

May 00

The White House
Office of the First Lady

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2000

CONTACT: LISSA MUSCATINE
ERIKA BATCHELLER
JENNIFER SMITH
202/456-2960

The President and First Lady to Host Millennium "Matinee" at the White House
"Exploration: Under the Sea, Beyond the Stars"

Monday, June 12, 2000
2:30 p.m. EST

Washington, D.C. – On Monday, June 12, 2000, the President and First Lady will host a Millennium "Matinee" at the White House, the ninth event in the Millennium Evening series. "Exploration: Under the Sea, Beyond the Stars" will explore the American quest for discovery into the farthest reaches of sea and space, two of the remaining frontiers of exploration.

The program will feature two noted scientists, Dr. Marcia McNutt, president of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Research Institute in California, and Dr. Neil de Grasse Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York. The presenters will discuss what we are learning from deep sea and deep space research and what these fields have in common.

The Millennium Matinee will take place at 2:30 p.m. EST in the East Room of the White House. The audience will include local students, educators, scientists and other experts in space and sea exploration. The program will be cybercast live over the Internet and broadcast via satellite to locations around the country. For information on organizing a downlink site, contact the White House Millennium Council at www.whitehouse.gov/Initiatives/Millennium/evenings.html.

The public is encouraged to participate in the event's discussion by e-mailing questions or comments prior to or during the cybercast. Questions should be sent to the White House Millennium Council web site (listed above). The site will also serve as a link to the cybercast.

Millennium Evenings at the White House are a series of lectures and cultural programs hosted by the President and First Lady that highlight the creativity and inventiveness of the American people through ideas, art and scientific discoveries. These Evenings are part of the White House Millennium Council's national efforts to commemorate the new millennium with activities that reflect the theme "Honor the Past – Imagine the Future."

Millennium Evenings are co-sponsored by the White House Millennium Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities with support from Sun Microsystems and the Howard Gilman Foundation.

Note: Background information about the presenters is attached.

EVENT: "Exploration: Under the Sea, Beyond the Stars"
DATE: Monday, June 12, 2000
TIME: 2:30 p.m. EST
LOCATION: The East Room
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Press Notes:

This event is open for correspondents and pooled for television and still cameras. Press who are not credentialed by the White House should fax on company letterhead their full name, date of birth, and social security number to the First Lady's Press Office at 202-456-7805.

First Escort from White House Briefing Room for pre-set: 12:00 p.m.
Final Escort from White House Briefing Room: 2:05 p.m.

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About the presenters:

Astrophysicist **Neil de Grasse Tyson** is the Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City. A Harlem native, Dr. Tyson went to the Bronx High School of Science, earned a B.A. in Physics from Harvard, and then his Ph.D. in Astrophysics from Columbia University. His special areas of interest are dwarf galaxies, exploding stars and the evolution of the Milky Way. Tyson is a visiting professor at Princeton and author of Our Universe: At Home in the Cosmos. He has published numerous scholarly articles and writes for popular science publications such as *Natural History*.

Marcia McNutt is the president and chief executive officer of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Research Institute in Moss Landing, California. Born and raised in Minnesota, she graduated *summa cum laude* in physics from Colorado College. She then earned her Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. She spent 15 years at MIT researching and teaching in geophysics, and served as the director of the Joint Program in Oceanography and Applied Ocean Science and Engineering between MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Her research has focused on the physical properties of the earth beneath the oceans.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2000

CONTACT: LISSA MUSCATINE
ERIKA BATCHELLER
JENNIFER SMITH
202-456-2960

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON MEETS WITH WOMEN LEADERS
FROM RUSSIA AND THE BALTICS**

PHOTO RELEASE

Washington, D.C. – Attached is a photo of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with women leaders from Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House. Mrs. Clinton late yesterday honored the women for their leadership in advancing democracy in their home countries. The women are in Washington, D.C. May 20-26 for a *Vital Voices* Leadership, Advocacy and Communications Training Seminar.

