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- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR FLORIDA CHILDREN'S WEEK
"ONE VOICE FOR CHILDREN DAY"
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
APRIL 7, 1997**

Thank you. I am delighted to be back in Tallahassee and to join such a wonderful gathering of children's advocates at the beginning of a very important week for our children. Let me begin, Governor, by thanking you for your lifetime of service to the families -- especially the children -- of Florida. I can think of few people in America today who are more committed to doing right by our children, to providing our children with the tools and the opportunity they need to fulfill their own God-given potentials.

With this "old he-coon" [*a Florida-ism, what Governor Chiles called himself during his 1994 re-election campaign*] on the watch for Florida's children, I know this state will be blazing trails for the rest of the country to follow when it comes to making sure that every baby is born healthy and wanted, that every boy and girl is raised in a safe, loving and permanent home, and that every young person who is willing to work hard is given the education and training that will help him or her succeed in our global economy.

Governor, your moving -- and heartfelt -- state of the state address last month, which reminded your fellow Floridians that "First base is our children," was an inspiration to all of us who have been fighting for years to address the urgent needs of our children.

This week, we have gathered to speak with one voice for our children, to drive home the message that no task facing America is more crucial than the task of preparing our children for the future. As the Governor said last month, "This is not social do-goodism we're talking about. This is bottom-line common sense." If we don't make essential investments in prenatal and child health, in child care and in education, then we will all pay in higher prison, remedial education, and health care costs down the road. If our children grow up unable to read, hobbled by preventable illness, unloved, or alienated from society, then we will leave behind a legacy of hopelessness and despair.

Investing in children is not a question of party or partisan politics, it is a question of priorities. Our children must be our first priority.

While parents have the primary responsibility for raising their children, we must recognize that no parent can do it alone. Even exemplary parents cannot be the best parents they can be without help from the whole village. Each day children learn habits and values not just at home, but in classrooms, playgrounds, day care centers, and neighborhood streets; from grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends; and, like it or not, from TV shows, commercials and movies. Parents must rely on their employers for fair wages and the flexibility to perform the duties of childrearing. And at some time or another, parents need help from the government -- whether it's a police officer patrolling the neighborhood, a college loan, or assistance meeting the needs of a child living with disabilities.

Each one of you is here because you know and believe that there is no such thing as someone else's child. My child and your child are also all our children. They must live and make their way in a society, not just a family.

That is why we all must take responsibility for all our children. It is up to each and every one of us, whether we are elected officials, business leaders, parents, teachers or preachers, to help our children and families meet the challenges of society today.

As many of you know, the President and I will host a conference at the White House later this month on early childhood development and learning. Science is now telling us that some of the most important preparation we can give our children takes place during the earliest years of life. New research has confirmed what many parents have known instinctively: Infants begin learning the minute they are born. They are acutely aware of their surroundings and their brains crave and absorb all sorts of stimulation. And we have learned that the combination of intellectual and emotional interactions with infants and toddlers -- holding a child in your lap while reading a story, for example -- is crucial to their learning and emotional development.

The White House Conference will bring together leading neuroscientists, pediatricians and child development specialists with child care providers, business and religious leaders and others who are putting this knowledge to practice. Our goal is to help spread the word about these extraordinary breakthroughs and explore how we can translate them into our everyday actions and activities involving children.

I know that the Governor, and many of you in this room have already worked hard to address the needs of children during their earliest years. Through your Healthy Start Initiative, thousands of expectant and new mothers in this state have had access to the prenatal and infant care they needed to bring healthy children into the world. I have long been a believer in Healthy Start because it recognizes that efforts to make sure a child enjoys a healthy childhood free of abuse and neglect can begin as soon as a woman finds out she is pregnant. Healthy Start counselors not only attend to the medical needs of pregnant women, but also make sure they are equipped with the skills, insights, and education they need to become good parents.

Healthy Start has helped lower Florida's infant mortality rate, helped save millions of dollars in Medicaid costs, and most importantly, given so many children a fairer chance at a happy and healthy life. So let us all work to strengthen these efforts, along with early education programs such as the Pre-Kindergarten Early Intervention program, that reach parents and children during the earliest years of their relationship.

But the early years are not the only important time in a child's life. We must not allow the new research about the earliest years to absolve us from the responsibilities of finding innovative ways to guide and nurture our older children. As you know, the path to adulthood is full of so many challenges.

And the most fundamental of these challenges are staying healthy and staying in school. We are all watching Florida's efforts to bring affordable health insurance to the children through the Healthy Kids initiative. Too many of our children -- often children whose parents are working hard at full-time jobs to support them -- are growing up without the basic medical care they need and deserve. We must find ways to remedy this situation.

I have just come from an elementary school where dedicated teachers are using a special curriculum to help children who are having trouble reading. The program, called Reading Recovery, strives to make sure a child is on a certain path to reading success early in his or her school career. It recognizes that the best way to help a child who comes to school unprepared to learn is through an investment of time, elbow grease and the personal attention of a teacher.

But Reading Recovery is just one of the many innovations we can seek out and bring to our classrooms to spark our children's potentials to succeed in school. I hope, for instance, that you will all do your part to support the President's America Reads Initiative, which calls upon volunteer tutors from across the community to help our teachers make sure that every child can read on his or her own by the third grade.

I've seen firsthand the tremendous difference volunteers can make in our schools and in the lives of our children. I've met children who were able to escape the spiritual and material poverty of their surroundings because an adult cared enough to help them follow their dreams. And I've visited public schools in depressed neighborhoods from Pennsylvania to Texas to California that have been transformed into first-class learning institutions because people came together from all across the community to change the status quo.

And I hope that as we begin to change the status quo on welfare that we will all work together -- businesses, government, private citizens -- to strengthen our child care system so that parents who are striving to build lives of independence and self-sufficiency can afford the best care possible for their children. No mother should have to leave her child in care she believes is unsafe or substandard. Let us work to bring some peace of mind to the thousands of mothers who are going to work every day to secure brighter futures for their children.

I know that I'm preaching to the choir today. But I hope you will all go out this week and every day to help your fellow Americans understand that when we're out there fighting for better prenatal and child care, higher standards in our schools, or more money for early education, we're fighting for our children.

Our children are, in the beginning and in the end, the best reason for our being, the greatest of all our gifts and works. There is no subject more important, no issue that should be more decisive, than how we see and treat our children. Children have no vote; they have no say in the political, business and economic decisions made by our nation. That is why we can and must be their voice.

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April 5, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: Brenda Costello
SUBJECT: Briefings for Monday, April 7 -- Tallahassee, Florida

Florida Background

- Political Briefing
- Governor's Recommendations: Children's Initiatives 1997-98
- Adoption legislation background
- Governor Chiles State of the State text

Reading Recovery Roundtable

- Briefing
- Participant bios
- Excerpts from *It Takes A Village*
- “Will this Help Johnny to Read?,” *Investor's Business Daily*, 1/27/97
- America Reads!* Challenge
- Talking points
- Tab A Background on the President's national standards initiative
 - “Schools Chief, CEOs Back National Tests; Clinton Hails Endorsement as Sign of Widespread Support for Standards,” *W.Post*, 4/3/97
- Tab B Internal Q&A on the President's national standards and testing proposal
- Tab C President's FY98 Budget, chapter on Education and Training, including funding table

The President's *Call To Action for American Education in the 21st Century* (front pocket)

Address to Children's Advocates

- Briefing
- Bios of stage participants
- Children's Week agenda
- “One Voice for Children” Position Paper and Supporting Document

State Party Fundraiser

- Briefing
- Guest list
- Letter from state Rep. Elaine Bloom

Dinner

- Bios

Remarks

- Address to Children's Advocates (to be forwarded by June Shih)

April 5, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FIRST LADY

FROM: Craig Smith and Nick Baldick

SUBJECT: Florida Political Briefing

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

1992

Bush/Quayle	2,171,781	41%
Clinton/Gore	2,071,651	39%
Perot/Stockdale	1,052,481	20%

1996

Clinton/Gore	2,545,968	48%
Dole/Kemp	2,243,324	42%
Perot/Choate	483,776	9%

POLITICAL DATA

Governor: Lawton Chiles (D) 50.8% in 1994

Senate: Bob Graham (D) 65.4% in 1992
Connie Mack (R) 70.5% in 1994

U.S. House: 8D/15R

State House: 59D/61R

State Senate: 17D/23R

Electoral Votes: 25

FLORIDA AT A GLANCE...

- * The current unemployment rate in Florida is 5.7% compared to 7.3% in 1992.
- * The most recent estimate of Florida's population is 14 million, making Florida the 4th most populous state in the nation.
- * 74.6% of Florida residents are white, 12.5% are African American, and 11.4% are Hispanic.
- * 18.6% of Florida residents are 65 or older.
- * 54% of Florida residents are married couples. 39% are married couples with children.
- * Median household income is estimated at \$29,745.
- * 74% of Florida residents have a high school degree while 18.3% have a bachelor's degree or more.
- * Turnout in the 1996 presidential election was 48% of the voting age population compared to 52% in 1992. Turnout in the 1994 election was 42%.

PREVIOUS TRAVEL

You last visited Florida on October 30, 1996, when you addressed a large rally at Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University (FAMU).

The President last visited Florida on March 11, 1997. He addressed a fundraising dinner for Senator Graham and was scheduled to play golf. It was on this trip that he injured his knee at

Greg Norman's house.

1996 STATE ELECTION RESULTS

Florida was a major victory for Clinton/Gore in 1996. It was the first time Florida voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Jimmy Carter in 1976. Governor Chiles and Lt. Governor Buddy MacKay were instrumental in the victory by pushing Clinton/Gore to target Florida, by traveling a combined 40 days for the campaign, and by assisting with fund raising efforts.

All of the incumbent Democratic congressional candidates won reelection, and Democrats were able to retain the three open Democratic seats. In what was expected to be the closest race, Jim Davis (D) defeated Mark Sharpe (R) 58% to 42% to hold Sam Gibbon's (D) seat in Tampa.

The Senate Democrats lost only one seat in 1996, but Democrats lost the State House for the first time since Reconstruction. The Democrats in the State House and State Senate raised and spent record amounts of money but were limited by Florida election law to \$50,000 of assistance by the State Party per candidate. Although such laws also restricted the State Republican Party, the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee (RSCC) spent \$726,000 on an "independent expenditure" campaign to assist Republican legislative candidates. Democrats are alleging that the State Republican Party circumvented the rules by funneling money to the RSCC for these races. The *Miami Herald* reported that the Florida Republican State Party sent \$875,000 to the Republican National State Election Committee (RNSEC) in October of 1996 for "party building," and that within days the RNSEC sent \$875,000 to the RSCC. Republicans deny that this money was "earmarked" to bypass Florida law. The *Miami Herald* pointed out that this "independent expenditure" probably decided three key state House races which gave Republicans control of the State House.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

The members of the delegation are:

Senator Bob Graham (D)
Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-01)
Rep. Corrine Brown (D-03)
Rep. Karen Thurman (D-05)
Rep. John Mica (R-07)
Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-09)
Rep. Jim Davis (D-11)
Rep. Dan Miller (R-13)
Rep. Dave Weldon (R-15)
Rep. Carrie Meek (D-17)
Rep. Robert Wexler (D-19)
Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-21)
Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-23)

Sen. Connie Mack (R)
Rep. Allen Boyd (D-02)
Rep. Tillie Fowler (R-04)
Rep. Clifford Stearns (R-06)
Rep. Bill McCollum (R-08)
Rep. Bill Young (R-10)
Rep. Charles Canady (R-12)
Rep. Porter Goss (R-14)
Rep. Mark Foley (R-16)
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-18)
Rep. Peter Deutsch (D-20)
Rep. E. Clay Shaw (R-22)

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

Governor:	Lawton Chiles (D)
Lt. Governor:	Kenneth "Buddy" MacKay (D)
Attorney General:	Bob Butterworth (D)
Secretary of State:	Sandy Mortham (R)
Treasurer:	Bill Nelson (D)
Education Commissioner:	Bob Brogan (R)
Agriculture Commissioner:	Bob Crawford (D)
Speaker of the House:	Dan Webster (R)
House Democratic Leader:	Buzz Ritchie (D)
Senate President:	Toni Jennings (R)
Senate Democratic Leader:	Ken Jenne (D)

1998 GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Governor Lawton Chiles (D) is term-limited. The only announced Democratic candidate is Lt. Governor Buddy MacKay (D). MacKay has started to raise money and has received a lot of positive press for his handling of the City of Miami bankruptcy crisis. It appears that conservative State Senator Rick Dantzler (D) will oppose MacKay in the primary. The only question on the Democratic side is the status of the very popular Attorney General, Bob Butterworth (D). Though Butterworth has said that he will not run against MacKay, he has yet to announce his intentions because he is hoping that MacKay will drop out of the race. The Republican nomination was thought to be a lock for 1994 Republican nominee Jeb Bush (R), but there is now talk of State Senate President Toni Jennings (R) and Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (R-21) running as a ticket in the primary. The combination of Jennings, a Central Florida pro-choice woman, and Diaz-Balart, a Cuban from South Florida, could provide Bush with a real challenge in the Republican primary. The general election promises to be very close no matter who the parties nominate. An *Orlando Sentinel*/Mason-Dixon poll of 810 people conducted March 21-24 confirmed how close the race is likely to be.

General Election Matchup

Bush	45%
MacKay	43%
Undecided	12%

Primary Matchup

MacKay	44%
Butterworth	36%
Undecided	20%

Favorability Comparison

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Name ID</u>
Bush	43%	33%	97%
MacKay	40%	17%	88%
Butterworth	31%	6%	78%

While Bush would still be considered a slight favorite, this poll demonstrates that Bush has much higher negatives and that the two candidates' favorability ratings are very close even though MacKay has much lower name recognition. The key for MacKay will be raising the necessary funds to raise his name recognition and take advantage of Bush's negatives.

1998 SENATE RACE

Senator Bob Graham (D) is seeking election to a third term in 1998. Last year it was widely speculated that Graham would run for governor in 1998, an office he held from 1979 to 1987. However, in November 1996 he announced his plans to run for a third term in the Senate. The President recently participated in a fundraiser for him and the DSCC in Miami and he has over \$1.2 million on hand. Graham is very popular, and after eight years as governor and twelve years in the Senate is extremely well known. A Mason-Dixon/PMR poll of 810 likely voters conducted 3/21-24 for the *Tampa Tribune* and *Orlando Sentinel* showed Graham with a 57% favorability rating and 96% name recognition.

