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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	event attendees [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (4 pages)	11/00/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 13525

FOLDER TITLE:

Event [Adoption]

2014-0536-S

kc1621

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

J. Hess
- Melinda A.

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Last week in the Oval Office, 7-year-old Adam looked uncomfortable. He stared down at the floor, at the ceiling, anywhere but at the President, who had asked him a question. Adam, who is living in foster care, had come to watch the President deliver his weekly radio address about the new steps his administration is taking to streamline and encourage adoption.

After the radio address and a discussion with adoptive families, Bill invited Adam to sit behind his desk and to explore the nooks and crannies of the Oval Office. Within minutes, Adam came out of his shell. He was full of smiles and questions as he made himself comfortable in the huge leather chair and inspected Bill's coin and badge collection.

I found it difficult to believe that this beaming and vivacious child had no permanent place to call home. Adam is just one of the thousands of children in communities across our country -- children with tremendous capacities to love and bring new joy and energy into a home -- who are still waiting for the love of a mother, a father and a family. These children live with few constants but painful memories of neglect or abuse, growing case files and the hope that someday they will join loving, permanent families.

My husband and I have considered adopting ourselves, but as Bill said in a recent interview: "If ... we were going to adopt a little baby at our age, if we stayed healthy, we could raise the child, but I think it is very important for people to bond with an infant, and it would require massive amounts of time that I don't know whether we could guarantee the child at this moment. If you took an older child that would have a bigger, more difficult adjustment period and would think it was a little weird living in the White House, then that also would require a lot of time. So, I'm doubtful that we could do it right here."

We are, however, both committed to doing whatever we can to help move our country's waiting children out of the limbo of foster care. Earlier this year, the President signed a \$5,000 tax credit to help families adopt children. In 1994, the administration and Congress put an end to racial preferences for adoption, making it illegal to deny or delay any child a loving home simply because the adoptive parents are of a different race. And at the radio address last week, as adoptive families and waiting children watched, the President announced more encouraging news for the tens of thousands

of children in our country's foster-care system and the families who could someday offer them love and permanent homes.

Bill issued a new directive that calls upon his administration to take definite steps to double the number of children who are placed in permanent homes, from 27,000 a year today to 54,000 a year by 2002. By early next year, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala will report to the President on how the federal government can help states set and meet new adoption targets. She will study how local, state and federal authorities can best work together to encourage adoption in all communities, and she'll make recommendations about the laws and regulations that need to be changed or added to ensure children don't get trapped in foster care.

The President has also asked the secretaries of Treasury, Labor, Commerce and Health and Human Services to launch an all-out effort to heighten public awareness about adoption and recognize those in the private sector who are committing themselves to this important cause. There are already many businesses, television stations, foundations and citizens who are working hard to spread the word about waiting children and to support parents who want to adopt. The National Adoption Center and Children Awaiting Parents maintain a web site called "Faces of Adoption" (www.inetcom.net/adopt/photo.html) with 280 photos of brothers and sisters who need to be adopted together and children between the ages of 7 and 16 who are waiting to be adopted. It also offers comprehensive information on adoption, from support-group lists to legislative news and strategies for financial assistance.

During this holiday season, as we make time to be with our families and recognize how much we love and rely on our parents, spouses, children and other relatives, let us all work together to find loving homes for the boys and girls who need them.

Write to Hillary Rodham Clinton at 71154,1271, and include the First Lady's name in your subject line and a U.S. postal address. Mrs. Clinton welcomes readers' comments, but the volume of mail prevents her from answering each letter personally.

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Texas Interracial Adoption Case Reflects National Debate

Family Waged a Legal Fight for 2 Black Youngsters

A1

By Sue Anne Pressley
Washington Post Staff Writer

LEXINGTON, Tex.—The low point in Scott and Lou Ann Mullen's long battle to adopt their two youngest sons came one evening as they watched the local news. There, in a segment on children in search of loving homes, flashed the sweet, familiar faces of Joseph and Matthew. The boys were hoping, the announcer said, that a nice family would want to adopt them.

