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# FOIA MARKER

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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13610  
**Folder ID Number:** 13610-003

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**Folder Title:**  
National League of Cities 3/9/92 [OA 6099] [2]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

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(Ferguson/Gershowitz)  
March 5, 1992  
Draft Two  
NLC2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
11:40 A.M.

Thank you, Glenda (Hood) for that kind introduction. My greetings also to Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, Don Borut, and Wallace Stickney.

I'm pleased to be here today. I know I spoke to many of you over television hook-up last December, and it's nice to climb down from the silver screen to speak with you face to face.

Since December, I've had a chance to talk with several of you in depth about the problems you face. In January, I had an important meeting in the White House with ten of your members. Like your organization as a whole, they represented a cross-section of urban America's leadership -- Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, officials from large and small and mid-sized cities.

Of course, we're all concerned about the big issues -- jobs, family, world peace. Even so, I was struck by the unanimity of the message these leaders wanted to deliver. It was an insight that we have been acting on for three years, but it can't be repeated often enough in Washington, *or in state capitol or in a city hall*

Their message was simply this: The enormous problems facing cities today -- from infant mortality to high drop-out rates to runaway crime -- are in part symptoms of one larger problem, the deterioration of the American family.

That is the extraordinarily serious issue I would like to discuss with you today. I have made the restoration of the American family a priority of this administration. It lies at the heart of much of what we have done for three years.

The problem offers no safe harbors, no sanctuaries. It touches every American, regardless of personal circumstance. Leaving aside for a moment the enormous governmental costs, family breakdown endangers our position in a world increasingly driven by economic competition. It endangers -- for all of us -- our ability to create jobs, to generate economic growth in the years ahead, to leave a prosperous country for the generations that will follow us.

So we must start with a clear-eyed look at what is really happening to the family in American communities today -- not just in poor urban neighborhoods but all across America. Then we must look inside ourselves, to establish the principles that will shape our approach. And then we must act.

The urgency is clear. We all know the statistics, the dreary drumbeat that tells of family breakdown. Today, one out of every four American children is born out of wedlock; in some areas the illegitimacy rate tops 80 percent. The problem is so overwhelming that a few communities have even begun passing out condoms in school. In my heart I cannot approve of such a measure; but I understand the sheer desperation that drives public officials to take it.

Twenty-five percent of our children grow up in households headed by a single parent. More than two million are called latch-key kids -- who come from school each afternoon to an empty home. And a large number of our children grow up without the love of parents at all.

We know from experience the consequences of family decline. Neglected children are more susceptible to the lure of crime and drugs, are more likely to have poor health and to drop out of school early, to lead a life without hope.

You on the frontlines know the human costs that statistics can only dimly sketch. You know, as I do, that for every blip on a chart or dot on a graph there is a human story to tell, and too often the story is a tragedy.

About ten days ago, I was in San Antonio, meeting with Latin American heads of state to intensify our war on drugs. And while there I noticed a front-page story in the San Antonio Light. A cabdriver had been murdered last September -- another act of random, senseless violence -- and his murderer had just been found guilty.

But what was truly horrifying -- what would horrify any American -- was this: the murderer was a 12-year-old boy.

As the deputies took the boy from the courtroom, according to the newspaper story, they had trouble fitting him with shackles and handcuffs, so slender were his wrists. This youngster was four-feet tall, not yet a teenager, and now a convicted murderer.

The drumbeat continues: two teenagers shot dead in a New York public school -- an LSD ring busted up in an affluent Northern Virginia suburb -- and the harrowing stories of runaway kids and the horrors that befall them.

I know that almost all of you could tell stories equally distressing -- stories from neighborhoods in your cities where the unthinkable has become the commonplace. Something's wrong when elderly city-dwellers, with triple-bolted doors, dare not leave their homes for fear of attack; when babies are born addicted to crack cocaine; when school children shoot one another over a pair of sneakers.

Something is terribly, terribly wrong. I am sure that all of you in this room took office with high confidence in our ability to solve these problems, only to discover -- sooner rather than later, I suspect -- that they were far more stubborn than any of us had supposed. Let's not forget that the trials our citizens face today were generations in the making. We can't expect change overnight.

But make no mistake: We will change things. And we will do it by digging to the root, to the deepest problem underlying so many others. Each day, as public servants, we must redouble our efforts to restore the family to its place of primacy in American life. It's been said that the family is the best Department of Health and Human Services ever devised. That is a singularly American insight. The genius of our system has always been its

reliance on the family, not government, as the fundamental unit of social progress.

Families open up the world's horizons to individuals. They give older family members a stake in the future and connect children to their past.

In restoring the family, then, we restore to coming generations the values, the sense of right and wrong, the will and confidence to succeed that only a family can provide a child. And in doing this, we will reinvigorate our cities as well.

We needn't look far for principles to guide us. They are the old home truths. Rely on what works -- discard what doesn't. Never be afraid to innovate. The government that is closest to the people responds best to the needs of the people. And let's not forget this as a guiding principle: if people are to be responsible, they must be given responsibility.

The government's first duty is like that of the physician: Do no harm. And the fact is, with the best of intentions, many government policies in the past have worked against the institution of the family -- undermined young people's desire to marry and stay married, to provide for their children, to plan for their future.

As a practical matter, "doing no harm" means in part that we ensure parents retain the authority to make the big decisions for their families. Government only harms the family when it restricts the its autonomy or usurps the authority of responsible parents.

Let me give you an example: Those of us in government can never plausibly claim to fight for families if we insist that government, not parents, must choose who cares for their children. Two years ago, my administration waged a fight in Congress over this very issue, and we won. We kept choice of child care out of the hands of government and put it where it belongs -- in the hands of parents.

Now we're engaged in a similar fight, over whether parents should have the right to choose their childrens' schools. We know the benefits of competition; it is the linchpin of American prosperity. And competition among schools will be the linchpin of educational excellence, too.

But school choice is important for other reasons: It restores authority and responsibility to parents. And just as it makes our schools accountable, so does it make parents accountable for the decisions they make. Restoring authority and accountability -- not only in child care and school choice but in other areas as well -- will be a key to healing the American family.

Another example: The initiative we call HOPE. It took more than a year to get HOPE through Congress, and another year to get even partial funding for it. But HOPE will be crucial to our success, by offering low-income families a greater opportunity to own their own homes. HOPE is based on a simple principle: to survive, people need the intangible values of dignity and self-

respect. Government can't provide those. But homeownership can. An education can. A job can. And being part of a family can.

Of course the federal government has a positive role in preserving the family. We welcome that role; it has guided the decisions we've made over the past three years. Since 1989, for example, we have more than doubled funding for Head Start, a program that brings children and parents into the classroom, strengthening family ties and reinforcing parental responsibility. For the first time in the program's history, our new budget supports one year of Head Start for every eligible child whose parents choose to have him participate.

There are many other examples: since 1989, we've increased the funding for WIC -- the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children -- by 47 percent, to \$2.8 billion next year. We've increased other nutrition programs by similar percentages. And this year federal support for childhood immunization grants will increase by \$52 million, an increase of 18 percent over last year's level.

All told, funding for children's programs -- from nutrition and education to foster care and child immunizations -- has increased 66 percent since we took office.

But please understand: we will never measure our success in dollars spent. We will measure it by results -- by the health and happiness of our children and, most important of all, by the sense of self-reliance we can instill in a family. My administration has concentrated on funding the programs that work

for the family -- that efficiently fulfill government's role in supporting families and keeping them together.

At the same time, we must face another fact: government can sometimes be a burden as well as a boon. Over the past forty years, the child tax exemption has lagged far behind the soaring costs of child-rearing. I have asked Congress to increase the exemption by \$500 per child. For a family with four children, that's an increase of \$2,000. It's a crucial first step toward redressing the imbalance, and it's what we can afford.

We have also successfully increased the earned income tax credit for low-income families. A strain on the family budget is a strain on the family -- and families don't need the added pressure.

