

CHILD SUPPORT BRIEFING

- 1. Timing: announcement of the plan is likely next week; introduction soon after
- 2. Today we want to talk about child support enforcement, which is central to ending welfare.

The President's plan will include the toughest child support enforcement measures any Administration has ever proposed.

As the President said in the SOTU, we will say to absent parents who aren't paying child support: If you don't provide for your children, we will garnish your wages, suspend your license, track you across state lines, and if necessary, make you work off what you owe.

- 3. Tough CSE is important for 3 reasons:

- 1. The inability to collect child support from an absent parent is one of the main reasons many families go on welfare in the first place. Tough CSE can keep thousands of families from going on welfare, and help many others to leave the welfare rolls. In fact, if we did a better job of collecting child support in this country and getting parents to take responsibility, we might not have a welfare crisis.

- 2. Tough CSE can have a significant deterrent effect on prospective young fathers. It's not enough to change the equation for young mothers. The prospect of inescapable financial and parental responsibility for a child for the next 18 years will make young men think twice about fathering a child.

-- Diff's with Charles Murray

- 3. Finally, CSE ~~like the entire WR plan~~ ^{part of - larger} is meant to send a clear message about personal responsibility. Govts don't raise children; parents do. We could have all the govt programs on earth and it still won't be enough if parents don't do right.

-- Mention other respons. items: minor moms, natl campaign, incentives for resp behavior

It's not just the money. With Father's Day coming up, we cannot forget the price we are paying for the fact that millions of children are growing up into the benefit of two parents involved in their lives.

When people pay CS, they regain a connection to their children they never knew they had.

♀ have
to let the
fall for
this long
enough

How much will this improve collections?

In 1993, the federal-state child support enforcement system collected \$9 billion from non-custodial parents. Under our plan, that number would rise to \$20 billion by 1999.

This increase is attributable partly to better enforcement of recent improvements in current law, and partly to passage of the welfare reform legislation itself.

Under our plan, paternity identification, award establishment, and enforcement would improve, and would account for \$2 billion in 1999. (\$1 billion for AFDC mothers and \$1 billion for non-AFDC parents.) Another \$2 billion comes from the new mandate: bringing all child support awards into the federal-state enforcement system.

The rest of the increase--approximately \$7 billion--can be attributed to continuing improvements under the Family Support Act and other recent Clinton Administration initiatives. For example, hospital-based programs mandated by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 will increase paternity establishment.

$$\$9 + \$4 + \$7 = \$20$$

Child Support -
Talking Pts

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION



PHONE: (202)690-6805 FAX: (202)690-6562

Date: 6-11-94

From: Paul Feyler

To: Bruce Reed

Division: ASPE

Division: DRC

City & State: _____

City & State: _____

Office Number: 690-4148

Office Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Fax Number: 456-7739

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REMARKS: Miscellaneous talking points
for CSE

Deliver ASAP!

Talking points on child support

- The perception on the street today is that if you really don't want to pay child support, you can avoid it. We must change that perception by closing all the loopholes. Payment must become seen as inescapable as death or taxes.
- Our proposal provides for expanded, more accessible services for working parents.
- It will create a more uniform, centralized and service-oriented program.
- We must provide better service to clients off welfare - child support is part of a system of support (including EITC, child care, health care) that enables single parents to make it outside of the welfare system.
- We must work towards changing the attitude of young fathers and mothers. Parenting a child must be seen as an important responsibility that involves two parents. For young fathers, this means that parenting a child will have real financial consequences for the support of that child.
- Child support enforcement must be run more like modern businesses that use computers, automation and information technology. This allows for mass case processing of the routine cases. With 15 million cases and a growing caseload, we can't move this giant by simply adding more caseworkers. Routine cases have to be handled in volume.
- Given the fact that 30 percent of the current caseload involves interstate cases and the fact that we live in an increasingly mobile society, the need for a stronger federal role in interstate location and enforcement has grown. The National Clearinghouse will allow us to track non-paying parents across state lines.
- Under this proposal there will be less reliance on an overburdened court system - this will free up courts to work criminal cases.
- We will do a better job of ensuring accurate accounting and monitoring of payments.
- This proposal will simplify withholding for employers.
- The proposal contains revised distribution and payment rules designed to strengthen families.
- The proposal provides for tougher enforcement that builds on the practices of the best states.

- We will equip states with necessary enforcement tools -- tools that have proven successful in other states to collect the support that is due.

- We also address some of the concerns of noncustodial parents -- the child support system, while getting tougher on those that can pay but refuse to do so, will also be more fair to those noncustodial parents who show responsibility toward their children.