

Notes from Fathers Work Group Call – July 9, 1999

Millenium Project: discussion on incarcerated fathers, different people from ED and DOJ then have been participating in DPC/NPR groups, Foundation representatives are rethinking role of practitioners' network, sorting out how the networks fit together.

Fathers Guide: ACF estimates that TANF use of funds guide cost about \$80,000 in in-house time for research, writing, editing, with another \$2,000 for graphics, printing, and mailing. Printed 2,500 copies, mailed 1,000. Took about 6 months to develop. Have not gotten details on HCFA Medicaid guide. HHS will have internal discussion on resources for this effort. Question about OMB data collection rules/restrictions on gathering information on best practices/promising models (Andrea will check).

Morehouse Report recommendations:

#3 on role of churches: Some churches currently work with parts of criminal justice system. OCSE has initiative to work with faith-based organizations on child support issues including talking to members about importance of child support, distributing information. Methodist church recently put out guidance on child support. Article from Salt Lake City indicates Mormon Church is asking incoming members whether they are keeping up with child support.

#6: can be addressed through WtW, TANF (purposes 3 and 4), Access and Visitation grants, HHS research on marriage, early Head Start and Head Start to encourage parent involvement (including fathers), DOL workforce programs.

#7: Child Support

- a) Size of initial orders: primarily a state issue regarding guidelines. Some concern re: courts making orders retroactive (also a state issue). Had proposed guidelines commission in 1994 – taken out of legislation (reconsider?). Minimum orders – imposed when NCP doesn't show up and court makes assumption about how much they're working – may overstate earnings and lead to building up arrearages. Idea of doing best practices volume on how states are addressing these issues for low income NCPs. Also thinking about doing a series of guides – possibly next year (resource issue). First step is to survey states; don't know enough about what they are doing.
- b) Arrearages: concern re: attacks on Bradley amendment. Need to protect it, but willing to look at related arrearage issues, e.g. recently issued guidance on compromising arrearages for parents who marry. Initiative in FY 2000 budget on modification of orders for TANF cases (mandatory review for TANF cases) – luke warm interest in House (maybe opposition from IV-D?). Some fathers need more assistance on modifications. OCSE is doing internal report on state review and modification policies – will be ready soon. Paul will provide one pager on budget initiative.
- c) Waivers/demos – 10 PFF waivers still in process at HHS. Responsible Fatherhood Grants – will be getting 3rd year of funding but not aware of plans for new ones. Evaluation in process – interim/process report in 6 months; final report in 12-18 months.

#8:

EITC – David Ellwood doing research that finds no behavioral effects of marriage penalty in EITC (Paul will share paper).

Need to discuss housing issues with HUD.

New Markets Initiative, EZ/EC, WIA address some of the other issues.

THE NATIONAL
FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE'S

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Fathers -

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National Fatherhood Initiative

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Fathers -
1999

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doing Something About Fatherlessness

Michael Kelly's June 16 op-ed column, "A National Calamity," credited David Blankenhorn, who joined with us in what The Post called "a diverse coalition of policymakers" with the observation "that the crisis of fatherlessness is calamitous to the nation and that the people who run the nation should do something serious about this" [news story, June 17].

He's right, but as two of the three principal co-editors of the statement, we take issue when Mr. Kelly uses this as a springboard to attack the presi-

dent, vice president, the administration and the leadership of both parties.

This crisis cuts across American society, but is most severe among African Americans, and we as members of that community have a special responsibility to end it, as we made clear. Second, the administration and many in the congressional majority support our efforts.

President Clinton ordered federal agencies to examine their policies and practices to see if they encourage responsible fatherhood, and se-

rious efforts are underway to strengthen support for fathers. Vice President Gore's annual family reunion conferences have been the site of significant developments in the fatherhood movement since 1994, and since then the Department of Health and Human Services and major foundations have been in close collaboration, involving fatherhood and women's groups.

HHS supports a responsible fatherhood demonstration project and is considering a major expansion of the Partners for Fragile Families (PFF) demonstration. The Department of Labor has made welfare-to-work grants to PFF sites in Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Los Angeles and Racine, Wis. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman encouraged several states to devote most or all of their welfare-to-work money to job training and counseling for poor fathers.

On the Hill, Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-Conn.), who chairs the Ways and Means subcommittee on human resources, and Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.) are working to channel significant welfare-to-work money toward getting noncustodial welfare fathers back to work so they can pay child support.

The gist of our report was a call for united action based on reality, not a shoot-from-the-hip, poorly aimed blast.

RONALD B. MINCY
Senior Program Officer
Ford Foundation
New York

ZOBIE CLAYTON
Director
Morehouse Research Institute
Atlanta

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1999 A37

Michael Kelly

A National Calamity

So now we are four, as along comes Jack, 8 pounds, 4 ounces, to join Tom, who for the record welcomes this development; and now I know what my job will be for the remainder of my days. I will be the man sitting behind the driver's wheel saying: Boys, listen to your mother.

This is a good job, and one of the better things about it is the nice clarity it lends to life. Fathers (and mothers) relearn that the world is a simple enough place. They discover that their essential ambitions, which once seemed so many, have been winnowed down to a minimalist few: to raise their children reasonably well and to live long enough to see them turn out reasonably okay. This doesn't seem like a great deal to ask for until you find out that it is everything to you. Because, it turns out, you are everything to them.

We know this not just emotionally but empirically. We know—even Murphy Brown says so—that both fathers and mothers are essential to the well-being of children. Successive studies have found that children growing up in single-parent homes are five times as likely to be poor, compared with children who have both parents at home. They are twice as likely (if male, three times as likely) to commit a crime leading to imprisonment. They are more likely to fail at school, fail at work, fail in society.

What, then, would we say about a society in which the overwhelming majority of children were born into homes without fathers and who grew up, in significant measure, without fathers? We would say that this society was in a state of disaster, heading toward disintegration. We would say that here we had a calamity on a par with serious war or famine. And, if that society were our own, we would, presumably, treat this as we would war or famine, with an immediate and massive mobilization of all of our resources.

Of course, this society is our own. Of black children born in 1996, 70 percent were born to unmarried mothers. At least 80 percent of all black children today can expect that a significant part of their childhood will be spent apart from their fathers.

