

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Press Secretary

Series/Staff Member: Dee Dee Myers

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 4486

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Pope

Stack:

S

Row:

94

Section:

3

Shelf:

5

Position:

2

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE - 3211 Fourth Street, N.E. - Washington, D.C. 20017-1100 - Fax (202) 541-3255 - Telex 892589 - (202) 541-3250

CNS

THOMAS N. LORSUNG
Director and editor in chief

Catholic News Service

August 6, 1993

FAX COVER SHEET

ATTENTION: Melanne Vermeer

ORGANIZATION: White House

FAX NUMBER: 456-6244

FROM: Pat Zapor

Catholic News Service

PHONES: Personal -- (202) 541-3269

FAX -- (202) 541-3255

NOTICE: The material that follows is under copyright of Catholic News Service and is intended solely for the information of the recipient. It is not to be published by any other individuals or organizations that do not subscribe to CNS.

This FAX consists of ¹²~~20~~ pages, including this cover sheet.

MELANNE: I'm sending both a copy of the story only and a combined package of story and transcript.

CNS - Catholic News Service

Friday, August 6, 1993

♦ ♦ ♦

CLINTON-INTERVIEW Oct. 26, 1992 (1,460 words) With photos sent Oct. 21 and today.
CLINTON SAYS LAWS ON PARENTAL NOTICE FOR ABORTION WOULD BE OK

By Patricia Zapor

Catholic News Service

FREELAND, Mich. (CNS) -- States should have the freedom to require parental notification for abortion, Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton said Oct. 25 in a 25-minute interview with Catholic News Service.

Clinton, who says he opposes abortion but believes it should be legal, also said he doesn't think federal law should prohibit a state's right to establish a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion may be performed, although he believes such waiting periods pose an unnecessary burden for some women.

The Arkansas governor, a Southern Baptist who graduated from Jesuit-run Georgetown University, also credited his six years of Catholic education with ingraining in him a sense of moral obligation to try to live out religious convictions that affects his daily life.

In a wide-ranging interview at Tri-City Airport in Freeland, Mich., near Saginaw, Clinton discussed:

- His college years at Georgetown and two years in a Catholic grade school.
- His opposition to a school choice voucher funding system that includes parochial schools.
- Standards he would apply in nominating Supreme Court justices.
- His support for the death penalty.
- His support for would-be refugees to the United States from Haiti.
- Proposals to help the nation's poor children.

Clinton has said he would support the Freedom of Choice Act, a bill which, as introduced in the last session of Congress, would have prohibited states from passing any laws restricting abortion. But Clinton noted that various proposed amendments to the bill would have given states some regulatory leeway.

Acknowledging that as governor of Arkansas he supported a law requiring minors to notify their parents before having abortions, Clinton noted, "The final form of that act (in Congress) is not yet clear. Before the people who support it decided not to push it in this Congress, there were all kinds of negotiations about what the states should still be free to do."

"I think states should absolutely have the freedom to have parental notice," he said. While he believes a 24-hour waiting period "philosophically, sounds like a totally reasonable thing," it can impose an unfair burden on women who must travel long distances in some areas of the country where there

(NS - Catholic News Service)

Friday, August 6, 1993

are few abortion clinics.

"I don't know that federal law needs to regulate it away, but as a practical matter, in the real world it is a significant burden," Clinton said. "In the real world there are very few people who do that who haven't thought about it for 24 hours."

Clinton also said he wants pro-life Democrats to remain in the party and that he regrets the decision to refuse Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey's request to address the Democratic National Convention in July.

Casey, a popular Catholic governor in a key Democratic state, has urged the party to moderate its platform, which strongly opposes any regulation of abortion. Clinton was criticized at the time for keeping Casey off the speaker's platform as part of an effort to present a united front favoring abortion rights.

According to Clinton, Ron Brown, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, based his decision to turn down Casey's request on the fact that Casey had not yet endorsed the Clinton-Gore ticket.

"It was very frustrating to me because I like Bob Casey a lot," said Clinton. "I mean I've known him for years and worked with him. And I attempted to visit with him about it. I personally had no problems with him talking."

Other Democrats who oppose abortion, such as Boston Mayor Ray Flynn, had time at the microphone and made pro-life statements, Clinton said. "But he had endorsed our ticket."

Clinton said he would like Democrats who disagree about abortion to feel they can work within the party to make abortions less necessary.

"I want pro-life Democrats in our party and I've relied extremely heavily on Mayor Flynn in this campaign for all kinds of advice on a number of issues," Clinton said.

"I don't want to run anybody out of the party that agrees with us on more issues than they disagree with us on," he said.

Catholics in particular should feel at home in the Democratic party, even if they disagree about abortion, believes Clinton.

"The Democratic Party's platforms and historic commitments are much more consistent with the Catholic Church's social mission than the Republican platform's," he said. "So I think we should talk about things on which we do agree."

