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BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION

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BIOTECHNOLOGY
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIO APPLAUDS PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE ON CLONING

(WASHINGTON, DC, March 4, 1997)...Carl B. Feldbaum, president of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), issued the following reaction to President Clinton's statement this morning on human cloning.

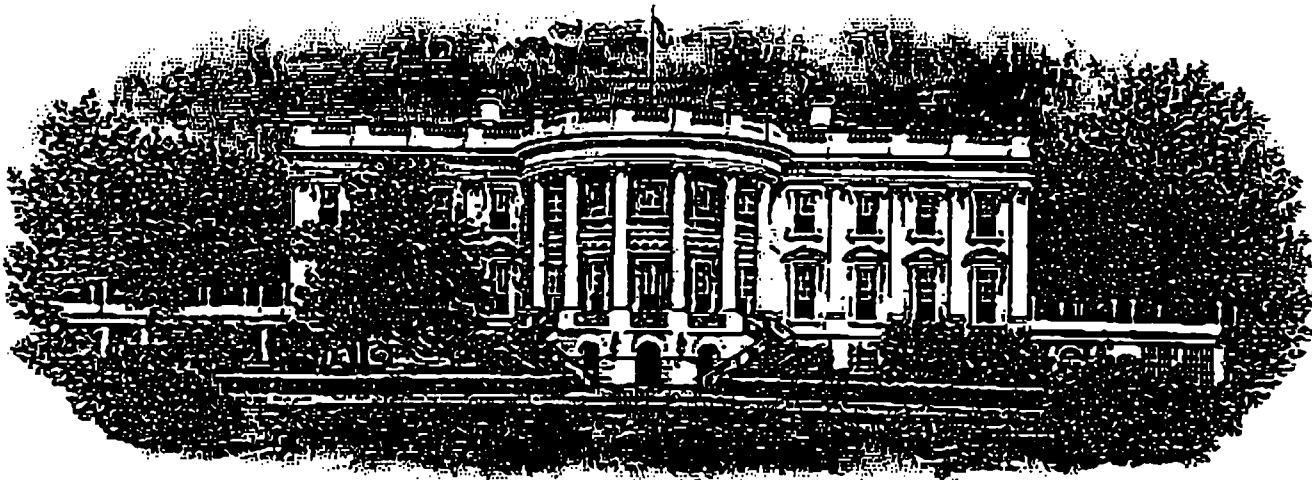
"The President has taken another thoughtful step in addressing this issue. The recent animal cloning experiments signal a major scientific breakthrough which could lead to revolutionary medicines and better nutrition.

"A moratorium on cloning humans is wholly appropriate while the president's bioethics advisory commission reviews the issue and society discusses its meaning."

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) represents 700 biotechnology companies, academic institutions and state biotechnology centers. BIO members are involved in the research and development of health care, agricultural and environmental biotechnology products.

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For Immediate Release

March 4, 1997

March 4, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Prohibition on Federal Funding
for Cloning of Human Beings

Recent accounts of advances in cloning technology, including the first successful cloning of an adult sheep, raise important questions. They potentially represent enormous scientific breakthroughs that could offer benefits in such areas as medicine and agriculture. But the new technology also raises profound ethical issues, particularly with respect to its possible use to clone humans. That is why last week I asked our National Bioethics Advisory Commission to thoroughly review the legal and ethical issues associated with the use of this technology and report back to me in 90 days.