And now I come to perhaps the most crucial matter of all: we must reform our nation's welfare system. Americans are the most generous people on earth, but they want to see -- and they're entitled to see -- some relationship between welfare and work. Welfare must never be what FDR warned it might become: a subtle destroyer of the spirit. It is not meant to be a way of life, or a family legacy passed from one generation to the next. Welfare can eat away at the ties that bind a family together.

State and local governments are undertaking the brave work of reform. My administration has vowed to help them. We are acting now to waive federal requirements that impede reform, for every state that asks for it.

I have dwelled today on the role of government -- both positive and negative -- because we are men and women of government. But let us never forget the work of private Americans dedicating themselves to the voluntary service of others, who create an environment where families can flourish. Right now, as we're gathered here, somewhere in America a volunteer is reading to a child; a businessman offers job training to a young man he's just met; a woman teaches young expectant mothers how to care for the children they will soon bring into the world; neighbors band together to rid their neighborhoods of the scourge of drugs.

Each of them is a Point of Light, offering service with no thought of reward, though the reward will be reaped by every American. I urge all of you, when you return to your cities, to do all in your power to encourage these caring men and women, to make yours a community of light.

In my State of the Union address, I announced that we would soon institute a commission on America's urban families. Their work will be one result of my meeting in January with some of your leaders. I have asked Gov. John Ashcroft of Missouri and Annette Strauss, the former Mayor of Dallas, to lead the commission and fulfill its mandate: to identify those government programs, at all levels, that weaken or strengthen urban families; to analyze ways to improve private efforts to strengthen families; and to recommend new policies to help families in our cities.

I am convinced that we can correct our mistakes, learn from our failures, and build on our successes. I do not exaggerate when I say that the future of America depends on our efforts. The family is the irreducible unit of comfort and love, and from families radiate neighborhoods, from neighborhoods come towns and cities, and their health determines the health of our country, for better or worse. Like you I am committed to making our health whole, and to ensuring that our cities, as Theodore Parker said, remain the fireplaces of America, radiating warmth and light against the darkness.

# # # #

1) Certainly the primary task is critical

Moreover at a time when the central focus of our effort is on economic growth

inevitably clear we have to become more competitive

as a country can't afford to see the human resources wasted

and can't afford to pay for that waste

Reason among managers & it suggest drastic

reform - get to let state minimize New Jersey, Calif

Do not require training not have not done it

because we're cheap (but because we really believe this is the best way to treat people)

2) Equally clear that people can't succeed

if they can't be economically viable best of intentions

managers can't to make jobs and therefore successful either

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 3/6/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: SAT. 3/7/92 10:00am

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992 - 11:40 am

	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 type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	ANDERSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			KAUFMAN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			MCGROARTY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., SATURDAY, MARCH 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*compile graphics on*

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

(Ferguson/Gershowitz)  
March 5, 1992  
Draft One  
NLC2

02 MAR 6 P3:35

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The urgency is clear. We all know the statistics, the dreary drumbeat that tells of family breakdown. Today, one out of every four American children is born out of wedlock. Some communities have even begun passing out condoms in school -- not from a lax attitude toward premarital sex, but from sheer desperation.

Twenty-five percent of our children grow up in households headed by a single parent. More than two million are called latch-key kids -- who come from school each afternoon to an empty home. And a large number of our children grow up without the love of parents at all.

We know from experience the consequences of family decline. Neglected children are more susceptible to the lure of crime and drugs, are more likely to have poor health and to drop out of school early, to lead a life without hope.

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1/3 children  
to one that  
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poverty

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But what was truly horrifying -- what would horrify any American -- was this: the murderer was a 12-year-old boy.

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The drumbeat continues: two teenagers shot dead in a New York public school -- an LSD ring busted up in an affluent Northern Virginia suburb -- and the harrowing stories of runaway kids and the horrors that befall them.

I know that almost all of you could tell stories equally distressing -- stories from neighborhoods in your cities where the unthinkable has become the commonplace. Something's wrong when elderly city-dwellers, with triple-bolted doors, dare not leave their homes for fear of attack; when babies are born addicted to crack cocaine; when school children shoot one another over a pair of sneakers.

Something is terribly, terribly wrong. I am sure that all of you in this room took office with high confidence in our

ability to solve these problems, only to discover -- sooner rather than later, I suspect -- that they were far more stubborn than any of us had supposed. Let's not forget that the trials our citizens face <sup>endured every day</sup> today were generations in the making. We can't expect change overnight.

But make no mistake: We will change things. <sup>we will change things</sup> And we will do it by digging to the root, to the deepest problem underlying so many others. Each day, as public servants, we must redouble our efforts to restore the family to its place of primacy in American life. It's been said that the family is the best Department of Health of Human Services ever devised. That is a singularly American insight. The genius of our system has always been its reliance on the family, not government, as the fundamental unit of social progress.

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not forget this as a guiding principle: if people are to be responsible, they must be given responsibility.

As a practical matter, that means we must ensure that parents retain the authority to make the big decisions for their families. The government's first responsibility is like that of the physician: Do no harm. And let us never doubt that government only harms the family when it restricts the family's autonomy or usurps the authority of responsible parents.

Let me give you an example: Those of us in government can never plausibly claim to fight for families if we insist that government, not parents, must choose who cares for their children. Two years ago, my administration waged a fight in Congress over this very issue, and we won. We kept choice of child care out of the hands of government and put it where it belongs -- in the hands of parents.

Now we're engaged in a similar fight, over whether parents should have the right to choose their childrens' schools. We know the benefits of competition; it is the linchpin of American prosperity. And competition among schools will be the linchpin of educational excellence, too.

But school choice is important for other reasons: It restores authority and responsibility to parents. And just as it makes our schools accountable, so does it make parents accountable for the decisions they make. Restoring authority and accountability -- not only in child care and school choice but in

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Another example: For more than a <sup>2 year</sup> year now we have been trying to get through Congress our HOPE initiative, which would offer low-income families a greater opportunity to own their own homes. HOPE is based on a simple principle: to survive, people need the intangible values of dignity and self-respect.

Government can't provide those. But homeownership can. An education can. A job can. And being part of a family can.

*State in positive* Of course we will never shirk the federal government's affirmative role in preserving the family. Our belief in that role has guided the decisions we've made over the past three years. Since 1989, for example, we have more than doubled funding for Head Start, a program that brings children and parents into the classroom, strengthening family ties and reinforcing parental responsibility. For the first time in the program's history, our new budget provides that every eligible four-year-old will be able to start school ready to learn.

There are many other examples: over the past three years, we've increased the funding for WIC -- the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children -- by 47 percent, to \$2.8 billion next year. We've increased other nutrition programs by similar percentages. And this year federal support for childhood immunizations will increase by \$52 million, an increase of 18 percent over last year's level.

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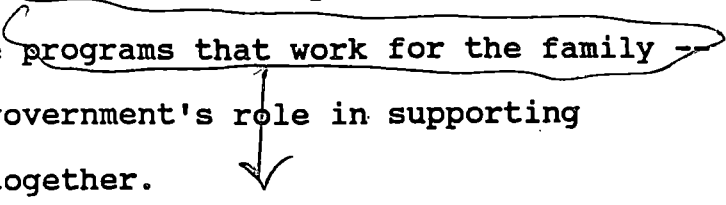
But please understand: we do not measure our success in dollars spent. We measure it by results -- by the degree to which it keeps children healthy and happy and, most important of all, increases a family's self-reliance. My administration has concentrated on funding the programs that work for the family -- that efficiently fulfill government's role in supporting families and keeping them together.

At the same time, we must face another fact: government can sometimes be a burden as well as a boon. Over the past forty years, the child tax exemption has lagged far behind the soaring costs of child-rearing. I have asked Congress to increase the exemption by \$500 per child. For a family of four, that's an increase of \$2,000. It's a crucial first step toward redressing the imbalance, and it's what we can afford. We have also successfully increased the earned income tax credit for low-income families. A strain on the family budget is a strain on the family -- and families don't need the added pressure.

