



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2797

FRANK O'BANNON
GOVERNOR

For immediate release Friday, June 13, 1997

Governor's Gift for Father's Day: \$1 Million For Model Fatherhood Programs

On the eve of Father's Day weekend, Governor Frank O'Bannon today announced the release of nearly \$1.4 million to fund model fatherhood programs around the state.

The 32 winning programs focus mainly on helping young fathers to be better parents. Some fathers themselves need guidance in growing up, even as they take on the responsibility of children of their own. Others need help getting jobs and managing their financial obligations to their families.

The grants are the second phase of a two-year, \$2 million program, the Indiana Restoring Fatherhood, Renewing Families Initiative.

"This initiative recognizes the importance of fathers in the lives of Hoosier children," Governor O'Bannon said. "Lack of fatherly influence is associated with numerous social problems that we have seen increase along with the rise in single-parent families in our state and nation."

Many single mothers do an outstanding job of raising their children, the Governor added. But with the lack of fatherly influence, Indiana has seen increases in teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, unhealthy babies, and the number of children growing up in poverty.

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"We must encourage fathers to support their children emotionally as well as financially, giving love and guidance in addition to a support check," O'Bannon said. "Children benefit from having fathers in their lives."

First-phase grants went to organizations already working with fathers and teens. The recipients of the second-phase grants announced today are agencies starting new programs.

A broadly-based review team that included representatives of community organizations, youth service organizations, and state government agencies evaluated more than 150 applications. Acting on this advice, Governor O'Bannon selected 32 programs for funding. Most of the grants are going to areas with high populations of single-parent families.

The grant recipients include some agencies with a track record of helping particular groups, such as rural teens, Native Americans, African-Americans, and other minorities.

The grants total \$1,379,329. A list of the grants is attached.

For more information: Ed Stattmann, 317-232-7851, or Phil Bremen 317-232-4578

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INDIANA RESTORING FATHERHOOD, RENEWING FAMILIES INITIATIVE**MODEL FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS - PHASE II**

<u>Counties</u>	<u>Programs</u>	<u>\$ Funded</u>
Allen	1. Community Action of NE IN, Inc.	50,000
Allen/ Marion/ Miami	2. IN American Indian Manpower Council	50,000
Allen/Wells/ Adams	3. Center for Nonviolence, Inc.	29,762
Floyd	4. Tri County Health Coalition of S.IN	45,000
Howard	5. Family Service Association of Howard Co.	38,000
	6. Kokomo Housing Authority Training Co.	35,000
Madison	7. Minority Health Coalition of Madison Co.	50,000
St. Joseph	8. Memorial Hospital of South Bend	45,000
Vanderburgh/ Warrick/Gibson/ Posey	9. Good Dads Association	50,000
Crawford	10. Crawford Co. Youth Services Bureau	40,000
DeKalb/Noble	11. Northeastern Center, Inc.	45,000
Jefferson	12. Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office	12,839
Kosciusko	13. Step Ahead of Kosciusko County	40,000
Martin	14. Purdue University	50,000
Montgomery	15. Montgomery Co. Youth Service Bureau	2,964
Noble	16. Noble Co. Circuit and Superior Court	50,000
Orange	17. Orange Co. Child Care Cooperative, Inc.	50,000
Shelby	18. Involving Fathers	50,000
Wayne	19. NETWORC	47,000
Wells	20. United Way of Wells Co.	8,600
Whitley	21. Purdue University Co. Extension Serv.	30,300
Multiple	22. Community and Family Services, Inc.	50,000
Multiple	23. IU Research & Sponsored Programs	50,000
Lake	24. African American Achievers Youth Corp.	50,000
	25. Gary Community School Corporation	47,000
	26. Hoosier Boy's Town	49,000
Lake/Porter	27. Parents' & Children's Equality of NW IN	43,000
Lake/Porter	28. Refuge House Ministries	49,000
Marion	29. Mt. Vernon Community Missionary Baptist	40,000
	30. Project IMPACT	48,000
Monroe	31. Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington, Inc.	33,864
-----	32. Indiana Dept. of Correction	100,000

3

As They Grow pro

dad

How men
differently
from women.

BY NANCY SEID AND ANNIS GOLDEN

In a perfect world, every expectant father would rush eagerly to child-birth classes, volunteer for foot-massage duty, and assure his loved one daily that he finds her sexier than ever. More often than not, however, even a wonderful, supportive man like the one you married may have trouble meeting these expectations—and the reason is not that he doesn't care about you or the baby.

The fact that he's not physically pregnant can delay a man's complete acceptance of impending fatherhood. Then, once he begins to comprehend the enormity of what lies ahead, he may feel a great deal of pressure.

"The protect-and-provide issue is by far the biggest concern for most men," says Jerrold Lee Shapiro, Ph.D., professor of counseling psychology at Santa Clara University, in California, and author of *When Men Are Pregnant*. "They may not be able to articulate it, but they feel it very deeply."

Worries about being the family breadwinner can keep men up at night, juggling unpaid bills in their head. Particularly if a couple has agreed that the wife will have an extended maternity leave or exit the workforce altogether, the husband may feel so

Many men become pre-occupied with bills and budgets as they worry about the birth of the baby.

weighed down by financial burdens that he will spend extra hours at the office or even take on a second job.

Unfortunately, this can leave expectant moms feeling abandoned. When one partner is focused on a solid financial future and the other on emotional closeness, both may think that their needs are being ignored.

Men may feel left on the sidelines

Another major concern of expectant fathers is the loss of their wife's attention. In fact, "being left out of the evolving mother-infant unit" is a recurring subject of both daydreams and night dreams for many expectant fathers, according to research by Laurie Nehls Sherwen, R.N., Ph.D., dean of the school of nursing at The College of New Jersey, in Trenton. Many men also fear that they will continue to play second fiddle once the baby is born.

Often this worry is well-founded. In one study of expectant fathers, the men reported feeling excluded not only by their wife, but by the world at large. "Everyone asked about my wife, Kelly, but no one asked about me," recalls Trey Hoster, of Dallas, Texas, who participated in the study. "I felt as though I could have fallen off the end of the earth and no one would have noticed." Obstetricians and nurses, too, often ignore a man's questions or direct answers to the woman instead.

Expectant fathers also face anxieties about their upcoming performance as labor coaches and nagging worries about the baby's and mother's health. "I had nightmares about fainting or throwing up during the birth," recalls Matthew Witten, of Saratoga Springs, New York. "I felt I had no right to complain—after all, it was going to be much harder for my wife—but I really didn't feel equipped to handle seeing her in pain."

Meanwhile, on the home front, men may find their formerly energetic and level-headed wife to be exhausted and emotionally preoccupied. And they may be experiencing changes in their sex life, too, avoiding intercourse because of fears of hurting the baby or simply trying to maneuver with a large, kicking watermelon between them and their wife.

How can you address these concerns so that your relationship actually gets stronger during pregnancy, in spite of the stresses on both of you? First,

you both need to realize that it's just as important to listen to your spouse's feelings as to express your own. This can be difficult if you're naturally verbal but your husband tends to clam up when he's upset. Shapiro recommends starting a conversation by saying something like, "I read an article about how most men experience anxiety about providing for their wife and new baby. What do you think about that?" Leaving male-friendly pregnancy books around the house may also lead to honest, fruitful discussion (see "Best Books for New Dads").

Other fathers can help put worries in perspective

Men can also benefit a great deal from talking to other men. Your husband may actively seek out new or experienced fathers, but if he doesn't, you might want to introduce him to a few. Some men may find special support groups helpful. "Expectant dads come because they want to connect with other men in a confidential environment and learn from them," says Peggy Shecket, parenting programs coordinator at Grant/Riverside Methodist Hospital, in Columbus, Ohio. Even financial anxieties can be eased by knowing that others have handled the same difficulties and thrived.

If your husband is nervous about how he'll hold up during childbirth, you might want to consider hiring a doula or other birth companion, who can provide additional support for both

Best book for new dads

When Men Are Pregnant: Needs and Concerns of Expectant Fathers, by Jerrold Lee Shapiro, Ph.D. (Delta).
The Birth of a Father, by Martin Greenberg, M.D. (Avon).
Pregnant Fathers: Entering Parenthood Together, by Jack Heinowitz, Ph.D. (Parents as Partners Press).
The Expectant Father, by Armin A. Brott and Jennifer Ash (Abbeville).
Babies and Other Hazards of Sex, by Dave Barry (Rodale).

of you. This can let him participate in the birth as much as you both want without pressure.

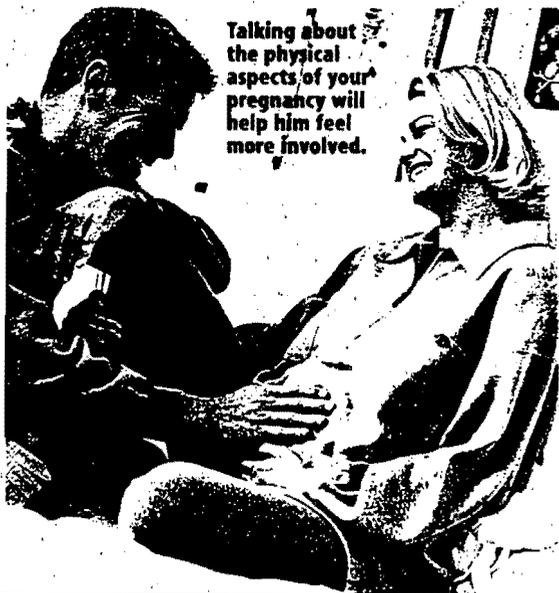
One way to improve communication between you and your husband is to examine the way you express your own very valid anxieties to him. There's a vast difference between the accusing, "How come you never call me during the day? Don't you care about our baby?" and "I'm feeling very vulnerable these days. Please check in with me during

the day if you can." The former leaves him feeling like the bad guy while the latter asks him in a positive way to be part of the pregnancy you share.

Another solution is to spread your reliance out among other friends and relatives, instead of expecting your husband to fulfill all of your emotional needs. "Pregnancy is such an all-consuming experience," says Carol Siracusa, of Albany, New York, "and women understand that in a way men, even the most supportive ones, just can't. My friends helped calm my fears and made me feel I wasn't alone."