Pictured in the photo (from left to right) are: Melanne Vermeer, Chief of Staff to the First Lady; Conrad Tribble, U.S. Department of State; Alyse Nelson, Vital Voices; Christina Gross, U.S. Department of State; Elena Fomina, St. Petersburg, Russia; Antonella Pianalto, Podesta.com; Ligita Zandoska, Riga, Latvia; Reet Valing, Tallinn, Estonia; Eleonora Maisaka, Bauska, Latvia; Inese Kikule, Riga, Latvia; First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton; Tatyana Vinogradova, St. Petersburg, Russia; Irina Stelmach, Tallinn, Estonia; Ugne Sipariene, Villinius, Lithuania; Eliza McCoy, intern; Laima Mogeniene, Villinius, Lithuania; Nataliya Kamenskaya, Moscow, Russia; Virginija Vaicekoniene, Villinius, Lithuania; Merle Krigul, Tallinn, Estonia; and Theresa Loar, Vital Voices.

About the *Vital Voices* Training Seminar

The week-long training program is part of the *Vital Voices* Democracy Initiative, a public-private partnership dedicated to advancing the political and economic progress of women in emerging democracies. The seminar, a follow-up to the *Vital Voices* Conference in Iceland last fall, will be hosted by President Clinton's Interagency Council on Women and the U.S. State Department in conjunction with Podesta.com and other private partners.

Highlights of the program include:

- Training sessions in the areas of leadership, message development, communications, coalition building, the Internet and issue advocacy.
- Discussions with top Administration officials, members of Congress, leading journalists, high-level policy makers, business leaders, NGO advocates, media consultants, and technology experts.

For more information about the Vital Voices Initiative, contact Theresa Loar at 202-647-5440.

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Penalties for Failure to Report 1996-2000

Over the past 5 years, CPSC has fined 21 firms for failing to report nearly 360 injuries and four deaths associated with hazardous products.

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Penalty</u>	<u>Hazard</u> <u>2000</u>	<u>Injuries (before report)</u>
Black & Decker toasters	\$575,000	fire	73 fires/2 injuries
Baby's Dream cribs	\$200,000	fingertip amputations	9 amputations/crushed fingers
Hasbro infant carriers	\$400,000	skull fracture	8, 7 were skull fractures
Lancaster Col. candles	\$150,000	fires and burns	142 flare ups, 20 burns, 55 property dam

1999			
Carter Bros. go-karts	\$125,000	death	1 death, 1 skull fracture
Shimano bicycle cranks	\$150,000	fractures and lacerations	630 failures, 22 including fractures and lacerations
Central Sprinkler fire sprinklers	\$1.3 million paid into a trust	burns	17 fires, 4 injuries

1998			
Binky Griptight pacifiers	\$150,000	suffocation	no injuries
Century Products cribs and strollers	\$225,000 \$166,000	suffocation impact injury	1 death 29 injuries
COA Inc. cribs	\$300,000	suffocation	no injuries
Safety First bed rails	\$175,000	suffocation	25 injuries

1997			
Brinkmann smokers and fryers	\$175,000	lacerations, fire	1 death, many lesser injuries
CSA Inc. exercisers	\$100,000	impact injury	52 incidents, many injuries
Hartman hair dryers	\$60,000	fire	no injuries
Nutone stereos	\$110,000	fire	12 fires, no injuries
Toro riding mowers	\$250,000	impact injury	31 incidents. some serious injuries

1996			
JBI Inc. playground equipment	\$225,000	protruding hardware	70 injuries including 40 fractures
Singer Sewing juicers	\$120,000	flying parts	19 incidents, 10 injuries
National Media juicers	\$150,000	flying parts	9 injuries
Taito America arcade games wrists/arms	\$50,000	metal pad	70 injured/fractured

Cosco toddler bed guardrails

\$725,000

strangulation

25 entrapments, 1 death

News from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20207

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2000
Release # 00-108

CPSC Contact: Russ Rader
(301) 504-0580 Ext. 1166

White House Proposes Legislation to Expand CPSC's Authority to Crack Down on Firms Not Reporting Dangerous Products

WASHINGTON, D.C. - First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Chairman Ann Brown today to announce legislation to help expand CPSC's authority to crack down on firms that are not reporting defective products to the agency. CPSC conducts 200 to 300 product recalls each year, yet half of the most serious product hazards are discovered by CPSC investigators – not reported by the companies as required by law.

