

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	FLOTUS, Friday, November 8, 1996 (partial) (1 page)	11/08/1996	P6/b(6)
002. letter	New York constituent to POTUS (partial) (2 pages)	10/17/1995	P6/b(6)
003. bios	Domestic Violence event participants (partial) (1 page)	10/02/1995	P6/b(6)
004. list	National Domestic Violence Hotline Event Participants (7 pages)	02/21/1996	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 13009

FOLDER TITLE:

Domestic Violence [2]

2012-0869-S

kc943

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

FACSIMILE

**PLEASE NOTIFY OR HAND-CARRY
THIS TRANSMISSION TO THE
FOLLOWING PERSON AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE:**

DATE: 11/7/96

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

TO : Erica

COMPANY : _____

FAX NUMBER: 456-5709 TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

FROM: Virginia Cox

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
200 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

(202) 690-7000 FAX NO. (202) 690-7595

COMMENTS: Set 1 of 3

1 ☒
2
3

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS NOT A PRIVATE MATTER:
A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PREVENTING
AND ENDING THE VIOLENCE**

DONNA E. SHALALA

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS NOT A PRIVATE MATTER: A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PREVENTING AND ENDING THE VIOLENCE

DONNA E. SHALALA*

Nora Cash lived in terror for seven years because her partner, the father of her two children, often grabbed her hair, threw her against walls, and hit her in the head. In one beating, her ex-boyfriend fractured her skull. Even after they had separated, Nora lived in fear of another attack. One day, Nora said that her ex-boyfriend nearly killed her in the town of Quincy, Massachusetts, a place where she had not been hurt by him before. This was a major turning point, as she learned by the police response. In the town of Quincy, as opposed to other jurisdictions, when someone tries to kill a domestic partner, that person usually does not get another opportunity to finish the task.

In Quincy, police, courts, prosecutors, judges, and local health and social service professionals work together to offer comprehensive health care and legal services to battered women. Their efforts have paid off. This city has fewer domestic violence homicides than neighboring communities and victims who feel intimidated by their abusers are still less likely there, than in adjacent towns, to ask prosecutors to drop their complaints.

Sadly, the kind of protection offered to women in Quincy, which is considered a model for the country, is rare in other parts of the country. The entire country learned last summer, from the details of Nicole Brown Simpson's tumultuous marriage to O.J. Simpson, that we have yet to fully confront the ongoing tragedy of domestic violence that plagues too many of America's homes.

* Donna E. Shalala is the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services. She received her B.A. in 1962, from Western College for Women. She received her Ph.D. from Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University in 1970. She served as Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1988 to 1993. As a leading scholar on the political economy of state and local governments, Dr. Shalala has held tenured professorships at Columbia, CUNY, and Wisconsin.

The weeks following the June 1994 murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were filled with public discussion about domestic violence. Calls to local domestic abuse hotlines soared, doubling and tripling in some communities. Prosecutors in Los Angeles filed twice as many battering charges as usual in the month following the double murder. Violence against women became the topic of television talk shows, radio call-in shows, and cover stories in most major news magazines.

Domestic violence has been a hot topic in the past, only to slip off the front pages without sufficient progress. Undoubtedly, we have traveled an enormous distance since the 1960s, when there was little public recognition of domestic violence, few resources in the community for victims, and very little research to document the prevalence of domestic violence or the potential value of solutions. In the field of law enforcement and punishment, mandatory arrest policies were yet to be applied and treatment programs for batterers had not been developed. As a result of the leadership of women's advocates and health and law enforcement leaders, many states and localities have developed policies to protect victims of domestic violence and to hold perpetrators accountable. But last summer's wide-open discussion on domestic violence brought to our attention that we have not done enough, and that we must move forward with a deepened commitment to prevent further tragedies.

Domestic violence respects no boundaries. It crosses lines of income, geography, ethnicity, and race. While both women and men initiate violence, it is women who suffer more seriously from domestic violence. Far greater numbers of women end up in emergency rooms, and it is almost always women who flee their homes in fear of greater violence.

Because this violence occurs behind closed doors and drawn curtains, it is difficult to know exactly how many partners are affected. The very definition of what constitutes abuse varies as well. Even the most conservative measure is that there are several hundred thousand married women who are severely and frequently assaulted every year.¹ These are the obvious and visible cases involving individuals who end up in the emergency room as a result of being battered. Then there are the many cases of victims who do not have conspicuous injuries or who are terrorized by serious threats of violence day in and day out. We must be

1. Murray A. Strauss & Richard J. Gelles, *Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factor and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families*, THE 1985 NATIONAL VIOLENCE SURVEY, 96 (1990).

LAX

Burbank

1995]

COMMENTARY

31

concerned about all levels of violence, because studies have shown that physical aggression can escalate in frequency and severity over time.²

In addition to physical trauma, battered women suffer mental health consequences. It has been shown that women suffer higher rates of depression and low self-esteem.³ Another study documents that women suffer from higher rates of drug and alcohol abuse, suicide attempts, and sleeping and concentration difficulties.⁴

When forced to flee violence, women typically find their problems exacerbated. They lose their homes and their jobs, break off contact with their communities, and abruptly transfer their children to new schools. They cut themselves off from society when in fact they have done nothing wrong. Women do this to survive, and sometimes they still fail. Indeed, as with Nora Cash, some women are at particularly high risk of severe injury and murder even *after* choosing to walk out on their batterers to live independent lives. One study found that more than one quarter of women who had left their abusers experienced violence from the ex-partner once they had tried to sever contact.

Our goals must be prevention and early detection of domestic violence. When prevention and early intervention fail, we must be able to offer protection, advocacy services, and legal help for battered victims who fear for their safety. Coordinated services can be found in scattered communities around the country, but even in these communities, those resources tend to reach only a fraction of those in need. We must deepen our commitment to progress nationwide.

The federal government has a role in bringing about change. In 1994, President Clinton fought to include new resources for domestic violence prevention in the Crime Bill. The Violence Against Women Act authorizes one billion and six hundred million dollars over a period of six years to train prosecutors and health and social service professionals, increase funding to battered women's shelters, and toughen criminal and civil sanctions against attackers and the perpetrators of sex crimes.

The Violence Against Women Act also creates a new federal offense when a batterer flees across state lines in violation of protective orders. It allocates funds for a national hotline and referral information service that

2. Malone, J. & O'Leary, K.D., *Continuation and Cessation of Violence in Young Couples*, PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING (1993).

3. Cascardi, M. & O'Leary, K.D., *Depressive Symptomatology, Self-Esteem, and Self-Blame In Battered Women*, 7 J. OF FAMILY VIOLENCE, 249-59 (1992).

4. *Council on Scientific Affairs*, 267 J. OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOC., No. 23 (1992).

will offer hope and professional advice to women in need. The Act also funds prevention and public education programs in schools and colleges.

The Clinton Administration's commitment to prevent violence against women and families is also evident in the scope of programs funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Department's five-year, one billion dollar Family Preservation and Support Program provides funds to states to work with families at risk and in crisis. With the aim of strengthening families, parents are taught skills to raise healthy children non-violently in safe environments. The program also protects children who are at risk from neglect and abuse by providing early supportive services that promote positive parenting and more stable home environments.

In 1994, the Clinton Administration allocated seven million and three hundred thousand dollars in new funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a new initiative researching the prevalence of domestic violence, and for new public prevention and awareness campaigns. This is in addition to the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, which in 1994 provided twenty-seven million and six hundred thousand dollars in grants to states, Indian tribes, and local domestic violence coalitions to provide immediate shelter, and emergency assistance to families in crisis. Also, in 1994, our Administration on Aging provided one million and four hundred thousand dollars over four years to fund the National Center on Elder Abuse, and the National Institute of Mental Health was allocated three million and three hundred thousand dollars in research grants to evaluate the root causes and societal consequences of domestic abuse.

Government legislation and research provide some solutions to the tragedy of domestic violence, but the government cannot and should not attempt to deliver the solutions alone. Any comprehensive strategy to deter domestic violence must involve a broad network in the community, including health care professionals, the police, the courts, social service providers, and everyday citizens who may know of or witness violence against friends, family, neighbors, or strangers.