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# # # #

*light against the darkness*

P. 4 Let's face it

So I ask you to join me.

Together we must call ~~for~~ a cease-fire in the war of words.

This is no time to cast blame This is no time to quest on motives

that too often consumes us.

Let us focus every ounce of energy on turning back this assault

Let us act as one nation to defend and strengthen the American family

snapshots of alley  
since 1960 → 19

(Ferguson/Gershowitz)  
March 5, 1992  
Draft One  
NLC2

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became more comp.  
1) We can't afford to waste  
the human resources  
2) We can't afford to have  
this drag on our economy.

We want families  
to be strong  
1) strong families participate  
in the economy at large  
2) Leaving aside  
the gov't costs

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economic graph.

1960-719

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I know that almost all of you could tell stories equally distressing -- stories from neighborhoods in your cities where the unthinkable has become the commonplace. Something's wrong when elderly city-dwellers, with triple-bolted doors, dare not leave their homes for fear of attack; when babies are born addicted to crack cocaine; when school children shoot one another over a pair of sneakers.

Something is terribly, terribly wrong. I am sure that all of you in this room took office with high confidence in our

ability to solve these problems, only to discover -- sooner rather than later, I suspect -- that they were far more stubborn than any of us had supposed. Let's not forget that the trials our citizens face today were generations in the making. We can't expect change overnight.

But make no mistake: We will change things. And we will do it by digging to the root, to the deepest problem underlying so many others. Each day, as public servants, we must redouble our efforts to restore the family to its place of primacy in American life. It's been said that the family is the best Department of Health of Human Services ever devised. That is a singularly American insight. The genius of our system has always been its reliance on the family, not government, as the fundamental unit of social progress. *Governments don't overcome poverty, people do.*

Families open up the world to individuals. They give older family members a stake in the future and connect children to their past.

In restoring the family we restore to coming generations the values, the sense of right and wrong, the will and confidence to succeed that only a family can provide a child. And in doing this, we will reinvigorate our cities as well.

We needn't look far for principles to guide us. They are the old home truths. Rely on what works, discard what doesn't. Never be afraid to innovate. The government that is closest to the people responds best to the needs of the people. And let's

7 we can make schools open  
2) we can give access  
but nobody can help  
them if the parents  
3) learn new skills  
but you can't get  
ahead unless you  
stay in school

but our education  
turn off the TV  
and read to  
their kids

Label the failures  
of the past  
with the best of intentions  
so it ~~will~~ <sup>not</sup> have  
worked again  
the family  
stability  
placed us  
further away  
from the goal  
we seek.

not forget this as a guiding principle: if people are to be responsible, they must be given responsibility.

As a practical matter, that means we must ensure that parents retain the authority to make the big decisions for their families. The government's first responsibility is like that of the physician: Do no harm. And let us never doubt that government only harms the family when it restricts the family's autonomy or usurps the authority of responsible parents.

Let me give you an example: Those of us in government can never plausibly claim to fight for families if we insist that government, not parents, must choose who cares for their children. Two years ago, my administration waged a fight in Congress over this very issue, and we won. We kept choice of child care out of the hands of government and put it where it belongs -- in the hands of parents.

Now we're engaged in a similar fight, over whether parents should have the right to choose their childrens' schools. We know the benefits of competition; it is the linchpin of American prosperity. And competition among schools will be the linchpin of educational excellence, too.

But school choice is important for other reasons: It restores authority and responsibility to parents. And just as it makes our schools accountable, so does it make parents accountable for the decisions they make. Restoring authority and accountability -- not only in child care and school choice but in

Reinventing  
government

1) Educ  
2) Health care  
3) job training

other areas as well -- will be a key to healing the American family.

Another example: For more than a year now we have been trying to get through Congress our HOPE initiative, which would offer low-income families a greater opportunity to own their own homes. HOPE is based on a simple principle: to survive, people need the intangible values of dignity and self-respect.

Government can't provide those. But homeownership can. An education can. A job can. And being part of a family can.

Of course ~~we will never shirk the~~ <sup>the</sup> federal government's ~~affirmative~~ <sup>has a</sup> role in preserving the family. Our belief in that role has guided the decisions we've made over the past three years. Since 1989, for example, we have more than doubled funding for Head Start, a program that brings children and parents into the classroom, strengthening family ties and reinforcing parental responsibility. For the first time in the program's history, our new budget provides that every eligible four-year-old will be able to start school ready to learn.

There are many other examples: over the past three years, we've increased the funding for WIC -- the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children -- by 47 percent, to \$2.8 billion next year. We've increased other nutrition programs by similar percentages. And this year federal support for childhood immunizations will increase by \$52 million, an increase of 18 percent over last year's level.

The test will be the degree to which

A grad on we don't measure in dollars spent. A lot of people thought this.

All told, funding for children's programs -- from nutrition and education to foster care and child immunizations -- has increased 66 percent since we took office.

But please understand: we <sup>will</sup> ~~do~~ not measure our success in dollars spent. We <sup>will</sup> measure it by results -- by the degree to which <sup>we</sup> it keeps children healthy and happy and, most important of all, increases <sup>y</sup> a family's self-reliance. My administration has concentrated on funding the programs that work for the family -- that efficiently fulfill government's role in supporting families and keeping them together.

At the same time, we must face another fact: government can sometimes be a burden as well as a boon. Over the past forty years, the child tax exemption has lagged far behind the soaring costs of child-rearing. I have asked Congress to increase the exemption by \$500 per child. For a family of four, that's an increase of \$2,000. It's a crucial first step toward redressing the imbalance, and it's what we can afford. We have also successfully increased the earned income tax credit for low-income families. A strain on the family budget is a strain on the family -- and families don't need the added pressure.

Probably the most fundamental problem

And there's another thing we must do: we must reform our nation's welfare system. Americans are the most generous people on earth, but they want to see -- and they're entitled to see -- some relationship between welfare and work. Welfare must never be what FDR warned it might become: a subtle destroyer of the spirit. It is not meant to be a way of life, or a family legacy

passed from one generation to the next. Welfare can eat away at the ties that bind a family together.

States are beginning to undertake the brave work of reform. My administration has vowed to help them. We are acting now to waive federal requirements that impede reform, for every state that asks for it.

I have dwelled today on the role of government -- both positive and negative -- because we are men and women of government. But let us never forget the work of private Americans dedicating themselves to the voluntary service of others, who create an environment where families can flourish. Right now, as we're gathered here, somewhere in America a volunteer is reading to a child; a businessman offers job training to a young man he's just met; a woman teaches young expectant mothers how to care for the children they will soon bring into the world; neighbors band together to rid their neighborhoods of the scourge of drugs.

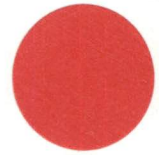
Each of them is a point of light, offering service with no thought of reward, though the reward will be reaped by every American. I urge all of you, when you return to your cities, to do all in your power to encourage these caring men and women, to make yours a community of light.

Today I will sign an executive order establishing a commission on America's urban families. This panel is one result of my meeting in January with your executive council. I have asked Gov. John Ashcroft of Missouri to lead the commission and

fulfill its mandate: to identify those government programs, at all levels, that weaken or strengthen urban families; to analyze ways to improve private efforts to strengthen families; and to recommend new policies to help families in our cities.

I am convinced that we can correct our mistakes, learn from our failures, and build on our successes. The future of America depends on our effort. The family is the irreducible unit of comfort and love, and from families radiate neighborhoods, from neighborhoods come towns and cities, and their health determines the health of our country, for better or worse. Like you I am committed to making our health whole, and to ensure<sup>ing</sup> that our cities, as Theodore Parker said, remain the fireplaces of America, radiating warmth and light <sup>against</sup> ~~in~~ the darkness.