The likely Republican nominee is State Senator Charlie Crist (R). U.S. Rep. Bill McCollum (R) was seriously looking at a bid, but announced in February that he would not run. Crist has been very active in the state Senate and has gotten a great deal of media attention. His sponsorship of the bill that brought chain gangs back to Florida earned him the name "Chain-gang Charlie". Crist has not raised much for this campaign, and the Mason Dixon poll showed Crist with only 29% name recognition. The cost of raising his name recognition in Florida will be very high.

Considering Senator Graham's popularity and fundraising advantages, and Crist's low name recognition, it is likely that Graham will win reelection in 1998. This early assessment is confirmed by the Mason-Dixon poll.

General Election Matchup

Graham	57%
Crist	26%
Undecided	17%

HOT ISSUES

Education Reform

School Overcrowding Public schools are anticipating a 15% growth in enrollment over the next decade -- necessitating 6,000 new schools. Florida is facing a \$4.9 billion deficit in its school construction budget, and 330,000 students are already learning in portable classrooms. The Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) fund is the main source of school construction funds, and is supported by a gross receipts tax on gas and electric utilities. The Governor's Commission on Education recommended expanding the PECO tax to apply to cable television, water and sewer, and waste collection, but this proposal may be stopped by the Republicans who refuse to consider additional taxes.

Standards On April 2, 1997, Governor Chiles signed the Education Standards Bill, which requires a 2.0 average to graduate from high school. Last year it was tied to a school prayer bill and vetoed.

Tuition Vouchers House Republicans are proposing tuition vouchers for students K-12 to attend private schools. Governor Chiles opposes this bill. This promises to be a hot issue this session.

Teacher Tenure There is agreement between the House and Senate that there should be a standard for firing incompetent teachers, but the Senate and the House disagree on the process for reviewing teacher performance. Senate Democrats stated that a majority of teachers are competent and dedicated and should have protection against arbitrary non-renewal of contract. Their amendments require school boards to set out specific performance standards for teachers. Failing to meet these standards would be the school districts' only means to reject renewal of a teacher's contract. Currently, the Senate has passed this proposal. The House is still in conference.

Lottery Funds Democrats have been calling for clear expenditure patterns that ensure that all lottery dollars go to enhance education instead of supplanting historical funding support. Specific recommendations for lottery money allocations are: school construction, scholarships similar to Georgia's Hope scholarships, and local control.

Election Reform.

Both the State House and Senate have passed bills that deal with a laundry list of election regulations. Both bills include: requiring a disclaimer on telephone solicitations; requiring campaign finance reports; increasing fines for late filing of campaign finance reports; increasing penalties for violating contribution caps; broadening disclaimer requirements; revising the \$50,000 cap on political party contributions; limiting the amount of surplus funds that a candidate can give to his or her political party. Both bills also contain language transferring the Florida Elections Commission from the Secretary of State to the Attorney General.

Only the Senate appears to be dealing, in any substantive way, with the issue of independent expenditures. They have adopted language in their main bill to make any expenditure made through, controlled by, coordinated with, or in consultation with the national, state or county committee of a political party within the domain of the state election laws. Clearly these bills were designed in response to the 1996 election in which the RSCC spent \$726,000 on an "independent expenditure" to benefit Republican state House and Senate candidates. The House has similar independent expenditure language pending in stand-alone bills, but does not seem as serious as the Senate about the issue.

Both the House and the Senate are in conference. The Governor has indicated that he might veto any major elections reform bill that does not deal with independent expenditures.

Public Election Financing

Public financing has been under fire, especially by Republicans, since 1994, when Governor Chiles (D) took matching funds to keep up with private contributions raised by Jeb Bush (R). The Public financing law calls for various funds to be deposited into the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund and for payments to qualifying candidates to be made from this trust fund. In 1994, voters approved a sunset date for every trust fund unless such trust fund was reenacted by a super majority. Secretary of State Sandy Mortham (R) has brought suit claiming that because the trust fund no longer exists, public financing no longer exists. Chiles and Comptroller Bob Mulligan (R) argue that the trust fund was a means to an end and that public financing law is still on the books. They have noted a 1994 court decision calling for payments

to qualifying candidates be made from general revenue when the trust fund did not have enough funds to meet its obligations.

On April 1, the Leon County Circuit Court, ruled that Mortham had to keep certifying candidates and collecting money even though the Legislature had allowed the Trust to sunset. Secretary Mortham will appeal this decision to the Florida Supreme Court. Public financing is crucial to Lt. Governor Buddy MacKay's (D) chances in the 1998 gubernatorial election against Jeb Bush (R) and his fund raising machine.

There are bills pending in the legislature that would repeal public financing for statewide candidates. Obviously, if any of these bills passed, they would be met with a veto from Governor Chiles.

Tobacco.

Governor Chiles supports a 10 cent per pack increase in Florida's tax on cigarettes. The increase would generate more than \$120.9 million in its first year and bring Florida's rate to 44 cents per pack. The new cigarette tax increase, if adopted, would fund the Tobacco, Education and Child Health (TEACH) Project. Gov. Chiles has said, "you can't have a serious war on drugs without doing battle with Big Tobacco." The Governor's 1997-98 budget established the TEACH Project to encourage children to stay away from cigarettes and other drugs. Unfortunately, the prospects for the passage of this proposal look dim.

Florida is one of many states suing tobacco companies in an effort to recoup moneys paid out by the State to Medicaid providers for the costs associated with treating tobacco-related diseases. Governor Chiles is leading this fight. Currently, both parties are involved in the discovery process, which should be completed in June, 1997. The case is scheduled to go to trial in circuit court in West Palm Beach, in August, 1997.

The bigger legislative issue is the Republican's effort to repeal the anti-tobacco law that allows the state to sue cigarette makers for the public health costs caused by smoking. The Legislature voted to repeal the bill in 1995 and 1996, but the Governor was able to withstand strong challenges to override his veto in both cases. The Governor has pledged, "I intend to fight it with my last breath" which indicates that future battles will ensue between the Legislature and the Governor on this issue.

Mitchell Berger.

Mitchell Berger was nominated by Governor Chiles to the South Florida Water Management District Board. He successfully cleared the Senate Natural Resources Committee despite Republican opposition. Berger's nomination has been controversial given his role in fundraising for Democratic candidates, but it appears that he will soon receive full Senate confirmation.

TALLAHASSEE/LEON COUNTY

Approximately 225,635 people reside in Leon county, of which 73.6% are White, 24% are African American, and 2.45% are Hispanic. 84.8% of Leon County residents hold at least a high

school diploma and 37% hold a bachelors degree or more. The median household income is \$27,323. The unemployment rate in Leon County is only 2.67%.

Leon county was very supportive of President Clinton. Clinton/Gore won the county with 55% to Senator Dole's 37% and Ross Perot's 7%.

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE Fiscal Year 1997-98

Issue	General Revenue	Trust Funds	COMMENTS
<u>Department of Children and Families</u>			
Maintenance Adoption Subsidy	7,819,171	3,851,234	This issue provides \$7.8 million in General Revenue and \$3.9 million in the Federal Grants Trust Fund to cover projected deficits in the Maintenance Adoption Subsidy Program. Currently we are spending \$26.4 million on this program which provides a subsidy payment to 9,674 special needs children a year. This meets approximately 88% of the identified need of 11,000. These new resources will provide a subsidy payment to an additional 1,326 special needs children who will be placed for adoption and will meet approximately 100% of the identified need for Fiscal Year 1997-98. In addition, this issue will provide an increase in the average monthly payment from approximately \$276/mos to \$288.48/mos.
Child Care	45,275,430	3,738,604	This issue provides \$45.3 million in General Revenue and \$3.7 million in the Child Care Development Block Grant Trust Fund to expand the subsidized child care program to serve the children of working poor parents. Currently we are spending approximately \$54.5 million on this population which serves approximately 17,602 clients annually. These new resources will provide child care services to an additional 15,811 children of the working poor and will serve approximately 70 % of the current waiting list.
Competency Based Training	2,268,296	4,546,864	This issue provides \$2.3 million in General Revenue and \$4.6 million in the Federal Grants Trust Fund to implement a competency based training, assessment, classification and pay system for children and families staff. This request would provide funding to develop and implement competency based training which will include formal classroom and field assessments of children and families staff. In addition, funding is provided to implement a competency based classification and pay system which will consolidate seven classifications into three, and will provide a salary increase upon successful completion of training. These new resources are anticipated to result in the creation of a competitive career ladder within the discipline, that will attract and retain professionals who demonstrate the ability to make sound clinical decisions.
Child/Adolescent Substance Abuse		26,500,000	Children and Adolescent Substance Treatment Services - Funds will provide substance abuse assessment, detoxification services, day

**GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS
CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE
Fiscal Year 1997-98**

Issue	General Revenue	Trust Funds	COMMENTS
			treatment, group treatment, outpatient services, residential services and Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) for youth.
Children's Mental Health Services		24,600,000	Funds will purchase family centered treatment, outpatient therapy, day treatment, crisis support services, respite care, and supported educational or vocational services. Children who are adjudicated dependent along with children who are victims of domestic violence will be targeted. It has been determined that approximately 30 percent of the children receiving protective supervision services experience domestic violence as well as child abuse in their homes. Children who are victims of domestic violence experience excessive anxiety, aggression, depression and temperamental problems which make it more difficult for them to function effectively in their homes, schools and communities.
Children's Partnership Grants	4,000,000		Funds would establish a community partnership/replication grant program which would be administered by the Department of Children and Families' Health and Human Services Boards (HHSB). As envisioned, the Department would develop criteria governing the grant application and review process. The HHSB would award the grant and oversee implementation and operation of the project. The primary focus of such a program would be to enable replication of innovative projects that are supported by solid community partnerships and that have also demonstrated successful outcomes for children in other areas of the state.

**GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS
CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE
Fiscal Year 1997-98**

Issue	General Revenue	Trust Funds	COMMENTS
Department of Health			
Healthy Start Expansion & Birth Defects Registry	5,461,440		This issue provides \$5,000,000 in general revenue to expand healthy start services to an additional 9,380 pregnant women and infants ages 1-3. The program is currently serving 52,594 clients or 74% of the estimated need. Services provided include intensive outreach and case finding services, comprehensive and risk appropriate prenatal and infant care, care coordination and supportive services such as childbirth education and developmentally appropriate parenting support and education, and home visiting. The goal of Healthy Start is to reduce Florida's infant mortality and morbidity. Every \$1 invested in prenatal care saves \$3 in short term hospital care. Every low birth weight baby averted saves between \$14,000 and \$30,000 in health care costs. This issue also provides \$461,440 in general revenue and 1 FTE for the development and operation of a Statewide Birth Defects Surveillance system registry. The system will provide support for the identification, evaluation and analysis of adverse reproductive outcomes.
Voluntary Family Planning	4,000,000		This issue provides \$4,000,000 in general revenue to expand voluntary family planning services statewide. The program is currently spending \$12,057,429 and serving an estimated 204,876 clients which is approximately 34% of the existing identified need. These new resources will provide services to an additional 68,027 clients and the program would then meet 45% of need. Services provided include: physical examinations, diagnosis, treatment, contraceptive drugs, supplies and devices, lab examinations and tests, screening for STDs, and screening for breast and cervical cancer. It is estimated that for every \$1 invested in family planning, the state averts \$6.12 in public assistance costs associated with unplanned pregnancy.

**GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS
CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE
Fiscal Year 1997-98**

Issue	General Revenue	Trust Funds	COMMENTS
Alternative Services Network	3,389,628		This issue provides \$3,389,628 in general revenue for the Alternative Services Networks (ASN). Children's Medical Services (CMS) is required to provide health care to children with special health care needs using ASN as a managed care service model. This issue provides computer hardware and software to support case management and utilization review requirements and partial funding to support the non-risk bearing ASN managed care model for children with special health care needs. AHCA has applied for a waiver with HCFA to assign all Medicaid-eligible children to the ASN who meet the criteria for participation in the CMS program and other Medicaid eligible children with special health care needs. CMS will assign a MediPass provider from the network to serve as the gatekeeper and will be reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis. It is estimated that 11,634 new children will access the ASN. Funds provided will cover an estimated 5,493 of the children who become non-Medicaid eligible (primary care and chronic care) until such time as the system is fully operational.
Basic School Health	2,399,654		Basic School Health Services are available to more than 2,100,000 students in approximately 2,600 public and private schools. Current funding for Basic School Health Services is \$4,864,101 which makes services available through approximately 170 nurses statewide. The current nurse to student ratio is 1:12,000 statewide. These funds will provide an additional 83 nurses which will reduce the nurse to student ratio to 1:8,300 statewide.
Healthy Communities/ Healthy People Communication Campaign		15,002,955	The Centers for Disease Control has stated that unhealthy behaviors and environmental hazards contribute most to premature death. The Governor's Recommendation includes \$15 million and 4 FTE for the development and implementation of a statewide Healthy Communities/Healthy People educational communication campaign, and the establishment of community development projects in each county. The campaign and the community development projects will focus on the elimination of tobacco use in Florida. These funds are contingent upon legislation becoming law which increases taxes assessed on tobacco products sold in Florida.

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE Fiscal Year 1997-98

Issue	General Revenue	Trust Funds	COMMENTS
Pediatric HIV Network	500,000		Provides for the expansion of the pediatric HIV/AIDS network for CMS infants and children. Funds are requested for CMS sites in West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Lakeland, and Fort Pierce. According to the CDC, Florida ranks second in the nation for the number of children reported with AIDS. AIDS is the third leading cause of death in children age 1-5, and the fifth leading cause of death in children age 5-15. Florida had 1,652 children ages 0-20 diagnosed with AIDS as of May 1996. Fifty-one percent of these children have died, and in the areas being funded, 504 children have AIDS and are still alive.
Agency for Health Care Administration			
Coverage of Kids ages 1 thru 3 Up to 185% of Poverty	6,761,818	8,488,110	This issue provides \$6,761,818 in general revenue and \$8,488,110 in trust funds to expand Medicaid eligibility to an estimated 13,364 children ages 1 through 3 with incomes between 133% and 185% of the federal poverty level. Currently, Medicaid only provides coverage to these children with family incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level.
Healthy Kids	15,536,514		This issue provides \$15,536,514 in general revenue funds to expand the current Healthy Kids program which services school age children and their siblings as well as provides coverage to uninsured children ages 4 and 5 as part of the Governor's Children's Initiative. This expansion will provide services to an estimated 60,000 additional children to be phased in over the year in various parts of the state. This will bring the total number of children served to an estimated 107,520 children which is 14% of the estimated number of uninsured children up to age 18 in Florida.

