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FOIA Number:

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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Grant, Mary Kate, Files
Subseries: Subject File, 1988-1991

OA/ID Number: 13878
Folder ID Number: 13878-015

Folder Title:
Child Care Program, 8/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	19	2	7	3

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 2, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR MARY KATE GRANT

FROM: LARRY LINDSEY

SUBJECT: Presidential Message in Pre-K Today Magazine

We would like to have the attached letter from the President printed in Pre-K Today magazine. They have agreed to devote the center spread of its November/December issue to the letter.

This issue will be distributed at annual conventions of early childhood professionals and so will have about triple the magazine's usual circulation. It would provide an ideal forum for the President's views, since it is typically read by child care providers and parents of preschool-age children.

Any help you could provide in shepherding this through the approval process would be greatly appreciated, as the deadline for submission of materials to Pre-K Today is approaching rapidly.

Dear Child Care Professional:

As child care providers, you have the vital task of ensuring the health and well-being of the nation's most precious resource, its young children.

The day-to-day responsibilities of caring for children are challenging and at times frustrating. As a father and grandfather, I know that all too well. But I also know what a wonderful experience it is to be with children, helping them discover their world, knowing that you have had a hand in encouraging them to master new concepts and lay a foundation for a healthy and productive life.

But your task does not end with the care of children. You are also an important support and resource to parents who depend on your services. This is such a vitally important task. In the days when my children were young, raising children was not as complicated as it is now. Today, increasing numbers of parents work outside the home and so shoulder dual responsibilities at home and in the workplace. The increase in the number of mothers who work outside of the home has increased immensely, and is likely to continue to increase, as is the demand for child care services.

I am concerned about the challenges families are facing especially with regards to caring for their children. I believe that the government, with the right assistance, can help alleviate some of the stress in family life. I proposed to do this by directing my cabinet to undertake a number of initiatives which would encourage a broad range of child care choices for parents. I also proposed a child credit to help low and moderate income families care for their children.

But government assistance is not enough. Whether they choose a family day care home for their children, a church-based child care, or other child care facility, parents need the assurance that their children are spending their days with knowledgeable and loving adults who enjoy being with children. Your dedication to the child care profession, and your support of parents who entrust their children to your care, are helping parents as they struggle toward building a better life for themselves and their children. You should be proud of your efforts. You are, as many parents have told me, the most important person in the lives of working families.

I hold a great deal of esteem for your work and salute your efforts.

George Bush

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVES ON CHILD CARE

While I was campaigning for the Presidency of the United States, I told the American people of my concern about the availability and quality of child care. I highlighted the need for a children's tax credit which would help low income families offset child care costs and choose the kind of care they wanted for their children. I also talked about a number of initiatives that I would encourage as President in order to increase support of child care, create or expand before and after school programs to address the latchkey children issue, and develop consumer education programs to help parents make informed choices about child care.

I have not forgotten my promises. As soon as I took office in January of this year, I directed my staff to work on the matter of child care and have asked my cabinet to submit to me their plans for addressing the issue. We will be instituting various initiatives in the next several months to work toward my promises to you for a better life in America.

I have asked Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole to continue to study the liability issue in child care since this is one major stumbling block to the development of child care facilities, and to make recommendations about ways to overcome this problem.

We also established a national information clearinghouse on child care that has its own toll free number. I am happy to say that parents all over the country will be able to call us with questions they have regarding child care. The number is 1-800-__.

The Small Business Administration has just published a booklet for individuals and small business wishing to establish a child care facility. I have asked SBA Administrator Susan Engeleiter to distribute this booklet to each state and to make individuals all over the country aware of how they can get a copy.

I have also directed Ms. Engeleiter to hold a series of regional meetings to provide technical support to individuals wishing to establish child care facilities in their businesses and for individuals who wish to establish neighborhood facilities in their homes.

Additionally, I have asked Bonnie Guiton, my Advisor for Consumer Affairs, to include child care information in a consumer resources handbook, making people aware of how they can obtain more information in their local communities about the child care options that are available.

