

wondering anew whether they've found the right solutions in their own homes.

Olwen Pongrace, who employs an au pair from South Africa to care for her three children in Potomac, said yesterday she has been fortunate with her babysitter, 19-year-old Ilse Strauss. But she said she has been grappling for some time over whether to get another au pair when Strauss leaves in January.

"It makes me think, do I want to push fate here?" said Pongrace, who works part time for a marketing communications company in Alexandria. "As a parent, it's a struggle to find the best for your children. It scares you. It makes you not want to leave your child with anybody."

Her au pair has some uneasy feelings herself in the wake of this week's verdict. Strauss says she has a hard time believing that Woodward intentionally killed the baby she was caring for. "I can imagine the baby crying," she said. "I think she just lost control and wasn't thinking clearly."

Strauss says she feels an enormous responsibility for the children in her care, who are age 2, 3 and 6. But she also acknowledges that some au pairs are not prepared for the job.

"A lot of au pairs do this to gain experience [being abroad], and they forget about the fact that they are going to be taking care of children," she said. "Someone younger might not realize how much responsibility it is."

Despite the current focus, the au pair program has received
* relatively little attention from child care experts. While it brings as many as 12,000 young people to the United States each year, that
* represents a tiny portion of the country's 3 million child care providers.

The program began under the U.S. Information Agency as a cultural exchange in 1986 with about 200 participants. It has grown steadily since then, becoming a popular means for middle- and upper-income families to hire a live-in nanny for a relatively low price.

Now, the government allows eight agencies across the country to bring in au pairs, requiring them to meet specified safety standards. Au pairs, for example, must be proficient in English, have completed secondary school, undergo criminal background checks and medical exams and meet minimum training requirements. They must also be between 18 and 26 years old.

As of last month, au pairs must receive 24 hours of instruction in child development and eight hours of safety training. They can work no more than 10 hours a day and 45 hours a week and must be paid \$139 a week. They also receive an educational stipend and room and board.

For all the debate the Woodward case has raised, child deaths
* at the hands of au pairs have been extremely rare, according to child

* care specialists and those involved in the program.

In the Loudoun County case, the jury deadlocked and Peeze later entered a plea agreement, which did not admit guilt but acknowledged there was enough evidence to convict her of a misdemeanor child abuse charge.

Dorothea Dickerman, an attorney who lives in Potomac and works in the District, believes it would be a mistake to indict the entire au pair program because of the Woodward case. Dickerman's 5-year-old son is being cared for by the family's second 19-year-old au pair, this one from Germany.

"Everybody is focusing on this case, but you could hire through any agency and have the same result," said Dickerman, 39. "You need to evaluate the caretaker as an individual. Don't place emphasis on the program as much as the person."

In fact, some experts say the standards applied to au pairs are in many cases stricter and better enforced than those for professionally run day care centers, or for care in a neighbor's home.

A recent study of day-care centers in Florida, for example, where staff are required to have 30 hours of training, found that workers met that standard in just 3 percent of centers.

* At a White House conference on child care last week, it was clear that there was little support for any effort to institute new federal standards and that regulations were likely to remain at the state level. That has been a point of contention because experts argue that many states are not enforcing their regulations.

Susan A. Aronson, a board member of the American Academy of Pediatrics who has focused on child care, said au pairs, like many mothers who stay at home, are isolated and need support. But the problem may be particularly troublesome for au pairs, she said, because they are in a foreign country.

"They are thrust into a totally strange situation, with very little supervision or support, and that's a very difficult situation," Aronson said.

Amelia Salzman, an attorney who now stays home with her children, received a letter earlier this week, just hours before the verdict was reached in the Woodward case.

It was from Sarah Hull, an au pair from Chester, England, who had cared for her children more than two years ago.

Hull told Salzman she was writing to reassure her, in light of the murder trial, that she never laid a harsh hand on the woman's children.

"I just wanted to promise you whole-heartedly that I did not once harm or hit your children," wrote Hull, who was 21 when she cared for Salzman's daughters, then 2 and 5. "I loved those girls as [sic] they were my own. . . . I hope that puts your mind at rest."

