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Get Out the Women's Vote:
October 26-27, 1996

GET OUT THE WOMEN'S VOTE

OCTOBER 26-27, 1996

THE CLINTON/GORE ADMINISTRATION'S TOP TEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR WOMEN

SIGNED THE FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

- ★ Giving working families up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a sick family member without the fear of losing their jobs.

EXPANDED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE

- ★ Signed the Health Insurance Reform Act (Kassebaum-Kennedy Bill) making health insurance more portable.
- ★ Successfully fought for legislation to allow new mothers and their babies to stay in the hospital for 48 hours—96 hours if the mother had a caesarean.

INCREASED FUNDING FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH BY 79%

- ★ Increased safety, effectiveness, and availability of mammography.

FOUGHT TO PROTECT FAMILY PLANNING AND CLINIC SAFETY

- ★ Lifted the "Gag Rule" so women can have the information they need to make reproductive choices.

SIGNED THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

- ★ Created the first nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE.
- ★ Increased funding for battered women's shelters and is providing \$156 million in state grants to bolster law enforcement, prosecution, and victims' services.

CREATED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- ★ Fought for and signed into law the first increase in the minimum wage in five years. Almost 60% of all minimum wage earners are women.
- ★ Fostered the growth of women-owned businesses, increasing the Small Business Administration's loans to women entrepreneurs by 300%.
- ★ Expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to provide tax relief for 15 million working families.

COLLECTED \$11 BILLION IN CHILD SUPPORT IN 1995

- ★ A 40% increase from 1992, by strengthening enforcement of child support laws.

INCREASED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- ★ Expanded Head Start, reformed student loans, and increased the minimum Pell Grant.
- ★ Created AmeriCorps to allow young people to earn money for college while serving in their communities.

IMPROVED PUBLIC SAFETY

- ★ Signed the Crime Bill which is adding 100,000 more police officers to the streets and has banned 19 kinds of deadly assault weapons.
- ★ Signed the Brady Bill which has prevented 60,000 fugitives, felons and stalkers from purchasing handguns and stops those convicted of domestic violence from buying guns.

PROTECTED OUR ENVIRONMENT

- ★ Cleaned up as many toxic waste sites in 3 years as under the previous 12 years.
- ★ Protected clean water and food by increasing safeguards for meat and poultry, requiring expanded testing of contaminants, and expanding right-to-know laws.

**10 WAYS
TO MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT
COUNT FOR THE NEXT 10 DAYS**

10

Volunteer at your local CLINTON/GORE '96
campaign office

9

Call into radio and television talk shows

8

Write letters to the editor

7

Talk to 10 or more undecided voters and share
with them why you trust Bill Clinton and Al Gore
to lead us into the 21st century

6

Participate in your local
CLINTON/GORE '96 GET OUT THE VOTE
efforts such as phone banking and literature drops

5

Talk to women you meet each day.
Tell your relatives, co-workers, neighbors, and any women
you meet what is at stake in this election

4

Share this accomplishments card with 10 friends

3

Invite 10 or more people over to your house
to discuss the issues women care about and
how they tie into this election

2

Bring 10 (or more) people to vote
with you on Election Day

1

VOTE



Paid for by the CLINTON/GORE '96 General Committee, Inc.

COUNTDOWN TO VICTORY

CLINTON/GORE '96

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Clinton Administration Pro-Woman/
Pro-Family Agenda

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION PRO-WOMAN/PRO-FAMILY AGENDA

Making Families More Economically Secure

- Signed the Family & Medical Leave Act
- Improved access to child care, established Child Care Bureau and National Child Care Information Center (1-800-616-2242)
- Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit by \$21 billion over five years
- Committed to increasing the minimum wage
- Strengthened equal opportunity for all through affirmative action
- Increased enforcement of child support and introduced legislation that doubles federal child support collections
- Fighting for federal budget that strengthens families, e.g., Medicare

Keeping Our Families Safe from Violence

- Signed Assault Weapons Ban and Brady Bill
- Signed the Violence Against Women Act
- Created the Violence Against Women Office
- Introduced Operation Safe Home to fight crime in public housing
- Passed Family Preservation and Support Act, providing services to prevent child abuse and neglect

Making Education and Training a Reality For All

- Created and signed Student Loan Reform, saving students and taxpayers money
- Signed National Service Act, helps communities and students
- Signed School-to-Work Opportunities Act, preparing students for careers and advanced education
- Signed Goals 2000: Educate America Act, setting higher standards
- Increased Head Start funding by \$760 million
- Signed reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act, providing better education for impoverished students
- Supported Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act

Health Care That Makes Sense

- Made improvement of women's health a priority
- Signed legislation requiring that women and minorities are included in NIH-supported research
- Increased funding for breast cancer research by 65%
- Signed Childhood Immunization Plan, ensuring vaccination and healthy future for all children
- Developed healthy school meal initiative for students
- Placed WIC on full-funding path
- Revoked Reagan-Bush restrictions on abortion counseling
- Ensured safety, effectiveness and availability of mammography
- Increased AIDS funding by 40%
- Established first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health

Expanding Economic Opportunities for Women

- SBA lending to women increased by 86 percent
- DOL's Women's Bureau launched Honor Roll initiative, encouraging employers to implement family-friendly policies good for women
- Expanded the public-private SBA's Women's Demonstration Program, providing business skills and training for women
- Created the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, eliminating barriers to economic development within federal agencies
- Increased federal procurement contracts for women in both percentage and dollar amounts

Making Way for Women

- 42 percent of President's appointees are women, highest ever
- Six women hold Cabinet-level positions, highest ever
- 59 percent of all President's judicial nominees are women and minorities, highest ever
- Second President to nominate a woman to the Supreme Court
- Opened almost 260,000 positions for women in the military
- Established Older Women's Initiative, bringing focus on issues impacting older women and their families
- Established White House Office for Women's Initiatives & Outreach

The White House Office For Women's Initiatives and Outreach
Betsy Myers, Director
White House Update For Women

SEPTEMBER 23, 1996

"Today, we say, loud and clear: If you stalk and harass, the law will follow you wherever you go. And if you are the victim of stalking and want to build a new life somewhere else, you will have the full protection of federal law." -- President Clinton, signing the new Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act, September 23, 1996.

CRIME AND SAFETY

NEW LAW TO STOP STALKERS: On September 23, 1996, the President signed the Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act (as part of the 1997 Defense Authorization Bill). This new law dramatically toughens federal law against stalkers who cross state lines to threaten, harass and instill fear in others, particularly women and girls.

Safety and security at home. The Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act makes it a federal crime for any stalker to cross state lines to pursue a victim. The Act makes it:

- * **A federal crime whether or not there is a protection order in effect.** Before today, women who did not have protection orders were not protected by federal law. Today's legislation would provide protection to women who could not get a protection order.
- * **A federal crime *before* any act of violence has been committed.** Victims pursued across state lines by a spouse or intimate no longer have to suffer an act of violence before they can be protected by federal resources.
- * **A federal crime even if the stalker is not someone you know:** The 1994 Violence Against Women Act gave federal protection to women who were being stalked by spouses, boyfriends or former "intimates." With today's new law, the President has expanded that protection to people who are stalked by a stranger or someone they have not been intimate with -- an acquaintance, for instance.

Building on our record. Today's legislation builds on a number of initiatives and laws that have been designed to end the fear and threat of being stalked.

- * **President Clinton's 1994 Crime Bill** made it a federal crime for stalkers to violate protection orders by travelling across state lines to pursue a victim and made it a federal crime for batterers to pursue their wives or girlfriends across state lines.
- * **President Clinton's Violence Against Women Act** established a **national registry of sex offenders**, created a 24-hour toll-free **domestic violence hotline**, and made three strikes and you're out the law of the land.
- * **Megan's law**, which President Clinton fought for and signed into law, requires

states to tell communities whenever a dangerous sexual predator is in their midst.

- * **The Brady Bill** has kept 60,000 guns out of the hands of fugitives, felons and stalkers.

KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

OFFENDERS: On August 26, the President announced that he would support legislation that would amend the 1968 federal firearms statute **to bar any person convicted of any crime of domestic violence -- not just a felony -- from owning and possessing a firearm.** The need for such legislation -- which is being sponsored in Congress by Senator Lautenberg and Representative Torricelli -- is supported by the statistics:

- In 1994, there were **88,500 incidents of domestic violence where a firearm was present.**
- Responding to these calls is deadly business for law enforcement. From 1985 to 1994, there were **65 law enforcement officers killed** when they responded to family quarrels and 9 out of 10 of those deaths resulted from firearms.

Stopping All Abusers from Getting Guns: Many spouse abusers are not covered by existing laws such as the Brady bill, which President Clinton signed in 1993 and the 1994 Clinton Crime Bill, which included the historic Violence Against Women Act. The Violence Against Women Act made it a crime for those under restraining orders to carry a gun. However, the overwhelming majority of domestic violence cases are misdemeanors, not felonies. The result is that these offenders are still free under federal law to possess a firearm. **That is why President Clinton is calling on Congress to disarm domestic violence offenders this year.** To help States in enforcing such a measure, President Clinton's 1994 Crime Bill is already providing funding for States to improve their criminal history record-keeping abilities and in 1996 the Clinton Administration specifically instituted a "National Stalker and Domestic Violence" record-keeping program.

A NEW POLICE NUMBER FOR COMMUNITIES: On June 23, President Clinton asked the Attorney General to work with the FCC, law enforcement leaders, and the telecommunications industry to develop a national community policing number for non-emergency calls that will be as easy to use and remember as the overburdened 91 number system. This non-emergency number will create an easy way for residents who are not reporting crimes-in-progress or life-threatening situations to reach local police while keeping the 911 lines clear for true emergencies that require an immediate response.

CELLULAR PHONES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: On July 17, President Clinton and Vice President Gore announced that the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) has offered to provide 50,000 cellular phones and free air time to citizen patrols and community block watches throughout the country. There are an estimated 20,000 neighborhood block watches and citizen patrols throughout the country. Neighborhood watch has been proven to help prevent crime and promote cooperation between law enforcement and residents. The phones will be pre-programmed so that neighborhood watch volunteers will be connected directly to the local police. The

cellular phone industry by the President and Vice President last year and is part of President Clinton's ongoing efforts to combat crime, which has resulted in **lower crime rates, and fewer serious crimes such as murder, robbery, and forcible rape.** Fewer serious crimes. According to preliminary figures released in May by the FBI, serious crimes reported to the nation's law enforcement agencies decreased a full two percent in 1995. *It was the fourth consecutive yearly decrease in reported crime.* Cities with over one million inhabitants saw crime fall by 6% last year.

CRACKING DOWN ON GANGS: On September 16, President Clinton proposed another new measure to combat gangs -- by **extending the statute of limitations for serious violent crimes** such as kidnapping, rape and particularly serious drug crimes, as well as for gang-related prosecutions under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statute (RICO). Since 1990, the number of RICO prosecutions in gang-related cases has risen 58%. This year, 38% of the Department of Justice's RICO prosecutions have been gang-related. President Clinton also sent the Anti-gang and Youth Violence Control Act of 1996 to Congress to strengthen laws that will stop the rise of youth violence and gangs, including expanded use of drug and gun courts.

KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE AND DRUG FREE: On August 23, President Clinton announced new Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") regulations to protect children and teens from the dangers of tobacco use. The new regulations require children to prove their age with an ID to buy cigarettes, ban cigarette vending machines from places frequented by children and teens, and ban tobacco advertising near schools and playgrounds. Under the new regulations, the FDA will soon take steps to require the FDA to educate our children about the real dangers of smoking. President Clinton's initiative to end teen tobacco use builds on several other prongs of the Clinton Administration's strategy to keep our kids safe including expanding the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act of 1994, encouraging states to adopt a "zero-tolerance" strategy on underage drinking, and supporting drug testing of high school athletes.

ECONOMIC AND HEALTH SECURITY

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

On Aug. 21, the President signed the bi-partisan Kassebaum-Kennedy health insurance reform bill, which will have profound effects on the lives of many of our citizens and **increase access to health care.** No longer will Americans live in fear of losing their coverage just because they have a pre-existing condition. No longer will Americans face the dilemma of hesitating to go to a new and better job for fear of losing their insurance coverage. And because of the bill's guarantee issue provisions, no longer will small businesses be denied access to insurance for their employees. **As many as 25 million Americans will benefit from the important portability, guarantee renewal, and guarantee issue insurance reform provisions included in the Kassebaum-Kennedy legislation.**

Although the insurance provisions are the core of this important legislation, **numerous**

other measures that President Clinton has long advocated are also included:

- **Eliminating the Discriminatory Health Care Tax Treatment of the Self-Employed.** The new law assures that the self-employed are treated more like other employers purchasing insurance by phasing the self-employed tax deduction to 80%.
- **Preventing Fraud and Abuse.** By providing for permanent funding and greater penalties, this law permits better targeting and prosecution of "bad apple" health care providers who are bilking the system of billions of dollars from Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance.
- **Making the Health Care System More Simple.** By helping design a common electronic system for private insurers paying health care claims, the new law would modernize, streamline and cut costs of health insurance paperwork. This measure also takes steps toward establishing federal privacy protections to prohibit inappropriate disclosure of this information.

We need to do more. The fact that there are 40 million Americans without insurance in this nation attests to this fact. We must work vigilantly to assure that the quality of health care that Americans are receiving remains the best in the world. And, we must work to assure that no American is discriminated against on the basis of a particular diagnosis.

INCREASED MINIMUM WAGE

On August 20, President Clinton signed into law an historic 90 cent increase in the minimum wage, helping more than ten million hard-working Americans. An estimated 10 million hourly workers who earn between \$4.25 and \$5.14 will benefit directly from the President's minimum wage victory. The increase in the minimum wage could also have a "ripple" effect on the over 3 million workers who earn within 60 cents of the new minimum wage. ***For full-time minimum wage workers, a 90-cent increase would raise their yearly income by \$1,800 -- as much as the average family spends on groceries in over 7 months!***

- **A promise made and a promise kept.** In *Putting People First*, Bill Clinton and Al Gore proposed to "increase the minimum wage to keep pace with inflation." The President specifically proposed a 90-cent increase 18 months ago in February 1995.
- **Ensuring No Parent Has To Bring Up Their Kids In Poverty.** President Clinton's dramatic extension of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) helped lift hundreds of thousands of working families out of poverty. With a 90-cent minimum wage increase and the expanded EITC, we can ensure that no parent who works full-time and plays by the rules will have to bring up their kids in poverty.
- **Helping Adult Workers Trying To Support Their Families.** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics: 69% of those workers who would benefit from an increase are adults, age 20 or over; three-fifths (59%) are women, many of whom are trying to raise the family on \$4.25; and the average minimum wage worker brings home half of their family's earnings.

Making Adoption Easier

When President Clinton signed the minimum wage bill, he also signed an important

adoption provision that takes steps to ease and encourage adoption for the tens of thousands of children who today are waiting for permanent homes. A \$5,000 tax credit (\$6,000 for families that adopt children with special needs) allows middle class families -- for whom adoption is often too expensive -- to adopt children to love and nurture. In addition, the bill prohibits states from denying or delaying adoption on the basis of race, color or national origin -- building on the President's longstanding goal to end the historical bias against interracial adoptions.

NEW PENSION PORTABILITY: On September 17, the President announced new actions by the Treasury Department to make pensions more portable and retirement more secure:

- **Protecting Investment Opportunities.** The Treasury actions will ensure that workers who choose to leave their retirement savings with a former employer do not have all their good investment options taken away.
- **Helping people take their pensions with them when they change jobs.** The President also announced that the Treasury Dept. has issued guidance and transmitted a proposed regulation to remove restrictions that prevent many businesses from taking employees' past savings into their own retirement plans. Before, employers could have their entire plans disqualified for accepting a new employee's savings from another account that were not qualified. Businesses rightly avoided this risk, but at a cost to America's workers. As a result of the announced actions, the new employer will not be liable, and workers will be able to take their pensions with them from job to job.

The President has **already taken important steps to ensure the value of working Americans' pensions by preventing raids on workers' pensions.** Last year, President Clinton vetoed the Republican budget, which would have given corporations a new opportunity to raid the pensions of nearly 4 million workers and retirees.

Pension Help from the Minimum Wage Bill: As part of the minimum wage bill, the President signed into law important components of his Retirement Savings and Security Act:

- **Expanded Pension Coverage by Creating a New Small Business 401(k) Plan** with no red tape and a simple one-page form to make it easier for small businesses to provide workers with pensions. The bill also **simplifies pensions for businesses of all sizes.**
- **Increased Pension Portability by Taking Away the 1-year Wait to Save at a New Job.** The law contains the President's proposals to increase portability, such as a provision to help workers who change jobs and want to keep saving in their new jobs by amending the law to encourage employers to let new employees begin saving without having to wait a year.
- **Enhanced Pension Security by Protecting Government Employees' Savings from Orange-County Style Fiascos** by requiring that state and local government pension plans be held in trust so workers do not lose savings if that government declares

bankruptcy.

Helping Women: As part of the Minimum Wage increase, the President has also signed into law **significant women's pension provisions that put women's pension options into plain language** so they will not inadvertently lose their pension rights due to divorce or death of a spouse. Specifically, the new law requires the Treasury Dept. to create a model form for spousal consent with respect to survivor annuities and a model Qualified Domestic Relations Order to spell out the various options to be considered when a pension is being divided upon divorce. **These new forms will replace the confusing forms in existence and provide spouses and pension administrators with clear, understandable language.**

ENACTING WELFARE REFORM

On August 22, President Clinton signed into law "The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996," a comprehensive bipartisan welfare reform plan that will dramatically change the nation's welfare reform system. The bill contains work requirements, a performance bonus to reward states for moving welfare recipients into jobs, comprehensive child support enforcement, and supports for families moving from welfare to work -- including **increased funding for child care and guaranteed medical coverage.**

Under the new law, states are required to move a large percent of their caseloads into work. The bill also limits recipients to a maximum lifetime stay of five years on the welfare rolls -- although the bill President Clinton signed allows states to exempt 20% of their caseloads for "hardship" reasons. In addition, **microenterprise programs are recognized as a work option** under the Act to help recipients start their own small businesses.

To assist in this transition, the new welfare law provides **\$14 billion in child care funding -- an increase of \$4.5 billion over the current law -- to help more mothers move into jobs.** The new law also guarantees that women on welfare **continue to receive health coverage for their families**, including at least one year of transitional Medicaid when they leave welfare for work. The law also includes provisions affecting teen parents such as "live at home" and "stay in school" requirements for unmarried minor parents who must participate in educational and training activities in order to receive assistance.

Improvements From Previous Bills: The "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996" includes **important improvements over the previous welfare reform bills submitted by Congress**, which President Clinton refused to sign because they did too little to move people into jobs, and failed to provide the supports -- like child care and health care -- that families need to move from welfare to work. Several improvements over HR 4, the vetoed bill are:

- **20% hardship exemption:** Under the new law, states will be able to exempt 20 percent of their caseload from the five year limit for cash assistance under AFDC based on hardship. H.R. 4 included only a 15 percent exemption.

- **Guaranteed medical coverage:** The new law preserves the national guarantee of health care for poor children, the disabled, pregnant women, the elderly and people on welfare. Families receive one year of transitional Medicaid if a family leaves welfare because of increased earnings. H.R. 4 would have ended the guarantee of Medicaid coverage for cash assistance recipients.
- **Increased child care funding and mandatory child care maintenance of effort:** The new law provides \$14 billion in child care funding -- an increase of \$4.5 billion over 6 years -- allowing more mothers to leave welfare for work. States will receive an initial allotment each year from a fund of approximately \$1.2 billion. To access additional funds, states must maintain their own spending at 100 percent of their FY 1994 or 1995 spending on child care (whichever is higher). By contrast, H.R. 4 increased child care funding by just \$300 million over current law, and did not require states to meet child care maintenance of effort requirements to access additional federal child care funding, allowing states to lower their own spending.
- **Preservation of nutrition programs:** H.R. 4 would have given states the option of block granting food stamp benefits. The bill would have also capped federal food stamp program expenditures, limiting maximum benefit increases to 2 percent per year, regardless of growth in need for assistance. The new law maintains the national nutritional safety net by eliminating the block grant option as well as the food stamp cap.
- **Current law child protection and adoption:** Unlike H.R. 4, the new plan maintains current law on child protection and adoption, and does not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, foster care, and adoption services. The new law also protects children by maintaining health and safety standards for day care. H.R. 4 would have eliminated health and safety protections.
- **Supplemental \$2 billion contingency fund:** The Act establishes a \$2 billion contingency fund that states could access on a participatory basis with the federal government. This would help states in the event of high unemployment or an increased food stamp caseload. H.R. 4 provided only a \$1 billion contingency fund -- half of the funds provided in the new law.
- **Protection of disabled children:** H.R. 4 would have cut SSI by 25% for many disabled children. The new law eliminates this proposed two tier system.
- **Optional family cap.** Under the new law, states have the option to implement a family cap. H.R. 4 required states to deny cash benefits to children born to welfare recipients unless the state legislature explicitly voted to provide benefits.

Areas To Be Fixed: Even with these substantial improvements, President Clinton has pledged to fix two provisions of the welfare bill:

- **Food Stamps:** According to President Clinton, the new law cuts deeper than it should in food stamps, mostly for working families who have high shelter costs.
- **Legal Immigrants:** The law includes provisions that would deny most forms of public assistance to most legal immigrants for five years or until they attain citizenship. The President has said that legal immigrants who fall on hard times or through no fault of their own and need help should get it, although their sponsors should take additional responsibility for them.

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS: Since the passage of the Welfare Reform Act, **President Clinton has acted on his commitment to ensure job opportunities for welfare recipients by proposing the Welfare-To-Work Jobs Challenge -- a three-pronged \$3.4 billion initiative to create job opportunity for the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients.** The components of the Welfare-To-Work Jobs Challenge are:

- **TARGETED WELFARE-TO-WORK TAX CREDIT:** Building off the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) -- signed into law by President Clinton on August 20 -- the President proposed a **targeted tax credit to create new job opportunities for long-term welfare recipients.**
- **TAX INCENTIVES TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN DISTRESSED AREAS:** President Clinton has proposed a comprehensive strategy to increase investment in distressed communities, including the use of Community Development Banking, Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Brownfields tax incentives. President Clinton has proposed to expand this strategy by a new tax credit to investors in qualified financial institutions and venture capital funds.
- **WELFARE-TO-WORK JOBS INITIATIVE:** President Clinton's Welfare-To-Work Jobs Initiative is designed to help communities move one million of the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients into jobs by the year 2000, while giving states and communities maximum flexibility in developing job creation strategies.
- **HELPING WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS:** Microenterprise programs are an option for states to offer as job training under the Welfare-To-Work Jobs Initiative. President Clinton has long been a strong advocate for community-based microenterprise programs, and the Labor Department, the Treasury Department and the Department of Health and Human Services have developed microenterprise programs. Surveys indicate that the majority of microentrepreneurs are women.

