

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	Murray Kushner to Melanne Vermeer re FLOTUS attendance at MS event (partial) (1 page)	08/14/1998	P6/b(6)
001b. letter	Murray Kushner to Melanne Vermeer re FLOTUS attendance at MS event (partial) (1 page)	08/14/1998	P6/b(6)
002. packet	Democratic National Committee Women's Leadership Forum fundraising event material (political) (10 pages)	10/20/1998	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 17213

FOLDER TITLE:

October 1998

2012-0869-S

kc913

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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.

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

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

spoke w/ Joel meyer

HRC VIDEO REQUEST FORM

DATE TO BE RECORDED 10/5

YES ☒ NO ☐ APPROVED BY: HRC PS MW MV /CONFIRMED _____

ORGANIZATION	
DATE OF EVENT	November 18, 1998
LOCATION	New Jersey Performing Arts Center
EVENT	"Musical Moments for MS"
WHITE HOUSE STAFF CONTACT	
CONTACTS	Many O'Meara 908/781-8418
BILL TO	
SEND TO	P.O. Box 175 Peapack, NJ 07977
SEND VIA	REGULAR MAIL _____ FED EX _____ ACCT # _____ SATURDAY DELIVERY _____ AIRBORNE EX _____ ACCT # _____ PICK UP _____ CONTACT _____ PHONE # _____
FORMAT	VHS _____ BETA _____ BETA CAM _____ BETA CAM SP _____ 3/4" _____ OTHER _____
NOTES	

- Admin
- Site
- Linda + husband
- What this evening will mean for MS

- how far we've
come - how far to go
are for ms

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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MURRAY KUSHNER

P6/(b)(6)

P.O. BOX 6622

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. 08807

video
request

[001a]
ms8-8/27

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

August 14, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer,

We received your letter of June 5, 1998. We are writing to you regarding the First Lady's possible involvement in the first annual concert gala to benefit MS - "Musical Moments for MS" which will be held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, NJ on November 18, 1998.

Recognizing that the First Lady might not be in attendance, we would like a video address from her to show on the evening of the performance. For your convenience, I have attached a sheet outlining the event.

If you need any further information regarding the event, please don't hesitate to call our event coordinator, Mary O'Mealia at 908-781-8418. Please let Mary O'Mealia know whom she needs to contact regarding the coordination of the video.

Thank you in advance for your help. We look forward to speaking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Susan P. Thomases
Susan P. Thomases

[Signature]
Murray Kushner

P.S. Also enclosed for your review is the copy for the invitation to be sent in September. No changes can be made after August 21st. Please call Priscilla Miller in Mary O'Mealia's office (908-781-8418) to make any changes.

MUSICAL MOMENTS FOR MS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- This is the first annual Gala Benefit Concert to benefit Multiple Sclerosis Research at the Neurological Institute of New Jersey at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ).
- The event will be held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, New Jersey which opened in October of 1997. The event will be held in Prudential Hall, which is magnificent. I have enclosed a flyer on the Arts Center to give you some additional background information.
- Linda Ronstadt will perform in concert. Tony Randall will act as Master of Ceremonies.
- There will be three honorees for the evening:
 - *Corporate Excellence Award
Lodewijk J.R. de Vink, President and COO, Warner Lambert Company
 - *Medical Excellence Award
Stuart D. Cook, M.D. Chair, Neurosciences, New Jersey Medical School and Acting President, UMDNJ
 - *Artistic Excellence Award
Emily Mann, Artistic Director, McCarter Theatre in Princeton, NJ (Emily Mann has MS.)
- The chairpersons for the event are Lee and Murray Kushner. Lee is an MS patient of Dr. Cook's.
- The fund raising goal is \$2 million to endow a chair in neurosciences at UMDNJ.
(We have currently raised in excess of \$1 million.)
- The Governor of New Jersey will issue a proclamation declaring November 18th MS Day.
- What is MS?
 - A disease of the brain and spinal chord resulting in damage to the nerves.
 - It strikes people in the primes of their lives – between 15 and 60 years old.
 - The hallmarks of the disease are unpredictability, uncertainty and loss of control.
 - 300,000+ Americans have MS with nearly 200 new cases diagnosed each week.
 - Women develop MS at a rate almost four times that of men.

Concert Gala Co-Chairpersons - Lee and Murray Kushner

Concert Gala Honorary Chairperson
The First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Concert Gala Leadership Committee
Senator Bill Bradley *Edward*
Senator ~~Ed~~ Kennedy *R.*
Senator Frank Lautenberg
Senator ~~Joe~~ Lieberman *Joseph*
Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Senator Robert Torricelli
Governor Christine Todd Whitman

Concert Gala Vice Chairmen

Kenneth Donald R. Brown, Jr., Bank of America
Albert R. Ken Chenault, President and COO, American Express
Roger Fine, VP & General Counsel, Johnson & Johnson
Stanley Gale, Gale & Wentworth, Inc.
Al Gamper, President ~~CEO~~ The CIT Group, Inc. *Executive Vice President*
Leonard W. Greer, Israel Discount Bank of New York
Thomas Gregor, United National Bank
Seryl & Charles Kushner, The Kushner Companies *Chris Jones, chairman and CEO, J. Walter Thompson Company*
Dean O'Hare, Chairman, The Chubb Corporation
Kenneth & Karen Segal
Dennis Strigl, President & CEO, Bell Atlantic/Nynex Mobile *Saul Tawil, President, Ventura Enterprise Co., Inc.*
Jeffrey Wiener, Kislak Company, Inc.
Arthur Zankel, Co-Managing Partner, First Manhattan Company
Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. H. H.
Miles Lehrman, U.S. Holocaust Museum
William C. McCahill, Jr., Executive Vice President, Fleet Bank, N.A.
Mark R. Morris, Chairman-North America, Bates Worldwide
Joseph Paparatto, President, NorCrown Bank
Stephen B. Siegel, President & CEO, Insignia/ESG, Inc.
Finn Wentworth, Gale & Wentworth

Need to be in alpha order

Committee in formation - as of 7/21

Concert Gala Tribute Committee

General Mike Dugan, Ret. President & CEO, National MS Society
Matthew E. Fink, M.D., Beth Israel Medical Center
Sylvia Lawry, Founder, National MS Society
Ruy Lourenco, Dean, New Jersey Medical School, UMDNJ
Isabel Miranda, Chair, UMDNJ
Labe Scheinberg, M.D.
Susan Thomases
Gregory P. Troast, Troast Realty

Concert Gala Concert Committee

Roslyn Black June Halper
Nancy Lorenzi Don Moore
Evelyn Self

John Kessler
Lorraine Rovello

take off?

Need titles!

"Musical Moments for MS"

Benefit Concert Gala
for Multiple Sclerosis

LINDA RONSTADT

~~Special Guest~~
Special Guest

The First Lady

Hillary Rodham Clinton

NJPAC

New Jersey

Performing Arts Center

Newark, NJ

November 18, 1998

musical
moments for MS

Benefiting Multiple Sclerosis Research
Neurological Institute
of New Jersey at UMDNJ

About Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Multiple Sclerosis is a disease of the brain and spinal cord characterized by the loss of myelin (the covering of nerve fibers) and damage to the nerves themselves. It is one of the most common neurological diseases of young adults. It strikes people in the prime of their lives between the ages of 15 and 60 years old with the highest incidence between the ages of 30 and 50. *Women develop MS at a rate almost triple that of men.*

MS has many symptoms and many related physical and emotional consequences that may affect function and quality of life. The hallmarks of MS are unpredictability, uncertainty, and loss of control. The variety of physical impairments can result in drastic changes in the patient's lifestyle, roles, income, productivity, family life and emotional stability. Each person's prognosis is uncertain and the course of the disease is unpredictable from one individual to another.

About the Chair at UMDNJ

The Concert Gala will focus on the Institute's resources in combating Multiple Sclerosis by raising funds to endow a chair in neurosciences at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School. *cap?*

The Newark campus of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey is the major provider of tertiary neurological services to the State of New Jersey through its patient care, research, and education programs at UMDNJ-University Hospital and New Jersey Medical School. In November of 1997, to promote and advance this center of excellence, the University established the Neurological Institute of New Jersey.

You are cordially invited to attend
"Musical Moments for MS"
Concert Performance by Linda Ronstadt

Master of Ceremonies
Tony Randall

Honoring:
Stuart D. Cook, M.D., Chair, Neurosciences,
New Jersey Medical School and Acting President, UMDNJ

Lodewijk J.R. de Vink, President & COO,
Warner-Lambert Company

Emily Mann, Artistic Director, McCarter Theatre

Wednesday, November 18, 1998
One Center Street, Newark, NJ

Cocktail Reception: 6:00 p.m.
(No cocktail reception for Bass level)

Performance: 7:30 p.m.

Business Attire

*Lee & Murray Kushner
Concert Gala Chairpersons
"Musical Moments for MS"
Event Headquarters
P.O. Box 175
Peapack, NJ 07977*



"Musical Moments for MS"

*First Annual Benefit Concert Gala
New Jersey Performing Arts Center
November 18, 1998*

Lee & Murray Kushner — Concert Gala Chairpersons

"Musical Moments for MS"

Name _____ Title _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

YESI would like to attend the First Annual Concert Gala "Musical Moments for MS"
(Please check your level of commitment below)**Sold****"Alto"**

____ Underwriter @ \$25,000 (10 tickets)

____ Individual Tickets @ \$2,500 each

(VIP pre-event reception, front row seating, special recognition)

"Tenor"

____ Underwriter @ \$10,000 (10 tickets)

____ Individual Tickets @ \$1,000 each

(Private pre-event reception, priority seating, special program listing)

"Soprano"

____ Underwriter @ \$15,000 (10 tickets)

____ Individual Tickets @ \$1,500 each

(VIP pre-event reception, preferential seating, special recognition)

"Bass:"

____ Underwriter @ \$5,000 (10 tickets)

____ Individual @ \$500 each

(Special program listing)

I would like _____ ticket(s) @ \$ _____ I cannot attend, but enclosed is a
donation of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: The Foundation of UMDNJ/MS • Return in the enclosed envelope

*Please indicate if you require disabled seating.**Indicate tax-deductible amounts here or do in
following letter?*



*Lee & Murray Kushner
Concert Gala Chairpersons
"Musical Moments for MS"
Event Headquarters
P.O. Box 175
Peapack, NJ 07977*

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Evan

[0016]

MURRAY KUSHNER

P6/(b)(6)

P.O. BOX 6622

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. 08807

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

August 14, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer,

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Thank you in advance for your help. We look forward to speaking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Susan P. Thomases
Susan P. Thomases

[Signature]
Murray Kushner

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 - The hallmarks of the disease are unpredictability, uncertainty and loss of control.
 - 300,000+ Americans have MS with nearly 200 new cases diagnosed each week.
 - Women develop MS at a rate almost four times that of men.

O'MEALIA SPECIAL EVENTS

P. O. Box 175 • 88A Main Street • Peapack, NJ 07977

(908) 781-8418

Fax (908) 781-8485

FAX COVER SHEET

NAME: Evan Ryan

CLIENT: MS

COMPANY: _____

FROM: L O'Mealia

RE: _____

DATE: 10/14/99

TIME: 1:30p

THERE ARE TO BE 2 PAGE(S) TO FOLLOW (NOT INCLUDING THIS PAGE).
(IF YOU CAN NOT READ OR DID NOT RECEIVE ANY PORTION OF THIS FAX PLEASE CALL 908-781-8418)

MESSAGE:

Evan -

Nice to finally speak with you!

Attached is info - let me know if
anything else is needed -

L

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 - The hallmarks of the disease are unpredictability, uncertainty and loss of control.
 - 300,000+ Americans have MS with nearly 200 new cases diagnosed each week.
 - Women develop MS at a rate almost four times that of men.