Fault the lack of care Series: EDITORIALS

DOCUMENT 23 OF 343

STPT9730800004

EDITORIAL

Fault the lack of care

Series: EDITORIALS

485 Words

3281 Characters

* 11/01/97

St. Petersburg Times

0 SOUTH PINELLAS

16A

EDITORIAL

(Copyright 1997)

Louise Woodward, a 19-year-old British au pair, was found guilty this week of murdering her 8-month-old charge, Matthew Eappen, in a court of law. In the court of public opinion, the child's mother had already been convicted as an accessory.

Deborah Eappen has been the focus of significant public derision for trusting her child to a trained babysitter's care. She has been flooded with hate mail accusing her of contributing to the death of Matthew by working outside the home. The talk-radio set has abusively turned the tragedy into a cautionary tale for working mothers, suggesting that any woman, and particularly a woman with means, who chooses to leave her children in a stranger's care, is not just a "bad" mother but a criminally negligent one. Some radio callers have even suggested that Eappen, who worked three days a week as a ophthalmologist, got what she deserved.

These callers are missing one key fact: Babies and toddlers are at much greater risk of being killed or seriously injured by their parents and relatives than by a babysitter or day-care provider. As counterintuitive as it seems, statistically at least, children are safer when the caregiver is a stranger.

But that doesn't answer the angst evident in the Hobson's choice most working parents confront. Parents know, despite the statistics, that they would be the best caretakers of their children. Choosing to stay home, however, can be stultifying for those who have worked hard toward a fulfilling career, and for many it is not economically feasible. No guilt nor societal censure should accompany that difficult and deeply personal decision.

Callers to radio talk shows may be irrationally shrill and condemnatory - faulting any woman who doesn't conform to their nostalgic fantasy of the 1950s American housewife - but many

parents, moms in particular, do struggle with the decision to leave their children with strangers during the day. The Eappen situation has caught the attention of the public not because Deborah Eappen is exotic, but because she's ordinary.

* Currently 12.9-million children under 6 years old are in child
* care, including 45 percent of children under age 1. Every parent's worst nightmare is the one the Eappens are living through. They deserve our condolences and sympathy. This could happen to any family. After all, even stay-at-home moms occasionally leave children with babysitters.

The only defensible social criticism arising from the Eappens' tragedy should be directed toward our paltry provision of quality,
* affordable child care options. President Clinton and first lady
Hillary Rodham Clinton have called it a "silent crisis" and recently
* hosted a White House conference to draw attention to the dearth of
* safe, dependable and nurturing child care facilities and tenured professionals.

Working mothers like Deborah Eappen should not be guilt-tripped and second-guessed. The only good that can come from the Eappens'
* story is a qualitative and quantitative leap in child care services.
Let that be little Matthew's legacy.

I0607 * End of document.

It's the Quality of Care That Matters

DOCUMENT 15 OF 17

WP9730500003

OP-ED

FREE FOR ALL

It's the Quality of Care That Matters

532 Words

3789 Characters

* 11/01/97

The Washington Post

FINAL

A19

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Stanley Greenspan's Oct. 19 Outlook article, "The Reasons Why

* We Need to Rely Less on Day Care," refers to the Study of Early Child

* Care supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Unfortunately, he provides a misleading picture.

* The NICHD study was designed to assess the effects of child

* care experiences on the development of children born in the early

* 1990s. Child care experiences under investigation included the age of

* entry into child care, weekly hours of care, stability of care and quality of care. Some 1,200 urban and rural families from across the United States and from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds were enrolled in the study following the birth of their babies. Information

* has been collected about family and child care characteristics, and about patterns of child development pertaining to social, emotional, cognitive, language and health outcomes.

Contrary to the statement by Greenspan, the NICHD study did not find that 80 percent of center care is inadequate. The NICHD study

* made no attempt to assess what proportion of child care might be "inadequate." Greenspan's assertion that out-of-home care is inferior to parental care is not supported by the study's findings. It concluded that for cognitive outcomes, infants in out-of-home care functioned as well as, and in some cases better than, those in maternal care at home.

