

The President. It worked. It took a few years, but it worked finally. On my daughter's 8th birthday, her grandmother's present was that she quit smoking.

Ms. Ellerbee. Mr. President, do you have any final thoughts for kids on this issue?

The President. You young people cannot believe the potential influence you can have. You can ask adults the kind of hard questions you asked me. You can encourage every adult you care about and love to stop smoking. You can make it so that the cool thing to do is not to smoke instead of to smoke.

And you know, none of us are going to live forever, but you have the choice to maximize, to increase the chances of your living a long and full life. This is a choice you can make. The smoking choice is a choice you can make. It's totally within your control.

And I just want to encourage you. I'll do what I can, but I want to encourage you to do everything you can to get everybody you know to remain smoke-free. I think that is—that's the answer. And you can do it. We can change this country if we do it together.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at 12:10 p.m. on December 12 for broadcast at 8 p.m. on January 9. Linda Ellerbee is the host of "Nick News" on Nickelodeon.

Statement on the Death of Ambassador M. Larry Lawrence *January 9, 1996*

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death today of our Ambassador to Switzerland, M. Larry Lawrence. Larry was a good friend and a valued colleague who brought his abundant energy and fresh vision to every task he undertook. As Ambassador in Switzerland, he was a tireless and effective advocate of U.S. interests, especially the promotion of U.S. exports and commercial ties. Larry's service to his country did not begin with his diplomatic assignment. During World War II, at the age of 18, he volunteered for the merchant marines. He was wounded when his ship was sunk by enemy torpedoes in arctic waters. Many years later, Larry was decorated with the Medal of Valor by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Larry's civilian life showed the same courage and resolve. As an entrepreneur, he restored the Hotel del Coronado, one of the west coast's outstanding architectural landmarks. Larry's quiet philanthropy also touched many lives. He believed passionately in education for women; the scholarships he endowed for minority women at the University of Arizona represent a lasting contribution. Hillary joins me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Larry's wife, Shelia, and to his children. We will miss him.

Statement on the Death of Former Representative Mike Synar *January 9, 1996*

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn this morning of the death of former Oklahoma Congressman Mike Synar. Mike Synar was a brave and unflinching public servant who in tough political times remained true to his principles. He did not always do what was popular, but he always did what he thought was right—for Oklahoma and for America. Throughout his life, and especially during the past 6 months, Mike Synar was a true profile in courage.

Hillary and I will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends at this difficult time.

Message to the House of Representatives Returning Without Approval the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1995

January 9, 1996

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 4, the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1995." In disapproving H.R. 4, I am nevertheless determined to keep working with the Congress to enact real, bipartisan welfare reform. The current welfare system is broken and must be replaced, for the sake of the taxpayers who pay for it and the people who are trapped by it. But H.R. 4 does too little to move people from welfare to work. It is burdened with deep budget cuts and structural changes that fall short of real reform. I urge the Congress

WR President!
Statements!

to work with me in good faith to produce a bipartisan welfare reform agreement that is tough on work and responsibility, but not tough on children and on parents who are responsible and who want to work.

The Congress and the Administration are engaged in serious negotiations toward a balanced budget that is consistent with our priorities—one of which is to “reform welfare,” as November’s agreement between Republicans and Democrats made clear. Welfare reform must be considered in the context of other critical and related issues such as Medicaid and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Americans know we have to reform the broken welfare system, but they also know that welfare reform is about moving people from welfare to work, not playing budget politics.

The Administration has and will continue to set forth in detail our goals for reform and our objections to this legislation. The Administration strongly supported the Senate Democratic and House Democratic welfare reform bills, which ensured that States would have the resources and incentives to move people from welfare to work and that children would be protected. I strongly support time limits, work requirements, the toughest possible child support enforcement, and requiring minor mothers to live at home as a condition of assistance, and I am pleased that these central elements of my approach have been addressed in H.R. 4.

We remain ready at any moment to sit down in good faith with Republicans and Democrats in the Congress to work out an acceptable welfare reform plan that is motivated by the urgency of reform rather than by a budget plan that is contrary to America’s values. There is a bipartisan consensus around the country on the fundamental elements of real welfare reform, and it would be a tragedy for this Congress to squander this historic opportunity to achieve it. It is essential for the Congress to address shortcomings in the legislation in the following areas:

- *Work and Child Care:* Welfare reform is first and foremost about work. H.R. 4 weakens several important work provisions that are vital to welfare reform’s

success. The final welfare reform legislation should provide sufficient child care to enable recipients to leave welfare for work; reward States for placing people in jobs; restore the guarantee of health coverage for poor families; require States to maintain their stake in moving people from welfare to work; and protect States and families in the event of economic downturn and population growth. In addition, the Congress should abandon efforts included in the budget reconciliation bill that would gut the Earned Income Tax Credit, a powerful work incentive that is enabling hundreds of thousands of families to choose work over welfare.

- *Deep Budget Cuts and Damaging Structural Changes:* H.R. 4 was designed to meet an arbitrary budget target rather than to achieve serious reform. The legislation makes damaging structural changes and deep budget cuts that would fall hardest on children and undermine States’ ability to move people from welfare to work. We should work together to balance the budget and reform welfare, but the Congress should not use the words “welfare reform” as a cover to violate the Nation’s values. Making \$60 billion in budget cuts and massive structural changes in a variety of programs, including foster care and adoption assistance, help for disabled children, legal immigrants, food stamps, and school lunch is not welfare reform. The final welfare reform legislation should reduce the magnitude of these budget cuts and the sweep of structural changes that have little connection to the central goal of work-based reform. We must demand responsibility from young mothers and young fathers, not penalize children for their parents’ mistakes.

I am deeply committed to working with the Congress to reach bipartisan agreement on an acceptable welfare reform bill that addresses these and other concerns. We owe it to the people who sent us here not to let

this opportunity slip away by doing the wrong thing or failing to act at all.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 9, 1996.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

January 10, 1996

The President. Hello, everybody. Is everyone in here? Well, first, let me say that we're having this Cabinet meeting to discuss the present status of our budget negotiations and where we are. As I have said all along, I am for balancing the budget in 7 years, but I want to protect the fundamental priorities of the American people and the future of the American people. We can balance a budget in 7 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office, without having dangerously low levels of commitment to Medicare and Medicaid, without having big cuts that undermine our commitments in education and the environment, without raising taxes on working families.

Now, that's what the Congress said they wanted. I've got this letter here from Congress, a letter from Congress to the Speaker saying that the budget we submitted in fact balances the budget in 7 years. The differences between these two budgets are now clear. We do not want to fundamentally change the commitment of the Medicare program to the health care of seniors. We do not want to fundamentally change the commitment of the Medicaid program to senior citizens, to poor children, to the disabled. We do not want to adopt a level of investment that makes it certain that we will have to turn our backs on the needs of education or the environment.

That is what this is all about. We can even have a modest tax cut for the American people, and for families especially, and balance the budget in 7 years according to the Congressional Budget Office. That's what this letter says. They agree now, so the only differences left between us are ideological differences.

And I said in the beginning, let me say again: If the objective is to get a 7-year bal-

anced budget that Congress says is balanced, we can do that. If the objective is to get a modest tax cut, we can do that. If the objective is to dismantle the fundamental American commitments through Medicare and Medicaid or to undermine our obligations in education and the environment, I will not do that.

That is basically where it is.