Millions of America's children live in a state of multiplied fatherlessness—that is, in homes without fathers and in neighborhoods where a majority of the other homes are likewise without fathers. In 1990, 3 million children were living in fatherless homes located in predominantly fatherless neighborhoods—neighborhoods in which a majority of the families were headed by single moth-

ers. Overwhelmingly, those children were black.

These figures, and most of the others that follow, come from a report, "Turning the Corner on Father Absence in Black America," released to no evident great concern this week by the Morehouse Research Institute and the Institute for American Values.

As the report notes, things were not always thus. In 1960, when black Americans lived with systemic oppression, 78 percent of black babies were born to married mothers, an almost mirror reversal of today's reality. In the 1950s, a black child would spend on average about four years living in a one-parent home. An estimated comparable figure for black children born in the early 1980s is 11 years. According to the research center Child Trends, the proportion of black children living in two-parent families fell by 23 percentage points between 1970 and 1997, going from 58 percent to 35 percent.

The disaster of black fatherlessness in America is part of a larger crisis. In every major demographic group, fatherlessness has been growing for years. Among whites, 25 percent of children do not live in two-parent homes, up from 10 percent in 1970. Overall, on any given night, four out of 10 children in America are sleeping in homes without fathers. (True, in the past few years, the number of out-of-wedlock births has begun to fall, but that trend is too nascent and too modest to much affect the situation.)

Some people think all of this matters. One is David Blankenhorn, a liberal organizer who learned realities, as a Vista volunteer and who 11 years ago founded the Institute for American Values, co-author of this week's report. It is Blankenhorn's modest suggestion that fathers are necessary to children, that their abdication on a large scale is calamitous to the nation and that the people who run the nation should do something serious about this.

The man who currently runs it is not a factor here; he does not do serious. What about the men who would run it? Al Gore says nothing; he is too busy fighting the loss of green spaces in Chevy Chase. Bill Bradley preaches about racism but is silent about the ruination of a race. George W. Bush is full of compassionate conservatism, but he won't say quite what that is. And so on. History will wonder why America's leaders abandoned America's children, and why America let them do so.

Michael Kelly is the editor of *National Journal*.

Andrea Kane

06/23/99 10:17:49 AM

Fathers 1999

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject: Fathers Guide

Following up on my brief conversation w/ Canta yesterday, we are very interested in moving forward to develop guidance for states and communities on how to support initiatives to promote responsible fatherhood. We envision this as an effort that cuts across programs and agencies (similar to the interagency transportation guidance). It would include: a guide to the various federal funding streams (TANF, WtW, CS, WIA, and others); discussion of other available state, local, private resources; some models and examples of how states and communities are currently using these resources - both independently and how they are blending them; some basic facts about fathers and why this is important; and some resource/contact information.

There are several existing pieces that could be built upon, updated and expanded including: 1) 1999 Map and Track on State Initiatives to Promote Responsible Fatherhood, 2) 6/98 NCCP Issue Brief by Stanley Bernard, Responsible Fatherhood and Welfare: How States Can Use the New Law to Help Children (the exec summary is on the web, they sent us a full copy but it appears to only be a draft). This is a very helpful piece but needs to be updated and expanded, 3) ACF's TANF spending guide mentions various ways TANF funds can be used for resp. fatherhood efforts, 4) DOL just released a short "Ideas That Work" piece on NCPs. We'd want to also include info about the child support demos. Might also want to include some info about DOJ efforts/resources.

I'd like to hear back about how you think such a guide could be done (i.e. by contract?), about how much it might cost, possible resources, suggestions as to how to structure it, and how quickly this could be done.

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Andrea Kane

06/22/99 09:27:49 AM

Fathers
| 1999

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Fathers Day Proclamation

Below is the President's Father's Day Proclamation, which mentions the work of the President and the Vice President on this issue, and the importance of Welfare-to-Work reauthorization. It's available on the White House web site at: <http://library.whitehouse.gov/ThisWeek.cgi>, then go to June 18th.

Feel free to share widely or to link from your web pages (for example, HHS Fatherhood initiative page). DOL, please share with your WtW outreach list. Lisa/Nancy, please share with Father to Father Network. If you would like hard copies to send out, please let Genie Chough know how many you would like. Sorry if some of you get this note twice as I was merging several email lists.

June 18, 1999

FATHER'S DAY, 1999

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Cologne, Germany)

For Immediate Release

June 18, 1999

FATHER'S DAY, 1999

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

Each year on Father's Day, Americans take special joy in remembering the many cherished moments they have shared with their fathers through the years. Reading stories before bedtime, playing catch after dinner,

camping out in the backyard, sharing driving lessons -- at these moments and countless others throughout a lifetime, devoted fathers are there to guide their sons and daughters, to instill confidence in them, and to provide for them and protect them in times of need.

The impact of these moments on children's development and future is immeasurable. Although children may not understand it until they become parents themselves, these are the times when fathers impart to their sons and daughters strong values and teach them important lessons about love, responsibility, faith, hard work, and determination. In these moments, fathers imbue in their children the strength and self-esteem they need to achieve their full potential.

As children grow and mature -- from toddlers carried on their fathers' shoulders to teenagers who need help navigating the challenges of adolescence to young men and women who need guidance on life, love, family, and career -- their relationships with their fathers change as well. Yet, the need for a father's friendship and wisdom continues to grow; and throughout all the seasons of life, fathers remain role models, teachers, heroes, and friends.

Vice President Gore and I have challenged fathers to be actively involved in their children's lives and to provide both emotional and financial support. Last June, the Vice President released a report showing that children who grow up without fathers are more likely to do poorly in school, to get into trouble with the law, and to have difficulty in getting and keeping a job. But our fathers cannot always meet their responsibilities to their children without help. That is why it is crucial that we lift up our fathers through efforts like the reauthorization of the Welfare-to-Work program so that more low income fathers can work, pay child support, and become more involved with their children.