It's also important for you and your spouse to make time for fun together while you're waiting. The baby doesn't have to be your entire focus yet, so do whatever you've always enjoyed together as a couple. After all, Shecket advises, "your relationship is the foundation from which your children are nourished and will grow."

Pregnancy can be an incredible jumble of emotions for a couple—from jubilation over a squiggly gray sonogram to anxiety over finances and fat. Yet dealing with these stresses can be a unique opportunity for you to learn to work together toward an important goal. While you're riding the roller coaster, it helps to remember that even though you're the one who's pregnant (and you definitely deserve those foot massages), your husband is expecting a baby too. □



Talking about the physical aspects of your pregnancy will help him feel more involved.

Nancy Seid is a freelance writer in Saratoga Springs, New York. Annis Golden is a researcher specializing in family communication at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, New York.

Joint Custody Reduces Child Abuse

While many single parents are well-intentioned and do everything they can for the benefit of their children, the brutal murder of Elisa Izquierdo by her mother after her father's death reconfirms the well-known fact that a single parent household presents the greatest risk of child abuse :

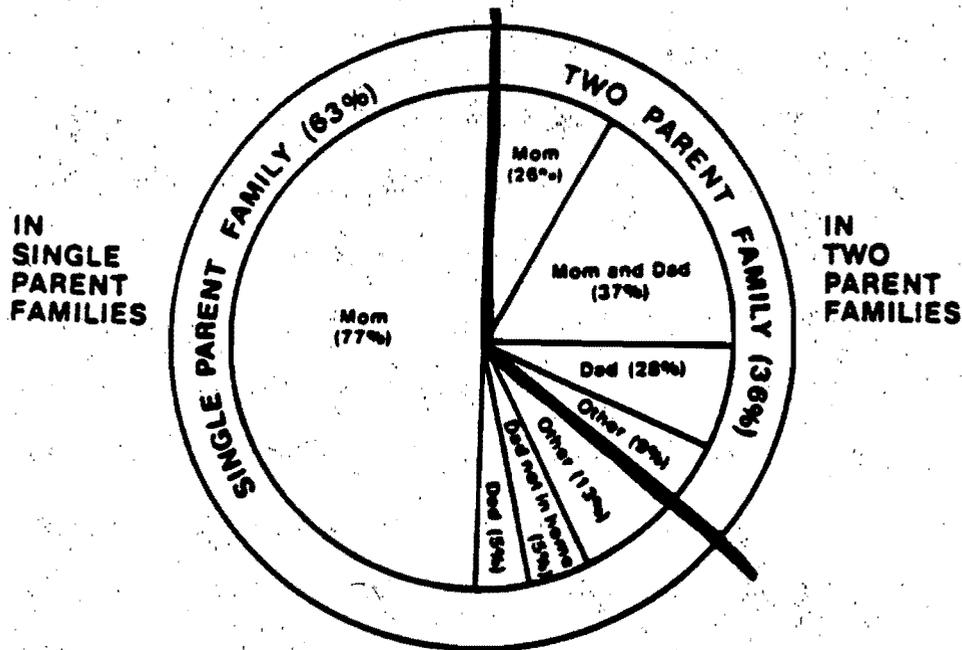


Figure 1.

CHILD ABUSE CASES ONLY (not neglect)

As shown above, single-parent households are responsible for 63% of all child abuse despite constituting a minority of households with children. Joint custody reduces child abuse in at least three ways:

- 1) Joint custody reduces single-parent overload, a major cause of child abuse;
- 2) Joint custody reduces the amount of time children spend in unsupervised settings with unrelated adults where the incest taboo is not present; and
- 3) Each parent in a joint custody arrangement serves as an "early-warning system" to monitor and report signs that the other parent may be losing control.

The best method of sharply reducing child abuse is a strong presumption for joint custody. Unlike other child abuse prevention programs, joint custody utilizes the voluntary efforts of both parents and does not require any governmental funds for programs or personnel.

¹Reprinted from "Use of a Home-Based Microcomputer to Analyze Community Data From Reported Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect" by Joan Ditson, Michigan State University and Sharon Shay, Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.



Linda R. Cooper
09/05/97 02:30:47 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Jessica L. Gibson/WHO/EOP
Subject: As A Reminder "Family Policy Proposal" mtg

The "Family Policy Proposal" meeting has been set for Wednesday, Sept. 9th from 1-2:00pm in rm 211. Please call me at x6-5593 or E.Mail me if you have any conflicts, questions or concerns. Thanks, Linda Cooper.

Message Sent To:

Jennifer L. Klein/OPD/EOP
Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP
Anne H. Lewis/OPD/EOP
Emil E. Parker/OPD/EOP
Susan M. Liss/OVP @ OVP
Barbara D. Woolley/WHO/EOP
Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP
Nancy Hoit at NPR @ CCMail
Lin Liu/PIR/EOP
Michele Cavataio/PIR/EOP
Anne H. Lewis/OPD/EOP
Judith A. Winston/PIR/EOP
Keith J. Fontenot/OMB/EOP
Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP



Trooper Sanders @ OVP
09/05/97 01:30:10 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Purpose of "Family Policy Proposal" mtg

Sorry to keep bugging you. Nancy Hoit was wondering if Lisa Mallory from our NPR office could attend as well. Lisa has been involved in a lot of the intergovernmental affairs work of the VP's family initiatives as well as his fatherhood program.



Cynthia A. Rice

09/05/97 11:40:05 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Linda R. Cooper/OPD/EOP, Marjorie A. Black/PIR/EOP
bcc: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
Subject: Purpose of "Family Policy Proposal" mtg

In collaboration with the staff from the President's Initiative on Race, the Domestic Policy Council has established several major policy work groups. One is on Health and Family Policy. In our memo to the President on this topic, we mentioned exploring additional efforts to strengthen two parent families.

As part of this effort, Jennifer Klein and I are hoping to pull together a meeting of key White House and HHS staff to brainstorm about possible proposals relating to fathers and two parent families. (We were originally hoping to have this meeting on Sept. 9th, but it looks like it will have to be changed. You will receive another email or a call from Linda Cooper, 6-5593, to reschedule.)

The goal of the meeting will be to 1) review the initiatives the Administration has already undertaken (we hope to hear from the Vice President's office and HHS staff) and 2) brainstorm about what else we might do as part of the President's Race Initiative.

If you would like to discuss this further, please call me at 456-2846.

Message Sent To:

Jennifer L. Klein/OPD/EOP
Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP
Anne H. Lewis/OPD/EOP
Emil E. Parker/OPD/EOP
susan m. liss/ovp @ ovp
Barbara D. Woolley/WHO/EOP
Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP
Keith J. Fontenot/OMB/EOP
Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP
Judith A. Winston/PIR/EOP

ADD
Trooper Saunders
Lin Liu
Michela Cavatino



Judith A. Winston

09/04/97 05:49:07 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
bcc:
Subject: Re: Possible Meeting re: Family Policy and Fathers

Cynthia: thanks for your e-mail. I will ask Marjorie Black to give you a call to indicate when my schedule will permit me to attend. I have copied this message to the PIR Deputy Director for Policy Planning and Research, Lin Liu and PIR Senior Adviser, Michele Cavataio. I would like to have both of them attend the meeting if possible. In fact, if my schedule does not fit your timeframe for a meeting, perhaps Lin could substitute for me accompanied by Michele. I look forward to seeing you.

Cynthia A. Rice



Cynthia A. Rice

09/04/97 02:29:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Judith A. Winston/PIR/EOP
cc: Marjorie A. Black/PIR/EOP, Jennifer L. Klein/OPD/EOP, Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP
Subject: Possible Meeting re: Family Policy and Fathers

Judy -- I tried to reach you by phone this afternoon, but since you were out decided to try email instead.

I'm a special assistant to the President on the Domestic Policy Council staff, in charge of our welfare reform policy team. Before Elena went on vacation, she suggested Jennifer Klein and I set up a meeting to discuss an issue included in Elena and Bruce's July 15th policy process memo -- examining as part of the Health and Family workgroup efforts to strengthen two parent families.

I'm trying to pull together a meeting for next week to discuss what we are informally calling "father policy proposals" -- you will get an email from my assistant Linda Cooper to schedule a time which works for you. The goal will be to 1) Review the initiatives the Administration has already undertaken (I'll make sure the right people from the Vice President's office and HHS are there) and 2) brainstorming about what else we might do as part of the President's Race Initiative.

Please call me at 6-2846 if you would like to discuss further.

Message Copied To:



Cynthia A. Rice

09/04/97 02:29:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Judith A. Winston/PIR/EOP

cc: Marjorie A. Black/PIR/EOP, Jennifer L. Klein/OPD/EOP, Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP

Subject: Possible Meeting re: Family Policy and Fathers

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Please call me at 6-2846 if you would like to discuss further.

[\[Text Version\]](#)

One America

The Advisory Board

The President's Initiative on Race

The Advisory Board is one of the most important elements of the President's initiative on race. Consisting of seven members -- selected for their outstanding leadership on the issue of race and their contributions to America's ongoing efforts to achieve racial reconciliation -- the Advisory Board will provide advice and counsel to the President to improve the quality of race relations. The Board will advise the President on the means to promote a national dialogue on race issues; to increase our understanding of the history and future of race relations; to identify and create plans to calm racial tension and promote increased opportunity in education, housing and health care; and to address crime and the administration of justice. Advisory board members will reach out as surrogates for the President to create and implement solutions to improve race relations.



ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, of Durham, North Carolina, is a retired historian and educator, who most recently served as Professor of Legal History at Duke University Law School from 1982 to 1992. President Clinton awarded Dr. Franklin the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995. Dr. Franklin's scholarly work has focused on the Civil War and Reconstruction era and includes the 1946 landmark study *From Slavery to Freedom*. Dr. Franklin received his A.B. degree from Fisk University in 1935, an M.A. from Harvard University in 1936 and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1941.

BOARD MEMBERS

WILLIAM F. WINTER, of Jackson, Mississippi, is the former Democratic

Governor of Mississippi and is currently in private law practice with the law firm of Watkins, Ludlam & Stennis. Governor Winter serves as Chair of the National Commission on the State and Local Public Service and the National Issue Forum Institute. While Governor, he fought for education reform, equal opportunity for all citizens and better relations between the races. He received his B.A. in 1943 and LL.B. in 1949 from the University of Mississippi.