TAKING ON ILLEGAL SWEATSHOPS

On August 2, President Clinton announced a commitment by the leaders of the apparel and footwear industries that he hopes will lead to a system for assuring Americans that the clothes and shoes they buy are made under decent and humane working conditions. The President met with industry leaders and representatives from unions and non-governmental organizations who are in partnership to **(1) ensure that American goods are made without the use of sweatshop labor** and meet acceptable labor standards and **(2) give consumers a visible sign** (perhaps a label) that their products are made without exploitative labor.

The Administration is continuing its **Three-Pronged "No Sweat" Strategy:**

- (1) **Enforcement.** The Department of Labor conducts surprise inspections of major garment centers and enforces the "hot goods" provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which prohibits the shipment of goods made by sweatshops or illegal labor

practices.

- (2) **Recognition.** Since December 1995, the Labor Department has issued lists of retailers and manufacturers with the best garment practices (especially by contractors).
- (3) **Education.** The Labor Department also is spearheading a garment public service announcement initiative and an Internet Web site on how to combat sweatshops.

EDUCATION

TARGETING TAX CUTS FOR EDUCATION

In August, President Clinton announced to the nation his proposals for responsible tax reforms to encourage investment in education including:

- **\$1,500 HOPE Scholarship Tax Cut For College Tuition.** \$1,500 refundable tax credit for tuition in the first year of college and for the second year if the student earns at least a B average in the first year. This \$1,500 tax credit will make the average-priced community college free and provide a downpayment for more expensive schools for families with incomes up to \$100,000.
- **\$10,000 Tuition Tax Deduction for Education and Training at Any Age.** Families with incomes up to \$100,000 could deduct up to \$10,000 in tuition, providing a tax cut of up to \$2,800 per family. This deduction could be taken for education and training at any time in order to encourage life-long learning.
- **\$500 Child Tax Credit for Children Under 13.** Phased in \$500 per child tax credit for families with incomes up to \$75,000, providing tax relief to 19 million families with 37 million children.
- **Expanded IRA for Education, Retirement, First-time Home ownership.** Double the income limits for Ira to make 20 million more families eligible for tax-deductible IRA contributions, and allow penalty-free IRA withdrawals for education, first home purchases, and major medical expenses as well as retirement.

MAKING SURE EVERY CHILD CAN READ:

On August 27, the President announced the \$2.75 billion "**America Reads**" Challenge to ensure that **all children are reading independently by the end of the third grade.**

Parental and community responsibility are the backbone of the "America Reads" Challenge, which builds on the success of community tutoring programs and National Service programs like AmeriCorps and RSVP Senior volunteers in developing and coordinating effective tutoring programs.

1. **Parents As First Teachers Challenge Grants.** The President proposes a *Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grant Fund* that invests in success by supporting effective, proven efforts that provide assistance to parents who want to help their children become successful readers by the end of third grade. Approximately \$300

million in grants will be available over 5 years (FY98 - FY2002) to national and regional groups as well as local communities and organizations.

II. America's Reading Corps: Individualized After-School and Summer Tutoring for More Than 3 Million Children in Grades K-3 Who Want and Need It. The President's proposal provides \$2.45 billion to support tutoring efforts. \$1.45 billion in net new investments over 5 years, in addition to \$1 billion already specified in President Clinton's balanced budget for National Service participants, will be directed specifically to the "**America Reads**" Challenge. President Clinton's goal is to **mobilize 1 million tutors** -- in addition to the 30,000 Reading Specialists and Volunteer Coordinators funded through the President's proposal -- **to provide individual attention to all young children who need reading assistance.**

III. Providing 1 Million 3 and 4 year-olds with a Head Start. President Clinton's balanced budget includes a major expansion of Head Start so that it can reach 1 million pre-school children in 2002.

IV. Challenge to Private Sector. This national effort will only be successful if those in the private and non-profit sector return to the President's "America Reads" challenge. This new "**America Reads**" initiative builds on Clinton Administration efforts to work with the private sector in helping our children learn how to read, such as the "Partnership for Family Involvement in Education" and "Read*Write*Now."

REBUILDING SCHOOLS

On July 11, the President introduced new funding to improve our nation's schools. Key elements of the President's initiative include:

- **Up to 50% Interest Subsidy for New School Construction and Renovation** to reduce interest costs on new school construction and renovation projects by up to 50%, with a sliding subsidy scale depending on need.
- **\$20 Billion in School Construction Spurred by \$5 Billion in Federal Jump-Start Funding Over 4 Years.** The interest reduction is equivalent to subsidizing \$1 out of every \$4 in construction and renovation spending. \$5 billion in federal funding over 4 years -- with most of the money administered by the States -- would support \$20 billion in construction and renovation.
- **Goal of 25% Increase in School Construction Over 4 Years.** National spending on school construction and renovation is currently about \$10 billion a year or \$40 billion over 4 years. By focusing on incremental or net additional construction projects, this initiative aims to ensure that at least half of the \$20 billion supported by federal subsidies would not have otherwise occurred. This would increase school construction by at least \$10 billion to a total of \$50 billion over 4 years -- increasing school construction by 25%.

IMPROVING TELEVISION FOR OUR CHILDREN

President Clinton announced on July 29 that the four major networks, the National Association of Broadcasters, and leading advocates for educational television will support a **new proposal to require broadcasters to air three hours of quality educational programming each week**. The President made the announcement during his meeting with leaders of the television networks and leaders in children's programming. **On August 8, the proposal became a regulation** after the Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously to approve the regulation. Earlier this year, the President required the installation of anti-violence screening (**V-Chips**) in all new televisions and announced a breakthrough agreement with the media industry to develop a **television ratings system**.

The U.N Women's Conference One Year Later

On **Saturday, September 28, 1996**, the President's Interagency Council On Women will sponsor a **nationwide teleconference with conferences in every state** of the union to celebrate "UN Women's Conference - One Year Later". Americans will report on progress since the Women's Conference; share what's working in communities, and look ahead to develop a national action agenda. **For more information, call 202-456-7350 or see the web site at:**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/Women/IACW/html/IACWhome.html>.

*"Never before have American women had so many options
-- or been asked to make such difficult choices.
It's time not only to make women full partners in government,
but to make government work for women."*

-- William Jefferson Clinton and Albert Gore, Putting People First

The President and his Administration made an unprecedented commitment to empowering women through greater economic security, more workplace flexibility, and more emphasis on children and families and on women's health and safety. They invested in the economic and personal security of women through the President's economic plan, the Family and Medical Leave Law, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Brady Law, and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. They advanced women's rights through a series of executive and legislative actions that allow women the freedom to make their own reproductive decisions and to do so safely, with accurate information and without obstruction. They put women's health concerns at the top of the public health agenda by initiating a comprehensive approach to women's health designed to end the inequities that have plagued research, clinical practice and health care education. Finally, the President and the Administration changed the face of governing by giving women a greater voice in all branches of the federal government, including Cabinet-level posts never before held by women.

What does all this really mean for women?

1. It means that more than two million women are working in jobs created since President Clinton took office.
2. It means that millions more single working mothers will get a tax break to help their earnings go farther.
3. It means that medical researchers with promising breakthroughs in breast cancer detection and treatment will get the funding they need.
4. It means that for the first time, mothers, regardless of family income, will be able to get their children the vaccines they need.
5. It means that a woman who wants to take time off from work to care for an ailing parent or child can do so . . . and know her job will be there when she gets back.
6. It means that more children will get nutritional assistance through the WIC program and that disadvantaged preschoolers will be better served by HeadStart.
7. It means that young women studying science and engineering will have new career opportunities denied them in the past.
8. It means that women unsure of how to deal with an unintended pregnancy will be able to get professional advice and counsel and will know that the option of abortion is safe and legal. It also means that couples looking to adopt will soon be able to do so with less difficulty and red tape.
9. It means that women will be able to register to vote at the motor vehicle registry, through the mail, at social service offices and elsewhere—to make it as easy as possible to exercise their right to shape our political future.
10. It means that the history books young girls read will now include leadership figures like Janet Reno, Alice Rivlin, Donna Shalala, Madeleine Albright, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Tipper Gore, Carol Browner, Hazel O'Leary, and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

A prominent feature of the presidencies of Presidents Reagan and Bush was their attack on reproductive choice, both at home and around the world. At the same time, these Republican administrations opposed attempts to improve access to the democratic process for millions of Americans, including the many American women who are not registered to vote.

Reproductive Health – The President continues to protect the right of American women to make their own reproductive choices. He repealed the "Gag Rule" that restricted abortion counseling at federally funded family planning clinics, revoked the import ban on RU-486, reversed the ban on abortion services at military hospitals, repealed the Mexico City policy that banned funding to international organizations that promoted comprehensive family planning; strengthened support for international family planning and reproductive health initiatives, and signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act to ensure that women and their doctors can enter clinics without fearing intimidation and violence. The Department of Health and Human Services implemented a change to the Hyde Amendment obligating states to pay for abortions for poor women whose pregnancies result from rape or incest or endanger the life of the mother.

Empowerment of Women – The United States' delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, led by Vice President Gore, successfully advocated a global approach to improving the status of women and stabilizing the world's population. The United States forged a partnership with more than 150 nations around a program of action that promotes gender equality, reproductive health, and universally recognized human rights that apply to reproduction and recognizes the importance of addressing the threat posed to women's health by unsafe abortions. The conference emphasized the necessity not only of increased access to contraceptives, but also of sustainable economic development, a reduction in child and maternal mortality, and the empowerment of women through increased educational and economic opportunities.

Motor Voter – President Clinton signed the National Voter Registration Act, which makes it easier and more flexible for citizens to register to vote. This will enfranchise women—who comprise 52% of the population—by making it easier for women who are on welfare, homebound, or simply unable to build in extra time between work and family to register to vote through the mail, at motor vehicle registries, unemployment offices, vocational rehabilitation agencies, and welfare offices. These programs will give an additional 65 million Americans, including tens of millions of women who have been left out of the democratic process, a way to make their voices heard.

Women in the Military – "You're too old, you can't see, and you're a woman." That's what Hillary Rodham Clinton was told in 1975 by a Marine Corps recruiter when she inquired into joining the Corps. Today, opportunities for women in the military have been expanded dramatically. Under the Clinton Administration, combat aircraft and surface warships were opened to women and the criteria used to bar women from ground combat positions has been redefined, giving women access to 259,000 previously male-only positions. Last year, the U.S.S. Eisenhower became the Navy's first permanently coed combat ship and the Army approved a plan to include women soldiers in the prestigious Old Guard, responsible for guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns and for greeting visiting heads of state. During 1993 and 1994, promotion and reenlistment rates for women in the senior and enlisted ranks have been even higher than those of their male counterparts.

