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Special Needs Adopted Children/Celebration of Children 1/26/90 [OA 4391]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 26, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN

The East Room

2:39 P.M. EST

RICHARD MIDDLETON: Good evening, boys and girls, and mothers and fathers. My name is Richard Middleton. I'm 11 years old. I adopted my father -- (laughter) -- at least a year ago. I love my father. And I'm very glad that the President and Mrs. Bush are helping more children like me to find parents to love. That's why it's such a great honor for me to introduce to you, boys and girls, moms and dads, the President of the United States. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Richard, good job. (Applause.)

Well, good afternoon. And thank you, Richard, a wonderful introduction. You only had to use your cards for one sentence and I have to use it for the whole speech here, see. (Laughter.) But you did a great job.

And to Secretary Sullivan, thank you, sir. It's always a pleasure to be with you. And thank you, everyone, for traveling here today -- especially the Orsi family, who drove all the way from Connecticut with their 21 children -- 19 of whom are adopted. And I'm glad all of you could join me here in the White House. You know, in fact, this has got to be the most unique event ever held in the White House I think. It's like a fish pond, moving around. It's very good. And I'm glad to have you all here.

You know, this time last year, when Barbara and I became the official caretakers of the White House for four years, the first thing we did was invite all of our children and our grandchildren to spend our first night here "together" upstairs as a family.

And my family is very, very important to me and I feel lucky to have been blessed with a wonderful wife and children and, of course, now 12 grandchildren. But all of you here today are just as lucky because you, too, are part of a family of your own -- to grow with you, share with you and, most of all, to love you.

Each of your moms and dads know just how special you are when they picked you out to go home with them. And now you've got some of the greatest parents around. And they have so much love to give you and they feel the warmth and joy of your own love in return.

The kids who are still waiting to be adopted don't have parents yet, but they're not alone. They have many friends -- people who have spent their lives helping children just like you find families -- just like you all helping them find families of their own.

Let me tell you about some of them here with us today. First, there are business leaders -- corporate leaders who have committed to helping children like you find loving homes. For example, how many of you watch cartoons? Quite a few. Do you know the Jetsons? Or the Flintstones? Or Yogi Bear? Well, the people who work at Hanna Barberra created those cartoons. And now they're creating a new character who will encourage families to adopt

MORE

children.

And some of you may be aware of a TV program in which children who want to be adopted go on television in cities across America -- it's called "Wednesday's Child." And it is very successful. Almost three-quarters of all the kids who appear on this show find families. And so NBC network is going to work with us to get more kids on TV and more stations to show "Wednesday's Child" so more families will see these children.

There's a man here today who is very committed to helping other children just like you. He's a friend of mine for a long time, and his name is Dave Thomas, and he was an adopted child. And he grew up to be a successful businessman with a family of his own. Now he's the head of Wendy's Hamburgers -- and by the way, he really does have his own daughter named Wendy. Now, where is Dave? He was -- here he is, right over here. And he's going to make information available to help put loving parents together with special needs children in Wendy's all across the country.

And now I'd like to tell you about another man whom I've just met -- and what an inspiring man he is. Taurean Blacque is a noted actor with an impressive list of credits. But he deserves even more credit for what he does in real life. He has adopted 10 special needs children, 10 children.

You know, single people and older Americans can be great adoptive parents. And Taurean's not married. He says that having 10 kids will probably keep him too busy to get married for a long time. (Laughter.) I don't know if he qualifies as an older American yet -- (laughter) -- but I hear that his hair started going gray the minute he got all these kids. (Laughter.) But he says he wouldn't change it for the world. He proves that love is something you do every day; love is something that takes hard work and commitment -- because he had to fight to get every one of those children.

Taurean asked me to do a head count and make sure nobody got left behind in the Green Room. Are all 10 of you here? (Laughter.) Okay, I can't take a count here; I'm too busy here. (Laughter.) No, all 10 are, I'm sure. And you've got a very special dad.

You know, people like Taurean, who open up not just their homes, but their hearts are amazing people. And I know that we have a number of adoptive parents among us today as well. And you're a breed apart because while so many people shout about how to make the world a better place, you quietly lead by example, changing the world in a very special way -- one child at a time. Truly, yours is a gift of limitless love.

This guy's got to go real bad here. (Laughter.) That's okay, we're used to that around here. That's okay, big guy.

Okay, where were we? (Laughter.) No, but seriously, not all children are as lucky as the ones here today. There are thousands of kids in America who still need a home and a family to care about them. This year, an estimated 30,000 children available for adoption spent their Christmas holidays waiting for a permanent home. And most of these kids -- about 60 percent -- are special needs children. To find families for these kids, our administration has sent to Congress our Special Needs Adoptive Assistance Act to help individuals meet the financial commitment involved in adopting special needs children. We've also taken steps to encourage federal employees wanting to give loving home to these children, who often wait for years to be adopted.

Every children in America deserves a loving home and a family, and they deserve something else -- the chance to succeed in school and in life. Government cannot substitute for a supportive home. But some children do need extra help to prepare them for the challenge of learning.

At the education summit, the governors and I agreed that through the Head Start program we are making real progress towards preparing disadvantaged children for school. And I am pleased to announce that my 1991 budget will propose the largest increase ever -- half a billion additional dollars for Head Start. This new funding will increase the Head Start enrollment to 667,000 children, and bring us to the point where we can reach 70 percent of this nation's disadvantaged four-year-olds through Head Start. I urge the Congress to fund our Head Start proposal in full, because every American child with special needs, whether physical, emotional, or material, deserves the opportunity for a full and happy life.