LINDA CHAVEZ-THOMPSON, of Washington, DC, is an Executive Vice President with the AFL-CIO. Ms. Chavez-Thompson has 29 years experience in the labor movement. She joined the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in 1971 and became the first person of color to be elected to one of the top officer positions at the AFL-CIO.

ROBERT THOMAS, of Coto DeCaza, California, currently serves as President and CEO of Nissan Motor Corporation, U.S.A. Mr. Thomas recently created a partnership with the Los Angeles Urban League to increase opportunities for women and minorities in the automobile industry. Mr. Thomas is also a director of the Nissan Foundation, which issues grants to support community agencies in South Central Los Angeles. Mr. Thomas holds a B.S. in Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy.

ANGELA E. OH, of Sirenas, California, is an attorney with the Los Angeles law firm of Beck, De Corso, Daly, Barrera & Oh, specializing in state and federal criminal defense. Following the riots in Los Angeles, she served as Special Counsel to the Assembly Special Committee on the Los Angeles Crisis. Ms. Oh received a B.A. and M.P.H. in 1981 from the University of California and a J.D. in 1986 from the University of California.

SUZAN D. JOHNSON COOK, of New York, New York, is Senior Pastor of the Bronx Christian Fellowship Church. She is also the first female chaplain of the New York City Police Department. In 1983, the Rev. Dr. Cook became the first African-American woman to serve as Senior Pastor at Mariners' Temple Baptist Church, the oldest American Baptist Church in New York City. From 1993 to 1994, Dr. Cook was a White House Fellow, working for the White House Domestic Policy Council. She served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1994 to 1997. Dr. Cook received a B.S. from Emerson College in 1976, an M.A. from Columbia University Teachers College in 1978, an M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in 1983, and a D. Min. from United Theological Seminary in 1990.

THOMAS H. KEAN, of Madison, New Jersey, is the former Republican Governor of New Jersey. Governor Kean currently serves as President of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. He is the chairman of President Clinton's Campaign to Reduce Teenage Pregnancy. He served on the United States delegation to the Women's Rights Conference in Beijing in 1995. Governor Kean holds numerous awards from environmental and educational organizations, including more than 25 honorary degrees. Governor Kean received a B.A. from Princeton University and an M.A. from Columbia

University Teachers College.

CONSULTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND ADVISORY BOARD

CHRISTOPHER EDLEY, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to serve as a consultant to the advisory board and the President. Mr. Edley has been a Professor at Harvard Law School since 1981 and is co-director of The Civil Rights Project, a recently launched think tank based at Harvard University. Mr. Edley served as Special Counsel to President Clinton, directing a review of affirmative action. Mr. Edley received a B.A. from Swarthmore College in 1973, an M.P.P. from the Kennedy School of Government and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1978.

Back to One America



Cynthia A. Rice

08/26/97 12:03:49 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Linda R. Cooper/OPD/EOP
cc: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP, Jennifer L. Klein/OPD/EOP
Subject: Linda -- Please schedule these meetings

As you know, I will be out of the office from Wed. 8/27 through Tues. 9/2. Please schedule the following meetings for my return:

MEETING #1:

Please schedule the following meeting as soon as possible -- Sept 3rd or 4th.

Subject: New Mexico housing policy and welfare reform.

Invitees: make sure all the following people can attend:

White House: Diana Fortuna, Emily Bromberg, Emil Parker

OMB: Keith Fontenot and whoever he suggests

HHS: John Monahan (assistant: Margaret) and whoever else he suggests;

HUD: Paul Leonard (asstant Fannie) and whoever else he suggests.

MEETING #2:

Please schedule this meeting as soon as possible -- but it must be on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday which probably means 9/8 or 9/9:

Subject: Family Policy Proposals re: Fathers and the President's Race Initiative

Invitees:

White House: Jennifer Klein, Nicole Rabner, Diana Fortuna, Anne Lewis (NEC),
Emil Parker (NEC), Susan Liss (VP), Barbara Woolley (OPL),
Janet Murguia (Leg Affairs),

OMB: Keith Fontenot and whoever he suggests

HHS: Ann Rosewater and whoever else from HHS she recommends
(260-9923 is her new phone # -- she's on vacation but you

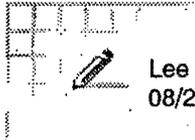
can call her Special Assistant Michele Ahern (401-6638 or 690-7409).

Jennifer/Nicole -- this is the meeting Elena said we should arrange as soon as possible. Am I missing anyone here? If so, please Linda Cooper (cc: me) as I will be out on Tuesday, Sept. 2nd when you get this message.

MEETING #3:

You are already scheduling the meeting for Sept.7th or 8th with Bill Harrington of the American Fathers Alliance on welfare reform and father policy issues, per my note to you.

Jennifer/Nicole -- I'm including you in this, your call as to whether to attend. Bill is the head of one of the nation's fathers organizations, who coincidentally will be in town this week and wants a meeting. There's a section of the welfare law that gives grants for programs that promote visitation of non-custodial parents that he's particularly interested in.



Lee Ann Brackett @ OVP
08/25/97 04:00:36 PM

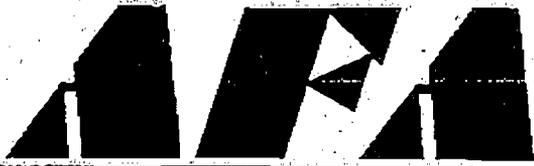
Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP

CC:

Subject: Re: Fathers Issues in the VP's office

You probably should talk to Susan Liss since the Family Conf. is hers now. I think that Bev Godwin and Nancy Hoyt work on the issue, but you might want to double-check with Susan.



The American Fathers Alliance

Bill Harrington - President
Box 5345, Tacoma, Washington 98415
(206) 274-1417 Washington State
(202) 643-0615 National Ofc
afa@pipeline.com (INTERNET)

LAW OFFICE
206-761-0116

August 22, 1997

Ms. Cynthia Rice
Deputy Domestic Policy Advisor
The White House
Washington DC, 20500

RE: Request for Meeting - Sept 7 or 8, 1997
and also on October 23 or 24

Welfare Reform & Father Policy Issues

Meeting with President Clinton - Father's Day week
June 15th-19th of 1998

Dear Ms. Rice:

I am requesting a 1/2 to 1 hour meeting with you to discuss a number of specific issues related to fathers and male parenting within national Welfare Reform. I will be in Washington DC on Sept. 7th and 8th, and also on October 23rd and 24th. Please let me know your best time to meet. Our best times would be 11:00am or 4:00pm on Monday, Sept. 7th. At most I would be coming with two or three other people. Prior to the meeting, we would identify the specific issues we would address. Included in our discussion would be an invitation to meet with President Clinton during Father's Day week in 1998.

While Family Policy has been a major White House priority, specific issues related to male parenting need to be formulated and funded. One example is the extraordinarily underfunded Access Grant Program included in federal Welfare Reform approved last year. See attached material. While the 50 states have just submitted their initial program proposals on August 15th, the truth is that all proposals are underfunded and extremely limited to narrow areas within each state. Therefore, the original intent of enforcement of existing residential provisions in court orders, JUST AS WE HAVE ENFORCEMENT FOR FINANCIAL CHILD SUPPORT, will not be met. Significant additional funding is needed in each state to reach the original intent of this critical program intended for non-residential parents on a statewide basis.

Additionally, new programs are needed for fathers in several areas. I am enclosing for your review a copy of what Indiana has done with welfare savings. These kinds of programs are needed in every state and the benefits are enormous. White House leadership is needed to make it happen. Children in these critical lifestyles need active and involved fathers as much as mothers. Public policy must be developed to enable many desiring local private non-profit agencies to work with fathers and reverse trends of fatherless children.

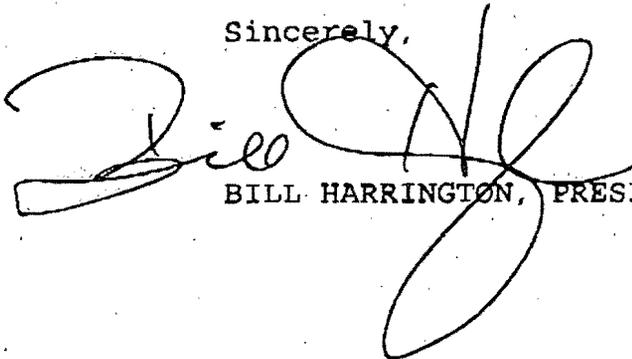
I organized several meetings at the White House in 1993 and 1994 around these same issues with former Domestic Policy Deputy Advisor, Mr. William Galston, and it is my hope that you will agree to meet with us to advance these new and broader policy issues and proposed funding.

Fathers and fatherhood are in a critical but fragile condition. With White House support, we can do better for America's children.

For your review of some issues we may discuss or make reference to, I have included a copy of the Final Report of the U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare; Parenting Our Children: In The Best Interest of the Nation. I served as one of the 15 Commissioners representing fathers, non-custodial parents and second family members.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


BILL HARRINGTON, PRESIDENT

Never received

Subtitle I—Enhancing Responsibility and Opportunity for Non-Residential Parents

SEC. 391. GRANTS TO STATES FOR ACCESS AND VISITATION PROGRAMS.

Part D of title IV (42 U.S.C. 651-669), as amended by section 353 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 469B. GRANTS TO STATES FOR ACCESS AND VISITATION PROGRAMS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration for Children and Families shall make grants under this section to enable States to establish and administer programs to support and facilitate noncustodial parents' access to and visitation of their children, by means of activities including mediation (both voluntary and mandatory), counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement (including monitoring, supervision and neutral drop-off and pickup), and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements.

“(b) **AMOUNT OF GRANT.**—The amount of the grant to be made to a State under this section for a fiscal year shall be an amount equal to the lesser of—

“(1) 90 percent of State expenditures during the fiscal year for activities described in subsection (a); or

“(2) the allotment of the State under subsection (c) for the fiscal year.

