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# FOIA MARKER

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**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
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**OA/ID Number:** 13603  
**Folder ID Number:** 13603-007

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**Folder Title:**  
Surgeon General's Conference 2/10/92 [OA 6097]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 10, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
IN ADDRESS TO THE SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
ON "HEALTHY CHILDREN READY TO LEARN"

Ramada Renaissance Hotel  
Washington, D.C.

2:07 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr. Sullivan. And might I just say at the beginning of these brief remarks that I am very proud of Lou Sullivan and what he's doing as Secretary of HHS. He's doing a superb job and we all are grateful to him. (Applause.) And when Dr. Novello and Lou suggested I could be here, let me just say it's a pleasure to be here today to help launch this historic conference.

I particularly want to thank our Surgeon General, Antonia Novello. (Applause.) I see she brought most of her family with her. (Laughter.) No, but let me just say this, as an observer with a pretty good observation post: She's inspired people all across the country with her example and her message. And she sums it up this way -- she sums up the message better than anyone: "All children have a right to be healthy." Then she says: "We need to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves."

And that's why you've gathered here this week, and you've come to lead a great movement of parents and doctors and teachers and public programs and private enterprise -- a movement destined to transform America. And here's our goal -- what's that guy got going? (Laughter.) I think it's wonderful these kids are here, I really do. (Laughter and applause.) Makes me feel right at home. (Applause.) Here's our goal -- our goal: By the year 2000, every American child will start school healthy and ready to learn. (Applause.)

Our success will provide a lifetime of opportunity for our children. And it will guarantee the health and safety of our families and neighborhoods, and it will ensure that America remains the undisputed leader of the world.

Now, I am proud that our administration is part of this movement. In this administration, families come first. (Applause.) We're proud to join hands with people like Trish Solomon Thomas, who's come from New Mexico to be here this afternoon. (Applause.)

A little history. She has two children -- both of them with special health needs. And she perfectly expressed the spirit of our movement when she said, "I used to be shy, but I had to learn to stand up for my kids." And that's why we're here: to stand up for our kids. And we will not let them down. (Applause.)

Our movement draws its strength from Trish and the millions of parents like her. The title of this conference says it all: "Healthy Children Ready To Learn: The Critical Role Of Parents." Now, parents are a child's "first teachers," offering the love and spiritual nourishment that no government program can ever hope to provide.

And if I can brag for just a minute here today -- you may know of Barbara's work promoting literacy. And I'm very proud of

MORE

her. She wants to help parents understand just how important it is to read to their kids. And when parents read aloud to their young ones, they open their children to the joy of a larger world; they teach the self-assurance and curiosity that comes from learning. Barbara asked me to extend her best wishes. She's now on a learning program, an education program right this minute, in the state of Mississippi. (Applause.) Don't know whether you're clapping because she's there or because she's interested in education, but nevertheless -- (Laughter.)

Q Mississippi.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, a little Mississippi delegation here. (Applause.)

But anyway, our movement instills the habits of good health -- wholesome nutrition, sound hygiene, and protective measures like early immunization. Parents know: Learning and health are two sides, really, of the same coin.

And again, parents, families, communities are the key. But government can help, must help. Last June, for example, Dr. Sullivan and I, with able advice from Dr. Novello, took steps to ensure that no American child is at risk from deadly diseases like polio, diphtheria and measles. And we launched an initiative to support childhood immunizations -- especially immunizations for kids in the early years of life.

Now, that's a crucial step toward meeting our goal. And I'm proud we've been able to help. Since 1988, we've more than tripled the dollars for federal immunization efforts -- from \$98 million to \$297 million for 1992.

On Friday, Dr. Sullivan and the Surgeon General and I -- we were just talking about it outside -- were out in San Diego, and we had the privilege of visiting Logan Heights Family Health Center to see firsthand the benefits of this initiative. We spoke with parents and community leaders, and every one of them stressed the importance of early immunization in preventing illness.

Logan Heights, one of many, I'm sure, but it's a perfect example of what can be done if concerned individuals set their minds to it. The Center was founded by a wonderful woman named Laura Rodriguez, who's become one of our administration's what we call Points of Light -- helping others, setting an example in the process. Laura saw a need; and with hard work and dedication, she rolled up here sleeves and did something about it. Logan Heights now serves 75,000 patients a year. So I say thank God for people like Laura. She's an example for all of us. And there are many, many other examples right here in this room.

And for those kids who need a head start in preparing for school, we've made sure that they'll get it. In the last three years, we have almost doubled the funding for Head Start programs, and this year I have proposed the largest single increase in Head Start's history: \$600 million. (Applause.) This year's increase will ensure that 157,000 more kids will be able to start school ready to learn.

Head Start brings children and parents into the classroom, into the learning process. Head Starts work because parents take the lead. You may not know this, but volunteers in Head Start outnumber paid staff by eight-to-one. Head Start works -- (applause) -- Head Start works because people care. And we're making sure it continues to work. If it's good for America's kids, it's good for America.

These are important steps. But there's more to do. And we must address the larger issues of American health care. And last

week, I proposed a four-point plan to do just that. Every American family must have access to affordable, high-quality care.

I don't need to tell you that the American health care system has problems. The crisis has probably touched many of you right here in this room. Right now, more than eight million children go without health insurance because skyrocketing costs have placed coverage beyond the reach of their parents. And even parents who are covered worry about losing their family's insurance if they move on to a different job -- or, worse still, lose the job they have. You shouldn't have to live with this kind of uncertainty. No American family should. And my proposal will put an end to that. (Applause.)

And yet, I think we should keep one thing in mind. It's important to remember -- for all its problems the system, our health care system still provides the best health care in the world. And that's why people from all over the world come here seeking better care. Most often they're trying to escape health care systems in which the government dictates how much care you'll get and what kind you'll get and when you'll get it. In America, that's unacceptable.

Our great challenge, then, is to keep what works in our system and then reform what doesn't work. We must maintain a maximum freedom of choice and the highest quality care. And at the same time, we must make sure that our children have access to health care their parents can afford, sick or healthy, rich or poor.

That's what this four-point plan does; and let me just briefly spell it out for you. First, to make health care more affordable and accessible, I want a \$3,750 tax credit for low-income families to help them buy health insurance; for middle-income families, I've proposed a tax deduction for the same amount. Poor people, those who don't file taxes, would be covered under this plan.

Second, to cut costs, we will make health care more efficient. The math is simple: the larger the group being covered, the lower the cost per individual. So what we've done is this: We've proposed health insurance networks that bring companies together to cut administrative costs and make insurance affordable for working parents.

And third, we must cut out the waste and abuse. We can start with medical malpractice lawsuits that drive up the cost of care for everyone. A doctor pestered with frivolous litigation ends up passing his legal costs right along to you, the American people and right along to the patient. And when you go to the doctor, I don't want you to have to pay a lawyer, too. Just pay the doctor. (Applause.)

And finally, we must slow the spiraling costs of federal health programs. These costs are rising far beyond the rate of inflation, which only endangers important benefits while making less money available for other pressing needs.

There it is. A common-sense reform that will maintain high-quality care, cut costs, ensure maximum freedom of choice and give every family, rich or poor, sick or healthy, access to health care. I know how important this is, particularly for parents who have children with special needs. And my plan will assure that you can change jobs without endangering the health insurance your child depends on. We're building on our system's strengths. And we're avoiding the pitfalls of nationalized care, the kind that people from all over the world come to America to escape.

All these approaches for meeting our goal of Healthy Children Ready To Learn must build on a basic truth: in this country families come first. Government programs that overtake the rightful role of families and communities, that deny them the freedom of choice or bind them up in red tape, are simply unacceptable. (Applause.) Our movement is about strengthening families.

And over the next few days I'm told you will continue a great national dialogue, share information, explore new ideas and then return to your communities to lead the good fight. Your commitment is an inspiration, and I thank you for inviting me by to get a feeling of it firsthand.

And may God bless all of you. And now this little guy -- I've got to tell you, those in the back -- when I walked in and was sitting here looking very serious waiting for the doctor to introduce me, this guy in the blue, he goes like this to me. (Laughter.) And I had to tell him, no, I have to stay up here. You know, I tried to communicate with him, but now I'm going to invite him to come up here and say hello to me.

But thank you all and may God bless America.  
(Applause.) Thank you very, very much.

END

2:21 P.M. EST



# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

92 JAN 7 12:54

DATE: 2/7/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 2/7/92 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE

SUBJECT: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 - 2:00p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	—	✓	HORNER	—	✓
SKINNER	—	✓	CALIO	✓	—
SCOWCROFT	—	—	PETERSMEYER <i>Ellen</i>	✓	—
✓ DARMAN	✓	—	PORTER	✓	—
BRADY	—	✓	✓ ROGICH	✓	—
BROMLEY	—	—	SMITH	✓	—
CARD	—	—	MOORE	—	✓
✓ DEMAREST	✓	—	KAUFMAN	—	✓
FITZWATER	—	✓	✓ MCBRIDE <i>2861</i>	✓	—
GRAY <i>Final Request N/C 2898</i>	✓	—	FINDLAY	—	✓
HOLIDAY	✓	—	SNOW	—	✓

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m., TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 7, 1992  
Draft Two  
SURGEONS

02 FEB 7 All: 54

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

[Acknowledgments, humor]

It's such a pleasure to be here today, to help launch this historic conference. You have gathered to lead a great movement of parents and doctors and teachers, of public programs and private enterprise -- a movement, destined to transform America. Here's what we'll do: by the year 2000, every American child will start school healthy and ready to learn.

Our success will ensure America's leadership in the global marketplace; it will guarantee the health and safety of our families and neighborhoods. I am proud that our administration is part of this movement. I know that with your dedication and ability, we will not fail to achieve our goal.

Our movement draws its strength from the grassroots, from families. The title of this conference says it all: "Healthy Children Ready to Learn: The Critical Role of Parents." Parents are a child's "first teachers," offering the love and spiritual nourishment that no government program can ever hope to provide. When parents read aloud to their young ones, they open their children to the joy of a larger world; they teach the self-assurance and curiosity that come from learning.

Our movement instills the habits of good health -- wholesome nutrition, sound hygiene, and protective measures like early immunization. Parents know: learning and health are two sides of the same coin.

