

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. paper	re: children on panel - personal stories (1 page)	05/21/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 19011

FOLDER TITLE:

Youth Development Afterschool Violence #3 [Binder] [2]

2013-0534-S

rc1849

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]

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1996
FINAL REVISED 2**

DENVER, CO/WASHINGTON, DC

Denver, CO

Lead Advance:	Roshann Parris	
	Oxford Hotel	Rm 322
	303-628-5400	phone
	303-628-5413	fax
	800-SKY-PAGE	#630-3035
	202-494-5294	cellular phone
 Press Advance:	 Katie Broeren	
	303-765-0404	home
 Press Advance:	 Gretchen Michel	
 Site Advance:	 Kim Simon	 Rm 414
 Site Advance:	 Gil Rosenthal	 Rm 302
 Scheduler:	 Ron Books	
	202-456-5315	office
	202-456-5340	fax
	703-525-5457	home
	WECA pager	#4818

PREV RON **Denver, CO**
Governor Roy Romer's Residence
400 E. 8th Street
Phone: 303-837-8350
Fax: 303-866-5345

STAFF RON **Oxford Hotel**
1600 Seventeenth Street
Phone: 303-628-5400
Fax: 303-628-5413

8:15 am **DEPART Governor Romer's Residence**
EN ROUTE Westin Hotel
[drive time: 10 minutes]

8:25 am **ARRIVE Westin Hotel**
1672 Lawrence Street

NO GREETERS

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1996
PAGE 2**

8:30 am-
9:00 am

**THE COLORADO FORUM'S CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY
BREAKFAST**

Continental Ballroom A
HRC Hold: McCort Room
Phone: 303-572-9100
Fax: 303-572-7236
CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:

- Gayle Klapper, Director, The Colorado Forum, intros HRC into the room; HRC proceeds to seat on stage.
NOTE: Stephanie O'Malley will also be seated on stage.
- Ms. Klapper intros Stephanie O'Malley, daughter of Denver Mayor Wellington Webb.
- Ms. O'Malley delivers brief remarks.
- Ms. Klapper intros HRC.
- HRC delivers remarks.
- HRC exits stage left, working ropeline on departure.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 70 people to attend.

Departure Greeters:

- Bill Dougherty, Westin Hotel General Manager
- Russell Webber, Westin Hotel Sales Manager
- Maureen Farris, Westin Hotel Security Director

9:05 am

DEPART Westin Hotel
EN ROUTE Golda Meir House on Auraria Campus
[drive time: 5 minutes]

9:10 am

ARRIVE Golda Meir House on Auraria Campus

NOTE: HRC will do a photo with Shantelle Reib, Darcy Fletcher, and Susan Smith.

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1996
PAGE 3**

9:15 am-
9:30 am

**MEET & GREET W/ CHILDREN CONFERENCE PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS**
Golda Meir House
HRC Hold: Golda Meir Room
Phone: N/A
Fax: 303-556-8570
CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT: HRC will do a photo receiving line
with the program participants.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 20 people to
attend.

9:35 am-
9:40 am

PHOTO
Golda Meir House
WH PHOTO ONLY

NOTE: The photo will take place outside of the Golda Meir House
on departure.

FORMAT:

- HRC will do a group photo.
- Joe Ventura, 5 year old day care child,
presents HRC with a gift.
- HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 5 Auroria
College Foundation Board Members and 25
Campus Day Care Children in attendance.

9:45 am

PROCEED ON FOOT TO THE ST. CAJETAN CHURCH

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1996
PAGE 4**

9:50 am-
12:15 pm

CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE
St. Cajetan Church
HRC Hold: Backstage
Phone: 303-556-8333
Fax: 303-556-8570
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

- Dean Wolf, Executive Vice President of Administration, welcomes guests and intros the Colorado Children's Chorale Choir.
- The Colorado Children's Chorale will perform.
- Bertha Lynn, moderator, announces the program participants and Governor Romer onto the stage.
- Ms. Lynn announces HRC onto the stage.
- HRC proceeds to seat on stage next to Governor Romer.
- Ms. Lynn intros Reverend Woolfolk.
- Reverend Woolfolk gives invocation.
- Ms. Lynn intros Governor Roy Romer.
- Governor Romer delivers remarks and intros HRC.
- HRC proceeds to podium and delivers remarks.
- Ms. Lynn intros each youth and turns the program over to Governor Romer.
- Governor Romer opens discussion with youths.
NOTE: Approximately 12 youths ages 8-16 to participate.
- Ms. Lynn intros each adult expert.

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1996
PAGE 5**

- Governor Romer opens discussion with experts.
NOTE: Approximately 8 experts to participate.
- Q & A with audience closely moderated by Bertha Lynn.
- Ms. Lynn asks HRC to close the program.
- HRC delivers brief closing remarks.
- Martin Vadas, accompanied by 8 children, presents HRC with a gift.
NOTE: Martin Vadas is the gift's artist.
- HRC will exit stage right to do a ropeline from right to left.
- HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 350 people to attend.

12:20 pm

DEPART St. Cajetan
EN ROUTE Colorado Convention Center
[drive time: 5 minutes]

12:25 pm

ARRIVE Colorado Convention Center
700 14th Street

NOTE: HRC to do approximately 5 police photos upon arrival.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1996
PAGE 6

12:30 pm-
1:00 pm

AARP CONVENTION
Convention Center
HRC Hold: Security Room
Phone: 303-446-4372
Fax: 303-446-4301
Staff Hold: Green Room
Phone: 303-446-4371
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

- HRC will proceed to seat on stage escorted by Eugene Lehrman, outgoing President, Margaret Dixon, incoming President, and Horace Deets, Executive Director.
NOTE: HRC is seated next to Margaret Dixon on the Lower Tier of the Two-Tiered head table.
- Eugene Lehrman delivers welcoming remarks and intros HRC.
- HRC delivers remarks.
- HRC proceeds stage left to greet head table guests to the left of the podium before exiting stage right.
NOTE: HRC to greet the other head table guests while departing stage right.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 5500 people in attendance; approximately 18000 people to view via closed circuit television.

1:15 pm

DEPART Colorado Convention
EN ROUTE Denver International Airport
[drive time: 45 minutes]

2:00 pm

ARRIVE Denver International Airport
FBO: AMR Combs
Phone: 303-342-5600
Fax: 303-342-5903
CLOSED PRESS

Departure Greeters: Approximately 20 people to attend.

2:15 pm

WHEELS UP Denver, CO

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1996
PAGE 7

7:15 pm **WHEELS DOWN** Andrews Air Force Base
Phone: 301-981-2100
Fax: 301-981-4527

7:25 pm **DEPART** Andrews Air Force Base
EN ROUTE White House
[drive time: 30 minutes]

7:55 pm **ARRIVE** South Portico

RON The White House

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC:

- Mostly cloudy with rain showers in the vicinity ending mid-morning, becoming partly cloudy. Wind northwest at 15 to 25 knots. Low 62. High 83.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR DENVER, CO:

- Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy with showers developing by evening. Wind southeast at 10 to 20 knots. Low 45 to 50. High 74 to 79.

May 21, 1996

CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE: "COLORADO LISTENS TO KIDS"

DATE: May 22, 1996
TIME: 9:15 am - 12:15 pm
LOCATION: Auraria Campus
Denver, Colorado
FROM: Brenda Costello

I. PURPOSE

To hear from children and parents, and to honor children's advocates for their work in Colorado and hear about their work on behalf of children.

II. BACKGROUND

Your first stop on arrival to the Golda Meir House on Auraria Campus is a photo with Shantelle Reib. You refer to Shantelle and her cousin Nora in *It Takes a Village* (excerpt attached). Shantelle will be attending with her mother Darcy Fletcher, and Susan Smith, mother of Nora. Next you will participate in a meet and greet with program participants and a brief photo with Auraria Foundation Board members and children from the Child Care Center.

Program

The conference begins with a performance by the Colorado Children's Choir (background attached). Following a welcome from Dean Wolf, Bertha Lynn will announce all conference participants. The Conference is broken up into three parts: remarks, open discussion with children and adult panelists, and audience participation (question and answer). Bertha Lynn will act as moderator for the whole program. Governor Romer will be prepared to answer questions regarding specific Colorado programs.

Panelists will be seated in a semi-circle, and will include approximately twelve youths ages 8-16, and eight adult experts from a variety of fields -- health care, business, parents, clergy, and education. The audience participation will be with parents and children's advocates. Approximately 350 service providers, children's advocates, religious leaders, including 150 parents, will be in the audience.

Following your brief closing remarks, Martin Vadas, accompanied by 8 children, will present you with a gift. (Martin Vadas is the gift's artist.)

The Children's Conference is being held on Auraria Campus, a commuter campus comprised of three separate institutions: University of Colorado at Denver, Community College of Denver, and Metropolitan State College of Denver. The Auraria Higher Education Center manages the facilities and non-academic functions. Total enrollment at all three colleges is over 32,000. The Conference itself will be held in St. Cajetan's Center, a converted Catholic church now used for entertainment as well as conferences and other forums. Since most students on campus work, Auraria runs a large Child Care Center for nearly 250 children.

Governor Romer and Children

Governor Romer is scheduled to appear on the "Today" show on Wednesday morning to talk about accepting an award from Working Mother magazine. For the past three years, the magazine has evaluated child care in all 50 states, looking for new programs, innovations and progress. Working Mother named the ten Best States for child care, and Colorado has made this list for the third year in a row. Ratings are based on specific criteria for quality, safety, availability and commitment. Additionally, Colorado received a score of "5" for its commitment to child care -- the only state to receive this rating.

Colorado programs for children

Below are just some of Colorado's programs for children and families.

School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs): Designed as a community approach for improving the health and academic readiness of Colorado children, this program receives some private and federal funding, but no state resources. SBHCs work with other prevention efforts, such as Family Resource Centers, drug-free schools and other community and school-based programs and provide comprehensive services at low cost. Services include: preventative exams and immunizations, health education for students and parents, basic reproductive health care and mental health services. Solid results have been reported nationally for students who use the centers.

Colorado Child Health Plan: The goal of the CCHP is to improve the health status of uninsured Colorado Children living in low-income families by making primary care affordable and accessible. The Colorado Forum joined efforts this year to support expansion of the Colorado Child Health Plan. The CCHP allows low-income working families that do not qualify for Medicaid to purchase insurance at \$25 a year for children under the age of 12. Under pressure from the Colorado Forum and other groups, the General Assembly's Joint Budget Committee reversed its initial opposition to the plan and voted to expand the CCHP, which receives funding from State as well as some federal money.

School-to-Career Partnership (School to Work) The vision for this program is an integrated, standards based educational system, tied to economic development, that ensures all of its young people are prepared to excel in the competitive global market place. In 1995, Colorado was awarded a five-year, \$24 million grant from the US Departments of Labor and Education. Funds are being sub-granted by the state of

Colorado to local community partnerships of business, industry, and education offering innovative solutions. Approximately 33 percent of Colorado school districts are participating in local School-to-Career Partnerships.

First Impressions: This early childhood initiative, established early in Gov. Romer's administration, was designed to focus attention on a child's first five years and stimulate activity at all levels, and create a solid infrastructure of support and assistance for parents and children. Programs include: One-stop family centers in at risk neighborhoods, the "Read to Me, Colorado" campaign to encourage parents to read to their children, and the Youth Crime Prevention and Intervention Fund that provides support to community based programs.

Bright Beginnings: (Representatives from Governor Romer's office suggested that you do not mention this program) A privately funded program, this public awareness/ public action campaign is designed with the goal of making Colorado the best state in the nation for a child to be born and grow up. The premise is that government alone cannot solve all problems families face --the community as a whole must take responsibility for helping parents raise healthy children. Gov. Romer consulted with business leaders, church organizations, the largest child advocacy group, and key legislators to develop an agenda and plan of action.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Meet and Greet with Program Participants

Governor Roy Romer	*Quinian Pozner
Bertha Lynn	*Kevin Wagner
Reverend Robert Woolfolk	*Melissa Roberts
Noel Ginsburg	*Joe Carranco
Rebecca Orona	*Kiyasha Newson
Antonio Garule	*Adam Jake Catheart
Dave DeForest Stalls	*Lia Sperandeo
Adele Phelan	*William Webster
*Tiffany Wilson	*Leo Hernandez
*Melanie Bolub	*Mac Robb
*Yen Vo	
(*Children)	

Photo with Auraria Foundation Board members and children

- Don Kortz, President and CEO of Rose Foundation
- Dean Wolf, Exec. Vice Pres. for Administration, Auraria Higher Education Center
- Mary Ferrell, Executive Director Auraria Foundation
- Marvin Buckels, Treasurer and member Auraria Foundation
- Norman Provisor, Chair, Metropolitan State College, Political Science Department
- Myrtle-Rose Greene, board member & real estate developer
- Barbara Emery, Jewish community leader & board member Auraria Foundation
- 25 children from Auraria Child Care Center

Note: Joe Ventura, 5, will present you with a gift.

Conference

-see above listed program participants

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

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- HRC departs.

V. PRESS

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by June Shih.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203-1797
Phone (303) 866-2471

STATE OF COLORADO



Roy Romer
Governor

STATE OF THE STATE
COLORADO GOVERNOR ROY ROMER
JANUARY 11, 1996

Greetings.

Let me tell you, we're doing well in Colorado.

Our economy is strong.

We live in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

We are blessed to live in Colorado, and we've worked hard to get where we are. We can be proud of what we've done together.

But we can do better. We cannot rest in our efforts to keep our economy strong.

We can't forget there are cracks in the foundation of our society. Not everyone has a seat at the table.

05/20/96 13:02 GOVERNOR ROYER - 20240623

Here's the central question, for me as Governor, for you as legislators, for the citizens of Colorado: how can we take the good we have and reach higher?

We must return to the basics.

Let me tell you a story. I called an old friend, John Murphy of Durango. We've been friends for 40 years, and John was dying. I wanted to relate to him in a meaningful way, because I knew it might be the last time we ever talked. I wanted him to know that I was thinking of him, wanted to know how he was feeling.

He said to me, "Hey, Roy, I feel good. I feel good about the life I've lived because I feel good about the way I raised my children. Not much else matters when you look back from my perspective."

Now, there are all kinds of ways to judge a society.

But I like John's way. If we raise our children right, everything else will probably fit.

To reach higher, we should commit ourselves – as a people in this community called Colorado – to make Colorado the best place to raise a child.

It's a simple vision. But it's really the focus of my final term as Governor.

How can we make this the best place to raise a child?

Let's start by asking what worries the typical Colorado family.

Parents – trying to raise their children, working one or two or more jobs – ask this:

- is my job going to be there next year?
 - can I afford decent housing and health insurance for my family?
 - can I keep my family safe?
 - will the values I try to instill in my children be overwhelmed by their peers, or what they see on TV?
 - can I find child care I can afford, and that I can trust?
 - will my kids learn what they need to learn at school?
 - can I take care of my parents when they're old and what about when I'm old?
-

How we – not just government, but as a people – address these anxieties, these needs, will define the kind of Colorado we will become.

I believe that we must focus ourselves – both as a community called Colorado and as elected officials – on these four challenges:

Let's make the lives of young children our highest priority.

Let's make Colorado schools second to none.

Let's keep Colorado's economy the strongest in the country.

Let's keep Colorado's environment and natural beauty the envy of the world.

If we do these things, then we will realize our vision of becoming the best place to raise a child.

Let's talk about each of these challenges.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Our first challenge is to make the lives of our young children our highest priority.

Parents have always wanted the best for their children. But think about how much harder it is for parents today. Most of us grew up with family nearby, where neighbors watched out for their own children and for those others. For many, that's no longer a reality.

The challenge of parenting can be overwhelming. Those who need child care worry about the quality of that care. Every parent worries about being able to afford decent health care.

Here's what we can do about these challenges:



Bright Beginnings

Colorado has undertaken one of the most exciting and innovative strategies to make this the best place for a child to be born and grow up.

It's called Bright Beginnings.

03/20/98 13:04 GOVERNOR RUMER - 2024002233

Bright Beginnings is a non-government, volunteer, community-based effort to provide:

- support for new parents;
- universal access to health care for young children;
- "family-friendly" workplaces;
- more effective support systems for teen parents; and
- quality child care throughout Colorado.

The 55,000 babies born each year in Colorado don't come with instruction books or 1-800 numbers. So Bright Beginnings has launched "Warm Welcome," an effort to have a trained volunteer from the community visit any new parents who want it within 2 to 3 weeks of the birth of their child. These volunteers will do three things:

- First, provide a check list of what parents are likely to confront during the first year of the baby's life;
- Second, to provide a directory of all the help that is available to them in their community or in their region; and
- Third, offer to mentor the parents, on a totally volunteer basis, if the parents want it.

Think of it: thousands of volunteers from churches and service clubs, as well as at-home moms, retirees, and others giving of themselves to care and nurture the youngest children in their communities.

Already, we have raised almost \$1 million in private funds for this project. I especially want to thank my partners in this effort: Brad Butler, the former chairman of the board of Procter & Gamble; and Senator Tom Norton.

Along with all the other business, community and religious leaders involved in this effort, we believe we *can* make this vision of renewed community support for families and kids a reality.

03/20/96 15:04 GOUVERNOR RUIER - 202400220

2. Child Care

In Colorado, most parents work. As a result, over 100,000 children spend 8-10 hours, five days a week, in child care.

And yet, they say most child care centers in Colorado are, at best, mediocre, when rated in terms of programs for kids, safety, teacher training and equipment.

Child care is too costly for too many. Some parents pay up to 23 percent of their incomes for child care, but we still aren't paying our child care workers a living wage.

To help solve this problem, I reached out to business to get some fresh and innovative approaches to the child care challenges.

They've suggested to me that we establish a voluntary child care check-off on the state income tax returns to help improve child care facilities.

They have also recommended changing property tax assessments to allow child care facilities to be taxed at the residential rather than the commercial rate.

They suggested expanding opportunities for pre-school teachers to get training, and to apply quality standards to all child care programs that receive government support.

I'm also interested in their proposal to establish a refundable child care tax credit to provide financial support to working parents who need help paying for child care.

These are all good ideas and they deserve our strong consideration.

Because it is critical to have more businesses involved in solving the child care crisis, this spring I will ask business leaders to join me in a series of summits across the state to explore how the private sector can better respond to the child care needs of their employees.

3. **Preschool**

In my first term, we established the Colorado Preschool Program, which has grown to serve 6,500 children statewide. We all worked together on this, and we can be proud of what this program has accomplished.

I support expanding this program to a statewide total of 8,500 children. I also support opening the program to three-year-olds as local need dictates.

4. Fatherhood

An alarming number of children are growing up without fathers – 40 percent in Denver. Being a parent is tough, but being a single mom is even tougher. Many do an outstanding job.

But records show that kids without fathers are more likely to live in poverty, to commit violent crimes, become teen parents and leave their own children.

I convened a Task Force on Responsible Fatherhood that will make recommendations I hope you will consider with me. Already, they've suggested that we revamp the cumbersome public assistance program which has fathers paying the state to support their kids.

And they've proposed we re-think our approach to public programs, to the court system and to community resources to make sure we are holding fathers responsible for their children, and not chasing them away.

5. Health Insurance for Kids

Another thing that worries parents is the cost of health insurance for their kids.

As it stands, 150,000 of Colorado's children don't have access to health care because their parents can't afford it. Almost all of those children -- 87 percent -- have at least one parent who is employed. Just think about that.

In a state that enjoys our level of prosperity, that is shameful.

I understand that there is a lot of disagreement in this country about how to solve the health care problem. I'm not here to argue about that.

But can't we at least agree that in Colorado we have a collective moral obligation to hold our children harmless, and to provide each and every one of them with basic health care in the early years?

Can't we at least agree on that?

In my budget, I have set aside \$14 million to begin to deal with this issue -- an amount we certainly can afford this year. I think we can be creative in how we use this money to reach the maximum number of children. We could build upon existing programs -- like the Colorado Child Health Plan -- or we can encourage innovative ideas to spring up in communities.

Representative Ben Clark is sponsoring legislation that supports a tax credit that builds on the insurance infrastructure already in place and gives incentives to businesses to be a part of the solution. I'm open to new ideas and I'm sure that together we can solve this problem.

So, let's commit to one another today that, by the time this legislature adjourns 119 days from now, we will have put ourselves clearly on a path to provide health care to every child in Colorado.



If we are going to make Colorado the best place to raise a child, our first challenge is to make young children our highest priority.

Our next challenge is to make the schools those kids attend second to none.

Every school day more than 650,000 Colorado kids go off to our public schools. Many spend more time in school than they do with their parents.

And, parents ask:

- Are my kids going to be safe in school?
- Are the values I am trying to teach them going to reinforced, or undermined?
- Are they learning what they need to know to get a good job and be good citizens? Are they being challenged to be all that they can be?
- Why aren't they being asked to do more homework?

We've been on this issue a long time and we know there is no quick fix.

We're making progress, but we're not there yet.

Student Performance Standards

Fundamentally, what matters most is improving student performance. We were right three years ago, when we directed public schools to set clear high standards for student learning and to make sure students meet those standards. Your leadership on this issue has been important.

We now have model standards in place at the state level. Communities are setting their own standards, and we'll have the first measurement of our progress next year.

Colorado's standards are a model for the nation. They will ensure that our students have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful.

Standards are tools to hold schools accountable. It's kind of like an educational "check-up."

We should now make sure the standards are being met. That means:

- The right kind of assessments;
- Improving teacher training;
- More time spent in the classroom learning;
- More parental involvement.

Business as usual won't get the job done.

2. School Finance

We must be strategic with our K-12 investment.

Specifically, I propose we guarantee school districts an automatic 1 percent increase to help maintain basic quality. That amount -- \$22 million -- won't cover all the increased costs they face from inflation, but it's a start.

I am also proposing that we target *additional* money to encourage specific improvements in the K-12 system. I have proposed \$22 million for schools to lengthen the time a child spends in class.

We must also invest in the quality of teaching in the classroom by making \$10 million available, in a competitive grants process, for school districts that redesign their teacher training programs. That's a strategic investment in "more time, better teaching." Representative Kerns and Senator Matsunaka are sponsoring this legislation.



Charter Schools

We need more innovation and more choices in schools; different students learn in different ways. One of the most promising efforts in this area has been charter schools -- schools that teachers and parents organize and run. We should continue to support and expand charter schools, and a commission that examined these ideas over the summer has a series of recommendations we should adopt.

4. Technology

We need to do a better job of using technology as a tool to improve student learning. This is one of the most powerful tools we've seen in decades.

Our schools must be interconnected with a broader system to facilitate distant learning. They need the right hardware and the software.

But most of all, we need trained teachers who know how to use this system. And we need parents who also are knowledgeable about technology so that they can assist their students.

I will talk more about technology and telecommunications coordination in a few minutes. But our public schools must be part of any statewide coordination and planning.

5. Discipline

Kids can't learn in a disruptive environment. Together, we've taken steps to bring discipline back to our classrooms.

Before that, we all know that no matter how well we educate our kids, their future will never be what it should be unless they are safe in their neighborhoods.

Over the past few years, we have worked together on the fight against crime. We've banned guns in the hands of kids, and strengthened our criminal laws.

This session, we should maintain our funding for the youth crime prevention initiative. We also are revising the children's code. I support many of the proposed changes.

But I want to be very clear right up front; I will not support ending compulsory education.