Health professionals must take an active role in handling domestic violence because studies show that between about twenty and thirty percent of the women who go to emergency rooms have been hurt by their domestic partners.⁵ Unfortunately, and all too often, emergency room staff and private practitioners are so busy patching up injuries that they do not step back and ask how a patient's teeth were smashed or how their

5. *Id.*

BWI
Nov 30 →
4:25 → LA.
7:09

BWI - LA.
USAIR

SFO

4:25 7:09

\$35.1
Nov 30

5:47 LA

↓ Alaskan Airlines

7:06 Southwest

\$393.50

7:45 P.M.
5:49
USAIR
\$393.50

Dec. 7 → 7:49 PM

~~Alaskan~~

~~\$393.50~~
\$48

~~7:06 P.M.~~

1995]

COMMENTARY

33

arms were bruised. Training can assist professionals who might otherwise be reluctant or unaware of how to intervene. The American Medical Association has issued protocols for emergency room personnel to identify and assist victims of domestic violence. But the need to implement training in these protocols is evident from a 1993 study commissioned by the Family Violence Prevention Fund of San Francisco, which found that only twenty-three percent of California hospitals have trained emergency room staff to detect victims of domestic abuse.⁶ Every battered woman who receives medical care for injuries must also be referred for help in obtaining protection and counseling.

Health professionals are not the only ones who have to do more. In cities and towns all across America, when police are called to the scene of a domestic violence dispute, the officers must respond the same way they would when a stranger assaults someone on the street. This sends the clear and direct message that it is a crime to beat one's wife or girlfriend. Some police departments have turned to mandatory arrest as part of a comprehensive new approach. For example, police in Newport News, Virginia take suspects into custody whenever there is probable cause of domestic violence, and there are steps to alleviate further physical aggression by coordinating with mental health professionals, other social service professionals, the prosecutors, and the courts to provide services to victims and to batterers once an arrest is made. Depending on the severity of the battery charge, eligible defendants may go voluntarily into counseling and upon successful completion, charges may be dismissed. For the more serious felony cases, there is a no-drop policy in the prosecutor's office. Lieutenant Marvin Evans, of the Newport News Police Department's Police Response to Incidents of Domestic Emergencies program (PRIDE), attributes a significant drop in domestic homicides to this comprehensive approach.⁷

Of course, police often arrive at a domestic call where, although people are yelling and upset, there has not been a physical assault. Here, too, the police presence can be used as a conduit for protective interventions. When separating the couple, police can inform them about resources in the community and issue a clear warning that a physical assault could lead to arrest and prosecution. At a minimum, police can monitor the home as a possible risk for domestic violence. Police officers need to be trained to respond appropriately and to arrest offenders when

6. FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND STUDY (San Francisco 1993).

7. Marvin Evans, *Domestic Violence: Is the Approach used by the Newport News Police Effective in Reducing Domestic Homicides?* NEWPORT NEWS POLICE DEP'T (1989).

there is probable cause to believe that an assault occurred. That said, arrest is certainly not a cure for domestic violence, and we need to research which interventions work best for women and families.

All too often, however, police officers do their jobs when an assault has occurred, only to find that the legal system does not regard battering as a serious crime. Fortunately, the American Bar Association has placed domestic violence at the top of its agenda. In the summer of 1994, a task force released a special report to the President of the American Bar Association, "The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children." The report was notable for its criticism of the legal system for failing systematically to protect women and children from abusers. It challenged lawyers and judges to take the lead on reforms to safeguard the interest of victims of domestic violence, especially children. When our courts treat domestic violence as the crime that it is, they must simultaneously take decisive steps to prevent recidivism. Courts must punish offenders appropriately and make sure victims have the legal right to keep assailants away from themselves and their property. In particular, this means that our courts must be attentive to the recurring nature of domestic violence. When charges are filed and then suddenly dropped, our court officials must inquire if this is the result of intimidation.

This brings us back to the achievements for women in Quincy, Massachusetts. Without additional funding, District Court Judge Albert Kramer worked with the District Attorney's office and the social service community to re-train courthouse clerks and staff to conduct daily briefings about domestic violence. At the same time, they recruited volunteer advocates to assist battered women and they set policies for the District Attorney's Office to prosecute cases that otherwise would be dropped because the victims felt intimidated and were no longer willing to cooperate. Ultimately, battered women like Nora Cash seem to feel safer in the Quincy District Court than in neighboring districts, which is borne out by the number of restraining order petitions followed through to completion: In a study of the Quincy court system, only twenty percent of battered victims withdrew their complaints, a four-fold better success rate than in a nearby jurisdiction.⁸

Although it is still rare to find effective coordination on domestic violence among all the interested parties in a city or state, there are a growing number of success stories. In addition to Newport News and Quincy, in San Diego, Denver, Duluth, and Madison, the prosecutors,

8. Jim Henderman, *Implementation of the Abuse Prevention Act (209A) as an Effective Social Welfare Policy* (1994) (unpublished doctoral thesis, Brandeis University).

1995]

COMMENTARY

35

police, health professionals and social service workers have locked arms to develop and implement domestic violence arrests and prosecution protocols, and to establish safe houses for battered women and their children.

We must build on this leadership and coordinate approaches to prevent violence in the home. In Los Angeles, which has strong domestic violence laws on the books, there are only two-hundred and ninety shelter beds for battered women — a region where police recorded more than sixty-seven thousand domestic violence calls in 1993.⁹ While community shelters are always a victim's last resort, shelter managers commonly report turning away more victims than they help.

Typically, rural communities are even further strapped for shelter beds. There are no shelters for abused women in three-fourths of Missouri's counties, but domestic violence is on the rise. In Jefferson County, Missouri, protective order requests are up eleven-fold, and since 1990, calls to the state's domestic violence hotline have gone up fifty-three percent, to almost seventy-seven thousand calls last year.¹⁰ When there is no shelter in town, or when the shelter has no beds available, many women do return to dangerous homes. That only makes the problem worse.

Preventing and responding adequately to domestic violence requires all members of society to play a role. A public service ad campaign developed by the Advertising Council in 1994, reminds citizens that "there's no excuse for domestic violence," and asks all of us to be more aware of a problem next door. Families, as well as friends, neighbors, clergy, health professionals, and the law enforcement community, must have access to information and resources in their communities. But ultimately, we must act.

This means that public health officials, social service professionals, and criminal justice leaders must work together to educate, to intervene, and to tackle problems before they become explosive. We can start in our schools, where we have to insist that educators develop and implement conflict resolution curricula. We must teach children and young adults how to peacefully resolve conflict among their peers, as well as conflict at home. Finally, we have to recognize that the way we raise our sons and our daughters, and how we communicate and teach them right from wrong, will have a profound effect on the way they treat each other

9. Maria L. La Ganga, *Battered Women Discover Leaving is No Simple Task*, L.A. TIMES, July 6, 1994, at A8.

10. Roy Malone, *Domestic Violence Cases on the Rise*, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH (1994).

throughout their lives. All children must be raised with the understanding that their actions have consequences and that injuring a sibling is no different than hurting someone outside the home.

Violent crime is a crime, whether committed in the street by a stranger or by someone we know in our homes. We must no longer turn a deaf ear to the screams from the floor above or ignore the attempt of a colleague to shield a black eye with heavy make-up. Domestic violence is not a private matter. We must stop it before it is too late.

CREATORS SYNDICATE

To:

June

202 456-5709

From:

Creators Syndicate

Date:

Thursday, November 7, 1996

Number of Pages: 3

Message:

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

My husband wrapped up the final campaign of his political career this week. I was at his side 22 years ago in northwest Arkansas when he ran for Congress -- and lost. And I have been a part of every single one of his subsequent campaigns -- for attorney general, governor and president -- endeavors that have taken us to all corners of Arkansas and America. This last campaign was a remarkable, moving experience that made me very proud of my husband and proud to be an American.

For most of this fall, I was on the road, traveling across our country from Florida to Missouri to Oregon, asking Americans to re-elect Bill Clinton and Al Gore. I'll always remember the sights and sounds of the past few months: college campuses covered in homecoming banners and the colors of fall, schoolchildren in Yelm, Wash., debuting a song written by one of their teachers, "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child," and a chorus of 4,000 voices led by Garrison Keillor in an impromptu rendition of "Home on the Range" in Faribault, Minn.

Sometimes, it seemed like I was eating my way across the country. I was invited to sample the local specialties everywhere I went -- from barbecued ribs in Kansas City to tacos and enchiladas in San Antonio to deep-dish pizza in Chicago to lasagne and spaghetti in Bangor, Maine. I also carried a little bottle of hot sauce to rev up each meal. After 18-hour days, the sauce provided just the kick I needed to keep going. For my birthday, I took hearty helpings of at least six different cakes at my various stops.