Again, parents, families, communities are the key -- but government can help. Last June, for instance, Dr. Louis Sullivan and I announced our administration's initiative to bring immunization to every American child -- especially early immunization for kids in the first and second year of life.

On Friday, the Surgeon General and I were out in San Diego and had the privilege of seeing firsthand the benefits of this initiative. The parents and community leaders I spoke with stressed the importance of early immunization in preventing illness. That's a crucial step toward meeting our goal. I'm proud we've been able to help.

And for kids who need a head start in preparing for school, we've made sure they'll get it. In the last three years we have more than doubled funding for Head Start programs. With the increases I've proposed, every eligible four-year-old can enter school ready to learn, right alongside children who've had some of the advantages Head Start kids haven't enjoyed.

Head Start brings children and parents into the classroom -- into the learning process. Head Start works because parents take the lead. You may not know this, but volunteers in Head Start outnumber paid staff by eight-to-one. Head Start works

SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

92 FEB 10 P1:01

THANK YOU, DR. SULLIVAN.

IT'S SUCH A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TODAY, TO HELP LAUNCH THIS HISTORIC CONFERENCE. I PARTICULARLY WANT TO THANK SURGEON GENERAL ANTONIA NOVELLO, WHO'S INSPIRED PEOPLE ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY WITH HER EXAMPLE AND HER MESSAGE. SHE SUMS UP THAT MESSAGE BETTER THAN ANYONE: "ALL CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEALTHY. WE NEED TO SPEAK FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES."

THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE GATHERED HERE THIS WEEK. YOU HAVE COME TO LEAD A GREAT MOVEMENT OF PARENTS AND DOCTORS AND TEACHERS, OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE -- A MOVEMENT DESTINED TO TRANSFORM AMERICA. HERE'S OUR GOAL: BY THE YEAR 2000, EVERY AMERICAN CHILD WILL START SCHOOL HEALTHY AND READY TO LEARN.

OUR SUCCESS WILL PROVIDE A LIFETIME OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHILDREN. IT WILL GUARANTEE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR FAMILIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS, AND IT WILL ENSURE THAT AMERICA REMAINS THE UNDISPUTED LEADER OF THE WORLD.

I AM PROUD THAT OUR ADMINISTRATION IS PART OF THIS MOVEMENT. IN THIS ADMINISTRATION, FAMILIES COME FIRST.

WE'RE PROUD TO JOIN HANDS WITH PEOPLE LIKE PATRICIA SOLOMON THOMAS, WHO'S COME FROM NEW MEXICO TO BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON.

PATRICIA HAS TWO CHILDREN -- BOTH OF THEM WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS. SHE PERFECTLY EXPRESSED THE SPIRIT OF OUR MOVEMENT WHEN SHE SAID, "I USED TO BE SHY, BUT I HAD TO LEARN TO STAND UP FOR MY KIDS." THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE: TO STAND UP FOR THE KIDS. AND WE WON'T LET THEM DOWN.

OUR MOVEMENT DRAWS ITS STRENGTH FROM PATRICIA AND THE MILLIONS OF PARENTS LIKE HER. THE TITLE OF THIS CONFERENCE SAYS IT ALL: "HEALTHY CHILDREN READY TO LEARN: THE CRITICAL ROLE OF PARENTS." PARENTS ARE A CHILD'S "FIRST TEACHERS," OFFERING THE LOVE AND SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT THAT NO GOVERNMENT PROGRAM CAN EVER HOPE TO PROVIDE.

IF I CAN BRAG FOR JUST A MOMENT HERE -- YOU MAY KNOW OF BARBARA'S WORK PROMOTING LITERACY. I'M PRETTY PROUD OF HER. SHE WANTS TO HELP PARENTS UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO READ TO THEIR KIDS. WHEN PARENTS READ ALOUD TO THEIR YOUNG ONES, THEY OPEN THEIR CHILDREN TO THE JOY OF A LARGER WORLD; THEY TEACH THE SELF-ASSURANCE AND CURIOSITY THAT COME FROM LEARNING.

AND OUR MOVEMENT INSTILLS THE HABITS OF GOOD HEALTH  
-- WHOLESOME NUTRITION, SOUND HYGIENE, AND PROTECTIVE  
MEASURES LIKE EARLY IMMUNIZATION. PARENTS KNOW:  
LEARNING AND HEALTH ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.

AGAIN, PARENTS, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES ARE THE KEY  
-- BUT GOVERNMENT CAN HELP. LAST JUNE, FOR INSTANCE,  
DR. SULLIVAN AND I TOOK STEPS TO ENSURE THAT NO  
AMERICAN CHILD IS AT RISK FROM DEADLY DISEASES LIKE  
POLIO, DIPHTHERIA AND MEASLES. WE LAUNCHED AN  
INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS --  
ESPECIALLY IMMUNIZATIONS FOR KIDS IN THE EARLY YEARS OF  
LIFE.

THAT'S A CRUCIAL STEP TOWARD MEETING OUR GOAL. I'M  
PROUD WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO HELP. SINCE 1988, WE'VE MORE  
THAN TRIPLED THE DOLLARS FOR FEDERAL IMMUNIZATION  
EFFORTS -- FROM \$98 MILLION TO \$297 MILLION FOR 1992.

ON FRIDAY, DR. SULLIVAN, THE SURGEON GENERAL AND I WERE OUT IN SAN DIEGO AND HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF VISITING LOGAN HEIGHTS FAMILY HEALTH CENTER, TO SEE FIRSTHAND THE BENEFITS OF THIS INITIATIVE. WE SPOKE WITH PARENTS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND EVERYONE OF THEM STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY IMMUNIZATION IN PREVENTING ILLNESS.

LOGAN HEIGHTS IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE DONE IF CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS SET THEIR MINDS TO IT. THE CENTER WAS FOUNDED BY LAURA RODRIGUEZ, WHO'S BECOME ONE OF OUR ADMINISTRATION'S POINTS OF LIGHT. LAURA SAW A NEED, AND WITH HARD WORK AND DEDICATION, SHE DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT. LOGAN HEIGHTS NOW SERVES 75,000 PATIENTS A YEAR. THANK GOD FOR PEOPLE LIKE LAURA.  
SHE'S AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US.

AND FOR THOSE KIDS WHO NEED A HEAD START IN PREPARING FOR SCHOOL, WE'VE MADE SURE THEY'LL GET IT. IN THE LAST THREE YEARS WE HAVE ALMOST DOUBLED FUNDING FOR HEAD START PROGRAMS, AND THIS YEAR I HAVE PROPOSED THE LARGEST SINGLE INCREASE IN HEAD START'S HISTORY -- \$600 MILLION. THIS YEAR'S INCREASE WILL ENSURE THAT 157,000 MORE KIDS WILL BE ABLE TO START SCHOOL READY TO LEARN.

HEAD START BRINGS CHILDREN AND PARENTS INTO THE CLASSROOM -- INTO THE LEARNING PROCESS. HEAD START WORKS BECAUSE PARENTS TAKE THE LEAD. YOU MAY NOT KNOW THIS, BUT VOLUNTEERS IN HEAD START OUTNUMBER PAID STAFF BY EIGHT-TO-ONE. HEAD START WORKS -- BECAUSE PEOPLE CARE. AND WE'RE MAKING SURE IT CONTINUES TO WORK. IF IT'S GOOD FOR AMERICA'S KIDS, IT'S GOOD FOR AMERICA.

THESE ARE IMPORTANT STEPS. BUT THERE'S MORE WE MUST DO. WE MUST ADDRESS THE LARGER ISSUES OF AMERICAN HEALTH CARE. LAST WEEK, I PROPOSED A FOUR-POINT PLAN TO DO JUST THAT. EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY MUST HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, HIGH-QUALITY CARE.

I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU THAT THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM HAS PROBLEMS. THE CRISIS HAS PROBABLY TOUCHED MANY OF YOU HERE IN THIS ROOM. RIGHT NOW, MORE THAN EIGHT MILLION CHILDREN GO WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE, BECAUSE SKYROCKETING COSTS HAVE PLACED COVERAGE BEYOND THE REACH OF THEIR PARENTS. AND EVEN PARENTS WHO ARE COVERED WORRY ABOUT LOSING THEIR FAMILY'S INSURANCE IF THEY MOVE ON TO A DIFFERENT JOB OR, WORSE STILL, LOSE THE JOB THEY HAVE.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS KIND OF UNCERTAINTY. NO AMERICAN FAMILY SHOULD. MY PROPOSAL WILL PUT AN END TO IT.

YET IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: FOR ALL ITS PROBLEMS, OUR SYSTEM STILL PROVIDES THE BEST HEALTH CARE IN THE WORLD. THAT'S WHY PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE COME HERE SEEKING BETTER CARE. MOST OFTEN THEY'RE TRYING TO ESCAPE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DICTATES HOW MUCH CARE YOU'LL GET, WHAT KIND YOU'LL GET, AND WHEN YOU'LL GET IT. IN AMERICA, THAT'S SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE.

OUR GREAT CHALLENGE IS TO KEEP WHAT WORKS IN OUR SYSTEM AND REFORM WHAT DOESN'T. WE MUST MAINTAIN A MAXIMUM FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND THE HIGHEST QUALITY CARE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST MAKE SURE OUR CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE THEIR PARENTS CAN AFFORD, SICK OR HEALTHY, RICH OR POOR.

THAT'S WHAT MY FOUR-POINT PLAN DOES. LET ME BRIEFLY SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU.

FIRST, TO MAKE HEALTH CARE MORE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE, I WANT A \$3,750 TAX CREDIT FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES TO HELP THEM BUY HEALTH INSURANCE; FOR MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES, I'VE PROPOSED A TAX DEDUCTION FOR THE SAME AMOUNT.

SECOND, TO CUT COSTS, WE WILL MAKE HEALTH CARE MORE EFFICIENT. THE MATH IS SIMPLE: THE LARGER THE GROUP BEING COVERED, THE LOWER THE COST PER INDIVIDUAL. WE'VE PROPOSED HEALTH INSURANCE NETWORKS THAT BRING COMPANIES TOGETHER TO CUT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND MAKE INSURANCE AFFORDABLE FOR WORKING PARENTS.