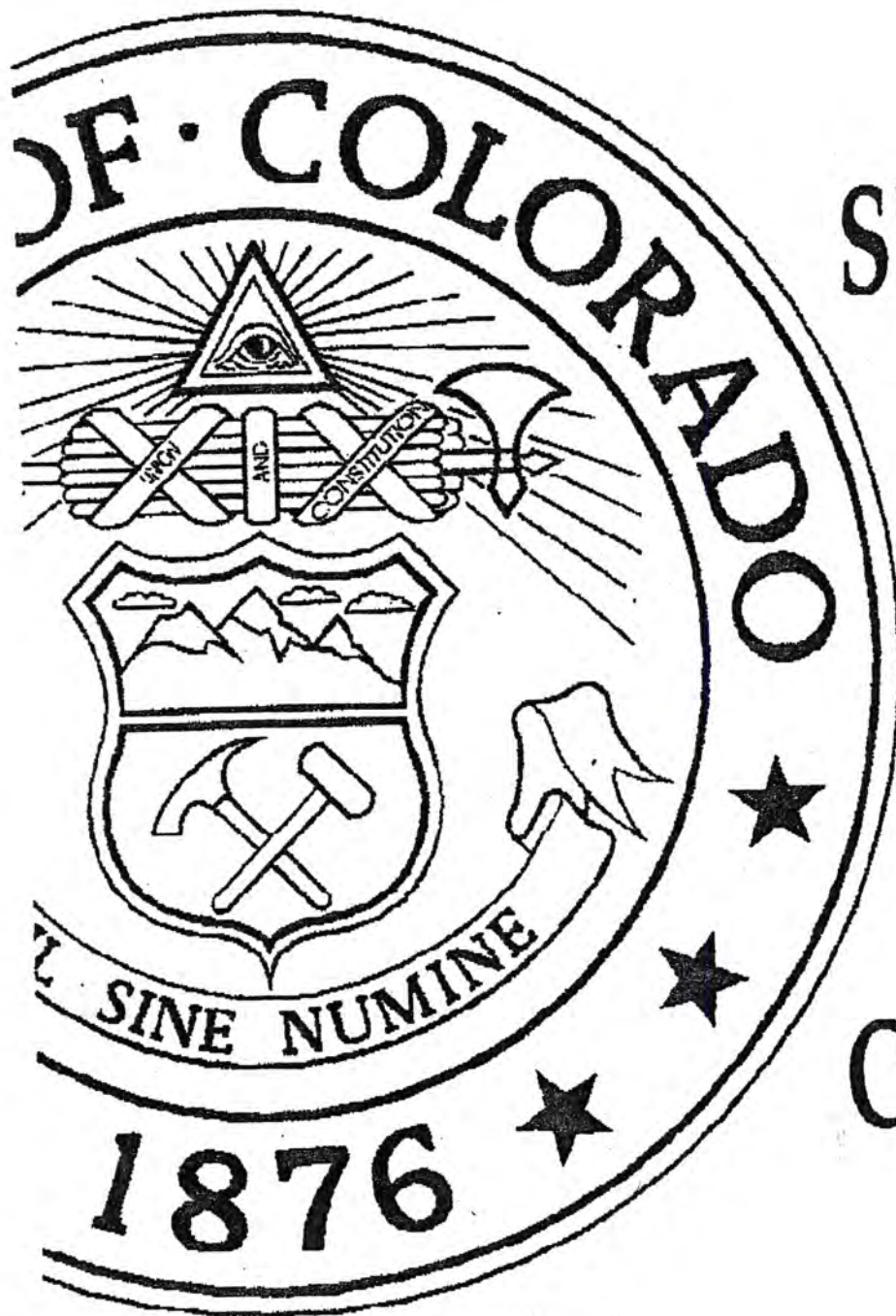
And, I challenge you – for the third time in as many years – to create alternative schools for expelled students. We can't throw away kids.

SCHOOL-TO-WORK

We also need to focus on the critical transition between school and getting a job. Last year, I launched the Colorado school-to-work initiative, and asked Lt. Gov. Schoetler to take the lead on this vital and innovative effort.

School-to-work is a community partnership of businesses, schools and community organizations coming together to fundamentally change the way we educate our children. It links a strong curriculum, based on rigorous standards, with career knowledge and experience. It will help kids learn what they need to know to get a good job after graduation.

* Education Agenda Excerpted



A STRATEGIC AGENDA FOR COLORADO

Roy Romer
Governor

January 1995

(Education Agenda)
EXCERPTS

should redirect some of our expected budget savings in AFDC to communities who will concentrate energy on addressing teen pregnancy issues. The funds would be distributed through a "Request for Proposals" process and distributed using criteria from the Department of Human Services' "Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Action Plan."

* * * * *

To make sure Coloradans of every age gain the skills and knowledge they need, we must take steps to hold our education institutions more accountable for results, create more flexibility and innovation in the education system, and plan for future workforce needs:

Improving the Quality of our Schools

We all know what makes some schools better than others.

- * These schools have high expectations for all students and a rich, rigorous academic curriculum.
- * These schools are accountable to their community -- both for the results they produce and for involving parents and community members in meaningful decisions about what happens at that school.
- * Hallways and classrooms are safe, disciplined and orderly.
- * Teachers are well-qualified, know about the subject they are teaching, and have the classroom skills to help each student learn the material.
- * The "bureaucracy" of the state and district administration doesn't get in the way, funding and other resources are directed to the classroom, and the school is creative in finding the right ways to help its students learn.
- * Important decisions about the school are made at the school and by the community, not by a centralized bureaucracy.
- * Students are excited about learning and challenged by both the teacher and the subject matter to work hard.

The mystery is not about what changes need to happen in our school system. The challenge is about how to make those changes happen in every school. Each child in Colorado should have access to good schools, and we have made much progress in this area. Each year, we have taken careful, deliberate steps to change the way our schools operate and to influence the quality of teaching in the classroom. Colorado student achievement ranks high when compared to other states.

But we are nowhere close to finishing our work. For too many of our children, our schools aren't making a difference. Our graduates as a whole aren't skilled enough. Our drop-out rates are too high. Our test scores aren't increasing fast enough. Our graduation rates are too low -- especially for the most at-risk students in our system. Our schools are locked into an environment with too many rules, too many restrictions, and too little creativity.

We need to raise our expectations -- our standards -- for schools, and we need to hold them accountable for meeting these expectations. Over the long-term, the single most important influence on our schools will be clear standards for performance and a high-quality system of testing and assessment -- which we put into place with House Bill 1013 in 1993. In the coming years, standards will give schools clear targets for student achievement -- raising the skills and knowledge of our students and forcing fundamental changes in the way the school system is organized, held accountable, and managed.

We also need to take steps to ensure that a college education at Colorado's public institutions is affordable and valuable to students. Our institutions should provide the highest quality education at a fair price. Citizens should be able to accurately evaluate whether they are getting the educational quality that best fits their needs and provides the best value for their tuition dollar.

My agenda for improving the quality of colleges and universities in 1995 includes the following proposals:

1. **Design new ways to hold institutions of higher education responsible for fulfilling the specific mission of their institution.** Coloradans should not have to pay for activities that do not support the mission of the institution, and they deserve to know that institutions are providing the best education as efficiently as possible. As a state government, we should define the quality and results we expect from our higher education system, decide which pieces each institution will pursue, and then measure whether each institution is meeting these expectations. Legislators considering this issue over the summer proposed we develop "contracts" with each institution listing out our expectations and linking funding to performance under these contracts. This idea is a different way of doing business as a state, but we shouldn't reject it out of hand. Instead, we should thoughtfully consider how we can make this proposal work.

2. **Ensure students can graduate in four-years from a four-year institution.** Too many students in Colorado public institutions have difficulty graduating from state institutions within four years. I propose we take steps specifically to ensure that colleges and universities are not the cause of the problem. The University of Colorado at Denver has made this four-year "promise" to its students; we should ask our other institutions to do likewise. As enrollment increases, we cannot afford to subsidize the education of students simply because our institutions are not organized effectively to get students out on time with a quality degree.

Developing a High-Quality Workforce

If we want the best jobs we create through our economic development efforts to go to Coloradans, we must have good institutions of higher learning and good school-to-work transition programs. But we must also ensure that our current workers are given the opportunity to upgrade their skills, so that they are not permanently dislocated when changes alter the scope of their jobs.

Last year, I created the Workforce Coordinating Council in the Governor's Office and appointed representatives from business, labor, education, community-based organizations, and state and local government. The council is charged with developing a comprehensive employment and training plan by July 1, 1995. The plan will include the following components:

- * identify training and employment needs of the Colorado workforce;
- * recommend steps to meet the needs identified;
- * evaluate all state training programs;
- * make recommendations concerning the organizational structure which will best deliver employment and training services; and
- * make recommendations concerning training programs, including apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs.

In creating this council, we have taken the first step toward designing a workforce development system that is rational, addresses the needs of workers and employers alike,

We must continue our work. My agenda to improve the quality of our schools in 1995 includes the following proposals:

1. Maintain our commitment to clear, rigorous standards for student performance. We launched a powerful tool for raising student achievement when we passed House Bill 1313 in 1993. The premise behind the bill is simple: we will never achieve real change in our system unless we state clearly what our expectations are. "Model" standards for school districts to use will soon be completed in core subject areas: reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and geography. I will oppose efforts to weaken or abandon this approach, as it would send a wrong message to Coloradans who want their schools to be accountable.

2. Eliminate dis-incentives for teacher transfer. People who choose teaching as a career choose one of the most insulated, inflexible careers possible. A high-quality education system should operate in a free market for high-quality teachers. We should eliminate dis-incentives that keep too many teachers in the same job in the same district for their entire careers. Specifically, I propose that we change policies so teachers don't take a salary cut when taking a job in a new district, so benefits from the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and the Denver Public Schools retirement program are transferable, so districts can recruit teachers from other districts at a competitive wage, and so the new master teacher license (now included in the state's new educator licensing regulations) is a transferable license -- good for five years credit and tenure in any district.

3. Invest in the professional expertise of our educators. When we discuss education reform, the focus of our rhetoric and our policies are on raising student performance. But, by demanding more from students, we also are demanding more from educators. We can't have a high-quality education system without high-quality teachers and principals. Every educator needs to have the training, knowledge base, and skills to help all students achieve at higher levels.

I propose we create and fund a new challenge grant program that matches state resources with local districts or groups of districts to provide effective, efficient professional development strategies for their staff. To receive state support, district strategies must be designed to ensure that reform measures are applied in every classroom and that our education professionals have the support they need to be the very best in their profession. I also challenge professional education associations to support these efforts using their own resources and programs.

4. **Make necessary changes to improve the operation of charter schools.** When we allowed for the creation of charter schools in 1993, we opened a floodgate of local creativity, energy, and commitment to improving schools. Our charter school effort has been a success; with little state support and great local obstacles, Colorado has the highest "per-capita" number of charter schools of any state in the nation. We should monitor this effort carefully and continue to make changes and corrections to ensure its success. In the coming months, I want to work with legislators to review the number of charter schools we now allow, the process for receiving waivers, the use of building space for charter schools, and the financial issues this effort creates for both school districts and charter schools -- and then take any appropriate steps.

5. Focus on results, not regulation. With the implementation of clear standards for student performance in the coming years, we will – for the first time – begin holding

our education system accountable for what really matters: student achievement. As such, ~~standards force the school system to operate in an entirely different mode.~~ We therefore should remove the tangle of rules, regulations, and reports that have nothing to do with student achievement.

I support three changes to make our regulatory system results-oriented. First, my Administration has applied to U.S. Secretary of Education for a blanket waiver from a number of federal education regulations, including vocational education and Title I "Even Start" programs. Second, I support legislation which will streamline the process school districts must go through to receive a regulatory waiver from the State Board of Education.

Third, I am open to suggestions for rules and regulations we should abolish immediately for all school districts -- rules and regulations that do not support our goals of student achievement, implementation of standards, and student safety. My suggestions for regulations we could discuss abolishing include all testing requirements (except those specified in H.B. 93-1313); accountability reports to the State Board of Education; school district accreditation; education and licensing requirements to become a principal; size requirements for flags displayed in a classroom; vocational program paperwork; procurement requirements for purchasing school buses; quarterly reports on district budgets; some management responsibilities of principals; and district involvement when students switch districts.

6. Help school districts operate as efficiently as possible. In September, I challenged Colorado's 20 largest school districts -- which together represent over 75 percent of the money spent on K-12 education -- to pursue performance audits of their operations and management. Performance audits don't measure how much money a district is spending and in which categories; rather, they bring in the expertise of an outside firm to find management efficiencies, operational changes, and district duties that can be done at a lower cost. Over the past weeks, we have designed an application and review process, and we should make our first awards shortly. Despite some initial concerns, I have heard from most district and expect nearly all 20 will accept this challenge.

7. De-regulate "unlit" fiber. Telecommunications and state-of-the-art technology can improve the quality of classroom learning and help schools operate at a lower cost. We should make sure "unlit" fiber -- the technical term for fiber optic cables which districts are using to provide distance learning opportunities -- remains affordable and accessible. "Unlit" fiber should not be treated as a regulated service, and we should take whatever legislative action is necessary to ensure it can be offered to districts with preferential rates.

Linking Our Schools to the Work Place

Our schools need to do a better job of preparing students for the world of work. We know that 75 percent of graduates from Colorado's high schools do not go on to earn four-year college degrees -- yet high school curriculum is geared almost exclusively toward the college-bound.

For every available high-skill, high-wage job, Colorado students compete not only against other U.S. students, but against students from other countries. To make sure our students remain competitive, they must have the knowledge, skills, and appropriate work experiences to prepare them for a job after graduation or for additional higher education.

Getting this done will require a new, unprecedented partnership between schools, higher education, and -- most important -- the business community.

Last year, this Administration received a planning grant from the federal government to develop a "school-to-work transition" system in Colorado. I created a steering committee, made up of business people, labor representatives, educators, and government officials, and we took this concept to the people of Colorado through a series of eight regional public meetings this past summer.

We must continue our work. My agenda to link our schools to the work place in 1995 includes the following proposals:

1. Finalize our planning effort to design a comprehensive system that provides students a transition from the school to the work place. Based on what it heard at statewide public meetings and the work of several technical task forces, the School-to-Work Steering Committee is preparing a state plan for moving Colorado toward a school-to-work transition system. We will distribute this plan throughout the state for more public input, and then we will submit it to the federal government to receive additional funds for implementation.

Because of her past experience in business and education, I have asked Lt. Gov. Gail Schoettler to provide the necessary direction and oversight to this initiative. Regardless of whether we receive federal aid or not, we intend to make the necessary changes in our state government structures to support a school-to-work system.

2. Support local efforts to create "school-to-work" programs. Using money from our federal planning grant, the Governor's Office has provided seed money to three communities -- based on a competitive grant process -- to develop "career academies" aligned with one of Colorado's growth industries. A career academy is a special-focus program offering students academic and work experiences related to a specific career.

Three school districts were awarded career academy grants. The Sierra Grande School District in Blanca will work with Colorado Digital Labs to expand its student-operated computer manufacturing enterprise. Jefferson County School District will work with Lutheran Medical Center and Red Rocks Community College to develop health career academies at Jefferson and Wheat Ridge high schools. Denver Public Schools will expand its existing Academy of Travel and Tourism and Academy of Finance to serve more students.

Because of the interest shown in this grant program, we should find existing state funds we can redirect to support more career academies and youth apprenticeship programs.

Improving the Quality of Colleges and Universities

We have great challenges before us to continue ensuring that our system of public higher education remains of the same high quality we have grown accustomed to expect.

We need to take seriously the predictions about enrollment growth. Based on the current student population in our middle and high schools, Colorado may see as much as a 20 percent increase in higher education enrollment over the next 10 years. We need to take steps now to plan for this growth -- recognizing that some of our institutions are operating below capacity, while others are bursting at the seams.

TALKING POINTS ON SUPREME COURT COLORADO DECISION

What did the Court hold?

The Court invalidated a Colorado state constitutional amendment that rescinded and prohibited any state and local laws offering protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The opinion of the Court -- written by Justice Kennedy and joined by Justices Stevens, O'Connor, Souter, Ginsberg and Breyer -- held that the Colorado provision violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

What is the President's reaction to the decision?

The President believes the decision was appropriate. The Colorado law denied a group of citizens the right to participate effectively in the political process, and the President believes that it is bad public policy to deny rights categorically to any group of Americans. It is also inconsistent with the common values and principles that make our nation strong.

How does this decision affect the government's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy for gays in the military?

We have been advised by the Department of Justice that the Court's decision should have no impact on litigation relating to that policy. In such litigation, the government has argued, and courts have held, that the existing policy bears a rational relationship to legitimate government interests, such as creating and maintaining unit cohesion in the armed forces. The Department believes that nothing in the Court's decision changes that.

What are the implications of the Court's decision with respect to the Defense of Marriage Act -- the gay marriage bill -- that has been introduced in Congress?

We have been advised today by the Department of Justice that the Court's decision does not affect the Department's conclusion that the proposed legislation would survive a constitutional challenge. As I have stated before, the President is opposed to gay marriage.

But didn't the court suggest that a classification -- like a classification of gay marriages envisioned by the Defense of Marriage bill -- is invalid?

No. The Court did not address a bill like the Defense of Marriage Act in its decision. I, of course, can't predict how all of these issues will be decided in the future. But I have been advised that it is still the best judgment of the Justice Department that the Defense of Marriage Act would be upheld if challenged in court.

TALKING POINTS ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Why does the President oppose same sex marriage?

The President believes that marriage is an institution for the union of a man and a woman. This has been his longstanding position, and it is not being reviewed or reconsidered.

The President also believes that issues relating to gays and lesbians should not be used to tear our communities apart. Even on the most difficult social issues we face, we must work together to find common ground. Every American deserves no less.

What is the President's position on the proposed legislation -- the "Defense of Marriage Act" -- on same-sex marriage pending in Congress?

The President is opposed to same sex marriage. The proposed legislation in Congress has not yet been approved, and we don't know if it will be or in what form. But any legislation presented to the President will be reviewed in light of his opposition to same sex marriage.

Will the President's position on the proposed Congressional legislation be affected by yesterday's Supreme Court decision in the Colorado case?

The White House has been advised by the Department of Justice that the Supreme Court's decision does not affect the Department's previously-announced conclusion that the proposed legislation would survive a constitutional challenge. The President is opposed to gay marriage, and any legislation presented to him will be reviewed in light of that position.

But didn't the Supreme Court suggest that a classification -- like a classification of gay marriages envisioned in the proposed Congressional legislation -- is invalid?

The White House has been advised that it is still the best judgment of the Justice Department that the Defense of Marriage Act would be upheld if challenged in court.

Are there steps, such as changing the tax code or immigration laws, or creating domestic partnership benefits for federal workers, that you believe the federal government should take to help gay couples?

The President is aware that many communities and institutions are considering whether certain basic benefits can be provided outside the context of traditional marriage. The challenge in addressing these issues is to remain sensitive to the traditional values of our communities while preserving the fundamental right to live free from unjustified discrimination. In our country's history we have, for good reason, looked first to state and local governments, as well as the private sector, to consider issues like these involving community values and matters of conscience. The President believes that these issues continue to be best resolved at this level of civil discourse.

An increasing number of gays and lesbians are having children, either biologically or through adoption. Is there anything the federal government should do to encourage or discourage gay child rearing?

The most important thing is that children find themselves in loving, healthy and safe environments. State and local officials need to ensure that the best interests of the child are being served. That interest, not the interests of others, is paramount.

SUSPENSION OF DENVER HEAD START GRANTEE

Summary

On Friday, May 17, Olivia Golden, Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, travelled to Denver to deliver a letter of suspension to the board of the Denver Head Start grantee, the Child Opportunity Program (COP), and to release the report of a comprehensive review on COP to the press. This year COP had served 2,525 Head Start children with a federal grant of \$9.1 million in a total of 65 different local centers. The suspension action means that, as of Friday, COP has been ordered to cease all operations that are supported by the Head Start grant and will not be authorized to expend any Head Start funds without specific written approval.

Background

This action continues the Administration's commitment to assuring that every child in Head Start receives quality services. Since October of 1993, our zero tolerance of poor quality programs has led to the termination or relinquishment of 40 grantees who were unable to shape up their programs to meet our performance standards. We also have worked successfully to remedy serious problems with another 100 grantees who have been permitted to stay in business.

The decision to suspend the current grant to COP to provide Head Start services in Denver and several adjacent communities was based on a review of the program in April that followed multiple allegations of mismanagement of the program. A team of federal and non-federal staff formed by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) found that COP had failed to fulfill its required responsibilities as a Head Start grantee, failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant award, and due to improper fiscal management and lack of appropriate Board or managerial oversight had created a serious risk of substantial loss of project funds and property. The report also documents a fundamental breakdown in COP's governance and management functions and many specific areas of non-compliance with Head Start performance standards. As part of the announcement, ACF has requested the IHS Office of Inspector General conduct a comprehensive fiscal audit.

Media and Political Interest

Many of the agency's governance, management, and fiscal problems had been widely-publicized in the local media. Specifically, Eddie Brandon, Chair of COP's Board for more than 25 years, was the subject of more than a dozen critical newspaper articles over several months. Governor Roy Romer and First Lady Bea Romer, active proponents of the Head Start program, both had been critical of COP and had charged the federal government of having ignored long-standing problems with the grantee. Congresswoman Pat Schroeder wrote to the Department in April expressing concern about the problems with the Denver program and supporting our investigation.

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May 18, 1996 Saturday 2D EDITION

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A-01

LENGTH: 1367 words

HEADLINE: Heads roll at Head Start Feds order Brandon and his board out

BYLINE: Paul Hutchinson, Denver Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Federal officials came down hard yesterday on Denver's Head Start agency, demanding a change of leadership, suspending its \$ 10 million grant and blaming chairman Eddie Brandon for creating one of the most seriously damaged preschool programs in the nation.

An investigative team uncovered rampant financial mismanagement, including fraudulent statements to the government and widespread misuse of Head Start money, according to the team's 43-page report. The 30 investigators spent a week in Denver last month after mismanagement was revealed in The Denver Post.

The team's report said the program operates in a "habitual crisis mode," with the clerical staff and 500 teachers toiling in an atmosphere of "suspicion, anxiety and fear."

Brandon and his fellow board members must resign by June 7 or Brandon's agency loses the Head Start grant. Federal officials also demanded the resignations of financial officer Robert Ward and chief accountant Richard Chavez.

Following their practice of the past three months, Brandon and other Head Start officials refused to comment. Reporters who tried to enter Head Start headquarters - a public building - were turned away yesterday by a security guard.

The suspension of the grant is contingent on 14 demands that must be met within 30 days. Among them: The federal government must be repaid for "loans" made with Head Start money for other purposes. Officials did not disclose a dollar amount for the loans, or their alleged purpose.

If the demands are not met in 30 days, the grant will be terminated, and a new agency will be awarded the Head Start grant.

In harsh language, the report details Brandon's repeated violations of government rules. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also ordered a financial audit by the Office of Inspector General, setting the stage for a possible criminal investigation.

A copy of the report was delivered yesterday to U.S. Attorney Henry Solano,

Reaction to Suspension

At the Friday meeting with the board members, Commissioner Golden presented the suspension letter and encouraged the board to relinquish the grant. The letter cited the severe problems and gave 14 areas to be corrected in 30 days. If the program fails to correct or meet the satisfaction of ACF, the grantee will be terminated. The board members were unable to reach an agreement among themselves on Friday and told ACF officials that they would get back to the agency. As of this writing, ACF had not received further communication from the board. Under statute, COP has the right to appeal the suspension.

Commissioner Golden spoke with a variety of key people in the Denver community to inform them of our actions and to brief them on the report. All expressed support and a willingness to help. Among those briefed were key staff in the Governor's and Mayor's offices; staff in Congresswoman Schroeder's District office; and the chair and selected members of the Parent Policy Council of COP.

The press coverage of the ACF actions was generally very positive. The report was praised for its depth and thoroughness. The actions were characterized as "came down hard." Reaction from the staff and parents was unanimously and enthusiastically supportive. "Yesterday's news was greeted with exuberance...They let loose with whoops and hollers." HHS was also complimented for the referral to the Inspector General, as many suspect possible criminal violations. The only criticism was that HHS should have acted sooner.

Transition

COP recently completed its program services for the vast majority of children for this year. However, approximately 160 children are participating in a child care component that is funded jointly by Head Start and other sources. The Clayton Foundation has agreed to serve as an interim grantee and will continue services to these children and families, safeguard federal funds and property, and provide continued employment for selected Head Start staff members until a permanent grantee is selected through a competitive process. (The interim arrangement could last up to 12 months, covering the summer and upcoming Head Start year which begins in the fall.) On Friday, Regional office staff met with the Clayton Foundation to plan for a smooth transition in services to children. On Monday, May 20, two experts identified by the national Head Start Bureau will be on the ground in Denver to assist in the transition, including Clennie Murphy, a former Associate Commissioner of the Head Start Bureau.

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the regional Health and Human Services office.

"We have taken the appropriate action," she said. Golden would not say what steps, if any, would be taken to ensure that the situation is not repeated. Likewise, she would not say if changes would be ordered at the Denver HHS office.

However, Golden has dispatched a top aide, associate commissioner Clennie Murphy of Washington, to Denver to oversee the Head Start program during the next several weeks. Golden also visited yesterday with the staffs of Gov. Roy Romer and Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, seeking their help in guiding Head Start and restoring its damaged reputation.

Frank Fajardo, the regional HHS official responsible for Denver's Head Start, said he had followed a "corporate approach" to running the program.

"We have done the normal oversight and have asked for the normal corrective actions," Fajardo said. Before he could finish, Fajardo was hustled away by his press secretary.