He urged finding ways for people who disagree on abortion to work together to reduce their number. Adoption, in particular, should be more widely encouraged, he said.

Clinton said as president he would nominate Supreme Court justices who agree with him that the constitutional right to privacy guarantees freedom to have abortions.

CNS - Catholic News Service

Friday, August 6, 1993

"I wouldn't give them a laundry list of issues that they would have to agree with me on," Clinton said of judicial nominees. But "if I got a chance to make an appointment to the court, I'll appoint somebody who is pro-choice."

Clinton also disagrees with the Bush administration over priorities in education.

Although he attended a Catholic grade school for two years and thinks highly of Catholic schools, he believes the federal government should have no part in funding them, even under a voucher system that lets parents choose among private and public schools.

He supports Arkansas programs that allow state funds to be used for child care at church-run schools and at religious colleges and universities.

He said he found it rewarding to join in religious instruction as a second and third grader at St. John's Catholic School in Hot Springs, Ark.

"But, I think that part of the mission of the Catholic schools is to communicate the values of the Catholic Church to children and I don't think the Constitution of our country permits taxpayers to subsidize that," he said.

Children's interests also need to be better supervised by government entities that are charged with protecting them, Clinton said.

Aside from approving full funding for Head Start, a pre-school preparation program for poor children, Clinton said he wants to pay greater attention to the medical and foster care systems for children.

"The (foster care) systems are breaking down in most states in America as more and more kids grow up in difficult family circumstances and more and more families fall into poverty and tensions build up," he said.

Clinton also opposes Bush's policy to turn back Haitians fleeing their country before they reach the United States, vowing to change it if elected.

"I don't think we ought to be shipping those people back until we know we have done everything we can to restore democracy in Haiti, with (deposed President Father Jean-Bertrand) Aristide, or a coalition government or in some other fashion, a democratic government that observes human rights and freedoms," Clinton said. He agrees with the use of capital punishment, but said he doesn't think there's much to be gained by extending capital punishment to more federal crimes.

Clinton supported a crime bill that never made it out of Congress this session that included imposing the death penalty for several additional federal crimes. He said he thought those provisions were secondary.

"I supported it largely because it contained more funds to put police officers on the street and because it contained the Brady Bill, which would have a waiting period before people could buy

CNS - Catholic News Service

Friday, August 6, 1993

handguns so we could check their criminal and mental health history and age," he said.

Discussing his religious beliefs, Clinton said his years at Georgetown left their mark. Paired with his Southern Baptist beliefs, Clinton said, his years of studying under the Jesuits have shaped his sense of public duty.

While his religious heritage established his belief that the basis of religious freedom lies in church-state separation, Catholic influences have underscored his sense of obligation to others.

He's learned "we are morally obliged to try to live out our religious convictions in the world," he said. Baptists believe that salvation is a matter of the personal relationship between an individual and God, Clinton noted.

Jesuits also taught him "a real respect for the obligation to develop one's mind," Clinton said.

"Religious convictions involve more than emotions, there is an intellectual vigor. If you have a mind, you have an obligation to develop it to learn to think ... and then to act on those things more powerfully because you know more."

A favorite scriptural passage is Gal 6:9, he said. "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, but do not lose heart."

◆ ◆ ◆

CNS - Catholic News Service

Friday, August 6, 1993

♦ ♦ ♦

CLINTON-INTERVIEW Oct. 26, 1992 (1,400 words) With photos sent Oct. 21 and today.

CLINTON SAYS LAWS ON PARENTAL NOTICE FOR ABORTION WOULD BE OK

By Patricia Zapor

Catholic News Service

FREELAND, Mich (CNS) -- States should have the freedom to require parental notification for abortion, Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton said Oct. 25 in a 25-minute interview with Catholic News Service.

Clinton, who says he opposes abortion but believes it should be legal, also said he doesn't think federal law should prohibit a state's right to establish a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion may be performed, although he believes such waiting periods pose an unnecessary burden for some women.

The Arkansas governor, a Southern Baptist who graduated from Jesuit-run Georgetown University, also credited his six years of Catholic education with ingraining in him a sense of moral obligation to try to live out religious convictions that affects his daily life.

In a wide-ranging interview at Tri-City Airport in Freeland, Mich., near Saginaw, Clinton discussed:

- His college years at Georgetown and two years in a Catholic grade school
- His opposition to a school choice voucher funding system that includes parochial schools.
- Standards he would apply in nominating Supreme Court justices
- His support for the death penalty.
- His support for would-be refugees to the United States from Haiti.
- Proposals to help the nation's poor children

Clinton has said he would support the Freedom of Choice Act, a bill which, as introduced in the last session of Congress, would have prohibited states from passing any laws restricting abortion. But Clinton noted that various proposed amendments to the bill would have given states some regulatory leeway.

