

Clinton to Approve Sweeping Shift in Adoption

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 — President Clinton is preparing to sign into law the most sweeping changes to the nation's adoption and foster-care system in nearly two decades.

The changes, approved by Congress last week as it wrapped up its work for the year, are intended to make it easier to remove children from abusive families and speed up their adoption.

The new legislation marks a fundamental shift in child-welfare philosophy, away from a presumption that everything should be done to reunite children with their birth parents, even if the parents have been abusive. The legislation would instead give more weight to the child's health and safety.

Senator John H. Chafee, the Rhode Island Republican who was a leading sponsor of the legislation, said on the Senate floor before the measure passed by a voice vote: "We will not continue the current system of always putting the needs and rights of the biological parents first." Although that is a worthy goal, he said, "it's time we recognize that some families simply cannot and should not be kept together."

The new legislation would require states to set up a permanent placement plan for a child after one year of foster care, as opposed to after 18 months under current rules. The courts would have to terminate parental rights after a child has been in a foster home for 15 of the previous 22 months — and almost immediately if there is evidence of severe abuse, including abandonment, torture or physical or sexual abuse, or if the parent has caused the death of a sibling.

The legislation also would provide cash bonuses to states that increase their adoptions, giving them \$4,000 for each child adopted above the previous year's number and \$8,000 for each adoption of a child who is older or has some physical or emotional disability.

Even if the legislation eliminates certain hurdles to adoption, some child-welfare experts said that it was only a first step toward improving

the sprawling, fragmented foster-care system, which encompasses a half-million children.

The Federal Government, which provides some cash assistance for foster care and sets standards for the use of that money, has little actual control over the system, which is administered state by state. "There is very little at the Federal level that we can do," a top Congressional aide conceded. "But we want to send a signal that we don't like what we see."

The numbers of children in foster care climb every year and are now up 89 percent from 1982 levels. Experts attribute the increase to a combination of social problems, including drug abuse, AIDS, and teen-age parenthood, which are responsible in some cases for a new and severe level of child abuse.

But the average number of children in foster care who are adopted has held steady, at about 20,000 per year, according to the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Mich., a nonprofit organization trying to improve health and education. The children who are adopted spend an average of three and a half years to five and a half years in foster homes before finding permanent homes.

Children in foster care are generally perceived as hard to adopt. Many are older, some have major disabilities and some come from severely abusive homes. Some are part of sibling groups that do not want to be broken up.

In addition, many middle-class families who are looking for children want healthy white infants and can more readily find them through private adoption agencies, private lawyers or overseas.

About 63 percent of children in the American foster-care system are nonwhite, according to the Kellogg Foundation. About 47 percent are black, almost three times the percent of black children in the population at large. President Clinton signed legislation last year to remove barriers to cross-racial adoptions. Some agencies believed it was inappropriate for families of one race to adopt a child of another race,

which had the effect of slowing the adoption of black children by white families. Experts said it was not clear yet what effect the removal of those barriers has had.

Another reason so many children languish in foster care is a 1980 law that requires courts to make "reasonable efforts" to reunite them with their biological families before parental rights can be severed and the children can be legally available for adoption. Of the 500,000 children in foster care now, only about 100,000 have had their parental rights terminated and are free for adoption.

It is the interpretations of the 1980 law that the current legislation seeks to change. MaryLee Allen, director of the child welfare and mental health division of the Children's Defense Fund, said that state courts had widely interpreted the 1980 law as a directive to keep biological families together at all costs.

In a statement saying he was eager to sign the legislation, President Clinton said the bill "makes clear that children's health and safety are the paramount concerns." He said the bill would help meet his goal of doubling the number of adoptions by 2002.

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**Headline: HHS REPORT SHOWS CONTINUED RECORD HIGH CHILD ABUSE
AND NEGLECT LEVELS**

HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala today released new data showing continued record high levels of child abuse and neglect in the United States. According to the new report, "Child Maltreatment 1996: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System," almost 1 million children were identified as victims of abuse or neglect in 1996, and an estimated 1,077 children died in 1996 as a result of abuse or neglect.

April is National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month.

The results although slightly down from 1995, continue a long-term trend, with total child abuse and neglect cases remaining in the record-high range of 1 million for five years.

"Last year, Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law the historic Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, which makes protecting the safety of children the paramount concern in adoption and foster care," Secretary Shalala said. "This month -- and every month of the year -- states, caseworkers, and the courts should rededicate themselves to making sure that we achieve the intent of this critical law child abuse cannot be tolerated."

The new law, enacted in November 1997, requires that child safety be the highest priority when making service provision, placement, and permanency planning decisions for children. The law reaffirms the importance of making reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families, but -- for the first time -- also specifies instances when states are not required to make efforts to keep children with their parents, such as when doing so places a child's safety in jeopardy. These new provisions give states important new tools in their efforts to break the cycle of abuse within families.

"This new law represents a real step forward and gives us an unprecedented opportunity to reform the child welfare system," emphasized Olivia Golden, HHS Assistant Secretary for Children and Families.

HHS is consulting with states this spring on necessary regulations under the new law. Beginning in 1999, HHS will issue annual reports evaluating the performance of all 50 states.

The Clinton Administration is committed to promoting and supporting policies and innovative programs that work to increase children's safety and reduce children's risk of harm. In addition to the new law, HHS has granted child welfare waivers to 10 states to pursue innovative strategies for improving state child welfare systems: California, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Oregon. As part of the new law, HHS has authority to approve up to 10 additional waivers for FY 1998 through 2002.

To supplement these efforts, Secretary Shalala today also announced a new campaign by the HHS Children's Bureau to encourage community prevention efforts and to provide help to those who work with children and families. The "Prevention in Action" campaign features a new web site which includes information and resources about the problem of child abuse and how to help prevent it. The web site can be reached through www.acf.dhhs.gov/news. Hard copies are available upon request from the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect at 1-800-FYI-3366.

According to the report released today:

Parents are the chief perpetrators of child abuse and neglect. Nearly 80 percent of the cases involved abuse and neglect by parents, with an additional 11 percent involving other relatives.

Among children who died due to abuse or neglect, very young children were most likely be killed, with children aged 3 and under accounting for three-quarters of all deaths.

Fifty-two percent of maltreated children suffered neglect, 24 percent physical abuse, 12 percent sexual abuse, 6 percent emotional abuse, 3 percent medical neglect and 16 percent other forms of maltreatment. Some children suffered more than one type of maltreatment.

More than half of the children were under 8 years old, while 28 percent were younger than 4 years old. Younger children were more likely than older children to be neglected, while older children were more likely than younger children to be

physically, sexually or emotionally abused.

Fifty-two percent of victims were girls and 48 percent were boys.

Fifty-three percent of all victims were white, 27 percent African-American, 11 percent Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander 4 percent and 2 percent Native American. African American and Native American children were abused and neglected at a rate almost twice their proportions in the national child population.

The total number of children identified as victims of abuse or neglect, based on validated case data, and the total number of states reporting data for the last five years are as follows:

Year	Number	States Reporting
1992	992,617	48
1993	1,018,692	47
1994	1,011,628	48
1995	1,000,402	49
1996	969,018	47

Copies of "Child Maltreatment 1996" will be available in mid-April and can be obtained by calling the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information at 1-800-FYI-3366.

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Note: HHS press releases are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.dhhs.gov>.

Clinton Signs Law to Speed Adoption Process for Children in Foster Care

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer

Joined by dozens of children at the White House, President Clinton signed legislation yesterday revamping the nation's adoption laws to make it easier to move tens of thousands more children out of foster homes and into permanent families each year.

The measure, a personal priority of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, redefines national policy toward children separated from their parents so that the government's top priority from now on will be determining the best interests of the child rather than necessarily reuniting families.

"Fundamentally, it will improve the well-being of hundreds of thousands of

our most vulnerable children," the president said during the East Room ceremony. "The new legislation makes it clear that children's health and safety are the paramount concerns of our public child welfare system."

The legislation, which had bipartisan sponsorship and passed Congress last week with near-unanimous support, rewrites the 1980 federal law that required states to pursue "reasonable efforts" to keep families together to obtain federal money for foster care. Instead, officials said, new time limits and federal funding incentives in the measure will result in speedier processing with the aim of meeting Clinton's goal of doubling the number of children adopted from foster homes each year to 54,000 by 2002.

The new law is the latest initiative embraced by the Clinton White House to encourage adoptions, after a previously enacted tax credit and new rules intended to break down legal barriers to cross-racial adoptions.

Separately yesterday, Clinton also signed legislation providing a 2.1 percent cost-of-living increase in benefits for 2.6 million disabled veterans and surviving family members, effective Dec. 1.

The adoption signing ceremony had the look of a school assembly. Joining the many politicians, parents and welfare officials were nearly 50 children from adoption agencies, foster care homes and the Badeau family of Philadelphia. Susan and David Badeau have 21 children, 19 of them adopted.

Hillary Clinton has made adoption a pet cause for many years and argued in her book, "It Takes a Village," that 100,000 children could be removed from the adoption and foster care rolls each year with the right policies. Adoption has long hovered around the Clintons' personal lives as well. Hillary Clinton had trouble conceiving their only daughter Chelsea and as recently as last year the first lady said they were thinking about adopting a second child.

However, after the election, the president privately told people in the White House that they had opted against such a move, at least while he was still in office, because any adopted child would need more time and attention than they would have available.

During yesterday's event, Hillary

Clinton recalled meeting a young girl waiting for adoption two years ago. "I saw her last year at an event in Kansas City and almost didn't recognize her—from a shy, withdrawn 13-year-old, she had blossomed into a cheerful, outgoing, confident teenager with a brilliant smile," the first lady said.

About 500,000 children now live in foster care, according to officials, and some wait two or three years for placement in permanent homes. Under the new rules, states must hold hearings on a child's future within 12 months of being removed from the family, instead of 18 months as previously stipulated. Officials no longer must make "reasonable efforts" to return children to parents if they have been abandoned, tortured or chronically abused.

States that increase the number of children adopted will receive a \$4,000 bonus for every extra child placed in a permanent home and \$6,000 for children who are older or have physical or emotional disabilities. The new law also ensures that children with special health needs keep their medical coverage when they are adopted.

"For too long, the cries and pleas of children in this system went unheard," said Sen. John H. Chafee (R-R.I.), who sponsored the legislation along with Sen. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV (D-W.Va.) and others. "Today we sent them a message of hope and an indication that they and their needs will no longer be cast aside, ignored or made a second priority."

The Washington Post

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1997

FINAL

Five Deaths Shock a D.C. Neighborhood

By Gabriel Escobar
Washington Post Staff Writer

The police tape went up again along Princeton Place NW this week, sealing off one of the two row houses for the second time since May. Again this neighborhood went through a familiar, and frightening, routine. Uniformed officers and detectives poked around, the medical examiner came, the corpse of another black woman was removed.

Tuesday's discovery of the body of Jacqueline Teresa Birch, 39, means that four women have died in the immediate vicinity since November 1996, three of them on Princeton Place and two of those in the same empty row house. Adding to the mystery is the Oct. 10 disappearance of a woman last seen on Princeton Place—near Georgia and New Hampshire avenues—



D.C. police officer Maureen Walsh leaves 766 Princeton Place NW, where two dead women were found.

and the discovery, three days later and less than 10 blocks away, of a female torso that is still not identified.

In the case of Birch, a question that has hung over the neighborhood after each grisly discovery—how did she die?—was answered for the first time. The District's acting medical examiner determined that the latest victim died of

manual strangulation, and yesterday afternoon he ruled the case a homicide. That was a departure from the other cases, including the torso found behind a building on Meridian Place, all of which are officially labeled deaths due to "undetermined" causes.

Although yesterday's homicide finding appeared to end the case, the District's

See WOMEN, A20, Col. 1

Iraq to Back Down, Albright, U.N. Told

Conferees Stand Firm in Geneva

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Staff Writer

GENEVA, Nov. 20 (Thursday)—Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov told representatives of the U.N. Security Council early today that Iraq is prepared to back down from its confrontation with the United Nations over weapons inspections, and an announcement to that effect is expected later today, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright announced.

"We are looking now for proof that this has happened; we will obviously be pleased if it does," Albright said at a 5 a.m. news conference after an extraordinary week-long gathering here to review Russian efforts to end Iraq's defiance of Security Council resolutions ordering the arms inspections.

If Primakov's assessment is cor-

rect, an announcement from Baghdad may come after a meeting of the Iraqi parliament this morning, diplomats said. Such an announcement would seem to represent a total victory for the United Nations—and in particular the United States—in the latest of the seemingly annual showdowns with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The immediate and unconditional resumption of the search for Iraqi chemical, biological and nuclear weapons by U.N. monitoring that include Americans has been the Clinton administration's objective since Saddam Hussein provoked a showdown last month by barring American participants. Over the past few days, the urgency of resuming the inspections has increased as evi-

See POLICY, A36, Col. 1

4 Boys, 3 Girls And 6 Minutes: Septuplets Born

By Sue Anne Pressley
Washington Post Staff Writer

An Iowa woman gave birth yesterday to what may be the world's first surviving set of septuplets, making medical history with the successful delivery of four boys and three girls.

All of the infants, born to Kenny and Bobbi McCaughey, were listed in serious condition after being delivered by Caesarean section at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines; one, Joel Steven, was briefly listed as critical but later upgraded to serious. But doctors and family members seemed elated by the babies' apparently robust health and their birth weights, which ranged from 2 pounds, 5 ounces to 3 pounds, 4 ounces.

"I am probably one of the proudest grandfathers in the country at this moment," said Bob Hepworth, Bobbi's father, beaming as he announced the births. "I would ask that all believers across the world join us in praying for Bobbi and the babies."

Bobbi McCaughey, 29, had just entered her 31st week of pregnancy, short of the typical 40-week gestation period but well past the point where doctors believed the fetuses could survive. Generally, women expecting multiple births do not go the full term, and premature infants are most vulnerable to respiratory problems and feeding complications. But doctors said the McCaughey infants apparently were well developed and had benefited from pre-birth medication to

See IOWA, A19, Col. 1



Shown with her parents, toddler Mikayla McCaughey now has seven baby siblings.



PRESIDENT AND FRIEND

President Clinton signed a law to speed adoptions. With him at White House was Aaron Badesau, 7, of Philadelphia, youngest of David and Susan Badesau's 21 children, 15 of whom they adopted. Story, A17.



PHOTO BY SARAH BRIDLE, THE WASHINGTON POST

Clinton Backs 'Bill of Rights' For Patients

President to Seek Law To Enforce Standards

By Amy Goldstein
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton will propose federal legislation today to create a broad new set of government standards aimed at guaranteeing Americans better care and more clout in the nation's changing health care system, according to White House officials.

The officials said that Clinton plans to give his full endorsement to a health care "bill of rights" that would assure insured patients easier access to treatment, more information to help them select health plans and doctors, and new ways to appeal if they are dissatisfied with their care.

The president plans to call on every U.S. health insurer to adopt these patient protections, which were proposed by an advisory mission that completed work on the plan yesterday. Clinton also will instruct the federal agencies that oversee health insurance to spend three months studying which of the safeguards can be enforced under existing law. But White House officials said the president has concluded that many facets of the commission's proposal will require Congress to act.

By swiftly embracing the work of the commission he appointed earlier this year—and by advocating new federal standards to enforce it—Clinton is making his largest and most controversial foray into the health care issue since his attempt at mental health reforms was rejected by Congress three years ago.

His decision comes amid growing evidence that the American public is wary of the changes wrought by the proliferation of health maintenance organizations and other kinds of "managed care," which try to curb medical costs by limiting how much and what kind of care patients may receive. Though the idea of improving the quality of medical care has wide political support, there are in-

See CARE, A4, Col. 1

Columbia River Shores: Wild, Scenic, Radioactive

By William Booth
Washington Post Staff Writer

RICHLAND, Wash.—On the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River, the big water moves fast and cold, so clear that anglers trolling their lures can see the dark shadows of the chinook salmon lurking below their boats, awaiting the coming spawn.

But the fishermen do not wander ashore here. It is forbidden. For along the bluff, spaced like ancient watchtowers on the high dry desert, are the nine reactors of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, the now si-

lent factory that for four decades produced the palm-sized pucks of plutonium that filled the atomic bombs, and left behind an awful legacy. This is one of the most poisonous waste dumps on Earth.