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE Fiscal Year 1997-98

Issue	General Revenue	Trust Funds	COMMENTS
Department of Juvenile Justice			
Prevention/Diversion/ Intervention	17,827,416		This issue provides \$17.8 million for prevention, intervention and diversion initiatives in the Department of Juvenile Justice. These recommendations place a major emphasis on prevention of juvenile crime and diverting youth from the juvenile justice system by targeting high risk youth with a variety of programs. These programs help alleviate the serious and ever increasing juvenile crime problem.
Guardian Ad Litem	987,134		This recommendation provides funds for approximately 23 positions and related expenses to coordinate volunteers that represent minors in cases when no immediate family is available or when there is conflict of interest between the child and his/her guardians.
Department of Education			
Dropout Prevention	25,400,000		This issue recommends the creation of an incentive based funding program to encourage creative use of dropout prevention funding and to ensure that as many of Florida's students as possible graduate.
Safe Schools	30,600,000		The Safe Schools Program provides for a combination of after school programs, school resource officers, alternative school site programs, surveillance equipment, and other improvements which provide for a safe learning environment.
Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention		28,247,690	This issue provides \$8.3 million for school districts to provide comprehensive substance abuse prevention and intervention activities, as well as, health awareness activities focusing on the health risks associated with tobacco use. Approximately \$20 million is targeted for children in 4th thru 8th grades, to provide school-based and other substance abuse prevention and intervention services.

**GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS
CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE
Fiscal Year 1997-98**

Issue	General Revenue	Trust Funds	COMMENTS
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)	10,000,000		Home based instructional programs focus on at risk three to five year olds and stress parents as children's first teachers. These programs are geared towards helping poorly-educated parents to teach their children. The cost per family is approximately \$1,500.
Reading Recovery	4,000,000		This issue provides funding for Reading Recovery which is an early intervention program to provide one-on-one individualized instruction for first graders who need help learning to read.
Full Services Schools	1,800,000	7,000,000	Full Services Schools provide the opportunity to combine education, health services and job training in a single location. By targeting economically disadvantaged families and at risk children, the expectation is that educational levels will be raised. Resources are recommended to allow each school district to operate at least two full service schools.
TOTAL	188,026,501	121,975,457	
TOTAL ALL FUNDS		310,001,958	

Adoption Legislation

There are several bills which are traveling through the legislature, which would have a significant impact on the adoption laws. Included is a brief description of each of them and the current status.

SB 248 by Senator Burt provides that the Department of Children and Families may petition the court for the termination of parental rights when the child's parent is incarcerated during a substantial portion of the child's minority; or the child's custodial parent is incarcerated for committing a forcible felony. This bill has passed the Children, Families and Seniors Committee and is currently on the agenda to be heard in the Judiciary committee. (Similar HB 1111 by Lynn);

SB 1084 by Senator Rossin provides a waiver from postsecondary student fees for children who are adopted from the Department of Children and Families foster care system. (Similar HB 1545 by the committee on Community Colleges and Career Prep, HB 1669 by Murman);

SB 1762 by Senator Harris allows the removal of a prospective adoptee from the adoptive home before the adoption is final, if the home is found to be unsuitable. Requires that an interview with the birth parents and documentation of that interview, be part of the preliminary home study conducted before a minor is placed in a prospective adoptive home. Authorizes the filing of a petition for an adoption in the county in which an adoption intermediary is located. Requires that a petition for adoption contain a statement that the adoption will comply with the interstate compact on the placement of children, if the child was born or the adoptive couple resides out of state. (Similar HB 1257 by Sanderson);

SB 1954 by Silver prohibits delay of adoption because sibling is not placed in the same home. Allows for adoptive placement by licensed child placing agency or intermediaries only; prescribes time for judicial review of parental rights proceedings; provides that licensed child placing agencies and intermediaries have exclusive authority for adoptive placement of children committed to the department of children and families. (Identical HB 1513 by Sanderson);

HB 585 by Representative Murman allows for the continued communication/contact of adopted children with their siblings after termination of parental rights are final. (Similar SB 1212 by Rossin);

HB 881 by Representative Posey would create the Thomas C Kenastion Jr. Adoption Reform Act of 1997, and provides for the reimbursement of certain costs to adoptive parents for the support, care and love they have given to the child at a rate of \$100 per day for each day the child was in their care, and reimbursement to the department for any expenditures made on behalf of the abandoned child;

Remarks By
GOVERNOR LAWTON CHILES
1997 State of the State Address
March 4, 1997

President Jennings, Speaker Webster, members of the Supreme Court, my friend and partner, Lt. Governor Buddy MacKay, members of the Cabinet, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, my fellow Floridians:

We're blessed to be Floridians and live in this time of great opportunity for our state.

We have much to be proud of this morning: Our crime rate is down for four years in a row; our welfare reforms are taking root -- 23,000 families have left the welfare rolls since last July; and job creation and personal incomes are up.

Yes, the State of our State is strong. But, there is more work for us to do.

This Session is a historic one. For the first time, in a long time, both the House and Senate are in the control of the Republicans.

But, I'd like to remind my Republican friends that, to truly lead, you're going to need the help and experience of your Democratic colleagues. And let's remember, a Democrat still sits in the Governor's chair.

Our government power may be divided -- but our work doesn't have to be divisive. More than ever, we need each other. Our people expect us to work together.

I believe we've already proven that we can. Together we've worked to reform workers' compensation, end welfare, strengthen our economy and promote jobs.

We've taken major steps to hold criminals responsible and make them serve time for their crimes -- and we've created a new juvenile justice department.

We did these reforms not as Democrats and Republicans -- we did them as Floridians.

During this session let's continue this good bipartisan work. Let's work to promote safe neighborhoods; safeguard our environment; and protect our elders.

And let's make this the year we begin to restore the people's trust by passing meaningful election reform.

I want to discuss all these issues with you -- but not today.

Today, I want to speak with you about a journey I've been on. It started in the Florida House, where I served for eight years. Then four years in the Florida Senate.

I took a walk that led me to the U.S. Senate for 18 years.
And now for the past six years I've been proud to serve as your Governor.

I thought I was pretty darn good. I had a lot of answers -- and I proposed a lot of solutions. I knew how to play the game.

But now, 36 years later, I find I didn't even know where first base was. First base is our children. The answer to our most pressing problems begins with the child.

Every one in this chamber, together with all our business leaders, knows that if we want Florida to be a great state... if we want to maintain a high standard of living... if we want to preserve our wonderful quality of life... we must have high-skilled, high-paying jobs.

We also know for Florida to get there, we must greatly improve our education product.

But in this quest for improving education, where do we start?

Many would say first grade or kindergarten. Some would say prekindergarten.

I submit to you the evidence is now overwhelming. Education must start at gestation.

BRAIN RESEARCH

We've known intuitively that children who are loved and nurtured get along better and are smarter.

But now, with a revolution in brain research, we can observe the day-to-day growth of the brain.

We're learning about the tremendous explosion in brain development that occurs from ages 0 to 3. The facts are very compelling.

While a child is growing in its mother's womb, its brain adds 250,000 neurons per minute.

At birth, a baby's brain contains 100 billion neurons -- about the same number of nerve cells as there are stars in the Milky Way.

From birth to age 1, the number of brain connections mushrooms from about 50-trillion to 1,000-trillion.

This vast number of connections helps ensure the child can adapt to any environment. The connections that aren't stimulated -- through voices, sight, touch and other nurturing -- will eventually die off.

The more words a child hears by the age of two, the larger that child's vocabulary will be.

A three-year-old exposed to music every day has a head start in developing problem solving skills that later become complex math and engineering skills.

This phenomenal growth continues through age 3. These connections are the critical foundation for a child's future learning.

By age 10, the majority of the brain's building process has taken place. Once this window of opportunity closes you have to play catch up -- and the cost of that is very high.

These discoveries should inspire us to change the way we develop public policy -- from child care, education and welfare reform through criminal justice.

This morning, the United Way of Florida and I had a packet of information on this revolutionary research delivered to your offices.

Read this information. You will find that it's not just the scientists, it's not just the children's advocates, and it's not just Lawton Chiles.

I'm including the report of the Committee of Economic Development -- a group of America's top C-E-Os. The top business leaders of this country are beginning to understand how this research can impact their bottom lines.

This is not social "do goodism." This is bottom line common sense. This brain research can help us get way ahead of our greatest problems.

As Florida's leaders, you owe it to yourselves -- and to your constituents -- to learn as much as you can about this research because the implications are so dramatic.

Science is lighting a new path that shows how nurturing our children can begin to change the destructive cycle so many of our people are on. Let's follow that path.

PROMOTING FAMILIES

A child is the most wonderful gift in the world. We know successful children start with good parents.

Parenting can be a very tough job. And, parents need all the help they can get.

For today's parents, Grandma is a thousand miles away and the neighbors are at work. The support system that we grew up with is not there.

Government doesn't raise children -- parents do. The state has a role, but the state can't be a parent.

The state CAN invest in community-driven programs to help.

If we want kids to be ready to achieve when they start school, then we must ensure all kids are loved and nurtured before they turn five. Whether they stay at home or are in child care.

We can do this by promoting quality child care, fully funding prekindergarten and supporting parents in their role as a child's first teacher.

There are some wonderful models working in our state where communities have partnered with the private sector and are doing great things for our kids.

Let's work to replicate them and challenge our business community to play an even greater role and support parents in raising healthy children.

We need more good ideas from the private sector like Take Stock in Children. More businesses need to follow the lead of firms like Honeywell and Barnett Banks who have made a commitment to support their workforce with parent education and child care assistance.

QUALITY CHILD CARE

Babies who aren't nurtured, stimulated and loved, develop brains 20 to 30 percent smaller than normal.

On the other hand, studies show you can raise a child's I-Q 20 points by exposing them to an enriching environment.

Just think of the implications this has for our welfare reform effort.

We know adequate child care is critical to making welfare reform work. That's why I'm asking to use WAGES savings to provide child care for those transitioning off welfare.

Yet, if we are going to require a mother transitioning off welfare to put her three-month-old in child care, we have to ensure that setting is a good place for that child to be.

It can't be CUSTODIAL day care -- it must be QUALITY child care.

But, while we promote child care for WAGES participants, we also must help workers on the welfare margins.

We shouldn't punish people who stay off welfare by working hard and struggling to make ends meet. We know that, for these families, affordable quality child care is an oxymoron. Quality child care is expensive.

For an office assistant earning minimum wage, with two children, child care can eat up most of that working mom's paycheck.

If we want to make work pay, let's fund our subsidized child care waiting list. That's the best way to keep people off welfare.

TEEN PARENTS

As a country and as a state, we are deeply divided on the question of abortion... whether it should be permitted at all... and if so, when it should be allowed and under what circumstances.

But, we do not have to be divided on the issue of teen pregnancy. One third of teen pregnancies end in abortion.

We know children born to teens are more likely to live in poverty, to be raised by a single parent and are more likely to become teen parents themselves.

The federal government is challenging the states to reduce teen pregnancy without increasing abortion. And they're offering the carrot of \$20 million to the first five states who make the greatest progress.

Work with me to develop a strategy to accomplish this goal.

This is the kind of challenge that both Democrats and Republicans ought to be able to take up.

PROMOTING ADOPTION

We've also worked hard to promote adoption in Florida. I'm proud that we've found homes for nearly 1,600 kids last year. That's an 80 percent jump over 1990.

We established an internet home page and it's been a very popular site. Since July, we've had 12,000 hits on our web site. I'm pleased to tell you that we're about to have our first adoption off of the home page.

Angelo and Marion Figueroa, of Fort White, were interested in adoption and found a four-year-old child named Nate on our home page. It was love at first sight.

Nate has been placed with the Figueras since January and the adoption should soon be finalized. We need to help more people like Angelo and Marion Figueroa adopt Florida children.

Let's fund the adoption subsidy that helps families provide a loving home for a child who has been abused, neglected or abandoned.

PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE

Science is finding that violent experiences in early childhood can lead to brain dysfunction.

That's why we must ensure our children grow up in nurturing homes free from violence and abuse.

There is a cycle of abuse that grips too many families -- with the abused becoming the abuser. We must end that cycle.

Often, where there is domestic violence, there is child abuse. Even when domestic violence is only witnessed by a child -- that is child abuse just the same.

Thank you for helping place Florida in the forefront of preventing family violence. Our good work has led to a higher awareness of domestic and sexual violence -- and it's helping to prevent child abuse.

However, last year, 91 Florida children died from child abuse.

The facts on these cases are heart-wrenching. But, their stories are real -- and they're repeated time and time again.

Bradley McGee, Lucas Clambrone and more recently Kendia Lockhart. With each of these high profile cases, we ask "Why? How could this happen?"

The names change, the answers stay the same.

We must strengthen the corps of people working in our communities to keep our children safe and sound.

I recently had the opportunity to shadow a few of our child protective services workers for part of their day. It was an eye-opening experience.

I encourage you to take some time and go out with these workers. See where they have to go and what they are dealing with.

You'll find that they are not the Gestapo -- they're closer to guardian angels.

Go see for yourself. They are overworked and don't get the support they need.

We need to invest in these workers and pass a training and pay plan that rewards competency. This will help us retain the best workers in this most critical job and help them make the smart decisions we demand they make.

STRENGTHENING EDUCATION

Education is the primary children's issue that we'll address during this session.

We all have our individual lists of what SHOULD be done to improve our schools. Perhaps we could focus on a short list of what MUST be done.

I think we would all agree that we must:

- increase school standards;
- reduce crowded schools; and
- make schools a safe place for our kids.

PROMOTING HIGHER STANDARDS

We need to start by challenging every parent to have their children reading by the end of the first grade.

We can help by providing one-on-one instruction for first graders who need help learning to read. Let's do this. We can't afford to leave any child behind.

We've all seen the studies that show only 54 percent of students have the math, reading and writing skills to succeed in college. We know that, more than ever, students need higher skills to succeed in the workplace.

That means we must expect more of them throughout their school days.

How long will we pay \$57 million per year to remediate students at the community college level who don't have adequate reading, writing and math skills?

How long will we pay \$126 million for drop out prevention programs?

Florida is ahead of the nation on setting standards. Our efforts in math are already receiving national attention. We can do better.

- Kids ought to be able to read, write and do math at their grade level. Those who don't should receive the help they need.
- Our children ought to have critical thinking skills, and ought to be able to apply that knowledge in their studies -- and in their lives.
- And every high school graduate in Florida should know and understand basic Algebra.