Acknowledging that as governor of Arkansas he supported a law requiring minors to notify their parents before having abortions, Clinton noted, "The final form of that act (in Congress) is not yet clear. Before the people who support it decided not to push it in this Congress, there were all kinds of negotiations about what the states should still be free to do."

"I think states should absolutely have the freedom to have parental notice," he said. While he believes a 24-hour waiting period "philosophically, sounds like a totally reasonable thing," it can impose an unfair burden on women who must travel long distances in some areas of the country where there are few abortion clinics.

"I don't know that federal law needs to regulate it away, but as a practical matter, in the real world it is a significant burden," Clinton said. "In the real world there are very few people who do that who haven't thought about it for 24 hours."

Clinton also said he wants pro-life Democrats to remain in the party and that he regrets the decision to refuse Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey's request to address the Democratic National Convention in July.

Casey, a popular Catholic governor in a key Democratic state, has urged the party to moderate its platform, which strongly opposes any regulation of abortion. Clinton was criticized at the time for keeping Casey off the speaker's platform as part of an effort to present a united front favoring abortion rights.

According to Clinton, Ron Brown, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, based his decision to turn down Casey's request on the fact that Casey had not yet endorsed the Clinton-Gore ticket.

"It was very frustrating to me because I like Bob Casey a lot," said Clinton. "I mean I've known him for years and worked with him. And I attempted to visit with him about it. I personally had no problems with him talking."

Other Democrats who oppose abortion, such as Boston Mayor Ray Flynn, had time at the microphone and made pro-life statements, Clinton said. "But he had endorsed our ticket."

Clinton said he would like Democrats who disagree about abortion to feel they can work within the party to make abortions less necessary.

"I want pro-life Democrats in our party and I've relied extremely heavily on Mayor Flynn in this campaign for all kinds of advice on a number of issues," Clinton said.

"I don't want to run anybody out of the party that agrees with us on more issues than they disagree with us on," he said.

Catholics in particular should feel at home in the Democratic party, even if they disagree about abortion, believes Clinton.

"The Democratic Party's platform and historic commitments are much more consistent with the Catholic Church's social mission than the Republican platform's," he said. "So I think we should talk about things on which we do agree."

He urged finding ways for people who disagree on abortion to work together to reduce their number. Adoption, in particular, should be more widely encouraged, he said.

CNS - Catholic News Service

Friday, August 6, 1993

Clinton said as president he would nominate Supreme Court justices who agree with him that the constitutional right to privacy guarantees freedom to have abortions.

"I wouldn't give them a laundry list of issues that they would have to agree with me on," Clinton said of judicial nominees. But "if I got a chance to make an appointment to the court, I'll appoint somebody who is pro-choice."

Clinton also disagrees with the Bush administration over priorities in education.

Although he attended a Catholic grade school for two years and thinks highly of Catholic schools, he believes the federal government should have no part in funding them, even under a voucher system that lets parents choose among private and public schools.

He supports Arkansas programs that allow state funds to be used for child care at church-run schools and at religious colleges and universities.

He said he found it rewarding to join in religious instruction as a second and third grader at St. John's Catholic School in Hot Springs, Ark.

"But, I think that part of the mission of the Catholic schools is to communicate the values of the Catholic Church to children and I don't think the Constitution of our country permits taxpayers to subsidize that," he said.

Children's interests also need to be better supervised by government entities that are charged with protecting them, Clinton said.

Aside from approving full funding for Head Start, a pre-school preparation program for poor children, Clinton said he wants to pay greater attention to the medical and foster care systems for children.

"The (foster care) systems are breaking down in most states in America as more and more kids grow up in difficult family circumstances and more and more families fall into poverty and tensions build up," he said.

Clinton also opposes Bush's policy to turn back Haitians fleeing their country before they reach the United States, vowing to change it if elected.

"I don't think we ought to be shipping those people back until we know we have done everything we can to restore democracy in Haiti, with (deposed President Father Jean-Bertrand) Aristide, or a coalition government or in some other fashion, a democratic government that observes human rights and freedoms," Clinton said. He agrees with the use of capital punishment, but said he doesn't think there's much to be gained by extending capital punishment to more federal crimes.

Clinton supported a crime bill that never made it out of Congress this session that included imposing the death penalty for several additional federal crimes. He said he thought those provisions were secondary.

"I supported it largely because it contained more funds to put police officers on the street and because it contained the Brady Bill, which would have a waiting period before people could buy handguns so we could check their criminal and mental health history and age," he said.

Discussing his religious beliefs, Clinton said his years at Georgetown left their mark. Paired with his Southern Baptist beliefs, Clinton said, his years of studying under the Jesuits have shaped his sense of public duty.

While his religious heritage established his belief that the basis of religious freedom lies in church-state separation, Catholic influences have underscored his sense of obligation to others.

