

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript

April 2, 1993

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
IN TELEPHONE CALL TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN

MRS. CLINTON: Hello everyone. I'm so sorry I cannot be there with you as I had long planned. I want to thank you for continuing the commitment that the National Commission has shown and led the way in demonstrating our support for families and children.

I especially want to thank Senator Rockefeller, who has personally led this crusade for a number of years, as well as Senator Dodd, from whom you just heard, and my old friend Governor Romer and Mayor Frazier, and all the public officials and representatives of business in the public sector who are there. It is so important at this point that we continue to stress the relationship between strong families, healthy children, good jobs, and a solid future for all Americans.

And I'm very pleased that the President's policies on the economy and health care reflect the hard work that went into the recommendations of the National Commission. It is not going to be easy to reinstall the kind of commitment to children and families that we need at all levels of our society, starting with, as Carol Rasco said this morning, the family itself and parental responsibility and moving through the kind of public-private partnership that the Commission has championed to the kind of public policies that will make a difference.

During the campaign I often spoke about how it's a false choice to choose between either helping families with government policies or trying to instill strong values so that families can help themselves. We need to do both. And we need to understand that children are the products both of the values of their parents and of our society.

So I am so grateful that you are standing firm on behalf of not only the values that are reflected in families around this country, but also in the values that should be reflected in our society at every level.

Thank you all very much for what you're doing. I'm sorry I cannot be there with you. But in my case, as in the cases of many of you in this audience, families really are the most important part of our lives and we all need to show that commitment in every way we can.

Thank you all very much. (Applause.)