It was almost more than the Mullens could bear. They wanted to adopt the young brothers. They felt that Joseph and Matthew already were their children, ripped away from them by a state agency because of the color of their skin.

Scott Mullen is white; Lou Ann is Native American, and Joseph and Matthew, now 7 and 4, are black. After more than two heart-wrenching years, the Mullens have finally been allowed to adopt the brothers, but the adoption was approved only after they filed suit charging the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services with racial discrimination in its adoption practices.

Under a recent settlement, the agency agreed to turn over adoption statistics for the next two years to the Insti-

See ADOPTION, A4, Col. 1

ADOPTION, From A1

tute of Justice, the Washington-based conservative advocacy group that assisted the Mullens—but department officials deny that race played a part in their decisions.

Lou Ann Mullen says she knows better. "Several case-workers, the adoption supervisor, they all said, 'No, it would be in the kids' best interest to place them in an African American home,'" said Mullen, 31, a mother of eight, including seven adopted children, and a longtime foster parent. "Those words will stick with me for the rest of my life—what about love?"

The Mullens' case is the latest salvo in a highly charged debate in which all sides argue from both emotion and experience about what is best for children. It is, simply put, an argument about whether white families, who are often anxious to adopt any healthy child, should be allowed to raise black children, who represent a disproportionate share of those available for adoption.

At the opposite end of this debate is David Watts, a biracial social worker in New York who was raised by an adoptive white family. "It's a bad idea to put a black child in a white home. . . . I think it's impossible for someone of one culture to teach another culture," he said. "You have to live it in order to absorb it."

The Texas case, along with similar court challenges in Tennessee and Maryland, is forcing a closer look at the controversial issue of "race-matching" in adoptions. The issue is already on the federal agenda. In August, Congress enacted legislation that could deny states a percentage of federal funds for foster care if race is used to delay or deny adoptions. The measure was based on studies showing that African American children are spending twice as much time in foster homes as white children.

Race-matching is supported by those who believe that ethnic identity and pride can be best preserved if, for example, an African American child grows up in an African American family. Since 1972, the influential National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) has taken this stance, suggesting that interracial adoption is a form of "genocide" and that "black children in white homes are cut off from the healthy development of themselves as black people."

"Same race makes sense because it is what the child is accustomed to, what causes the least disruption in the child's life," said Toni Oliver, a chairman of the organization. "Oftentimes when people are looking at 'love is all it takes,' they seem to overlook the impact race has on our society. Somehow when it's a case of adoption, race suddenly doesn't seem to matter anymore."

The North American Council on Adoptable Children also has serious reservations. "It is probably optimal if children are placed in same-race, same-culture placements, but we do not condone delaying placement and preventing children from finding homes just to meet that optimal placement," said spokeswoman Diane Riggs.

Black families who want to adopt are often at a disadvantage because of the expenses involved in a public adoption, including a minimum of \$1,500 for court costs, Riggs said. Another barrier is that "in the African American culture, there is a belief that it should be a family-to-family thing, a community effort, that a child is not something you should pay for," she said.

But critics of race-matching say there is a darker side involving whites with lingering racist beliefs against mixing races. They argue that children are hurt most by the practice.

The Washington Post

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1997

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"One of the problems with race-matching policies," said Donna Matias, a lawyer with the Institute of Justice, "is that it leaves the children in the system to wait. They are thrown into a vicious cycle where the chances plummet that they will ever get adopted."

Until World War II, which left thousands of children looking for homes, it was extremely rare for white couples to adopt black children. Well into the 1960s, the guiding policy was that every effort should be made to match a child with the skin color and religion of the adoptive family.

During the civil rights movement, interracial adoptions in the United States increased dramatically, more than tripling from 733 cases in 1968 to 2,574 cases in 1971. (There are now about 6,500 cases a year.) But a backlash followed the NABSW's condemnation, and a debate has raged ever since about the benefits and hazards of placing children with parents of different races. The few available academic studies have shown that the adopted children grow up well-adjusted and comfortable with their ethnic identity.

