciousness since they were really aware, pop culture-wise."

Kind of like Rosie with Elton John. Or Rosie with Bette Midler. Icons of her youth whose appearances on her show have been personal and emotional milestones.

(Streisand has yet to stop by, which is the subject of a running gag, but O'Donnell admits, "Somewhere in my mind, I think I wouldn't be able to do it justice, because she had a tremendous impact on me as a kid, more than any human could ever live up to. You don't want to deify someone and take away their humanity, yet to her I think I do that.")

"You know, it's funny, I felt a mild sadness after Elton John's show," she says. "He's so funny and so personable, it was easy to be friendly and familiar with him. ... He was the first person who really overwhelmed me because he's somebody who in my mind I never thought I would meet or know."

She has vivid memories of using her allowance to buy his "Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy," memorizing the lyrics while lying on her living room's shag rug with a speaker at each ear. "We didn't have headphones." The song "Daniel" came out shortly after her mother's death when she was 10, and she remembers her emotionally distant father getting tears in his eyes when it came over the car radio. Her brother's name is Daniel.

"And after the Bette Midler show, I cried, just because I looked up and there's my sister all filled with tears. You know, every time there is somebody from our childhood - Joni Mitchell, Linda Ronstadt, people we had on 24 hours a day - my siblings are there. They take off of work. And I see my brother Eddie, and I can see the 8-year-old kid that he was and the 5-year-old sister that I was and that house with mismatched socks and nothing there that we really needed to feel nurtured. But we were nurtured by the arts. By TV.

"They were my friends and my confidants."

This goes beyond the camp nostalgia veneer of her show to a deeper personal subtext, something she plans to explore in the book she has agreed to write - "not a witty-observations-of-life kind of book," she cautions. She has kept journals through much of her 34 years, including one since the first day of her talk show. The book will mostly be stories and memories from her childhood, intercut with material about the show.

"I'm a notorious scrapbook keeper," she says. "And I just got this family album creator you can do on your computer. I'm beyond thrilled to be able to scan in pictures of my son, you have no idea."

But to write well, "I have to be in the process of reading. I'm an avid reader, and that's one thing I miss about my life in regards to this job." Her most recent recommendation: "Angela's Ashes," an Irish-Catholic memoir by Frank McCourt that made her cry. She hopes to have the author on her show.

She'll probably get her way. Demographics be damned when she wants to give someone the spotlight.

Lately, she has let some of Manhattan's pool of "untapped talent," such as singing waitresses, sing carols on the show. It's a gesture of good will from her Broadway stint in "Grease!"

"There I was, with a few movies under my belt, in the lead, singing off-key nearly every night but with joy at least, while these gifted people in the chorus, at the height of their profession, were making scale." During Tony month, she'd like to give solos to unsung chorus members of hit musicals. "It's a great way to be able to pay back those people."

"Rosie's doing more for Broadway than anyone since maybe Ed Sullivan," John McDaniel says. "She loves it. She won't do anything she doesn't really feel passionate about. That's what I love about her."

Join the club.

8TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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People

December 30, 1996

SECTION: SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE/25 MOST INTRIGUING PEOPLE OF THE YEAR; THE 25 MOST INTRIGUING PEOPLE '96; Pg. 50

LENGTH: 333 words

HEADLINE: ROSIE O'DONNELL ;
SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSIE

BODY:

Earlier this month she got a big hug and more than one kiss from her major obsession, Tom Cruise, in front of some 4.6 million viewers. Crowded the 34-year-old daytime host: "Dreams do come true on the Rosie O'Donnell Show!" Do they ever. Consider her own desideratum: The product of a Commack, N.Y., working-class Irish Catholic upbringing, she vaulted from stand-up comedian to movie star (A League of Their Own). But it was not until she decided to settle down and establish a routine for her 19-month-old adopted son, Parker, that she found her true calling as TV's hottest new gabber. Everyone wants Rosie. She made a \$ 3 million deal for her autobiography, and in a Seventeen magazine poll was voted the ideal female President. Says O'Donnell with a laugh: "That's a job where you have too many people to please all the time." But that, of course, is what the self-proclaimed Queen of Nice does so well. Her syndicated program is a virtual lovefest that has pulled daytime talk out of the gutter and into the family room. She is her guests' biggest fan, fawning over TV stars from her childhood such as Mary Tyler Moore and Shirley Jones (Rosie owns a set of Partridge Family paper dolls as well as a complete collection of McDonald's Happy Meals toys). O'Donnell says that her idol is Johnny Carson, who "always made sure if there was egg on anyone's face, it was his." She succeeds, her actress friend Rita Wilson believes, because Rosie is Everyman. "When she talks about dying to have Tom Cruise on her show," says Wilson, "she means it. She is a great combination of being an insider and an outsider." Her offstage dreams are also blossoming. Thanks to her \$ 4 million TV salary, O'Donnell is renovating a 100-year-old riverside house in Nyack, N.Y., once owned by Helen Hayes. The most important room is the nursery. "Being a mother is the most difficult and beautiful experience anyone can have," she says. "Through Parker, I have a greater capacity to love and feel life."

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO: PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE LANGE, "My life is what I dreamed it would be when I was a teenager," says O'Donnell of her rocket [Rosie O'Donnell riding in television-covered truck]

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 1, 1997

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
AT CHILD DEVELOPMENT EVENT

Georgetown Medical Center
Washington, D.C.

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you. I am so pleased to see all of you here and I'm delighted to be back at Georgetown Medical Center, where I have visited before, because I think that the work that is being done here and the announcement today is among the most important efforts that are going on right now in our Capital City, because if we were able to make it clear to every parent in Washington, D.C. and beyond that reading to one's child between birth and three is one of the most important jobs that a parent can do, I think we would all see remarkable progress being made in school readiness, in school performance, in relationships between parents and children.

I want to thank Dr. Rennart (phonetic) for his remarks and for his leadership as the Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. I want to ask Dr. Battle to convey to the Academy of Pediatrics our deep appreciation because of their support of this effort and so many other good works that the Academy does on behalf of children. I also want to acknowledge a few other people who are in the audience.

I want to acknowledge my friend, Leo Donovan, the President of Georgetown who has been very supportive of efforts concerning education and literacy not only here at the university, but around Washington.

I also want to thank Jules Stoddard, who is representing the Association of Book Sellers for Children and is the owner of the Cheshire Cat Bookstore in Washington, D.C., one of the nation's oldest children's bookstores.

In my book, *It Takes a Village*, I mention the Association's program called "The Most Important Twenty Minutes of Your Day -- Read With a Child." I think for many people that was originally thought to refer to older children -- children in kindergarten or even grade school. What we are trying to do and what the Association for Book Sellers is attempting to do is to convey clearly the message that we want reading to children to start at birth, but particularly during those first three years of life.

I also want to acknowledge and thank Steven Herb (phonetic) and Susan Roman, president and executive director respectively of the Association for Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association. I also mentioned their national demonstration program in my book, "Born To Read," and actually contributed some of the book proceeds recently to that, because this three-year national demonstration project, which builds partnerships between libraries and health care providers such as Dr. Rennart and Dr. Battle, is helping low-income parents and others with poor literacy skills to understand the importance of reading to their children.

And finally, I want to thank Dr. Tina Cheng and Dr. Andra Kuzi (phonetic) who are part of "Reach Out and Read" here in Washington. This is a program that inspired me greatly when I first

MORE

heard about it, and I know Dr. Kuzi has just this week received a \$3,000 grant to buy books to start "Reach Out and Read" at Washington Children's Medical Center. This is a program that really exemplifies what we are talking about here today.

We know, and as Dr. Battle said, that most parents come into contact with a pediatrician -- they may not take their child to a library, they may not take that child to a preschool program until the child is over three, but they will in all likelihood come into contact with a health care provider. If that doctor or nurse who is administering the well-baby checkup or the vaccination will prescribe reading, and then take it a step further -- not merely prescribe reading, but hand that parent and child a book, we know that in most cases the parents will try to follow through on the doctor's prescription.

So that is what we are kicking off here, and so many groups have come together to be part of this.

I'm also pleased to be here today and to be in the company of a very special guest. Yesterday the President honored some of America's finest artists, writers, and thinkers with the National Medal of Arts and the Charles Frankel Prizes. One of them, Maurice Sendak, rearranged his busy schedule so that he could stay one more day and meet with some of Washington's youngest citizens, which we will do after this presentation.

As many of you know who have read to your children, as my husband and I have, Maurice Sendak is one of our country's most beloved authors and illustrators of children's books. His stories and characters have captured and stimulated the imaginations of generations of children and, as my husband said yesterday, imaginations of countless parents as well.

When Chelsea was little, Bill and I would take turns reading "Where The Wild Things Are," and many of Mr. Sendak's other stories as well. Soon she was able to read along with us, and before long, she was able to read that story to others on her own. Like many parents, we owe Mr. Sendak a debt of gratitude for helping us to spur our daughter's imagination and reading skills. And later some of the children here at the Medical Center will have a chance to hear him do it in person.

I'm also grateful to his publisher, Harper Collins, for donating 75 of his books to the Medical Center, and I would hope other publishers of children's books would join hands with the pediatricians around our country to do the same.

I want to emphasize just a few points that Dr. Rennart and Dr. Battle made, because I noticed some quizzical looks in the eyes of some of the people who are here covering this event. We have known for a long time that reading to children is a nice thing to do. It is a way to create a quiet time between an adult and a child. We have even known that, because of recent research, reading in those early years does lay the groundwork for vocabulary and later reading success. What we have not known until recently -- and because of advances in neurobiology and other medical sciences, we now do know -- is that talking with one's child in those first three years and reading to that child actually helps make the brain grow.

Now, I want to emphasize that because it sounds almost hard to believe. But we now understand that as Dr. Rennart was explaining, that the connections between brain cells and the opportunities for the brain to do more complex work are enhanced because of time spent talking with and reading to very young children.

Now, there are many people, and we all know them, who think that children really don't learn much until they can learn to talk. Well, in fact, the work that is being done in the brain of a child from birth to three is so profoundly significant that if we do not recognize its importance, then we will not have helped that child develop to his or her fullest potential. The earlier we expose our children to hearing stories and listening to adults talk, the better off they are.

And I want to add that the evidence so far shows the television is not substitute. The words that have come across the television screen do not have the same effect on creating that growth in a child's awareness that reading to a child and talking to a child, person to person, does. So you cannot make up for this by putting the child in front of the television set and expect that child to have the same opportunities that reading and talking provide.

We feel so strongly about this that it is one of the reasons the President is accelerating the administration's efforts to strengthen early education and raise awareness about the importance of developing children's brains in the first years of life. There will be a number of programs in these next few months that we hope will bring to broader public attention what scientists now know about brain development.

Many parents, I think, will be very surprised when they see some of the television specials, some of the magazine specials that will be coming out in the next several months, because for me as well as for many others of my generation, this is all new.

The President is challenging Americans to become involved in helping children to read on their own by third grade. But in order for that to be successful we not only need to mentor and help our children and our teachers in schools, we need to help parents know that they are a child's first teacher.

Over the years I have met many parents who told me they never really talked to their babies because they didn't think that it made any difference. I remember the first time this happened, and I recounted in my book when I was making conversation with a group of women with some toddlers. And I said, you must be having a great time reading and talking to your babies. And they looked at me with such quizzical looks because they said, why would we do that, they can't talk back. So from that point, I have made it my mission, when I see young parents with babies to ask them if they're talking and reading, and to try to stimulate that as something they want to do.