Finally, realizing that various government agencies are working on child care, I have put in charge an interagency coordination study that will address any duplication of efforts and help ensure a cost-effective, streamlined approach to the solution of problems.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/18/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 8/22/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRE-K TODAY MAGAZINE

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, Tuesday, August 22, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

OK
JW
 89 AUG 23 11:32

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

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/18/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 8/22/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRE-K TODAY MAGAZINE

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VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C phone</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>N/C phone</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN <i>Has additional comments</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES <i>N/C phone</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY <i>N/C phone</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, Tuesday, August 22, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

89 AUG 18 P5:18

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

August 17, 1989
Draft two
A:PRE-K

1989 AUG 18 PM 3:21

Dear Child Care Professional:

As child care providers, you have the vital task of ensuring the health and well-being of the nation's most precious resource, our young children.

The day-to-day responsibilities of caring for children are challenging and at times frustrating. As a father and grandfather, I know that all too well. But I also know what a wonderful experience it is to be with children -- helping them discover the world, encouraging them to learn new concepts, laying a foundation for a healthy and productive life.

But your task does not end with the care of children. You also provide important support to parents who depend on you. ~~You are a vital resource.~~ *As more mothers join the workforce,* Today, ~~more and more parents work outside~~ ~~the home,~~ ~~and~~ meeting the demands of work and family is often difficult. ~~And, as more mothers join the workforce,~~ *And the* ~~the demand~~ *need* for child care services ~~is increasing.~~ *continues to increase.*

I am concerned about the challenges facing families today. Government, ~~with~~ *by providing* the right assistance, can help alleviate some of the ~~stress~~ *pressures* in family life. This Administration is undertaking a number of initiatives which ~~would put choice in the hands of~~ *enhance the range of child care classes* ~~available to~~ *available to* ~~families.~~ *families.* ~~working parents.~~ Our child care tax credit proposal will help low- and moderate-income families care for their children.

However, government assistance is only a beginning. Whether they choose family care, church-based child care, or other child

^{arrangements}
care ~~facilities~~, parents need to know that their children are
spending their days with ^{committed} knowledgeable and loving adults. Your
dedication to the child care profession, and your support ~~for~~
~~working parents~~ ^{is} helping families ^{everywhere} build a better life for
themselves.

~~You are~~ as many parents have told me, ^{you are a tremendously} ~~the most~~ important
^{part of} ~~person~~ ⁱⁿ the lives of ~~working parents~~. I hold ^{your work} a great deal of
^{in high} esteem for ~~your work~~ and salute your efforts.

George Bush

BUSH ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON CHILD CARE

MO
B.F.

Child Care: On March 15, 1989, the President transmitted the Working Family Child Care Assistance Act of 1989 to the Congress.

Low-income families, in which a parent works, would be eligible for a ^{new} tax credit of up to \$1000 per child under age four. This child credit would be refundable~~x~~ and, thus, available to families who have no income tax liability. ~~The existing~~ ^{Dependent and Child Care Tax credit also would be made refundable.} Families would be free to choose the kind of child care that best suits their needs -- care through relatives, neighbors, child care centers or religiously-affiliated care.

The President believes that parents are the best judges of quality care and know what is in their children's best interest. The Administration's proposals are designed to give parents discretion to make decisions about their children's care, and to increase -- not decrease -- the range of options available to parents.

Head Start: President Bush also transmitted to Congress the Head Start Amendments of 1989, which would increase funding to pay for the enrollment of up to 95,000 more disadvantaged four-year olds. ^{while} This expansion ^{is designed primarily to give more poor children a better start in life, it also} would increase the range of choices available to low-income families in meeting their child care needs.

