

THE SOUTHERN INSTITUTE
ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

WR
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2/10/97

Bruce -

I'm attached two copies of the brochure developed and being used statewide in Georgia to educate employers about benefit available to families leaving welfare and low income families in general. This type of motivational material needs to be part of your strategy with employers. It makes a difference in their willingness to help with welfare reform. Also enclosed is a clipping from a local employer gathering using the brochures -

620 Sims Avenue Columbia, South Carolina 29205 (803) 779-2607

Jana

Cynthia/Lyn

She's a good friend.

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Obituaries B6

THE STATE

FEBRUARY 7, 1997

Welfare reform: Closing the sell

S.C. model has high hopes — and high risks

By JAY TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Standing in front of the State Museum, a cold mist blowing across his face, Gov. David Beasley seemed warmed by the thought of civic-minded businesses, large and small, hiring thousands of people away from welfare.

"I think we create that type of euphoria, that type of excitement, about what South Carolina can do in showcasing to the world, to the rest of the country, that we are a role model."

Beasley had just finished a "hire them, you'll like them" speech for about 100 people from the state's chambers of commerce. He grinned at his shivering aides. "The excitement here today was real," he said. Yes, they mur-

mured. It was very real.

It may have been excitement. It may have been incredulity.

Welfare is the monster that ate the will of millions, leaving them lazy and servile. Or so goes the decades-old conservative drumbeat that inspired a wave of reforms last year. And here was the state's top conservative touting welfare's victims to the business community.

"We're finding out that welfare recipients are making it, producing better than the average hire," he said, basing his assessment on stories from several employers. This "speaks volumes to overcome the very real concern that some of the employers will have about reliability and showing up for work and showing up on time and then producing while they are there."

If this seems odd, consider Beasley's situation. More than 20,000 South Carolinians on welfare, most of them women with two children, are required to work or go to job-training, according to Department or Social Services

Information may help ease transition

By JIM DAVENPORT
Staff Writer

Richland County businesses hiring people leaving welfare rolls are getting help through a new information campaign.

That campaign shows employers what they can do to help recruit workers by providing information on Medicaid, tax breaks, incentives, child care and food stamp programs that help ease the transition to work.

Sarah Shuptrine, president of The Southern Institute on Children and Families in Columbia, said that the pilot program is expected to go statewide. It's needed, she said, because the welfare equation is changing.

Welfare recipients no longer have the ability to bounce between jobs and welfare indefinitely since

strict new rules limit lifetime benefits.

Shuptrine said that lack of knowledge about transition programs is one of the biggest hurdles welfare recipients and employers need to leap in order to make jobs a reality.

likely that the program will be expanded statewide after it is tried in Richland County.

Shuptrine has set up similar programs in North Carolina, Georgia and other Southeastern states. The programs involve putting easy-to-read information in

brochures for employers, community service agencies and welfare recipients.

In a Southern Institute survey, three of four welfare recipients wrongly thought that if they took jobs they would lose Medicaid benefits. Half of them wrongly thought they would lose child-care benefits offered

through many work preparation programs. Employers hardly did better in the survey, with 61 percent believing workers lost Medicaid and half thinking that welfare



"We think there is a tremendous potential to help families get out of the old system that fosters dependency."

SARAH SHUPTRINE, PRESIDENT, SOUTHERN INSTITUTE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

"We think there is a tremendous potential to help families get out of the old system that fosters dependency," Shuptrine said. The pilot program is paid for by a grant from the Central South Carolina Community Foundation. It's

PLEASE SEE WELFARE PAGE B5

PLEASE SEE WORKERS PAGE B5

WORKERS

FROM PAGE B1

recipients they hire lose child-care benefits

Michelle Nichols, employment services manager at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina, was among the nearly two dozen employers who heard Shuptrine speak at a Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce breakfast Thursday that kicked off the program. "I did not know before the meeting that fully employed people could get assistance. I thought assistance stopped," she said.

However, rules designed to ease the transition to the work force keep those benefits flowing for up to two years, depending on income. For example, a mother with two children between ages 1 and 6, could earn up to \$1,439 a month, or \$17,268 a year, and still qualify for Medicaid coverage for the children.

The child-care benefits, Medicaid, food stamps and the federal earned income tax credit can make work at even minimum-wage jobs more attractive than welfare.

In South Carolina, which has one of the nation's lowest payout rates for Aid for Families with Dependent Children and food stamps, a single mother with two children receives \$200 in cash assistance and \$313 in food stamps monthly, or a total of \$6,156 a year.