Luckily, my stomach was empty when I tried out the new "Tower of Terror" ride during a stop to celebrate Disney World's 25th anniversary. The ride, which sends you down a 13-story elevator shaft, was no shock after four years in Washington.

But at the heart of all these campaign experiences were the people. This campaign was about the thousands of Americans I met in schools, community centers, churches, restaurants and rallies. They took time from their busy schedules to learn about the candidates and share with me their own hopes and dreams for the future.

At a rally in Iowa, I had the chance to catch up with Ryan Moore, a 10-year-old boy living with several birth defects whom I met two years ago during the health care debates on Capitol Hill. I was heartened to see that time hadn't dimmed the bright smile and happy disposition Ryan had charmed me with in 1994. Ryan stayed by my side for a whole day of campaigning.

In Arizona, I dropped in on Barry Goldwater, the first politician I ever campaigned for. Though much has changed since my "Goldwater Girl" days, it was a great honor to see him. I also met many other dedicated men and women willing to take on the challenges of running for office.

Looking back, I realize that almost every person I met, whether he or she was a senior citizen, a college student or a working mom, had similar aspirations and concerns. I believe that most people play by the rules and are trying to do the best they can to support their families. We all want to be good parents and to be able to give our children the time, love and discipline they need. We all want to be able to send our children to good schools. We all want to live in safe neighborhoods. We all want to be able to see a doctor when we get sick and to retire in security when we grow old.

This fall, I met people all over the country who are rolling up their sleeves and working together to make these things happen. They are forming partnerships to fight crime in their neighborhoods, improve their local schools, clean up the environment and expand opportunities for young people.

At an elementary school in a poor section of Lynn, Mass., I met parents, teachers and administrators who had pulled together to improve their school. They set up night classes for adults, special family nights, and after-school and Saturday enrichment programs for students. The parents and the teachers told me the spirit of working together had spread beyond the school to the whole community.

"Ten years ago, people all looked the other way and said, 'It's not my problem,'" one woman said. "We don't have that feeling anymore. We feel empowered. We help each other out."

No matter who you voted for, our country needs every one of us -- not just those whose names appeared on ballots -- to work to build America's future.

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November 5, 1996

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[001]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1996
FINAL

Scheduler:	Sara Grote	
	202-456-2922	office
	202-456-5340	fax
	P6/(b)(6)	home
	WHCA Pager	#4363

PREV RON	The White House
-----------------	------------------------

NO PUBLIC SCHEDULE

RON **The White House**

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC:

-Mostly cloudy with rain showers and thunderstorms, becoming partly cloudy be afternoon. Low 60 to 65. High 65 to 70.



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

FACSIMILE

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DATE: 11/7/98

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TO : Erica

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FAX NUMBER: 456-5709 TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

FROM: Virginia Cox

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

(202) 690-7000

FAX NO. (202) 690-7595

COMMENTS: Set 1 of 3

1 ✓
2 ✓
3

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1996

*REMARKS BY

DONNA E. SHALALA

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WHITE HOUSE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE EVENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

*THIS TEXT IS THE BASIS OF SECRETARY SHALALA'S ORAL REMARKS. IT
SHOULD BE USED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME MATERIAL MAY BE
ADDED OR OMITTED DURING PRESENTATION.

1

Mr. President, Members of Congress, distinguished guests: Thanks to all of you, help for women and children suffering from domestic violence is now only a phone call away.

It shouldn't ever take a high profile court case to wake up America about the terror and tears caused by domestic violence. About the millions of women bruised and beaten. About the calls for help that are never heard. And, about the emotional scars that can plague our children for a lifetime.

The victims of these crimes are our mothers and our daughters, our colleagues and our friends -- and their pain must end.

The Europeans have a slogan for their domestic violence campaign -- which is, "We all have a right to be safe all of the time." Listen very carefully to these words: "All of the time." That is our challenge -- to make America's homes and neighborhoods safe -- all of the time.

And, that's exactly what President Clinton has fought to do. With tougher penalties for abusers. Better training for police, prosecutors, and judges. More community policing and prevention. And now, to tie all the pieces together, a national hotline that women all over America can call 24 hours a day -- every day of the year.

In the past, local hotlines have, to the best of their ability, provided only a patchwork quilt of assistance. It is time for us to join together -- businesses and individuals, governments and nonprofits -- to create a seamless system of protection so that no woman or child falls through the cracks of domestic violence.

That's why, starting today -- whether she is rich or poor, old or young, urban or rural -- because of this President's leadership, every woman in this country will have a toll-free and anonymous lifeline to safety -- whenever and wherever she needs it. Every woman and child will have a safe passage to shelters, legal advocacy, counseling, and emergency services. And, when the threat of violence casts its ugly shadow, every woman and child will have somewhere to turn for help in stopping the brutality and healing the wounds.

That's exactly what Candice Slaughter needed. For six years, Candice was caught in a tragic cycle of domestic violence. There was slapping, bruises, rape and even miscarriages. There were the questions that went unasked and the signs that were ignored. Yet, poised on the brink of terror, there was a woman who had the courage to break free -- for herself and her daughter.

And, did she ever. As an advocate and an author, for more than 15 years, Candice Slaughter has been standing up and speaking out: organizing communities; starting shelters; providing help for rural battered women; and, through it all, using the power of her experience to ensure that every woman and child in America has somewhere safe to turn for help and hope.

She is a true leader, an inspiration to us all, and an real world example of why this Hotline is so important for the families of America.

Candice Slaughter....



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

FACSIMILE

**PLEASE NOTIFY OR HAND-CARRY
THIS TRANSMISSION TO THE
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DATE: 11/7/96

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

TO : Enca

COMPANY : _____

FAX NUMBER: 456-5709 TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

FROM: Virginia Cox

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
200 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201
(202) 690-7000 FAX NO. (202) 690-7595

COMMENTS: Set 1 of 3

1 ✓
2 ✓
3 ✓

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1995

*REMARKS BY

DONNA E. SHALALA

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

*THIS TEXT IS THE BASIS OF SECRETARY SHALALA'S ORAL REMARKS.

IT SHOULD BE USED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME MATERIAL MAY
BE ADDED OR OMITTED DURING PRESENTATION.

1

Thank you, Dr. McAfee, for that gracious introduction and for your outstanding leadership at the AMA -- especially on the issue of family violence.

And, I am also pleased to share the podium with Marna Tucker -- the ABA has been and continues to be a strong partner in this country's fight against violence.

I am truly honored to be here with all of you today.

With energy and expertise, with perseverance and professionalism, you work miracles every day: repairing bodies, restoring hope, repaving futures.

But, all too often, your mission is frustrated by the wave of senseless violence engulfing this country.

Like AIDS, TB, and Polio, violence is a deadly disease -- spreading through communities -- large and small alike -- and, leaving behind shattered lives and shattered dreams every day.

Last April 13 was just like any other day.

That morning, the children at 49th Street School in South Central, Los Angeles woke up, grabbed their bags, waved good-bye to their parents, and made their way to school.

Twenty minutes before the school bell rang, you could feel the promise of youth and hear the laughter of children in the air. All except for one small boy.

Ten year-old Jorge stood at the school entrance crying. He reached into his backpack, slowly pulled out the gun he had taken from his parents' bedroom, placed the gun against his temple and fired.

One bullet was all it took. With one shot, Jorge ended his short life and sent shock waves of grief and confusion throughout his community -- as parents, students, and teachers tried to explain the inexplicable.

"Why?" they asked. "Why would a ten year-old boy have a gun? And why in the world would he take his own life?"

Tragically, these scenes of senseless violence have become far too ordinary -- suicide even more often than homicide, death in the home even more often than death in the street.

Every day in America, 15 children lose their lives in gun-related accidents, suicides, and homicides.

Every day, more than 690 children are physically or sexually abused by a parent, guardian or caregiver.

And, it goes on.

Every day, more than 80 people kill themselves. And more than 60 people die from interpersonal violence.

A national disgrace. All of it.

But, as all of you know, statistics are cold and rigid -- they never tell the human side of the story.

The real truth is that behind every number is a human face.

The face of a thirty-five year-old domestic violence victim, bruised and beaten -- but not broken -- struggling to repair her body and spirit -- and get her life back on track.

The face of a parent, cursed to bury his fourteen year-old son -- another senseless victim of gang violence, another family ripped apart, another future thrown away.

The face of a beaten child -- trapped in a tragic cycle of abuse and attachment.