Our children are precious. And you're the reason all of us came together here today -- to tell you how special you are to us and how glad we are that you are in the family. You know, our son Marvin and his wife Margaret just adopted their second child, a little grandson, our grandson, Walker. And if I do say so myself -- this guy is really something. And so is his sister, Marshall, who's also adopted. And they're an important part of our family, and we love them.

Through my wonderful experiences with adoption in the Bush family, I've learned something. I've learned this: Adoption is good for our country, and for the children who need a loving home, and for the birth parents who want the best for their children. And for the adoptive parents, by giving them the joy of raising and loving a child.

See the sign behind me -- "Adoption Works -- for Everyone." And that is true. Adoption works because each one of you is so special. And because you adopted very special parents. And it works because everyone in this room loves you very much.

From my family to yours, Barbara and I say thank you and God bless you.

And now, Barbara I understand we're going to invite this whole gang into the State Dining Room for cookies and lemonade. So why don't we go on in there -- and thank you all for coming to the White House. Glad to have you. (Applause.)

END

2:49 P.M. EST

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 01/19/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m. Tuesday 1/23

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN (01/19 draft three)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:
 Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, 1/23, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1990 JAN 19 PM 5:11

Grant/Nappo
January 19, 1990
Draft three
A:special

BRIEF REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN
THE EAST ROOM
JANUARY 26, 1990

Good afternoon. I'm glad all of you could join me here in the White House. You know, this time last year, when Barbara and I became the official caretakers of the White House for four years, the first thing we did was invite all our children and grandchildren to spend our first night here "together" as a family.

My family is very, very important to me and I feel lucky to have been blessed with a wonderful wife and children, and, of course, my grandchildren. But all of you here today are just as lucky because now you, too, are part of a family of your own -- to grow with you, share with you and most of all ... to love you.

Each of your moms and dads knew just how special you are ^{when} and they picked you out to go home with them. And now you've got some of the greatest parents around. They have so much love to give you, ^{and they feel the warmth and joy of your love in return!}

But not all children in America are as ^{lucky} fortunate as you. Sadly, there are thousands of children in our country who ^{still need} don't have a home or a family to care about them. This year, an estimated 30,000 children, available for adoption, spent their Christmas holidays waiting for a permanent home. Most of these kids -- about 60 percent -- are special needs children. ^{Fortunately,} But these children ^{do} have many friends -- people who have spent their

lives helping children just like you find families of their own. Let me tell you about some of them here with us today.

First, there are corporate leaders who have committed to helping children like you find loving homes. For example, how many of you watch cartoons? Do you know the Jetsons? Or the Flintstones? Or Yogi Bear? Well, the people who work at Hanna Barberra created those cartoons. And now they're going to use their talents to help bring children and families together.

And some of you may be aware of a TV program in which children who want to be adopted go on television in cities across America -- it's called "Wednesday's Child." And it's very successful. Almost three-quarters of all the kids who appear on this show find families. And so NBC network is going to work with us to get more kids on TV and more stations to show "Wednesday's Child" so more families will see these children.

There's a man here today who is very committed to helping other children just like you. His name is Dave Thomas, and he was an adopted child. He grew up to be a successful businessman with a family of his own. Now he's the head of Wendy's Hamburgers -- by the way, he really ^{does have} has a daughter named Wendy -- and he's going to help us put loving parents together with special needs children in communities across the country.

And now I'd like to tell you about a man I just spoke with personally, and what an inspiring man he is. ^[TOU-EN BLAC] Taurean Blacque is a noted actor with an impressive list of credits. But he deserves even more credit for what he does in real life: he has

adopted **ten** special needs children -- **ten children**. You know, single people and older Americans can be great adoptive parents, and Taurean's not married. He says that having ten kids will probably keep him too busy to get married for a long time. And I don't know if he qualifies as an older American yet, but I heard his hair started going gray the minute he got all ^{these} ~~the~~ kids. But Taurean says he wouldn't change it for the world. He proves that love is **something you do every day**. Love is something that takes **hard work and commitment**, because he had to fight to get every one of those children. Taurean asked me to do a headcount and make sure nobody got left behind in the Green Room. Are all ten of you here? You've got a very special dad.

People like Taurean who open not just their homes but their hearts are amazing people. And I know that we have a number of adoptive parents among us today as well. You are a breed apart, because while so many people shout about how to make the world a better place, you quietly lead by example, changing the world in a special way, one child at a time. Truly, yours is a gift of limitless love.

But the most important people in this room are you children. You're the reason all of us came together today. To tell you how **special you are to us, and how glad we are that you are in the family**. You know, my son Marvin and his wife Margaret just adopted their second child, my grandson, Charles. And if I do say so myself -- he's ^{really something.} ~~special,~~ too. And so is his sister

Marshall, who is also adopted. They're an important part of our family, and we love them very much.

Through my wonderful experiences with adoption in the Bush family, I've learned this: **Adoption is good for America.** It works for the children who need a loving home. It works for the birth parents who want the best for their children. It works for the adoptive parents by giving them the joy of ^a raising ^{and loving a} good children. ~~And it works for America by building solid families -- the backbone of a strong and prosperous Nation.~~ See the sign behind me? "Adoption Works -- for Everyone." It's true.

Adoption works because each one of you is so special. It works because you adopted very special parents. **And it works because everyone in this room loves you very much.**

From my family to yours, thank you and God bless you.
God bless America.

Cookies : lemonade # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
1990 JAN 23 PM 6

January 23, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
FROM: MARY KATE GRANT *MKG*
SUBJECT: ADOPTION EVENT WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

OK
copy to Hwy
changes

I. SUMMARY

On Friday, January 26, you and Mrs. Bush will meet with approximately 100 special needs adopted children in the East Room, and join them for cookies and lemonade afterward in the State Dining Room. You will deliver brief remarks from cards.