THIRD, WE MUST CUT WASTE AND ABUSE. WE CAN START WITH MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAWSUITS THAT DRIVE UP THE COST OF CARE FOR EVERYONE. A DOCTOR PESTERED WITH FRIVOLOUS LITIGATION ENDS UP PASSING HIS LEGAL COSTS ALONG TO YOU, THE PATIENT. WHEN YOU GO TO THE DOCTOR, I DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO PAY A LAWYER, TOO.

FINALLY, WE MUST SLOW THE SPIRALING COSTS OF FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAMS. THESE COSTS ARE RISING FAR BEYOND THE RATE OF INFLATION -- WHICH ONLY ENDANGERS IMPORTANT BENEFITS WHILE MAKING LESS MONEY AVAILABLE FOR OTHER PRESSING NEEDS.

THERE IT IS: A COMMON-SENSE REFORM THAT WILL MAINTAIN HIGH-QUALITY CARE, CUT COSTS, ENSURE MAXIMUM FREEDOM OF CHOICE, AND GIVE EVERY FAMILY -- RICH OR POOR, SICK OR HEALTHY -- ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE. I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS, PARTICULARLY FOR PARENTS WHO HAVE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. MY PLAN WILL ASSURE THAT YOU CAN CHANGE JOBS WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE HEALTH INSURANCE YOUR CHILD DEPENDS ON. WE'RE BUILDING ON OUR SYSTEM'S STRENGTHS. AND WE'RE AVOIDING THE PITFALLS OF NATIONALIZED CARE, THE KIND THAT PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD COME TO AMERICA TO ESCAPE.

ALL THESE APPROACHES FOR MEETING OUR GOAL OF HEALTHY CHILDREN READY TO LEARN MUST BUILD ON A BASIC TRUTH: IN THIS COUNTRY, FAMILIES COME FIRST. GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS THAT OVERTAKE THE RIGHTFUL ROLE OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES, THAT DENY THEM FREEDOM OF CHOICE OR BIND THEM UP IN RED TAPE, ARE SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE. OUR MOVEMENT IS ABOUT STRENGTHENING FAMILIES.

OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS YOU WILL CONTINUE A GREAT NATIONAL DIALOGUE, SHARE INFORMATION, EXPLORE NEW IDEAS, AND THEN RETURN TO YOUR COMMUNITIES TO LEAD THIS GOOD FIGHT. YOUR COMMITMENT IS AN INSPIRATION, AND I THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO SEE IT FIRSTHAND.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

# # # #

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

92 JAN 10 A10:35

2/7/92

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE

RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<del>_____</del>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<del>_____</del>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

## RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 7, 1992  
Draft Two  
SURGEONS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
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Our success will ensure America's leadership in the global marketplace; it will guarantee the health and safety of our families and neighborhoods. I am proud that our administration is part of this movement. I know that with your dedication and ability, we will not fail to achieve our goal.

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Our movement instills the habits of good health -- wholesome nutrition, sound hygiene, and protective measures like early immunization. Parents know: learning and health are two sides of the same coin.

Again, parents, families, communities are the key -- but government can help. Last June, for instance, Dr. Louis Sullivan and I announced our administration's initiative to bring immunization to every American child -- especially early immunization for kids in the first and second year of life.

On Friday, the Surgeon General and I were out in San Diego and had the privilege of seeing firsthand the benefits of this initiative. The parents and community leaders I spoke with stressed the importance of early immunization in preventing illness. That's a crucial step toward meeting our goal. I'm proud we've been able to help.

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because people care. And we've made sure it will continue to work, for every eligible family that wants it.

These are important steps. But if we truly want to ensure that our children are healthy and ready to learn, we must address the larger issues of American health care. Over the last several days, I've traveled around the country to talk about the need for reforming our nation's health care system. We must see to it that every American family has access to affordable, high-quality care. Last week, I proposed a four point program to do just that.

I don't need to tell you that the American health care system has problems. The crisis has probably touched many of you here in this room. Right now, xx million children go without health insurance, because skyrocketing costs have placed coverage beyond the reach of their parents. And even parents who are covered worry about losing their family's insurance if they move on to a different job or, worse still, lose the job they have. You shouldn't have to live with this kind of uncertainty. No American family should.

Yet it's important to remember: For all its problems, our system still provides the best health care in the world. That's why people from all over the globe come here seeking better care. Most often they're trying to escape health care systems in which the government dictates how much care you'll get, what kind you'll get, when you'll get it and who your doctor will be. In

our system, parents can still choose their children's doctor. My plan preserves that freedom of choice for parents.

Our great challenge is to keep what works in our system and reform what doesn't. We must maintain our freedom of choice and the high-quality of our care. At the same time, we must make sure our children have access to health care their parents can afford.

That's what my four-point plan does. Let me briefly spell it out for you.

First, to make health care more affordable and accessible, I want a \$3,750 tax credit for low-to-middle income families to help them buy health insurance; for middle income families, I've proposed a tax deduction for the same amount.

Second, to cut costs, we will make health care more efficient. Studies show that the larger the group being covered, the lower the cost per family. We will create Health Insurance Networks that bring companies together to cut administrative costs and make insurance affordable for working parents.

Third, we must rein in medical malpractice lawsuits that drive up the cost of care for everyone. A doctor pestered with frivolous litigation ends up passing his legal costs along to you, the patient. When a family that's just getting by visits their doctor, they shouldn't have to pay his lawyer, too.

Finally, we must protect the benefits of federal health programs. And the surest way to do that is to slow the uncontrolled growth that only serves to endanger those benefits.

There it is: a common-sense reform that will maintain high-quality care, cut costs, ensure the right of parents to choose their family's doctor, and give every family -- rich or poor, sick or healthy -- access to health care. My plan builds on our system's strengths. And it avoids the pitfalls of nationalized care, the kind that people from all over the world come to America to escape.

All these approaches for meeting our goal of healthy children ready to learn must build on a basic truth: In this country, families come first. Government programs that preempt the rightful role of families and communities, that deny them freedom of choice or bind them up in red tape, are simply unacceptable. Our movement is about strengthening families. Over the next three days you will continue a great national dialogue, share information, explore new ideas, and then return to your communities to lead this good fight. Your commitment is an inspiration, and I thank you for inviting me to see it firsthand.

God bless you all and God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 10, 1992  
Draft Five  
SURGEONS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

Thank you, Dr. Sullivan.

It's such a pleasure to be here today, to help launch this historic conference. I particularly want to thank Surgeon General Antonia Novello, who's inspired people all across the country with her example and her message. She sums up that message better than anyone: "All children have a right to be healthy. We need to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves."

That's why you have gathered here this week. You have come to lead a great movement of parents and doctors and teachers, of public programs and private enterprise -- a movement destined to transform America. Here's our goal: by the year 2000, every American child will start school healthy and ready to learn.

Our success will provide a lifetime of opportunity for our children. It will guarantee the health and safety of our families and neighborhoods, and it will ensure that America remains the undisputed leader of the world.

I am proud that our administration is part of this movement. In this administration, families come first.

We're proud to join hands with people like Patricia Solomon Thomas, who's come from New Mexico to be here this afternoon.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*  
TONY SNOW  
FROM: ANDY FERGUSON *af*  
SUBJECT: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE

This afternoon, at 2 p.m., you will address 700 attendees at the Surgeon General's Conference. Your remarks (15 minutes, teleprompter) focus on the Surgeon General's "Healthy Children Ready to Learn" initiative as crucial in working toward the first education goal: By the year 2000, all children will start school ready to learn.

Patricia has two children -- both of them with special health needs. She perfectly expressed the spirit of our movement when she said, "I used to be shy, but I had to learn to stand up for my kids." That's why we're here: to stand up for the kids. And we won't let them down.

Our movement draws its strength from Patricia and the millions of parents like her. The title of this conference says it all: "Healthy Children Ready to Learn: The Critical Role of Parents." Parents are a child's "first teachers," offering the love and spiritual nourishment that no government program can ever hope to provide.

If I can brag for just a moment here -- you may know of Barbara's work promoting literacy. I'm pretty proud of her. She wants to help parents understand how important it is to read to their kids. When parents read aloud to their young ones, they open their children to the joy of a larger world; they teach the self-assurance and curiosity that come from learning.

And our movement instills the habits of good health -- wholesome nutrition, sound hygiene, and protective measures like early immunization. Parents know: learning and health are two sides of the same coin.

Again, parents, families, communities are the key -- but government can help. Last June, for instance, Dr. Sullivan and I took steps to ensure that no American child is at risk from deadly diseases like polio, diphtheria and measles. We launched

an initiative to support childhood immunizations -- especially immunizations for kids in the early years of life.

That's a crucial step toward meeting our goal. I'm proud we've been able to help. Since 1988, we've more than tripled the dollars for federal immunization efforts -- from \$98 million to \$297 million for 1992.

On Friday, Dr. Sullivan, the Surgeon General and I were out in San Diego and had the privilege of visiting Logan Heights Family Health Center, to see firsthand the benefits of this initiative. We spoke with parents and community leaders, and everyone of them stressed the importance of early immunization in preventing illness.

Logan Heights is a perfect example of what can be done if concerned individuals set their minds to it. The center was founded by Laura Rodriguez, who's become one of our administration's Points of Light. Laura saw a need, and with hard work and dedication, she did something about it. Logan Heights now serves 75,000 patients a year. Thank God for people like Laura. She's an example for all of us.

And for those kids who need a head start in preparing for school, we've made sure they'll get it. In the last three years we have almost doubled funding for Head Start programs, and this year I have proposed the largest single increase in Head Start's history -- \$600 million. This year's increase will ensure that 157,000 more kids will be able to start school ready to learn.

Head Start brings children and parents into the classroom -  
- into the learning process. Head Start works because parents  
take the lead. You may not know this, but volunteers in Head  
Start outnumber paid staff by eight-to-one. Head Start works --  
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work. If it's good for America's kids, it's good for America.

These are important steps. But there's more we must do. We  
must address the larger issues of American health care. Last  
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American family must have access to affordable, high-quality  
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I don't need to tell you that the American health care  
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Most often they're trying to escape health care systems in which  
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Our great challenge is to keep what works in our system and reform what doesn't. We must maintain a maximum freedom of choice and the highest quality care. At the same time, we must make sure our children have access to health care their parents can afford, sick or healthy, rich or poor.

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Finally, we must slow the spiraling costs of federal health programs. These costs are rising far beyond the rate of

inflation -- which only endangers important benefits while making less money available for other pressing needs.