Jacqueline Miller, 34, was on welfare roles for five years. The bilingual Medicare specialist at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina was glad to leave the program.

"Being on welfare was like being in prison," Miller said. "My whole life was dictated by someone else, dictated down to the amount of money I got for groceries, the amount of money I received for my welfare check, from living in the projects with the Housing Authority having the authority to come into my home whenever they liked."

She left welfare by joining training programs that just over three years ago were getting started.

Medicaid coverage and child care assistance in the training program and while she started working were essential.

Blue Cross routinely works with the Urban League, Job Training Partnership Act programs and other groups to help welfare recipients find jobs. While most of the company's entry level jobs include health care benefits for full-time workers, those benefits aren't available for most part-time jobs.

Nichols said she would try to find ways to use the information

Welfare to work tools

Employers may find it easier to recruit people from welfare roles and train them if they know how transition programs can help. Key tools include:

- Medicaid is available for up to two years for children of welfare recipients going to work. For a one-parent, one-child household, income can be as high as \$1,598 monthly, depending on the age of the child. For more information, call (800) 337-5514.

- The earned income tax credit can boost take-home pay and refunds at the end of the year. A family with gross income of \$11,610 a year with two children can receive a \$3,556 tax credit as a refund or as a combination of \$107 a month and a refund of \$2,272 when they file a return. To order a W-5 form for advance EITC payments, call (800) 829-3676 or go to the IRS's Internet page at www.ustreas.gov.

- Child-care assistance is available for up to two years for welfare recipients going to work. For more information, call (800) 337-5514.

- A family of three with income of \$1,000 qualifies for \$115 in food stamps monthly.

Incentives also encourage employers to train and hire welfare recipients.

- Work experience: Allows welfare recipients to work for 90 days to gain basic work skills and receive their Aid for Families with Dependent Children checks. Employers pay nothing.

- Supplemental work: Workers are hired as interns. Employers are reimbursed for up to nine months by the Department of Social Services at the rate of \$1.10 for each hour worked. Employers are expected to retain successful participants.

- There are a variety of state and federal tax credits available for hiring welfare recipients.

- For more information about incentive programs, call (800) 337-5514.

SOURCE: Southern Institute on Children and Families

on Medicaid and other programs to as a tool for recruiting and hiring workers.

Jim Davenport covers personal finance and the workplace. He can be reached at 771-8570, by fax at 771-8480, or e-mail davenjray@msn.com.

**EMPLOYERS CONNECTING EMPLOYEES
TO BENEFITS FOR
LOW INCOME WORKING FAMILIES**

Did you know you can help your low income workers make more money, get help with family health coverage and child care at no additional cost to you?

✓ **Check out these benefits that can help you hire and retain workers.**

Children do not have to be on welfare to be eligible for Medicaid coverage. Medicaid eligibility for children is based on family income, age of children and citizenship. Medicaid is available for children through age 18 in single and two parent families.

Parents who leave welfare for work may receive Medicaid for up to one year - children too! After one year, depending on the family's income, the children may still be eligible for Medicaid coverage.

Parents who leave welfare for work may receive help with child care expenses for at least one year. After one year, depending on the family's income and the availability of funding, the family may still qualify for assistance with child care expenses.

Low income working families can get more take home pay in their paycheck through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). A portion of the EITC money can be received monthly and the remainder when they file their federal tax return—regardless of whether or not they owe taxes.

Low income families may qualify for Food Stamps while working full time. For example, a family of three with income at one and a half times the minimum wage may qualify for assistance through the Food Stamp program.

It's good business to be informed about benefits for low income working families.
Read on!

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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A vote for more welfare

WR-
Georgia

When Georgia politicians speak of "people" on welfare, they mislead the public. They should refer to welfare recipients as "mothers and children." There are almost no fathers among their ranks, at least too few to mention.

No, the fathers make up another group. And when politicians speak about "people" who owe child support, again they mislead the public. They should refer to them as "fathers." There are almost no mothers among their ranks, at least too few to mention.

So perhaps it should come as no surprise that the largely male Georgia Legislature seeks to punish the first group while letting the second group off the hook; that the vote in the House this week to lower child support payments broke along gender lines, with three-fourths of women legislators opposing the change and an even higher proportion of men legislators supporting it. (The men won.)

Not surprising, but preposterous and hypocritical.

This is a Legislature that last year embraced the governor's welfare

reform package to push as many welfare recipients — mothers and children — off the public rolls. This is a body of lawmakers who this year in the Senate approved a bill to punish women on welfare who reside with "unrelated" men. Never mind that Georgia law upholds common-law marriage.