“(c) **ALLOTMENTS TO STATES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The allotment of a State for a fiscal year is the amount that bears the same ratio to \$10,000,000 for grants under this section for the fiscal year as the number of children in the State living with only 1 biological parent bears to the total number of such children in all States.

“(2) **MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.**—The Administration for Children and Families shall adjust allotments to States under paragraph (1) as necessary to ensure that no State is allotted less than—

“(A) \$50,000 for fiscal year 1997 or 1998; or

“(B) \$100,000 for any succeeding fiscal year.

“(d) **NO SUPPLANTATION OF STATE EXPENDITURES FOR SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.**—A State to which a grant is made under this section may not use the grant to supplant expenditures by the State for activities specified in subsection (a), but shall use the grant to supplement such expenditures at a level at least equal to the level of such expenditures for fiscal year 1995.

“(e) **STATE ADMINISTRATION.**—Each State to which a grant is made under this section—

“(1) may administer State programs funded with the grant, directly or through grants to or contracts with courts, local public agencies, or nonprofit private entities;

“(2) shall not be required to operate such programs on a statewide basis; and

“(3) shall monitor, evaluate, and report on such programs in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.”



People
helping people
help
themselves

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 7083
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46207-7083

Katherine L. Davis, Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release Wednesday, April 9, 1997

WELFARE REFORM SAVINGS GIVE \$1 MILLION BOOST TO RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS

Governor Frank O'Bannon today announced release of nearly \$1 million to fund the first phase of model programs to promote responsible fatherhood. The money comes from Indiana's welfare reform savings.

The "Indiana Restoring Fatherhood, Renewing Families Initiative" is a two-year, \$2 million program. The grant money goes to local agencies. Organizations getting first-phase grants will use them to enhance work they are doing already with fathers and teens. They address local priorities and needs with the help of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

"These grants promote programs that recognize the benefits to boys and girls when they have a father who cares about them and lets them know it," Governor O'Bannon said. "They are programs that help fathers be responsible even when a family has split and the children are in their mother's custody. Many of the fathers who need help are very young. Some of these programs will help prepare them for jobs as they take on the bills and other expenses we expect fathers to face, along with their responsibilities to their families and to society."

Services range from counseling teens against premature parenthood to job readiness for young fathers. In several areas, agencies have sent children home with "Baby Think It Over" dolls. Like real babies, these dolls scream for attention at random times, interrupting fun, work or sleep. Often, when children have children, they bear babies of low birthweight, whose cost in taxpayer-paid health care is many thousands of dollars more than that of a healthy child. At \$250 each, the dolls are a bargain every time they persuade a child to defer parenthood until maturity.

"As a result of these grants we expect more young Hoosier fathers to be playing a bigger role in the lives of their children, and with improved parenting skills," the governor added. "We also hope to see fewer out-of-wedlock pregnancies."

Grants range from \$5,400 to \$71,000. Recipients include the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, which has long been involved in teen parent and fatherhood counseling. That agency is involved in six grant programs totaling \$120,400 in Clark, Clay, Clinton and Owen counties. Purdue also was awarded a \$50,000 grant for its program titled "It's My Child, Too" in rural areas statewide. The attached list details the programs funded.

For more information: Rich Allen 317-233-4453, or Phil Bremen 317-232-457



Indiana Responsible Fatherhood Programs Funded By Welfare Reform Savings

Marion	Planned Parenthood of Central/South	Brotherhood Program	\$46,000
Marion	Southeast Neighborhood Development	Building Communities	\$35,000
Marion	Wishard Memorial Foundation	Father Resource Program	\$68,000
Monroe	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monroe County	Teen Options	\$50,000
Porter	Youth Service Bureau of Porter County Inc.	It's My Child Too	\$29,000
Tippecanoe	Family Services Inc.	Dads Make a Difference	\$49,000
Vigo	Greater Victory Community Ministries	I'll Be There	\$22,000
		TOTAL, including Purdue and Purdue Cooperative Extension Service funds of \$170,400	\$927,400

INDIANA RESTORING FATHERHOOD, RENEWING FAMILIES INITIATIVE - MODEL PROGRAMS

Phase I Grant Recipients Listing

County	Contact Person	Applicant Agency	Program Name	\$ Recommende
Clark	Reba G. Colley Beth Scott 812-256-4591 812-256-4270 Fax	Purdue CES- Clark County 9608 Highway 62, Suite 1 Charlestown, IN 47111	"It's My Child Too"	\$44,000
Clay & Owen	Peggy L. Davis 812-448-9041 812-448-8309	Purdue CES-Clay & Owen Court House Brazil, IN 47834-2659	"Restoring Fatherhood, Renewing Families, Initiative"	\$71,000
Clinton	Curt Emanuel Beth Scott 317-659-6380 317-659--6382	Purdue CES- Clinton County 1701 S. Jackson ST Frankfort, IN 46041	"It's My Child Too"	\$5,400
Delaware	Karen Sloan 765-286-3718 765-286-3719 Fax	Planned Parenthood East Central 424 W. Main St. Muncie, IN 47305	"Dad to Dad" "Real Man"	\$50,000
Hendricks	Maureen J. Buskirk 317-745-9260 317-745-9267	Hendricks County 4-H Youth Council PO Box 7 955 E. Main Danville, IN 46122-0007	"Dad's Build Strong Families..."	\$50,000

Lake	Gary J. Rainaldi 219-962-4116 219-962-8127 Fax	NW IN Health Dept. Cooperative 7854 Interstate Plaza Dr. Hammond, IN 46324	"Male Involvement Program"	\$46,000
Marion	Ron Phillips 317-862-3868	Dads of Warren Central 9500 E 16th St Indpls. In 46229	"Dads of Warren Central"	\$9,000
Marion	Kim Flowers 317-925-2672 317-927-7021	First Baptist Church N. Indpls. 880 W. 28th St. Indpls. 46208	"Project Courage"	\$37,000
Marion	Mary Weeden 639-9404 ext. 16 684-2183 Fax	Indianapolis Urban League 850 N. Meridian ST Indpls. IN 46204	"Concerned Males of Greater Indpls."	\$50,000
Marion	Kathleen Baldwin 317-927-3644 317-926-3663	Planned Parenthood of Central/ South 3209 N. Meridian Indpls. IN 46208	"Brotherhood Program"	\$46,000
Marion	Jesse Clements 317-634-5079 317-637-3137 Fax	Southeast Neighborhood Dev. 1831 E. Prospect Indpls. IN 46203	"Building Communities"	\$35,000
Marion	Wallace McLaughlin 317-630-2486 317-630-2463	Wishard Memorial Foundation 1001 W. 10th ST Indianapolis, IN 46202	"Father Resource Program"	\$68,000

Monroe	T.J. Holsen 812-334-2828 812-334-1718 Fax	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monroe County 714 W 8th St. Bloomington, In 47402	"Teen Options"	\$50,000
Monroe, Brown, Owen	Karen Brosius 812-332-1262	Catholic Social Services 511 S. Madison, Bloomington, IN 47403	"Families Working Together"	\$50,000
Porter/Lake	Greg Furgerson 219-769-4870	Christian Community Action 351 S. College Valparaiso, IN 46383	"Spring Valley Center for the Homeless""Family Preservation Counseling"	\$50,000
Porter	Dennis Morgan 219-464-9585 219-462-4159 Fax	Youth Service Bureau of Porter County, Inc. 253 W.Lincolnway Valparaiso, IN 46383	"It's My Child Too"	\$29,000
Tippecanoe	Everett Bailey 765-423-5361 765-742-8272	Family Services, Inc. 731 Main ST Lafayette, IN 47901-1459	"Dad's Make a Difference"	\$49,000

Vigo	Dr. Tino W. Smith 812-234-0942 812-235-9393	Greater Victory Community Ministries 100 S. 17th St. Terre Haute, IN	"I'll Be There"	\$22,000
Allen/Marion Delaware Elkhart/Vigo Howard/Lake Madison Vanderburgh (9 counties)	Tony Mason 317-925-2702 ext44 317-925-6624	Indiana Black Expo 3145 N. Meridian Indpls. IN 46208	"Father to Father Program"	\$56,000
Statewide (Rural Counties)	Douglas R. Powell 765-494-2941 Fax 765-496-1144	Dept. of Child Development and Family Studies Purdue University West Lafayette, IN 49707-1267	"It's My Child Too"	\$50,000
Lake, Porter, LaPorte, St. Joe & other	Anthony Thomalla, Ph.D. 219-785-2511 ext.4190 ext.4022	Westville Corr. Facility Dept. of Clinical Services PO box 473 Westville, IN 46391-0473	"Tu Casa (Your Home)"	\$20,000
Johnson, Bartholomew, Rush, Shelby	Brian Nichelson, Ph. D. 812-526-2611 812-526-9949 FAX	Tara Treatment Center, Inc. 6231 S. U.S. 31 Franklin, IN 46131	"Parenting Training for Disengaged Fathers"	\$50,000

A LOOK AT...

Promise Keepers

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

On Oct. 4, Promise Keepers, a Christian ministry "dedicated to vital relationships" in families and communities, will sponsor the Mall in Washington. The group's message is drawing support.

In Search of Men Who Are in Search Of Commitment

By Stephanie Coontz

At a recent talk in Chicago I gave about the dangers of romanticizing "traditional" families, a young man asked me if I didn't think the mass rallies of the men's group Promise Keepers in football stadiums across the country represented "potential fascism." I argued to considerable skepticism from my audience that however disturbing the ideology of the leaders, the motivations that bring thousands of men together for these events are not fascist or even explicitly right-wing. Men show up to promise service, fidelity and humility, not only to God (a formula that has historically been all too compatible with abuse of power toward mere humans) but also to community and family. The pleas they hear for racial reconciliation may not produce much concrete action, but are certainly not fascist slogans.

Critics of the Promise Keepers should not fall into the trap of demonizing the men to whom these rallies appeal. Many of the men who attend are searching for an anchor that will keep them committed to their wives in a world where other men are contemptuous of such values. They are looking for alternative models of manhood to those presented by Rambo or Donald Trump. At the rallies they hear that it is *not* weak to express emotions, that manliness isn't about power or financial success or domination.