Budget Negotiations

Q. Mr. President, it seems like that what's being said here today and also with what's being said on Capitol Hill, that despite all of the good will that was apparent here yesterday, this really was a breakdown in the talks. You're very far away, and it sounds like you're not getting any closer together in this break.

The President. We're not—we're only very far away if you turn this into—if you insist on a tax cut which requires unacceptable levels of cuts in education and the environment and Medicare and Medicaid or you insist on fundamentally changing those programs in ways that will erode the protections that Medicare and Medicaid now give to seniors and to poor children and to disabled people or you insist on cuts in education that will cut back on scholarships or Head Start or you insist on cuts which will really weaken our ability to protect the environment. If that's the deal, it's reconciling not only the level of cuts—it's not just the money here, I want to emphasize that. It's the policy.

The Republicans—if I might, let me just take Medicare for an example, just for example. The Republicans and I agree that there should be changes in the Medicare program to encourage more seniors to have more options to join managed care programs. And we agree on a number of other provisions that should be changed that will strengthen Medicare and give more options to our senior citizens.

I do not agree with changes that I think will, in effect, break up Medicare and put more and more seniors at the mercy of the present private insurance system so that the older and lower income and sicker you are, the more at risk you are. I don't want to do that.

WR - Pres Staff

Document No.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

8:30 a.m.

DATE: 6/17/96 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/18/96

SUBJECT: Remarks to the American Nurses Association

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McCURRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PANETTA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McGINTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McLARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NASH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ICKES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	QUINN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LIEBERMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RASCO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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BAER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOSNIK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CURRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEPHANOPOULOS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EMANUEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STIGLITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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HILLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>B. Wooley</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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LINDSEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Kagan</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<u>Klein</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<u>Yager</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Comments to Terry Edmonds.

RESPONSE:

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON, DC
JUNE 18, 1996

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[Acknowledgments: Ginna Trotter Betts -- she is leaving after four years as national president of ANA. She was a leading voice for health care reform.]

I am honored to join you in this 100th anniversary celebration. Today, I ask all Americans to join me in saluting you for a century of service and leadership. America has the finest health care system in the world. And nurses are the heart and soul of that system.

I know the hard work and sacrifice that goes into being a good nurse. As most of you know, for more than 30 years, my mother worked as a nurse anesthetist. I want to thank you again for honoring her memory in 1994 with a special award in her name. I have vivid memories of her getting up in the middle of the night to be at work by 7 a.m. She was serious about the life and death nature of her work. But she understood that healing is about more than medicine and technology. It is also about promoting good health and prevention. And it is about caring. That is what all of you do everyday.

What I learned from my mother and what America is learning from you are the basic values that make us strong. We know that the mission of this country must be to offer every American an opportunity and demand that every American take responsibility -- that is the basic bargain of our democracy. And that is how we will create an America that is rooted in strong communities and strong families.

Today, I want to talk with you about how we can work together to build strong families and to guarantee that every child in this country has both quality health care and the support of responsible parents -- both mothers and fathers.

For the past three-and-a-half years, we have worked hard to give people opportunity, by giving them the tools they need to build strong families.

Working with you, we fought for the Family and Medical Leave Act to say that if you take a little time off to take care of a sick child you will not lose your job. I signed the Family Leave Law and we did it over the filibuster led by Senator Dole.

Now, this Republican Congress seems to have forgotten the first rule of health care: "First, do no harm."

I am proud that, working with you, we fought to preserve Medicaid. For three decades, we have guaranteed that poor children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and older Americans will not be denied health care simply because they can't afford it. That is the right thing to do. The Republicans in Congress are actually insisting that we repeal

this guarantee. I have said that this would amount to child neglect for a whole generation. That is why I vetoed this plan last year when the Republican Congress sent it to me. And let me assure you, if they send it to me again, I will veto it again.

Working with you, we have fought to balance the budget in a way that protects Medicare and honors our duty to our parents. The Republican proposal for Medicare would undermine the hiring and training of nurses, and would close down hospital wings in cities and rural communities across America. We must reform Medicare; my plan will secure the Trust Fund for a decade. But we do not need to devastate Medicare to balance the budget.

And while we are doing no harm, why don't we do some good? We are working with you to improve access to health care for as many as 25 million Americans by fighting for the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill. No worker in this country should have to worry that he or she will lose their health care if they lose their job or change jobs. And no one should be denied care simply because they have a pre-existing condition. I challenge Congress to send me this legislation now.

We are doing all this to give our people opportunity. But we must demand responsibility in return. You and I know that, where children are concerned, the most important building block of strong families is not government. It is parents -- mothers and fathers who love their children and take active responsibility for their care.

Parental responsibility has been the driving principle behind our efforts to end welfare as we know it. I want reform because our present system perpetuates a cycle of dependency and irresponsible behavior. Nobody wants welfare reform more than the people who are trapped in the current system. I want a system that promotes work, strengthens families, and encourages independence. That is why I have proposed time limits, work requirements, and child care and health care to help people move from welfare to work. That is real welfare reform.

This Congress sent me a bill that was tough on kids and easy on work, and I sent it back and told them to do better. My Administration will continue to reform welfare, with or without help from Congress.

We have worked to cut red tape for 40 states by approving 63 welfare reform experiments at the local level. Just today, we approved a waiver for a welfare reform effort in New Hampshire, which combines strong work requirements with incentives to move people from welfare to work. For 3 out of 4 welfare recipients, the rules have changed.

I am proud that today, 1.3 million fewer people are on welfare than when I took office. The food stamp rolls are down, the poverty rate is down, teen pregnancy rates are down, while work and training among welfare recipients are up and child support collections have reached a record high.

But we must do more to insist on parental responsibility. Our welfare reform proposals are about giving people opportunity and demanding responsibility in return. And I reject the idea that only the mother has to act responsibly. Every child has both a mother and a father. And for too long, we have let men off the hook. We must insist that they do their part to support the children they helped bring into this world.

How many times have you seen a frightened young girl give birth to a baby alone in the hospital, with the father of the child no where to be found? How many times has the hospital and the government been left to pay the costs, not only for the delivery but for the continuing care of that child? That is wrong. It takes two people to bring a child into this world, and it takes two people to raise that child.

That is why we have made it our mission to make sure that parents take responsibility by supporting their children. Last year, I signed an executive order that cracked down on federal employees who owe child support. And 3 years ago I signed a law requiring states to establish hospital-based programs to determine the father of a newborn child. Based on our first reports, more than 200,000 fathers have been identified through these voluntary hospital paternity identification programs last year. That's 200,000 children whose fathers can't just up and walk away without a trace. And child support collections and paternity establishment are both up 40% since 1992.

But we have to do more. That is why earlier today, I took executive action to strengthen child support enforcement and promote parental responsibility.

First, we are putting in place a new national program to help states track parents who owe child support across state lines. Today, too many men have figured out that the way to weasel out of paying child support is to move from job to job and state to state. This must stop. Currently, twenty-five states require that when a person is hired for a job, a check is made to see if he owes child support. Under this new program, we will check that information against our national database to catch deadbeats who have crossed state lines. And I challenge every state to give us this information so that deadbeat dads have nowhere to hide.

Second, today I directed the Department of Health and Human Services to require all mothers who apply for welfare to provide the name of the father and other identifying information at the time they apply for assistance; before they can get welfare benefits. Exceptions will be made to protect a woman from the threat of domestic violence. And we will require the welfare office to contact child support authorities within two days to begin legal proceedings to hold the father responsible for support.

