

File: Phas seen  
 cc: EK - what's status of relig. provisions of bill?

Bruce  
 we need to decide what if anything to do by this use of (think there are possibilities -

Bob  
 THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN  
 12-19-96

*Some politicians say faith-based programs cure social ills. But the needs are huge and a backlash grows*

# CAN CHURCHES

In the beginning came the governor's challenge: If each of Mississippi's churches would help just one poor family back on its feet, welfare could end. "God, not government, will be the savior of welfare recipients," Gov. Kirk Fordice likes to say. That's how Frances White, a jobless mother facing eviction from a crumbling house, suddenly found herself adopted by a suburban church. There

were good deeds (church members paid White's bills), communion (they took her kids shopping) and finally redemption (through one congregant, White found a job as a hospital records clerk and now is partly off welfare). Not long ago, no governor or politician could get away with asking churches to do the antipoverty work that is normally the responsibility of government. And it would have been the height of hokeyness

to suggest that churches, synagogues and mosques could cure the drug addicted, feed the hungry, house the homeless, rehabilitate the criminal and lift the poor better than government. Yet with President Clinton and Congress agreeing to end welfare as we know it, there is talk of a second welfare revolution: Let churches and charities, not government, provide more of the social safety net. Republican presidential nominee Bob

46 cc: lot page to Bruce Reed

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Bruce - DOT's proposed amendment to the WR law's "charitable choice" provision didn't make it into the technical bill, and HHS isn't arguing. Neither am I. But we may not have heard the last of this from DOT. Elena