II. DISCUSSION

Prior to your remarks, you will tentatively meet in the Green Room with Dave Thomas of Wendy's; representatives of NBC and Hanna Barberra; and actor Taurean Blacque (formerly of "Hill Street Blues," now with "Generations,") and his ten adopted children, many of whom are special needs kids. While you are in the Green Room, the rest of the children will be entertained by a magician and a clown.

Special needs children are those which require special circumstances for placement -- because of disabilities, minority status, or age; or because they want to be placed as a group with their siblings. The purpose of the event is publicize the availability of special needs children who are waiting for loving homes.

Grant/Nappo
January 19, 1990
Draft four
A:special

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JANUARY 26, 1990

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My family is very, very important to me and I feel lucky to have been blessed with a wonderful wife and children, and, of course, ^{now - 12} my grandchildren. But all of you here today are just as lucky because now you, too, are part of a family of your own -- to grow with you, share with you and most of all ... to love you.

Each of your moms and dads knew just how special you are when they picked you out to go home with them. And now you've got some of the greatest parents around. They have so much love to give you and they feel the warmth and joy of your love in return.

But not all children in America are as lucky as you. Sadly, there are thousands of children in our country who still need a home and a family to care about them. This year, an estimated 30,000 children, available for adoption, spent their Christmas holidays waiting for a permanent home. Most of these kids -- about 60 percent -- are special needs children. To help find



families for these kids, this Administration has sent to Congress the Special Needs Adoption Assistance Act to help individuals meet the financial commitment involved in adopting special needs children. We've also taken steps to encourage federal employees wanting to give loving homes to these children, who often wait for years to be adopted.

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with a family of his own. Now he's the head of Wendy's Hamburgers -- by the way, he really does have a daughter named Wendy -- and he's going to make information available to help put loving parents together with special needs children in Wendy's all across the country.

And now I'd like to tell you about another man whom I just met, and what an inspiring man he is. Taurean Blacque [TORY-en Black] is a noted actor with an impressive list of credits. But he deserves even more credit for what he does in real life: he has adopted ten special needs children -- ten children. You know, single people and older Americans can be great adoptive parents, and Taurean's not married. He says that having ten kids will probably keep him too busy to get married for a long time. And I don't know if he qualifies as an older American yet, but I heard his hair started going gray the minute he got all these kids. But Taurean says he wouldn't change it for the world. He proves that love is something you do every day. Love is something that takes hard work and commitment, because he had to fight to get every one of those children. Taurean asked me to do a headcount and make sure nobody got left behind in the Green Room. Are all ten of you here? You've got a very special dad.

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Through my wonderful experiences with adoption in the Bush family, I've learned this: **Adoption is good for America.** It works for the children who need a loving home. It works for the birth parents who want the best for their children. And it works for the adoptive parents by giving them the joy of raising and loving a child. See the sign behind me? "Adoption Works -- for Everyone." It's true.

Adoption works because each one of you is so special. It works because you adopted very special parents. And it works because everyone in this room loves you very much.

From my family to yours, thank you and God bless you. God bless America.

[And now, Barbara and I would like to invite everyone to the State Dining Room for cookies and lemonade.]

#



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of
Human Development Services

January 25, 1990

Assistant Secretary
Washington DC 20201

MEMO TO: JEANIE NAPPO

FROM: MARY SHEILA GALL

SUBJECT: Child to Introduce President Bush

We have identified two children, either one of whom will introduce the President tomorrow. These children are the adopted sons of Taurean Blacque. Both children spent most of their lives in foster care before being adopted. They are both charming and have very outgoing personalities. Their names are Richard (age 12) and Samuel "Sammy" (age 11). I am attaching a copy of an article about Taurean and his family that contains a picture of Sammy and Richard with the other children and their father.

If for any reason, these children become ill or in any way unable to introduce the President, we have other children standing by. I do not anticipate any problem and expect this to run quite smoothly.

If you any further information, please give me a call in the morning.



Heading for a dozen: Blacque with, from left, Jennifer, Sammy, Paul, Marc, Marshall, Chris, Whitley, Richard. (Randy isn't pictured.)

TUBE

WITH TWO HOUSES AND A BIG HEART, GENERATIONS STAR TAUREAN BLACQUE BECOMES A SINGLE FATHER TO NINE

In 1986 Taurean Blacque was co-starring in *Hill Street Blues* (he played gritty, streetwise detective Neal Washington), raking in the profits from a host of investments and living in a spacious home with a half-dozen classic cars spilling out of the driveway.

Still, the onetime mail carrier couldn't help feeling that something was missing. "My life was all about me, my work and

my grown kids," remembers Blacque, now 49 and starring as patriarch Henry Marshall on the new NBC soap *Generations*. "I had to give something back, to share something."

So when Wini Jackson, a Los Angeles County community affairs officer, asked him to lead a campaign aimed at encouraging black families to adopt hard-to-place children, Blacque agreed—on the

condition that he be allowed to adopt one of those children himself. "I don't want to be telling other people what to do if I don't know anything about it myself," said Blacque.

Three years and nine children later, he knows more than he ever expected.

First to arrive at the actor's Baldwin Hills home were twins Paul and Christopher, now 6, who were in danger of being

TUBE



"My buttons pop off my shirt when I watch them," says Blacque, teaching Jennifer to swim in the backyard pool.