If you send me a clean bill to raise school standards, I will sign it. Let's make that the first piece of business this session.

ENDING SCHOOL OVERCROWDING

Last year, after I returned from the National Education Summit, I asked Lt. Governor MacKay and Dr. Jack Critchfield, C-E-O of Florida Progress Corporation to lead a Governor's Commission on Education.

This two-year citizen's panel is made up of some of the state's top leaders. Its first recommendation is that we take immediate action to end overcrowding in our schools.

You'll recall, this isn't the first time Florida's faced an overcrowding problem. Less than four years ago, we faced an overcrowding problem in our prisons. The need was so urgent that I called you back in a special session to address it.

We made room for CRIMINALS in our PRISONS. Now, I challenge you to make room for CHILDREN in our SCHOOLS.

I understand the concerns that many of you have when you say waste helped put our schools in this hole. But, I don't think our schools wasted \$3 billion.

We must take action. Standing room only classrooms are a roadblock to our children's education.

Let's adopt the Education Commission's recommendation. Let's EXPAND the gross receipts tax as a tool to SHRINK class sizes in our state. Let this be the session where the districts get every tool they need to end school overcrowding.

PROMOTING SAFE SCHOOLS

Our schools also must be "safe zones" for our children to learn. Recently, I attended a town meeting on school safety in West Palm Beach.

At that meeting, I heard from the mother of Johnpierre Kamel. Her 14-year-old son was shot to death recently during a school yard argument over a watch. She gave moving testimony on why we must stop the violence.

I was impressed that this mother, who just lost her son, spoke with love -- and not vengeance -- in her heart.

Whether it's fists or firearms, this tragedy illustrates why we must expand our safe schools program. We must provide a secure place for teachers to teach and children to learn.

OPENING THE DOOR TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher standards; smaller classrooms and safe schools are the basics when it comes to helping our kids learn. But, our economy demands that we also must provide a quality higher education for our children.

I trust we will move forward and increase college tuition. This will continue our goal to create a world-class university system.

Last year, the Legislature took a great step to restore the Lottery's promise. I want to thank you for creating the Lottery Scholarship program. But, there was a slight oversight.

There were no dollars provided for the program. I've taken care of that in my budget. I know you will, too.

With the higher college tuition though, we must ensure we don't price out our neediest students.

It's important to reward educational achievement but, we need to look at all our financial assistance programs -- including the lottery scholarship -- to provide more for needy students.

FIGHTING TOBACCO

As we are talking about how to promote our children's education, we must ensure that they learn about being healthy.

Every year, 40,000 of our Florida kids start smoking. That's the equivalent of three classrooms full of kids that start smoking every day. One-third of those children will die from a smoking-related injury. Why is this happening?

*"Tobacco is a 'highly... effective and cheap drug'
and cigarettes are 'a 'drug' administration system.'"*

That's not me talking. That's a quote from a memo written by a researcher for British American Tobacco Industries -- the parent company of Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation.

That, and a number of other "secret" documents are coming to light from our lawsuit and others around the nation.

They're showing that the tobacco cartel has known for a very long time how addictive its products are.

Last year, tobacco became the leading cause of death in our state -- killing more Floridians than murders, car crashes, suicides, AIDS and fires combined.

And cigarettes have served as a gateway to illicit drugs for too many of our children. A study of Florida teens who smoke or use other tobacco products show they are:

- three times more likely to drink alcohol;
- six times more likely to use marijuana; and
- eight times more likely to use cocaine.

We know there are ways to protect our kids from tobacco. California has shown the way by implementing a comprehensive tobacco education program. That program has helped decrease smoking in the state by 40 percent.

I've proposed a 10-cent hike in the cigarette tax to help educate our kids about tobacco. If we could decrease smoking in this state by 40 percent, we would realize tremendous savings. Please join me in protecting our kids from tobacco.

MAKING INVESTMENT ON THE FRONT END

Can we afford to experiment with these front-end investments? Our experience demonstrates that these front-end investments save dollars.

Six years ago we made a commitment to prenatal care and established Healthy Start.

We've brought infant mortality down by 23 percent to well below the national average. And we've saved at least 1,500 lives because of our investment in prenatal care.

More than that -- we have thousands of kids born healthy at full-term. The savings from this are great.

I had the pleasure of being escorted to the chamber this morning by some of the children whose futures are brighter because of our smart investment that we started five years ago.

We need to expand this ground breaking effort to help even more of our children.

Since 1990, through community partnerships with Kiwanis of Florida, Healthy Start and the Department of Health, we've increased immunization levels among two-year-olds by 21 percent.

Now, more than 80 percent of our two-year olds are immunized.

For every dollar we spend to immunize our child from measles, mumps and rubella we save more than \$14 in health care costs.

More than that, we don't have to worry about a massive outbreak of these preventable childhood diseases anymore.

To improve education, we also must ensure our kids are healthy when they get to school. We know a sick child can't learn. That's why I'm asking you to help us expand the Healthy Kids program.

We've reduced emergency room visits by up to 70 percent in Healthy Kids counties. School attendance and grades are up among children participating in the program.

We currently serve nearly 30,000 children in 16 counties. Let's boost the program and triple the number of kids in the program and expand it to 12 more counties this year.

Does your county have a Healthy Kids program? If it doesn't, maybe this is the session you need to ask "Why Not?"

We've seen our front-end programs that bear tremendous fruit. But, it's the back end programs that are gnawing away at our budget year after year.

Over the past six years, funding for prisons has grown by two-thirds and juvenile justice funding has jumped by half. We've taken the necessary steps to keep criminals locked up for at least 85 percent of their sentences. There are no waiting lists for admission to our prison system.

We do have a waiting list for prekindergarten -- and there are 13,000 children on it.

We do have a waiting list for women who need Healthy Start -- there are 30,000 mothers on it.

We do have a waiting list for child care so parents can go to work -- there are more than 30,000 children on it.

When you look at the budget, you see we've got it backwards. For every dollar Florida spends on prevention services for kids, we spend \$2.50 directly on prisons, juvenile justice and other back end items.

It's not an either or. We can't stop the back end programs. They deal with the results of our neglect. But, do we want to do something that will reduce the percentage of our budget that goes to these programs?

Let's take a hard look at the way we develop our budget. And let's ensure our kids have a seat at the table when conference committee time comes around.

I know many of you sincerely believe that we can't afford to pay for these things. But, none of us said we can't afford to make felons serve longer sentences.

We don't say we can't afford to build the level 8 and 10 beds to take dangerous juveniles off the street.

We had to do that. I submit we can't afford not to fund these front-end programs for our kids. It's pay now or pay more later. And we are paying more later. Too much more.

STATE OF THE STATE: STATE OF OUR CHILDREN

As Governor, it is my privilege to be able to address the Legislature each year and discuss the state's most important issues. Although this is called the "State of the State" I think the real question is: What is the state of our children?

Today the answer is poor. But, the answer for the future lies in the action you take during this session.

500 kids are born in Florida every day. So, 30,000 will be born during this Legislative Session.

How they fare will answer the questions of whether we will have that higher-skilled, higher-paid workforce... or a mediocre state rife with problems and unhappy people.

My journey has made a big circle. It has brought me back to the beginning. All my years, all my gray hair, all my failures and successes tell me children is where it's at.

My message is simple: To be a successful state, we must nurture successful children. And that begins at gestation.

Today, the game begins.

Let's not forget first base.

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Chiles' message: Help our children

By DIANE RADO
Times Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Like an old warrior taking a last stand, Democratic Gov. Lawton Chiles faced Florida's first Republican Legislature of this century on Tuesday and delivered an unpopular message.

He asked fiscal conservatives to raise taxes for the good of children.

He told tough-on-crime lawmakers to devote more money to classrooms than prison cells.

He urged legislators who want to strip power from Florida's child-protection system to instead reward workers who battle child abuse.

"They're not the Gestapo — they're closer to guardian angels," Chiles said in a State of the State Address that put the spotlight on Florida's children as the Legislature convened for its annual two-month session.

"All my years, all my gray hair, all my failures and some successes tell me today, children is where it's at," said the 66-year-old Chiles, who is nearing the end of nearly 40 years in public office.

"My message is simple: To be a successful state, we have to nurture successful children."

But nothing is simple anymore.

Democrats accustomed to calling the legislative shots are now in the minority. Republicans began their first session in power Tuesday, vowing to improve public education, create jobs and create a more open and understandable legislative process.

Republicans were quick to criticize Chiles.

"If he wants to get from first base to second base by using taxes, we'll pick him off stealing. On so many issues he's in leftfield," said House Majority Leader Jim King, R-Jacksonville.

Democrats praised the governor for holding his ground even as the political landscape has changed.

"You have a gallant old war horse who's coming out and looking at the whole battlefield," said Senate Democratic leader Ken Jenne of Fort Lauderdale. "I feel a little coolness from the Republicans, but I'll tell you, I don't think there's a coolness out there on Main Street."

The next 60 days will be a test for Republicans, who are under pressure to keep spending in line as they tackle problems such as improving public schools and creating jobs for people coming off welfare.

Despite all that is new, Tuesday also was a day for tradition. Dogwood trees bloomed outside and flowers decorated lawmakers' desks in House and Senate chambers. Pictures were taken, family and friends gathered, and lobbyists roamed the halls.

It also was a day of controversy. Christian, anti-abortion prayers recited at the start of the day offended some lawmakers and reopened old wounds about legislative prayers.

But the most poignant part of the day came when Chiles reflected on a career that took him from the state House and Senate to the U.S. Senate and finally to the Governor's Mansion.

"I thought I was pretty darn good. I knew a lot of answers — and I worked on a lot of solutions. I thought I knew how to play the game. But now, 36 years later, I find I didn't even know where first base was. First base is our children. The answer to all our pressing problems begins with the child."

He noted that "Government doesn't, raise children — parents do," stirring applause.

(MAR 05 1987)

ST. PETERSBURG

However, the state still has a role to play by investing in programs that help children, Chiles said.

He urged lawmakers to put money into subsidized child care for struggling families; adoption programs that find homes for abused and neglected children; and prekindergarten programs to help children before they enter school.

He asked them to approve his proposal for a 10-cent a pack increase in the cigarette tax for programs that educate kids about the dangers of tobacco and drugs.

Then he put lawmakers on the spot about the overcrowding problem in Florida's public schools.

When prisons were overcrowded, Chiles reminded lawmakers, he called a special session.

"We made room for criminals in our prisons. Now, I challenge you, if we can make room for criminals, we can make room for kids in our schools."

The solution: Raise more money for building schools by expanding a utilities tax used for school construction — a recommendation from top business leaders on the Governor's Commission on Education. The current 2.5-percent tax is charged on gross receipts of electric, natural and manufactured gas, and telecommunication services. The proposed tax would be applied to water, sewer, cable and solid waste, and cost the average household about \$24 a year when it is implemented.

The House has already ruled out such a tax. But Senate President Toni Jennings has left the door open, even referring to the tax proposal in a speech to the Senate on Tuesday that focused largely on education.

"Let's not rule out anything," she said. "But let us make a commitment that we will first live within our means before we go anywhere else."

"I — like so many other Floridians, probably many in this room, am more than willing to spend \$24 a year on school construction if that extra revenue actually assures students will learn," Jennings said. "But I'm not willing to spend \$24, or \$5 or even a nickel more on a system that is not held accountable."

Chiles said he understands those concerns, but he doesn't think there has been widespread waste in school districts.

And he reminded his listeners that he holds the veto pen.

"There's still an old Democrat that sits in the governor's chair."

— Staff writers Lucy Morgan, Julie Hauserman, T. Christian Miller and Peter Wallsten contributed to this report.

Chiles speech excerpts

On Republicans

"To truly lead, you're going to need the help and experience of our Democratic colleagues. And I'd also like to remind you there's an old Democrat that sits there in the governor's chair."

On education

"If we want Florida to be a great state, if we want to maintain a high standard of living . . . we must have high-skilled, high-paying jobs."

"To get there, we must greatly improve our education product. Education must start at gestation."

"We know that, more than ever, students need higher skills to succeed in the workplace. That means we have to expect more of them throughout their school days."

On smoking

"Every year, 40,000 of our Florida kids start smoking. One of three of those children will die from a smoking-related injury. Why?"

"Last year, tobacco became the leading cause of death in Florida. And cigarettes have served as a gateway to illicit drugs for too many of our children."

"We know there are ways to protect our kids from tobacco. I've proposed a 10-cents tax on cigarettes to educate children about tobacco. Join me in protecting our kids from tobacco."

On healthy kids

"To improve education, we also have to ensure our kids are healthy when they get to school. We know a sick child can't learn. That's why I'm asking you to expand the Healthy Kids program. Let's boost the program and triple the number of kids in the program and expand it to 12 more counties this year."

"I know many of you sincerely believe that we can't afford to pay for these things. None of us said we can't afford to make felons serve more time. We had to do that. I submit we can't afford not to fund these front-end programs for our kids. It's pay now or pay more later. And we are paying much more later."

On brain research

"While a child is growing in its mother's womb, its brain adds 250,000 neurons per minute. At birth, a baby's brain contains 100-million neurons. From birth to age 1, the number of brain connections mushrooms to 1,000-trillion."

"These discoveries should inspire us to change the way we develop public policy. This is not social 'do goodism.' This is bottom line common sense. This brain research can help us get way ahead of our greatest problems."

On families and child care

"We know adequate child care is critical to making welfare reform work. That's why I'm asking to use wages savings to provide child care for those transitioning off welfare. If we want to make work pay, let's fund our subsidized child care waiting list. That's the best way to keep people off welfare."

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Chiles urges help for kids

SUMMARY: Gov. Lawton Chiles speaks at length about enhancing children's programs. The question now: Will Republicans bite?

By DAVID COX
of The Tampa Tribune

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Lawton Chiles called on state lawmakers to show as much commitment to Florida's children this year as they did to keeping criminals behind bars.

The governor devoted nearly all of his State of the State speech to trying to rally support for a litany of ways to improve children's education, health and social programs.

He reminded lawmakers that when the state was releasing thousands of prisoners early two years ago because of prison overcrowding, they found money for a massive prison expansion program and money to make sentencing laws tougher.

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'97**

► Who will pay for new schools?
Florida Metro, Page 4

our schools."

State spending on prison programs has grown two-thirds over six years and juvenile justice spending has grown by a half, Chiles said. In the meantime, there are lengthy waiting lists for poor children to get into pre-kindergarten, for pregnant women who need prenatal care and for working parents who need child care.