In fact, the Promise Keepers movement seems to me a response to the failure of patriarchy. It reflects a recognition that the flip side of male domination within families is male desertion of families. While Promise Keepers does not support male-female equality, neither does it call for a revival of the kind of patriarchy that right up to the 1950s created two budgets in many families—one for the wife and children and a second, with more recreational income, for the husband. Videos and clips of Promise Keepers rallies remind me more of a wake than a wake-up call. They involve mourning for sins committed, humble self-reflection and, finally, joyful dedication to re-envisioning shared values. I would call those shared values benevolent paternalism, not patriarchy.

After the meeting, three men approached me, identifying themselves as members of the Promise Keepers and wanted to talk about my reservations about the group. While this was a tiny, self-selected sample, the men (two in their early forties and one in his late thirties) provided fascinating insight into the complex bundle of aspirations and fears to which the

cey, who found that many evangelist women had been "born again" after earlier attempts to achieve economic independence or to renegotiate their marriages on a more egalitarian, even feminist, basis had failed. Given their limited educational and economic leverage, as well as harsh experiences with the impact of divorce, these women frequently discovered that appeals to a husband's religious beliefs and protective impulses posed fewer risks and got a more positive response than claims to equal rights. Vulnerability they found was more likely than confrontation to evoke a wave of love.

While it is important to recognize how well-intentioned such paternalism is, it is also vital to understand its limits. Many women may equate paternalism with their own maternal experience, where the emotional jolt of an infant's dependence sets the stage for a lifetime of love and commitment. The difference is that maternalism ideally involves encouraging independence. Mothers must learn, however painfully, to sustain love and commitment even after their children stop needing them. Paternalism in husband-wife relations, by contrast, has no such provision for change and growth. It remains conditional on a woman's continued economic or psychological neediness.

The men I spoke with, for example, simply could not imagine a way of cementing their commitments except on the basis of responsibility for someone who was dependent on them. "I need her to need me," Don explained. "It keeps me on the straight and narrow." He explicitly rejected my suggestion to try thinking in terms of responsibility to rather than for his wife. "My responsibility for my family is my responsibility to God," he said.

The '50s male breadwinner bargain that these men want to revive did not require strong personal commitment or religious reinforcement. It was embedded in a set of institutional and economic conditions that reproduced male leadership and female dependency on a daily basis. Today, many men do not earn enough to be the sole breadwinner in their families; most women can achieve economic independence. Standards for a good marriage are also higher. Few women will put up with outright subordination; few men want to be as distant from their children as were most '50s fathers. Couples who try to walk the paternalist tightrope, avoiding male domination on the one hand and male disengagement on the other, need continuous renewal and reinforcement. This is what Promise Keepers rallies attempt to



The Men Sp

Promise Keepers, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., has offices in every U.S. state and in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. It was founded in 1990 by former UN Colorado football coach Bill McCartney. The group's first "stadium event"—where men worship, pray and learn—in 1991, to date, some 2 million men have attended such conferences. The following testimonies were of men attending a Promise Keepers rally at RFK Stadium.

LOUI BENDER, Reston: I'm just back from Promise Keepers in Washington, D.C. Praise God, the speakers tell me. None of this politically correct mush, but be faithful wife, stay out of debt, be ethical and honest at work, head of your household. Thank God for men who do the right thing! Coach McCartney does not mince words—he's always a straight shooter. Keep up the good work!

TODD RICH, Charlottesville, Va.: I recently attended a Promise Keepers conference in Washington, D.C., and I was totally unprepared for the experience. Having asked the Lord for a life only a few short months before the event, I felt like a spiritual infant among tens of thousands of "real" believers. What I didn't realize was that the Holy Spirit was at work in the hearts of the men. I had never imagined the sight of 50,000 men singing, confessing their sins in the presence of others was so overwhelming.

I had always considered myself unworthy of any redemption, and was too ashamed to allow myself to be forgiven for my sins. My life has been laden with sin, and I thought that I was far past the point of being accepted into the body of Christ. But as the Lord spoke to me that Saturday, and as we sang, "A Mighty God," I felt the power of the Spirit working in me, and the love of the Lord with each raindrop that washed over

of manhood to those presented by Rambo or Donald Trump. At the rallies they hear that it is not weak to express emotions that manliness isn't about power or financial success or domination.

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After the meeting, three men approached me identifying themselves as members of the Promise Keepers and wanted to talk about my reservations about the group. While this was a tiny, self-selected sample, the men (two in their early forties and one in his late thirties) provided fascinating insight into the complex bundle of aspirations and fears to which the Promise Keepers appeal. They were almost painfully sincere about improving their behavior as husbands and fathers.

Don, a salesman who is frequently on the road, told me that he had caused his wife "immeasurable pain" before he realized that he had to recommit to their marriage, since that time he had been trying to "make it up to her."

His friend Bruce described the "wave of love" that engulfed him once he realized that his wife was not a competitor but instead needed his "protection and cherishing."

Jim, the youngest, said family obligations were "too easy nowadays to abandon."

These men grew up in a world where clear-cut gender roles and rigid marital norms were the first (and sometimes the only) line of defense against the me-first individualism of a market society in which they believed but also found dangerously seductive.

"The free enterprise system is a great thing," Don said, "but you have to find the inner strength not to let yourself be ruled by the pursuit of money. And the secret is to remember your family obligations."

They said they had been taught to ground their masculine identity and moral obligations in a particular kind of family bargain, in which husbands received status as breadwinners and family heads in return for taking care of their wives and children. As gender roles blurred in the 1970s and '80s and marriage became less mandatory, they had seen (and often participated in) a breakdown of responsible behavior. Women's liberation, they said, had let men off the hook. If women are economically and personally independent, what happens to the requirement that you marry a girlfriend you get pregnant or that you keep working to support your family even when you're tempted by the single life?

Promise Keepers rallies give these men a way of mobilizing personal willpower and emotionally charged experiences with other men to reinforce their family obligations. All three said that their wives deeply supported their involvement in the Promise Keepers. For many women, indeed, benevolent paternalism may well be the highest quality of life they can aspire to in today's winner-take-all, dependents-be-damned economy and culture. Oral histories I have taken with families across America confirm the ethnographic research sociologist Judith Sta-

Stephame Coontz is the author of *The Way We Really Are: Coming to Terms with America's Changing Families* (Basic Books/HarperCollins). She teaches history at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash.

economic or psychological neediness.

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The '50s male-breadwinner bargain that these men want to revive did not require strong personal commitment or religious reinforcement. It was embedded in a set of institutional and economic conditions that reproduced male leadership and female dependency on a daily basis. Today, many men do not earn enough to be the sole breadwinner in their families; most women can achieve economic independence. Standards for a good marriage are also higher. Few women will put up with outright subordination; few men want to be as distant from their children as were most '50s fathers. Couples who try to walk the paternalist tightrope, avoiding male domination on the one hand and male disengagement on the other, need continuous renewal and reinforcement. This is what Promise Keepers rallies attempt to provide.

But movements organized around periodic mass mobilizations tend to peak in a series of rallies so big that the next ones seem anticlimactic. This happened to evangelist Billy Sunday's similar attempt to mobilize Christian manhood in the first two decades of this century. Unless the group can consolidate itself behind a more explicitly political goal, the energy tends to dissipate.

What would such a political program look like for the Promise Keepers? There are certainly historical examples of evangelical movements that created positive social programs. In the late 19th century, the social gospel movement set up day care centers in poor neighborhoods, denounced the rapaciousness of corporate monopolies, challenged unjust tax benefits for the affluent and opposed judges who gave

long jail terms to poor immigrants while letting corrupt politicians off. One leader of the Salvation Army claimed that attempting to right social wrong by charity is like bailing the oceans with a thimble. He and other revivalists supported laws regulating business and prohibiting child labor.

Such policies, however, are anath-

ema to the founders and committed core of the Promise Keepers, whose political infrastructure is based on the communications network of Focus on the Family, the 700 Club and the Christian Coalition. These groups and their secular counterparts like the Family Research Council oppose such family-friendly reforms as mandated leave benefits for parents, national health insurance and well-subsidized, federally regulated child care centers. Even the call for racial reconciliation is limited to those who accept a biblical model of marriage and are willing, as the Promise Keepers' official literature demands, to sift all their beliefs and behaviors through "the grid of Scripture."

Still, this political agenda is not what the majority of men who attend such rallies have in mind. They simply want to do better by their own families. Somehow, those of us with a different vision of how to support families and improve relations between men and women must find ways of responding to the legitimate concerns and decent impulses of those who correctly see a crisis of obligation and commitment in modern America. The question is how to do this without giving an inch to the reactionary political agenda of the core leadership of the Promise Keepers.

first stadium event—where men learn—in 1991, to date, some 2 million men have attended a Promise Keepers rally.

LOU BENDER, Reston: I'm just back in Washington, D.C. Praise God! None of this politically correct mumbo jumbo. Stay out of debt, be ethical and head of your household. Thank God for the right thing. Coach McCartney words—he's always a straight shooter.

TODD RICH, Charlottesville, Va.: I was at the PK conference in Washington, D.C. I was unprepared for the experience. Half the men were only a few short months before they were spiritual infants among tens of thousands. What I didn't realize was that the Holy Spirit held of my heart and show me the things I had never imagined. The sight of Jesus, and confessing their sins in front of others was overwhelming.

I had always considered myself a seeker of redemption, and was too ashamed to go to church for forgiveness for my sins. My life has been a mess of sorts and sizes, and I thought that I had been accepted into the body of Christ on that Saturday, and as we walked, I felt the power of the spirit working in my heart. I love of the Lord with each and every tear streaming down my face. I thank you for this experience.

PHOTOCOPIES PRESERVATION

Beware of

By Patricia Ireland

The Promise Keepers aim to have a million men march on Washington, D.C., early next month. Founder Coach McCartney says the group will not only challenge men to seek God, confess sins and make necessary changes in their lives. Most media coverage of the Promise Keepers to date has focused on their upcoming stadium events. We read about men who attend Promise Keepers events and sound like our relatives and neighbors. We hear of Promise Keepers vowing to spend more time with their families. So what is the problem?

The problem is that this hottest religious marketing tool since televangelism has betrayed women's equality as the source of so many of our ills. The Promise Keepers seem to think we will be so thrilled that men are promising to take responsibility in their families that we will back seat in this and every other area of our lives.