He's learned "we are morally obliged to try to live out our religious convictions in the world," he said. Baptists believe that salvation is a matter of the personal relationship between an individual and God, Clinton noted.

Jesuits also taught him "a real respect for the obligation to develop one's mind," Clinton said.

"Religious convictions involve more than customs, there is an intellectual vigor. If you have a mind, you have an obligation to develop it to learn to think ... and then to act on those things more powerfully because you know more."

A favorite scriptural passage is Gal 6:9, he said. "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, but do not lose heart."

♦ ♦ ♦

TEXT CLINTON Oct. 20, 1992 (4,000 words).

FRIELAND, Mich. (CNS) — Here is the transcript of a Catholic News Service interview with Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton. The interview was conducted by CNS federal reporter Patricia Zager at the Tin-City Airport in Freeland Oct. 25 while Clinton was campaigning in the Saginaw area.

CNS: A little bit of old history, but it's still of interest to our readers, who are, the majority, Catholic newspapers in this country. Why wasn't Gov. Casey given a forum at the Democratic convention?

Clinton: Well, the people who were running the convention, and I must say this issue was not brought directly to me, if it had been I might've made a different decision. But I wanted -- Ray Thynn spoke, who is very strongly pro-life and made some pro-life statements. But he had endorsed our ticket. Jesse Jackson spoke from a different perspective, and you know we'd been sort of estranged, but he had endorsed our ticket.

At the time the convention occurred, Gov. Casey had not yet endorsed the ticket. So, the chairman of the party decided that he shouldn't make a position for him. It was very frustrating to me 'cause I like Bob Casey a lot. I mean, I've known him for years and worked with him. And I attempted

CNS - Catholic News Service

Friday, August 6, 1993

to, you know, visit with him about it. And I personally had no problem with him talking. I want pro-life Democrats in our party and I think I've relied extremely heavily on Mayor Flynn in this campaign for all kinds of advice on a number of issues. And I've done my best to make that clear. I also in a related way was really moved by the article that Gov. Cuomo wrote in The New York Times not very long ago. I don't know if you saw it, basically arguing for a common effort by Americans who are pro-life and pro-choice to reduce the number of abortions in America.

So I regret what happened. I still, you know, in terms of Gov. Casey, 'cause I really like him and I'd like to have, you know.

CNS: Have you settled it between you? Have you spoken about it? Do you feel like you've come to an agreement of some sort with each other?

Clinton: Well, he said publicly, you know, he's going to support the ticket, but I think, you know, I don't know how he feels about the national party not offering him a forum. But I think that's the policy that Ron Brown thought we ought to follow and in that case, no one really brought the issue to me. But I had supported the policy when it was developed.

But I really like Casey, and I respect his convictions and I hope we can find ways to work together.

CNS: Partly because of that incident and various other things, a couple people have said that it's getting real hard to cast a vote for a Democrat without also by implication casting a vote for pro-choice. Obviously from what you say you don't necessarily think that's the way the Democratic Party should be, it should not be quite so restrictive.

Clinton: I don't want to run anybody out of the party that agrees with us on more issues than they disagree with us on. And I think the -- as I said, Ray Flynn spoke and made a very impassioned pro-life comment, through his remarks. And I would -- I think the decision was solely based on whether we could break the precedent of letting someone speak at the convention who had not yet committed to support the ticket. And I hope it's all resolved.

CNS: What else would you do then to try to dissuade that notion that there isn't room in the Democratic Party for people who disagree about abortion?

Clinton: I think the best thing that we could do is -- I think there are only two responses, frankly. One is talk about all the issues on which we do agree. I mean, the Democratic Party's platforms and historic commitments are much more consistent with the Catholic Church's social mission than the Republican platform. And so I think we should talk about those things on which we do agree. And the second thing, I think that we should do what Mario Cuomo suggested and try to find ways that people who disagree over what the law should be on abortion can work together to reduce the number of abortions. You know, in most of the years that I have been governor, the number of abortions have gone down over the previous year. There was a chart just printed in the Arkansas Democrat, about, oh, I don't know, a couple months ago, which documented that I think there were only two of the last eight years that the number of abortions increased over the previous year. And I think that you do that by promoting adoption and doing what you can to reduce unwanted pregnancies. I think that we ought to have a concerted effort on that.

I remember, and this incident has been quoted elsewhere, but I want to repeat about it. I had an amazing encounter with a woman in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in front of Quaker Oats at this rally, and there were a lot of pro-life demonstrators at the back of the crowd and she was in front of the crowd and she had a pro-choice sticker on. But she was holding this baby of another race -- she was white and the kid was African-American, this little girl had AIDS and she had adopted this child out of another state. And she talked about her commitment to trying to get -- to adopt problem children because she had done this and that she wished she could be part of a common effort to try to promote the notion of adoption, to let people know that there were people like her who want to adopt these children and she thought that might reduce the number of abortions, which I thought was an interesting thing. She basically looked back kingingly at the pro-life demonstrators all the way on the other side of the crowd and she said that's something I wish I was involved with them in doing. I really think that's what we ought to do. Those are the two things that I would say to pro-life Democrats about why they shouldn't necessarily leave the Democratic Party.