Sometimes parents say back to me that they don't read very well themselves. And my response to that is, your baby won't know any different. Hold the book, turn the pages, make the story up, and try to get your own literacy skills to improve as well. But you can hardly embarrass a one-year-old when you're reading nearly anything to that child.

So I hope that we're going to be able to get this message out. There are few things that I believe could make a more dramatic difference over the next 10 years in this country than to persuade parents of all educational and economic levels to take this mission of reading to and talking with their young babies seriously.

I hope that all who are part of this effort today will be joining with the President and others of us to spread this message very broadly. As many of you know, I have been doing some work here in the District and meeting with people who are involved in the District's affairs. There are many things that we need to do here in our Capital City, but I would put reaching out to parents and educating parents and prescribing reading as this prescription does

do at the very top of the list as to what if we did and stayed with that effort over a number of years could make a significant difference in this city and in every city around our country.

(Applause.) Thank you all for being part of this new effort.

Now we get to go read "Where The Wild Things Are." So thank you all.

Q Might you have time for a quick question, Mrs. Clinton?

MRS. CLINTON: Sure.

Q I noticed and I just would ask you, you have stressed a very important and worthwhile theme. Is there anything else you can tell us about what you might be doing for the District of Columbia in this regard, or anything you might wish to add at this point in time?

MRS. CLINTON: Not right at this time. But I think that in the next few weeks some of the administration's plans and commitments will be unveiled and we hope that there will be, as I sense there is -- and I appreciate your close attention to this over the years, because you've been very significant in bringing attention to what's going on here in the District -- I think there will be a series of efforts at partnership, to bring people together around the District's problems. And as I have said on other occasions, there is no quick fix, there is no magic wand, there is no individual who can change and fix a lot of the problems that the District has been suffering with over the years. But I believe that a concerted, carefully planned effort that enlists people of good faith from around the country -- not only just the District, because I believe strongly that this is our Nation's Capital, every American has a stake in the success of the people who live here in the District -- but I believe that kind of effort is going to take place. And if we are patient and persistent I think we will see results.

And I think you can only point to other cities around our country that were written off in the '70s and the '80s. I was recently in Cleveland and I can remember the kinds of things that were said about Cleveland not so very long ago. And going there is such an uplifting experience now because the business community, the religious community, the community leadership, individuals from every walk of life joined together to really rebuild that city. And not just in the visible way that we see with new construction, but really at the grass-roots level in reaching out to people.

So I'm very optimistic, although I'm realistic as well, I think.

Thank you all.

Q This is our "Born To Read" diaper bag. We don't get to give diaper bags to the First Lady -- (laughter.) And a little T-shirt maybe Socks could wear.

MRS. CLINTON: That is so cute. Thank you. Nobody thinks I'm trying it on. (Laughter.) Thank you very much.

END

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ADOPTION 2002 REPORT 2/13/97

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1997
FINAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY,
LEAD ADVANCE:

KIRK HANLIN

CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY,
PRESS ADVANCE

KAREN BURCHARD
703/243-3656

Home

SCHEDULER:

JOHN FUNDERBURK
202/456-5315
202/456-5340
202/244-7969
WHCA

Office
Fax
Home
4461

Happy Valentine's Day

PREV RON The White House

9:45 am - **DEPART** South Portico
 EN ROUTE Cleveland Elementary
 8th and T Streets, NW
 [drive time: 10 minutes]

9:55 am - **ARRIVE** Cleveland Elementary

Greeter:

- Annie Mair, Principal Cleveland Elementary

Note: Kirk Hanlin will meet HRC curbside.

10:00 am - **CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISIT**
11:00 am Cleveland Elementary
 OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-- Upon arrival, HRC and Annie Mair will proceed
 downstairs to the All Purpose Room.

- Annie Mair and HRC proceed to podium.
- Annie Mair will welcome and introduce HRC.
- HRC will makes remarks from podium.
- Following remarks, HRC proceeds to seat for roundtable discussion.
- Ted Small opens roundtable discussion and acts as moderator.
- Following discussion 50 second graders will be brought into the room and HRC will join General Becton, Mrs. Casey and Melinda Burrows for a short story reading.
- Melinda Burrows will read a short story (TBD) to the second graders.
- Following the reading HRC departs.

Note: Valentine's Day cookies will be distributed to the students at Cleveland elementary after the book reading.

DISCUSSION PARTICIPANTS:

- HRC
- General Becton
- Iris Toyer, ABA Schools Committee
- Norman Wood, Chair of local school reform team
- Nancy Griffin, Parent and PTA President
- Ted Small, Attorney with Holland & Knight
- Dr. Sandra Braxton, Early Learning Coordinator

READING PARTICIPANTS:

- HRC
- Melinda Burrows
- Mrs. Casey
- General Becton

11:05 am **DEPART** Cleveland Elementary
EN ROUTE South Portico
 [drive time: 10 minutes]

11:15 am **ARRIVE** The White House

11:30 am PRIVATE MEETING
11:45 am Residence
CLOSED PRESS\NO WH PHOTO

12:15 pm BRIEFING for Adoption Event
12:25 pm Oval Office Dining Room
CLOSED PRESS\NO WH PHOTO

12:30 pm ADOPTION EVENT [w/ POTUS]
1:00 pm Oval Office
POOL PRESS

FORMAT:

- HRC makes opening remarks and introduces Olivia Golden, Acting Assistant Secretary for Children and Families.
- Olivia Golden delivers report to the President.
- The President makes remarks.
- HRC returns to podium introduces Deanna Collins.
- Deanna Collins makes remarks.
- Following remarks, Deanna presents President and Mrs. Clinton with Valentines.

RON The White House

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Cloudy with snow, sleet and freezing rain, changing to rain.
Wind east to southeast at 10 to 15 knots.
Low 28 High 40.

WASHINGTON, D.C. EVENTS:

KENNEDY CENTER

- National Symphony Orchestra - Misha Dichter, Pianist
- Sheila Jordan, Jazz Vocalist

FORD'S THEATER

- Twilight in Los Angeles, 1992

ARENA STAGE

- Molly Sweeney

WARNER THEATER

- Defending the Caveman

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR RECEPTION OF ADOPTION 2002 REPORT
THE WHITE HOUSE
FEBRUARY 14, 1997

Welcome to the White House and Happy Valentine's Day. I am delighted that on this day for celebrating all kinds of love, we are gathered to announce a plan that can bring the love of a permanent family to the hundreds of thousands of children waiting in our foster care system.

Two months ago, the President directed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to investigate the barriers that keep so many of our children in the limbo of foster care. He asked her to report to him with specific recommendations on how best to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes, and on how to meet a national goal of doubling the number of children placed annually in permanent homes by the year 2002. In a few moments, Olivia Golden, acting assistant secretary of health and human services, will present her department's findings to the President.

I am very impressed by the hard work that went into this report. It is based on extensive interviews, surveys, and consultations with placement agencies, adoption and child welfare advocates, and social workers nationwide. I am particularly pleased that careful attention was paid to the thoughts and observations of adoptive and foster parents because they know better than anyone the strengths and shortcomings of our system.

This report makes it very clear that foster care should never be a permanent solution. No child should grow up in foster care. Children deserve prompt, efficient decision-making from the adults who serve them. They deserve schedules for permanent placement that respect their developmental needs. And they deserve federal leadership to make that happen.

Ensuring the safety and timely placement of a child with a permanent, loving family should be the mission of our foster care system. But for too many years, this mission has been obscured as too many children have literally grown up or spent the majority of their childhoods in the system. They have led transient lives, moving from one foster family to the next, experiencing few constants but growing case files and dreams for permanent families.

There are many reasons for this situation. As an attorney and child advocate, I have experienced firsthand ... [anecdote].

We cannot afford these delays. In recent years we have learned much about the tremendous influence adults caring for children in their earliest years can have on their intellectual, neurological, and emotional development. Children who have adults to talk to them, read to them, and make them feel secure and loved throughout their earliest years will thrive. Those growing up without these steady influences most likely will not.

That is why steps to secure permanent, safe, and loving homes for children -- whether they are with their biological families or others -- should begin as soon as a child enters foster

care, not after 4 days or 5 months or 6 years of shuttling from placement to placement.

We have already witnessed important steps to remedy this situation. Two years ago, the President and Congress made it illegal to deny or delay an adoption simply because the adoptive parents and children were not of the same race. Last year, they strengthened that legislation. The President also signed a \$5,000 tax credit for families who adopt. Families who adopt children with special needs can receive \$6,000.

Decorating the Oval Office today are valentines created by some 600 of Iowa's waiting foster children. Each valentine, sponsored by the Iowa Citizen's Foster Care Review Board, tells the story of a child waiting to be adopted. The paper hearts list the age the child came into the foster care system, the age they became free for adoption and the number of days they have been waiting for a family.

Every year these valentines are placed on trees at the Iowa State Capitol. This Valentine's Day, the children decided to send their valentines to the White House, as well. Some of them sent letters to accompany their valentines, letters such as this one: "Dear President: My name is Raleigh. I am 12, I live in Iowa. I like to play football and basketball. I've been waiting 8 years for an adoptive family. I am hoping for a family with pets, a brother and a sister and nice parents."

Let's all work together so that for Raleigh and the thousands of other children waiting in foster care, their dreams will soon come true.

Now let me introduce Acting Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Olivia Golden, who will tell us more about today's report.

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The Washington Times

View Related Topics

February 15, 1997, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part A; NATION; Pg. A2

LENGTH: 521 words

HEADLINE: Clintons propose national effort to help foster-care kids

BYLINE: Cheryl Wetzstein; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

Surrounded by smiling families and several children who hope to be adopted, President Clinton and first lady **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton** proposed a national effort to promote the adoption of children in foster care.

The administration's budget proposes to spend \$149 million on adoption reform over the next three years, according to a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) report released yesterday.

Some of that money would be recouped by savings in foster-care spending.

"The public child-welfare system was created to provide a temporary haven for those children, but not to let them languish forever in foster care," Mr. Clinton said in an Oval Office ceremony after receiving the HHS report called "**Adoption 2002.**"

"Now we have to move quickly to put this plan into action so that no child is deprived of a safe and permanent home for even one day longer than necessary."

The HHS report "makes it clear that foster care should never be a permanent solution. No child should grow up in foster care," Mrs. Clinton said.

The administration's goal is to double the number of foster-care children adopted or placed in permanent homes by 2002. In 1995, only 27,000 out of about 100,000 children in foster care who were free for adoption found such homes.

The HHS estimates there are about 450,000 children in the foster-care system.

The administration's 1998 budget proposes to:

- * Spend \$10 million a year for three years on "technical assistance" to states to speed up adoptions.
- * Make \$108 million available for "per-child bonuses" to states for adoptions. Much of this would be recouped by reduced foster-care spending.
- * Spend \$10 million in 1998 for competitive grants for states to develop model strategies to reform their systems.
- * Spend \$1 million on a public awareness campaign.

The White House also would like to see "permanency planning hearings" for children within one year after they enter foster care and clarifying how long caseworkers must work to reunite families.

"Don't be afraid to adopt teen-agers, because it's very rewarding," said Dennis Krauss of Cleveland,

Ohio, who attended the White House ceremony with wife Debra and 14-year-old adopted daughter Danielle.

"God provided Deanna and God provided us," said Bob Collins as wife Sherada and 15-year-old Deanna stood nearby.

Yesterday was Deanna's second visit to the White House. In 1995 she attended a White House adoption event and read a poem she had written about life in foster care. Mrs. Clinton was so moved by it that she included the poem in her book, "It Takes A Village."