# # # #



92 MAR 6 7:25

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/6/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: SAT. 3/7/92 10:00am

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992 - 11:40 am

	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 type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	ANDERSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			KAUFMAN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			MCGROARTY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., SATURDAY, MARCH 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

See notes.

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

Mark give them  
Acknowledgment  
info

(Ferguson/Gershowitz)  
March 5, 1992  
Draft One  
NLC2

02 MAR 6 P3:35

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
11:40 A.M.

[Acknowledgments]

FEMA director Wallace Stickney  
Glenda, Sydney, Don Bout

I'm pleased to be here today. I know I spoke to many of you over television hook-up last December, and it's nice to climb down from the silver screen to speak with you face to face.

Since December, I've had a chance to talk with several of you in depth about the problems you face. In January, I had an important meeting in the White House with ~~some of your members~~ <sup>10 members of your leadership</sup>. Like your organization as a whole, they represented a marvelous cross-section of urban America's leadership -- Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, officials from large and small and mid-sized cities.

Of course, we're all concerned about the big issues -- jobs, family, world peace. Even so, I was struck by the unanimity of the message your board wanted to deliver. It was an insight that we have been acting on for three years, but it can't be repeated often enough in Washington.

Their message was simply this: The enormous problems facing cities today -- from infant mortality to high drop-out rates to runaway crime -- are in part symptoms of one larger problem, the deterioration of the American family.

That is the extraordinarily serious issue I would like to discuss with you today. I have made the restoration of the

trying to  
get away  
from  
always  
referring to  
"urban"

???

American family a priority of this administration. It lies at the heart of much of what we have done for three years.

We must start with a clear-eyed look at what is really happening to the family in American communities today -- not just in poor urban neighborhoods but all across America. Then we must look inside ourselves, to establish the principles that will shape our approach. And then we must act.

The urgency is clear. We all know the statistics, the dreary drumbeat that tells of family breakdown. Today, one out of every four American children is born out of wedlock. Some communities have even begun passing out condoms in school -- not from a lax attitude toward premarital sex, but from sheer desperation.

23. Twenty-five percent of <sup>IN SOME AREAS - 80% TO 90%</sup> our children grow up in households headed by a single parent. More than two million are called latch-key kids -- who come from school each afternoon to an empty home. And a large number of our children grow up without the love of parents at all.

We know from experience the consequences of family decline. Neglected children are more susceptible to the lure of crime and drugs, are more likely to <sup>suffer</sup> have poor health and to drop out of school early, to lead a life without hope.

You on the frontlines know the human costs that statistics can only dimly sketch. You know, as I do, that for every blip on a chart or dot on a graph there is a human story to tell, and too often the story is a tragedy.

About ten days ago, I was in San Antonio, meeting with other American heads of state to intensify our war on drugs. And while there I noticed a front-page story in the San Antonio Light. A cabdriver had been murdered last September -- another act of random, senseless violence -- and his murderer had just been found guilty.

But what was truly horrifying -- what would horrify any American -- was this: the murderer was a 12-year-old boy.

As the deputies took the boy from the courtroom, according to the newspaper story, they had trouble fitting him with shackles and handcuffs, so slender were his wrists. This youngster was four-feet tall, not yet a teenager, and now a convicted murderer.

The drumbeat continues: two teenagers shot dead in a New York public school -- an LSD ring busted up in an affluent Northern Virginia suburb -- and the harrowing stories of runaway kids and the horrors that befall them.

I know that almost all of you could tell stories equally distressing -- stories from neighborhoods in your cities where the unthinkable has become the commonplace. Something's wrong when elderly city-dwellers, with triple-bolted doors, dare not leave their homes for fear of attack; when babies are born addicted to crack cocaine; when school children shoot one another over a pair of sneakers.

Something is terribly, terribly wrong. I am sure that all of you in this room took office with high confidence in our

ability to solve these problems, only to discover -- sooner rather than later, I suspect -- that they were far more stubborn than any of us had supposed. Let's not forget that the trials our citizens face today were generations in the making. We can't expect change overnight.

But make no mistake: We will change things. And we will do it by digging to the root, to the deepest problem underlying so many others. Each day, as public servants, we must redouble our efforts to restore the family to its place of primacy in American life. It's been said that the family is the best Department of Health of Human Services ever devised. That is a singularly American insight. The genius of our system has always been its reliance on the family, not government, as the fundamental unit of social progress.

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Now we're engaged in a similar fight, over whether parents should have the right to choose their childrens' schools. We know the benefits of competition; it is the linchpin of American prosperity. And competition among schools will be the linchpin of educational excellence, too.

But school choice is important for other reasons: It restores authority and responsibility to parents. And just as it makes our schools accountable, so does it make parents accountable for the decisions they make. Restoring authority and accountability -- not only in child care and school choice but in

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Another example: For more than a year now we have been trying to get through Congress our HOPE initiative, which would offer low-income families a greater opportunity to own their own homes. HOPE is based on a simple principle: to survive, people need the intangible values of dignity and self-respect.

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At the same time, we must face another fact: government can sometimes be a burden as well as a boon. Over the past forty years, the child tax exemption has lagged far behind the soaring costs of child-rearing. I have asked Congress to increase the exemption by \$500 per child. For a family of four, <sup>w/ children</sup> that's an increase of \$2,000. It's a crucial first step toward redressing the imbalance, and it's what we can afford. We have also successfully increased the earned income tax credit for low-income families. A strain on the family budget is a strain on the family -- and families don't need the added pressure.

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passed from one generation to the next. Welfare can eat away at the ties that bind a family together.

States <sup>and local governments,</sup> ~~are beginning to undertake~~ the brave work of reform.

My administration has vowed to help them. We are acting now to waive federal requirements that impede reform, for every state that asks for it.

I have dwelled today on the role of government -- both positive and negative -- because we are men and women of government. But let us never forget the work of private Americans dedicating themselves to the voluntary service of others, who create an environment where families can flourish. Right now, as we're gathered here, somewhere in America a volunteer is reading to a child; a businessman offers job training to a young man he's just met; a woman teaches young expectant mothers how to care for the children they will soon bring into the world; neighbors band together to rid their neighborhoods of the scourge of drugs.

Each of them is a point of light, offering service with no thought of reward, though the reward will be reaped by every American. I urge all of you, when you return to your cities, to do all in your power to encourage these caring men and women, to make yours a community of light.

Today I will sign an executive order establishing a commission on America's urban families. This panel is one result of my meeting in January with your <sup>leadership</sup> executive council. I have asked Gov. John Ashcroft of Missouri, to lead the commission and

*and former Mayor of Dallas*  
*Annette Strauss*

*They would say they began long ago.*

*"And I suspect that some of you here today are in your elected positions - serving for little or no financial reward."*

fulfill its mandate: to identify those government programs, at all levels, that weaken or strengthen urban families; to analyze ways to improve private efforts to strengthen families; and to recommend new policies to help families in our cities.

I am convinced that we can correct our mistakes, learn from our failures, and build on our successes. The future of America depends on our effort. The family is the irreducible unit of comfort and love, and from families radiate neighborhoods, from neighborhoods come towns and cities, and their health determines the health of our country, for better or worse. Like you I am committed to making our health whole, and to ensure that our cities, as Theodore Parker said, remain the fireplaces of America, radiating heat and light in the darkness.

# # # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 3/6/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: SAT. 3/7/92 10:00am

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992 - 11:40 am

	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 type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	ANDERSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			KAUFMAN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			MCGROARTY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., SATURDAY, MARCH 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*Please see comments*

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

(Ferguson/Gershowitz)  
March 5, 1992  
Draft One  
NLC2

02 MAR 6 P3: 35

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
11:40 A.M.

[Acknowledgments]

I'm pleased to be here today. I know I spoke to many of you over television hook-up last December, and it's nice to climb down from the silver screen to speak with you face to face.