Certainly most women want men to do their fair share of child care and housework. I've admittedly most of the well-meaning men who attend Promise Keepers events have little or no grasp of the political agenda. Stung by criticism, Promise Keepers leaders toned down their earlier rhetoric calling explicitly for the submission of women to male authority.

Yet the religious right pantheon behind the Promise Keepers consists of men who think the Republican Party is too liberal. McCartney has political teeth speaking at rallies of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue. In his past speeches that are especially chilling when viewed on videotape, McCartney and co-leaders have said things such as: Men must be "strong and women responders," lesbians and gay men are "stark raving mad," the abortion issue is the "second Civil War," and participants must "take back the nation for Christ."

As Frederick Clarkson notes in "Eternity: The Struggle Between Theocracy and Democracy," Promise Keepers says it will create "men of integrity" while its leaders mouth opportunistic double talk: "Honor your wife, but take back your role as head and

Patricia Ireland is president of the National Organization for Women and the author of *What Women Want* (Plume).

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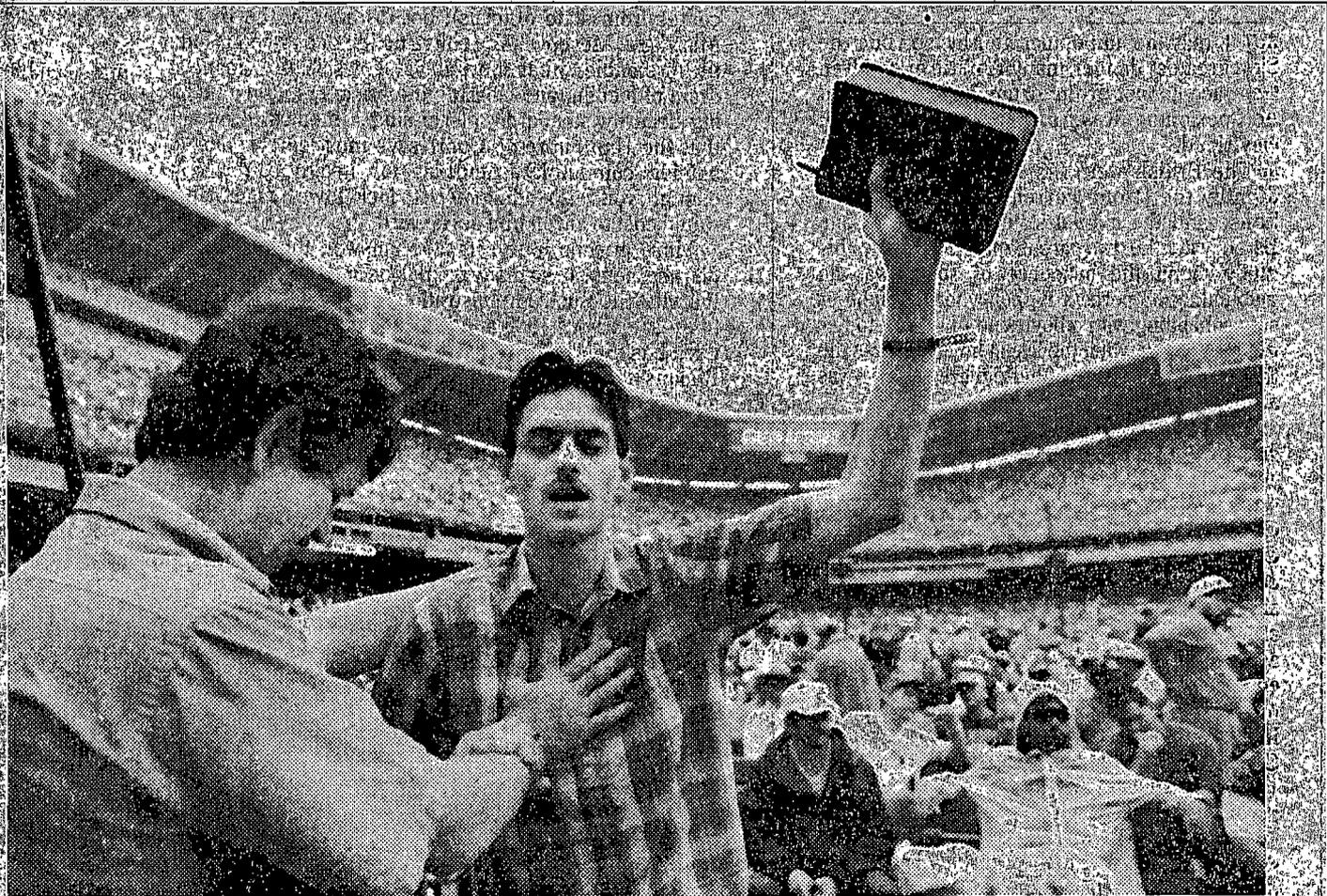
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Promise Keepers

Promise Keepers, a Christian ministry "dedicated to uniting men through families and communities, will sponsor a mass gathering on Oct. 4. The group's message is drawing support and stirring debate.



BY DAYNA SMITH—THE WASHINGTON POST

The Men Speak for Themselves

Promise Keepers, a nonprofit organization based in Denver, has offices in every U.S. state and in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. It was founded in 1990 by former University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney. The group held its first stadium event—where men worship, pray and learn—in 1991; to date, some 2 million men have attended such conferences. The following testimonies were written after attending a Promise Keepers rally at RFK Stadium in June.

LOU BENDER, Reston: I'm just back from Promise Keepers '97 in Washington, D.C. Praise God, the speakers tell it like it is. None of this politically correct mush, but be faithful to your wife, stay out of debt, be ethical and honest at work and be the head of your household. Thank God for men who will speak the right thing! Coach McCartney does not mince words—he's always a straight shooter. Keep up the good work!

TODD RICH, Charlottesville, Va.: I recently attended my first PK conference in Washington, D.C., and I was totally

place on the cross—He did it for me! ... I am anxiously awaiting October 4th, so that I can once again lift my voice with tens of thousands (or hundreds of thousands) of believers.

CARVIN WILSON, Gaithersburg: June 15, 1997, was a turning point in my life, as we stood together in the pouring rain. I lifted my head in awe and the unity that filled RFK Stadium. Never have I seen men so close, united, sharing one common bond. It is such a simple concept [that] I am angry that it took me this long to realize the error of my ways. I have begun to refocus my life and build my relationship with God and my family. I learned that there are many disciplines I will have to succeed in before I can call myself a complete Christian and godly man. Thank you for bringing down the walls, rain, and showing me the light to a new and better life.

VINCENT AHERN, Richmond: I attended my third PK stadium event at RFK this year, and each one had a unique and profound

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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I had always considered myself unworthy of any redemption, and was too ashamed to allow myself to be forgiven for my sins. My life has been laden with sins of all sorts and sizes, and I thought that I was far past the point of being accepted into the body of Christ. But as the rain began to fall on us that Saturday, and as we sang "A Mighty Fortress," I felt the power of the spirit working in me, and the redeeming love of the Lord with each raindrop that washed over me. With tears streaming down my face I thanked Jesus for taking my

have I seen men so close, united, sharing one common bond. It is such a simple concept [that] I am angry that it took me this long to realize the error of my ways. I have begun to refocus my life and build my relationship with God and my family. I learned that there are many disciplines I will have to succeed in before I can call myself a complete Christian and godly man. Thank you for bringing down the walls, rain, and showing me the light to a new and better life.

VINCENT AHERN, Richmond: I attended my third PK stadium event at RFK this year and each one had a unique and profound effect on my life. The 1996 theme was "break down the walls." God's approach to racism and prejudice is so much more effective than the billions invested in government programs that divide us. "Have we not one Father, have we not one faith, have we not one calling to become one holy race?" Building relationships with men of God, of all races, benefits us all. God calls us to be overcomers, to engage the enemy in spiritual battle. I want mighty warriors like Wellington Boone [a speaker at the rally] on my side. Who can listen to him and not hear the encouragement and passion of Jesus? My life has been blessed by my black brothers in Christ who have taught me the definition of the fervent prayer. Coach McCartney's message based on 2 Chronicles 7:14 hammered home the need to live clean before the Lord. Humble ourselves, pray and seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways. It's clear we can't "Stand in the Gap" if we are harboring sin of any kind.

Beware of 'Feel-Good Male Supremacy'

By Patricia Ireland

The Promise Keepers aim to have a million men march on Washington early next month. Founder Bill McCartney says the group will simply challenge men to seek God, confess their sins, and make necessary changes in their lives. Most media coverage of the Promise Keepers to date has focused on their upbeat stadium events. We read about men who attend Promise Keepers events, and they sound like our relatives and neighbors. We hear of Promise Keepers vowing to spend more time with their families. So what is the problem?

The problem is that this hottest religious-right marketing tool since televangelism has portrayed women's equality as the source of society's ills. The Promise Keepers seem to think women will be so thrilled that men are promising to take "responsibility" in their families that we will take a back seat in this and every other area of our lives.

Certainly most women want men to do their fair share of child care and housework. And admittedly, most of the well-meaning men who fill football stadiums for men-only Promise Keepers events have little or no grasp of the group's political agenda. Stung by criticism, Promise Keepers leaders toned down their earlier rhetoric calling explicitly for the submission of women to male authority.

Yet the religious right pantheon behind Promise Keepers consists of men who think the Republican Party is too liberal. McCartney cut his political teeth speaking at rallies of the violent antiabortion group Operation Rescue. In impassioned speeches that are especially chilling when viewed on videotape, McCartney and company have said things such as: "Men must be leaders and women responders; lesbians and gays are stark, raving mad; the abortion issue is a second Civil War; and participants must take

of your household. Seek racial reconciliation with hugs and tears among the biblically correct, but ignore racial injustice when it comes to education, jobs and housing. March on Washington, but assert it is not a political thing.

All of this is reminiscent of the way the Rev. Jerry Falwell, a Promise Keepers backer, claims he does not condone antiabortion violence but paid \$10,000 toward Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry's fine stemming from his group's violent siege of women's health clinics during the 1988 Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. In fact, Falwell and other religious right doyens—Pat Robertson, Gary Bauer, James Dobson and Bill Bright—launched Promise Keepers financially, lent the organization hundreds of staff members, continue to host and speak at Promise Keepers rallies, publish Promise Keepers books and sell their own treatises at Promise Keepers events.