The Collinses read about Deanna and asked to adopt her.

Life has "been great" since, Deanna said yesterday.

But spending a decade in foster care was hard. "Waiting is very difficult," she said.

Rep. Dave Camp, Michigan Republican, yesterday saluted the Clintons' efforts to make adoption a national priority but said streamlining the process is a better priority than making new funding proposals.

Mr. Camp is preparing legislation on adoption with Rep. Barbara B. Kennelly, Connecticut Democrat.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 15, 1997

FOCUSTM

Search: General News;adoption 2002 and hillary w/2 clinton

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

Example: House of Representatives

The Associated Press

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February 14, 1997, Friday, AM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 353 words

HEADLINE: Clintons announce effort to increase adoptions

BYLINE: By RON FOURNIER, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Fretting for children who "languish forever in foster care," President Clinton proposed bonus payments for states that increase their adoption rates.

The proposal was part of his "**Adoption 2002**" campaign designed to double the rate of adoptions in five years.

Surrounded by adopted children, their parents and strings of valentine hearts, the president said Friday, "Putting this plan into action today will mean that we are ensuring that no child will languish forever in foster care when loving families are out there - ready, willing and able to open their hearts and their homes."

"No child should grow up in foster care," added **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, who has supported the cause of foster children for years.

The White House said 450,000 children were in foster care in 1995 and only 20,000 of them have been adopted.

The Clintons accepted the Department of Health and Human Services' goal of placing 54,000 children into new homes by 2002 by reducing bureaucratic barriers to adoption. Department recommendations include:

- Legislation to give states federal dollars for every child that is adopted over a state's prior-year totals. Larger bonuses would be awarded when children with special needs find homes. The White House did not provide further details, though Clinton said savings from foster care costs would pay for the bonuses.
- \$ 10 million for technical assistance and grants for state agencies, courts and communities to help find ways to recruit parents and place children. Specific numerical goals would be set.
- Legislation requiring a court hearing no later than 12 months after a child enters the foster care system. Current law allows 18 months before a hearing.

A bipartisan plan to be introduced in the House would take a similar approach to speeding up adoption hearings.

Earlier this year, a law took effect allowing families with incomes below \$ 115,000 to receive a tax credit of up to \$ 5,000 if they adopt a child. People who adopt hard-to-place youngsters, such as those

who are minorities, older, disabled or have siblings, are eligible for a \$ 6,000 credit.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 14, 1997

FOCUSTM

Search: General News;adoption 2002 and hillary w/2 clinton

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

Example: House of Representatives

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The Washington Times

View Related Topics

February 14, 1997, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part A; NATION; Pg. A10

LENGTH: 520 words

HEADLINE: House committee report finds states' welfare funding ample;
Shrinking caseloads leave more for hard-core jobless

BYLINE: Cheryl Wetzstein; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

Faced with shrinking welfare caseloads and federal mandates to spend welfare funds on welfare recipients, states should have ample funds to move longtime welfare recipients into work, a House committee report said yesterday.

The report was released before top Clinton administration officials came to testify about why \$21 billion in new welfare spending was needed in the 1998 budget.

Yesterday's hearing touched also on the need to encourage adoption of children in foster care. Today, a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) report, "**Adoption 2002**," is scheduled to be presented to President Clinton and first lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton**.

Prior to the hearing before the House Ways and Means subcommittee on human resources, a one-year analysis of Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) caseloads was released.

The analysis showed that between September 1995 and September 1996, AFDC caseloads dropped in 48 states. Twenty states saw double-digit declines.

With 400,000 fewer families on welfare, states will have more money to spend on the remaining families because states get fixed welfare grants regardless of the size of their caseloads, said Rep. E. Clay Shaw Jr., Florida Republican and subcommittee chairman.

"Because of the savings . . . [states] will have much more money to spend in job training to get the hard-core unemployed into the job market," he said.

If states misuse welfare funds by building bridges or schools, "they'll get caught . . . and they'll have to repay the money and a penalty," a GOP aide asserted privately.

Welfare rolls have dropped from 4.6 million families to 4.2 million families. The House committee report projected that the caseload would fall to 3.7 million families by 1998.

The Clinton administration has proposed adding \$21 billion in new welfare spending over the next five years.

Roughly \$14 billion of that is to sustain benefits to low-income elderly legal immigrants who became disabled after they came to the United States, and Medicaid for low-income disabled immigrant children.

Under the welfare law, about 500,000 of the 800,000 legal immigrants enrolled in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cash welfare program are expected to lose their SSI and food stamp benefits beginning this year.

The Clinton proposal would continue SSI for about 320,000 of the 500,000 legal immigrants who are expected to lose benefits.

States have the option to deny legal immigrants Medicaid, but only four states have decided to do that, officials said yesterday.

The administration proposals are to remedy "problems in the welfare reform legislation that are harmful to immigrants and that have nothing to do with promoting the welfare reform goals of moving people from welfare to work," said Olivia A. Golden, a top HHS official.

But subcommittee members offered little hope for expansive change in the welfare law.

"It's going to be really hard to get people to pay for noncitizens' benefits when they are going to be taking away from citizens' programs," said Rep. Robert T. Matsui, California Democrat.

GRAPHIC: Chart, DECLINING WELFARE, By The Washington Times

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 14, 1997

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Search: General News;adoption 2002 and hillary w/2 clinton

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

Example: House of Representatives

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 13, 1997

HHS Delivery of the Adoption 2002 Report

DATE: February 14, 1997
TIME: 12:30 p.m.-1:10 p.m.
LOCATION: The Oval Office
FROM: Bruce Reed

I. Purpose

On December 14, 1996, you directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide within 60 days specific recommendations for strategies to move children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes and to meet the goal of at least doubling adoptions and other permanent placements over the next five years.

At this event, HHS will deliver to you the report, *Adoption 2002*. The report responds to your Executive Memorandum and takes its name from one of its central goals --to double by the year 2002 the number of children adopted or placed in other permanent homes each year.

At the event will be children waiting to be adopted, adopted children and their families, and representatives from HHS. The children will present you with valentines and you and the First Lady will give the children valentines.

II. Background

The Department developed *Adoption 2002* as a blueprint for bipartisan Federal leadership in adoption and other permanency planning for children in the public child welfare system. To prepare this report, the Department of Health and Human Services consulted with child welfare professionals, policy experts, advocates, and foster and adoptive parents at the national, state and local levels.

Adoption 2002 outlines an agenda to help overcome barriers to adoption and to accelerate the path to permanency for all waiting children in the public child welfare system. The report presents strategies to establish, track and meet state-by-state annual, numerical targets for adoptions and other permanent placements -- targets that will bring us to a national doubling of adoptions and permanent placements in the year 2002. To help states reach their targets, the report commits to providing expanded technical assistance, rewarding states for incremental increases in adoption levels with per-child financial bonuses, and otherwise recognizing successful performance. The bonus not only

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	From: Bruce Reed re: HHS Delivery of the Adoption 2002 Report [partial, page 3 in full] (3 pages)	02/13/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

Foster Care and Adoption 1992 to 1997 [Binder] [2]

2013-0534-S

rc1758

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]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

provides an incentive for increasing the number of adoptions, but also pays for itself with the cost of the bonuses offset by savings in foster care costs. *Adoption 2002* also includes a proposal to establish competitive grants available to states for dismantling barriers to permanency.

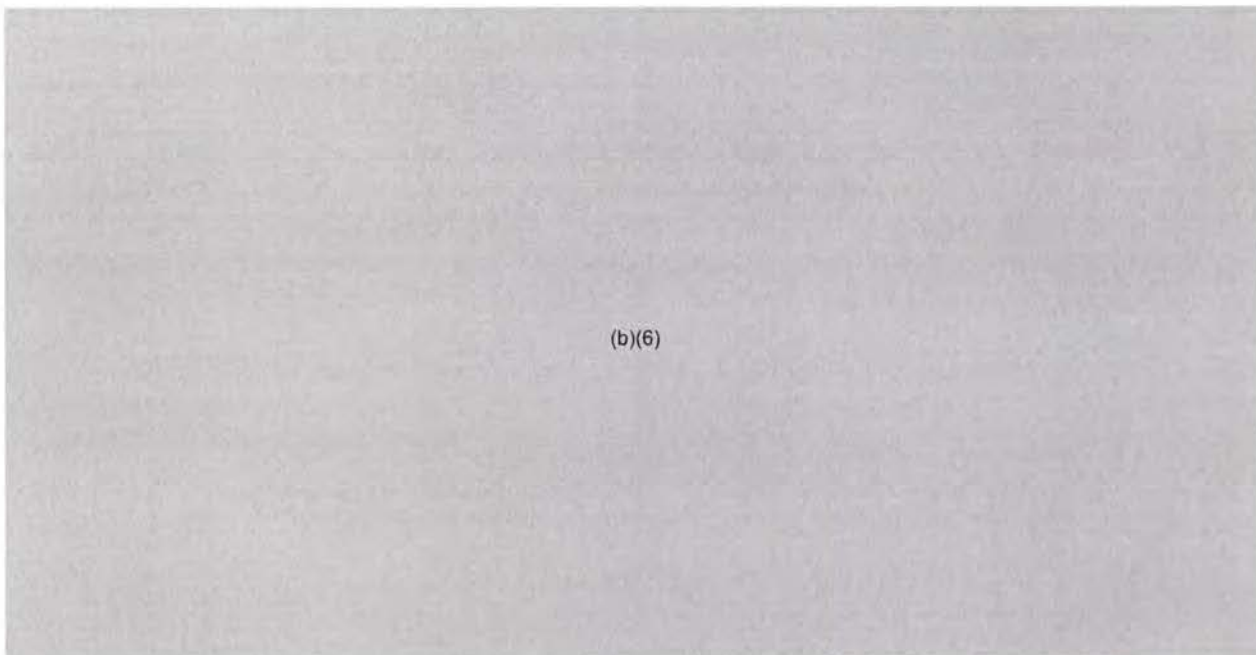
In addition to providing incentives to states to meet new targets, *Adoption 2002* outlines ways in which the Federal government can assume leadership in breaking down barriers to permanency for children in foster care. The Department will issue strong guidance on the implementation of law signed by President Clinton that makes it illegal to deny or delay the placement of a child based on race or ethnicity, and it will outline the penalties for non-compliance.

Perhaps most important, while working with Congress on its legislative proposals that seek to define the "reasonable efforts" provision, the Department will issue guidance that clarifies its meaning. This clarification will make it clear that in determining when to remove a child from his or her family and when to reunify the family, federal law requires that the child's health and safety shall be the paramount concern.

The Department also will issue model guidelines for state legislation to ensure that the child's health and safety is the paramount concern in decisions to terminate parental rights. Furthermore, the *Adoption 2002* urges that the Administration seek legislation that shortens the time before a child's first disposition hearing --the hearing in which a permanency decision is first made --from 18 months to 12 months and changes its name to a "permanency planning hearing."

III. Participants

Children Waiting to be Adopted



(b)(6)

IV. Press Plan

Open press

V. Sequence of Events

- 12:15 p.m.-12:30 p.m., pre-event briefing, Oval Dining Room
- 12:30 p.m., enter Oval Office for event
- First Lady speaks, points out valentines on wall from Iowa children waiting to be adopted (see attachment regarding the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board Valentine Adoptive Child Watch Project)
- Olivia Golden from HHS presents the report to President
- President makes remarks
- First Lady returns to lectern, introduces Deanna Collins (an adopted child) and the Collins Family
- Deanna speaks and presents a valentine to POTUS and FLOTUS
- President and First Lady present children their valentines
- Event concludes

VI. Remarks

Speech writing will give you prepared remarks.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. profile	re: adoption program [partial] (1 page)	02/13/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

Foster Care and Adoption 1992 to 1997 [Binder] [2]

2013-0534-S

rc1758

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**Iowa Citizen's Foster Care Review Board
Valentine Adoptive Watch Project**

DeAnn Jones, Division Administrator
515-242-6392

The Iowa Citizen's Foster Care Review Board is a state agency created in 1984 to monitor the effectiveness of the Iowa foster care system to move children to permanent homes.