Describing the NICHD study results with regard to infant-mother attachment, Greenspan writes that "babies in relatively full-time day care have compromised attachments, unless their parents were especially sensitive to their needs and adept at reading their emotional signals in the evening." The study showed that

* characteristics of the child care experience -- including age of entry into care, amount of care, stability of care or quality of care -- did not, in and of themselves, affect the infants' security of attachment

to their mothers. The strongest predictors of infant attachment security were their mothers' sensitivity/responsiveness toward their children and the mothers' psychological health. The only group of infants at a significantly increased risk for insecure attachment was the group of infants whose mothers were in the lowest 25 percent of the sensitivity/responsiveness continuum and who attended poor-quality * child care, had more than minimal amounts of child care or received relatively unstable care.

* Greenspan implies that even good child care centers are failing to provide children with adequate linguistic stimulation. Based on assessments of children at 15, 24 and 36 months of age, the NICHD study reported in April that the cognitive and language development of * children who are in child care is not compromised, relative to children in exclusive maternal care. The study also reported that the higher the quality of care, the better the cognitive and linguistic outcomes of children who are in childcare. When the quality of care * provided in the different child care settings was equivalent, center care predicted better outcomes than other forms of care. Here again, as with infant-mother attachment, the strongest predictors of children's cognitive and linguistic outcomes were features of the home and family environment.

-- Lewis P. Lipsitt

The writer is chairman of the steering committee of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development national

* child care project.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com>

I0607 * End of document.

Child care concerns

DOCUMENT 24 OF 343

INDY9730700412

EDITORIAL

FRIDAY FORUM

* Child care concerns

225 Words

1685 Characters

* 11/01/97

The Indianapolis Star

CITY FINAL

A15

LETTERS

(Copyright 1997)

* Last week's White House conference on child care highlighted problems parents face ensuring quality care for their children at a reasonable cost.

The problems are many, including wide variations in quality and inconsistent regulations by states that sometimes go unenforced.

* Parents and other family members account for child care arrangements of more than 60 percent of preschool-aged children; center-based care accounts for 31 percent.

Many parents avoid institutional care because they say it's inadequate. They would prefer tax breaks, flex-time and work-at-home options.

For mothers coming off welfare into low-wage jobs, the question is how to pay. Some subsidies are available but even those who qualify have quality concerns.

Tax breaks for parents who stay home with their kids, subsidies for welfare-to-work moms, tax incentives for businesses to provide on-site care, government subsidized loans/grants to help train

* child-care workers - all could help ease the child care burden, but at a cost.

On Nov. 7, The Star's Friday Forum will carry letters to the editor addressing this issue. What do you think? Let us know.

Send your letters to Friday Forum, Letters to the Editor, The Indianapolis Star, P.O. Box 145, Indianapolis, IN 46206-0145; fax us at (317) 656-1435; or send by computer modem via the Internet to stareditor@starnews.com. Please include address and phone number for verification.

Letters must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 5.

I0607 * End of document.

Thumbs up, thumbs down

DOCUMENT 25 OF 343

FBEE9730800057

METRO

EDITORIALS

Thumbs up, thumbs down

376 Words

2396 Characters

* 11/01/97

The Fresno Bee

HOME

B6

(Copyright 1997)

Thumbs up: To the Gerard Cassinerio family and their awesome outdoor pumpkin display. They have 70 jack-o'-lanterns in their Halloween display with the largest weighing in at 235 pounds. It's a delight to have folks in the community who put in so many hours of work to make life more fun for everyone.

Thumbs up: To the 75 Valley child-development specialists who
* gathered recently to participate in the White House Conference on
* Child Care, which was taped and fed by satellite to the Satellite
* Student Union at Fresno State. Quality child care is a critical need now and will become only more so as the nation moves to move parents on welfare into jobs. Parents should never have to choose between working to feed their families or quality care for their children.

Thumbs up: To the the Fresno County Health Services Agency, which has received a \$5 million award to reduce infant mortality as part of a four-year federal Healthy Start II initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. This is a critical need in our community, since infants in some areas of Fresno area die at twice the state rate.

Thumbs up: To the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The push to bring health care to the Valley's rural poor got a \$1.3 million boost from a foundation grant that will broaden medical training opportunities. The San Joaquin Valley Health Consortium will use the recent grant, from the to establish a regional education system for certified nurse midwives, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. The goal is to recruit and train 150 students during the next six years. This is an excellent effort to help people who very much need assistance.