*embellished
a little bit*

202-456-

5340 (law)

HILLARY CLINTON SCRIPT

- Welcome to the spectacular NJ Performing Arts Center which has just celebrated its one year anniversary!
- I am very sorry I couldn't be with you tonight.
- I am with you in spirit and wish you a joyous evening.
- Please remember why you are here tonight – we are all joining in the fight to find a cure for MS. Your support makes a difference!
- Congratulations on the success of your event. A \$ 2 million dollar is quite an accomplishment. Knowing the Kushner's they have probably surpassed their goal since the taping of this message.
- I would also like to congratulate our three honorees – Dr. Stuart D. Cook of UMDNJ, Ludwig deVink of Warner Lambert and Emily Mann of McCarter Theatre. Their list of accomplishments is far too great for me to run through now - you will learn all about them later in the program.

I am disappointed not to be there with you on this memorable occasion. Please enjoy the evening.

TO: Noa Meyer
FROM: Mary O'Mealia
DATE: October 31, 1998
RE: Video for MS event with the Kushners

Additional info on the event is as follows:

1. There will be approximately 2,700 people in the audience if we sell out. Right now we have sold approximately 2,100 seats.
2. There will be a cocktail party before the awards ceremony and concert for the big ticket purchasers that starts at 6:00 p.m. See attached ticket copy.

The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. – more likely will begin at 7:45 p.m.
3. The video will be the first thing introduced in the evening. Please see attached preliminary timeline.
4. The theme of the event is "Musical Moments for MS" and it is a Linda Ronstadt Doncert.
5. The first lady has never done anything for OSE before. I do not know if she has ever done anything for MS before. This ~~evening~~ is a first year event so she hasn't ever done anything for this particular event.
6. The bios for the three honorees, Tony Randall and Linda Ronstadt are attached.
7. Lee Kushner has MS and Dr. Cook (one of the honorees) is her doctor.
8. They have raised 1.7 million dollars to date. Their goal is \$2 million dollars. They have raised the money primarily through Murray Kushner's contacts, Warner-Lambert's contacts and the University of Medicine and Dentistry's contacts.
9. I do not have any information on the Chair which is being endowed with the proceeds from this event. The chair will be named The Ruth Dunietz Kushner and Michael Jay Serwitz Chair in honor of both Lee and Murray's former spouses.
10. Information on the neurological institute also enclosed.
11. Background info on MS attached

1998-99 SEASON

NJPAC

TAKING
PERFORMANCE
TO NEW
HEIGHTS



SUBSCRIBE NOW FOR BEST SEATS!

New Jersey PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

"A TRUE
URBAN LEGEND
IS BORN."

— *Newsweek*

When the New Jersey Performing Arts Center opened last October, *The Star Ledger* proclaimed that "a star" had been born. *The New York Times* called Prudential Hall "breathtakingly glamorous" and the Victoria Theater "a gem." *The New York Post* said NJPAC compares "with the likes of Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center or the Orange County Performing Arts Center."

The 1998-99 Season at NJPAC builds upon the success of a truly thrilling inaugural year. Members and Subscribers have preferred access to series tickets plus a host of other benefits. So take your seat for another great season — before the sold-out sign goes up!

**SAVE UP TO 20%,
SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

NJPAC

ON THE NEWARK RIVERFRONT

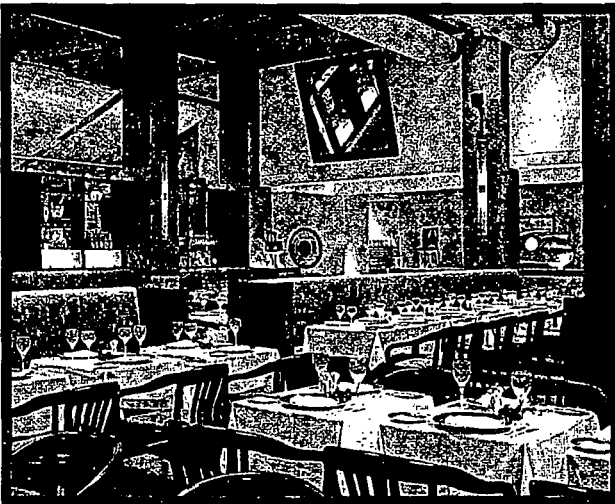
Home of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra



"The sound of Prudential Hall has both warmth and clarity. The hall is aurally and visually enveloping, like being inside a great string instrument."
 — Yo-Yo Ma



The 500-seat Victoria Theater provides an intimate setting that brings audiences closer to the arts. The New York Times called the Victoria Theater "a gem."



Theater Square Grill, open 7 days a week, was called "a triumph" by The New York Times.



Foundation of the University of Medicine
and Dentistry of New Jersey

Phone: (973) 972-4830
Fax: (973) 972-4281

65 Bergen Street, Suite 1551
University Heights
Newark, New Jersey 07107-3001

BENEFIT CONCERT
at the
NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1998
for the
NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY
UMDNJ-UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL

Chairpersons: Lee and Murray Kushner

Honorees:

Stuart D. Cook, M.D., Chair, Neurosciences, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School
Lodewijk J. R. de Vink, President & COO, Warner-Lambert Company
Emily Mann, Artistic Director, McCarter Theatre

The Newark campus of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey is the major provider of tertiary neurological and neurosurgical services to the State of New Jersey through its patient care, research and education programs at UMDNJ-University Hospital and New Jersey Medical School. To promote and advance this center of excellence, in November 1997 the University established the Neurological Institute of New Jersey.

The benefit concert will focus on the Institute's resources in combating multiple sclerosis by raising funds to endow a chair in neurosciences at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School. The event seeks sponsorship from corporations and individuals committed to advancing research and services for the neurologically impaired population.

Invited guests include Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senators Lautenberg and Torricelli and respected leaders across the state. Prudential Hall, the 2,750 seat concert facility at NJPAC, will be the setting for the event. Festivities will include a VIP reception buffet/cocktail party for special guests. The performer(s) of the evening will be confirmed shortly.

O'MEALIA SPECIAL EVENTS

P. O. Box 175 • 88A Main Street • Peapack, NJ 07977

(908) 781-8418

Fax (908) 781-8485

FAX COVER SHEET

NAME: Noa meyer

CLIENT: _____

COMPANY: _____

FROM: O'Mealia

RE: _____

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

THERE ARE TO BE 17 PAGE(S) TO FOLLOW (NOT INCLUDING THIS PAGE).
(IF YOU CAN NOT READ OR DID NOT RECEIVE ANY PORTION OF THIS FAX PLEASE CALL 908-781-8418)

MESSAGE:

Noa -

If you need any more information, please
call first thing Monday morning - or if you are
in on Sunday. I will be out for the major portion
of the day Monday. Good luck w/ everything -
hope it goes well - Call if you need anything

many

- ❖ Multiple sclerosis is a chronic, sometimes progressive disease that randomly attacks the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord). Its progress, severity, and specific symptoms cannot be predicted.
- ❖ Onset of symptoms occurs most often between the ages of 20 and 40 years, with women affected twice as often as men.
- ❖ Symptoms may vary from mild alteration of sensation to paralysis of limbs and interference with vision, speech, walking, and other basic functions.
- ❖ Symptoms result from multiple areas of patchy scarring (sclerosis) of the myelin layers that surround nerve fibers in the central nervous system. This is similar to loss of insulating material around an electrical wire which interferes with the transmission of signals.
- ❖ MS is thought to be an autoimmune disease, meaning that the body's own defense system attacks myelin.
- ❖ The majority of people with MS do not become severely disabled, and continue to lead productive and satisfying lives.
- ❖ MS is not a fatal disease and individuals can be expected to have normal or near-normal life expectancy.
- ❖ MS is not contagious and it is not hereditary, although there may be an inherited predisposition for developing it.
- ❖ Although a cure has not been found yet, many symptoms can be relieved. In addition, new drugs can reduce the frequency and severity of attacks and slow the progression of disability for some people.
- ❖ The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports an international program of research on the cause, cure, and treatments of MS, and offers people services through a nationwide network of chapters and branches.

Call 1-800-FIGHT-MS
to reach the chapter
nearest you.

PRELIMINARY SCRIPT/TIMELINE – MUSICAL MOMENTS FOR MS

- 4:00 p.m. OSE Staff arrival
- 4:30 p.m. All speaking parts on the program – ~~dress rehearsal~~ *arrival*
- 5:00 p.m. Rehearsal – for all who can be there
- 6:00 p.m. Cocktails begin
- 7:15 p.m. Start moving people in
VIPS/speakers/honorees down to stage
- 7:45 p.m. Welcome – Tony Randall
- Introduce First Lady if she is there; or, if not, her video
- 7:50 p.m. Introduce the Kushners – chairpersons
remarks (hope you all enjoy your t-shirts!)
Special thank you's - Lee Kushner
- 7:55 p.m. Introduce Honorees – Randall
Dr. Stuart Cook
2 minute remarks
presentation of award
Ludwig de Vink
2 minute remarks
presentation of award
Emily Mann
2 minute remarks
presentation of award
- Lee & Murray to present award, Tony Randall to do the talking
- Lee and Murray stay on stage??
- Thank you on behalf of Institute – Dr. Carmel, co-director of the Institute
Isabelle Miranda
- Dr. Cook and Dr. Carmel thank the Kushners
- 8:10 p.m. End of formal program –
- 8:14 p.m. Introduce Linda – Tony Randall
take hand held, walk center stage to introduce Linda, Podium removed
- Enjoy the Concert
- Tony off stage
- 8:15 p.m. Linda Ronstadt –
curtain rises

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS TO
FIRST ANNUAL CONCERT GALA TO BENEFIT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
"MUSICAL MOMENTS FOR MS"**

**NEWARK, NJ
NOVEMBER 5, 1998**

Good evening. As honorary chair of this event, I am delighted to join you at the first annual Gala Benefit Concert to benefit Multiple Sclerosis.

As we embark on this journey of renewed hope for MS, I can think of no setting more appropriate to applaud tonight's honorees than this glorious new center. As a group they give us hope that together we can overcome the challenges before us. And individually they inspire each one of us to find our own way to make a difference. Thank you to Dr. Stuart Cook; Ludwig deVink; and Emily Mann for all you do to in the war against MS.

And I want to thank all of you for helping to combat this devastating disease. Because of your commitments, this special evening will help to endow a chair in neurosciences at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey -- which will allow the University's Neurological Institute to expand it's cutting-edge research into unlocking the mysteries of MS.

Over the last decade, we have made significant progress in the battle against MS. Today we have new information, new tools, and new treatments -- increasing our understanding of what has always been such an unpredictable disease.

And I am proud that my husband and his Administration has contributed to these advances. Our efforts to improve women's health have helped women -- who develop MS at a rate almost double that of men -- have access to the health care they need. Our increased funding for research has helped uncover some of the genetic secrets behind MS and other diseases. And our acceleration of the approval of new drugs has led to the effective treatment of MS symptoms, while maintaining high standards of safety.

These are great accomplishments. But as you well know, our work is far from done. We must continue to move forward: by continuing to invest in research; developing new treatments; making sure everyone has access to them; and eventually finding a cure MS. Tonight you are all helping to bring us closer to that day.

Thank you for all you have done -- and continue to do -- through your generous support of research, progress and hope. Congratulations to tonight's honorees for their personal courage and commitments. I hope you have a wonderful evening.

I only wish I could be there with you in person - to see this new center. Not sure if you're the person - Under Randall, Tony Randall all of you to

much like this hall - but the corner of maw to win battle

Cut

By this example they inspire us to come together at this glorious new center to celebrate the individuals who are helping to write a new chapter in our fight against MS.

SC, like only man have not only just as hope

hard way to make a diff... because of interest the people in this room

Congrats on success

Producers, researchers, doctors, all will come

more info @ how immune system works - new therapies put new ones underway w/o side effects MRI scans to monitor disease activity - evaluate new treatments

unlock genetic secrets - may help treat or prevent medications to slow down disease - treat some MS symptoms - future central attacks or improve function

To: Anna Schiller

What Recent Advances Have Been Made in MS Research?