The politics of the movement are not hard to miss, if you care to look. Try signing up as a Promise Keepers supporter, as one academic researcher did, and see if you, too, don't suddenly land on a Republican Party mailing list. Lurk online in a Promise Keepers chat group, as did one writer, Ami Nieberger of the Institute for First Amendment Studies, and see if you, too, don't note that abortion is the No. 1 topic—not a woman's right to choose, but an abortion opponent's right to kill abortionists.

In response to the emergence of Promise Keepers, 40 leaders from mainstream denominations created Equal Partners in Faith, which cautions the faithful to examine the Promise Keepers movement carefully. Many Christian pastors and activists think the gospel's message is that women and men are equal in the sight of

God's generals have organized an estimated 10,000 small squads of men for what they repeatedly refer to as "war." It is clearly more than just a figure of speech. McCartney's personal pastor and a founding director of Promise Keepers, the Rev. Jim Ryle, told a reporter that the group will fulfill the Bible's prophecy of a great force that will destroy sinners and infidels in the period preceding Armageddon.

So, as the Promise Keepers get into formation, feminist activists are working to unmask the religious political extremists organizing its rank and file troops. We know, from our firsthand experience at firebombed clinics, the political Molotov cocktail that the radical right can concoct out of fanaticism and intolerance. The arch foes of women's rights and civil rights behind the Promise Keepers cannot quit claiming they are all about Godly male bonding, and not about political organizing. They had a staff of 450 and a budget of more than \$97 million last year. That is one large self-help group.

Feminists will not be fooled by the many recent public disclaimers about this feel-good form of male supremacy with its dangerous political potential. We have seen them coming for some time.

A decade ago, Canadian author Margaret Atwood wrote "The Handmaid's Tale," a novel depicting a right-wing takeover in parts of the United States. One of the first ominous signs of women's loss of independence comes when a feminist finds she can no longer use her cash card. Barbed wire and barricades surround the new Republic of Gilead, which is in the hands of the religious right. Women there are forced into narrow roles as wives and baby makers under the total control of their husbands and other male leaders.

spiritual man among tens of thousands of great believers. What I didn't realize was that the Holy Spirit was about to take hold of my heart and show me the power of God's grace as I had never imagined. The sight of 50,000 men singing praises to Jesus, and confessing their sins in the presence of so many others was overwhelming.

I had always considered myself unworthy of any redemption, and was too ashamed to allow myself to be forgiven for my sins. My life has been laden with sins of all sorts and sizes, and I thought that I was far past the point of being accepted into the body of Christ. But as the rain began to fall on us that Saturday, and as we sang "A Mighty Fortress," I felt the power of the spirit working in me, and the redeeming love of the Lord with each raindrop that washed over me. With tears streaming down my face, I thanked Jesus for taking my

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Yet the religious-right pantheon behind Promise Keepers consists of men who think the Republican Party is too liberal. McCartney cut his political teeth speaking at rallies of the violent antiabortion group Operation Rescue. In impassioned speeches that are especially chilling when viewed on videotape, McCartney and company have said things such as: Men must be leaders and women "responders"; lesbians and gays are "stark raving mad"; the abortion issue is a "second Civil War"; and participants must "take back the nation for Christ."

As Frederick Clarkson notes in "Eternal Hostility, the Struggle Between Theocracy and Democracy," Promise Keepers says it aims to create "men of integrity" while its leaders mouth opportunistic double talk: Honor your wife, but take back your role as head and master

of your household. Seek racial "reconciliation" with hugs and tears among the biblically correct, but ignore racial injustice when it comes to education, jobs and housing. March on Washington, but assert it is not a political thing.

All of this is reminiscent of the way the Rev. Jerry Falwell, a Promise Keepers backer, claims he does not condone antiabortion violence but paid \$10,000 toward Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry's fine stemming from his group's violent siege of women's health clinics during the 1988 Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. In fact, Falwell and other religious right doyens—Pat Robertson, Gary Bauer, James Dobson and Bill Bright—launched Promise Keepers financially, lent the organization hundreds of staff members, continue to host and speak at Promise Keepers rallies, publish Promise Keepers books and sell their own treatises at Promise Keepers events.

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In response to the emergence of Promise Keepers, 40 leaders from mainstream denominations created Equal Partners in Faith, which cautions the faithful to examine the Promise Keepers movement carefully. Many Christian pastors and activists think the gospel's message is that women and men are equal in the sight of God, that women should exercise God-given free will over our own lives and that none of us needs the Promise Keepers's high priests pressing their fundamentalist political agenda.

And press they will. "Whenever the truth is at risk, in the schools, or legislatures, we will contend for it," McCartney roared to a packed stadium in 1993. The organizer of the Promise Keepers's Oct. 4 march on Washington has said "there is no way this group can restrict itself when it comes to public policy." Promise Keep-

ers's generals have organized an estimated 10,000 small squads of men for what they repeatedly refer to as "war." It is clearly more than just a figure of speech. McCartney's personal pastor and a founding director of Promise Keepers, the Rev. Jim Ryle, told a reporter that the group will fulfill the Bible's prophecy of a great force that will destroy sinners and infidels in the period preceding Armageddon.

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A National Public Radio commentator noted a marked difference in how various English language readers reacted to Atwood's fictional scenario. Women in England said, "Jolly good tale." Women in Canada said, "A frightening prospect." Women in the United States said, "How long do we have?"

As the Promise Keepers head toward Washington, we'd like a promise for respect of women's equality.

Patricia Ireland is president of the National Organization for Women and the author of "What Women Want" (Plume).

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Andrea Kane

02/10/98 08:52:55
AM

File -
Fathers

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: A.E. Casey on fathers

FYI--this is helpful feedback. Guess the block grant is no longer just a rumor. If the VP's folks were involved, we sure didn't hear about it in our meeting. I'll call Linda today and get her perspective on new ideas/next steps etc.

----- Forwarded by Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP on 02/10/98 08:53 AM -----



ebrenner @ jbs1.com

02/09/98 08:26:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: andrea kane

cc:

Subject: A.E. Casey on fathers

Andrea: I'll try calling later today, but what follows is probably the most useful stuff from last week at Casey. There was a lot a talk about the \$1 billion block grant legislation which will be introduced in the next week or two in the House (Archer, of all people, is the lead--not your typical "big government" guy). While the bill will have bi-partisan sponsorship it is unclear who will champion this in the Senate. Everyone thought the Vice President's people were also involved in the talks and despite the fact that the money is slotted to come from tobacco, people seemed hard pressed to see how something like this could fail.

The interesting talk then shifted to the measurement of outcomes; in welfare reform there will be bonuses to states showing the best improvements in out-of-wedlock births (w/out increasing abortion rates). The group had a good discussion on what the best measurements should be for fatherhood programs. This is something that the few states doing mini-grants are already grappling with. This led to the only real split in the group, over how hard to push marriage (but even here this was not always a right vs. left issue).

The Casey group is pretty high powered, and the lead Casey person, Ralph Smith, I know is well connected to the White House, so I suspect you may be hearing more about this in a variety of ways. Linda Mellgren attended from HHS/ASPE and I really think she could provide a lot of good information, not just on who is planning to do what, but on the best opportunities for building on current activity in the federal government (her tel. is 202-690-6806). If the block grant idea moves ahead, an interesting fight could be over distribution--do it equally or do it based on need--either the places with the most fatherlessness or the greatest poverty, in both cases

this moves more money toward the cities and can help split the coalition that makes this a great issue (the never married urban poor and the divorced suburban middle class--they make for a nice team not just at the Casey meetings but at all of the state fatherhood forums).

Eric Brenner

Bills in Congress

The bills described below have been introduced in the current session of Congress. H.R. refers to the House of Representatives, S. refers to the Senate. The phone number of the committee handling the bill is provided below; you may call to check on the status of legislation, or express your views. It is even more important to let your own Representative and Senator know your views. The capital switchboard, which can connect you with the offices of all members of Congress and committees, is (202) CA4-3121 (224-3121). This is a 24-hour switchboard that can provide you night and day with names, addresses, and direct phone numbers of all members of Congress. During normal weekday business hours, the switchboard can connect you with any Congressional office on Capitol Hill. To save on expenses, you can contact the Congressmembers' local branch office in your district. **BETTER YET, WRITE A LETTER AS DESCRIBED BELOW.**

H.R. 2503, the "Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1997", introduced by Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) to establish felony violations for the failure to pay financial child support obligations and other purposes. Referred to House Judiciary Committee, Crime Subcommittee 202-225-3926. Similar to S. 226, introduced by Sen. Herbert Kohl (D-WI), referred to Senate Judiciary Committee, (202) 224-5225. Urge your House member or Senator to offer a "balancing amendment" to provide similar penalties for failure to honor court-ordered visitation. Congress can do this on the same basis that it passes financial child support legislation—to improve collections, because the Census Bureau finds that access (visitation) enforcement improves financial child support payments.

S. 97, introduced by Sen. John Kerry (D-MA), to amend the Internal Revenue Code to require the IRS to collect financial child support through wage withholding and to eliminate State enforcement of financial child support obligations other than medical support obligations. Referred to the Senate Finance Committee, (202) 224-4515. Similar to H.R. 2189, introduced by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL), referred to Human Resources Subcommittee of House Ways and Means (202) 224-4515. Urge your House member or Sena

tor to offer a "balancing amendment" to provide IRS enforcement of any financial penalties for access denial that any state may impose, such as fines or court costs for missed access, for the same reason as stated in the note to H.R. 2503 above.

S. 1075, introduced by Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT), to provide demonstration projects to establish minimum financial child support payments. Referred to Finance Committee (202) 224-4515. Urge your House member or Senator to offer a "balancing amendment" to establish minimum

access/visitation/parenting time of at least a third of the time on a year-round basis, because the Census Bureau says that parents with at least of the third of the time (joint physical custody) with their children pay up to twice as much in financial child support as parents with no access to their children.

