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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES

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June 23, 1994

Jessica Aldrich
White House
OEOB, Room 218
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Jessica,

Enclosed are the newspaper articles that you requested. As you can see, we received much excellent publicity from the President's visit.

We really enjoyed working with you to plan the visit. It was thrilling to be a part of the unveiling of President Clinton's welfare reform proposal. FUTURES participants and graduates were very much affirmed. Our FUTURES Advisory, staff, and community partners will long remember this most meaningful visit!

We all look forward to continued success with welfare reform. Please let us know at any time of any way we can be of service.

Sincerely,

Diane Patrick,
FUTURES Program Manager
816-889-2447

Enclosure

DP:jl

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

SUNDAY, June 12, 1994

METROPOLITAN EDITION ★★

Clinton plans KC trip

A welfare-reform plan will be unveiled Tuesday. It's his second visit in 10 weeks.

By STEVE KRASKE
Political Correspondent

President Clinton will visit Kansas City on Tuesday to announce his plan to reform the nation's welfare system.

In his second trip to the city in 10 weeks, the president is expected to make a speech and possibly visit a worker retraining center.

U.S. Rep. Alan Wheat, whose office announced the trip, said the president would review the Futures program, which is aimed at helping Missouri families move off welfare.

"I'm proud that the president will be coming here to talk about his welfare-reform plan while learning about Kansas City's successful Futures program," Wheat said in a written statement.

The White House on Saturday would confirm only that Clinton would be in Kansas City. Details of the trip were to be released today.

It was unclear Saturday why Clinton
See CLINTON, A-16, Col. 1

Clinton to visit Kansas City

Continued from A-1

wanted to return to Kansas City to make his announcement. He conducted a town hall meeting at an area television station April 7 as part of his effort to boost his national health-care reform plan.

That visit had political overtones because it included a trip to Topeka, where Clinton was photographed with U.S. Rep. Jim Slatery. The congressman is considered the front-running Democratic candidate for Kansas governor and a key swing vote on health-care reform.

Wheat, a Democrat, is engaged in a spirited three-way battle for his party's nomination for the U.S. Senate. Standing shoulder to shoulder with the president, even one as embattled as Clinton, could boost his stature.

Another prominent Senate candidate, Democrat Marsha Murphy, recently appeared to distance herself from the president, saying she'd rather campaign on her own instead of with Clinton. At the time, the Jackson County executive did not know the president would be coming this month.

Clinton's appearance with Wheat, coming on the heels of Murphy's comments, could make the president himself an issue in the Senate race.

The president's welfare plan is expected to take a back seat to his push for universal health-care coverage and is not expected to pass this year.

Still, details about the plan have been leaked out of Washington in

recent days, and some members of Congress have said Clinton would be wise to have a welfare bill in place in case his health-care plan falters.

The president's plan calls for a 24-month limit on cash benefits for recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the nation's main cash-assistance program. Parents who exhausted their benefits and were unable to find a job would be enrolled in a subsidized job or community service program paying the minimum wage.

Futures, a state program funded primarily by the federal government, has been doing close to what Clinton wants to achieve since it began in 1991.

The voluntary program designs individual plans for each participant and helps them with education or job-training skills. Support services, such as transportation or day care, are provided.

"We feel it is unique in its approach and hope it is a model for others," said Diane Patrick, program manager for Futures. She declined to comment Saturday on whether White House officials had contacted her about Clinton's visit.

Patrick said 240 persons had graduated since the program began in Jackson, Platte and Clay counties. About 1,100 people are in the program now, and about 600 are on waiting lists.

"We try to achieve long-term sufficiency," Patrick said.

The Futures program in Missouri was made possible through

passage of the Family Support Act of 1988.

Wheat, a longtime advocate of welfare reform, said he had called Clinton's attention to Futures. He proposed his own welfare-reform plan in May with a group of about 90 moderate to conservative Democrats known as the Mainstream Forum.

The plan emphasizes jobs over training and education. It would force welfare recipients to look for a job as a condition of receiving benefits.

"Reforming our welfare system is a top priority of mine — and of the president's," Wheat said.

Clinton's welfare program called a work in progress

Much of the package is subject to change; some question whether it goes far enough.

By **BILL NORTON**
Staff Writer

As with much of his domestic policy to date, President Clinton's plan "to end welfare as we know it" is a work in progress. Here are a few elements, although they are subject to change:

■ **Cost:** As of last week, \$9.3 billion to be spent over five years. That's down from the original \$15 billion to \$16 billion.

Flashpoint: Spending. Some reformers are upset because Clinton plans to spend less. But he doesn't want to pay for this reform with a tax increase. That irritates supporters of programs to be trimmed, such as Supplemental Security Income for elderly im-

migrants and the environmental Superfund cleanup program.

■ **Target:** Young, unwed mothers who receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children. Forty-two percent of America's 5 million welfare families are headed by teen-age moms.

The Plan: No work, no welfare. Here is the nub of reform costs. The president pledged to bridge the gap between welfare dependence and private sector employment by subsidizing a recipient's schooling, job training, job finding fees, child care and health care — even government subsidized jobs.

Flashpoint: Weak job market. During the 1992 campaign, Clinton stumped on the slogan,

"two years and out," the notion that a welfare recipient had two years to find a job or lose government support. Late last week, the administration softened a tad, saying people who made "good faith efforts" to find private sector jobs — but couldn't — could stay on government subsidized jobs two more years.

A problem: In some sectors, jobs that pay more than welfare are scarce. Still to be worked out: What if someone still can't find a job?

■ **Goal:** Fewer babies by welfare mothers. Called "family caps," analogous to salary caps in pro sports. The administration wants to deny extra welfare benefits to welfare moms who keep having children.

Flashpoint: So controversial it could fuse abortion opponents and feminists in opposition.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

MONDAY, June 13, 1994

METROPOLITAN EDITION ★★

Political and practical needs guide Clinton's return to Kansas City

By STEVE KRASKE
Political Correspondent

Presidents don't just drop into major cities. They have reasons — both practical and political — that dictate where they go.

President Clinton has a basketful of each as he prepares for his trip to Kansas City Tuesday.

The visit, which will feature the announcement of his national welfare reform plan, marks the second time Clinton has stopped

here since April 7. It is unusual for a president to visit a city twice in only 10 weeks unless he is running for re-election.

But Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver and others said Sunday that compelling considerations drew Clinton back again.

"This is, in my estimation, the most natural spot for the president," Cleaver said.

Sparkling Clinton's interest in Kansas City is the area's reception. See **CLINTON'S, A-6**, Col. 1

Clinton's KC trip is second in 10 weeks

Continued from A-1

tiveness to welfare reform. A series of innovative programs are under way here, officials said, and the Missouri General Assembly this year passed a major welfare package similar to Clinton's.

"This is an easy place to kick it off," Woody Overton, who headed Clinton's 1992 Missouri campaign, said about the president's welfare plan, which is called the Work and Responsibility Act.

Gov. Mel Carnahan, a Democrat, said in an interview Sunday that he expected Clinton's team to incorporate ideas from the Missouri plan into the national effort.

"I think they recognize that this is a place where we have some welfare programs that work," he said.

Cleaver said he was told by White House officials Sunday that the president originally planned to give his speech in Wilmington, Del. But he changed his mind after reviewing Missouri's programs.

"It was the president's personal decision to come to Kansas City," the mayor said.

The president may have other reasons for traveling here. The trip gets him out of Washington, where he has taken a critical pounding in recent months, and into Missouri, which Clinton won handily in the 1992 presidential race.

And Clinton has close ties with Cleaver, Carnahan and U.S. Rep. Alan Wheat of Kansas City, a longtime welfare reform advocate.

One other residual benefit could be the boost in stature Clinton gives to Wheat, who is a candidate for the Democratic nomination to the U.S. Senate.

"I think it will dramatize Wheat's potential effectiveness in the Senate because it will show he already has the ear of the president," Cleaver said.

The Missouri race is considered a key battleground as Democrats

President Clinton tentatively is scheduled to arrive at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the TWA Overhaul Base at Kansas City International Airport.