Blacque catches up with biological sons Shelby and Rodney by shooting hoops at a neighborhood recreation center.



split up because families wanted to adopt only the lighter-skinned child. Then came Marc, 2, and his sister Jennifer, 3, whose mother was a drug addict serving time. Then Whitley, almost 2, born to a single mother who couldn't keep her; Marshall, 9 months, another child born to Marc and Jennifer's mother; Richard, 11, and Sammy, 10, who had spent nearly their entire lives in foster homes; and Randy, 5, who arrived in August.

"Taurean scares us sometimes," jokes Zena Oglesby, executive director of the Institute for Black Parenting, a private organization that encourages adoption in black families. "He'd try to adopt all of North America."

Blacque explains it by saying he simply loves children. After his marriage broke up 23 years ago, he remained active in the rearing of sons Rodney, now 26, and Shelby, 27, eventually bringing the boys to live with him when they turned 13. Deeply religious and active in the West Angeles Church of God in Christ, Blacque also felt compelled to help those kids less fortunate than his own. "They have no families and no one to really care about them," he says. "And that's when the gangs come along and say, 'We're your family.'"

Initially, Blacque found social workers reluctant to let a single man adopt children, but the Newark-born actor refused to give up. "One good parent is better than no parents," he protested.

Now nobody's arguing. Caseworkers say the youngsters have a new sense of security and a better attitude since they've moved in with Blacque. "It's been a complete turnaround," says Jackson. Richard, the oldest child in the Blacque brood, says it with more feeling: "It's like I've been born all over again."

Blacque's efforts have been recognized by L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, and since the actor became involved, adoptions at the Institute for Black Parenting have increased significantly. In the past nine months alone, the institute has signed up 140 adoptive families—making it one of the most successful agencies in Southern California.

Of course, a houseful of kids has forced Blacque to make some changes in his lifestyle. With the arrival of Marc and Jennifer last year, Blacque hired a live-in nanny-housekeeper to help him keep order and to care for the children while he's at work. And finding a nanny willing and



able to take care of nine kids wasn't easy. "Either the women didn't like to work for so many kids, or the kids didn't like them," Blacque says. Then along came Daisy Morataya, 28, who had been working for a friend of Blacque's and was already acquainted with the actor's growing family. "She won't even take a day off," says Blacque. "She keeps coming back to check on the kids and bring them new clothes."

Thanks to the regimen of daytime television, Blacque is able to work a fairly regular schedule that allows him plenty of time at home. Last February he moved into the six-bedroom, four-bathroom house next door to accommodate his expanding family. (He has a bedroom in the second house, while nanny Daisy sleeps in the first house with the babies. The older boys have bunk beds in both houses and alternate between them.) He also

owns a condominium—three minutes down the hill from the houses—where he can escape to study his soap opera scripts.

Even that becomes a family affair, though, when Richard reads the part of Blacque's vengeful *Generations* business

**Finding a nanny wasn't easy.
"Either the women didn't
like to work for so many kids,
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partner. And when acting assignments do call him out of town, Blacque makes it a point to phone home every night and talk to each child individually.

Some of the biggest changes, however, have been in his social life. A relationship with a woman he was dating—and think-

ing of marrying—grew rockier with each new addition. "I guess she couldn't deal with it," Blacque says of the shattered romance. Now, although he dates occasionally, Blacque says finding a wife is not a top priority. "That will come when it's right," he says. "The bells will go ding-dong, and the kids will love her."

They could also use the extra hand; the division of labor around the Blacque camp only goes so far. Morataya does the cooking, cleaning and washing. The older boys make their own beds, help with the dishes, take out the trash and walk and feed the dogs. Blacque drives the kids to and from school, cleans the second house and does all the shopping—including midnight forays to all-night supermarkets for Pampers in three sizes.

And he isn't yet ready to say he has reached his limit. "God will tell me when to stop," says Blacque. "He'll say, 'Son, your family is complete now.'" Somebody say amen.

—*Cynthia Sanz,*
Lois Armstrong in Los Angeles



Nanny Daisy Morataya lends Marc support as Blacque grabs his bottle to start a game of peekaboo. Whitley sleeps through it all.

MY NAME IS RICHARD BLACQUE.

I'M ___ YEARS OLD, AND I ADOPTED MY DAD ___ YEARS AGO.

I REALLY LOVE MY DAD AND I'M VERY GLAD THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH ARE HELPING MORE CHILDREN LIKE ME FIND PARENTS TO LOVE.

THAT'S WHY IT'S SUCH A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO INTRODUCE TO YOU, BOYS AND GIRLS, MOMS AND DADS -- THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

*Offstage → Richard while Bushes
sit down → POTUS.*

Secretary Sullivan acknowledge

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 23, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
FROM: MARY KATE GRANT *MKG*
SUBJECT: ADOPTION EVENT WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

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THE EAST ROOM
JANUARY 26, 1990

Good afternoon. I'm glad all of you could join me here in the White House. You know, this time last year, when Barbara and I became the official caretakers of the White House for four years, the first thing we did was invite all our children and grandchildren to spend our first night here "together" as a family.

My family is very, very important to me and I feel lucky to have been blessed with a wonderful wife and children, and, of course, my grandchildren. But all of you here today are just as lucky because now you, too, are part of a family of your own -- to grow with you, share with you and most of all ... to love you.

Each of your moms and dads knew just how special you are when they picked you out to go home with them. And now you've got some of the greatest parents around. They have so much love to give you and they feel the warmth and joy of your love in return.

But not all children in America are as lucky as you. Sadly, there are thousands of children in our country who still need a home and a family to care about them. This year, an estimated 30,000 children, available for adoption, spent their Christmas holidays waiting for a permanent home. Most of these kids -- about 60 percent -- are special needs children. Fortunately,

these children do have many friends -- people who have spent their lives helping children just like you find families of their own. Let me tell you about some of them here with us today.