Thumbs down: To the deadly Valley fog, which has already been

blamed for a 15-car pileup north of Fresno this week. When there is fog on the road, the California Highway Patrol reminds drivers to keep the speed down, allow extra time to get where you're going, roll down windows and turn down car radios so you can hear vehicles approaching that you can't see, use headlights . . . dims not brights, use window defrosters and windshield wipers and use odometer setting to avoid distance disorientation.

I0607 * End of document.

CHILD CARE - THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

DOCUMENT 27 OF 343

DDNW9730700265

OP ED

*** CHILD CARE - THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME**

Paul Greenberg

1095 Words

7373 Characters

* 11/01/97

Dayton Daily News

CITY

13A

COMMENTARY

(Copyright 1997)

U.S. lacks family care rather than day care

When the president of the United States, or at least this president of the United States, says something is 'the single most important question about social policy today,' you know there'll be another Single Most Important Question About Social Policy tomorrow.

Wasn't it race we were all supposed to be talking about just

* yesterday? Now it's child care. Tomorrow it'll be something else.

* The first lady is big on child care, too. Naturally, there

* was a White House conference on the subject. 'We hope that this conference,' she said, 'will spur the conversations around the kitchen tables and water coolers and standing in supermarket aisles or at soccer games, or while going to or from work in the car pool, whatever it takes to engage more Americans in this discussion, to make it clear that we want American parents to succeed at the most important task they have, caring for the next generation.'

Hillary Rodham Clinton's interest in the next generation will doubtless be appreciated, and apprehended. Remember what happened when she took an interest in our health care? What took shape was a bureaucrat's dream and a citizen's nightmare. The same, innate bias in favor of more government and less personal involvement can be

* sensed in her remarks about child care.

For example, Rodham Clinton noted that the quality of day-care facilities in this country is uneven at best, and that many range from mediocre to poor. Who could disagree with that? She

* added that the pay of child-care workers is 'abysmal.'

But even if those workers were well-paid, there are some things day care simply can't deliver as well as loving parents can.

The one suggestion that's verboten in this week's national

* conversation is that the country has too much child care now, and

not enough homes.

In modern American society, home has come to be the place where different members of the family may bed down for the night or where their paths may cross on occasion, like Grand Central Station. Home is scarcely the family castle, sanctuary and school it once ideally was.

The notion that working parents have time to conduct a
* symposium on child care in the supermarket aisle or around the water cooler may be only the first of Rodham Clinton's misapprehensions; another is the unspoken assumption that day care can substitute for the home in the first, formative years of a child's life.

Study after study - including recent ones from the University of Colorado, the National Institute of Child Health and Development, and the Families and Work Institute of New York - has reached the same conclusion: The vast majority of day-care centers (more than 80 percent) are inadequate. What's more, all these studies agree that caring for infants outside the family circle is not an adequate substitute for their being reared at home.

Remarkable, isn't it, how quickly the findings of social scientists have begun to catch up with folk wisdom and common sense?

- * Among the experts not represented at this latest White House
- * conference was Stanley Greenspan, clinical professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at George Washington University.
- * Greenspan's conclusion: 'Much of the child care available for infants and toddlers in this country simply isn't good for them. This isn't the parents' fault, and in many respects, it's not the
- * child-care providers' fault, either.'

It's the fault of the basic premise that day-care facilities, if they can just be sufficiently improved, or made more available, or their staffs paid more, can substitute for the close, continuous, stable, years-long, highly personal concentration a mama or papa will give this mass of impulse, curiosity and potential called a human baby.

- To quote Greenspan, 'Rather than increase our reliance on day care, we should begin fundamentally rethinking the way we organize
- * work and child care.'

- * Which was not precisely the message of this latest White
- * House conference. It seemed in the business of promoting, improving, spreading and generally pushing day care - rather than rethinking any of its assumptions.

- Greenspan, like everybody else, has written a book. His makes sense. None of his findings will surprise anyone who has reared a
- * child. He concludes that 'most out-of-home child care cannot provide a number of essential building blocks for a child's healthy mind and brain.' Greenspan says a child basically needs six things

to develop properly:

- * 'An ongoing, loving and intimate relationship (lasting years, not months) with one or a few caregivers in order to develop caring, empathy, trust and relating.'