Many advances, on several fronts, have been made in the war against MS. Each advance interacts with the others, adding greater depth and meaning to each new discovery. Four areas, in particular, stand out:

- ◆ Over the last decade, our knowledge about how the immune system works has grown at an amazing rate. Major gains have been made in recognizing and defining the role of this system in the development of MS lesions, giving scientists the ability to devise ways to alter the immune response. Such work has already generated new and effective therapies (two forms of beta interferon and copolymer I) and is expected to continue to yield a variety of new potential therapies that may ameliorate MS without harmful side effects.
- ◆ New tools such as MRI scans have redefined the natural history of MS and are proving invaluable in monitoring disease activity. Scientists are now able to visualize and follow the development of MS lesions in the brain and spinal cord using MRI; this ability is a tremendous aid in the assessment of new therapies and can speed the process of evaluating new treatments.
- ◆ Other tools have been developed that make the painstaking work of teasing out the disease's genetic secrets possible. Such studies have strengthened scientists' conviction that MS is a disease with many genetic components, none of which is dominant. Immune system-related genetic factors that predispose an individual to the development of MS have been identified, and may lead to new ways to treat or prevent the disease.
- ◆ In fact, three medications that may actually slow the course of the disease have been approved in the last half dozen years, and a growing number of therapies are now available that effectively treat some MS symptoms. In addition, there are a number of treatments under investigation that may curtail attacks or improve function of damaged nerve fibers. Over a dozen clinical trials testing potential therapies are under way, and additional new treatments are being devised and tested in animal models.

What Research Remains to be Done?

The role of genetic risk factors, and how they can be modified, must be more clearly defined. Environmental triggers, such as viruses or toxins, need to be investigated further. The identification of specific cellular targets of immune attack in the brain and spinal cord, and the cells involved in that attack, need to be confirmed and extended. Knowledge of these aspects of the disease will enable scientists to develop new methods for halting--or reversing and repairing--the process that causes the symptoms of MS. The 1990s have seen an unparalleled explosion of knowledge about neurological disorders. New technologies are forcing even complex diseases like MS to yield up their secrets. These burgeoning opportunities in the field of neurological research have prompted some to suggest that an effective treatment for and the cause of MS may be found during this decade. The former has already been achieved; scientists continue to diligently search for the latter. Their dedication is the best hope for a cure, or, better yet, a way to prevent MS altogether.

Lodewijk J.R. de Vink

The Concert Gala Committee for Musical Moments for MS is both pleased and proud to present our Corporate Excellence Award to Mr. Lodewijk J.R. de Vink, President and Chief Operating Officer of the Warner-Lambert Company.

Mr. deVink joined Warner-Lambert in 1988 as Vice President and President, International Operations. In 1990, he was appointed Executive Vice President and President, U.S. Operations, and in 1991 he was elected to his present position as President and Chief Operating Officer. Previously, he was employed by Schering-Plough Corporation in various management and executive positions advancing to Senior Vice President, Schering International, in 1984 and president, Schering International, in 1986.

Mr. de Vink graduated from Nijenrode, The Netherlands School of Business, and serves as a member of the International Advisory Board of the University. He holds a B.B.A. from Washburn University and an M.B.A. from American University.

Mr. deVink is a director of Bell Atlantic Corporation, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and the United Negro College Fund. He is also a director of the National Actor's Theatre as well as a Trustee of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

Through his stewardship and commitment Mr. deVink has lead Warner Lambert into its significant role as a leader in corporate philanthropy. It is for his stewardship and commitment to corporate philanthropy and fund raising leadership that we honor Mr. de Vink and Warner-Lambert as our first recipient of the Corporate Excellence Award

Dr. Stuart Cook

As the first and only chairman of the Department of Neurosciences at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)-New Jersey Medical School, Dr. Stuart Cook has built a program that is recognized as one of the strongest clinical and basic research programs in the nation, particularly in multiple sclerosis research. It is for these many important accomplishments in the fight against MS that The Concert Gala Committee for Musical Moments for MS is both honored and proud to present our inaugural Medical Excellence Award to Dr. Stuart D. Cook for his dedication to both his medical research and to his patients.

For more than 30 years, his research has focused on the origins and development of multiple sclerosis and Guillane-Barre syndrome and he is nationally recognized as a leader in furthering our understanding of these two neurodegenerative diseases. For several years, he has been looking for viral agents -- in particular canine distemper virus - that may be responsible for triggering immune system attacks that result in the destruction of the myelin sheath insulating the nerve cells of the central nervous system. On the clinical side, he and his colleagues have carried out studies that were the first to show that high doses of steroids can alleviate symptoms early in the disease and that lymph node irradiation, a technique that involves peripheral immunosuppression, can slow down deterioration in patients with progressive forms of MS.

In the 25 years that he has served as chairman of the Department of Neurosciences, Dr. Cook also has built a nucleus of talented researchers whose work has provided important information on many other neurological disorders including muscular dystrophy, chronic fatigue syndrome, spina bifida, and neurological mechanisms involved in both obesity and aggression. He was recently appointed co-chairman of the Neurological Institute at UMDNJ, a collaborative program with the Department of Neurosurgery, to expand research and treatment programs in a variety of fields including Alzheimer's disease, neurooncology, neurogenetics, epilepsy, pain management and stroke therapy and prevention.

We congratulate and salute Dr. Cook on his many achievements and advancements in the fight against MS.

Emily Mann

The Concert Gala Committee for Musical Moments for MS presents our first Artistic Excellence Award to Emily Mann, Artistic Director of the McCarter Theatre of Princeton, New Jersey.

Emily Mann is in her ninth season as Artistic Director of McCarter Theatre. Ms. Mann wrote and directed *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*, which had its world premiere at McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J. prior to its successful run on Broadway and its national tour. *Having Our Say* enjoyed the distinction of being one of the most produced plays in America for two years in a row, and was presented to great acclaim at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, South Africa this past summer. For *Having Our Say*, Ms. Mann received the prestigious Hull-Warriner Award, two Joseph Jefferson Awards, as well as Tony, Outer Critics and Drama Desk award nominations.

Ms. Mann made her Broadway debut as playwright and director with *Execution of Justice*, for which she received numerous awards including a Bay Area Theatre Critics Award, a Playwriting Award from the Women's Committee of the Dramatists Guild, a Bums Mantle Yearbook Best Play Citation, and a Drama Desk nomination. Her play, *Still Life*, premiered at the Goodman Theatre and opened off-Broadway at the American Place Theatre under her direction in 1981, winning six Obie wards, including Distinguished Playwriting, Distinguished Directing and Outstanding Production of the Season. Her first play, *Annulla, An Autobiography*, premiered at the Guthrie Theater and was produced at The New Theatre of Brooklyn with Linda Hunt. She is the author of *Greensboro (A Requiem)* which had its world premiere at McCarter in 1996, and most recently, *Meshugah*, which she adapted for the stage from the story by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Both plays had their world premieres at McCarter Theater.

Ms. Mann is a member of the Dramatists Guild and serves on its Council. A collection of her plays, *Testimonies: Four Plays*, was recently published by Theatre Communications Group, Inc.

“I hope that I can be an example of someone who refuses to be a victim of MS and instead has learned to manage it, live with it and lead an active and fulfilling life.” It is for her unflagging commitment to excellence in the arts despite her personal challenges that we honor Ms. Mann as an inspiration and role model for us all.

Tony Randall

In 1991, Tony Randall fulfilled his dream with the launching of his National Actors Theatre. For over a decade, he worked tirelessly to raise the money necessary to kick off his idea of such a theatre company. In addition, he is not only artistic director of the company, but an actor and director as well. The National Actors Theatre is a not-for-profit subscription-based company formed to bring the great classical repertoire of the world to a theatre that is within reaches of all.

Randall is probably best known for his role as the fastidious Felix of *The Odd Couple*. Neil Simon's Felix was one of those roles that seemed to have been written for him. However, this Emmy Award winning actor is more than a funny man. He is an erudite and accomplished conversationalist. He is an authority on opera, and a serious student of the theatre and art. Above all, Tony Randall is an actor of seemingly limitless range.

Tony Randall is an actor of seemingly limitless range. He can break you up with laughter as the fastidious Felix of *The Odd Couple* or in the Doris Day comedies, but there is also something very human and touching about those baffled characters he has played. And, when he has the opportunity, as in Broadway's *M. Butterfly* or such a movie as *No Down Payment*, he can create a character of dramatic strength – with comedy overtones only pointing up the characterization.

Other notable Randall screen appearances include: *Let's Make Love* opposite Marilyn Monroe; *The Mating Game* with Debbie Reynolds; the trilogy of his Doris Day - Rock Hudson movies, *Pillow Talk*, *Send Me No Flowers* and *Lover Come Back*, in which his special character becomes one of the dominant elements. He is proud of his many tour-de-force characterizations in the little known *The Seven Faces of Dr. Lao*.

As a philanthropist, Mr. Randall has been the National Chairman of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, for more than a decade, for which he is a tireless worker. He lends his support and prestige to the many causes in which he believes. Tony Randall also serves as spokesperson for the city's *New York City, Yours To Discover* Tourism Program.

Our sincerest thanks to Tony Randall for accepting the role as our Master of Ceremonies for this most important event.

Linda Ronstadt

Linda Ronstadt has established one of the most impressive careers in the history of contemporary music. As one of the most beloved singers of our generation, she has broadened the latitudes of the pop singer, expanding the vocalist's canvas to include country, rock n' roll, big band, jazz, opera, Broadway, Mexican, and Afro-Cuban influences, leaving no stone unturned in the pursuit of the ultimate song.

With worldwide album sales of more than 50 million, and countless Gold Platinum and Grammy award winning records to her credit, Linda has just achieved another important milestone in her incredible career, the release of her 31st album We Ran this past summer.

Ms. Ronstadt is well known for her versatility. She has sung Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirate of Penzance* and the role of Mimi in Joseph Papp's production of *La Boheme*. She has worked with noted arranger and band leader Nelson Riddle, and has incorporated a multitude of ethnic flavors into her music reflecting her German and Mexican heritage.

Born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, Ms. Ronstadt began her singing career while a student at Arizona State University with guitarist Bob Kimmel. After moving to Los Angeles the two added guitarist/songwriter Kenny Edwards and became the Stone Poneys, recording their first album in 1967. After their third album, Linda Ronstadt left the group for a solo career at the end of 1968.

Ronstadt's first solo works mirrored her country roots, mellowing with time into a soft laid back variation of country rock, her songs always reflecting on the shifting fortunes of love. Her inclusion of songs from writers like Jackson Browne and Neil Young, Ronstadt made more folk – rock connections. In 1974 her album Heart like A Wheel reached number one and sold over 2 million copies. Her success was firmly established in the circle of popular music.

The late seventies and early eighties led Ms. Ronstadt in new directions experimenting with the new wave music of Elvis Costello, and later with the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan. Following these new initiatives of style, she teamed up with Nelson Riddle, who arranged and conducted her 1983 collection of pre-rock pop standards on the album What's New. 1984's Lush Life and Sentimental Reasons released in 1986. The early nineties were a time to return to her musical roots, with Ronstadt's use of traditional Spanish and Mexican material on Mas Canciones and Frenesi. Ronstadt has since returned to her most recognized format of pop music with a laid back country flair.

As a single parent of two adopted children, Linda Ronstadt has recently moved back to Tucson from San Francisco to return to her childhood home. We are delighted to present this gala concert by someone with such far-reaching and inimitable talent. Thank you Ms. Ronstadt.



The Neurological Institute of New Jersey

A Briefing

Background

Head injury, stroke, epilepsy, and Alzheimer's disease--fifty million Americans are affected by these debilitating neurological diseases; there are five million new diagnoses every year. Stroke is the third leading cause of death and the leading cause of adult disability in the USA; every year there are 400,000 to 500,000 new or recurrent cases of stroke.