WOMEN APPOINTEES

President Clinton pledged to appoint an Administration that "looked like America." As the *Baltimore Sun* noted in an editorial, he has delivered on that promise "more fully than even he could have predicted. No Administration has ever produced such diversity."

Overall Administration Appointments – 44 percent of President Clinton's appointees were women—by far the highest percentage of any Administration in history. Women hold 32 percent of top-level appointments.

In addition to the sheer numbers of women appointed by President Clinton, there were a number of women appointed to Cabinet-level posts never before occupied by women, including Attorney General Janet Reno, Council of Economic Advisors Chair Laura D'Andrea Tyson, OMB Director Alice Rivlin and Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary.

Women populate the ranks of the sub-cabinet as well. At the Department of Justice, for example, the Deputy Attorney General and 7 of the 11 Assistant Attorneys General are women.

Judicial Selection Record – Of the Clinton Administration's 141 nominations to the federal bench, 45 are women. 59% of all the judicial nominees are women and minorities. Before President Clinton took office, one of every five active federal judges was a woman or a racial minority; as of July 1 of last year, the number had increased to one of four.

The Alliance for Justice reported that federal judicial appointments in 1993 demonstrated "unparalleled diversity." And the quality and professionalism of these nominees prove that excellence and diversity are not mutually exclusive goals. The proportion of the Clinton Administration's judicial nominees who received the American Bar Association's highest rating exceeded that of the past three administrations.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

When President Clinton took office, the country faced major economic challenges, including rising federal deficits, a jobless recovery, and a legacy of more than a decade of underinvestment. Female heads of households, an ever-increasing portion of the labor force, were particularly hard hit by worsening economic conditions and decreasing workplace-based benefits. Entrepreneurial women were hindered by the weak economy and by other barriers to their success.

Economic Growth and Job Creation – The President's economic plan is putting our economic house back in order. Under the Clinton Economic Plan, the deficit will be lowered by \$708.4 billion over 5 years. Nearly 6 million jobs were created in the first 23 months of this Administration. 87% of these new jobs were in the private sector. One of the surveys economists use to measure job creation, recently redesigned to better measure women's labor force participation, suggests that as of December 1994, women contributed nearly half of the net job creation since January 1993.

EITC – The Earned Income Tax Credit, dramatically increased as part of the President's economic plan, will make work pay for over 15 million families and households making up to \$27,000. A majority of the beneficiaries of this tax credit are female workers and their families. For working mothers with minimum wage jobs, the increased EITC is the equivalent of up to a 40% pay raise.

Working Women – The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor surveyed over a quarter of a million working women to learn more about their experiences in the workplace. The Department of Labor is now developing initiatives to encourage the private sector to respond to the needs identified by the survey participants—an increase in pay and benefits, assistance in balancing work and family, more job training opportunities, and an end to discrimination. President Clinton directed the heads of the executive branch agencies to expand opportunities for flexible family-friendly work arrangements within each agency, including job sharing, career part-time employment, alternative work schedules, telecommuting, and satellite work locations.

Greater Technical Assistance to Women-Owned Businesses – Along with its plan to revitalize the economy as a whole, the Clinton Administration has encouraged the formation and development of women-owned businesses. The Small Business Administration (SBA) is creating a women's mentoring program at sites around the country, where women business owners join together to share information and network. In addition, the SBA created resource guides that include information about technical assistance and loan resources in every state.

Access to Capital for Women-Owned Businesses – The SBA took several steps to increase the capital available to women-owned firms. The SBA established goals for dramatically expanding lending to women-owned businesses, increasing the number of loans to women 86% from 3,880 in 1993 to 7,211 in 1994. Small business loans to women reached \$1.17 billion in 1994, up from \$721.9 million in 1993, and represented 20% of the total SBA loan volume. These efforts complement SBA's innovative "prequalification pilot program," under which SBA certifies that a woman business owner is eligible for a federally guaranteed loan *before* she selects a lender—increasing lending to women-owned businesses and reducing the paperwork involved in such borrowing. The SBA's new "LowDoc" loan program allows prospective borrowers to secure loans without paperwork hassles or long waits for approval, relying on their character and credit history. Early results indicate that women are receiving over 30 percent of

these loans.

Expanding Procurement Opportunities for Women-Owned Businesses – The Administration worked closely with congressional leaders to ensure that a goal for procurement contracts with women-owned business was included in the recent procurement-reform bill. This goal represents a several-fold increase in contracting opportunities for women-owned businesses. The SBA established a pilot project to bring together business groups and select government agencies to increase contracting with women-owned firms.

FIGHTING CRIME, INCREASING SAFETY AND SECURITY

Perhaps no issue grips American women more than the fear of crime and gun violence. In a typical year, 2.5 million American women ages 12 years and older are raped, robbed or assaulted or are the victim of a threatened or attempted violent crime. Two-thirds of these attacks are committed by someone the victim knows.

Safer Streets – Thanks to President Clinton's leadership, the Brady Law and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the products of more than six years of bi-partisan efforts to take back our streets and increase the safety and security of American women and their families, are finally the law of the land. In addition to imposing a waiting period for handgun purchases, adding 100,000 more police to our streets, stiffening penalties for criminals, and banning military-style assault weapons, the crime bill invests heavily in increasing the personal security of women.

Violence Against Women Grants – Nearly \$1 billion dollars will be invested to support police and prosecutor efforts as well as victims services in cases involving sexual violence or domestic abuse, and for programs that strengthen enforcement.

Domestic Violence – The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act also triples funding for battered women's shelters, to a total of \$325 million over six years, prohibits domestic abusers subject to a court restraining order from possessing a firearm, creates new federal penalties for persons who cross state lines to commit crimes of domestic violence, and establishes a National Domestic Violence Hotline to provide information and assistance to victims of domestic violence. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with States and private organizations to develop effective measures for reducing the threat that women face of physical and sexual assault at the hands of partners, acquaintances and strangers.

Registration of Sexually Violent Offenders – The Act requires criminals convicted of a sexually violent offense to register with state law enforcement agencies upon their release from prison and to remain registered for a ten-year period. In addition, state prison officials are required to notify appropriate agencies of the release of such offenders.

Repeat Sex Offenders – The Act doubles the maximum term of imprisonment for repeat sex offenders convicted of Federal sex crimes.

Victims of Crime – The Act allows victims of Federal violent and sex crimes to speak at the sentencing of their assailants. It strengthens requirements for sex offenders and child molesters to pay restitution to their victims and improves other victim-assistance programs.

Protections for Victims of Gender Motivated Violence – For the first time, victims of gender motivated violence have the right to file a Federal civil rights cause of action to seek compensatory and punitive damages and other relief from the person who committed the crime against them.

Rape Shield Law – The Act extends "rape shield" protections to all criminal and civil cases involving alleged sexual misconduct, thereby barring embarrassing and irrelevant inquiries into a victim's sexual history.

HEALTH CARE

Women are society's caregivers, responsible not only for their own health but also for the health of their children, spouses, and parents. Despite being the biggest consumers of health care services, women have a harder time getting health coverage than men. And those lucky enough to have insurance at all pay more; women ages 15 to 44 pay 67 percent more out-of-pocket for health care than their male counterparts.

At the same time, women are increasingly at risk for some of our most deadly diseases. For example, the incidence of AIDS is increasing at a faster rate among women than men. The lifetime risk of developing breast cancer has risen from 1 in 20 women twenty years ago to 1 in every 8 today. Heart disease has long been thought of as a men's disease, but in 1992 it killed approximately 360,000 women and was the leading cause of death in women. The Clinton Administration has launched or supported a variety of programs to improve women's health and to solve the nation's health care crisis.

Increased Funding for Breast Cancer Research – Since President Clinton took office, federal funding for breast cancer research at the National Institutes of Health has increased 65%—to \$379 million in fiscal year 1995 alone. The Department of Defense distributed an additional \$240 million, allocated in fiscal years 1993 and 1994, to fund 450 research, training and research infrastructure-building grants; the fiscal year 1995 budget includes another \$150 million to be awarded by the Department of Defense. The Clinton Administration initiated the creation of the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer, a blueprint for a partnership among scientists, policymakers, activists, and the private sector, to work to prevent, to diagnose, to treat and ultimately to eradicate breast cancer.

Mammography Initiatives – First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined with the Health Care Financing Administration and the Public Health Service (PHS) Office on Women's Health to launch a campaign to educate Medicare recipients and health care professionals about the availability of mammography benefits under the program and about the importance of regular breast cancer screening for older women. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) implemented quality standards for mammography facilities to ensure reliable mammograms and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) has developed and publicized guidelines on mammography to inform health care professionals and consumers about how to obtain a high quality mammogram. In addition, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention collaborates with States, the American Cancer Society and other organizations to provide greater access to mammography and follow-up services, especially for low-income, elderly and minority women.

The Health Security Act – President Clinton introduced his Health Security Act to guarantee affordable, secure health insurance to every American. The legislation covered a range of benefits that are essential for women—preventive measures including mammograms and Pap smears, reproductive services, prescription drugs and prenatal care—and invested in a new federal long-term care program. The President remains committed to providing health insurance to every American and to containing health care costs. This year, he will work with the Congress to take the first steps towards these goals.

Women's Health Initiative – This initiative, the largest clinical research study ever conducted on either men or women, is an exploration of the major causes of death, disability and frailty in

post-menopausal women: heart disease, breast and colon cancer, and osteoporosis. The initiative is also the first major study of the effects of hormone replacement therapy. An emphasis on including minority women at each clinical site is a major component of the study.

Increased Commitment to Combatting AIDS – The President created the National Task Force on AIDS Drug Development, charged with expediting the search for new treatments for AIDS and HIV; increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act for outpatient AIDS care; increased the National Institutes of Health's spending for AIDS research; and increased funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The National Institutes of Health sponsored research on AZT treatment for HIV-positive pregnant women that will result in a dramatic reduction in the number of babies who are born infected, increased significantly the number of women participating in AIDS clinical trials and the number of epidemiological studies of HIV in women, and began exploring woman-controlled barrier methods for preventing transmission of HIV.

Preventing Unnecessary Hysterectomies – NIH is examining some of the reproductive problems facing American women, such as endometriosis and uterine fibroids, with the hope of finding better ways to prevent or treat these conditions so that fewer hysterectomies are necessary. The PHS Office on Women's Health will continue to foster new activities designed to increase knowledge about conditions in women that lead to infertility and unnecessary hysterectomy.

Promoting Gender Equity in Medical Education – A culturally appropriate women's health curriculum is under development by the Administration and the Association of American Medical Colleges for distribution to all medical schools. The model curriculum will present information not currently a part of most medical school educations.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health – The Administration established the first Department-level position at the Department of Health and Human Services dedicated solely to improving women's health. Initiatives underway at the PHS Office on Women's Health, directed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health, include promoting healthy behaviors in young women and increasing understanding of the impact of environmental factors on women's health.

Women Serving in the Armed Forces and Women Veterans – A Women Veterans Division was established at the Veterans Administration's National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to study, to treat and to provide training about PTSD in women. In addition, the VA held training sessions on the diagnosis and treatment of sexual trauma, hired counsellors to treat the aftereffects of sexual harassment and assault and established fellowships in women's health at six VA hospitals. The Department of Defense has improved the delivery of primary and preventive health care to women on active duty and recently surveyed active duty women to find out how to better its efforts.

TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Despite widespread support in Congress, the Family and Medical Leave Act was not enacted during the Reagan or Bush Administrations. Presidents Reagan and Bush talked about "family values," but it is the Clinton Administration that took action to help preserve families and encourage the values that keep them strong.

Family and Medical Leave – Under the Clinton Administration, American workers are no longer forced to choose between their job and their family at times of crisis. The Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for an infant or a loved one without losing their job.

Family Preservation and Support Act – The President's economic plan included a billion-dollar program that provides an array of supportive services to children and families designed to help strengthen them and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Child Support Enforcement – The President introduced the 1994 Work and Responsibility Act, which includes the toughest child support enforcement laws ever proposed and would double federal child support collections by the year 2000. Individuals shirking their child support payment responsibilities could have their wages garnisheed, their drivers license revoked, and be tracked down across state lines.

Encouraging Work Over Welfare Dependency – The President is committed to dramatic reform of the welfare system that will make welfare a temporary hand up, not a permanent handout. The President's 1994 Work and Responsibility Act was designed to reform the system to reward work, to promote responsibility and to protect the interests of children. The Administration is committed to a constructive dialogue with Congress to find the best way to achieve these shared goals.

Immunization Plan – President Clinton acted upon the importance of disease prevention for our nation's children by sponsoring and signing the comprehensive Childhood Immunization Initiative, ensuring that children, regardless of family income, will be vaccinated against disease.

WIC– President Clinton has increased funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in each of his budgets. As a result, more nutritionally at-risk, low-income infants, children under the age of five, and breast-feeding and postpartum women are being served than ever before. More than one million participants have been added to the program since fiscal year 1993—an 18.2 percent increase in participation. In 1995, approximately seven million women and children are expected to benefit from this program.

HeadStart – Based on the recommendations of a bipartisan committee, the President and Health and Human Services Secretary Shalala implemented quality improvements in HeadStart that moved this popular program for disadvantaged preschoolers into the 21st century. The Administration also initiated the creation of a new program to serve disadvantaged infants and toddlers aged zero to three.

End Adoption Discrimination and Delays – Legislation passed as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization prevents discrimination against interracial adoptions and reduces the time children have to wait in foster care.

EDUCATION

The percentage of American women ages 25 and over who have at least a high school education increased substantially between 1970 and 1990, particularly among black women. Although equal access to education has always been a foundation of women's struggle for equality, access alone is not enough. As we educate girls and women, we must examine what subjects they learn and how they learn them and how they are treated in the classroom by their teachers and peers. The Clinton Administration's education initiatives increase women's involvement in education and will improve their academic success and professional opportunities.

Women's Educational Equity Act – Demonstrating the commitment of the Clinton Administration to equality in education, the Administration proposed to increase funding for the WEEA by 100% from fiscal year 1994 to fiscal year 1995. WEEA has been changed to enable the program to support demonstration projects, which may include training in the prevention of sexual harassment, support and encouragement for girls and women involved in math, science and other fields in which they are underrepresented, and support and assistance for pregnant and parenting students.

Goals 2000 – The Goals 2000: Educate America Act provides resources to states and communities to implement comprehensive education reforms designed at the state and local level. To support women in gaining access to high-paying, high-skill jobs in math and science-related fields, one of the objectives of the national education goals is to increase the number of women and minorities who complete degrees in math, science and engineering.

Student Loan Reform – The Federal Direct Student Loan Program increases access to higher education by giving millions of students the opportunity to take advantage of lower-cost loans and better repayment terms. The Income Contingent Loan Repayment program will allow participants who have received a student loan to make repayments based on their income. This allows people to take lower-paying jobs, or to leave their jobs—for example, to raise a family—without the penalty of loan default.

AmeriCorps – One of the most important accomplishments of the Clinton Administration, this program will inspire our young citizens and provide them with opportunities to serve their communities. National Service also helps students further their education; those who want to contribute to their communities through public service in AmeriCorps can receive college tuition assistance.

The School-to-Work Opportunities Act – This legislation invests in statewide systems of education and training that prepare students for further education and for high-skill, high-wage jobs. Through integrated work-based and school-based learning experiences, women and girls develop academic and technical skills that enable them to compete for a range of jobs in sectors of the economy traditionally dominated by men.

Increasing Parental Involvement – The National Family Involvement Partnership for Learning is a national initiative that encourages and support efforts to help families to take a more active role in their children's learning and that encourages businesses to allow employees to participate more fully in their children's schooling.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

For too long, many girls interested in a career in science abandoned this goal while still in school, hampered by the biases against girls that persist in our nation's classrooms and discouraged by the dearth of female role models. For too long, those women who did become scientists were confronted by an impenetrable "old boys network" in the scientific community. For too long, a promising area of medical research was blocked despite its potential for helping and healing millions of Americans afflicted with heretofore intractable diseases. And for too long, the potential for applying advances in detection technology used by the defense, space and computer graphics industries to help save women's lives went unexplored.

National Science and Technology Policy – In August 1994, the President and Vice President announced the Clinton Administration's science policy statement, "Science in the National Interest." This national science and technology policy will encourage women and underrepresented minorities to pursue careers in the sciences and promote gender equity within scientific fields and the health professions.

Women Scientists – The Clinton Administration has appointed female scientists to top-level government research and science policy positions. Among other important positions, women hold the posts of Chief Scientist at the National Air and Space Administration and at the Department of Commerce, Associate Director for Science at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Deputy Director at the National Science Foundation, Director of the Office of Energy Research at the Department of Energy and Director for Defense Research and Engineering at the Department of Defense.

Removal of the Fetal Tissue Research Ban – On his first day in office, President Clinton ended a five-year moratorium on federal funding of human fetal tissue transplantation research. This research has important therapeutic implications for diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Breast Cancer Detection Technology – The PHS Office on Women's Health (OWH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) have initiated an exploration into applying imaging technology used by the defense, space, and computer graphics industries to the early detection of breast cancer. OWH and NCI will facilitate collaborations among those involved in imaging technology in government, academia and industry to further the development of this potentially life-saving application.

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In the first two years of the Clinton Administration alone, the President and his Administration made an unprecedented commitment to empowering women through greater economic security, more workplace flexibility, and more emphasis on children and families and on women's health and safety. They invested in the economic and personal security of women through the President's economic plan and education reforms, the Family and Medical Leave Law, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Brady Law, and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. They advanced women's rights through a series of executive and legislative actions that allow women the freedom to make their own reproductive decisions and to do so safely, with accurate information and without obstruction. They put women's health concerns at the top of the public health agenda by initiating a comprehensive approach to women's health designed to end the inequities that have plagued research, clinical practice and health care education. Finally, the President and his Administration changed the face of governing by giving women a greater voice in all branches of the federal government, including Cabinet-level posts never before held by women.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

After her morning in class studying English, algebra, and physics, Sylvia rides the bus to Deaconess Hospital. There, under the watchful eye of a hospital technician, she takes bone and tissue samples of patients, slices them into razor-thin strips, attaches them to slides, and checks the numerical coding to be sure each slide matches the right patient.

Like 120 other students from three Boston high schools, Sylvia is preparing for high-demand technical occupations in Boston's health care industry. In each year of the program, participants study a specially designed hospital-based curriculum that offers everything from introductory health care courses to clinical rotations at one of the seven participating hospitals. These work-learning experiences let students explore a range of health care occupations and opportunities.

The President strongly believes that the role of government is to give people the tools they need to reach their potential. The President has acted on this belief by expanding economic, professional and educational opportunities for women.

Making Work Pay— The President's economic plan is helping women in low-wage jobs provide for their families and stay off welfare through the increased Earned Income Tax Credit. For working mothers with minimum wage jobs, the increased EITC is the equivalent of up to a 40% pay raise.

Providing a Helping Hand to Women-Owned Businesses — Women business owners are starting businesses at twice the rate of their male counterparts. The Clinton Administration has been a friend to these entrepreneurial women. The Small Business Administration has established a women's mentoring program and made more business loans to women. And the Clinton Administration's Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise is working with women business leaders to create a public/private partnership that will foster the growth and development of women-owned businesses.

Listening to Working Women — The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor surveyed over a quarter of a million working women to learn more about their experiences in the workplace. At the President's direction, the Department of Labor and the Women's Bureau are working to address the concerns raised by the survey participants — better pay and benefits, help balancing work and family, and getting the recognition in the workplace that they deserve.

Preparing Women and Girls for High-Skill, High-Wage Jobs — One of the national education goals established in the landmark Goals 2000: Educate America Act is to increase the number of women and minorities who complete degrees in math, science and engineering. And the President's School-to-Work Opportunities Act is assisting women and girls in developing the hands-on skills they need to compete for rewarding jobs in fields traditionally dominated by men.

Increasing Access to Higher Education — The Income Contingent Loan Repayment program will allow participants who have received a student loan to make repayments based on their income. This allows people to take lower-paying jobs, or to leave their jobs—for example, to raise a family—without the penalty of loan default.

Dramatically Expanding Opportunities for Women in the Military — Under the Clinton Administration, women soldiers now have access to 259,000 previously male-only positions.

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

"Their response was overwhelming. There was a sense of electricity and excitement on the floor. Dozens of delegates came over and said, 'Welcome back to humanity; welcome back to the world.'"

-- Undersecretary of State Timothy E. Wirth, describing the first United Nations meeting at which he discussed the Clinton Administration's population strategy, as quoted in the Los Angeles Times, Sept. 14, 1994.

The Clinton Administration has protected the right of American women to make their own reproductive choices, assisted women in exercising their right to vote and acted in the global arena to improve the lives of women.

Protecting the Reproductive Health of American Women– President Clinton repealed the "Gag Rule" that restricted abortion counseling at federally funded family planning clinics, revoked the import ban on RU-486, reversed the ban on abortion services at military hospitals, repealed the Mexico City policy that banned funding to international organizations that promote comprehensive family planning, and signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. The Administration implemented a change to the Hyde Amendment obligating states to pay for abortions for poor women whose pregnancies result from rape or incest.

Increasing Access to the Ballot Box– President Clinton signed the National Voter Registration Act, enfranchising women who are on welfare, homebound, or simply unable to build in extra time between work and family by allowing them to register to vote through the mail, at motor vehicle registries and at other government offices.

Promoting the Empowerment of Women Throughout the World– The United States' delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo forged a partnership with more than 150 nations around a platform of action that promotes gender equality, reproductive health, and universally recognized human rights that apply to reproduction and recognizes the importance of addressing the threat posed to women's health by unsafe abortions.

WOMEN APPOINTEES

"I attended a number of meetings in the White House under previous administrations. I remember my first meeting in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. . . . I remember sitting at the table with other Governors, with the President, with members of his Cabinet and there was another woman, sitting against the wall, a staff person, and we . . . kind of winked at one another, as one does on these occasions, and our secret language was, 'Hey, I'm glad you're there, and let's both pretend this is perfectly normal for both of us.' . . . I went back to the Roosevelt Room not too long ago, a couple of times, and I couldn't get over it. Everything was different. Half the group was composed of women . . . and I thought, how can I ever have thought that this was such a masculine space and that I did not belong there?"

-- Deputy Secretary of Education Madeleine M. Kunin on Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26, 1993.