- * 'Sights, sounds, touches and other sensations tailored to the baby's unique nervous system in order to foster learning, language, awareness, attention and self-control.'

- * 'Interactions made up of long sequences of back-and-forth smiles, smirks, sounds, reaching and the like. This 'emotional dialogue' between adults and babies fosters the beginnings of a sense of self, logical communications and the beginnings of purposefulness.'

- * 'Discussions without words - long negotiations with gestures to solve problems to foster early types of thinking and social skills.'

- * 'Shared use of creative ideas through pretend play between a caregiver and a child and creative negotiations of basic needs in order to foster language and creativity.'

- * 'Logical use of ideas through a caregiver eliciting a child's opinion and debates in order to promote logical thinking, planning and readiness for reading and math.'

Even the best of day-care centers can't give the child this kind of sustained attention, year after year. And no one could pay others enough to do what a mother or father will do for free. That's why, for a child, the best department of health, education and welfare remains the family. Day-care centers may be necessary, and they are certainly better than dysfunctional families, but they're not an adequate substitute for parental care. And no amount of promotion at the highest levels will make them adequate substitutes.

Certainly there is much that White House conferences and government in general can do to aid the harried American family:

Government can get out of the way; it can take less of the family's income through taxes. The child tax credit just passed by Congress should help. Government can stop talking so much, and do better. Talk is cheap.

Government can encourage flex-time and part-time arrangements that allow parents to spend more time rearing their young.

Government can establish and enforce high standards for
* child-care facilities.

As usual, government should do fewer things better, rather than still more things vaguely and poorly. And it can recognize that, yes, there's no place like home.

I0607 * End of document.

What other newspapers are saying.

DOCUMENT 28 OF 343

TRIB9730500148

COMMENTARY

What other newspapers are saying.

What other newspapers are saying.

From Chicago Tribune wires.

866 Words

5848 Characters

* 11/01/97

Chicago Tribune

NORTH SPORTS FINAL; N

21

(Copyright 1997)

Work for new era with China.

Sydney Morning Herald, Australia:

The rather naive belief expressed by Chinese President Jiang Zemin that he would be protected from demonstrations during his visit to the United States drew a succinct response from the White House: "Welcome to democracy," a spokesman said.

But the success of Jiang's visit should not be judged on the scale of demonstrations. The important point is that the visit--the first by a Chinese leader since the violent repression of the demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989--is taking place at all.

A year ago, such a visit seemed inconceivable. In March 1996, U.S. aircraft carriers sailed the Taiwan Strait in response to Chinese aggression during the Taiwanese presidential elections. There was--and still is--resentment in China over the continued condemnation by the U.S. of its human-rights record at the UN Human Rights Commission.

This does not mean China's human rights record should be ignored. But it does mean putting greater emphasis on constructive engagement with China and recognizing that this may prove a more effective way of urging greater political freedoms and reforms.

Market sky not falling yet

Il Giorno, Milan:

In 1987 Wall Street suffered a collapse of 22.6 percent, the worst in its history in just one day, but the real economy didn't suffer any consequences because the Fed, the American central bank, publicly guaranteed to cover operators' losses.

The fact that now the Fed persists in silence, without sending out any signals, makes one presume that it considers the

financial world solid enough to pull itself out of its difficulties without help.

Two weak points still remain. Firstly, the Hong Kong dollar is the door to China, and, if it doesn't hold out, Asia could collapse with drastic general consequences.

Secondly, the Tokyo stock market has almost reached the limit in which Japanese banks and insurance companies would become insolvent and be forced to sell the mountain of U.S. stocks they possess. Rates would go through the roof, and there would be a general catastrophe.

But this is just hypothetical for now: Western markets have many ways to avoid it.

Cool off on global warming

The Spokesman-Review, Spokane

The Chicken Little crowd that fretted several years ago about global cooling and nuclear winter is back again. Now it is hyperventilating about global warming and the possible damage a few extra degrees may cause decades from now--melted ice caps, rising seas, swamped coastal cities, floods, storms, diseases, devastated wildlife.

Unfortunately, the alarmists have Vice President Al Gore's ear. And the United States is dangerously close to signing an international climate treaty that will trash our economy and compromise our sovereignty.

