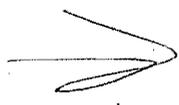


- **Annual Report and Trade Agenda:** You are expected to submit to Congress the *1997 Trade Policy Agenda and the 1996 Annual Report of the President of the U.S. on the Trade Agreement Program*. The document underscores the importance of trade expansion to sustain U.S. leadership in the global economy and the immense impact of trade in accelerating global economic development. Prepared pursuant to the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, the document describes the Administration's trade policy priorities for the year ahead and reviews the principal trade policy actions and accomplishments of 1996.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

auth: Diana
 - This is
 what I was
 trying to
 explain
 yesterday.
 have they - or haven't
 they?
 Eileen
 cc: Powell

- **Obesity:** A growing number of U.S. children, adolescents, and adults are overweight, according to an article published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* on March 6. Approximately 14 percent of children ages 6-11, 12 percent of adolescents ages 12-17, and 35 percent of adult ages 20 and over are overweight. This data reveals a significant increase in all age groups. ~~The third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, upon which this analysis is based, was conducted by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics from 1988-1994.~~
- **Child Support Incentives:** On March 7, HHS submitted its plan to Congress on new incentives for states to improve child support collections. The new incentive funding system, based upon five criteria, is intended to measure the true performance of states' child support programs more accurately than the current system, which is based solely on the cost effectiveness of enforcement programs.
- **Teen Drug Prevention Guide:** On March 6, the National Institute on Drug Abuse released the first research-based guide to prevent young people from using drugs. An initial printing of more than 100,000 copies will be distributed to schools and community groups nationwide during the coming months. The guide is organized around 14 prevention principles distilled from research on effective prevention techniques.
- **AIDS Vaccine Research Program:** On March 4, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases unveiled the INNOVATION Grant Program for Approaches in HIV Vaccine Research, a new initiative designed to speed the pace of AIDS vaccine discovery and development. On March 7, an announcement requesting applications under the new program as published in the *NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts*.
- **Bioethics Advisory Commission:** On March 13-14, the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, will begin its exploration of the ethical issues associated with the recent successful cloning of a sheep. On March 14, the commission will hear public comment.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 7, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KITTY HIGGINS *Kitty*
SUBJECT: Summary of Cabinet Weekly Reports
February 28 - March 7, 1997

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

- **Russia:** On March 13-14, Deputy Secretary Summers and other senior Administration officials will meet with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and his economic team in Moscow to discuss Russia's economic reform priorities for 1997 and prepare for the Helsinki Summit. The delegation will also focus on tax policy and administration to increase the effectiveness of existing tax technical assistance and to press for essential access and cooperation from Russian authorities.
- **Bank Enterprise Award Program:** On March 7, the CDFI program published an invitation for banks to apply for a new round of BEA grants. The BEA Program is intended to encourage insured depository institutions to invest in and support community development financial institutions.
- **Child Support:** On February 25-26, a Task Force from the Financial Management Service (FMS), HHS, and the states held a two-day work session to identify issues that must be resolved in order for child support debts to be withheld from federal payments such as benefits or salaries. On March 11, the Task Force will contact the states which have indicated a readiness to participate. HHS regional offices will work with the states to assist with resolving barriers to implementation.
- **Education Tax Cuts:** On March 4, Assistant Secretary Lubick testified on March 5 before the full House Ways and Means Committee. There was an exchange between Chairman Archer and Lubick on the sunset provisions, with the Chairman's charge that the Administration does not have tax cuts beyond 2000. In general, there was not much enthusiasm for education tax cut proposals.

*c/p -
And is this
something to
add to the
package?*

E.