About a dozen Head Start parents attended yesterday's announcement. Among them, Jackie Montoya said she was pleased with the outcome and enthused about the future.

Sister Rosemary Keegan, a Head Start founder in Denver and longtime critic of Brandon, was also upbeat.

"It's about time," Keegan said. "We've only been working on this thing for about four years. We finally got it accomplished."

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Among the findings in yesterday's federal report on the Denver Head Start program:

Board chairman Eddie Brandon's agency over-reported by \$ 608,904 the amount of matching funds it raised last year. The effect of not meeting the matching-funds requirement for maintaining the Head Start grant means a shortage of program services, equipment and supplies - felt most critically in the classrooms serving 2,500 needy youngsters.

In 1994, Brandon's agency over-reported the matching-funds requirement by \$ 147,160.

Financial officer Robert Ward was employed by the Head Start agency, and also by a nonprofit agency that rented buildings to Head Start. Ward's conflict of interest violates federal regulations.

The nonprofit employing Ward is called Ideal Properties Inc. In 1992, the Head Start agency sold a building in west Denver to Ideal Properties for \$ 10. Immediately, Ideal Properties began charging Head Start \$ 1,000 monthly rent - for a building that the Head Start agency had previously owned. In 1995, Ideal Properties sold the building back to the Head Start agency - for \$ 10.

The Denver Post, May 18, 1996 Saturday

federal officials said. Solano did not return phone calls seeking comment. A federal official in Washington said the inspector general's staff works closely with the FBI, U.S. attorneys and other law enforcement agencies.

"I believe this is an extremely serious situation," said Olivia Golden, the commissioner for Head Start based in Washington who conducted a press conference in Denver yesterday. In the past, Golden had not personally visited a city to deliver a Head Start report, she said, illustrating the depth of the program's mismanagement.

Of the 40 Head Start programs terminated across the country in the past three years, Denver's was the most serious case she had seen, Golden said.

However, she praised the staff and teachers who serve the program's 2,500 needy children. Likewise, yesterday's report lauded what was described as an overworked and underpaid staff.

"The major strength of the Head Start program is the dedication of the staff, especially the teaching staff," the report said. "With limited resources filtering down to the classrooms, the services provided are commendable."

For the time being, Head Start will be managed by the Clayton Foundation, which runs an Early Head Start program in east Denver. Services to children enrolled in summer programs won't be disrupted. Regular Head Start classes should resume on schedule in late summer. The current school year ended prematurely last week - nearly three weeks early - because the program had run out of money.

Since 1979, all Head Start programs in Denver have been administered by the Child Opportunity Program, a nonprofit agency run by Brandon for the past 28 years. Besides Head Start, Child Opportunity runs a profit-making day-care operation that is improperly financed with Head Start money and equipment, the report said.

Yesterday's news was greeted with exuberance at Head Start headquarters at 2500 Curtis St. Employees gathered at copying machines awaiting their own copies of the report. They let loose with whoops and hollers as they read the contents.

"Then we ordered a mass delivery of pizza," said one employee, still fearful of Brandon's order prohibiting employees from speaking publicly.

Investigators conducted interviews with 304 people last month. "Virtually every person interviewed complained about the role of the board chairman (Brandon) in the operation of the agency," the report said.

Unexplained at yesterday's news conference was how the situation grew so severe, and how Brandon was able to operate with impunity for so long. The report states that problems had festered for more than five years, even though strict guidelines are supposed to be enforced by regional federal officials.

Many Head Start employees said they were ignored when they sought help from local federal officials. Action came only after newspaper reports in the past three months, employees said.

Golden, the Head Start commissioner, repeatedly sidestepped questions about

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One of the directors of Ideal Properties is Elvin Caldwell, former Denver councilman and manager of safety who resigned his post in the wake of a police bingo scandal in 1983. In the early 1980s, Caldwell had been accused of taking bribes while he was a councilman, but he never was prosecuted.

Raymond Trujillo, vice-chairman of the Head Start agency, received a major painting contract for the Head Start headquarters building. Trujillo charged Head Start more than the bid, although yesterday's report did not contain the figure. The painting-contract issue was first reported in The Denver Post. Head Start officials have refused requests for public records.

"Board chairman Eddie Brandon has intervened and interfered repeatedly in program operations, in violation of (federal regulations)."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Denver Post file photo Eddie Brandon

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May 18, 1996, Saturday

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HEADLINE: Feds suspend Denver's Head Start
Hundreds of thousands of dollars missing; investigators order replacement
of board

BYLINE: Bill Scanlon; Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

BODY:

Federal investigators Friday suspended Denver's Head Start program, ordered that all board members be replaced and named the Clayton Foundation as interim overseer of the preschool program.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are unaccounted for and must be repaid, said Olivia Golden, who oversees Head Start for the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

"The agency cannot be trusted to manage its financial affairs," she said.
"This is an extremely serious situation."

Nationwide, 40 Head Start programs have had their licenses suspended. But Denver's was the first case so serious that Golden felt it necessary to deliver the news in person, she said at HHS regional headquarters in Denver.

The hammer fell heaviest on Eddie Brandon, the longtime board chairman of Denver's Head Start.

A report by a 31-person federal task force that interviewed 305 people in April painted Brandon, 70, as a virtual tyrant who unilaterally decided who would be hired and fired, who would win contracts, and determined how the money was spent. Brandon was chief finance officer and executive director, far exceeding the limits of his power as board chairman, the report said.

"One individual has been permitted to dominate the governing board," said the report. "The chairman was involved inappropriately in personnel actions, grievances and contract awards."

Brandon's meddling and abuse of power caused fund-raising and volunteerism to dry up, and led to the resignations of Head Start's top executives, the report said.

Golden said Head Start's umbrella organization, Child Opportunity Program, has 30 days to replace the board, remove the top fiscal officer and chief accountant, and take several other actions.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 21, 1996

Rocky Mountain News, May 18, 1996

If not, Child Opportunity Program's grant to run the program will be terminated and the search for a new permanent non-profit group to run Denver Head Start will begin.

In the interim, the program will be run by the Clayton Foundation, a non-profit group that operates Clayton Charter School in northeast Denver.

Adele Phelan, president of the Clayton Foundation, said her group won't apply to be the permanent oversight agency, but found it hard to say "no" when asked to fill in. "We obviously want to do the best job we can for the children of the city," she said.

Golden also ordered Health and Human Services' inspector general to investigate fiscal improprieties. Findings of fraud could be turned over to the U.S. Attorney for criminal charges.

Parents and former staffers applauded the federal report, urging Brandon and the rest of the board to resign quickly. Most said Child Opportunity Program has enough strength in its volunteers, parents and teachers to continue to run Head Start if it gets the help of a new board.

Parent Jackie Montoya wants a new board to better reflect the ethnic breakdown of the families - half of whom are Hispanic. "As long as we don't have the same board members and chairman, we'll be OK. We'll be better than OK, we'll be great."

"I'm ecstatic," said Bill Evans, former finance officer with Head Start. Fund-raising is essential, because 20% of the annual budget must come from local sources. "If we can seat a competent board, money will start coming in again." "It's amazing the feds allowed this very obvious and enduring of fiscal mismanagement to continue for such a long time," said John Garcia, former regional director of the federal Office of Child Development.

Brandon could not be reached for comment. Board members plan to meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday at 2500 Curtis St.

Years of pent-up frustration with the management of Denver Head Start erupted in March when the board laid off 32 employees, giving them just two days notice.

In fiscal year 1994, Child Opportunity Program misappropriated \$ 397,000 from the Head Start account, said the report. That's money that should be directed toward preschool classrooms and services for low-income families. Among other findings:

* Bids on contracts weren't always solicited, often were done with a couple of informal phone calls and often weren't awarded to the lowest bidder. The report cited several examples of "less-than-arms-length" awarding of contracts to which the fiscal officer had ties. * Fire safety inspections are long overdue at most of the 65 classroom sites, a problem that must be addressed immediately. f f INFOBOX\$ f% f Program will reopen in August\$ f%f

Denver Head Start is a federal preschool program serving 2,525 low-income children, ages 3 to 5. It closed for the school year on May 9, more than two weeks earlier than usual. Federal officials said the program will reopen in August, regardless of which group oversees it. For information: 692-3060.

7TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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May 17, 1996 Friday 2D EDITION

SECTION: DENVER & THE WEST; Pg. B-03

LENGTH: 201 words

HEADLINE: Feds to release Head Start probe results

BYLINE: The Denver Post

BODY:

A federal investigation into Denver's Head Start program has concluded, and results will be announced at a press conference this morning at the downtown federal building.

Olivia Golden, the commissioner for Head Start in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will arrive today from Washington to announce results and address the media.

Golden also will meet with the board of directors for the Child Opportunity Program, the agency that has administered Head Start in Denver for the past two decades.

Denver's 65 Head Start centers closed prematurely on May 9 after running out of money.

The closure deprived 2,500 youngsters of preschool programs for the rest of May.

The investigation was prompted by a series of stories in The Denver Post over the past three months. The stories detailed management problems, wasteful spending, cronyism and questionable contracts signed by agency chairman Eddie Brandon.

Nineteen former members of Brandon's board of directors recently called for his resignation, terming his leadership "an embarrassment."

Head Start, founded under President Lyndon Johnson in 1965, provides preschool, medical and social services for low-income families.

LOAD-DATE: May 20, 1996

REPUBLICAN BUDGET STILL THREATENS MEDICARE

May 16, 1996

*"No, we don't get rid of it in round one because we don't think it's politically smart....
But we believe it's going to wither on the vine" -- Newt Gingrich, 10/24/95*

REPUBLICANS STILL INSIST ON EXCESSIVE MEDICARE CUTS THAT WOULD MOVE MEDICARE TOWARD SECOND CLASS HEALTH CARE. The Republican budget reduces Medicare spending by \$167 billion -- \$51 billion or 44% more than CBO scored the President's balanced budget. They could use savings from cutting corporate subsidies and closing tax loopholes to reduce their Medicare cuts -- but instead they use these savings to fund capital gains and other tax cuts for the wealthy.

WHILE HOUSE REPUBLICANS HAVE FINALLY AGREED NOT TO RAISE MEDICARE PREMIUMS, THEY HAVE NOT LOWERED THEIR TOTAL CUTS. Rather than raising costs on beneficiaries directly they now do it indirectly through even deeper cuts in payments to the hospitals and home health providers that serve beneficiaries, jeopardizing quality and access to health services.

- **Extreme Cuts Threaten Viability of Many Hospitals.** Their \$167 billion cut could mean hospitals get lower payments tomorrow than today -- even in nominal terms -- and will result in cost-shifting, undermine quality, and threaten the financial viability of many rural and urban hospitals. According to the American Hospital Association, nearly 700 hospitals derive *two-thirds or more* of net patient revenues from Medicare and Medicaid.
- **American Hospital Association and National Association of Children's Hospitals are "gravely concerned about the level of reductions proposed"** by Republicans in Medicare and Medicaid. [May 10, 1996 letter to Chairmen Roth, Archer, and Bliley from ten hospital associations.]

MORE THAN DOLLARS ARE AT STAKE -- THEIR DAMAGING STRUCTURAL CHANGES WOULD FORCE MEDICARE TO "WITHER ON THE VINE." The Republican budget still contains the damaging structural changes that President Clinton vetoed last year. These changes would segment the Medicare population, leaving the traditional program with fewer dollars and sicker beneficiaries.

- **MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (MSAs).** Republicans insist on the immediate adoption of untested changes to the Medicare program, such as MSAs, that appeal to the healthiest and wealthiest beneficiaries, leaving the sickest and most costly beneficiaries in a weakened fee-for-service program. CBO projects that MSAs will *increase* Medicare costs by more than \$4 billion over seven years.
New York Times: "A hallmark of the [Republican] Medicare legislation is the encouragement of private health plans....But many experts fear a balkanization of healthy and sick....If some experts worry that managed care plans would skim healthy recipients from the conventional Medicare program, many of the large plans are *concerned that the healthy would be skimmed from them by medical savings accounts.*" [11/18/95]
- **OVER-CHARGING IN PRIVATE PLANS.** Republican proposals permit physicians to charge beneficiaries extra -- through "balance billing" -- in private Medicare plans, increasing out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries and slowly draining the fee-for-service system of both doctors and dollars.
- **HARD SPENDING CAP.** Republicans impose a hard cap on Medicare spending. If costs increase faster than projected, spending would no longer keep up -- leading to cuts exceeding \$167 billion.
Wall Street Journal: "Republicans also would apply a cap to these services. If health-care costs rose faster than the GOP budget allots, doctors, hospitals and other providers would have to absorb the losses. *That, in turn, could come back to bite the beneficiaries.*" [12/27/95]

RESIDENT CLINTON'S BUDGET SHOWS THAT THEIR DEEP CUTS AND DAMAGING STRUCTURAL CHANGES ARE NOT NECESSARY TO BALANCE THE BUDGET AND GUARANTEE THE LIFE OF THE MEDICARE TRUST FUND FOR 10 YEARS.

REPUBLICANS STILL INSIST ON ENDING THE MEDICAID GUARANTEE BUT THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET SHOWS ITS NOT NECESSARY TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

May 9, 1996

MEDICAID CUTS COULD STILL TOTAL \$250 BILLION. While the Republicans cut Federal Medicaid spending by \$72 billion, the total Medicaid cuts could still reach \$250 billion over 7 years if States spend only the minimum required to receive their full block grant allocation. This is because all of the Republican proposals would reduce State matching requirements.

CUT BELOW THE GENERAL INFLATION RATE. The potential \$250 billion Federal and State Medicaid cut would reduce spending growth per person below the general inflation rate.

MORE THAN DOLLARS ARE AT STAKE -- THEY ARE STILL INSISTING ON A BLOCK GRANT. *None of the Republican proposals so far contain the Governors' principle that funding must automatically adjust for changes in enrollment and must not be capped.* Republicans would leave States and the families they serve vulnerable to factors beyond their control.

MEDICAID GUARANTEE TO MEANINGFUL BENEFITS NO LONGER SECURE FOR MILLIONS OF CHILDREN, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND OLDER AMERICANS. All the Republican Medicaid plans to date still undermine the guarantee to meaningful health benefits. With total cuts reaching up to \$250 billion, States could be forced to deny health benefits to millions of children, people with disabilities, and older Americans, putting millions of middle class families at risk of paying for health care for their parents, children or family members with disabilities.

- **Children.** Deep total cuts in Medicaid would put severe financial pressure on States to reduce health benefits for many of the 18 million children who currently receive Medicaid. Indeed, one specific proposal would deny coverage for 2.5 million children aged 13-18 who have that guarantee under current law.
- **Older Americans and Their Families.** Deep total cuts in Medicaid could particularly put at risk optional Medicaid benefits critical to older Americans and people with disabilities -- including prescription drugs, home and community-based care, and assistive devices such as wheelchairs -- which would put additional financial burdens on family members caring for their parents and family members with disabilities.
- **People with Disabilities.** The Republican budget still jeopardizes the Medicaid guarantee for the over 6 million people with disabilities who currently receive Medicaid by allowing States to define who meets the disability criteria and exclude some of those now covered. Their excessive Medicaid cuts may force States to deny coverage entirely or cut back on benefits.

MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES DEPEND ON THE MEDICAID GUARANTEE BEING SECURE. If States are forced to deny coverage or restrict benefits, millions of middle class families could have to choose between their parents' health care and their children's education.

REPEAL OF FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OF NURSING HOME QUALITY STANDARDS. Republicans are apparently still insisting on repealing Federal enforcement of the nursing home quality standards that have dramatically improved the quality of nursing home care -- even though it is not necessary to balance the budget. The excessive Republican Medicaid cuts, combined with the elimination of Federal enforcement of nursing home quality standards, may lead to inadequate and inconsistent enforcement of quality. Since these Federal standards and enforcement mechanisms were signed into law by President Reagan, there has been a 50% reduction in dehydration among nursing home residents, a 31% reduction in hospitalization rates, and a 25% reduction in the use of physical restraints.

**Putting America Back to Work:
President Clinton's Fight for Real Welfare Reform**
May 21, 1996

Bill Clinton can justifiably claim that he has indeed ended welfare as we know it."

Douglas Besharov, American Enterprise Institute, Business Week, May 20, 1996

Under President Clinton, America's welfare system has changed profoundly. The evidence of the President's leadership can be seen in both the evolving debate about national reform and in the positive changes that are now occurring under Administration-approved state demonstrations. Welfare caseloads are down while work and training activities among recipients are up. And child support collections have reached a record high.

A long-standing commitment to helping families move from welfare to work. President Clinton has granted 60 welfare reform waivers to 38 states allowing them to bypass existing welfare rules and set time limits on benefits, require recipients to work or stay in school, provide child care and give employers incentives to hire welfare recipients. By granting states these waivers, President Clinton is making work and responsibility a way of life for 75% of all welfare recipients.

Responsible welfare reform: Tough on work and fair to children. President Clinton has introduced a sweeping welfare reform legislation that:

- Imposes time limits and requires work,
- Provides adequate funding for child care to move people from welfare to work,
- * Strengthens child support enforcement and protects children.

The Wisconsin Plan: Supporting every serious effort to move people from welfare to work. Wisconsin has the makings of a solid, bold welfare reform plan. President Clinton has pledged to work with Wisconsin to make an effective transition to a new vision of welfare based on work, that protects children and does right by working people and their families. President Clinton's legislative proposal and the Wisconsin plan have a number of similarities. Each plan:

- * Replaces a system based on dependency with a system based on work.
- * Guarantees a job instead of a welfare check.
- * Guarantees health care and child care, so people can go to work and stay off welfare.
- * Supports a five-year lifetime limit, as included in the President's FY 97 budget.

We have made great progress.

- * **Food stamp rolls and welfare rolls are down.** Since President Clinton took office in January 1993, the welfare rolls have fallen by 1.3 million individuals, a decrease of nearly 10%. Welfare rolls are down in 42 states, some by as much as 30%.
- * **Child support collections are up.** Through partnerships with states, tougher enforcement, waivers and executive orders, the Clinton Administration has led an unprecedented crackdown on child support enforcement. Child support collections have **grown nearly 40% since 1992**, to \$11 billion.
- * **The Administration proposed the toughest child support enforcement measures ever**, including suspending drivers' licenses and tracking delinquent parents across state lines. In February 1995, President Clinton signed an executive order to ensure federal employees pay their child support.
- * **Rewarding work over welfare.** The Clinton Administration has provided tax relief for 15 million working families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates.
- * **Breaking the cycle of dependency, ending teen pregnancy.** In May 1996, the Clinton Administration took executive action to require teenage mothers to stay in school and sign personal responsibility contracts or lose their welfare benefits. The President continues to work with the community, business and religious leaders in the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed for Release
Until 10:06 A.M. EDT
Saturday, May 18, 1996

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Four years ago, I challenged America to end welfare as we know it, to require work, promote responsible parenting, ship the system from dependence to independence. Just a few days after I took office, I met with the nation's 50 governors, and I urged every one of them to send me a welfare reform plan that would help to meet that challenge. In return, I pledged to waive outmoded or counterproductive federal rules that get in the way of reform.

Most of the governors took me up on that deal. So in the last three years my administration has granted 38 states welfare reform waivers, clearing away federal rules and regulations to permit states to build effective welfare reforms of their own. The state-based reform we've encouraged has brought work and responsibility back to the lives of 75 percent of the Americans on welfare.

We're doing a lot more than signing waivers. We've also pressed ahead on fundamental reforms to make the welfare system reflect the basic values that have stood us so well for so long -- that if you bring a child into this world, you must take responsibility for that child; that government will not subsidize irresponsible or reckless behavior; that welfare is a second chance, not a way of life.

That's why I signed a presidential order to require federal employees to pay child support, and increased federal efforts to enforce child support orders across state lines. I toughened sanctions on welfare and food stamp recipients who refuse to work. I took action earlier this month to require teen mothers to stay in school and sign personal responsibility contracts if they are to receive welfare benefits. That's also why I sent Congress a sweeping welfare reform plan that would do all this and more.

Our hard work is paying off. America is in the midst of what The New York Times has called "a quiet revolution" in welfare reform under our administration. The number of Americans on welfare has dropped by 1.3 million since I took office in January, 1993. Food stamp rolls are down by even more, and so are teen pregnancy rates. What numbers are up? Well, child support collections have jumped 40 percent, and the number of people who are required to work as a condition for receiving welfare is also way up.

Today I'm pleased to report that two states, Wisconsin and Maryland, are adding momentum to this quiet revolution. Last week, Wisconsin submitted to me for approval the outlines of a sweeping welfare reform plan, one of boldest yet attempted in America, and I'm encouraged by what I've seen so far.

Under the Wisconsin plan, people on welfare who can work must work immediately. The state will see to it that the work is there -- in private sector jobs that can be subsidized if necessary, or in community service jobs if there are no private jobs available. The state says it will also see to it that

families have health care and child care, so that parents can go to work without worrying about what will happen to their children. But then they must go to work, or they won't get paid. If they do work, of course, they'll have the dignity of earning a paycheck, not a welfare check.

The plan would send a clear message to teen parents, as well. If you're a minor with a baby, you'll receive benefits only if you stay in school, live at home and turn your life around.

All in all, Wisconsin has the makings of a solid, bold welfare reform plan. We should get it done. I pledge that my administration will work with Wisconsin to make an effective transition to a new vision of welfare based on work, that protects children and does right by working people and their families.

Maryland also has come up with its own innovative welfare reform plan. It cracks down on welfare fraud, comes down hard on parents who turn their backs on child support, and helps working parents with child care so they won't be driven onto welfare in the first place.

The reforms in Wisconsin, Maryland and other states are very encouraging for two reasons: First, they give us hope that we can break the vicious cycle of welfare dependency; and second, because they make it clear that there is now a widespread national consensus shared by people without regard to their political party on what welfare reform should look like. It should be pro-work, pro-family, pro-independence, responsible. Welfare should be a second chance, not a way of life.

So the states can keep on sending me strong welfare reform proposals, and I'll keep on signing them. I'll keep doing everything I can as President to reform welfare state by state, if that's what it takes.

But there's a faster way to bring this reform
nation. There are bipartisan welfare reform plans sitting in the House and the
Senate right now that do what the American people agree welfare reform must
do: They require welfare recipients to work; they limit the time people can stay
on welfare; they toughen child support enforcement and they protect our children.

So I say to Congress: Send me a bill that honors these
fundamental principles; I'll sign it right away. Let's get the job done. Let's do
it now. Let's bring welfare reform to all 50 states. Then we'll move on to the
other challenges we face as we stand at the dawn of a new century.

Thanks for listening.

END

CHILDREN

"Our first challenge is to cherish our children and to strengthen America's families. Family is the foundation of American life. If we have stronger families, we will have a stronger America."

President Bill Clinton

January 23, 1996

Quality child care is critical to the millions of working families struggling to make ends meet. The Clinton Administration, which has increased funding for child care in every budget proposal, has been committed to expanding child care assistance through Head Start and other successful child care programs - and to improving the quality of child care. President Clinton is also committed to ensuring the safety of children in foster care, reuniting families where it is possible and encouraging adoption where it is not, reducing the unnecessary amount of time children spend in foster care, and strengthening the capacity of parents to nurture healthy children. The Clinton Administration is also committed to protecting children and improving the nutritional quality of school meals, reaching full participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and opposing block grants for child nutrition programs.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD CARE:

- **Head Start:** President Clinton has made expanding and improving Head Start a priority of his Administration. With bipartisan support, the President appointed the Head Start Advisory Commission to examine and recommend improvements to the program. These recommendations formed the basis of the reauthorization of Head Start with major quality improvements in 1994. Since taking office, the President has increased funding for Head Start by almost \$800 million to serve tens of thousands of additional children.
- **Increased Funding for Child Care:** Every budget submitted by President Clinton has included increases to improve and expand child care services.
- **Improved Coordination:** The Clinton Administration has worked to make child care programs more consistent and coordinated. By streamlining the management of four major child care programs into a single Child Care Bureau, the Administration has linked services and programs, reduced red tape, improved quality and given states more flexibility.
- **Promoted Quality:** The Clinton Administration has revamped and strengthened technical assistance to states, territories and tribes to ensure they have access to the best available information on child care quality issues, particularly health and safety. In addition, the Administration has launched a National Child Care Information Center for policymakers and the public and highlighted solutions for including children with disabilities in child care through technical assistance to states.
- **Launched New Partnerships for Quality Services:** The Clinton Administration launched the Healthy Child Care Campaign to create partnerships between the health care and child care communities to ensure safe and healthy environments for children.