Neurological disorders cost society an estimated \$400 billion in health care costs and lost productivity. They are one of the leading causes of death and disability.

This remarkable burden of disease--and the fact that neurological disorders are also one of the fastest-growing areas in emerging therapeutic options and treatment modalities--makes imperative the creation of a center of excellence in the neurosciences at UMDNJ. All the essential ingredients already exist at the Newark campus. UMDNJ-University Hospital and New Jersey Medical School are the major providers of tertiary neurological and neurosurgical services--including patient care, education, and research--to the State of New Jersey. The Department of Neurosciences ranks among the very top departments in the nation.

Strategy: Building on Current Strengths and Resources

The University is strongly committed to the advancement of neurological treatment and research. The Institute is designed to harness the energies of existing programs and to maximize their collective impact. The singular focus that an institute provides will enhance efforts in clinical care, research, and the development and maintenance of productive referral relationships.

Structure and Focus

The Neurological Institute of New Jersey will be the umbrella under which clinical, research, and educational efforts in the neurosciences will be focused, internally and externally.

- In the past three years, clinical care cases have increased by about 900, due in part to our unmatched capabilities in pediatric neurosurgery and innovative surgical techniques such as stereotactic radiosurgery, and our ability to intervene in challenges that are too labor intensive, technology intensive, or risk intensive for local hospitals. A large proportion of cases (75%-80%) are cranial and involve very complex procedures. The actual delivery of **clinical care** will continue to be provided through University Hospital, its clinics, physician offices, and affiliates (such as the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation). The Institute will provide for the formalized organization of multidisciplinary teams (clinicians, scientists, professional managers from UH/NJMS and affiliates) focused on specific diseases/disorders.
- **Research**--The creation of the Institute will send a clear message to the national neurosciences community that a major commitment to research excellence exists on the Newark campus. This will facilitate recruitment of additional top-notch neuroscientists and NIH grant support. Furthermore, the formation of the organized centers of care under the auspices of the Institute will help focus the attention of pharmaceutical companies on the concentration of patients and availability of physicians and research nurses experienced in drug trials. The concentration of effort in the centers will also attract support from private disease organizations and will facilitate the development of successful federal, state, and other public grant applications.
- **Referral Relationships**--The Institute will provide direction and coordination to physician referral efforts in the neurosciences. Targeted community-based primary care and neurological specialty physicians will be invited to join the UH medical staff and will be conferred member status in the Institute. An ambitious program of continuing medical education in all fields related to the neurosciences will be established to provide referring physicians with a positive exposure to the academic and clinical proficiency of the UH/NJMS staff. The management of external referrals to UH will receive particular attention to ensure satisfaction with the referral process and the care of referred patients.

Leadership in the Neurosciences: A Selected List of Recent Achievements

No academic entity in New Jersey can approach the depth of expertise, technological advancements, and research achievement currently in place at University Hospital/New Jersey Medical School.

- The Department of Neurosciences ranks among the very top departments in the nation in research funding--\$4.1 million annually.

- NJMS offers the only fully accredited medical school neurology training program and the only fully accredited neurosurgical residency program in New Jersey.
- The Mayo Clinic awarded a competitive national teaching award to Dr. George Zito, of the neurosciences faculty.
- Neuroscientists in the Department of Neurosciences were selected as the top scientists at UMDNJ in three of the past six years.
- Several Department of Neurosciences faculty members have received a variety of NIH and American Academy of Neurology awards for outstanding research.
- The Division of Neurosurgery serves as a beta-development site for several surgical devices and imaging systems, helping to create numerous endoscopic and microscopic surgical imaging techniques.
- Three senior faculty members--Dr. Stuart Cook, Dr. Peter Carmel, Dr. Larry Frohman--have earned international renown. Recently they were the only neurosurgeon, neurologist, and neuroophthalmologist in New Jersey to be singled out by their peers as ranking among the "Best Doctors in America."
- Clinical and research pursuits in the neurosciences extend to many other disciplines, with key neurosciences faculty and programs in ophthalmology, pathology, radiology, psychology, otology, and physiatry, among others.
- Volume in neurosurgery admissions rose from 461 in 1994 to 596 in 1997 (29%), due in part to the expansion of the adult and pediatric epilepsy programs, the introduction of the stroke program, and the administration of tPA in the Emergency Room.
- Neurosurgery volume has grown dramatically in the past four years--293% in 1997--due in part to the unmatched capabilities in pediatric neurosurgery and the introduction of innovative surgical techniques, such as stereotactic radiosurgery.

c:neuro.rk.4/14/98

CAN MS BE TREATED?

Traditionally, steroids and ACTH have been used to treat acute exacerbations, also called relapses or attacks. Today, there are three new, federally approved medications that slow the rate of relapses, and limit MS activity in the brain, as seen on MRI scans. One of these drugs slows down the rate of increased disability. All three slow the natural course of MS.

There are also medications that provide relief for symptoms. Spasticity, bowel and urinary distress, pain, fatigue, and other problems may be eased with medication.

Physical therapy, exercise, vocational and cognitive rehabilitation, attention to diet, adequate rest, and counseling to decrease emotional stress may also be invaluable in helping a person remain independent and able to lead a full life. Prompt management of symptoms is important. They should be discussed with a knowledgeable physician.

CAN MS BE CURED?

The answer is no—not yet. The new medications do not cure MS. The cause and the cure are the subject of intensive worldwide research. Some 200 research grants and fellowships funded by the National MS Society go forward each year. Knowledge about diseases of the central nervous system is growing quickly, many clinical trials are in progress, and there is an air of optimism among MS researchers everywhere.

THE NATIONAL MS SOCIETY FIGHTS MS

Information, local referrals, publications, and programs are available from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and its 50-state network of local chapters and service centers.

To reach the chapter nearest you or our national information resource center, telephone 1-800-FIGHT MS [1-800-344-4867].

You are also invited to visit the Society's Home Page on the World Wide Web: <http://www.nmss.org>

The mission of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis.

Society members are people with MS, their family members, concerned friends and neighbors, health-care professionals, and staff. The Society is the world's largest private funder of MS research and, through local, state and national advocacy programs, serves as a voice for over 300,000 Americans with MS.

The National MS Society...
One thing people with MS can count on.



NATIONAL
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
SOCIETY

733 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017-3288
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E-Mail: info@nmss.org
Web Site: <http://www.nmss.org>



NATIONAL
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
SOCIETY



WHAT IS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS?

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic disease affecting the central nervous system. Its symptoms may run the gamut from slightly blurred vision to complete paralysis. It is not contagious, and it is rarely fatal. But it is unpredictable.

An estimated third of a million Americans have multiple sclerosis, with nearly 200 new cases diagnosed every week.

HOW IS IT CAUSED?

A fatty substance called myelin surrounds and protects the nerve fibers of the brain and spinal cord (the central nervous system). In multiple sclerosis, or MS, an immune system reaction causes a breakdown in the myelin layer, or sheathing. When any part of this myelin sheathing is destroyed, nerve impulses to and from the brain are distorted or interrupted.

The result is MS: multiple because many areas of the brain and spinal cord are affected; sclerosis because "scleroses" or hardened patches of scar tissue may form over the damaged myelin.

WHAT ARE ITS SYMPTOMS?

The symptoms of MS may include tingling, numbness, slurred speech, blurred or double vision, muscle weakness, poor coordination, unusual fatigue, muscle tightness or spasticity, problems with bladder, bowel or sexual function, and paralysis. Occasionally, mental changes such as forgetfulness or confusion may occur. These symptoms may appear in any combi-

nation, may come and go, and may vary from very mild to very severe.

WHAT IS THE GENERAL PATTERN?

At present, there is no way to predict when or even if attacks of the disease will occur. Symptoms not only vary greatly from person to person but may also vary from time to time in the same person.

The most typical pattern of MS is marked by periods of active disease or attacks, also called exacerbations or relapses, followed by quiet periods called remissions.

Some people have few attacks, and little if any disability accumulates over time. Most have what is called "relapsing-remitting" disease. This means they have exacerbations, which take place unpredictably, followed by periods of partial or total remission, which may last months or even years. Still others experience a progressive disease course with steadily worsening symptoms. The disease may worsen steadily from the onset ("primary progressive MS") or may become progressive after a relapsing-remitting course ("secondary progressive MS"). But

people with progressive MS may also experience attacks and partial remissions. Thus, the disease ranges from very mild to intermittent to steadily progressive.

Because MS affects individuals so differently, it is difficult to make generalizations about disability. Statistics suggest that two out of three people with MS remain able to walk over their lifetimes, but many of them will need a cane or other assistive device and some will choose to use a scooter or wheelchair to conserve energy.

WHO GETS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS?

MS is most often diagnosed in people who are in their twenties or thirties— young adults who are just starting their lives. Women develop it at a rate almost double that of men. The disease is more frequently found among people in colder climates. Scientists don't understand why this is so, but studies strongly suggest that where a person was born and lived during his or her first fifteen years strongly influences the likelihood of developing MS.

Studies also indicate that genetic factors make certain individuals suscep-

tible to the disease, but there is no evidence that MS is directly inherited. Other unknown factors are involved.

IS IT EASILY DIAGNOSED?

MS is not always easy to detect or diagnose because symptoms tend to come and go, because other diseases of the central nervous system have some of the same symptoms, and because no single neurological or laboratory test can confirm or rule out MS. Thus people may be told they have "probable" or "possible" MS.

Recent advances in medical imaging, particularly MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), are helping to clarify diagnosis. To make a conclusive or definitive diagnosis, two factors must be shown:

- (1) there must be evidence of many patches of scar tissue in different parts of the central nervous system, and
- (2) there must have been at least two separate exacerbations of the disease.

A definitive diagnosis can take several months. Sometimes it takes years.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM
MENTOR LUNCHEON
SEPTEMBER 12, 1995**

Good Afternoon. It is an honor to speak to you, albeit electronically, on this special occasion. It was a great pleasure hosting all of you in the White House two years ago during your conference in Washington, D.C.

I wish I could be with you in person today to recognize and honor the twelve women of the IWF who have been the first Mentors for the Leadership Foundation Fellows program. Thank you for being so engaged in supporting and guiding other women so that they may fulfill their life's potential.

The Leadership Foundation Fellows Program holds much promise for women and I am proud that the Department of Labor is collaborating with the IWF and Harvard University to offer our country this groundbreaking initiative.

As members of the International Women's Forum, as women who hail from business, government, academia, the non-profit sector, the arts and the sciences you are in a wonderful position to counsel women who have already achieved a great deal. You are among the too few women in the world who have experienced life above the glass ceiling, and who know what it takes to get there.

I applaud you for recognizing the opportunities you have had and assuming the responsibility that comes with them.

Every day in America, women and men give their time, resources, and energy to helping others. Some are recognized, others are not. Today is our opportunity to recognize the twelve Mentors.

The President and I would like to thank each of you for your service to the 12 Leadership Foundation Fellows, to your community, and to your country. You are making a difference in the lives of women. Best wishes to all of you.

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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FIFTEEN MINUTE SPEECH
REVISED 7/19**

Thank you for inviting me to join in this conversation with and about our children and their families.

It Takes A Village is about children. It is about my experiences as a children's advocate and mother. And most of all, it is about our common responsibility for the nurturing not just of our own, but of all our children.

For more than 25 years, I've tried to be a voice for children -- in health care, in adoption and foster care and in education. And during this time, it's become increasingly clear to me that much of what we are learning about parenting and children's needs is not being used to the extent it could, in and outside of our homes.

The title of my book is taken from an old African proverb, "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child." Its truth is proven each day as new generations of children learn habits and values not just at home, but in classrooms, playgrounds, day care centers, and neighborhood streets; from grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends; and, like it or not, from TV shows, commercials and movies.

As adults, we must learn that there is no such thing as someone else's child. My child and your child are also all our children. They must live and make their way in a society, not just a family.

Over the past few months, I've had a chance to talk to men and women who share this view, who believe that children are our country's greatest resource and are pulling together to make sure all children are given the tools to fulfill their God-given potential.