TOTAL CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS

WR- Child Support Collections

	Actuals FY 92	Actuals FY 93	Actuals FY 94	Actuals FY 95	Estimated FY 96	% Change FY92 to FY96
ALABAMA	\$98,140,974	\$113,272,672	\$127,908,477	\$141,212,499	\$158,000,000	61.0%
ALASKA	35,613,443	39,148,273	45,851,252	51,734,216	59,000,000	65.7%
ARIZONA	46,447,054	66,579,506	77,418,716	93,811,661	112,000,000	141.1%
ARKANSAS	42,064,579	49,147,427	55,214,883	63,875,135	79,300,000	88.5%
CALIFORNIA	653,680,903	736,854,861	811,493,194	857,281,903	903,000,000	38.1%
COLORADO	58,030,172	67,723,388	80,288,154	91,869,504	105,000,000	80.9%
CONNECTICUT	84,189,705	93,453,557	98,447,867	113,734,197	124,300,000	47.6%
DELAWARE	25,925,755	26,662,850	29,663,335	31,550,990	36,000,000	38.9%
DISTRICT OF COLUMB	19,733,231	21,798,134	24,078,544	26,040,357	27,300,000	38.3%
FLORIDA	252,472,760	289,976,326	327,296,405	374,014,543	407,000,000	61.2%
GEORGIA	174,466,971	205,565,984	229,822,363	244,367,218	260,000,000	49.0%
GUAM	4,696,550	5,002,906	7,079,235	6,037,329	7,000,000	49.0%
HAWAII	34,403,695	37,327,396	45,106,847	48,751,221	54,000,000	57.0%
IDAHO	27,845,638	32,126,889	36,941,968	40,746,653	44,000,000	58.0%
ILLINOIS	183,308,184	183,888,905	202,190,918	219,340,011	244,000,000	33.1%
INDIANA	124,614,492	141,164,475	151,625,857	174,449,919	193,300,000	55.1%
IOWA	96,046,029	109,278,257	122,704,835	136,138,188	150,000,000	56.2%
KANSAS	66,052,666	73,589,926	86,744,345	97,570,769	103,000,000	55.9%
KENTUCKY	93,901,880	103,586,853	121,426,921	130,640,118	143,000,000	52.3%
LOUISIANA	84,372,975	103,054,042	118,007,608	129,608,944	143,600,000	70.2%
MAINE	38,004,933	44,963,477	51,184,439	57,361,268	63,000,000	65.8%
MARYLAND	194,008,629	219,084,888	244,645,351	265,343,964	289,300,000	49.1%
MASSACHUSETTS	185,085,700	195,373,519	203,985,963	223,559,908	249,000,000	34.5%
MICHIGAN	782,804,209	859,543,761	898,372,484	933,399,732	967,000,000	23.5%
MINNESOTA	189,495,152	214,479,725	246,251,702	283,537,834	320,000,000	68.9%
MISSISSIPPI	48,288,943	53,504,878	62,379,114	68,205,294	84,000,000	74.0%
MISSOURI	166,339,157	189,161,094	214,362,303	238,700,287	264,000,000	58.7%