Since December, I've had a chance to talk with several of you in depth about the problems you face. In January, I had an important meeting in the White House with some of your members. Like your organization as a whole, they represented a marvelous cross-section of urban America's leadership -- Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, officials from large and small and mid-sized cities.

Of course, we're all concerned about the big issues -- jobs, family, world peace. Even so, I was struck by the unanimity of the message your board wanted to deliver. It was an insight that we have been acting on for three years, but it can't be repeated often enough in Washington.

Their message was simply this: The enormous problems facing cities today -- from infant mortality to high drop-out rates to runaway crime -- are in part symptoms of one larger problem, the deterioration of the American family.

That is the extraordinarily serious issue I would like to discuss with you today. I have made the restoration of the

American family a priority of this administration. It lies at the heart of much of what we have done for three years.

We must start with a clear-eyed look at what is really happening to the family in American communities today -- not just in poor urban neighborhoods but all across America. Then we must look inside ourselves, to establish the principles that will shape our approach. And then we must act.

The urgency is clear. We all know the statistics, the dreary drumbeat that tells of family breakdown. Today, one out of every four American children is born out of wedlock. Some communities have even begun passing out condoms in school -- not from a lax attitude toward premarital sex, but from sheer desperation.

Twenty-five percent of our children grow up in households headed by a single parent. More than two million are called latch-key kids -- who come from school each afternoon to an empty home. And a large number of our children grow up without the love of parents at all.

We know from experience the consequences of family decline. Neglected children are more susceptible to the lure of crime and drugs, are more likely to have poor health and to drop out of school early, to lead a life without hope.

You on the frontlines know the human costs that statistics can only dimly sketch. You know, as I do, that for every blip on a chart or dot on a graph there is a human story to tell, and too often the story is a tragedy.

Delete?  
(Sounds too  
sympathetic to  
the idea)

of economic advancement.

About ten days ago, I was in San Antonio, meeting with other American heads of state to intensify our war on drugs. And while there I noticed a front-page story in the San Antonio Light. A cabdriver had been murdered last September -- another act of random, senseless violence -- and his murderer had just been found guilty.

But what was truly horrifying -- what would horrify any American -- was this: the murderer was a 12-year-old boy.

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ability to solve these problems, only to discover -- sooner rather than later, I suspect -- that they were far more stubborn than any of us had supposed. Let's not forget that the trials our citizens face today were generations in the making. We can't expect change overnight.

But make no mistake: We will change things. And we will do it by digging to the root, to the deepest problem underlying so many others. Each day, as public servants, we must redouble our efforts to restore the family to its place of primacy in American life. It's been said that the family is the best Department of Health <sup>and</sup> ~~of~~ Human Services ever devised. That is a singularly American insight. The genius of our system has always been its reliance on the family, not government, as the fundamental unit of social progress.

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Now we're engaged in a similar fight, over whether parents should have the right to choose their children's schools. We know the benefits of competition; it is the linchpin of American prosperity. And competition among schools will be the linchpin of educational excellence, too.

But school choice is important for other reasons: It restores authority and responsibility to parents. And just as it makes our schools accountable, ~~so does it~~ <sup>also</sup> makes parents accountable for the decisions they make. Restoring authority and accountability -- not only in child care and school choice but in

other areas as well -- will be a key to healing the American family.

Another example: For more than a year now we have been trying to get through Congress our HOPE initiative, which would offer low-income families a greater opportunity to own their own homes. HOPE is based on a simple principle: to survive, people need the intangible values of dignity and self-respect. Government can't provide those. But homeownership can. An education can. A job can. And being part of a family can.

Of course we will never shirk the federal government's affirmative role in preserving the family. Our belief in that role has guided the decisions we've made over the past three years. Since 1989, for example, we have more than doubled funding for Head Start, a program that brings children and parents into the classroom, strengthening family ties and reinforcing parental responsibility. For the first time in the program's history, our new budget provides that every eligible four-year-old will be able to start school ready to learn.

There are many other examples: over the past three years, we've increased the funding for WIC -- the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children -- by 47 percent, to \$2.8 billion next year. We've increased other nutrition programs by similar percentages. And this year federal support for childhood immunizations will increase by \$52 million, an increase of 18 percent over last year's level.

All told, funding for children's programs -- from nutrition and education to foster care and child immunizations -- has increased 66 percent since we took office.

But please understand: we do not measure our success in dollars spent. We measure it by results -- by the degree to which it keeps children healthy and happy and, most important of all, increases a family's self-reliance. My administration has concentrated on funding the programs that work for the family -- that efficiently fulfill government's role in supporting families and keeping them together.

At the same time, we must face another fact: government can sometimes be a burden as well as a boon. Over the past forty years, the child tax exemption has lagged far behind the soaring costs of child-rearing. I have asked Congress to increase the exemption by \$500 per child. For a family of four, that's an increase of \$2,000. It's a crucial first step toward redressing the imbalance, and it's what we can afford. We have also successfully increased the earned income tax credit for low-income families. A strain on the family budget is a strain on the family -- and families don't need the added pressure.

And there's another thing we must do: we must reform our nation's welfare system. Americans are the most generous people on earth, but they want to see -- and they're entitled to see -- some relationship between welfare and work. Welfare must never be what FDR warned it might become: a subtle destroyer of the spirit. It is not meant to be a way of life, or a family legacy

passed from one generation to the next. Welfare can eat away at the ties that bind a family together.

States are beginning to undertake the brave work of reform. My administration has vowed to help them. We are acting now to waive federal requirements that impede reform, for every state that asks for it.

I have dwelled today on the role of government -- both positive and negative -- because we are men and women of government. But let us never forget the <sup>critical</sup> work of private Americans dedicating themselves to the voluntary service of others, who create an environment where families can flourish. Right now, as we're gathered here, <sup>throughout</sup> ~~somewhere~~ in America a volunteer <sup>s are</sup> is reading to a <sup>children;</sup> child; a businessman <sup>e are in</sup> offers job training to a young <sup>people they have</sup> man ~~he's~~ just met; <sup>women are</sup> a woman teaches young expectant mothers how to care for the children they will soon bring into the world; neighbors <sup>are in</sup> band <sup>in</sup> together to rid their neighborhoods of the scourge of drugs.

Each of them is a **P**oint of **L**ight, offering service with no thought of reward, though the reward will be reaped by every American. I urge all of you, when you return to your cities, to do all in your power to encourage these caring men and women <sup>and</sup> to <sup>encourage</sup> ~~make yours a community of light.~~ <sup>all leaders of businesses, churches, schools, and other groups who can mobilize people to follow their example</sup> Help make your city a Community of Light.

Today I will sign an executive order establishing a commission on America's urban families. This panel is one result of my meeting in January with your executive council. I have asked Gov. John Ashcroft of Missouri to lead the commission and

fulfill its mandate: to identify those government programs, at all levels, that weaken or strengthen urban families; to analyze ways to improve private efforts to strengthen families; and to recommend new policies to help families in our cities.

I am convinced that we can correct our mistakes, learn from our failures, and build on our successes. The future of America depends on our effort. The family is the irreducible unit of comfort and love, and from families radiate neighborhoods, from neighborhoods come towns and cities, and their health determines the health of our country, for better or worse. Like you I am committed to making our health whole, and to ensure that our cities, as Theodore Parker said, remain the fireplaces of America, radiating heat and light in the darkness.

# # # #

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

92 MAR 6 P6:21

DATE: 3/6/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: SAT. 3/7/92 10:00am

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992 - 11:40 am

	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 type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	ANDERSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			KAUFMAN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

MCGROARTY

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., SATURDAY, MARCH 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*From Mark K. Proctor*

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

(Ferguson/Gershowitz)  
March 5, 1992  
Draft One  
NLC2

02 MAR 6 P3:35

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
11:40 A.M.

[Acknowledgments]

I'm pleased to be here today. I know I spoke to many of you over television hook-up last December, and it's nice to climb down from the silver screen to speak with you face to face.