- **Helped Families Move From Welfare to Work:** Since 1993, the Clinton Administration has granted waivers to more than 20 states to extend transitional child care and improve access to child care for families moving from welfare to work.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD PROTECTION:

- **Removing Barriers to Adoption:** The Clinton Administration is working to encourage adoption, including adoption of children with special needs, and to reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care. President Clinton strongly supports the adoption tax credit in the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1996. The tax credit is a step towards meeting the challenge of removing barriers to adoption by making it easier for families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive.

In October 1994, President Clinton signed the Multi-ethnic Placement Act, which will help increase the number of adoptions by prohibiting discrimination based on race or ethnicity, while allowing a narrow consideration for certain factors such as race.

- **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 about 60%.
- **Improving Court Operations:** The Administration is working with 48 state court systems to improve operations so that children spend less time in foster care unnecessarily.
- **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. The Administration is providing states with flexibility and technical assistance so that they can reform their child welfare systems and working with 48 states to automate their child welfare systems and reduce the paperwork burden on caseworkers.
- **Strengthening Families:** The Family Preservation and Support Act, passed in 1993, provided almost \$1 billion over five years for the development of preventive and supportive services.
- **Preserving Critical Programs:** The President has stood firm throughout the budget debate to protect funds for adoption, foster care, child abuse and neglect, Medicaid, and Social Security -- programs that are critical for many adoptive families and children.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD NUTRITION:

The Clinton Administration is standing up for America's children by supporting and improving child nutrition programs and protecting the national nutrition safety net.

- **Increased Funding for Nutrition:** The President's FY97 Budget requests about \$41 billion for nutrition assistance, up from \$39 billion allotted in FY96. In FY96, the President increased funding for nutrition to \$39 billion, up from \$38 billion in FY95.

- **Reaching Full Participation in WIC:** The Clinton Administration will achieve its commitment to full participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) by reaching 7.5 million participants by the end of FY97. This program works: Every dollar invested in WIC has proven to save up to \$4.25 in preventive health-care costs.
- **Reforming the School Lunch Program:** This Administration's School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children is a comprehensive plan to ensure healthy school meals. USDA's Team Nutrition -- a network of public-private partnerships -- improves the health of children by promoting food choices for a healthy diet through schools, families, communities and the media. There are now more than 6,000 Team Nutrition Schools across the nation, building local coalitions to improve meals and providing nutrition information to children and their families.
- **Protecting the National Nutrition Safety Net in Welfare Reform:** The President believes it is possible to enact real welfare reform that is tough on work and responsibility -- not tough on children -- while protecting the national nutrition safety net.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

Child Care

The President is committed to expanding the accessibility of child care information and services to parents, expanding child care funding available to low-income working families and to working with states to improve the quality of services.

Child Protection

President Clinton will continue to champion programs that break down barriers to adoption through recruitment of adoptive and foster care parents; support the placement of special needs children and reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care; and shift the federal focus from paperwork to a focus on outcomes for children by increasing flexibility for states and communities.

The President will also work to ensure that children are protected in any legislative proposals affecting child safety. The Work and Responsibility Act, introduced by the President in 1994, continued the guarantee for families moving toward self sufficiency and expanded child care assistance for working families - part of the effort to "make work pay." The President has made increasing funding for child care one of his bottom lines in the present welfare reform debate. He has consistently said that true welfare reform must help parents go to work and expanding child care assistance is critical to that goal. The President's plan included a \$1.5 billion increase in child care funding over five years for working poor families "at-risk" of welfare dependency. The welfare reform conference report that the President vetoed would have undermined the ability of states to protect children's safety, prevent child abuse and neglect and recruit safe and loving foster and adoptive homes.

CRIME

"At last we have begun to find a way to reduce crime, forming community partnerships with local police forces to catch criminals and prevent crime. This strategy, called community policing, is clearly working. Violent crime is coming down all across America....Let's stick with a strategy that is working, and keep the crime rate coming down."

President Bill Clinton
January 23, 1996

Over the past three years, the Clinton Administration has made tremendous progress in bringing crime and drug abuse under control. The violent crime and murder rates across the country are falling, thousands of criminals have been prevented from buying guns, and more police are on the street. We must continue to move forward. For while overall crime rates are decreasing, we are witnessing more crime committed by juveniles. President Clinton is committed to stopping any attempts to roll back the progress we have made in reducing crime and will continue in his efforts to put more cops on the street and take guns, drugs and gangs off the streets.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Broke six years of Congressional gridlock by signing the toughest and smartest Crime Bill ever with bipartisan support and endorsements from every major law enforcement organization. This historic legislation:
 - Created the COPS program, which is putting 100,000 more community police officers in cities, towns, and rural areas -- more than 43,000 officers have already been funded.
 - Banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, but specifically protected more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons.
 - Provided the death penalty for drug kingpins, murderers of law enforcement officers and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
 - Increased penalties for sex offenders and imposed a registration requirement for violent sexual offenders.
 - Included the Violence Against Women Act; the first national effort to reduce violence against women ever. The Act tripled funding for battered women's shelters, and has already provided \$26 million in state grants to bolster law enforcement, prosecution and victims services.
 - Created a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline that provides immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals.
 - Targeted career violent offenders with a "Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out" policy that keeps them behind bars for life.
 - Provided \$7.9 billion in funding for more prison cells to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
 - Created the Community Schools Program which promotes constructive alternatives for young people after school, in the evening, on weekends and during the summer to prevent involvement in and the victimization by crime.

- Fought for and signed the Brady Bill which has prevented over 60,000 convicted felons, fugitives, stalkers and other criminals from buying handguns.
- Granted awards totalling \$88 million to assist states in automating and updating their criminal history record systems to prevent the sale of firearms to prohibited purchasers.
- Launched the Anti-Violent Crime Initiative that has led to the arrest and conviction of many of our most violent criminals.
- Provided grants to fight gang activity and youth violence through the HHS Youth Gang Initiative Program, COPS/Gangs grants and the National Gang Database.
- Provided up to \$1 million to each of 10 urban police departments, through the COPS Youth Firearms Violence Initiative, to expand or enhance community policing and enforcement efforts to comprehensively address the rise of youth firearms violence.
- Initiated Operation Safe Home in which federal law enforcement agencies are working with public housing residents and managers to increase the arrest and conviction of violent and drug-related suspects so that public housing can be a safer place to live.
- Issued a Presidential Directive to enforce the "zero tolerance" measures outlined in the Gun-Free Schools Act.
- Supported school athlete drug testing before the Supreme Court, sending the message to parents and students that drug use will not be tolerated in our schools.
- Encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies, which promote discipline and respect, and developed a manual for schools to assist them in establishing these policies. The manual will be distributed to 16,000 school districts.
- The number of murders fell 8% in 1995 -- one of the largest declines in more than three decades. The nation's largest cities saw their overall crime fall 6% during the same period.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

While overall crime rates have been dropping, young people today are increasingly the perpetrators -- and the victims -- of some of society's most violent crimes. That is why reducing juvenile crime and violence are key components of President Clinton's continuing crime-fighting agenda: The President is challenging Congress and our communities to get tough with juvenile criminals by:

- Urging Congress to pass legislation providing tougher sentences for gun-wielding drug dealers and gang members and that will restore our ability to prosecute people who bring guns into schools. (Armed Dangerous Felons Act).
- Submitting to Congress legislation that gives prosecutors the discretion to prosecute juvenile offenders as adults.

In addition, the President is challenging:

- Congress to ban the manufacture of "cop-killer" bullets. These bullets serve no other purpose than to kill and maim police officers. We owe it to the men and women of law enforcement to get these bullets off the streets.
- States to ensure that violent criminals serve at least 85% of their sentences.
- Local housing authorities to implement a One-Strike-And-You're-Out program for public housing for those who commit crime and sell drugs.

While President Clinton is moving forward with additional initiatives to rid our streets and neighborhoods of crime and drugs, he will fight any misguided attempts by Congress to erode our progress -- such as any effort to repeal the Assault Weapons Ban or reduce the number of police in our communities.

Last Update: May 10, 1996

EDUCATION

" America has to be serious about education. We have to be serious about education if we want to have a strong economy, if we want these young people to live up to fullest of their God-given abilities. If we really believe that our obligation to our children is to give them the ability to make the most of their own lives in this world we are living in, that means education, education, education. We must face it, embrace it, and be glad about it."

President Bill Clinton
September 22, 1995

The Clinton Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to providing Americans with the educational opportunities children and adults will need to improve their skills and maximize their potential. President Clinton has fought hard to help equip students with the training and know-how necessary to keep America competitive and families strong.

The President has compiled an impressive record of achievement in improving the nation's education system with a series of new reform proposals. While bringing the deficit down by historic amounts and proposing a balanced budget within seven years, President Clinton has still made investing in education a top priority. Between 1992 and 1996, the dollar amount of aid to college and post-secondary students -- including loans, grants and work-study -- increased from \$22.5 billion to \$38.3 billion.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **National Service:** President Clinton created the AmeriCorps program -- signed into law in September of 1993 -- to enable young people to earn money for college by serving their communities and their country. In the past two years, 45,000 volunteers have worked in schools, hospitals, neighborhoods and parks.
- **Head Start:** President Clinton has made expanding and improving pre-schooling the starting point for helping families give their children a good start on the right course. The President has increased Head Start funding to provide early education to 43,000 additional children in need. Based on recommendations made by the Head Start Advisory Commission, Head Start was reauthorized in 1994 with major quality improvements.
- **Direct Lending for College:** President Clinton reformed the student loan program, making college more affordable this year for 5.5 million students and saving taxpayers billions of dollars by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options, including pay-as-you-earn plans. Over 1,300 schools, representing approximately 30% of the total amount of loans, are participating in the Direct Lending Program.

- **GOALS 2000: Raising Education Standards:** In 1994, President Clinton signed into law Goals 2000 which supports the development of standards of excellence for students and encourages grassroots reforms to improve our schools. Goals 2000 affirms the President's belief in the critical role of education in building America's future and the federal government's role as a partner in that effort. More than 45 states participate in Goals 2000 and have developed their own strategic plans for educational reform based on raising academic and occupational standards, improving teaching, increasing parental involvement and expanding the use of technology.
- **Improving America's Schools Act:** By enacting the Improving America's Schools Act, President Clinton has given schools greater flexibility to use federal aid and develop effective teaching innovations to help students achieve their full potential. This law focuses on improvements in teaching the basics in more than 50,000 schools and has a direct impact on 7 million children in low-income areas.
- **School-to-Work Opportunities Act:** Signed by President Clinton in May of 1994, this Act broadens educational, career and economic opportunities for students not immediately bound for four-year colleges through local partnerships among businesses, schools, community organizations and state and local governments. By equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue work or post-secondary training, this law helps ensure that America will be capable of performing and prospering in a competitive global economy.
- **Access to Advanced Telecommunications:** President Clinton enacted the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to help ensure that schools, libraries, hospitals and clinics will have affordable access to advanced telecommunications services. The Telecommunications Act can help connect each child in every classroom throughout America to the Information Superhighway -- opening up worlds of knowledge and opportunities to all students.
- **Technology Learning Challenge:** Initiated this grant program to challenge communities to form local partnerships between schools and private businesses to develop creative new ways to use technology for learning. Federal funds leverage local resources -- each federal dollar is matched by more than three dollars of local and private funds.
- **Religious Freedom:** President Clinton ended 30 years of confusion over school prayer and the religious rights of students by directing U.S. Attorney General Reno and U.S. Secretary of Education Riley to release guidelines outlining the many religious rights of students in our nation's public schools. According to the National Association of Schools Boards, there has been a marked decline in confusion over religious expression in our public schools as a result.

- **Character Education:** President Clinton has been and remains a vigorous proponent of teaching basic American values and citizenship in our nation's public schools. The President has hosted two White House Conferences on Character Education and has encouraged the development of character education through the Improving America's School's Act.
- **School Uniforms:** President Clinton has encouraged schools to consider school uniform policies to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect.
- **Keeping Children Safe in School:** In response to the growing problem of violence in and around our nation's public schools, President Clinton enacted the Gun-Free Schools Act, which requires the immediate expulsion for one year for any student who brings a gun to school, and provided funding for enhanced school security, drug prevention programs and counseling through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton remains committed to improving education and has vowed to continue helping Americans invest in their children's future. The President has made the following proposals:

- **Technological Literacy For The 21st Century:** President Clinton proposed the creation of a \$2 billion, five-year Technology Literacy Challenge to get technology and computers into all classrooms. The Challenge will stimulate state, local and private sector efforts to provide all our children with greater opportunity to learn the skills they need to thrive in the next century. The Technology Literacy Challenge will ensure that local innovation keeps U.S. schools on the leading edge of learning technologies.
- **Higher Education Standards For Students And Teachers:** In order to ensure America's competitive strength, President Clinton wants to see both public school students and teachers challenged by meaningful, rigorous standards and rewarded when they perform.
- **Public School Choice:** President Clinton believes that information, competition and choice among public schools should be the rule, not the exception. Any parent who is dissatisfied with either their child's performance or the school's performance should have the opportunity to choose a public school that will do better.
- **Charter Schools:** To ensure that parents has the opportunity to choose a school for their children, the President called on all 50 states to enact charter school laws. Twenty-one states currently have laws providing for the creation of charter schools -- public schools, created and managed by parents, teachers and administrators. Charter schools have greater flexibility, but they are held accountable for their results through a performance-based contract with a local school board, state or other public institution.

- **Parent Involvement:** President Clinton believes strongly that parents are and should continue to be their children's first and most important teacher. Parents must take an active role in their children's education and the President has also challenged businesses and schools to be supportive and family-friendly.
- **National Service Scholarships:** President Clinton has challenged every high school student in the country to make a commitment to community service. As part of this commitment, the President is asking all high schools to make service part of their basic ethic and to raise \$500 to reward a high school student who has done significant work to help his or her community. The federal government will then match the \$500 to help that student go on to college.
- **Merit Scholarships:** The President called for the creation of the largest-ever merit-based scholarship program, rewarding the top 5% of high school graduates in every school with \$1,000 grants toward the cost of college. If this proposal is enacted this year, 128,500 graduating high school seniors will receive a scholarship to help finance their college education.
- **Expand and Transform Work Study:** The President proposed a dramatic expansion of the College Work Study program. Increasing the number of students involved in work study from 700,000 students to over 1 million over the next five years will significantly expand a program that reaffirms the American ethic, rewarding hard work and helping ensure that all who want a higher education are able to afford it. The President has challenged colleges to use additional work study funds to promote public service by putting students to work in the community.
- **Tuition Tax Deduction:** The President has called for a deduction of up to \$10,000 per year for the cost of college tuition and training. Families could deduct up to \$10,000 in tuition and fees for post-secondary education. Over 17 million students and over 14 million families stand to benefit from this proposal for tax relief to working families.

Last Update: May 10, 1996

ENVIRONMENT

"We must ask more of ourselves, we must expect more of each other, and we must face our challenges together. . . . Our fifth challenge: to leave our environment safe and clean for the next generation. . . . People do have a right to know that their air and their water are safe."

President Clinton
January 23, 1996

During the last generation, we have made great progress in protecting the environment. We now have cleaner, safer air and water. Lead levels in children's blood have been cut 70%, and toxic emissions from factories have been cut in half. We must continue to move forward. A third of us still breathe air that endangers our health, and in too many communities, the water is not safe to drink. President Clinton is committed to making common sense reforms to environmental programs and is determined to block attempts to roll back safeguards for our families' food, water and air.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Community Right to Know:** Issued a "Pollution Disclosure" Executive Order requiring industry to disclose information about toxic releases to their neighbors and nearly doubling the number of chemicals that industry must report.
- **Safe Drinking Water:** Required drinking water systems to test for and eliminate dangerous contaminants and introduced comprehensive Safe Drinking Water reforms.
- **Clean Air:** Made the air we breathe cleaner by issuing new standards to cut toxic pollution from chemical plants by 90% and dangerous incinerator emissions by 98%.
- **Clean Water:** Vowed to veto the lobbyist-written bill to roll back the Clean Water Act that keeps billions of pounds of toxic pollutants and sewage out of our rivers, lakes and streams.
- **Brownfields Initiative:** Launched an initiative to return land to productive use by providing a \$2 billion tax incentive to clean-up old industrial waste sites.
- **Toxic Waste Clean-ups:** Completed nearly as many toxic waste site clean ups in each of the past two years as were completed in the previous 10 years. Fought Republican Congressional attempts to gut the Superfund law that makes polluters -- rather than taxpayers -- pay to clean up toxic dumps. Vetoed Republican Congressional bill that cut Superfund clean-ups by 25%.
- **Enforcement:** Ensured compliance with environmental safeguards by toughening EPA's enforcement programs and fought to protect enforcement programs from drastic budget cuts.

- **Reinventing Environmental Regulation:** Changed EPA rules and procedures to reduce paperwork requirements for businesses by 10 million hours and allowing businesses to write their own rules if they can do it cleaner and cheaper. Issued an Executive Order to make health, safety and environmental programs more fair, efficient and effective.
- **Meat Safety:** Issued new policy to protect us from *E. coli* contamination in meat.
- **Everglades Restoration:** Committed \$1.5 billion over seven years to help restore the unique Florida Everglades and ensure safe, clean drinking water.
- **National Parks:** Withdrew land from new mining claims to protect Yellowstone, while fighting attempts to close national parks. Developed a "Parks for Tomorrow" program to restore our national parks.
- **California Water:** Broke through decades of conflict and negotiated a consensus plan to protect and allocate California Bay-Delta water.
- **Arctic Refuge:** Vetoed a Republican Congressional bill that would have opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.
- **Recycling:** Issued executive order to jump start the market for recycled goods, which are now more valuable than ever.
- **Global Phaseout of Persistent Pollutants:** Led the way to an agreement to phase out the use of 12 dangerous, persistent organic pollutants worldwide, such as PCBs and DDT.
- **Pesticides and Food Safety:** Canceled some of the most dangerous pesticides while moving safer substitutes into the market more quickly.
- **Wetlands and Endangered Species Reform:** Reformed Wetlands and Endangered Species programs to better protect the environment while lessening regulatory hurdles for homeowners.
- **Environmental Technology:** Implementing technology programs to help American business compete more effectively in the fast growing global market while creating jobs for American workers.
- **Eliminating Unnecessary Regulations:** Eliminating 16,000 pages of unnecessary regulations.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to support policies that protect our health and natural resources while making common sense reforms to environmental programs by:

- Expanding community right-to-know laws and challenging communities to use the information to work with business to cut pollution.
- Challenging Congress to provide true reform of the Superfund program and to drop proposals to force taxpayers to pickup the tab to clean-up toxic waste. The President strongly believes the polluters must pay.
- Dramatically reducing paperwork and replacing one-size-fits-all regulations with result focused programs.
- Challenging American businesses to take more initiative in protecting the environment.
- Challenging Congress to re-examine and reverse those policies that would endanger our health and safety by weakening health and safety programs such as safe drinking water and clean air.
- Continuing to work with state and community leaders and businesses to find better ways to protect our natural resources and provide economic opportunities.

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ILLEGAL DRUGS

"To reduce crime and violence we have to reduce the drug problem. The challenge begins in our homes, with parents talking to their children openly and firmly. It embraces our churches and synagogues, our youth groups and our schools."

President Clinton
January 23, 1996

Over the last three years, tremendous progress has been made in reducing overall drug use and related crime in our country. The Clinton Administration has dealt serious blows to international criminal networks, such as the notorious Cali Cartel of Colombia, that import drugs into our country. We have targeted hardcore users who consume the majority of drugs in this country, expanded drug treatment and provided prevention programs that work.

Despite the significant headway in many areas of drug control, including a 50% decrease in the number of illicit drug users from the 1979 level of 24 million, national attention must now focus on the alarming trend of adolescent drug use. President Clinton is committed to continuing the progress in reducing drug use and reversing the trend among youth through a national effort to target youth gangs that deal in illicit drugs, expanded drug treatment and prevention programs that work.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Elevated the Office of National Drug Control Policy to full Cabinet-level status and appointed General Barry McCaffrey as Director.
- Developed a comprehensive National Drug Control Strategy that will reduce illegal drug use through law enforcement, prevention, treatment and interdiction.
- Issued a Presidential Directive to break the cycle of drugs and crime through universal drug testing in the criminal justice system.
- Proposed the largest budget ever to combat drugs in FY 1996.
- Refused full certification to South American/Andean source countries.
- Pressed Columbia to improve its drug fighting efforts, leading to the arrest of six of the top leaders of the Cali Cartel.
- Developed a comprehensive strategy to combat the trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine, one of the country's most dangerous drugs.
- Strengthened and expanded the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act which enables schools and school districts to develop and implement violence and drug programs. Over 97% of school districts in the country utilize these funds to keep violence and drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools.

- Issued a Presidential Directive to enforce the "zero tolerance" measures outlined in the Gun-Free Schools Act.
- Proposed targeted measures to cut off children's access to tobacco products and to ban advertising directed at children.
- Supported school athlete drug testing before the Supreme Court, sending the message to parents and students that drug use will not be tolerated in our schools.
- Convened first White House Conference ever that exclusively addressed the issues of adolescent drug use and violence.
- Expanded drug treatment for hard-core users to help end the cycle of violence and drug abuse.
- Initiated a National Drug Media Literacy Campaign for parents, youth and communities.
- Provided states and localities the resources to make treatment and prevention available with expanded drug courts, boot camps and treatment in our criminal justice system.
- First President to decertify Colombia for failure to make progress in halting international drug trafficking.
- Issued first heroin strategy to develop international cooperation against heroin.
- Strengthened U.S. borders by increasing the number of Border Patrol agents and by initiating the Custom Service's "Operation Hard Line" to stop drug smugglers from funneling drugs into the country.
- Ordered the blocking of assets in the U.S. and barred U.S. persons and corporations from engaging in trade on transactions with "front companies" operated by members of the Cali drug cartel and called for worldwide cooperation in stopping money laundering and narcotics flow.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

Under the leadership of General Barry McCaffrey, the Clinton Administration will continue to implement its action-oriented approach to the drug problem -- (1) motivating America's youth to reject illegal drugs and substance abuse; (2) increasing the safety of America's citizens by substantially reducing drug-related crime and violence; (3) reducing health, welfare and crime costs resulting from illegal drug use; (4) shielding the country's air, land and sea frontiers from the drug threat; and (5) working to eliminate foreign and domestic drug trafficking at the source.

Last Update: May 10, 1996

WELFARE REFORM

"For too long our welfare system has undermined the values of family and work, instead of supporting them....I challenge this Congress to send me a bipartisan welfare reform bill that will really move people from welfare to work and do the right thing by our children. I will sign it immediately."

President Clinton

January 23, 1996

President Clinton is committed to welfare reform that reinforces the basic American values of work, responsibility and family. We must reward work over welfare; require people to take responsibility for supporting themselves and their families; and ensure that children are protected. There is bipartisan consensus around the country on the fundamental elements of real welfare reform. Congress should not waste this opportunity to enact national legislation. In the meantime, the Clinton Administration will continue to work with states to move families from welfare to work.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Reforming Welfare through Waivers:** By granting 60 waivers to 37 states, the Clinton Administration is giving states the freedom to reform the welfare system at the local level. These waivers are making work and responsibility a way of life for more than 10 million people -- about 75% of all welfare recipients. Welfare caseloads have declined by 1.3 million since January 1993 -- a decrease of nearly 10%. The New York Times called it a "quiet revolution" in welfare reform. Welfare rolls are down in 42 states, some by as much as 30%.
- **Breaking the Cycle of Dependency:** The Clinton Administration took executive action in May 1996 to require teenage mothers to stay in school and sign personal responsibility contracts or lose their welfare benefits. Having a baby should not be the ticket to leaving home and dropping out of school.
- **Requiring Parents to Take Responsibility for their Children:** Through partnerships with states, tougher enforcement, waivers and executive order, the Clinton Administration has led an unprecedented crackdown on child support enforcement. Child support collections have grown nearly 40% since 1992, to a record \$11 billion, while paternity establishments have risen by more than 40%. The Administration proposed the toughest child support enforcement measures ever, including suspending drivers' licenses and tracking delinquent parents across state lines. President Clinton signed an executive order in February 1995 to make sure federal employees pay their child support.
- **Tough New Sanctions for Refusing to Work:** President Clinton is changing federal regulations so states can impose tougher sanctions on welfare recipients who refuse to work.