CNS: As governor, you supported a parental notification bill.

Clinton: I did support that.

CNS: But you also support the Freedom of Choice Act, which even the ACLU says would make it impossible to have such laws as parental notification.

Clinton: Well, what the final form of that act will be is not yet clear. I mean, before the people who supported it decided not to push it in

CNS - Catholic News Service

Friday, August 6, 1993

this Congress, there were all kinds of negotiations about what the states should still be free to do, including that. I think states should absolutely have the freedom to have parental notice.

CNS: What about some other restrictions -- 24-hour waiting period, things like that.

Clinton: The thing that bothers me about the 24-hour waiting period is philosophically, it sounds like a totally reasonable thing. But as a practical matter, people don't, I don't think there are very many people who ever go through an abortion who haven't thought about it for 24 hours, No. 1. And No. 2, since only 17 percent of the countries today, according to the Time or Newsweek story on abortion --

CNS: There aren't many clinics --

Clinton: Yeah, there aren't many clinics anymore doing it. For people who have limited means and who come in from a long way away, who by definition have been thinking about it however long it took them to get from where they live to where they go, it can impose a significant burden on their ability to have access to what other people could, maybe just because they live down the street from a clinic. So that's my only problem with that. I don't know that federal law needs to regulate it away, but I just think that as a practical matter, in the real world it is a significant burden. In the real world there are very few people who do that who haven't thought about it for 24 hours.

I do think that we should do more to promote adoption services as an alternative. I think people need to know in this country that there are caring, loving people out there who don't have children who would love to have children, who will adopt children. I don't know that any place has done as good a job with that as they should. But I think that is a more constructive thing to do than to focus on the waiting period, given the practical circumstances of most people's conditions in America.

CNS: Would your nominations to federal courts or the Supreme Court -- would you require that the nominees agree with you on political issues like abortion?

Clinton: I wouldn't give them a laundry list of procedures that they would agree with me on. But I have said that I think that given the fact that there are four justices on the court who have ridiculed the ruling in Roe vs. Wade, and that we now have a Republican platform which calls for an outright ban on all abortions, and they've run on four different platforms now committing them to appoint only judges to all benches who are committed to repeal Roe vs. Wade, then I thought if I got a chance to make an appointment to the court I ought to appoint somebody who was pro-choice. Not someone I gave 10 questions to answer about "How do you feel about every last issue," but at least someone who believed that there was a constitutional right to privacy -- which a lot of people don't believe that there is one, that encompasses a right to choose -- and I do. So I would do my best without giving somebody a 20-question interview to appoint someone who had expressed the belief that the right to privacy is in the Constitution.

CNS: But if a nominee disagreed with you on that area and you were basically in line on others, that wouldn't necessarily be a requirement that would keep somebody on or off the court?

Clinton: Well, I would have a difficult time appointing someone to the Supreme Court that didn't believe in the constitutional right to privacy. Because I believe in that. I think every president throughout history without exception has had some so-called litmus test, even though I don't think it's ever a good idea for a president to sit down and interview a prospective judge and ask them, "Well, what would you do in this case, that case and the other thing?" I would never do that.

But, I mean, for example, I can't imagine a president after 1960, for example, appointing a justice to the Supreme Court who didn't believe in the 14th Amendment, that is, requiring the integration of public schools. Just for an example. So, that's an important thing to me. But I'm not going to sit around and give anybody a test on the Pennsylvania law, for example, on how they feel about this restriction or that one. I wouldn't do that.

CNS: A quick change of subject. There are a couple things we can breeze through quickly. You support capital punishment, yet you're certainly aware that it's inequitably imposed on poor non-whites much more than for any other racial or income groups. What would you do to change how capital punishment is applied in the U.S.?

Clinton: I think that we ought to make sure that people who are charged with crimes for which they can be executed have better lawyers at the trial level and at the appeals level. You know, retired Justice Powell headed a commission to look at the appellate process in criminal capital cases, because the average capital punishment case takes almost eight years to work its way through the courts. And Powell argued that that was too long, but

CNS - Catholic News Service

Friday, August 6, 1993

that part of the reason that it took so long and that we had so many appeals was the uneasy feeling that the judicial system has that so many people who get sentenced to death don't have the same shot at the courts as those who beat the death penalty because their upbringing (unintelligible) better lawyers. So his argument was that we should accelerate somewhat the criminal appeals process, but in return for that every state would have to demonstrate that it had imposed a higher standard for what kind of legal assistance someone who could be executed got.

CNS: Would your policies encourage more widespread application of the death penalty for federal crimes?