First, there are corporate leaders who have committed to helping children like you find loving homes. For example, how many of you watch cartoons? Do you know the Jetsons? Or the Flintstones? Or Yogi Bear? Well, the people who work at Hanna Barberra created those cartoons. And now they're creating a new character who will encourage families to adopt children.

And some of you may be aware of a TV program in which children who want to be adopted go on television in cities across America -- it's called "Wednesday's Child." And it's very successful. Almost three-quarters of all the kids who appear on this show find families. And so NBC network is going to work with us to get more kids on TV and more stations to show "Wednesday's Child" so more families will see these children.

There's a man here today who is very committed to helping other children just like you. His name is Dave Thomas, and he was an adopted child. He grew up to be a successful businessman with a family of his own. Now he's the head of Wendy's Hamburgers -- by the way, he really does have a daughter named Wendy -- and he's going to make information available to help put loving parents together with special needs children in Wendy's all across the country.

And now I'd like to tell you about another man whom I just met, and what an inspiring man he is. Taurean Blacque [TORY-en

Black] is a noted actor with an impressive list of credits. But he deserves even more credit for what he does in real life: he has adopted **ten special needs children -- ten children**. You know, single people and older Americans can be great adoptive parents, and Taurean's not married. He says that having ten kids will probably keep him too busy to get married for a long time. And I don't know if he qualifies as an older American yet, but I heard his hair started going gray the minute he got all these kids. But Taurean says he wouldn't change it for the world. He proves that love is **something you do every day**. Love is something that takes **hard work and commitment**, because he had to fight to get every one of those children. Taurean asked me to do a headcount and make sure nobody got left behind in the Green Room. Are all ten of you here? You've got a very special dad.

People like Taurean who open not just their homes but their hearts are amazing people. And I know that we have a number of adoptive parents among us today as well. You are a breed apart, because while so many people shout about how to make the world a better place, you quietly lead by example, changing the world in a special way, one child at a time. Truly, yours is a gift of limitless love.

But the most important people in this room are you children. You're the reason all of us came together today. To tell you how special you are to us, and how glad we are that you are in the family. You know, my son Marvin and his wife Margaret just adopted their second child, my grandson, Charles. And if I do

say so myself -- he's really something. And so is his sister Marshall, who is also adopted. They're an important part of our family, and we love them very much.

Through my wonderful experiences with adoption in the Bush family, I've learned this: **Adoption is good for America.** It works for the children who need a loving home. It works for the birth parents who want the best for their children. And it works for the adoptive parents by giving them the joy of raising and loving a child. See the sign behind me? "Adoption Works -- for Everyone." It's true.

Adoption works because each one of you is so special. It works because you adopted very special parents. **And it works because everyone in this room loves you very much.**

From my family to yours, thank you and God bless you.
God bless America.

[And now, Barbara and I would like to invite everyone to the State Dining Room for cookies and lemonade.]

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 01/24/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: -----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN
(01/19 draft four)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

09 DEC 24 4:27

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1990 JAN 23 PM 6

January 23, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
FROM: MARY KATE GRANT *MKG*
SUBJECT: ADOPTION EVENT WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

I. SUMMARY

On Friday, January 26, you and Mrs. Bush will meet with approximately 100 special needs adopted children in the East Room, and join them for cookies and lemonade afterward in the State Dining Room. You will deliver brief remarks from cards.

II. DISCUSSION

Prior to your remarks, you will tentatively meet in the Green Room with Dave Thomas of Wendy's; representatives of NBC and Hanna Barberra; and actor Taurean Blacque (formerly of "Hill Street Blues," now with "Generations,") and his ten adopted children; many of whom are special needs kids. While you are in the Green Room, the rest of the children will be entertained by a magician and a clown.

Special needs children are those which require special circumstances for placement -- because of disabilities, minority status, or age; or because they want to be placed as a group with their siblings. The purpose of the event is publicize the availability of special needs children who are waiting for loving homes.

Grant/Nappo
January 19, 1990
Draft four
A:special

BRIEF REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN
THE EAST ROOM
JANUARY 26, 1990

Good afternoon. I'm glad all of you could join me here in the White House. You know, this time last year, when Barbara and I became the official caretakers of the White House for four years, the first thing we did was invite all our children and grandchildren to spend our first night here "together" as a family.

My family is very, very important to me and I feel lucky to have been blessed with a wonderful wife and children, and, of course, my grandchildren. But all of you here today are just as lucky because now you, too, are part of a family of your own -- to grow with you, share with you and most of all ... to love you.

Each of your moms and dads knew just how special you are when they picked you out to go home with them. And now you've got some of the greatest parents around. They have so much love to give you and they feel the warmth and joy of your love in return.

But not all children in America are as lucky as you. Sadly, there are thousands of children in our country who still need a home and a family to care about them. This year, an estimated 30,000 children, available for adoption, spent their Christmas holidays waiting for a permanent home. Most of these kids -- about 60 percent -- are special needs children. To help find

families for these kids, this Administration has sent to Congress the Special Needs Adoption Assistance Act to help individuals meet the financial commitment involved in adopting special needs children. We've also taken steps to encourage federal employees wanting to give loving homes to these children, who often wait for years to be adopted.

Fortunately, these children are not alone. They have many friends -- people who have spent their lives helping children just like you find families of their own. Let me tell you about some of them here with us today.