Since December, I've had a chance to talk with several of you in depth about the problems you face. In January, I had an important meeting in the White House with some of your members. Like your organization as a whole, they represented a marvelous cross-section of urban America's leadership -- Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, officials from large and small and mid-sized cities.


Of course, we're all concerned about the big issues -- jobs, family, world peace. Even so, I was struck by the unanimity of the message your board wanted to deliver. It was an insight that we have been acting on for three years, but it can't be repeated often enough in Washington.

Their message was simply this: The enormous problems facing cities today -- from infant mortality to high drop-out rates to runaway crime -- are in part symptoms of one larger problem, the deterioration of the American family.

That is the extraordinarily serious issue I would like to discuss with you today. I have made the restoration of the

American family a priority of this administration. It lies at the heart of much of what we have done for three years.

We must start with a clear-eyed look at what is really happening to the family in American communities today -- not just in poor urban neighborhoods but all across America. Then we must look inside ourselves, to establish the principles that will shape our approach. And then we must act.

The urgency is clear. We all know the statistics, the dreary drumbeat that tells of family breakdown. Today, one out of every four American children is born out of wedlock. Some communities have even begun passing out condoms in school, ~~not~~  ~~from a lax attitude toward premarital sex, but from sheer desperation.~~

Twenty-five percent of our children grow up in households headed by a single parent. More than two million are called latch-key kids -- who come from school each afternoon to an empty home. And a large number of our children grow up without the love of parents at all.

We know from experience the consequences of family decline. Neglected children are more susceptible to the lure of crime and drugs, are more likely to have poor health and to drop out of school early, to lead a life without hope.

You on the frontlines know the human costs that statistics can only dimly sketch. You know, as I do, that for every blip on a chart or dot on a graph there is a human story to tell, and too often the story is a tragedy.

About ten days ago, I was in San Antonio, meeting with other American heads of state to intensify our war on drugs. And while there I noticed a front-page story in the San Antonio Light. A cabdriver had been murdered last September -- another act of random, senseless violence -- and his murderer had just been found guilty.

But what was truly horrifying -- what would horrify any American -- was this: the murderer was a 12-year-old boy.

As the deputies took the boy from the courtroom, according to the newspaper story, they had trouble fitting him with shackles and handcuffs, so slender were his wrists. This youngster was four-feet tall, not yet a teenager, and now a convicted murderer.

The drumbeat continues: two teenagers shot dead in a New York public school -- an LSD ring busted up in an affluent Northern Virginia suburb -- and the harrowing stories of runaway kids and the horrors that befall them.

I know that almost all of you could tell stories equally distressing -- stories from neighborhoods in your cities where the unthinkable has become the commonplace. Something's wrong when elderly city-dwellers, with triple-bolted doors, dare not leave their homes for fear of attack; when babies are born addicted to crack cocaine; when school children shoot one another over a pair of sneakers.

Something is terribly, terribly wrong. I am sure that all of you in this room took office with high confidence in our

ability to solve these problems, only to discover -- sooner rather than later, I suspect -- that they were far more stubborn than any of us had supposed. Let's not forget that the trials our citizens face today were generations in the making. We can't expect change overnight.

But make no mistake: We will change things. And we will do it by digging to the root, to the deepest problem underlying so many others. Each day, as public servants, we must redouble our efforts to restore the family to its place of primacy in American life. It's been said that the family is the best Department of Health of Human Services ever devised. That is a singularly American insight. The genius of our system has always been its reliance on the family, not government, as the fundamental unit of social progress.

Families open up the world to individuals. They give older family members a stake in the future and connect children to their past.

In restoring the family we restore to coming generations the values, the sense of right and wrong, the will and confidence to succeed that only a family can provide a child. And in doing this, we will reinvigorate our cities as well.

We needn't look far for principles to guide us. They are the old home truths. Rely on what works, discard what doesn't. Never be afraid to innovate. The government that is closest to the people responds best to the needs of the people. And let's

not forget this as a guiding principle: if people are to be responsible, they must be given responsibility.

As a practical matter, that means we must ensure that parents retain the authority to make the big decisions for their families. The government's first responsibility is like that of the physician: Do no harm. And let us never doubt that government only harms the family when it restricts the family's autonomy or usurps the authority of responsible parents.

Let me give you an example: Those of us in government can never plausibly claim to fight for families if we insist that government, not parents, must choose who cares for their children. Two years ago, my administration waged a fight in Congress over this very issue, and we won. We kept choice of child care out of the hands of government and put it where it belongs -- in the hands of parents.

Now we're engaged in a similar fight, over whether parents should have the right to choose their childrens' schools. We know the benefits of competition; it is the linchpin of American prosperity. And competition among schools will be the linchpin of educational excellence, too.

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unnecessary and unduly  
burdensome red tape

8

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# # # #

2 MAR 1992  
 PG: 09



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/6/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: SAT. 3/7/92 10:00am

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992 - 11:40 am

	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 type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	ANDERSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			KAUFMAN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

MCGROARTY

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., SATURDAY, MARCH 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*A few thoughts -  
 BT R- 802*

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

(Ferguson/Gershowitz)  
March 5, 1992  
Draft One  
NLC2

02 MAR 6 P3:35

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
11:40 A.M.

[Acknowledgments]

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That is the extraordinarily serious issue I would like to discuss with you today. I have made the restoration of the

American family a priority of this administration. It lies at the heart of much of what we have done for three years.

We must start with a clear-eyed look at what is really happening to the family in American communities today -- not just in poor urban neighborhoods but all across America. Then we must look inside ourselves, to establish the principles that will shape our approach. And then we must act.

The urgency is clear. We all know the statistics, the dreary drumbeat that tells of family breakdown. Today, one out of every four American children is born out of wedlock. Some communities have even begun passing out condoms in school -- not from a lax attitude toward premarital sex, but from sheer desperation.

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✓ You, on the frontlines, know the human costs that statistics can only dimly sketch. You know, as I do, that for every blip on a chart or dot on a graph there is a human story to tell, and too often the story is a tragedy.

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Healthy Start  
mention?

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I have dwelled today on the role of government -- both positive and negative ~~because we are men and women of~~

~~government.~~ But let us never forget the work of private Americans dedicating themselves to the voluntary service of others, who create an environment where families can flourish. Right now, as we're gathered here, somewhere in America a volunteer is reading to a child; a businessman offers job training to a young man he's just met; a woman teaches young expectant mothers how to care for the children they will soon bring into the world; neighbors band together to rid their neighborhoods of the scourge of drugs.

Each of them is a point of light, offering service with no thought of reward, though the reward will be reaped by every American. I urge all of you, when you return to your cities, to do all in your power to encourage these caring men and women, to make yours a community of light.

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I am convinced that we can correct our mistakes, learn from our failures, and build on our successes. The future of America depends on our effort. The family is the irreducible unit of comfort and love, and from families radiate neighborhoods, from neighborhoods come towns and cities, and their health determines the health of our country ~~for better or worse~~. Like you I am committed to making our health whole, and to ensure that our cities, as Theodore Parker said, "remain the fireplaces of America, radiating heat and light in the darkness."

# # # #  
 Thank you, + G. Blee for the US of A.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 3-6-92

TO: *ANDREW Ferguson*

FROM: **GARY R. BLUMENTHAL**  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Cabinet Liaison  
Room 231, OEOB, x6630

*Cam Furdlay thinks you  
may want to use some of  
the attached in the League  
of Cities speech.*

*Call if you have questions.*

*Jay Lefkowitz*

## GEORGE BUSH ON WELFARE REFORM

### Statement of Principles

Americans are the most generous people on earth. But we have to go back to the insight of Franklin Roosevelt who, when he spoke of what became the welfare program, warned that it must not become "a narcotic" and a "subtle destroyer of the human spirit."

Welfare was never meant to be a lifestyle; it was never meant to be a habit; it was never supposed to be passed from generation to generation like a legacy. It's time to replace the assumptions of the welfare state and help reform the welfare system.