In Kansas City, where I was part of a conference to discuss what we all can do to help children, I met educators, parents, business leaders and community activists who have already achieved much on behalf of their children. I heard how the city government offers employees up to four hours of paid annual leave to participate in their children's school activities; how dedicated volunteers are staffing evening and summer youth programs to keep kids off the street and out of trouble; and how the local newspaper is dedicating many resources, reporters and pages of newsprint to cover children's issues thoroughly.

At another children's conference in Colorado, I learned how the state, businesses and community groups are cooperating to create better child care options; mentorships for new parents;

and health care coverage for children all over Colorado.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg. We can do more and we can work to make sure that the good things that are happening in some communities happen all across this country and even the world.

I've just returned from a trip to Central Europe where I visited several countries that are making the difficult transition from communism to democracy. Even there, citizens and governments are recognizing that the needs of children must come first if their countries are to become flourishing democracies

As a modern society, we know more about what children need to develop than ever before. But we still have too few organized ways of supporting parents in the most important work they do. We have not figured out how to replace the extended family, clan or village that looked out for children in earlier times. As a result, many parents don't get the information or the help they need to become the best possible mothers and fathers they can be.

It is time to make some changes for our children's sake. Advances in technology and the global economy along with other developments in society have brought us much good, but they have also strained the fabric of family life, leaving us and our children poorer in many ways.

In my book, I have tried to share the facts, statistics, solutions, sights and stories gleaned from my years as an advocate for children. My experiences as First Lady have also given me the opportunity to meet and talk with Americans from all walks of life and to enrich my understanding about the challenges of modern parenting and the needs of our children.

Many of the values I express were first taught to me in a Midwestern home in a time that now seems both distant and very different from today. Those values and ethics still resonate with me and have kept my own family strong, helping us weather some of our most trying times.

I hope my book will advance the discussion on what is best for our children -- what we as individuals and as a society can do to make their lives fuller and their futures more secure.

Sometimes an answer has already been found by caring and creative people I have met in communities such as Kansas City; often the answer lies within each parent -- and yes, at times, it also depends on government.

We know now that adequate nutrition and early education are crucial -- and for many children, public programs like WIC and Head Start can make the difference between stunted lives and the

ones they were supposed to lead. But we also know that there are some things that government just can't do for us. For example, there is a critical link between talking to babies in the earliest months and years and their future language skills. No government can talk to a child; only parents can do that -- and we can talk to each other about the need for that...

In Kansas City, I saw billboards all over town asking citizens the question: "Is it good for the children?" It is a question more Americans should ask themselves before making decisions for their families, their communities, and their country.

We all have roles to play in finding ways to make sure all children fulfill their God-given potentials. When it comes to children, we all have experience -- and we can all claim a kind of expertise. We have all been children. We all love our children. We all have visions and aspirations for what they can become. We think of and talk about them constantly, during coffee breaks, PTA meetings, on front porches and phones, in letters and e-mail. No other subject takes so much of our time, and touches our souls so deeply.

Somebody asked me the other day: How hard is it to write a book? Not as hard as it is to raise a child. The most important and challenging and rewarding thing Bill and I have ever done is raise our daughter.

Our children are, in the beginning and in the end, the best reason for our being, the greatest of all our gifts and works. There is no subject more important, no issue that should be more decisive, than how we see and treat our children. Children have no vote; they have no say in the political, business and economic decisions made by our nation. That is why we can and must be their voice.

###

HRC VIDEO REQUEST FORM

DATE TO BE RECORDED 10/5

YES NO APPROVED BY: HRC PS MW MV /CONFIRMED

ORGANIZATION	The Nat'l Children's Book and Literacy Alliance
DATE OF EVENT	10-9-98
LOCATION	JFK Library, Boston, MA
EVENT	National Symposium: "Children and Books At A Crossroads"
WHITE HOUSE STAFF CONTACT	Katy Button 67264
CONTACTS	Mary Brigid Barrett 508/533-5851
BILL TO	
SEND TO	
SEND VIA	REGULAR MAIL <u> </u> FED EX <u> </u> ACCT # <u> </u> SATURDAY DELIVERY <u> </u> AIRBORNE EX <u> </u> ACCT # <u> </u> PICK UP <u> </u> CONTACT <u> </u> PHONE # <u> </u>
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NOTES	

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND LITERACY ALLIANCE

Mary Brigid Barrett
PRESIDENT

P.O. Box 634 Franklin MA 02038-0634

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PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND LITERACY ALLIANCE

CONTACT: NEA SAVOCA 508.820.9595

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHORS FORM LITERACY ALLIANCE

Seek to Make Childhood Literacy a Top National Priority

Boston, MA, December 5, 1997 - A group of leading children's book authors have announced the formation of an organization that will work to raise the national profile of children's literacy issues.

The idea was immediately endorsed by the Stinky Cheese Man, Sarah Plain and Tall, Tuck Everlasting, the Giver, the Great Gilly Hopkins, and the man who knows The Way Things Work.

If you don't know who these characters are, then you have somehow missed being among the millions of American parents and children who have delighted in the works of legendary children's book authors: Jon Scieszka, Patricia MacLachlan, Natalie Babbitt, Lois Lowry, Katherine Paterson, and David Macaulay.

The six authors made a rare joint appearance tonight at a celebration of children's literature held at the Boston Public Library. The event was cosponsored by the library and the newly formed National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance.

The NCBLA is a not-for-profit organization founded by Babbitt, Lowry, Macaulay, MacLachlan, Paterson, award-winning picture book author Mary Brigid Barrett, and Boston Globe children's book critic Stephanie Loer. The Alliance's mission, its creators said, is to focus attention on the broad social and economic significance of childhood reading and to supplement the work of existing children's book and literacy organizations by helping them connect with each other and their communities.

"Literacy campaigns too often end up being consigned to libraries and book stores," said Barrett, the Alliance's chair and president. "We want to help bring the message of reading out of the book stacks and into homes, schools, neighborhoods and businesses, and to give children's literacy the attention it deserves on the national agenda."

The Alliance's projects will include developing a national campaign to promote awareness of literacy issues and to guarantee children access to books, hosting a series of regional workshops, promoting organizations that successfully encourage literacy through literature, and creating a world wide web site that will act as an information clearinghouse for organizations active in issues related to childhood reading.

In addition, in October of next year, the Alliance will host a national conference, "Children and Books at a Crossroads," at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has agreed to serve as honorary chair for that event.

"Obviously, for a group of authors, literacy is an issue that hits us where we live," commented Macaulay, a vice president of the alliance. "But children who are taught to read and encouraged to continue reading will become lifelong learners, which is precisely what businesses need in their employees and democracy needs in its citizens."

"Reading is the basis of a functioning civilized society," added Paterson, also a vice president of the Alliance. "This should be everyone's priority."

children's BOOKS

National 'Literacy Through Literature' Campaign Launched in Boston

THE RECENTLY FORMED National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance will initiate its public relations campaign promoting "Literacy Through Literature" at the Boston Public Library on December 5. Presented in partnership with the library, the event is billed as "an evening in celebration of children and books" and features a discussion among an impressive panel of children's book authors: Natalie Babbitt, Lois Lowry, Patricia MacLachlan, Katherine Paterson and Jon Scieszka. David Macaulay will act as moderator.



Of these individuals, all but Scieszka serve on the board of directors for the Alliance, which is chaired by the group's president, author-illustrator Mary Brigid Barrett. Barrett is also the self-described "instigator" behind this not-for-profit coalition, established this fall to promote existing children's book and literacy organizations and to act as a communication and service group to make issues concerning literacy a part of the "national agenda."

Among the Alliance's goals is the creation of a national campaign to educate the public about the urgent need to get—and to keep—children reading. Barrett, who often visits elementary schools as a guest teacher of literature-based writing, lamented the double tragedy of the current status of literacy among youngsters. In her words, "It is a

Effort kicks off next month with a panel of noted authors and illustrators

BY SALLY LODGE

well-documented fact that some 50% of third- and fourth-graders in this country are reading below grade level, but what many people fail to understand is that of those who are reading at grade level, a frightening number will stop reading by the time they reach middle school. If we can reduce childhood illiteracy, we will reduce adult illiteracy, which is a critical message we need to get to the average Joe in the streets. Libraries are filled with posters promoting reading and National Children's Book Week, but that's like preaching to the choir. We need to make sure that these posters appear at bus stops, too."

Barrett, who expressed gratitude for the enthusiasm and interest that has greeted the Alliance's efforts to date, explained that the organization's plans to reach the public include editorial and public service advertising in print media, informational television and radio programming, and public service spots. The Alliance, which is currently exploring various fundraising venues, hopes to have a Web site up and running by early next year. "This will help us reach beyond the traditional children's literature community and to spread word of literacy issues and events occurring across the country," Barrett noted.

"Literacy groups are staging beautiful, small fireworks displays all over this country, but these sparks are getting lost in our media-centered culture. Our plan is to create a big bang to bring these fireworks to national attention."

The Alliance expects that an event it is hosting on October 9, 1998, will do just that. To be held at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, a symposium on children's literacy and literature entitled "Children and Books at a Crossroads" will mark the official launch of the group's national campaign. Hillary Rodham Clinton is honorary chair and Maya Angelou is the keynote speaker of the event, which will bring together educators, librarians, community and business leaders, representatives from medical and social services and government officials involved in educational initiatives. The Alliance plans to follow up this symposium with a series of interactive workshops to be held across the country.

Those interested in obtaining additional information may contact executive director Nea Savoca at NCBLA, P.O. Box 634, Franklin, Mass. 02038-0634; (508) 820-9595.



TWENTY YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG. The Children's Book Shop in Brookline, Mass., is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year with a variety of events. The poster above was created for the store by author-illustrator Peter Sís, who attended a champagne reception there on Nov. 2.

Authors unite to boost children's literacy

By Donna Milmore
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Alarmed at the crisis in children's literacy, a group of noted authors and illustrators has mobilized to make sure the benefits of reading reach beyond classrooms and libraries to football fields, boardrooms, and bus stops.

Led by an author-illustrator, the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance will go public with a "Celebration of Children's Books" on Friday at 7 p.m., at the Boston Public Library. Some 350 persons are expected to attend the kickoff, which will introduce the public to the newly formed nonprofit coalition and its "Literacy through Literature" campaign.

Committed to get — and keep — children reading, the alliance envi-

sions its role as a powerful, centralized resource to support and promote all the varied children's literacy initiatives throughout the country. Led by Mary Brigid Barrett of Franklin, an emerging author with five books due for publication next year, the Alliance's board of directors includes some of the most notable figures in the world of children's literature.

Board member and Newbery Medal winner Katherine Paterson of Barre, Vt., views the group as a "national clearinghouse" for children's literacy issues.

Though many literacy efforts are underway, those forming the alliance say they are filling a void where a single resource is lacking. To create awareness, raise funds, and respond to specific inquiries about children's literacy, the alliance plans a public relations campaign akin to the milk

companies who banded together to promote their product generically. Publicity will include public service advertising in print media, television and radio programming, and a web site.

The campaign begins with Friday's celebration, co-sponsored by the Boston Public Library. The evening will feature a panel discussion of six award-winning children's authors, a book sale, and an autograph session. Author-illustrator David Macaulay will moderate the evening's discussion with authors Natalie Babbitt, Lois Lowry, Patricia MacLachlan, Paterson, and Jon Scieszka. Proceeds will benefit the library's children's services.

Barrett came up with the idea for the alliance as a result of her frequent visits to elementary schools as a guest teacher of writing.

"Between 40 and 50 percent of

third- and fourth-graders in this country are reading below grade level," says Barrett. Even more alarming, many children stop reading altogether shortly after this point, she says.

"We're in danger of making reading seem like 'work'" says Natalie Babbitt, based on her classroom observations. Babbitt, author of the modern classic "Tuck Everlasting," sees many changes occurring around the fifth grade and aims her work directly at this age group.