And so it is one of the weird ironies of the post-Cold War era that a 51-mile stretch of the Columbia River that runs through the Department of Energy's nuclear repository is being proposed for federal designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

The section of river is known as the Hanford Reach, a pretty arc of undeveloped water, dotted with islands rich in the remains of prehistoric fishing camps, and

faced, on the north bank, by a towering wall of white bluffs.

"It has everything you want a river to have: clean water, good flow, surrounded by wonderful habitat. There's just this one little problem," said David Goeke, the project manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's refuge here.

The problem, of course, is the thousands of tons of radioactive scrap and the millions of gallons of screaming hot irradiated ooze buried on the surrounding reservation—where, as recently as May, a storage tank at a shuttered plutonium processing plant

See HANFORD, A16, Col. 1

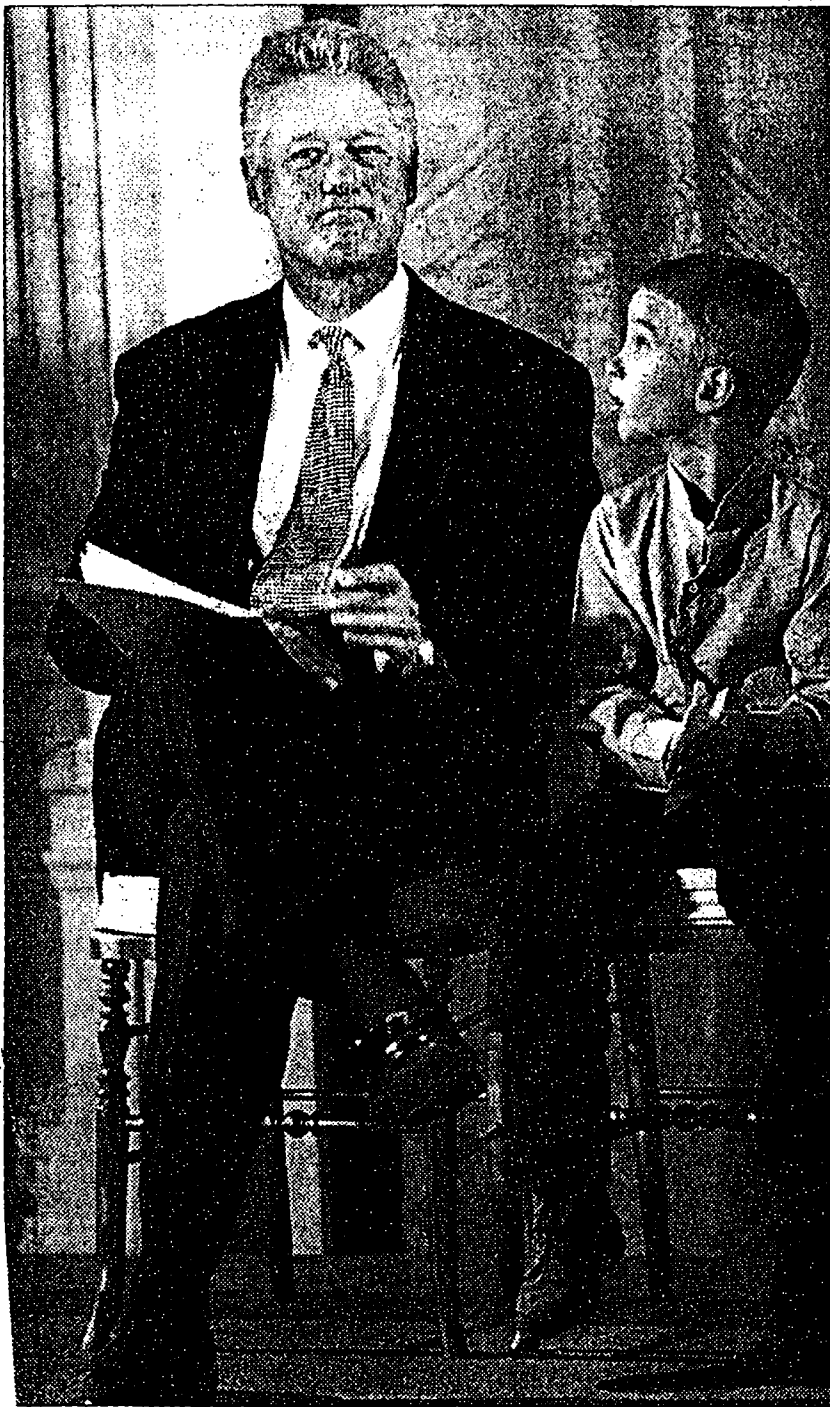
Emotional Debate Preceded



'The Cow': Who and How

INSIDE

Plans for Race Panel



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PHOTOS BY SUSAN BIDDLE—THE WASHINGTON POST

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The New York Times
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1997



Paul Hasefros/The New York Times

Cheers for New Law on Adoptions

With a crowd of spectators, including Government officials and adopted children, President Clinton yesterday signed legislation to speed the movement of children from foster homes to adopted homes. The law is intended to double the number of such adoptions each year, to about 54,000.

Measure to speed up adoptions becomes law

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Surrounded by dozens of adopted children and their families Tuesday, President Clinton signed legislation to speed up adoptions of children who now spend years in a foster-care limbo.

"This bill will improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of our most vulnerable children," Clinton said during an emotional ceremony in the East Room of the White House. "We have put in place here the building blocks of giving all of our children what should be their fundamental right: a chance at a decent, safe home; an honorable, orderly, positive upbringing; a chance to live out their dreams and fulfill their God-given capacities."

Under a 1980 child-welfare law, the government gave the highest priority to counseling and other efforts to reunite children with their biological parents, even if the parents had been abusive or neglectful. But 500,000 children who cannot return to their families languish in foster care, waiting an average of more than three years before they are adopted.

Now, the highest priority is the child. The White House says adoptions from foster care should double to 54,000 a year.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., who was adopted by his mother's second husband, called the bill a "triumph for common sense ... over political meddling at the expense of helpless children."

Government services to help troubled families regain their children continue under the new law, which passed in Congress with broad support from both parties. But under the new provisions:

- States no longer have to make "reasonable efforts" to keep children with their biological families if a parent has been convicted of murdering another child or the child has been abandoned, tortured or chronically abused.

- States get financial incentives to increase adoptions of kids in foster care. For every adoption over current levels, a state will get \$4,000 — \$6,000 if the child is disabled or has special medical needs.

- A hearing to determine whether a child should move to an adoptive home must be held within 12 months of the child entering foster care. Under the old law, a hearing was required within 18 months.

- States must begin proceedings on whether to terminate parental rights for



By Mark Wilson, Reuters

Seeing is believing: Aaron Badeau, 7, attends the ceremony Wednesday for President Clinton's signing of adoption legislation. Aaron's family includes 19 adopted children.

any child who has been in foster care for 15 of the previous 22 months.

- A child with special medical needs may not be denied insurance by Medicaid or the new federal children's health program after being adopted — a provision to reassure middle- and upper-income families that they won't lose their health insurance or go bankrupt paying medical bills for an adopted child.

- Adoptions may not be delayed or denied across state or county lines. Until now, some states and counties wouldn't place a child in another area because they would lose federal reimbursement.

"Foster care is a safe haven on the road to a permanent home or back home," first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said. "Too many, however, make countless detours along the way, shuffling from family to family without much hope that they will ever find permanent parents to love and take care of them. These children, who

will enter this holiday season unsure about whether the family they celebrate with this year will be there with them next year, deserve better."

Sueann Badeau, 20, one of 19 children adopted by Sue and Hector Badeau of Philadelphia, attended the ceremony with her family, which also includes the Badaeus' two biological children. She and her four biological siblings were adopted when she was 7 years old. She said she had spent several years in seven or eight foster homes.

"I know what it's like to be in foster care," she told the audience, her voice cracking. "Being adopted is the best thing that's ever happened to me."

The first lady also choked up.

The president urged other families to consider adoption. "You may not want to go as far as the Badaeus have," he joked, "but they are a shining example of how we grow when we give, how we can be blessed in return many times over."

President signs foster care reforms

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Clinton signed into law yesterday a foster care reform bill that he said will make it easier for thousands of abandoned and abused children to find permanent homes more easily.

The law will "help families stay together where reunification is possible and help find safe homes for children much more quickly when it is not," President Clinton said at a ceremony in the East Room, jammed with adoptive families, members of Congress and other supporters of the bill.

"For the thousands of American children who wait for a stable, loving home that will always be there, it is not a moment too soon," said first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Mr. Clinton was introduced by Sue Ann Badeau, 20, who spent several years in foster care with

Law will make adoption easier

her three siblings. They were all adopted by Hector and Susan Badeau, a Philadelphia couple who have now adopted 21 children from foster care.

"I know how hard it is to be in foster care ... not knowing where you're going to live," Miss Badeau tearfully told the gathering, which included her parents and many of her adopted siblings.

"Being adopted is the best thing that has ever happened to me, and I love you very much, Mom and Dad," she said.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act affects some 700,000 abused, neglected or abandoned children who spend time each year in the national network of foster homes, group homes and institutions.

Most children eventually return

to their biological families, but tens of thousands of children spend years in the system, waiting for their families to stabilize or for another family to adopt them.

Each year as many as 13,000 children leave foster care as adults, never having found a permanent home. Studies show that many of these children struggle as adults — many girls become unwed mothers, and many boys enter the criminal justice system.

In 1995, 50,000 children in foster care were freed for adoption. Around 20,000 of those children were adopted; another 7,000 children found permanent homes with guardians.

Last December, Mr. Clinton called for reform of the system and set a goal of doubling adoptive and

permanent placements to 54,000 a year by 2002.

The new reform "is consistent ... with our goals," he said yesterday, pointing to new, swifter timetables for making decisions about children's futures and the law's guidelines telling authorities when to stop trying to reunify broken families.

The law further promotes adoption by ensuring medical coverage for children with special needs, rewarding states for increased adoptions of foster care children and instructing states not to block adoptions because of geographic barriers.

Lowering the geographic barriers is a key reform, Mrs. Badeau said later. Several of her children, she explained, had to wait as long as two extra years in the system because their adoptions were across state lines.

Although the reform's primary



President Clinton talks to Aaron Badeau at yesterday's ceremony on the new adoption act. Aaron and his sister Sue Ann (right) were adopted.

focus is adoption, it also reauthorizes for three years a massive federal program aimed at preventing abuse in troubled families.

Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's International and an adopted child himself, said the na-

tion needs to keep talking about adoption.

Adopting a child is "not for everyone," he said. "But in many cases, it's the right thing. And it's especially the right thing for kids without a home."

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1997

President Signs Legislation to Speed Adoptions

Associated Press

With dozens of adopted children and their families looking on, President Clinton signed legislation yesterday to speed the movement of children from foster care to "permanent and loving homes."

Foster homes have an important place, the president said, "but children should not be trapped in them forever, especially when there are open arms to welcome them."

"Fundamentally, this bill will improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of our most vulnerable children," Clinton said.

The law aims at doubling the number of adoptions each year to about 54,000. The White House said about 500,000 American children are await-

ing adoption. Clinton called on many more American families "to open their homes and their hearts to children who need a loving home."

Rep. Barbara B. Kennelly (D-Conn.), a member of the bipartisan team responsible for passage of the legislation, said, "It not only gives a child back their childhood but it gives a child hope."

Clinton signed the bill with a flourish during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, which echoed with the cries and exclamations of dozens of adopted children.

In a step designed to encourage a speedier adoption process, the new law offers states \$20 million in bonuses for each of the next five years. For every additional child adopted over current levels the state will receive \$4,000. An

additional \$2,000 bonus will be paid for each adoption of a child with special medical needs.

At present, children who have been removed from their natural families and cannot safely return to them typically wait three years or more to be placed in permanent homes. The new law requires that permanency hearings be held no later than 12 months after a child enters foster care, six months earlier than the old law.

It also spells out situations in which states are not required to make a "reasonable effort" to return a child to the child's birth parents. These include cases in which a parent has been convicted of murdering another child or when a child has been abandoned, tortured or abused.

And in a bid to break down geo-

graphic barriers to adoption, the new law forbids delaying or denying adoptions across state or county lines.

Other provisions include:

- Ensuring that children with special medical needs retain their health insurance after adoption, through Medicaid or the new children's health program.

- Maintaining a previous law providing services to strengthen troubled families and ensuring safe and stable homes for children who return to their families.

- Authorizing the Department of Health and Human Services to consult with states on new measures to track the performance of states in providing child welfare services "to ensure successful results for children."

The Washington Post

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1997

Bill and I Cover

By Hillary Rodham Clinton



New law fosters change to speed up adoptions

Bill and I get a lot of letters. Some ask me for advice on hairstyles. Others ask him for golf tips. But the best letters are always from kids.

I'll never forget the letter he got from a young boy in Iowa. It said, "Dear Mr. President, My name is Rollie. I like to play football and basketball. I've been waiting eight years for an adoptive family. I'm hoping for a family with pets, a brother and a sister, and nice parents."

Thanks to a new law Bill signed this week, the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, more children like Rollie will have their hopes fulfilled. This law holds out the promise that all children in our foster care system will have a chance to find what every child deserves — loving parents and a safe, permanent home.

Right now, there are half a million children in foster care. For most of them, foster care is a haven on the road to a permanent home. Too many, however, make countless detours along the way, shuffling from family to family, without much hope that they'll ever find parents to love and take care of them.

This new law will come to their aid. It is the direct result of the president's commitment to improving the lives of all children. And it will help meet his goal of doubling by the year 2002 the number of kids who are adopted or placed in permanent homes each year.

With this law, the health and safety of children will always be the first priority. The best chance children have in this life is with parents who love them — and we must always do our best to give them that.

But we cannot ever leave children in unsafe homes. Under this law, states will no longer be required to try to keep children with parents who tortured, abandoned or chronically abused a child. When this happens, a child will be on a fast track to a safe, permanent home. Furthermore, states will conduct criminal background checks of prospective foster and adoptive parents.

With this new law, foster care will become what it was always meant to be — a temporary refuge en route to a permanent home — not a place to grow up.

For kids in foster care, hearings determining their future will be sped up by at least six months. For children who have been in foster care for 15 or more of the last 22 months, states must move forward to terminate parental rights except in narrowly specified circumstances. For children who cannot be safely returned to their families, states must do all they can to find a permanent place to call home. And states now will receive financial

incentives to increase the number of foster care children who are adopted each year — especially those with special needs.

This new law removes another barrier: It gets rid of the obstacles that keep families from adopting children across state and county lines. It also tells children with special needs: You will continue to have health insurance under Medicaid or the new State Child Health Insurance Program. And it tells parents that our government will work harder to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

With this new law, we are going to demand accountability by basing state performance on the only yardstick that matters: results. The Department of Health and Human Services will develop an annual report card to show how states are measuring up — including the number of adoptions they've completed and the amount of time children are staying in foster care.

Regardless of age, religion or race, all the children I've met over the years have had one important thing in common: All of them needed parents in their lives. Someone to pick them up when they've fallen. Someone to teach them right from wrong. Someone to tuck them into bed at night. Someone simply to love them.

It is for this reason that, for more than 25 years, I've done my best to call attention to children in foster care and to see to it these children are not lost in the system and that those who cannot ever go home are freed for adoption.

The landmark bill my husband signed will go a long way toward making sure this happens. It's a historic opportunity, one that couldn't have happened without extraordinary bipartisan work from members of Congress in both houses.

But this new law will not solve all that ails our child-welfare system. Businesses can make it easier for their employees to adopt a child. Religious leaders can help spread the word about the joys of adoption. Parents thinking about adoption can expand their search to reach out to kids in foster care.

That's what Bernell and Della Neal did — again and again and again. This week, the government honored them with a 1997 Adoption 2002 Excellence Award. These parents have adopted 11 children, many with severe physical and emotional needs. Though the Neals have faced tough challenges, they have shown that nothing is impossible. Their family motto: "There's always room for one more."

Because of this new law, that will be the motto for other families as well.

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1997

Clinton to Approve Sweeping Shift in Adoption

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 — President Clinton is preparing to sign into law the most sweeping changes to the nation's adoption and foster-care system in nearly two decades.

The changes, approved by Congress last week as it wrapped up its work for the year, are intended to make it easier to remove children from abusive families and speed up their adoption.