Our system ought to say to mothers: help us identify and locate the father, or you cannot get welfare. And it should say to fathers -- we are not going to let you walk away from your children and stick the taxpayers with the tab. The government did not bring that child into the world -- you did.

If we do all these things -- if we offer opportunity by providing health care and family leave . . . if we demand responsibility of fathers and mothers who bring children into this world -- then we can restore our social fabric and protect the American family.

You are on the front lines, every day, caring for our children and our parents. Our nation owes it to you to give you all the help you need. For all the professionalism and compassion you pour into every hour of every day, we thank you.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Dunoy interview w/ POTUS
1/30/96
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THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but that's not necessarily true. I think -- first of all, I think that -- you know, polls have been used as long as they've been available; FDR used polls and he cared a lot about public opinion, and it took him a good while before he had public opinion -- we could be involved in World War II.

But the question is, on the public opinion, the question is whether you do polls that you can know where people are and where you might lead them, or whether you do polls that tell you, that basically dictates your decision-making. I don't think it's illegitimate at all to have focus groups and polls to know where you are and know how you can better relate to the American people, because you can't do a town meeting every day.

I think that what is wrong is to be driven totally by the polls. If I were driven totally by the polls, I would never try to help Mexico, I would have never gone into Haiti, I wouldn't have gone to Bosnia.

Q What about the balanced budget?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Did balancing the budget come from the heart or from the polls?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The way I'm trying to do it comes from the heart. But we can come back to that if you want.

The balanced budget thing symbolizes to the American people, having a balanced budget plan symbolizes to the American people that we've gotten back to some level of discipline. And as an economic proposition or a political proposition, the reason I think it is important is that we never as a nation ran permanent structural deficits on a permanent basis until -- policy that dictated it until 1981. Now, we had deficits all during the '70s, but we suffered in the '70s from that stagflation in which we had a combination of inflation and anemic growth, which kind of justified the modest-sized deficits. And then we had a policy that did it in '81.

We need to move away from that policy and I think that, frankly, I think whatever happens in this present budget debate, we are moving way from that policy -- reached the national consensus to do that.

But, anyway, that doesn't answer all of your question.

Q Can I ask you about something you do agree with Republicans on, in fact, you've started, which is welfare reform? Would you now sign the Senate version? You said -- well, I guess it was last summer you weren't wild about it, but it was acceptable, because it did a number of things you campaigned on.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right; it does.

Q If they change it not at all, if they --

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just say this. The bill I vetoed obviously had dramatic changes in it, and I vetoed it for reasons that I made clear there. And I know there's some discussion of that. I would like to answer that question in the context of finishing the question he asked me about being the fly on the wall.

I believe that if the American people could have heard the budget discussions that we had in this room with the Republican and the Democratic leadership of the Congress, or the ones we had in the Cabinet Room with the larger staff when they were going through all of these issues, I believe they would have felt better about the

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country, because by and large, we discussed these things totally on the merits -- from the perspective of our positions.

There was a little bit of politics, and there was the occasional argument, and once in a while a little bit of a temper flare, but by and large, this was a dispassionate attempt to resolve our differences and learn about one another -- to really learn about and listen to one another's positions. And I think the American people felt better about that.

Now, that brings me back to the welfare -- the problems that I had, as you know, the differences I had with the Senate welfare bill were significant, but in our discussions here -- I want to say -- we agreed when we had these budget discussions that nothing would be agreed to until everything was agreed to, so it is not fair for me to say the Republicans ever agreed to anything, or for them to say that I ever did; because we said that nothing would be agreed to until everybody did.

But in our discussions about welfare, we essentially reached an understanding about what we could do with food stamps, at least from a budgetary point of view as opposed to a -- you know, I don't think they should be block granted on the budgetary point of view. And I thought we were moving to an understanding that we shouldn't -- that we should do more on child care than the Senate bill did, and that there was still some problems with -- that ought to be alleviated with regard to SSI and disabled children.

We never did reach accord over the question of how legal immigrant children should be dealt with, but the point I want to make is that our budget discussions advanced the welfare reform debate substantially, I think, beyond where the Senate bill was, and in both ways that we were coming toward a consensus that would achieve all of the objectives, which would be pro-work, pro-child, pro-responsibility and giving the states more control over the program, but would have done more for child care and been more sensitive to some of the problems in the funding mechanisms of the Senate bill.

So I would hope if they're going to send me a stand-alone bill which they have obviously every right to do and we need to do something on welfare reform, that it would at least reflect the discussions that were held here, and what I thought were the -- was the common ground we had reached in these areas. They are not bound by it, they are not bound by any of the discussions we had here, but I think by just talking through the programs, we reached an agreement on an approach that would be better (inaudible.)

Q So you feel comfortable in saying that the old Senate version that was acceptable is not acceptable any longer because you could do better, together with Republicans?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I feel comfortable. I don't want to get in -- I make a practice normally of not saying what I'll sign or veto, because I think that's -- unless it's just -- there's some real important reason to do that. But I think that I would just ask



I would hope the leadership would share with the members the discussions that we had here, and that we would -- that any bill they send me would reflect kind of the last, best state of our discussion here. I think that that would give us the best welfare reform bill, and that would be the best thing for the country.

Q Absent the welfare reform bill, the health care that you worked so hard on and this sort of fundamental pledge to make the economy responsive to future generations through training and all of that sort of stuff, none of those things materialized for a whole string of reasons, political and other kinds of reasons.

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On what basis do you ask for a second term, that is, what, where will you take -- those things didn't work for reasons some of which were people blame on you, some of which people blame on Republicans --

THE PRESIDENT: The health care thing didn't work, but I believe that we've made substantial progress in any other area.

Q Welfare reform? Economic structural --

THE PRESIDENT: There was a huge article in The New York Times not very long ago: "Clinton Has Quiet Welfare Revolution." We've given 50 different waivers from rules and regulations to 35 states to reform welfare. I have given all 50 states a blanket commitment that they could reform welfare in ways that would give them more control over the programs, promote more work, have strict requirements for work, and do things that would promote better parenting, and that we'd give them approvals within 30 days in any of five areas.

Q But Governor Merrill* is telling a very different story up in New Hampshire about how long he's been waiting --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I know. But it's New Hampshire primary time, and we have a particular issue there which I think we're about to work out. I have a high regard for Governor Merrill. I like him a lot. It's the season up there. Let me just put it this way: If you compare my record with my Republican predecessors, my two Republican predecessors, I have given in three years far more freedom from federal rules and regulations to reform welfare and health care than they did combined in 12 years. That's a fact that they can't quarrel with.

I believe that the American people -- now, again, this is a knowledge issue. They are looking for welfare reform legislation. I would like to get a bill, I think we can get a bill, my gut is we will get a bill. But we've got a very good record to talk about and some very impressive changes in welfare in the states out there. So I feel good about that.

I would remind you that in 1993 and 1994, that was only the third session of Congress since the end of World War II where the Congress passed more than 80 percent of the President's program, including family and medical leave, a sweeping Crime Bill, all of the things that -- so I believe that I've got a record to run on. I said we'd cut the deficit in half; we did. I said I thought we could produce 8 million jobs; we have. I believe the record will be there.

But more importantly, far more importantly is the things I talked about in the State of the Union. I believe the American people should use the President's record as evidence that he did what -- if he did what he said he would do, or he broke his back trying, that is some evidence that in the next four years the President will do the same things he did in the last four years, and therefore, the challenges I laid out in the State of the Union as the future

challenges for the country should be embraced. I never pretended I could solve all of the problems of the country before.