There it is: a common-sense reform that will maintain high-quality care, cut costs, ensure maximum freedom of choice, and give every family -- rich or poor, sick or healthy -- access to health care. I know how important this is, particularly for parents who have children with special needs. My plan will assure that you can change jobs without endangering the health insurance your child depends on. We're building on our system's strengths. And we're avoiding the pitfalls of nationalized care, the kind that people from all over the world come to America to escape.

All these approaches for meeting our goal of healthy children ready to learn must build on a basic truth: In this country, families come first. Government programs that overtake the rightful role of families and communities, that deny them freedom of choice or bind them up in red tape, are simply unacceptable. Our movement is about strengthening families.

Over the next few days you will continue a great national dialogue, share information, explore new ideas, and then return to your communities to lead this good fight. Your commitment is an inspiration, and I thank you for inviting me to see it firsthand.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 7, 1992

SPEECH TO SURGEON GENERAL'S CONF.

This is a good speech, but I think it needs an economic growth hook to make news. Perhaps the President could explain how his economic growth package would give greater security to families -- and then give 5 concrete examples of what he has challenged Congress to do. The theme should be health care and disease prevention as part of the President's longterm economic growth plan.

On the health side, the speech could benefit from a list of all the money the Administration has devoted to immunization, pre-natal care, drug treatment for pregnant women, etc. We should take credit for all these accomplishments.

92 JAN 7 4:31

Document No. 306335ss

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/7/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 2/7/92 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
 SUBJECT: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 - 2:00p.m.

	ACTION	FTI		ACTION	FTI
VICE PRESIDENT	—	✓	HORNER	—	✓
SKINNER	—	✓	CALIO	✓	—
SCOWCROFT	—	—	PETERSMEYER	✓	—
DARMAN	✓	—	PORTER	✓	—
BRADY	—	✓	ROGICH	✓	—
BROMLEY	—	—	SMITH	✓	—
CARD	—	—	MOORE	—	✓
DEMAREST	✓	—	KAUFMAN	—	✓
FITZWATER	—	✓	MCBRIDE	✓	—
GRAY	✓	—	FINDLAY	—	✓
HOLIDAY	✓	—	SNOW	—	✓

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m., TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*See comments and attachment.*  
*PK*  
*Paul Koronta*  
*02/07/92*

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 7, 1992  
Draft Two  
SURGEONS

32 FEB 7 All : 54

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

[Acknowledgments, humor]

It's such a pleasure to be here today, to help launch this historic conference. You have gathered to lead a great movement of parents and doctors and teachers, of public programs and private enterprise -- a movement, destined to transform America. Here's what we'll do: by the year 2000, every American child will start school healthy and ready to learn.

Our success will ensure America's leadership in the global marketplace; it will guarantee the health and safety of our families and neighborhoods. I am proud that our administration is <sup>leading</sup> ~~part of~~ this movement. I know that with your dedication and ability, we will not fail to achieve our goal.

(ack)

Our movement draws its strength from the grassroots, from families. The title of this conference says it all: "Healthy Children Ready to Learn: The Critical Role of Parents." Parents are a child's "first teachers," offering the love and spiritual nourishment that no government program can ever hope to provide. When parents read aloud to their young ones, they open their children to the joy of a larger world; they teach the self-assurance and curiosity that come from learning.

*Families* (HHS)

~~Government~~ instill the habits of good health -- wholesome nutrition, sound hygiene, and protective measures like early immunization. Parents know: learning and health are two sides of the same coin.

Again, parents, families, communities are the key -- but government can help. Last June, for instance, Dr. Louis Sullivan and I announced our administration's initiative to bring immunization to every American child -- especially early immunization for kids in the first and second year of life.

(HHS)

On Friday, ~~the Surgeon General~~ *Secretary Sullivan* and I were out in San Diego and had the privilege of seeing firsthand the benefits of this initiative. The parents and community leaders I spoke with stressed the importance of early immunization in preventing illness. That's a crucial step toward meeting our goal. I'm proud we've been able to help.

And for kids who need a head start in preparing for school, we've made sure they'll get it. In the last three years, we have ~~almost~~ *almost* doubled funding for Head Start programs. ~~With the~~ *and this year I have just proposed* increases ~~we will be able to insure that~~ *we will be able to insure that* every eligible four-year-old can enter the largest ~~single~~ *single* school ready to learn, right alongside children who've had some ~~of the advantages~~ *of the advantages* Head Start kids haven't enjoyed.

(HHS)

*just proposed the largest single increase in H.S. history -- \$1.600 billion*

Head Start brings children and parents into the classroom -- into the learning process. Head Start works because parents take the lead. You may not know this, but volunteers in Head Start outnumber paid staff by eight-to-one. Head Start works

*Proposed Insert A*

3

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*The WIC program is a highly successful preventive program.* →  
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B  
that our children are healthy and ready to learn, we must address the larger issues of American health care. Over the last several days, I've traveled around the country to talk about the need for reforming our nation's health care system. We must see to it that every American family has access to affordable, high-quality care. Last week, I proposed a four point program to do just that.

I don't need to tell you that the American health care system has problems. The crisis has probably touched many of you here in this room. Right now, <sup>8.5</sup> million children, <sup>ages 0-17,</sup> go without health insurance, because skyrocketing costs have placed coverage beyond the reach of their parents. And even parents who are covered worry about losing their family's insurance if they move on to a different job or, worse still, lose the job they have. You shouldn't have to live with this kind of uncertainty. No American family should. (HKS)

Yet it's important to remember: For all its problems, our system still provides the best health care in the world. That's why people from all over the globe come here seeking better care. Most often they're trying to escape health care systems in which the government dictates how much care you'll get, what kind you'll get, when you'll get it and who your doctor will be. In

4

our system, parents can still choose their children's doctor. My plan preserves that freedom of choice for parents.

Our great challenge is to keep what works in our system and reform what doesn't. We must maintain our freedom of choice and the high-quality of our care. At the same time, we must make sure our children have access to health care their parents can afford.

That's what my four-point plan does. Let me briefly spell it out for you.

First, to make health care more affordable and accessible, I want a \$3,750 tax credit for low-to-middle income families to help them buy health insurance; for middle income families, I've proposed a tax deduction for the same amount.

Second, to cut costs, we will make health care more efficient. Studies show that the larger the group being covered, the lower the cost per family. We will create Health Insurance Networks that bring companies together to cut administrative costs and make insurance affordable for working parents.

Third, we must rein in medical malpractice lawsuits that drive up the cost of care for everyone. A doctor pestered with frivolous litigation ends up passing his legal costs along to you, the patient. When a family that's just getting by visits their doctor, they shouldn't have to pay his lawyer, too.

Finally, we must protect the benefits of federal health programs. And the surest way to do that is to slow the uncontrolled growth that only serves to endanger those benefits.

5

There it is: a common-sense reform that will maintain high-quality care, cut costs, ensure the right of parents to choose their family's doctor, and give every family -- rich or poor, sick or healthy -- access to health care. My plan builds on our system's strengths. And it avoids the pitfalls of nationalized care, the kind that people from all over the world come to America to escape.

All these approaches for meeting our goal of healthy children ready to learn must build on a basic truth: In this country, families come first. Government programs that preempt the rightful role of families and communities, that deny them freedom of choice or bind them up in red tape, are simply unacceptable. Our ~~current~~ <sup>administration is for</sup> strengthening families. (HHS)  
Over the next three days you will continue a great national dialogue, share information, explore new ideas, and then return to your communities to lead this good fight. Your commitment is an inspiration, and I thank you for inviting me to see it firsthand.

God bless you all and God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

(A)

The Dept. of Agriculture operates several child nutrition programs, including serving 29 million lunches and breakfasts per day in 1992 to American school children. Nutrition is critical for young minds to learn.

(B)

providing needed nutrition to women, infants and children at nutritional risk. I proposed \$2.8 billion for WIC in my FY '93 budget, a 35% increase over 1989, which will allow the program to serve 5.4 million clients.

Document No. 306335SS

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/7/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 2/7/92 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
 SUBJECT: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 - 2:00p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	=	✓	HORNER	=	✓
SKINNER	=	✓	CALIO	✓	=
SCOWCROFT	=	=	PETERSMEYER	✓	=
DARMAN	✓	=	PORTER	✓	=
BRADY	=	✓	ROGICH	✓	=
BROMLEY	=	=	SMITH	✓	□
CARD	=	=	<u>MOORE</u>	=	✓
DEMAREST	✓	=	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	□	✓
FITZWATER	=	✓	<u>MCBRIDE</u>	✓	=
GRAY	✓	=	<del>★ <u>PINDLAY</u></del>	<del>✓</del>	<del>✓</del>
HOLIDAY	✓	=	<u>SNOW</u>	=	✓

**REMARKS:**

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m., TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

x6218

TO ↑

92 JAN 7 10:10  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

NUMBER OF PAGES  
(including cover sheet)

8

TO:

Paul

456-6630

OFFICE PHONE NUMBER

Korfanta

456-~~2223~~ 1605

FAX NUMBER

FROM:

202-720-6307

SANDIE STASIAK

OFFICE PHONE NUMBER

CAMERON D. BRUEMMER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

202-690-1647

FAX NUMBER

\*\*\*\*\*

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS FAX, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CALL OUR OFFICE. THANK YOU.



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250-1300

February 7, 1992

## MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL KORFANTA

FROM:

Cameron Bruemmer  
Deputy Director, Office of Public affairs*Cameron Bruemmer*

SUBJECT:

President's Remarks at Surgeon General's Conference

Bill O'Conner and the other members of USDA's senior staff are out of the office today at a retreat. I have reviewed the President's Remarks for Monday and would like to suggest that you include some reference to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and the National School Lunch Program.

Both are programs for which the President can take credit.

To assist you with some suggest language, I am forwarding Secretary Madigan's draft speech to the same group on Tuesday. I have indicated those paragraphs which I believe would be the most important.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call me at 720-6307.

Thank you.

**HEALTHY CHILDREN READY TO LEARN:  
THE CRITICAL ROLE OF PARENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
FEBRUARY 11, 1992**

**Draft Remarks by Secretary Edward Madigan, USDA**

Thank you Surgeon General Novello and good morning everyone.