First, there are corporate leaders who have committed to helping children like you find loving homes. For example, how many of you watch cartoons? Do you know the Jetsons? Or the Flintstones? Or Yogi Bear? Well, the people who work at Hanna Barberra created those cartoons. And now they're creating a new character who will encourage families to adopt children.

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a special way, one child at a time. Truly, yours is a gift of limitless love.

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Adoption works because each one of you is so special. It works because you adopted very special parents. And it works because everyone in this room loves you very much.

From my family to yours, thank you and God bless you.
God bless America.

[And now, Barbara and I would like to invite everyone to the State Dining Room for cookies and lemonade.]

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

1/23

DATE: 01/19/90

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m. Tuesday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN (01/19 draft three)

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, 1/23, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

Comment from Justine D'Andrea: There's no mention of the adoption package the President announced over the summer. Also there's no mention at the end that the President invites the kids to the State Dining Room for lemonade and cookies.

Also, See page 2.

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

lives helping children just like you find families of their own. Let me tell you about some of them here with us today.

First, there are corporate leaders who have committed to helping children like you find loving homes. For example, how many of you watch cartoons? Do you know the Jetsons? Or the Flintstones? Or Yogi Bear? Well, the people who work at Hanna Barberra created those cartoons. And now they're going to use their talents to help bring children and families together.

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There's a man here today who is very committed to helping other children just like you. His name is Dave Thomas, and he was an adopted child. He grew up to be a successful businessman with a family of his own. Now he's the head of Wendy's Hamburgers -- by the way, he really has a daughter named Wendy -- and he's going to help us put loving parents together with special needs children in communities across the country.

And now I'd like to tell you about a man I just spoke with personally, and what an inspiring man he is. Taurean Blacque is a noted actor with an impressive list of credits. But he deserves even more credit for what he does in real life: he has

Need to explain what the corporations are doing to help link up kids w/ adoption families.

Grant/Nappo
January 19, 1990
Draft three
A:special

BRIEF REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN
THE EAST ROOM
JANUARY 26, 1990

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Each of your moms and dads knew just how special you are and they picked **you** out to go home with them. And now you've got some of the greatest parents around. They have so much love to give you. *[and they feel the warmth and joy of your love in return.]*

But not all children in America are as fortunate as you. Sadly, there are thousands of children in our country who don't have a home or a family to care about them. This year, an estimated 30,000 children, available for adoption, spent their Christmas holidays waiting for a permanent home. Most of these kids -- about 60 percent -- are special needs children. *[FORTUNATELY,]* But these children *[do]* have many friends -- people who have spent their

X

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TORY-EN BLACK

①
re: Pink's comment: single people to adopt - larger pool to draw from in face of skyrocketing # of special needs kids. Taurean is role model
HTS is encouraging

adopted ten special needs children -- ten children. You know, single people and older Americans can be great adoptive parents, and Taurean's not married. He says that having ten kids will probably keep him too busy to get married for a long time. And I don't know if he qualifies as an older American yet, but I heard his hair started going gray the minute he got all the kids. // But Taurean says he wouldn't change it for the world. He proves that love is something you do every day. Love is something that takes hard work and commitment, because he had to fight to get every one of those children. Taurean asked me to do a headcount and make sure nobody got left behind in the Green Room. Are all ten of you here? // You've got a very special dad.

②
re: "foster home"
HTS said only a few will be there, and we're trying to encourage these foster parents to adopt, not remain separate as foster parents.

People like Taurean who open not just their homes but their hearts are amazing people. And I know that we have a number of adoptive parents among us today as well. You are a breed apart, because while so many people shout about how to make the world a better place, you quietly lead by example, changing the world in a special way, one child at a time. Truly, yours is a gift of limitless love.

But the most important people in this room are you children. You're the reason all of us came together today. To tell you how special you are to us, and how glad we are that you are in the family. You know, my son Marvin and his wife Margaret just adopted their second child, my grandson, Charles. And if I do say so myself -- he's special, too. And so is his sister.

③
[-- he's quite a boy -- why, he's already just as feisty as his grandfather. // yes, he's very special and so is his older sister Marshall, who is also adopted]
[We want]
implies special needs. I recommend, "he's really something"

~~Marshall, who is also adopted.~~ They're an important part of our family, and we love them very much.

Through my wonderful experiences with adoption in the Bush family, I've learned this: **Adoption is good for America.** It works for the children who need a loving home. It works for the birth parents who want the best for their children. It works for the adoptive parents by giving them the joy of raising good children. And it works for America by building solid families -- the backbone of a strong and prosperous Nation. See the sign behind me? "Adoption Works -- for Everyone." It's true.

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From my family to yours, thank you and God bless you.
God bless America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

1/23

DATE: 01/19/90

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m. Tuesday

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN
SUBJECT: (01/19 draft three)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, 1/23, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

Minor comments
89 DEC 22 P 6:50

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1990 JAN 19 PM 5:11

Grant/Nappo
January 19, 1990
Draft three
A:special

BRIEF REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN
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JANUARY 26, 1990

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Each of your moms and dads knew just how special you are and they picked you out to go home with them. And now you've got some of the greatest parents around. They have so much love to give you.

But not all children in America are as fortunate as you. ^{still need} Sadly, there are thousands of children in our country who ~~don't~~ ~~have~~ a home or a family to care about them. This year, an estimated 30,000 children, available for adoption, spent their Christmas holidays waiting for a permanent home. Most of these kids -- about 60 percent -- are special needs children. But these children have many friends -- people who have spent their

lives helping children just like you find families of their own. Let me tell you about some of them here with us today.