Q -- that question. Your first address to Congress in '93 -- you said, "tonight I want to talk to you about what government can do, because I believe government must do more," and then you followed the sentence by saying you wanted a package of jobs investments of over \$30 billion to put people to work now, to create a half-million new jobs, to rebuild our highways and airports, to renovate housing, to bring new life to rural communities and spread hope and opportunity among our nation's youth.

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WR - Pres. Staffs

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5-22-96 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5-23 8:00 AM

SUBJECT: Statement on Welfare Reform

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
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CURRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEPHANOPOULOS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GIBBONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STREETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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HIGGINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

Comments to Michael Waldman.

RESPONSE:

DRAFT 5/22/96 9PM

96MAY 22 P9:59

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATEMENT ON WELFARE REFORM
MAY 23, 1996

I want to say a few words on a subject of intense interest here in Wisconsin -- our drive to end welfare as we know it.

For fifteen years, I have been working to transform a broken system that undermines our basic values of work, responsibility and family.

For the past three and a half years, while others in Washington have been talking about welfare reform, we have been doing it. My administration has worked with 38 states to approve 61 welfare reform experiments. We have changed the rules for fully three-quarters of the people on welfare.

We have increased child support collections by 40%, and I signed an executive order to require federal employees to pay child support. Instead of just talking about requiring teen mothers to take responsibility, I have taken executive action to direct every state to require minor mothers to stay in school, sign personal responsibility contracts, and turn their lives around.

Last month, Wisconsin passed one of the boldest reform plans in the country. The state is sending it to me to approve -- and that is exactly what I am going to do.

The Wisconsin plan does what I have always said welfare reform must do. It puts a time limit on welfare and requires people to go to work. And it makes sure people have child care, health care and a job to go to. That is what my welfare reform plan does -- and that is exactly what the plan Congress sent me last year did not do.

I have long believed that the only way we will enact real welfare reform across America is if people of both parties join together around these core principles. So I am particularly pleased that, in recent days, leading Republicans have begun to move toward this common ground.

On Tuesday, Senator Dole came to this state and spoke out in favor of an approach very similar to mine. And his new approach moves away from the more extreme proposal he and Speaker Gingrich sent to me that was weak on work and tough on kids.

My plan -- and Senator Dole's plan -- embrace tough work requirements for welfare recipients, a five-year lifetime welfare limit, no welfare benefits to illegal immigrants except for emergencies, tough child support enforcement, more responsibility for teen mothers, and vastly greater flexibility for states to reform welfare their own way such as requiring drug testing.

Just yesterday, House Republicans introduced a new plan that abandoned most of their extreme proposals that had forced me to reject their bill last year.

Senator Dole's proposal, and the House Republican plan, are now very close to two bipartisan bills -- introduced by Senators Breaux and Chafee, and Reps. Castle and Tanner -- that I have supported.

We still have some differences. I reject the idea that welfare reform has anything to do with taking away the guarantee of health care for senior citizens, pregnant women, poor children, and the disabled.

But on welfare reform, we are a whisker away from a historic consensus that would truly end welfare as we know it. So we could talk this issue to death, and give speech after speech about phony disagreements. Or we could do what most Americans would do, and come together to make this consensus the law of the land.

Senator Dole, let's be doers, not talkers. Let's get welfare reform done for the American people. Let's pass it into law before you leave office on June 11th. That would be a real legacy of achievement.

WR - Pres. Stuart

**The President's Radio Address
Welfare Reform
May 18, 1996
[taped May 17, 1996]**

Good morning.

Four years ago, I challenged America to end welfare as we know it. A few days after I took office, I met with the nation's 50 governors and urged every one of them to send me a welfare reform plan that would help meet that challenge.

Many of them have. In the last 3 years, my administration has granted welfare waivers to a record 38 states -- more states than all previous administrations combined. We have cut through federal rules and regulations so states can come up with effective welfare reforms of their own. The state-based reforms we have encouraged have brought work and responsibility back to the lives of 75 percent of the people on welfare.

We're doing a lot more than sign waivers. We've also pressed ahead on fundamental reforms to make the welfare system reflect the basic values that have stood us so well for so long: That if you bring a child into this world, you must take responsibility for that child ... That there are no government subsidies for irresponsible or reckless behavior ... That welfare is a second chance, not a way of life.

That is why I signed an executive order to require federal employees to pay child support. We toughened the sanctions on welfare and food stamp recipients who refuse to work. Earlier this month, we took action to require teenage mothers to stay in school and sign personal responsibility contracts, or lose their welfare benefits. From now on, having a baby will no longer give you the right or the money to drop out of school and go on welfare.

All this is paying off. In state after state, we're seeing encouraging results that the New York Times called a "quiet revolution." Around the country, the welfare rolls have dropped by 1.3 million since January 1993. Food stamp rolls and teen pregnancy rates are also down, and across the country more people are required to work as a condition of receiving welfare. Child support collections have jumped 40%, to a record \$11 billion last year. State by state, we are making work and responsibility a way of life, not an option.

Today, I am glad to pledge my support for bipartisan reform efforts in other states. Last week, the state of Wisconsin submitted the outlines of a bold welfare reform plan for approval -- and I am excited by what I have seen so far. The Wisconsin plan is a serious effort to end to welfare as we know it, and replace a welfare system based on writing people checks with a system based on putting people to work.

Under the plan, people on welfare who can work must go to work -- immediately. The state will make sure they find work, and ensure that parents have health care and child care so they can go to work. People who don't show up for work won't get paid, but people

who go to work will have the dignity of earning a paycheck, not a welfare check. The Wisconsin plan adopts many other elements of my welfare reform plan, including requiring teen parents to stay in school, live at home, and turn their lives around.

All in all, it's a solid plan, and I look forward to working with the state to realize a new vision of welfare based on work, that protects children and does right by working families.

And Wisconsin is not alone. Maryland recently passed innovative reforms to reduce welfare fraud, crack down on child support enforcement, and give working parents child care so they never have to go on welfare in the first place.

We shouldn't have to do this one state at a time. After all, what the reforms in Wisconsin, Maryland, and other states tell us is that Republicans and Democrats around the country agree on what we must do to reform the welfare system. Most Americans, without regard to party, agree that people on welfare who can work should go to work, and no one who can work should be able to stay on welfare forever. And we agree that parents need child care so can go to work -- because getting people off welfare and keeping them off will save us a great deal in the long run.

In 1994, and again this year, I sent Congress a sweeping welfare reform plan that embraces these principles so many Americans agree on: requiring work, imposing time limits, cracking down on child support enforcement.

So the states can keep coming up with great proposals -- and I'll keep signing them, happily. I will keep doing everything in my power to reform welfare, state by state. But I challenge Congress to join me and end welfare as we know it in all 50. There's a bipartisan welfare reform bill sitting in the House and Senate right now that will bring this revolution to every state, and get government out of the waiver business altogether. Send it to me. I'll sign it.

Let's get on with it and get the job done for the American people.

Thanks for listening.