ERM story

...of course, back then we didn't know as much about nutrition as we do now, and that kind of information wasn't as available as it is today, either. I thought for a moment, as I was headed over here this morning, that in some ways it is more than a little remarkable that we even hold this conference, given the extraordinary amount of informational and variety of foods available today.

But this is important -- it is vital. Because nutrition is basic. All things can be possible for a child who is well-fed -- very little is possible for a child, or a pregnant mother, or anyone for that matter, who doesn't get the nutritious foods we all need to grow, to function, to learn and to excel. And it's our job to get that information to you and before the public, and into everyday practice.

There are 64 million children in the United States today, and all of them share this need, every one of them. There is no more fundamental and important necessity for America's children, or for America. And that's why we're here this morning.

The **PRESIDENT** recognized the importance of a strong nutrition foundation in his education initiative. The first of his six national education goals is that "*By the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn.*"

To achieve this, we have to ensure that they receive the nutrition they need for healthy minds and bodies. That responsibility begins before children are born. Working with mothers, we must ensure that the number of low-birth weight babies is significantly reduced through good pre-natal care.

And although we are investing large amounts of money and effort to help, *it's the parents of children in these programs which provide nutrition and health care who have the primary role to play in their care and feeding.*

One of our best programs for reaching both children and the parents of children at risk is the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children or "WIC." This program provides supplemental food and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and young children -- all at nutritional risk.

WIC serves one in three babies born every year. That's about 5.3 million participants this month alone. And our highest priority is low-income pregnant women and their infants.

What's more, WIC has become a *gateway* to other government services, especially health care. Through WIC, pregnant women are learning about and obtaining health services they need. And local WIC agencies refer applicants to Medicaid if it's likely they're eligible.

WIC is an *adjunct to health care* that participants receive at local health clinics. For example, WIC personnel promote breastfeeding among program participants; they coordinate with state and federal immunization programs...and they provide alcohol and drug abuse prevention education and referrals.

WIC is cost-effective. A major study done in 1987-88 in five states showed that Medicaid-eligible pregnant women who participate in WIC do indeed have healthier babies than low-income women who do not participate. Every dollar spent on prenatal WIC care was associated with a Medicaid savings of between \$1.92 and \$4.75 for newborns and their mothers.

Last year, the **PRESIDENT** highlighted WIC as a major priority to ensure that children enter school healthy and ready to learn -- he requested the largest budget increase for WIC ever. An even larger increase -- \$240 million in 1993 -- will enable WIC to reach 5.4 million women, infants and children each month. Virtually all low-income pregnant women and infants who are eligible are enrolled in the program. This two year effort will extend WIC benefits to nearly 500,000 more people.

This year, **PRESIDENT BUSH** is requesting a half billion dollar increase for the Head Start Program. Here again, we at USDA work together with another federal program. Head Start provides education services under DHHS -- USDA provides the meals and snacks. Our counterpart program is the Child and Adult Care Food Program, which concentrates on pre-school children, ages three to five, in non-residential child care centers and family day care homes. Today, the program is operating nationwide, both in 170,000 child care centers and day care homes, serving meals to 1.7 million participants daily. It's been a fast growing program, and many of your pre-schoolers participate.

Next year, we propose to spend \$1.17 billion on the Child and Adult Care Food Program. We expect to serve 100 million additional meals in 1993, due in part to the continued expansion of Head Start programs.

Of course, the program your children probably participate in when they enter kindergarten or first grade is the National School Lunch Program. Through this program, schools serve almost 25 million nutritious lunches each school day in virtually all the public schools and in most of the private schools. Half of those are free or at a reduced price. Our

efforts to change this program are aimed at focusing our limited resources to those who need them the most, without sacrificing the program benefits to all of our nation's children.

Once again this year, the BUSH Administration is proposing a restructuring of the reimbursement for the School Lunch Program. Our proposal would reduce the cost for "reduced price" lunches by a quarter, so that a student in that category could get a nutritious meal for no more than 15 cents. For "reduced price" school breakfasts, the cost would be reduced to a dime. More well off children would find their per meal costs increasing by 6 cents, a small price to bear for such an extended benefit to those truly in need. This proposal would enable us to reach 250,000 more children who are currently eligible to purchase meals at a reduced price but are not participating.

This year, we've made it much simpler for schools to establish a child's eligibility for free school lunches and breakfasts. We've started a *direct certification system* under which schools now communicate directly with local welfare offices. If a child comes from a family receiving food stamps or benefits under the Aid to Families With Dependent Children Program (AFDC), the child may receive free school lunches and breakfasts. Parents are not required to submit an application.

As a result, schools report that they're serving more free lunches to eligible children than ever before. We don't yet know how many more are benefiting, but indications are the number is substantial.

I said, "nutritious lunches." They will be. Ask a dozen different youngsters what they'd like to have for lunch today and you might get a dozen different answers -- and not all would be nutritious.

As many of you may already know, I am working to see that schools and day care facilities begin to comply with the 1990 federal Dietary Guidelines for All Americans. Among other recommendations, these guidelines suggest that children and adults eat a diet in which 30 percent *or less* of the calories come from fat. We're working to achieve that goal in the school lunch and breakfast programs, and we're making progress.

To assist in this effort, we're conducting demonstrations in California, Colorado, Louisiana, Ohio and Tennessee to test how schools can modify their menus to reduce fat, salt, and sugar and still keep students eating school lunches. We are testing or have tested four different types of low-fat hamburgers in six states last year, and the comments coming back from the schools were very favorable.

In a few months, we will issue a publication and instructional videos to give cafeteria workers additional information they need to offer meals that meet the dietary guidelines. The new dietary guidance will be provided to more than 275,000 child nutrition program operators -- some of you are here today -- in more than 90,000 schools districts across the country.

I have promised to provide schools with the tools they need to comply with the dietary guidelines by 1994. Our goal is to have at least 90 percent of all lunch and breakfast menus in line with the Dietary Guidelines by the year 2000. I'd like to do a little better than that, and sooner.

Some of you are parents of children who will be participating in the school lunch program -- you need to be involved with your school and its lunch program. Just as Head Start owes much of its success to parent involvement, the same holds true for school lunch. Our most successful school lunch programs are those where parents and communities are involved.

Besides school lunch, the School Breakfast Program serves almost five million children daily. And about 80 percent of school breakfasts are served free.

In the past few years, we have provided funds to states for the purpose of expanding the School Breakfast Program. And in 1991, we served 8.3 percent more breakfasts than the year before. We're continuing this effort to make school breakfast available to more needy children.

The largest of our food assistance programs is Food Stamps. Eighty percent of those benefits go to families with children and about half of all food stamp participants are children. More than 12 million children receive food stamps each month. Beyond that, three out of four households with children also receive benefits from at least one other food assistance program. In 1993, USDA expects to spend almost \$23 billion on the Food Stamp Program alone. Food stamps are available for every needy person who meets the qualifications and enrolls in the program.

As with the WIC and child nutrition programs, we are working to get greater coordination between the Food Stamp Program and other assistance programs, such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children -- AFDC. One goal is to bring greater conformity to the eligibility rules between food stamps and AFDC. This will greatly simplify the program for caseworkers and clients.

Today, states use a single application form for food stamps and AFDC. A single interview determines eligibility for food stamps and AFDC. And they have a single system for eligibility records. We are encouraging states to establish or expand this kind of *one-stop shopping*. At these sites, states collocate health, welfare, job training, and nutrition assistance programs. We give clients better access to programs. We also enable eligibility workers to better serve the needs of clients by being case-oriented rather than focusing only on a family's eligibility for one program.

There are, of course other food assistance programs. During the summer months, USDA provides meals for children in low-income neighborhoods. In 1993, this program will provide about 100 million meals.

We also distribute food packages and commodities. Food packages are distributed on Indian reservations and to the homeless. We also have programs which distribute bulk commodities to orphanages, hospitals, soup kitchens, food banks, and meals on wheels.


We operate a milk program in those few schools that aren't in the school lunch program. And we have a Commodity Supplemental Food Program which provides food packages to a population similar to the one served by WIC. This program also serves some senior citizens. In 1993, will have a monthly caseload of 250,000 women, infants, and children, and 134,000 senior Americans.

The food assistance programs do a very good job of providing needy people with food. But they need to do more than that. We must make use of these programs to teach people about the critical relationship between diet and health. We need to do more than provide good food. We need to provide food that is good for them in the right mix. And we need to help them understand the difference.

Former Surgeon General Koop identified dietary factors as playing a prominent role in five of the ten leading causes of death for Americans. These five are coronary heart disease, some forms of cancer, stroke, diabetes mellitus, and atherosclerosis. *The 1988 Surgeon General's Report on Nutrition and Health* says that these disorders account for more than two-thirds of all deaths in the United States, and that diet can play an important role in disease prevention.

So nutrition education and our diet are not just something for the other fellow -- they affects all of us. As parents, we must guide the nutrition habits of our children, because these habits are formed early in life. The more we can do to emphasize healthy diets, the healthier our children will be.

We hope that you will be actively involved in nutrition programs. We are putting funds and effort into the education end of the major food assistance programs.

 The Nutrition Education and Training Program, known as NET, supports nutrition education for school food service personnel, teachers and students. NET has done a good job in the nation's schools. But some areas deserve more attention -- such as educating preschoolers in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The **PRESIDENT's** 1993 budget requests a 50 percent increase in NET funds next year. These new funds will be used to expand nutrition education and training to child care providers who serve very young children. We will develop preschool curricula as well as materials that show care providers how to serve safe and nutritious meals and snacks.

I want to mention the USDA-sponsored National Food Service Management Institute. The Institute began operations at the University of Mississippi in 1990. It helps school lunch operators improve both the quality of meals and the operation of child nutrition programs.

We expect the Institute to be a valuable source of consistent training and research-based information.

From the beginning, WIC has made nutrition education an integral part of the program. In 1993, we will spend \$115 million on nutrition education to help Moms and Dads learn about the right foods to serve their children.

To further improve the nutritional status of the neediest WIC participants, we have requested \$12.5 million for our Extension Service to provide intensive nutrition training for the most needy. We will use these funds to serve 50,000 new WIC participants, in addition to the 91,000 now served through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.



The PRESIDENT's budget also proposes \$4.5 million in State grants to develop and distribute training and nutrition education materials for hard-to-reach adults. The objective here is a nutrition message sensitive to income, educational levels and cultural preferences.