Opponents of race-matching contend that the numbers now seem stacked against the possibility of same-race adoptions. Of the estimated 500,000 children in the U.S. foster home system, more than half are minorities. Of those available for adoption, 40 percent are black, although blacks represent only about 13 percent of the general population. What is more, according to the National Adoption Center, which keeps track of so-called hard-to-place children, about 67 percent of such children are black and 26 percent are white, while 67 percent of the waiting families are white and 31 percent are black.

But all the talk of race leaves Lou Ann Mullen cold. That was the only consideration, she believes, that prompted social workers to take little Matthew, who had been in her foster care since he came home from the hospital—addicted to cocaine and suffering from syphilis—away from their home while the search continued for a more "suitable" adoptive family. She cannot bear to think how he must have suffered.

"It's going to take him a long time to trust anybody," she said.

State officials have always given the Mullens excellent ratings as foster parents. It was only when they wanted to adopt, the Mullens believe, that the doors slammed shut.

A small, youthful woman with long dark hair, Mullen speaks with quiet anger about the ordeal. Deeply religious, she believes her life's work is to care for children who need a home, feelings shared by Scott, 35, who also has a state job working with youth convicted of violent crimes.

The high school sweethearts came to their marriage with an instant family—Lou Ann's younger brother, Juan, now 20, and sister, Gloria, 18, whom the couple adopted after their mother was unable to care for them. The family also includes Mary, 12, the Mullens' only biological child; Rachel, 9, who is biracial and was adopted privately; and a brother and sister, 12 and 10, who are black and have lived with them in foster care for nearly six years. The Mullens are trying to adopt them as well.

Their home, in this small central-Texas town of 1,000, is a cozy maze constructed from the connection of three mobile homes. Each child has a room crammed full of toys and collections. One wall is devoted to the smiling photographs of the children who have passed through the Mullens' lives.

Matthew came to the family in November 1992 when he was only a few days old. They quickly grew to love him, and immediately told his social workers that they wanted to adopt him. But they were told "no way," Lou Ann Mullen says, that Matthew needed a black home.

When the child was 2, the state agency removed him from the Mullens to place him with his older brother, Joseph, who was being adopted by a black family. That plan soon fell apart, however, and the boys were placed in a black foster home while the social workers, who were white, searched for another black family to adopt them.

According to the Mullens, one of the supervisors said she was prepared to spend six months searching for a same-race family and that she would place the boys in a group home before she would let the Mullens adopt them. Only after Lou Ann contacted the Institute of Justice and the couple filed suit in April 1995 did social workers give them an official adoption application.

Ironically, Texas has had since 1993 what is considered one of the strongest laws on the subject, saying that a state or county agency "may not deny or delay place-

ment of a child for adoption or otherwise discriminate on the basis of the race or ethnicity of the child or prospective parents."

Linda Edwards, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Regulatory and Protective Services, denies that the agency did anything wrong. Refusing to comment specifically on the Mullens' case, she said the department "supports interracial adoptions. That is evidenced by the fact that 45 percent of our adoptions are interracial. . . . We're trying very hard to recruit all kinds of people to adopt because we need all kinds of people. . . . What is important to remember is these children need a home. We can't have any policies or practices that interfere with children having a loving home as soon as possible."

But Elizabeth Bartholet, a Harvard University law professor who has studied public adoptions for a dozen years, said that difficulties such as those experienced by the Mullens often reflect the mind-set of the agency staff. Bartholet refers to race-matching as "the unwritten and generally invisible rules" that guide adoption policies.

At least two other families with similar experiences agree:

■ In Hagerstown, Md., Michael and Sylvia Mauk, who are white, waged a long and unsuccessful battle to adopt a black infant girl, who was crack-addicted and sexually abused, placed in their foster care by the state Department of Social Services. In 1992, when the child was 2, she was removed from the Mauks' home to be placed with a black adoptive family, despite the Mauks' continuing pleas to adopt her. A protracted legal battle between the Mauks and the adoptive family ensued. Although a court-appointed social worker credited the Mauks with transforming the child's life, the court decided against removing her from the adoptive family.