We can never truly repay our fathers -- whether biological, adoptive, foster, or stepfather -- for their many precious gifts to us, for their steadfast faith in our potential and abilities, for their unwavering devotion and unconditional love. We can, however, express our deep appreciation for all they have done and thank them for the many sacrifices they have made to create a better life for us. There is no more fitting national tribute to fathers than reserving a day in their honor, and there is no more appropriate celebration of their profound impact on the lives of their children and the strength of our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of

America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972 (36 U.S.C. 142a), do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 20, 1999, as Father's Day. I invite the States, communities across the country, and all the citizens of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to express our deep appreciation and abiding love for our fathers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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Andrea Kane

06/22/99 09:43:09 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP@EOP, Eugenia Chough/OPD/EOP@EOP, J. Eric Gould/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: re: New HHS Fathers Fact Sheet

FYI. This new HHS Fatherhood web site is much improved. The HHS Fact Sheet now also mentions WtW and TANF guidance highlighting how TANF funds can be used for fathers.

----- Forwarded by Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP on 06/22/99 09:41 AM -----



Lisa Gilmore <lgilmore@os.dhhs.gov>

06/22/99 09:32:07 AM

Please respond to lgilmore@os.dhhs.gov

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

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Subject: re: New HHS Fathers Fact Sheet

The new HHS fatherhood fact sheet also can be found on the revamped HHS fatherhood Web page (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/fathers/fi-home.htm>) along with a host of other fatherhood-related information (programs, research reports, program evaluations, related Web sites, etc.) The final revised fatherhood fact sheet with the new paternity numbers should be up soon. -
Lisa

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Absence of black fathers decried

Big push urged to help families

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The "silence" about the absence of fathers in black homes has been broken, say black and white scholars who released a statement yesterday about what should be done about this "great social tragedy."

"What we're saying is that children need their fathers and marriage matters," said Obie Clayton Jr., director of the Morehouse Research Institute, a research center at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

Mr. Clayton and others told a news conference yesterday that a national effort to reconnect fathers to their children should be undertaken for at least 10 years.

They said this effort should:

- Create jobs and economic stability for black men, especially those who live in inner-city ghettos and "poverty pockets."

- Help black men resolve their historical bitterness about slavery, which prevented them from caring for their women and children for generations.

- Intensify discussions about the importance of marriage to adults, children and society.

- Heal the rifts between men and women.

Countless women have been deeply hurt by men, but women should "keep [their] eyes squarely on the children," said Enola Aird,

BRINGING BACK FATHERS

Fifty scholars, authors, clergymen and community leaders yesterday released 10 recommendations to reverse the trend of fathers being absent, especially in black families.

- Fathers and mothers should recognize their obligations to each other and build better parenting partnerships for the sake of their children.
- The church should focus on gender and family healing.
- Communities should support alternative schools that teach values.
- Civil rights and black professional groups should make reuniting fathers and children a top priority for at least 10 years.
- Media, especially black media, should promote positive images of men and fatherhood.
- Congress should authorize at least \$2 billion over the next five years to support community-based fatherhood programs aimed at reversing father absence in families.
- Child-support enforcement programs should be reformed.
- Anti-marriage housing and tax policies should be repealed.
- The criminal-justice system should help reconnect fathers and children.
- Government and community programs should help encourage marriage through education and marriage mentoring.

Source: "Turning the Corner on Father Absence in Black America," Morehouse Research Institute and the Institute for American Values.

The Washington Times

a scholar with the Institute for American Values, a New York City-based group that co-sponsored the report on absent fathers with the Morehouse institute.

"These are the fathers of our children and when we assassinate them, we assassinate part of our children," said Ms. Aird, adding that efforts must be made, particularly by religious leaders, to help "repair the breach between men and women."

Data show that fatherlessness is rampant in black families — about 70 percent of black children are born to single mothers — and is growing the fastest in white families. About 40 percent of all children live without their fathers, mostly because of divorce or unwed childbearing.

Children who grow up without their fathers are at heightened risk for problems in their physical and mental health, educational achievement, social behavior, careers and future family formation, studies show.

"This trend of father absence is the great social tragedy of our generation," said David Blankenhorn,

president of the Institute for American Values and author of "Fatherless America."

Mr. Blankenhorn was one of 50 scholars, community leaders, clergymen and writers — including a dozen women — who discussed the absence of fathers at a conference in November at Morehouse College.

Their resulting statement of beliefs marks a turning point because "for a generation, this issue of father absence in black America has been surrounded by silence, by denial, by a fair amount of excuse-making, by a sense that nothing can be done and by a lot of political and racial polarization," said Mr. Blankenhorn.

"I believe that this document points to and signifies an end to that period of stalemata and division and inaction," he said.

It calls for at least \$2 billion in funding for community-based programs that would promote responsible fatherhood. It also urges an end to anti-marriage policies in housing, tax, child-support and welfare programs.

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1999

Coalition Pushes Initiatives for Black Fathers

By MICHAEL A. FLETCHER
Washington Post Staff Writer

When Daniel Patrick Moynihan called black fatherlessness "the fundamental weakness of the Negro community" in a report 34 years ago, he was excoriated by many black leaders, who felt the issue only distracted attention from the more pressing problems of racism and the lack of opportunity for blacks.

Times have changed. Yesterday, a diverse coalition of policymakers joined forces behind a policy statement calling for a range of new initiatives aimed at reconnecting estranged African American fathers to their children, providing fresh evidence of a growing consensus around an issue that once fostered only division. It is just one of a number of recent proposals from across the political spectrum to address an issue once deemed too sensitive for public debate.

The statement, which grew out of a conference late last year at Morehouse College, urges Congress to provide \$2 billion to support the wide range of grass-roots fatherhood programs proliferating around the country. It also calls on African American leaders to "recognize the high priority of restoring the black family" and called on civil rights organizations to move the issue to the top of their agendas.

At the time of the Moynihan report, a third of black children lived in single-parent homes. Now, 70 percent of African American children are born to unmarried

mothers and 80 percent will spend substantial time without a father present. Regardless of race, some 40 percent of all American children live in homes without their biological fathers, the Morehouse report says.

Such statistics have long been a source of fractious debate. Conservatives tended to blame the problem on cultural and moral failures, while liberals have typically argued that the situation is more complex and largely attributable to shrinking economic opportunities in poor neighborhoods.