- **Comprehensive Approach to Youth:** The Administration has worked to address the complex economic and social factors which often underlie high rates of teen pregnancy and to support communities in offering young people positive alternatives to early sexual behavior and parenting:
 - Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Education has launched a number of initiatives that address teen pregnancy prevention through improved schooling for disadvantaged students, coordination of health and social services and school-to-work opportunities to increase economic self-sufficiency. Specific initiatives started or expanded include: Goals 2000; 1994 School-To-Work Opportunities Act; and Head Start.
 - In 1995, the Department of Justice created the SafeFutures Program, a five-year initiative which will provide approximately \$8 million per year to six jurisdictions for a comprehensive and coordinated delinquency prevention and intervention program for at-risk and delinquent youth.
 - The Administration is implementing the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, passed in 1994, by supporting local school districts in high-need areas in their efforts to coordinate violence and drug prevention programs with comprehensive school health education programs.
- **Appointed Senior Advisor on Teen Pregnancy Prevention:** In January 1996, President Clinton appointed Dr. Henry Foster. (Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College and founder of the "I Have A Future" teen pregnancy prevention program in Nashville) to serve as Senior Advisor to the President on teen pregnancy and related youth issues. Dr. Foster will work in partnership with community-based organizations across the country to give young people the tools they need to build responsible and productive lives.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to direct and encourage government policies that promote responsible behavior on the part of America's teens and increase positive opportunities for young people. In his FY97 budget, the President proposed a \$30 million teen pregnancy prevention initiative. These funds will be used to implement and evaluate promising prevention strategies in communities that have demonstrated a commitment to community problem solving.

The President will also continue to urge leaders from all sectors of society to marshal their resources on behalf of America's youth. The Administration will work in partnership with the newly formed National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, which has set the goal of reducing teen pregnancy in the United States by one-third by the year 2005.

Last Update: May 10, 1996

TEEN PREGNANCY

"Ultimately, what is needed to stop teen pregnancy is a revolution of the heart. We must all work to instill in every young man and woman a sense of personal responsibility. Having a child is the greatest responsibility any person can assume. It is not the right choice for a teen to make."

President Bill Clinton
January 29, 1996

Each year, approximately 1 million American teenagers become pregnant -- approximately 11% of all women ages 15-19. To address this serious problem, the Clinton Administration has pursued policies which recognize the fundamental obligation of all Americans to exercise personal responsibility, while expanding opportunities for at-risk young people to make positive life choices. In addition, the President has stated clearly that government alone cannot solve the complex problem of teen pregnancy. He has called upon leaders in the private sector to join together to take action in their own communities.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Private-Sector Initiative:** President Clinton has challenged leaders across the nation to come together to address the serious problem of teen pregnancy. In response, an independent, bipartisan organization has been formed. The new National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has been established as a private, not-for-profit entity under the direction of Thomas Kean, former Governor of New Jersey and now President of Drew University, and Dr. Isabel Sawhill of the Urban Institute. The Campaign's board of directors includes prominent individuals from business, the media, entertainment, medicine and the philanthropic community.
- **Promoting Personal Responsibility:** President Clinton has advocated welfare reform proposals that promote work, demand parental responsibility and toughen child support requirements:
 - The Administration has approved state welfare reform waivers to a record 37 states that include various provisions affecting minor parents. These waivers are allowing states to bypass existing welfare rules and set time limits on benefits, require recipients to work or stay in school, provide child care and give employers incentives to hire welfare recipients.
 - The Administration has pursued aggressive enforcement of child support laws. In 1995, a record \$11 billion was collected in child support from non-custodial parents, an increase of 40% since 1992. Over that same period, paternity establishments rose by over 40%.
 - The Administration took executive action in May 1996 to require teenage mothers to stay in school and sign personal responsibility contracts or lose their welfare benefits.

- **Rewarding Work Over Welfare:** The President provided tax relief for 15 million working families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates.
- **Preventing Teen Pregnancy:** President Clinton worked with community, business and religious leaders to form the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy which will marshal private resources across the country to reduce teen pregnancy rates.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

The President will continue to work with Congress and the nation's governors to craft a bipartisan bill that is tough on work and fair to children. Until then, the Administration will continue to work to reform welfare.

- The President has proposed a sweeping welfare reform plan that would impose time limits and require work; provide adequate funding for child care to move people from welfare to work; strengthen child support enforcement; protect children; and save taxpayers \$40 billion.
- The National Governors' Association's welfare reform proposal this winter represents an important bipartisan step forward. The NGA's statement confirmed that the President was right to veto the flawed legislation passed by Congress -- legislation that did very little to encourage work and too much that could harm children. The Administration is working with governors and members of Congress to pass a bipartisan welfare reform bill that will move people from welfare to work, protect children and make responsibility a way of life.

Last Update: May 10, 1996

Biography - Dean W. Wolf

Dean W. Wolf serves as Executive Vice President for Administration (EVPA) for the Auraria Campus, the only public higher education institution in downtown Denver. The position serves as the chief executive officer for the Auraria Higher Education Center, which manages all non-academic functions of the campus. Auraria houses three separate institutions: Community College of Denver; Metropolitan State College of Denver; and the University of Colorado at Denver, with a combined budget of nearly \$144 million. Nearly 33,000 students, 1/5 of all college students educated in Colorado, attend classes at Auraria, making it the largest campus in the state.

Wolf has been a higher education administrator for the past 25 years. He has been associated with Auraria since 1985, and was appointed Vice President for Operations in 1991. He served as interim EVPA from August 1995 through April 1996, when he received a permanent appointment. He is a graduate of Concordia Teachers College in Nebraska, with a graduate degree in Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education from the University of Denver. He has formerly served as executive director of Business and Finance, and Executive Director of General Services at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater.

Sponsors:

*Governor Roy Romer's Office, First Impressions
The Junior League of Denver
The Clayton Foundation
The Piton Foundation
The Community Partnership Office
The Auraria Higher Education Center*

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Colorado Children's Chorale*

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Committee:

*Sally Vogler, Coordinator
Melissa Lou Kelley, Assistant Coordinator
Cindy Bradshaw, Assistant Coordinator*

*Diane Puck, The Piton Foundation
Diane Newcom, The Junior League of Denver
T. Michael Smith, Community Partnership Office
Gene Giron, Community Partnership Office
Pam Harris, The Clayton Foundation
Rosemary Fetter, Auraria Higher Education Center*

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Kristin Kauerz
Kathleen Shindler
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Maria Zepeda-Sanchez
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*Special recognition to Rhodes Furniture, formerly Weberg Furniture,
for the use of furnishings for this event.*

Colorado Listens to Kids:

A Conversation with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

*May 22, 1996
St. Cajetan's Center
Auraria Campus
Denver*

*Welcome to Auraria
Dean Wolf, Executive Vice President
Auraria Campus*

*Colorado Children's Chorale
Directed by Mary Louise Burke*

*Invocation
Reverend Robert Woolfolk*

*Address
Governor Roy Romer*

*Address
First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton*

*Discussion with Colorado Kids and Respondents Panel
First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Governor Roy Romer*

*Open Discussion with Audience
Bertha Lynn, Moderator*

Presentation to the First Lady

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton served as First Lady of Arkansas for twelve years. During that time, she worked as a full-time partner of a law firm, chaired an education committee that set public school standards in Arkansas, managed a home, and cared for her husband and child. On many occasions, Hillary Clinton has spoken about the need "to find the right balance in our lives." For her, the elements of that balance are family, work, and public service.

Hillary Diane Rodham and her two younger brothers grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, as a close-knit family. She entered Wellesley College in 1965. Graduating with high honors, she then enrolled in Yale Law School, where she served on the Board of Editors of the *Yale Review of Law and Social Action*. There she met Bill Clinton, a fellow student. While at Yale, she developed her strong concern for protecting the interests of children and their families.

In 1973, Hillary became a staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund. She left Washington and married Bill Clinton in 1975. The couple both taught on the law faculty of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980.

As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary continued to work tirelessly on behalf of children and families. In addition to chairing the Arkansas Education Standards Committee, she founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. She introduced a pioneering program called Arkansas' Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youth, which trains parents to work with their children in preschool preparedness and literacy. Hillary also served on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hospital. In recognition of her professional and personal accomplishments, Hillary was named Arkansas Woman of the Year in 1983 and Arkansas Mother of the Year in 1984.

Upon taking office, the President made health care one of his highest priorities. He appointed the First Lady to head his Task Force on National Health Care Reform. Like her predecessors, Hillary Rodham Clinton brings to the role of First Lady of the United States her own special talents, experience, style, and interests.

Reverend Robert Woolfolk

Reverend Woolfolk has been the pastor at the Agape Christian Church in Denver for the past 20 years. He is an active member of the Denver Community and has served as the President of the Community Outreach Service Center for five years and as Chairman of the Board of Faith Management and Realty for eight years. Along with these responsibilities, he is also on the Board of the Christian Community Development Association, The Piton Foundation Board, the Steering Committee of the Denver Workforce Initiative, Field Educator and Intern Supervisor for Iliff Seminary and Denver Seminary. Reverend Woolfolk also serves on the Distribution Board of the Metro Denver Black Church Initiative. He works with the Youth Leadership Tutorial Program to help children in need of help with their studies.

Reverend Woolfolk has lived in the city of Denver for thirty years with his wife Eddie Mae. They have six children and seventeen grandchildren.

Noel Ginsburg

Noel, a Colorado native, is the owner and chief executive officer of Intertech Plastics, Inc. In addition to maintaining his successful business, Noel is a dedicated husband, parent and community activist. Noel recently was elected to be the 1997 United Way Campaign Chairman. He and his wife have been mentors to over 40 inner-city youth through the "I Have a Dream Foundation" where Noel was also the 1989-1990 president. Noel is also the founder and chairman of Business and Schools in Collaboration (HASIC). His involvement with Denver public schools earned him the 1995 Denver Teachers' Award and the Helen Paelps Award for distinguished service to the Denver Public Schools. Noel is married to Leslie Ginsburg and has a son, Corey David, and a daughter, Leslie Anne.

Rebecca Orona

Rebecca is a full-time mother. She is a devoted community activist and dedicates her time to her work with the Fairview Family Resource School. She recently developed twenty-five collaboration partnerships for the school and successfully secured over \$100,000 for the school's operation. She is also the chairperson for the Westside Neighborhood Leadership Initiative, a board member on the Statewide Parent Coalition and serves on the Fairview Collaborative Decision Making Committee. In her words, Rebecca works every day to "assist people in the empowerment process."

Antonio Garule

Antonio is a lifelong resident of the San Luis Valley. He has been active within his community his entire life. He began working with Valley-Wide Health Services in 1989 as a health educator after he graduated from Adams State College. He worked closely with young male parents and males-at-risk of becoming young parents. For the past five years, Antonio served as the Director of the Adolescent Health Program. Most recently he oversaw the planning, development and implementation of two School-Based Health Centers in the San Luis Valley. In addition, Antonio has served on the Health Education Task Force for the Alamos School District and the San Luis Valley Coalition for Youth Services Steering Committee.

AD: PANEL

Dave DeForest Stalls

Dave spent nine years playing defensive tackle for the NFL Superbowl champion Dallas Cowboys and Los Angeles Raiders. Life after football led Dave to publish research papers in marine biology, create and sell over \$100 million dollars worth of investment and telecommunications products, and direct Colorado's largest urban recreation department.

Finally realizing that his true calling is working with young people, Dave created and is now the "designated old person" at *The Spot*, a non-profit night time "youth creative center" in downtown Denver. *The Spot* recently received an Annual Downtown Denver Award for its growing effectiveness working with urban teens. Dave also founded "Inner Reality," an educational outreach to adults who are interested in making a difference.

Adele Phelan

Adele has taught high school and college English, directed college counseling and student services departments, and was president of Loretto Heights College for eight years. Prior to joining The Clayton Foundation, she was program director for The Piton Foundation. Adele's community involvements are extensive.

As president of The Clayton Foundation, Adele has been able to utilize both her educational background and her foundation experience. Adele, the trustees, and the staff of Clayton have developed The Clayton Center for Children and Youth, which has become a community resource for innovative and effective educational and social service programs for children, youth, and families, particularly in the areas of early childhood education and family self-sufficiency. In 1987, the foundation initiated the Clayton Kids/Thinkers program, a full-day developmentally appropriate ECE program which has grown to include preschool through second grades. The program opened in the fall of 1994 as The Clayton Charter School, the first charter school to be operational within Denver Public Schools.

Adele is married to Gerry Phelan. Both Adele and Gerry are Colorado natives.

Noel Ginsburg

Noel, a Colorado native, is the owner and chief executive officer of Intertech Plastics, Inc. In addition to maintaining his successful business, Noel is a dedicated husband, parent and community activist. Noel recently was elected to be the 1997 United Way Campaign Chairman. He and his wife have been mentors to over 40 inner-city youth through the "I Have a Dream Foundation" where Noel was also the 1989-1990 president. Noel is also the founder and chairman of Business and Schools in Collaboration (BASIC). His involvement with Denver public schools earned him the 1995 Denver Teachers' Award and the Helen Phelps Award for distinguished service to the Denver Public Schools. Noel is married to Leslie Ginsburg and has a son, Corey David, and a daughter, Leslie Anne.

Governor Roy Romer

Roy Romer, the 39th Governor of Colorado, is a veteran political and business leader in the state.

First elected in 1986, re-elected in 1990 and again in 1994, Romer has been the state's chief executive since 1987 and will serve in that position until January 1999. He previously served from 1977-1987 as Colorado state treasurer. He was a member of the Colorado House from 1958-62 and a member of the Colorado Senate from 1962-66.

The Governor's agenda centers on making Colorado the best place in the nation to raise a child; improving K-12 education; reforming higher education; making state government more efficient and more user-friendly; improving public safety; maintaining a healthy economy, and working with local governments and local citizens to direct growth and to protect Colorado's beauty and environment.

Romer has served as the chairman of the Education Commission of the States and the National Governors' Association. He continues to serve on the NGA board of directors and as co-chair of the association's task force on health care reform. He also has been a member of the National Education Goals Panel since its inception.

The 66 year-old Romer, who grew up in the southeastern Colorado town of Holly, also has had an active business career. He is an owner of a chain of construction equipment stores in Colorado, Virginia, and Florida. He developed a portion of Colorado's Centennial Airport and ran a flying school.

Romer received a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Colorado State University, a law degree from the University of Colorado and studied ethics at Yale University.

He and his wife, Bea, live in Denver. They have seven children ranging from 41 to 23 years of age. Romer was born in Garden City, Kansas, on October 31, 1928. His family moved to Holly when he was six months old.

Bertha Lynn

Co-anchor of 7 News at 5 and 10 p.m., Bertha has 19 years of experience reporting Colorado news. Ms. Lynn joined 7 News in October 1984. Prior to coming to KMGH-TV she spent 8 years at KUSA where she was a reporter and anchor. She also co-hosted a weekly community affairs program on KRMA-TV, a Denver Public Broadcast television station.

Bertha is very active in the Denver community. She is currently serving on the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Board, an appointment made by Governor Roy Romer, and as a trustee for the Colorado Women's Foundation, a member of Women's Forum, an organization comprised of female community leaders. In addition, she has served on the boards of National Jewish Hospital Women's Division, Denver Children's Home, United Cerebral Palsy, The Children's Museum, Safehouse for Battered Women, Denver Housing Authority Education Foundation and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She was also a founding member of the Denver Women's Partnership.

Lynn is the recipient of the Emmy for "Best On-Air Personality" by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Colorado Chapter; Journalist of the Year in Broadcasting from the Colorado Association of Black Journalists; "Women of Distinction" Award from the Rocky Mountain News and Hyatt Regency, and the Living Portrait Honor from the National Council of Negro Women.

Lynn is a cum laude graduate of Washington State University with a B.A. in communications. She is married to Larry Naves, a Denver District Judge. They are the parents of three children.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. paper	re: children on panel - personal stories (1 page)	05/21/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 19011

FOLDER TITLE:

Youth Development Afterschool Violence #3 [Binder] [2]

2013-0534-S

rc1849

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]

manuel Baptist in Little Rock, have built family centers that include athletic facilities for exercise classes, basketball games, and jogging or walking. But community recreation centers, especially for teenagers, are nonexistent in many neighborhoods where kids need them most. I can't understand the political opposition to programs like "midnight" basketball and other recreational activities. Providing funds to inner-city neighborhoods to give young people positive outlets for their energies under adult supervision sounds great to me, as a way not only to prevent health problems but to prevent kids from getting into trouble.

KEEPING children healthy in body and mind is the family's and the village's first obligation. But we all know that no matter how conscientious a parent might be or how committed to preventive health a community might be, children will inevitably suffer from disease and injury. Then medical care is required.

A tale of our era: Three cousins lived in the same house with their parents and grandmother. One day in September 1993, two-year-old Shantelle began to run a high fever. Her parents took her to the emergency room of their local hospital, where she was diagnosed with spinal meningitis and admitted. Her father, a roofer, had insurance.

Two days after Shantelle went to the hospital, her three-year-old cousin Nora also developed a high fever. Her mother, who cleans apartments for a living, had no insurance. She took Nora to the Children's Hospital in their city, where they were told that a doctor would not

be able to examine her for at least four hours. Next, she went to the hospital where Shantelle was being treated. There, Nora was given a cursory exam, and her mother was instructed to take her home and give her an over-the-counter pain reliever for her symptoms. Later that day, Nora, who, like her cousin, had contracted spinal meningitis, went into convulsions and died. The day after she was buried, Shantelle was discharged from the hospital, recovered.

Shortly after Nora's funeral, her seven-year-old brother, Trace, also began to run a high fever. His mother took him to the hospital from which Nora had been sent home. Because her case was known, he was admitted and given free medical care. Trace, like Shantelle, recovered and is healthy. (20)

I could tell you many other stories that end in the same question: Is this the kind of health care system our children deserve? Hospitals do not turn away older Americans (at least not as of this writing), because their coverage is guaranteed by Medicare. Why can't we guarantee care for children?

Today there are more than ten million children, most with working parents, who do not have health insurance; that number has been rising by about a half million a year. The rate will accelerate even more if Congress's proposed cutbacks in Medicaid, which provides government insurance for poor children, are enacted. That would channel even more children into overworked emergency rooms, where clerical staffs will be forced to turn away even more little Noras.

When I look into the eyes of parents whose children's illnesses are not only taking an emotional toll but exacting a cruel financial cost because they could not afford

insurance, I think, There but for the grace of God go I and everyone I love. The number of Americans who will face these heartbreaks is growing.

Some families who can afford to pay for private insurance are unable to find coverage. In Cleveland, Ohio, I met a couple who have two daughters with cystic fibrosis and a healthy older son. The father, a self-employed professional, provided health insurance to his employees and their families. The family could afford private insurance for themselves and their son and would have bought it for their daughters but could find no one willing to sell them a policy because of the girls' conditions. They repeated to me the words of one insurance agent—words I will never forget as long as I live. "What you don't understand," the agent told them, "is that we don't insure burning houses."

I find this attitude deplorable. What kind of message does it send to hardworking people who love their children but cannot protect them? And if we are willing to write off these children, whose will be next? That is a question for all of us to ponder, because as research in genetics continues to advance, scientists will soon be able to tell us which of our genes predispose us to cancer or diabetes or many other serious diseases. Will those of us who carry such genes and the children we pass them on to eventually be denied insurance too?

When I met seven-year-old Ryan Moore of South Sioux City, Nebraska, I knew I had encountered a young person of heroic disposition. Ryan was born with a congenital syndrome that produces multiple birth defects. His father, Brian, was able to provide his family with good health insurance until Ryan was a year old, when the company Brian worked for went out of business.



COLORADO
CHILDREN'S
CHORALE

COLORADO CHILDREN'S CHORALE

The pursuit of excellence and creativity, as well as the commitment to innovation, characterize the Colorado Children's Chorale. Dedicated to building a series of artistically excellent children's vocal ensembles, the Chorale celebrates 22 years of professional performances spanning the globe from Colorado to China. In recognition of these 22 years of excellence the Colorado Children's Chorale was recently awarded the prestigious 1994 El Pomar Award for Excellence in Arts and Humanities.

Founded by Duain Wolfe in 1974, the Colorado Children's Chorale was formed when the great enthusiasm for a children's chorus featured in the Central City Opera production of *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* demonstrated the community's need for a professional children's choral ensemble.

The Chorale has grown from one choir to six choirs of increasing excellence and professionalism with over 400 children members drawn from throughout the Denver Metro area and as far away as Vail, Greeley, and Colorado Springs.

Regular engagements include the Chorale's own subscription concert series, as well as collaborations with other performing arts institutions such as the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Opera Colorado, Aspen Music Festival and Central City Opera.

The Chorale also tours regionally, nationally, and internationally, presenting concerts, residencies, and educational programs. National tours under the auspices of Columbia Artists Management, Inc. and Allied Artists have reached 47 of the 50 states. International tours include the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Japan, Switzerland, France, England, and Scotland.

Appearing often on television and radio, the Chorale's broadcast performances include the nationally televised CBS Christmas Special with Kathie Lee Gifford, the opening ceremonies of the 1995 Olympic Festival, the opening of the Buell Theatre, the World Youth Day Vigil for Pope John Paul II, the 1989 World Alpine Ski Championship, PM Magazine, the Today Show and the annual Christmas radio broadcasts on KVOD-FM.

Over the past 22 years, the Chorale has reached over half a million audience members through more than 1,400 performances across the state, country and world, involving over 3,000 children as Chorale members, learning the joys of singing and performing.

910 Fifteenth Street

Suite 1070

Denver, Colorado 80202

303-892-5600

Fax 303-892-0820



Executive Chambers
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-2471

Governor Romer's Office
Fax Transmittal

*Gov. Romer's
draft REMARKS@
Children's Court.*

Date: 5/21/96

To: Brenda

First Lady's Office

Fax Number: 202-456-9412

Telephone Number: 202-456-2131

From: Sally Vogel by Andy Brodman

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: (303) 866-2003

5

Number of Pages Transmitted
(Including Cover Page)

Comments:

Let me talk about Colorado for just a minute. For the most part, Colorado is a good place for children to grow. I think most parents would agree that this state is a good place to raise children.

And yet, when I talk to parents, children and community leaders, and when I watch t.v. and read the newspaper, what I feel is something different.

I hear a message that something vital to their communities and families is slipping away – and that we are becoming increasingly isolated and disconnected. There is almost a tangible sense that the rope that we are holding onto is thin and fraying.

I think it's hard to grow up today. It's hard for me even to imagine how different a person I might have been if I had had the choices, freedom and information available to children today when I was young.

***** Talk about growing up in Holly *****

I worry about the constant onslaught of data, messages, voices, that bombard children each day. The Internet, CD players, cable television, radio, movies on video -- I wonder what kids do with all this information.

I wonder, in this fast-paced world what it means for children whose lives are "over-programmed." What does it mean for children whose lives are so carefully scheduled -- hockey games, baseball leagues and music lessons, in organized groups, directed by adults. I worry that kids don't have the time to just sit down, relax and play a board game or talk with their parents.

It seems that parents and children are passing by each other with ever increasing speed.

A study done by Nickelodeon, a television network popular with children, asked children to name the thing they most wanted in their lives. One response stood out: "I want more time with my family." They wanted more time with their families.

Yet another study revealed that the average parent spends only 10 seconds in meaningful conversation with his or her child.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not blaming parents for not trying as hard as they can to do their best. But it's not like they're living on deserted islands - with little or no contact with other parents to talk to about "how to parent."

And finally, I am concerned about where we are placing our priorities. Because, I'm afraid that I see more people concerned about the Bronco stadium on the horizon than making sure that our kids have health care insurance.

Let me tell you, that I'm excited about several things that we're doing in this state. I think they will make a difference to kids:

- 1) **Standards in K-12**
- 2) **Charter Schools**
- 3) **Early Childhood Education (the Colorado Preschool Program)**
- 4) **The Colorado Child Health Plan**
- 5) **School-based Health Centers**

We need to do everything possible to allow children to hang onto their childhoods as long as possible. I'm very excited today to hear what these children have to tell us about about the quality of their lives and the issues that they must deal with on a daily basis.

Let me close by telling you a story about my friend John Murphy.