The breadth of our food assistance efforts is very broad, affecting many people. In total, this month, we'll reach over 50 million Americans -- one in six this month.

We want pregnant women, preschoolers, students, and their families get the most from them. This may take the form of a health referral for a WIC mother, or of giving a day care provider the training needed to serve safe, nutritious food. Or it may mean finding ways to expand one-stop shopping so parents can apply for services with less hassle.

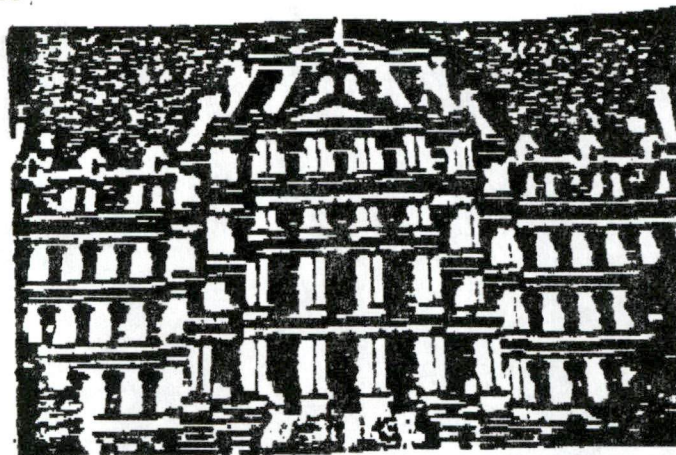
This effort hinges not on us but on you, out beyond the Beltway. And it begins with informed, engaged parents who are taking an active role in the programs that affect their children. I urge you to work locally to see that these programs succeed.

Everyone who can and should be enrolled in these programs needs to be enrolled. They are among the most successful and helpful in government. In many cases, it takes you to make them work. Keep at it. There are 64 million children depending on you and on me. We can make a difference in their future. It's our future as well. The stakes are too high for us not to succeed.

I thank you and God bless you.

# EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

## Office of Management and Budget



### FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Number of Pages including cover 4

Date: 2/7/92

To: Nancy

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: This is all we  
have so far

From: Sandy.

Fax Number: (202) 395

Office Number: (202) 395

92 JAN 7 4:51

Document No. 306335SS**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**DATE 2/7/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 2/7/92 4:00pmPRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 - 2:00p.m.

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	=	✓	HORNER	=	✓
SKINNER	=	✓	CALIO	✓	=
SCOWCROFT	=	=	PETERSMEYER	✓	=
DARMAN	✓	=	PORTER	✓	=
BRADY	=	✓	ROGICH	✓	=
BROMLEY	=	=	SMITH	✓	□
CARD	=	=	MOORE	=	✓
DEMAREST	✓	=	KAUFMAN	=	✓
FITZWATER	=	✓	MCBRIDE	✓	=
GRAY	✓	=	FINDLAY	=	✓
HOLIDAY	✓	=	SNOW	=	✓

**REMARKS:**

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m., TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 7, 1992  
Draft Two  
SURGEONS

02 FEB 7 All: 54

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

[Acknowledgments, humor]

It's such a pleasure to be here today, to help launch this historic conference. You have gathered to lead a great movement of parents and doctors and teachers, of public programs and private enterprise -- a movement, destined to transform America. Here's what we'll do: by the year 2000, every American child will start school healthy and ready to learn.

Our success will ensure America's leadership in the global marketplace; it will guarantee the health and safety of our families and neighborhoods. I am proud that our administration is part of this movement. I know that with your dedication and ability, we will not fail to <sup>achieve</sup> ~~achieve~~ our goal. ✓ Scully/S178

Our movement draws its strength from the grassroots, from families. The title of this conference says it all: "Healthy Children Ready to Learn: The Critical Role of Parents." Parents are a child's "first teachers," offering the love and spiritual nourishment that no government program can ever hope to provide. When parents read aloud to their young ones, they open their children to the joy of a larger world; they teach the self-assurance and curiosity that come from learning.

Our movement instills the habits of good health -- wholesome nutrition, sound hygiene, and protective measures like early immunization. Parents know: learning and health are two sides of the same coin.

*Support for childhood immunizations*

Again, parents, families, communities are the key -- but government can help. Last June, for instance, Dr. Louis Sullivan and I announced <sup>that no child should be at risk to deadly diseases like polio, diphtheria, + measles</sup> our administration's initiative to bring ~~immunization to every American child~~ -- especially early immunization for kids in the first and second year of life.

*undiscovered  
Scully  
X 5728*

On Friday, the Surgeon General and I were out in San Diego and had the privilege of seeing firsthand the benefits of this initiative. The parents and community leaders I spoke with stressed the importance of early immunization in preventing illness. That's a crucial step toward meeting our goal. I'm proud we've been able to help.

And for kids who need a head start in preparing for school, we've made sure they'll get it. In the last three years we have more than doubled funding for Head Start programs. With the <sup>who chooses to participate</sup> increases I've proposed, every eligible four-year-old <sup>can enter in Head Start</sup> school ready to learn, right alongside children who've had some of the advantages Head Start kids haven't enjoyed.

*Scully  
X 5728*

Head Start brings children and parents into the classroom - into the learning process. Head Start works because parents take the lead. You may not know this, but volunteers in Head Start outnumber paid staff by eight-to-one. Head Start works

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

92 JAN 7 P4:08

DATE: 2/7/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 2/7/92 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE

SUBJECT: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 - 2:00p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	—	✓	HORNER	—	✓
SKINNER	—	✓	CALIO	✓	—
SCOWCROFT	—	—	PETERSMEYER	✓	—
DARMAN	✓	—	PORTER	✓	—
BRADY	—	✓	ROGICH	✓	—
BROMLEY	—	—	SMITH	✓	—
CARD	—	—	MOORE	—	✓
DEMAREST	✓	—	KAUFMAN	—	✓
FITZWATER	—	✓	MCBRIDE	✓	—
GRAY	✓	—	FINDLAY	—	✓
HOLIDAY	✓	—	SNOW	—	✓

REMARKS: *These are just staff comments - Porter has not signed off on them; call them if there are any questions*

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m., TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

John:

In addition to Hanns's comments, we believe it would be valuable to mention:

1. The conference stems from the Education Summit and builds on the Federal-state partnership.
2. The conference illustrates that Federal departments under the Bush Administration are working together ("good government") to better serve states, localities, individuals.
3. The participants can build on the conference when they return to their communities.

Comments on page 1 of attached copy and possible inserts attached.

*Rae & Down*

Possible insert: (page 1, para.2)

I am proud that my Administration is helping lead this movement and that we have three Departments working together and ready to work with you. (I know Secretaries Sullivan, Alexander, and Madigan will be here over the next few days to speak with you further). In the Bush Administration, good government means collaboration across department lines to better serve states, communities, and citizens.

Possible insert: (page 5, para. 2)

Achieving our first critical education goal cannot be done by any one group alone. But together, you can move mountains. Over the next three days you will share, listen, and learn. [And that means members of my Administration who are here to learn from you.] This conference is an important beginning. I hope you will take what you learn back to your communities -- continue the dialogue, share what is working and explore new ideas.

You have enormous power. You are leaders and can and will make the difference -- community-by-community, child-by-child.

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/7/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 2/7/92 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE

SUBJECT: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 - 2:00p.m.

	ACTION	FTI		ACTION	FTI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m., TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

WHEN I INVITED THE NATION'S GOVERNORS TO MEET  
WITH ME AND MY CABINET AT AN UNPRECEDENTED  
EDUCATION SUMMIT OVER TWO YEARS AGO, WE AGREED  
TO DEVELOP GOALS FOR THE YEAR 2000. OUR FIRST CRITICAL GOAL IS SURGEONS

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 7, 1992  
Draft Two

22 FEB 7 All: 54

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

[Acknowledgments, humor]

It's such a pleasure to be here today, to help launch this historic conference. You have gathered to lead a great movement of parents and doctors and teachers, of public programs and private enterprise -- a movement, destined to transform America,

BY THE END  
OF THE  
DECADE

~~Here's what we'll do:~~ by the year 2000, every American child will start school healthy and ready to learn.

Our success will ensure America's leadership in the global marketplace; it will guarantee the health and safety of our families and neighborhoods. ~~I am proud that our administration~~ <sup>LEADING</sup> ~~is part of this movement.~~ I know that with your dedication and ability, we will not fail to achieve our goal. ~~POSSIBLE~~ ~~INSERT~~

Our movement draws its strength from the grassroots, from families. The title of this conference says it all: "Healthy Children Ready to Learn: The Critical Role of Parents." Parents are a child's "first teachers," offering the love and spiritual nourishment that no government program can ever hope to provide. When parents read aloud to their young ones, they open their children to the joy of a larger world; they teach the self-assurance and curiosity that come from learning.

Our movement instills the habits of good health -- wholesome nutrition, sound hygiene, and protective measures like early immunization. Parents know: learning and health are two sides of the same coin.

Again, parents, families, communities are the key -- but government can help. Last June, for instance, Dr. Louis Sullivan and I announced our administration's initiative to bring immunization to every American child -- especially early immunization for kids in the first and second year of life.

On Friday, the Surgeon General and I were out in San Diego and had the privilege of seeing firsthand the benefits of this initiative. The parents and community leaders I spoke with stressed the importance of early immunization in preventing illness. That's a crucial step toward meeting our goal. I'm proud we've been able to help.

And for kids who need a head start in preparing for school, we've made sure they'll get it. In the last three years we have more than doubled funding for Head Start programs. With the increases I've proposed, every eligible four-year-old can enter school ready to learn, right alongside children who've had some of the advantages Head Start kids haven't enjoyed.

Head Start brings children and parents into the classroom - - into the learning process. Head Start works because parents take the lead. You may not know this, but volunteers in Head Start outnumber paid staff by eight-to-one. Head Start works

because people care. And we've made sure it will continue to work, for every eligible family that wants it.

These are important steps. But ~~if we truly want to ensure~~ <sup>there is your name</sup> ~~that our children are healthy and ready to learn,~~ we must address the larger issues of American health care. Over the last several days, I've traveled around the country to talk about the need for reforming our nation's health care system. We must see to it that every American family has access to affordable, high-quality care. Last week, I proposed a four point program to do just that.