But the gap between these views appears to be narrowing, as activists of varying political views focus on pragmatic solutions. "You can be about fathers without signing on to a whole conservative agenda," said Ronald Mincy, a Ford Foundation vice president, who oversees the foundation's funding of fatherhood programs and is a supporter of the Morehouse statement.

See FATHERS, A7, Col. 1

The role of fathers, particularly among the poor, began taking on new importance after Congress rewrote the federal welfare laws in 1996. Since then, fatherhood programs have developed into a crucial component of the nation's social policy, with hundreds of programs aimed at fathers springing up across the country.

"We catalogued maybe 200 fatherhood programs around the country about five years ago. Now easily there are 2,000," said Wade F. Horn, president of the National Fatherhood Initiative.

The issue of single-parent households is also one that top policymakers and civil rights leaders are becoming more comfortable addressing.

In a speech to formally kick off his presidential campaign yesterday, Vice President Gore said, "The crisis in the American family today knows no boundary of class or race."

NAACP President Kwesi Mfume said his group is aggressive about "promoting the value of values," noting that the group's branches across the country sponsor parenting, mentoring and father-and-son programs. Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-Conn.) is working to build bipartisan support for a bill to be introduced in coming weeks that would address many of the issues raised in the Morehouse report. The legislation would fund grass-roots fatherhood programs, pay for a public relations campaign to promote the virtues of fatherhood and support job training for poor,

unskilled fathers.

Those efforts are being buttressed by new research indicating that poor, single fathers often are more intimately involved in the lives of their children than is commonly assumed.

Preliminary findings from a study being done by Princeton University's Center for Research on Child Well-Being, found that four of five single fathers are "romantically involved" with their partners at the time of childbirth. Half of the couples actually live together, and 85 percent of the men provide financial support during

pregnancy and say they plan to continue supporting their children. Moreover, the study is finding that most single parents are at least contemplating marriage.

"The problem is when you look at many of these guys five, six years down the road, they aren't there, they aren't involved, they aren't married," said Horn.

One reason is that often they cannot afford families. And while states have stepped up measures to make deadbeat fathers pay child support, there is no clear strategy for

dealing with what the Morehouse report calls "dead-broke" fathers, who simply can not afford to pay.

Efforts to improve what the statement's authors call the "marriageability" of poor, single men are likely to prove difficult. Last year, a study found that the nation's most ambitious effort to help the fathers of children on welfare, called Parents Fair Share, failed to increase the men's employment or earnings and, as a result, had only modest success at getting them to make child support payments.

Crossing racial lines, coalition reaches to fathers

Report confronts black families' crisis of absence

By Karen S. Peterson
USA TODAY

As Father's Day approaches, a major initiative from black and white leaders calls for the nation's dads — especially black dads — to put responsible fatherhood at the head of their agendas.

The authors of the initiative exhort "all African-American leaders to bring to this movement the same energy and dedication, the same passion and fearlessness, and the same creativity and courage that was summoned to wage the struggle for basic civil rights."

The Morehouse Research Institute and the Institute for American Values joined Wednesday to present a report called a "cultural watershed": *Turning the Corner on Father Absence in Black America*.

It deplores "the political, economic, social and cultural forces that are separating fathers from their children."

The Morehouse Research Institute, affiliated with Morehouse College in Atlanta, is a clearinghouse for information about black American males; the Institute for American Values is a private think tank promoting the family.

The group that endorses the report is as significant as the document itself: blacks and whites, conservatives and liberals, men and women, scholars and activists coming together to support responsible fatherhood within healthy marriages, particularly within the black community.

The coalition represents a broadening of the fatherhood movement, a loose combination of child advocates trying to reduce the number of children who live in homes without dads.

Initially, that movement was seen to be backed largely by conservatives, says Oble Clayton Jr., director of the Morehouse Research Institute. "But in the last year or two, we have gotten conservatives and liberals together to address a problem."

That problem is the disappearance of fathers from the homes of their children.

It is "an American problem that crosses racial, ethnic and class lines," the report says.

"Driven by growing rates of out-of-wedlock births, separation and divorce, this trend is robbing millions of our nation's children of the spiritual, emotional, and material support of their fathers.

"Tonight, about four of every 10 children in the USA will go to sleep



Clayton: Uniting liberals, conservatives



Blankenhorn: Disarming a minefield

The report put together by such a broad-based group "helps take the whole subject out of the minefield of racial politics."

— David Blankenhorn,
Institute for
American Values

in homes where their fathers do not live."

The fallout can be significant.

Research shows that compared with children with both parents at home, children who live apart from their fathers are five times as likely to be poor, more likely to do poorly in school and twice as likely to drop out of school.

The children apart from their fathers also are at greater risk for men-

tal and physical health problems.

Although the proportion of children with absent fathers is growing most rapidly among whites, it is a crisis for American blacks, the report says.

About 70% of black children are born to unmarried mothers, and at least 80% of black children can expect to spend a significant part of their childhood years living apart from their fathers.

Talking about father absence in the black community — and who or what policies are responsible — has been difficult, says David Blankenhorn, founder of the Institute for American Values.

The report put together by such a broad-based group "helps take the whole subject out of the minefield of racial politics," Blankenhorn says.

The report makes many recommendations. Among them:

► Fathers and mothers should work to build stronger parenting partnerships.

► Black churches should help build a movement aimed at family healing.

► Congress should pass legislation to support community-based fatherhood programs that increase the attachment of dads to their children.

► The public and private sectors should develop employment opportunities in urban areas, as well as provide job skills training for work in the suburbs and transportation to those suburbs from cities.

► Programs that deal with unwed parents should connect them with faith-based marriage education and marriage mentoring programs.

Clinton Makes Peace With Senate Over Appointment Nominations

By Art Pine
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON President Clinton promised Wednesday to give the Senate more advance notice of any key appointments he plans to make while Congress is in recess, ending a political battle with lawmakers that had threatened to bottle up a spate of nominations for major posts.

The flap arose earlier this month after Clinton, seeking to get around Republican opposition to his proposed appointment of San Francisco philanthropist and gay activist James C. Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg, announced the nomination while Congress was out of town.