"It was very unjust," said Sylvia Mauk, 44. "It was because we are white. There was absolutely no other reason. We were white and she was black and that was the bottom line. A social worker told us when she was 16 years old, she would resent us for adopting her. That was baloney."

■ In Memphis, Ben and Laurel Reisman have an ongoing class-action suit against the Tennessee Department of Human Services, challenging the use of racial classifications in adoptions under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. In an earlier suit, the Reismans, who are white, successfully challenged the department's practice of considering only nonwhite applicants for mixed-race children, allowing them to adopt their daughter, Cady, now 6, who is biracial.

"The essence of it is that children of color are treated differently than children who are white, in terms of adoption procedure," said Ben Reisman, 54. "We demand that they're going to have to define for the world what a black person is. We essentially want them to quit using race as a factor unless they're willing to set a standard."

But some researchers say that interracial adoptions are more complicated than many prospective parents believe. Robert T. Carter, a professor of psychology and education at Columbia University, has found that many adoptees as young adults begin struggling with issues of identity and culture. David Watts, who is part of Carter's research team, says he only realized after he left his white adoptive family in Cleveland how isolated and different he had sometimes felt as a child.

"Because there were no black people around, and my parents did make a concerted effort to give me a lot of history and heritage, I thought I had a handle on what it was to be black," said Watts, 30. "I didn't realize the difference between white and black culture until I was 21 and came to New York. That's when I learned what I had missed, not only the obvious things, like food and dress and music, but the subtleties of black culture—the jokes told, how loud you speak, how much you touch when you talk, the relationships between mothers and sons. That's when I realized that while my parents had done a good job, it was incomplete, because I didn't have the full story."

The result, Watts said, is that he went through several years of distancing himself from his adoptive family, although the relationship has gradually warmed.

Rita Simon, an American University professor who has conducted the only long-term study on the subject, said she found that the children had healthy attitudes toward their racial identities. After tracking black children adopted by white families over a 20-year period, Simon concluded that "the best interests of the child" would be met if state agencies would move "without regard to race."

That is Lou Ann Mullen's hope, that skin color will no longer be a factor in adoption. "I don't want any other family to suffer what we suffered," she said.

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 Seeks Doubling Of Adoptions

HHS Ordered to Find Foster Care Solutions

A1

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

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HHS Ordered to Find Foster Care Solutions

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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

SCHEDULING PROPOSAL

November 7, 1996

____ ACCEPT

____ REGRET

____ PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Ann Walley Haley
Deputy Assistants to the President and Directors
of Presidential Scheduling

FROM: Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Planning

Melanne Verveer
Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief
of Staff to the First Lady

PURPOSE: To announce a Presidential directive to facilitate
and encourag adoption and permanent placements for
children waiting in the foster care system.

BACKGROUND: DHHS, DPC and the First Lady's office has produced
a Presidential directive that instructs the
Secretaries of Health and Human Services,
Commerce, and Treasury and the Director of
Personnel Management to take specific actions to
improve the adoption system and increase public
awareness about adoption.

November is National Adoption Month and the
President has issued a proclamation.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: None.

DATE & TIME: Prior to Thanksgiving, preferably the afternoon of
Wednesday, November 27. It is important for the
event to take place in November (National Adoption
Month).

DURATION: One hour.

LOCATION: To be determined. Options include the White House
or a D.C. site that houses waiting children, such
as St. Anne's.

PARTICIPANTS: The President
The First Lady
Secretary Shalala
Secretary Rubin
Secretary Kantor
Adoption advocates
Children waiting to be adopted and/or adoptive
families.

REMARKS: Brief remarks to address the issue and announce executive memorandum.

SEQUENCE OF
EVENTS: Meet and greet with waiting children and/or adoptive families, followed by speaking program (see attached sheet).

PRESS

PARTICIPATION: Open Press

STAFF CONTACT: Nicole Rabner, OFL, ext. 67263.
Bruce Reed, DPC, ext. 66515.