The following proposals were announced today at a White House news conference:

- **Eliminate the \$1.65 million cap on the maximum fine that CPSC can impose on a company that fails to report a serious product hazard.**
- **Increase the penalty for serious criminal violations of product safety laws from misdemeanors to felonies, and eliminate the requirement that the agency give prior notice to the company that is criminally violating the law.**
- **Give CPSC more authority over company remedies for product recalls.**

CPSC also is launching partnerships with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Medical Women's Association, the American Nurses Association, the Emergency Nurses Association and other health care organizations to help find products that have the potential to cause death or serious injury, especially to children. This new product injury reporting network will provide even more sources of product injury data. CPSC currently collects information from a wide variety of sources, including hospital emergency rooms, fire investigators, news reports and coroners. The new network will expand its reach even further.

"Today, we're giving parents more confidence that the strollers, toys and other products they buy will help – not hurt – their children," said First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"The combination of this increased enforcement capability and higher civil and criminal penalties for not reporting would provide a strong deterrent against companies failing to notify CPSC about dangerous products," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown.

When companies ignore the law, dangerous products can stay on store shelves, putting consumers at risk. CPSC has to do its own detective work to find out about the problem products and seek recalls. Increasing CPSC's authority and expanding its product injury reporting network will mean that dangerous products are recalled faster. This will prevent injuries and save lives.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html>. For information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call the above numbers or visit the web site at (<http://cpsc.gov/about/who.html>). To order a press release through fax-on-demand, call (301) 504-0051 from the handset of your fax machine and enter the release number. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov>. To establish a link from your web site to this press release on CPSC's web site, create a link to the following address: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml00/00108.html>. ####

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TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

I am pleased to transmit today for immediate consideration and prompt enactment the "Consumer Product Safety Commission Enhanced Enforcement Act of 2000." This legislative proposal would increase the penalties that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) could impose upon manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products who do not inform the Commission when the company has reason to believe it has sold a product that does not meet federal safety standards or could otherwise create a substantial product hazard. The proposal would also improve product recalls by enabling the Commission to choose an alternative remedy in a recall if the Commission finds that the remedy selected by the manufacturer is not in the public interest.

Under current consumer product safety laws, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products are required to inform the CPSC whenever they have information that one of their products: (1) fails to comply with a CPSC product safety standard; (2) contains a defect that could create a substantial product hazard; or (3) creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death. After a company reports this information to the CPSC, the Commission staff initiates an investigation in cooperation with the firm. If the agency concludes that the product presents a substantial product hazard and that a recall is in the public interest, the staff works with the company to conduct a product safety recall. Of course, the sooner the Commission hears about a dangerous product, the sooner the agency can act to remove the product from store shelves and inform consumers about how to eliminate the hazard. That is why it is critical that companies inform the Commission as soon as they are aware that one of their products may present a serious hazard to the public.

Unfortunately, in about half the cases involving the most significant hazards – where the product can cause death or serious injury – companies do not report to the Commission. In those cases, the agency must get the information from other sources, including its own investigators, consumers, or tragically, from hospital emergency room reports or death certificates. Sometimes years can pass before the agency learns of the product hazard, even though the company has known all along. During that time, deaths and injuries continue to occur. Once the agency becomes aware of the hazard without the cooperation of the firm, many companies continue to be recalcitrant, and the staff must conduct its own independent investigation. This often includes finding and investigating product incidents and conducting extensive laboratory testing. This process can take a very long time, which means that the most dangerous products continue to stay on store shelves and in consumers' homes longer, placing children and families at continuing risk.