"Boys stop reading in fourth and fifth grade, and girls stop in junior high," agrees Barrett.

"Libraries are filled with posters promoting reading and National Children's Book Week, but that's like preaching to the choir," says Barrett. "We need to make sure that these posters appear at bus stops, too. And how about the teen-age



Natalie Babbitt

mom who didn't grow up with books?"

The alliance is planning an ambitious agenda, with a national launching event, "Children and Books at a Crossroads" on Oct. 9, 1998, at the John F. Kennedy Library. Hillary Rodham Clinton is honorary chairperson and Maya Angelou will be the keynote speaker. Serving as a volunteer director of the Alliance, Nea Savoca is coordinating the event. She can be called at 508-820-9595 or e-mailed at savoca@worldnet.att.net.



David Macaulay



Katherine Paterson

GLOBE FILE PHOTO

THE BEST AND THE WORDS

By Catherine O'Neill Grace

HEALTH (Page Z18)

HOW & WHY

© The Washington Post

12/16/97 (Tuesday)

20 inches

At a library in Boston last week, a group of well-known children's authors got together to announce the formation of a new national organization dedicated to children's literacy. The group's mission is to focus attention on the importance of reading in children's lives.

What is literacy? It's the ability to read. But it's much more than that. It's the ability to understand what you read. It means developing creativity and writing skills too. It means being able to read and understand well enough to learn new things.

Literacy is a big problem in this country, even among grownups. According to the U.S. Department of Education, many adults cannot read and write well enough to look for a job, read a map or read to their children. Among children, more than 40 percent of fourth-graders read below grade level. The Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development reports that children aged 9 to 14 spend more than 20 percent of their waking hours watching TV, but only 1 percent of that time reading.

Educators report that kids who read a lot -- for schoolwork and for pleasure -- do better in school, get better jobs and become lifelong learners. Reading is very, very important.

Plus, it's fun! In books you can travel to the past or the future, to your own city or to the planets and stars; you can meet people different from yourself; you can dream.

"When you give children books, you give them the world," says writer Mary Brigid Barrett, a founder of the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance (NCBLA).

The group will host regional workshops around the country, will support other groups that help connect kids and books and plans to set up an Internet site early next year that parents and kids can visit to find out more about children's literature. The World Wide Web site will include a national monthly calendar of events related to children, books and literacy.

"Children who are taught to read and encouraged to continue reading will become lifelong learners," says author David Macaulay, a founder of the NCBLA.

The holiday season is a great time to get acquainted with books by authors such as Jon Scieszka ("The Stinky Cheese Man"), Patricia MacLachlan ("Sarah Plain and Tall"), Natalie Baboitt ("Tuck Everlasting") and Katherine Paterson ("The Great Gilly Hopkins"). Those authors, along with Lois Lowry ("Autumn Street"), Mary Brigid Barrett ("Sing to the Stars") and David Macaulay ("The Way Things Work"), had the idea for the NCBLA. You can find their books, and thousands of others, at the library or in bookstores -- or you can ask for them as holiday gifts. Before school ends for the winter break, talk with your librarian and get help making a list of books that you will enjoy. Or visit the kids' section of a bookstore and talk with someone there.

Happy holiday reading!

Tips for Parents

The new, nonprofit National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance will launch its first national campaign next fall, beginning with a symposium called "Children and Books at a Crossroads," to be held at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston on Oct. 9, followed by a series of interactive workshops to be held across the country. Want to get involved? Volunteers are needed to help organize the events. For information, write to executive director Nea Savoca at NCBLA, P.O. Box 634, Franklin, MA 02038-0634. In the meantime, if you need guidance choosing books for your children this holiday season, try these resources: - "Choosing Books for Children: A Commonsense Guide" by Betsy Hearne (Delacorte) - "Comics to Classics: A Guide to Books for Teens and Preteens" by Arthea J.S. Reed (Penguin Books) - "The New Read-Aloud Handbook" by Jim Trelease (Penguin Books) - "The New York Times Parents' Guide to the Best Books for Children" by Eden Ross Lipson (Times Books)

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For You to Do

Having trouble deciding what to read? Adults often choose books that have won major awards such as a National Book Award or a Pulitzer Prize. A good bet for kids' books is to try Newbery Medal winners. In 1997, that honor went to E.L. Konigsburg for a book called "The View From Saturday." (Konigsburg also wrote a famous book, "From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler," which won the Newbery Medal 29 years ago!) "The View from Saturday" is about a powerhouse sixth-grade academic quiz team that beats out team after team of seventh- and eighth-graders. It's also about learning to be kind and care for others. Many readers have said the book is not just for kids. So here's an idea: Get the book and read it yourself. Then write a review of it, fold your review inside a holiday card, and give the card and the book to an adult you care about. Include a promise to read the book aloud to the adult. After all, grown-ups need to be literate too!

The bimonthly newspaper of the
International Reading Association



Your source for news about
the reading profession

<http://www.reading.org>

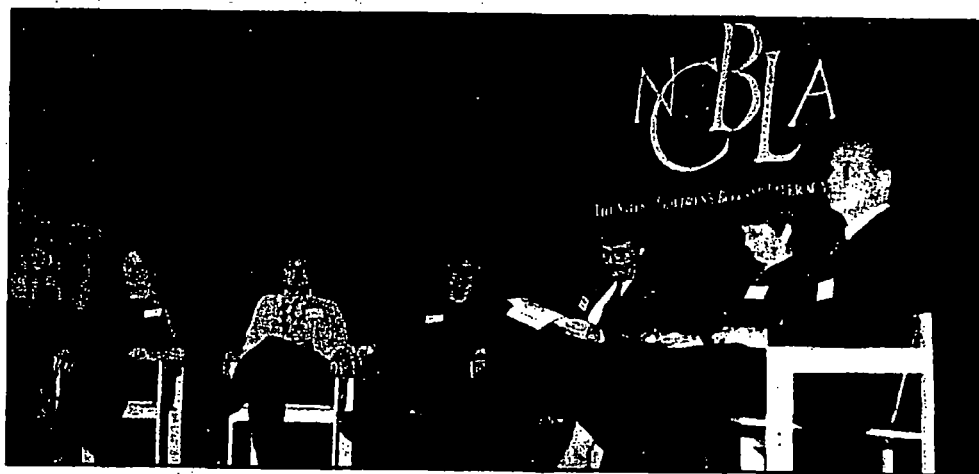
Reading TODAY

Alliance spotlights children's literacy and literature

*Gala Boston event marks public launch for
National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance*

More than 150 people attended a gala celebration of children and books at the Boston Public Library on December 5, 1997. The celebration marked the first public event of the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance (NCBLA), a recently formed nonprofit organization established to promote children's reading. The alliance plans to make issues concerning children's literature and literacy a part of the national agenda in the United States.

The December 5 event included a panel discussion of topics related to children and books, moderated by author/illustrator David Macaulay and featuring Natalie Babbitt, Lois Lowry, Patricia MacLachlan, Katherine Paterson, and Jon Scieszka. Babbitt, Lowry, Macaulay, MacLachlan, and Paterson serve on NCBLA's board of directors, along with Stephanie Loer and Mary Brigid Barrett. Barrett serves as chair and president.



Panelists at NCBLA's December event were (left to right): Natalie Babbitt, Katherine Paterson, Patricia MacLachlan, David Macaulay (moderator), Lois Lowry, and Jon Scieszka.

**The alliance seeks to make
childhood literacy a top
national priority.**

The audience attending the December celebration was diverse, including representatives from literacy organizations, members of the press, teachers, librarians, pediatricians, college-age people, and a few youngsters, says Barrett. "What was delightful was that a number of people who have attended many events like this were just as excited as those who were seeing one for the first time," she adds.

Goals and objectives

NCBLA has the following goals and objectives:

- to create a national campaign to actively address issues related to children's literacy and literature.
- to create a service association to identify and promote already existing organizations and programs that are successfully addressing issues related to children's literacy and literature.
- to create educational programs to promote children's literacy through literature.
- to create a national information and education center concerning children's books and literacy, accessible to the general public.
- to create a united force to continuously identify and confront challenges to literacy and book access for children.

NCBLA recognizes that many organizations already act as advocates for specific issues within these areas. The alliance hopes to provide a vehicle for these organizations to act in concert to address issues and initiate actions related to getting and keeping children reading.

Symposium, Web site planned

NCBLA will launch its national campaign on October 9, 1998, in Boston, Massachusetts, by hosting a symposium entitled "Children and Books at a Crossroads." The purpose is to articulate the reasons literacy and literature must be promoted equally to get and keep children reading. The symposium will identify problems and obstacles, specifying constructive actions and highlighting successful programs. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has agreed to serve as honorary chair for the event.

In addition to organizing the symposium, NCBLA is developing a World Wide Web site that will promote public education concerning issues, actions, and programs related to children's books and reading. The site will list information about organizations and events related to children, books, and literacy. It will provide instructional materials for parents and educators, and it will include a magazine component with feature articles highlighting successful literacy programs and activities, along with family literacy activities.

The alliance will also conduct a series of interactive workshops across the United States. These workshops will provide specific training to individuals and

organizations involved in literacy education for children and families. The workshops will be videotaped, and copies will be made available for schools and organizations throughout the country.

The alliance also plans to create and sponsor a television broadcast, or series of broadcasts, to promote children's books and reading. The program or programs will be designed for family viewing so that parents and children can explore together various aspects of children's books and reading.

"Literacy campaigns too often end up being consigned to libraries and book stores," says Barrett. "We want to help bring the message of reading out of the

book stacks and into homes, schools, neighborhoods, and businesses, and to give children's literacy the attention it deserves on the national agenda."

"Reading is the basis of a functioning civilized society," adds two-time Newbery Medal-winning author Katherine Paterson, a vice president of the alliance. "This should be everyone's priority."

Reading for the fun of it

NCBLA wants to emphasize the enjoyment that reading can bring to people of all ages. Barrett expresses concern that to many people reading is simply another task to be accomplished.

Barrett also stresses the importance of a continued emphasis on reading throughout a person's life. "While early literacy is important, it's equally important to keep young people reading," she says.

At its September 1997 meeting, the International Reading Association's Board of Directors recognized and endorsed the efforts of NCBLA. The board agreed that IRA should volunteer to serve on the honorary committee for the upcoming symposium, and further agreed that IRA should work cooperatively with the alliance in future projects designed to promote children's ability and desire to read.

For further information about the activities of the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance, contact: Nea Savoca, Executive Director, NCBLA, PO Box 634, Franklin, MA 02038-0634, USA. Telephone: 508-820-9595.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

December 12, 1997

Macaulay Has Long Been Drawn to Rome

This Time,
Author and
Illustrator
Journeys
Through His
Favorite City



Jan Bindas Studio

David Macaulay

By ELIZABETH MEHREN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

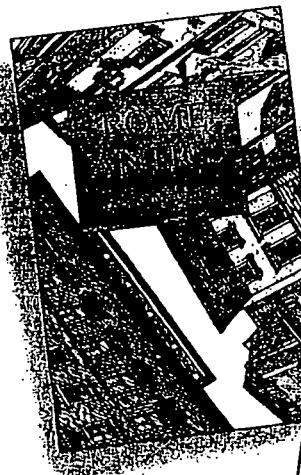
PROVIDENCE, R.I.—In third grade, David Macaulay drew a fire engine. The teachers praised it and hung the drawing on the bulletin board. The kids gaped and said, wow, what a cool fire engine. Adulation: Macaulay loved it.

More or less consciously, he determined that applause and recognition were good lifetime goals. Having your name on something—a picture, a building, a book jacket—was also a worthwhile career aspiration, the young Macaulay decided.

"And if I'm going to be honest, I think that was my original motive. Seeing my name on a book was very appealing," Macaulay said. "I thought, 'This is great!'"