**** Tell John Murphy story ****

INTRODUCE HRC

ROMER RECORD ON STRENGTHENING FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

- * ~~Romer~~ ~~presented~~ presented Impressions to focus public attention on the critical first five years of life, stimulate activity at the federal, state and local level and help improve conditions for children and families.
- * ~~Romer proposed~~ and signed legislation to create the Colorado Preschool Program, which helps at-risk children throughout the state get the early education they need to succeed in school. Over three years, this program served 7,500 children and saved the state over \$5 million in reduced costs for remedial education and screening.
- * Romer created Colorado's Family Centers that provide family counseling, parenting classes, health care and child care to families in neighborhood-based settings.
- * Romer and his wife, Bea, have led the fight against illiteracy in Colorado with the "Read To Me, Colorado" program. This initiative increases the number of family literacy programs available and encourages adults to read to children at least 10 minutes a day.
- * Romer supported and signed some of the toughest domestic violence laws in America, creating the first comprehensive domestic violence plan in Colorado history.
- * Romer made it easier for parents to find the child care they need by creating the Colorado System of Resource and Referral, a network of 18 community-based, agencies that assist families, child care providers and businesses over the phone with child care issues.
- * Romer has streamlined the state's child care programs and made them more accessible to thousands of Coloradans. As a result, Working Mother magazine named Colorado one of the top ten states in child care for two years in a row and recognizes Romer as one of six "Governors That Get It."
- * Romer organized business leaders to increase private sector support for policies that help working parents. One result is the Downtown Denver Child Care Consortium, a joint project with 16 Denver-based businesses that serves over 100 children of working parents.
- * In 1994 Romer supported and signed a package of bills that put in place key supports for families and children, including the expansion of home visitation programs, community-based family centers and the Colorado Preschool Program.

Colorado: A Place for Children

by Governor Roy Romer, Colorado

I believe that the early childhood years are the most crucially formative time of life. This is when children learn how people should treat one another. It's when they develop a sense of who they are and what they can contribute to the world. It's when children internalize the social and moral values that guide their behavior through adulthood. And, it is the time when the brain develops. We know that stress and adverse environments damage the developing brain and that those effects are long-lasting. Any of us who have had close contact with young children know that if we don't get at the nurturing of their minds, hearts, and souls in the first few years of life, we may lose them forever.

Early childhood is not a new issue for me. One of the first things I did when I became Governor was to establish First Impressions, my early childhood initiative, to focus attention on the needs of the youngest children in our state. My wife, Bea, has chaired this initiative. Over the past eight years, First Impressions has been a catalyst for change. With input from thousands of child advocates across the state, we have been able to put in place a solid infrastructure of support and assistance for parents and children.

- We are close to the point of being able to serve all at-risk four-year-olds in early education programs through Head Start and our state-funded Colorado Preschool Program.
- We now have twenty family centers that serve as one-stop service centers for families in at-risk neighborhoods.
- We have created a Children's Cabinet that is working to develop an early childhood program budget and a performance-based accountability system.
- We have increased access to family literacy programs and created the "Read to Me, Colorado" campaign that encourages parents to read to their children each day.

- We have established a \$5 million Youth Crime Prevention and Intervention Fund that provides support to community-based programs for children, youth, and families.
- We have completely restructured the way we deliver health and human services by combining our departments of social services and institutions into a department of human services and creating a new department of health care policy and financing. Part of this restructuring effort included establishing the Colorado Office of Children, Youth, and Families that will consolidate child-serving programs under one umbrella.
- We have established a statewide child care resource and referral system that helps parents find child care, and we are working on a career development system for professionals in the early childhood field.
- This year, we developed a step-by-step guide for communities to use in developing comprehensive plans to improve results for children and families.

I am committed to making sure these efforts continue and to focus even more heavily in this area over my next three years as Governor. In my state-of-the-state address this year, I announced the creation of a public awareness/public action campaign called "Bright Beginnings" with the goal of making Colorado the best state in the nation for a child to be born and grow up. Bright Beginnings is based on the belief that government alone cannot solve the problems that families face—everyone must take responsibility for helping parents raise healthy children—and that communities are the best avenue of help for families.

In January, I asked Brad Butler, former chairman of the board of Procter & Gamble and noted early childhood advocate, to co-chair the Bright Beginnings campaign with me. I also asked the owners and publishers of our

largest newspapers, the president of the Gray Panthers, the director of the Colorado Council of Churches, the head of our largest child advocacy group, key legislators, and other business leaders to join us—to help us decide what we wanted Bright Beginnings to be—to develop a shared agenda—and to help raise the money we need to do it. Over the past few months, Bright Beginnings has come to life. Although it's premature to give too much detail, we are committed to making sure that every child born in Colorado will be recognized as important and will be welcomed, not only by parents, but also by the neighborhood, the community, and the state.

Looking back over the past eight years, I think that there are several reasons why we've been successful in moving our agenda for children forward.

- We've worked very closely with the child advocacy community to build public awareness of issues that impact young children and what can be done to address these issues.

- We've tried to be as bipartisan as possible.
- We've built a system that is based on local visions and subsequent planning for achieving the vision.
- We've raised children's issues as a high policy priority through First Impressions.

I am pleased by what we have been able to accomplish for children and families in this state. But we have more to do. Still, in Colorado we have more adults in prison than we have children in Head Start. We have more square footage dedicated to prisons than to higher education. That is not good enough. The questions we must answer are these. Can we fill a child's mind and a child's soul as well as we can fill a pothole or a prison cell? Can we educate a promising young person as effectively as we can incarcerate a threatening one? How we answer these questions is the true measure of our reach as a people. I am convinced that how we answer them will set the course for our future.

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

PCAH Coming Up
Taller 4/26/96

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1996
FINAL**

Scheduler:	Holly Nichols	
	202-456-7561	Office
	202-456-5340	Fax
	703-931-2483	Home
	WHCA pager	#4096
Lead Advance:	Kirk Hanlin	
	202-456-7560	Office
	703-875-9866	Home
	WHCA pager	#4108 (Aging event ONLY)
	202-797-9297	Cellular (Aging event ONLY)

PREV RON The White House

8:45 am **DEPART** South Portico
 EN ROUTE Washington Hilton Hotel
 [drive time: 10 minutes]

8:55 am **ARRIVE** Washington Hilton Hotel

Greeters:

- Jim Furman, President and CEO, National Council on Aging
- Reba Schafer, Chair of the Board, National Council on Aging

9:00 am - **NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING**
9:50 am Grand Ballroom
 HRC Hold: Cabinet Room
 Phone: 202-483-3000 x3480
 Fax: 202-232-0438
 OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

- HRC is announced off stage from President's Walk escorted by Jim Furman and Reba Schafer.
- HRC proceeds to seat on dais.
NOTE: HRC is seated next to Reba Schafer and Arthur Flemming, Chairman, Save our Security Coalition.
- Reba Schafer introduces the "Claude Pepper Award" and invites HRC to present the Award to Senator Ron Wyden.
- HRC presents the Claude Pepper Award to Sen. Wyden.
- HRC returns to seat.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY APRIL 26, 1996
PAGE 2

- Sen. Wyden accepts award and makes remarks.
NOTE: Sen. Wyden will depart immediately after his remarks.
- Reba Schafer intros HRC.
- HRC delivers remarks.
- HRC answers 1-2 pre-selected questions from audience moderated by Reba Schafer.
- HRC exits stage left and works ropeline from left to right.
- HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 2000 people to attend.

10:00 am **DEPART** Washington Hilton Hotel
 EN ROUTE The White House
 [drive time: 10 minutes]

10:10 am **ARRIVE** West Executive Drive

NOTE: Proceed to OEOB

10:15 am - **MEET AND GREET** w/ Award Recipients and Sponsors
10:20 am Indian Treaty Room
 CLOSED PRESS/WHITE HOUSE PHOTO

FORMAT: HRC to do a photo receiving line.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 25 people to attend.

10:20 am **PROCEED TO HOLDING AREA FOR ROOM 450**

NOTE: HRC, Sen. Harris Wofford, CEO, Corporation for National Service, and Bob Goodwin, CEO, Points of Light Foundation, are announced onto stage from holding room.

10:25 am - **PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARDS**
11:15 am OEOB, Room 450
 OPEN PRESS

SEATED ON STAGE W/ HRC:

- Sen. Harris Wofford
- Bob Goodwin

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY APRIL 26, 1996
PAGE 3

FORMAT:

- HRC, Sen. Harris Wofford, and Bob Goodwin are announced onto stage and proceed to seats.
- Sen. Harris Wofford makes remarks and intros HRC.
- HRC makes remarks from podium.
- Sen. Harris Wofford returns to podium and announces Award Recipients individually to stage giving a brief description of each.
- Bob Goodwin hands HRC Award and HRC presents Award to individual as they proceed onto stage.
- Upon conclusion of Award presentation, HRC closes program and departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 150 people to attend.

11:20 am - PHOTO-OP w/ First Lady Interns
11:30 am Room 100, Conference Room
WHITE HOUSE PHOTO ONLY

FORMAT:

- HRC to a photo receiving line.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 20 interns to attend.

11:35 am - LUNCH
12:10 pm
12:15 pm DEPART South Portico
EN ROUTE Washington Hilton Hotel
[drive time: 10 minutes]
12:25 pm ARRIVE Washington Hilton Hotel

Greeter:

- Ellen Malcolm, President EMILY's List

12:30 pm - PHOTO-OP w/ VIPs
12:40 pm President's Walk
CLOSED PRESS

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY APRIL 26, 1996
PAGE 4

FORMAT: HRC to do a photo receiving line.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 20 people.

12:45 pm -
1:30 pm

EMILY'S LIST FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

Grand Ballroom

HRC hold: Cabinet Room

Phone: 202-483-3000 x3480

Fax: 202-232-0438

OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

- Head Table is individually announced into room and proceed to seats at table on stage.
- HRC is announced into room and proceeds to seat at head table on stage.
NOTE: HRC is seated next to Patricia Duff and Colonel Billie Bobbitt, USAF.
- Ellen Malcolm, President, EMILY's List delivers remarks and intros Representative Millender-McDonald.
- Rep. Millender-McDonald delivers brief remarks.
- Ellen Malcolm intros Mary Beth Cahill, Executive Director, EMILY's List.
- Mary Beth Cahill delivers remarks and intros Patricia Duff.
- Patricia Duff delivers remarks.
- Ellen Malcom intros HRC.
- HRC delivers remarks.
- HRC exits stage right and departs [optional ropeline].
NOTE: A slide presentation with music

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 1500 people to attend.

1:40 pm

DEPART Washington Hilton Hotel
EN ROUTE The White House
[drive time: 10 minutes]

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY APRIL 26, 1996
PAGE 5**

1:50 pm ARRIVE West Executive Drive

NOTE: HRC proceeds to OEOB.

**1:55 pm GROUP PHOTO w/ West Virginia Business Women
2:05 pm Indian Treaty Room, OEOB
WHITE HOUSE PHOTO ONLY**

FORMAT:

-- Mrs. Sharon Percy Rockefeller welcomes and
 intros HRC.

-- HRC delivers very brief remarks.

-- HRC takes a group photo.
 NOTE: Group will be pre-positioned.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 60 people to attend.

**2:25 pm - PHONE CALL
2:45 pm Maggie's Office
ON THE RECORD**

2:50 pm PROCEED TO RED ROOM

**2:55 pm - EVENT BRIEFING
3:00 pm Red Room
CLOSED PRESS**

FORMAT: Melanne Verveer to conduct briefing.

**3:05 pm - GROUP PHOTO w/ Chicago Children's Choir
3:10 pm Grand Foyer
CLOSED PRESS**

**3:15 pm - MEET AND GREET w/ Program Participants
3:20 pm Blue Room
CLOSED PRESS**

FORMAT: Informal meet and greet.

PARTICIPANTS:

- HRC
- Richard Dreyfuss
- William Strickland, Executive Director,
 Manchester Craftsmen's Guild
- Joel (pronounced "ho-el") Hernandez, Participant
 in WritersCorps

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY APRIL 26, 1996
PAGE 6

- Jane Alexander, Chairperson, Nat'l Endowment for the Arts
- Sheldon Hackney, Chairman, Nat'l Endowment for the Arts
- John Brademus, PCAH
- Diane Frankel, Director, Institute for Museum Services
- Ellen Lovell, PCAH

3:25 pm -
4:00 pm

ARTS & HUMANITIES PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AND RISK
East Room
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

- Blue Room participants are announced into the East Room and seated in the front row.
- HRC is announced from the Green Room and accompanied by Richard Dreyfuss, Sheronna Ragin, Joel (pronounced "Ho-el") Hernandez, and William Strickland.
- Announcement of program participants.
- HRC makes remarks and intros Richard Dreyfuss.
- Richard Dreyfuss makes remarks and intros Sheronna Ragin, Chicago Children's Choir, Joel Hernandez and William Strickland.
- The Chicago Children's Choir performs one song.
- Sheronna Ragin proceeds on stage from the risers and makes remarks.
- Joel Hernandez, Participant in WritersCorps, reads a poem.
- William Strickland makes remarks.
- Upon conclusion of remarks, HRC returns to podium and invites guests into State Dining Room for a reception and into the Blue Room for a receiving line.
- HRC proceeds to the Blue Room for a receiving line.

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY APRIL 26, 1996
PAGE 7**

4:05 pm - RECEIVING LINE
5:00 pm Blue Room
CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT: HRC to do a photo receiving line.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 180 people to attend.

5:05 pm - GROUP PHOTO w/ the President's Council on the Arts
5:10 pm & Humanities
Red Room
CLOSED PRESS

5:15 pm - PHOTO-OP w/ Children from Chernobyl
5:20 pm Blue Room
WHITE HOUSE PHOTO ONLY

FORMAT:

-- HRC to do a group photo.

NOTE: Participants will be pre-positioned.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 20 people to attend.

5:30 pm - PRIVATE MEETING
5:45 pm Residence

5:45 pm - PRIVATE MEETING
6:00 pm Residence

NOTE: The President returns to the White House at 11:05 pm from his trip to Philadelphia, PA.

RON The White House

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Mostly cloudy w/ afternoon showers and thunderstorms. Wind southeast and southwest at 10 to 20 knots. Low 55 to 60. High 72 to 77.

April 25, 1996

ARTS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH EVENT

DATE:	April 26, 1996
LOCATION:	Blue Room
TIME:	3:00 pm
FROM:	Katy Button

I. PURPOSE

To highlight the important role that the arts and the humanities can play in reaching youth at risk of drugs and violence; and to recognize the publication of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities' report, "Coming Up Taller: Arts and Humanities Programs for Children and Youth At Risk."

II. BACKGROUND

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH)

Today, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities is publishing its report, "Coming Up Taller: Arts and Humanities Programs for Children and Youth At Risk." The study describes what makes programs for at-risk youth effective, how they are designed and supported and includes 218 examples of programs from all over the United States. The study and today's event are funded entirely by the private sector. The President's Committee hopes that this study will convince local, state and federal leaders, and private contributors, to continue to support these programs, and to create more of them.

A copy of the PCAH report is enclosed.

National Endowment for the Arts

Since the early 1980's, the National Endowment for the Arts has been supporting and encouraging programs that target at-risk youth by offering classes, rehearsals, and other activities after school, on weekends and during the summer. The NEA has also partnered with other federal agencies, such as the Department of Labor and the Department of Justice and, more recently, the Corporation for National Service in an attempt to offer youth positive alternatives to destructive behavior, safe outlets for self-expression and self-definition, and disciplines that provide academic and

job skills. The NEA recently published a book, "Part of the Solution -- Creative Alternatives for Youth," which describes local arts programs supported by the NEA that have made a positive difference in the lives of children and their families. (A copy is enclosed)

Program

You will open the program with remarks focusing on the importance of the arts and humanities in the lives of children, especially those at risk, highlighting the President's Committee's report and the work of the Administration in supporting and encouraging these important programs.

Richard Dreyfuss will then speak about the importance of arts programs for children from his own perspective, and, of course, refer to his recent role in "Mr. Holland's Opus." Dreyfuss will then introduce the Chicago Children's Choir and the two children who will offer short testimonials about their own experiences with the arts and humanities. The first, Sherrona Ragin, is a member of the Chicago Children's Choir. The second, Joel (HO-ell) Hernandez, is a participant in the WritersCorp program and will read one of his own poems. And finally, Bill Strickland, who is a member of the National Council on the Arts, will talk about how the arts played a critical role in his childhood.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Stage:

- The First Lady
- Richard Dreyfuss
- The Chicago Children's Choir
- Sheronna Ragin (RAY-gin), member, Chicago Children's Choir (she will be seated with the Choir)
- Joel (HO-ell) Hernandez, participant, WritersCorp
- Bill Strickland, Executive Director, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Audience:

- Congressman Orrin Hatch (T)
- Members of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities
- 180 invited guests, including representatives from arts programs across the country, Administration officials, and leaders in the arts and humanities community

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

To be provided by the Social Office

V. PRESS PLAN

Open Press

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Lissa Muscatine

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: THE FIRST LADY

WHAT: ARTS & HUMANITIES PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH & RISK
REMARKS & RECEPTION

WHEN: Friday, April 26, 1996
2:50 p.m

WHERE: Meet & Greet: Blue Room
Remarks: East Room
Receiving Line: Blue Room

of GUESTS: Approx. 180/Open Press/Business Attire

FROM: Ann Stock, Sarah Farnsworth

(Invitation time is 2:30 p.m.)

2:50 p.m.

THE FIRST LADY arrives in the Red Room for event briefing.

After event briefing, **THE FIRST LADY** proceeds to the Grand Foyer for a group photo with the **Chicago Childrens Choir**.

Note: Sheronna Ragin, program participant, will be with the Choir.

After the photo, **THE FIRST LADY** proceeds to the Blue Room to greet program participants and the following guests:

Blue Room Participants:

- Richard Dreyfuss
- Donna Bojarsky, guest of Richard Dreyfuss
- William Strickland, Executive Director, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Joel Hernandez (12 yrs. old), Participant in WritersCorps (San Francisco, CA)
- Elizabeth Lerma, San Francisco Arts Commission
- Hoa Nguyen, Joel's teacher
- Jane Alexander, Chairperson, National Endowment for the Arts
- Sheldon Hackney, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

- Diane Frankel, Director, Institute of Museum Services
- John Brademus, Chairman, PCAH
- Ellen Lovell, Executive Director, PCAH
- Dorothy Hilbt, Tremaine Foundation
- Sandy Crary, Chief of Staff & WH Liaison, NEA

The Chicago Childrens Choir is announced into the East Room from the Cross Hall and proceeds on risers to sing two songs while the First Lady is in the Blue Room.

3:15 p.m.

(Approx. time) At the conclusion of the second song, non-program participants are escorted to reserved seats in the East Room.

PROGRAM BEGINS:

- The following Blue Room participants are announced into the East room and are seated in the front row:
 - Jane Alexander, Chair, National Endowment for the Arts
 - Sheldon Hackney, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities
 - John Brademas, Chairman, President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities
 - Diane Frankel, Director, Institute of Museum Services

- **THE FIRST LADY** is announced into the East Room accompanied by the stage participants:

Stage Participants:

Richard Dreyfuss

Joel Hernandez

William Strickland

Note: *Sheronna Ragin will be with the choir.

- **THE FIRST LADY** makes remarks and introduces Richard Dreyfuss
- **Richard Dreyfuss** makes remarks.
- **The Chicago Children's Choir** performs one song.
- **Sheronna Ragin** proceeds on stage from the risers and remarks. Upon conclusion of remarks, Sheronna Ragin returns to seat at risers.

- **Joel Hernandez, Participant in WritersCorps**, reads a poem.
- **William Strickland** remarks.
- Upon conclusion of remarks, **THE FIRST LADY** returns to the podium and invites guests into the State Dining Room for a reception and into the Blue Room for a receiving line

4:00 p.m.

THE FIRST LADY proceeds to the Blue Room for a receiving line.

Note: The receiving line will flow from the Red Room through the Blue Room and out the Green Room.

4:45 p.m.

Upon conclusion of receiving line, **THE FIRST LADY** proceeds to the Red Room for a group photo with the President's Council on the Arts & Humanities. (Approx. 30 guests).

4:50 p.m.

Upon conclusion of group photo, **THE FIRST LADY** departs.

TBD

Guests depart the East Gate and receive copies of the PCAH report as they leave.

SET UP NOTES:

The stage will be in front of the gold curtain in the East Room. The Chicago Children's Choir will be on risers at the South East corner. The Choir will be seated during the remarks. A string quartet will play in the Grand Foyer during the receiving line and reception.

Richard Grant & Associates

Public Relations

Biography of

RICHARD DREYFUSS

Richard Dreyfuss, who has relied on intelligence, energy and personal integrity to gain and keep his place among the leading actors of the American cinema, can currently be seen starring in "Mr. Holland's Opus," for which he recently received Academy Award and Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Actor. He is currently filming "Trigger Happy", a feature film in which he co-stars with Gabriel Byrne, Ellen Barkin, Jeff Goldblum, and Richard Pryor, among others, for his Dreyfuss/James Productions Banner.

Born October 29 in Brooklyn, New York, Dreyfuss and his parents moved to Los Angeles when he was eight-years-old. It was not much later he realized he wanted to spend his life as an actor. He attended Beverly Hills High School, began his acting career at The Westside Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles, studied for a year at San Fernando Valley State College and, then, as a conscientious objector, spent the next two years in alternate service as a clerk at Los Angeles County Hospital.

In the late sixties and early seventies, Dreyfuss commuted between both coasts doing Broadway, off-Broadway, repertory and improvisational comedy, as well as some guest appearances on television.

Dreyfuss made his motion picture debut in 1967 with a bit part

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Richard Dreyfuss Biography -- Page 2

in "Valley of the Dolls," followed by one line in "The Graduate." Then several films later, in 1973, his sensitive portrayal of an ambivalent college-bound teen in the cult classic "American Graffiti," garnered him both praise and attention. This was the beginning of a string of stellar performances in such films as "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz," "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "The Goodbye Girl," for which he won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1977 at the age of 29...the youngest actor to win this coveted award.

The 80's saw a string of acclaimed movies including "Down and Out In Beverly Hills," "Tin Men" and "Stakeout," followed by at least a dozen others.

Dreyfuss, like many other actors began his career on stage but few have returned to their theatrical roots as steadfastly as he with starring roles in "The Hands of Its Enemy," "The Normal Heart," and most recently the Broadway production of "Death and the Maiden" with Glenn Close and Gene Hackman, to name a few. This past summer, he directed "Hamlet" for The Birmingham Theatre Company at The Old Rep in England, marking his bow as a director. He is also a charter member of the Los Angeles Classic Theatre Group.

Most recently, Dreyfuss starred in "Three Hotels" at The Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles for which he received an L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award nomination for Best Actor and did a cameo role

Archer, Carrie Fisher and William Peterson for Showtime's "Directed By" series and starred as Mark Antony in the L.A. Theatre Works/BBC Radio/KCRW production of Julius Caesar. Both of these productions are scheduled to be broadcast later this year.

One of the many dimensions Dreyfuss has displayed throughout the years of his success has been his political and social activism. He has campaigned for political candidates, given testimony before congressional and other governmental committees, worked with groups promoting solutions to the Arab/Israeli conflict and encouraged community service and civic literacy, among other activities. Dreyfuss has made his involvement a priority.

Dreyfuss has three children: Emily, born November 1983, Benjamin, born June 1986 and Harry, born August, 1990, and currently resides in Los Angeles.

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Chicago Children's Choir
Chicago Cultural Center
78 East Washington Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602
312 849 8300
312 849 8309 fax



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Chicago Children's Choir has achieved a reputation as one of the nation's best young choral ensembles. Recently called "one of Chicago's musical treasures," the Choir is known for its broad, multilingual repertoire which includes spirituals and folk songs as well as standard high-voice and four-part music from around the world. The Choir has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, the Grant Park Symphony and Chorus, the Chicago Civic Orchestra, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Joffrey Ballet, and the Wheaton Symphony.

The Choir has also developed an international touring reputation. In June 1995 the Choir traveled along the Great Lakes with concerts in Toronto and Stratford, Canada as well as Macinac Island; while during July 1994 the Choir toured Russia and Warsaw and performed in the Capella Hall in St. Petersburg, and with the Preobrajhenie Children's Choir in Moscow, and the Ekaterinburg Municipal Boys Choir in Ekaterinburg. In June 1993 the Choir traveled to Mexico City and performed concerts with the Carlos Chavez National Youth Symphony Orchestra. In 1992 the Choir toured Japan with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra. Together they were hailed by the Japanese press as "the best America has to offer."

The Chicago Children's Choir was founded in 1956 by the late Reverend Christopher Moore at the First Unitarian Church in Hyde Park as a way to bring children from diverse ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds together to strive for a common goal - to make beautiful music. Reverend Moore envisioned a choir with a repertoire as diverse as its singers, with equal emphasis given to outreach to Chicago's youth and to artistic excellence.