PRESIDENT CLINTON JOINT NEWS CONFERENCE WITH
GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT KOHL MILWAUKEE CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBER MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 12:43 P.M. EDT
THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1996

WR - Pres. Starts

EXCERPT:

Q Mr. President, in recent days and weeks, you've announced your support for a series of largely Republican initiatives that have (seemed at odds with ?), criticized as being at odds with your previous positions, such as the gas tax despite your strong environmental policies, such as the Helms-Burton Cuba bill despite concerns expressed within your administration, such as the Wisconsin welfare plan despite concerns it might actually hurt children. Is this basically election year repositioning, subtle repositioning, or is this something more fundamental that's going on?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, first of all, I dispute -- I dispute the way you characterized it...on the welfare issue, I don't see how any member of the American press corps could say that welfare reform is a Republican issue.

Now let me just give you a few facts here. In 1980, when I was governor of Arkansas -- 1980 -- I asked for and was granted permission to be one of the first states in the first federal welfare reform experiment in the modern era. I helped to develop the governors' positions in the mid-'80s and helped to write the Family Support Act of 1988.

Let's come to the present day. I have granted 61 approvals for state welfare reform experiments. President Bush granted 11, President Reagan granted 13. Three-quarters of the American people on welfare are now under welfare reform experiments. We have moved to stiffen child support enforcement. The results have been pretty impressive. The welfare rolls are down by 1.3 million, child support enforcement collections are up by 40 percent.

I don't believe welfare reform is a partisan issue. It's certainly not out there in the country. If you look at the 21 states where the welfare case load have gone down -- or the 13 states, or how many -- I think there are 13 where the -- no there are 21 states where the welfare caseload has gone down by 18 percent or more; 13 are governed by Republicans, eight by Democrats -- almost the exact ratio in the Governors Association as a whole. The state with the biggest drop in welfare caseload is Indiana, which has a Democratic governor. This is not a partisan issue.

Now, the Republicans passed a bill that I vetoed. Does that mean that they're for welfare reform and I'm not? No. They're -- look at the Wisconsin plan. You mentioned the Wisconsin plan. The Wisconsin plan does three things that I think are very important.

First of all, it says you've got to work immediately, but we'll give you a job, and we can use welfare money to subsidize private sector jobs or to create community service jobs. I asked every governor in the country to do just that when I spoke at the Governors conference in Vermont quite a long while ago.

Secondly, it says if you go to work, we won't ask you to hurt your children. We'll give you child care and health care. Now, it seems to me that those are elements that we all ought to be for.

Now, that is not what was in the Republican welfare reform bill. It was tough on kids and easy on work, and that's why I vetoed it. Now, amidst all this election-year rhetoric and posturing and gnashing of teeth, if you look beneath the rhetoric, the Republicans are moving toward the position I have advocated all along, and I'm encouraged by that.

In the country, this is not a partisan issue. This does not have to be a partisan issue in Washington. When Senator Dole was here Tuesday, he said some things which it seemed to me were very consistent with what I have said I would be glad to support. He said that he wanted a welfare plan that had tough work requirements, that had a five-year lifetime benefit, that had no welfare benefits to illegal immigrants, except in extreme circumstances, that had tough child-support enforcement, more responsibility for teen mothers, and greater flexibility for states to reform welfare on their own. They could retire -- require drug-testing. Or, as Texas does, they could require immunization. Now, I am for all of that.

Yesterday, the House Republicans introduced a new plan that abandoned most of their extreme proposals. And these proposals -- both what Senator Dole said and the House plan -- seem much closer to the bipartisan bills that are in the Senate and the House -- the Castle-Tanner bill, the Breaux-Chafee bill -- that I have supported.

So, here's what I'd like to say about it.

If we can rely on the common sense of America about this, we ought to still pass federal legislation; even though three-quarters of the American people under welfare -- who are on welfare, under welfare reform -- not all of them are -- even though the scholar from the American Enterprise Institute says in this week's edition of Business Week that I can justifiably claim to have ended welfare as we know it -- that's what he said -- the truth is we still need legislation.

So, what I say if this is Senator Dole's plan, I think what he ought to do is to pass this plan through the Congress before he leaves the Senate on June the 11th, and I will sign it. And we will put this behind us.

So, that's my -- my attitude is let's let her rip. If this is

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the plan, let's don't pollute it with a lot of poison pills. Pass this plan through the Congress before you retire on June the 11th, and I will sign it. And it will be good for the country.

WR - Pres Shultz

draft, 5:30 pm, Friday

**President William J. Clinton
Prepared Remarks
Radio Address to the Nation
June 1, 1996**

Good morning. This week, the people of Israel gave the world a powerful example of democracy in action -- and set an example for all those who cherish the right to choose their leaders with their voices and their votes.

Yesterday, I called Prime-Minister-elect Netanyahu to congratulate him on his victory. I want to tell you what I told him: the United States is more determined than ever to stand with the people of Israel and all the peacemakers in the region to reach the goal we share: a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and a secure peace for all the people of the Middle East.

These past few years, we have come so far toward that goal: peace between Israel and its Palestinian and Jordanian neighbors . . . Israel's growing acceptance throughout the Middle East. But with every step toward peace, its enemies grow more desperate -- with bullets and bombs. As Israel continues to take risks for peace, the United States will work with Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu to minimize those risks -- and to help Israel achieve the secure peace its people want.

I also spoke to outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres. I told him to take comfort in history's judgment. Decades from now, people will look back and see in Shimon Peres one of the great peacemakers of our time. His vision of peace is becoming a reality. Now, the strength of the partnership between Israel and the United States can allow us to keep moving forward -- and to make sure that the fears the enemies of peace cause us today never overwhelm our hope for tomorrow.

Now I'd like to turn to our home front and some of our most important citizens, our children. Some of them have joined me with their parents here in the Oval Office, and later today, they'll join tens of thousands of people to show their support for America's young people at the Stand for Children at the Lincoln Memorial.

This is an important time for America's children. They're growing up in a world that is changing rapidly. They need our help more than any generation before them. My wife, Hillary, says that children are not rugged individualists; they depend on us -- their parents and communities -- to love them, guide them, provide for them, defend them. That's as it should be. Their future, and ours, depends on how well we do our job.

If society sends our children the wrong signals, we should work together to change that. That's why I have proposed strict limits on tobacco advertising. That's why we're

giving parents the V-chip and persuaded the TV networks to develop a ratings system, so parents can control the shows children watch. That's why I support parents and communities who want to cut crime and improve discipline by adopting school uniforms and community curfews.

We are immunizing our children, and now we have the highest number of immunizations ever. We enacted the Family and Medical Leave law, so parents can now take time away from their jobs to be with a newborn or an ill child. We increased Head Start funding. And we're making sure that teenage mothers stay in school and turn their lives around.

All of this makes a difference. But none of it matters as much as the most basic of all protection for young people -- their health. Without medical care, a child cannot live a full life.

That is why I deeply oppose the Republican plan to repeal the guarantee of quality health care for children. For three decades, Medicaid has been our national commitment that poor children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, older Americans will never be denied health care because they can't afford it. Today, middle class parents know that in the awful event their child is disabled in an accident and their savings are gone, they will get help to keep their child at home. Under the Republican plan, hundreds of thousands of disabled children could lose help for home care.

This plan says to millions of children -- if you can't afford care, too bad. It says to people with disabilities -- if you don't have insurance, sorry, come back tomorrow. It would amount to child neglect for a whole generation. I vetoed it last year when the Republican Congress shut down the government in an effort to force me to sign it. And if they send it to me again, I will veto it again.