The Valentine Adoptive Watch Project is a citizen project created in response to interviews with foster children waiting for adoption. All 1000 waiting Iowa foster children with terminated parental rights are represented by a construction paper heart every Valentine's Day. (In Iowa, there are 5,000 children total in foster care and of those, 1,000 are free for adoption.) The child's story is printed on his or her heart. Those hearts are strung on ribbon and being presented to the President and the First Lady.

Each year when the valentines are made, the children who have been adopted, children who are waiting to be adopted, and citizens volunteering their time, gather at the state capitol to help make the valentines. In getting ready for the event this year, the children decided they wanted the President and the First Lady to know about them. So the children made a special set of valentines to send to the White House so that the President and Mrs. Clinton can see and touch their hearts and know their story of waiting.

Attached is a story of one special boy who has sent the President and Mrs. Clinton a valentine.

(b)(6) His [002]
story is similar to many of the children involved in this program.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. bio	re: National Adoption Exchange (1 page)	02/13/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

Foster Care and Adoption 1992 to 1997 [Binder] [2]

2013-0534-S

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. letter	To the President from child re: adoption (1 page)	02/13/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

Foster Care and Adoption 1992 to 1997 [Binder] [2]

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02/13/97 THU 13:39 FAX 5152818639

ICFCRB

002



Adoptive Child Watch Project



Adoptive Child Watch Project

Teenage Boy

Came into Foster Care System at Age 4Age 6 at TPRNow Age 14Been Waiting 2638 Days

Adoptive Child Watch Project

Preschool Boy

Came into Foster Care System at Age 2Age 3 at TPRNow Age 4Been Waiting 682 Days

Adoptive Child Watch Project

Teenage Girl

Came into Foster Care System at Age 7Age 10 at TPRNow Age 14Been Waiting 2357 Days

Adoptive Child Watch Project

Jr. High Boy

Came into Foster Care System at Age 6Age 7 at TPRNow Age 13Been Waiting 2550 Days

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 14, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY
AT PRESENTATION OF ADOPTION 2002 REPORT

The Oval Office

12:51 P.M. EST

MRS. CLINTON: I want to welcome all of you to the White House and wish you a happy Valentine's Day. I am delighted that we are holding this event on a day when we think about all kinds of love, and we are gathered to announce a plan that we hope can bring the love of a permanent family to the hundreds of thousands of children waiting in our foster care system.

Two months ago the President directed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to investigate the barriers that keep so many of our children in the limbo of foster care. He asked the Secretary to report to him with specific recommendations on how best to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes, and how to meet a national goal of doubling the number of children placed annually in permanent homes by the year 2002.

In a few minutes, Olivia Golden, Acting Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, will present her department's findings to the President. I'm very impressed by the hard work that went into this report. It is based on extensive interviews, surveys and consultations with placement agencies, adoption and child welfare advocates, and social workers nationwide. I'm particularly pleased that careful attention was paid to the thoughts and observations of adoptive and foster parents because they know better than anyone the strengths and shortcomings of our system.

This report makes it very clear that foster care should never be a permanent solution. No child should grow up in foster care. Children deserve prompt, efficient decision-making from the adults who serve them. They deserve schedules for permanent placement that respect their developmental needs. And they deserve federal leadership to make that happen.

Ensuring the safety and timely placement of a child with a permanent loving family should be the mission of our foster care system. But for too many years this mission has been obscured as too many children have literally grown up or spent the majority of their childhoods in the system. They have led transient lives, moving from one foster family to the next, experiencing few constants but growing case files and dreams for permanent families. We can no longer afford these delays.

In recent years we have learned much about the tremendous influence that adults caring for children in their earliest years can have on their intellectual, neurological, and emotional development. Children who have adults to talk to them, read to them, make them feel secure and loved throughout their earliest years will thrive. And we cannot afford to let any child who could be in such a loving situation go without it.

That is why steps to secure permanent, safe, and loving homes for children, whether they are with their biological families

or others, should begin as soon as a child enters the foster care system, not after four days or five months or six years of shuttling from placement to placement.

We have already witnessed important steps to remedy the situation. Two years ago, the President and Congress made it illegal to deny or delay an adoption simply because the adoptive parents and children were not of the same race. Last year, the administration and Congress strengthened that legislation. The President also signed a \$5,000 tax credit for families who adopt. And families who adopt children with special needs can receive \$6,000.

Decorating the Oval Office today are valentines created by some of the 600 children waiting in Iowa in foster care. Each valentine, sponsored by the Iowa Citizens Foster Care Review Board, tells the story of a child waiting to be adopted. The paper hearts list the age the child came into the foster care system, the age the child became free for adoption, and the number of days they have been waiting for a family.

Every year these valentines are placed on trees at the Iowa State Capitol. This Valentine's Day, the children decided to send their valentines to the White House, as well. Some of them sent letters to accompany their valentines -- letters such as this one: "Dear President, my name is Rollie. I am 12. I live in Iowa. I like to play football and basketball. I've been waiting eight years for an adoptive family. I'm hoping for a family with pets, a brother and a sister, and nice parents."

Let's all work together so that Rollie and thousands of other children waiting in foster care can see their dreams come true.

Now, it is my great pleasure to introduce the acting Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, Olivia Golden, who will tell us more about today's report.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOLDEN: Mrs. Clinton, thank you for that introduction and for your leadership. And thank you, Mr. President, for giving us the opportunity to be here today. Secretary Shalala wished she could be here, and it's an honor for me to be here in her place.

Mr. President, in December you told us that you wanted

to double the number of children who are adopted or permanently placed from foster care by the year 2002. You wanted to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes, and you told us to come back in 60 days with a plan for how to do it. Let me tell you what we've done.

To prepare our report to you we consulted with leaders in Congress, in state and local governments, child welfare experts, community leaders and foster and adoptive parents. Hundreds of people talked with us; 200 sent us letters. It was an enormously exciting process, because what we heard was a sense of joy and excitement from all over the country that under the leadership of the President and the First Lady the nation was ready to join together to address this issue. And we learned a tremendous amount from this process. What we learned from this consultation will guide our work on this initiative and on all of our work with children in the child welfare system.

So again, I want to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to do this work.

The report, Adoption 2002, that I have the honor to present today is an action plan to make sure that all of the 450,000 children in foster care have a real chance for a loving, permanent home, and that we're able to meet the President's goal of doubling by the year 2002 the number of children adopted or placed in permanent homes.

Let me give you just a few highlights of the report. The report begins with the 10 principles that we learned from our consultations and that will guide our work. The first, as the First Lady said, is that every child deserves a safe, permanent family. The report commits us to setting goals with every state to double adoptions by the year 2002. And for the first time that we know of in federal child welfare spending, we've put dollars behind results, paying for performance to make sure that states receive incentives if they in fact move ahead on adoption.

The report proposes several major changes in federal legislation to help more children find permanent homes and remove procedural barriers. And it proposes targeted funding for states to help them dismantle procedural and other barriers to permanency. And it proposes activities to break down racial and ethnic barriers to adoption. And finally, the report proposes a comprehensive technical assistance plan to bring the best talent in the nation to help the

courts, state child welfare agencies, community leaders to work together to ensure that children move promptly to a loving permanent home.

What we believe makes this exciting agenda possible is the excitement we've heard from community leaders across the country the partnership and commitment we've received from state and local leaders -- we have support from seven governors for our goals described in the report and we expect many more.

What makes it possible is bipartisan congressional commitment; and, most of all, what makes it possible is the leadership that we've experienced and the nation has experienced from the President and the First Lady. So it's a tremendous honor to be able today to present to you Adoption 2002.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Thank you very much, Olivia. Ladies and gentlemen and boys and girls, thank you all for being here. I also want to say a special word of thanks to some members of Congress who are not here today but who have done an enormous amount of work on this issue, including Senators Rockefeller, Chafee and DeWine, and Congresswoman Kennelly and Congressman Camp.

Let me begin by also saying happy Valentine's Day. All the kids look wonderful. The rest of us look all right, too -- (laughter) -- but the kids look especially wonderful.

I want to thank you, Olivia, for the work you've done. And I want to thank the First Lady for the work she has done on this issue over more than 20 years now. I'll never forget the first conversation we had, shortly we were married, about a case that she had involving a child in foster care who wanted to become an adopted child. I didn't know very much about it before then, and ever since then this issue has been of consuming interest to me because of what I learned through her. And I thank her for that.

We know that our children's fundamental well-being depends upon safety and stability; that without these, children have a very hard time in this complicated, challenging world of ours. We know that far too many of our own children are indeed now in danger in the homes in which they live. The public child welfare system was created to provide a temporary haven for those children, but not to let them languish forever in foster care.

As you heard Olivia say, we have nearly half a million of our children in foster care today. Nearly 100,000 will never return to their original homes. Many of those children still will never know what it's like to live in a real home until they grow up and start their own families. But it does not have to be that way. We can find adoptive and other permanent families for waiting children like these fine children who have joined us today and the children whose valentines you see hanging behind me and here in front.

In December I asked the Department of Health and Human Services to come up with an aggressive legislative and administrative strategy to double the number of children we move from foster care to permanent homes annually by the year 2002, and to move them there much more quickly. I'm proud to say that the Department went to work to produce this blueprint for achieving our goal.

Now we have to move quickly to put this plan into action, so that no child is deprived of a safe and permanent home for even one day longer than necessary. Every agency of every state, every family court, every case worker in the country must understand that children's health and safety are the paramount concerns of the child welfare system, especially when determining whether to remove a child from his or her home, or return them there.

We'll work with Congress to make sure the law explicitly reflects this priority. We'll issue guidelines to the states so there will be no question as to the law's meaning.

Second, to meet the goal of moving 54,000 children into permanent homes in 2002, we'll work with states and set yearly targets. We'll give them, as my balanced budget does, \$10 million a year for the next three years to give them the assistance they need to state agencies, courts and communities to devise such a system. We'll also have \$10 million to establish competitive grants for states to develop model strategies for moving children from foster care to permanent families.

Third, we'll propose legislation to give states bonuses, as Olivia said, for every child that is adopted over the prior year's total, with even larger bonuses when the child has special needs. The balanced budget will start paying for these bonuses, but we know they'll pay for themselves, since foster care costs far more than adoption. This isn't just cost effective -- of course, it's the

right thing to do.

Fourth, to achieve our goal of moving children more quickly, we'll work with Congress to shorten from 18 to 12 months the time a child waits for the first hearing. And we're going to call it a permanency planning hearing, so that there's no mistake as to its purpose.

Fifth, to give credit for model strategies that are working, we'll give national awards for excellence every year in November, National Adoption Month.

Finally, we'll redouble our efforts to make sure no child of one race is deprived of a loving home when a family of another race is prepared to give it. That is illegal and wrong and often hurts our very neediest children. The Department of Health and Human Services will continue to ensure that states are meeting their obligations under this law.