President Clinton pledged to appoint an Administration that "looked like America." As the *Baltimore Sun* noted in an editorial, he has delivered on that promise "more fully than even he could have predicted. No Administration has ever produced such diversity."

Appointing Women to Important Administration Positions -

- 42 percent of President Clinton's appointees were women—by far the highest percentage of any Administration in history.
- The President appointed women to Cabinet-level posts never before occupied by women, including Attorney General Janet Reno, former Council of Economic Advisors Chair (now Assistant to the President for Economic Policy) Laura D'Andrea Tyson, OMB Director Alice Rivlin and Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary.
- In addition, the President appointed women to other positions traditionally held by men. Female scientists holding top-level government research and science policy positions include the Chief Scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and at the Department of Commerce, Deputy Director at the National Science Foundation, Director of the Office of Energy Research at the Department of Energy, and Director for Defense Research and Engineering at the Department of Defense.

Promoting Excellence and Diversity in the Federal Judiciary-

- The President nominated 45 women out of a total of 141 nominees to the federal bench. 59% of all of the President's judicial nominees are women and minorities.
- Because of President Clinton's appointments, as of July 1 of last year, one of every four active federal judges was a woman or a racial minority.
- The proportion of the Clinton Administration's judicial nominees who received the American Bar Association's highest rating exceeded that of the past three administrations.

SUPPORTING WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

"I will never forget what the Family and Medical Leave Act meant to just one father I met early one Sunday morning in the White House. . . . [H]e had his wife and his three children there, one of them in a wheelchair. I came up, and after we had our picture taken and had a little visit, I was walking off and that man grabbed me by the arm and he said, 'Mr. President, let me tell you something. My little girl here is desperately ill. She's probably not going to make it. But because of the Family Leave law, I was able to take time off to spend with her -- the most important time I ever spent in my life -- without losing my job and hurting the rest of my family. It means more to me than I will ever be able to say.'"

-- President Clinton, State of the Union address, January 25, 1994.

The President and his Administration are supporting women and their families in times of need and encouraging values that make families strong.

Supporting Families in Times of Crisis – Family crises can strike any family at any time. President Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act, allowing workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for an infant or ailing loved one without losing their jobs. Now American workers are no longer forced to choose between their jobs and their families at times of crisis.

Improving Child Support Collections – Some families -- usually headed by women -- are plunged into economic crisis and poverty when the absent parent fails to pay child support. The President is working to get single parents and their children the support they need. On February 27, 1995, the President signed an executive order to make the federal government a model employer in the area of child support enforcement. And the President's child support plan, introduced as part of last year's welfare reform legislation, would double federal child support collections by the year 2000.

Fighting Teen Pregnancy – To confront this national epidemic, the President has called for a National Campaign Against Teen Pregnancy, asking leaders in all areas of national life to join in promoting individual responsibility and economic opportunity for America's young people. And the President's welfare reform plan, introduced last year, provided funding for community-based initiatives to end teen pregnancy, as well as a National Clearinghouse to provide communities with information on successful strategies.

Helping Disadvantaged Preschoolers Achieve – Based on the recommendations of a bipartisan committee, the President and Health and Human Services Secretary Shalala implemented quality improvements in HeadStart that moved this popular program for disadvantaged preschoolers into the 21st century. The Administration also initiated the creation of a new program to serve disadvantaged infants and toddlers aged zero to three.

Preventing Childhood Disease – President Clinton sponsored and signed the comprehensive Childhood Immunization Initiative, ensuring that children, regardless of family income, will be vaccinated against disease. The Initiative is creating partnerships among the federal government and state and local governments, health care professionals, and voluntary organizations to work towards the goal of vaccinating at least 90 percent of all two-year olds with the full series of required vaccines by the year 2000.

IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH

When First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton met recently with 250 elderly South Florida women at the Joseph Myerhoff Senior Center, Georgia Ayres, a 66 year old member of the National Council of Negro Women, participated with her in a panel discussion. Mrs. Clinton told the audience that the risks of getting breast cancer increase with age and that Medicare covers regular mammography screening that could save their lives. The group also talked about the mammography procedure itself and the reasons for the reluctance of some women to get mammograms. After Mrs. Clinton's visit, Ms. Ayres told the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, "I've never had a mammogram. I've been afraid to because I watched my daughter-in-law die of breast cancer. But now after this talk, I will go and make an appointment to have a mammogram."

The Clinton Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to improving the health of American women and ending inequities in medical research and treatment.

Fighting Breast Cancer - Breast cancer is a growing threat to American women -- the lifetime risk of developing breast cancer has risen from 1 in 20 to 1 in 8 in just thirty years. The President has made the fight against breast cancer a national priority and brought us closer to eliminating this threat.

- The President has dramatically increased funding for breast cancer research -- by 65% at NIH alone.
- Right now, early detection through mammography is the best weapon we have against breast cancer. To make sure that mammograms are reliable, the FDA has put in place quality standards for mammography facilities. And the First Lady has joined with the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the rate of mammography use among older women.
- To make better screening methods available to women, the Public Health Service Office on Women's Health and the National Cancer Institute have initiated an exploration into applying imaging technology used by the defense, space, and computer graphics industries to the early detection of breast cancer.

Promoting Fairness in Medical Research - In the past, clinical researchers studying killer diseases like heart disease and cancer concentrated mainly on men. This Administration is ending this inequity -- to help America's women lead healthier lives and be treated more effectively when they do get sick.

- The largest clinical study ever conducted -- an NIH study of diseases affecting older women -- is now underway.
- And the President is making sure that women will no longer be left out of other important medical research. He signed legislation requiring that women and minorities be include in all clinical research supported by NIH.

Combatting AIDS – AIDS is increasing at a faster rate among women than men. The Administration is combatting AIDS in women by increasing the number of women participating in AIDS research. And the Administration is supporting research into women-controlled barrier methods that will help women protect themselves from getting infected.

Taking a Comprehensive Approach – Other Administration women's health initiatives include researching how to prevent unnecessary hysterectomies, developing a culturally sensitive medical school curriculum about women's health and establishing the first Department-level position -- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health -- dedicated solely to improving women's health.

INCREASING SAFETY AND SECURITY

"If children aren't safe in their homes, if college women aren't safe in their dorms, if mothers can't raise their children in safety, then the American Dream will never be real for them, no matter what we do in economic policy, no matter how strong we are in standing against the forces that would seek to undermine our values beyond our borders. This is key to everything else we want to do."

-- President Clinton at a Violence Against Women Act event, March 21, 1995.

In a typical year, 2.5 million American women ages 12 years and older are raped, robbed or assaulted or are the victim of a threatened or attempted violent crime. Two-thirds of these attacks are committed by someone the victim knows. Enacted thanks to President Clinton's leadership, the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 will make American women safer.

Combatting Gun Violence – The President's "Crime Bill" banned military-style assault weapons. And the Brady Law is working to keep handguns out of the reach of those who would use them criminally -- including men under restraining orders for stalking, harassment or other forms of domestic threats or intimidation.

Fighting Violence Against Women – The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), part of the President's Crime Bill, takes a comprehensive approach to combating domestic violence and other violence against women.

- VAWA will improve the responses of police, prosecutors and judges to these crimes, enhance lighting at bus stops and other dark public places, force sex offenders to pay restitution to their victims and triple funding for battered women's shelters. And under the Act, the authority of a "stay away" order obtained against an abuser will no longer stop at the state line.
- On March 21, 1995, the President announced the appointment of Bonnie Campbell as Director of a special Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice. The President also announced \$26 million in STOP Grants to states to bolster their law enforcement, prosecution and victims services to better address violence against women.

Extending Civil Rights Protections to Victims of Gender Motivated Violence – Under VAWA, victims of gender motivated felonies have a Federal civil rights remedy for the first time.

Encouraging Women to Speak Out – VAWA extends "rape shield" protections to all criminal and civil cases involving alleged sexual misconduct, thereby barring embarrassing and irrelevant inquiries into a victim's sexual history. And the Crime Bill allows victims of federal sex crimes to speak at the sentencing of their assailants.

Providing Healthy Meals for Infants, Children and Postpartum Women – President Clinton has increased funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in each of his budgets. In 1995, approximately seven million women and children would benefit from this program.

Strengthening At-Risk Families – The President's Family Preservation and Support Act is a billion-dollar program that provides an array of supportive services to children and families designed to help strengthen them and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Increasing Parental Involvement – The National Family Involvement Partnership for Learning encourages efforts to help families take a more active role in their children's learning.

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

16-Jan-1996 01:55pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Carrie Wofford
 Office of Public Liaison

SUBJECT: Newsletter - Please share with women in your offic

THE WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER
NUMBER: 4

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S INITIATIVES AND
OUTREACH
JANUARY 3, 1996

"At stake (in the budget debate) is far more than just numbers and abstract programs and proposals and far more than the normal political debates in Washington. This debate is about people, the lives they lead, the hopes they have, the desires they have for a better life."

-- President Clinton, December 9, 1995, Radio Address

President Fights for a Budget
Good for Women and Families

President Clinton continues to fight to balance the budget and to prevent wrongheaded cuts and misplaced priorities that will unfairly hurt women and families.

The President's fight for Medicare and Medicaid is especially important to women:

- o Of the 37 million Medicare recipients, over 20 million, or 57 percent are women.
- o Nearly 5 million or 23 percent of women aged 65 or older depend solely on Medicare to help with their medical bills.
- o Nearly 70 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries between ages of 18 and 64 are women and 60 percent of all Medicaid beneficiaries are women.

President Clinton will make the cuts we need to balance the budget, but he refuses to make cuts into our fundamental American values.

The President and Vice President Meet Women Leaders At the Table
President Clinton and Vice President Gore met with women leaders on Dec. 20 in the Cabinet Room to discuss the importance of putting a woman's face on the issues. The President asked them for their help in getting the specifics about the impact of Republican cuts in such areas as education and the environment

out to women. The meeting was attended by: Pat Reuss, NOW Legal Defense Fund; Marcy Love, Personal PAC; Hedy Ratner, Women's Business Development Center; Marilyn Monahan, National Education Association; Audrey Tayse Haynes, Business and Professional Women/USA; Linda Chavez Thompson, AFL-CIO; Nancy Zirkin, American Association of University Women; Judy Lichtman, Women's Legal Defense Fund; Marcia Greenberger, National Women's Law Center; Geraldine Marullo, American Nurses Association; Deb Briceland Betts, Older Women's League; Judith Conover, League of Women Voters; Gloria Johnson, Coalition of Labor Union Women; Nancy Chupp, Church Women United; Elisa Sanchez, Mexican American National Women's Association.

Clinton Administration Giving Women a Voice At the Table

The White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach (The Women's Office) has launched its main outreach initiative called At the Table. Presidential appointees are holding roundtables with women across the nation to hear their concerns and ideas. Reports from these roundtables are coming back to The White House and a monthly report will be sent to
-continued-

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the President to ensure that women have a voice at the policy table. (More than 100 roundtables have been held and more than 1,000 women across the U.S. have participated.)