"Although this [address] is called the 'State of the State,' I think the real question is: What is the state of our children? Today, it's poor."

While lawmakers seemed moved by the speech, Chiles will find resistance from the Republican-controlled Legislature over his proposals to raise taxes on cigarette smokers

What he said

Here are some of the highlights from Gov. Lawton Chiles' speech.

■ **On strengthening education:** Chiles asked lawmakers to increase standards high school students must meet to graduate; extend a utilities tax to water, sewer, cable and solid waste services to pay for school construction; and improve school safety. He challenged parents to make sure their children can read before they leave the first grade.

■ **On fighting tobacco:** Calling tobacco "a gateway to illicit drugs," Chiles asked lawmakers to increase taxes on a pack of cigarettes by 10 cents to pay for a tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse prevention program aimed at children.

■ **On university tuition:** Chiles asked for an 8 percent increase in tuition rates for most college students.

■ **On preventing child abuse:** Chiles asked lawmakers to spend a day with child abuse case workers to see whether they are overworked and under recognized. "You'll find that they are not the Gestapo — they're closer to being guardian angels," he said. He also wants a subsidy for families who adopt abused or neglected children.

■ **On child care for the working poor:** Lawmakers should take the savings from last year's welfare reform law to subsidize child care for more working parents.

and some utilities to achieve some of his goals.

"We agree with his problems, but we don't agree with the solution he has come up with as far as taxes," said House GOP leader Jim King of Jacksonville.

Chiles said he has heard concerns like that before.

"I know that many of you sincerely believe that we can't afford to pay for these things," Chiles said. "...I submit we can't afford not to fund these front-end programs

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RECEIVED

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CHILES/State of State speech urges help for children

◀ From Page 1

for our kids. It's pay now or pay more later."

House Speaker Daniel Webster, R-Orlando, repeated his position that the House is not open for tax increases, even though he supports Chiles' emphasis on strengthening families.

Senate President Toni Jennings, R-Orlando, who has worked with Chiles on reforming workers' compensation and welfare, sounded more conciliatory. But she said government waste must be addressed before tax increases.

"I, like a lot of Floridians, am willing to give \$24 more a year if that improves education in Florida. But I'm not willing to give another nickel to a program that's not accountable," Jennings said.

Chiles asked for bipartisan cooperation with the Legislature, but reminded the lawmakers that every bill they pass goes through his desk to become law.

"Let's remember, there's still an old Democrat that sits in the governor's chair," he said.

SOME REPUBLICANS complained the speech only stressed expanding government programs instead of reducing them, which has been a GOP theme for years. Chiles told lawmakers he wants to talk about strengthening the economy, promoting jobs and other GOP priorities, but that would wait for another day.

Tuesday, he said, was devoted to Florida's children.

"There was absolutely nothing in there about economic development. It was all about expanding the role of government," said Sen. John Grant, R-Tampa. "I applaud his concern for children and for education, but the best way to pay for that is by having a robust economy."

Grant's sentiments were echoed by other Republicans.

"He spent 45 minutes discussing about a billion dollars in expansion of social welfare programs, that's all

“ It [Chiles' speech] was all about expanding the role of government. ”

Sen. John Grant
Republican from Tampa

I heard," said Rep. George Albright, R-Ocala.

Democrats said the speech was right on target.

Sen. Rick Dantzler, D-Winter Haven, who may run for governor next year, found especially poignant the parts about scientific discoveries that children's brain activity is stimulated when they are raised in a nurturing household.

"That's not politics, that's physiology, and how could any one contest that message of physiology," Dantzler said.

Rep. Les Miller, D-Tampa, said lawmakers should at least listen to the governor's tax proposals.

"We did the prison thing. Now we've got to look at putting that money up front. If we don't, then we'll be right back here for another prison session," Miller said.

Chiles has proposed hiking taxes on a pack of cigarettes by 10 cents to pay for a \$94 million campaign to keep children from abusing tobacco, alcohol and drugs. He called tobacco "a gateway to illicit drugs," saying children who smoke are much more likely drink alcohol and use illegal

“ I ... am willing to give \$24 more a year if that improves education in Florida. But I'm not willing to give ... to a program that's not accountable. ”

Toni Jennings
Senate president

drugs.

He also wants to extend the 2.5 percent gross receipts tax on electricity, gas and telecommunications services to water, sewer, cable and sewer services. The tax would put an additional \$1.3 billion into the school construction fund over the next five years.

Without the increase, schools are facing a \$3.3 billion deficit in construction money over the next five years.

Chiles stressed several accomplishments during his last six years in office:

■ Increased prenatal care for poor mothers has reduced infant mortality below the national average.

■ Increased emphasis on children's immunizations led to more than 80 percent of all children having their recommended shots by 2 years of age.

■ The governor's Health Kids health care program now serves 30,000 children in 16 counties. Chiles wants to expand the program to 12 more counties.

Chiles told lawmakers to send him a bill increasing standards for high school students to graduate and he'll sign it. He vetoed a measure containing the stronger standards last year because it contained a controversial provision allowing student-led prayer at after-school events.

JENNINGS PREDICTED that would be the first bill lawmakers send to Chiles' desk this year.

That pleased Education Commissioner Frank Brogan, but he hopes lawmakers don't stop there with education reform.

"I heard nothing, however, regarding merit pay for teachers, tenure reform and the training that has to go on (for teachers)," Brogan said. "... All in all, we're very excited about the fact that this is really going to be the year for education."

Staff writers Rob Chespek and Gady A. Epstein contributed to this report.

X

Gov. Chiles: A kid's best friend

Gov. Chiles State of the State address was nibbled to death by sound bites — his own and others' — within 24 hours last week. That's a pity. It deserved better.

Lawton Chiles always delivers speeches as if they were loads of coal. And he had made this point before. In his other State of the State addresses, to name six times.



**Tom
Blackburn**

The point: Children who get a good start don't come to a bad end. Letting unhealthy children go to unsafe schools wastes money, as well as lives; it costs less to help mothers bring healthy babies into this world

and to make schools safe than it does to treat chronic illness and imprison felons.

So he said it again, and got headlines on the order of "governor sticks up for kids." Accurate but hardly inspirational.

And lawmakers on the other side seized upon one line in the speech, "Government doesn't raise children, parents do." In several variants, the reaction that made local TV news shows around the state was: "He says that, and then he lists a bunch of government programs to raise children."

Clever. But the clever lawmakers must not have paid attention. Before the line they quoted, Gov. Chiles said:

"Parents need all the help they can get.

'But now . . . I find I didn't know where first base was. First base is our children,' he said.

For today's parents, Grandma is a thousand miles away and neighbors are at work. The support system that we grew up with is simply not there."

That missing support system is why he thinks government has to jump in, as it never did before, to help parents with prenatal care, pre-kindergarten and health insurance for kids. It wasn't double talk.

If any clever sound-biter had a better idea, the news reporters missed it.

Yes, government programs can be expensive, but not as expensive as hospitalization and prison. "Front-end programs," like immunizations, head off the "back-end programs that are gnawing away at our budget year after year."

In his speech, Gov. Chiles mentioned that "affordable, quality child care is really an oxymoron to . . . working people." Care is something else that Grandma is too far away to provide and that the market hasn't been able to produce in quantity.

Precisely since 1973, more couples each year have gone to two jobs to keep up. Many lawmakers have working spouses but don't need the second income, which is all the more reason they should be careful

about telling families who do need two incomes to just go out and find child care.

Lawton Chiles will be 67 on April 3. He has been prominent for four decades. He can't run for governor in 1998 and isn't running for anything else.

So why is he a common scold, a stuck record, an Ancient Mariner on the subject of children? He explained what he called "a journey" this way:

"It started here in this House, where I served eight years. I went down the hall and served four years in the Senate. I took a little walk that led me to the U.S. Senate, where I spent 18 years. And now for the past six years, I have been proud to serve as Florida's governor.

"I thought I was pretty darn good. I knew a lot of answers. I had worked on a lot of solutions. I thought I knew how to play the game. But now, 36 years later, I find I didn't know where first base was. First base is our children. The answer to all of our pressing problems begins with the child."

If "the child" summarizes the accumulated wisdom of a politician who has been where many of them only wish they could go, it would pay lawmakers to listen.

If Gov. Chiles, a grandfather, keeps pounding away on an issue that will get him nowhere personally while he is not planning to go anywhere politically, what he says deserves to be more than a sound bite.

Tom Blackburn is an editorial writer for The Palm Beach Post.

GOVERNOR CHILES

ORLANDO SENTINEL

Chiles: Put kids ahead of politics

Governor challenges GOP Legislature

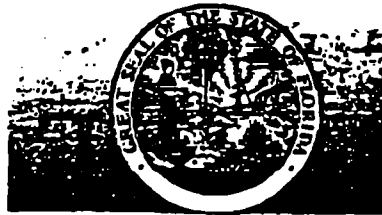
By Michael Griffin

TALLAHASSEE BUREAU CHIEF

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Lawton Chiles faced his worst nightmare head-on Tuesday, when he challenged Florida's first Republican Legislature in 122 years to put the state's children ahead of party loyalty and partisan politics.

In a State of the State address heavy on lofty aspirations and light on firm proposals, Chiles promised to work with the Legislature as best he could.

The Democratic governor incurred the wrath of Republicans last year when he said a GOP Legislature would be his worst nightmare.



Full coverage: A-16

Tuesday he drew loud laughs when he spoke of the new political reality.

"This did happen one other time, but it took federal troops to bring it about," Chiles told senators, House members, Cabinet officers and Supreme Court justices gathered in the state Capitol.

Florida's Legislature is the first in the Deep South to go Republican since Reconstruction. Republicans control the Senate with a 23-17 majority and the House with a 61-59 advantage. The gains made in November's elections helped propel Orlando lawmakers Sen. Toni Jennings and Rep. Daniel Webster to the top leadership posts.

With the humor, though, Chiles offered Senate President Jennings and House Speaker Webster a warning: Democrats may be in the minority, but they still have some clout, including the power to veto legislation.

Please see CHILES, A-16

MAR 05 1997

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Governor calls for 2 new state taxes

CHILES from A-1

"To truly lead, you're going to need the help and experience of our Democratic colleagues," Chiles said as he launched the 60-day legislative session. "I'd also like to remind you there's an old Democrat that sits there in the governor's chair."

And it was the old Lawton Chiles that surfaced Tuesday.

In recent years, as the Senate went Republican and the House became more conservative, Chiles moderated his rhetoric and scaled back his budget proposals.

While this year's \$42 billion budget is packed with tax breaks and cuts, Republicans love, Chiles focused his speech almost entirely on the last great crusade of his 36-year political career — improving the lives of Florida's children.

Lawmakers struggling to reform Florida's schools also should consider the fate of Florida's youngest children, Chiles said. He pointed to new scientific evidence that the brain develops most rapidly from conception up to age 3.

"We must greatly improve our education product, but in that quest for improving education where do we start?" Chiles asked. "The evidence is now overwhelming. Education must start at gestation."

Chiles urged improved funding of his Healthy Start program, which provides neonatal care for poor mothers. He lauded his administration's efforts to provide better medical care for the youngest and poorest of Florida's children. And he called on the Legislature to spend more money on pre-kindergarten programs, in an effort to reduce the waiting list, which includes 13,000 children.

All these initiatives, Chiles said, would save Florida money by ensuring children do better in school, that they are less likely to get pregnant, and that they are less likely to commit crimes.

"This is not social do-goodism," Chiles said. "This is bottom-line common sense."

Of the few real proposals Chiles offered Tuesday, most dealt with the need to improve Florida's schools.

In proposing tougher standards for public school students, Chiles said all children should be reading by the end of the first grade and that every high school graduate should understand algebra.

Chiles said remedial programs

Reaction to Chiles

What Chiles said

On the need to provide a nurturing environment for children:

"Babies who aren't nurtured, stimulated and loved develop brains 20 (percent) to 30 percent smaller than normal. On the other hand, studies show you can raise a child's IQ by 20 points by exposing them to an enriching environment."

On the need to increase state funding for low-cost day care:

"For an office assistant earning minimum wage, with two children, child care can eat up that mom's paycheck. If we want to make work pay, let's fund our subsidized child-care waiting list. That's the way to keep people off welfare."

On the need to support state child-welfare workers who investigate alleged abuse:

"We must strengthen the corps of people working in our communities to keep our children safe and sound ... they are not the Gestapo, they're closer to guardian angels."

How legislators reacted

"It was a good speech, nothing surprising. He's reaching out to us in the spirit of inclusiveness and we're willing to work with him."

— Senate President Tom Jennings, R-Orlando

"Taxes, that's what he wants to do. We fundamentally agree that

government has enough money. ... There's not going to be any new taxes."

— House Speaker Daniel Webster, R-Orlando

"It's the gallant old warrior putting the Legislature on the spot where it ought to be."

— Senate Minority Leader Ken Janssen, D-Fort Lauderdale

"It sounds like it was written by someone in the Socialist Workers Party."

— Sen. John Oszkiewicz, R-Orlando

"It's going to have to be done within our existing resources. And the mood needs to be that with available money we can do things that benefit the children of the state."

— Rep. Bob Sindler, D-Apopka

"We don't want to hurt people at the expense of helping others. I think he's on the right track, but I don't think we'll see any tax increases."

— Rep. Bob Starks,

R-Casselberry

"The governor is definitely on target. It's an honor to have him as our governor and hear his message because he's right. We have a lot of the same goals, but how we want to get there is different."

— Rep. Earl Ziebarth, R-DeLand

should be available to anyone who is unable to read, write or do math at an appropriate grade level. Similar proposals last session were vetoed by Chiles because lawmakers had included a school-prayer bill in the package.

"You send me a clean bill to raise school standards, and I'll sign it," he said. "Let's make it the first business this session."

Chiles also called for two new taxes — and both ideas were met with skepticism by Republicans.

One would extend the state's gross receipts tax from electricity, water and telephone utilities to cable television services.

The tax would raise an estimated \$1 billion during a five-year period if the state bonded the proceeds. The tax, to be used to build more schools and ease classroom crowding, would cost the average Floridian about \$24 a year.

Jennings, though, said serious

reforms must be made before she would support such a tax. In her opening day speech, delivered before the governor's address, Jennings said such reforms must include an end to teacher tenure, real merit pay and tougher graduation standards.

"I am not willing to spend \$24 or \$5 or even another nickel simply to throw money at a problem where no one is held accountable," Jennings said.