Clinton: Oh, I'm not all hung up on that. I supported this federal crime bill that was filibustered to death. But I supported it largely because it contained more funds to put police officers on the street and because it contained the Brady Bill, which would have a waiting period before people could buy handguns so we could check their criminal and mental health history and age. But I think capital punishment decisions by and large should be left to the states and that the capital punishment provisions in the federal crime bill will have a marginal effect, at most, on the crime problem in the United States. I don't think that's one of the most important parts of that bill. And I'm not hung up on that. I do think the money that was in that bill for local police officers and the Brady Bill and the provisions for speeding up the criminal's appeals process in a fair way were good ones. I'd like to see that stuff enacted. I don't have any particular problem with the capital punishment provisions of that bill, but if you read them, while there are a whole bunch of them, they would have very limited application to the problems that most Americans face in terms of their safety and security. So I think that frankly that has been way overemphasized at the federal level. By and large, the capital punishment issue as it affects most people in their lives is one that's going to be resolved at the state level.

CNS: There's been a lot of talk in your campaign about improving children's lives. What's the flip side of your hit single, "full funding for Head Start"?

Clinton: You mean, what else would we do?

CNS: Right.

Clinton: Let's talk about two or three other things. I think that as we move toward a universal health care system -- that is, one in which everybody gets some coverage -- I think we need to focus on young mothers and their children first. I think that if we can improve the primary and preventive health care system in this country, we can lower infant mortality, lower the low birth weight rate, which is quite high in this country and improve the mental and physical development of children as they start school. I think that is very, very important.

The other thing I think we need to do is to take a hard look nationally at something that I've grappled with in my state, with mixed results, and that is the whole system we have for dealing with abused and neglected children, you know, the foster care system, working with kids when they stay in the homes. The systems are breaking down in most states in America as more and more kids grow up in difficult family circumstances and more and more families fall into poverty and tensions build up. And the way that the federal government works now with regard to that aspect of children's needs is that essentially the federal contribution to programs that deal with abused and neglected children is more limited than the federal contribution to deal with children's health needs through Medicaid, for example, or they're more limited than federal contributions to the Head Start program. So that there is this real uneven pattern which has gotten aggravated by the state budgetary problems in most states because most states have had to take more money away from preschool education and more and more away from those things that deal with the Medicaid problems, 'cause of the explosion in the health care rolls in America for poor people.

Another thing I'd really like to look at is to see what we can do to strengthen the foster care systems in America, strengthen the adoption systems and to help the states get in a position where they're making better judgments about when they keep children in families and when they should be removed from families. Those are the toughest calls you have to make.

If you interview most children, most children would rather stay with their family even in an abusive situation than be extracted. This young child that filed a lawsuit to stay with his adopted family, that's basically the exception rather than the rule and that kid had been jacked around something terrible in his life. I was very sympathetic with him, but in our experience that's the exception not the rule. And I must tell you, I think that of all the decisions made by governments in this country that those are the toughest calls. I mean, when you see these kids, you see parents that are in trouble, should they be left in the home? Should they be taken out of the home? If they're left in the home, what kind of support can you give the home to make sure the kids are not abused and neglected? Those are the tough things I'd really like to see us make some progress on as a country.

CNS: Along the lines of children and education, you oppose President Bush's education voucher plan, where it includes the non-public schools. How do you feel about tax credits for parents with children in non-public schools?

CNS - Catholic News Service

Friday, August 6, 1993

Clinton: I think it's about the same thing. The tax credits are about the same as his idea of giving everybody a certain amount of money and letting them take it to --

Let me explain where I'm coming from on this. I'd like to talk about this a little bit, especially to your readers.

I believe in Catholic education. I went to a Catholic school. I was at Springfield, Mo., the other night at my rally. They had a terrific rally in Springfield. And the nun who taught me in the second and third grade came up to me at the rally. I had not seen her since, in 34 years.

Her name is Sister Mary Anasta and she lives with an order in Springfield, Mo. And it was wonderful. She had sent me a letter when I got nominated with a picture of her when she was teaching me and a picture of her today. So I got to sort of see her and in my mind I got ready to see her. She was a terrific teacher. I loved her. Of course I went to Georgetown, as you know. But I went to a Catholic grade school for two years -- it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

I have the following concerns about the tuition tax credits or the Bush proposal, which is different, by the way, from what happened in Milwaukee. In Milwaukee, the state made a judgment about a particular school system, the Milwaukee school system, that it was seriously deficient. And the Catholic schools in Milwaukee had vacated all these buildings and moved out to the suburbs, basically. And there were private but non-sectarian schools in Milwaukee where a limited number of poor kids were able to go rather than the public schools. But the Milwaukee thing is not what Bush is proposing.