CPSC can assess civil penalties against companies who fail to report a dangerous product. Criminal penalties are also available in particularly serious cases. In fact, in 1999 the agency assessed ten times the amount of civil penalties assessed ten years ago. But, too many companies still do not report, especially in cases involving serious harm.

This legislative proposal would enhance CPSC's civil and criminal enforcement authority. This would provide an added incentive for companies to comply with the law so that we can get dangerous products out of stores and consumers' homes faster.

The legislative proposal would also help to make some product recalls more effective by allowing the CPSC to choose an alternative remedy if the Commission finds that the remedy chosen by the manufacturer is not in the public interest. Under current law, a company with a defective product that is being recalled has the right to select the remedy to be offered to the public. The proposal would continue to permit the company to select the remedy in a product recall. However, under the amendment, the Commission may determine (after an opportunity for a hearing) that the remedy selected by the company is not in the public interest. The Commission may then order the company to carry out an alternative program that is in the public interest.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission helps to keep America's children and families safe. This legislative proposal would help the Commission be even more effective in protecting the public from dangerous products. I urge the Congress to give this legislation prompt and favorable consideration.

Statement of
U.S. Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA)
Ranking Democrat, House Subcommittee on
Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection
May 12, 2000
Proposals to Improve CPSC Enforcement Powers

I want to commend the Clinton-Gore Administration, and in particular First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, for spearheading efforts to improve consumer product safety and for the series of proposals outlined today.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has a long history of safeguarding the public, and particularly children, from commercial products that cause harm or threaten safety. CPSC Chair Ann Brown has done an excellent job in leading this agency and protecting the public.

Increasingly, it has become apparent that many corporations have obtained knowledge that their products have caused serious injury to children and have not taken steps to contact owners of these products or informed the government.

How can consumers protect themselves from hazards if they are kept in the dark by a manufacturer? The answer is they can't. Failure to disclose safety problems has consequences because the delay in consumer notification has led in some instances to very serious injury.

I believe it is important to strengthen CPSC enforcement powers to combat this problem. Enhancing the CPSC's ability to order companies to effectively remedy defective products and recall such products from the marketplace is a timely proposal. I also believe that eliminating the cap on civil penalties for knowing violations of consumer product safety laws and increasing the penalties for criminal violations would help to deter companies in the future from concealing their knowledge of potentially lethal product flaws from consumers and regulators.

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**“CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT
ACT OF 2000”**

FACT SHEET

The President today transmitted to the Congress the “Consumer Product Safety Commission Enhanced Enforcement Act of 2000.” The legislation would increase the civil and criminal penalties that the CPSC can impose upon firms that do not inform the Commission when they have sold a product that could pose a substantial hazard to consumers. The legislation would also help make some product recalls more effective.

Eliminate the cap on civil penalties for violations of product safety laws.

Under current law, the CPSC cannot assess more than \$1,650,000 for a related series of violations against a company that knowingly violates consumer product safety laws. The legislation would eliminate this maximum civil penalty. Many of the cases in which the Commission seeks civil penalties involve very large corporations that can easily absorb a \$1.65 million fine. More substantial civil penalties would provide a needed incentive for those companies to notify CPSC of defective products so that the agency can take timely action to protect consumers. Other agencies have civil penalty authority with no “cap” on the amount of the penalty for a related series of violations, including the Federal Trade Commission.

Increase the penalty for a “knowing and willful” criminal violation of product safety laws from a misdemeanor to a felony and eliminate the requirement that the agency give notice to the company that is criminally violating the law.

The legislation would increase the potential criminal penalties for a “knowing and willful” violation of consumer product safety laws from a misdemeanor (up to one year in prison) to a felony (up to three years in prison). It would also increase the maximum monetary criminal penalty in accordance with existing criminal laws. These heightened penalties are commensurate with the seriousness of product safety violations, which can result in death or serious injury to children and families. Other agencies have authority to seek substantial (felony) criminal penalties for knowing and willful violations of safety requirements, including the Food and Drug Administration for prescription drug marketing violations and the Department of Transportation for the transportation of hazardous materials.