The Republicans are threatening to attach this proposal to welfare reform. For two decades, I've worked to end welfare as we know it. I want to require work, to impose strict time limits, and to crack down on child support enforcement. We can reach agreement on sweeping, bipartisan welfare reform. But I will never accept the repeal of guaranteed health care for poor children or disabled people or older Americans or pregnant women. And I don't care what bill they attach it to.

I ask the Congress to put politics aside. Where our children are concerned, we should stand together, and we should not be small. Our children are counting on us. Thanks for listening.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

30-May-1996 07:42pm

TO: Carolyn Curiel

FROM: Bruce N. Reed
Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Radio Address

Carolyn -- In the accomplishments, you might want fewer words and more ellipses, but you should try to touch on as many of the ideas as possible -- especially the values context. Thanks.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

My friend Tipper Gore likes to say, it's not easy being a kid these days. Our children are growing up under siege -- from drugs and gangs, from broken homes and decaying values, from violence on the screen and crime in the streets.

As President, I have tried to do everything I can to make it easier for families to give their children the safety, security, and love they deserve. That's why I fought for anti-drug programs in our schools, low-cost vaccines for all children who need them, and the Family and Medical Leave Act, which enables working parents to take time off to care for a newborn baby or an ailing relative.

As President and as a father, I have also worked hard to change the signals society sends our children, because nothing is more important to our future than giving our kids good role models to look up to and good values to live by. That's why I've called on tobacco companies to stop marketing cigarettes to children ... signed a sweeping telecommunications bill that will put a V-chip in every television so parents can control the shows their children watch, and persuaded the major TV networks to launch a new ratings system so parents know which programs are right for their family and which aren't. That's why I took executive action to make sure minor mothers stay in school and turn their lives around, not get a welfare check for having a baby and leaving home. That's why I've challenged communities to reduce crime and improve discipline by adopting school uniforms. And that's why I went to New Orleans this week and called for communities with crime problems to consider imposing curfews for young people, because children growing up today need rules just like we did --

after a certain time, they should be home safe not out on the streets.

When we do take steps like these, we can turn things around in this country. The welfare rolls are down, teen pregnancy is down. In New Orleans, the curfew has helped cut crime ___ percent.

We're making progress -- and we should keep moving forward. Unfortunately, there are some in this Congress who want to go backward. (Medicaid, children's march, etc)

WELFARE

Now some in Congress want to hold welfare reform hostage by attaching it to an extremist Medicaid plan that would destroy the guarantee of health care for poor children. I won't let that happen.

We owe it to the American people to pass a sweeping welfare reform bill this year that imposes requires work, imposes strict time limits, and cracks down on child support enforcement. I support bipartisan welfare reform plans sponsored by Senators Breaux and Chafee and Reps. Castle and Tanner. Send that to me, and I'll sign it.

So I say to this Congress: Don't send America's children a poison pill by taking away their health care. Let's put politics aside and get welfare reform done.

WR Pres. Staff

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

10:00 a.m.

DATE: 6/12/96 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/13/96

SUBJECT: Statements on Teen Pregnancy

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McCURRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PANETTA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McGINTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McLARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NASH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ICKES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	QUINN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LIEBERMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RASCO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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BAER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOSNIK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CURRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEPHANOPOULOS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EMANUEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STIGLITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIBBONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STREETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TYSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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LAKE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	M. Verveet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LINDSEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Ben-Ami	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Comments to Gabrielle Bushman.

RESPONSE:

Draft 6/12/96 4:30pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON JUN 12 P 4 : 42
STATEMENT ON TEEN PREGNANCY
OEOB 450
JUNE 13, 1996

[Acknowledgements: Former Gov. Kean and Isabel Sawhill of National Campaign; Paul Tudor Jones and Rebecca Maynard of Robin Hood Foundation; Michael Carerra, Blessing Tate and Salvador Ayala of NYC Children's Aid Society; Secretary Shalala; Teen Pregnancy Advisor Dr. Henry Foster, who could not be with us today]

We are here because -- as you all know so well -- teen pregnancy is one of the greatest moral crises facing our country. We know that strong families are the building block of our society. We know that millions of children, born to a mother who is not ready to have a child, living in poverty, with few chances, are robbed of their full potential at the very moment of their birth. We cannot go into the 21st Century with millions of our children having children . . . with generation after generation trapped in a cycle of dependency and neglect . . . robbed of a basic sense of rules and values. I refuse to believe that teen pregnancy is an inevitable social calamity. I refuse to believe we cannot do something about it. And I know that, through all the work you are doing, you refuse to believe that as well.

When I became President 3 1/2 years ago, I had a strategy for meeting our challenges. Our mission as a nation must be to offer all Americans opportunity . . . to demand that they take responsibility . . . and that we must come together as a community. I believe that the answer to the challenge of teen pregnancy must come from these enduring values. And I believe the work you are doing shows how.

The stakes could not be higher. The report you have just heard about, issued by the Robin Hood Foundation, confirmed with devastating clarity the terrible cost of teen pregnancy. Children of teenage mothers are more likely to have health and behavioral problems. They do worse in school, and are more likely to drop out than their peers. They are more likely to commit crimes. They are more likely to go on welfare. And they are more likely to become teen mothers themselves, perpetuating a cycle of dependency for generation after generation.

When one million teenagers become pregnant each year, we face the prospect of real and worsening social decay, if we do not act. And the only way we will be able to meet this challenge is to work together -- a national commitment calling on people in business, in schools, in religious institutions, in government at all levels.

Government has played a role in creating the conditions that spawn teen pregnancy -- and government has a role to play in changing those conditions.

We know that our welfare system can send the wrong signals, and that is especially true for teen mothers. That is why we have worked with 38 states to put in place 61 welfare reform experiments, to require work, impose time limits, and make responsibility a way of life, not an option.

Last month, I took executive action to require teen mothers to stay in school, stay at home, sign "personal responsibility contracts" and turn their lives around -- or lose their benefits.

Another thing government must do is to take seriously the role of older men. It is a sad fact that half of all underage mothers were made pregnant by a man in his twenties or older. An older man has no business taking advantage of an underage girl. Statutory rape is a crime. The young woman is the victim. Yet these laws are almost never enforced. It is time for prosecutors in every state to vigorously enforce the statutory rape laws against older men who prey on underage women.

And we are holding teen fathers accountable, too. We have increased child support enforcement by 40%. We are saying to young men: if you make a girl pregnant, you will have to pay for the consequences of your irresponsibility.

These are the kind of things we are doing. But we all know that government alone will not solve the problem of teen pregnancy. This requires a revolution of the spirit, an upsurge of commitment and involvement, all across our country.

In my State of the Union Address last year, I challenged the leaders of our society to pull together in a national campaign to prevent teen pregnancy. I am deeply gratified that such a strong and bipartisan group has answered this call. As Tom Kean has said, you have set what seems to be an audacious goal: to reduce teen pregnancy by a third in the next ten years. I believe we can meet that goal. The work of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is just beginning, but they are off to a good start, and I'd like to thank them.

This organization will have to call on the knowledge already gained about what works and what doesn't work from thousands of community based groups who have been grappling with this challenge. We should learn what works, spread the word, and work to replicate it throughout the country.

First and foremost, these community programs must they stress abstinence and personal responsibility. A program cannot be successful unless it gives our children the moral leadership they need to say no to making the wrong choices -- and to say yes to what is best for themselves and their future.

Second, programs must show teenagers a clear pathway to college or jobs that will give them hope and a reason to stay in school and avoid pregnancy.