The two problems I have with it are these: No. 1, as opposed to the voucher system for child care, which, in Arkansas, I have a voucher system at home that I put in. We were the first state in the country, I think, to put one in for child care. We let working people take their vouchers and take their kids to church child care centers. Our state program in Arkansas, which I strongly supported, gives out state scholarships for people to go to college to private or public schools, including church-related universities.

CNS: So what's so different about elementary schools?

Clinton: There are two things different about elementary and secondary schools, particularly elementary schools. One is, I went to a Catholic school and I know this -- I liked it and I participated willingly in the religious instruction and I was very much rewarded for it even though I wasn't a Catholic. But I think that a part of the mission of the Catholic schools is to communicate the values of the church to the children and I don't think the Constitution of our country permits taxpayers to subsidize that. I think there is a real difference between little children going to a child care center where they're too young to get religious instruction, or kids going to a Catholic university. For example, when I went to Georgetown, there were alternatives to the theology requirement for non-Catholic students. There's a difference in that, in people going to public schools where they as a part of their instruction get religious instruction.

The second issue is a practical problem for me, purely practical. The United States is spending, contrary to myth, less of its income on public education, that is on K through 12 education, than nine other countries already. Unlike those nine countries that are spending a higher percentage of their income, we have more poor kids and greater diversity and more difficulties. I simply don't think we have the money. And we also have drastic inequalities, you know, in funding of public education. I simply don't think we have the money to divert many resources away from our obligation to improve the public education system. And I believe with public school choice, with dramatic restructuring of the schools --

By the way, I think we have a lot to learn from the Catholic school systems. You look at the Catholic school system in Chicago, for example, which is the biggest one in the country. I think. The administrative costs of operating that school system are roughly 5 percent of the cost of administering the public schools. Part of that is the public schools have to deal with the federal grants and deal with the -- but basically that shows you what we could do. We have a lot to learn from the private school systems and from the Catholic school systems. But I don't think that we can as a practical matter -- given the fact that we know we could fix the public schools with certain reform strategies that are proven -- I don't think we can afford to be diverting public funds to private purposes. For those two reasons, I oppose the Bush plan and the tax credits.

CNS: You're a Southern Baptist who was educated by Jesuits at Georgetown. How do those two influences affect your outlook on life and your administration? Will these come into play in your day-to-day administration?

Clinton: Yes. You know, when I showed up at Georgetown, they thought I had a screw loose. They said, here you are, you've never had a foreign language, you're at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service, you're a Southern Baptist who's hardly been out of Arkansas. I told them, I said -- But I had those four years of Latin which qualified me to go to a Catholic university.

From my Southern Baptist heritage, I have a deep belief that the First Amendment separation between church and state is what guarantees the religious freedom of all people. That's something that's really deeply ingrained in the history of the Baptist Church in America, going back to its founding.

But the Catholic influence on me, frankly, I think, is manifested in two ways. First of all, a real sense that we are morally obliged to try to live out our religious convictions in the world, that our obligation to social mission is connected to religious life. And I believe that. That I got out of

CNS - Catholic News Service

Friday, August 6, 1993

my Catholic training more than from the Baptist Church, which is much more rooted in the notion that salvation is a matter of personal relationship between an individual and God and carries with it no necessary burden to go out into the world and do things.

And the other thing I got out of my Catholic tradition is real respect for the obligation to develop one's mind, that religious convictions involve more than emotions, that there is an intellectual rigor, that if you have a mind you have an obligation to develop it, to learn to think and to know things and then to act on those things more powerfully because you know more and because you can think better. That's something the Jesuits did for me as much as anything else.

I loved Georgetown. I love the Jesuits. You know one of my good friends to this day is a Jesuit priest who I went to Key's Nation with in 1963, he didn't go to Georgetown, but we went to Yale Law School with me.

CNS: Fred Kammer?

Clinton: Uh huh. You know him?

CNS: I've spoken with him on the phone.

Clinton: He's a wonderful man. One of the best letters I ever got in my life was a letter Fred Kammer wrote to his friends when he was 40 years old, on his 40th birthday, explaining how proud he was that he had kept all of his vows as a priest and what each of them had meant to him over the course of his life. It was the most overwhelming letter. Hillary and I read it and just wept.

CNS: Do you have a favorite Scriptural passage? Something that means a lot to you?

Clinton: A lot of them. Galatians 6:9. "Let us not grow weary while doing good for in due season we shall reap, but do not lose heart." It's a wonderful Scripture.

CNS: Thank you very much, Gov. Clinton.

Clinton: I must say that one of the things I've really appreciated as I've dealt with different groups of pro-life people around the country, is that of all the people that I've dealt with, the Catholics and the Pentecostals have been the most consistent, from my point of view, in dealing with the position of their cause. And really, anytime I have pro-life demonstrators in my crowds, I always try to treat them with great respect because I have so much respect for their position. But the Catholics and the Pentecostals have been the most consistent because they have put themselves on the line for adoption. So that it's much more than politics with the Catholic Church, but it also is with the Pentecostals. That's really impressed me. And I think that's important.