The legislation would also eliminate the requirement that the Commission give notice of noncompliance before seeking a criminal penalty for a violation of the Consumer Product Safety Act. The notice requirement makes it all but impossible to pursue a criminal penalty for violations of the Act, even in the most serious cases. The threat of a criminal felony prosecution would create an additional strong incentive for companies to report product defects to the Commission.

Give CPSC the authority to overrule the remedy chosen by a manufacturer for fixing a defective product in a product recall when the Commission determines that an alternative would be in the public interest.

Under current law, a company with a defective product that is being recalled has the right to select the remedy to be offered to the public. The company can choose repair, replacement, or refund "less a reasonable allowance for use."

The legislation would continue to permit the company to select the remedy in a product recall. However, the legislation would allow the Commission to determine (after an opportunity for a hearing) that the remedy selected by the company is not in the public interest. The Commission may then order the company to carry out an alternative program that is in the public interest.

Sometimes companies choose a remedy in a recall that does not further public safety. For example, if a manufacturer chooses to refund "less a reasonable allowance for use" the purchase price of a product that has been on the market for a long time, the amount due consumers may be so small that there is no incentive for the consumer to take advantage of the recall. This is especially true where the hazardous product is still useful to the consumer and the cost of replacement is substantial. Companies may choose an insubstantial refund even though people have been at risk for a number of years, thousands of products are still in use, and injuries are continuing to occur. In this example, a refund would do little, if anything, to stop consumers from using the dangerous product and the public interest would not be served.

Penalties for Failure to Report 1996-2000

Over the past 5 years, CPSC has fined 21 firms for failing to report nearly 360 injuries and four deaths associated with hazardous products.

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Penalty</u>	<u>Hazard</u> <u>2000</u>	<u>Injuries (before report)</u>
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Cosco toddler bed guardrails	\$725,000	strangulation	25 entrapments, 1 death

**WHITE HOUSE CHILD SAFETY EVENT
ROOSEVELT ROOM
MAY 12, 2000**

SPEAKERS

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Ann Brown, chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

Brittany Cipriotti, parent, Manassas, Virginia

Dr. Marilyn Bull, chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention

Rep. Lois Capps, D-Calif., chairman of the School Health Safety Caucus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2000

CONTACT: LISSA MUSCATINE
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JENNIFER SMITH
202/456-2960

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON ANNOUNCES EFFORTS TO
IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS**

May 12, 2000

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today will announce new Administration efforts to improve the safety of consumer products, particularly those that may be harmful to children. The First Lady, joined by Ann Brown, chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and a broad range of health professionals and consumer advocates, will unveil legislation to strengthen the penalty authority of the CPSC, and announce a public-private campaign to help the CPSC identify dangerous products.

This proposal is in response to recent reports of manufacturers repeatedly failing to warn the government promptly about defective products that have injured children, as required by consumer product safety laws. In the last five years alone, the CPSC has assessed penalties against 21 companies for failing to report serious defects. The products – including cribs, infant carriers, toys, and household products – caused hundreds of injuries, ranging from burns to fractures, and in some cases death. For example, the CPSC recently assessed a \$400,000 penalty against a major manufacturer for failing to immediately report serious injuries caused by a defective handle lock on an infant carrier. The manufacturer received 9 complaints of injury – seven of which had resulted in skull fractures – before reporting the problem to the CPSC. Many of these injuries could have been avoided if hazards had been promptly reported to the CPSC.

STRENGTHENING CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY LAWS

The First Lady will highlight a legislative proposal, sent to Congress today by the President, that calls for tougher penalties against companies that fail to promptly report dangerous product defects. The bill also would take steps to make product recalls more effective. Specifically, the legislation would: 1) lift the overall cap on civil penalties assessed by the CPSC; 2) make criminal violations of consumer product safety laws a felony instead of a misdemeanor; and 3) give the CPSC the authority to overrule the recall remedy proposed by a company if it is not in the public interest.