A dozen and a half titles—accounting for close to 3 million books in print—now bear his name, and the buzz has not faded. With the same pride he showed when the teachers lauded his fire engine, the 50-year-old author-illustrator is soaking up compliments for his latest endeavor, "Rome Antics" (Houghton Mifflin), a whimsical, affectionate

Please see **ROME**, E6



Illustrated in
black and white,
Macaulay's
latest is the tale
of a homing
pigeon bearing
a message from
the Italian hills
to Rome.



Back over dry land, she meets an unusual bird who says nothing.

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 1998

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND LITERACY ALLIANCE

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1998

JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

CHILDREN AND BOOKS AT A CROSSROADS

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

THE FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES

Honorary Chair

DR. MAYA ANGELOU

DAVID McCULLOUGH

Speakers

CHARLES OSGOOD

Panel Moderator

This symposium will bring together groups from within the children's publishing community – published authors, illustrators, academics, editors, art directors, publishers, librarians, and reviewers – to join with arts advocates, educators, government officials, members of the media, the medical community, the business world, and child and literacy advocates from all fields. Through panel discussions, meetings, and presentations, this will be an opportunity to inform the public of the need and challenges involved in getting effective books into children's hands, and to raise awareness that literacy and books need to be promoted equally to children and parents in order to get and keep children reading.

This will be the formal announcement of the creation of the NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND LITERACY ALLIANCE, a partnership between the children's publishing community and individuals and organizations who have an impact on the lives of children. The speakers will discuss literature and literacy as positive transforming agents in the lives of children, and throughout the day the work of gifted creators of children's books will be featured, as well as testimonies from people of achievement about the roles that reading and books have played in their lives.

For more information about the Symposium, please contact: Nea Savoca, Executive Director
P.O.Box 634 Franklin MA 02038-0634 508.820.9595 Fax 508.820.9184

FACTS ABOUT LITERACY

In the United States, between one person in ten and one person in five cannot read and write adequately enough to read want ads, fill out job application forms, read maps, or read story books to children.

— from Department of Education statistics

Nine in ten Fortune 1000 CEOs recognize illiteracy as a problem in the American workplace.Virtually all chief executives agree that workers' literacy levels affect productivity and profitability in general, finds a 1995 Opinion Research Corporation survey of Fortune 1000 CEOs sponsored by the Golden, Colorado-based Coors Brewing Company. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that illiteracy costs U.S. businesses about \$225 billion a year in lost productivity. The costs stem from employee mistakes, injuries, absenteeism, tardiness, missed opportunities, and other problems associated with illiteracy. — American Demographics Magazine

**ore than 40% of
fourth-graders
read below grade level.**

— National Assessment of
Educational Progress 1994 Reading
Report Card.

demonstrated higher reading proficiencies. There was a decline in the frequency of this activity among twelfth graders between the 1992 and 1994 assessments.

In 1994, students who reported watching less than four hours of television daily displayed higher average reading proficiencies than their peers who watched more television. At each grade, students who read five or fewer pages each day for school and homework had the lowest average reading proficiencies. Since 1992, there has been an increase in the percentage of twelfth graders who reported reading five or fewer pages each day, and a decline in the percentage who reported

In 1994, students who reported having a greater array of literacy materials in their homes displayed higher average reading achievement. Among twelfth graders, there was a decline between 1992 and 1994 in the presence of these materials at home. At all three grades, students who more frequently read for fun on their own time had higher average proficiencies. Twelfth-grade students in 1994 reported reading for fun less frequently than their 1992 counterparts.

At all three grades, students who reported more frequent home discussions about their studies

reading 11 or more pages.

Eighth and twelfth graders who reported being asked by their teachers at least once a week to explain or support their understanding of what they read had higher average reading proficiencies than students who were asked to do so less often. The reports of twelfth-grade students in 1994 indicated that they were not asked to do this as frequently as their counterparts in 1992. Eighth and twelfth graders who reported being asked by their teachers at least once a week to discuss various interpretations of what they read displayed higher average reading proficiencies than students who were asked to do so less often. According to eighth- and twelfth-grade students' reports, these discussions were less frequent in 1994 than in 1992.

— From the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 1994 Reading Report Card, evaluating the educational progress of grades 4, 8, and 12.

**reading aloud to
children helps
stimulate brain devel-
opment, yet only 50%
of infants and toddlers
are routinely read to
by their parents.**

— Starting Points; the 1994 report
of the Carnegie Corporation.

**children ages 9 to 14
spend more than
20% of their waking
hours watching TV,
but only 1% of that
time reading.**

— A Matter of Time: Risk and
Opportunity in the Nonschool
Hours. Carnegie Council on
Adolescent Development, 1993.

ENDORSEMENTS

As of this printing

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James Jeffords *United States Senator, Vermont*

Ray Mabus *Former Governor, Mississippi*

David McCullough

William F. Murdy

Charles Osgood

Jack Reed *United States Senator, Rhode Island*

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION ENDORSEMENTS

American Library Service for Children

A division of the American Library Association

Association of American Publishers

Association of Booksellers for Children

Beginning With Books

Children's Division of the Library of Congress

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

The International Reading Association

INDIVIDUAL ENDORSEMENTS

Peggy Charren *Founder, Action for Children's Television*

Glenn Close *Actor and Arts Activist*

William D. Delahunt *Member of Congress, 10th Congressional District, Massachusetts*

Richard Gephardt *United States Representative, Missouri*

Patrick J. Kennedy *United States Representative, Rhode Island*

Patricia Schroeder *President and CEO, Association of American Publishers; former U.S. Representative*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GETTING INVOLVED

If you care about children, reading and books, you are already a member of the NCBLA and we need your help! Volunteer opportunities range from long-term commitments to helping with a one day special event. You can give one hour a day or one hour a month. Whether you are a student, teacher, homemaker, writer, illustrator, business person, librarian, retired professional, or active senior, whether you are 22 or 82, you and your skills are valued and needed.

What opportunities are available?

- ☞ Volunteers of all backgrounds and experience are needed to help develop and organize educational and fund-raising events across the country.
- ☞ People with computer skills and knowledge are needed to help with the NCBLA Web Site.
- ☞ If you have research and organizational skills, we need you to help collect and collate information for our online information clearinghouse.
- ☞ Are you interested in being a NCBLA state chair? Then we need your skills and experience.
- ☞ We're looking for people with communication, teaching, and office skills.
- ☞ We're an organization of creative people! Volunteers with writing, design, and/or illustration skills are always welcome and needed.
- ☞ And of course, volunteers who love kids, reading, and books are always cherished and appreciated by the NCBLA.

To volunteer with NCBLA, contact Nea Savoca, our Executive Director, at:

P.O.Box 634 Franklin, MA 02038-0634

508.820.9595 Fax 508.820.9184

JOIN US!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance?

The NCBLA is a not-for-profit organization, founded by award winning children's writers and illustrators (see accompanying biographies). We work actively to redefine literacy as more than the ability to read. We work to educate the public that children who can read and choose to read books are children who can write, think creatively, and develop the skills they need to work and have a purposeful life. Nationally, only half of all third graders are reading at or above third grade level, and of those children who are reading on their own, most boys will stop by fourth grade, most girls by junior high. So literacy is not only about teaching all children to read, it's also about keeping those children reading throughout their lifetimes.

The NCBLA will act as an umbrella service organization for existing children's book and literacy organizations. We will promote organizations that are successfully confronting children's illiteracy and connecting children to books. We will act as a liaison organization, initiating partnerships between the business community, medical and social services, civic organizations, and the children's book and literacy community to create projects that will get and keep children reading. And we will serve as an information source and referral service, connecting the media to the children's book and literacy community.

Why is the NCBLA different from other existing literacy organizations?

The National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance is unique. We believe that the issue of children's literacy and the problems of illiteracy in this country merit a new, multifaceted approach if any progress is to be made. We want to create a coalition between the children's book community and parents, educators, business, government, academia, civic organizations, and medical and social services. This coalition will be able to approach the problems and initiate actions across a wide spectrum of areas, using a tremendous array of talent and input, which will get and keep children reading by drawing attention at the highest levels and providing information at the most basic levels.

How will the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance accomplish its goals?

The NCBLA is launching a national campaign to bring issues related to children's literacy and books to the forefront of our national agenda. Illiteracy is reaching critical proportions in this country, and we want to begin to work on the problem from many sides at once.

We are beginning an editorial and public affairs campaign to promote children's literacy and books by working in partnership with national magazines whose market targets children, adolescents, and/or parents. And we will work to create a partnership with the television broadcasting industry. The vast impact of television can be used to create public awareness and connect children and their families to reading and books.

The NCBLA is creating a World Wide Web site that will serve as a clearinghouse for children's literacy issues and ideas. It will include an updated listing of children's literacy and book organizations, their mission statements, web links, and addresses; a calendar of events relating to children's books and literacy; and specific practical information on how to get and keep children reading.

The NCBLA is also developing a series of LITERACY THROUGH LITERATURE interactive workshops, which will give specific information and training to individuals and organizations who have a direct impact on children and their families. The workshops will be held throughout the United States, and will focus on issues relating to the connection between children, families, and books.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NATALIE BABBITT is the acclaimed author of the contemporary children's classic, *Tuck Everlasting*. She has written a number of novels for children, including the ever popular *Kneeknock Rise*, a winner of the Newbery Honor Medal, *The Search for Delicious*, and *The Devil's Storybook*. She has illustrated her own picture books as well as collections of poetry by Valerie Worth, and her books are in print all around the world.

MARY BRIGID BARRETT is the author of the award-winning picture book, *Sing to the Stars*, and has five books scheduled for publication beginning in 1998. She is a professional educator and has taught in the illustration department at the Rhode Island School of Design. She has worked actively for children's literacy and education issues both in the Midwest and New England, and is the Chair and President of The National Children's Book And Literacy Alliance.

STEPHANIE LOER is a children's book critic who has been reviewing children's literature for print, radio and television for over twenty years. She also works as a consultant on children's literature to many educational establishments, and frequently lectures on children's books.

LOIS LOWRY is the well known author of books about Anastasia Krupnick and is one of the few children's authors to have won the Newbery Medal twice; first for her poignant novel, *Number the Stars*, the second for *The Giver*. Her book *Autumn Street*, a work of flawlessly crafted prose, stands with *To Kill a Mockingbird* in American literature. She is a much-requested speaker and travels extensively to lecture about her work and the creative writing experience.

DAVID MACAULAY is the well-known author of numerous publications, among them *Cathedral*, *Unbuilding*, *Black and White*, and *The Way Things Work*, and has garnered an impressive number of awards, including a Caldecott Medal. He is a Chevalier De L'Ordre Des Arts et Des Lettres in France and recently received the Charles Frankel Prize from the National Endowment for Humanities. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Rhode Island School of Design. David has hosted a series of programs on PBS based on his work, and lectures frequently. He is a Vice-President of The National Children's Book And Literacy Alliance.

PATRICIA MACLACHAN is the author of a number of beautifully written lyrical novels and picture books. She won the Newbery Medal for *Sarah Plain and Tall*, which was produced as an award-winning Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, starring Academy Award winner Glenn Close. Her novel *Skylark* was also made into a Glenn Close movie for Hallmark, as well as *Journey*, with Jason Robards. She has written many other books for children, including *Arthur for the Very First Time*, *Unclaimed Treasures*, and *Cassie Binigar*. A successful screenwriter, Patricia MacLachlan is also a dynamic speaker.

KATHERINE PATERSON has won two National Book Awards, and one Newbery Honor for *The Great Gilly Hopkins*. She also won two Newbery Medals for *The Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob, Have I Loved*, both of which have been produced by Wonderworks Inc. as movies for public television. Her books have sold around the world and have been translated into over twenty-one different languages. She has long been an activist for children's literacy, and her books of essays concerning writing for children, *The Spying Heart* and *Gates of Excellence*, are mandatory reading in many children's literature courses. Katherine is a Vice-President of The National Children's Book And Literacy Alliance.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEA SAVOCA is a graduate of Wellesley College and has worked professionally in marketing and public relations. She has spearheaded numerous volunteer activities in education and the arts. Nea is an experienced grant writer and an active advocate for public education.