In addition to the legislation sent to Congress, Administration initiatives on child care so far include:

Liability Insurance: Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole will ~~be studying and making recommendations on the liability insurance~~

~~issue in child care, to determine the impact on the development of child-care facilities.~~

Information Clearinghouse: The Administration has established a national information clearinghouse on ~~child care~~ ^{work and family issues,} ~~Businesses~~ ^{the Department of Health} Parents will be able to call ~~toll-free~~ ^{needs} with any questions they have regarding ~~child care,~~ ^{needs} (The number is ~~1-800-~~)

the wide range of options available to whom to help meet their employees'

Small Business Administration: The Small Business Administration will be holding a series of regional meetings to provide technical support for individuals establishing child care facilities in their businesses, and for individuals organizing neighborhood facilities in their homes. The S.B.A. has just published a ~~booklet~~ ^{a comprehensive assistance manual} for individuals and small businesses ~~creating~~ ^{interested in} child care facilities ~~which~~ ^{practices. This manual} will be distributed in every state.

Decreasing

Consumer Resources Handbook: Child care information will also be included in a consumer resources handbook, ^{increasing} so that citizens can ~~be made~~ ^{ness} aware of how they can obtain more information in their local communities about ~~the~~ available child care options.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 23, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *CW*
FROM: MARY KATE GRANT *MKG*
SUBJECT: PROPOSED MESSAGE FOR PRE-K TODAY MAGAZINE

I. SUMMARY

Attached for your review is a proposed message for publication in Pre-K Today Magazine, in the center spread of its November/December issue.

II. DISCUSSION

* This issue will be distributed at annual conventions of early childhood professionals, and so will have about triple the magazine's usual circulation of 50,000. It is typically read by child care providers and parents of preschool-age children.

August 23, 1989
Draft three
A:PRE-K

Dear Child Care Professional:

As child care providers, you have the vital task of ensuring the health and well-being of the nation's most precious resource, our young children.

The day-to-day responsibilities of caring for children are challenging and at times frustrating. As a father and grandfather, I know that all too well. But I also know what a wonderful experience it is to be with children -- helping them discover the world, encouraging them to learn new concepts, laying a foundation for a healthy and productive life.

But your task does not end with the care of children. You also provide important support to parents who depend on you. Today, as more mothers join the workforce, meeting the demands of work and family is often difficult and the need for child care services continues to increase.

I am concerned about the challenges facing families today. Government, by providing the right assistance, can help alleviate some of the pressures in family life. This Administration is undertaking a number of initiatives which enhance the range of child care choices available to working families. Our child care tax credit proposal will help low- and moderate-income families care for their children.

However, government assistance is only a beginning. Whether they choose family care, church-based child care, or other child

care arrangements, parents need to know that their children are spending their days with committed and loving adults. Your dedication to the child care profession, and your support is helping families everywhere build a better life for themselves.

As many parents have told me, you are a tremendously important part of their lives. I hold your work in high esteem and salute your efforts.

George Bush

BUSH ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON CHILD CARE

Child Care: On March 15, 1989, the President transmitted the **Working Family Child Care Assistance Act of 1989** to the Congress. Low-income families, in which a parent works, would be eligible for a new tax credit of up to \$1000 per child under age four. This child credit would be refundable and, thus, available to families who have no income tax liability. The existing Dependent and Child Care Tax Credit also would be made refundable. Families would be free to choose the kind of child care that best suits their needs -- care through relatives, neighbors, child care centers or religiously-affiliated care.

The President believes that parents are the best judges of quality care and know what is in their children's best interest. The Administration's proposals are designed to give parents discretion to make decisions about their children's care, and to increase -- not decrease -- the range of options available to parents.

Head Start: President Bush also transmitted to Congress the **Head Start Amendments of 1989**, which would increase funding to pay for the enrollment of up to 95,000 more disadvantaged four-year olds. While this expansion is designed primarily to give more poor children a better start in life, it also would increase the range of choices available to low-income families in meeting their child care needs.

In addition to the legislation sent to Congress, Administration initiatives on child care so far include:

Liability Insurance: Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole is conducting a study to determine whether market barriers are preventing employers from obtaining liability insurance needed for child care centers on or near their employees' worksites and, if so, to identify strategies for removing them.