The new legislation marks a fundamental shift in child-welfare philosophy, away from a presumption that everything should be done to reunite children with their birth parents, even if the parents have been abusive. The legislation would instead give more weight to the child's health and safety.

Senator John H. Chafee, the Rhode Island Republican who was a leading sponsor of the legislation, said on the Senate floor before the measure passed by a voice vote: "We will not continue the current system of always putting the needs and rights of the biological parents first." Although that is a worthy goal, he said, "it's time we recognize that some families simply cannot and should not be kept together."

The new legislation would require states to set up a permanent-placement plan for a child after one year of foster care, as opposed to after 18 months under current rules. The courts would have to terminate parental rights after a child has been in a foster home for 15 of the previous 22 months — and almost immediately if there is evidence of severe abuse, including abandonment, torture or physical or sexual abuse, or if a parent has caused the death of a sibling.

The legislation also would provide cash bonuses to states that increase their adoptions, giving them \$4,000 for each child adopted above the previous year's number and \$6,000 for each adoption of a child who is older or has some physical or emotional disability.

Even if the legislation eliminates certain hurdles to adoption, some child-welfare experts said that it was only a first step toward improving

the sprawling, fragmented foster-care system, which encompasses a half-million children.

The Federal Government, which provides some cash assistance for foster care and sets standards for the use of that money, has little actual control over the system, which is administered state by state. "There is very little at the Federal level that we can do," a top Congressional aide conceded. "But we want to send a signal that we don't like what we see."

The numbers of children in foster care climb every year and are now up 89 percent from 1982 levels. Experts attribute the increase to a combination of social problems, including drug abuse, AIDS and teen-age parenthood, which are responsible in some cases for a new and severe level of child abuse.

But the average number of children in foster care who are adopted has held steady, at about 20,000 per year, according to the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Mich., a nonprofit organization trying to improve health and education. The children who are adopted spend an average of three and a half years to five and a half years in foster homes before finding permanent homes.

Children in foster care are generally perceived as hard to adopt. Many are older, some have major disabilities and some come from severely abusive homes. Some are part of sibling groups that do not want to be broken up.

In addition, many middle-class families who are looking for children want healthy white infants and can more readily find them through private adoption agencies, private lawyers or overseas.

About 63 percent of children in the American foster-care system are nonwhite, according to the Kellogg Foundation. About 47 percent are black, almost three times the percent of black children in the population at large. President Clinton signed legislation last year to remove barriers to cross-racial adoptions. Some agencies believed it was inappropriate for families of one race to adopt a child of another race,

which had the effect of slowing the adoption of black children by white families. Experts said it was not clear yet what effect the removal of those barriers has had.

Another reason so many children languish in foster care is a 1980 law that requires courts to make "reasonable efforts" to reunite them with their biological families before parental rights can be severed and the children can be legally available for adoption. Of the 500,000 children in foster care now, only about 100,000 have had their parental rights terminated and are free for adoption.

It is the interpretations of the 1980 law that the current legislation seeks to change. MaryLee Allen, director of the child welfare and mental-health division of the Children's Defense Fund, said that state courts had widely interpreted the 1980 law as a directive to keep biological families together at all costs.

In a statement saying he was eager to sign the legislation, President Clinton said the bill "makes clear that children's health and safety are the paramount concerns." He said the bill would help meet his goal of doubling the number of adoptions by 2002.

The New York Times

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1997

ON CAPITOL HILL

Vote by March Finance Changes

Gingrich (R-Ga.) promised a House vote on campaign finance reform in March but did not say whether votes will be

this year. Gingrich used the House vote to stage a news conference to announce the determination of House rules for a "thorough, exhaustive" and "expedient" process next year.

Gingrich's pledge of a March vote means that both houses could be voting on campaign finance at the same time next year. Under pressure from Democrats and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) recently agreed to votes on the issue by March 6.

—Helen Dewar

Coin Legislation Sent to Clinton

In a bill sent to President Clinton yesterday, Congress authorized the Treasury Department to create a gold-colored dollar to replace the Susan B. Anthony dollar as well as new quarters honoring the 50 states.

Beginning in 1999, Treasury will issue five new quarters a year, each commemorating a state. The head of George Washington will remain on one side of the quarters, with the other side, now carrying the American eagle, to carry designs distinctive to the states.

It does not say who or what should replace suffragist Susan B. Anthony on the face of the dollar coin. That design is left up to the Treasury secretary. The Anthony coins, minted from 1979 to 1981, have been largely unpopular, partly because they look and feel like a quarter.

—Associated Press

more stringent rules and others, such as Rep. John T. Doolittle (R-Calif.), urged deregulation of the process.

Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.), who tried to bring a bipartisan reform bill to the House floor this year, also said any bill would have to have bipartisan support and reserved the right to use a discharge petition to bring alternatives to the floor if the Republican bill fails that test. A petition circulated by conservative Democrats already has nearly 190 of the 218 signatures needed to force votes on campaign finance plans.

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Congress Acts to Speed Adoptions

Foster Care Overhaul Shifts Focus From Biological Ties to Child Welfare

By Judith Havemann
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House and Senate yesterday passed the most significant overhaul of the nation's foster care system in 17 years, approving legislation designed to speed up the adoption of abused and neglected children who now spend an average of two years in foster homes.

Under the bill, states will be required to begin proceedings to terminate the birth parents' rights after a child has spent 15 months in foster care, and almost instantly if a child has been abandoned, tortured, chronically physically or sexually abused or if the parents have murdered or assaulted a sibling.

The legislation represents a fundamental shift in the philosophy of child welfare, from a presumption that the chief consideration ought to be returning a child to his biological parents, to one in which the health and safety of the child is paramount.

State officials and courts will still make the day-to-day decisions about when a child should be removed from the home and whether the child should be put up for adoption. But the new law will give states a powerful financial incentive to move children out of the foster care system, which has grown by 85 percent since 1980.

The House approved the bill 406 to 7 and the Senate gave its unanimous consent last night. It has the support of President Clinton and incorporates many of his initiatives aimed at doubling the number of adoptions by 2002.

State child welfare officials applauded the legislation as a limited but important improvement in the law, and social welfare groups called it the most significant step in the right direction since the federal government assumed a role in the troubled child welfare system nearly two decades ago.

"Too many children languish in foster care while stable adoptive families wait in the wings," said Rep. Dave Camp (R-Mich.). And Sen. John H. Chafee (R-R.I.) called the child welfare system "a lonely and tragic wait with no end."

Although the central components of the bipartisan legislation were broadly supported, the measure was stalled for eight months in a fight over money. The House wanted to set new standards for the states with bonuses for good performance and penalties for failure. The Senate initially proposed spending \$3 billion on improved services for children who are in foster care.

The final bill calls for spending \$76 million over five years, with the money to come from funds set aside to

help states pay the costs of welfare reform.

Lauding the passage of the bill at a House news conference yesterday, Sister Josephine Murphy, administrator of St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville, said she has recently taken in an 8-year-old child who has been in 10 foster homes. A 3-year-old was admitted covered with cuts and bruises, and an eye almost swollen shut from a beating. She described a baby whose mother had been in 19 drug treatment programs.

"This child deserves a life," she said.

In 1980, the federal government agreed to pay about 55 percent of the cost of the foster care program if the states followed federal rules, including one that required that children have court hearings on their future within at least 18 months of their removal from their families. But many states have missed the deadlines or so bungled their programs that they came under federal court injunction.

The new law will give states a bonus of \$4,000 per child for each adoption that exceeds the previous year's level, and \$6,000 for adoption of older children or those with special needs such as physical or emotional disabilities.

Clinton Seeks Doubling Of Adoptions

HHS Ordered to Find Foster Care Solutions

AI

By Al Kamen
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton yesterday ordered administration officials to find ways to double by 2002 the number of children adopted from foster homes in hopes of reducing the time that children languish in that system.

Clinton's call for changes in the process comes as Congress is working on overhauling legislation of adoption policies that promise to be one of the major social policy debates in the next session.

"I can think of no better way to fulfill the promise of this season than to bring a child to a family and a family to a child," Clinton said in his weekly radio address from the Oval Office.

There are more than 450,000 children in the nation's foster care system, Clinton said, placed there because of abuse, neglect or other reasons. Most eventually return to their homes, he said, but nearly 100,000 do not. "Those children wait far too long, typically three years or more, to find permanent homes," he said.

Clinton said his goal was to make adoption easier and "to make moving children out of foster care easier," in order to increase adoptions of foster children each year from 27,000 to 54,000.

As a first step, Clinton ordered Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala to report back to him in 60 days on what new measures, including financial incentives to the states, will be needed to meet the administration's new goal.

The recommendations coincide with draft legislation circulating in Congress that aims to accelerate the adoption process. Among its sponsors are Sens. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) and John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV (D-W.Va.) and Reps. Dave Camp (R-Mich.) and Barbara B. Kennelly (D-Conn.).

Some of the areas likely to be addressed in the legislation and in Shalala's report include:

- Making it far easier for states to remove children from families where the child has been tortured, subject to severe physical or sexual abuse or where a sibling has died from abuse or neglect.

- Requiring states to evaluate the

See CLINTON, A19, Col. 1

CLINTON, From A1

status of children in foster homes earlier and more frequently so that they will not languish there for unnecessarily long periods.

- Providing financial bonuses to states that move children out of long-term foster care and into permanent, adoptive families. The money most likely will come from reducing the federal assistance available for foster care after a certain period of time. HHS officials expect any new financial incentive would pay for itself, because increasing adoptions would reduce foster care costs, which are about \$15,000 a year per child.

The current adoption law, passed in 1980, requires states to pursue "reasonable efforts" to keep families together to qualify for federal money for foster care.

"Reasonable efforts" have been broadly interpreted by the courts, and some members of Congress feel that too often little emphasis is put on "reasonable."

Despite the bipartisan support for change, adoption legislation is may be controversial because of concerns by the "parental rights" movement that the states will too quickly put a child up for adoption without consideration of the biological parents' rights. States may also object to proposed penalties for failing to move children out of foster care fast enough, according to social policy specialists who have followed the issue.

In his Oval Office address yesterday, attended by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Shalala, several adoptive parents and their children as well as and four children waiting to be adopted, Clinton said that he was "proud" to sign a \$5,000 tax credit to help families adopt and to ban racial preferences in adoption. That measure passed Congress earlier this year.

There had been some speculation, fueled by a comment by Hillary Clinton in a Time magazine interview last May, that the Clintons were considering adopting a child.

The White House yesterday said the Clintons had decided against adopting a child while they are in the White House because they would not be able to give the child enough attention.

A spokesman said Clinton, in several pre-Christmas interviews not yet made public, "didn't rule it out for later in life but he basically said it wouldn't work here in the White House," Reuter reported.

Hillary Clinton ignored a question yesterday about their adopting a child.

Staff writer Judith Havemann contributed to this report.

The Washington Post

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1996

President Tells Government To Promote More Adoptions

By ALISON MITCHELL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 — President Clinton today directed the Federal Government to take steps to double the number of children moved from foster care to adoption over the next six years.

He announced the initiative in his weekly radio address, and was joined on the air by his wife, Hillary, by adoptive families and by children hoping for a permanent home.

"I can think of no better way to fulfill the promise of this season than to bring a child into a family, and a family to a child," Mr. Clinton said.

This drive to increase adoption continues the family-centered themes that he promoted throughout his election campaign, and it is not likely to be contentious. House Republicans made an adoption tax-credit a plank in their Contract With America campaign agenda in 1994. Earlier this year, Mr. Clinton signed Republican-initiated legislation that gave a tax credit of \$5,000 to families adopting children and made it easier for parents to adopt children of a different race.

There are now 450,000 children in the nation's foster-care system, which is run by the states with Federal aid and supervision. Of those children, 100,000 are considered to have no parent to return to and are ready to be placed in a permanent new home. But only 27,000 of those children a year are moved from foster care to adoption, officials say.

Mr. Clinton today told the Department of Health and Human Services to report to him in 60 days on steps that can be taken to insure that 54,000 foster children a year are adopted by the year 2002. He said the department should consider possible changes in Federal laws and regulations.

Officials said that among steps the department is examining, the Federal Government would work with states to set specific targets for adoptions. In return, the Government would provide a new financial incentive per child for states to increase the number of adoptions from the public welfare system.

The officials said that as part of his budget proposal in February, Mr. Clinton would propose financial assistance to states for developing strategies to promote the adoption of difficult-to-place children who have been languishing in the foster care system and for studying what barriers block states from finding permanent homes for children.

Melissa T. Skolfield, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said the amount of financial assistance that would be proposed for the states had not yet been determined. And although she said the financial incentive to states for each child adopted had not yet been settled on, the action was not expected to require new Federal funds because increased adoptions would reduce foster care spending.

Mr. Clinton today also called for a Government-wide public relations campaign to make Americans aware of adoption opportunities. As if beginning that campaign themselves, the Clintons asked the parents and children accompanying them to tell their

A goal is set for doubling the number of children moved from foster care.

stories on the air.

"My name is Daniel," said one 13-year old boy from a local foster care program, who was not further identified because he is a minor. "And I've been waiting for a family for a long time. And hopefully in a short amount of time I will probably get what I'm looking for in a family. My brother has already been adopted, and hopefully I'll get adopted by his family at one point of time."

Mrs. Clinton has been a strong proponent of adoption, even telling Time magazine earlier this year that she and her husband might consider an adoption because they would love to have another child. White House officials said the Clintons had decided to postpone any decision on an adoption until after the President is out of office because he would not have the time to devote to a new child.

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST!

The New York Times

Sunday, December 15, 1996 /

Clinton vows to speed children into adoption

By Joyce Price
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Clinton yesterday pledged to double the number of children moved from foster care to permanent adoptive homes in the next five years, but ruled out adopting a child of his own until after he leaves the White House.

"No child should be trapped in the limbo of foster care, particularly when there are families with open arms waiting," the president said in his weekly radio address.

Mr. Clinton said there are more than 450,000 children in the nation's foster care system. About 100,000 of them will wait years to be placed.

"Those children wait far too long, typically three years or more, to find permanent homes and families to love them," Mr. Clinton said.

In hopes of reducing the waiting period, the president said he had "just signed a presidential directive with a clear goal" of "doubling the number of children we move from foster care to permanent homes — from 27,000 a year today, to 54,000 a year by the year 2002.

"This is a season of miracles, and perhaps there is no greater miracle than finding a loving home for a child who needs one."

The directive orders Health and Human Services Secretary Donna

E. Shalala to report back in 60 days on how best to promote and increase adoptions, including "what sensible financial incentives we can provide states to raise adoption rates," Mr. Clinton said.

As for his plans, Mr. Clinton said through his staff that his duties as president would not permit him to adopt, at least not now.

During the presidential campaign, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told Time magazine she and her husband had discussed the possibility of adopting. They now have one daughter, Chelsea, 16.

But Assistant White House Press Secretary Barry Toiv told reporters the Clintons won't be adopting any time soon, because they believe "they would not be able to devote the time and attention a baby would need."

In an interview with Reuters news agency, Mr. Toiv cited a number of pre-Christmas presidential interviews, not yet published or aired, in which Mr. Clinton said he "didn't rule out" adoption "later in life" but that he felt "it wouldn't work here in the White House."

Mrs. Clinton ignored a question about the possibility of adoption at the radio address event yesterday, according to published reports. But she chatted with many of the guests on the air, asking them how they came to find their new families and homes.

The Washington Times

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1996

Clinton Backs Tax Credit For Adoption

GOP Bill Is Endorsed; Interracial Placements Could Be Expedited

By Barbara Vobejda
Washington Post Staff Writer

A1

In a letter he will send to House Republican leaders today, President Clinton will endorse Republican legislation that would allow most adoptive families to claim a \$5,000 tax credit and penalize states whose adoption agencies delay placement of a child to find a family of the same race, White House sources said yesterday.

The president will embrace provisions that have traditionally been in the Republican domain. The adoption tax credit was part of the House GOP's "Contract With America," and Republicans have been most vocal in opposing racial matching in adoption placements.

"Promoting adoption is one of the most important things we can do to strengthen American families and give more children what every child in America deserves—loving parents and a healthy home," the president says in his letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Post.

It will be the second time in three days that the president has gotten involved in measures affecting families, a topic likely to play a major role in this year's presidential election. And both times, the president staked out positions likely to alienate some liberals.