Federal funds should not be used for cloning of human beings. The current restrictions on the use of Federal funds for research involving human embryos do not fully assure this result. In December 1994, I directed the National Institutes of Health not to fund the creation of human embryos for research purposes. The Congress extended this prohibition in FY 1996 and FY 1997 appropriations bills, barring the Department of Health and Human Services from supporting certain human embryo research. However, these restrictions do not explicitly cover human embryos created for implantation and do not cover all Federal agencies. I want to make it absolutely clear that no Federal funds will be used for human cloning. Therefore, I hereby direct that no Federal funds shall be allocated for cloning of human beings.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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For Immediate Release

March 4, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON CLONING

The Oval Office

9:25 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I'm glad to be joined this morning by the Vice President, Secretary Shalala, Dr. Harold Varmus, the head of NIH; Dr. Harold Shapiro, the President of Princeton and the Chairman of our Bioethics Advisory Commission; and Dr. Jack Gibbons, the President's Advisor on Science and Technology, all of whom know a lot about and care a lot about this issue we are discussing today.

The recent breakthrough in animal cloning is one that could yield enormous benefits, enabling us to reproduce the most productive strains of crop and livestock, holding out the promise of revolutionary new medical treatments and cures, helping to unlock the greatest secrets of the genetic code. But like the splitting of the atom, this is a discovery that carries burdens as well as benefits.

Science often moves faster than our ability to understand its implications. That is why we have a responsibility to move with caution and care to harness the powerful forces of science and technology so that we can reap the benefit while minimizing the potential danger.

This new discovery raises the troubling prospect that it might someday be possible to clone human beings from our own genetic material. There is much about cloning that we still do not know. But this much we do know: any discovery that touches upon human creation is not simply a matter of scientific inquiry, it is a matter of morality and spirituality as well.

My own view is that human cloning would have to raise deep concerns, given our most cherished concepts of faith and humanity. Each human life is unique, born of a miracle that reaches beyond laboratory science. I believe we must respect this profound gift and resist the temptation to replicate ourselves.

At the very least, however, we should all agree that we need a better understanding of the scope and implications of this most recent breakthrough. Last week, I asked our National Bioethics Advisory Commission, headed by President Harold Shapiro of Princeton, to conduct a thorough review of the legal and the ethical issues raised by this new cloning discovery, and to recommend possible actions to prevent its abuse, reporting back to me by the end of May.

In the meantime, I am taking further steps to prevent human cloning. The federal government currently restricts the use of federal funds for research involving human embryos. After reviewing these restrictions, our administration believes that there are loopholes that could allow the cloning of human beings if the technology were developed. Therefore, today I am issuing a directive that bans the use of any federal funds for any cloning of human beings.

Effective immediately, no federal agency may support, fund, or undertake such activity. Of course, a great deal of research and activity in this area is supported by private funds. That is why I am urging the entire scientific and medical community, every foundation, every university, every industry that supports work in this area to heed the federal government's example. I'm asking for a voluntary moratorium on the cloning of human beings until our Bioethics Advisory Commission and our entire nation have had a real chance to understand and debate the profound ethical implications of the latest advances.

As we gain a fuller understanding of this technology, we must proceed not just with caution, but also with a conscience, by insisting that not a single taxpayer dollar supports human cloning. And by urging a moratorium on all private research in this area, we can ensure that as we move forward on this issue, we weigh the concerns of faith and family and philosophy and values, not merely of science alone. Thank you very much.



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BIO REACTS TO SHEEP CLONING EXPERIMENT

(WASHINGTON, DC, February 23, 1997)...Carl B. Feldbaum, president of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), today issued the following statement in reaction to the announcement that will appear this week in Nature concerning a successful experiment to clone sheep.

"If the reports are correct that an adult sheep was cloned, then this occurred sooner than most expected.

"In the future, society may determine that there are sound reasons to clone certain animals to improve the food supply, produce biopharmaceuticals, provide organs for transplantation and aid in research. I can think of no ethical reason to apply this technique to human beings, if in fact it can be applied.

"The biotechnology industry exists to use genetic information to cure disease and improve agriculture. We opposed human cloning when it was a theory. Now that it may be possible, we urge that it be prohibited by law."

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) represents 700 biotechnology companies, academic institutions and state biotechnology centers. BIO members are involved in the research and development of health care, agricultural and environmental biotechnology products.

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