Some of the topics being discussed:

- o The Budget: Women are concerned that their families and children will be the losers with budget cuts and block granting.
- o Welfare Reform: Women believe that the Congressional welfare reform bill should be vetoed because it will have a strong adverse impact on women.
- o Choice: Women want to prevent any legislative setbacks to a woman's right to choose.
- o Crime/Domestic Violence: Women are proud that the President has taken a leadership role on domestic violence. Women are also very concerned about violence in schools.
- o Health Care: Women are afraid of losing their health insurance. They have concerns also about the quality of health care available to them.
- o Education: Women want stronger investment in early childhood education.
- o Affirmative Action: Women express a strong desire to continue affirmative action.
- o Childcare: Women express a need for greater access to affordable quality childcare for all families.

Vice President Stresses Administration's Pro-Family Budget

Vice President Gore addressed approximately 800 guests on Nov. 29 at the General Assembly of Women of Reform Judaism, the women's arm of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The Vice President stressed the Administration's pro-family stand in the budget debate by questioning the Republican budget on several points:

"...how can you say you're for working families if you try to cut the Earned Income Tax Credit and increase their taxes? How can you say you are for the middle class if you make it harder for middle class families to pay for college or afford health care for their parents? How can you say you're for welfare reform

if you're willing to push a million children into poverty? And how can you say you're for the well-being of all Americans if you propose to virtually dismantle all of our public health and environmental protections?"

Dr. Laura Tyson Speaks to
National Committee on Pay Equity

Dr. Tyson spoke to the National Committee on Pay Equity on Nov. 28. She spoke about the budget debate and the Administration's objective to restore fiscal responsibility in such a way that we also address our society's major difficulties. She listed some of the President's economic successes:

- The deficit has come down 50 percent since fiscal year 1992.
- The deficit is at a 17-year low compared to the size of the economy.

Secretary Shalala Unveils PSA's on AIDS Prevention

Secretary Shalala on Nov. 30 joined White House AIDS Policy Coordinator Patsy Fleming to unveil a new series of public service announcements about AIDS prevention. The series emphasizes the need for personal responsibility in preventing AIDS transmission.

-continued-

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Ellen Haas Speaks Out for School Lunches and Food Safety Net
Under Secretary for Food and Consumer Services Ellen Haas

continues to stress that feeding the needy is a shared public-private partnership. At the Union Station Foundation emergency shelter in Pasadena Calif., Haas said recently: "...the federal government must take the primary responsibility for providing a national nutrition safety net. Congressional welfare reform efforts avoid taking this responsibility. The deep cuts in the Food Stamp and Child Nutrition Programs and the optional Food Stamp block grants in the budget reconciliation bill would place an enormous burden on the private sector that they could not possibly carry."

Women Who Are Making a Difference for Other Women

With each newsletter, we will highlight some of the Presidential appointees who are inviting women to join them At the Table. In this issue, they are: Chantale Wong, senior advisor to the Director at OMB; Anne Elliott, Department of Energy; and Marie-Louise Caravatti, Department of Commerce. Chantale met with Asian Business women in San Francisco and discussed several topics including welfare reform, immigration, the budget and Medicaid cuts. Anne Elliott met with businesswomen and attorneys in Chicago -- with Russian women visitors looking on to learn the American

policy process. Marie-Louise Caravatti met with the state's most influential women leaders from the private and public sectors in Wilmington, Delaware. "For this group, turning our problems over to the invisible hand of the private sector was not seen as a solution," Marie-Louise wrote in her report to The Women's Office.

Be Counted, Get Included in
Women Presidential Directory

Currently, more than 42 percent of President Clinton's appointments are women. He has appointed more women to serve in his Administration than any President. We have six-Cabinet level appointees who are women and there are about 2,500 women appointees throughout the Administration. To help identify who is serving where, The Women's Office is working to publish a directory of women Presidential appointees to share with women groups and women appointees. To get included call The Women's Office, 202-456-7300.

Briefing for Women Appointees

The White House press and communications teams briefed women appointees on Dec. 13 in the OEOB on the Administration's message and priorities and the importance of At the Table outreach. Those briefing the women included Evelyn Lieberman, Mike McCurry, Don Baer and Peggy Lewis. Also briefing the group was Tony Lake who discussed Bosnia. The Women's Office organizes a briefing each month as well as a social event. Gloria Steinem will speak at a briefing soon.

Call Us: The White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach: Betsy Myers, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director. Staff: Barbara Woolley, Peggy Lussier, Carrie Wofford, Judy Gold, Beth Newburger, Mary Dixon.
Phone: 202-456-7300; Fax: 202-456-7311.

Distribution:

TO: Rebecca A. Cameron
TO: Jennifer Palmieri
TO: Angus S. King
TO: Gabrielle M. Bushman
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TO: Melinda N. Bates
TO: APRIL K. MELLODY
TO: Peggy A. Lewis
TO: Jean A. Carter
TO: Barbara D. Woolley

M E M O R A N D U M

To: File
From: Karen Guss
Date: August 31, 1995
Re: Women/Accomplishments Document
cc: Jeremy Ben-Ami
Jennifer Klein

Throughout the year, I have worked on a document that summarizes many of the accomplishments of the Clinton Administration that have benefitted women. The document has been updated several times, most recently in May 1995. The document may now become obsolete because one of the functions of the new Women's Outreach and Initiatives Office is to generate communications-oriented material. If it becomes necessary to update the document or if anyone is looking for information on the topics covered by the document, the following people may be contacted for information:

CRIME

Erik Reed, Justice
514-5995
fax 307-3904

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Dr. Susan Blumenthal, PHS Office on Women's Health
690-7650

Teddi Fine, PHS Office on Women's Health
260-9275
fax 401-4005

FETAL TISSUE RESEARCH; NAT'L INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RELATED INFO

Ann Thomas, NIH
301 496-5787

BREAST CANCER RESEARCH AT THE DEPT OF DEFENSE

Col. Irene Rich
301 619 7071

OUT OF POCKET HEALTH CARE COSTS

Ellie Dahoney, HHS
690-6250
(for health care stats, you may also want to try Jeanne Lambreau at HHS; 401-6119)

HEALTH CARE REFORM/MEDICARE/MEDICAID

Jennifer Klein, OFL/DPC
x62599
Chris Jennings, DPC
x65585

HEALTH BUDGET FIGURES

Nancy-Ann Min, OMB
(assistant Jim Blount)
x55178

Richard Turman, OMB
x54926

WIC

Neil Fleiger, Agriculture
703 305 2039

Phil Shanholtzer, Agriculture
703 305 2286

CHILD CARE

Joan Lombardi, HHS
401-6947

TEEN PREGNANCY

Jeremy Ben-Ami, DPC
x65584

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

Jen Klein, OFL/DPC
x62599

Diana Fortuna, DPC
x65570

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Jeremy Ben-Ami, DPC
x65584

WELFARE REFORM

Jeremy Ben-Ami, DPC
x65584

EDUCATION

Brett Scoll, Education
401-2140
fax 401-3095

Judy Wurtzel, Education
401-3281

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN

David Levine, CEA
x54597

National Economic Council (the people I used to talk to are gone,
call x66630 to find a new contact)

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Betsy Meyers, Office of Women's Outreach

x67300

(another good source might be Harriet Fredman, SBA; 205-6673)

WORKING WOMEN

Mimi Castaldi, Women's Bureau

219-6611

Lauren Asher, Women's Bureau

219-6631 x107

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Karen Kovacs, OSTP

x66135

ADMINISTRATION APPOINTEES

Julie Burwinkle, Antonella Pinalto, Office of Pres. Personnel

x66761

JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

Peter C. Erichsen, Justice

616-2004

fax 514-1685

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

Maj. Tom Schultz

703 695-0192

In the past, I have found it helpful to fax the section I am working on to the contact person above and to ask that person whether the section remains accurate and whether they have anything they would like to have. Please note that due to internal clearance problems at HHS, the document currently lacks a section on child care. Any future versions of the document should contain such a section.

The latest version of the document is at i:/dpc/data/womendoc.595. Research material and earlier versions of the document are in the file cabinet in my old office in OEOP 212 under "Women -- Accomplishments Document."

WOMEN AND FEDERAL SPENDING -- LET'S COMPARE

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

-- ECONOMIC SECURITY --

More than 60% of married women with children younger than six are in the labor force.

- Historic tax break for the middle class.
- Increases Earned Income Tax Credit by \$21 billion -- providing \$1400 to over 20 million working families with earnings of up to \$28,500 per year.

- Massive tax break to the wealthiest Americans.
- Takes money away from about 10 million recipients and 20 million children.

-- CHILDREN --

Every day in the United States 2,699 infants are born into poverty.

- Protects Head Start by adding 50,000 children and increasing funding by \$1.5 million.
- Expands commitment to children's nutrition in school.

- Eliminates 180,000 children by cutting \$210 million from Head Start.
- Abolishes children's entitlement to school lunch.

-- HEALTH --

Of the 36 million Medicare beneficiaries, nearly 20 million are older women.

- Reduces Medicare spending by \$124 billion -- that is less than half the Republican Cuts.
- Ensures the trust fund solvency through at least 2006.
- Strengthens Medicare financing without any new costs for the beneficiaries.
- Eliminates co-payment for mammograms for senior women.

- Cuts \$270 billion from Medicare over the next seven years.
- Increases average out-of-pocket expenses by \$2,825 (\$5,650 per couple) over a seven year period.
- Forces recipients -- 75% of whom have incomes under \$25,000 -- to pay significantly more for their fee-for-service plan and to guarantee their choice of doctor.

Women comprise over 69% of all Medicaid beneficiaries between the ages of 18 and 64.

About 2/3rds of the dollars spent on Medicaid are for services for elderly and disabled Americans.

- Saves \$54 billion between now and 2002.
- Promotes efficiency and gives states more flexibility while protecting coverage.
- Reforms system to target Federal payments to states for hospitals that serve a high proportion of low-income people.

- Cuts \$182 billion from Medicaid by 2002.
- Up to 8.8 million children and elderly and disabled persons could loose their insurance coverage in the year 2002 alone.
- Forces working families with a parent or spouse who need long-term care to face nursing home bills averaging \$38,000 a year.

-- VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN --

Domestic violence is the number one health concern for women between the ages of 15 and 44.

- Increases funding for the Violence Against Women Act -- the first comprehensive federal effort to fight violence against women and protect the rights of victims.

- Cuts funding by nearly \$50 million -- threatening the full enforcement of the Act and reducing the number of shelters, police and prosecutors.

-- EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES --

College graduates earn on average \$32,629, while high school graduates make only \$18,737 annually.

- Helps 20 million students take advantage of low-interest rate loans and better repayment terms.
- Continues to increase the maximum Pell Grant, which serves almost 4 million students per year, from \$2,620 in 1996 to \$3,128 in 2002.
- Allots \$500 million per year for a safer learning environment for 39 million children.
- Promotes educational policies to increase the number of women who complete degrees in math, science and engineering.

- Caps participation in Student Loan programs which will increase the cost of higher education for middle-class students by up to \$3,000.
- Pell Grants would be only \$2,440 and 200,000 students would lose grants.
- Slashes funding by 60% -- at a time when drug use among students rose 50% between 1992 and 1994.
- Cuts or eliminates funds for programs which work to promote educational equality.