Today the Chicago Children's Choir is a multiracial, multicultural children's choir dedicated to making a difference in young people's lives through musical excellence. The Choir's tuition-free programs extend well beyond the acclaimed Concert Choir, serving over 2,000 young people ages 4-18. The In-School outreach program provides elementary music education and performance opportunities for children in more than 35 Chicago schools. The After-School program provides choral and performance training at graduated skill levels in five neighborhood-based locations.

RICHARD DREYFUSS
CREDITS

MOTION PICTURES

VALLEY OF THE DOLLS (20th Century Fox).....1967
THE GRADUATE (United Artists/Embassy).....1967
THE YOUNG RUNAWAYS.....1968
HELLO DOWN THERE (MGM).....1969
DILLINGER (AIP).....1973
AMERICAN GRAFFITI (Universal).....1973
THE APPRENTICESHIP OF DUDDY KRAVITZ (Paramount).....1974
JAWS (Universal).....1975
INSERTS (United Artists).....1976
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND (Columbia).....1977
THE GOODBYE GIRL (Warner Bros.).....1977
THE BIG FIX (Universal).....1978
THE COMPETITION (Columbia).....1980
WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY? (MGM).....1981
THE BUDDY SYSTEM (20th Century Fox).....1984
DOWN AND OUT IN BEVERLY HILLS (Buena Vista).....1986
STAND BY ME (Columbia).....1986
TIN MEN (Buena Vista).....1987
STAKEOUT (Buena Vista).....1987
NUTS (Warner Bros.).....1987
MOON OVER PARADOR (Universal).....1988
LET IT RIDE (Paramount).....1989
ALWAYS (Universal).....1989
POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (Columbia).....1990
ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD (Cinecom)
(Voted best actor by the Italian film journalists).....1990
ONCE AROUND (Universal).....1990
WHAT ABOUT BOB (Touchstone).....1991
LOST IN YONKERS (Rastar/Columbia).....1992
ANOTHER STAKEOUT (Buena Vista).....1993
SILENT FALL (Morgan Creek/Warner Bros.).....1994
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT (Castle Rock).....1995
MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS (Interscope/Disney).....1995
NIGHT FALLS ON MANHATTAN (Paramount).....1996
TRIGGER HAPPY (United Artist).....1996

STAGE

JULIUS CAESAR (New York).....1978
OTHELLO (Atlanta/New York).....1979
A DAY IN THE DEATH OF JOE EGG (New Haven).....1981
REQUIEM FOR A HEAVYWEIGHT (New Haven).....1983
THE HANDS OF ITS ENEMY (Los Angeles).....1985
THE NORMAL HEART (Los Angeles).....1987
DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (New York).....1992
HAMLET - Director (London).....1994
THREE HOTELS - (Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles).....1995

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SELECTED SUMMARY OF RICHARD DREYFUSS' RECENT PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

"Citizen Participation"

- L.A. WORKS, Co-Founder. One of L.A.'s premiere public action centers that organizes community service projects throughout the Los Angeles area, recruiting volunteers from the entertainment, corporate, non-profit and arts communities. April, 1991.
- Americorps, Cal Poly Pomona. Keynote speaker at a state conference of Americorps members, faculty and supporters. August, 1995
- 1994 Krinsky Lecture, Pomona College. Delivered an address to students, faculty and community. April, 1995.
- Commonwealth Club, San Francisco. Speaker at prestigious forum for San Francisco community and business leaders. Broadcasted nationally over NPR affiliates. December, 1994.
- Show Coalition & Town Hall, Los Angeles. Moderated a drug policy panel, which included some of the nation's experts on drug policy reform, as well as Colombian Drug Czar Gustavo de Greiff. July, 1994
- Town Hall of California, Los Angeles. Speaker at prestigious forum for Los Angeles community and business leaders. October, 1993.
- Clinton Presidential Campaign. Numerous personal and media appearances as well as speeches and rallies on behalf of the campaign, in Los Angeles, New York and Ohio. 1992.
- Commission on National Service, Los Angeles. Gave formal testimony on the importance of national and community service. December, 1992.
- American Magazine Conference, Naples, Florida. Keynote speech before editors and publishers from most major North American magazines. October, 1991.
- Social Venture Network, Santa Cruz. Speech to organization of corporate leaders concerned with social responsibility. February, 1991.
- Citizen Action, Midwest Academy Retreat, Chicago. Speech before nationwide workshop of community organizers. August, 1990.
- People for the American Way, North Carolina. Speech. March, 1990.

"Middle East/Jewish Affairs"

- Imagining the Peace: Alternative Futures for the Middle East. Co-creator of a forum for academic teams from the Middle East (Israeli, Syrian, Jordanian, Egyptian, Palestinian), to explore scenarios for possible future co-existence in the region.

- United Jewish Appeal Galas, Keynote speaker. Cleveland, Nov. 1995, Baltimore, Nov. 1995, Denver, Feb. 1995.
- For the Record, Founder and U.S. Advisory Board Chair. A unique publication of translated news and editorial opinion from Israeli newspapers. Distributed to Mid East policy makers, foreign press, Capitol Hill and American Jewish leaders. 1992-93.
- Frequent speaker on Jewish values as well as the Middle East conflict, to a variety of Jewish and other civic organizations, including UCLA Hillel and the 1993 World Union for Progressive Judaism's Biennial (via video tape).

"Choice"

- Featured speaker, November 12, 1990, National Mobilization Rally, Los Angeles.
- Featured speaker at Pro-Choice rally at University of North Carolina campus. One part of a special 10 campus tour, organized by the Hollywood Women's Political Committee.
- Narrated independent Pro-Choice, Inc. spot used during the 1990 election cycle.

"Boards" (Selective)

- ACLU Foundation of Southern California.
- National Constitution Center, Philadelphia.
- Americans for Peace Now, New York.
- Co-Founder of L.A. Works, Los Angeles.
- Citizens For Service, Washington, D.C.

"Awards"

- Venice Family Clinic, Silver Circle Award recipient, 1995.
- Man of the Year 1993, from KNX News Radio. Honored for his contribution to the Los Angeles community and for his participation in L.A. WORKS.
- Medal of Honor Award, from the Jewish Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv. Awarded in New York, May, 1992.
- Good Guy Award, from the National Women's Political Caucus, 1990.
- Nominated for a 1994 Jefferson Award by the American Institute for Public Service.

"Productions"

Richard Dreyfuss Credits cont.
Page 2

TELEVISION

FUNNY, YOU DON'T LOOK 2001 (ABC-TV)
(Creator, Producer, Writer).....1987
AMERICAN CHRONICLES (Fox TV)
(Narrator).....1990
PRISONER OF HONOR (HBO)
(Producer/Star).....1991
CLASS OF THE 20TH CENTURY (A&E)
(Host).....1991
THE PAPAL CONCERT TO COMMEMORATE THE HOLOCAUST (PBS)
(Narrator).....1994
SMITHSONIAN'S GREAT BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR (THE LEARNING CHANNEL)
(Host).....1995
OUR LOVE IS HERE TO STAY (SHOWTIME)
(Director).....1995

RADIO

JULIUS CAESAR (L.A. Theatre Works/BBC Radio/KCRW Production)
(Actor).....1995

- "C-TV." Producer of an educational video for the Close Up Foundation that teaches civics to 5-8th graders. 1988.
- "Funny, You Don't Look 200." Producer and creator of a one-hour prime time special for ABC TV, commemorating the bi-centennial of the Constitution. October, 1987.

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Sheronna Lald Ragla has been a member of the Chicago Children's Choir since 1990. She attends Dunbar High School and is also a member and section leader of the school's Advanced Choir. Sheronna is a member and treasurer of the R. Nathaniel Dett Jr. Club Music and Allied Arts organization. Very active in community and civic organizations, Sheronna is a member of the Guild Girls where she works in the food pantry and in nursing homes. She is also a choir member and Jr. usher at her church. Sheronna has been nominated to attend the Women in Engineering Minority Program at Southern Illinois University this summer that she will participate in upon returning from a 4-week long tour to South Africa along with the Chicago Children's Choir. Sheronna is 15 years old and lives on the south side of Chicago with her grandparents and her sister Khalia, who is also a member of the Chicago Children's Choir.

Remarks by Joel Hernandez

Hello, my name is Joel Hernandez and I am twelve-years-old. Every Tuesday after school, I go to the South of Market Cultural Center. It is an art center near my house, located in South of Market, East-side of San Francisco. Highway 101 is over our roof. I walk a half a block from my home to get there, under the highway.

At the South of Market Cultural Center, I can help make a mural for the city which is really fun— and I can write poetry with WritersCorps. Poetry relaxes my mind. My mind needs this after a long day of school. Sometimes my classroom at school is so full of confusion and disorder that I feel like getting into trouble so I can be sent home. (But I don't.) In the studios with my art teachers I can learn how to express myself better.

If kids didn't have a place like the cultural center to go to after school, they could be out somewhere their parents didn't know about. Or they could be watching TV and playing video games. Becoming a couch-potato doesn't help their lives, but writing does.

My Soul

Joel Hernandez, age 12

My soul is like something with the sun trapped inside.
My soul is tasty and chewy like bubble gum.
My soul is like a pizza being cut in pieces.
My soul is a flower but there's a bee taking its power.
My soul wishes it had a mind of its own.
My soul wishes it could ride a bike around a garden.
If my soul could talk it would say, "I'm finally free!"
My soul is like something with a dream trapped inside.

My Home



My home is as dirty as my neighbor's bird cage.
My home is a cage for me.
In the morning it is as cold as Antarctica
and in the afternoon, it is as hot as the sun.
When we are cleaning up, it is as big as a jungle
and as dirty as a jungle.
My home is as old as George Washington.

Joel Hernandez, 12

DRAFT SPEECH - Bill Strickland

I would like to add my voice to that of the first lady's and the others' heard today in celebration of the enormous power of the arts and human imagination in providing real life choices for young people caught in a downward spiral. My own experience speaks directly to this point. Many years ago, I was a young person in an inner city high school whose life was transformed by a public school teacher who trained me in ceramic art. Through my apprenticeship, I learned about clay and, as importantly, I learned that I could achieve recognition from my peers and from the community through creative activity. My teacher also introduced me to the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, the importance of jazz music, the necessity of good food and for beautiful objects in the environment.

In Pittsburgh, I have reproduced my apprenticeship experience by building a facility designed by a student of Frank Lloyd Wright that features a music hall devoted to jazz, a culinary arts program devoted to food and its presentation, and a ceramic art and photography program that is devoted to reclaiming inner city children. For nine years in a row, approximately 80% of these children who are at-risk of failing at life, go on to college. The antidote for these "at-risk" children, we have discovered, is to surround them with good architecture, good food, and good

teachers who are allowed to function in well equipped environments and who will not accept anything less than the best that the human imagination can provide. During the nine years of operation, we have never had a police call, never had a fight, never had a drug or alcohol incident with any of the hundreds of students we work with. The school is located in the middle of one of the worst neighborhoods in Pittsburgh but, there are not bars on the windows, no cameras in the building and no security during the day. The arts and humanities are vital to life and by embracing both, I believe we can literally change the fate of thousands of children from one of failure to one of achievement and we can do so in our lifetime.

Thank you.

William E. Strickland, Jr.

William Strickland presently serves as Executive Director of the Bidwell Training Center, Inc., located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The center concentrates on the provision of technology-based job training for dislocated and disadvantaged citizens of the region. Mr. Strickland has developed programs in conjunction with IBM, Heinz USA, Bayer USA, PPG Industries, and Alcoa, among other corporations.

In addition to his responsibilities at Bidwell, he serves as Executive Director of the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, an arts apprenticeship training program for inner-city public school students. This training has resulted in the successful placement of minority students in undergraduate school programs.

Mr. Strickland is a practicing ceramic artist and lectures frequently on the subject of arts and economic development. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh, where he is also a candidate for a Master of Arts degree in Diplomatic History. Mr. Strickland was an airline pilot with Braniff International and holds a captain's rating and full certification on turbo jet aircraft as second officer, a position he held with Braniff for more than a year.



PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

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Washington, D.C. 20506

(202) 682-5409 Fax (202) 682-5668

Embargoed for Release
Friday, April 26, AM's

Contacts: Debbie Pickford
Ryan McDay
202-667-0901

**Arts and Humanities Programs Turn Around Lives of At-Risk Youth
Enhance Self-Worth, Self-Discipline, and Achievement**

First Lady, Cabinet Honor Local Arts, Humanities Programs from 37 States

*President's Committee Report Finds At-Risk Youth and Communities
"Come Up Taller" As Result of Local Arts & Humanities Efforts*

WASHINGTON -- April 26, 1996 -- Here's a story with a surprise ending: Alfonso Soto and Miguel Boyas, inner-city teenagers, got into mischief and occasionally into the back of a squad car, failed school, and surrounded themselves with people who sold drugs. They began spending their free time shooting....videos. Today, they're not in gangs, they don't take drugs, they've graduated from high school, and now work for the community arts organization that took them off the street.

These young men's defiance of the odds is not really all that remarkable. Instead, it's a predictable outcome duplicated in hundreds of communities around the country because of local arts and humanities programs helping at-risk children, according to a new report released today by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities at a White House ceremony. The report, *Coming Up Taller: Arts and Humanities Programs for Children and Youth At Risk*, reveals how local artists and educators help turn around the lives of young people and describes the common characteristics of effective programs. The study was prepared in partnership with the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies.

"Studies show that those high-risk children who become competent, confident adults do so through forming strong relationships with adults, participating in a community support network, and building social and other skills," says Academy Award winning actress Rita Moreno, a member of the President's Committee. "Arts and humanities programs provide this adult contact and community support in ways that set adolescents on a positive course for their future. Teenagers not only gain confidence in themselves and their abilities, but also gain a chance to win adult approval and respect."

From the Boston Institute of Contemporary Art's *DocentTeens Program*, which trains teenagers as researchers and museum guides, to *Street-Level Video and Live Wire Youth Media* in Chicago, which uses video to bring gang members together to communicate on neutral territory, these programs provide at-risk youth with a safe place to go, supportive relationships with peers and adults, and access to engaging opportunities to learn and contribute.

"The arts, by building on imagination, creativity and discipline, help students develop their interior lives -- interior selves. There is no other certain way to build character, civility, and a common morality," says arts advocate and President's Committee member Peggy Cooper Cafritz.

According to research conducted by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, programs succeed when they: take full advantage of the power of the arts and the humanities to engage and teach youth; promote sustained caring relationships between youth and adults; stay small and make a commitment to long-term programming; find ways for children to succeed; help youth build useful skills and take responsibility while developing their own interests and values; express clear and consistent goals and expectations; and provide youth a safe place to work and express themselves. (*See backgrounder on Characteristics of Effective Arts and Humanities Programs*).

The report also describes the positive power of the artists and scholars involved in these programs—professional actors, dancers and visual artists, college professors, writers and videographers—who are not only skilled in their cultural discipline but also are essential "child development workers" who help youth learn about themselves and the world, deal with conflict creatively, and collaborate on projects that teach discipline. These arts and humanities programs help sever the link between poverty and school failure, drug abuse, adolescent pregnancy, and crime.

Without a strong connection to the adult world, many teens find their community in gangs and are unrestrained by adult morality. The Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development reports many young people spend 40 percent of their time without responsible adult companionship or supervision. According to one student survey, only one in five tenth graders participates in youth groups or organized recreational programs or takes weekly arts classes outside of school. But a growing number of communities are providing alternatives.

These programs demonstrate that beyond the labels of risk—teen parent, school dropout, juvenile delinquent, poor child—children are resilient. Put in the right environment, youth flourish.

The programs outlined in the report offer opportunities for young people to dance, sing, paint, write plays and poems, take photographs, make videos, perform Shakespeare, transform public spaces, mount exhibitions, and explore the history of their neighborhoods. As a result, young people who participate in these programs master skills they have been unable to acquire at home or in school; they learn how to take responsibility, to connect with adults, to resolve conflicts and find solutions to problems, and to acquire job skills, the report says. Above all, young people begin to believe they have the ability to transport themselves beyond the boundaries of their current circumstances.

Furthermore, because the arts and humanities transcend language, they can build bridges between cultural, racial, and ethnic groups. They can reduce prejudice and racial violence, promoting a deeper understanding of similarities and differences among religions, races, and cultural traditions. For some young people, the exploration of their own unique cultural histories can be critical to their sense of themselves, and of others' images of them.

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities was created by Presidential Executive Order in 1982 to encourage private sector support and to increase public appreciation of the value of the arts and the humanities, through projects, publications, and meetings. Appointed by the President, the Committee comprises leading citizens from the private sector who have an interest in and commitment to the arts and the humanities. Its members also include the heads of 13 federal agencies with cultural programs, such as the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities, the Institute of Museum Services, the Department of Education, the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, the National Gallery of Art, and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies (NALAA) conducted the program profile research for this report. NALAA is the professional organization for local arts agencies, the nation's community arts councils, and city arts commissions. Based in Washington, D.C., it specializes in training, information dissemination, peer networking, and maintaining a collective national voice for local arts agencies and the arts on a community level. NALAA serves over 3,800 local arts agencies across the United States.

The report is available from the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 526, Washington, D.C., 20506. Telephone: 202/682-5409.

Federal Arts, Humanities, and Museum Programs for Children and Youth At-Risk

"Children who pick up a paintbrush or a pen, a clarinet or a fistful of clay are less likely to pick up a needle or a gun. They've got better things to do." — Jane Alexander, Chairman

The National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with state and local arts agencies, art organizations, foundations, the corporate community, and other government agencies, supports programs to benefit at-risk youth, their families, and their communities through involvement in the arts.

Project Support: In fiscal year 1995, the NEA granted approximately \$9.2 million for projects of direct benefit to youth through its Arts in Education, Expansion Arts, Arts for Youth, and State & Regional Programs.

Federal Interagency Partnerships: The NEA has partnerships with other Federal agencies specifically to support programs for youth at risk of drugs and violence. They include:

Pathways to Success, the NEA/Department of Justice partnership, funds programs after-school and week-end programs for at-risk youth that utilize the arts, job skills, education, and recreation activities.

Arts and Prevention, a cooperative initiative with the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) of the Department of Health and Human Services, promotes the inclusion of arts organizations in community drug prevention programs and services for youth.

WritersCorps, the NEA partnership with the Corporation for National Service, supports 75 writers to work with inner-city youth and their families in the Bronx, San Francisco, and Washington, DC.

Public-Private Partnerships: The NEA supports at-risk youth initiatives of national scope and significance in collaboration with community and corporate organizations. For example,

Vision 2000: Literary Arts for Change, a partnership with YMCA of the USA, expands the National Writer's Voice Project's training and program initiatives and literary centers for at-risk youth.

YouthArts Development Project, a consortium of local arts agencies and community groups from Portland, OR, San Antonio, TX, and Atlanta, GA, will develop and disseminate models for the training of artists who work in social service settings, and for the evaluation and documentation of arts-based at-risk youth programs.

"I am proud of the work the National Endowment for the Humanities is doing on behalf of at-risk young Americans. The social benefit derived from participation in the humanities is far too important to leave anyone out, least of all disadvantaged children who, with appropriate care, may discover how exciting learning truly is." — Sheldon Hackney, Chairman

One of NEH's highest priorities is to bring more Americans of all ages into an appreciation and understanding of the humanities. The NEH has in the past and continues to welcome applications for projects that offer at-risk youth the tools for lifelong learning by exposing them to books, museums and art. For example,

Crusade Against Crime (St. Louis, Mo.): This community organization creates opportunities, through a collaboration between the St. Louis public library and the St. Louis public schools, for children and their parents or guardians to read children's literature together and discuss ethical and moral issues.

The Vermont Center for the Book (statewide): This organization provides reading and discussion programs for both newly literate adults and at-risk youth. Scholars and literacy tutors lead discussions about such themes as courage, friendship, home and Arthurian legends. The young people who participate also receive library orientation, library cards and encouragement to continue library use.

MOTHEREAD (nationwide): By engaging parents who are not skilled in reading literature to their children, this program helps those parents interpret the themes in the writings, explore the power of language and become role models for their children. Partners in this program, funded by several state humanities councils, include corrections departments, community-based agencies, daycare centers and pre-school programs.

NEH-funded museum exhibitions (nationwide): Museums in major cities receive NEH support for a variety of exhibitions offering excellent enrichment programs for schoolchildren, including guidebooks, classroom activity guides for teachers, hands-on learning stations and interactive computer activities.

*"Talk to any young person who has been involved in these programs and you will know its true: Museums are magical places." –
Diane Frankel, Director*

Museums, supported by the Institute of Museum Services, are integral parts of their communities. They use their collections and exhibitions to serve families, schools and at-risk children. IMS serves small and large museums of all types including history, art, and children's museums, zoos, botanical gardens and nature centers.

General Operating Support: In fiscal year 1995, IMS awarded over \$22 million for museums' general operating expenses. Many grantees report that these funds help strengthen programs for at-risk youth. For example:

San Diego Museum of Man, San Diego, CA, uses its *Life and Cycles and Ceremonies* exhibit as an integral part of the 6th grade curriculum to provide information about teen pregnancy prevention. Cross cultural perspectives on rituals surrounding birth, puberty, and marriage are also included in the displays.

Seattle Children's Museum, Seattle, WA, brings young people hands-on activities that teach tolerance and understanding of cultural differences. The program aims to improve self-esteem; empower children to resist substance abuse and gang involvement; provide access to resources that develop job skills and improve interpersonal behaviors through positive role models and mentorship.

Museum School Partnerships: IMS has awarded over \$1 million to strengthen partnerships. They include:

The Chicago Children's Museum, Chicago, IL, to develop parent networks at The Robert Taylor Public Housing Community. This public/private partnership aims to break down barriers that inhibit low income families from seeking enriching educational opportunities and gaining access to them.

At the Utah Museum of Natural History, Salt Lake City, UT, middle school students are trained to use museum resources and teach "hands-on science" to elementary students in "extended day" after-school programs. The project provides opportunities for both the middle school student teachers and younger participants to work in positive peer groups and to engage in activities that spark their interest in science and in learning.

National Award for Museum Service: The Institute of Museum Services makes annual awards to museums that are central to the life of their communities. This award celebrates museums that are woven into the fabric of a community through collaboration and through meaningful public outreach.

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

Teen Smoking Viole
Media 3/8/96

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1996
FINAL REVISED2

PTA Event

Lead Advance:

Craig Livingstone
202-456-5210 (office)
WHCA pager #4449

Press Lead:

David Neslen
WHCA pager #4101

Scheduler:

Ron Books
202-456-5315 (office)
202-456-5340 (fax)
703-525-5457 (home)
WHCA pager #4818

PREV RON

The White House

8:40 am

CONFERENCE CALL (OPTIONAL)

11:25 am

DEPART White House South Portico
EN ROUTE Key Bridge Marriott
[drive time: 15 minutes]

11:40 am

ARRIVE Key Bridge Marriott

Greeter:

- Tuni Kye, Hotel General Manager

11:45 am-

11:55 am

BRIEFING

HRC Hold: Room 175
Phone: 703-524-6400
Fax: 703-524-8964
Room 175
CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:

- Joan Dykstra, National PTA President,
will brief HRC.
- Ms. Dykstra will present HRC with a
gift.
- Ms. Dykstra will escort HRC to the Salon
D Room.

12:00 pm-

12:45 pm

PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCHEON
Salon C & D
OPEN PRESS

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1996
PAGE 2

FORMAT:

- Lois Jean White, PTA President-elect, introduces Ms. Dykstra and HRC into room.
- HRC proceeds to seat at head table.
- Joan Dykstra, PTA President, delivers remarks and intros HRC.
- HRC makes remarks.
- HRC takes 3-4 questions.
NOTE: Ms. Dykstra to moderate.
- HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 125 people to attend.

12:50 pm

DEPART Key Bridge Marriott
EN ROUTE White House
[drive time: 15 minutes]

1:05 pm

ARRIVE White House South Portico

1:10 pm-

1:40 pm

LUNCH

1:45 pm-

1:55 pm

HEARST PHOTO-OP
East Room
CLOSED PRESS

NOTE: The students will have already toured the White House.

NOTE: Mack McLarty will drop by and be present for HRC's arrival.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 115 people to attend.

NOTE: Veronica and Randolph Hearst will be in attendance.