Clinton had made a previous recess appointment which bypasses the Senate's confirmation powers in late 1997 when he named Los Angeles attorney Bill Lann Lee as acting assistant attorney general for civil rights. Lee's nomination had been opposed by Republicans who complained he had been too aggressive as a civil rights activist.

Clinton made his promise to give the Senate more notice on recess appointments in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. A few minutes after the letter arrived, Sen. James M. Inhofe, R-Okla., lifted a "hold" he had imposed on Senate action on all presidential appointments following the Hormel nomination.

The Senate Finance Committee scheduled a hearing Thursday on the nomination of Lawrence M. Summers as secretary of the Treasury, the highest-level post to be affected by the impasse. Summers is to replace outgoing secretary Robert E. Rubin. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will begin a series of hearings affecting Clinton's nomination of Richard C. Holbrooke as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Under the law for recess appointments, both Hormel and Lee may continue in office without Senate confirmation through the end of 2000, just before Clinton leaves office.

Gore Announces Candidacy, Takes Aim at Bush

By Ronald Brownstein
Los Angeles Times

CARTHAGE, Tenn. In a sharp-edged speech, Vice President Al Gore formally launched his bid for the presidency Wednesday with pointed criticism of his leading Republican rival and a pledge "to strengthen family life in America."

Surrounded by some 5,000 supporters who squeezed into the square outside the Smith County courthouse, Gore both previewed arguments he likely would raise against Texas Gov. George W. Bush in a general election and tried to distance himself from President Clinton's personal behavior.

Gore, 51, stressed the importance of a president setting a moral example "to guide our children." But along with the clear reference to the Clinton sex scandal, he signaled he would attempt to frame the 2000 election as a choice between maintaining the Clinton administration's economic policy or risking a return to the slowdown that drove Bush's father from the White House in 1992.

"We remember what it was like seven years ago," Gore declared in his 25-minute address. "And I never, ever want to go back."

Under a cloudy sky on a warm and still morning, Gore spoke briskly and forcefully, if sometimes a bit breathlessly, in the small town where he spent his summers as a boy and still maintains an 88-acre farm. At one point, he was forced to shout over a small knot of protesters, who blew whistles and accused the administration of blocking the distribution of drugs to treat AIDS in Africa. At another point, Gore delivered a paragraph of the speech in Spanish.

Though Gore never mentioned Gov. Bush by name, rarely has any candidate so directly targeted another

contender in his announcement speech. Even as he echoed some of the same cultural themes as Bush, Gore aggressively sought to contrast himself with the Texan on both issues and experience.

In a rebuke of the "compassionate conservative" theme Bush has stressed, Gore said he wants to maintain prosperity "not by letting people fend for themselves, or hoping for crumbs of compassion, but by giving people the skills and knowledge to succeed in their own right ..."

Karen Hughes, the Bush campaign's communications director, said Gore's comment about "crumbs" disparaged "the good work being done by good-hearted Americans across this nation" in the charities and community groups that Bush calls "the armies of compassion." By contrast, she charged, Gore offered only "a long litany ... of big government solutions."

In his remarks, Gore blended broad calls for cultural renewal with a list of specific policy goals. Much as Bush did during his inaugural campaign swing in Iowa and New Hampshire just days ago, Gore said society's health could not be measured solely by economic prosperity. "For the issue is not only our standard of living, but our standards in life," Gore said.

Gore said that while the nation had eliminated the federal budget deficit, it still faced a series of cultural deficits: "The time deficit in family life; the decency deficit in our common culture; the care deficit for our little ones and our elderly parents."

To respond to those challenges, Gore spelled out a series of policy initiatives. In education, for instance, he said he would push for making pre-school education universally available, reduce class sizes in all grades through high school and encourage stronger educational standards and accountability.

In social policy, he said he would seek to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act (which allows parents to take unpaid leave), increase access to after-school programs, expand the Clinton program that has sought to subsidize the hiring of 100,000 police officers, toughen gun control laws and increase partnerships between government and faith-based charities to deliver social services—an idea championed by Bush.

In economic policy, Gore promised to "balance the budget or better every year," to seek new free trade accords but also "to negotiate labor and environmental protections in those agreements," to raise the minimum wage and to oppose any effort to "privatize" Social Security by diverting part of the payroll tax into individual investment accounts.

Gore touched only briefly on foreign policy, saying in the broadest terms that "America must lead the world. And we must always be strong enough to do so."

In bidding to succeed Clinton, Gore is trying to cross difficult terrain. In this century, only one sitting vice president has won election as president: Republican George Bush in 1988. Indeed, since 1900 only two other sitting vice presidents even claimed their party's presidential nomination: Republican Richard M. Nixon in 1960 and Democrat Hubert H. Humphrey in 1968, both of whom lost close elections.

Gore is the heavy favorite to win the Democratic nod, but even as he focuses his fire on Bush he faces a challenge within the party from former Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey.

This will be Gore's second White House bid as a first-term senator from Tennessee, he jumped into the crowded 1988 Democratic presidential race, which was won by then-Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts.

Bradley Says Administration Hasn't Aided Poor Children

By Cathleen Decker
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES Overshadowed this week by two other presidential candidates and one newly unretired basketball coach, Democratic presidential contender Bill Bradley jabbed the Clinton administration

for failing to lift children out of poverty
his seven-year tenure.

His remarks, delivered in a speech at the downtown skid row children's services center Para Los Ninos, were aimed at the only other Democrat in the race: Vice President Al Gore, the front-runner who on Wednesday formally announced his candidacy.

"After seven years of the first two-term Democratic administration since Franklin Roosevelt, the percentage of American children living in poverty has barely changed," Bradley declared. "... There are still as many children living in poverty as there were after 12 years of Republican administrations."

And, he added, "The people in this Democratic administration have looked at these same statistics of child poverty for seven long years. But what have they done? They've tinkered around the margins."

Bradley declined to say what the administration should have done. He declined to say why he thought it had only tinkered with poverty programs. He declined to say what he would do. He even excised from his speech a planned endorsement of two ideas: support for a higher minimum wage and an expansion of the earned income tax credit on the grounds that he would detail his positions in the fall.