MONTANA	17,436,387	20,149,665	21,363,471	25,531,895	29,300,000	68.0%
NEBRASKA	66,177,206	71,708,099	81,082,493	90,054,555	100,000,000	51.1%
NEVADA	32,080,457	37,640,706	43,721,622	50,065,946	56,300,000	75.5%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	27,359,882	31,496,682	36,537,772	42,569,867	48,300,000	76.5%
NEW JERSEY	372,505,939	407,848,517	439,747,515	480,327,249	501,000,000	34.5%
NEW MEXICO	19,088,444	27,117,485	30,081,999	26,937,516	27,000,000	41.4%
NEW YORK	487,738,166	536,374,239	569,681,503	619,488,535	691,000,000	41.7%
NORTH CAROLINA	167,894,174	197,254,246	226,631,971	233,144,700	260,300,000	55.0%
NORTH DAKOTA	15,599,316	18,692,965	21,877,709	25,521,947	28,300,000	81.4%
OHIO	665,999,069	714,132,131	789,319,376	886,842,522	972,000,000	45.9%
OKLAHOMA	46,540,459	52,169,605	57,577,689	63,907,789	74,000,000	59.0%
OREGON	107,434,692	124,929,066	142,226,702	156,829,194	179,000,000	66.6%
PENNSYLVANIA	775,782,032	814,388,389	861,652,650	900,763,509	972,000,000	25.3%
PUERTO RICO	84,329,397	96,566,312	98,628,330	107,396,926	124,300,000	47.4%
RHODE ISLAND	24,879,996	26,670,966	29,899,608	32,634,412	35,000,000	40.7%
SOUTH CAROLINA	68,797,850	79,280,225	90,628,403	102,911,772	118,000,000	71.5%
SOUTH DAKOTA	15,881,269	18,111,700	21,356,571	24,838,160	27,300,000	71.9%
TENNESSEE	84,818,177	116,152,142	141,387,835	156,903,883	166,000,000	95.7%
TEXAS	251,157,304	309,501,931	367,170,958	448,463,425	546,000,000	117.4%
UTAH	52,610,075	56,199,496	61,135,172	63,426,174	75,000,000	42.6%
VERMONT	13,518,042	15,831,039	17,949,621	21,234,330	25,000,000	84.9%
VIRGIN ISLANDS	4,048,889	4,992,213	5,562,458	5,398,631	5,000,000	23.5%
VIRGINIA	145,113,973	151,919,323	182,786,672	226,681,596	258,000,000	77.8%
WASHINGTON	267,455,125	307,251,447	340,488,236	375,257,202	410,000,000	53.3%
WEST VIRGINIA	35,561,319	49,015,767	54,401,779	72,796,255	84,300,000	137.1%
WISCONSIN	293,459,750	332,813,885	380,584,443	427,487,251	444,000,000	51.3%
WYOMING	10,839,654	13,627,735	16,183,772	17,349,792	24,000,000	121.4%
NATIONWIDE TOTAL	\$7,964,141,422	\$8,907,149,945	\$9,850,159,410	\$10,827,648,695	\$11,869,500,000	49.0%