He will announce his welfare package in a speech at 12:30 p.m. at the Commerce Bank, 922 Walnut St.

The event is closed to the public. The White House said

it would invite 250 people, including local, state and national welfare experts.

Also in the audience will be people who have successfully gotten off welfare and hold private jobs. Clinton may meet with them after his speech.

The president is scheduled to depart for Washington at 3:15 p.m.

majority. One of Wheat's main Democratic rivals, Jackson County Executive Marsha Murphy, is expected to be invited to Tuesday's events.

But there is little doubt the main purpose of Tuesday's trip is to highlight the urgency of welfare reform. Improving the system has been a Clinton objective from the earliest days of his administration when he promised to "end welfare as we know it."

Wheat, who is sponsoring a welfare reform bill this year with other Democratic members of Congress, said some of Kansas City's welfare programs stand out because they involve public agencies working with private busi-

nesses. The arrangement ensures that graduates of welfare programs get jobs when they are ready.

Education and job training are necessary components of any welfare reform plan, Wheat said. "But if there's not a job waiting, all of this may be for naught."

One of those programs offered in Kansas City is called the 21st Century. It allows a person's welfare payments and the cash value of his food stamps to subsidize wages for jobs created in low-income neighborhoods.

Another program that Clinton reportedly will review in Kansas City is Futures, which designs individual plans for volunteer par-

ticipants and helps them with education and job-training skills.

A similar program that has drawn the interest of the White House is the nearly 8-year-old Women's Employment Network that focuses heavily on employment preparation and self-esteem, said Beth K. Smith, the network's board chairwoman.

"It is a step back before you can go forward," Smith said. "All the skill training and job readiness in the world won't work unless a woman can get out of bed in the morning and have some sense she can do it."

Some details of the president's plan already have been released. Clinton wants to place a 24-month limit on cash benefits. Parents who exhaust their benefits and cannot find a job would be enrolled in a subsidized job or community service program that pays minimum wage.

The proposal that passed the General Assembly in Jefferson City this year calls for a written pact between the state and the welfare recipient. The recipient would have four years to reach agreed-upon goals or risk having benefits reduced.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

UESDAY, June 14, 1994

METROPOLITAN EDITION ★

What's wrong with welfare?

Women find that having a job just doesn't pay

By DONALD BRADLEY
Staff Writer

President Clinton, meet Karla.

She's not an economist or a social scientist, but maybe her story can help you talk about the need to reform America's welfare system.

Karla is 31, a Midtown single mother of four. To protect her identity, her last name is not being printed. She was receiving \$342 a month in welfare — most of which went toward rent — and \$430 a month in food stamps.

Then she got a job as a waitress earning \$463 a month. Because of the job, she eventually lost all of her welfare and \$300 of the food stamps. She also lost Medicaid for two of her children.

By going to work, her income dropped to \$593
See **WOMEN, A-8**, Col. 5

Clinton's day in Kansas City



■ **Noon:** The president arrives at the TWA Overhaul Base at KCI. He is to be accompanied by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

■ **12:45 p.m.:** The president announces his welfare proposal at Commerce Bank, 922 Walnut St. The speech is closed to the public.

■ **3:15 p.m.:** Clinton departs Kansas City from KCI.

All three TV networks and KCUR-FM, 89.3, will broadcast the president's speech live.

INSIDE: The Clintons are questioned under oath by the Whitewater special counsel. **A-3**

President's plan falls short of task, some critics say

By JAMES KUHNHENN
and JAKE THOMPSON
Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — As President Clinton prepared to unveil his welfare-reform proposal today in Kansas City, Republicans and conservatives complained it did not live up to its promise.

"The rhetoric doesn't match the reality of the situation," Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, a Kansas Republican, said Monday. "I think this is a modest, incremental step."

Instead of "ending welfare as we know it," the plan was criticized for affecting only a small percentage of welfare recipients — primarily women — and allowing some people to remain on government work programs indefinitely. Critics also accused Clinton of trying to gain political favor and protect Democrats in the midst of congressional elections.

Still, elements of the Clinton plan would significantly change current welfare policy and embrace themes advanced by state welfare directors.

According to a White House briefing paper distributed to key lawmakers, the \$9 billion Clinton plan means:

- Women welfare recipients born after Dec. 31, 1971, would be restricted to a lifetime maximum of 24 months of cash aid.

- Recipients who could not find private-sector jobs within two years would be eligible for one year of subsidized, public-sector work. Participants would then have to search anew for a private job but could enroll again in subsidized work if unsuccessful.

- Hospitals would be required to establish a child's paternity at birth, and a woman applying for welfare would have to name and help find her child's father before receiving benefits.

- The proposal would streamline welfare programs to improve job-training efforts and give states

more flexibility — goals of the American Public Welfare Association, which represents state welfare directors.

The president's plan would be considerably cheaper than the \$15 billion proposed by the association, raising worries that the costs of welfare changes might simply shift to the states.

Still, Gary Stangler, director of the Missouri Department of Social Services, said he was optimistic about the Clinton plan.

Stangler met about a year ago with Bruce Reed, a White House aide assigned to the welfare issue, and introduced him to Kansas City programs that Clinton was expected to highlight today in his visit.

Will Marshall, executive director of the Progressive Policy Institute, a think tank for centrist Democrats, said: "I think that this is a solid start. Clinton has changed the terms of the debate so that we're talking about self-sufficiency rather than welfare."

While conservatives complained that Clinton had caved in to liberals, some left-leaning advocates of the poor also voiced uneasiness over the plan. They argued that the economy was not creating enough jobs to account for the number of people who would be phased out of welfare.

"It seems like odd timing to be pushing hard to get women with children who are among the least skilled into a tight labor market," said Katherine McFate, associate director of social policy at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

William Kristol, an influential conservative voice who has helped marshal opposition to Clinton's health-care plan, called on Republicans to reject the president's welfare proposal.

"Coming as it does after an extraordinary 17-month delay, and at the very moment when his health-care plan teeters on the brink of extinction, the welfare-reform PR campaign now under

way is the Clinton administration at its most cynical," Kristol said in an open letter to Republican leaders.



Highlights of the president's new plan to overhaul the welfare system:

- Spend \$9.3 billion over five years on job training, child care, teen pregnancy prevention and public service jobs for welfare recipients
- Leave the current welfare system largely intact for welfare mothers born before 1972
- Target education, training on welfare mothers born in 1972 or later
- A 24-month, lifetime limit on cash benefits for welfare recipients over the age of 18. After the 24 months, they would be required to work in taxpayer-financed public service jobs if they did not get jobs on their own.
- Allow recipients to remain in public service jobs if they can't find private employment
- End welfare benefits for recipients who refuse to stay in school, look for work, go to job training or accept job offer
- Guarantee child care to welfare recipients during education, training programs and for one year after they leave welfare for the workforce
- Allow states to limit additional benefits for children conceived by women on welfare
- Initiate a national campaign against teen pregnancy; provide grants to about 1,000 middle and high schools for teen pregnancy programs
- Discourage unwed motherhood among teens by refusing to issue separate welfare checks to minors living apart from parents or responsible adult
- Require hospitals to establish paternity at birth as a way to improve child support collections
- Establish a national child support clearinghouse with registries of parents who owe child support
- Withhold wages and suspend professional and occupational licenses and driver's licenses from fathers who fail to pay child support
- Much of the money for the plan comes from cuts in social spending and restriction on health and welfare benefits for legal immigrants whose relatives can afford to support them.

Source: Summary of Clinton plan provided to Congress

Knight-Ridder Tribune

way is the Clinton administration at its most cynical," Kristol said in an open letter to Republican leaders.

"Is this the same William Kristol who said health care is not a crisis?" said Rep. Alan Wheat, a Clinton ally and backer of a plan similar to the president's. "I don't think most Republicans share that cynical approach to government."

Wheat, a Democrat from Kansas City, is one of several Kansas and Missouri lawmakers who have staked out crucial roles in the welfare-reform debate.