I don't need to tell you that the American health care system has problems. The crisis has probably touched many of you here in this room. Right now, xx million children ~~go without~~ <sup>don't have</sup> health insurance, because skyrocketing costs have placed coverage beyond the reach of their parents. And even parents who are covered worry about losing their family's insurance if they move on to a different job or, worse still, lose the job they have. You shouldn't have to live with this kind of uncertainty. No American family should.

Yet it's important to remember: For all its problems, our system still provides the best health care in the world. That's why people from all over the globe come here seeking better care. Most often they're trying to escape health care systems in which the government dictates how much care you'll get, what kind you'll get, when you'll get it and who your doctor will be. In

our system, parents can still choose their children's doctor. My plan preserves that freedom of choice for parents.

Our great challenge is to keep what works in our system and reform what doesn't. We must maintain our freedom of choice and the high-quality of our care. At the same time, we must make sure our children have access to health care their parents can afford.

That's what my four-point plan does. Let me briefly spell it out for you.

*Could be simplified to*

First, to make health care more affordable and accessible, I want <sup>to have a</sup> a \$3,750 tax credit <sup>and</sup> ~~for low-to-middle income families~~ <sup>or deduction</sup> to help them buy health insurance; ~~for middle income families~~, I've ~~proposed a tax deduction for the same amount.~~

Second, to cut costs, we will make health care more efficient. <sup>The math is simple:</sup> ~~Studies show that the larger the group being covered,~~ <sup>Therefore we propose</sup> the lower the cost per family. <sup>not govt creating them</sup> We will create Health Insurance Networks <sup>with to allow</sup> that <sup>to come</sup> bring companies together to cut administrative costs and make insurance affordable for working parents.

Third, we must <sup>cut waste and abuse.</sup> ~~rein in~~ <sup>we can start with</sup> medical malpractice lawsuits that drive up the cost of care for everyone. A doctor pestered with frivolous litigation ends up passing his legal costs along to you, the patient. When a family that's just getting by visits their doctor, they shouldn't have to pay his lawyer, too.

Finally, we must <sup>???</sup> ~~protect the benefits~~ of federal health programs. ~~And the surest way to do that is to slow the~~ <sup>in federal health program, growth</sup> uncontrolled growth ~~that only serves to endanger~~ those benefits.

*and makes fewer resources available for other programs*

There it is: a common-sense reform that will maintain high-quality care, cut costs, ensure the right of parents to choose their family's doctor, and give every family -- rich or poor, sick or healthy -- access to health care. <sup>And I know how important for parents who</sup> My plan builds on our <sup>children</sup> system's strengths. And it avoids the pitfalls of nationalized <sup>have</sup> care, the kind that people from all over the world come to <sup>Special</sup> <sup>healthy</sup> <sup>needs.</sup> America to escape. ]

All these approaches for meeting our goal of healthy children ready to learn must build on a basic truth: In this country, families come first. Government programs that preempt the rightful role of families and communities, that deny them freedom of choice or bind them up in red tape, are simply unacceptable. <sup>My plan will</sup> <sup>assure that</sup> <sup>you can</sup> <sup>change</sup> <sup>jobs</sup> <sup>without</sup> <sup>endangering</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>health</sup> <sup>insurance</sup> <sup>your</sup> <sup>child</sup> <sup>depends</sup> <sup>on.</sup> Our movement is about strengthening families. Over the next three days you will continue a great national dialogue, share information, explore new ideas, and then return to your communities to lead this good fight. Your commitment is an inspiration, and I thank you for inviting me to see it firsthand.

God bless you all and God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

POSSIBLE  
INSERT

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/7/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 2/7/92 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE

SUBJECT: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 - 2:00p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>MOORE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>MCBRIDE</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m., TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 7, 1992  
Draft Two  
SURGEONS

02 FEB 7 All: 54

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

[Acknowledgments, humor]

It's such a pleasure to be here today, to help launch this historic conference. You have gathered to lead a great movement of parents and doctors and teachers <sup>and volunteers,</sup> of public programs and private enterprise -- a movement, destined to transform America. Here's what we'll do: by the year 2000, every American child will start school healthy and ready to learn.

Our success will ensure America's leadership in the global marketplace; it will guarantee the health and safety of our families and neighborhoods. I am proud that our administration is part of this movement. I know that with your dedication and ability, we will not fail to achieve our goal.

~~Our movement draws its strength from the grassroots, from families.~~ The title of this conference says it all: "Healthy Children Ready to Learn: The Critical Role of Parents." Parents are a child's "first teachers," offering the love and spiritual nourishment that no government program can ever hope to provide. When parents read aloud to their young ones, they open their children to the joy of a larger world; they teach the self-assurance and curiosity that come from learning.

No Community  
Can long survive unless it fosters strong families, exceptional care for children, and youth developing good character and values.  
Our movement preserves the vital role of families and communities in providing care for children - and that is its greatest strength.



Our movement instills the habits of good health -- wholesome nutrition, sound hygiene, and protective measures like early immunization. Parents know: learning and health are two sides of the same coin.

Again, parents, families, communities are the key -- but government can help. Last June, for instance, Dr. Louis Sullivan and I announced our administration's initiative to bring immunization to every American child -- especially early immunization for kids in the first and second year of life.

On Friday, the Surgeon General and I were out in San Diego and had the privilege of seeing firsthand the benefits of this initiative. The parents and community leaders I spoke with stressed the importance of early immunization in preventing illness. That's a crucial step toward meeting our goal. I'm proud we've been able to help.

And for kids who need a head start in preparing for school, we've made sure they'll get it. In the last three years we have more than doubled funding for Head Start programs. With the increases I've proposed, every eligible four-year-old can enter school ready to learn, right alongside children who've had some of the advantages Head Start kids haven't enjoyed.

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Yet it's important to remember: For all its problems, our system still provides the best health care in the world. That's why people from all over the globe come here seeking better care. Most often they're trying to escape health care systems in which the government dictates how much care you'll get, what kind you'll get, when you'll get it and who your doctor will be. In

our system, parents can still choose their children's doctor. My plan preserves that freedom of choice for parents.

Our great challenge is to keep what works in our system and reform what doesn't. We must maintain our freedom of choice and the high-quality of our care. At the same time, we must make sure our children have access to health care their parents can afford.

That's what my four-point plan does. Let me briefly spell it out for you.

First, to make health care more affordable and accessible, I want a \$3,750 tax credit for low-to-middle income families to help them buy health insurance; for middle income families, I've proposed a tax deduction for the same amount.

Second, to cut costs, we will make health care more efficient. Studies show that the larger the group being covered, the lower the cost per family. We will create Health Insurance Networks that bring companies together to cut administrative costs and make insurance affordable for working parents.

Third, we must rein in medical malpractice lawsuits that drive up the cost of care for everyone. A doctor pestered with frivolous litigation ends up passing his legal costs along to you, the patient. When a family that's just getting by visits their doctor, they shouldn't have to pay his lawyer, too.

Finally, we must protect the benefits of federal health programs. And the surest way to do that is to slow the uncontrolled growth that only serves to endanger those benefits.

*It doesn't try to build a new system <sup>on</sup> ~~with~~ the weaknesses of other systems.*

There it is: a common-sense reform that will maintain high-quality care, cut costs, ensure the right of parents to choose their family's doctor, and give every family -- rich or poor, sick or healthy -- access to health care. My plan builds on our system's strengths. And it avoids the pitfalls of nationalized care, the kind that people from all over the world come to America to escape.

All these approaches for meeting our goal of healthy children ready to learn must build on a basic truth: In this country, families come first. Government programs that preempt the rightful role of families and communities, that deny them freedom of choice or bind them up in red tape, are simply unacceptable. Our movement is about strengthening families. Over the next three days you will continue a great national dialogue, share information, explore new ideas, and then return to your communities to lead this good fight. Your commitment is an inspiration, and I thank you for inviting me to see it firsthand.

God bless you all and God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

Document No. 301633555

92 JAN 7 P4:26

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/7/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 2/7/92 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE

SUBJECT: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 - 2:00p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	—	✓	HORNER	—	✓
SKINNER	—	✓	<del>ORLIO</del>	—	✓
SCOWCROFT	—	—	PETERSMEYER	✓	—
DARMAN	✓	—	PORTER	✓	—
BRADY	—	✓	ROGICH	✓	—
BROMLEY	—	—	SMITH	✓	—
CARD	—	—	MOORE	—	✓
DEMAREST	✓	—	KAUFMAN	—	✓
FITZWATER	—	✓	MCBRIDE	✓	—
GRAY	✓	—	FINDLAY	—	✓
HOLIDAY	✓	—	SNOW	—	✓

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m., TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

- ① No News Here
- ② EXPAND to include Family Values Role in The Health of the Child.
- ③ pg 2 mention total \$ value of POTUS'S HEADSTART Budget (Should be AN Attractive #)

④ c/ DAN CASS re: further ideas

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

*SA*

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 7, 1992  
Draft Two  
SURGEONS

02 FEB 7 All: 54

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

[Acknowledgments, humor]

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2

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10/2/92  
A. J. Jolly  
Head Start

3

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Yet it's important to remember: For all its problems, our system still provides the best health care in the world. That's why people from all over the globe come here seeking better care. Most often they're trying to escape health care systems in which the government dictates how much care you'll get, what kind you'll get, when you'll get it and who your doctor will be. In

4

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Third, we must rein in medical malpractice lawsuits that drive up the cost of care for everyone. A doctor pestered with frivolous litigation ends up passing his legal costs along to you, the patient. When a family that's just getting by visits their doctor, they shouldn't have to pay his lawyer, too.

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5

There it is: a common-sense reform that will maintain high-quality care, cut costs, ensure the right of parents to choose their family's doctor, and give every family -- rich or poor, sick or healthy -- access to health care. My plan builds on our system's strengths. And it avoids the pitfalls of nationalized care, the kind that people from all over the world come to America to escape.

All these approaches for meeting our goal of healthy children ready to learn must build on a basic truth: In this country, families come first. Government programs that preempt the rightful role of families and communities, that deny them freedom of choice or bind them up in red tape, are simply unacceptable. Our movement is about strengthening families. Over the next three days you will continue a great national dialogue, share information, explore new ideas, and then return to your communities to lead this good fight. Your commitment is an inspiration, and I thank you for inviting me to see it firsthand.