TOTAL CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED BY WITHHOLDING INCOME TAX RETURNS

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY 93</u>	<u>FY 94</u>	<u>FY 95</u>	<u>FY 96</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ALABAMA	\$20,585,651	\$17,818,166	\$17,980,946	\$19,185,592	\$25,222,875	22.5%
ALASKA	1,711,399	1,464,441	1,744,381	2,263,543	2,737,176	59.9%
ARIZONA	4,006,503	8,380,662	6,575,330	7,755,968	8,344,584	108.3%
ARKANSAS	7,105,539	6,862,001	6,655,141	7,715,543	10,946,665	54.1%
CALIFORNIA	67,569,154	62,459,500	72,880,681	89,959,942	124,298,897	84.0%
COLORADO	7,613,804	7,851,156	9,429,618	9,636,099	13,263,149	74.2%
CONNECTICUT	10,190,494	9,314,648	10,477,105	11,034,098	13,079,646	28.4%
DELAWARE	2,682,907	2,312,906	2,256,992	2,682,732	3,150,245	17.4%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1,788,180	1,700,562	2,049,936	2,072,550	2,465,410	37.9%
FLORIDA	31,568,502	30,689,126	33,879,364	39,302,426	47,924,516	51.8%
GEORGIA	22,015,603	22,441,243	26,523,917	30,932,214	35,148,379	59.7%
HAWAII	2,328,364	3,704,033	3,624,085	3,745,331	4,271,033	83.4%
IDAHO	2,689,966	2,595,312	2,763,559	3,311,567	3,865,479	43.7%
ILLINOIS	26,630,974	20,890,916	28,269,509	29,873,785	32,173,827	20.8%
INDIANA	21,168,766	19,809,489	22,268,413	24,020,275	26,183,387	23.7%
IOWA	11,239,587	10,632,804	11,645,968	13,430,796	14,717,551	30.9%
KANSAS	7,524,832	7,207,318	8,145,471	9,528,027	12,035,140	59.9%
KENTUCKY	12,918,632	11,993,650	13,533,632	14,426,014	16,315,340	26.3%
LOUISIANA	8,437,526	9,355,709	11,072,475	14,281,300	18,437,799	118.5%
MAINE	5,476,637	4,861,536	5,348,284	6,267,737	6,972,109	27.3%
MARYLAND	15,542,021	15,453,768	16,209,037	18,587,639	21,792,649	40.2%
MASSACHUSETTS	13,077,285	11,464,884	9,857,760	10,231,187	11,504,875	-12.0%
MICHIGAN	44,968,289	45,313,586	45,072,624	50,959,699	55,225,399	22.8%
MINNESOTA	9,903,778	9,216,777	9,981,399	11,053,550	12,577,226	27.0%
MISSISSIPPI	8,270,053	8,532,072	10,045,752	10,945,766	19,621,742	137.3%
MISSOURI	17,711,383	16,366,885	18,525,164	20,115,127	23,743,980	34.1%
MONTANA	1,636,173	1,678,512	1,646,659	1,856,926	2,190,359	33.9%
NEBRASKA	3,120,983	3,213,410	3,403,043	3,761,588	4,592,381	47.1%
NEVADA	2,448,581	2,291,463	2,781,041	3,238,971	4,126,140	68.5%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	2,028,237	1,997,129	2,443,246	2,967,526	3,465,802	70.9%
NEW JERSEY	20,131,556	17,990,020	20,567,774	22,072,128	25,153,605	24.9%
NEW MEXICO	3,258,580	3,041,108	3,597,345	4,000,680	4,836,653	48.4%
NEW YORK	33,733,769	31,083,527	32,894,949	37,069,835	41,829,761	24.0%
NORTH CAROLINA	16,410,008	17,402,637	21,610,969	21,618,753	27,795,751	69.4%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,766,776	1,655,867	1,892,174	2,369,735	2,421,488	37.1%
OHIO	27,475,841	28,650,502	36,854,790	48,086,502	56,992,860	107.4%
OKLAHOMA	7,575,066	7,077,196	8,099,538	9,404,019	10,729,313	41.6%
OREGON	6,259,033	5,693,526	6,709,398	8,261,705	9,903,562	58.2%
PENNSYLVANIA	32,559,776	29,011,639	33,346,946	37,862,746	43,719,172	34.3%
RHODE ISLAND	1,799,344	1,424,071	1,571,265	1,916,012	2,186,783	21.5%
SOUTH CAROLINA	4,677,829	5,198,163	6,470,308	6,415,540	8,547,096	82.7%
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,109,655	2,017,573	2,144,819	2,528,662	2,962,434	40.4%
TENNESSEE	16,032,889	12,576,991	14,930,345	17,184,586	20,110,025	25.4%
TEXAS	34,346,102	36,560,682	45,172,123	55,552,694	68,925,688	100.7%
UTAH	5,603,587	5,430,503	5,823,793	6,435,826	5,907,299	5.4%
VERMONT	1,293,731	1,073,233	1,363,351	1,660,457	1,855,524	43.4%
VIRGINIA	12,594,342	12,601,482	13,338,033	17,274,596	18,656,760	48.1%
WASHINGTON	17,416,898	17,235,595	17,770,122	20,237,664	22,811,436	31.0%
WEST VIRGINIA	3,705,188	3,551,157	4,133,825	7,354,868	7,419,339	100.2%
WISCONSIN	17,485,670	18,055,162	23,191,827	23,522,223	31,162,409	78.2%
WYOMING	1,190,059	931,827	1,357,046	2,024,480	3,285,463	176.1%
NATIONWIDE TOTAL	\$661,711,371	\$636,466,001	\$720,327,577	\$828,442,526	\$1,000,831,413	51.0%