Across town, Bradley's buddy and campaign volunteer Phil Jackson, was debuting as the coach of the Los Angeles Lakers. On skid row, Bradley was enumerating problems dear to him and counting on voters to stick around for several months to hear his solutions.

Indeed, Democratic voters are being treated these days to a near reversal of the traditional terms of a primary contest. Bradley, who trails Gore 56 percent to 26 percent in California, according to a new Los Angeles Times poll, is addressing topics solely in general terms, though occasionally the problems involve thorny subjects like race relations.

And Gore trying to separate himself from Bradley, Republican front-runner George W. Bush and, not the least, President Clinton is laying on the details, abandoning the rose-colored generalities that usually flavor front-runner campaigns.

Bradley, a former three-term New Jersey senator and former forward for the New York Knicks where he was a roommate of Jackson is midway through a nine-day swing in California. The tour is notable for its duration and timing: nine months before the California primary and indicates the state's potential heft in the 2000 presidential contest.

It has been out-publicized, however, by circumstance. On the first day of Bradley's tour, Bush made his maiden voyage to Iowa, drawing the attention of the political world. On Wednesday, Gore formally announced his candidacy. In between, much of the Bradley-related buzz revolved around Jackson, who was scheduled to appear at a fund-raiser Thursday night.

Throughout, Bradley has hewn closely to his pre-trip vow not to get specific as he talked about topics like water, health care and, on Wednesday, poverty.

Bradley said the level of childhood poverty was "intolerable."

"Despite seven years of prosperity, millions of parents are holding down several jobs just to make ends meet," he declared. "Two-thirds of our children experience parental care as a hurried effort between too much work and too little sleep. Parents, rich and poor, suffer from time poverty. ...

"Technology races on, we move at the speed of light, but our children are becoming a blur. Everywhere I look these days I see decent people who are parents struggling against odds that would test the best among us."

The former senator said solving the nation's family problems would require a joint effort by employers, government and parents.

Retired General Is Named to New 'Security Czar' Post

By Bob Drogin
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON Under intense pressure to act more aggressively to plug leaks and tighten security at the nation's nuclear weapons facilities, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson named a retired four-star Air Force general as the department's first "security czar" only hours after meeting him Wednesday.

Gen. Eugene E. Habiger, who last served as commander in chief of the U.S. Strategic Command, told reporters that he sees his newly created government job: director of the Office of Security and Emergency Operations in distinctly draconian terms.

"I will be a dictator," he said. Richardson, who sat beside Habiger at a hastily called news conference, appeared taken aback but later laughed and said: "I like the dictator line."

Habiger, 60, vowed to "work very quickly, very aggressively, and I will get this thing fixed." He said he looks forward to working with nuclear scientists but joked: "I barely know how to spell physics."

Richardson also announced he has ordered the nation's three nuclear weapons laboratories to freeze all operations next Monday and Tuesday to "train people and get the attention" of scientists and other employees who may still be resisting stricter security and other reforms, despite an ongoing Chinese espionage scandal.

Richardson said the two-day "stand-down," as well as new plans to reorganize the department's intelligence division and create the position of undersecretary of national security, were in response to the blistering criticism aimed at the department in separate reports by a House investigative committee and by President Clinton's top intelligence advisors.

"This is to respond to some of the concerns (in the reports) that we still don't have our act together," Richardson said.

The House panel was headed by Rep. Christopher Cox, Calif.,

while the president's foreign intelligence advisory board is headed by former Sen. Warren B. Rudman, R-N.H. Richardson publicly challenged the conclusions in both reports and verbally sparred with Rudman this week.

The two reports have fueled growing momentum on Capitol Hill to force dramatic restructuring of a department widely castigated as culturally incapable of fundamental reform.

At a news conference, Richardson appeared to soften his opposition to proposals in Rudman's report, as well as in Congress, to create a stand-alone executive agency within the department to direct the nuclear weapons programs.

"We're not that far apart," he said. "I'm willing to work with the Congress on ways to merge what I think are slight differences."

Richardson repeated his refusal to consider removing the weapons labs from the department entirely and to place them in a separate new government agency. That plan is far more controversial, and even some of its proponents have suggested that it is being offered mostly as a worst-case negotiating tactic.

House Sides With Entertainment Industry

By Janet Hook and Nick Anderson

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON The House delivered a victory to the entertainment industry Wednesday, rejecting a broad measure designed to keep excessively violent books, movies and other media out of the reach of minors.

The proposal, defeated 282-146, would have banned the sale to children under 17 of materials containing "explicit violent material," such as depictions of sadism, torture and rape.

Its defeat was a blow to a strategic effort by House Republican leaders to shift the focus away from gun control as a means of curbing youth violence. GOP leaders instead argued that the roots of crimes such as

**NATIONAL PRACTITIONERS NETWORK
FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES, INC.**

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*Tene' M. Jones, President
Preston J. Garrison, Executive Director*

May 4, 1999

TO: Andrea Kane (202) 456-7431
Lisa Mallory (202) 456-2830

FROM: Preston J. Garrison

RE: Background Material for Our Telephone Appointment
Thursday, May 6 - 10:00 AM

Andrea and Lisa:

Thank you for your willingness to talk with me by telephone on Thursday. In order to provide you with a bit of background on NPNEFF — as it has begun to move into its next stage of development — and about my own background, I am forwarding the accompanying materials. As you will see from the January -March report, much of our — and my — effort has been on internal organization activities.

In the months ahead, we want to move NPNEFF into an increasingly active role in the public policy arena that is growing around fatherhood and families issues, and to bring the voice and perspective of local practitioners to a more visible and effective level.

Thanks for taking the time to look over this material, and for scheduling time to visit with me.

NPNFF

**NATIONAL PRACTITIONERS NETWORK
FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES, INC.**

A PROFILE

Every year since 1992, Vice-President Al Gore has hosted a Family Reunion Conference to focus on specific issues that affect families. In July, 1994, at Family Reunion III, "The Role of Men in Children's Lives," a number of leading researchers, policy makers and practitioners participated in a public dialogue on the role of men and fathers in the lives of children. As a result of this two-day meeting, which was facilitated with the assistance of the National Center on Fathers and Families (NCOFF) at the University of Pennsylvania, a group of 30 practitioners agreed to establish a national network.