Chiles also wants legislators to levy a 10-cent-a-pack tax on cigarettes. The \$120 million a year it would raise would help pay for an anti-tobacco education effort to keep kids off cigarettes.

Webster, though, declared the tobacco tax dead on arrival.

"Today, right now, if we took a vote, it would not pass," Webster said after Chiles' speech. "Taxes are not part of the plan. They are not part of the agenda."

AP/WIDEWORLD

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They're with Chiles on children, but not taxes

The governor's call for more money for children gets the cold shoulder as the Legislature opens.

By Bill Cottrell
DEMOCRAT CAPITOL BUREAU CHIEF

House Speaker Daniel Webster slammed down his heavy gavel with proper solemnity to formally convene the 1997 Florida legislative session Tuesday morning. He then flashed a grin like a kid with a new toy and made a thumbsup motion.

Webster and Senate President Toni Jennings, the two Orlando Republicans who will run Florida's first GOP-dominated Legislature in 12 years, warmly welcomed Gov. Lawton Chiles to the flower-bedecked chamber for his annual State of the State speech.

But they gave a chilly reception to the two tax proposals he mentioned, and even Democrats greeted the governor's spending plans with dutiful, tepid applause during the televised speech.

Chiles' attempt to pitch children's programs as a conservative "front end" approach to heading off crime, unemployment and disease was a far cry from the billion-dollar tax-reform plans he futilely pleaded for in his first legislative sessions — when Democrats ran both chambers. Chiles' social advocacy almost cost him reelection in 1994, and he had to deal with a philosophically Republican legislature long before both chambers became numerically dominated by the GOP on Nov. 5.

"Our government power may be divided, but our work doesn't have to be divisive," he said. "More than ever, we need each other. Our

OPENING DAY

■ For the second time in four months, Jewish and Christian lawmakers clashed over



what makes a proper prayer. ■ Freshman Jamey Westbrook didn't have to wait long for lobbyists to arrive. ■

people expect us — and rightly so — to work together."

Even as Chiles joshed about his veto pen — "There's still an ol'

Democrat in the governor's chair" — he ruefully noted that members of his party now sit in the rear of the House. And starting with Webster's big grin as he called the House to order, signs of the new power structure were everywhere.

From an opening prayer that mentioned Jesus Christ at the joint session — a sore point among Jewish members, who are all Democrats — to the 96-22 vote by which Webster's new procedural rules were passed in the afternoon, the frailty of Democratic resistance was displayed.

Webster, a devout Southern Baptist, went out of his way to soothe lingering suspicions of a religious agenda by jvilling the Rev. R.D. Holmes of Tallahassee's Bethel Missionary Baptist Church to give the House invocation. It was

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SESSION:

Chiles says his approach is a conservative one

held before the morning roll call, as nonbelievers could stay outside during the prayer and still be counted present afterward.

Holmes gave a nondenominational blessing. But the subsequent joint session opened with a prayer by the Rev. William Bright, head of the Campus Crusade for Christ, who made a reference to respecting all religions and then concluded: "I come to you, Father, in the name of the one You sent to be my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

In another gesture to some Democrats who were offended by an all-white color guard that saluted the flag at the organizational House session Nov. 19, Webster made sure that blacks, Hispanics and American Indian Floridians were in the military honor guard on opening day in the House.

Chiles wore a lapel button with a heart on it, inscribed "I stand for children," as he made the next-to-last legislative address of his 36-year political career. He pointedly put aside talk of crime, election reform, the elderly and the environment and devoted his 40-minute address to a seemingly futile attempt at convincing Webster, Jennings and other Republican leaders that spending millions of state dollars on children's health, education and welfare is really a very conservative approach.

"This is not social do-goodism we're talking about," Chiles said. "This is bottom-line common sense. I think it is a way to be fiscally conservative, the way to use our dollars more properly."

Chiles said expanding the gross-receipts tax to Internet services would provide money for adoption subsidies, health care and early childhood education that could head off slow learning, unemployment and physical ailments later in life. Similarly, he said his 10-cent hike in cigarette taxes would pay dividends in reducing the death toll from smoking.

The governor also called on lawmakers to take up the recommendation of the Governor's Commission on Education and expand the state's 2.5-percent gross-receipts tax to wa-



MARK FOLEY/The Associated Press

House Speaker Daniel Webster and Senate President Toni Jennings are all smiles Tuesday as the session opens.

ter, sewer, garbage and cable television bills. The tax would yield as much as \$1.3 billion for new school construction.

Conservative lawmakers praised the emphasis on children, but not the call for taxes. Webster said the state would have about \$1 billion in normal revenue growth, without applying the utilities tax to the Internet or hiking cigarette taxes.

Jennings said she would be willing to pay \$24 more a year — the estimated cost of the utilities tax increase to an average family — if she could be assured that the money would help students learn. But Jennings said she didn't want to put "one nickel" into school construction without guarantees that school districts were spending their money wisely.

That has been a mantra for Republicans since they won both chambers of the Legislature in November — they don't plan to mark their first majority since 1876 by passing any kind of tax increase.

"I've already said the government has enough money," Webster said. "The challenge is always priorities. What we make a priority will get funded."

Freshman Rep. Janegale Boyd, D-Monticello, said Chiles gave "an excellent speech." Rep. Al Lawson, D-Tallahassee, also said he was with the governor — but didn't expect him to win any new revenue sources in a GOP-run Legislature.

"As a wife, a mother and a nurse, I believe we've got to take care of

our youngest people," Boyd said. "It doesn't matter what party you're in, a child has to be cared for."

Lawson said "it's going to be a tough task" for his party in the next 60 days, implementing welfare reforms and helping businesses produce jobs for about 188,000 recipients who will be coming off public-assistance rolls. But he said Chiles' emphasis on children — which really began when he was a U.S. senator in 1985 — was a fitting agenda for his final two years as governor.

"The governor really focused on what's important for Florida," Lawson said.

Sen. Charles Williams, D-Live Oak, a conservative Democrat who often votes with the GOP, said he supported Chiles in emphasizing state spending on prenatal and early childhood health care, prekindergarten and elementary education and adoption subsidies and day-care help for mothers moving off the welfare rolls. But Williams said increases would have to be made within existing revenues, not with new taxes.

"I was somewhat disappointed that not enough time was devoted to the need to create additional jobs for high school graduates, people coming out of our universities, as well as those coming off welfare rolls as we reform welfare," Williams said. "I don't see any new taxes and don't support any myself. We just have to spend what we have more wisely."

Bill Cottrell covers state government for the Democrat. He can be reached at 222-6729.

TAKE DEMOCRAT

X

Chiles' focus: education

But GOP opposes new taxes

By Randolph Pendleton
Times-Union senior writer

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Lawton Chiles called on Florida's first Republican Legislature in 122 years yesterday to improve services to children and pass the taxes necessary to pay for them.

In a 40-minute State of the State speech opening the 99th regular session of the Florida Legislature since statehood, Chiles focused almost entirely on children's issues, declaring "Education must begin at gestation."

Chiles speech struck many of the same chords that President Clinton did last month in his State of the Union speech to Congress. In both cases, education issues ranked first in the call for action.

While reaching out and seeking Republican cooperation, Chiles suggested that he and the Democrats in the Legislature also had a role to play.

"I'd also like to remind you that there's still an old Democrat that sits in the governor's

State of the State address

Democratic Gov. Lawton Chiles wasted no time yesterday in reaching out to the historic Republican majority in the Legislature. His big push: money for children's programs.

THE APPEAL

"More than ever, we need each other. Our people, rightfully so, expect us to work together."

— Chiles

WHAT CHILES WANTS

Taxes

- A 10-cents-a-pack tax on cigarettes to fight teen smoking
- Expanded gross receipts tax on utilities to aid schools

Education

- 8 percent college tuition increase
- Higher academic standards in high schools
- More money for school construction
- More money to curb school violence
- More money for pre-kindergarten programs

Other goals

- Expand children's health programs
- Boost day care for working poor
- Fund adoption subsidies for children abused, neglected or abandoned
- Develop more programs to fight teen pregnancy

OUTLOOK

- Republicans are icy toward tax increases.
- Chiles and lawmakers could also clash over spending for social services programs to improve health care for children from low-income families and increase day care for the working poor.
- Chiles should get most of what he wants in education, including the tuition increase and higher academic standards for high school students.



Gov. Lawton Chiles shakes hands with House Majority Leader Jim King, H-Jacksonville, as he walks with Healthy Start children Mary Lu Gomez and DeShawn Sampson before delivering his State of the State address yesterday.

chair," Chiles told the joint session in the House chamber, in a veiled reference to his power to veto legislation he opposes.

Chiles asked the lawmakers to gradually expand the 2.5 percent gross receipts tax on utilities to water, sewer, garbage and cable television service as recommended by the Governor's Commission on Education to raise more money



— House Speaker Daniel Webster, R-Orlando

"Taxes. That's what he [Chiles] wants to do."



— Senate President Toni Jennings, R-Orlando

"Let's not rule out anything, but let's work first to live within our means."



— Sen. Betty Holzendorf, D-Jacksonville

"We need to look at what we've got and see what we can do [before raising taxes]."



— Rep. Buzz Ritchie, House Democratic leader from Pensacola

"I think there's a mind set ... among the Republican leadership that this year ... isn't the year for new taxes."

Chiles calls for more spending on children

From Page A-1

for school construction.

He also put in a plug for the 10-cents-a-pack cigarette tax increase he included in his earlier budget recommendation to pay for anti-tobacco education programs.

Chiles said more spending is needed for subsidized child care for working parents, children's health programs, pre-kindergarten education, teenage pregnancy prevention and prevention of child abuse.

Senate Democratic Leader Ken Jenne of Fort Lauderdale said Chiles had sounded a call to arms that the Legislature should heed.

"I see an old war horse coming out for battle," Jenne said. "It's the gallant old warrior coming up and putting the Legislature on the spot, where it ought to be."

But Republicans, enjoying

their newfound power and their new seats in the front of the chamber, were less admiring.

"There are not going to be any new taxes," said House Speaker Daniel Webster of Orlando, the first Republican to lead that chamber since Reconstruction.

Webster said he agreed with Chiles' priorities, though not necessarily all of his programs, but felt the state could find the money for them within its existing \$42 billion revenue.

"Let's live within our means," Webster said.

Rep. John Thrasher, R-Orange Park, said Chiles focused on the right problems but not the right solutions.

"Our priorities weren't that far apart," Thrasher said. "Unfortunately, his solutions were disappointing."

Senate President Toni Jennings, R-Orlando, did not close the door completely on the idea of expanding the gross receipts

tax, which would be phased in over a five-year period until the full 2.5 percent was being levied on water, sewer, garbage and cable television service.

But she said she would not vote for any school construction taxes until she had greater assurance that the districts would not waste the money.

"Let's not rule out anything, but let's work first to live within our means," Jennings said.

Education Commissioner Frank Brogan took a similar tack, saying alternatives such as increasing the local-option property tax should be considered before any decisions are made.

House Democratic Leader Buzz Ritchie of Pensacola, who ended up in the minority leader's traditional back-row seat when the Democrats lost control of the chamber to the Republicans in November, conceded the outlook was not good for Chiles' tax proposals.

"I sure didn't see very much enthusiasm in the front of the room when he was talking about a cigarette tax or something else that's going to generate more revenue for the state of Florida," Ritchie said.

Ritchie said the Republicans appeared determined not to address taxes in their first session in control of the House this century.

Although the Legislature is considering bills to make it more difficult for the state to take children from parents accused of abuse, Chiles said the real need is for greater protection for the children.

Chiles said more money needs to be spent for training and salaries for the child protective services workers, who he said are overworked and do not receive the support they need.

"You'll find that they are not the Gestapo — they're closer to being guardian angels," Chiles said.

SENTINEL

PRINTING SERVICE

A very good place to start

Preventing a problem now costs a lot less than fixing it later. That back-fence wisdom, used without argument in maintaining cars and other contraptions, rarely is applied to the machinery on which the most money can be wasted: government.

So it was reassuring Tuesday to hear Gov. Lawton Chiles outline a preventive approach to social problems that called for improvements in educating children, keeping them healthy and making them safe.

Ushered in by toddlers from a Healthy Start pre-school program, Mr. Chiles played the role of Grandpa He-Coon as he delivered his State of the State speech on opening day of the 1997 legislative session. Underlying his agenda was a simple premise: Florida can succeed economically only if its children are nurtured and loved from birth and given a challenging education in decent schools.

Unless that happens, the governor properly reasoned, the state will lack a skilled work force and will continue spending too much on prisons and other "back end" programs that "deal with the results of our neglect."

To build better kids on the front end, Mr.

Chiles wants to spend more money on day care and health care for the poor, child-abuse prevention and school security. He wants tougher graduation standards, which Central Florida counties already have adopted; an expanded tax on utilities to build schools and ease crowding; and a 10-cent-a-pack tax on cigarettes to educate children about the hazards of tobacco.

Unfortunately, any money spent on children must be channeled through adults, who have a tendency to mismanage it. So, as the Democratic governor and the Republican-controlled Legislature wrestle for the next two months over the type and amount of help the state will give children, they should remember this: Accountability must be built into every plan, all the way down to the driving of nails into elementary schools. That's

the only way spending on the "front end" makes sense.

With education on almost every Floridian's list of priorities, Mr. Chiles and the Legislature have a historic opportunity to provide several valuable ounces of prevention.



April 4, 1997

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON READING RECOVERY

DATE: Monday, April 7
TIME: 12:10 pm - 1:30 pm
LOCATION: Kate Sullivan Elementary School
Tallahassee, Florida
FROM: Brenda Costello

I. PURPOSE

To participate in a roundtable discussion with Governor Lawton Chiles, teachers and parents highlighting the importance of early learning and programs such as *Reading Recovery*.

II. BACKGROUND

On Monday afternoon you will participate in a roundtable discussion on the *Reading Recovery* program with Florida Governor Lawton Chiles at Kate Sullivan Elementary School in Tallahassee, Florida. Also participating in the discussion will be the school's Principal, Yvonne Marx, and teachers and parents involved in the Reading Recovery program.

Kate Sullivan Elementary School

Kate Sullivan Elementary is an urban grade school Leon County, Florida, serving approximately 770 students in grades K-5. The student body is comprised of approximately 71 percent white and 29 percent minority students (24 percent African American, 3 percent Asian and 2 percent Hispanic), 25 percent of whom receive free or reduced cost lunch. Based on test scores, Kate Sullivan Elementary School placed in the top fifteen percent of schools in Leon County, Florida in the 1995-96 school year. The school offers many programs to assist students with their special needs; such as Gifted, Mildly Disabled, Moderately/Severely Disabled, Compensatory Education, ESOL, and Drop-out Prevention.