TOTAL CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY 93</u>	<u>FY 94</u>	<u>FY 95</u>	<u>FY 96</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ALABAMA	\$98,140,974	\$113,272,672	\$127,908,477	\$141,212,499	\$158,000,000	61.0%
ALASKA	35,613,443	39,148,273	45,851,252	51,734,216	59,000,000	65.7%
ARIZONA	46,447,054	66,579,506	77,418,716	93,811,661	112,000,000	141.1%
ARKANSAS	42,064,579	49,147,427	55,214,883	63,875,135	79,300,000	88.5%
CALIFORNIA	653,680,903	736,854,861	811,493,194	857,281,903	903,000,000	38.1%
COLORADO	58,030,172	67,723,388	80,288,154	91,869,504	105,000,000	80.9%
CONNECTICUT	84,189,705	93,453,557	98,447,867	113,734,197	124,300,000	47.6%
DELAWARE	25,925,755	26,662,850	29,663,335	31,550,990	36,000,000	38.9%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	19,733,231	21,798,134	24,078,544	26,040,357	27,300,000	38.3%
FLORIDA	252,472,760	289,976,326	327,296,405	374,014,543	407,000,000	61.2%
GEORGIA	174,466,971	205,565,984	229,822,363	244,367,218	260,000,000	49.0%
HAWAII	34,403,695	37,327,396	45,106,847	48,751,221	54,000,000	57.0%
IDAHO	27,845,638	32,126,889	36,941,968	40,746,653	44,000,000	58.0%
ILLINOIS	183,308,184	183,888,905	202,190,918	219,340,011	244,000,000	33.1%
INDIANA	124,614,492	141,164,475	151,625,857	174,449,919	193,300,000	55.1%
IOWA	96,046,029	109,278,257	122,704,835	136,138,188	150,000,000	56.2%
KANSAS	66,052,666	73,589,926	86,744,345	97,570,769	103,000,000	55.9%
KENTUCKY	93,901,880	103,586,853	121,426,921	130,640,118	143,000,000	52.3%
LOUISIANA	84,372,975	103,054,042	118,007,608	129,608,944	143,600,000	70.2%
MAINE	38,004,933	44,963,477	51,184,439	57,361,268	63,000,000	65.8%
MARYLAND	194,008,629	219,084,888	244,645,351	265,343,964	289,300,000	49.1%
MASSACHUSETTS	185,085,700	195,373,519	203,985,963	223,559,908	249,000,000	34.5%
MICHIGAN	782,804,209	859,543,761	898,372,484	933,399,732	967,000,000	23.5%
MINNESOTA	189,495,152	214,479,725	246,251,702	283,537,834	320,000,000	68.9%
MISSISSIPPI	48,288,943	53,504,878	62,379,114	68,205,294	84,000,000	74.0%
MISSOURI	166,339,157	189,161,094	214,362,303	238,700,287	264,000,000	58.7%
MONTANA	17,436,387	20,149,665	21,363,471	25,531,895	29,300,000	68.0%
NEBRASKA	66,177,206	71,708,099	81,082,493	90,054,555	100,000,000	51.1%
NEVADA	32,080,457	37,640,706	43,721,622	50,065,946	56,300,000	75.5%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	27,359,882	31,496,682	36,537,772	42,569,867	48,300,000	76.5%
NEW JERSEY	372,505,939	407,848,517	439,747,515	480,327,249	501,000,000	34.5%
NEW MEXICO	19,088,444	27,117,485	30,081,999	26,937,516	27,000,000	41.4%
NEW YORK	487,738,166	536,374,239	569,681,503	619,488,535	691,000,000	41.7%
NORTH CAROLINA	167,894,174	197,254,246	226,631,971	233,144,700	260,300,000	55.0%
NORTH DAKOTA	15,599,316	18,692,965	21,877,709	25,521,947	28,300,000	81.4%
OHIO	665,999,069	714,132,131	789,319,376	886,842,522	972,000,000	45.9%
OKLAHOMA	46,540,459	52,169,605	57,577,689	63,907,789	74,000,000	59.0%
OREGON	107,434,692	124,929,066	142,226,702	156,829,194	179,000,000	66.6%
PENNSYLVANIA	775,782,032	814,388,389	861,652,650	900,763,509	972,000,000	25.3%
RHODE ISLAND	24,879,996	26,670,966	29,899,608	32,634,412	35,000,000	40.7%
SOUTH CAROLINA	68,797,850	79,280,225	90,628,403	102,911,772	118,000,000	71.5%
SOUTH DAKOTA	15,881,269	18,111,700	21,356,571	24,838,160	27,300,000	71.9%
TENNESSEE	84,818,177	116,152,142	141,387,835	156,903,883	166,000,000	95.7%
TEXAS	251,157,304	309,501,931	367,170,958	448,463,425	546,000,000	117.4%
UTAH	52,610,075	56,199,496	61,135,172	63,426,174	75,000,000	42.6%
VERMONT	13,518,042	15,831,039	17,949,621	21,234,330	25,000,000	84.9%
VIRGINIA	145,113,973	151,919,323	182,786,672	226,681,596	258,000,000	77.8%
WASHINGTON	267,455,125	307,251,447	340,488,236	375,257,202	410,000,000	53.3%
WEST VIRGINIA	35,561,319	49,015,767	54,401,779	72,796,255	84,300,000	137.1%
WISCONSIN	293,459,750	332,813,885	380,584,443	427,487,251	444,000,000	51.3%
WYOMING	10,839,654	13,627,735	16,183,772	17,349,792	24,000,000	121.4%
NATIONWIDE TOTAL	\$7,964,141,422	\$8,907,149,945	\$9,850,159,410	\$10,827,648,695	\$11,869,500,000	49.0%

HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Kharfen
(202) 401-9215

RECORD MORE THAN \$1 BILLION COLLECTED BY IRS IN DELINQUENT CHILD SUPPORT

The Clinton Administration reported today that a record amount of more than \$1 billion in delinquent child support was collected by the federal government from federal income tax refunds for tax year 1995. This amount was 23 percent higher than the previous year and up 51 percent since 1992. Over 1.2 million families benefited from these collections.

"The Clinton Administration is improving the future of millions of children with record child support collections and paternity establishments," said HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala. "Since the Administration has taken office, child support collections have increased by almost 50 percent. The child support enforcement measures we insisted upon as part of welfare reform will build on this success. We are now sending the strongest possible message that parental responsibility must be a way of life, not an option."

Under the tax offset program, state child support enforcement agencies report names of parents who owe child support payments and the overdue amount to the HHS Administration for Children and Families. These persons are notified in writing of the amount which will be withheld to cover their child support debt and that amount is then deducted from their income tax refund. The delinquency may also be reported to credit reporting agencies.

- More -

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"Under the new welfare law, delinquent parents will no longer be able to leave their children for the taxpayers to support," said David G. Ross, deputy director, Office of Child Support Enforcement. "The Clinton Administration, working with our state and local partners, is putting these critical new child support enforcement measures into place. For the millions of children still in need, we have a new message of hope."

Parents whose children receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children and whose unpaid child support totals \$150 or more may have their federal income tax refunds withheld. For tax year 1995, refunds were withheld on behalf of over 850,000 families with children receiving AFDC. Parents of children who do not receive AFDC must owe at least \$500 to have their refunds withheld. Over 350,000 non-AFDC families benefited from the program this year.

For tax year 1995, the total amount collected was \$1,000,831,413, up from \$661,711,371 in tax year 1992. The average collection was \$847 for non-AFDC families and \$827 for AFDC cases. The cost of processing these cases was \$5.71 per case. Collections for tax year 1995 were made after tax returns for that year were filed in 1996 and refunds requested. Collections for 1996 will begin as income tax returns are filed in 1997.

The Clinton Administration's partnership with states has resulted in unprecedented financial support for children. From 1992 to 1996, child support collections have grown by nearly 50 percent and paternity establishments have increased by 55 percent. In 1996, the federal-state child support enforcement system collected a record \$11.8 billion from non-custodial parents, up from \$8 billion in FY 1992.