Putting this plan into action today will mean that we are ensuring that no child will languish in foster care when loving families are out there ready, willing and able to open their hearts and their homes. This is just one part of our strategy to guarantee the well-being of our most vulnerable children. By giving states the flexibility to develop their own strategies, we're moving closer to achieving that goal.

I'm proud to announce that we have approved Ohio's request for a waiver in dealing with their child welfare system. This is the fifth of its kind, and there will be more to come. It gives Ohio the authority to design and to test a managed care approach to improve child welfare services and move children out of foster care more quickly.

By working together across party lines at every level of government, in businesses, religious groups, communities, and in our homes, we can make sure that every child in America grows up in a safe and nurturing home. That is a goal every American should be proud to support. That is a gift of love we can make to all of our children. And if you look at the children here today, it's hard to think of anything more important we could be doing to say, Happy Valentine's Day.

Thank you. (Applause.)

INTRODUCTION

This report follows up on the Department of Health and Human Services's (HHS) 1997 report to the President entitled *Adoption 2002*, which provided a bold blueprint of recommendations for reaching the President's ambitious goal of doubling the number of adoptions from the nation's child welfare system in the year 2002. Today, just two years later, the Department is delighted to report that:

- The number of adoptions from the public child welfare system nationwide has already increased from 28,000 in 1996 to 36,000 in 1998, fully on track for the President's target of 56,000 in the year 2002.
- The President signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA), bipartisan legislation that incorporates many of the critical recommendations from the 1997 blueprint.
- Across the country, with leadership and support from HHS, States, courts and adoption agencies are moving rapidly not only to implement the national legislation but also to develop creative ways to overcome barriers and move children to loving permanent homes as rapidly as possible.
- Adoption is more accessible and affordable to families, because of the Family and Medical Leave Act and the investments in adoption assistance and in adoption tax credits made under this Administration.

These results are especially impressive because, like the *Adoption 2002* report, this report focuses on a specific group of the nation's most vulnerable children: approximately 110,000 children in the nation's public foster care system who cannot return safely to their own homes and need adoptive families if they are ever to experience a safe, loving, permanent home. Many of these children have "special needs", that is, characteristics which have historically made them more difficult to place in adoptive homes. For example, they may be older children rather than infants, children who are part of a sibling group, children of minority heritage, or children who have physical, intellectual, or emotional disabilities. Yet in response to the call by the President and the Congress for a clear commitment to permanent, loving homes for all children, we are proud to report that the response across the nation has been extraordinary.

The remainder of this report outlines the four strategies that we believe lie behind the results reported here:

- Aiming high and ensuring accountability for results;
- Reforming national and State legislative frameworks to remove barriers to adoption;
- Supporting and rewarding innovation; and
- Making adoption more accessible and affordable for families.

In addition, the appendix provides a detailed chart of the recommendations from the *Adoption 2002* report with their completion dates.

AIMING HIGH AND ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RESULTS

The President set an ambitious goal for this Administration: to increase the number of children adopted out of the public child welfare system to 56,000 adoptions in the year 2002. Each year since the national commitment to the goal, the number of adoptions has risen. In 1997, the total number of adoptions rose to 31,000 from 28,000 in 1996. In 1998, we are pleased to announce that States achieved 36,000 adoptions. This represents an unprecedented 29 percent increase in the number of adoptions nationwide over a three-year period (FY 1996-FY 1998).

As recommended in *Adoption 2002*, the Department followed up on the national goal by working with State partners to develop individual State goals that would add up to a national doubling of adoptions. For many States, the outcome focus has become a central part of their own approach to adoption. Iowa, for instance, has put in place a system to track key measures for the adoption program on a monthly basis and to closely monitor progress towards outcome goals. This outcome focus, a renewed utilization of adoption specialists and other targeted efforts, has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of adoptions in Iowa.

In addition, the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) provided an extraordinary new tool for focusing the nation and individual States on adoption outcomes. As a result of the commitment of the President and strong bipartisan Congressional leadership, ASFA included the first-ever outcome-based financial award in the child welfare field: an incentive to States to increase the number of adoptions for children waiting in the foster care system. The bonuses -- up to \$4,000 per child and \$6,000 for each child with special needs -- are awarded for States that exceed the number of children adopted compared to the previous year. States are to use these awards to further improve services, including post-adoption services, that are provided to children and families in the foster care system.

In FY 1999, 35 States will receive a share of the \$20 million in adoption incentive awards based on their FY 1998 performance. The numbers of adoptions have increased so dramatically, that, as specified in the law, we have made prorated adjustments in the awards to States. In this first award of bonuses, the 1998 numbers are compared to a 3-year average baseline. The 35 States are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. The following table indicates the increases in adoption by State.

FY 1998 ADOPTION INCENTIVE BONUSES

State	3-yr average baseline ¹	FY 98 Adoptions	% Increase	Bonus ²
Arkansas	138	251	82%	\$280,320
California	3,287	3,958	20%	\$1,841,837
Colorado	417	560	34%	\$419,540
Connecticut	207	229	11%	\$41,390
Florida	987	1,549	57%	\$1,290,603
Georgia	493	672	36%	\$449,642
Hawaii	85	297	249%	\$518,311
Illinois	2,200	4,656	112%	\$6,869,733
Indiana	495	774	56%	\$842,843
Iowa	350	517	48%	\$371,566
Maine	108	112	4%	\$11,288
Maryland	342	420	23%	\$317,947
Massachusetts	1,116	1,137	2%	\$39,508
Michigan	1,905	2,254	18%	\$942,554
Minnesota	258	427	66%	\$480,684
Mississippi	114	169	48%	\$187,194
Missouri	557	616	11%	\$110,999
Montana	115	144	25%	\$54,559
New Hampshire	45	50	11%	\$9,407
New Jersey	621	755	22%	\$409,193
New Mexico	147	197	34%	\$94,067
New York	4,716	4,822	2%	\$199,423
North Dakota	47	83	77%	\$67,728
Oklahoma	338	456	35%	\$280,320
Oregon	445	665	49%	\$586,980
Pennsylvania	1,224	1,494	22%	\$592,624
South Carolina	256	465	82%	\$500,438
South Dakota	56	58	4%	\$3,763
Texas	880	1,365	55%	\$1,350,806
Utah	225	250	11%	\$47,034
Vermont	75	116	55%	\$100,652
Washington	607	759	25%	\$291,609
West Virginia	182	211	16%	\$60,203
Wisconsin	467	589	26%	\$301,015

¹ Based on FY 1995 - 1997

² As specified in ASFA of 1997, HHS has made pro-rated adjustments in the awards to States.

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Wyoming

15

30

100%

\$28,220

Source: HHS Administration for Children and Families

REFORMING NATIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ADOPTION

In order to create the broad-based changes that were needed to support the President's goal, the Administration and a broad bipartisan majority in the Congress, made significant changes in the legislative framework that undergirds the child welfare system.

In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997, a legislative milestone for child welfare reform. The key provisions of the Act closely followed the central recommendations of *Adoption 2002* to ensure that children's safety is paramount in child welfare decision-making, that foster care is a temporary setting and not a place for children to grow up, and that the speed of decision-making in the child welfare system respects a child's developmental needs and sense of time. Key provisions in the law shorten the time frame for making permanency planning decisions, establish a time frame for initiating proceedings to terminate parental rights, clarify reasonable efforts, and call for every State to ensure that its laws and regulations comply with the new provisions, so that children in the State's child welfare system are able to move to permanent placements or adoptive homes more quickly. To date, 49 States and Puerto Rico have made the required changes.

As States move to reform their own legislation, policy, and practice to come into compliance with ASFA and meet their adoption goals, the Department has played a forceful role in both holding States accountable for the rapid change called for in ASFA and supporting them, through hands-on assistance, information, and expertise. For example:

- To provide State policy-makers in general and State legislators in particular with information that would help them reform their own State legislative frameworks, the Department convened a cross-disciplinary group of experts who produced Guidelines for Public Policy and State Legislation Governing Permanence for Children. The guidelines are a technical assistance tool reflecting the best thinking of child welfare administrators, lawyers, judges, advocates and front-line workers. This document offers guidelines and model legislation that are intended to help those at the State and local levels examine their current processes and consider new directions to promote permanency.
- To help local and State experts share information and solutions, the Department convened ten technical assistance conferences across the country focused on ASFA implementation.
- To help States work on the implementation of ASFA, the Department increased training and technical assistance to States regarding ASFA implementation through the Adoption Information Clearinghouse and the Child Welfare Resource Centers.

Another key element of these reforms is the elimination of racial and ethnic barriers to adoption required by the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA), and the Inter-ethnic Adoption Provisions (IEP), enacted as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. These laws ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity. In order to support the success of the provisions, the Department has issued guidance and provided training and technical assistance that has helped the States in the implementation of this legislation. The Children's Bureau and the Office of Civil Rights at HHS have worked closely at the national and regional levels to help States examine their legislation and administrative practices to make sure they are in compliance with these laws.

SUPPORTING AND REWARDING INNOVATION

The Department recognizes that broad-based reform must happen at all levels – in federal legislation and policy, in State legislatures, in local court systems, and with public and private child welfare agency managers and line workers around the country. Creative leaders and programs throughout the country are working to ensure that foster care is a short term safe haven for children as they move into a stable, permanent home. The Department has worked to spark new models by giving States the flexibility to test new practices through its child welfare waiver system and by funding innovations through its grant programs and specialized technical assistance. We have captured the spirit of the success stories and promoted their replication through our Adoption Incentives Bonuses and Adoption Excellence Awards.

The Administration also forged partnerships with States to launch child welfare waiver demonstration projects, which allow States to test and evaluate child welfare service delivery and financing strategies. The Department approved seventeen child welfare waiver demonstrations in FY 1997 and 1998 and will expect to approve up to eight by the end of FY 1999. The Department encouraged States to focus on adoption and post-adoptive services, to ensure that adoptive placements are successful and prevent re-entry into the foster care system. Maine, for instance, will provide training on special-needs adoption to mental health and other professionals that work with adoptive families, adoptable children, and public and private adoption providers, and subsequently provide post-adoptive services.

The Department also has provided financial support to stimulate innovation in State and private child welfare agencies and with other key child welfare partners, including court systems.

- The Adoption Opportunities Program, increased by \$10 million in FY 1998, funds a variety of service innovations that seek not only to increase the number of adoptions, but also to support the success of adoptive placements. In FY 1999, the Department is awarding grants to recruit

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more minority adoptive families; to test new innovations in the placement of sibling groups, children with disabilities, and adolescents; and to provide post-legal adoptive services to prevent adoption disruptions. The Program also funds work to improve the system for interstate placement of children.

- The Promoting Safe and Stable Families program (formerly known as the Family Preservation and Support Services), signed into law in 1993, was revised to allow States to use the funds to promote and support adoptions.
- The Department's Court Improvement Program (CIP) provides funding to State courts to improve the handling of foster care and adoption proceedings. The CIP has strengthened the focus on judicial decision-making and the key role that courts play in attaining safe, permanent homes for children.

In response to the President's request to recognize the numerous changes in policy and practice that bolster adoptions, the Department established the annual Adoption Excellence Awards. For the past two years, the Department has honored those States, organizations, businesses, individuals and others who have demonstrated excellence in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care. Winners have exhibited tireless commitment and creativity in recruiting adoptive families and moving children to permanent placement more quickly. Eight winners were recognized in 1998 and thirteen in 1997.

•The 1998 winners were: Tim O'Hanlon, Ohio North American Council on Adoptable Children, OH; Governor James and Brenda Edgar, IL; Georgia Department of Human Resources, GA; Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Hope for the Children, Inc., IL; Three Rivers Adoption Council, PA; Kansas Association of Broadcasters, KS; and Judge Max Baer, PA.