On Saturday, he announced he would require states to end welfare payments to teenage parents who refuse to stay in school or to live with a parent or guardian.

In endorsing the adoption bill, Clinton said he "strongly supported" the tax credit—which would be \$5,000 for families earning up to \$75,000 a year. The size of the credit would gradually decline for families earning between \$75,000 and \$115,000; families earning more than \$115,000 would not be eligible for a credit.

Also, he goes further than he has in the past to interject himself directly into the emotional and divisive issue of interracial adoption.

The bill, slated to go to the House floor this week, would prohibit states or adoption agencies from discriminating on the basis of race

ADOPT, From A1

against families who want to adopt. Agencies could consider race in placing a child if there are two or more qualified families, but may not delay placement while waiting for a parent of the same race.

That language, Clinton says in his letter, is consistent with "my long-standing goal to end the historical bias against interracial adoptions, which too often has meant interminable waits for children to be matched with parents of the same race."

Republicans said they welcome the endorsement, but pointed out that the president had vetoed a welfare bill last year that contained similar language on interracial adoptions.

"We're happy to have it," Rep. Susan Molinari (R-N.Y.) said of the endorsement. "I know he had tentative problems with trans-racial adoptions in the past. . . . I hope this signals to Democrats to join with us."

More than 400,000 children are in the foster care system, about half of whom are minorities. Minority children wait longer to be adopted than do white children, according to studies.

Among children in foster care, only about 21,000 are legally available for adoption, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. And of those, two out of three have "special needs," including emotional or physical disabilities or the need to be placed as part of a sibling group.

Many Republicans and some Democrats, including former senator Howard M. Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), have contended that the policy of race matching has kept thousands of African American children languishing in foster care for years. But social workers say that the high number in foster care stems from the difficulty in placing children with special needs.

Legislation was adopted in 1994

with the intention of banning race matching, but Metzenbaum and others were dissatisfied with Clinton administration regulations interpreting the law because they allowed agencies to consider race. Administration

officials say the law has been aggressively enforced, reducing the number of states that give an automatic preference to black families in the adoption of black children.

Still, Republicans have pushed for a new law that would ban racial placement outright, essentially establishing a colorblind system that would match children and families without regard to race.

While that was the original language in the bill when it went before

the Ways and Means Committee, it was amended to allow race to be considered when there is more than one qualified family seeking to adopt a child. The bill, which was approved by the committee on a voice vote, would also go further than current law to penalize states that do not comply.

Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.), who has argued vociferously against a "first-come, first-served" approach, said the new language does not change the current law. "The only reason the president's doing all of this is . . . because he wants to make it clear he's not opposed to interracial adoption. . . . But if he feels good saying it, okay."

David Liederman, executive director of the Child Welfare League of America, called the tax credit a "misdirection" of resources in a tight fiscal climate, essentially helping middle-class families while other proposals would cut funding for programs meant to help those willing to adopt special-needs children.

"I would have hoped the president would have spoken to that," Liederman said.

It is estimated the credit would cost the government \$1.7 billion over seven years, and the GOP bill would offset the revenue loss with income gained in enforcing new anti-fraud provisions on foreign trusts and from repeal of a tax exclusion for businesses purchasing energy conservation measures.

THE WASHINGTON POST
MONDAY, MAY 6, 1996

*"The only reason
the president's
doing all of this is
... because he wants
to make it clear he's
not opposed to
interracial
adoption."*

— Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.)

Justice opens video probe

White House lawyer to face tapes' questions

By Gary Fields
and Tom Squitieri
USA TODAY

AI

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department Tuesday expanded its probe of White House fund-raising to include the delayed release of 44 videotapes, a step toward possible obstruction of justice charges.

Lanny Breuer, a White House lawyer and the contact person between the White House and Justice Department, has been subpoenaed to testify today about the videotapes before a grand jury.

The tapes show Clinton hosting coffees in the White House for major contributors in 1995-96. Justice Department officials want to know where the tapes have been, who knew about them and whether they were intentionally withheld.

The White House says the videotapes were discovered last Wednesday. Attorney General Janet Reno was told about them Saturday, the day after she rejected calls for an independent counsel.

One tape shows Clinton meeting contributors in the Oval Office. Republicans say that violates a ban on fund-raising on government property.

Word of the expanded probe came on a day of heightened furor on Capitol Hill.

Sen. Fred Thompson, chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, demanded that Clinton "step up to the plate and take responsibility" by forcing supporters who have refused testimony to come forward.

Thompson also wants Clinton to join the GOP push for a special prosecutor. "Nobody wants this to go down looking like a successful coverup," Thompson said.

During a White House appearance to push for passage of campaign-finance reform in the Senate, Clinton offered defense of his fund-raising role.

"I'm not ashamed of the fact that I did the best I could with in the present system," he said.

Meanwhile, the proposed campaign finance reform bill went to legislative limbo after Senate Republicans blocked a vote on it.

Majority Leader Trent Lott declared the drive for "phony reform" dead for now.

- Thompson's fusillade, 6A
- Reform bill stalled, 6A

Foster care adoptions up sharply

By Richard Willing
USA TODAY

AI

Children in foster care are being adopted at unprecedented rates, reversing a longstanding trend in which adoptions of children under public supervision have been stalled for the past 15 years.

In Philadelphia, public adoptions are up 72% in the past year. In New York City, which accounts for about one in five of all foster care adoptions in the USA, they've grown 74% since 1994.

Most of the gains have come from speeding up adoptions that already were being processed. But experts say there is also evidence that new adoptive parents are coming into the system, drawn by aggressive marketing, community outreach programs and legal changes that make interracial adoption easier.

Adoption proponents applaud the trend, noting that speedy adoptions cut down on long foster home stays that can have an adverse effect.

But the new adoptions are not without controversy. Some parents' rights advocates say speeding up the process may rush kids into adoption too quickly and that more attempts should be made to reunite them with their birth families.

Today, the Senate Finance Committee begins hearings on a bill that would overhaul the adoption system nationwide.

Public adoptions are up in both big cities and rural areas.

Kansas increased its public adoptions 34% between 1994 and 1996. In Salt Lake County, Utah, public adoptions doubled during the same time frame. In Michigan, they were up 18%, while Los Angeles County posted a 22% gain. In Cook County, Ill., which includes Chicago, 18% more children were adopted in the last fiscal year than the year before.

"For those who may have come to think of the (public) adoption agencies as a hopeless mess, we're saying 'here's hope,'" says Joe Cardieri, assistant commissioner of New York City's foster care agency.

"(Public adoption) is not an easy process, and it probably ought not to be. But it's easier than you thought."

Adoptions through private sources, including foreign adoptions, have increased steadily and now number about 45,000 annually, according to William Pierce of the National Council for Adoption in Washington, D.C.

By contrast, public sector adoptions have been static, at about 20,000 annually, since at least 1982.

- Innovations drive trend, 3A

cc: Nicole
jen ✓

USA TODAY • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1997

-- (ATTACHED) 6/6/97 from William Pierce, Pres., National Council For Adoption, requesting your assistance regarding regulations for vaccinating children coming to the U.S., scheduled to take effect July 1. He encloses L.A. Times story which nicely summarizes the issue.

✓ To Melanne & Nicole & Jan for review/response per HRC



PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 6, 1997

The First Lady
The White House

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
INITIALS: MA DATE: 5-14-14

By fax 456-6244

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

At our recent event, I had the opportunity to thank you publicly for your work on adoption. Again, many thanks. I can also report to you that one of our staff was at an HHS briefing this morning and it appears that the MEPA regulations are on target.

I am also writing about a unique opportunity for you to get involved on behalf of adoption. In brief, last year's changes in the immigration law require vaccinations for all children coming to the U.S. Except for children who are to be adopted, this may be sound policy. To my knowledge, the entire adoption community and that part of the medical community which specializes in pediatrics and international medical issues agrees that it would be a health error of major proportions to allow the regulation implementing this requirement to take effect July 1. You can help avert this crisis.

Many groups and people have been working on this, each in their own way. I've been trying to find some simple, non-confrontive administrative solution but although people at State and elsewhere have been very understanding, the law does not provide enough flexibility to deal with the problem.

The issue is nicely summarized in a Los Angeles Times story by Marlene Cimonis, a copy of which (from the internet) is provided for you with this letter.

At this stage, it seems to me what would work would be for you to get personally involved and present the case to the President, seeking an Executive Order keeping the regulation from going into effect. It would be wonderful to have you and the President make the announcement as soon as possible, or in a Saturday radio address before July 1, for instance.

The practical effects? Imagine taking a child who's just had 11 shots on a 14-hour plane ride. Or waiting five extra days in Moscow, while your child gets these shots that make her sick, paying an extra \$200 a day. We're talking about 2,500 children, 200 a month.

Sincerely,


William Pierce, President

Enclosure: as stated

From: "Brenda McFarland" <bmcfa@metronet.com>
To: A.PARENT.RUSS@mail.serve.com
Critics Finding Holes in Overseas Vaccination Law
By MARLENE CIMONS, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON--At first glance, the regulation seems beyond debate. As part of the immigration law passed last year, all individuals seeking permanent entry into this country must prove that they have been inoculated against all vaccine-preventable diseases.

But health experts, especially those who specialize in medical issues for children adopted from abroad, are alarmed that the rule will do more harm than good to the thousands of foreign-born youngsters who arrive here for adoption.

Among other things, the experts are worried about the quality of the vaccines available, as well as the possibility that substandard medical practices will contribute to the transmission of dangerous diseases as vaccines are administered.

"Sometimes, things that seem like good ideas really aren't," said Dr. Dana Johnson, director of the University of Minnesota's division of neonatology. "Apparently no one thought through all the ramifications."

The requirement, which goes into effect July 1, "potentially endangers vulnerable children," said Dr. Laurie C. Miller, director of the International Adoption Clinic at New England Medical Center in Boston. "The risk is very real in most countries from which international adoptees come."

* * *

Johnson said he would prefer that the State Department assume responsibility for overseas vaccination programs rather than trusting local physicians to do the job, but this is considered unlikely.

An alternative touted by some health experts is to waive the requirement for infants and children and allow adoptive families to have the shots administered by their own pediatricians when children arrive--which already occurs in most instances, he said.

Last year, 11,316 children were adopted from overseas, the Immigration and Naturalization Service says. The numbers of such adoptions have been on the upswing in recent years. As it has become more difficult to adopt U.S.-born babies, Americans have turned to other countries, among them Russia, Romania, India, China and Latin

American nations.

Many of these children live in poverty, or have been in orphanages where medical care is scarce or nonexistent. Often there is little or no medical history available on the youngsters, according to the Joint Council on International Children's Services, a coalition of international adoption agencies.

A chief fear among health experts is that the required injections will be administered with unsterile needles--a frequent practice outside the United States because of a shortage of disposable needles and syringes. This can transmit such potentially deadly blood-borne infections as Hepatitis B and C and HIV. Diseases like Hepatitis B, rare in U.S.-born children, are endemic to Asia and Eastern Europe.

* * *

Furthermore, many countries cannot afford high-quality vaccines more readily available here. Instead, they use biologically impotent products, those that have expired or have not been properly refrigerated or stored.

The experts also are worried that foreign orphanages may not be equipped to deal with medical emergencies that could result from vaccinations. Some children, for example, are allergic to certain vaccines. And some vaccines, such as polio, are made from live but weakened virus and actually can cause the disease in a small number of children.

Rep. Bill McCollum (R-Fla.), House sponsor of the vaccination provision, expressed surprise at the concerns being raised. He said: "It certainly wasn't meant to put anyone's health at risk. If that's the case, then maybe we ought to explore it and, if necessary, correct it."

But a spokesman for Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), who sponsored the provision in the Senate, said the law provides for waivers to the requirement in certain circumstances. These include religious objections or cases where the injections are deemed "medically inappropriate."

The latter includes situations in which a child is too young to be vaccinated or in which an individual is known to be allergic to a vaccine. However, the waiver provisions do not appear to apply to questionable vaccine standards or sterilization practices.

Copyright Los Angeles Times

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

24-Apr-1996 05:39pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Diana M. Fortuna
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: See attached wire story on adoption tax credit & MEPA

Date: 04/24/96 Time: 16:23

AHouse Republicans Revive Adoption Legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) House Republicans revived ``Contract With America'' legislation Wednesday offering a \$5,000 tax credit to offset adoption expenses and making it easier for white parents to adopt black and American Indian children.

The credit, which would be phased out for families with incomes between \$75,000 and \$115,000, was part of the massive balanced budget bill vetoed in December by President Clinton.

Republicans this year are trying to split out and enact as many noncontroversial provisions from their 1994 campaign agenda as possible.

GOP leaders plan to bring the bill, introduced Wednesday, to the House floor next month around Mother's Day.

In addition to offering the credit, it also prohibits state and private adoption agencies receiving federal funds from denying adoption or foster placement on the basis of race, color or national origin.

While race may be a factor in placing the child, it cannot be used as a reason to delay placement.

Congress in 1994, when it was controlled by Democrats, passed the Multiethnic Placement Act, which has the same intent. But Republican critics say Health and Human Services Department regulations implementing the act are too lax. The GOP bill would impose a series of graduated fines on states that violate the provision.

``The practice of prohibiting transracial adoption must end,'' said Rep. Susan Molinari, R-N.Y. ``It is clear that the child's best interest is served by getting them out of the foster care system as soon as possible rather than denying or delaying their adoption.''

She said nearly 500,000 children are in foster care, nearly half of them minorities, while only 50,000 a year are adopted.

Interracial adoptions were first done in significant numbers in the 1960s, but declined dramatically following a 1972 statement of opposition from the National Association of Black Social Workers.

The group argued that only a black family could give a black child the racial identity, connections and strength to survive in a racist society. Today, the association says interracial adoptions should be allowed only after exhaustive efforts to find a relative or black family have failed.

The Republican bill also eases provisions of the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act intended to prevent Indian children from being removed from their homes. Rep. Deborah Pryce, R-Ohio, said the proposed changes would facilitate adoptions when the birthparents do not maintain a significant affiliation with an Indian tribe and are voluntarily placing their child for adoption.

APNP-04-24-96 1624EST

Distribution:

TO: Carol H. Rasco
TO: Jeremy D. Benami
TO: Elizabeth E. Drye
TO: Bruce N. Reed
TO: Kenneth S. Apfel
TO: Christopher D. Cerf
TO: Jennifer L. Klein

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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A Good Mother's Day Gift: Pass the Adoption Bill

Howard Metzenbaum did something this week that should qualify for "Ripley's Believe It Or Not." The former liberal Democratic senator endorsed a Republican measure to overturn a bill that he pushed through two years ago and that even bears his name.

Specifically, Sen. Metzenbaum embraced legislation that would prohibit racial discrimination in adoption. This is an issue Howard Metzenbaum cares about so deeply that he has taken on both the Na-



Politics & People

By Albert R. Hunt

tional Association of Black Social Workers and the Clinton administration's Health and Human Services bureaucrats. He feels his bill has been undercut, so he's supporting House Republican efforts to achieve the same goal.

This is part of a broader pro-adoption bill that the Republicans are bringing to the floor next week, not coincidentally only a few days before Mother's Day. The legislation is laudable and Democrats and the Clinton administration should join Sen. Metzenbaum and get behind it.

Adoption isn't a panacea for abortion or child abuse or foster care. But a more aggressive pro-adoption policy, involving both the public and private sectors, would help. (The youngest of our three children is a seven-year-old—as of yesterday—adopted daughter from Korea, so absolutely nothing in this column is dispassionate.) The House bill, led by House Rules Committee Chairman Gerald Solomon (an adoptee), Rep. Susan Molinari and Rep. Clay Shaw, proposes a \$5,000 tax credit to help defray adoption expenses. Adoption can be prohibitively expensive; the National Council of Adoption figures the average cost of a do-

mestic adoption is \$20,000.

This has made it impossible for many middle class parents to adopt. Under the House bill, tax write-offs would be available for incomes up to \$115,000; in addition there would be an income tax exclusion for employer-provided adoption benefits. This provision is relatively cheap, costing the federal treasury less than \$2 billion over seven years, and has only one flaw: It isn't refundable. That's a retreat from the Republicans' Contract With America. Refundability ought to be restored to facilitate adoption for some lower-middle income families.