Preliminary data show that an estimated 800,000 paternities were established in FY 1996, up from 515,857 in FY 1992. Under the child support enforcement measures proposed by the Administration and included in the new welfare law, child support collections could increase by \$24 billion over the next 10 years.

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Note: HHS press releases are available on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.dhhs.gov>.

STATE CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS FROM 1995 INCOME TAX REFUNDS

Alaska	\$2,737,176
Alabama	\$25,222,875
Arkansas	\$10,946,665
Arizona	\$8,344,584
California	\$124,298,897
Colorado	\$13,263,149
Connecticut	\$13,079,646
District of Columbia	\$2,465,410
Delaware	\$3,150,245
Florida	\$47,924,516
Georgia	\$35,148,379
Hawaii	\$4,271,033
Iowa	\$14,717,551
Idaho	\$3,865,479
Illinois	\$32,173,827
Indiana	\$26,183,387
Kansas	\$12,035,140
Kentucky	\$16,315,340
Louisiana	\$18,437,799
Massachusetts	\$11,504,875
Maryland	\$21,792,649
Maine	\$6,972,109
Michigan	\$55,225,399
Minnesota	\$12,577,226
Missouri	\$23,743,980
Mississippi	\$19,621,742
Montana	\$2,190,359
Nebraska	\$4,592,381
Nevada	\$4,126,140
New Hampshire	\$3,465,802
New Mexico	\$4,836,653
New Jersey	\$25,153,605
New York	\$41,829,761
North Carolina	\$27,795,751
North Dakota	\$2,421,488
Ohio	\$56,992,860
Oklahoma	\$10,729,313
Oregon	\$9,903,562
Pennsylvania	\$43,719,172
Puerto Rico	\$3,074,935
Rhode Island	\$2,186,783
South Carolina	\$8,547,096
South Dakota	\$2,962,434
Tennessee	\$20,110,025
Texas	\$68,925,688
Utah	\$5,907,299
Virginia	\$18,656,760
Vermont	\$1,855,524
Washington	\$22,811,436
Wisconsin	\$31,162,409
West Virginia	\$7,419,339
Wyoming	\$3,285,463
United States	\$1,000,831,413

WR -
child support
enforcement

Experts pan Clinton's plan to 'boot' deadbeat parents

Say idea would not work on wealthy and very poor

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Clinton administration's budget proposal to have every state "boot" the cars of child-support scofflaws was prompted by Virginia's success with a pilot program.

Fairfax County, the state's most populous locality, has been booting delinquents since 1998, and the program went statewide last month.

But the White House proposal to use booting to help collect \$2 billion in past-due child support over the next five years fell flat with some experts at a child-support conference this week.

Booting — immobilizing cars with a metal clamp on a tire until a debt is paid — may not work with very wealthy or very poor parents, some experts said.

The decision to use the boot should be made by states, not mandated by Washington, others said.

Booting cars will "enable every state to collect more child support," the White House said in a release issued the day of President Clinton's State of the Union address.

Other White House child-support collection plans, which now go before Congress, include seizing gambling winnings, withholding passports from parents who owe \$2,500 or more, and prohibiting doctors and other health providers who owe child support from becoming Medicare providers.

State officials, who run child-support programs with state and

federal funds, said they welcome federal help, but not micromanagement.

"Welfare reform gave states the flexibility to design their programs, but the child-support reforms were prescriptive," Montana child-support director Mary Ann Wellbank said at the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) on Monday.

"Now, they're looking at [mandating] the boot. Isn't that a mixed signal to the states?" she said.

"We don't want federal mandates, even if it's booting cars," said Robert Doar, director of New York's child-support enforcement office. "The payoff just isn't significant."

Emil Parker, a deputy assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, told the NCSEA conference that the mandate is only to "put [booting] procedures in place."

If a state tries booting and finds that it doesn't work well, he said, "they don't have to use it extensively."

Sheri Steisel, an analyst at the National Conference of State Legislatures, said requiring states to buy thousands of boots — at a cost of \$200 to \$300 each — sounds like an unfunded mandate. "It's premature to require this," she added. "It should be a state's choice."