2:00 pm-

2:10 pm

DROP-BY
Map Room
CLOSED PRESS

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1996
PAGE 3

2:15 pm-

2:30 pm

PRIVATE MEETING

Diplomatic Reception Room

CLOSED PRESS

RON

The White House

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC:

- Cloudy with snow flurries in the vicinity, becoming partly cloudy by mid-morning. Wind northwest at 15 to 25 knots. Low 22 to 27. High 30 to 35.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release
March 8, 1996

Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to the Parent Teachers Association Arlington, VA

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you so much. I am just delighted to be here. I want you to know just how much I appreciated that introduction, but I want your board to know how much all of us appreciate Joan's representation of you. She has done an excellent job of conveying the positions of the PTA, the concerns that parents and teachers have, to the President and everyone else.

I think that the PTA's leadership and dedication to issues on behalf of children has always been important, but it's perhaps even more important now -- more than at any point in your history. I believe that because we have many forces at work, not only in our country but around the world, many of which are very positive, many of which really do open up possibilities for countless numbers of people. We are learning so much about the way the human brain develops that it will give us so many more good ideas about how to help children and how to teach effectively at home and in the schools. But at the same time that so many good things are happening, we would be foolish indeed if we did not recognize that there are many challenges, many risks and many difficulties as well in the world that we face and that our children are being brought up in. And so a kind of commitment to partnership, to taking stands on behalf of parents and children and education that the PTA has long been known for is especially critical today. I can think of many examples, but I will only mention a few.

On behalf of the President and the Administration, I will begin by applauding you for your leadership in the effort to combat teen-age smoking. The PTA has helped the Department of Health and Human Services promote the "Stop the Sale" program against tobacco smoking targeted at children. And your partnership in the new National Center for Tobacco-Free Kids makes you an indispensable ally in what the President is attempting to do. I think that this battle against tobacco is especially important because we know that 3,000 children a day pick up the habit of smoking. We know that children have been targeted. In my book, which I've referred to, I talk about the evidence -- overwhelming evidence -- we have about how the tobacco companies have turned their marketing influences on our children. And I think it tells us something that is important to know.

There is always a tension in our society between those who have the right to advocate and sell their products in our free market system and the rest of us who, both individually and together, sometimes have to protect ourselves and particularly our children against certain products and against the consumer-culture emphasis of those products. And there is no clearer example of this than smoking. And I thank you on behalf not only of the President, but on behalf of my daughter and her friends and all of our children today. This will not be easily done.

Joan and I were talking before when we came in about the conference yesterday that the President hosted on youth and violence. And that was particularly focused on illegal drug usage, and we know that that was a great challenge to us. But tobacco smoking we also know is a gateway experience for other destructive experiences such as illegal drug usage. So by focusing on the tobacco industry's efforts to entice children to smoke we are also saying don't use our children for other kinds of dangerous activities as well.

As some of you I'm sure know, the President and the Vice President held a closed-door meeting with

executives from the entertainment industry. All networks were represented, all the cable stations, all the major movie studios, to discuss with the industry their willingness to create a voluntary rating system. This would never have happened if the telecommunications bill had not included the V-chip. And for many, many years the PTA, and now a lot of other individuals and groups, have been raising the alarm about the content of television. And many of us have tried in our own homes to control what our children see, but we know that that is often only half the battle. Because even for my friends who are part-time homemakers, they don't watch their children 24 hours a day. They don't follow their children to their friend's homes. They know that their children are being exposed to things that they wish that they were not. So it's a constant effort on the part of parents to reassert authority in our own homes. And to stick behind the entertainment industry to move toward voluntary ratings combined with the V-chip will give parents an enormous tool that we don't now have.

Even before the V-chip can be put into television sets, which won't start for about two years, the ratings system, which is supposed to be available as of next January or earlier, will give parents more information than they've had up until now. We won't have the convenience of the V-chip, but at least we can try to exercise more vigilance because of that.

After the closed-door meeting and the press announcement by the President, the next day the President and the Vice President and Tipper Gore and I met with some PTA members and some children and some experts to talk about how we would actually implement this V-chip and ratings system in our homes. It was a great discussion because many parents have been reading your media guides, have been having meetings about this. Some of the active chapters that have made a real outreach effort, not only through PTA meetings but through community and neighborhood meetings as well, were able to describe what has been done up until now. I think that when we had the conversation, one of the most telling comments that was made was made by a young boy, 10 years old, who came to this event with his parents, and he was very upset because he's worried about younger children. And, you know, he knows what he's supposed to watch and what he's not supposed to watch. And he knows it's not real, but it's these little kids, and I quote, "Just pretend they are Mighty Morphin Power Rangers or the X-Men and then they'll just go around pretending they're killing each other or such things and think nothing of it." And I thought that was pretty astute observation, even though he was talking about those little people, four and five years of age.

But at that same meeting there was a very impressive statement by Dr. Robert Phillips of the American Psychiatric Association, who explained, and it wasn't so much for the Gores or my husband and me because we already believe this, but it was in part to convey this to the media that was covering the event -- that children are like little VCR's, they see something once and then they repeat it and they repeat it over and over and over again. I don't think there is any doubt any longer, and I go on at some length in my book to try to make this point so it could be more popularly available to people. All the studies that have been done, they've all concluded the same thing -- that violence does desensitize our children, the repetitiveness of it, the unreality of it.

And in addition we are now getting research that the kind of presentation of family life on television, the dysfunctionality in the comedy series, in the talk shows is also undermining children's sense of what a family should be. So there isn't, I think, any room for argument about the way the content of television affects our children.

I also, though, would like to add a word that I believe the process of television watching is also damaging to our children. We now know that television watching is a much more passive activity than reading, for example. You burn more calories when you read. I'm thinking about a new campaign. You know, "lose weight by reading." There might be something in that. And so we know that the passivity of it has affected children.

We also know that the instant gratification that it conveys undermines children's willingness to stick to hard tasks and to try to learn the things that don't come easily because you can just hit the remote control when you're watching television. And many of my friends who are teachers tell me they feel like they're clicked off all the time because a lot of learning is simply hard, boring, repetitive work. And our children have got to, once again, understand that schoolwork is their work and that it's not television that should

consume most of their hours. So I hope that the progress that you have made in raising these issues gives you a lot of satisfaction, because I'm convinced that we would not be able to point to the success of the V-chip and this ratings system, we would not have launched this campaign against tobacco's influence on our children if it had not been for the work that you have done in so many of your efforts, both locally, at the state level and nationally.

Having said that, there is still a lot ahead of us to do. Certainly the work you've done on the critical media viewing project has got to be spread more widely, and I urge you to do all that you can to reach as many parents as possible. Too many parents still don't know what you know about how best to watch television together as a family. Too many parents still don't know what so many of you knew and did with your own children and which you advocate -- the kind of talking to children and reading to children that helped prepare children for school -- things that cannot be done if the television set is on from seven to 11 hours on average in the family home. So the more we can reach out in a helpful way to help parents be the best mothers and fathers they can be, the more likely we are to strengthen families and to help our children become resilient, productive young people.

So on my behalf, and certainly for the President and all who care about these issues, I want to thank you for your leadership. I want to thank you for your support on behalf of these important issues and I also want to ask you to stay as committed as you are, because I think we're finally getting an audience again. I don't know that we had one for a while there. People were not listening. But the PTA is growing again in many areas of the country. Parents are once again understanding what their primary obligations are. Schools are opening themselves more readily to parental involvement. So I see the convergence of a lot of good things that are coming to pass, and we just have to make sure that they continue and grow and give more and more parents and teachers the tools they need to make life better for our children. Thank you very much.

[Return to List of General Speeches By The First Lady](#)

[Read our Privacy Policy](#)

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

National Conference
Youth Violence 8/15/94

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1994
FINAL -- REVISED #1

Lead Advance: Solving Youth Violence Conference

Steve Bachar
1-800-528-7528 **WHCA Pager**

Scheduling Desk: **Julie Hopper**
 202-456-7561 **office**
 202-456-2317 **fax**
 202-387-6842 **home**
 1-800-528-7528 **WHCA #4096**

PREV RON **Camp David, MD**

8:15 am **WHEELS UP** Camp David, MD
 VIA Marine One

Flight Time: 30 minutes

8:45 am **WHEELS DOWN** South Lawn

10:15 am-
10:30 am **BRIEFING** for Event
 Oval Office

Staff Contact: Carol Rasco, Pat Griffin

10:30 am-
11:15 am **SOCIAL SECURITY INDEPENDENT AGENCY**
 ACT BILL SIGNING [w/POTUS]
 Rose Garden [Rain Site: East Room]
 OPEN PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 160 expected to attend
[See briefing book for complete list]

FORMAT:

-- The President, HRC, Sec. Shalala,
Representative Jacobs and Sen. Moynihan are
announced into the Rose Garden

-- HRC gives welcoming remarks and intros
Sec. Shalala

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1994
PAGE 2

- Sec. Shalala gives brief remarks and intros
Representative Jacobs
- Representative Jacobs makes brief remarks and
intros Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan
- Sen. Moynihan gives brief remarks and intros
The President
- The President gives remarks and proceeds to
signing table to sign bill
- The President greets guests in front row and
departs

Staff Contact: Carol Rasco, Pat Griffin

11:30 am-
12:00 pm

MEETING W/LEADERSHIP OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOC.
Roosevelt Room
CLOSED PRESS -- WH PHOTO ONLY

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 7 expected to attend
[See briefing book for complete list]

FORMAT:

- HRC gives brief remarks
- Open discussion / Q & A

NOTE: The President will drop by this meeting from
11:45 am - 12:00 pm and give brief remarks.

Staff Contact: Marilyn Yager

456-6683

12:00 pm-
1:00 pm

LUNCH

1:30 pm

DEPART The White House South Portico
EN ROUTE Grand Hyatt Hotel
[Drive Time: 10 minutes]
Travelling w/HRC:

- Kelly Craighead
- Neel Lattimore or Karen Finney
- Melanne Verveer
- WH Photographer

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1994
PAGE 3

1:40 pm **ARRIVE** Grand Hyatt Hotel
 1000 H Street, NW

NOTE: Steve Bachar will meet HRC curbside.

Greeters: Peter Edelman; Counselor to Sec. Riley

1:40 pm **PROCEED TO HOLD**
 HRC's Holding Room: Washington Board Room

1:45 pm-
2:15 pm

SOLVING YOUTH VIOLENCE:
PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK
Constitution Ballroom
Phone: 202/582-1234 Main Hotel Line
Fax: 202/637-4781
Attire: Business
OPEN PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 600-700 expected to attend
[See briefing book for further info]

FORMAT:

- Peter Edelman announces Deborah Prothrow-Stith,
Sec. Richard Riley and HRC onto stage
- Deborah Prothrow-Stith; Asst. Dean at Harvard
School of Public Health welcomes everyone and
intros Sec. Richard Riley
- Sec. Richard Riley gives brief remarks and
intros HRC
- HRC delivers remarks, exits stage right, works
ropeline and departs

Event Contact: Leslie Thornton;
Deputy Chief of Staff at Dept. of Education
703/684-9285 [home]
703/408-9459 [car phone]
1-800-SKYGRAM PIN#862-5545

2:25 pm **DEPART** Grand Hyatt Hotel
 EN ROUTE The White House
 [Drive Time: 8 minutes]

2:33 pm **ARRIVE** The White House South Portico

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1994
PAGE 4

2:45 pm-
5:00 pm

OFFICE/PHONE TIME

5:15 pm-
5:25 pm

DROP BY w/Americorp Leaders [OPTIONAL]
Indian Treaty Room, OEOB
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 75 expected to attend
[See briefing book for further info]

FORMAT:
tbd

NOTE: WH Photographer will be present.

Staff Contact: Jane Marsh 606-5000
Ext. 190
Pager 773-8654

RON The White House

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!! To: Karen Finney!!!!

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC:

- Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms. Wind northwest at 10 knots. Low 66 to 71. High 83 to 88.

THE WHITE HOUSE

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

For Immediate Release

August 15, 1994

REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE
WASHINGTON, DC

Thank you so much, and thank you Secretary Riley, we have been friends and allies for many years and I am so grateful for his leadership on behalf of education for our entire country. I want to thank my friend Deborah Prothrow-Stith who years ago first taught me that violence is a public health epidemic. She made it very clear that if we had a disease in our country that was killing 65 people a day, this country would be mobilized. We would not rest until we had figured out how to stamp out that epidemic. Particularly when it was including in its death 7 young people a day. And now we know there is an epidemic of violence and yet there are still some among us who either refuse to accept the ravages of that epidemic or have other agendas besides the saving of lives and the reforming of people's futures. And it is imperative that conferences like this including people like all youth around this country speak out loudly and clearly to what your elected representatives know that on this issue as with many others, when it comes to violence enough is enough and America wants action now.

I want to especially thank all the cities that sent teens here to this conference. Because each of you have made a step as Secretary says starting with the first conference last year, of recognizing the problem that violence particularly youth violence poses to our society. We know we have to form partnerships among all different kinds of people in every community and we have to have partnerships at the local, state, and federal level in order to combat the ravages of violence. But I particularly want to thank the young people who are here and I want to thank Lucretia for that welcome when I came and sat down. I love that enthusiasm, I love the sound of young voices speaking out on what they care about. Truly your being here and your being willing to commit yourselves to finding solutions is very significant. And I am grateful for your accepting this responsibility.

This conference as those of you who are participants know, is about possibility and also about success. And is about never, never, giving up. I often give commencement speeches and I've heard many and I'm sure all of you in this room have. But the favorite I've ever heard about was the one Winston Churchill gave at his prep school when he strode to the podium and with very few introductory words said, "Never, never, never give up." That is the way I feel about many of the issues facing our country today. And it is also the way I feel about every single young person in our country today. Every young man or woman, every boy or girl, has a God given potential that we at our herald give up on. And it is incumbent upon us, as representatives of the adult community of this society, to recommit ourselves to youth. The young people who are here are pledging to you, "If you don't give up on yourself, we will not give up on you."

We also have to admit it is a lot harder in many ways

growing up today than it was when most of us of a certain age in this room were coming up. It is much harder. I can remember times when kids in my neighborhood would take on kids from another neighborhood. I probably shouldn't say this you'll hear more stories about my life. But I can remember and since I was kind of a tomboy I was often involved in some of those discussions that would occur. But that's what they mostly were they were discussions when we thought up the worst things we could call each other. Occasionally there be fists thrown and people rolling on the ground. Not me I was standing there trying to say, "Now, boys, now boys." For most of us of a certain age we can remember it happening. But you know, the occasional black eye, the occasional hurtful word, the occasional pushing and shoving that went on, I just thank God that given the strong emotions that accompany growing up no matter who you are or where you grow up we did not have guns, we did not have assault weapons, so when tempers got hot the most we could do to one another is yell and scream and push and shove and occasionally throw a punch.

Think of what it is like today where the young people in this room and the millions others like them are immersed in a culture of violence. A culture that in so many ways glorifies violence. We see it everyday on television, we see it in our movies, but worst of all we see it every single day on the streets and neighborhoods where children are trying to grow up. Where many, too many in effect are raising themselves. In too many neighborhoods gunfire is a daily ritual of life, and uzi is a badge of honor, instead of a mark of cowardice, which it truly is. A bullet wound is an emblem of adulthood. As I've traveled from hospital to hospital in the last year and a half, and I've gone into emergency rooms, what I heard over and over again is that the epidemic Deborah warned us about is now raging in so many of our communities. It is different when you see thirteen and fourteen year-olds brought in with bullet wounds. It is different still when they are brought in not with one bullet, but multiple bullets from assault weapon. It is different still when the techniques of medicine cannot even keep up with the carnage that is daily brought through the doors of your emergency rooms. You go to any emergency room in a medium size city, let alone a large city in our country, and you talk to the doctors and the nurses there as I have. If you do not believe violence is an epidemic, you will become quickly convinced as they tell you the stories of struggling to save thirteen and fourteen year old lives. Sometimes saving those lives only to send those young men out on the street knowing they are likely to be back in that emergency room in a relatively short period of time.

We see it everyday as we pick up our newspapers. I picked up a newspaper here in Washington today and read about another thirteen year old gunned down on the street corner. In Washington last summer, gun shots were fired at a public swimming pool packed with children trying to escape the 90 degree heat. A few months ago, a four-year old girl was fatally shot in the head when groups of youngsters opened fire on an elementary school playground. And during the past week a one year-old was grazed by a bullet from a gunfight. That thirteen year-old who died, it appears his killer is also thirteen years-old. What does it say about a society that has graduated from taunts and yells and thrown punches and raised fists--, that all of us remember from school yard fights, neighborhood fights in the past. To thirteen year-olds being gunned down on street corners, a four year olds being killed on playgrounds, and one year olds being grazed by bullets.

Over and over we see that children are not only the victims of violence but all too frequently the perpetrators. In the 1980's more than 11,000 people died as a result of homicide committed by high school age young people. Gunfire and drive by shootings and violence have become so common place that many people don't even notice it or talk about it anymore. In matter of fact ways children tell you they're not sure they will live to finish high school. It is not only the academic challenges they confront, it's the challenges to their physical safety. There is as you know, no simple answer to this epidemic of youth violence. That's why we brought federal agencies together to try to fulfill the President's pledge to begin at least to address this problem. That's why we need a comprehensive strategy that emphasizes responsibility and opportunity and community. It's why we need all the other pieces of security that the President is working on. It is important to do things like health reform, so that every young person has a good healthy start in life. It is important to do welfare reform so that we once again reward independence and self-sufficiency. It's important to have job training programs and life-long learning and the legislation that Secretary Riley shepherded through to the Congress that will make an enormous difference in how young people learn and what they learn and what they're prepared to do once they finish school.

It is also right, it is absolutely critical, that this country not walk away again from dealing with crime, as it has so many times in the past and did again last week. You know, the crime bill has been around for 6 years. The average criminal serves four years in jail. There's been a lot of tough talk about crime going back a lot of years. All kinds of rhetoric. Mostly hot air not connected to doing anything positive, to reaching out a helping hand, to make stricter and surer, neither smart nor tough, but boy a lot of talk. We're seeing it again because some people unfortunately would rather practice their own brand of partisan politics or personal advantage than to deal with the problems that are right before their eyes. Those who voted against the crime bill were willing to sacrifice all the achievements represented at this conference. Those who voted against the bill weren't listening to the voices of young people who are with us today or were with us last year. They can testify the importance of recreational facilities, education programs, family support services, and other preventive measures that nurture hope and possibility in our young people. Those who voted against that bill last week don't seem to care that our children cannot feel safe at school. A recent survey showed that fifteen percent of school children believe there are gangs in their school. Almost one in ten of students in high school reported that in the previous month they had been in at least one serious physical fight. Those who voted against the bill don't seem to care that this pattern goes on and on just as it has for the past six years, when time after time, Congress caved in to the pressures of special interest, instead of making this legislation law.

The crime bill is not perfect; no piece of legislation is. I bet every one of us would have written it slightly differently, we would have added or taken out according to what we thought was best. It is a critical, important, and necessary start. And it is for the first time a piece of legislation that lays down the twin principles of fighting crime, punishment and prevention. It is clear that we face a choice, the President and I were in church yesterday we heard a great sermon, and one of the lines from it that I will always remember is when the preacher said, "You know you can make a choice in your life, but you can't pick the consequences." I think about that a lot because every day we

make choices, but we cannot be told the consequences that swell from those choices. So what are the consequences of turning down the crime bill? Well, the consequences are that once again we would have turned our backs on the problems you are hearing discussed. Once again we will have substituted rhetoric for reality. Once again we will have seen in-action triumph over action. Now we can focus on all the things we want to change, or we can say, this is a mission we are on and this is where it starts to try to begin to deal with the epidemic of violence.

Let's look at some of these pieces of this crime bill that are so important. Things like YES, Y-E-S, Youth Employment Skills program. I think it's important to focus on young people in high unemployment areas to give them the skills they need to be able to find jobs. I think that's a goal for society and I know it will help to prevent crime. I wish the folks on Capitol Hill would agree. Things like the Community Schools Program, that will give grants to community groups to keep schools open after hours and on weekends and during the summer so that kids can have a place to go and stay out of trouble. Safe places where they can engage in learning and recreation, where there can be adult mentors and coaches. We know from the examples of such schools around our country that if schools are transformed into safe havens for youngsters, children will be safer. I'm not sure what the folks in Congress who were voting against the crime bill think we can do with our children after school when it takes both parents in a home working or when it takes a single parent working and they then live in fear about what happens to their children on the streets between the time school is over and the time they get home for dinner. I want children to have safe havens and the crime bill would be a good start to that. Programs like the Gang Resistance Education And Training Program called, G.R.E.A.T., already a proven success. I've been in a lot of neighborhoods, places where many of you come from and you know you fight a losing battle year in and year out to try to convince young people not to join gangs. Why? Because the gangs provide a, "haven", not safe but a haven. It provides a family if you will. It provides a network of people who say they will look out for each other. It fills a vacuum in the lives of thousands and thousands of youngsters. Now wouldn't it be better if we had a positive alternative a program like GREAT where youngsters can be safe in coming together and working together and learn how to resist the faults and in many ways dangerous, seductive pleasures that the gang propose in the short run which leads to death and misery for so many children. I think we should vote for gang resistance programs instead of letting more and more children end up in the gangs.

Look how programs like Police Partnerships for Children, programs where police officers will take their time to work with young people, coupling that with community policing where we again get police officers on the street. Somebody that a young person can hopefully find some support from, but if we turn on our back on these partnerships that police are offering, we lose an opportunity to transform our police officers not only into instruments of punishment but also instruments of prevention. And if we also turn our back on this crime bill we walk away from one of the most important advances on behalf of women, the Violence Against Women Act. It is time we stood up and said women should not be victimized, whether it is in the home, or on the street and we need to give our law enforcement officials the tools to protect women. It has gone on long enough, ignoring and denying the depth of the problem of violence against women this crime bill begins to turn that around. And that's another reason.

Now if you've heard all of this prevention, and I've only touched the tip of the old prevention iceberg that is in that crime bill, with the other elements: a hundred thousand more police on the streets, a ban on handgun ownership for minors. A ban on assault weapons that only lead to death and injury. A three strikes and you're out bill so that violent offenders can be taken off the street. And I see these young men clapping wildly because they know what happens in their neighborhoods. You take all of that and it adds up to a well-balanced reasonable approach that mixes both prevention and punishment. An approach that has been worked out and struggled over with lots of input from people from the grassroots level.

Those of you participating in this conference know first hand what it will take in your own hometowns to combat violence. You also know that even though a crime bill is a critical step in putting this society on the right track for combating violence it alone can't do the job either. It's not a panacea. If the President signs that crime bill it's not going to solve all of our problems. It's not going to keep families together, it's not going to get adults to give children the type of supervision, love, discipline, and attention little children need. It's not going to instill a sense of faith and responsibility in the souls of young people who have been damaged and alienated, it's not going to do those things. It is going to begin to put into place people and institutions and programs that can help lead to those outcomes. It can give people a chance once again to feel they are a part of something bigger than themselves. And to lay a line very clearly that despite all the tough talk about crime in the last decade has become obscure, and that line is, you have to know the difference between right and wrong and we're going to hold you responsible for the choices and the consequences of those choices. It begins to once again fight the violence in society. This whole crime debate, the whole issue of youth violence, is an indication of something much deeper and more profound. It is an indication of literally millions of Americans walking away from their responsibilities. And that is what we're ultimately trying to reverse. We are trying again, against tremendous odds to say the individual is responsible for his or her actions. But society is also responsible for individuals. It is not an either or, it's not a liberal and conservative, that old stuff is so out of date. That is like beyond talking about. Some people think they can answer every problem by saying, "Oh that's liberal. Oh, that's conservative." Or maybe they step further on down the road of meaningless analysis and say, "Oh, that's republican. Oh, that's democrat." An assault weapon doesn't care what political party you are. An assault weapon in a drive by shooting doesn't even care if you're a member of the National Rifle Association.

Let's just stop for a minute and ask ourselves, "Haven't we wasted enough lives, haven't we lost enough young men and women to prison instead of college? Haven't we turned our back too many times on the God given potential of every one of our young people?" I don't care what race they are, I don't care where they live, every single young person in this country, has a spark about them that we have for too long allowed to be extinguished by a level of violence, hatred, and divisiveness that still stalks this country. We can do much better than that, all you have to do is look at the faces of the young people around you today. We know we can do better. But we cannot unless we stand up and are willing to be counted. I hope you will not only attend this conference, I hope you will not only work on what needs to be done back in your own hometowns, I hope you will take

the time to let your member of Congress know why you are here, what you stand for. And I hope you will say it may not be perfect, but this crime bill represents a huge first step in staking out new territories in this country. Once and for all we're going to be both smart and tough. We're going to begin to save a generation of young people from this epidemic of violence. Thank you all.

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