The most emotional provision concerns transracial adoption. This would prohibit states or anyone receiving federal assistance from discriminating against prospective parents because of race. If everything else is equal, preference may be given on the basis of race, but adoption agencies would not be allowed to delay the placement of a child for reasons of "racial matching."

The need here is clear. Of the almost half-million kids in foster care, about one-third are African-American and, on average, they wait for adoption more than twice as long. A University of California at Berkeley study found that 42% of African-American children wait more than four years to be adopted but only 17% of white children wait that long.

This is a conscious policy of many black social workers, who have assailed interracial adoption as "racial and cultural genocide." Sen. Metzenbaum, with the support of President Clinton, moved to change this in the last Congress. But despite denials by the Department of Health and Human Services, he says that agency "pulled the rug out from under my bill."

The politics of adoption unfortunately get twisted. Too many liberals, in particular, have a blind spot. One reason is abortion. Some pro-choice advocates mistakenly see adoption advocacy as undercut-

ting them. "This is an issue that should unite both sides of the abortion debate," correctly argues Rep. Molinari, who is pro-choice. In his 1992 acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention, Bill Clinton promised to make abortion "safe, legal and rare." One small way to make it rarer is to facilitate adoption.

A more fundamental problem may be an ideological attachment to the landmark

Children in Jeopardy

	CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE	CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM FOSTER CARE	CHILD ABUSE FATALITIES
1985	276,000	16,000	810
1993	445,000	18,000	1,166

Sources: Administration for Children and Families (HHS); American Public Welfare Assoc. and the Nat'l Committee to Prevent Child Abuse

1980 Child Welfare Adoption and Assistance Act. This mandates states to make "reasonable efforts" to keep or reunite children with their biological parents under the laudable notion that intact families are better for children.

Unfortunately this well-intended effort may be harming more children than it's helping. Compared to the mid-1980s there are many more children today in foster care, and a much smaller percentage of them are adopted, while reported child abuse is soaring. The files are full of recidivist child abusers, yet as Michael Wald, a law professor and former top HHS official notes, all the research "indicates low levels of success in rehabilitating parents who seriously abuse very young children."

The horror stories are omnipresent. Tuesday's New York Times, for instance, had a front page piece on recriminations following the death of six-year-old Elisa Izquierdo, whose badly beaten body was discovered last November; her mother is charged with the death. Next to that ac-

count is a story about two little children testifying how their mother and father brutalized and killed their four-year-old sister—including beatings, tying her to chairs and burning her with cigarettes and hair curlers.

Eight years ago we had to hospitalize our oldest child. For four days his roommate was a 14-month-old boy who was tossed into a scalding hot tub by his mother's boyfriend because he was crying. The mother, apparently on drugs, visited the little guy only once. Yet in a few days he was slated to go back to that home.

This law needs to be changed. The emphasis on "preserving family" outrages Carol Statuto Bevan, a child welfare and adoption expert: "This risks the safety and welfare of too many children." Instead, she says, the focus should be "on preserving the child's welfare." Such a child-centered approach raises tough issues, especially how to take kids away from abusive parents and make them eligible for adoption. But it needs to be done.

These are issues that President Clinton cares about, and he's actually considering backing the current legislation. And the skepticism that more than a few in the adoption community express about Hillary Clinton is misplaced; in her speeches, her newspaper columns and her recent book she is a strong adoption advocate.

But the Clintons need to be more visible in marshaling support for more public resources (tax breaks and subsidies), reforming the legal system (changing the child welfare and family preservation standards and expediting adoption procedures), improving the private sector (pressure for more expansive employer adoption benefits) and increasing public awareness. It may be impossible in an election year, but here's a terrific idea: Bill Bennett, the conservative Mr. Virtues, and Mrs. Clinton team up to lead a nationwide campaign for adoption.

A Failed Policy in Lebanon

By AMINE GEMAYEL

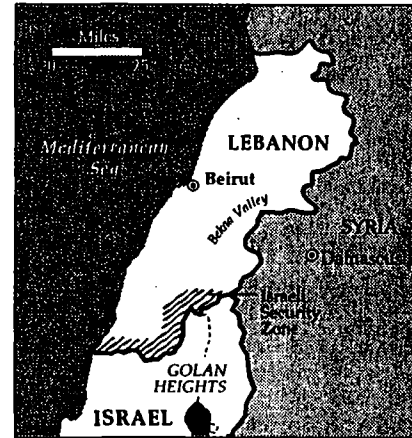
In the recent military operations in South Lebanon, the stated goals of the government of Israel were to secure Israel's northern border and to negotiate peace agreements with Syria and Lebanon, leading to Israel's acceptance into the family of Middle Eastern nations. If these objectives reflect the true intentions of the Israelis, then the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon failed.

According to numerous sources, the shelling of Lebanon was intended to separate the Lebanese people from Hezbollah and force the Lebanese government, with Syrian support, to curtail Hezbollah activities. The recent rounds of shelling have had the opposite impact. Across the political spectrum in Lebanon, support for Hezbollah has increased, not diminished. Hezbollah fighters are seen as freedom fighters resisting foreign aggression. The bombing of power plants, reservoirs, and other civilian facilities, as well as the massacre of innocents in ambulances and refugee camps, have won no friends for Israel in Lebanon.

This is not 1982. When the Israelis invaded Lebanon in that year, many Lebanese welcomed them as liberators from foreign occupation. This acceptance will not happen again. Continued Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the wanton destruction of Lebanese life and property have seriously altered Lebanese perceptions of the Israelis. They are viewed as tyrants and bullies and capable of the brutalization of Lebanon. Further-

more, the Israeli retreat from central Lebanon in the mid-1980s, while under attack from anti-Israeli terrorists, forever erased Israel's image of invincibility.

The best partner for peace with Israel is an economically sound and independent Lebanon free of all foreign forces. Included in my use of the term "foreign forces" are not only the Israelis but also



the Syrians. The Israeli attacks only strengthen Syria's role in Lebanon and diminish Lebanon's ability to act independently. This combination is not in anyone's interest. The Lebanese clearly lose, but so do the Israelis. If the Lebanese people continue to be used as pawns in regional politics, Lebanon will remain a spawning ground for international terrorists and dissidents. Only when the

Lebanese believe they are responsible for their own destiny will they be responsible members of the international community and reliable partners in peace.

An important step in reestablishing a Lebanon which can be a positive factor in the reach for peace in the Middle East is the return of economic prosperity. The Lebanese are known for their energy and financial accomplishments. Only the political turmoil of the last 20 years has held them back economically.

Some progress at reestablishing economic viability in Lebanon has been made during the last five years of peace. Greater Beirut once again has a significant night life, and some reconstruction and redevelopment have occurred. Significant portions of the economic infrastructure have been repaired. But these achievements could have been far more impressive had it not been for the increase of Syrian influence in Lebanon. This influence has constrained economic development. Many Lebanese, even those who have returned to Beirut, have been unwilling to invest major capital in redevelopment projects so long as the future role of Syria in Lebanon is not defined. The Lebanese do not want their country to be politically suppressed. Lebanese prosper in a politically and economically free society.

Existing conditions in South Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley also contribute to the current unwillingness of the Lebanese to invest fully in the future of their country. Under Syrian control and Iranian influence, terrorist groups continue to function

in these areas. Until full Lebanese sovereignty is restored throughout Lebanon, outside powers will continue to use regions beyond the control of the Lebanese government to promote their own national interests. The Lebanese, as well as all our neighbors, have a national interest in eliminating terrorist groups from our territory so we can get on with rebuilding our region.

South Lebanon remains a special problem. Clearly, the "Israeli Security Zone" does not provide security. In fact, in contrast to the past, the Security Zone creates insecurity. The Israeli occupation of South Lebanon has become a rallying point for all Lebanese nationalists. The 600,000 impoverished people of South Lebanon will provide all the troops necessary to continue the attacks on Israel for generations. Only the improvement of the lives of the people of South Lebanon with peace and prosperity will end the attacks upon Israel. The recent wave of Israeli bombardment's has made that goal less likely.

Most discouraging to those of us who love Lebanon has been America's tacit, if not actual, support for Israel's failed policies in Lebanon. In the past, the U.S. had been consistent in its support for a democratic, sovereign Lebanon free from all foreign forces. Although no one doubted American support for Israel, in the past when Israeli actions harmed innocent civilians or placed America's commitment to freedom and democracy in doubt, the U.S. would differ publicly or privately with Israel. During the current crisis, however, the destruction of power plants, reservoirs, apartment buildings, and the lives of some hundreds of innocent Lebanese civilians drew virtually no negative response from the U.S. This seriously brings into question America's commitment to its own values and the ability of Washington to bring a lasting peace to the region.

Mr. Gemayel was president of Lebanon from 1982 to 1988.

Students Should Not Be Above the Law

By John Silber

BOSTON
In medieval Europe, there were two parallel court systems: the church's and the king's. The big difference between them was that the church courts did not resort to capital punishment.

In an age when all felonies were capital crimes, the church court was, from the defendants' point of view, considerably more attractive.

Although in theory these courts were limited to clergymen, in practice one proved clerical status by being able to read. And this skill was indulgently tested. One had to read a verse of one's own choosing from the Bible. Hence, the foresighted felon memorized his verse. It assured him of what was known as "benefit of clergy."

This system now seems quaint. But today colleges and universities increasingly tend to circumvent the courts and bury serious criminal cases in their own judicial systems.

John Silber is the president of Boston University.

For instance, a young man at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, is being allowed to graduate this year even though he was put on "student conduct probation" after he was accused of sexually assaulting an 18-year-old freshman who was sleeping.

Colleges have a right to establish judicial codes to assure civility in the classroom, on the campus and in residences. But the administration of these codes should not give criminals sanctuary from the law.

Yet in many cases administrators successfully press students not to bring criminal behavior to the attention of the police and instead use campus disciplinary proceedings to judge charges of rape, arson and assault.

No campus court can impose a fine or imprison anyone for a single day. The most serious sanction is expulsion. The penalty for criminal assault is often not much worse than being tossed out of a club.

College judicial systems were originally intended to deal with infractions that were neither felonies nor misdemeanors, perhaps not even torts. And most disciplinary proceedings don't have the basics required for a fair trial: a professional and independent judiciary, enforceable

Judging crimes is
a job for courts,
not colleges.

rules of procedure, effective and fairly applied sanctions.

But this is not the most serious problem. Once again, students are receiving special treatment. This treatment was the great scandal of the Vietnam War: The ability to gain entry to and finance college provided a "benefit of clergy" to middle-class young adults who avoided the draft.

Many administrators recoil from the idea that they should operate a collegiate criminal justice system. One can understand why. Outside of law school faculties, few academics have an interest in prosecution.

There is, of course, a simple way for administrators to avoid this entanglement. They can refer all criminal cases to the real criminal justice system. This is their obligation, not merely as administrators but as citizens. (Indeed, there is a name for a

citizen who becomes aware of a crime and does not report it: an accessory after the fact.)

Students, predictably, don't like this idea. But in my 25 years as a college president, I have heard again and again that students wish to be treated as adults. But I have also heard their repeated demands that they be exempted from the laws of Boston, of Massachusetts and of the United States.

These two demands are contradictory. Legally, college students are adults. There is, of course, a difference between legal adulthood and substantive adulthood. Some people achieve substantive adulthood at 12; others never do. But except for the anomaly of the drinking age, everyone can claim legal adulthood at 18. And that includes the obligation to be held accountable for criminal behavior — not in juvenile courts or in the even more lenient courts of the academy but in the adult courts.

When colleges and universities usurp the role of the courts, they deny justice to victims. But they also do a terrible wrong to perpetrators, for they deny them entrance into the adult world of responsible action. And in this they fail utterly as educators. □

The Wrong Way to Encourage Adoption

By David S. Liederman

WASHINGTON
President Clinton is supporting the House Republicans' plan to give a \$5,000 tax credit to many families that adopt a child. In flush times, such a middle-class subsidy might make sense. But today the Government would do much better to

David S. Liederman is executive director of the Child Welfare League of America, an association of public and private groups that place children in foster care and with adoptive families.

use tax dollars to help families that adopt children who are otherwise unlikely to find a permanent home.

Few healthy infants of any race "languish" in foster care. Most are adopted straight from the hospital. So few healthy American infants are available that prospective adoptive parents frequently go abroad to find a child. With infertility on the rise, we don't need tax incentives to encourage people to adopt healthy infants.

But there are 21,000 children with special needs waiting to be adopted, and about 65,000 more are in the care of welfare agencies and awaiting legal clearance to be made available. Most have been placed in foster care because of parental neglect and abuse. Many have serious emotional

A tax credit won't
help children who
are hard to place.

and physical disabilities. Some have been exposed to drugs or infected with H.I.V. by their mothers. Most are of school age, and many are part of sibling groups that must be adopted together.

Fortunately there are people who want to adopt many of these children — usually the foster parents, nurses and special education teachers who have fallen in love with the children they have been caring for.

But such children, especially those with physical disabilities, are often very expensive to raise. The small state and Federal adoption subsidies do little to offset the costs.

In Ohio, for example, the typical family that adopts a child with special needs has an annual income of less than \$40,000, has several children in the household, and the mother works at least part time. The average monthly adoption subsidy for such families in Ohio is only \$250.

The Government should use the \$1.7 billion that the tax-credit plan would cost over the next seven years to help families that adopt children with special needs. This would mean increasing their monthly adoption subsidies, guaranteeing health coverage for as

long as the child needs it and broadening services like day care and transportation.

The Government could spend a lot more money on these children, and it would still be cheaper than keeping them in foster care. In 1993, the average monthly subsidy for a child in foster care was \$468, while the average adoption assistance payment nationwide was only \$292.

The Government should also encourage adoption of children with special needs by running public-service announcements, counseling good foster parents and helping churches and other community groups find suitable families among their members.

A simple tax credit has the advantage of being easily understood by voters. Unfortunately, the problems that children and adoptive families confront are complex. Congress and President Clinton deserve praise for their attempt to help adoptive families. Now they should direct Federal aid to the children who need it most. □

Liberties

MAUREEN DÓWD

Bleeding-Heart Al

WASHINGTON

Here's a fine howdy-do for Republicans: Al D'Amato is now the conscience of the party.

We're still a long way from Sir Thomas More here. At this moment, at breakfast in the elegant Capitol dining room, with senators holding court at nearby tables, the conscience is holding his grapefruit bowl over his face and pouring juice into his famously open mouth.

The manners may be rough, but the words are righteous. A Man for All Precincts.

He says he will not be silenced or taken to the woodshed, just because he is warning that Bob Dole and his party are heading toward a massacre if "philosophical ayatollahs" such as Newt Gingrich, Dick Armey and Pat Buchanan don't show a more compassionate face.

His friends say he feels, as one puts it, "like the only wolf out there who's not afraid to tell the truth. This is not about what Dole wants. This is about what's best for Dole."

Senator D'Amato explains the practical reasons for a new compassion. "If they continue to go to the right, we're going to wind up with 15 percent of the vote," he says. "If you become so doctrinaire, like Dick Armey saying they're going to cut the gasoline tax and make up the revenue by cutting education — Go after the Secretary of Energy flying all over the world. But why cut \$5 billion out of education?"

"We're alienating people. We ought to have that welfare reform bill up on the floor. How can we get a mother with two children off welfare

The Senate's new Old Democrat.

if she's only going to get a job that pays \$4.25 an hour? We ought to pass the minimum wage. Get it done."

Seething party chiefs have excoriated Senator D'Amato, suggesting that his public criticism is playing right into Democratic hands, and that he is just courting the liberal vote for his '98 Senate race.

"Nonsense," Mr. D'Amato says.

He waves over Arlen Specter. "We have reached a point," Mr. D'Amato says, "where if you say that the king doesn't have a suit on, everybody goes wild."

"I ran for President on the same principle," Mr. Specter agrees.

"Yeah," Mr. D'Amato says. "Tolerance."

I ask him about the Gingrich pal Arianna Huffington, who wrote in her column: "At the Park Avenue dinner parties that D'Amato frequents, what passes for political wisdom is soothing platitudes about the need to move to the 'center.'"

"Imagine her telling me about Park Avenue dinner parties," he retorts. "What spiritual guide is she talking to now? Her moralistic fervor does not belong in the Republican Party or any party."