But does this same Legislature hold a similarly punitive attitude toward irresponsible fathers? Consider what the House did this week. Following a passionate three-hour debate, it voted 120 to 51 to reduce by about 20 percent the amount of child support fathers owe their children. This is accomplished by

doing two things: calculating child support based on a father's net income rather than his gross, as it is now done, and factoring in the mother's income if she has one, which is not currently done. The bill now goes to the Senate, where hopefully it will die a quiet death.

It has long been recognized that the No. 1 reason mothers and children are forced onto

welfare is the failure of those children's fathers to pay child support. In Georgia, the statistic is startling: Eight of 10 children are on welfare because their fathers don't support them. Eighty percent, in other words, of all Georgia welfare recipients — mothers and children — could be helped off if fathers only supported them. Last year in Georgia, 467,000 fathers failed to pay some \$250 million in court-ordered child support. Imagine how many mothers and children could have been supported with that \$250 million.

Therefore, it is only logical that the No. 1 goal of those truly interested

It is only logical that the No. 1 goal of those truly interested in welfare reform would be to step up child-support collections and shift the burden from taxpayers to parents. But who ever said our Legislature was logical?

in welfare reform would be to step up child-support collections and shift the burden from taxpayers to parents. But who ever said our Legislature was logical?

Do not mistake the true colors of this bill. Coupled with welfare-reform measures, it heaps more punishment on mothers and children who are struggling to survive. Georgia does not need to drive more of them onto welfare. It needs to get more off.

And the next time you hear a politician grandstanding about welfare reform, ask him how he voted on the child support bill, and don't vote for those with forked tongues.

A step back from campaign reform

As part of a much-applauded spasm of reform two years ago, the state Legislature significantly lowered the maximum amount a person can contribute to state and local candidates. Now that reform is in danger of coming apart.

The goal of reducing the size of campaign contributions was to reduce the power of big donors to influence elections and politicians. The limit in local and legislative races was cut from \$3,500 to \$1,000. The limit in statewide races was dropped from \$3,500 to \$2,500.

This week, however, a little bill was quietly approved in the Senate that would undercut those reforms. Senate Bill 657 is now in the state House.

In the past, the House has been cast as the bad guy in ethics-reform battles. This time, it has the chance to play hero.

Under current law, a supporter could give a legislative candidate up to \$1,000 for a primary race, and, if the candidate survives the primary, an additional \$1,000 for the general election.

The change approved by the Senate would

allow contributors to "front-load" their donations. During the primary, they could give a candidate both the maximum primary donation as well as the maximum for the general election.

In effect, the change would double the current limit on contributions in the primary to \$2,000 for legislative and local races and \$5,000 for statewide contests.

That is not an innocuous change.

The majority of seriously contended races in Georgia are settled, for all intents and purposes, in the primary. That's because so many legislative districts are either heavily Democratic or heavily Republican, and the state as a whole remains Democratic. In those settings, general elections are often anticlimactic.

The Senate's change, then, would allow big-time contributors to double their giving, and their influence, at a time when candidates are often vulnerable and most appreciative of the help.

It's a bad piece of legislation, completely contrary in spirit to the reforms of two years ago.

Atlanta Journal Constitution

3-4-94

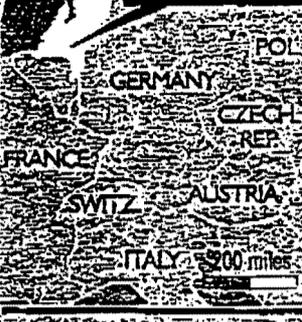
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NAMES AND PLACES

The Netherlands

More than 40 percent of the country, about 16,000 square miles, is reclaimed coastal land. The population is 14.8 million, more than twice Georgia's.

The Netherlands



STAFF

Atlantan takes oath as envoy today

By Elizabeth Kurylo
STAFF WRITER

Atlanta businessman Kirk Terry Dornbush will be sworn in today as U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands, making him the fourth Georgian envoy in the Clinton administration.

Dornbush, 60, is a private investor who lives in Atlanta. His 35-year career includes ventures in corporate finance, international business, banking, real estate and entrepreneurial endeavors.

He will leave for the Netherlands on March 12 with his wife, Marilyn.

Dornbush's nomination had been held up over questions



Kirk Terry Dornbush, an Atlanta businessman, is the new U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands.

tionally have rewarded their parties' major contributors with ambassadorships.