Information Clearinghouse: The Administration has established a national information clearinghouse on work and family issues. Businesses will be able to call the Department of Labor with any questions they have regarding the wide range of options available to them to help meet their employees' child care needs.

Small Business Administration: The Small Business Administration will be holding a series of regional meetings to provide technical support for individuals establishing child care facilities in their businesses, and for individuals organizing neighborhood facilities in their homes. The S.B.A. has just published a comprehensive assistance manual for individuals and small businesses interested in becoming child care providers. This manual will be distributed in every state.

Consumer Resources Handbook: Child care information will also be included in a consumer resources handbook, increasing citizens awareness of how they can obtain more information in their local communities about available child care options.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/18/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 8/22/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRE-K TODAY MAGAZINE

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, Tuesday, August 22, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*92:6v 8290V 68 Comment
8/22/89
AUG 23 4:26*

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

89 AUG 22 PM 12:10

August 22, 1989

Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From: Jim Pinkerton

Subject: Draft Presidential Message to Pre-K Today Magazine

pg. 1, paras. 2-4 This draft would be improved if the tone of the language on page one were lightened slightly to convey: a) the sense that childrearing is generally a joyful thing, and b) the idea that the President looks forward to meeting the challenges posed by working families. As it is now, the first page contains a lot of wrinkled-brow concern about both child-rearing and the President's attitude toward it, viz., "at times frustrating," "often difficult," "demand...is increasing," "I am concerned," "alleviate some of the stress."

Language that makes it clearer that the President views the challenges facing working parents today as opportunities for constructive change and for testing fresh ideas, and that he has in fact put forward a bold new approach to help parents care for children, will get across the message that President Bush is less a worrier than he is an active, can-do leader. In addition, language that portrays childrearing as a generally 'blessed event' will get across the message that the President's program is put forward in the spirit of helpfulness rather than grim obligation.

pg. 1, para. 3, line 3 "Today, more and more parents work outside the home...." Of course, parents have always worked outside the home. If we mean that more and more, both parents are working outside the home, then we should say so, but note that this is largely redundant with the next sentence "And, as more mothers join the workforce..."

1,4,3 The word "stress" has become a bit trendy and jargony. Even the local Learning Center's catalogue seems to recognize this fact. It offers a seminar entitled something like, "Not Just Another Seminar On Alleviating Stress." We suggest an alternative such as "pressures."

(more)

2-2-2

1,4,5 Instead of saying that we are putting "choice in the hands of working parents," which may suggest only two-earner families, we suggest saying "choice in the hands of parents, including families in which both parents work." This will make it clearer that the child care tax credit is neutral as to whether the mother works or not -- an important principle of the President's proposal.

2,2,1 "You are...the most important person in the lives of working parents." Because the children of the parents are the presumably most important person in their lives, we should qualify this somehow, perhaps by using instead "You are...one of the most important people...."

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/18/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 8/22/89 4:00 PM

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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, Tuesday, August 22, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

All comments

RESPONSE:

01:21 PM 12 AUG 89

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

August 17, 1989
Draft two
A:PRE-K

1989 AUG 18 PM 3:21

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But your task does not end with the care of children. You also provide important support to parents who depend on you. ~~You are a vital resource.~~ Today, more and more parents work outside the home, and meeting the demands of work and family is often difficult. And, as more mothers join the workforce, the demand for child care services is increasing.

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However, government assistance is only a beginning. Whether they choose family care, church-based child care, or other child

care facilities, parents need to know that their children are spending their days with knowledgeable and loving adults. Your dedication to the child care profession, and your support for working parents, ^{is} are helping families ^{everywhere} build a better life for themselves.

^{a terribly important} (You are, as many parents have told me, the most important ^{Part} ~~of~~ ^{of} person in the lives of working parents. I hold a great deal of esteem for your work and salute your efforts.