H.R. 869, introduced by Rep. Christopher Cox (D-CA), to require a parent who is delinquent in financial child support to include his unpaid obligation in gross income and to allow custodial parents a bad debt deduction for unpaid financial child support payments. Referred to Human Resources Subcommittee of House Ways and Means, phone (202) 244-4515. Urge your House member or Senator to offer a "balancing amendment" to include unpaid visitation penalty in gross income and to allow non-custodial parents a bad debt collection for unpaid visitation fines or penalties.

H.R. 399, introduced by Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) to prohibit the provision of financial assistance by the Federal Government to any person who is more than 60 days delinquent in the payment of any financial child support obligation. A hearing was held on this bill in November, 1997, by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight (202) 225-5074. Write your House member or Senator recommending "balancing" this bill with a provision prohibiting the same assistance to anyone 60 days delinquent in honoring a court's access/visitation order.

Congress's Call to Fatherhood by Jill Hollandsworth CRC Intern

There has long been a Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, chaired by Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), and a Senate Children and Family Subcommittee, headed by Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT). Now, because Congress has become aware of the need for more involved fathers, it has started the bipartisan Fatherhood Promotion Task Force.

The Task Force, initiated in June 1997, is co-chaired by Reps. Joseph Pitts (R-PA), Mike McIntyre (D-NY), Jim Rogan (R-CA), and Jim Turner (D-TX), and now has 32 members in Congress.

The Task Force is working with The National Fatherhood Initiative, in Gaithersburg, MD., but welcomes input from other groups.

Write to Congress!

Write to House members at:

Representative —
(name of your Representative)
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Write to Senators at:

Senator — (name of your Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Continued on page 18

Congress's Call to Fatherhood

Continued from page 7

CRC has met with all four co-chairmen, to offer our assistance with information and resources.

The Task Force's effort is informative, rather than legislative. Its mission is to increase the number of committed fathers by the promotion of fatherhood through public awareness campaigns, education of Congressional members on the problems of fatherless homes, and organizing of conference and forums.

In July 1997, World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Evander Holyfield was invited by Rep. Pitts to testify on the importance of fatherhood to a House committee. Future plans call for two Congressional forums, one in the Spring, and the other in June 1998.

Information that is expected to be discussed at future forums are the research showing that children who grow up with two active parents are likely to show lower rates of delinquency, mental illness, youth suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, and running away from home. In addition, teenage girls without fathers are 53% more likely to give birth as teenagers, and 164% more likely to have birth out of wedlock, while violent male criminals, including 60% of rapists, 75% of adolescents charged with murder, and 70% of long term inmates, grew up without fathers. If you wish information on the Task Force, you may contact the offices of any of the four co-chairs.

You may also wish to ask your member of Congress to join the Task Force, if they have not already joined.

CRC Guideline Available

Copies of the model child support guideline prepared by CRC that is based on a child having two parents are still available from the federal government.

This is the first time that the federal government has ever distributed a guideline that takes into account the direct expenditures on a child by the non-custodial parent.

To obtain a copy of the federal publication, phone (202) 401-9383, which is the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center, located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447. There is no charge for the publication, entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation", as long as supplies last.

Copies of the guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for \$5.00 for CRC members, and \$10.00 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

If you would like to contact Don Bieniewicz, author of the guideline, for his assistance in getting this guideline adopted in the states, write him at 10004 Fair Oaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, contact him via email at DonBien@erols.com, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

CRC CO-SPONSORED CONFERENCE

CRC co-sponsored a conference on Children and Fathers with several government agencies and other organizations in October, 1997. The co-sponsorship is part of CRC policy to network with governmental and non-organizations to improve the lives of children and families. The flyer for the conference is reproduced below. For a brief synopsis of talks at the conference, send \$5 for photocopying and a self-addressed stamped envelope to CRC.

OCTOBER 23 & 24, 1997
AT THE
NATCHER CONFERENCE CENTER
OF
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

OPPOSITIONAL CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS:

THERAPY FOR HOME AND SCHOOL
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT/DISCIPLINE

ISSUES

AND

REINTEGRATING FATHERS

SPONSORED BY

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH

AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

THE FAMILY THERAPY INSTITUTE OF

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE PROGRAM FOR CHANGE AGENTS,

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY,

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COUNCIL

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In her program, she said, youngsters receive information on making decisions, why and how to delay sex until marriage, sexually transmitted diseases, selecting friends for dates and setting boundaries for kissing and petting.

Students are taught, Hurley said, that "you can get close to a person through good communication and you really can get to know someone without physical intimacy."

For Wilson, an advocate of abortion rights, this will be the second go-round with abstinence education.

In 1995, Wilson surprised educators when he stopped the funding for the Learn Now and Babies Later sex education program for 12- to 14-year-olds in 31 counties. The program stressed delaying sexual relations, but evaluators found its classroom lessons had virtually no lasting impact.

Wilson aides insist that his latest initiative will be far removed from the program he junked. "This is something different. Learn Now was not comprehensive. It didn't have community support," said Kalustian, Wilson's spokeswoman.

She said Wilson's new enterprise would become part of his comprehensive program, called Partnership for Responsible Parenting, which is spending nearly \$ 46 million this year. Included are grants for local teenage pregnancy prevention efforts, mentoring and programs encouraging young fathers to be responsible parents.

In 1997, Wilson took an initial step toward creating abstinence-only programs but was rebuffed by the state Senate on grounds that his plan lacked detail.

Last month, Wilson breathed new life into the plan by including it in his budget and directing the Department of Health Services to draft a detailed proposal, including a requirement that its effectiveness be subject to an outside evaluation.

*Copyright 1998 PR Newswire Association, Inc.
PR Newswire February 22, 1998, Sunday*

Gov. Ridge Urges Fellow Governors to Promote Fatherhood; Encourages National Governors' Association Members to Launch Innovative Pro-Fatherhood Programs in Their States

Saying "America is facing a crisis of family," Gov. Tom Ridge today called on his fellow governors to lead efforts in their states to bring fathers back to their children.

Ridge made the call during the annual Winter Meeting of the National Governors' Association (NGA) in Washington, D.C. Ridge chairs the NGA Committee on Human Resources and today focused the committee meeting on successful fatherhood promotion initiatives among the 50 states.

"Tonight, 23 million children will go to sleep in a home without a father. That's four out of every 10 children in America. And by some estimates, 60 percent of America's children will live without their dads by the year 2000," Ridge said. "Those are sobering numbers - numbers we must all commit ourselves to reversing."

Ridge noted that when fathers abandon their children, the consequences are tragic. Fatherless children, according to a 1993 report of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, are five times more likely to live in poverty compared to children who live with both parents. Children from father-absent homes are three times more likely to fail at school or to drop out. According to a 1994 report in the American Journal of Public Health, children from single-parent homes are at a higher risk for violent misbehavior than children from intact families. Based on U.S. Census Bureau statistics, 22 percent of Pennsylvania children under 18 - more than 490,000 children -- live in single-parent homes, placing Pennsylvania seventh in a national ranking.

During the meeting, Ridge showed a video highlighting a fatherhood mentoring program in his hometown, Erie. The "Father to Father" program offered by Family Services of Northwestern Pennsylvania links teenage dads with responsible male adults who also are fathers. The older dads share their insights on parenting and career building with the younger men. The state Department of Education provided a \$15,850 mentoring grant to launch the program.

Please contact Larry McSwain if you would like to receive the WR Daily Report by e-mail or if you have questions about articles found in this publication. (lmcswain@acf.dhhs.gov (e-mail) or 202-401-1230(voice)).

"Fathers must take responsibility for themselves and their children. That's a solemn obligation that comes with fathering a child," Ridge said. "Bottom line: mothers shouldn't have to do it alone. They had help creating the child. So they should have help raising the child."

Two weeks ago in Philadelphia, Ridge and Delaware Gov. Tom Carper announced that they will co-chair a new national effort to rally state governments' support of pro-fatherhood initiatives. In partnership with the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), a Gaithersburg, Maryland-based advocacy group, their Governors' Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion will participate in an NFI-sponsored summit on fatherhood in Washington in June. Ridge encouraged governors to join the task force and propel this issue to the forefront in their states.

"All over America, we are seeing the signs of a renewed understanding of the irreplaceable importance of fathers in family life," Ridge said. "If we're to capitalize on this renewal, we must act now."

Ridge noted that the governors of more than 30 states responded to an NGA survey with descriptions of initiatives they have undertaken to bolster fatherhood.

"States like Pennsylvania are leading the way in helping dads find their way home," Ridge said.

Welfare reform has given governors new options to enhance the role of fathers in their children's lives. For example, the Ridge Administration will use a portion of its \$44 million in federal and \$22 million in state welfare-to-work grants to provide non-custodial parents with job training and education. Through these efforts, non-custodial parents — the vast majority of whom are fathers — can gain self-sufficiency and fulfill their child-support obligations.

The state Department of Health soon will announce more than \$1.5 million in grants enabling communities to provide abstinence-education programs. The goal is to help teenagers postpone sexual activity until they are prepared to handle both the financial and emotional burdens of parenthood.

Later this spring, the state Department of Public Welfare will award grants to public and private groups across Pennsylvania to provide innovative child-visitation programs for non-custodial parents. These programs, funded by a \$356,000 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant, would give non-custodial parents better access to their children.

"We're not only helping dads become self-sufficient so they can provide for their families, but we're also enabling dads to spend more time with their kids," Ridge said. "We all need to spend more time with our children."

Pennsylvania is a national leader in child-support collection and enforcement. In December, Ridge signed a new law strengthening the state's child-support programs. Its provisions include:

- Allowing courts to suspend driver's licenses and recreational licenses

- if the parent is three months behind in child-support payments.

- Allowing the Department of Public Welfare to impose an order of support; to order genetic testing to establish paternity; to issue subpoenas against any entity in the Commonwealth to require information about the employment, compensation and benefits of an employee of that entity; and to access state and local government records to obtain information.

- Requiring courts to order the inclusion of health insurance in a support order when appropriate.

In addition, a new computer database allows the departments of Labor and Industry, and Public Welfare to track down parents who are delinquent in their child-support payments and who have failed to report employment and wages.

Under Pennsylvania's 1996 welfare reform law, custodial parents receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) must sign an Agreement of Mutual Responsibility that requires them to ensure that their children attend school and receive proper