The White House said Dornbush's business background qualifies him to be ambassador. He says he is qualified for the job because he is a businessman and has Dutch connections. He hopes to increase business between the United States and the Netherlands.

The other Georgian ambassadors are James Laney, former president of Emory University, posted in South Korea; Stuart Eizenstat, U.S. ambassador to the European Community, and Anrella Brazeal, who attended Spelman College and is now ambassador to Kenya.

about his qualifications and contributions to Democratic candidates. Since 1989, members of his immediate family have contributed \$256,757 to Democrats and party committees, and Dornbush personally has donated \$80,900.

Although a 1980 federal law says political donations "should not be a factor" in the selection of ambassadors, presidents tradi-

The conferees agreed to meet again Monday.

The Senate had offered to wipe out the 10 local waiting periods, which range from three to 15 days, while giving those governments the option of later adopting so-called "cooling off" periods of up to five days. But the latest House proposal would eliminate the local waiting periods after the proposed instant checks take effect Jan. 1.

Stuart Hutchings, who is affiliated with the National Rifle Association, vowed to fight any proposal that leaves local ordinances intact.

"There's a tremendous temptation on the part of local government officials to grandstand with a gun law in response to problems within their community, whereas the state Legislature will move with greater deliberation and in a more thoughtful way," said Hutchings, a board member for the Georgia Firearms Policy Foundation.

If Georgia does not adopt instant background check legislation, the federal Brady law requiring up to a five-day wait for handgun purchases will remain in effect. After five years, federal law will require instant background checks nationwide for all firearm purchases, although local gun control ordinances would remain in effect.

The Atlanta Journal
The Atlanta Constitution

'94 Georgia
Legislature

Gun bill hung up until Monday

Fate of local laws the sticking point

By Rhonda Cook
STAFF WRITER

House and Senate conferees broke off negotiations Thursday, at an impasse over legislation requiring instant background checks for gun purchases.

The six conference committee members failed to agree on what appears to be the final point of contention — whether to eliminate local gun control ordinances or leave them on the books. The other main provision of the measure, extending background checks to include all firearm purchases, no longer appears to be in dispute.

Atlanta Journal / Constitution
3/4/94

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June 16, 1993

File:
W.R. —
Georgia

MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL RASCO

FROM:

RAHM EMANUEL

RE

SUBJECT:

ATTACHED LETTER FROM GOVERNOR ZELL MILLER

cc:

Regina Montoya and Reta Lewis

Attached please find a letter from Governor Zell Miller regarding Georgia's welfare reform waiver, which includes a family cap provision and an employment requirement provision.

From what I can tell, the Governor's program resembles the President's stated goals. While tough, the plan is also compassionate and addresses some of the root causes of poverty, not merely the resulting unemployment.

If this is a legitimate waiver, and if it fits into the President's plan, then we should consider granting the waiver.

B.C. BRUCE REED

cc: Peter
Regina/ Jeff

MEMO → C. Rasco
~~BR~~



STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ATLANTA 30334-0900

Zell Miller
GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

To: Rahm Emanuel, Assistant to the President and
Director of Political Affairs

From: Governor Zell Miller *Zell Miller*

Date: June 14, 1993

I have discussed with Secretary Shalala's office our state's welfare reform waiver request, which includes a family cap provision and an employment requirement provision. I have asked for a response to our request within 45 days.

This matter has been a focus of my Administration and is extremely important to me. I would like you to be aware of the substance and intent of our request and hope this information will facilitate the appropriate review process.

Georgia's waiver request is in line with the waiver previously approved for New Jersey. Georgia's family cap stipulates that a parent who has received AFDC for a total of 24 months will receive no additional cash benefits because of the birth of an additional child. However, the additional child will be entitled to Medicaid, and the family could receive additional food stamps; also, the family's standard of need would be raised. Please note that all parents will receive instruction in family planning and parenting skills when they apply for AFDC, and family planning is available free to AFDC recipients throughout the state.

Georgia's employment measure requires all able-bodied adults to accept employment at minimum wage or higher. Appropriate exceptions are made. Single parents with children under age 14 are exempt, as are adults who are medically incapacitated or incapable of performing the job.

The goal of these reform measures is to promote responsible behavior, behavior that will help break the cycle of poverty and welfare dependency. Contrary to popular myth, we believe that families in poverty can make appropriate decisions about child-bearing and employment, so long as government programs encourage personal responsibility.



MEMORANDUM

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Please contact me or Cynthia D. Wright on my staff if you need additional information. I would appreciate any assistance you could provide in expediting the review of our request and in securing a favorable decision.

CDW/cln