And, the faces of those 14-year old girls -- who, just last month, killed themselves in a suicide pact -- teenagers who were too young to understand that, if they gave it some time and got some help, the darkness would subside, the pain would cease.

These are the real faces of violence -- victims and their loved ones clasping cold hands and sharing bitter tears in this country's brutal circle of violence.

The cruel irony is, we have the best medical system in the world. The best professionals. The very best technology. And, some of the world's very finest facilities.

Yet look what's happening. More and more gunshot victims. More and more child abuse victims. More and more victims of domestic violence. They're coming in faster and faster. And, younger and younger.

All of you could spend every day sewing up bullet wounds and healing broken bones -- but it would never be enough. It would never solve the problem.

That's because, violence is not just a criminal justice problem -- it's a public health epidemic. And, the only way for us to truly stop the violence is for all of us to work to prevent it -- before it starts.

Standing shoulder to shoulder, we need to create a net of opportunity, hope, values, and responsibility -- so that no child, no parent, and no person falls through the cracks of senseless violence.

I came here today to talk about three ways that we can accomplish these goals together: first, by enacting sound policies that balance punishment with a serious investment in prevention; second, by sending the right messages -- the right values -- about violence; and, finally, by ensuring that all of us step up to the plate and do our part to stop crime and violence in America.

Let's start with the policies.

As the body count increases, we can no longer afford to have artificial debates between hiring more police officers and supporting effective prevention initiatives like Community Schools -- because we need both.

Last year, President Clinton fought for -- and signed -- a Crime Bill that strikes this critical balance -- tougher law enforcement, more prevention programs, a ban on assault weapons, and the Violence Against Women Act.

Let me be clear: we have a fundamental obligation to protect the community from people who simply do not respect the rule of law or the value of human life.

So, to violent criminals, the Crime Act sends a very clear message: you will pay the price. We will lock you up, and, if necessary, we will throw away the key.

But, it speaks to other Americans as well.

To the families of those who fell victim to random gun violence at 101 California St. in San Francisco, at the CIA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and, on the Long Island Railroad train in New York, the assault weapon ban says that your loved ones did not die in vain.

We will work to get these weapons of mass destruction off our streets and out of our communities.

To the women who are beaten, stalked, or raped by their intimate partners, the Violence Against Women Act says we will help create a seamless web of integrated services all across America: funding more shelter beds, expecting the law enforcement community to treat domestic violence as a crime, and training doctors to recognize the warning signals and know where the best resources are in their communities.

And, to the young people who have lots of time, but little supervision and even less hope, the crime prevention initiatives say, "We will do more than simply tell you to say 'no.' We will give you something to say 'yes' to"

"Yes," to a Community School -- open in the evenings, on weekends, and during the summer. "Yes" to a job. "Yes" to an education. "Yes" to a productive future.

That's the smart way -- the balanced way -- to stop the epidemic of violence.

Unfortunately, there are some who reject this careful balance. They want to gut the Crime Act by cutting the prevention funds and overturning the assault weapon ban -- two key provisions that police officers across America say are necessary to fight crime.

The Crime Act opponents think we can stop crime solely with more punishment and prisons. But, they are wrong.

They say crime prevention is pork. I say it's smart.

They say that the assault weapon ban takes away our freedom. But, we need to ask: "What about the other freedoms?: the freedom of citizens to live without fear; the freedom of police officers to do their jobs without being outgunned by the criminals; and the freedom of children to live like children -- free from the random sprays of bullets that have cut short too many young lives.

That's the kind of freedom we need.

But, the attack doesn't stop with gutting the Crime Act. Some people in Washington are also trying to cut back on key programs that help keep families strong -- and keep children from getting into trouble.

I'm talking about rescissions of money already appropriated: cuts that will take away summer jobs from more than 600,000 young people this summer; cuts that will eliminate drug prevention funds to more than 90 percent of school districts; and cuts that will take away housing subsidies to 630,000 families with children.

Where is the logic in that? How can people talk about stopping crime on one hand and then eliminate 600,000 summer jobs on the other?

It reminds me of that old saying: that the only difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits!

There is no limit to the stupidity of entering a hot summer with no jobs program.

And, there is no limit to the cruelty of undermining our vital protections of children who are abused, abandoned, or neglected.

Yet, that's what some members of Congress are trying to do with their ill-conceived proposal to cut funds designed to reduce child abuse and with their attempt to eliminate federal oversight of child protective systems.

The result? Thousands of children will be at increased risk of harm -- and many more could be left out in the cold. That's wrong.

We know that preventing violence and treating it as a public health issue is cost effective -- it works. But, now the House Budget Committee says it would be a good idea to eliminate the funding for the CDC's injury prevention activities.

It is the CDC, through its research, that has taught Americans that they are three times more likely to be murdered by a gun if they have one in their home.

And, it is the CDC that has shown how much we save when we bring common-sense precautions -- like child safety seats, smoke detectors, and sobriety check points -- into our lives.

This kind of research saves money and saves lives -- and the so-called "savings" we will get if they cut it out is nothing more than fool's gold.

We can do better than that -- and we must do better.

That brings me to my second point.

I believe that, to really stop the violence, all of us must address the crisis of values that lies at the very heart of this epidemic.

When twenty percent of high school students tell Tulane University researchers that it's O.K. to shoot someone who has stolen from you -- we have a crisis of values.

When young people have seen more than 30,000 homicides on T.V. by the time they reach age 16 -- we have a crisis of values.

And, when a 17 year-old gang member from Fresno, California says, "We try not to shoot the innocent, but if it happens, it happens" -- we have a crisis of values.

6

Together, from every community and every bully pulpit in this country, we need to send the right messages about values and violence.

When the fourteen year-old girl from Baltimore says, "You don't understand, I have to carry a gun. It's the only way I'm going to get respect"

We need to say, no, a gun does not earn you respect. A gun can help you to commit horrible crimes that will hurt someone and cause you pain -- and your family shame -- for the rest of your life.

We need to say, guns and violence are not the way to settle arguments. Learn to control your anger. Learn to walk away.

When doctors tell us they've never had to treat a victim of domestic violence, we need to say, "Yes, you have."

We need to work with those doctors -- as the AMA has done -- to recognize the signs, ask the right questions, and then refer their patients to the police and the social service system -- where they can get help.

When directors from Burbank tell us, "You don't understand, violence is what our audiences want -- violence keeps our programs realistic."

We need to say, "What your audiences want is to keep their children safe." And, we need to tell them that if they truly want to show the reality of violence, they will show its stark consequences -- because violence always has consequences.

And, when people tell us we don't need the Brady Law or other curbs on violence, because violence just isn't a problem in their towns, we need to say "That's wrong -- violence is a problem for your community -- and for every community in America."

Because violence is not an inner city problem. It's not a problem of poor people. It's not a problem confined to certain genders or ethnic groups. And, most important, it is not -- nor will it ever be -- somebody else's problem.

It is our problem.

And, that brings me to my third and final point.

Stopping this epidemic is going to take caring individuals from all walks of life stepping up to the plate.

Parents are no doubt most important: what they say and what they do will have more impact on their children than anything else in the world.

But, it's also going to take heroes -- in their communities, in their classrooms, and in their workplaces -- to draw a line in the sand and say "Yes, I will do more."

Quite frankly, it's going to take you.

As healers and as witnesses, you have a special message to share.

Every day, you see painful wounds that will never fully heal; legs that will never stride; spines that will never bend; and, brains that will never connect new thoughts to old memories.

It is you who must lead the public health battle against violence.

You have already made impressive strides. Under the leadership of Bob McAfee, the AMA and its members are working overtime to rid this country of all types of violence -- especially domestic violence.

I am particularly impressed by the heroic efforts of AMA doctors all across this country.

Heroes like Dr. Lenore Terr, a clinical professor of psychiatry at UCSF Medical School.

When she was a resident at the University of Michigan, Dr. Terr's very first patient walked into her office and announced: "If you don't stop me, I'm going to kill my child."

Just 25 years-old at the time, Dr. Terr responded to this woman in a way that none of her previous doctors had. She believed her, she stopped her -- and, from that point on, she dedicated her life to helping children -- and their families -- deal with emotional trauma.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Lenore Terr has put her skills and compassion to work helping children throughout the world.

She is helping young victims of child abuse and other traumas overcome their pain; developing techniques that caring professionals -- like the Red Cross Disaster Teams -- now use with children who have experienced tragedies; and, reaching out across the country -- teaching nurses, social workers, and doctors how to recognize the signs of child abuse, ask the right questions, and get the victims -- and their families -- the help they need.