Before the White House sells our birthright, Congress should hold hearings on the scientific uncertainty associated with the global warming theory. Also, it should demand that the U.S. not sign a treaty that causes serious damage to our economy, invites United Nations bureaucrats to oversee compliance or treats nations unequally.

* Child care makes the issue list

Saint Paul Pioneer Press:

The Clinton White House, which flits from one policy issue to the next like a fly at a loaded picnic table, said it will land and

* consider the child care challenges fully next year. While we are

waiting, it's worth noting that the Clintons are trying to boost

* consciousness about child-care quality, costs and access.

* The White House conference on child care last week produced

the familiar Clinton teach-in and constrained initiatives. As with

* other education issues, child-care solutions are primarily local, not federal. But it is fitting for Washington to focus on

* child-care challenges because they are national economic challenges.

The long-term solutions will not arrive by doing more of the same. The fundamentals require rethinking. Again and again,

* speakers at the White House conference identified the disconnect

* between what's needed and what the neglect of child care has

Source: Chicago Tribune, November 1, 1997

produced.

Don't hold breath on IRS reform

Fort Worth Star-Telegram:

Before America becomes too excited about a package of "reforms" for the Internal Revenue Service, it should be understood that the pending legislation is neither a cure-all nor a blow to the IRS.

Nor, in fact, is it a done deal. Apparently the Senate will not be considering the bill until early next year, and issues such as how to make sure that a proposed citizens oversight board will be neither politicized nor self-serving could yet prove to be stumbling blocks.

The IRS has needed changes--especially changes to increase its efficiency and make it more customer-friendly--for years. The administration has begun its own program of IRS reform, and the president's nominee for IRS commissioner, Charles O. Rossotti, brings badly needed management and computer skills.

Frankly, Congress is pushing reform for the political and publicity value. Even the ballyhooed shifting of the burden of proof in tax suits from taxpayers to the IRS will affect only 1 percent of non-compliance cases, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation, and taxpayers still would have to cooperate by providing requested documents.

Meanwhile, the most important changes that could be made would be those enhancing the IRS' ability to provide clear, accurate answers to taxpayer questions. We have to hope that will be one result of the reforms.

I0607 * End of document.

Caring for children

DOCUMENT 2 OF 121

INDY9730300609

EDITORIAL

Caring for children

525 Words

3689 Characters

* 10/30/97

The Indianapolis News

HOME

A14

EDITORIAL

(Copyright 1997)

It does not take a village to raise a child. It takes a parent.

- And contrary to the smoke screen created last week at President
* Clinton's White House Conference on Child Care, most Americans and many psychologists believe that parents, not center-based day care facilities, are the answer to a child's proper development.

- Clinton's well-intentioned conference began with two factual distortions. First, he claimed to be the first president to address
* the child care "crisis." Former President Richard Nixon held a
* similar child-care conference in 1970.

Clinton also claimed that 75 percent of American parents use day care. A 1994 Census Bureau report titled, "Who's Minding the Kids?" found that only 13 percent of America's children are in center-based care. It also found that 61 percent are cared for by their mothers; 17 percent by relatives; and 3 percent by nannies.

Census Bureau statistics usually are considered the most accurate demographic tracking records available.

A separate poll conducted by the independent Pew Research Center in 1997 found that 66.7 percent of mothers with preschool children stay at home or work only part-time.

Many child psychologists applaud a parent's decision and desire to stay home. Sociologists Paul Amato and Alan Booth in their recently published book, *Generation at Risk* (Harvard University Press), studied 2,000 married families and found that:

- o Sons whose mothers worked earned \$9,000 less on average as adults than their peers with non-working mothers.
- o Daughters of full-time working mothers are 166 percent more likely to divorce than women whose mothers worked part-time or were full-time homemakers.
- o Children whose parents chose money and financial independence rather than raising their child were less happy and had lower

self-esteem than their family-centered counterparts.

- * In other words, Big Brother should stay out of child care.
- * Single parents, however, may benefit from government child care or vouchers for the service. Cutting those costs also may help many welfare recipients - the majority of which are single, white, female mothers - make a transition from welfare to the work force. Helping these women should be a priority, but aid to them should not set the agenda for the rest of the nation's parents.

