

NLWJC - Kagan

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Family - Child Care: Radio Address

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1998

TAPED WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS

DATE: May 8, 1998
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 9:30 AM
FROM: Bruce Reed
Megan Moloney

I. PURPOSE

In honor of Mother's Day this Sunday, you will discuss how all Americans must take responsibility for the care of our children -- through protecting child support collection and taking action on child care.

II. BACKGROUND

Your Mother's Day radio address provides an opportunity to focus on child care, urge congressional action, and make two announcements aimed at giving parents greater peace of mind on child care:

- (1) *Background Checks for Child Care Workers:* You will release Department of Justice guidelines for screening child care workers and other caregivers, designed to reduce the incidence of abuse by care providers. This report demonstrates the need for the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, which you transmitted to Congress last fall and which now awaits congressional action. The Compact is designed to facilitate effective background checks on child care providers by eliminating state law barriers to the sharing of criminal history information for non-criminal purposes.
- (2) *Parent Education on Child Care:* You will release two HHS documents: a new guide for parents on what to look for in choosing quality child care, and a report for states on improving child care consumer education.

You will also make a statement on pending bankruptcy

reform legislation and the Administration's opposition to one aspect of a bill in the House of Representatives. Under this provision, certain credit card debts would be nondischargeable under Chapter 7 and thus elevated to the same priority as taxes, educational loans, and child support and alimony. Former spouses could find themselves in competition with large credit card companies to receive their family support. Your advisers recommend strong opposition to this provision; however, such opposition should not be seen as inconsistent with our support for responsible bankruptcy reform.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing (9:15-9:30 am)

The President
Rahm Emanuel
Ann Lewis
Bruce Reed
Jen Klein
Jeff Shesol
Nicole Rabner

Radio Address (9:30 am)

The President
Megan Moloney
Rebecca Cameron
White House Communications Agency (WHCA) Staff
White House Television (WHTV)
White House photographer
Approx. 30 guests (see attached for list)

IV. PRESS PLAN

The ABC, AP, C-CPAN, CBS, NBC/Mutual/Westwood One, NPR, UPI, USA, American Urban Radio and Standard News networks will carry the address in its entirety to their thousands of stations across the country this Saturday at 10:06 AM ET.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Briefing
Deliver Radio Address
Greet Guests

VI. REMARKS

To be forwarded by the Office of Speechwriting

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES NEW EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CHILD CARE AND GIVE PARENTS PEACE OF MIND

This weekend, millions of Americans will celebrate Mother's Day and take time to recognize the critically important role that mothers play in the lives of their children. To give our nation's mothers the peace of mind they deserve, President Clinton today announced new steps to help parents choose safe, appropriate child care and again urged Congress to take action on child care legislation this year.

The President Announced New Justice Department Report to Help Protect Children in Child Care. The Justice Department report is designed to help protect children, the elderly and the disabled from abuse and neglect in care. Although the vast majority of child care providers are dedicated to the teaching and nurturing of children, one tragedy in child care is too many. Background checks are an important way to ensure that the people watching our children are fit for this responsibility. *Guidelines for the Screening of Persons Working with Children, the Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities in Need of Support* offers practical guidance for screening potential caregivers and makes recommendations for developing statewide screening and background check policies. The new report underscores the need for the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, which the President transmitted to Congress last fall, has strong bipartisan support, and now awaits congressional action. The Compact will facilitate effective background checks on child care providers by eliminating state law barriers to the sharing of criminal history information for non-criminal purposes.

The President Announced New HHS Efforts To Help Parents Choose Child Care. Studies confirm that consumer education is a key ingredient to child care quality. Today, HHS releases two documents to help parents get the information they need to choose child care that is right for their children:

- **New guide will help parents select high quality child care.** The guide recommends four simple steps for parents in choosing child care: (1) interview the potential caregivers; (2) check references; (3) evaluate how the caregiver meets your child's needs; and (4) stay involved. The guide will be available to parents through the Internet.
- **New report highlights model consumer education efforts in the states and urges greater action.** The new report, *Reaching Parents with Child Care Consumer Education*, will help states improve parent education. It highlights successful state approaches and makes recommendations to states and child care administrators on ways to provide information to parents on how to assess their child care needs, locate services, obtain subsidies for income-eligible families, evaluate quality, and choose the best, appropriate care for their children.

The President Urged Congress to Protect Child Support Collection. The President called on Congress to join him in opposing a provision in proposed bankruptcy reform legislation that may undermine the ability of single parents to collect child support and alimony. The Administration supports responsible bankruptcy reform, but under one bill in the House of Representatives, some parents who try to collect child support from former spouses who file for bankruptcy could find themselves in competition with large credit card companies. Since 1992, child support collection has increased by 68 percent, and the President is committed to safeguarding that important progress.