Increased civil and criminal penalties will provide a stronger incentive for companies to promptly notify the CPSC of product flaws so the agency can take timely action to protect consumers. Tougher penalties also will be more commensurate with the impact of product safety violations, which can result in death or serious injury to children.

CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE REPORTING OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS THAT HARM CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The First Lady will also announce immediate efforts to protect the health and safety of children and families by increasing reporting of unsafe products to the CPSC. Unfortunately, in about half the cases involving the most significant hazards – where the product causes death or serious injury -- companies have not reported the problem to the CPSC. As a result, the agency relies heavily on consumer complaints to uncover information about dangerous defects.

The First Lady will launch a partnership between the CPSC and health care providers around the country to identify products that are harming consumers, especially children. A broad range of health care professionals – the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Women's Association, the American Nurses Association, and the Emergency Nurses Association – will conduct a national campaign to encourage their member health providers to report injury-causing products to the CPSC. In addition, the National Safe Kids Campaign, an organization devoted to preventing childhood injuries, will activate its state and local coalition members to visit the places product recalls often don't reach – thrift shops, day care centers, schools, and hotels – to identify hazardous products still in use.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY

The Clinton Administration has strongly supported the work of the CPSC and its mission to protect the health and safety of our nation's children and families. Since the President first took office in 1993, the CPSC's budget has increased 24 percent. In addition, the First Lady has had a longstanding interest in children's well being and has participated in several CPSC initiatives to improve the safety of children's products. In 1995, she helped launch the CPSC's "Baby Safety Showers" initiative, which educates expecting and new parents on baby safety. Last year, she kicked off a national campaign to alert parents and caregivers to safety hazards in child care settings.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2000

CONTACT: LISSA MUSCATINE
ERIKA BATCHELLER
JENNIFER SMITH
202/456-2960

**PRESS SCHEDULE OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON FOR
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2000**

WASHINGTON, DC -- On Friday, May 12, 2000, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host an event to unveil new Administration proposals to improve the safety of children's products. Mrs. Clinton, joined by Ann Brown, chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, will highlight new efforts to increase reporting of defective products that have injured children. Other participants will include consumer advocates and health professionals.

EVENT: Child Safety Event
DATE: Friday, May 12, 2000
TIME: 11:15 a.m.
LOCATION: Roosevelt Room
The White House
Washington, DC

Press Notes:

Due to space limitations, this event is pool press for still photographers and television cameras. (Pool is comprised of wire photogs., one network pool camera and one independent pool camera) Open press for correspondents. Stakeout with participants to follow event.

First Escort from White House Briefing Room for pre-set: 10:30 a.m.
Final Escort from White House Briefing Room: 11:05 a.m.

The CPSC will provide a tape of b-roll with demonstrations of defective children's products. Beta copies will be available Friday in the lower press office on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Credentialing Information:

Press who are not credentialed by the White House should fax on company letterhead their full name, date of birth, and social security number to the First Lady's Press Office at 202-456-7805.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 8, 2000

CONTACT: JENNIFER SMITH
ERIKA BATCHELLER
202-456-2960

**WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL GIFT BAGS AVAILABLE
TO ATTENDEES WHO DID NOT RECEIVE THEM EASTER MONDAY**

Washington, D.C. -- Due to delivery problems, children exiting the White House Easter Egg Roll after 1 p.m. on Monday, April 24, did not receive souvenir gift packages. The White House Visitors Office has located a number of the packages, and has made arrangements for those children who did not receive a package at the Egg Roll to pick them up.

Anyone with an entry ticket for 11 a.m. or later may present the ticket (no photocopies) at the East Appointments Gate on East Executive Avenue (near Pennsylvania Avenue) on Wednesday, May 10, Thursday, May 11, or Friday, May 12 between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and on Thursday, May 11 between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Gift packages will be distributed one per family, while supplies last.