EVENT TO ANNOUNCE PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON FACILITATING ADOPTION

Background

The purpose of the event is for the President to announce an executive memorandum in which he directs the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Commerce, and the Director of Personnel Management to take specific steps to improve and facilitate adoption. The centerpiece of the directive is to establish financial incentives for states to move more children from foster care to adoption. States will receive a bonus for each child it places in a permanent home above its state-specific numerical target. With projected savings from children not then supported by the foster care system, the bonus system nearly pays for itself. It is another example of common-sense government. The other parts of the directive target increasing public awareness and speeding up the processes whereby determinations are made about a foster care child's disposition.

The President could use the occasion to issue a challenge to local television stations to air programs like "Wednesday's Child," which feature waiting children weekly. These shows have proven effective in recruiting parents to adopt.

Ideally, the President should make the announcement in November, which is National Adoption Month and the beginning of the Holiday season.

Options for Event

One scenario for the event is to invite to the White House a small or large group of waiting children and/or adoptive families. After a small meet and greet, a speaking program would follow, in which the First Lady makes remarks and introduces a child, perhaps an older, adopted child who remembers living through the foster care system. That child would make remarks and introduce the President, who would make the announcement.

One possibility is to invite Deanna back to the White House. Last November, Mrs. Clinton hosted an East Room event in honor of National Adoption Month. Among the waiting children and advocates invited to the event was a young girl from Kansas who lived in foster care. She made extraordinarily compelling remarks about her dream to be adopted and have a home and family of her own. A few months after the event, Deanna was adopted. This past June, in Kansas City, Mrs. Clinton saw a transformed Deanna, visibly different with new-found self-esteem. Deanna could be part of the speaking program, explaining how her life has changed since being adopted. Deanna's participation would signal the President and First Lady's longstanding commitment to this issue.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	event attendees [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (4 pages)	11/00/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 13525

FOLDER TITLE:

Event [Adoption]

2014-0536-S

kc1621

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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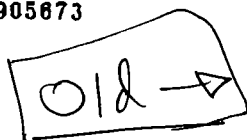
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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TO: Nicole Babner

Fax: 456-6244

Phone: 456-6266

Date: 11/27

Total Number of Pages: 5

Comments:

Hi Nicole -

Sorry I keep missing you. Here are the drafts of the fact sheets. I actually sent them last week -- sorry you never received the fax.

We envisioned 2 documents: one of the Clinton Admin. record/accomplishment in adoption, and one on the new initiative. The second is much more rough as we have yet to see the final memo.

Please call to discuss. Thanks very much!

Jody Graft 690-7854

200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Bldg. HHH, Room 647-D, Washington, D.C. 20201

I will be out on Friday, but checking messages and will be back on Monday

DRAFT

**ADOPTION: HELPING CHILDREN AND PARENTS
THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION RECORD**

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

-- President Clinton

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

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

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

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

- o Preserving Resources for Child Protection and Adoption: The President stood firm in the budget and welfare reform debates to preserve the critical supports for states and families to protect children at risk of child abuse and neglect, in the foster care system, and with adoptive families. President Clinton vetoed welfare reform legislation (H.R. 4) submitted by Congress partially because it would have threatened Medicaid benefits for special needs children and dissolved the guarantee to states for open-ended funding for foster care and adoption assistance. This would have put the most vulnerable children at risk of danger and harm. Instead the welfare reform bill that the President signed into law, maintains current law on child protection and adoption, and does not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, foster care and adoption services.