States throughout the country are beginning to operate with new assumptions: that when able-bodied people receive government assistance, they have responsibilities to the taxpayer. A responsibility to seek work, education or job training; a responsibility to get their lives in order; a responsibility to hold their families together and refrain from having children out of wedlock; and a responsibility to obey the law.

President Bush  
State of the Union address  
January 28, 1992

There are three primary areas where the Administration supports efforts to reform the welfare system. This policy is intended to promote:

- Individual responsibility -- to help people reduce their dependency on drugs, and to keep students from dropping out of school.
- Family responsibility -- to prevent out-of-wedlock childbearing, to remove the disincentives to marriage and encourage families to stay together, and to penalize parents whose children to skip school.
- Economic independence -- to give individuals greater incentives to save money, to encourage welfare recipients to enroll in job training programs, and to help people start their own microenterprises.

### The Current Welfare System

Welfare programs are operated by individual states under guidelines from government agencies. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) oversees Aid to Families with Dependent

Children (AFDC) and Medicaid; the Department of Agriculture oversees the Food Stamps program; and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) oversees housing programs.

Although states must abide by Federal statutes and regulations in administering welfare programs, they have substantial flexibility in their design. Should a state wish to redesign its welfare programs, it can do so in two ways. First, a state can make permanent changes in its welfare programs, if the modifications accord with current law, by amending its state plan. Permanent changes that run counter to current require Federal legislation.

Second, a state can test experimental policies for which Federal matching funds are not available under current law by means of a demonstration project. Demonstration projects can receive waivers from the relevant agency when they have met criteria of good evaluation design and cost-neutrality.

Administration policy has been to require a rigorous evaluation, since the project is for demonstration purposes, and cost-neutrality, so that costs to the Federal government do not rise. This often-lengthy process is the one that the President pledged to simplify in his State of the Union address.

#### **Proposals For Reform**

The Administration can help states by: (1) facilitating the process of granting waivers; (2) pursuing legislation to allow states to implement successful waiver demonstrations as permanent program changes; and (3) pursuing wider Federal waiver authority.

In order to help states change their welfare plans, the Administration will continue to pursue the legislation it sent to Congress last year to greatly widen the Federal government's waiver authority. The President will also provide personal political support for efforts in individual states to reduce or restructure welfare programs.

In order to facilitate the process of granting waivers for demonstration projects, the President will direct his Cabinet agencies to work closely with state officials prior to the submission of waiver applications in order to anticipate and eliminate any potential problems. The FY93 Budget states that the Administration will institute an interagency review process to coordinate and expedite state requests for waivers.

#### **Waivers that have been granted by the Administration**

The Federal government has approved several welfare reform demonstration projects including the following:

- Wisconsin's Learnfare program requires all teenagers on AFDC (dependent children and heads of families) who have not graduated from high school or earned a high school equivalency diploma to attend school on a regular basis;
- New Jersey's REACH (Realizing Economic Achievement) program broadened the scope of those required to participate in employment-related activities; and
- Washington State's FIP (Family Independence Program) provides financial incentives to those who participate in education, training or employment activities.

### **State Welfare Reform Initiatives**

Many innovative welfare reforms are being considered at the state level create incentives to modify individual behavior by penalizing dependency-creating behavior such as out-of-wedlock childbearing, dropping out of school and drug use. The various welfare reforms being considered at the state level include:

- Paying AFDC benefits at the level of the state in which the recipient previously lived (California, Wisconsin);
- Reducing AFDC payments to families headed by non-disabled adults, either after an initial transitional period (California), or if they refuse to participate in appropriate work, training or education (New Jersey);
- Limiting AFDC payments based on the size of the family at the inception of benefits (California, New Jersey, Wisconsin);
- Expanding AFDC eligibility to married couples and two-parent families (New Jersey, Vermont, Wisconsin);
- Extending earned income disregards (California, Vermont);
- Requiring specific parental responsibilities including receipt of preventive health services and regular payment of rent (Maryland, Vermont); and
- Mandating regular school attendance of youth (California, Maryland, Wisconsin, Florida).

### **Proposed Talking Points for the President**

- As I noted in my State of the Union address, many states have already begun reforming their welfare systems in order to help people become self-sufficient. Certainly, the passage of the Family Support Act in 1988, which I strongly supported, has given important impetus to this process.

- I know that states may need waivers of statutes and regulations from Federal agencies in order to demonstrate how to refashion the categorical programs which make up the current system. I am ready to take immediate action to help this movement.
- In order to speed up the process by which we review waiver requests, I will direct my Cabinet agencies to work closely with state official prior to the submission of waiver applications in order to anticipate and eliminate any potential problems.
- Last year we sent up legislation to Congress in order to widen the Federal government's waiver authority. Congress should pass that legislation as quickly as possible.
- I support efforts to reform the welfare system by placing greater emphasis on family and parental responsibility and by discouraging dependency-creating behavior such as out-of-wedlock childbearing, dropping out of school and drug use.
- I have always felt that states can be the best laboratories for new and innovative programs. I look forward to making it easier for states to develop new approaches to welfare policy.

March 5, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR ANDY

FROM: CAROL

RE: Out-of-wedlock births in Minneapolis

1970: 1,533

1982: 1,769

It is a 15% increase from 1970 - 1982

Other years--

1985: 2,189

1986: 2,362

1988: 2,646

1989: 2,723



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

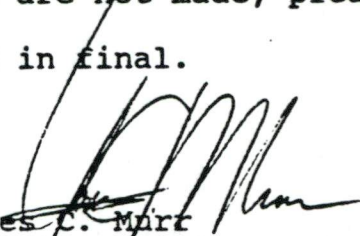
92 MAR 6 P6:52

MAR 6 1992

NOTICE:

Enclosed are comments from staff members of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Such comments do not necessarily represent the official position of the Director of OMB or of the Office of Management and Budget. If you wish to have the Director's personal comments, please let me know -- and contact me if you have any questions.

If our proposed substantive changes are not made, please let us know before the material is prepared in final.

  
James C. Murr  
Associate Director for  
Legislative Reference  
and Administration

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 3/6/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: SAT. 3/7/92 10:00am

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992 - 11:40 am

	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 type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	ANDERSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			KAUFMAN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			MCGROARTY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., SATURDAY, MARCH 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*See Comments*

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

(Ferguson/Gershowitz)  
March 5, 1992  
Draft One  
NLC2

32 MAR 6 P3:35

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES  
MARCH 9, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
11:40 A.M.

[Acknowledgments]

I'm pleased to be here today. I know I spoke to many of you over television hook-up last December, and it's nice to climb down from the silver screen to speak with you face to face.

Since December, I've had a chance to talk with several of you in depth about the problems you face. In January, I had an important meeting in the White House with some of your members. Like your organization as a whole, they represented a marvelous cross-section of urban America's leadership -- Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, officials from large and small and mid-sized cities.

Of course, we're all concerned about the big issues -- jobs, family, world peace. Even so, I was struck by the unanimity of the message your board wanted to deliver. It was an insight that we have been acting on for three years, but it can't be repeated often enough in Washington.

Their message was simply this: The enormous problems facing cities today -- from infant mortality to high drop-out rates to runaway crime -- are in part symptoms of one larger problem, the deterioration of the American family.

That is the extraordinarily serious issue I would like to discuss with you today. I have made the restoration of the

American family a priority of this administration. It lies at the heart of much of what we have done for three years.

We must start with a clear-eyed look at what is really happening to the family in American communities today -- not just in poor urban neighborhoods but all across America. Then we must look inside ourselves, to establish the principles that will shape our approach. And then we must act.

The urgency is clear. We all know the statistics, the dreary drumbeat that tells of family breakdown. Today, one out of every four American children is born out of wedlock. Some communities have even begun passing out condoms in school -- not from a lax attitude toward premarital sex, but from sheer desperation.