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**THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION:
WORKING TO HELP FAMILIES RAISE RESPONSIBLE TEENAGERS**

May 2, 2000

"It's very important that we recognize that the United States has done a great job at creating jobs, but we still give less support to the responsibility of balancing work and family than virtually every other industrialized country in the world. And it is very important to do that."

President Bill Clinton
May 2, 2000

Today, at the White House, President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted the first-ever White House Conference on Teenagers. The conference included parents, teens, policy makers, and other experts who discussed the importance of the teenage years in the social and intellectual development of children, and offered strategies for raising responsible and resourceful youth. The President and the First Lady released a new report outlining trends among teenagers, and announced several new steps the Administration is taking to support America's teens, including an Executive Order barring discrimination against parents in the federal workplace.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S TEENS. At today's conference, participants highlighted ways in which parents, schools, businesses, the media and others in the larger community can support children during the critical teenage years. The conference included the following:

- The President released a new report by his Council of Economic Advisers which outlines positive trends as well as challenges for today's teenagers. The report concludes that teens whose parents are involved in their lives are more likely to excel in school and avoid risky behavior.
- A YMCA poll commissioned for the conference showed that parents are worried about outside influences on their teenagers, while teenagers are concerned about not having enough time with their parents and education.
- The First Lady highlighted research by the National Institute of Mental Health which indicates that the cognitive portion of the brain goes through a second wave of development just before puberty, suggesting that early adolescence is a critical time of development.
- The President signed an Executive Order barring discrimination against parents in the federal workplace in all aspects of employment, including recruitment, referral, hiring, promotions, discharge, and training.
- The President and the First Lady renewed their call for Congress to pass an expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act that would allow eligible workers an additional 24 hours of leave to meet family responsibilities.
- The President and the First Lady announced several steps to help parents and teens spend more time together:
 - "Time with Your Teens," a new public education campaign to raise awareness about the importance of parent-teen time, including family mealtime;
 - Efforts by the Office of Personnel Management to raise awareness in the federal workplace of family-friendly tools such as flexible work schedules, job sharing, and the use of leave in order to make family time a priority;
 - A public-private task force to help parents and teens find resources through the media and to help parents monitor their teens' use of the media;
 - A joint effort between the federal government and a coalition of prevention campaigns to provide tips for parents on how to best nurture and raise their children to avoid risky behaviors, including drug, alcohol and tobacco use, sex, and violence;
 - A new web site for teenagers - www.americasteens.gov - where teens can find information to help them do their homework, pursue a hobby, or choose a career; and
 - A guide by the Department of Health and Human Services to help improve communications between teenagers and their parents and other caring adults.

**WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS:
RAISING RESPONSIBLE AND RESOURCEFUL YOUTH**
May 2, 2000

MORNING SESSION

10:15 a.m. **Following opening video, President and Mrs. Clinton make remarks and introduce keynote speaker, Ben Casey of the Dallas YMCA. President departs following keynote's remarks.**
The East Room

10:45 a.m. **Mrs. Clinton moderates Panel I:
Who are Today's Teens and What Do They Need?**
The East Room

Speakers:

Dr. Jacqueline Eccles, University of Michigan; Dr. Jay Giedd, National Institute for Mental Health; Dr. Angela Diaz, Mt. Sinai Center on Adolescence; Karen Pittman, International Youth Foundation; Emily McDonald, teen involved in community service, Clarkrange, Tenn.; actors Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman, After School Alliance.

11:25 **Mrs. Clinton moderates Panel II:
What Parents and Communities Can Do to Raise Successful Teens**
The East Room

Speakers:

Laura Sessions Stepp, author, *Our Last Best Shot*; Edd and Edwin Speaker, father and teen son, Los Angeles; Dr. Robert Blum, University of Minnesota; Ellen Galinsky, Families and Work Institute; Bob Davis, Lycos, Inc.; Susan Bales, Frameworks Institute; Geoff Canada, author, *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun*; Jay Engelin, 1999 Principal of the Year; Dr. Katherine Newman, Harvard University; Rev. Jeff Brown, Ten Points Coalition; Gabriella Contreras, teen activist, Tucson, Arizona.