DRAFT

- o Removing Barriers to Adoption: President Clinton also signed into law the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1996 which provides a tax credit to families adopting children and prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin in all federally funded programs. This policy will alleviate a significant barrier to adoption and allow middle class families, for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive, to adopt children to love and nurture. It will put parents seeking to build a family through adoption on a more equal footing with other families, providing a \$5,000 tax credit per child.
- o Expanding Funding: Fill in stats.
- o Improving Court Operations: The Administration is working with state courts in 49 states to improve the timeliness and quality of decision-making that leads to adoption. More timely decisions will ensure children do not languish in foster care and can more quickly be placed in permanent, stable families that can nurture and protect them.
- o Increasing Special Needs Adoptions: During this Administration, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with Federal adoption assistance has increased by over 50 percent.
- o Focusing on Outcomes and Accountability: This administration has devoted time and resources in enhancing computer automated systems for 48 states to reduce paperwork burdens so caseworkers can spend more time with children and their families, issuing grants to improve the working relationship between courts and child protective systems and working directly with states to focus on positive outcomes for children.
- o Supporting Parents: The President signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, the first bill he enacted, which enables parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance.
- o Giving States the Flexibility They Need: The administration has granted child welfare waiver demonstrations to Delaware and Illinois to give states more flexibility in federal funding to better tailor services to prevent children from entering foster care to securing nurturing and loving families, including a new permanent alternative placement, assisted guardianship, for children with relatives. Up to eight more states will receive approval for waivers.
- o Raising Public Awareness: Through speeches, events and a public service announcement that aired in over 50 major cities across the country, the administration has promoted the importance and benefits of adoption.

DRAFT

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

Statistics:

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

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

For more information

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

**A CHALLENGE TO THE NATION:
SAFE AND PERMANENT HOMES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED**

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

--President Clinton *date?*

Today, President Clinton issued a challenge to the nation to ensure safe and permanent homes for children in need. There are tens of thousands children in the nation's foster care system who can not return safely to their homes, who need permanent placement in new families and for whom adoption is a goal. The President challenged states and America's families to double the current annual number of children found permanent homes or adopted from the foster care system, from 20,000 to 40,000, by the year 2002.

27,000 to 41,000 + 54,000

or another permanent placement

New Pathways to Permanency

President Clinton today directed the Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Labor and Commerce, and the Office of Personnel Management, to undertake three new actions to increase the permanent placement of children in healthy and loving homes.

- o Providing Enhanced Technical Assistance: Building on the technical assistance and computer enhancement already provided, HHS will work further with the states to focus on setting actual targets for the numbers of children who will be adopted, found a legal guardian, or placed permanently with a relative. This new way of doing business will encourage states to shift from how well forms are filled out to how well children are doing.
- o Creating Incentives for Improved Performance: In return, the federal government will offer a new incentive to states to increase adoption by establishing a \$2,000 bonus to the state for each child adopted or permanently placed in excess of its numerical target. Not only will this action encourage more adoptions, but it will produce savings overall through reduced expenditures in the foster care system. HHS estimates that approximately \$245 million in federal funds will be saved over three years.
- o Decreasing Procedural Delays and Focusing on Permanency: Currently, federal law requires states to prevent foster care placement of children and to return children to their family when appropriate. However, there is no requirement that ensures that states work expeditiously to place children with permanent families when children cannot or should not return home. Therefore, the administration will propose new regulations that will require states to focus on permanent placements for children in more reasonable and quicker time periods.
- o Increasing Public Awareness: Even as more children are waiting for adoptive families, many families are not getting the information they need to open their hearts and their homes. The administration will launch a new public awareness campaign to help families make the choice to provide a loving home for a child in need. Also, building on the administration's successes with the Family and Medical Leave Act and the adoption tax credit, the President directed federal departments to devise new ways to make both the public and private sector workplaces more adoption-friendly.

DRAFT

A CHALLENGE TO THE NATION: SAFE AND PERMANENT HOMES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

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

--President Clinton

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This is just the # adopted

Building on Improvements

The Clinton administration has undertaken unprecedented efforts to increase adoption and alternative permanent placements for children in foster care. From preserving critical supports to removing barriers to adoption, from increasing public awareness to supporting parents' time with their families and granting states more flexibility to improving the outcomes in the foster care system, this administration in partnership with the Congress and states is committed to improving the odds of children for a healthy and loving home.