I ask if there's any North-South tension. Peter King, a G.O.P. Congressman from New York, complained to *Newsday* that Mr. Gingrich, of Georgia, and Mr. Armey, of Texas, had "a Southern, anti-union attitude that appeals to the mentality of hillbillies at revival meetings."

The Senator from New York agreed: "It's part of an exclusionary pattern. We've had parents and friends who have benefited by trade unions. You can't just say we're going to try to destroy them."

The Cassandra from Island Park is not surprised that Mr. Dole is now running 31 points behind President Clinton. He is in despair about the lack of fire in the Dole campaign. He warned President Bush in '92 about his out-of-touchness. He consistently deplores Pat Buchanan's zealotry.

"I have to be careful what I say about them because they get so personal and vicious," he says of Pat and Bay Buchanan. "But I think when he beats up on women, on gays, on blacks, that is something we should not tolerate. I happen to be pro-life, but, by gosh, if we start excluding people who are pro-choice, we're going to be a pretty small party."

He says the Republicans should wave goodbye to Mr. Buchanan and let him make a third-party run. "I don't think we should be subjected to blackmail," he said. "George Bush yielded to him in 1992 and the results were devastating."

Asked when Mr. Buchanan should be scheduled to speak in San Diego, he replies, "Early morning."

Al D'Amato, bleeding heart. Go figure. But maybe it's not that strange after all. Goodness pays off politically. There's a percentage in tolerance. □

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Defenseless America

WASHINGTON

The United States has no defense against an incoming ballistic missile. That's because we are frozen in a decade-old debate now devoid of meaning.

When President Reagan proposed a space-based defense in 1983, his plan was derided as "Star Wars," not only upsetting the theory of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD), but technologically impossible — what system could stop thousands of incoming Soviet missiles?

Today, the threat is not from a superpower's thousands, but from a rogue state's handful; or from an accidental or misinformed launch following the sort of false alarm that went directly to Boris Yeltsin's nuclear "suitcase" in January of this year, responding to a Norwegian scientific rocket test; or from a group of terrorists who buy or steal one of Russia's 400 SS-25 mobile launchers and equip it with a nuclear or biological warhead.

We are using yesterday's strategic doctrine to fail to confront tomorrow's threat. Retaliation's fear stops a rational attacker; it does not deter the fanatic.

Consider the President who receives a nuclear missile threat from an Iraq or North Korea or Hezbollah. He could treat it as a bluff — at huge risk to an American city. He could counter-threaten to wipe the offending nation off the face of the earth — but suicidal fanatics don't care, and millions of Americans would not live to enjoy the terrible vengeance.

We are defenseless by design. That affects our diplomacy in a crisis. When a Chinese official warned recently that any intervention by us to protect Taiwan would endanger Los Angeles, that had to be factored into our readiness to send our ships through the Strait. We refused to take that threat seriously; someday we will have to take such a statement dead seriously.

If only, a future President will say, I had the ability to shoot down an incoming missile or two or three. That very capacity would stop nuclear blackmailing, and the President would not be forced to take a chance with the lives of millions of U.S. citizens.

Why don't we have space-based defense, now that we know it is practicable? The argument that it costs too much would vaporize with the first explosion. Another argument is that terrorists would not use missiles but would smuggle in bombs; maybe so,

and we need defenses for that, but the most obvious threat is from the air. Because there is no perfect armor should not mean we stand naked.

The real reason we spend billions for missile defense research and not one cent for deployment is that Democrats still treat opposition as a litmus test of anti-cold-warriorism. Now our military intelligence is being twisted to fit the outdated don't-kill, don't-deploy straddle.

Can rogue-state missiles reach our shores? In August 1994 John Deutch, then Deputy Secretary of Defense, testified that "If the North Koreans field the Taepo Dong 2 missile, Guam, Alaska and parts of Hawaii would potentially be at risk." Later

No answer to 'Incoming!'

C.I.A. testimony estimated deployment well before the year 2000.

Then Deutch became Director of Central Intelligence and shaded his estimate to make it less alarming. "In the next 15 years," stated Richard N. Cooper of his National Intelligence Council, "no country other than the major declared nuclear powers will develop a ballistic missile that could threaten the contiguous 48 states. . . ." That was based on last December's egregious National Intelligence Estimate 95-19.

Citizens of Alaska and Hawaii might be distressed to learn that Bill Clinton considers their defense less important than that of us contiguous Americans. But the not-to-worry new attitude reminds me of emanations from the C.I.A. five years ago, when warnings were posted in this space of nuclear bombs being built in Iraq: "not for 5 to 10 years," was the word from Langley, as Saddam was rapidly becoming a nuclear power.

Now Congress is legislating a "Team B" to reassess complacency about missile threats, which Deutch accepts to avoid a dreaded G.A.O. investigation of politics in estimates. That means more delay and extended defenselessness.

The need for missile defense defines the two parties; the issue should be drawn in the campaign. Nuclear defense too expensive? Use 25 percent of the intelligence budget to put a shield over our heads. □

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

10-May-1996 06:13pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Diana M. Fortuna
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Here is the RNC on adoption

Date: 05/10/96 Time: 16:25
RTo: National Desk

To: National Desk

Contact: Maura Fisher of the Republican National Committee,
202-863-8550

WASHINGTON, May 10 /U.S. Newswire/ -- Following is a statement
by Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour:

Thousands of children can count this Mother's Day as their last
without a family, thanks to today's passage of The Adoption
Promotion and Stability Act by the Republican-led Congress.

Reflecting the long-standing Republican commitment to
strengthening families, this bill breaks down financial and racial
barriers to adoption. It will open new doors to unite orphaned
children with loving families.

For many families who cannot afford the average \$20,000 in
adoption costs, the \$5,000 tax credit provided by the bill brings
adoption within their financial reach. The bill puts an end to
'race matching' by adoption agencies that receive state or
federal funding, breaking down barriers for children whose adoption
has been prevented because of the color of their skin.

These barriers could have been struck down last year. This
adoption proposal was part of the Republican's 'Contract With
America' and, as promised by the Republican-led Congress, passed
in 1995 as part of the Balanced Budget Act. But the president
vetoed it.

Now, President Clinton says he will sign the adoption bill. He
wrote in a letter to Speaker Gingrich that the bill is consistent
with 'my long-standing goal to end the historical bias against
interracial adoption, which too often has meant interminable waits
for children to be matched with parents of the same race.'

But Clinton's record on adoption reveals the typical flip-flop
Americans have come to expect from this president. As the governor
of Arkansas, Bill Clinton signed a 1987 law that stated, 'In the
placement or adoption of a child of minority racial or minority
ethnic heritage...The court shall consider preference...a family
with the same racial or ethnic heritage as the child.' So much for

his ``long-standing goal'' to end bias against trans-racial adoption.

While we welcome the president's reversal on this issue, it begs the question, why the sudden change of heart? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that he faces an election in November and knows pro-family policies are much higher on the voters' priority list than the liberal agenda they've been given in Bill Clinton's presidency.

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/U.S. Newswire 202-347-2770/
APNP-05-10-96 1627EST

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Message:

From: Jacquie Cragg

FOCUS - 6 OF 18 STORIES

Copyright 1996 The Austin American-Statesman
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May 11, 1996

SECTION: News; Pg. A13

LENGTH: 283 words

HEADLINE: Adoption tax credit wins one-sided House approval

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- In an effort to encourage adoption, the House overwhelmingly passed a measure Friday providing a tax credit of up to \$5,000 per child to offset adoption costs incurred by middle-income families.

The measure, approved 393-15, also forbids state and private agencies from delaying placements of children with available families while attempts are made to find parents of the same race or national origin of the child.

'In America today, there is no reason why any child should be denied a loving family,' Rep. Bill Archer, R-Houston,, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, said in support of the GOP measure. 'It is simply not right to deny a child the opportunity to grow up in a loving home because the parents are not wealthy or (are) of a different race.'

President Clinton, who actively has been promoting a pro-family agenda in his re-election campaign, has voiced strong support for the adoption package, which now goes to the Senate for consideration.

According to the measure's supporters, about half a million children are in the nation's foster care system at any time. Only a small percentage are adopted.

Forty states have regulations or practices that stress matching children with parents of the same race. But while two-thirds of the children awaiting adoption nationwide are black, less than a third of the families wanting to adopt are black. Black and other minority children wait much longer for adoption than white children.

'It is certain that if our society demands that children be matched by race with adoptive parents, black children will continue to languish in foster care,' Archer said. 'Many of them will never be adopted.'

GRAPHIC: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton talks with Margaret Fitzgerald and her son William as she hosts a discussion in honor of Mother's Day focusing on adoption issues in the Roosevelt Room of the White House Friday.

LOAD-DATE: May 11, 1996



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FOCUS - 7 OF 18 STORIES

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May 11, 1996, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: TELEGRAPH (NEWS), Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 874 words

HEADLINE: House approves bill on adoption; Measure gives tax aid, removes obstacles to interracial families; 'We're a great match'; Clintons back effort by GOP; Md. mothers, children are invited

BYLINE: Kerry A. White, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- On the day that the House approved a bill to encourage adoptions, a half-dozen women who have surmounted unusual barriers to adopt children met yesterday with Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House to highlight the issue in time for Mother's Day.

The women -- three of them from Maryland -- were brought together to spotlight some of those who would benefit from the bill, which would grant tax credits to middle-class families who adopt children. The measure would also remove many barriers to interracial adoptions. As a result, its supporters say, it could help speed adoptions of some of the 450,000 children, nearly half of them minorities, in foster care.

"The president and I are committed to encouraging and easing the adoption process," the first lady said. "We need to do more to make it possible for thousands and thousands more children to be adopted by Mother's Day next year."

The meeting follows President Clinton's announcement this week that he would throw his support behind the Republicans' adoption bill, an element in their "Contract with America."

That statement was in step with an election-year drive by the White House to align itself with politically popular issues relating to children and families. In recent months, Mr. Clinton has endorsed school uniforms, curbs on tobacco ads that target teen-agers and television "V-chips" that would let parents screen out offensive programs.

The six mothers who met with the first lady yesterday have all overcome unusual obstacles, from curbs on interracial adoptions to children with mental or physical disabilities. Under the bill approved yesterday, on a vote of 393-15, adoptive parents would receive tax credits of up to \$ 5,000 to help defray the cost of adoptions, some of which can cost as much as \$ 20,000.

Sitting on antique chairs and sofas in the Roosevelt Room, the mothers related their stories to Mrs. Clinton as a phalanx of cameras and reporters watched.



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Perhaps the most dramatic tale came from a Catonsville mother, Jude Lincicome, accompanied by her 8-year-old son, Jeremy. A single mother and a nurse, Lincicome has adopted four children -- all of them physically disabled.

"These children have all accomplished so much with so little," Lincicome said of Jeremy; Sarah and Daniel, both 10; and Rebecca, 16, all of whom attend Baltimore County schools. "Their disabilities are more a nuisance than a handicap."

She noted that it was cheaper in the long run for the government to increase adoptions than to have children languish for years in foster care at government expense. "Children in foster care can get very expensive. We can't afford not to get children in forever homes."

Jeremy, a gregarious honor roll student who is blind, charmed the crowd by complimenting his mother for her proficiency in Braille.

"We're a great match," Jeremy said, adding that he "can't wait" for the arrival of his new 2-year-old sister, Kelly Ann -- Lincicome's fifth adopted child -- who will join the family in a few weeks.

"Jeremy, she's lucky to be getting a big brother like you," Mrs. Clinton replied.

Mrs. Clinton, who has long made children's issues a personal concern, most recently in her book, "It Takes a Village," stressed the importance of placing thousands of children in loving, supportive homes like Lincicome's.

In response to a question, she said that before she became pregnant with her daughter, Chelsea, she and her husband had seriously considered adoption.

Although most lawmakers share Mrs. Clinton's enthusiasm for adoption legislation -- a similar bill has been offered in the Senate -- it has encountered some resistance over its provisions to bar efforts to match a child with adoptive parents of the same race. The National Association of Black Social Workers maintains that black children are better off with black parents and that interracial adoptions should occur only after attempts to find black adoptive parents have failed.

Many Indian tribes have also denounced that provision, saying it weakens a law intended to preserve their cultures by placing Indian children in Indian homes.

But Rep. Susan Molinari, the New York Republican who is the bill's main sponsor, said that children sometimes remain in foster care even though parents of another race are willing to adopt them.

Other critics say that the bill should be more narrowly targeted to benefit only families who adopt the 87,000 children with unusual medical or emotional needs now in need of permanent homes. State and federal subsidies intended to defray some expenses, welfare agencies say, are not enough to offset the costs of care.

"In a perfect world, the legislation would be wonderful," said Shirley Marcus



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Allen, deputy director of the Child Welfare League of America. "But in an era of limited financial resources, wouldn't it be better for the federal government to provide more services, benefits and subsidies to help families adopt children with special needs, children who are otherwise unlikely to be adopted?"

Even so, given its overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress, the bill is expected to be enacted and eventually to help facilitate thousands of adoptions.

Pub Date: 5/11/96

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, CHIAKI KAWAJIRI : SUN STAFF, First cat: Jeremy Lincicome, who is blind, meets the first family's cat, Socks, as William Fitzgerald, 4, of Prince George's County watches.; COLOR PHOTO, CHIAKI KAWAJIRI : SUN STAFF, White House: Jeremy Lincicome, 8, of Catonsville gets a laugh from first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. His mother, Jude Lincicome (right), and Margaret Fitzgerald (second left) were recognized for adopting children.

LOAD-DATE: May 13, 1996



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FOCUS - 8 OF 18 STORIES

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May 11, 1996 Saturday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 474 words

HEADLINE: HOUSE APPROVES TAX CREDIT IN BILL URGING ADOPTIONS;
MEASURE ALSO BANS 'RACE MATCHING' POLICY

BYLINE: Associated Press.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The House voted overwhelmingly Friday to encourage more adoptions, promising parents tax incentives and banning racial hurdles.

Supporters said the measure would decrease the number of youngsters -- particularly black children--languishing in foster care.

The bill would offer families a \$5,000 tax credit to adopt children and would ban "race matching," a policy that allows social workers to reject or put potential interracial adoptions on hold until adoptive parents can be found matching a child's race.

There is controversy on that issue. For example, the National Association of Black Social Workers has said interracial adoptions should be approved only after exhaustive attempts to find a relative or black adoptive parents have failed.

The House voted 393-15 to approve the plan, which would provide the tax credit to families earning up to \$75,000 a year to help pay adoption expenses. Smaller credits would go to families earning up to \$115,000, with none above that level.

Complicated adoptions, particularly those involving foreign children, can cost \$15,000 or more.

A similar bill is making its way through the Senate.

After the vote, House Republicans involved in bringing the bill to a vote celebrated with three families that have adopted children.

"Thank you for passing this bill so more kids like me can be adopted," said Reid McKenney, 9, the Korea-born adopted son of William McKenney of Arlington, Va. Reid spoke before television news cameras while standing on a chair.

"We're happy that we were able to get this done, and we're happy to get it done by Mother's Day," said Rep. Jim Bunning (R-Ky.).



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At the White House, Hillary Rodham Clinton met with mothers and their adopted children, praising them for accepting the challenges as well as the joys of adoption.

She applauded the tax credit and racial provisions in the House bill but said, "We need to do more. We should redouble our efforts. We should make it possible for thousands more children to be adopted by Mother's Day next year."

About 450,000 American children live in foster care at any given moment, according to the bill, and as many as 600,000 live in foster care during a year. About half are minorities, and 41 percent of black children in foster care wait more than four years to be adopted.

President Clinton endorsed both the tax credit and the elimination of race matching. He opposed another provision that would make it easier for anyone to adopt American Indian children.

Some white parents have complained that the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act has kept them from adopting children with as little as one-64th Indian ancestry.

Some Indians have angrily denounced the bill's provision, saying it would weaken a law enacted to preserve their cultures by placing Indian children in Indian homes.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 11, 1996



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The Commercial Appeal (Memphis)

May 11, 1996, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 747 words

HEADLINE: House approves \$5,000 tax credit to ease adoption

BYLINE: Our Press Services

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The House overwhelmingly approved legislation Friday that would give most adoptive families a \$ 5,000 tax credit and penalize states whose adoption agencies delay placement of a child on the basis of race.

Lawmakers voted 393-15 to pass the bill, which President Clinton endorsed this week, and send it to the Senate, where a similar bill is pending.