In 1995, with support from the Funders Collaborative, which includes the Ford, Annie E. Casey, Charles Stewart Mott, and John Danforth Foundations, this informal network became the **National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (NPNFF)**, a not-for-profit, member-driven networking organization committed to strengthening support for fragile families — low-income, never-married parents and their children. NPNFF's mission *"is to enhance the resources available to children in fragile families by heightening the involvement of fathers and fostering communication, program development, professional development, education, and collaboration among practitioners working with various father-focused programs"*.

Under leadership initially from the Families and Work Institute and, as of June 1, 1997, from the National Center for Strategic Nonprofit Planning and Community Leadership (NCPL), NPNFF has held local and national forums for policy makers, practitioners and researchers; began the publication of a national newsletter, *THE COLLABORATOR*, with NCOFF and the Center on Fathers, Families, and Public Policy (CFFPP) at the Family Resource Coalition; established a national board and committee structure; held its first regional conferences in Atlanta, Georgia and Minneapolis, Minnesota; and cosponsored the Fourth Annual Fathers, Families and Communities Conference held in Anaheim, California, sponsored by the California Department of Social Services.

In November, 1998, NPNFF entered into a new level of organization and development when the Board of Directors employed its first full time executive director and began the establishment of its own offices and staff team. These actions by the Board signal the initiation of major long-term efforts by NPNFF to build the profession of fatherhood and fragile families program practitioners and to contribute substantially to the growth and evolution of the fatherhood and fragile families movement.

nPNFF profile. Wpd updated November 17, 1998

**NATIONAL PRACTITIONERS NETWORK
FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES, INC.
QUARTERLY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
JANUARY - MARCH 1999**

Following is a brief review of major activities, work elements, and meetings for the calendar quarter ending March 31, 1999.

January 1999

- A Draft NPNFF Nominating Committee Member's Handbook was completed and submitted to committee members for review and comment;
- The NPNFF Executive Director continued outreach activities to become acquainted with the fatherhood and families field and to begin enhancing NPNFF's sector identity and presence. Activities included:
 - participating in the Quarterly SFFI grantees update meeting;
 - corresponding with Dr. John Gates, Mental Health Program Director at The Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta; secured invitation to visit with he and Mrs. Carter to discuss NPNFF's work, and for NPNFF Board President and Executive Director to participate in future Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Policy Symposia;
 - meeting with Lisa Silverberg, National Training Director for HandsNet, Inc., to explore future cooperative activities.
- A proposal was submitted to the NPNFF Membership Development Committee for revision of the Membership Categories and Dues Structure in preparation for initiating NPNFF's first membership recruitment campaign in February;
- Board member comments to draft Projected Program of Work: 1999 - 2001 were received and utilized in preparing a revised and refined document; utilized revised document in developing funding proposals;
- Funding proposals and/or letters of inquiry/intent were submitted to:
 - The Ford Foundation
 - The Peace Development Fund
 - Albert A. List Foundation
 - The Will Smith Foundation

- Scheduling of NPNFF Board of Directors meeting for March 6 - 7, 1999 in Indianapolis was completed;
- The first monthly "**MEMBERS SERVICES MEMO**," a document designed to keep members informed of NPNFF activities, create networking opportunities, and provide members with a regular connection with NPNFF, was prepared and mailed to all NPNFF members;
- An extensive analysis of the NCOFF "**FATHER & FAMILY LINK**" Web Site "**Survey of Programs**" database was initiated as a base for constructing an estimate of the potential membership/constituency base of NPNFF;
- The NPNFF Executive Director and Board members Linda Jenkins, Joe Jones, and Geraldo Rodriguez attended President Clinton's "Welfare-to-Work" Initiatives announcement at the Old Executive Office Building, Washington DC.

February 1999

- Conference call committee meetings were held for the NPNFF Nominating Committee and the Membership Development Committee;
- NPNFF Executive Director continued outreach activities to become acquainted with the fatherhood and families field and to begin enhancing NPNFF's sector identity and presence. Meetings were held with:
 - Gordon Railey, CEO, The National Assembly of National Voluntary Health and Social Welfare Organizations
 - Mike McGrady, Deputy Director, National Head Start Association
 - Wade Horn, National Fatherhood Initiative
 - Lorin Harris, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
 - Dr. Ronald Mincy, Ford Foundation
- NPNFF Executive Director attended NCSEA Mid-Year Policy Forum;
- NPNFF Membership Recruitment Campaign materials were prepared for presentation to the Membership Development Committee and the Board of Directors at the March 6 - 7 Board meeting;
- Board of Directors agenda, and committee agendas, and materials packet were prepared

- Adoption of clarifying amendments to the NPNFF By-laws and adding a new by-law article on Board Conduct and Conflict of Interest
 - Adopted revision of NPNFF membership categories and dues structure
 - Established 1999 membership goals for renewed and new member recruitment
 - Established geographic regions for use in all NPNFF activities and planning
 - Approved contract relationship with NPNFF Executive Director
 - Directed Professional Development Committee and Executive Director to seek funding to sponsor an Eastern Regional Conference in 4th Quarter of 1999
- Tabletop Display unit designed and ordered for use in promoting NPNFF membership and programs at related meetings and conferences;
 - Membership recruitment campaign brochures printed and distribution to Board members begun. Membership recruitment campaign to continue through September;
 - Draft Minutes of Board of Directors meeting completed and mailed to Board members;
 - March issue of MEMBER SERVICES MEMO mailed to all current NPNFF members;
 - Initial letters of inquiry and introduction mailed to approximately 25 foundations and corporate giving programs to introduce NPNFF and obtain application and giving guidelines.

NPNFF: March 31, 1999

Prepared by: Preston J. Garrison

December 1, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***NATIONAL PRACTITIONERS NETWORK ANNOUNCES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT***

The Board of Directors of the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families, Inc. has announced the appointment of **Preston J. Garrison** of Alexandria, Virginia, as the organization's executive director. The Board's announcement came at the conclusion of a national search to select its first chief staff officer to provide leadership in the development of NPNFF as an organization dedicated to fostering communication, program development, education, and collaboration among practitioners working with father-focused programs.