Then there's heroes like Dr. John May. While he was a resident at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, he watched, time after time, as young people came in riddled with bullets -- unable to be saved by even the best emergency care.

He looked around and saw public health messages about heart disease, diet, and cancer -- but nothing about violence.

So, he decided to do something about it.

Today, as a 32 year-old physician at the Cook County Jail, he teaches prisoners and other patients how to avoid violence.

He's developing a slide show for medical schools -- so that they can teach the next generation of doctors effective ways to help prevent violence.

And, in 1993, he started developing anti-violence posters that are now raising awareness and bringing communities together all across America -- including Washington, D.C.

And, finally, there's heroes like Dr. Ann Flitcraft, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

When Dr. Flitcraft decided to write her medical school thesis on battered women in America, she went to the library to comb the literature. But, there was one big problem. The card catalogue came up empty.

So, she conducted a careful review of hundreds of medical records. And, she found that too many domestic violence victims were repeatedly walking out of emergency rooms -- and walking right back into a cycle of abuse.

Dr. Flitcraft decided to act -- and devote her career to ending the abuse and ending the silence.

She teamed up with her husband, Evan Stark, to start the Domestic Violence Training Project. She helped write the AMA's Guidelines on Domestic Violence. And, she has continued to speak out and help communities and caregivers learn how to identify and treat the victims -- and prevent the violence.

All of these AMA physicians are true heroes -- heroes for the medical community, heroes for our children, and heroes for our country.

But, we need to do even more.

We need you to continue to work within your communities, to team up with lawyers, social service workers, teachers and others on the front lines of this battle -- so that, together, we can reclaim our streets, renew our hope, repair the wounds, and stop the violence.

We need you to continue to raise awareness about this epidemic -- to make sure that every doctor is a violence prevention doctor.

And, through it all, we need you to continue to use the strength of your position in society to build support for prevention approaches that work.

I want to end today with a story of a woman who broke free from a life of abuse -- and now helps others to do the same.

As a 20 year-old battered woman with a young child, no college degree, and little money, Sarah Buel lived a life of domestic terror. But, with help from public assistance, she was able to escape, and put her life back together. And did she ever.

It took 10 years -- and lots of night school classes -- but, she earned a B.A. from the Harvard Extension School and then graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School.

But, it didn't stop there. Sarah Buel gathered up her skills, her experiences, and her convictions. She looked back at the rough road she had traveled. And, she decided to dedicate her life to lifting up battered women and their children.

Today, Sarah Buel is one of this country's leading authorities on domestic violence.

She is an adjunct professor at Harvard Medical School and Boston College School of Law. She is an Assistant District Attorney in Boston -- prosecuting cases of domestic violence and child abuse. And, all the while, she is speaking out and reaching out -- empowering battered women and their children to take control of their lives.

She is an inspiration to all of us.

The truth is, people like Sarah Buel walk into our lives every day -- with hidden bruises and private pain.

If Sarah could gather the courage to turn her anguish into national action, surely we -- as national leaders -- can do even more to challenge all citizens to create an America that is truly violence-free. Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 21, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE EVENT

The Roosevelt Room

12:38 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Candice. Thank you, Secretary Shalala. Thank you, Senator Kennedy, Senator Leahy, Representative Conyers. I want to thank Bonnie Campbell for doing such a great job as the Director of the Violence Against Women Office at the Justice Department. And I thank the Attorney General and Associate Attorney General John Schmidt and the others at Justice who have supported this endeavor for the first time. I want to thank you, Ellen Fisher, and your entire team for your hard work and your leadership. We are counting on you.

I want to thank all the brave women in this audience who have survived the horrors and the fears of domestic violence and who have gone on to work, like Candice, as advocates. And I want to thank the men and the women who are here today, some in law enforcement, some in other walks of life, who are here because they believe in this effort and they want to support it.

I was just sitting here thinking how many of you had the same reaction to Candice that I did. You sort of stepped up here and started talking, sounding like another ordinary speech -- I've done thousands of these now in the last 22 years -- and it was almost hypnotic, just a calm, even-voice narrative that seemed almost unbelievable except for those of you who have lived through it so often.

When I gave the State of the Union address and asked the American people to look beyond the present battle over the budget to the real challenges facing our country -- not just our government, but our country -- I pointed out that our first and foremost challenge now and perhaps forever will be to have good, strong families and to give childhood back to all the children in this country. Most of us have known the joys of -- some of the joys of family life. And anybody who's been in a family knows that none of them are perfect. But there's a world of difference between a family with its joys and its problems and a family terrorized by violence and abuse.

For all the economic problems facing poor children in America, I would rather them be poor and home with loving parents than have their childhood robbed by violence in their homes. So I say again to all of you, this is not a women's issue, this is an issue for families and for children and for men as well. And it is an American challenge that we have to face.

This issue has been swept under the rug for too long. We have tried to take it out into the daylight, to let people talk about it, to give people a chance to find courage in the efforts of other and to know where they can find help. That's what the Violence Against Women Act in the 1994 Crime Bill was all about. And again, I thank Bonnie Campbell and all those at Justice who have supported those endeavors.

It's also what our efforts in the Crime Bill to train people locally to be more sensitive to this are all about. We're making progress now. We're actually getting a core group of police officers and prosecutors and judges who really understand this problem and how it should be dealt with. This past September, federal prosecutors used the Violence Against Women Act to help ensure that a man convicted of severe violence against his wife was actually sentenced to life in prison. So I think that we need to continue this effort.

The second thing we need to do is to make sure that women who are struggling to take control of their own lives know how to do it. And for all the reasons that Secretary Shalala said, this number -- this hotline will make a difference to women everywhere, whether they're isolated in rural areas, whether they're in big cities without enough money for a quarter for a telephone call -- everywhere that people can see this number they will be able to use it.

So I guess what I'd like to do now is to wrap up my remarks and say that we're really, all of us here, for people who aren't here. And my greatest hope about this press conference is that people out there across America will see it tonight or hear about it, and if they are victims of domestic abuse or if they suspect that someone they know and care about is a victim of domestic abuse, they will pick up the phone and call this number -- 1-800-799-CARE.

SECRETARY SHALALA: SAFE.

THE PRESIDENT: SAFE, I mean. (Laughter.) I can't read. Maybe it will get overused and we'll have to have two. (Laughter.)

If this hotline -- if one person does this and it saves their lives, if one person winds up safe, it will have been worth the effort. But all of you in this room know that it's not one person, that there are thousands and thousands and thousands of people out there.

I'm going to be very interested to see what the report is after one month and two months and three months. And I'm going to ask to get a report -- how many calls, how many people out there, feeling alone and lonely and bereft and abandoned will dial that; how many people will commit to memory 799-SAFE and dial it. Because I believe that all of us, even those of you who are advocates, may well be surprised by the sheer numbers, the volume of calls.

So I ask you as you leave today to reaffirm our common commitment to an end to domestic violence; to reaffirm our common commitment to saying to people, you must not raise your hand in violence against members of your family in your home; and to reaffirm our commitment to get this number everywhere. I want school children to know that there is a 1-800-799-SAFE. I want every police officer to know there's a 1-800-799-SAFE. I want every mayor to know it. I want every church leader to know it. I want it to be emblazoned in the synagogues and all the houses of worship in America. I want people to know this number. This is a way that we can bring the marvels of modern technology to solve a very old problem in a profoundly human way.

So, again, I say, I thank all of you for your efforts. As you know, it means a lot to me personally. But it will only count if everyone in America who needs to know this number, knows it; and if everybody who needs to know it, knows it and feels that they can use it; and then that the people on the other end of the line do their job. I'm convinced that people on the other end of the line will do their job. (Laughter.) And I'm convinced those of you who are out there in the fields will continue to do your job.

So I ask you to celebrate today, but remember, there's a lot of doctors and teachers and police officers and others that we need to gather into this great American family committed to doing away with this problem. I think -- I will say again, if we can do this, and then we can make some progress on the real issue, which is getting every man in America to make a personal pledge never to raise a hand in violence in the home, this is a problem that America has that can actually be solved. And I think all of you are going to hasten the day when we do it.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Q -- a question on this topic, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay.

Q Following up on what the speaker said, could you or your family or your mother have benefitted from a service like this when you were growing up, considering the problems that were in your household?