Third, local organizations must make sure that parents and other adult mentors are constantly involved in children's lives. Every child needs adults to teach values, to impose discipline, to show how to live a good life.

Fourth, a program must bring together many parts of its community -- schools, businesses and religious organizations.

And finally, these programs must maintain a commitment to the young people they serve over an extended period of time. These efforts can't be limited to a few weeks or months in a classroom.

We've seen how programs that incorporate these principles can work. As young people like Blessing Tate and Salvador Ayala from New York's Children's Aid Society tell us, when we do all these things well, and do them together, our children are more likely to stay on the right path. That's why today, the Department of Health and Human Services is releasing a guidebook which describes successful programs. It is called "Promoting Promising Strategies" and it gives community organizations a place to start in setting up their own programs.

Today, I'm pleased to announce that \$30 million in next year's budget will be dedicated to funding community teen pregnancy prevention programs across the nation -- as long as they are based on these five principles. We know what works -- abstinence, adult and community involvement, a clear path to a good education and good job, and sticking with it for the long haul. Government should support what works, not what doesn't work.

Ultimately, government can play a role, civic leadership can play a role, concerned adults can play a role, community organizations can play a role. But the only true and lasting answer to the dilemma of teen pregnancy is to demand that all our young people take personal responsibility for their actions. No one is too young to learn right from wrong. No one is too young to be told that the decision to bring a child into the world is the gravest choice they will ever make. No one is too young or too poor to be held accountable. Our basic bargain is this: we will do everything we can to give you opportunity. But you must take responsibility.

As Pearl Buck wrote, "If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all." Let us not fail our children. Teen pregnancy is not an intractable problem. We can do something about it. We can give our young people the values and the vision to lead healthy lives. And we must. The next century belongs to them and the future of our country is in their hands. Thank you.

WR- PRES.
STATS

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release
1996

June 18,

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION
OF THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

The Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C.

12:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. You've made me feel welcome today. You've got my day off to a great start. And you have been a wonderful, wonderful friend and supporter of this administration in all the things we've tried to do to improve the health and welfare of the American people.

I want to begin by saying a special word of thanks to your President, Ginna Trotter Betts, for her four wonderful years as President of the American Nurses Association. (Applause.) Thank you. (Applause.)

I'll never forget the first time we met and talked about this. Al Gore said, you know, the President of the American Nurses Association is from Tennessee. (Laughter.) He's shameless about things like that. (Laughter.) And then we met, and I thought it was especially wonderful because she did not speak with an accent. (Laughter.)

I want every American today to join with me in saluting your leadership on this 100th anniversary celebration. Our country has the finest health care system in the world, and nurses are the heart of that system. (Applause.)

As Ginna said, because of my dear mother, I know the hard work and the sacrifice that goes into your work. I want to thank you again for honoring my mother in 1994 with a special award in her name and for everything that you do. I learned from her and America learns from nurses every day the basic values that make this a great country. We know that the mission of our country should be to offer opportunity to every American, to demand in turn that every American take responsibility for making the most of that opportunity. That's the basic bargain of this democracy.

We know, too, that all of us have an obligation to see that we treat all responsible Americans with respect and with tolerance, to

build a community out of all of our diversity. Today I ask for your prayers for the people who go to church in those churches that have been burned in the last year and a half, and for your support for their right to worship and live. (Applause.)

I also want to thank you for the support you've given us in our attempt to change the course of affairs here in America and to deal with the real issues that affect the lives of real people. I sometimes wonder when people like you, who work and live every day all across America in the heartland and get up and try to make something good happen every day, when you come to Washington it must be like visiting a foreign country from time to time. (Laughter.) I think it would do more good if the people who work and write here in Washington had to go out and visit you more often, I think it would change their attitude about what really matters in life. (Applause.)

We've been at this business of trying to create opportunity and increase responsibility and strengthen our national community for three and a half years now. There was a lot to be done three and a half years ago. We had to get our economic house in order. We had to reduce this terrible deficit and do it in a way that continued to invest in our people and their future. And when we passed that economic plan in 1993, there are those who said, well, this is a terrible thing, it will plunge the economy into recession, it's the worst thing in the world. It was a bitterly partisan fight; we prevailed by the narrowest of margins. Well, three and a half years later we now can see whether they were right or we were right. (Applause.)

In three and a half years our economy has produced 9.7 million new jobs, 3.7 million new homeowners, three years of record increases in the number of small businesses and the lowest combined rate of inflation and unemployment in 28 years. I believe we were right. (Applause.)

In 1994 we asked the Congress to take a serious approach to the crime problem, to get beyond rhetoric and partisan division and tough talk and to do something smart as well as tough on crime. We put 100,000 police on the streets, passed the Brady Bill, passed the assault weapons ban, passed the Violence Against Women Act.

There was a lot of bitter partisan rancor about it all, but we have now had a chance to see whether it works. We are halfway through, almost, putting the police on the street. Almost 60,000 people with criminal records have been denied the right to buy handguns under the Brady Bill -- (applause) -- which is a health issue, by the way, and an emergency room issue. (Applause.)

We're enforcing the Violence Against Women Act, the three strikes and you're out act. We see that the assault weapons ban has worked to ban assault weapons, but not to take any sporting weapons away from the hunters and other sportsmen who were told that they were going to lose their weapons. We can see it now. We

have had three years of declining crime in a row. We were right and they were wrong. We did the right thing to pass the Crime Bill in 1994. (Applause.)

We have had three years now to evaluate the work of expanding Head Start and making college loans more affordable and passing the National Service Program. And we know that the more people we educate in America, the stronger our country will be and the more people will be able to find good jobs and find other good jobs if they lose the ones they have.

And we know enough now to say that we ought to do more. We ought to give families a tax deduction for the cost of college education. And we ought to make two years of education free after high school, through tax credits for every American to go to community colleges. (Applause.)

Today, I want to talk with you about two other issues: about how we can reward opportunities, increase opportunities and reward responsibility and build a stronger country by improving health care and by strengthening the requirements that parents be responsible in the support of their children.

For three and a half years we have worked on these things as well. And even though we did not prevail in doing everything we've tried to do, I want you to know that I will never forget as long as I live the way the American Nurses worked with the First Lady to try to give health care to all Americans. (Applause.) She is grateful for it, and so am I. Thank you. (Applause.)

I thank you for standing with us when this administration became the first in American history to take on the tough issue of tobacco and the marketing of tobacco to young people. (Applause.) But we know -- we know, notwithstanding some political voices who say this is no big deal, and some people can deal with it and some can't, we know it is illegal to sell cigarettes to children in every state in the country. But every day 3,000 underage Americans start to smoke, and 1,000 of them will have their lives ended prematurely because of it. That is something we know.

If we want to improve health care in America, why don't all those people who say that's what they want to do stand up and be counted and do what we need to do to restrict the advertising and marketing and sales of tobacco products to young people in this country. (Applause.) That's what we ought to do. (Applause.)

Let's not forget what has been done. As Ginna said, we did pass the Family and Medical Leave Act to say if you take a little time off to care for a sick child or a sick parent, you won't lose your job. It's amazing to me there are still some of the people who voted against the Family and Medical Leave Law defending their vote and saying they did the right thing to oppose it. Well, I think it was right to pass it and a lot of American families think so, too. I never go into a big crowd of families very rarely that somebody doesn't come up to me and say I took advantage of the Family and Medical Leave Law.