Garrison brings more than twenty-five years of professional experience in organization development, association management, and public policy advocacy to NPNFF. He began his professional career as project director of a rural multi-service center for a Community Action Program as part of the "War on Poverty." Much of his training in community organization and community development was through the Office of Economic Opportunity's national training programs. In 1970, he joined the National Mental Health Association as a local affiliate director, and began a 21-year career with NMHA. In 1984, he was appointed as the NMHA's National Executive Director, a position that he held for seven years. Since 1992, he has served as a consultant to numerous local, state and national not-for-profit organizations, providing technical assistance in areas of strategic planning, organizational positioning, financial development, board development, and communications/marketing.

Garrison has received certification as a Professional Consultant to Management through the National Bureau of Professional Consultants.. He serves on the Board of Directors, and is a former Board Chairman, of the Applied Research and Development Institute, an international technical assistance and development organization based in Denver, Colorado which works to improve management systems and practices in not-for-profit organizations.

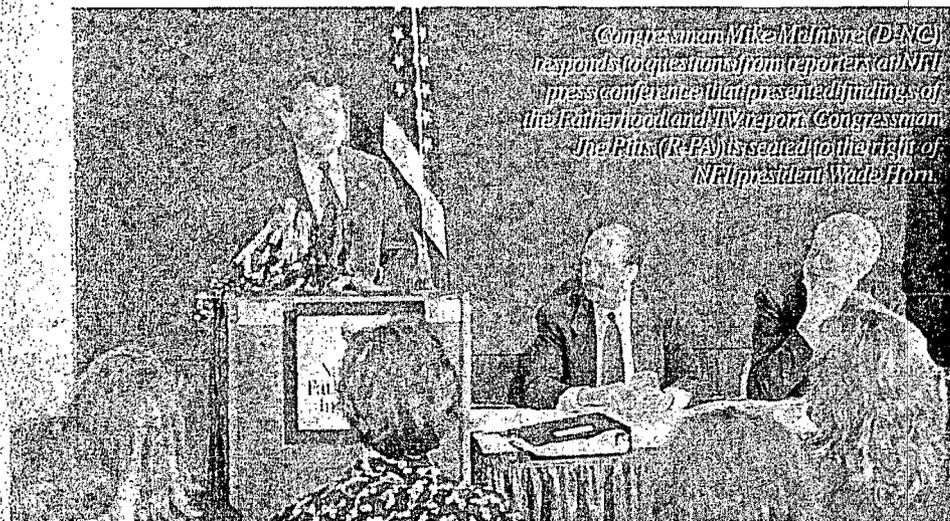
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Fathers—

1999



NFI Surveys Popular Culture



Congressman Mike McIntyre (D-NC) responds to questions from reporter at NFI press conference that presented findings of the Fatherhood and TV report. Congressman Jim Pitts (R-PA) is seated to the right of NFI president Wade Horn.

NFI Issues Report on Fatherhood and TV

In TV Land, Dads Are Either Absent Or Incompetent

The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) undertook a major study of prime time television over a five week period from mid-November through mid-December 1998, to learn firsthand how television portrays fatherhood. Citing the impact of television as perhaps our most powerful cultural institution, NFI President Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., said the findings in *Fatherhood & TV* are hardly cause for celebration.

"What we've learned about how television portrays dads is dismaying, to say the least," said Horn. "The more involved a father is, the

more likely he is to be portrayed as incompetent. Conversely, the dads portrayed as intelligent and able men are often the ones *least* involved with their children. In TV Land, it seems the dad who is there is not really *all there*.

Clearly, something is wrong with this picture."

The networks involved in the review were ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC and WB. NFI rated only those shows that met the following three criteria: (1) a father was a recurring character; (2) the relationship between the father and his children was a central defining feature of the show and (3) the father's children were 18 years old or younger. Each show that met these criteria was then independently evaluated by members of the NFI staff on five dimensions of fatherhood: Involvement, Engagement, Guidance, Competence and Priority.

Major findings of the study reveal that:

- Of the 102 prime time network TV shows (excluding news, sports and local programming), only 15 (14.7%) feature a father as a recurring, central character.
- The majority of these fathers are portrayed as uninvolved, incompetent or both.
- If you were to choose a TV show for your child to watch at random, that child is 15 times more likely to be watching a show where sex between unmarried adults is a recurrent theme, than to be watching a show where an involved and competent father is a recurrent theme.

In response to the question of how television portrays dads, the study found most portrayals were mixed. Of the 15 network television shows with a father as a central, recurring

character, only four (27%) received a "positive" portrayal, with an equal number receiving a "negative" rating. The remaining seven feature fathers with some positive qualities, but they were significantly deficient in meeting one or more of the criteria for the five dimensions of fatherhood. Of all the shows rated, *only 40 percent portrayed competent fathers*. Thus, the typical father is portrayed as *incompetent*.

Of the 15 shows rated, WB's *Seventh Heaven* and CBS's *Promised Land* tied for first place for their depiction of married fathers. Others in the top five category are: *Smart Guy* (WB), *Two of a Kind* (ABC) and *The Hughleys* (ABC). At the bottom of the list, representing shows with generally negative portrayals of fatherhood, are: *The Nanny* (CBS), *Brother's Keeper* (ABC), *That 70s Show* (Fox), *Dawson's Creek* (WB) and *Everybody Loves Raymond* (CBS).

As NFI president Wade Horn states in the conclusion of the *Fatherhood & TV* report: "When 4 out of every 10 children are growing up absent their fathers, it is critical that every socializing institution in America provide positive messages about responsible fathers, both to inspire men to be better fathers and to educate children as to what good fathers are and do."

This new study offers important insights into how television is meeting, or rather, not meeting, this challenge.

The complete Fatherhood & TV report can be obtained by writing to the NFI at One Bank Street, Suite 160, Gaithersburg, MD 20878, or by visiting our website at www.fatherhood.org.

Top Ten Dad Movies Offer Inspiring Messages

In the midst of the negative and harmful images of fathers throughout our popular culture, there are some notable exceptions to the rule of depicting dads as one of the three most common stereotypes: the absent, the befuddled and the violent. The National

- continued on page 9

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Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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