THE PRESIDENT: The honest answer is, I don't know. I think that -- I think yes because at that time in our country's

history, most women were too embarrassed to talk about it. They didn't know that anybody else -- they didn't know if anybody else had the problem, and, if they did, they had no way of finding out who they were. And I think that the sense of shame, the ambivalence that maybe somehow this must be partly my fault, or this is my burden to bear, that this is not anything that I can get out of -- I think that's how it would have been most helpful.

I had a -- my mother was one of the most remarkably resilient and self-reliant people I knew, but I think she came of age at a time when women in America simply didn't know that there was any way out of this. And I bet you there's still a lot of women out there who just don't know that there's any way out of this. So I would think that would have been the most important thing that would have helped us.

Thank you.

Q I wonder if you could just take a moment and speak to the fact that with the billions of women who are battered, those that are the least addressed are those that are deaf, and that there is also a TTD line --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I'm sorry.

Q -- and maybe a special thank-you to Senator Kennedy for seeing that that happened. (Laughter and applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Would you like to say something about it?

That's the TTD line, and for the last couple of years we've done some things to point out what telephone technology is doing to bring communication to the deaf. And this TTD line is 1-800-787-3224.

I thank you for mentioning that. Thank you.

Thank you all. (Applause.)

END

12:49 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 2, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN OBSERVANCE OF
NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

East Room

2:56 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Sergeant Wynn, for your remarks, and for dedicating your life to this important work. Thank you, Bonnie Campbell, for doing a great job as head of the Violence Against Women Program in the Justice Department. Thank you, Attorney General Reno, for believing in this and for driving it. Thank you, Secretary Shalala, for reminding us this is a human tragedy.

Thank you, Jerry Rossi. You stood up here and you tried to convince us that you were really worried about the bottom line, and everybody who saw you knew that what you were really worried about was all those people out there, right and wrong. And every American who can see you would be proud of you and would wish that every person in business in this country would have those values and that kind of passion. Thank you so much. (Applause.)

And thank you, Tana Sherman, for being brave enough to tell us your story. Before we came over here, Tana and the five people who are on the back row with Bonnie Campbell all told me their stories. One of them had to have her back broken before she actually asked for help. Another waited until her oldest child was assaulted with a meat cleaver.

This is not just a woman's problem. I was glad to hear that. This is a children's problem and it's a man's problem. And we're not doing anybody any favors, least of all the abusers, by ignoring it any longer. And I thank all these brave women for the power of their example. And there are others in this audience who have been severely abused in domestic situations -- I thank them all for having the courage to be here and for the fight they are fighting.

I'd also like to thank the Congress for the support that they gave this program a year ago, and to say a special word of appreciation to the United States Senate for restoring funding for the Violence Against Women Program just last week. Thank you, Senator Leahy; thank you, Congresswoman Morella; thank you, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. And I have to thank my good friend, Senator Joe Biden, in his absence for all of their work on behalf of this program.

Last week we had a great week in Washington. We celebrated progress in peace in the Middle East. We celebrated the beginnings of peaceful agreements in Bosnia. I spend a whole lot of my time trying to make or keep peace -- Northern Ireland, Southern Africa, Haiti; trying to get rid of the nuclear weapons that have threatened to disturb our peace profoundly and permanently. But we don't need just peace with other countries. We need peace on our streets, in our schools, and perhaps most of all, in our homes. All

MORE

of us should want a peaceful world, but we know a peaceful world has to start with each of us -- in our homes, and at work, and in our lives.

This problem has been swept under the rug for quite a long while now. It's really always existed at some level or another. It is time to recognize that domestic violence can quickly and easily become criminal violent activity that affects us all -- regardless of our race or our income or our age, regardless of where we live or what we do.

You've heard about how it increases health costs and absenteeism and reduces the productivity of businesses. You know the most important thing is that it undermines the most important things in life -- it undermines the most important institution in the world.

Most of us have been privileged to know, in greater or lesser degree, the joys of family life. And everyone who has ever been part of any family knows there's no such thing as a perfect family, and they all have their problems. But there's a whole lot of difference between a family with joys and problems and a family dominated by violence and abuse.

If there is anything I could say to you today that would leave a lasting impression, I would hope it would be to echo what the fine man who introduced me said -- and that is that we don't have to put up with this. We do not have to put up with this. We can do something about it. It can be changed; it can be better.

And everybody, not just the battered women, but their children who suffer psychological wounds that can only be imagined and can never be fully predicted. And the abusers themselves will be better off if we determine that we are going to put a quick, firm, rapid, unambiguous stop to every single case we find about, as soon as we find out about it. That is what we should all leave here determined to do. (Applause.)

I wish the First Lady could be here today, but Hillary has to -- she's going to New York, and she couldn't be here. But when we lived in Little Rock, we spent a lot of time at the shelter for battered and abused women and children. It was run by some saintly people we knew and respected. We enjoyed, if you can use that word, the time we spent there. We learned a lot. And it sort of stiffened my resolve to see this as a problem of society, not just an unfortunate thing that happens to some families on occasion, including mine.

And when we were debating the crime bill a year ago, I was so moved by the commitment that the Attorney General had and that many in the Congress had to make a bipartisan departure from national policy and say that we were actually going to single this out -- that we were going to pass a crime bill that was comprehensive and meaningful, that carried the real potential of lowering the crime rate; changing the conditions in which crime would occur. And it really was a brilliant piece of legislation. It had the assault weapons ban. It had stronger penalties for serious offenders.

You see now people are beginning to be put away for good under the three-strikes-and-you're-out law, and the two cases that I've seen, I'd say the law has been properly implemented. It had money for prevention, for community strategies. It had money for 100,000 police officers. We see all over the country now community policing lowering the crime rate. We do not have to put up with this; we can make this better. We can bring the crime rate down, and we can certainly reduce the rate of domestic violence.

MORE

But The Violence Against Women Act is really a peculiar part of the genius of the crime bill because of its commitment to raise to national prominence an issue that had never, ever been there before; and because it combines tough sanctions against abusers with assistance to police and to prosecutors and to shelters. And I don't know -- several of the people who talked to me before I came out here were emphasizing how important it is to educate and train not only the police officers, but also the prosecutors and the judges. All the police can do is to bring the case to the criminal justice system. Prosecutors and the courts have to do the rest.

To make sure this act had a good chance to work, we created the Office of Violence Against Women in the Justice Department, and we named Bonnie Campbell, the former Attorney General of Iowa, to head it. And we hope that we can say -- we hope that we can say now that as a matter of national policy, with the support of people all across America in uniform, in women's groups, in support groups -- the days of men using physical violence to control the lives of their wives, their girlfriends and their children are over. And it is not a women's issue, it's an American issue, it's a values issue, and it is now an issue around the world.

A lot of kind things have been said about the speech that Hillary made at the Women's Conference in Beijing, speaking out against abuses against women and little girls in other parts of the world. But I would remind you, she also spoke out against the problem of family violence. And the Beijing conference made that an international goal for improving the condition of women the world over. And since we had so much to do with that, we ought to say, we've got a lot of work to do right here in the United States, and we want to lead the way to guarantee women and their children a safe life and a chance at a good, constructive family.

Again, let me say, I'm grateful to all the corporations who have worked on this. Jerry Rossi made an eloquent statement. There are many others -- the GAP, Liz Claiborne, Aetna, Polaroid are among the great companies in this country who have made a difference in the way their employees are treated and the way they think about themselves and their options and their possibilities. I thank them for that.

I want to thank the Congress again -- I mean, the Senate, for restoring the funding. I want to say again, we will not be able to do this right unless there are police officers like Sergeant Wynn who will give themselves to this work. And I often say this in Washington -- very often a national movement like this starts with someone like him, who had to live with the reality of domestic abuse. But we can't bring it all the way home with only police officers who grew up in families where there was abuse. We now have to have a systematic commitment to sensitize people who, thank God, did not to live through it, to be a part of this movement; to sensitize prosecutors; to sensitize judges; to sensitize all of us in decision-making capacities, whether or not we had domestic abuse in our homes.

And let me finally say that as a kickoff to the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I signed today an executive memorandum to ensure that our federal government continues to be a leader in this national effort. I've asked the heads of all the executive departments to conduct employee awareness campaigns modeled after the one that the Attorney General has put in place at the Department of Justice, to provide information and the resources to deal with domestic violence. After all, we know there must be federal employees at work, even as we speak, who themselves are the victims of domestic violence and who are sitting there at their desks staring blankly at a piece of paper while we here proclaim victory in this fight and they haven't even taken the first step. So we want to set a

good example.