Other experts said booting may not be effective with either wealthy or poor parents — two primary target groups for child-support enforcers, who in 1999

collected \$15.5 billion out of an estimated \$45 billion owed.

Boots work best with parents "with regular jobs. And we're already good at getting them," said NCSEA President Dianna Durham-McLoud, a former child-support director in Illinois.

Many nonpaying parents are self-employed contractors or professionals, like doctors and lawyers, said Ms. Durham-McLoud. Boots won't catch them because "they're not parking on the streets. They're parking in heated garages."

Jeffery Johnson, who works with a program that encourages low-income fathers to support their families, said boots would miss his men, too. "My guys don't even have a car," he said.

Nathaniel L. Young Jr., director of Virginia's division of child-support enforcement, applauded the White House proposal. "We welcome the proliferation of the [booting] idea," he said.

A pilot program in Fairfax County put pink or blue boots on 70 cars and led to the collection of \$351,000, Mr. Young said. The policy went statewide last month, he said, and is used only in the "most egregious cases" — ones where the parents are about to be sent to jail.

The boot works, he added, because "it gets your attention."

Booting works best in big cities, "but every little bit helps," said Geraldine Jensen, president of the Association for Children for Enforcement of Support.

MARYLAND

Clinton gives Medal of Honor to Laurel man

By John Drake
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Medal of Honor winner Alfred Rascon, honored at a White House ceremony yesterday for risking his own life to save others in a Vietnam firefight 34 years ago, said he did what any good soldier would have done that day.

"This honor is not really mine," said the 54-year-old Laurel resident after he was given the award by President Clinton. "It's those who were with me that day."

The president bestowed the nation's highest military honor on Mr. Rascon, commending the former Army paratrooper for giving "everything he had utterly and selflessly for his platoon mates and a nation he was not yet a citizen of."

Before Mr. Rascon's family, several platoon mates, Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry Shelton, other Cabinet and military officials and several members of Congress, Mr. Clin-

ton placed the medal on Mr. Rascon in the East Room of the White House.

For those serving in the military, "what you do every day is duty, honor and courage," Mr. Rascon said.

During a bloody firefight in a North Vietnamese stronghold on March 16, 1966, Mr. Rascon shielded several fellow soldiers from grenade blasts, was hit by bullets and shrapnel, and recovered a machine gun that turned the tide of the battle, ultimately saving his entire platoon.

Despite his wounds, Mr. Rascon refused orders to take cover and didn't join the evacuation until all the dead and wounded had been removed. His injuries were so severe that he received last rites.

"None of us would be here today if not for Al," said Ray Compton, who was on the reconnaissance patrol's point and who Mr. Rascon shielded from a grenade blast.

"We owe a lot to Al Rascon," Mr. Compton added. "We wouldn't have a family if it hadn't been for Al."

After the battle, Mr. Compton recommended Mr. Rascon for the Medal of Honor, but the paperwork was lost in the chaos of the war. Years later, upon discovering Mr. Rascon never received the award, Mr. Compton and others from the platoon began a campaign to get Mr. Rascon the honor he deserved.

Mr. Clinton also praised Mr. Rascon for his service to a country he was not born in — risking his life as a medic in Vietnam before he was even a citizen.

Born in Mexico in 1945, Mr. Rascon's family moved to California, where Mr. Rascon grew up near three military bases and fell in love with the military.

He enlisted in the Army at age 17 to repay a country that had given so much opportunity to his parents, Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Rascon's fellow soldiers knew nothing of his ethnicity — they just called him "Doc," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Rascon told the president that the close-knit platoon was colorblind:

"The important thing was we were Americans fighting for America," Mr. Rascon said.

Mr. Rascon became a citizen in 1967, then volunteered for a second tour of duty in Vietnam. He joined the Justice Department in 1983 and now serves as inspector general for the Selective Service System.

"Looking at this lifetime of service, it would be hard to imagine a better definition of citizenship," Mr. Clinton said.