Twenty-five percent of our children <sup>live</sup> ~~grow up~~ in households headed by a single parent. More than two million are called latch-key kids -- who come from school each afternoon to an empty home. And a large number of our children grow up without the love of parents at all.

We know from experience the consequences of family decline. Neglected children are more susceptible to the lure of crime and drugs, are more likely to have poor health and to drop out of school early, to lead a life without hope.

You on the frontlines know the human costs that statistics can only dimly sketch. You know, as I do, that for every blip on a chart or dot on a graph there is a human story to tell, and too often the story is a tragedy.

*Scully*  
*5/778*

About ten days ago, I was in San Antonio, meeting with other American heads of state to intensify our war on drugs. And while there I noticed a front-page story in the San Antonio Light. A cabdriver had been murdered last September -- another act of random, senseless violence -- and his murderer had just been found guilty.

But what was truly horrifying -- what would horrify any American -- was this: the murderer was a 12-year-old boy.

As the deputies took the boy from the courtroom, according to the newspaper story, they had trouble fitting him with shackles and handcuffs, so slender were his wrists. This youngster was four-feet tall, not yet a teenager, and now a convicted murderer.

The drumbeat continues: two teenagers shot dead in a New York public school -- an LSD ring busted up in an affluent Northern Virginia suburb -- and the harrowing stories of runaway kids and the horrors that befall them.

I know that almost all of you could tell stories equally distressing -- stories from neighborhoods in your cities where the unthinkable has become the commonplace. Something's wrong when elderly city-dwellers, with triple-bolted doors, dare not leave their homes for fear of attack; when babies are born addicted to crack cocaine; when school children shoot one another over a pair of sneakers.

Something is terribly, terribly wrong. I am sure that all of you in this room took office with high confidence in our

ability to solve these problems, only to discover -- sooner rather than later, I suspect -- that they were far more stubborn than any of us had supposed. Let's not forget that the trials our citizens face today were generations in the making. We can't expect change overnight.

But make no mistake: We will change things. And we will do it by digging to the root, to the deepest problem underlying so many others. Each day, as public servants, we must redouble our efforts to restore the family to its place of primacy in American life. It's been said that the family is the best Department of Health of Human Services ever devised. That is a singularly American insight. The genius of our system has always been its reliance on the family, not government, as the fundamental unit of social progress.

Families open up the world to individuals. They give older family members a stake in the future and connect children to their past.

In restoring the family we restore to coming generations the values, the sense of right and wrong, the will and confidence to succeed that only a family can provide a child. And in doing this, we will reinvigorate our cities as well.

We needn't look far for principles to guide us. They are the old home truths. Rely on what works, discard what doesn't. Never be afraid to innovate. The government that is closest to the people responds best to the needs of the people. And let's

not forget this as a guiding principle: if people are to be responsible, they must be given responsibility.

As a practical matter, that means we must ensure that parents retain the authority to make the big decisions for their families. The government's first responsibility is like that of the physician: Do no harm. And let us never doubt that government only harms the family when it restricts the family's autonomy or usurps the authority of responsible parents.

Let me give you an example: Those of us in government can never plausibly claim to fight for families if we insist that government, not parents, must choose who cares for their children. Two years ago, my administration waged a fight in Congress over this very issue, and we won. We kept choice of child care out of the hands of government and put it where it belongs -- in the hands of parents.

Now we're engaged in a similar fight, over whether parents should have the right to choose their childrens' schools. We know the benefits of competition; it is the linchpin of American prosperity. And competition among schools will be the linchpin of educational excellence, too.

But school choice is important for other reasons: It restores authority and responsibility to parents. And just as it makes our schools accountable, so does it make parents accountable for the decisions they make. Restoring authority and accountability -- not only in child care and school choice but in

Ryder

(new sentence)

It took ~~to~~ another year to get Congress to provide even partial funding for it even though

other areas as well -- will be a key to healing the American family.

It took

to get our HOPE initiative

Another example: For more than a year ~~we have been~~ ~~trying~~ to get through Congress our HOPE initiative, ~~which~~ <sup>HOPE</sup> would offer low-income families a greater opportunity to own their own homes. HOPE is based on a simple principle: to survive, people need the intangible values of dignity and self-respect.

Government can't provide those. But homeownership can. An education can. A job can. And being part of a family can.

Of course we will never shirk the federal government's affirmative role in preserving the family. Our belief in that role has guided the decisions we've made over the past three years. Since 1989, for example, we have more than doubled funding for Head Start, a program that brings children and parents into the classroom, strengthening family ties and reinforcing parental responsibility. For the first time in the program's history, our new budget <sup>supports 1 year of HEADSTART four</sup> ~~provides that every eligible~~ ~~four-year-old will be able to start school ready to learn.~~ <sup>children wanting to participate in the program.</sup>

There are many other examples: <sup>Since 1989,</sup> ~~over the past three years,~~ we've increased the funding for WIC -- the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children -- by 47 percent, to \$2.8 billion next year. We've increased other nutrition programs by similar percentages. And <sup>in FY93</sup> ~~this year~~ federal support for childhood immunization <sup>grants</sup> will increase by \$52 million, an increase of 18 percent over last year's level.

Sully  
5/78

All told, funding for children's programs -- from nutrition and education to foster care and child immunizations -- has increased 66 percent since we took office.

But please understand: we do not measure our success in dollars spent. We measure it by results -- by the degree to which it keeps children healthy and happy and, most important of all, increases a family's self-reliance. My administration has concentrated on funding the programs that work for the family -- that efficiently fulfill government's role in supporting families and keeping them together.

At the same time, we must face another fact: government can sometimes be a burden as well as a boon. Over the past forty years, the child tax exemption has lagged far behind the soaring costs of child-rearing. I have asked Congress to increase the exemption by \$500 per child. For a family of four, that's an increase of \$2,000. It's a crucial first step toward redressing the imbalance, and it's what we can afford. We have also successfully increased the earned income tax credit for low-income families. A strain on the family budget is a strain on the family -- and families don't need the added pressure.

And there's another thing we must do: we must reform our nation's welfare system. Americans are the most generous people on earth, but they want to see -- and they're entitled to see -- some relationship between welfare and work. Welfare must never be what FDR warned it might become: a subtle destroyer of the spirit. It is not meant to be a way of life, or a family legacy

passed from one generation to the next. Welfare can eat away at the ties that bind a family together.

States are beginning to undertake the brave work of reform. My administration has vowed to help them. We are acting now to waive federal requirements that impede reform, for every state that asks for it.

I have dwelled today on the role of government -- both positive and negative -- because we are men and women of government. But let us never forget the work of private Americans dedicating themselves to the voluntary service of others, who create an environment where families can flourish. Right now, as we're gathered here, somewhere in America a volunteer is reading to a child; a businessman offers job training to a young man he's just met; a woman teaches young expectant mothers how to care for the children they will soon bring into the world; neighbors band together to rid their neighborhoods of the scourge of drugs.

Each of them is a point of light, offering service with no thought of reward, though the reward will be reaped by every American. I urge all of you, when you return to your cities, to do all in your power to encourage these caring men and women, to make yours a community of light.

~~Today I will sign an executive order establishing a commission on America's urban families. This panel is one result of my meeting in January with your executive council. I have asked Gov. John Ashcroft of Missouri to lead the commission and~~

*Dammy*  
*5044*  
delet reference to executive order!

Damus / 5044

fulfill its mandate: to identify those government programs, at all levels, that weaken or strengthen urban families; to analyze ways to improve private efforts to strengthen families; and to recommend new policies to help families in our cities.

I am convinced that we can correct our mistakes, learn from our failures, and build on our successes. The future of America depends on our effort. The family is the irreducible unit of comfort and love, and from families radiate neighborhoods, from neighborhoods come towns and cities, and their health determines the health of our country, for better or worse. Like you I am committed to making our health whole, and to ensure that our cities, as Theodore Parker said, remain the fireplaces of America, radiating heat and light in the darkness.

# # # #