**REMARKS OF HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WOMEN'S FOUNDATION SUMMIT ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY
JULY 26, 1995**

Thank you so much, Swanee, for your kind introduction. It is a pleasure to be here and see so many community leaders gathered to explore and highlight strategies for improving the economic lives of women and their families. I am gratified that the inspiration for this summit came from the visit of your leadership to the White House. I am also pleased that the proceedings here today will be used to formulate a report that will be shared with local and national policymakers. It very important that those in Washington have the opportunity to hear from people around the country who are working on these issues.

Few issues are more important than the economic security of our families. That is why it is the Administration's top priority. As my husband said recently at Georgetown University, his goal as President is to restore the American Dream -- but that goal can only be achieved if all of us, in every sector of our society, do our part. The Women's Foundation of Colorado is doing its part through your work to help women and girls all over Colorado become more economically secure.

Our economy is strong. In the last two and a half years, seven million new jobs have been created and inflation has remained low. The stock market is at an all-time high. In each of the last two years, a record number of new businesses has been opened.

And yet, despite all of this economic ^{move}/good news, more than half the people in our country are working and making less than they were making two and a half years ago. Today we face additional challenges of shrinking resources and greater global competition. The percentage of people in the workforce under age 65 who have health insurance is lower than it was 10 years ago. Millions of poor Americans have simply given up on ever attaining a middle-class lifestyle.

Women's economic anxieties, for themselves and for their families, have been exacerbated. Women, despite their entry into the job market and the workplace, are still primarily responsible for their families. And many women are working very long days at home and outside the home.

The Administration wanted to hear directly from women around the country about the problems we're facing. The Women's Bureau of the Labor Department undertook "Working Women Count", a survey of 250,000 working women. From this survey, we learned firsthand about the challenges facing working women and about their

greatest concerns -- the need for better pay and benefits, balancing work and family, and getting the recognition they deserve in the workplace.

When I meet working women all around the country, I am struck by the obstacles that they confront in trying to make a better life for themselves and their families.

[Option to omit: On a recent visit to Santa Fe, I met a divorced single mother of five children who is one of only two mothers employed by the entire Santa Fe Fire Department. She works full time as a fire fighter, and holds another full time job at a feed bin.]

Despite the two full time jobs, she cannot afford health insurance for herself and her children. Nor can she afford to have all of her children with her, so her three youngest are living with relatives in California. And because her schedule at the fire department requires her to work three or four straight 24 hour shifts, she cannot find suitable child care for her two oldest children. Nevertheless, she is taking classes so that she can advance at the fire department and earn enough to reunite her family.]

Wherever I go, I hear the same needs expressed -- for access to child care, for more respect on the job, for flexible schedules that demonstrate that family responsibilities are actually valued.

All around the country, women are striving for economic security, but too often the tools of opportunity and the social supports that would allow women to obtain their goals without losing their minds are lacking. We have got to do better for working women as a society. And we cannot become the society we want to be as we move into the 21st century unless we do. After all, approximately 60% of women with children under six are in the workforce today, and a full 99% of women in the United States will work for pay at sometime during their lives.

That is why the President is committed to investing in education and training and health care and personal security for our people. That is why he is fighting the attempts to go back and undo the progress we have already made.

Medicare and Medicaid are examples of that progress. For thirty years, Medicare has relieved older women of having to worry about not having health care in their old age. Today, millions of middle class families are spared agonizing choices or financial ruin by Medicare coverage of skilled nursing facilities and Medicaid coverage of nursing homes. Endangering the health care millions of Americans need to achieve their potential is to

take a step backwards when we what we need is to move forward.

Today, other important investments in women and their families are also at risk. Efforts are underway to slash funding for programs that fight violence against women, to eliminate federal family planning activities that serve low income women, to increase the cost of college loans by billions of dollars, to gut initiatives that fight violence and drugs in our schools, and to raise taxes on millions of working women and their families by cutting the earned income tax credit. As we work to invest in a better future, we must fight to preserve the gains we have already made for working women and their families.

We have also made progress through new and creative collaborations between the public and the private sector that are already starting to make a difference in the lives of some working women and their families. The Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor has begun to publicly recognize employers, unions, and other organizations that implement policies or programs that create positive change for women workers.

To gain a spot on the Women's Bureau's Working Women Count Honor Roll, a group of California businesses has pledged to set up an 800 number that employees can call when they need emergency child or elder care. A New Jersey insurance company pledged to offer alternative work schedules to its employees -- including job sharing, telecommuting, and compressed four-day work weeks. And an Oregon community foundation pledged to raise nearly \$1 million to train child care providers to give high quality care to infants and toddlers. The positive effects of these initiatives should spread as businesses and organizations around the country take their lead from the efforts recognized on the Honor Roll.

The Women's Bureau has also held a series of Child Care Forums, bringing together parents, community leaders, child care providers and employers to begin a dialogue about how to deal with child care needs in their communities. And the Bureau has compiled "Care Around the Clock," a resource guide to help parents and employers work together to make child care more available and affordable to the growing number of parents who work non-standard hours.

As we continue to search for ways to make progress here at home, we can learn from initiatives around the world that are creating greater economic security for women and their families. When I traveled to South Asia, I was particularly impressed by the various projects I visited that were empowering women to take more control over their own lives -- to seek out and obtain education for themselves or for their daughters, to gain access to credit from organizations like the Self-Employed Women's

Association in India, or the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, so that they could start businesses and create income for themselves and their families.

And what I took away from South Asia was not only extraordinary admiration for the courage of these women, but a sense that we in the United States have both many blessings to be grateful for and much work to be done in order for us to realize our potential.

Today I had the pleasure of visiting an organization that is helping so many women here in Colorado realize their potential. It is the Mi Casa Resource Center for Women, which as many of you know well, is supported in part by a grant from the Women's Foundation. Mi Casa runs a very successful microlending program modeled on the Grameen Bank, which I visited in Bangladesh. Mi Casa's lending program serves low income, predominantly Latina women who lack access to traditional sources of credit. Many of you will have the opportunity later this afternoon to hear from Annette Quintana, who took her loan and established a business that grossed half of a million dollars in its first year. And if the determined and enthusiastic women I met today are any indication, the Mi Casa Resource Center has not produced its last success story.

The support of the Women's Foundation of Colorado for Mi Casa and the achievements of Mi Casa's clients are a striking illustration of the good things that happen when women reach out to help other women. But we must not get caught up in a false dichotomy that says that only the private sector or only the government is responsible for meeting the challenges we face today. As we all know, to succeed we will need a partnership that is going to bring us all together.

The Mi Casa Resource Center, in fact, received much of its initial support from the Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership. Mi Casa is one of the dozens of training and counseling centers the SBA has helped establish -- through public-private partnerships -- to train and counsel socially and economically disadvantaged women who want to launch their own businesses. Tens of thousands of women around the country have been assisted at these centers. Thanks in part to aggressive programs like these, the number of women-owned businesses in the United States has risen by 1.7 million since 1992.

It is not only entrepreneurial women, but all working women who illustrate the need for government, communities, businesses and individuals to share responsibility for the economic security and well-being of women and their families.

The upcoming UN Fourth World Conference on Women is an important opportunity to focus attention on women -- the aspirations we share and the challenges we face. Now there are some who say that this Conference is nothing but a forum of out-of-the-mainstream extremists whose goal is to destroy the family. They couldn't be more wrong. This Conference is about improving the day-to-day lives of women everywhere. I find it very hard to accept that providing decent health care, educational opportunity, some basis for self-sufficiency in the case of need -- all the things this conference is about -- could ever be considered undermining the family when we know that women do most of the work in the world, have the responsibility for raising children, and are the backbone of the vast majority of families throughout the world. Families will be better off when women are better off, and I think that is the message of the Women's Conference.

At the World Conference on Population and Development in Cairo last year and at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen earlier this year, the international community recognized that women are pivotal to efforts to address poverty. The Women's Conference will build on the Social Development Summit by advancing a Platform of Action to enhance women's economic self-reliance; it calls upon governments to remove legal and practical barriers that prevent women from obtaining the training, credit, property, education and job opportunities they need.

The Platform urges governments and employers to make the workplace a more humane and decent place; for example, by implementing measures like the Family and Medical Leave Act and by establishing a climate where parents can better balance job and family responsibilities.

The Platform prevails upon governments to enhance educational opportunities for girls, as we have begun to do here through the President's Goals 2000 legislation, which encourages the inclusion of more girls in advanced science courses, and through the Administration's School-to-Work program, which integrates classroom study with mentoring and job-training opportunities in non-traditional fields.

It calls for improving women's access to the comprehensive health care services all women need, better dissemination of health-related information, and ending the inequities in medical research that have left us with too little knowledge about how to treat the diseases and conditions that affect us.

Women's rights are human rights. Today in countries around the world, appalling abuses are being committed against women. The Platform recognizes that acts of violence against women are

violations of human rights, and it calls for an end to such violations. Violence against women is a crime that must be prevented and punished. That is why I am so proud of the special Violence Against Women Office the President has established at the Department of Justice.

The Platform also seeks to ensure a continuing voice for women by advocating for their participation in political, corporate, and all other decision-making bodies. So many of the President's top-level appointments are women and the United States will be a strong champion at the Women's Conference of policies that invest in creating leadership and other opportunities for women and girls.

Around the world, women have demonstrated that, when given the tools of opportunity -- education, health care, credit, and political and legal rights -- they can will better not only themselves, but their families, communities, and nations as well. These issues are at the center of our political and economic challenges. Together we must recognize and act upon this reality for the economic security of our citizens, our nation, and our global family.

Thank you very much.

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 1995

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Women have made inestimable contributions to our country throughout our Nation's history. Some have names we recognize. Clara Barton. Harriet Tubman. Susan B. Anthony. Eleanor Roosevelt. And Rosa Parks. But women's history is also about the countless women whose names we do not know -- the millions of women of courage and commitment who have served this society as doctors and scientists, teachers and factory workers, marathoners and mothers. At home and in schools, in offices and congregations, in our Armed Forces and our communities, women have helped to build this Nation and keep it strong. It is in their honor that we pause to celebrate Women's History Month each year.

The story of women's accomplishments in America is long and proud. Patriots such as Dolly Madison and Harriet Beecher Stowe put their concern for country ahead of their own well-being in order to advance the principles of justice and freedom upon which this Nation was founded. Writers and artists such as Emily Dickinson, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Martha Graham enlivened our culture, extended our horizons, and expanded our appreciation of the world around us. And in recent decades, women have made enormous strides. The pioneers such as Jane Addams, founder of Chicago's Hull House and our first woman Nobel Prize winner, and Frances Perkins, our first woman Cabinet Officer, have paved the way for ever growing numbers of women running businesses and universities, serving as governors and diplomats, conducting orchestras and exploring space, helping to lead our land toward a new century.

Yet barriers remain. Women now work for pay in greater numbers, in more occupations, and for more years of their lives than ever before, but too many must still settle for compensation far below what it should be, and too many still find their

potential curbed by glass ceilings. And women still struggle every day, in tests of resourcefulness and devotion, to balance the demands of work and family. If freedom and opportunity are truly to be the law of the land, we must sustain and renew our commitment to the principle of equality that is our American heritage and work to remove the obstacles that stand in the way.

Women's History Month offers us an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of all of the women who have enriched our Nation. I encourage Americans to learn about women's history -- this month and throughout the year. Only by studying the history of America's women -- their triumphs and their struggles -- can we understand the history of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the month of March 1995 as "Women's History Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
day of , in the year of our
Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence
of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.