Let me lastly say that, to all the women here and all across America who are abused or who have been abused, you are not invisible. The people who have stood with you today can now say that you are being heard, you are being seen, you are being understood.

The following quote is from one of Hillary's favorite books, and I asked if I could use it today. It's called "In the Spirit." by Susan Taylor, the editor of Essence Magazine. And it talks about your courage, your strength and your hope. She writes - quote -- "While we cannot change the past, with the wisdom of spirit, we can change what it means to us and to our future. With understanding and compassion, we can break a cycle of despair. rise above our sorrows and find a new emotional home from which to create a brighter tomorrow. Each breath we take offers us a chance to create a better life."

Now, I hope because of all these efforts, we will all, with each breath we take, resolve that a part of that better life will be less and less and less domestic violence and abuse, until we have taken it out of the spirit and the soul and the life of the United States of America.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

2:20 P.M. EDT

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. letter	New York constituent to POTUS (partial) (2 pages)	10/17/1995	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 13009

FOLDER TITLE:

Domestic Violence [2]

2012-0869-S
kc943

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

[002]

P6/(b)(6)

New York, New York 10001

October 17, 1995

Honorable William Clinton
President of The United States
White House
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear President Clinton,

Thank you for the once-in-a lifetime chance to meet you. It feels like a dream still. No one would believe that the President of the strongest country in the world would use his precious time to listen to a battered woman who has been treated less than human and neglected by society. It took me two days to accept the fact that seeing you was real. I am now starting to believe that this Land is full of opportunities after all.

When I stood behind you and listened to your speech, I told myself that it was real. It is real that there is a man who is willing to listen. Most importantly, this man is the leader of this country and is wholeheartedly protecting women. There are few leaders like you taking a stand to protect women so strongly. No leader that I know of in the history of the world has been as brave as you to openly talk about the abuse you saw at home.

After listening to your speech, I felt my soul was alive again. That moment when you hugged me, I felt that all women are now safe. You carry a message to all men as well as to our children that a true hero will not use violence or power against women. This short meeting was much better than ten years in therapy!

After thirteen years of abuse, my four daughters and I were able to leave the abuse at home safely. But the fear in our hearts is still with us. We try very hard to adjust in this culture, learn English, adopt the customs and to survive.

There are thousands of women, who are still suffering at home. Many of them have been in this country for a long time, but their husbands never applied for their legal status. They have no where to go, because they are afraid of being deported.

I know that the Violence Against Women Act allows immigrant women to apply for legal status on their own, yet, women have not been able to apply, because Immigration Naturalization Service has still not come out with the regulations which can set these women free. What good is a new law if women cannot use it? How painful and dangerous it is for women who have one foot in the grave, the other foot still locked by a deadly chain.

[002]

I am now sincerely requesting your help to set the women free by:

- * enforcing the law through regulations from INS to save the lives of immigrant women.

- * stopping proposed legislation which blocks federally funded programs from helping undocumented battered women. In fact, without those agencies (such as New York Asian Women's Center which helped me) to help immigrant women overcome the language and cultural barriers, women have no way to escape.

- * enhancing welfare benefits for immigrant battered women, so that they can stay with their children closely to endure the difficult transitional period.

Battered immigrant women are extremely vulnerable. Any of the barriers that are mentioned above will block their way to escape. Please give the women as well as the children a chance to have safe new lives. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

May God continue to bless our country to have a leader like you! Best wishes to your family!

Faithful citizen,

P6/(b)(6)

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. bios	Domestic Violence event participants (partial) (1 page)	10/02/1995	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 13009

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Domestic Violence [2]

2012-0869-S
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RESTRICTION CODES

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**OCTOBER 2, 1995****PARTICIPANTS**

Jerry Rossi, president and chief operating officer, Marshalls, Inc., Andover, Mass.: In 1994, Jerry Rossi launched an extensive domestic violence initiative by joining Marshalls with the Family Violence Prevention Fund. The initiative includes: the adoption of a Boston battered women's shelter; annual sponsorship of the "Jane Doe" fund-raising march in Boston; a workplace awareness program; and donation of 1 percent of sales one day a year to fight domestic violence. In addition, Marshalls will award on October 3 seven innovative prevention strategies the Marshalls Domestic Peace Prize.

P6/(b)(6)

Police Sergeant Mark Wynn, Domestic Violence Division, Nashville-Davidson Police Department, Nashville, Tenn.: In 1994, the Nashville-Davidson Police Department created a specialized unit to fight domestic violence after Sgt. Mark Wynn had fought for the division and educated other law enforcement across the nation on the issue for ten years. His focus: Prevention and help for the victim. He reduced domestic murders in his jurisdiction by 70 percent in the first six months of the program. His philosophy: Get in early enough with an arrest and prevent the escalation of violence.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH,
1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Domestic violence threatens the very core of what we hold dear. Millions of women and children throughout our nation are plagued by the terror of family violence each year, and approximately 20 percent of all hospital emergency room visits by women result from such violence. Family violence is a crime that transcends race, religion, ethnicity, and economic stature, and one of its greatest tragedies is its effect on our young people: as many as 3 million children witness violence in their homes each year.

We must never give up in our efforts to transform despair into hope for the women and families across this country who suffer violence at home. We must encourage all Americans to increase public awareness and understanding of domestic abuse as well as the needs of its victims. My Administration is fully engaged in this struggle, coordinating our efforts through the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice and through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Legislation enacted during the past several years is also helping to overcome the scourge of domestic violence. The Violence Against Women Act that I signed into law has given law enforcement critical new tools with which to prosecute and punish criminals who intentionally prey upon women and children. The Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act of 1996, enacted just last month, makes it a Federal crime for any stalker to cross State lines to pursue a victim, whether or not there is a protection order in effect, whether or not an actual act of violence has been committed, and whether or not the stalker is the victim's spouse. And I am pleased that the Congress has just taken action to keep guns out of the hands of people with a history of domestic violence.

My Administration has also worked to increase the support available for battered women and other victims of domestic violence, including the elderly. In February, I announced the creation of a 24-hour, toll-free National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE. The response to this service has been overwhelming, and the hotline has already received over 50,000 calls — the majority from women and men who have never before reached out for assistance. This year, we will also provide increased and unprecedented resources for battered women's shelters, domestic violence prevention efforts, and children's counseling services.

There is still much more to do, however. The welfare reform legislation that I recently signed recognizes the special needs of domestic violence victims, and I urge all States to accept the option of implementing the new law's Family Violence provisions. I have also directed the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice to develop guidance for States and assist them in implementing the provisions. As we help families move from welfare to work, we must ensure that they remain safe from violence in their homes and are given the support they need to achieve independence.

As a result of these and other efforts at the national, State, and local levels, we are one step closer to eliminating domestic violence and building in its place a brighter, more secure future for our families and loved ones. I salute all those whose efforts are helping us in this endeavor and pay special tribute to the survivors of domestic violence whose courage is an inspiration to us all. I urge all Americans to join me in working toward the day when no person raises a hand in violence against a family member.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 1996 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by demonstrating their respect and gratitude for all those individuals who unselfishly share their experiences, skills, and talents with those affected by domestic violence.

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

William Clinton

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. list	National Domestic Violence Hotline Event Participants (7 pages)	02/21/1996	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 13009

FOLDER TITLE:

Domestic Violence [2]

2012-0869-S
kc943

RESTRICTION CODES

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The Roosevelt Room

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. In recent weeks, all of us have had reason to focus on two of the biggest problems facing our country -- the problem of continuing racial divisions and the problem of violence in our homes, violence against women and children.

Today, I want to talk to you about that violence in our homes. It is prevalent, unforgivable and sometimes deadly. In the latest statistics from the Justice Department, we find that close to a third of all women murdered in this country were killed by their husbands, former husbands or boyfriends.

For too long, domestic violence has been swept under the rug, treated as a private family matter that was nobody's business but those involved. Fortunately, that's changing.

In recent years, a huge public outcry against domestic violence has been rising all across the nation. In our churches, schools and throughout communities, we've begun to bring this problem out in the open and deal with it. Now everyone knows it is cowardly, destructive of families, immoral and criminal to abuse the women in our families.

Just last week at the White House, I met with a group of women who are survivors of domestic abuse. One woman told me of being battered and terrorized for more than 20 years, all the while blaming herself for the brutality she endured. It wasn't until her husband attacked her son that she got up the courage to leave the marriage and to seek help.