The President Called for Congressional Action on Child Care. Millions of Americans, struggling to be both good parents and good workers, rely on child care and after-school programs for part of each day. As part of his balanced budget request, the President called for significant new investments in child care -- to help working families pay for child care, build a good supply of after-school programs, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning. Today, the President renewed his call on Congress to put aside partisan differences and take action on child care this year.

Draft 05/07/98 7:30pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON MOTHER'S DAY AND CHILD CARE
WASHINGTON, DC
May 9, 1998**

Tomorrow is Mother's Day, a special moment to express the gratitude, respect, and love we feel all year round. Our mothers give us life; they offer us unconditional love; they endow us with self-esteem and a generosity of spirit. From our first moments, mothers are our best teachers and most selfless friends. And, like my own mother, whom I miss very much, they rarely ask for thanks. A mother's main wish is to see her children grow up healthy and happy.

Today, I want to talk about a few ways we can give all mothers that peace of mind--whether they work at an office, a factory, a hospital, or at home. To make that tribute to motherhood, we must all take responsibility for the care of our children. For many mothers, peace of mind requires affordable, high-quality child care. Millions of American women, by necessity or by choice, pursue full-time careers outside the home. Three out of five mothers with children under six are attempting this delicate balancing act--between work and home, between one's colleagues and one's kids. It is a difficult decision. And for many low-income families, it is not a decision at all--because quality child care is either hard to find or too expensive to afford.

That's why I have included in my balanced budget a significant new investment in child care. I urge Congress to join me in making child care better, safer and more affordable for those who need it.

To help parents find the best care for their children, I am today releasing a report by the Department of Health and Human Services. It's a consumer's guide to child care quality that recommends four steps for parents: one, interview the potential care givers; two, check references; three, evaluate how the care giver meets your child's needs; and four, stay involved. Because, as Mother's Day reminds us, governments don't raise children; parents do. There can be no substitute for a mother's love or a parent's responsibility.

We, too, in the national and state governments, have a responsibility--to protect America's children from abuse and neglect. Nothing gives mothers peace of mind like the knowledge that their children are in safe hands. Today I am also releasing new Justice Department guidelines for screening child care workers and other care givers; and again I urge Congress to act on a proposal I put forth to facilitate background checks. There is strong bipartisan support for this proposal, and I am hopeful that members of both parties will move quickly to give America's children the care they deserve.

But there is one other thing we must do to protect America's children: fathers must take responsibility. Children deserve to be raised by both parents; and, when that's not possible, fathers must provide the child support that's needed. If fathers simply walk away, mothers and

children wind up on the welfare rolls and taxpayers end up paying the bill. That's why my administration has cracked down on deadbeat dads. Since 1992, we've raised child support collections by 68 percent.

We have worked too hard for too long toughening enforcement of child support laws to let our progress be accidentally undone. But that could happen if Congress goes ahead with one part of bankruptcy reform legislation now under consideration. Under that proposal, when a father declares personal bankruptcy, a mother may have to compete with powerful banks and credit card companies for the money they're owed. We all know who will lose that contest: America's children. Fathers have to step up to their responsibilities and so does Congress. Some changes to the consumer bankruptcy laws are in order, but mothers and children shouldn't have to stand in line for the support they need.

America's mothers hold a special place in our hearts. In return, let us give them the love and respect they have given us. On Mother's Day, we do so with cards and bouquets. But today and every other day, we should also do everything in our power to give America's mothers the peace of mind they so deeply deserve.

Hummer
www

Fam-child call -
radio address

Nicole R. Rabner

05/06/98 10:55:38 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: This week's radio address

I understand that there has been no decision about this week's radio address topic, but that child care remains a contender.

If child care prevails (as we hope it does), here is what we envision: the message would be Mother's Day, with the President stressing that today mothers are more pressed than ever, working outside the home in greater numbers than ever, and struggling to balance their responsibilities to their jobs and their families. He would talk about the need for Congressional action on child care, harken to the Casey Foundation's report which came out this week stressing the urgency of child care needs, and make two announcements aimed at giving mothers greater peace of mind about child care: (1) the release of Department of Justice guidelines for screening child care workers and other caregivers -- designed to reduce the incidence of abuse by care providers; and (2) the release of two HHS items: a report documenting model consumer education efforts and underscoring the critical importance of getting good information to parents on child care, and a check list for parents of questions to ask and things to look for in finding high quality child care.

Message Copied To:

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