George Bush

BUSH ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON CHILD CARE

Child Care: On March 15, 1989, the President transmitted the **Working Family Child Care Assistance Act of 1989** to the Congress. Low-income families, in which a parent works, would be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$1000 per child under age four. This child credit would be refundable, and, thus, available to families who have no income tax liability. Families would be free to choose the kind of child care that best suits their needs -- care through relatives, neighbors, child care centers or religiously-affiliated care.

The President believes that parents are the best judges of quality care and know what is in their children's best interest. The Administration's proposals are designed to give parents discretion to make decisions about their children's care, and to increase -- not decrease -- the range of options available to parents.

Head Start: President Bush also transmitted to Congress the **Head Start Amendments of 1989**, which would increase funding to pay for the enrollment of up to 95,000 more disadvantaged four-year olds. This expansion would increase the range of choices available to low-income families in meeting their child care needs.

In addition to the legislation sent to Congress, Administration initiatives on child care so far include:

Liability Insurance: Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole will be studying and making recommendations on the liability insurance

issue in child care, to determine the impact on the development of child care facilities.

Information Clearinghouse: The Administration has established a national information clearinghouse on child care. Parents will be able to call toll-free with any questions they have regarding child care. (The number is 1-800-_____)

Small Business Administration: The Small Business Administration will be holding a series of regional meetings to provide technical support for individuals establishing child care facilities in their businesses, and for individuals organizing neighborhood facilities in their homes. The S.B.A. has just published a booklet for individuals and small businesses creating child care facilities which will be distributed in every state.

Consumer Resources Handbook: Child care information will also be included in a consumer resources handbook, so that citizens can be made aware of how they can obtain more information in their local communities about the available child care options.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/18/89 89 AUG 22 8:58 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 8/22/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRE-K TODAY MAGAZINE

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, Tuesday, August 22, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

See comments

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

August 17, 1989
Draft two
A:PRE-K

1989 AUG 19 11 0

Dear Child Care Professional:

As child care providers, you have the vital task of ensuring the health and well-being of the nation's most precious resource, our young children.

The day-to-day responsibilities of caring for children are challenging and at times frustrating. As a father and grandfather, I know that all too well. But I also know what a wonderful experience it is to be with children -- helping them discover the world, encouraging them to learn new concepts, laying a foundation for a healthy and productive life.

But your task does not end with the care of children. You also provide important support to parents who depend on you. You are a vital resource. Today, more and more parents work outside the home, and meeting the demands of work and family is often difficult. [And, as more mothers join the workforce, the demand for child care services is increasing.]

I am concerned about the challenges facing families today. Government, ^{by providing} with the right assistance, can help alleviate some of the stress in family life. This Administration is undertaking a number of initiatives which ^{enhance the range of child care choices available to} ~~would put choice in the hands of~~ ^{families} working parents. Our child care tax credit proposal will help low- and moderate-income families care for their children.

However, government assistance is only a beginning. Whether they choose family care, church-based child care, or other child

Holen
45178

See Note
attached

arrangements
care ~~facilities~~, parents need to know that their children are
spending their days with *committed* knowledgeable and loving adults. Your
dedication to the child care profession and your support for
working parents are helping families build a better life for
themselves.

You are, as many parents have told me, the most important
person in the lives of working parents. I hold ~~a great deal of~~

in high esteem ~~for your work~~ and salute your efforts.

George Bush

BUSH ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON CHILD CARE

hold?

Child Care: On March 15, 1989, the President transmitted the Working Family Child Care Assistance Act of 1989 to the Congress.

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Low-income families, in which a parent works, would be eligible for a ^{new} tax credit of up to \$1000 per child under age four. This child credit would be refundable and, thus, available to

families who have no income tax liability. Families would be free to choose the kind of child care that best suits their needs -- care through relatives, neighbors, child care centers or religiously-affiliated care.

The existing Dependent and Child Care Tax Credit would be made refundable.

The President believes that parents are the best judges of quality care and know what is in their children's best interest. The Administration's proposals are designed to give parents discretion to make decisions about their children's care, and to increase -- not decrease -- the range of options available to parents.