12:30 p.m. **Morning Session concludes**

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Moderators: Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder
Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)

Panelists: Jeffery L. Brown, Ten Point Coalition
LaToya Gardner, Maplewood Comprehensive High School, Nashville, TN
Kenneth L. Gladish, YMCA of the USA
Milbrey W. McLaughlin, Stanford University
Katherine Newman, Harvard University

Breakout 5/ Eisenhower Executive Office Building 476

Closing the Gap: How can we provide positive opportunities for all teenagers?

Moderators: Secretary Alexis Herman, U.S. Department of Labor
Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX)

Panelists: Peter L. Benson, Search Institute
Talmira L. Hill, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Lan-Ahn Phan, Woodrow Wilson High School, Washington, D.C.
accompanied by Sandra Hoa Dang, Asian American LEAD
Dorothy Stoneman, Executive Director, YouthBuild USA
accompanied by Ameir Ramadan, Youthbuild USA
Kathleen Sylvester, Social Policy Action Network (SPAN)

Breakout 6/ Eisenhower Executive Office Building 472

Youth as Resources: Can teenagers be resources in their own development and for their peers?

Moderators: Harris Wofford, CEO, Corporation for National Service
Member of Congress

Panelists: Kathleen Lee, Turner Middle School, Philadelphia, PA
Michael Preston, Gila River Youth Council
Robert D. Putnam, Harvard University
Nicole Salinas, Antonian High School, San Antonio, TX
Andrew Shue, Do Something
Gary Walker, Public Private Ventures

Breakout 7/The Roosevelt Room

A Healthy Start: How can we help teenagers stay healthy?

Moderators: Secretary Donna Shalala, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)

Panelists: Sarah S. Brown, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
Brandi Chapple, Trinity College, Washington, D.C.

Harold S. Koplewicz, NYU Child Study Center
Carole Morris, Mt. Vernon Neighborhood Health Center
Michael D. Resnick, University of Minnesota School of Medicine

White House Conference on Teenagers
Break-Out Sessions
May 2, 2000

Breakout 1/ The Jackson Room in the White House Conference Center
Family Time: What can we do to make it easier for parents and teenagers to spend time together?

Moderators: Director Janice LaChance, Office of Personnel Management
Member of Congress

Panelists: Stanley J. Botts, Bell Atlantic
Ken R. Canfield, National Center for Fathering
The Malone Family (Donnie & Fonda)
Laurence Steinberg, Temple University
Amy Swisher, First Day Foundation

Breakout 2/ The Eisenhower Room in the White House Conference Center
The New Media: How is the information age shaping youth today?

Moderators: Deputy Director Donald Vereen, Office of National Drug Control Policy
Member of Congress

Panelists: Zoë Baird, Markle Foundation
Jim Browne, GetNetWise.org
Robert J. Davis, Lycos, Inc.
Judith A. McHale, Discovery Communications, Inc.
Kathryn C. Montgomery, Center for Media Education
Justin Newland, National Campaign Against Youth Violence

Breakout 3/ The Truman Room in the White House Conference Center
Education: How can we build school climates that work for teenagers?

Moderators: Secretary Richard Riley, U.S. Department of Education
Senator John Kerry (D-MA)

Panelists: Sarah Austin, Decatur High School, Atlanta, GA
Gene Bottoms, Southern Regional Education Board
Jay Engeln, MetLife/NASSP National Principal of the Year
Susan Gaddy Greene, I.S. 218, New York City
Larry Hurt, 1999 Indiana Teacher of the Year
Robert S. Rivera, Project GRAD

Breakout 4/ The Lincoln Room in the White House Conference Center
The Village: How can the community better support parents and teenagers?