Sullivan Elementary places a strong emphasis on the arts, and both school and teachers have received numerous awards and recognitions for programs such as their Discipline-Based Art Education (DBAE) approach. This approach recognizes connections between the arts and traditional math, language and social studies curricula -- ie., students can increase their understanding of geometry by studying sculpture and architecture. In addition, Principal Yvonne Marx was the recipient of the 1996 Jo Glick Memorial Award for Outstanding Administrator, given by the Leon Classroom Teachers Association.

Kate Sullivan Elementary was recently selected as one of 36 Arts Partner Schools to participate in a nationwide experiment to reform education by the Annenberg Foundation, Getty Education Institute for the Arts, and the National Arts Education Consortium. The five-year, \$15 million effort will implement a comprehensive approach to improve student achievement by linking arts

education to whole school reform strategies. The grants from the Annenberg Foundation, Getty Education Institute and other private sources will provide for professional; development, implementation of arts curricula and school reform strategies, and the measurement of student achievement.

Reading Recovery

This early intervention program for young readers experiencing difficulties in their first year of school has program sites operating in 49 states and the District of Columbia, as well as 5 Canadian Provinces. Over 300,000 children have entered a Reading Recovery (RR) program since its U.S. introduction in 1985, although the number of children who actually completed the program is approximately 235,000 - with a reported 81 percent success rate. To date, over 14,000 teachers have been trained nationwide. As you know, parental involvement is an integral part of the success of this reading program. Suggested strategies and materials to be used at home are provided to parents by the RR teacher.

Reading Recovery Program in Florida

Sullivan elementary is one of only two schools in Tallahassee with a *Reading Recovery (RR)* program. Governor Chiles has earmarked \$4 million as state matching grant funds to implement the initial phase of the *Reading Recovery* program, and has requested an additional \$10 million in his supplementary budget for *Reading Recovery*. These would be the first state dollars committed to the program. Funding for RR programs around the state is currently by the local school systems through grants.

According to the Governors office, there appears to be good support in the legislature for this funding. Governor Chiles met with Orlando area school children participating in the *Reading Recovery* program last month, and urged the legislature to implement RR programs in all Florida school districts.

There are currently three *Reading Recovery* sites in Florida -- Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, and Orlando -- and training for a new program in Palm Beach. So far the *Reading Recovery* program has trained 107 teachers in these areas in 49 schools since 1993-94. More than 1,200 children have been served in RR programs, 77 percent (926) of whom successfully completed the program (moving into grade appropriate reading groups).

Format

You will first proceed with Gov. Chiles and Principal Marx to observe a student and teacher participating in the Reading Recovery program. You will then proceed to the Media Center for the discussion with the Governor, Principal, two teachers who are training as Reading Recovery teachers, and two parents of students in the RR program. Principal Marx will act as moderator. The audience will be comprised of approximately 30 teachers and parents.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Roundtable

-HRC

-Governor Chiles

-Yvonne Marx, Principal (will moderate)

-Teresa Brewer Hollis, first grade teacher

-Dotsy Penn, first grade teacher

-Lucy Claravella, parent *Clarevella (Chiavella)*

(?) -Dianne Carr, parent

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

-HRC, accompanied by Governor Chiles and Yvonne Marks, proceeds to hold

-HRC holds briefly

-HRC accompanied by Governor Chiles and Yvonne Marks proceeds to First Grade classroom on the first floor

-HRC observes teacher and student in Reading Recovery program.

-HRC accompanied by Gov. Chiles and Yvonne Marks proceeds to the Media Center on the second floor

-HRC accompanied by Governor Chiles and Yvonne Marks, greets the program participants

-HRC proceeds to her chair, seated next to Gov. Chiles and Yvonne Marx

-Y. Marx opens program and introduces each participant

-Y. Marx intros Gov. Chiles

-Gov. Chiles makes brief remarks and intros HRC

-HRC makes brief remarks

-Y. Marx moderates an open discussion

-Upon conclusion of discussion, 8 children present HRC with a T-shirt

-HRC departs

V. PRESS

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

Talking points provided by Carrie Greenstein.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. bios	Sullivan Elementary School event [Personally Identifiable Information] [Partial] (4 pages)	04/04/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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FOLDER TITLE:

Tallahassee [1]

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RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- 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]

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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]

[001]

Biography of Yvonne Marx

Yvonne Robertson Marx was born in (b)(6). She is the oldest of two daughters born to Jim and Barbara Robertson. Early years involved moves throughout the Southeast with the family settling in Kentucky in 1963. She graduated from Carroll County High School in Carrollton, Kentucky in 1973 and received a Bachelors Degree with a double major in Exceptional Student Education for all ages and Elementary Education in 1977. After teaching in her hometown for several years, she moved to Florida and continued her teaching career. At this time, she completed an endorsement in Middle School Education and began implementing technology in the classroom. Excitement over the enormous potential that the use of technology in education held for students led to pursuit of more training as well as self-education with computers and other electronic media. During her career span she has had the opportunity to teach at all grade levels, 1-12, including adult education for those seeking their GED. She received a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida in 1988. Yvonne has been an active member of the Florida Association of Computers in Education (FACE) and served as a state officer, which gave her many opportunities to visit schools all over Florida. She has been at Kate Sullivan since 1988 and has served as a third grade teacher, fifth grade teacher, technology facilitator, and assistant principal. She has been the principal at Kate Sullivan for the past three years and is very excited about the faculty's goal to have every student reading on grade level within the next two years. During the past year, the first of the three year plan, the focus has been on developmental levels of children, exploring how the brain learns, and pursuing a variety of strategies to help children achieve academically.

Ms. Marx is married to Jim Marx and they have a son, Andrew (8), and two daughters, Nicole (7) and Simone (2). Andrew is a third grader and Nicole is a first grader at Kate Sullivan. Simone attends Hartsfield Elementary in Tallahassee, one of Kate Sullivan's sister schools which serves children from age one through fifth grade.

Yvonne's interest in the education of children stems from a strong belief that children are our greatest natural resource and truly are our future. To quote Whitney Houston, "teach them well and let them lead the way."

[001]

Biography of TERESA BREWER HOLLIS

Mrs. Hollis was born [REDACTED] (b)(6). She has lived in Tallahassee over thirty years, where her parents and most of her four siblings and their families also live. Married to Randy Hollis, a local businessman, she has one daughter, Amanda, who is a freshman at Leon High School. Mrs. Hollis received her B.S. degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education, and her M.S. degree in Reading from Florida State University. She has taught in Florida elementary and middle schools for 15 years, including the last 10 years at Kate Sullivan Elementary. She has a strong interest in literacy. Presently, she is teaching first grade and training as a Reading Recovery teacher.

[001]

Biography of Dotsy Penn

Dorothy "Dotsy" Paquin Penn was born in (b)(6). (b)(6)
(b)(6) The second child of 5, born to Rita and Rene Paquin. The family moved to Florida in 1956. Dotsy graduated from high school in 1968, and attended Miami-Dade Junior College. She came to FSU as a transfer student in the fall of 1970, and graduated with a degree in elementary education in 1972. She earned a masters degree in reading and language arts from FSU in 1979. At that time, she also became certified in early childhood education. After working for the Department of Education and substitute teaching in Leon County schools, she had her first classroom teaching experience in 1974 at St. John's elementary school, which is a part of neighboring Gadsden County public school system. She taught there until June 1980 and in the fall of 1980 she came to Kate Sullivan Elementary as a classroom teacher. Presently she is team teaching first grade with Mrs. Hollis and both are training as Reading Recovery teachers.

Mrs. Penn is married to William Penn, Jr. and has two sons, William Penn III, who is 18 and a senior at Lincoln High, and Joseph Penn, who is 12 and a 6th grader at Cobb Middle School.

Dotsy's interest in teaching and, in particular, helping children to become life-long readers developed due to the fact that she never enjoyed reading as a child. Her goal is to help children learn that reading is a pleasure and can open exciting doors for them.

[001]

Biographies

Lucy Claravella was born on [REDACTED] (b)(6). She is a registered nurse, and is married with two children (ages 4 and 6). Her son Joseph participates in the Reading Recovery Program.

Dianne Carr was born on [REDACTED] (b)(6). She graduated from the Teenage Pregnancy Program which helps pregnant students complete their education by providing childcare and other assistance. Dianne is single and has three children (ages 1 mo., 5, and 7). Her daughter Katesia participates in the Reading Recovery Program.

anticipation that much will be demanded of them when they reach school. Too often, however, expectations are undermined by a piecemeal approach to educational change. Nearly every problem in education, including the plague of low expectations, has been tackled successfully somewhere. Leading education reformers like James Comer, TheodoreSizer, Ernest L. Boyer, and Deborah Meier have diagnosed our ills, prescribed strategies for recovery, and put them to work. They usually boil down to a few crucial ingredients: clear expectations that all children can and should learn; manageable school and class size; an orderly classroom environment; the close personal involvement of at least one teacher with each child; a commitment to tailoring instruction to how different children learn; active parental participation. Reciting this wish list is easy. Figuring out how to put it into practice in the face of bureaucratic opposition, parental qualms, some teacher resistance, and the host of other obstacles reform faces is another story.

I once spoke to a group of school superintendents about model programs that had been effective in transforming poorly performing students into motivated achievers. I asked if anyone in my audience had visited any of the programs I mentioned. A long silence fell over the room. Finally, one superintendent confessed that he couldn't see himself explaining to his school board that a nearby school was solving a problem that had stumped him. There wasn't anything new in education anyway, he added, so he couldn't see the sense in getting worked up about some "experiments."

That superintendent would doubtless brush off as "experimental" Reading Recovery, a program started in New Zealand, which is considered among the most

literate countries in the world. Reading Recovery has demonstrated consistent success in getting nearly nine out of ten first graders who read poorly to grade level in a few months. In 1984, a group of educators at Ohio State University's College of Education launched a Reading Recovery pilot in selected Columbus, Ohio, public schools. The program was astonishingly successful, and gradually it won widespread support. Reading Recovery teachers are now being trained in school districts in forty-seven states. Yet many schools continue to pursue remedial reading methods that are not nearly as effective. Why?

The first problem is money, especially in urban school districts, which generally have less money to begin with and more students in need of help. Even though children move through the Reading Recovery program quickly and, after leaving it, usually do not need additional help, saving money in the long term, a front-end investment is needed to train teachers in the strategies that make the program a success: one-on-one tutoring, with an emphasis on phonics and language skills. The failure to make a sufficient initial investment creates a self-fulfilling prophecy: When large numbers of first graders still can't read at the end of the year, the program will be judged a failure.

Concerns about career advancement sometimes work against innovative programs, too. The success of a program like Reading Recovery may not be enough to outweigh the preconceptions of teachers and administrators who have long affiliated themselves with other approaches or are intent on preserving their budgets, staff, and political clout.

Such misplaced adult priorities divert our efforts and energies from where they are most productively spent—on paying attention to how children learn and doing our

best to personalize the learning process so that each of them can meet high standards.

It is precisely this concern that motivated social psychologist Jeff Howard to create the Efficacy Institute in Lexington, Massachusetts. The Institute has trained twenty thousand teachers in school districts throughout this country to rethink their assumptions about children's intelligence. In Tacoma, Washington, where two thirds of the teachers in the district have gone through Efficacy training during the past three years, results of this new approach are already visible. On standardized tests, the scores of fourth and eighth graders rose significantly in just two years. Part of the reason for this increase in achievement is that teachers go back into the classroom and share their new knowledge about learning with the students, explaining to them how important it is for them to work hard so they can "get smart." Students absorb the message that smart is not something you simply are, but something you can become.

Another innovator who has pioneered a more effective approach to learning is Bob Moses, who is revered for his efforts to mobilize black voters in the South during the civil rights movement. Thirty years later, he has brought the same passionate commitment to a different kind of work.

Helping his own daughter to struggle with her algebra homework in the early 1980s, Moses, who had been a teacher before he became a civil rights leader, began volunteering at her school, trying to get students to be comfortable with numbers and more engaged in the process of problem solving. He knew that without strong math skills poor children would be at a disadvantage in the highly competitive world of higher learning. His deter-

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SECTION: National Issue; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 1416 words

HEADLINE: WILL THIS HELP JOHNNY TO READ?

BYLINE: By Matthew Robinson, Investor's Daily

BODY:

What could make more sense than tutoring kids who have reading problems? The idea's simple and attractive: Correct children's early reading problems by giving them intensive one-on-one help.

One program, known as Reading Recovery, seeks to do just that. It's increasingly popular within the educational establishment. But many experts say it's costly and delivers mixed results. What's more, they say, it wouldn't be needed if educators focused more on basic teaching, not on failed fads.

Started in New Zealand in the 1970s, Reading Recovery aims to accelerate learning to bring kids up to average reading levels. Fans say it works. They point to data advocates have compiled that show 82% of the children who complete the one-to-one tutoring reach the average reading level for their grade.

The founder of the Reading Recovery movement, researcher Marie Clay, saw that the reading instruction method known as "whole language" was failing. Anywhere from "30% to 50% . . . will not be making good progress at the end of their first year of (whole-language) instruction," she wrote.

The whole-language method equates learning to read with learning to speak. Spelling and grammar rules are not taught systematically under whole language.

Reading Recovery may be the only way, say some, to reverse two decades of reading mediocrity. Doing away with whole language should help too, say others. But doing nothing will doom another generation of kids to low-paying jobs, time in prison and the welfare rolls.

In Reading Recovery, children are tutored for up to 60 half-hour lessons over a 12- to 20-week period. The program targets the bottom 10% to 20% of a reading class.

Since its U.S. introduction in 1984, RR has spread quickly. The program is now in 49 states and the District of Columbia, even Canada. Reading Recovery training is offered in more than 2,500 North American school districts.

It also has support from high places. President Clinton calls it a model program in his America Reads Initiative. And first lady Hillary Clinton touts the program in her book, "It Takes A Village."

Reading Recovery boasts a strong network. Teacher leaders are trained at one of 23 university sites nationwide in a year-long, full-time program.

All these factors have led to the rapid spread of Reading Recovery. But some reading specialists say its results aren't as cut-and-dried as supporters make them out to be.

What's beyond debate is that Reading Recovery works in the first grade. But it's expensive and its long-term benefits are unclear.