- o Preserving Resources for Child Protection and Adoption: The President stood firm in the budget and welfare reform debates to preserve the critical supports for states and families to protect children at risk of child abuse and neglect, in the foster care system, and with adoptive families. President Clinton vetoed welfare reform legislation (H.R. 4) submitted by Congress partially because it would have threatened Medicaid benefits for special needs children and dissolved the guarantee to states for open-ended funding for foster care and adoption assistance. This would have put the most vulnerable children at risk of danger and harm. Instead the welfare reform bill that the President signed into law maintains current law on child protection and adoption, and does not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, foster care and adoption services.

another word?

secret

The law also

- o Removing Barriers to Adoption: President Clinton also signed into law the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1996 which provides a tax credit to families adopting children and prohibits ~~discrimination based on race, color or national origin in all federally funded programs~~. This policy ~~will alleviate a significant barrier to adoption and allow middle class families, for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive, to adopt children to love and nurture. It will put parents seeking to build a family through adoption on a more equal footing with other families, providing a \$5,000 tax credit per child.~~

adoption agencies that receive Federal funds from denying or delaying placement of a child

- o Increasing Special Needs Adoptions: During this Administration, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with Federal adoption assistance has increased by over 50 percent.

60?

- o Focusing on Outcomes and Accountability: This administration has devoted time and resources in enhancing computer automated systems for 48 states to reduce paperwork burdens so caseworkers can spend more time with children and their families, issuing grants to improve the working relationship between courts and child protective systems and working directly with states to focus on positive outcomes for children.

- o Supporting Parents: The President signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, the first bill he enacted, which enables parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance.

DRAFT

- o Giving States the Flexibility They Need: The administration has granted child welfare waiver demonstrations to Delaware and Illinois to give states more flexibility in federal funding to better tailor services to prevent children from entering foster care to securing nurturing and loving families, including a new permanent alternative placement, assisted guardianship, ^{through which} ~~for~~ children ^{can live} with relatives. Up to eight more states will receive approval for waivers.
- o Raising Public Awareness: Through speeches, events and a public service announcement that aired in over 50 major cities across the country, the administration has promoted the importance and benefits of adoption.

New Pathways to Permanency

President Clinton today directed the Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Labor and Commerce, and the Office of Personnel Management, to undertake ~~three new~~ actions to increase the permanent placement of children in healthy and loving homes.

- o Providing Enhanced Technical Assistance: Building on the technical assistance and computer enhancement already provided, HHS will work further with the states to focus on setting ^{and reaching} actual targets for the numbers of children who will be adopted, ~~found a legal guardian, or placed permanently with a relative.~~ This new way of doing business will encourage states to shift from how well forms are filled out to how well children are doing.
- o Creating Incentives for Improved Performance: In return, the federal government will offer a new incentive to states to increase adoption by establishing a \$2,000 bonus to the state for each child adopted, ~~or permanently placed in excess of its numerical target.~~ Not only will this action encourage more adoptions, but it will produce savings overall through reduced expenditures in the foster care system. HHS estimates that approximately \$245 million in federal funds will be saved over three years.] *check*
- o Decreasing Procedural Delays and Focusing on Permanency: Currently, federal law requires states to prevent foster care placement of children and to return children to their family when appropriate. However, there is no requirement that ensures that states work expeditiously to place children with permanent families when children cannot or should not return home. Therefore, the administration will propose new regulations ^{in more reasonable and quicker time periods} ~~that will require states to focus on permanent placements for children~~ *more quickly.* ^{statutory changes and financial assistance}
- o Increasing Public Awareness: Even as more children are waiting for adoptive families, many families are not getting the information they need to open their hearts and their homes. The administration will launch a new public awareness campaign to help families make the choice to provide a loving home for a child in need. Also, building on the administration's successes with the Family and Medical Leave Act and the adoption tax credit, the President directed federal departments to devise new ways to make both the public and private sector workplaces more adoption-friendly.

Statistics

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

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

[Fill in FY 1997 funding available for foster care and adoption assistance programs.]

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

22-Oct-1996 12:53pm

TO: Jennifer L. Klein
FROM: Deborah L. Fine
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: again on adoption

I did a brief email to OPL to let them know what you told me re: the potential adoption announcements. Several of them had asked about it as a result of the announcement in senior staff yesterday.

Flo McAfee would like to include a local Christian organization that works with foster care and adoption if this happens and if it happens here.

She may also want to provide some other info to you. I will let her know that you are working on it.