The other day we had, in the White House, 50 families from 50 states who are participating in the Children's Miracle Television Network with all the children's hospitals in the country, these desperately ill children and their hardworking parents, almost all of them middle-class people. And two families came up to me on the way out of the room and said, I do not know what I would have done

if the Family and Medical Leave Law had not been passed; I kept my job and took care of my child. (Applause.)

There's also some things that we have stopped from happening that you deserve a lot of credit for. I sometimes think that the majority in this Congress has forgotten the first rule of health care: first, do no harm. (Applause.) We have fought to slow the rate of inflation in Medicaid while preserving its fundamental guarantees. For three decades the United States has guaranteed that poor children and pregnant women, people with disabilities and older Americans will not be denied health care simply because they cannot afford it. That is the right thing to do.

The majority in Congress is actually insisting that we repeal this guarantee. I have said and I believe this would amount to child neglect for a whole generation. That's why I vetoed that plan last year. If they send it to me again, I will veto it again. (Applause.)

Working with you, we have fought to balance the budget in a way that protects Medicare and honors our duty to our parents. Let me remind you that we have cut the deficit by more than half. We added time to the Medicare Trust Fund and we're attacked by the now congressional majority for doing it. But their proposal for Medicare would undermine our ability to hire and train nurses, would close down more hospital wings in cities and rural communities. Of course, we have to slow the rate of inflation and Medicare. My plan will secure the Medicare Trust Fund for a decade without imposing unduly high premiums on low-income seniors and without wrecking the delivery system, which is, after all, what we have to preserve if we want people to have good health care in the first place. (Applause.)

And while we're doing no harm, why don't we do a little good. (Laughter.) We are working with you to improve health care access to as many as 25 million Americans by fighting for the Kassebaum-Kennedy health care bill. (Applause.) No worker should have to worry about losing health care if he or she loses a job. And no one should be denied health care simply because they or someone in their family has a preexisting condition.

I am working hard with the Congress, and I do want to say that I am encouraged that there are people in both parties who support the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill. In its purest form, it passed the Senate 100 to 0. All we have to do now is to get together and pass the bill, pass a good bill. I believe we can do it. I am working with the leadership in both parties to do it. But I want you to leave this town only after you have given a clear signal to Congress: Pass this bill now. (Applause.)

And while we're at it, one other thing we could do that would really help millions of working families is to raise the minimum wage now. And I hope we will do that. (Applause.) I am doing everything I can to increase opportunity for the American people, but as I said, we all know that the basic bargain in America is opportunity in return for responsibility.

We also know that where children are concerned, the most important of America's building blocks is not a strong government, but a strong family. It is parents who must love their children and take responsibility for them. That has been the driving principle behind my efforts to reform welfare as we know it. I believe the present system perpetuates a cycle of dependency and

irresponsible behavior. But I also know, having spent time in welfare offices as a governor, that nobody wants to reform this system more than the people who are trapped in it. I want a system that promotes work, strengthens families, and encourages independence. That's why I have proposed time limits and work requirements, but also child care and health care to help people move from welfare to work. (Applause.)

The majority in Congress often criticizes me for vetoing a bill they called welfare reform. Well, I did. I did it because it was too tough on kids and too light on work. I asked them to do better. And if they'll do better, I'll be happy to sign welfare reform legislation. Meanwhile, we will continue to reform welfare with or without congressional action.

We have worked to cut red tape for 40 of the 50 states by approving 63 welfare reform experiments. Just today we approved a waiver for a welfare reform effort in New Hampshire, which combines strong work requirements with incentives to move people from welfare to work. (Applause.) I have received an intriguing proposal from Wisconsin which has tough time limits, but actually gives assurances -- assurances -- of a job and health care and child care to people on welfare. And I expect to approve that request soon. (Applause.)

What you need to know, all of you, is that for three out of four Americans on welfare, the rules have already changed. Seventy-five percent of the families in this country on welfare are already under welfare reform experiments approved by our administration and devised at the state and local level. That is one big reason that today there are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare than the day I took the oath of office as President of the United States. (Applause.)

The food stamp roles are also down. The poverty rate is down. Teen pregnancy rates have leveled off and are dropping some. Work and training among welfare recipients are up. Child support collections have reached a record high. But we must do more, to insist on more parental responsibility. Our proposals are about giving people more opportunity and demanding more responsibility. And I reject the idea that when it comes to welfare it is only the mother who has to act responsibly. That is a false statement. (Applause.)

For too long we have let the men off the hook. We must insist that they do their part to support the children that they help to bring into this world. (Applause.) How many times -- I wonder how many times nurses in this audience have seen a frightened young girl give birth to a baby alone in a hospital with the father nowhere to be seen. (Applause.) How many times has the hospital and the government been left to pay the cost not only for the delivery, but for the continuing care of the child. Well, two people are required to bring a child into this world and two should help to raise the child. (Applause.)

Last year I signed an executive order that cracked down on the requirements for federal employees to pay their child support. Three years ago I signed a law requiring states to establish hospital-based programs to determine the father of a newborn child. Based on our first reports, more than 200,000 fathers have been identified through these voluntary hospital paternity identification programs. That's 200,000 children whose fathers can't just up and walk away. And child support collections and

paternity establishments have increased by 40 percent since 1992. I am proud of that and you should be as well. (Applause.)

But we have to do more. That's why, earlier today, I took executive action to strengthen child support enforcement and promote parental responsibility. First, we're putting in place a new national program to help states track parents who owe child support across state lines. (Applause.) Today too many parents get out of paying child support by moving from job to job from state to state. This must stop.

Currently, 25 of our states require that when a person is hired for a job a check be made to see if he owes child support. Under this new program, we will check that information against our national database to catch deadbeats who have crossed state lines. I want every state in the country, the other 25, to give us this information so that these people who do not pay their child support have nowhere to hide. (Applause.)

Today I also directed the Department of Health and Human Services to require mothers who apply for welfare to provide the name of the father and other identifying information when they apply for assistance and before they get the benefits. Of course, there must be good-cause exceptions, such as those required to protect mothers from the dangers of violence against women. And we will require the welfare office to contact child support authorities within two days, once we get this information, to begin legal proceedings to hold fathers responsible for support.

This is important. Our system should say to mothers: If you want our help, help us to identify and locate the fathers so he can be held accountable as well. And it should say to fathers: We're not going to let you just walk away from your children and stick the taxpayers with the tab. The government did not bring the child into the world, you did. Our people will help to take responsibility for those children, but you have to do your part as well. We have to make responsibility a way of life, not an option, when it comes to raising children in the United States. (Applause.)

So let me say again to you, I thank you for the giving, nurturing work you do. We would not have a health care system without you. America wouldn't be what it is without you. I thank you for demonstrating responsibility at work and, for most of you, at home as well throughout your lifetime. I ask for your continued support as we try to not only protect but to advance the cause of health care in this country. We must not rest until we have made health care accessible and affordable to every single American citizen. (Applause.)

But we must also say to every American citizen, you ought to be as responsible in your life every day, as the nurses of America are in their lives.

This country works with opportunity and responsibility; we cannot have one without the other. And if we're going to build an America that will be the world's leading source of peace and freedom and prosperity in the 21st century, if we're going to keep the American Dream alive for all of us, we have to have both those things. You embody it in your life, we're trying to embody it in the policies we advocate. And I ask for your continued support. You've made me very happy, personally, here today, but you make me very proud to be President of an America with people like you.

Let's keep fighting to make it better.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

12:21 P.M. EDT