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# # # #



92 JAN 7 P4:35  
**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 2/7/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 2/7/92 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE

SUBJECT: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 - 2:00p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	—	✓	HORNER	—	✓
SKINNER	—	✓	CALIO	✓	—
SCOWCROFT	—	—	PETERSMEYER	✓	—
DARMAN	✓	—	PORTER	✓	—
BRADY	—	✓	ROGICH	✓	—
BROMLEY	—	—	SMITH	✓	□
CARD	—	—	MOORE	—	✓
DEMAREST	✓	—	KAUFMAN	—	✓
FITZWATER	—	✓	MCBRIDE	✓	—
GRAY	✓	—	FINDLAY	—	✓
HOLIDAY	✓	—	SNOW	—	✓

REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

*Ok - a few suggestions. Do we want to mention the new infant mortality rates?*

*BT for SR*

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 7, 1992  
Draft Two  
SURGEONS

02 FEB 7 11:54

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

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*One of our national education goals states that*  
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# # # #

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

92 JAN 7 12:58

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE

SUBJECT: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 - 2:00p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	—	✓	HORNER	—	✓
SKINNER	—	✓	CALIO	✓	—
SCOWCROFT	—	—	PETERSMEYER <i>Ellen</i>	✓	—
DARMAN	✓	—	PORTER	✓	—
BRADY	—	✓	ROGICH	✓	—
BROMLEY	—	—	SMITH	✓	—
CARD	—	—	MOORE	—	✓
DEMAREST	✓	—	KAUFMAN	—	✓
FITZWATER	—	✓	MCBRIDE <i>2861</i>	✓	—
GRAY <i>Final Request 2898</i>	✓	—	FINDLAY	—	✓
HOLIDAY	✓	—	SNOW	—	✓

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m., TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*Comments pg 1 Mann Shuck for DJ*

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 7, 1992  
Draft Two  
SURGEONS

02 FEB 7 11:54

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
RAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

[Acknowledgments, humor]

It's such a pleasure to be here today, to help launch this historic conference. You have gathered to <sup>be</sup> <sup>ers of</sup> lead a great movement of parents and doctors and teachers, of public programs and private enterprise -- a movement, destined to transform America. Here's what <sup>we're doing</sup> ~~we'll do~~: by the year 2000, every American child will start school healthy and ready to learn.

Our success will ensure America's leadership in the global marketplace; it will guarantee the health and safety of our families and neighborhoods. ~~I am proud that our administration is part of this movement.~~ <sup>together</sup> I know that with your dedication and ability, we will not fail to achieve our goal.

Our movement draws its strength from the grassroots, from families. The title of this conference says it all: "Healthy Children Ready to Learn: The Critical Role of Parents." Parents are a child's "first teachers," offering the love and spiritual nourishment that no government program can ever hope to provide. When parents read aloud to their young ones, they open their children to the joy of a larger world; they teach the self-assurance and curiosity that come from learning.

Our movement instills the habits of good health -- wholesome nutrition, sound hygiene, and protective measures like early immunization. Parents know: learning and health are two sides of the same coin.

Again, parents, families, communities are the key -- but government can help. Last June, for instance, Dr. Louis Sullivan and I announced our administration's initiative to bring immunization to every American child -- especially early immunization for kids in the first and second year of life.

On Friday, the Surgeon General and I were out in San Diego and had the privilege of seeing firsthand the benefits of this initiative. The parents and community leaders I spoke with stressed the importance of early immunization in preventing illness. That's a crucial step toward meeting our goal. I'm proud we've been able to help.

And for kids who need a head start in preparing for school, we've made sure they'll get it. In the last three years we have more than doubled funding for Head Start programs. With the increases I've proposed, every eligible four-year-old can enter school ready to learn, right alongside children who've had some of the advantages Head Start kids haven't enjoyed.

Head Start brings children and parents into the classroom -- into the learning process. Head Start works because parents take the lead. You may not know this, but volunteers in Head Start outnumber paid staff by eight-to-one. Head Start works

because people care. And we've made sure it will continue to work, for every eligible family that wants it.

These are important steps. But if we truly want to ensure that our children are healthy and ready to learn, we must address the larger issues of American health care. Over the last several days, I've traveled around the country to talk about the need for reforming our nation's health care system. We must see to it that every American family has access to affordable, high-quality care. Last week, I proposed a four point program to do just that.

I don't need to tell you that the American health care system has problems. The crisis has probably touched many of you here in this room. Right now, xx million children go without health insurance, because skyrocketing costs have placed coverage beyond the reach of their parents. And even parents who are covered worry about losing their family's insurance if they move on to a different job or, worse still, lose the job they have. You shouldn't have to live with this kind of uncertainty. No American family should.

Yet it's important to remember: For all its problems, our system still provides the best health care in the world. That's why people from all over the globe come here seeking better care. Most often they're trying to escape health care systems in which the government dictates how much care you'll get, what kind you'll get, when you'll get it and who your doctor will be. In

our system, parents can still choose their children's doctor. My plan preserves that freedom of choice for parents.

Our great challenge is to keep what works in our system and reform what doesn't. We must maintain our freedom of choice and the high-quality of our care. At the same time, we must make sure our children have access to health care their parents can afford.

That's what my four-point plan does. Let me briefly spell it out for you.

First, to make health care more affordable and accessible, I want a \$3,750 tax credit for low-to-middle income families to help them buy health insurance; for middle income families, I've proposed a tax deduction for the same amount.

Second, to cut costs, we will make health care more efficient. Studies show that the larger the group being covered, the lower the cost per family. We will create Health Insurance Networks that bring companies together to cut administrative costs and make insurance affordable for working parents.

Third, we must rein in medical malpractice lawsuits that drive up the cost of care for everyone. A doctor pestered with frivolous litigation ends up passing his legal costs along to you, the patient. When a family that's just getting by visits their doctor, they shouldn't have to pay his lawyer, too.

Finally, we must protect the benefits of federal health programs. And the surest way to do that is to slow the uncontrolled growth that only serves to endanger those benefits.

There it is: a common-sense reform that will maintain high-quality care, cut costs, ensure the right of parents to choose their family's doctor, and give every family -- rich or poor, sick or healthy -- access to health care. My plan builds on our system's strengths. And it avoids the pitfalls of nationalized care, the kind that people from all over the world come to America to escape.

All these approaches for meeting our goal of healthy children ready to learn must build on a basic truth: In this country, families come first. Government programs that preempt the rightful role of families and communities, that deny them freedom of choice or bind them up in red tape, are simply unacceptable. Our movement is about strengthening families. Over the next three days you will continue a great national dialogue, share information, explore new ideas, and then return to your communities to lead this good fight. Your commitment is an inspiration, and I thank you for inviting me to see it firsthand.

God bless you all and God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
February 7, 1992  
Draft Two  
SURGEONS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SURGEON GENERAL'S CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992  
PAMADA RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
2:00 P.M.

Thank you Dr. Sullivan; Dr. Antonia Novello  
[~~Acknowledgments~~, humor]

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historic conference. You have gathered to ~~lead a great~~ <sup>start this</sup> movement  
of parents and doctors and teachers, of public programs and  
private enterprise -- all united in the same purpose: to ensure that:

Wade Horn, Head Start ~~Here's what we'll do:~~ by the year 2000, every American child will  
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Our success will ensure America's leadership in the global  
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assurance and confidence that come from learning.



because people care. And we've made sure it will continue to work, for every eligible family that wants it.

Hanns  
re: Clinton  
line

These are the problems. But we have much more work to do. ~~It is our commitment to ensure that our children are healthy and ready to learn, we must address the larger issue of American health care.~~ Over the last several days, I've traveled around the country to talk about the need for reforming our nation's health care system. We must see to it that every American family has access to affordable, high-quality care. Last night, I met with a group of people who are trying to do just that.

I don't need to tell you that the American health care system has problems. The crisis has probably touched many of you here in this room. Right now, 8.5 million children go without health insurance, because skyrocketing costs have placed coverage beyond the reach of many families. For the millions who are covered worry about losing their families' coverage if they move on to a different job or, worse still, lose the job they have. You shouldn't have to live with this kind of uncertainty. No American family should.

Yet it is important to remember: For all its problems, our system still works better than any other in the world. That's why people from all over the world come here for the best care. Most often they're trying to create health care systems in which the government dictates how much care you'll get, what kind you'll get, when you'll get it and who your doctor will be. In

our system, parents can still choose their children's doctor. My plan preserves that freedom of choice for parents.

Our great challenge is to keep what works in our system and reform what doesn't. We must maintain our freedom of choice and the high-quality of our care. At the same time, we must make sure our children have access to health care their parents can afford.

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Third, we must rein in medical malpractice lawsuits that drive up the cost of care for everyone. A doctor pestered with frivolous litigation is passing his legal costs along to you, the patient. We will cap the amount of money paid by visits to their doctor, but you will have to pay half the cost, too.

Finally, we must protect the benefits of federal health programs. And the surest way to do that is to slow the uncontrolled growth that only serves to endanger those benefits.

There it is: a common-sense reform that will maintain high-quality care, cut costs, ensure the right of parents to choose their family's doctor, and give every family -- rich or poor, sick or healthy -- access to health care. My plan builds on our system's strengths. And it avoids the pitfalls of nationalized care, the kind that people from all over the world come to America to escape.

All these approaches for meeting our goal of healthy children ready to learn must build on a basic truth: In this country, families are free. Government programs that preempt the right of parents to make their own choices -- to deny them freedom of choice by that blue up in red type, are simply unacceptable. Our movement is about strengthening families. Over the next three days you will continue a great national dialogue, share information, explore new ideas, and then return to your communities and states. Your commitment is an inspiration to all. We will see it firsthand.

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God bless you all and God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

92 JAN 7 P5:20

February 7, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW  
Deputy Assistant to the President for  
Communications and Director of Speechwriting

FROM: JANET REHNQUIST *jr*  
Associate Counsel to the President

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks -- Surgeon General's  
Conference

At your request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter. We have no legal objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter.

cc: Phil Brady

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*The program begins by recognizing we have the best health care system in the world. But we cannot deny that*

*Some people of my opponents in Congress*

Europe or

think these problems require to  
carbon system - they look to  
of software where