CNS: One question I didn't get to is about Haitian refugee policy.

Clinton: I want to answer that. I am opposed to the Bush administration policy and I don't think we ought to be shipping those people back until we know we have done everything we can to restore democracy in Haiti, either with Aristide and the coalition government or in some other fashion, a democratic government that observes human rights and freedoms. I have opposed it from day one and I strongly oppose it and if I'm elected on Nov. 3 I'm going to change it.

♦ ♦ ♦

SUGGESTED COMMENTS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON FOR MEETING WITH POPE JOHN PAUL II

1) The President should emphasize that he has worked closely with American Catholic leaders and institution on many areas of agreement.

- ▶ He had a cordial meeting with the U.S. bishops' leadership and Mrs. Clinton has met with Catholic leaders on health care reform.
- ▶ Catholic Charities USA worked hard to support his budget proposal because of its increase in aid to children and the poor.
- ▶ The administration greatly appreciated the help of the Catholic Hospital Association in developing its plan for health care reform and looks forward to working with Catholic Charities on welfare reform.

2) Because the pope is in the U.S. for a meeting on youth, the President should acknowledge his awareness of the Catholic Church's contribution to youth:

- ▶ The President has quoted from the bishops' statement "Putting Children and Families First" and could do so again.
- ▶ In 1992 Catholic Charities agencies provided social services, emergency care, and meals for 5 million children and youth.
- ▶ Catholic Charities programs for children and youth include job training, addiction treatment, alternatives to abortion, mentoring programs, and shelter for the homeless. In the Denver area alone, more than 100 parishes have youth ministers and there is a Catholic Charities program dealing with gang members in a public housing project.

Notes from the Pope Meeting:

Gifts:

The Pope is giving POTUS a papal bible as a gift. POTUS is giving the Pope a book on the Rockies and a walking stick with an angle carved in the handle.

The First Lady and Chelsea are going.

Much discussion on the substance of the meeting between the two leaders. Should it be a one-on-one? Should Flynn and Tony be involved? The Vatican's people have submitted a list for the meeting which includes humanitarian aid, Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti, relations and diplomatic ties with Israel, aid to Eastern Europe. The Vatican has agreed not to talk about any domestic issues (i.e. abortion).

The President will give remarks to open press at the airport and the pool at the Regis University and at the top of the private meeting.

DEE DEE

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR PAPAL VISIT

2:00 pm POTUS WHEELS DOWN
GREETING - Military Band, Red Carpet,
Greeters TBA

2:30 pm POPE JOHN PAUL II WHEELS DOWN
OFFICIAL GREETING - Military Band (National
Anthem and Vatican Anthem), Red Carpet

The President and First Lady Greet
Other Greeters TBA - Vatican to provide their
lists today or tomorrow. So far they have
suggested the greeting line to include the
following people:

The Archbishop of Denver, The President and
Vice-President of the National Conference of
Catholic Bishops, the six U.S. Cardinals, the
three suffragan bishops of Pueblo, Colorado
Springs, and Cheyenne, the Ambassadors of
Poland and Italy (they suggest we invite the
Ambassadors), Governor Roemer and wife, the
Mayor of Denver and wife, Members of Congress
from Colorado and their spouses.

About 1,100 guests not included in the
official greeting line will be present at the
airport for this event. (Members of Congress,
Cabinet Members, Senior White House Staff,
Lay people, Clergy, CO State and Local
Officials, young adults and children from the
World Youth Day Conference.

After official greeting POTUS and the Pope
will proceed to a stage where each will make
5 min. remarks.

After the remarks POTUS and the Pope will
proceed to separte helicopters. They will
shake hands on a ropeline with 200 children
from the World Youth Day Conference while
walking to the helicopters.

3:00 PM POTUS AND POPE WHEELS UP BY HELICOPTER FOR
REGIS UNIVERSITY (separately)
WH staff to accompany to Regis TBA

3:10 PM PRESIDENT WHEELS DOWN REGIS UNIVERSITY
Greeting Party TBA
List of Papal staff to accompany will be
provided today or tomorrow. (around 40
people)

3:15 PM POPE WHEELS DOWN REGIS UNIVERSITY
Greeting Party TBA

POTUS will arrive first at Regis and greet
the Pope on the Main steps of the Main Hall.
Both will walk down a stone path (photo op
similar to Vancouver) en route to Carroll
Hall.

3:30 PM POTUS AND POPE private meeting (30-45 min.)
in Carroll Hall. Pool spray at the top of
this meeting. They have requested this
meeting include only POTUS and the Pope.

4:10 PM POTUS AND THE POPE bid farewell in courtyard
of Carroll hall (photo op.)

4:25 PM POPE WHEELS UP TO MILE HIGH STADIUM

4:30 PM POTUS WHEELS UP TO AIRPORT