Rep. Susan Molinari (R-N.Y.), a key sponsor, hailed the vote as a step toward cultivating families. "The House today has shown its commitment to the encouragement of adoptions and the promotion of stable families," she said.

The credit - part of the GOP's "Contract with America" - had wide backing. It would give an individual making up to \$ 75,000 a year a one-time chance to reduce taxable income by \$ 5,000 for expenses involved in adopting a child, which the National Council for Adoption says averages about \$ 20,000.

The amount of the tax credit gradually would diminish for taxpayers earning more than \$ 75,000, and would be phased out for those earning \$ 115,000 or more.

There was also strong bipartisan support for language that would ban state adoption officials from delaying or denying adoptions to qualified parents while searching for a family of the child's race. It is designed to keep children from languishing in foster care when someone of another race wants to adopt them.

But the House had some highly charged debate over an attempt by House Natural Resources Committee chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) to remove a controversial provision. That section limited the jurisdiction of tribal courts over adoptions of American Indian children unless at least one of the birth parents has a significant social, political or cultural affiliation with a tribe.



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The administration supported Young's effort to strike the provision, saying it would infringe on tribal sovereignty.

Rep. Deborah Pryce (R-Ohio) had added the language to the bill to correct problems with a 1978 law that was intended to prevent state welfare agencies from taking children from Indian parents who did not understand their rights. At the time, one-quarter of Indian children were in foster homes, adoptive homes or boarding schools, according to Young.

But some white families have complained that the law has kept them from adopting children with as little as 1/64th Indian ancestry. "If they can claim that's an Indian child and then take that child from the only secure family it's ever had, it's not hard for me to see what we have to do," said Pryce, who has a contested custody case in her district.

Young called the provision "anti-Indian family" and said it would "create new impediments to protect abused and neglected Indian children." Young's effort failed, 212-195.

But there was little debate, however, for barring states and adoption agencies from discriminating against families that want to adopt a child on the basis of race. Race could be considered when placing a child if there are two or more qualified families, but agencies would not be allowed to delay placing a child to wait for a parent of the same race.

State agencies that repeatedly violate the law would see their federal foster care and adoption funds reduced. Private agencies in violation would be required to return all their federal funds for the quarter in which the transgression occurred.

Of the 460,000 children in foster care, nearly half are minorities. Studies show minority children wait longer to be adopted, but most social workers say that is because many of the children have special needs, including disabilities.

After the vote, House Republicans celebrated with three families with adopted children.

"Thank you for passing this bill so more kids like me can be adopted," said Reid McKenney, 9, the Korea-born adopted son of William McKenney of Arlington, Va. Reid spoke before television news cameras while standing on a chair.

At the White House, Hillary Rodham Clinton met with mothers and their adopted children, praising them for accepting the challenges as well as the joys of adoption.

She applauded the tax and racial provisions in the bill but said, "We need to do more."

"We should make it possible for thousands more children to be adopted by Mother's Day next year," she added.

LOAD-DATE: May 12, 1996



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The Des Moines Register

May 11, 1996, Saturday

SECTION: Main News Pg.1

LENGTH: 719 words

HEADLINE: House OKs adoption tax credit

SOURCE: Associated Press

BODY:

Washington, D.C. The House voted overwhelmingly Friday to encourage more adoptions, promising parents tax incentives and banning racial hurdles. Supporters said the measure would decrease the number of youngsters - particularly black children - languishing in foster care.

The bill would offer families a \$ 5,000 tax credit to adopt children and would ban "race matching," a policy that allows social workers to reject or put potential interracial adoptions on hold until adoptive parents can be found matching a child's race.

Controversy

There is controversy in the field on that issue. For example, the National Association of Black Social Workers has said interracial adoptions should be approved only after exhaustive attempts to find a relative or black adoptive parents have failed.

The House voted 393-15 to approve the plan, which would provide the tax credit to families earning up to \$ 75,000 a year to help pay for adoption expenses. Smaller credits would be given to families earning up to \$ 115,000, with none above that level.

Complicated adoptions, particularly those involving foreign children, can cost \$ 15,000 or more.

A similar bill is making its way through the Senate.

Families Celebrate

After the vote, House Republicans involved in bringing the bill to a vote celebrated with three families that have adopted children.

"Thank you for passing this bill so more kids like me can be adopted," said Reid McKenney, 9, the Korea-born adopted son of William McKenney of Arlington, Va. Reid spoke before television news cameras while standing on a chair.

"We're happy that we were able to get this done, and we're happy to get it done by Mother's Day," Rep. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., said.



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At the White House, Hillary Rodham Clinton met with mothers and their adopted children, praising them for accepting the challenges as well as the joys of adoption.

She applauded the tax and racial provisions in the House bill but said, "We need to do more. We should redouble our efforts. We should make it possible for thousands more children to be adopted by Mother's Day next year."

About 450,000 American children live in foster care at any given moment, according to the bill, and as many as 600,000 live in foster care during a year. About half are minorities, and 41 percent of black children in foster care wait more than four years to be adopted.

President Clinton endorsed both the tax credit and the elimination of race matching, but opposed another provision that would make it easier for anyone to adopt American Indian children.

Parents Complain

Some white parents have complained that the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act has kept them from adopting children with as little as 1/64 Indian ancestry.

Some Indians have angrily denounced the bill's provision, saying it would weaken a law enacted to preserve their cultures by placing Indian children in Indian homes. The new measure also would allow courts to decide who is Indian and who is not, they said.

The tax credit was part of the GOP's "Contract With America" and was included in a massive budget proposal that Clinton vetoed.

To offset a \$ 1.7 billion loss in tax revenue, the bill would change tax rules for foreign trusts with U.S. beneficiaries and eliminate an income exclusion for energy conservation items businesses buy and use.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 14, 1996



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The Herald-Sun (Durham, N.C.)

May 11, 1996, Saturday

SECTION: Front; Pg. A1;

LENGTH: 569 words

HEADLINE: House OKs bill to push adoptions Measure offers tax credits, forbids
'race matching'

BYLINE: CASSANDRA BURRELL Associated Press

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- The House voted overwhelmingly Friday to encourage more adoptions, promising parents tax incentives and banning racial hurdles. Supporters said the measure would decrease the number of youngsters -- particularly black children -- languishing in foster care.

The bill would offer families a \$ 5,000 tax credit to adopt children and would ban "race matching," a policy that allows social workers to reject or put potential interracial adoptions on hold until adoptive parents can be found matching a child's race.

There is controversy in the field on that issue. For example, the National Association of Black Social Workers has said interracial adoptions should be approved only after exhaustive attempts to find a relative or black adoptive parents have failed.

The House voted 393-15 to approve the plan, which would provide the tax credit to families earning up to \$ 75,000 a year to help pay for adoption expenses. Smaller credits would be given to families earning up to \$ 115,000, with none above that level.

The North Carolina House delegation voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

Complicated adoptions, particularly those involving foreign children, can cost \$ 15,000 or more.

A similar bill is making its way through the Senate.

After the vote, House Republicans involved in bringing the bill to a vote celebrated with three families that have adopted children.

"Thank you for passing this bill so more kids like me can be adopted," said Reid McKenney, 9, the Korea-born adopted son of William McKenney of Arlington, Va. Reid spoke before television news cameras while standing on a chair.

"We're happy that we were able to get this done, and we're happy to get it done by Mother's Day," Rep. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., said.



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Some white parents have complained that the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act has kept them from adopting children with as little as 1/64 Indian ancestry.

Some Indians have angrily denounced the bill's provision, saying it would weaken a law enacted to preserve their cultures by placing Indian children in Indian homes.

The new measure also would allow courts to decide who is Indian and who is not, they said.

The tax credit was part of the GOP's Contract with America and was included in a massive budget proposal that Clinton vetoed last year.

To offset a \$ 1.7 billion loss in tax revenue, the bill would change tax rules for foreign trusts with U.S. beneficiaries and eliminate an income exclusion for energy conservation items businesses buy and use.

The bill is HR3286.

LOAD-DATE: May 13, 1996



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FOCUS - 13 OF 18 STORIES

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May 11, 1996, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 1; Column 5; National Desk

LENGTH: 939 words

HEADLINE: House Endorses Break on Taxes For Adoptions

BYLINE: By ERIC SCHMITT

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, May 10

BODY:

The House today overwhelmingly approved a bill that would make it easier and more affordable to adopt a child in this country.

The bill, passed 393 to 15, includes a tax credit of up to \$5,000 to all but the richest families who adopt children. This is an element of the Republican Contract With America. The bill also makes it easier for couples to adopt children who have different racial or ethnic backgrounds. Current law gives preference to same-race placements.

After an emotional debate, lawmakers kept a provision that limits the authority of Indian tribal courts in custody cases involving children with only traces of Indian ancestry.

President Clinton has endorsed the tax credit and interracial adoption provisions but has expressed concern that the Indian provision might violate tribal sovereignty. Mr. Clinton had twice before vetoed the adoption tax credit because it was included in welfare and budget measures he opposed.

"We have now begun to break down the bureaucratic barriers that limit adoptions in order to help build a system where no child is denied access to a loving home," said Representative Susan Molinari, a Staten Island Republican who is the bill's main sponsor.

The House bill now advances to the Senate, where several bills have been introduced that provide for tax credits and interracial adoptions. Some formulation is expected to pass the Senate and and negotiators will work out any differences in a conference committee later this summer.

The broad bipartisan support for the bill reflects concern for the welfare of the 50,000 children adopted in this country annually and the 450,000 children living in foster-care homes. But it also shows how Democrats and Republicans are trying to outflank each other on popular social issues.

As the House was approving the bill, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton invited five other mothers and their adopted children to a White House ceremony. "We should make it possible for thousands more children to be adopted by



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Mother's Day next year," Mrs. Clinton said.

The bill would allow families who earn less than \$75,000 a year to claim the full one-time \$5,000 tax credit for each child to help defray the costs of adoption proceedings. The value of the tax credit would be reduced for families with incomes between \$75,000 and \$115,000. Families earning more than \$115,000 would not qualify for the credit.

The National Council for Adoption has estimated the cost of adopting an American child to be \$20,000, while the cost of adopting a child from a foreign country can reach as high as \$36,000.

The House Ways and Means Committee estimates that the bill will cost the Government \$1.7 billion in lost revenue over seven years. Sponsors of the bill have suggested that the revenue could be made up by enforcing taxes owed by foreign trusts and repealing tax credits for businesses that pay for energy conservation measures.

The Child Welfare League of America today criticized the tax credits, saying the money could be better spent on financial incentives for adopting children who are hard to place because of age or physical problems that make them costly to care for.

The issue of interracial adoptions has raised concerns with black leaders and the National Association of Black Social Workers. The Republican bill would have originally forbidden consideration of race in adoptions. But at the urging of Representative Charles B. Rangel, the black Democrat from Harlem, the bill was amended to allow race to be considered if more than one qualified family sought a child.

The bill approved today would impose fines on states that delayed interracial adoptions to try to find a same-race placement.

In a letter to Speaker Newt Gingrich earlier this week, Mr. Clinton hailed this approach as consistent with his "longstanding goal to end the historical bias against interracial adoptions."

But Republicans today challenged Mr. Clinton's record on the issue by citing a 1987 law that Mr. Clinton enacted while he was Governor of Arkansas that required state courts to give preference to potential adoptive families with the same racial or ethnic background as the child.

Lawmakers reserved their most passionate arguments for the 30-minute debate over the Indian provisions. Critics contend that tribal courts are using the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, which was intended to protect Indian children and culture, to interfere in adoptions when Indian parents give up children.

Critics say some tribes are trying to reclaim children, some of whom have only distant Indian ancestry, from their adoptive parents.

The bill would remove child-custody proceedings from tribal courts from if the cases involve children whose parents do not maintain "significant social, cultural or political affiliation with the tribe." The bill does not define what that means.



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Indian leaders and their House supporters said this would undermine the self-governance of the nation's 554 tribes.

At one point, the debate on the House floor nearly boiled over. Representative Christopher H. Smith, Republican of New Jersey, rose to criticize an amendment by Representative Don Young, Republican of Alaska, to remove the Indian provision from the bill and let existing law stand.

"If a baby has even the remotest link to an Indian tribe, the tribe can intervene," Mr. Smith said of current law. "The mother has no control over where the baby is placed."

After Mr. Smith finished his remarks, Mr. Young walked up to Mr. Smith, angrily jabbed his finger in his opponent's face, said something and then rapped the lectern.

GRAPHIC: Photo: Leila Help Tulby, left, a Navajo Nation social services official, conferred yesterday with Norena Henry at a Congressional forum on adoption. (Paul Hosefros/The New York Times) (pg. 8)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 11, 1996



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FOCUS - 14 OF 18 STORIES

Copyright 1996 Newsday, Inc.
Newsday

May 11, 1996, Saturday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS; Page A06

LENGTH: 487 words

HEADLINE: HOUSE OKS BILL TO EASE ADOPTIONS

BYLINE: COMBINED NEWS SERVICES

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

Washington - The House overwhelmingly approved legislation yesterday aimed at reducing the financial and racial obstacles to adoption.

The measure, approved 393 to 15, offers adoptive families a \$5,000 tax break and outlaws race restrictions in adoptions.

"We're overjoyed," said Patrick Purtill, of the National Council for Adoption. "We think this legislation is really going to benefit children."

The legislation, which now moves to the Senate, specifically prohibits state adoption officials from delaying or denying adoptions to qualified parents while searching for a family of the child's race.

States that fail to comply could lose some of the \$4 billion in federal child-care funds distributed annually.

The bill is designed to keep children from languishing in foster care when there are parents of another race willing to adopt them, lawmakers said.

"This is the best Mother's Day gift I could receive, or I could give to mothers across the country," said Rep. Deborah Pryce (R-Ohio), who has an adopted child.

There are about 500,000 children in foster care, half of them minorities. The National Council for Adoption says the cost of adoption can run as high as \$20,000, although the average fee collected by its agencies is \$11,000.

Black children often wait far longer for adoption than whites because there are not enough black families for all the black children in foster care.

Even as the House voted yesterday, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was meeting with five adoptive parents and their children at the White House to encourage adoption.



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"You in this room have given children the most important gift of all, love and a home," the first lady told the group, saying the conversation was an appropriate way to honor Mother's Day.

Hillary Clinton, speaking also on behalf of the president, expressed their strong support both for the tax credit and for the multiracial placement of children who are up for adoption.

"But we need to do more," she said. "We should redouble our efforts. We should make it possible for thousands more children to be adopted by Mother's Day next year."

Some groups, including the National Association of Black Social Workers, maintain that race should play a part in adoptions to prevent adopted black children from being isolated in white communities and estranged from their own culture.

The association has said interracial adoptions should be approved only after attempts to find black parents have failed.

The bill would provide adoptive families who have incomes of less than \$75,000 a year with a \$5,000 tax credit. Smaller credits would be available to families with higher incomes.

The House also narrowly agreed, by a 211-to-195 vote, to make it easier for children with American Indian heritage to be adopted by non-Indian families.

President Bill Clinton opposes the proposed changes to Indian adoption law.

GRAPHIC: AP Photo- Hillary Rodham Clinton addresses adoptive mothers, including Margaret Fitzgerald, right, with her son, William, at the White House. (A06 Q)

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 11, 1996



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FOCUS - 15 OF 18 STORIES

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St. Louis Post-Dispatch

May 11, 1996, Saturday, FIVE STAR LIFT Edition

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 7A

LENGTH: 633 words

HEADLINE: HOUSE PASSES LEGISLATION TO ENCOURAGE ADOPTIONS

SOURCE: Compiled From News Services

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The House voted overwhelmingly Friday to encourage more adoptions, promising parents tax incentives and easing interracial hurdles.

The measure offers adoptive families a \$ 5,000 tax credit and outlaws race restrictions in adoptions.

"We're overjoyed," said Patrick Purtill, of the National Council for Adoption. "We think this legislation is really going to benefit children."

The House passed the bill, 393-15, after narrowly defeating an effort to eliminate provisions that would limit tribal courts' jurisdiction over adoptions involving American Indian children. The bill must now go to the Senate.

President Bill Clinton has endorsed the tax credits and interracial adoption changes. But the White House opposes the change on American Indian adoptions, charging that it impinges on tribal sovereignty.