Reading Recovery has a high initial price tag, even by its backers' estimates. Massachusetts principal Philip C. Dyer calculates the cost to be \$ 2,063 per student. That's on top of regular student funding.

Dyer's 1992 study is considered the definitive study of RR costs. Total costs for one 16-student RR class: \$ 33,008, not including teacher-training costs.

RR supporters say it's worth it. By not having to send kids into special education or holding them back a grade, a RR class saves \$ 57,304, estimates Dyer.

But independent researchers say Dyer makes some dubious assumptions: that he assumes more kids are tutored than usually are, that RR always works and that other programs are ineffective.

Other studies put the RR price tag even higher. The Wake County, N.C., public school system, from 1993 to 1994, spent \$ 2,947 per student for all students served by RR. Adding in the costs of regular instruction brings the total cost per-RR student to roughly \$ 7,700.

But the cost goes higher if one only considers the program's successful students. The cost then jumps to \$ 9,211 a student.

Part of the cost of the program is the extensive teacher training.

According to an audit by the California attorney general, the training costs are approximately \$ 18,300. That does not include conferences, travel and the teacher's salary for the year of absence. For those teachers taught at the local level, the cost is less: \$ 8,000.

A 1995 study by education professors Timothy Shanahan and Rebecca Barr puts the final cost at more than \$ 46,000 a teacher.

And its record may be more claimed than real.

Much of RR's success hinges on information collected by supporters.

Wake County Public Schools found that in reports to the government "RR staff focused only on those RR students who received a full program and who were successful in reaching first-grade reading levels." (Emphasis in original.)

Other researchers found that the in-house data collection fails to count children who are eligible but are never served or who drop out of the program.

A study of Ohio schools found that RR resulted in 67% success rate for students in RR. But add in all those who took part but dropped out and that number falls to 34%.

"Reading Recovery has done a masterful job of defining itself as something not subject to the usual conventions of experimental evaluation," said Doug Carnine, director of the National Center to Improve the Tools of Educators at the University of Oregon.

"Where else can you do research where you get to drop out failures from data," he added. "It's inconceivable. Could you imagine the FDA doing that? Everybody who died from a new drug excluded from the data?"

Other researchers have problems with the data too. "There have been some concerns that the data has been almost totally controlled by Ohio State RR developers," said Steven Ross, professor of educational psychology and research at the University of Memphis. "They haven't always been forthcoming." Still, Ross thinks the research points out that Reading Recovery works.

RR's biggest flaw may be that it fails to change what critics say is a faulty curriculum.

DeFord says Reading Recovery is a "balanced approach" combining some phonics with whole language.

If so, the whole language theory may be dragging the RR results down. When systematic phonics instruction was added to Reading Recovery sessions, one study found that students were able to reach grade level more quickly than when whole language was stressed in these sessions.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development found that a change from whole language to explicit instruction in phonics was more effective than tutorial programs such as Reading Recovery.

Oregon's Carnine suggests that revamping reading curriculum completely may be a better and cheaper method of dealing with the problem.

"It is ironic, but Reading Recovery is getting a lot of business because of the failures of whole language," he added.

There are also real questions about how long RR's effects last. The University of Memphis' Ross said, "They just haven't been able to show long-term effects."

A 1995 study in Reading Research Quarterly found that RR students' reading progress slows in second grade and returns to untutored levels in the third.

Skeptics say these education fads -Reading Recovery and whole language - have held kids back. No skill, they say, is more important to continued development than reading.

The clear evidence is that America's literacy efforts have stagnated. According to the 1994 National Assessment of Educational Progress, 40% of fourth graders failed to attain the "basic" level of reading. And 70% failed to attain the "proficient" level.

"The problems with reading have been longstanding," said Robert Slavin of Johns Hopkins University, who is codirector for Research and Education of Students Placed at Risk.

Investor's Business Daily, January 27, 1997

Fans of RR believe that the main problem is that children simply are not coming to school "ready to learn."

Many educators point to social forces and family disintegration as factors that undercut the child's ability to learn. President Clinton is trying to reverse this trend. Last year he proposed "America Reads" - a \$ 2.75 billion initiative to increase literacy. And Congress will be holding hearings in the next few months.

"The solution is, Congress needs to ask tough questions," said Robert Sweet, president of the National Right to Read Foundation. "We've spent a half-trillion dollars to address literacy and things have gotten worse. We need to come up with answers before experience ends up proving these methods wrong too."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 27, 1997

America Reads Challenge

"We ought to commit ourselves as a country to say by the year 2000, 8-year-olds in America will be able to pick up an appropriate book and say, 'I read this all by myself.'"

- President Clinton, Fresno, CA, September 12, 1996

On August 28, 1996, President Clinton announced the *America Reads Challenge*. Working with teachers and parents, this unprecedented initiative calls on all Americans - schools, libraries, religious institutions, universities, college students, the media, community and national groups, cultural organizations, business leaders and senior citizens - to ensure that every American child can read well and independently by the end of 3rd grade. Reading is a skill that is developed not only in the classroom, but also outside of school and in the home. The America Reads Challenge will give students the extra help after school they need to be better learners inside the classroom.

- ▶ *America Reads Challenge* recognizes that 40% of America's fourth graders cannot read as well as they should for today's and tomorrow's jobs. Research demonstrates that if students cannot read well by the end of third grade, their chances for success are significantly diminished, including a greater likelihood of dropping out and increased delinquent behaviors.
- ▶ *America Reads Challenge* is a public commitment to helping our children read. Teachers, principals, and librarians play a key role by strengthening reading in school and extending learning through after-school, summer, and weekend programs. Research shows that parents and other concerned individuals in local communities and the private sector can also be valuable as tutors and mentors.
- ▶ *America Reads Challenge* is a challenge for concerned citizens and the private sector to work with schools and libraries. Parents, business, and non-profit groups will be actively encouraged to be a part of the *America Reads Challenge* and its READ*WRITE*NOW! summer initiative.
- ▶ *America Reads Challenge* builds on groundwork being laid by classroom teachers, librarians and reading specialists by drawing upon the invigorating spirit of community volunteers in tutoring and mentoring. The reading challenge also takes advantage of the strength of AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve and the Senior Corps, which are involved in communities throughout America.

The *America Reads* legislation and additional funding consists of:

NEW LEGISLATION AND ACCOMPANYING FUNDING

- ▶ America's Reading Corps is the heart of the legislation which will fund 30,000 reading specialists and coordinators to mobilize 1 million volunteer reading tutors over five years. Almost \$1.5 billion in new education investments from the new legislation will fund after-school reading specialists to train and supervise tutors, and \$1 billion from proposed increases in appropriations for the Corporation for National Service will help recruit and organize tutors. The tutors, coordinating with the in-school reading program, will provide individualized after-school, weekend, and summer reading tutoring for approximately 3 million children a year in grades K-3 who want and need the extra help.
- ▶ Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grants. \$300 million in grants over five years will foster effective programs to provide assistance for interested parents to help their children become successful readers by the end of 3rd grade. This money will be available to national and regional groups, as well as local communities and organizations.

REQUESTED INCREASES IN OTHER APPROPRIATIONS TO SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT

- ▶ College Work Study Expansion. President Clinton has also asked college presidents to allocate half of all their new work-study slots to college students to become "America Reads" tutors. The goal is to give 100,000 college work study students the opportunity to help children learn to read better. The local fund match for these slots would be waived if the work study students are involved in tutoring.
- ▶ Head Start Expansion. One million 3- and 4-year-olds will be reached through the expansion of Head Start programs, already a part of the President's balanced budget.
- ▶ Title I/Even Start Strengthening and Expansion. Additional investments are included in the President's balanced budget plan to expand efforts to strengthen the reading skills of children in low-income families.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON READING RECOVERY
KATE SULLIVAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Talking Points

Acknowledgments: Yvonne Marks (Principal), Governor Lawton Chiles

- There is no more important or urgent task than the one we gathered here to discuss-- the education and literacy of our children.
- Today, we live in a new and exciting Information Age when children are presented with boundless opportunities and unprecedented challenges. Yet, 40 percent of our children are lacking fundamental skills to compete in the global economy and prosper in the 21st century. Forty percent of fourth graders cannot read a book on their own.
- The ability to read is the foundation for all learning. Study after study has shown that students who are unable to read well by the end of the third grade are more likely to become school dropouts and truants.
- Reading Recovery recognizes that the best time to make sure a child is on the path to reading success is in the first grade, early in his or her school career. The program recognizes that the best way to help a child who comes to school unprepared to learn is through an investment of time, elbow grease and personal attention.
- It will take all of us, working together, to help our children learn to read.
- We need to help parents understand that the literacy and learning process can begin long before a child enters the classroom. In fact, the preparation for the challenges of school can begin as soon as a child is born.
- Today, thanks to advances in science, we know much more about the importance of intellectual and emotional stimulation for children in the first three years of life. We know how critical it is for infants and toddlers to hear words, listen to stories, and develop their imaginations in the company of adults who love and care for them.
- Later this month, the President and I will host a White House conference on early childhood learning and development that will help sort through these new discoveries and help parents and teachers make the most of this new knowledge.
- Few efforts can make a more dramatic difference for the future of our country than to persuade parents of all backgrounds to read and talk to their babies.
- Thank you all for your commitment to progress in education and for your commitment to children.

MASTERING THE BASICS: NATIONAL TESTS IN 4TH GRADE READING AND 8TH GRADE MATH

Overview

February 10, 1997

Tonight, I issue a challenge to the nation: Every state should adopt high national standards, and by 1999, every state should test every 4th grader in reading and every 8th grader in math to make sure these standards are met. President Clinton, State of the Union Address, Feb. 4, 1997

A CHALLENGE TO EVERY STATE: MAKE SURE EVERY STUDENT MASTERS THE BASICS IN READING AND MATH. Every parent has the right to know how well his or her child is doing compared with students in other schools, states, and countries. The U.S. Department of Education will give every state, school district and parent the opportunity to use voluntary national tests of 4th grade reading and 8th grade math, beginning in 1999. These tests will help states and local communities raise standards of excellence for teaching and learning in every classroom, and provide parents with accurate information about their children's academic performance. These rigorous tests will provide scores for individual students, measured against widely accepted national standards, that show whether students have mastered critical basic skills. **This will be the first time rigorous tests of reading skills at grade 4 and math knowledge and skills at grade 8, tied to national standards, are available to measure individual student and school performance throughout the nation.**

WIDELY RECOGNIZED TESTS BASED ON WIDELY RECOGNIZED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. These new tests will be based on two existing, widely accepted tests: the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 4th grade reading test, and the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS) 8th grade math test. Currently, these tests are used to assess the overall performance of the nation as a whole or of interested states. In their current form, they cannot be used to measure the academic performance of individual students.

The NAEP reading test is based on widely accepted national content standards -- developed by local teachers, reading specialists, curriculum specialists, parents, and researchers -- reflecting a national consensus on what students should know and be able to do when they reach the 4th grade.

The TIMSS test is also based on widely accepted content standards -- in this case developed by representatives of the 41 participating countries -- reflecting an international consensus on what students should know and be able to do in mathematics by the eighth grade. In addition, these international standards are highly consistent with the national math standards developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), which are used extensively by virtually every state.

A NEW GENERATION OF TESTS MEASURING INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS AS WELL AS STATES. The current NAEP and TIMSS tests are designed to assess how the entire nation, or individual states, perform in these subject areas. They do not show how individual students perform. The tests are administered to a sample of students in participating states or districts, rather than to all students. Each student in the sample takes only a portion of the total test questions. As a result, no student receives a score for these tests.

President Clinton's plan is to develop a new generation of the NAEP 4th grade reading test and the TIMSS 8th grade math test, that can be given to all students in the appropriate grades, and which will provide meaningful scores comparing individual student performance to these widely accepted national standards. These new tests will be ready for use in schools by the Spring of 1999.

4TH GRADE READING AND 8TH GRADE MATH ARE KEY. Reading and math skills provide foundation for future learning. Research shows that students who fail to read English well by the end of grade 3 have a greater likelihood of dropping out, and risk a diminished chance of success in school and in life. Students who master the basics of math, including the essentials of algebra by the end of grade 8 have the foundation to take tough math and science courses in high school to prepare for college and high-skill jobs.

THESE TESTS WILL BE RIGOROUS AND CHALLENGING. Though the focus is on basic skills, these tests are challenging, not low level. While many U.S. fourth graders perform well on the NAEP reading assessment, 40% of our students do not reach the "basic" achievement level. In TIMSS, the U.S. average score for 8th grade math is below the international average, and only 5% of U.S. eighth grade students score in the top 10% internationally.

THESE TESTS WILL ASSIST TEACHERS, PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND LOCAL AND STATE LEADERS. While most states assess their students in reading and math, they generally set their proficiency levels lower than the challenging levels in the NAEP. These voluntary national tests will give parents and communities reliable benchmarks for student performance which will show how well their students are progressing toward meeting challenging national standards of excellence. These new standard measures of excellence can help parents hold schools accountable for improved performance, can help teachers and principals improve curriculum and instruction, and can give students a guide for charting their own progress. They can identify students and schools that need extra help.

DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THESE TESTS. The new tests will be based on NAEP and TIMSS, and will measure the performance of individual students and schools. The U.S. Department of Education will contract with independent test developers to produce the new tests, which will be available for the first time in the Spring of 1999. The test will be updated each year. Guidance for the test-development will come from the most successful math and reading teachers from across the country, parents, governors, and local and state education, civic and business leaders. Interested test publishers, states, and local school districts will be licensed to administer the tests each year.

States and school districts can administer the test as part of their local testing program. After each test's administration, the entire test (along with answers, scoring guides) will be released to the education community. At that time, the test along with supporting materials will be available on the Internet so that students, parents and teachers can know what is expected to reach standards of excellence in reading and math. A new test each year will keep the content of the test current. These tests will help show who needs extra help, what changes schools need to make in teaching and the curriculum, and which schools need to be improved.

TESTING TO IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING. President Clinton challenges the nation not only to take these new rigorous tests of reading and math but also to do the hard work of preparing schools, teachers, and students to reach these high standards. We will work with schools, school districts and states as they move forward to meet this challenge. The President's America Reads initiative will help mobilize an army of 1 million volunteer tutors to help children reach the basic level of performance on the NAEP reading test. His education budget -- with investments in teacher preparation, teaching the basics and advanced skills, technological literacy, choice and charter schools, and grass roots education reform -- will help improve teaching and learning in schools throughout the nation.