•The 1997 winners were: North American Council on Adoptable Children, MN; Resources for Adoptive Parents, MN; Athens County Children's Services, OH; National Adoption Center, PA; Jack Williams, Senior News Anchor for WBZ-TV 4, MA; Sherry Coy, Adoptive Mother, NV; The Badeau Family, PA; The Scott Family, AZ; The Neal Family, NC; Wendy's International and Dave Thomas Foundation, OH; South Carolina Families for Kids; and Lucas County Children's Services, OH.

Finally, at the President's request, the Department is exploring innovations in the use of technology to increase adoptions. In 1998, the President directed HHS to develop a plan to expand use of the internet to share information about children who are legally free for adoption in order to shorten the time needed to find them adoptive families. An effective national registry will help to break down geographic barriers to adoption and assist in meeting the President's adoption goal. HHS will launch a national web site by September 2001, working with States, some of whom have already launched internet registries, to reach all children who need a home and eliminate the delays in interstate adoptions.

MAKING ADOPTION MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES

The Administration has taken a several steps to make adoption more affordable for families and to support the formation of adoptive families. In 1993, President Clinton acted to help new adoptive families through the Family and Medical Leave Act, which enabled parents to take time off to adopt a child without fear of losing their jobs or health insurance coverage. The Administration also has secured important financial support for adoptive families. In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision has alleviated a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive, and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who were adopted with federal adoption assistance has risen by over 60 percent. In addition, adoptive families are eligible to receive the \$500 per-child tax credit, which President Clinton enacted in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

ON TRACK TO MEET OUR GOALS:

The early progress of the *Adoption 2002* Initiative is an example of the way that an ambitious, common goal can galvanize a system to create widespread change. The challenges in the child welfare system are daunting. More than 520,000 of America's children live in our nation's foster care system. Our most recent data indicate that the average time that these children are in out-of-home care is 2 years and 9 months. These sobering statistics underscore the need to continue the significant progress that has been made to date to move our country's most vulnerable children into safe, permanent, and loving homes more quickly.

The Administration also is working with Congress on another critical front to protect children for whom the child welfare system is not able to secure adoption and permanency. The President's Independent Living proposal aims to help the nearly 20,000 young people who leave foster care each year, having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. The Independent Living Program, run through the States, assists older foster care children with the transition to independence by helping them earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills, like budgeting and securing housing and employment. Bipartisan legislation to increase funding for the Independent Living Program, and provide health coverage for these young people to the age of 21, is moving through the 106th Congress.

The President recognized the critical importance of this issue when he challenged us all to undertake the *Adoption 2002* Initiative, with a goal that was bold enough to require

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fundamental changes throughout the child welfare system. In response, all of the partners in the system have demonstrated a commitment which has put the country confidently on track to meet the President's goal of our target of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. At the federal level, we have exercised leadership by creating a policy framework for child welfare reform, promoting and rewarding innovations at all levels, and providing financial assistance to individual families who choose to adopt. States and localities have responded by taking advantage of federal flexibility to design and implement policies that support permanence and adoptions and services that recruit adoptive families and provide ongoing support for adoptive placements. Moreover, non-profits and foundations have served as important partners in working to promote permanency, serving as contractors for the States, independent advocates for children and families, and sponsors of critical activities such as research for the National Adoption Exchange. Together, we have made tremendous progress in ensuring the safety, permanence, and well-being of our most vulnerable children.

APPENDIX A: ACHIEVEMENT OF ADOPTION 2002 RECOMMENDATIONS

Adoption 2002 Recommendations	Actions Completed	Description
Increase the Number of Adoptions	√	Numerical targets leading to a doubling of adoptions over five years were set at the National and State levels. Adoptions are up 38% from FY 1995 to FY 1998, keeping us on track to reach our goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002.
Provide Technical Assistance to States and Communities	√	Ten regional conferences were held in 1998, as well as technical assistance on drafting the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) State legislative requirements. The eight Resources Centers funded by the Children's Bureau, including the Resource Centers on Permanency Planning and Special Needs Adoptions, have provided critical information and expertise to the States.
Provide Financial Incentives	√	In September 1999, \$20 million was awarded to 35 States that successfully increased adoptions in FY 1998.
Implement the Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA)	√	Guidance was issued in June 1997 and significant training and technical assistance was provided by the Children's Bureau and Office of Civil Rights to at least 40 States. The Office of Civil Rights has reviewed all State policies and practices for MEPA compliance and continues to work with States to ensure the appropriateness of any law changes in this area.
Track the Progress of States	√	Through the Adoption Incentives component of ASFA, the Department is collecting data through the Adoption and Foster Care Automated Reporting System and reporting on State progress.
Recognize Successful States	√	The Department initiated the Adoption Excellence Awards in 1997 to honor States, organizations, businesses, and individuals who have demonstrated excellence in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care. Eight winners were recognized in 1998 and thirteen in 1997.

Promote Permanency for Children who Cannot Return Home	√	The enactment of the ASFA of 1997 was a major achievement in promoting permanency for children. As of September 1999, 49 States and Puerto Rico have passed legislation to comply with ASFA. With \$10 million in additional funding for the Adoption Opportunities program, the Department has increased training and technical assistance to the States, and has supported new initiatives to achieve increased adoptions of children in foster care, provide post-legal adoptive services and build effective collaborations for timely adoptions. Finally, ASFA extended the Court Improvement Program for an additional three years. The Department has supported State efforts, and in early 1999, the Department issued a program instruction to help clarify elements of the program.
Address Permanency Planning Earlier Through Timely Hearings	√	The Department's proposed regulation (published September 1998) expands on the provisions in ASFA that called for immediate permanency planning and shorter timeframes for hearings. The Children's Bureau also convened a group of experts from throughout the field to draft <i>Guidelines for Public Policy and State Legislation Governing Permanence for Children</i> , which were published in June 1999.
Clarify "Reasonable Efforts" and Other Federal Policies Related to Permanency and Safety	√	Both the ASFA legislation and the Department's proposed regulations have clarified "reasonable efforts" and other elements of promoting permanency.
Set Standards for Securing Permanency	√	The ASFA legislation and subsequent Department proposed regulations require "reasonable efforts" to secure a permanent home for a child in foster care and clarify that plans for reunification and for alternate permanency options can be concurrent. The Department also encouraged States to use the Federal Parent Locator Service through the publication of an Information Memorandum in January 1999.
Examine Alternative Forms of Permanency	√	Seven states and the District of Columbia have waivers to examine assisted guardianship/kinship permanence. In addition, a group of experts has convened several times in 1999 around kinship care issues and a report to Congress is pending.

ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE, AND SENATE ADOPTION/CHILD WELFARE PROPOSALS

Adoption 2002 Report	H.R. 867 (Camp-Kennelly)	S. 511 (Chafee, Rockefeller, et al)
Work with States on numerical goals and targets to double the number of adoptions and other permanent placements by 2002.	No additional legislative authority needed.	No additional legislative authority needed.
Provide technical assistance to State agencies, courts and communities to improve the timeliness of permanency decisions and to increase the number of adoptions and other permanent placements.	Technical assistance authority (Sec. 12)	No provision.
Financial incentives to states to increase the number of adoptions from the public child welfare system (per child bonuses).	Per child bonuses to states (Sec. 4)	No provision.
Continued aggressive implementation of the Multiethnic Placement Act, as amended.	No additional legislative authority needed.	No additional legislative authority needed.
Publish an annual State-by-State report on success in meeting numerical targets for adoption.	Annual report on States' performance (Sec. 10)	No provision.
Recognize successful state efforts.	No additional legislative authority needed.	No additional legislative authority needed.
Provide States with funding to identify and remove barriers to permanency and adoption.	No provision.	Section 401 authorizes 5 year grants to reduce backlogs/barriers regarding adoptions. Authorizes a new funding stream under IV-E (to be section 478) with up to \$50 million for these grants.
Clarify the purpose of dispositional hearings by renaming them permanency planning hearings and shorten the timeframe until such a hearing is required from 18 months to 12 months.	Dispositional hearing renamed as permanency planning hearing. (Sec. 5) Require permanency planning hearing no later than 12 months after a child is in care (rather than 18). (Sec. 5)	Same provision, section 302

ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE, AND SENATE ADOPTION/CHILD WELFARE PROPOSALS

Adoption 2002 Report	H.R. 867 (Camp-Kennelly)	S. 511 (Chafee, Rockefeller, et al)
Clarify "reasonable efforts" requirements and recognize more clearly that in some cases no efforts are reasonable.	Clarify reasonable efforts by requiring each state to define legislatively the categories of aggravated circumstances under which reasonable efforts <i>are not required</i> . In addition to the State's list, the circumstances listed in the CAPTA bill would not require reasonable efforts, nor would efforts be required if parental rights to a sibling had previously been terminated involuntarily. The provision further notes that child safety should be the paramount consideration in determining reasonable efforts. (Sec. 2)	Adds language on safety similar although not identical to H.R. 867. (Sec. 102) Also adds safety language to provisions regarding the contents of case plans and requirements for case reviews. (Sec. 103)
Establish a reasonable efforts requirement to secure an adoptive home when reunification has been ruled out.	Requires reasonable efforts to find an adoptive home or other permanent living arrangement if reunification is not pursued. (Sec. 2) Section 7 requires that reasonable efforts to find an adoptive home must be documented.	Requires reasonable efforts to find an adoptive home or other permanent living arrangement (Sec. 301)
Encourage States to use the Federal Parent Locator Service to locate absent parents and relatives who might provide a permanent home for the child and to terminate parental rights when appropriate.	Use of Parent Locator Service in TPR cases (Sec. 9)	No provision.
Increase the number of child welfare demonstration waivers.	Increase from 10 to 15 the number of child welfare demonstration waivers (Sec. 11). An amendment added on the House floor provides that one of the additional demonstrations must be on the subject of kinship care.	Identical provision, Section 402.

ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE, AND SENATE ADOPTION/CHILD WELFARE PROPOSALS

Adoption 2002 Report	H.R. 867 (Camp-Kennelly)	S. 511 (Chafee, Rockefeller, et al)
A variety of steps are proposed to encourage timely decision making, but no specific deadlines for TPRs are proposed.	Require states to file a TPR petition or join TPR proceedings after a child under 10 years old has been in foster care 18 of the past 24 months unless (1) at the state's option, if the child is in relative care; (2) a State court or State agency has determined there are compelling reasons why TPR is not in the child's best interests; or (3) the State has not provided the services the State deems appropriate. (Sec. 3)	No provision.
Not addressed.	Foster parents must be provided notice of and an opportunity to be heard in reviews and hearings. (Sec. 6)	No provision.
Suggests this is an issue that needs further study. Commits to establishing kinship demonstration projects as provided for in the reauthorized CAPTA legislation.	Required report and recommendations on kinship care. (Sec. 8)	No provision.
Not addressed.	An amendment added on the House floor provides that states <i>may</i> conduct criminal background checks of prospective foster and adoptive parents and group home staff.	Section 205 requires States to conduct criminal background checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents and for staff of group care homes.
Not addressed.	Report to Congress on coordination of substance abuse and child protection/child welfare services. (Sec. 13)	Section 201 requires HHS to prepare an inventory of federal programs providing substance abuse prevention and treatment to families receiving child welfare services, and requires a Report to Congress on issues in providing such services.
Not addressed.	No provision.	Section 104 requires each state to implement a child death review team, and requires a federal child death review team to investigate deaths on military bases and Indian Reservations.

ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE, AND SENATE ADOPTION/CHILD WELFARE PROPOSALS		
Adoption 2002 Report	H.R. 867 (Camp-Kennelly)	S. 511 (Chafee, Rockefeller, et al)
Not addressed.	No provision.	Section 202 amends the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant to broaden the current preference for services to pregnant women to include also parents with children who have been referred to treatment by child welfare agencies.
Not addressed.	No provision.	Section 203 allows foster care payments on behalf of children living in residential treatment programs with their mothers.
HHS will "review and may revise the title IV-E training regulations to assure a comprehensive approach to child welfare training."	No provision.	Section 204 broadens the use of foster care training funds for training collaborating agencies on child protection/child welfare issues.
Not addressed.	No provision.	Section 206 requires States to develop and implement guidelines for out of home care akin to accreditation.
Not addressed.	No provision.	Section 303 revises adoption assistance eligibility so that birth families' low income is not an eligibility requirement. In addition, the bill makes immigrant children in the care of state/tribal child welfare agencies and who otherwise meet IV-E requirements eligible for adoption assistance. (Essentially exempts adoption assistance from the immigrant provisions of the welfare reform bill.)
Not addressed.	No provision.	Section 304 expands the definition of IV-E maintenance payments to include a year's reunification services.
Proposes technical assistance to support the development of collaboratives that encourage placements across geographical boundaries.	No provision.	Section 305 requires HHS to study interjurisdictional adoption issues.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION RECORD ON ADOPTION

"We must work tirelessly to make sure that every boy and girl in America who is up for adoption has a family waiting up to reach him or her. No child should be in foster care for one day longer than he or she needs to be." -- President Clinton, Radio Address, December 12, 1996

President Clinton is pursuing an ambitious legislative and administrative agenda to move children more rapidly from foster care to safe, permanent homes. This agenda is laid out in a report submitted to the President on February 14, 1997 by the Department of Health and Human Services, in response to an Executive Memorandum signed by President Clinton on December 14, 1996. The report, entitled "Adoption 2002," takes its name from one of the President's central goals -- to at least double by the year 2002, the number of children adopted or permanently placed each year. "Adoption 2002" is a blueprint for bipartisan federal leadership in adoption and other permanency planning for children in the public child welfare system.

The President's action plan includes new assistance to states to set and meet urgent new adoption targets, as well as clarification, through legislation and guidelines to states, the laws, such as the "reasonable efforts" standard, that govern whether and when to remove a child from his or her family and when to reunify them. The plan also provides sensible financial incentives to states to increase adoption rates and technical assistance for states, courts and communities to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes.

The Clinton Administration has previously taken several important steps to encourage and increase adoptions and to support the families that choose to open their hearts and their homes to these children. Since taking office in 1993, the President has championed programs that find and assist adopting families, and has committed his Administration to breaking down barriers, including high adoption costs and complex regulations. These steps include:

MAKING ADOPTION AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES

In August, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 which provides a \$5000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This policy will alleviate a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who were adopted with Federal adoption assistance has risen by 60 percent.

BREAKING DOWN RACIAL AND ETHNIC BARRIERS TO ADOPTION

Strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which the President signed in 1994, the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 also ensures that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity.

PROVIDING SUPPORTS FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND ADOPTION

In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act which enables parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their job or health insurance. In addition, the welfare reform bill that the President signed into law maintains the guarantee of child protection and adoption, and does not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, foster care and adoption services.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Through speeches, writings, events and public service announcements, the President and First Lady have promoted the importance and benefits of adoption.

DEANNA COLLINS
REMARKS

A year and half ago, when I came to the White House, I was still in foster care, and shared with you, Mrs. Clinton, my dream for a home of my own. My dream has come true, and this is my first Valentine's Day with my family -- my parents are standing here with me. Thank you, Mr. President, for doing all you can to make it possible for more children to be adopted and be adopted quickly, because waiting is very difficult. Please remember, as you are making policy, that the children who are waiting are counting on you.

Happy Valentine's Day, I have Valentines to give to you and Mrs. Clinton.

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to take this opportunity to report on the notable progress that we have made in the past few years to increase the number of children moved from our nation's foster care system into adoptive and permanent homes.

In December of 1996, you laid out ambitious goals for the adoption of vulnerable children. You also called on the Department of Health and Human Services to devise ways to make adoption easier and faster, to move more children out of the foster care system and into safe, permanent and loving homes. Central to these efforts was the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, designed both to remove barriers to adoption and to provide incentives to the States for increasing the number of children adopted each year. The Department responded with the Adoption 2002 report, which outlined specific recommendations on how to achieve the goals that you laid out for the country's child welfare system. We are happy to report that we are already seeing significant results from the implementation of those recommendations.

Because of your strong commitment to these goals, the unwavering dedication of the First Lady, diligent work here at the Department, bipartisan congressional leadership and truly outstanding efforts by State and local adoption agencies, we are well on our way toward meeting your goal of doubling the number of adoptions and permanent placements for these children by 2002. In fact, the total number of adoptions rose to over 36,000 in 1998 from 28,000 in 1996. We are especially pleased to announce today that thirty-five States earned adoption incentive awards for their exceptional achievements.

While we recognize and applaud these successful efforts, it is also important to underscore that more work needs to be done. The Department is committed to continuing to work in partnership with the States to promote adoption and improve our child welfare system, giving our nation's most vulnerable children what every child deserves – a safe, stable home and a loving family environment.

Sincerely,

Donna E. Shalala

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NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION

4/15/97

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1997
FINAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

LEAD ADVANCE:	DAVID NESLEN	
ADOPTION EVENT	WHCA	4101
 PRESS ADVANCE:	 SAM MYERS, JR	
ADOPTION EVENT	703/591-0333	Home
 SCHEDULER:	 JOHN FUNDERBURK	
	202/456-5315	Office
	202/456-5340	Fax
	202/244-7969	Home
	WHCA	4461

PREV RON	The White House
 1:30 pm -	 PRIVATE MEETING
1:50 pm	Map Room
	CLOSED PRESS\NO WH PHOTO
 2:00 pm -	 PRIVATE MEETING
2:30 pm	Map Room
	CLOSED PRESS\NO WH PHOTO
 3:00 pm -	 PRESCRIPTION FOR READING EVENT
3:30 pm	Roosevelt Room
	OPEN PRESS\NETWORK POOL

FORMAT:

- HRC opens and introduces Dr. Robert Hannemann (President, Academy of Pediatrics)
- Dr. Robert Hannemann makes brief remarks and introduces Barry Zuckerman (Founder, Reach Out & Read)
- Barry Zuckerman makes brief remarks and introduces Dick Robinson (Scholastic Representative)
- Dick Robinson makes brief remarks and closes.

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005. schedule	Schedule for Hillary Rodham Clinton [partial] (1 page)	04/16/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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FOLDER TITLE:

Foster Care and Adoption 1992 to 1997 [Binder] [2]

2013-0534-S

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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]
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Ann O'Leary
06/06/2000 05:57:14 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Lissa Muscatine/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: HRC Column 9/29/99

On adoption...

----- Forwarded by Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP on 06/06/2000 05:57 PM -----



Eric E. Massey
09/29/99 08:57:44 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

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Subject: HRC Column 9/29/99

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1999, AND THEREAFTER

For more than 25 years, as an advocate and an attorney, I have worked to address the challenges of foster care and adoption. I've represented foster children and their prospective parents in court, and I've sought changes in laws that discourage adoptions. I've listened to social workers, judges, police officers and parents frustrated by the red tape that so often keeps them from sharing their lives with the children who badly need their love. And I've listened to the children themselves -- children who have spent the precious years of their childhoods feeling alone and unloved, moving from home to home. Since my husband was elected, we have worked together to devise a strategy to reform the foster care system in this country. Giving every child the chance to live in a stable and secure environment -- to have a permanent and loving home -- has been at the heart of our efforts. The first bill my husband signed into law was the Family and Medical Leave Act, which helps new parents, including adoptive parents, carve out the time they need to care for their new children. The President also signed and strengthened the Multiethnic Placement Act, which put an end to racial discrimination in adoption.

We have made adoptions more affordable, putting in place tax credits for new adoptive families. And we're taking steps to use the Internet more effectively to help match waiting children with loving homes. In 1996, we set an ambitious national goal -- to double the number of children adopted annually, from 28,000 to 56,000, by the year 2002. In order to meet this goal, we worked with members of Congress to pass bipartisan legislation that dramatically reduced the amount of time children spend in foster care. Under this bill, for example, no child waits longer than 12 months -- down from 18 months -- before a court considers permanent placement. The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 also removed barriers to adoption, and for the first time, provided financial incentives to encourage states to increase the number of children adopted each year. Last week, we were pleased to receive a report from the Department of

Health and Human Services indicating that our strategy -- and these laws -- are working. For the first time since the foster care program was created 20 years ago, the number of adoptions from the system has risen dramatically. In fact, since 1996, the total number of adoptions has risen 29 percent. Last week, the President awarded adoption incentive bonuses, totaling \$20 million, to 35 states -- including Illinois, where placements more than doubled -- for their exceptional achievement. But there's more we need to do. Under current law, foster children who turn 18 are forced to leave the system, without the support they might need to make the transition to independence. With broad bipartisan support, the House of Representatives has passed a bill that would allow these young people to remain on Medicaid until the age of 21, and give them extra help in finishing high school, going to college, and finding work and a place to live. It's time for the Senate to pass a companion bill for the President to sign. Every time I need inspiration for our fight to strengthen and increase adoption in America, I think of Deanna Collins. Four years ago, with her eyes downcast and her shoulders slumped forward, Deanna stood at a podium in the East Room of the White House. In a quiet voice, she told the audience about her dream of living in a place she could call home, with a room of her own, and a family she could love. Not long after that visit, Deanna's dream came true, and it's been my privilege to watch as adoption has transformed her life. With the love of her parents and the confidence that comes from knowing she will always have a place to call home, she is thriving. A senior in high school, she plans to go to college next year and major in social work. I think of Sue and Hector Badeau, who have adopted 22 children. I think of Virginia Williams who, many years ago, opened her heart and her home to a 3-year-old boy who had been declared unadoptable and was institutionalized by his state. Today, that boy is the mayor of Washington, D.C., Anthony Williams. Finally, I think of Dawn Keane, who with her husband, Steve, adopted two children last May. Last week at the White House, she said, "Families who have adopted know that these children are special gifts from God, and that they enrich our lives in more ways than we could ever have imagined. I know that there are more than 100,000 children in the country still waiting to find families. Our hope is that all of these children can become someone's special gift." That is my hope as well. To find out more about Hillary Rodham Clinton and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 1999 CREATORS SYNDICATE,

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Message Sent To:

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES FIRST ADOPTION BONUS AWARDS TO STATES, UNVEILS REPORT THAT SHOWS ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY IS WORKING

September 24, 1999

Today, the President and First Lady announced bonus awards of \$20 million to 35 states that have increased the number of children adopted from the public foster care system. These bonuses, awarded for the first time today, were first proposed by President Clinton's Adoption 2002 initiative and included in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. The President today also announced \$5.5 million in grants to innovative programs that remove barriers to adoption, and he unveiled a national progress report on adoption that documents the success of the Administration's strategy. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent – from 28,000 to 36,000 – and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago.