Others who have drafted welfare-reform legislation include Kassebaum, Sen. Kit Bond of Missouri, Rep. Jan Meyers of Overland Park and Rep. Jim Talent of Missouri. All are Republicans.

Bond, who has introduced the only bipartisan welfare reform proposal with Democratic Sen.

Tom Harkin of Iowa, complained that by limiting itself to women born in 1972 or later, Clinton's proposal would target only 5 percent of welfare beneficiaries.

"That means the welfare culture ... will get a free ride," he said. "They're getting off scot-free."

By comparison, he said, his and Harkin's bill would affect 60 percent of the welfare population by the year 2,000 and 90 percent by 2002.

Kassebaum, who has introduced a bill to send all welfare responsibilities to the states and give all oversight for Medicaid to the federal government, said Clinton's proposal to keep participants in community service jobs until they find private jobs could cost far more than his \$9 billion estimate.

"Where's the money for all this?" she said.

Women suffered the system's flaws

Continued from A-1

from \$772.

"Plus I had to buy uniforms and pay for bus fare," Karla said Monday. "I really wanted to work, because I was tired of sitting around and I wanted things for my kids, but I couldn't afford it after a while."

Bingo, said Sister Berta Sailer, director of St. Vincent's Family Service day-care center at 31st Street and Troost Avenue.

"Karla should have been rewarded for getting out and getting a job," she said. "But instead, it was like the system wanted to put her back in her place. She made a sound economic decision by quitting her job."

Sailer co-founded St. Vincent's 25 years ago to serve poor families. More than half of the parents of the center's 240 children receive welfare benefits.

"Getting off welfare and going to work must be an improvement in their lives," she said. "If not, what's the motivation? These moms have kids to care for."

"Suburban America might say these mothers are lazy for not working. No, these mothers are smart."

Here's what Sailer would like to see included in the president's plan:

- Parents must not lose health coverage by taking a job.

- Child-care benefits must be expanded, because parents can't pay for child care with a minimum-wage job.

- Benefits must keep coming for a year or so after the recipient lands a job and then decrease gradually.

- Finally, there must be jobs — in the neighborhoods where parents live, because many don't have transportation.

"You can have the best vocational training in the world, but it doesn't do a bit of good if there are no jobs," Sailer said.

"Our moms get offered jobs as dishwashers out in Johnson County. They can't take jobs out there. The bus lines quit running by the time they get off work."

The biggest and most baffling problem to her is child care.

As long as a welfare recipient is

in school or vocational training, she can receive free child care through state subsidies. But that aid ends when she gets a job.

"There's at least a year's waiting list to get child-care money when you go to work," Sailer said. "The system would rather seek out the one woman who doesn't want a job and they say, 'We're going to make you work!'"

Another problem is the rule that prohibits a man from living in a single mother's home if she is receiving welfare.

"We all know how important having two parents around is for children, but as soon as a man moves in, the woman loses her benefits," Sailer said.

Mae Richardson has been there. She used to be a welfare mother before she managed to get off.

"They would come in and search your house for a man's shoes," she said. "And they would ask when was the last time you slept with him. That was degrading."

Richardson said the monthly checks are so small that the recipient can't do much other than sit at home. And families suffer because their clothes, toys and food aren't as nice as other families'.

"I don't know if I could get off today," she added. "It's a lot easier to get on than it is to get off. It's almost like they want to keep you there."

When Richardson was on welfare, her monthly payments were augmented by a rent subsidy.

Today there is a great shortage of rent aid, said David English, a program developer at St. Vincent's.

"Single mothers on welfare can't afford rent," English said. "We've got all these nomadic families moving every two or three months, because that's how long it takes to throw them out of an apartment."

Sailer thinks the system is so flawed that reform might be impossible.

"We might have to start from scratch," Sailer said. "I just know that we need a government that spends less on armies, oil companies and tobacco growers and more to help poor working mothers."

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

TUESDAY, June 14, 1994

METROPOLITAN EDITION ★★

50c

What's wrong with welfare?

Missouri programs help trim the rolls

By MATT CAMPBELL,
BILL NORTON
and MARY SANCHEZ
Staff Writers

Three Missouri programs aimed at turning welfare dependents into workers will get presidential scrutiny today when Bill Clinton comes to Kansas City to plug his own welfare-reform plan.

Two of the programs, the state-run Futures and the nonprofit Women's Employment Network, have a track record of removing people from the welfare rolls. Another state program, 21st Century Communities, will start in July and build on the Futures effort.

Vicki Phelps, a 34-year-old mother of three, credits the em-

ployment network with ending a five-year reliance on welfare checks.

For 19 months she has been a computer operator for Continuum Vantage, a local company that provides services for insurance companies. She also attends Penn Valley Community College at night.

Phelps said the network topples barriers.

"The reason most women can't go back to work is they can't afford child care or transportation," she said. "They don't have skills to write resumes. Sometimes they don't have the self-esteem, don't have clothing."

The employment network helps
See **MISSOURI, A-9**, Col. 1

Missouri programs trim the rolls

Continued from A-1

with all that, and on a personal level.

"You're not a number," Phelps said. "The counselors give a great deal of attention to each person."

Most of the women come into the network dejected, literally looking downward. When they graduate they have "a very real turnaround," said director Leigh Kline.

It requires a commitment of four weeks of all-day classes. Teachers are on-site to help some women pass high school equivalency tests. After training, the network helps the women find jobs and keeps track of them.

An average of 30 women graduate each month — about 1,700 since 1986. The job-placement rate is 75 percent to 80 percent. Some even go on to an entrepreneurial program to start their own businesses.

"We help them train for a career, not the first fast-food job," said Beth K. Smith, network chairwoman. "We don't want to create the working poor."

Phelps is glad to see the Women's Employment Network approach being viewed as a model for welfare reform.

"It should be given a chance to work on a bigger scale," she said. "Now they are only equipped to take 30 to 35 women every month. I know that there are hundreds that need to be doing it."

A future with Futures

Alfreda Gipson was working part time, usually as a waitress. And she was taking computer classes at a business college that closed unexpectedly.

She had an infant son and a daughter. What she didn't have was a partner to help pay the way.

"When the baby got sick, that was it," Gipson said. "It was ei-



Vicki Phelps
... spent five years on welfare



Alfreda Gipson
... freedom came with job

President Clinton ★TOUCH 1066

To hear excerpts from President Clinton's speech today in Kansas City, or to leave comments about it, call (816) 889-7827 and enter 1066 after 3 p.m.

ther get the baby's medicine or buy the bus pass (to school). I got the baby's medicine."

The dilemma drove her to apply for Aid to Families with Dependent Children eight years ago when she was 20.

Sometimes she found work and dropped off the rolls. "I was always doing something. It's not like they all make it seem, that you're just sitting around the house, drawing checks," Gipson said. "But you can't make too much money. They put you off" the rolls.

In 1992 she discovered Futures,

a local variation on a federal job-training program coordinated by the Missouri Division of Family Services.

The program provided her computer training, child-care expenses and bus fare and allowed her to keep receiving benefits from the state, especially Medicaid.

She took classes in survival skills, such as managing her money and child rearing.

Most important, she said, she was assigned an advocate, someone she could talk to one-on-one.

"Mine became my best friend," she said.

She stayed 18 months; the tenure depends on the individual's needs. She shopped for jobs. Not everyone was impressed. "A lot of people don't want to give you a chance."

Then the Futures program had a clerk-typist opening. Now she handles the Futures waiting list, which has more than 6,000 names.

With the job comes health insurance and freedom.

"I don't get anything from the state now," she said.

"They consider me a success story, but I don't think I'm through with it yet."

She intends to return to college and to send her two children as well.

A new twist

The 21st Century Communities program will require participants to work for their welfare benefits, which will be supplemented by local employers.

The state will give employers the dollar equivalent of Aid to Families with Dependent Children and food stamp benefits to help subsidize the cost of hiring welfare recipients.