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND LITERACY ALLIANCE

Literacy Through Literature

P.O. Box 634 Franklin MA 02038-0634

T: 508.820.9595 F: 508.820.9184

WHO WE ARE

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND LITERACY ALLIANCE is a not-for-profit organization established to create and pursue a campaign to get children reading and keep children reading. The Alliance will promote existing children's book and literacy organizations, and work with them in partnership to create educational programs that will give interested parties the tools to achieve these goals. Acting as a communication and service organization, we seek to build connections between children and literacy professionals and the community at large to make issues concerning children's literature and literacy a part of our national agenda.

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

Literacy is not just about the ability to read. It is also about comprehension, creative thinking, and writing skills. Literacy and children's literature are essentials that must be promoted equally to build a thinking, imaginative, articulate society. Organizations within the children's book and literacy community have long acted as advocates for specific issues such as parent and teacher education, library funding, early childhood reading readiness and teen literacy outreach.

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND LITERACY ALLIANCE will provide a vehicle for existing organizations to act in concert, to address issues and initiate actions related to getting and keeping children reading.

WITHOUT BOOKS, HISTORY IS SILENT, LITERATURE DUMB, SCIENCE CRIPPLED, THOUGHT AND SPECULATION AT A STANDSTILL. WITHOUT BOOKS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILIZATION WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE. THEY ARE THE ENGINES OF CHANGE, WINDOWS ON THE WORLD, AND (AS A POET HAS SAID) "LIGHTHOUSES ERECTED IN THE SEA OF TIME." THEY ARE COMPANIONS, TEACHERS, MAGICIANS, BANKERS OF THE TREASURES OF THE MIND. BOOKS ARE HUMANITY IN PRINT. "ALL THE GLORY OF THE WORLD WOULD BE BURIED IN OBLIVION," WROTE BISHOP RICHARD DE BURY, CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY, "UNLESS GOD HAD PROVIDED MORTALS WITH THE REMEDY OF BOOKS."

— BARBARA TUCHMAN

WHAT WE WANT TO DO

- ☞ Create a national campaign to spotlight and address issues related to children's literacy and literature.
- ☞ Create a service association to identify, promote and coordinate already existing organizations and programs that are successfully addressing issues about literacy.
- ☞ Create educational programs to promote children's literacy through literature.
- ☞ Create a national information and education center for children's books and literacy, accessible to the general public.
- ☞ Create a united force to identify and confront challenges to literacy and book access for children.

WE READ BOOKS TO FIND OUT WHO WE ARE. WHAT OTHER PEOPLE, REAL OR IMAGINARY, DO AND THINK AND FEEL ... IS AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE OURSELVES ARE AND MAY BECOME ... A PERSON WHO HAD NEVER LISTENED TO NOR READ A TALE OR MYTH OR PARABLE OR STORY, WOULD REMAIN IGNORANT OF HIS OWN EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL HEIGHTS AND DEPTHS, WOULD NOT KNOW QUITE FULLY WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN ... THERE HAVE BEEN SOCIETIES THAT DID NOT USE THE WHEEL, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO SOCIETIES THAT DID NOT TELL STORIES.

— URSULA K. LeGUIN

HOW WE WILL DO IT

The National Children's Book And Literacy Alliance is committed to making issues relating to children, reading, and books an ongoing part of our national agenda. Literacy is about more than the ability to read. It is about having sufficient learning skills to grow and adapt in the ever more demanding work environment. It is about creativity and problem solving. It is about giving children the ability to dream beyond their circumstances, however limited they may be, and work toward a purposeful life.

LITERACY THROUGH LITERATURE: NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

The Alliance will mount a national campaign to raise awareness that literacy and books need to be promoted equally to children and parents in order to get and keep children reading. The campaign, most importantly, will recommend specific measures and actions which parents, extended family, educators, and all professional and community members can use to ensure childhood literacy, with the conviction that if we take care of childhood illiteracy, we take care of adult illiteracy.

The campaign will educate the public about the growing challenges which must be addressed - issues such as early childhood reading readiness; parent and teacher education; library funding and teen literacy outreach.

The Alliance will reach out using every form of public access. Through editorial communication and public service advertising in magazine and print media for children and parents, informational radio programming, public service spots, and television programming, we will educate and inform the public about issues related to children, reading, and books, and we will design and recommend action to be taken by individuals and organizations to address these important issues.

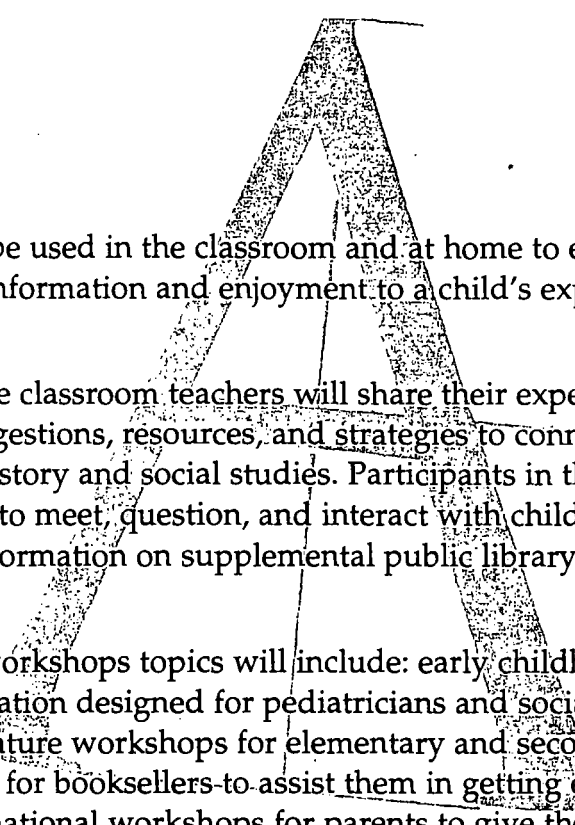
LITERACY THROUGH LITERATURE: NATIONAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS PROGRAM

The Alliance will create and sponsor a series of interactive workshops which will give specific training to individuals and organizations that have an impact on children and their families. The workshops will be held at various locations, both urban and rural, and will focus on central issues related to getting and keeping children reading, and connecting children and families to books.

The first in the NCBLA series of LITERACY THROUGH LITERATURE workshops will be *Connections: History, Social Studies, and the World of Children's Books*. This workshop will give parents, elementary and secondary teachers, and teacher educators information on children's books. These will include both fiction and non-fiction, and will highlight

CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT BOOKS.

— THOMAS JEFFERSON



a wide selection of books which can be used in the classroom and at home to encourage reading and provide additional information and enjoyment to a child's exploration of history and social studies.

Professional educators and innovative classroom teachers will share their experience and knowledge, offering specific suggestions, resources, and strategies to connect children and books to the world of history and social studies. Participants in the workshops will also have the opportunity to meet, question, and interact with children's book authors and illustrators, and information on supplemental public library support will be made available.

Future Literacy Through Literature workshops topics will include: early childhood reading readiness and literature education designed for pediatricians and social services; informational literacy and literature workshops for elementary and secondary teachers of all disciplines; workshops for booksellers to assist them in getting effective books to children and parents; informational workshops for parents to give them the tools to identify and address problems their children have in learning to read; workshops for adults who work with children in crisis to help them use books effectively. Videotapes of the workshops will be available for schools and organizations across the United States.

NCBLA WORLD WIDE WEB SITE

The National Children's Book And Literacy Alliance is in the process of creating a children's literacy and literature Internet site that will promote public education concerning issues, actions, and programs related to children's books and reading. The information center will list all literacy organizations and other organizations related to children and books, with descriptions of their mission statements and services, along with suggestions on how best to contact them. The web site will be a clearinghouse for information giving parents, teachers, youth advocates, civic leaders, medical and social service workers, business leaders, and community volunteers specific practical information on how to get and keep children reading. It will maintain an updated, state by state national monthly calendar which will list any happenings related to children, books, and literacy. It will provide instructional materials for everyone involved with children, and will offer an online magazine, with feature articles highlighting children's book and literacy organizations, community efforts, business literacy projects, educational initiatives, government programs, and medical programs which effectively promote literacy and connect children and books.

HE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME BEGINS WITH THE TURN OF A PAGE.

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NOTE: PRINTED: 20:08 04-AUG-97

<gfbyline>By Hillary Rodham Clinton[MC]

<ws>W<gfsmcap>ASHINGTON[MC]

<gfdt>T[MC]he historic balanced budget bill that the President is set to sign today offers hope that as many as five million uninsured boys and girls will receive the health care they need, from checkups to antibiotics to complicated surgery. As the largest expansion in children's health coverage since Medicaid's creation 30 years ago, the bipartisan legislation could move the United States closer to shedding its status as the only Western industrialized nation that does not provide basic health benefits to all children.

Even as we celebrate this passage, we should recognize that passage of a bill, no matter how historic, does not guarantee success. Whether this legislation fulfills its promise depends on how hard we are willing to work in the months ahead.

Finding uninsured children who are scattered across the country, and then insuring them, will not be easy. As successful as Medicaid has been, an estimated three million eligible children are still not enrolled, because their parents don't know about the program, are unclear about whether they qualify, are reluctant to accept "government" help or are confused by complex eligibility rules.

Millions of other uninsured children have working parents who are employed by businesses that don't provide health insurance or who are low-wage workers unable to afford their share of insurance premiums. Still others lose coverage when their

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8/5/97

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parents lose jobs.

For this new bill to fulfill its promise, states first have to agree to participate and build on successful efforts that many have already made. While \$24 billion in Federal aid over five years should be a significant incentive, dollars alone may not induce participation across the board. That's why our most urgent task is to educate citizens, especially parents, about what is at stake, and to encourage state officials to join the program and assure adequate benefits for all children.

Meeting this challenge will require a joint effort involving the Federal Government, states, localities, advocacy groups, foundations, health care providers, insurers and businesses - all of whom will have to work to inform families about insurance options for their children.

The Federal Department of Health and Human Services, for example, will offer guidance to state officials by helping to interpret key portions of the law and provide technical assistance to states with little or no experience in children's health programs.

Health care providers and insurers, who will benefit from a population of newly covered patients, can play a pivotal role in designing high-quality health plans and enrolling uninsured children who come to the hospital or emergency room for care.

Finally, states will have to meet the law's requirement that new dollars not be used to replace or supplant existing coverage. Otherwise, the legislation could have the perverse effect of reducing current public and private commitments to children's health.

Luckily, many states have already

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taken the lead in enrolling children in health plans. Florida works through schools to educate parents about signing up. Pennsylvania has adopted outreach efforts that help eligible families find the program best suited to their needs. Minnesota has chosen to use Federal dollars to expand its successful Medicaid program.

Parents will have the most significant role of all. They will have to learn about the programs, demand quality benefit packages, enroll their children if they are eligible, and take advantage of the services provided.

While this law will not fully achieve the universal coverage that I believe is in the nation's best interest, Americans should be proud that our Government has made another down payment on the President's of providing health insurance all citizens.

In the last three years we have also taken other steps to bring better health care to the nation's young people, from passage of the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill to the President's successful efforts to increase immunizations, protect Medicaid, restrict tobacco advertising and sales to minors, extend hospital stays for mothers and their newborns, and expand financing for nutrition and education programs for poor women and their children.

Now we have a chance to build on these achievements in the most profound way yet: by giving millions of children access to the health care they deserve and by offering them genuine hope for a healthy future. It's an opportunity we can't afford to miss.<ws>[OBX]

(END)

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. packet	Democratic National Committee Women's Leadership Forum fundraising event material (political) (10 pages)	10/20/1998	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting (Noa Meyer Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 17213

FOLDER TITLE:

October 1998

2012-0869-S
kc913

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]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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