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none of these shows air now do they? What are the new Hanna-Barbera cartoon

adopted **ten** special needs children -- **ten children**. You know, single people and older Americans can be great adoptive parents, and Taurean's not married. He says that having ten kids will probably keep him too busy to get married for a long time. And I don't know if he qualifies as an older American yet, but I heard his hair started going gray the minute he got all the kids. But Taurean says he wouldn't change it for the world. He proves that love is **something you do every day**. Love is something that takes **hard work and commitment**, because he had to fight to get every one of those children. Taurean asked me to do a headcount and make sure nobody got left behind in the Green Room. Are all ten of you here? You've got a very special dad.

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God bless America.

#

*Makes it sound like
low inflation
or a strong defense*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 22, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: JIM PINKERTON

SUBJECT: Special Needs Adopted Children

One comment:

pg. 3, para. 1, line 1 "You know, single people and older Americans can be great adoptive parents, and Taurean's not married."

While I personally think that Taurean Blacque's example is terrific, this point about single people and adoption will prove controversial in some quarters.

###

89 DEC 22 10:33

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

1/23

DATE: 01/19/90

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m. Tuesday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN (01/19 draft three)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, 1/23, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*OK S.R.
1-20.*

89 DEC 22 P2:15

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1990 JAN 19 PM 5:11

Grant/Nappo
January 19, 1990
Draft three
A:special

BRIEF REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN
THE EAST ROOM
JANUARY 26, 1990

Good afternoon. I'm glad all of you could join me here in the White House. You know, this time last year, when Barbara and I became the official caretakers of the White House for four years, the first thing we did was invite all our children and grandchildren to spend our first night here "together" as a family.

My family is very, very important to me and I feel lucky to have been blessed with a wonderful wife and children, and, of course, my grandchildren. But all of you here today are just as lucky because now you, too, are part of a family of your own -- to grow with you, share with you and most of all ... to love you.

Each of your moms and dads knew just how special you are and they picked you out to go home with them. And now you've got some of the greatest parents around. They have so much love to give you.

But not all children in America are as fortunate as you. Sadly, there are thousands of children in our country who don't have a home or a family to care about them. This year, an estimated 30,000 children, available for adoption, spent their Christmas holidays waiting for a permanent home. Most of these kids -- about 60 percent -- are special needs children. But these children have many friends -- people who have spent their

lives helping children just like you find families of their own. Let me tell you about some of them here with us today.

First, there are corporate leaders who have committed to helping children like you find loving homes. For example, how many of you watch cartoons? Do you know the Jetsons? Or the Flintstones? Or Yogi Bear? Well, the people who work at Hanna Barberra created those cartoons. And now they're going to use their talents to help bring children and families together.

And some of you may be aware of a TV program in which children who want to be adopted go on television in cities across America -- it's called "Wednesday's Child." And it's very successful. Almost three-quarters of all the kids who appear on this show find families. And so NBC network is going to work with us to get more kids on TV and more stations to show "Wednesday's Child" so more families will see these children.

There's a man here today who is very committed to helping other children just like you. His name is Dave Thomas, and he was an adopted child. He grew up to be a successful businessman with a family of his own. Now he's the head of Wendy's Hamburgers -- by the way, he really has a daughter named Wendy -- and he's going to help us put loving parents together with special needs children in communities across the country.

And now I'd like to tell you about a man I just spoke with personally, and what an inspiring man he is. Taurean Blacque is a noted actor with an impressive list of credits. But he deserves even more credit for what he does in real life: he has

adopted **ten** special needs children -- **ten children**. You know, single people and older Americans can be great adoptive parents, and Taurean's not married. He says that having ten kids will probably keep him too busy to get married for a long time. And I don't know if he qualifies as an older American yet, but I heard his hair started going gray the minute he got all the kids. But Taurean says he wouldn't change it for the world. He proves that **love is something you do every day**. Love is something that takes **hard work and commitment**, because he had to fight to get every one of those children. Taurean asked me to do a headcount and make sure nobody got left behind in the Green Room. Are all ten of you here? You've got a very special dad.

People like Taurean who open not just their homes but their hearts are amazing people. And I know that we have a number of adoptive parents among us today as well. You are a breed apart, because while so many people shout about how to make the world a better place, you quietly lead by example, changing the world in a special way, one child at a time. Truly, yours is a gift of limitless love.

But the most important people in this room are you children. You're the reason all of us came together today. To tell you how **special you are to us**, and how glad we are that you are in the family. You know, my son Marvin and his wife Margaret just adopted their second child, my grandson, Charles. And if I do say so myself -- he's special, too. And so is his sister

Marshall, who is also adopted. They're an important part of our family, and we love them very much.

Through my wonderful experiences with adoption in the Bush family, I've learned this: **Adoption is good for America.** It works for the children who need a loving home. It works for the birth parents who want the best for their children. It works for the adoptive parents by giving them the joy of raising good children. And it works for America by building solid families -- the backbone of a strong and prosperous Nation. See the sign behind me? "Adoption Works -- for Everyone." It's true.

Adoption works because each one of you is so special. It works because you adopted very special parents. And it works because everyone in this room loves you very much.

From my family to yours, thank you and God bless you.
God bless America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 01/19/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m. Tuesday 1/23

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN (01/19 draft three)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:
 Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, 1/23, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

n/c 1/23/90

89 DEC 23 A10:39

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 22, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: JAY S. BYBEE *JTB*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Special Needs Adopted
Children

Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced matter. We
have no legal objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

cc: James W. Cicconi

89 DEC 23 4 9: 58

Grant/Nappo
January 19, 1990
Draft three
A:special

BRIEF REMARKS: SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN
THE EAST ROOM
JANUARY 26, 1990

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From my family to yours, thank you and God bless you.
God bless America.