For example, if the cash value of Aid to Families with Dependent Children and food stamps is \$3.08 an hour, the employer would supplement that by \$3.50 so that the actual wage would be \$6.58 an hour, said Bert Berkley, chairman of the board for Tension Envelope Corp. and a strong supporter of the program.

By allowing only companies that create new jobs to participate, the program ensures that no one is laid off or displaced by the program. Organizers hope the job opportunities will allow people to eventually leave the welfare system.

"It is essential that these are new jobs," Berkley said. "We're trying to make this an opportunity for people to raise themselves up by their bootstraps."

The program also allows people to retain medical and day-care benefits, said Paula Cardello, deputy coordinator of the Local Investment Commission.

The commission is a community-based group that is helping the Missouri Department of Social Services oversee the 21st Century Communities program

Women off welfare to talk with Clinton

By MATT CAMPBELL
and BILL NORTON
Staff Writers

Vicki Phelps and Birdella Smith of Kansas City.

In 1989 Ruhnke was working three jobs but was still unable to support her three children. She made too much money to qualify for welfare, so she quit two of her jobs and reapplied.

President Clinton will meet today with at least four area women who made the transition from welfare to work force.

The women, whose names were forwarded to the White House by the local Women's Employment Network and Missouri's Futures program, were expected to add a positive spin to the administration's national welfare-reform plan.

The women are to receive a 1½-hour briefing with White House officials before their meeting with Clinton, said Arlenda Moffitt, a 26-year-old Kansas City mother who has been on and off welfare since 1986.

She recently began earning \$7 an hour working in customer service for Pitney Bowes Management Services and is supporting her two children.

Moffitt, who went through the network training program and now is enrolled in Futures, said she was eager to tell Clinton about her success.

Other women set to meet with Clinton include Pamela Ruhnke of Independence and

Through Futures, she received educational and job-training help and now earns \$7.35 an hour as an apprentice with Cates Sheet Metal Industries. She could work her way up to earning more than \$20 an hour.

Phelps, 34, is another graduate of the Women's Employment Network. Medical problems forced her to leave her insurance company job in 1987, and she received welfare checks for five years.

Phelps, a single mother of three, now earns \$15,000 annually at Continuum Vantage, supervises three persons and handles billings for 700 clients.

Smith, also 34 and the mother of three, had been on and off welfare for years before Futures and the Women's Employment Network helped her get a secretarial job at Hellmuth Obata & Kassabaum Architects. She earns \$6.75 an hour with full benefits.

and other welfare reform efforts. Berkley is a founder of the commission.

Kansas City is the only city in the nation piloting the 21st Century program.

Georgeanna Designs, a Kansas City greeting card assembly company, is the first company to join the program, but other businesses have expressed interest, Cardello

said. "We're looking at it as an opportunity for people who haven't had job opportunities before," Cardello said.

President Clinton's welfare visit

★ Tuesday, June 14, 1994
The Kansas City Star

A-9

Welfare-to-work tales lead Clinton to Commerce Bank

By TED SICKINGER
Staff Writer

If you need to make an ATM withdrawal at 922 Walnut St. today, you had better think again.

The president is coming.

Commerce Bank of Kansas City will play host to 250 guests from across Kansas City and to 150 journalists from across the coun-

try as President Clinton unveils his welfare reform initiative there.

"Things are pretty exciting around here," said Jonathan M. Kemper, president and chief executive officer of Commerce Bank of Kansas City. "It's hard to imagine a more prestigious guest to have at the bank."

Nor one who involves so much preparation. Normal banking at

that location will come to a halt. Staff members have been transferred to a neighboring branch to handle the overflow business that is anticipated as customers discover their branch has been overrun.

Why Commerce?

"Commerce is one of many organizations in Kansas City that have successfully hired people and

moved them from welfare to work," said a White House aide who helped organize the president's visit. "We looked at a number of locations. Commerce worked logistically."

A White House advance team was sent out Friday to look at prospective speech sites. Its concerns included such logistics as security, acoustics, space available and the

television friendliness of the podium from which the president will speak.

The White House team also considered Payless Cashways Inc. the Kansas City building materials retailer, but quickly ruled it out for security reasons. Eleven floors of balconies surround the atrium where the president would have spoken.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

WEDNESDAY, June 15, 1994

METROPOLITAN EDITION ★★

Clinton pitches welfare plan



Training, jobs pushed in KC speech

By STEVE KRASKE
Political Correspondent

Using a Kansas City bank lobby as his setting, President Clinton on Tuesday unveiled a federal welfare reform plan that for the first time would require some recipients to work.

"I really believe that we have a chance finally to replace dependence with independence, welfare with work," Clinton told a crowd of 250 at the Commerce Bank, 922 Walnut St.

"Let's go do it," he said.

The president, who was making his second trip to the city in 10 weeks, said he would submit his long-awaited and delayed plan to Congress within a few days. The bill, however, is expected to bog down this year behind the even more complicated health-care bill.

Throughout the president's 27-minute address, Kansas City people and programs, such as the Women's Employment Network, were given prominent attention.

Clinton was introduced by Yolanda Magee, a 21-year-old former welfare client who now works at Commerce Bank. He also recognized nine other Kansas City-area women who once had been on public assistance.

"If these American citizens can do this, then we can do it," Clinton said.

Clinton pitches welfare reform during KC visit

Continued from A-1

tic applause from a crowd selected by White House staff in recent days.

The event was staged in the bank's normally bustling lobby, which had been transformed into a small auditorium. Left of stage, teller windows were empty along a wall occupied by a huge, gleaming vault.

"I came out here to the heart of America," Clinton explained. "to a bank where Harry Truman had his first job, to talk about the values that sustain us all . . ."

White House aides said Kansas City was picked because of its success at starting innovative welfare programs. The issue also was addressed in Jefferson City this year where the General Assembly passed a sweeping welfare measure similar in many ways to Clinton's.

The president appeared to respond to critics — which include both liberals and conservatives — when he said his \$9.3 billion plan, known as the Work and Responsibility Act, is only a first step toward reform.

But, Clinton said, the nation has to at least begin the process of improving welfare.

"We owe it to the next generation," he said.

"We cannot permit millions and millions and millions of American children to be trapped in a cycle of dependency . . . with parents who are trapped in a system that doesn't develop their human capacity to live up to the fullest of their God-given abilities and to succeed as both workers and parents."

Clinton appeared to speak more slowly and with less dramatic punch than usual at the beginning of his address. He gained an emotional edge as he went along, however, encouraged by abundant applause.

"We have to repair the damaged bond between our people and their government, manifested in the way the welfare system works," the president said.

He then added his trademark

line: "We have to end welfare as we know it."

That slogan has irritated critics who note that at the end of the decade, fewer than 8 percent of welfare recipients would actually be enrolled in a work program.

In briefing papers distributed before the speech, however, Clinton's staff preferred to say 1 million parents would be pushed into the work force by 2000.

And another administration statistic, Federal child-support payments would more than double from \$9 billion to \$20 billion.

Although a strong supporter of the president, Mayor Emanuel Cleaver expressed concern in an airport interview that costs of reform could end up being another unfunded federal mandate.

"We don't want welfare reform to end up causing the local government, state or city, to have to assume responsibility that heretofore was the federal government's."

Later, in remarks delivered at the bank, the mayor drew a laugh when he referred to Clinton's recent string of visits, which included a town hall meeting on health care in April.

"We are not going to tax you," Cleaver said, "even though you've been here enough."

Also on the platform with the president were Magee, Gov. Mel Carnahan, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, Commerce Bank Chief Executive Jonathan Kemper and U.S. Rep. Alan Wheat of Kansas City, who flew back to Washington with the president.

Clinton stayed away from details of his proposal, many of which had been leaked to reporters during recent months as the administration hashed over the plan.

The proposal's cornerstone is a two-year limit on cash benefits, an idea Clinton used to define himself as a new Democrat during his 1992 campaign.

After that, those still on the rolls who were born after 1971 would be required to join a work pro-

gram, essentially a subsidized or community service job paying the minimum wage.

The plan calls for spending an additional \$2.8 billion for education and training and \$2.7 billion more for child care.