INCENTIVE AWARDS SUCCEED IN INCREASING ADOPTIONS. In the Administration's Adoption 2002 proposal and the adoption law of 1997, the President created the first-ever financial incentive for states to increase adoptions of children from the foster care system. Today, the President released \$20 million in bonus awards to 35 states that in 1998 had exceeded their average adoption rate from 1995-1997. The \$20 million in bonuses provide for up to \$4,000 per adopted child, and \$6,000 for each child with special needs. In fact, the states' performance in 1998 entitled them to an additional \$22.5 million.

INNOVATIVE GRANTS REDUCE BARRIERS TO ADOPTION. The President today also announced \$5.5 million in new awards under the Adoption Opportunities program. This program provides grants to public and private organizations to eliminate barriers to adoption, particularly for children with special needs. This year's grants reward a variety of initiatives, including efforts to increase adoptions of minority children, targeted field research, and awards for collaborative planning to increase adoptions across jurisdictional lines.

REPORT SHOWS CLINTON ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY IS WORKING. Since taking office, the President has championed efforts to make foster care work better, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down barriers to adoption. Today the President received a progress report from the Department of Health and Human Services that documents the effectiveness of the Administration's strategy.

- **Reforming the Child Welfare System.** In 1997, the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act. This landmark law was based largely on recommendations from the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, which the President requested by executive memorandum in order to meet his goal of doubling adoptions by 2002. The law expedited permanent placement decisions for children, ensured health insurance coverage for all special-needs children in subsidized adoptions, and created the bonus awards released today.
- **Making Adoption Affordable for Families.** The Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, signed by the President in 1996, provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision helps middle class families for whom adoption – particularly of children with special needs – might have been prohibitively expensive.
- **Giving States More Flexibility and Support.** The Administration has granted waivers to 20 states and the District of Columbia to test innovative strategies for improving child welfare systems. In addition, it has secured new funds to support state implementation of the 1997 law and has, through the Adoption Opportunities program, supported local initiatives to promote adoption and provide post-adoptive services.
- **Using the Internet to Make Adoption Easier.** In 1998, the President directed HHS to develop Internet tools to link children in foster care more quickly to possible adoptive families. Secretary Shalala reported that

HHS will launch a national web site by September 2001 to break down geographic barriers to adoption.

- **Removing Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions, passed as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, help ensure that the adoption process is free of delays and discriminatory practices driven by race, culture and ethnicity. They do so by strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which the President signed in 1994.
- **Providing Supports for Child Protection and Adoption.** The Family and Medical Leave Act, signed by the President in 1993, enables working parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance coverage. The 1996 welfare reform law signed by the President also maintains child protection and adoption guarantees.

NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS. To follow through on this record of achievement, the President and First Lady today urged Congress to provide new support for young people leaving foster care. Under the current system, federal financial assistance for young people in foster care ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. The President's FY 2000 budget request increases funding by nearly \$300 million to help these youth secure health care, life skills training, and educational opportunities. With the Administration's strong support, the House has already passed bipartisan legislation to address these needs. The President today urged the Senate to take prompt action on the companion measure and to safeguard the interests of vulnerable young people leaving foster care.

FY 1998 ADOPTION INCENTIVE BONUSES

State	3 Year Adoption Average (FY 95-97)	FY 98 Adoptions	% Increase	Bonus
Arkansas	138	251	82%	\$280,320
California	3,287	3,958	20%	\$1,841,837
Colorado	417	560	34%	\$419,540
Connecticut	207	229	11%	\$41,390
Florida	987	1,549	57%	\$1,290,603
Georgia	493	672	36%	\$449,642
Hawaii	85	297	249%	\$518,311
Illinois	2,200	4,656	112%	\$6,869,733
Indiana	495	774	56%	\$842,843
Iowa	350	517	48%	\$371,566
Maine	108	112	4%	\$11,288
Maryland	342	420	23%	\$317,947
Massachusetts	1,116	1,137	2%	\$39,508
Michigan	1,905	2,254	18%	\$942,554
Minnesota	258	427	66%	\$480,684
Mississippi	114	169	48%	\$187,194
Missouri	557	616	11%	\$110,999
Montana	115	144	25%	\$54,559
New Hampshire	45	50	11%	\$9,407
New Jersey	621	755	22%	\$409,193
New Mexico	147	197	34%	\$94,067
New York	4,716	4,822	2%	\$199,423
North Dakota	47	83	77%	\$67,728
Oklahoma	338	456	35%	\$280,320
Oregon	445	665	49%	\$586,980
Pennsylvania	1,224	1,494	22%	\$592,624
South Carolina	256	465	82%	\$500,438
South Dakota	56	58	4%	\$3,763
Texas	880	1,365	55%	\$1,350,806
Utah	225	250	11%	\$47,034
Vermont	75	116	55%	\$100,652
Washington	607	759	25%	\$291,609
West Virginia	182	211	16%	\$60,203
Wisconsin	467	589	26%	\$301,015
Wyoming	15	30	100%	\$28,220

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS LANDMARK LAW TO HELP FOSTER CARE YOUTH PREPARE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

December 14, 1999

President Clinton today will sign into law the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. This legislation, based on an initiative proposed by the President and the First Lady, will help ensure that young people who leave foster care get the tools they need to make the most of their lives. It empowers those leaving foster care by providing them better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling and other services. The new law is only the latest instance of the Administration's longstanding commitment to children and families.

FOSTER CARE YOUTH FACE CHALLENGES AS THEY ENTER ADULTHOOD. Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year when they reach age 18 without an adoptive family or other guardian. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth find themselves inadequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent do not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the women have given birth, and less than one in five are completely self-supporting.

NEW LEGISLATION PROVIDES NEW HOPE FOR THESE YOUTH. Under previous laws, federal financial support for these young people ended just as they were making the transition to independence. The Act the President will sign today authorizes \$700 million over five years to help these young people cross this critical bridge:

- **Doubling the Federal Independent Living Program.** The Independent Living program, run through the states, helps older foster care children earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. Today's new law doubles the program's funding to \$140 million per year, and invests \$350 million more over five years in these services. Under the new law, states are now required to serve youth up to 21 years old, enabling more young people to obtain a college education. It also enables states to provide time-limited financial assistance to help these youth with living expenses as they develop the skills and education needed to move successfully into the workforce. The Act the President will sign today also renames the program in honor of John Chafee, the late Senator who so effectively championed the needs of children.
- **Providing Health Insurance.** Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The new law grants states the option for these young people to remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. Today, HHS will issue guidance to all State Medicaid Directors encouraging them to take up this option.
- **Honoring America's Heroes.** In an unrelated provision, the Act provides a special monthly cash benefit to Filipino veterans who served under the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II if they were eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and later choose to move outside the United States. Previously, Filipino veterans who were eligible to receive SSI benefits would lose them if they were to return to the Philippines.

- **A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION.** With today's new law, the Administration adds to an unprecedented record of promoting the well-being of children and providing them permanent, loving homes. In 1998 there were a record 36,000 adoptions from foster care, the first significant increase in the history of the program. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent -- from 28,000 to 36,000 -- and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. Among the President's other steps to improve child welfare and encourage adoption:
- **Increasing the Transitional Living Program.** Last month the President secured in the budget agreement a 40 percent increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents. The program will now be funded at \$20.7 million.
- **Enacting the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.** Based on the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, this landmark law made the health and safety of children a clear priority, provided the first-ever financial incentives for states to increase adoptions, tightened the time frames for making permanent placements of children, and removed other barriers to adoption.
- **Making Adoption Affordable.** In 1996, President Clinton enacted a \$5,000 tax credit for families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the President provided more support for families who adopt with a \$500 per-child tax credit. And under the Family and Medical Leave Act, parents can take time with a newly adopted child without losing their jobs or health insurance.
- **Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions signed into law by the President ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity.
- **Giving States Flexibility and Support.** The Clinton Administration has given 25 states waivers to test innovative strategies for improving state child welfare systems. The Administration has provided states technical support to improve court operations and grants to support local adoption projects, and has also secured federal funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program to serve at-risk children and families.
- **Using the Internet to Promote Adoption.** In November 1998, the President issued a directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. HHS will develop a national Internet site by the year 2002.

**FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999 BILL SIGNING
INTERNAL Q&A**

December 14, 1999

Q: Some have claimed that this bill undermines the goal of adoption, because it pours more resources into the very services that have failed these young people. Is this true?

A: No. This Administration is indisputably committed to promoting adoption, and has taken numerous steps toward that goal. In fact, in 1998 there were a record 36,000 adoptions from foster care, the first significant increase in the history of the program. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent – from 28,000 to 36,000 – and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. The bill the President will sign today will help those young people for whom adoption will not be possible – those who “age out” of the system by turning 18 without being placed with adoptive parents or another permanent relationship. These young people will benefit from the enhanced access to services that this bill provides. The bill recognizes, however, that young people in foster care, including older teens, continue to need and deserve opportunities for permanent, adoptive families. Therefore, the bill provides independent living services that can be provided concurrent with adoption services.

Q: How does this bill differ from the President's proposal in his FY 2000 budget?

A: The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 is largely based on the President's request in his FY 2001 budget – providing additional funding to the Independent Living program which offers older youth in foster care educational, vocational and employment training, daily living skills, substance abuse prevention, and connections to dedicated adults as mentors. The bill also adopts the President's plan, enabling the program for the first time to include support for room and board, and provide states with the option to offer these young people Medicaid until their 21st birthday. In addition, the bill increases the asset limit and allows youths to have \$10,000 in savings and still be eligible for foster care payments, so that they can save for college, an apartment or other needs that are critical for successful independence. Finally, the bill establishes accountability for states in implementing their programs by requiring data collection and evaluation.

Q: The bill the President is signing authorizes the program at \$140 million, but the budget agreement included only \$105 million. How do you plan to secure the additional resources?

A: The Administration plans to request the \$35 million in a supplemental appropriations bill when the Congress returns.

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

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

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

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

Q: What does this Act do with respect to veterans receiving benefits under the Social Security Act?

A: Previously, Filipino World War II veterans were not qualified for most veteran's benefits, including pensions, but many Filipino World War II veterans were eligible to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and such veterans would lose these benefits if they were to return to the Philippines. This Act (H.R. 3443) amends the Social Security Act to allow such veterans to be eligible to receive a special monthly cash benefit if they were eligible for SSI during the month of this bill's enactment and later choose to move outside the United States.

We are indebted to the Filipino Veterans for their service to the U.S. military during World War II. Today, the President is signing important legislation to assure that Filipino Veterans are eligible for assistance under the Social Security Income system. This legislation builds on the Presidential Proclamation and Congressional Resolution that the President signed in 1996 that recognized the valor and service of the Filipino World War II veterans.

Background: During World War II, the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines which was a territory of the United States at the time, were drafted to serve in the United States Armed Forces by Presidential Executive Order. However, in 1946, Congress passed legislation to deny benefits to Filipino World War II veterans. As a result, Filipino World War II veterans have been fighting to restore benefits that were denied to them under this law. In Immigration Act of 1990, gave Filipino World War II veterans an opportunity to emigrate and naturalize as United States.

Q: Does the Administration support legislation, H.R. 1594 proposed by Representative Bob Filner (D-CA) to provide Veterans health benefits to Filipino World War II veterans?

A: We are indebted to the Filipino Veterans for their service to the U.S. military during World War II. In the Administration's budgets for FY 1999 and 2000, the Administration proposed equitable compensation for those Filipino World War II Veterans with service-connected disabilities from 50 percent to 100 percent. We are pursuing a similar proposal for the upcoming budget. We do not have a formal position on H.R. 1594 but are currently reviewing this proposal.