Head Start: President Bush also transmitted to Congress the Head Start Amendments of 1989, which would increase funding to pay for the enrollment of up to 95,000 more disadvantaged four-year olds. This expansion would increase the range of choices available to low-income families in meeting their child care needs.

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See Note 2 attached

while is designed primarily to give more poor children a better start in life it also

In addition to the legislation sent to Congress, Administration initiatives on child care so far include:

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See Note 3 attached

Liability Insurance: Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole will

5/17/88
~~issue in child care, to determine the impact on the development of child care facilities.~~

Information Clearinghouse: The Administration has

established a national information clearinghouse on ~~child care~~. *work and family issues.*

Businesses
~~Parents~~ will be able to call ~~toll-free~~ with any questions they

have regarding child care. ~~(The number is 1-800-)~~ *needs*

the wide range of options available to help them meet their employees'
Small Business Administration: The Small Business

Administration will be holding a series of regional meetings to

provide technical support for individuals establishing child care

facilities in their businesses, and for individuals organizing

neighborhood facilities in their homes. The S.B.A. has just

published a ~~booklet~~ *comprehensive assistance manual* for individuals and small businesses ~~creating~~ *interested in*

becoming ~~child care facilities~~ *providers. This manual* which will be distributed in every state.

Consumer Resources Handbook: Child care information will

also be included in a consumer resources handbook, ~~so that~~ *increasing*

citizens ~~can be made aware~~ *ness* of how they can obtain more

information in their local communities about [the] available child care options.

#

See Note 4 attached

Note: HTP is checking the conference text

Note 1

The Administration has two tax proposals: the new Young Child Tax Credit and refundability of the existing Dependent and Child Care Tax Credit.

Note 2

HHS is adamant about not calling Head Start "child care" because it is so much more, a position with which we agree. Hence the change noted.

Note 3

The alternative text on liability insurance reflects the President's mandate to the Secretary of Labor. Both the Council on Competitiveness and the DPC Working Group on Tort Reform have identified child care liability issues as possible agenda items. Until DOL and EXOP staff assess the information that DOL has collected as a basis for determining if the Secretary's report will deal with issues beyond those mandated and, if so, which issues, it seems best to leave the description of the study as the President asked for it.

Note 4

The clearinghouse at Labor is targeted to businesses, not parents, and we have changed the text accordingly. Our understanding is that the clearinghouse will not be geared up to handle questions until October, at which time there will be a high visibility publicity campaign. DOL staff think that a decision has been made not to have an 800 number.

Am 122

Small Business Administration: The Small Business Administration will be holding a series of regional meetings to provide technical support for small business employers interested in establishing child care facilities for their employees, and for individuals interested in establishing child facilities in their neighborhoods. The S.B.A. has just published a booklet for individuals and small businesses creating child care facilities which will be distributed in every state.

Comments from Janet Hale's office x 3/20.

Darman

August 17, 1989
Draft two
A:PRE-K

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However, government assistance is only a beginning. Whether they choose family care, church-based child care, or other child

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George Bush

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issue in child care, to determine the impact on the development of child care facilities.

Information Clearinghouse: The Administration has established a national information clearinghouse on child care. Parents will be able to call toll-free with any questions they have regarding child care. (The number is 1-800-_____)

Small Business Administration: The Small Business Administration will be holding a series of regional meetings to provide technical support for individuals establishing child care facilities in their businesses, and for individuals organizing neighborhood facilities in their homes. The S.B.A. has just published a booklet for individuals and small businesses creating child care facilities which will be distributed in every state.

Consumer Resources Handbook: Child care information will also be included in a consumer resources handbook, so that citizens can be made aware of how they can obtain more information in their local communities about the available child care options.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 22, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: LEE S. LIBERMAN *LSL*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

RE: Presidential Message to
PRE-K TODAY MAGAZINE

I have no legal objection to the letter to be used to respond to messages on the above-captioned subject. In the last paragraph, next to last sentence, I wonder whether the President really should be saying "the most important person in the lives of working parents." How about "indispensable to working parents."?

89 AUG 22 4:38