Recipients who refuse to stay in school, look for work or attend job training programs would lose their cash assistance. Administration officials said afterward that time limits and serious work requirements have never been imposed before.

The plan also would put in place what Clinton called the "toughest child-support enforcement measures" in U.S. history. Hospitals would be required to establish paternity at birth with welfare applicants required to name and help find fathers before they could receive benefits.

Clinton said the effort would help government workers collect an estimated \$34 billion in child support that has gone uncollected.

"We can no longer say that the business of bringing a child into the world carries no responsibility with it and that someone can walk away from it," Clinton said as many audience members nodded in approval.

The president's plan also calls for a national campaign against teen pregnancy.

"It will not be turned around overnight," Clinton said about the problem. "To change a country on a profound issue like this requires the efforts of millions and millions and millions of you talking openly and honestly about these things."

Mothers under 18 would not be subject to the two-year time limit, but teen-age mothers who received benefits would be required to stay in school and work toward finding a job.

The administration said Clinton's plan would not increase the deficit or result in a tax increase. The plan would be paid for

Clinton's welfare reform plan

Highlights of the president's new plan to overhaul the welfare system

- Spend \$9.3 billion over five years on job training, child care, teen pregnancy prevention and public service jobs for welfare recipients
- Leave the current welfare system largely intact for welfare mothers born before 1972
- Target education, training on welfare mothers born in 1972 or later
- A 24-month, lifetime limit on cash benefits for welfare recipients over the age of 18. After the 24 months, they would be required to work in taxpayer-financed public service jobs if they did not get jobs on their own.
- Allow recipients to remain in public service jobs if they can't find private employment
- End welfare benefits for recipients who refuse to stay in school, look for work, go to job training or accept job offer
- Guarantee child care to welfare recipients during education, training programs and for one year after they leave welfare for the workforce
- Allow states to limit additional benefits for children conceived by women on welfare
- Initiate a national campaign against teen pregnancy; provide grants to about 1,000 middle and high schools for teen pregnancy programs
- Discourage unwed motherhood among teens by refusing to issue separate welfare checks to minors living apart from parents or responsible adult
- Require hospitals to establish paternity at birth as a way to improve child support collections
- Establish a national child support clearinghouse with registries of parents who owe child support
- Withhold wages and suspend professional and occupational licenses and driver's licenses from fathers who fail to pay child support
- Much of the money for the plan comes from cuts in social spending and restriction on health and welfare benefits for legal immigrants whose relatives can afford to support them

Source: Summary of Clinton plan provided to Congress

Knight-Ridder Tribune



STEVE GONZALES/The Star

President Clinton drove home a point about his welfare proposal as he addressed a crowd at Commerce Bank on Tuesday afternoon.

Once in the bank building, Clinton met with the former welfare clients he later introduced in his speech. Afterward, some of the women said the president asked questions about their welfare experiences.

"He really wanted to know our opinions," said Tracy Varron, one of the women. "He talked to us like he'd known us a long time. He was very down to earth."

Varron, a registered nurse who works at Excelsior Springs Medical Center, lauded Clinton's proposals, as did the other former welfare recipients.

"They should have done this years ago," Varron said. "Everybody's stuck when they're in the welfare system. And they don't give you any way to get out."

Kathy Romero said that the atmosphere in the room with Clinton was "sort of nervous," at first, but that it improved as time passed.

"He was just real comfortable to speak with," she said.

Christine McDonald said the two-year limit in the president's plan should not pose a problem.

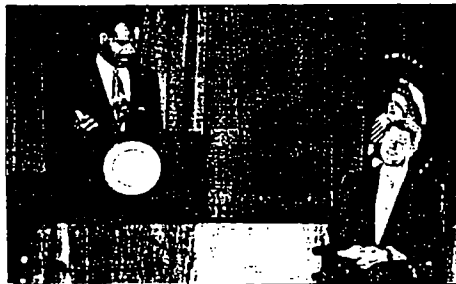
"If you can't find something in that time then you're not really trying," she said.

Magee, the former welfare client who introduced Clinton, was greeted with a standing ovation before she spoke.

Fighting nerves, Magee pushed the idea that welfare should be set up to help single parents find work by providing child care, guaranteed health care and job training.

"I would like to tell my generation that a training program can be a stepping stone to a better future," she said.

Staff writers Jeff Taylor, Nore Cannon, Kelly Garbar and Matt Campbell contributed to this article.



STEVE GONZALES/The Star

Mayor Cleaver gave the president a laugh and a break by saying that despite his many trips to Kansas City he didn't have to pay the city tax.

by dropping aliens off welfare rolls, cutting payments to recipients who are addicted to drugs or alcohol and by cutting certain farm subsidies.

The president, who flew on Air Force One into Kansas City International Airport, was greeted by hundreds of Kansas Citizens who lined the police barricades at Ninth and Main streets to watch the presidential motorcade pass.

The crowd contained a few protesters, most notably those who stated that abortion had no place in a welfare package.

Mothers react with doubt

Clinton welfare plan doesn't ring entirely true to women on public aid.

By BILL NORTON
Staff Writer

Pardon the four mothers if they sounded jaded.

But about 40 years of experience on the welfare rolls can do that to somebody.

So when the four women — Kathy Brown, Mary Gray, Tammy Jackson

and Nancy Timberlake — listened to President Clinton sketch how he intended to reform welfare "as we know it," the women scoffed.

Oh, they found a few things to laud. Like when he talked about a tax break for the poor. And the absolute need to pay for child care and medical care for mothers straining to wean themselves from Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

Timberlake, for example, said she would grab a job and quit AFDC in a minute if the state continued to provide Medicaid for health insurance

and child care for her three children. Gray, a mother of three, nodded approvingly as Clinton talked of extending child-care and health benefits for a time after a mother returned to work. "That'll work," she said. "He's never made more sense."

And the women applauded when the president said, in effect, that people who want to know what needs to be changed about welfare should ask those who are on it.

But to these women, Clinton appeared to be talking about the dozen

See **MOTHERS, A-12**



"Welfare is a mindset — that you can't do any better than this."

— Mary Gray

BRIAN CRITES/The Star

Mothers on welfare doubt president's plan

Other reaction

Although major elements of the President's plan have been known for weeks, many in Washington took the opportunity to respond to its announcement Tuesday. Some of their remarks:

"It is timid. It is weak. It does not address the central issue."
— William Bennett, a leading conservative who advocates a far more radical approach

"The president's plan reflects the public mood, which is not to abolish welfare as the right would do, but replace it with a social policy based on work."

— Will Marshall, president of the Progressive Policy Institute

"The president is brilliant at describing a Ferrari, but his staff continues to deliver a Yugo."

— House Minority Whip Newt Gingrich of Georgia

"I'll tell you, I'm sorely disappointed in the approach taken by President Clinton. For someone who campaigned on change...this approach sounds like something out of the New Deal...Government jobs for everyone — what kind of nonsense is that?"

— Sen. Tom Harkin, an Iowa Democrat who has co-sponsored another welfare reform bill

"He's the first president in our history to have the courage and nobility to address the problem of out-of-wedlock birth."

— Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the New York Democrat who chastised the president earlier this year for dragging his feet

"While there are some important new initiatives in this plan, other provisions threaten to push some poor children and families deeper into poverty."

— Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund

Continued from A-1

mothers in his audience at Commerce Bank who had worked their way off public aid with the help of state-supported programs.

He didn't appear to be talking about them.

Over a sack lunch arranged by the *The Kansas City Star*, the women watched the president's presentation and offered their views.

They feel trapped: "Welfare is a mindset — that you can't do any better than this," Gray complained.

And they feel put down. They thought Clinton was saying that without work, they were of no value. "Being a mom is a full-time job," Timberlake said.

When one of the former welfare mothers spoke on television of how proud she was to escape the dole, Jackson bitterly asked the image on the screen: "Yeah, but what did you have to give up to get it done?"