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der of the term expiring April 27, 1991. She would succeed Robert E. Rader, Jr.

Since 1988 Dr. Montoya has served as an associate professor of finance for the School of Business Administration at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, CA. Prior to this, she served as president of the Hispanic American Public Policy Institute, 1984; an adjunct professor at the Pepperdine University School of Business and Management, 1987-1988; director of studies in public policy and associate professor of political economy at Chapman College, School of Business and Management, 1985-1987; and an expert economist for the Office of Regulatory Analysis, Occupational Safety and Health Administration at the Department of Labor, 1983-1985. In addition, she has served as the Assistant Director for Strategy for the White House Office of Policy Development in the Executive Office of the President, 1982-1983; and as a staff economist for the RAND Corp. in Santa Monica, CA, 1973-1982.

Dr. Montoya graduated from St. Hugh's College, Oxford University Occidental College (B.A., 1959), Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (M.A., 1960), Stanford University (M.A., 1966), and the University of California at Los Angeles (Ph.D., 1977). She was born April 9, 1938, in Los Angeles, CA. She is married, has one child, and resides in Los Angeles, CA.

Remarks Announcing the Special Needs Adoption Legislative Proposals
September 13, 1989

First, welcome to the White House. And I'm especially pleased to have these distinguished and very interested Members of both bodies, Senate and the House, with us today, so many noble leaders in our effort to encourage adoption. And they're leaders not because they tell others what needs to be done but because they themselves provide homes for orphans. And as I look about the room, I see and pay tribute to Reverend Clemens, Susan Freivalds, Jane Edwards, and others who are good Samaritans in the adoption movement.

And those who adopt are giving far more than they receive. And Barbara and I know that because we are blessed by one adopted grandchild. Few realize that Congress of the United States is a great source of encouragement to the adoption movement. More than 50 Members of the Congress are members of this adoption coalition, an informal group dedicated to encourage adoption. And their leaders—several of them couldn't be with us—but most here with us today, many of whom are adoptive parents. I know Senator Bentsen, who couldn't be with us, is one of those. Senator Humphrey is also the proud father of two adopted children.

And we don't merely want to pay tribute to those already part of the adoption movement. We are here to take action to encourage more Americans to adopt and to adopt children with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. Right now, more than 30,000 American children are legally available for adoption, and many of these are children with special needs. And some are physically or emotionally handicapped, some are members of sibling groups that need to be placed in the same home, and some are minority children.

And today we're sending to the Congress two legislative proposals to encourage adoption. The Members of Congress who are with us today have agreed to sponsor the legislation and to seek their swift approval in the Congress of the United States. The legislation is simple. The first bill will provide a \$3,000 tax deduction to families for certain nonrecurring costs associated with the adoption of a special needs child. And the second bill will create a 4-year demonstration program for Federal employees. Federal civilian employees who adopt a special needs child will be reimbursed up to \$2,000 for nonrecurring expenses.

And I hope that this program, demonstration program, will serve as a model for the private sector to offer—for their employers to offer similar benefits to their employees. I'm happy to be able to say that many companies are involved, many have done this already. These two bills are important steps in the effort to encourage adoption in America. And believe me, this is not the

last you will hear from our administration about adoption.

I've directed the Cabinet to make adoption a high priority and instructed my Domestic Policy Council to develop the adoption initiatives that we're announcing here today. And I've also directed all Federal agencies to develop plans for supporting and promoting adoption, including providing the maximum flexibility to allow leave for employees who want to adopt. And we will continue to promote adoption in the future.

These two proposals—legislative proposals—will make a contribution toward solving one of America's most difficult and saddest problems: the children with special needs who have no loving family of their own.

I want to thank you all very much for coming down here. Let's get these bills enacted into law. And thank you all for your leadership very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. George Clemens of One Church, One Child; Susan Freivalds of Adoptive Families of America; and Jane Edwards of Spence Chapin Service.

White House Fact Sheet on the President's Special Needs Adoption Legislative Proposals *September 13, 1989*

The administration is transmitting to Congress today two bills targeted to the adoption of special needs children. The President recognizes the heightened emotional and financial commitment required of families adopting children with special needs.

- Special needs children are generally children who by virtue of special conditions such as age, physical or mental handicap, or a combination of circumstances, are difficult to place for adoption. Children who are members of sibling groups that need to be placed in the same home, or who are members

of minority groups, are also considered special needs children.

- Right now, over 30,000 American children are legally available for adoption. Many of these are children with special needs.

The Special Needs Adoption Assistance Act of 1989

An individual would be permitted to deduct up to \$3,000 from income those expenses incurred in the adoption of a special needs child.

Eligible expenses would be limited to those directly associated with the adoption process, such as court costs, legal expenses, social service review, and transportation costs required for the adoption for which the adopting parents are not otherwise reimbursed.

Federal Employees' Special Needs Adoption Expenses Reimbursement Act of 1989

The Office of Personnel Management will establish a 4-year demonstration program under which Federal agencies will reimburse their employees up to \$2,000 for expenses incurred in the adoption of a special needs child.

Reimbursement will be limited to \$2,000 per adoption, or \$5,000 per employee per year in the case of an employee who adopts more than two special needs children.

The demonstration program will take effect on January 1, 1990, and will terminate, unless extended by Congress, on December 31, 1993.

OPM will submit a report to the President and Congress by October 1, 1992, on the operation of the demonstration program.

Appointment of David H. Sudderth, Jr., as a Member of the American Battle Monuments Commission

September 13, 1989

The President today announced his intention to appoint Brig. Gen. David H. Sudderth, Jr., as a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission. He would succeed William E. Hickey.