Supporters said the measure would decrease the number of youngsters - especially black children - languishing in foster care.

The legislation specifically prohibits state adoption officials from delaying or denying adoptions to qualified parents while searching for a family of the child's race.

States that fail to comply could lose some of the \$ 4 billion in federal child-care funds distributed annually.

Controversy has flared in the associated professions on the issue of "race matching," a policy that allows social workers to reject or put potential interracial adoptions on hold until adoptive parents can be found matching a child's race. For example, the National Association of Black Social Workers has said interracial adoptions should be approved only after exhaustive attempts to find a relative or black adoptive parents.

The bill would provide the tax credit to families earning up to \$ 75, 000 a year to help pay for adoption expenses. Smaller credits would be given to



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families earning up to \$ 115,000, with none above that.

The National Council for Adoption says the cost of adoption can run as high as \$ 20,000, although the average fee collected by its agencies is \$ 11, 000.

About 450,000 American children live in foster care at any given moment, according to the bill, and as many as 600,000 live in foster care in a year. About half are minorities, and 41 percent of black children in foster care wait more than four years to be adopted.

After the vote, House Republicans involved in bringing the bill to a vote celebrated with three families that have adopted children.

"Thank you for passing this bill so more kids like me can be adopted," said Reid McKenney, 9, the Korea-born adopted son of William McKenney of Arlington, Va.

"We're happy that we were able to get this done, and we're happy to get it done by Mother's Day," said Rep. Jim Bunning, R-Ky.

The tax credit was part of the House GOP's Contract with America and was included in a budget proposal that Clinton vetoed last year.

At the White House, Hillary Rodham Clinton met with mothers and their adopted children, praising them for accepting the challenges as well as the joys of adoption.

Mrs. Clinton applauded the tax and racial provisions in the House bill but said that "we need to do more."

Some white parents have complained that the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act has kept them from adopting children with as little as one-64th Indian ancestry.

Some Indians have said the bill's provision would weaken a law enacted to preserve their cultures by placing Indian children in Indian homes. The bill also would allow courts to decide who is Indian and who is not, they said.

Paul Moorhead of the National Congress of American Indians said no tribe supported the measure. Moorhead said the bill gave state courts too much power to decide when the Indian welfare act would be used while not letting them determine who was or was not an Indian.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO; Photo from AP - Jude Lincicome hugs her son Jeremy on Friday during a discussion about adoption she and other women had with Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: May 11, 1996



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May 11, 1996, Saturday, THREE STAR Edition

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 683 words

HEADLINE: HOUSE VOTES TO REWARD ADOPTIONS, LOWER RACIAL BARRIERS

SOURCE: Compiled From News Services

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The House voted overwhelmingly Friday to encourage more adoptions, promising parents tax incentives and easing interracial hurdles.

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States that fail to comply could lose some of the \$ 4 billion in federal child-care funds distributed annually.

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After the vote, House Republicans involved in bringing the bill to a vote celebrated with three families that have adopted children.

"Thank you for passing this bill so more kids like me can be adopted," said Reid McKenney, 9, the Korea-born adopted son of William McKenney of Arlington, Va. Reid spoke before television news cameras while standing on a chair.

"We're happy that we were able to get this done, and we're happy to get it done by Mother's Day," said Rep. Jim Bunning, R-Ky.

The tax credit was part of the House GOP's Contract with America and was included in a budget proposal that Clinton vetoed last year.

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Mrs. Clinton applauded the tax and racial provisions in the House bill but said that "we need to do more."

"We should redouble our efforts," she said. "We should make it possible for thousands more children to be adopted by Mother's Day next year."

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Paul Moorhead of the National Congress of American Indians said no tribe supported the measure. Moorhead said the bill gave state courts too much power to decide when the Indian welfare act would be used while not letting them determine who was or was not an Indian.

"I'm afraid it's going to result in massive, protracted litigation," he said.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO; Photo from AP - Jude Lincicome hugs her son Jeremy on Friday during a discussion about adoption she and other women had with Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House.



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The Morning Call (Allentown)

May 10, 1996, Friday, FIFTH EDITION

SECTION: PENNSYLVANIA, Pg. A4

LENGTH: 394 words

HEADLINE: CASEY CAMPAIGNS FOR AMERICAN FAMILY;
HE IS ASKING NATIONAL LEADERS TO MAKE ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE REFORMS A;
NATIONAL PRIORITY.

BYLINE: PETE LEFFLER; The Morning Call

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Former Gov. Robert P. Casey yesterday called on President Clinton and other national leaders to make adoption and foster care reforms a national priority.

"What is happening to children today is an outrage," Casey declared at a seminar here hosted by a non-profit group he created, the Campaign for the American Family.

Critics described a flawed social welfare system driven more by money, parental rights and bureaucracy than by the needs of the orphaned, abused or neglected children involved.

"We don't know the hate, we don't know the anger we are building in these children," said Sister Josephine Murphy, who described horrors she has seen at St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home, Hyattsville, Md.

Casey said timely adoptions and a foster system that truly cares for children benefit not only the children involved but also the communities in which they live by reducing crime and by cutting welfare costs.

"The disintegration of family life ... is the most urgent domestic crisis confronting the American people," Casey said. "By encouraging adoption, we will begin to put in place one of the cornerstones in the rebuilding of the American family."

Casey called on the president to raise public awareness about the needs of orphaned children and asked governors to convene a national meeting to share new ideas that work.

Casey applauded as a good first step a bill now in Congress that would provide federal tax credits for couples seeking to adopt a child. The measure also would make it easier for white adults to adopt African American, Hispanic or other minority race babies.

Pierre Cooper of Reading, director of One Church, One Child of Pennsylvania,



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told the seminar that interracial adoptions are less preferable than those among the same race. His organization taps the African American community to support minority adoptions.

"All things being equal, it makes sense to match people ethnically," said U.S. Rep. Jim Greenwood, R-8th District, a former foster care worker himself. "But there's probably nothing more damaging to a child's psyche than to linger in foster care."

President Clinton has said he would support the largely Republican adoption bill, surprising some of its supporters. Hillary Rodham Clinton will discuss adoption today with a half-dozen families, including Pat and Keith Antrobus of New Hope.

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U.S. adoption system, child welfare targeted for reform

By Carol Zimmermann
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Saying current foster care programs in the United States are ineffective, speakers at an adoption seminar in Washington pleaded for drastic changes in the country's adoption policies.

"The most effective antidote to forces hostile to families and women is the alternative too often ignored and downplayed — adoption," said former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey in opening remarks.

Casey, chairman of the Fund for the American Family, a think tank based in Arlington, Va., that sponsored the May 9 seminar, described adoption as the most "child-effective and cost-effective of all alternatives to rescue children in foster care" and said he was pleased to see adoption on the congressional agenda during the same week as the seminar.

In a May 6 letter to House Republican leaders, President Clinton said he supported Republican legislation that would allow most adoptive families to claim a \$5,000 tax credit. The legislation, which was approved May 10 in a 393-15 vote, also penalizes states whose adoption agencies delay placement of a child in order to find an adoptive family of the same race.

Casey, who is Catholic, said the president should get together with leaders in Congress and say, "We disagree on a lot, but there's one thing we can agree on — what's happening to children is an outrage unworthy of America."

He said the country's leaders should make adoption a national priority, if even just to bring down the deficit. Foster care costs the United States \$10 billion a year, Casey said, whereas the public cost of adoption is zero.

Conna Craig, president of the Institute for Children in Cambridge, Mass., said there are "50,000 children galley free to be adopted today, but they are languishing in the uncertainty of state-run care."

Craig, who herself was a foster child before she was



Sister Josephine Murphy, director of St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville, pleads at a press conference that changes be made in the country's adoption laws.

adopted, said she believes there are families for every child who needs adoption, and the fact that 15,000 young people will turn 18 while still in foster care this year is "incomprehensible."

"It doesn't have to be this way," she said, particular-

ly if states removed barriers for interracial adoptions, raised requirements for foster parents or instilled a 30-day rule making it mandatory for private agencies to find placements for children seeking adoption if the state could not do so within 30 days.

William Pierce, president of the National Council for Adoption, called Congress' proposed adoption tax credit a "wonderful piece of legislation" and also stressed the importance of prohibiting states or adoption agencies to discriminate on the basis of race.

"Right now in this country we're telling kids, if you're a person of color, you have to wait to be adopted," he said. That would never happen in housing or jobs, because it's illegal, he added.

But according to Sister Josephine Murphy, director of St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville, it is going to take more than a few new rules to help today's children.

Sister Murphy, a Daughter of Charity, said she was "very concerned about what we're doing to our kids today," and added, "I for one, am sick and tired of it."

She said the infant home run by her order currently cares for 57 children, and 42 of them came to St. Ann's abused, neglected or abandoned.

She recounted several incidents of children who had been abused in their own homes but were still sent back home by the courts.

"Why are you sending me home?" one 6-year-old boy asked her. "You know what will happen."

These situations "cry to heaven for vengeance," she said, pounding her fist on the table. And she blames the legal system for continually sending children back to abusive home situations.

"Something has to be changed," she said. "Every family can't be fixed, and the birth mother is not always the best one to raise the children."

Casey, in response to Sister Murphy's indignation, said, "I say, 'Right on.' That's the sense of outrage that's needed if change is going to come."

We were used, say women behind abortion rulings

By Heidi Schlumpf Kezmoh
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The two women for whom the Supreme Court's prevailing abortion rulings are named say they are victims just as are the millions of babies that have been aborted since the decisions in *Roe vs. Wade* and *Doe vs. Bolton*.

"I was seeking love and understanding," said Norma McCorvey, whose efforts to have a legal abortion resulted in the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* ruling, which

Abortion Providers" conference last month. It was sponsored by the Pro-Life Action League.

Joseph Scheidler, the league's founder and executive director, said the fifth annual conference marked the first time the women in *Roe vs. Wade* and *Doe vs. Bolton* had shared a public forum.

"I think it's significant, it's historic, that the two women who were by the pro-abortion movement ... are now militantly pro-life," Scheidler. Neither McCorvey nor Cano had the abortions they were seeking the right to have. Both put up their babies for adoption.

"I was used," she said, adding that her lawyer led her "to believe she was a friend and had my best interests at heart."

She said she was devastated when she heard the news about the Supreme Court rulings.

"In 1974 I came forward and said I didn't want to be a part of this," she said, adding that she later had threats made on her life and gunshots fired at her home.

"That period of my life was in such turmoil," she said. "It was like a daze."

McCorvey said she was embarrassed and ashamed that she was involved in *Roe vs. Wade*.

cc McLanne, Jw, Nicole
file

F4I, Pam

Date: 07/30/96 Time: 13:11

HTThree Years After Brother Was Hanged, Joshua Still Waits for a

CHICAGO (AP) His 3-year-old brother Joseph was hanged with an extension cord. His mother will spend life in prison for murdering the boy.

And now, three years after the murder, Joshua Wallace, an "enchanted little guy" who likes the outdoors and Barney the Dinosaur, remains in child welfare limbo. The 4-year-old is still legally Amanda Wallace's son, still without a family to call his own.

Freeing children like Joshua for adoption can be an arduous process. The Child Welfare League of America estimates there are 45,000 youngsters waiting to have their parental ties severed before becoming available for adoption.

"Every kid needs a warm, loving family and a warm, loving home," said league director David Liederman. "The sooner they know what their environment is, what their support system is, who they can count on, the more chance they have of having some success in life. Kids that don't have that are in huge trouble."

If a child's parents don't object, a youngster can be eligible for adoption within a few weeks. But if parents are determined to fight for their child, or if other problems arise, a child can be trapped for years like Joshua.

In 1993, Wallace, a woman with a long history of mental illness, tied a cord around Joseph's neck, waved good-bye and hanged him. Joshua, then 15 months old, was a room away.

Since then, he has bounced from foster parents to a group home, to a foster mother who has no intention of adopting him. Another couple now want to adopt Joshua, but a Sept. 17 court hearing is the soonest that Wallace's parental rights could be terminated and the adoption process begun.

Critics blame prosecutors for delaying Joshua's adoption by demanding Wallace's conviction before terminating her parental rights. Wallace was sentenced last week.

But prosecutors say difficulty in determining who Joshua's father is, whether Wallace's relatives should have him, and whether Wallace herself was fit for a termination hearing has delayed the process.

That the boy has progressed from a baby to a pre-schooler without a permanent home outrages some child welfare advocates.

Bernardine Dohrn, director of the Children and Family Justice Center at Northwestern Law School, said the state should have pushed to find Joshua a permanent home over prosecuting his mother.

"The fact that there's another child here who has a future is so much more important than the notion of vengeance," Dohrn said. "Children need stability and permanency."

In Joshua's case, stability and permanency have been rare commodities.

Authorities believe he was conceived during one of Wallace's many stays at a mental hospital. Born in 1992, he twice was placed in foster homes once when a paramedic called to Wallace's home found him about to choke on his own spit.

In 1993, two months before Joseph's death, the children were returned to Wallace on the recommendation of a state caseworker.

A public outcry followed Joseph's hanging. Child welfare law was changed to place children's interests before those of their parents in custody decisions. Officials vowed Joshua would meet a kinder fate than his brother.

Joshua was placed with a potential adoptive family but removed a year ago after officials determined the couple weren't meeting his emotional needs. He then went to a well-respected group home that treats children with special problems.

When Joshua arrived, he was insecure, had trouble sleeping and had behavioral problems including swearing, according to Carol Ligenfelter, director of Hephzibah Children's Association's family-based services.

``Those are the type of problems we see with children who have had a lot of changes in their life,'' Ligenfelter said. But with some ``fairly intensive work,'' including frequent therapy, Joshua's behavior has improved greatly, she said.

``He's really an enchanting little guy,'' she said.

Joshua is now living with an experienced foster mother who cares for two other foster children but is not interested in adoption. He could be moved again shortly to the home of yet another couple who want to adopt him.

The delay in finding Joshua a permanent home ``is at best mysterious,'' Dohrn said. ``At worst, contemptible.''

APNP-07-30-96 1319EDT

Date: 05/10/96 Time: 16:21

MA adoptive Parents Meet With First Lady

WASHINGTON (AP) ``This is my boy, even if his blood isn't my own,' said adoptive mother Margaret Fitzgerald, looking straight at Hillary Rodham Clinton. ``He is the highlight of my life.''

Mrs. Fitzgerald of Cheverly, Md., and five other mothers and their adopted children gathered with Mrs. Clinton at the White House Friday to encourage more Americans to join in what the first lady called ``the joys and challenges of adoption.''

One adoptive mother, Jude Lincicome of Baltimore, said that by adopting several ``special needs'' children, her family has ``saved the state and the federal government in excess of a million dollars.''

``That's just medical costs; it doesn't include food and shelter and clothing and the rest,' she said.

Even as they spoke, the House voted 393-15 to give middle-income families who adopt a child a \$5,000 tax credit and stop the practice of prolonged delays in order to match a child with adoptive parents of the same race.

``You in this room have given children the most important gift of all, love and a home,' Mrs. Clinton said, saying the conversation was an appropriate way to honor Mother's Day.

Mrs. Clinton, speaking also on behalf of the president, expressed their strong support both for the tax credit and for the multiracial placement of children who are up for adoption.

``But we need to do more,' she said. ``We should redouble our efforts. We should make it possible for thousands more children to be adopted by Mother's Day next year.''

In the discussion, Lorraine Adams of Douglasville, Ga., said that when she adopted her daughter, Carol, 23 years ago, the child had been misdiagnosed as mentally retarded. In the years since, she said, Carol has graduated from high school with a 3.5 grade-point average. ``If we had not adopted her, she would still be lost somewhere in the system,' she said.

Julie Singer of suburban Montgomery County, Md., who said she has adopted five children, told Mrs. Clinton she ran into a stone wall when she first tried to adopt a daughter even though she had been in her foster care for 18 months.

``The Department of Social Services discovered I was white and she was black and they decided to put a halt to it,' she said.

She said she prevailed after hiring a lawyer and telling herself that ``it's my child and you're not going to take her.''

Later, she said, she adopted a white baby but the same agency tried to block her on grounds she had an interracial family.''

As Julie Singer finished her story, Mrs. Clinton asked her young son, Joey, who had been listening quietly, if he had anything he wanted to say.

``I just want to thank my mother,' said Joey Singer, who is black.

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