These were not the teen-age mothers that seem to be the target of Clinton's program — a group that critics and proponents alike say amounts to about 1.5 million of the 4.8 million families on welfare. Only two of these mothers gave birth while in their teens. And none sought welfare until they were in their mid-20s or early 30s.

The women range in age from 30 to 39. All but one has worked full time; their contact with the system has been on-again, off-again.



Jackson



Timberlake



Brown

who were divorced cheered Clinton's threat to come down on fathers who do not pay child support, a shortfall he says now has reached \$34 billion.

Two of the women are married and their husbands are out of work because of injuries. Both husbands have tried to take advantage of Missouri's Futures program, which provides education and job training to welfare recipients. Brown is the only mother who is in Futures, which is a model for what Clinton says he wants to do nationwide.

When Clinton said the ex-welfare mothers who met with him declared they would make jobs programs like Futures mandatory to receive benefits, the women snorted.

"I don't think that's what they believe," Brown said. All the women complained that Futures is fraught with "bugs." While expressing fear that they would suffer repercussions if they spoke too frankly, Brown outlined a di-

She is taking classes to become a licensed practical nurse. Futures pays for that. But with the training she has now, she wants to take a job as a certified nurse's assistant to supplement her income and still go to school to get her licensed practical nursing license. "If I go to work, they will not pay for the rest of my schooling."

All of the women had received aid for more than five years, so they were not convinced Clinton's two-year cap on benefits would work.

The unasked question was, what happens to those who don't find work in two years?

Timberlake suspected she knew part of the answer: "He's going to be putting a hurt on some kids."

None of the women wants to remain on welfare. None wants to pass the mindset on to their children.

Said Brown: "I tell my kids on a daily basis: Go to school. Get an education. Get a good job, and you won't have to go through

Metropolitan

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

WEDNESDAY, June 15, 1994 ★



Tight security and smoky meat

The president's car breaks from the motorcade so he can savor the ribs, beef and ham at Gates.

By MIKE HENDRICKS
and RICK ALM
Staff Writers

Not Ricky's, not Rosedale, not Bryant's.

When the president was ready for a plate of smoked delights on Tuesday, his black limousine pulled up outside the Gates rib joint at 12th Street and Brooklyn Avenue.

Motorcycle police blocked streets and Secret Service agents

scouted the gathering crowd through dark sunglasses.

A presidential visit is certainly a special occasion, but Bill Clinton did not escape the usual greeting from the enthusiastic counter help at Gates & Sons Bar-B-Q.

"Hi, may I help you?" they boomed.

Arzelia Gates swears to it.

"He took the mixed plate," said the catering manager. Ribs, ham, beef, bread and fries. Clinton

See **SECRET, C-3, Col. 1**



DAVID PULLIAM/The Star

President Clinton caused some lunchtime excitement Tuesday with an unannounced visit to Gates & Sons Bar-B-Q, left, at 12th Street and Brooklyn Avenue. Things were quieter, above, for owner Ricky Smith (left), Walter Nelson (center) and Denver Morris at Ricky's Pit Bar-B-Que in Kansas City, Kan., a stop for Clinton on a previous Kansas City

Secret lunch destination: Gates & Sons

Continued from C-1

washed it all down with "that red soda water," said owner Ollie Gates, who sat at the president's table along with U.S. Reps. Alan Wheat and Pat Danner.

For Kansas City barbecue purveyors, it was the biggest coup since Jimmy Carter chewed on ribs at Arthur Bryant's 15 years ago.

"Finally, a president comes around to Gates," Ollie Gates crowed as Clinton departed about 2:30 p.m. He was so proud, his suspenders seemed to stretch a couple of inches as Secret Service men hauled out slabs of ribs and beans for the trip home on Air Force One.

An honor to be sure, Mr. Gates. But don't get too cocky. Perhaps the president was just checking out the competition for his supposed favorite, Ricky's Pit Bar-B-Que in Kansas City, Kan.

After all, it's Ricky's that claims to be the "President's Choice." Says so right on the business cards that Ricky Smith hands out.

Those are the cards with a color photograph of Clinton shaking hands with Smith, a native of Clinton's home state of Arkansas.

When they clashed at the last presidential visit here in April, Ricky's and Gates were tripping all over each other outside a television studio in Fairway.

Both believed they were the official caterer for Clinton's town hall meeting on his health-care plan.

Turned out that Clinton's crew had ordered ribs, sausage and beans from Ricky's. Channel 5, which broadcast the event, called in Gates to feed the media and others.

"The Secret Service told us the president didn't want" any other kind besides Ricky's, Smith said then.

He remained confident, even after Clinton's choice Tuesday. "It's a great competition," Smith said. "Ollie Gates is a good friend of mine."

Certainly, he has reason to be upbeat.

After all, it was Ricky's, not Gates, that supplied food to the president's inauguration. It was Ricky's where candidate Clinton stopped during the 1992 election campaign.

Once again, Ricky's and Gates both supplied food for the president's traveling party earlier Tuesday at Commerce Bank, where Clinton announced his welfare reform plan.

And, in the interest of inclusiveness and fair play, Rosedale Barbecue on Southwest Boulevard was picked to send food to Air Force One for the flight back to Washington, D.C.

But the visit to Gates was the first for a local restaurant since Clinton became president, and that gives Gates an edge in the competition.

Arzelia Gates got the first inkling Tuesday morning, as she set up her tables at Commerce. Then at 1:15 p.m., the Secret Service swept through the restaurant and secured it.

The stop, about a half-hour

later, wasn't on the schedule. The president's party cut away from the rest of the motorcade and sped to the restaurant.

Similar secrecy surrounded the visit by Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter to Arthur Bryant's in 1979.

"Carter's lunch stop at Bryant's was the most tightly guarded secret of his visit," news reports said then.

And then as now, patrons inside were allowed to stay while the president ate.

Bruce Weinberg and his wife, Amy Ebersole, walked in with Amy's mother, Marilyn Ebersole, just before Clinton arrived.

They sat in the booth across from Clinton and heard him discuss politics and barbecue.

"He said this is good barbecue," said Bruce Weinberg.

Weinberg, a Boston resident who visits Gates when he is in Kansas City, got something special to remember this visit. When the president left, Weinberg took Clinton's plate as a souvenir.

It was slippery with sauce.

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Midwestern welcome

When President Clinton came to Kansas City Tuesday to unveil his welfare initiative, he was following a sensible tradition. He invoked the name of Harry S. Truman, the gutsy fighter for the common folk, and Clinton took full advantage of Midwesterners' customary hospitality.

The Midwest is justifiably proud of its warm welcomes — this one was decidedly hot outside — and the Midwest bows to no other region of the country when it comes to patriotism and honoring this country and its top leaders.

Presidents could easily hide inside the Washington cocoon, sheltered from real people with real-life worries and problems. But chief executives in recent years especially have trooped to Kansas City and other Midwest locations.

President Ford unveiled his national WIN — Whip Inflation Now — program here.

President Carter came to Kansas City to hobnob with farmers and assess Bryant's world-famous barbecue ribs. (Clinton tried the *other* ribs when he slipped out of sight long enough to eat at Gates.)

President Reagan brought several messages on different occasions but was especially poignant in his salute to Truman in Reagan's first major venture outside Washington after undergoing cancer surgery.

President Bush made a trail through this region, savoring the welcome of an area not that far from the city where his mother grew up and one of his brothers still lives.

And now President Clinton has visited here twice in 10 weeks, pushing two of the major initiatives of his presidency, health care reform and welfare reform.

The presidents had sound reasons for coming

here. It's not that the problems that look so intractable in Washington are any less real here — they're not. In fact, problems and challenges here match any to be encountered anywhere else in this too-often contentious land. It's just that people hereabouts are accustomed to dealing with problems matter-of-factly with solid common sense and little fanfare. It's also that citizens here, by and large, represent a form of day-to-day friendliness not often observed on either the East or West coasts.

It's true there was a handful of protesters against the president's visit, but they did nothing to diminish the welcome more than 99 percent of the region offered to the high office Clinton holds.