It's important to remember that when children witness or are victimized by violence in the home, they often later grow up to abuse their own families. So it can become a vicious cycle, as many abusers were once those abused themselves.

The good news is we can do something about this. The same day I met with the women survivors, I also met a remarkable Nashville police sergeant named Mark Wynn, a young man who himself grew up in a home where his father abused his mother and the children. But that experience motivated him to become a police officer and to dedicate his life to preventing domestic violence. For the past 10 years, he's been educating police nationwide about the seriousness of this problem and what to do about it. And he spearheaded the creation of a special domestic violence unit in the Nashville Police Department that has helped to reduce domestic murders by 70 percent in the last six months alone.

One year ago, we made a major commitment in Washington to ensuring the securities of our families with the bipartisan passage of my anti-crime bill. That law banned assault weapons from our streets and our schools; imposed tougher penalties for repeat offenders, including the three-strikes-and-your-out law. It provided

resources for community-based prevention programs to give our children something to say yes to. And it put 100,000 more police officers behind our efforts at effective community policing. That's an increase of about 20 percent in the number of police who are protecting our citizens. In just a year, 25,000 of these new officers are already out there working to help make your life safer. And I've put aside \$20 million to train our police to effectively deal with the problems of domestic violence.

The Crime Bill also included the landmark Violence Against Women Act. For the first time in our history, the federal government is now a full partner in the effort to stop domestic violence. The Violence Against Women Act combines tough new sanctions against abusers, with assistance to police, to prosecutors and to shelters in the fight against domestic violence.

Just last week, we awarded grants to organizations in 16 different states to assist in their efforts to stop the violence and support the victims. And soon we'll establish an 800 number where women facing abuse can get assistance, counseling and shelter.

Yet at the very moment our nation has been focused on the abuse against women by their husbands -- or former husbands or boyfriends -- the House of Representatives has voted to cut \$50 million from our efforts to protect battered women and their children, to preserve families and to punish these crimes. I'm happy that the Senate agreed with me to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act, and I certainly hope the House will reconsider its decision.

Violence against women within our families will not go away unless we all take responsibility for ending it. So let me close today by speaking directly to the men of America -- not just as President, or a father or a husband, but also as a son who has seen domestic violence firsthand.

We all know how much we owe to the sacrifices of the women who are our mothers, our wives, our sisters, our daughters. I was fortunate enough to be raised by a loving mother who taught me right from wrong and made me believe I could accomplish anything I was willing to work hard for. Hillary and I were blessed to celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary just this week. And of course, our daughter Chelsea is the great joy of our lives.

I know that all of us support stronger law enforcement efforts to deal with violence against all of the mothers, all of the wives, all of the daughters in America. But the real solution to this problem starts with us, with our personal responsibility and a simple pledge that we will never, never lift a hand against a woman for as long as we live. And that we will teach our children that violence is never the answer. Then we can do all we can to end violence in our homes, in our neighborhoods and in everyone else's homes and neighborhoods throughout our beloved country.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 3, 1996

October 3, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Guidelines to States for Implementing
the Family Violence Provisions

Domestic violence has a devastating impact on families and communities. Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans are subjected to assault, rape, or murder at the hands of an intimate family member. Our children's futures are severely threatened by the fact that they live in homes with domestic violence. We know that children who grow up with such violence are more likely to become victims or batterers themselves. The violence in our homes is self-perpetuating and eventually it spills into our schools, our communities, and our workplaces.

Domestic violence can be particularly damaging to women and children in low-income families. The profound mental and physical effects of domestic violence can often interfere with victims' efforts to pursue education or employment -- to become self-sufficient and independent. Moreover, it is often the case that the abusers themselves fight to keep their victims from becoming independent.

As we reform our Nation's welfare system, we must make sure that welfare-to-work programs across the country have the tools, the training, and the flexibility necessary to help battered women move successfully into the work force and become self-sufficient.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage States to implement the Wellstone/Murray Family Violence provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (Public Law 104-193, section 402(a)(7)). These provisions invite States to increase services for battered women through welfare programs and help these women move successfully and permanently into the workplace. The Family Violence provisions are critical in responding to the unique needs faced by women and families subjected to domestic violence.

As we move forward on our historical mission to reform the welfare system, this Administration is committed to offering States assistance in their efforts to implement the Family Violence provisions.

Accordingly, I direct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to develop guidance for States to assist and facilitate the implementation of the Family Violence provisions. In crafting this guidance, the Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice should work with States, domestic violence experts, victims' services programs, law enforcement, medical professionals, and others involved in fighting domestic violence. These agencies should recommend standards and procedures that will help make transitional assistance programs fully responsive to the needs of battered women.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services is further directed to provide States with technical assistance as they work to implement the Family Violence provisions.

Finally, to more accurately study the scope of the problem, we should examine statutory rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault as threats to safety and barriers to self-sufficiency. I therefore direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make it a priority to understand the incidence of statutory rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault in the lives of poor families, and to recommend the best assessment, referral, and delivery models to improve safety and self-sufficiency for poor families who are victims of domestic violence.

I ask the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to report to me in writing 90 days from the date of this memorandum on the specific progress that has been made toward these goals.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Clinton Makes a Personal Appeal for Men to End Violence Against Women

By John F. Harris
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton issued a highly personal appeal yesterday against domestic violence, recalling his own ordeal growing up with an abusive stepfather and imploring men to take a "simple pledge that we will never, never lift a hand against women for as long as we live."

Clinton didn't directly mention the O.J. Simpson trial, which brought spousal abuse dramatically into public focus with its vivid descriptions of a beating Nicole Brown Simpson sustained from the former football star before their divorce. But he made plain that the timing of his remarks was not mere coincidence.

"In recent weeks, all of us have had reason to focus on two of the biggest problems facing our country," Clinton said in his weekly radio address. "The problem of continuing racial divisions and the problem of violence

in our homes, violence against women and children."

How the nation can bridge the racial gulf exposed by the widely varying reactions to Simpson's acquittal on murder charges is the subject of a speech Clinton has scheduled for Monday at the University in Texas at Austin.

"Violence against women within our families will not go away unless we all take responsibility for ending it," Clinton said. "So let me close today by speaking directly to the men of America. Not just as president, or a father or a husband. But also as a son, who has seen domestic violence firsthand."

Clinton's stepfather, Roger Clinton, who died in 1967, was an alcoholic. When he was drunk, he would beat his wife and on one occasion fired a handgun at her. Virginia Kelly Clinton, the president's mother, died of breast cancer early last year.

"I know that all of us support stronger law

enforcement efforts to deal with violence against all of the mothers, all of the wives, all of the daughters in America," Clinton said. "But the real solution to this problem starts with us. With our personal responsibility and a simple pledge that we will never, never lift a hand against a woman for as long as we live."

While emphasizing the role of personal responsibility in preventing domestic abuse, Clinton nonetheless made clear that he thinks government has a role. He lauded last year's Violence Against Women Act, which was passed as part of the crime bill and includes grants to states to fight domestic violence and prescribes federal penalties in cases of abuse that involve crossing state lines. And he criticized the efforts of House Republicans to cut \$50 million from the new program, a move that the Senate has not matched.

Yesterday was not the first time Clinton has invoked his personal experience as

youth in a highly public way. In 1992, a widely played video produced by the Clinton campaign showed the candidate recalling how at age 14 he dramatically confronted his stepfather in the middle of a drunken assault on his mother, and portrayed the incident as a turning point in the cycle of abuse.

In the November issue of *Good Housekeeping* magazine, Clinton again shares intimate recollections of how the tumult he witnessed in youth affected his outlook on life.

He told the magazine that he once doubted whether he would ever be able to have a happy family of his own. "When I was 21, I put down the things I really wanted in my life, and having a good family life and a child was one of them," he said. "But I just didn't know if I could ever get there, because if your model of a marriage has been bad, it has a subconscious drag on you."

The Republican response to Clinton's

weekly radio address focused on the budget. Sen. Pete V. Domenici (N.M.) said that the president's budget plan would not really produce a balanced budget because it is based on false assumptions about economic growth. He cited the "nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which says the president's budget plan would result in \$200 billion deficits in each of the next 10 years and will not balance the budget.

"It's a no-pain budget," Domenici continued. "By manipulating the numbers, they simply make \$475 billion worth of deficit magically disappear in a cloud of smoke with more assumptions and new estimates."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read the full text of the president's remarks, see *Digital Ink*, The Post's on-line service. To learn about *Digital Ink*, call 1-800-510-5104, Ext. 9000.