Inside the Commerce Bank where the president spoke, the crowd was guaranteed to be friendly because it was assembled by Democratic Party strategists who wanted to reward their faithful. But even if this had been an equal-opportunity Democrat-and-Republican crowd, chances are people here would have honored the presidential office even as some political opponents busily took silent notes for battles yet to come.

There are elements of the welfare reform plan the president proposed on Tuesday that this newspaper will continue to study. Even if Clinton has been working on this problem for 14 years, solutions won't be quite as neat or uncomplicated as he suggested.

For the moment, however, while the various analyses whirl away, it's time to say a good word for old-fashioned courtesy and honoring the country's highest office. There will be more than enough time for any disagreements later.

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Presidential ribs

President Bill Clinton came to the Heartland to talk about welfare, but now that he's gone, Kansas City wants to talk about his taste in barbecue.

We approve.

He gets good marks for slipping away from some of the press mob Tuesday for lunch at Gates & Sons Bar-B-Q at 12th Street and Brooklyn. He did the right thing on his previous visit here when he tried the fare at Ricky's Pit Bar-B-Que in Kansas City, Kansas. And whoever ordered food from Rosedale Barbecue on Southwest Boulevard for Air Force One for the flight home to Washington, D.C., was inspired.

At least some partisan lovers of ham and ribs, beef and fries would agree with each of those statements. Others would probably dissent vig-

orously, putting up former President Jimmy Carter's stop at Arthur Bryant's as a better alternative. And there are other rib joints that are somebody else's favorites.

The truth is, Kansas City has an abundance of establishments serving delectable barbecue, each with a fiercely loyal following that will defend a particular style of high-fat, high-sodium pigging out shamelessly, right down to the last pickle. We love it when visitors also love our barbecue.

If President Clinton ever decided to sample each, however, to make a rational decision about where to place an imaginary presidential seal, he could be here all summer. Now that's food for thought, isn't it?

■ TOPEKA EDITION ■ 50¢

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Sports

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California

Kansas City

1
0

Patricia Schrock -
Cook of the Week

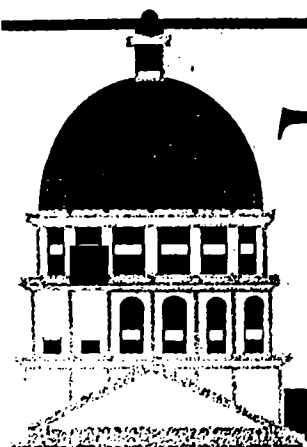
GOOD TASTE

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World page 12

**Oscar winner
Henry Mancini
dies at age 70**



THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 15, 1994

CLINTON'S WELFARE REFORM PLAN

'Amen' to a second chance

**Clinton's
welfare reform**

**Cost of the plan
(five-year projection):**



■ **Overhaul
plan calls for
job training,
2-year limit
on benefits.**

■ **Opposition
calls
proposal
'limp.'**

By JENNIFER DIXON
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — President Clinton announced a \$9.3 billion plan Tuesday to transform welfare from a check-writing system into a job-training program for tens of thousands of single mothers.

"I really believe that we have a chance finally to replace dependence with independence, welfare with work," Clinton told former and current welfare recipients in the lobby of the historic Commerce

Bank in downtown Kansas City.

Although a pledge to overhaul the welfare system was a central feature of Clinton's 1992 campaign for president, aides say he has no intention of pushing hard for the passage of legislation this year. The White House and most congressional Democrats are determined to focus their energy first on a health-care overhaul.

Eula Duncan, a mother of four who is trying to get off welfare and get a job, whispered "Amen," as the president promised to give women on welfare a

second chance and to get tough with parents who don't support their children.

The White House proposal would cut welfare benefits to immigrants, drug addicts and alcoholics, and would slash subsidies to wealthy farmers to finance its scaled-back and often-delayed plan.

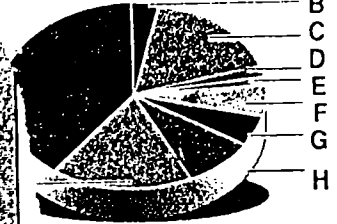
In Washington, Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, called the president's plan "limp" and said it doesn't meet the test of placing welfare recipients in "productive tax-paying jobs with a future."

Continued on page 2-A, col. 1

- A** More child care for the working poor: \$1.5 billion
- B** More child-care spending for people in the program: \$2.7 billion
- C** Jobs for participants who reach the two-year time limit: \$1.2 billion
- D** More money for education, training and job placement: \$2.8 billion
- E** Miscellaneous: \$1.7 billion
- F** Teen-age pregnancy prevention: \$300 million.
- G** Collection of child-support payments: \$600 million.

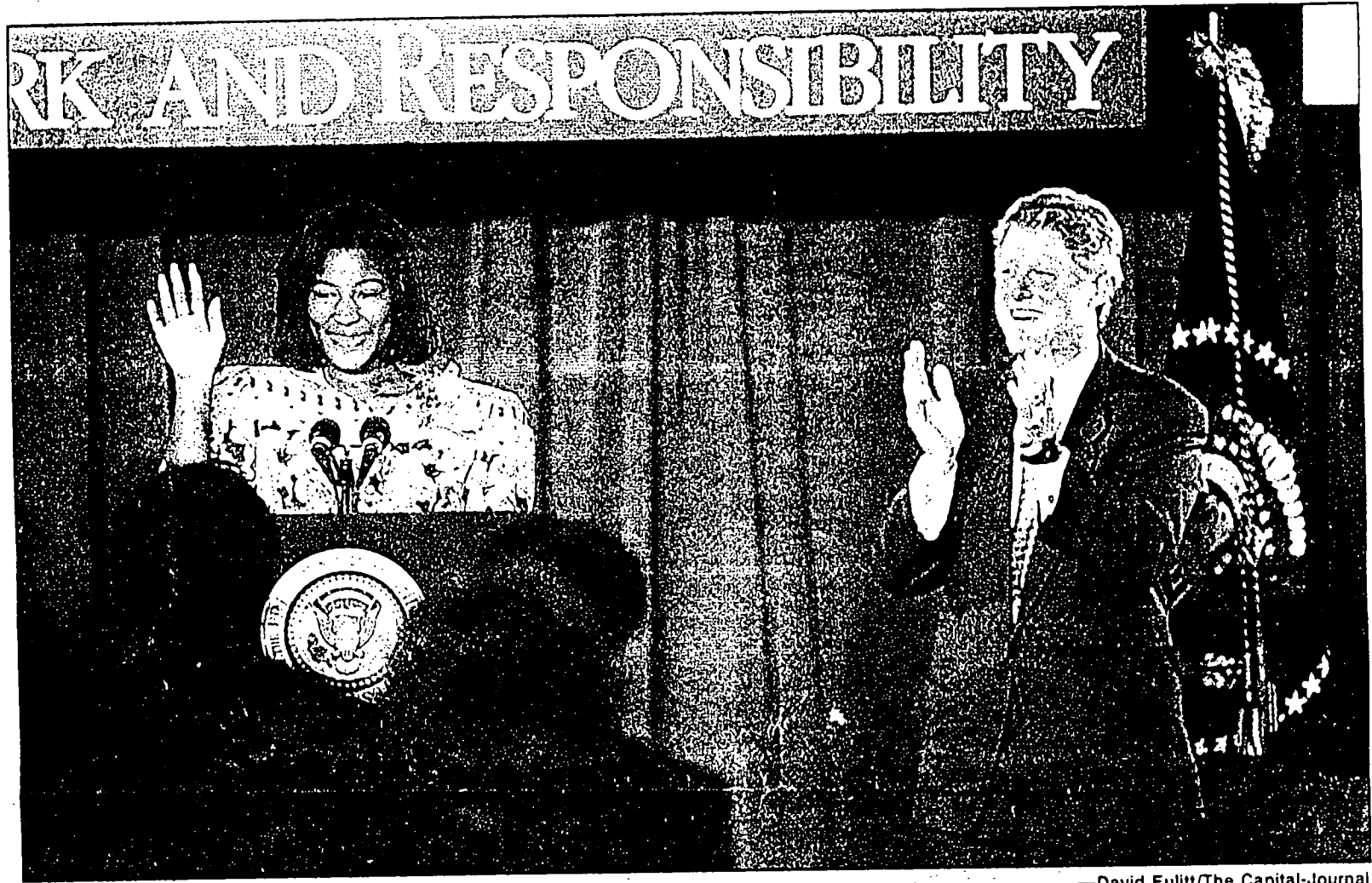
Total cost of program: \$10.8 billion
 — Savings through reduction of cases and fraud: \$1.5 billion
Net cost: \$9.3 billion

ts to the current plan:



- A** Ten eligibility rules for citizens: \$3.7 billion
- B** Changes to earned-income tax credit: \$300 million
- C** Access saving from Superfund: \$1.6 billion
- D** Customs services fees: \$200 million
- E** No increase in food stamp overpayment recovery: \$100 million
- F** Retargeted subsidies to family day care homes: \$500 million
- G** Elimination of subsidies for wealthy farmers: \$500 million
- H** Limited eligibility for substance abusers: \$800 million
- I** Spending cap on Aid to Families with Dependent Children; Emergency Assistance Program: \$1.6 billion

AP/Wm. J. Castello



—David Eulitt/The Capital-Journal

Yolanda Magee waved to acknowledge a standing ovation given her as she introduced President Clinton Tuesday at

Commerce Bank in Kansas City, Mo. Magee moved from welfare to work with the help of state welfare reform programs.

These people know dignity of work

By BRIAN JAMES
 The Capital-Journal

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — As a former welfare recipient, Judi Sutton knew the ins and outs of the welfare system. But as a single mother and a recent high school graduate with little job experience, the

Kansas City, Mo., resident still struggled to make ends meet each month and, more important, become self-supported.
 Sutton was just the person President Clinton wanted to meet Tuesday when he visited Kansas City to present his \$9.3 billion welfare reform package.
 Before unveiling his plan, Clinton met with

Sutton and several dozen other former and current welfare recipients who had successfully made the transition from dependence on welfare checks to the independence of a paycheck.
 Sutton recently became a paraprofessional in the Kansas City, Mo., public school district

Continued on page 2-A, col. 1

These people have been there

Continued from page 1-A

with the help of a Missouri job-training program, which welfare officials say would be one of many social programs to become more integrated in Clinton's reformed welfare system.

Clinton said he met with the group of welfare recipients for about 45 minutes because he wanted input from experts.

"If you really want to know what's wrong with the welfare system, talk to the people who are stuck in it," Clinton said. "They want to change it more than most people you know — and if you give them half a chance they will."

The president spoke for about 20 minutes to an audience of more than 200 gathered at a downtown Kansas City bank where Harry Truman got his first job, working as a bank clerk for \$20 a week.

In his speech to community leaders, welfare reform activists and former and current recipients of welfare, Clinton said the focus of his program was restoring "the dignity of work."

"You can't change the existing welfare system unless the system is rooted in work," Clinton said. "Work gives us hope, structure and meaning to our lives."

Janis Cooper, a Kansas City, Mo., resident, said she was confident that a job will give her all of that and, even more important, another chance — this time without welfare.

"I've been there in that welfare cycle, and I know where those people are coming from," said Cooper, who also met with the president. "No one wants to be stuck in welfare, with no job and no chance."

Cooper soon will graduate from FUTURES, a job-training program in Missouri, and will interview with several companies soon.

Some recipients attending the president's speech stressed the need for flexibility in his plan, including the idea at the heart of the reforms: a two-year limit on cash benefits to welfare recipients.

"Two years and out I don't agree with," said Alfreda Gipson, a Kansas City, Mo., resident who had been on welfare about six years before she discovered the FUTURES program.

The two-year limit would be a problem for people in the FUTURES pre-nursing program, for example, which takes longer than two years to complete, she said. Gibson, who attended the president's speech, is employed as a clerk-typist.

Other audience members and former welfare recipients said they appreciated the two-year limit on cash benefits.

"There's no reason for staying in the welfare system for more than two years," said Christine McDonald, a 27-year-old Kansas City resident and single mother of two children, ages 8 and 5.

McDonald said that as long as Clinton was dedicated to the idea of welfare reform, his plan would work. McDonald became independent of welfare support when she entered the Missouri FUTURES program and found a job at Pepsi-Cola in Kansas City, Mo., in December 1992.

Diane Patrick is the Western-region program manager of FUTURES, which trains and supports nearly 1,200 people who live in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

She said she was "quite positive" about Clinton's welfare reform plan, although she said she was uncertain how it would specifically affect her program.

"From what we know, this reform will be very consistent with our program," Patrick said. "We can definitely build on this."

Missouri is one of the first states to implement several programs like FUTURES that assist former welfare recipients in finding jobs and building careers.

Clinton said he was proud of the accomplishments of Missouri's welfare reform legislation and hoped other states would follow.

"I say to you today, do this in Kansas City and you ought to be able to do this everywhere — and you ought to be able to do it soon," Clinton said as the crowd erupted in applause.

Clinton announces welfare-reform plan

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Opposition also came from a Democratic senator. Tom Harkin of Iowa, who is sponsoring his own welfare reform bill providing for individual welfare-to-work contracts, said the Clinton proposal resembles a New Deal program that promises government jobs. "What kind of nonsense is that?" he said. "We don't have the money for that."

The cornerstone of the president's plan is a two-year limit on cash benefits, an idea Clinton used to define himself as a new and centrist Democrat during his 1992 campaign.

But Tuesday's plan to translate his popular campaign promises to "end welfare as we know it" singles out the youngest mothers on the rolls of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the joint federal-state welfare program that supports 5 million poor families.

And at the end of the decade, fewer than 8 percent of welfare recipients would actually be enrolled in a work program, although Clinton declared that his proposal would push 1 million parents into the work force by 2000.

The plan also pours far more money into child care, education and training — a total of \$7 billion over five years — than into subsidized jobs, just \$1.2 billion.

According to the proposal, women born after 1971 would receive the education, training, job placement and child-care services they need to become self-sufficient. Those who fail to find work before their cash benefits run out would be required to take subsidized or community service jobs at the minimum wage.

Although they would be allowed to remain in the work program indefinitely, parents who refuse a private-sector job would be kicked out. Advocates for children and the poor say the plan does little to lift those participants out of poverty, and takes away the social safety net for children whose parents refuse to comply.

Alfreda Gipson, 28, a graduate of a Missouri training program who began work re-

cently as a clerk-typist, said she never wanted to be on welfare.

"I did it for the medical benefits," she told reporters. "The public thinks you make millions and millions of dollars. That's a lie."

The Clinton plan also tackles teen pregnancy, child support enforcement, welfare fraud and the welfare bureaucracy.

Under the plan, teen mothers would be required to live at home. Those who refuse to stay in school, look for work or attend training programs face stiff sanctions — generally their family's share of their monthly AFDC check. It also calls for spending \$400 million on a campaign against teen pregnancy, including grants to a thousand schools.

Hospitals would be required to establish paternity at every birth, child support awards would be updated regularly, and parents who refuse to pay could have their professional, occupational and driver's licenses revoked.

The administration believes its plan could double public child support collections — from \$9 billion a year to \$20 billion by 2000.

Clinton's plan also establishes a national clearinghouse that would track parents who slip across state lines to avoid paying their child support, as well as those who receive welfare, monitoring compliance with time limits and work requirements.

Nearly all of the money to finance the plan comes from cuts in social programs, particularly benefits for immigrants.

Under the plan, the relatives and other sponsors of new immigrants would be required to bear greater financial responsibility for them, saving \$3.7 billion over five years.

The plan also saves \$1.6 billion by capping spending on an emergency welfare program that advocates say protects the poor against homelessness. Additional savings come from cutting subsidies to wealthy farmers and putting limits on federal disability benefits to drug addicts and alcoholics.

The plan also wrings \$1.6 billion from the Superfund hazardous waste clean-up fund.