According to the Pew report, 69 percent of full-time working mothers would prefer to work part-time or stay at home.

- * A two-tier child care solution must be developed. Low-income
- * child care could be available for poor, single parents, while enacting tax incentives for families that opt to stay home with their children.
- * Families not wanting day care need the child-care tax cut that working parents receive for day care expenses. On average, families with one working spouse earn \$15,000 less than families with two working parents. The poorer, sacrificing family doesn't get the break it desperately needs. Tax incentives and other discounts should be implemented to promote family care.

It doesn't take another government bureaucracy to raise a child.

Before moving ahead with any of Clinton's big government day care agenda, congressional leaders need to take a hard, close look at the facts and tailor legislation that helps the needy while keeping the parents, not the government, in control of a child's development.

I0607 * End of document.

NEWS IN BRIEF / A summary of developments across ...

DOCUMENT 32 OF 343

LATM9730400700

Metro; Metro Desk

Community News File

NEWS IN BRIEF / A summary of developments across Los Angeles County

Long Beach

* Head Start Gets \$1.7 Million for Child-Care Program

135 Words

1535 Characters

* 10/31/97

Los Angeles Times

Home Edition

B-4

Column; Brief

Copyright 1997 / The Times Mirror Company

Long Beach Head Start has received a \$1.7-million grant from the U.S.

* Department of Health and Human Services to expand affordable child care.

* The grant comes on the heels of a White House conference, hosted by President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton, that focused on the

* importance of high-quality affordable child care.

Using the grant funds, the Long Beach Unified School District's Head Start program will train current and former Head Start parents to become

* independent licensed family child-care providers in their homes, district spokesman Richard Van Der Laan said.

Next year, Head Start plans to help at least 60 Long Beach parents

* create at least 480 child-care spaces. The grant also will allow Long Beach Head Start to serve an additional 264 preschoolers and their families, bringing the total served to 1,732 preschool children.

I0607 * End of document.

Child care challenge; White House summit: Issues ...

DOCUMENT 34 OF 343

BSUN9730600073

EDITORIAL

- * Child care challenge; White House summit: Issues of quality, cost and availability deserve top-level attention.

402 Words

2774 Characters

- * 10/31/97

The Baltimore Sun

FINAL

20A

EDITORIAL

(Copyright 1997 @ The Baltimore Sun Company)

- * THE CHILD-CARE dilemma is often written off as a problem for working parents, which lets everyone else off the hook. But as any first-grade teacher can testify, the quality of care in the pre-school years makes a huge difference in a child's prospects for success in school. For that reason alone, the issue is worth the attention of the presidential bully pulpit.

- But as important as it was that President and Mrs. Clinton
- * convened a White House conference on child care last week, we'll know we are really making progress when school superintendents or even university presidents convene such gatherings to highlight the fact that these early years are crucial learning years -- and that
 - * the academic training of child care workers is as important as the training of any other teacher.
 - * The child care crisis is more than a babysitting shortage, but too often discussions of the issue dwell more on the availability
 - * and cost of care than on its quality. Child-care providers are teachers, whether they intend to be or not. New research on the developing brain shows that the earliest years of a person's life are also the period of the most intense learning.

The sound of a care-giver's language, her diction, grammar, pronunciation -- toddlers are soaking it all up. Equally important, they are keenly attuned to their care-givers' tone of voice and emotional signals. Young children need adults who are stable, loving, nurturing and consistent in their discipline.

They also need someone who notices and cares that they learn to speak, to get along with their friends, to solve simple puzzles

or other problems and to immerse themselves in the joy of play. When parents and policy makers acknowledge that the people taking care of young children are also teaching them some of the most
* important lessons of their lives, the issue of quality child care will get the kind of attention it deserves.

* The scholarship fund President Clinton is proposing for child care workers is one concrete way of helping that effort, especially if the focus is on academic preparation and not just techniques of managing children.

Availability and affordability of quality care remain vexing,
* but it seems certain that until child care providers are viewed as professionals, low pay, high turnover and low quality care will
* continue to hamper the child care industry and, more important, the education prospects of American children.

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I0607 * End of document.

Crucial Help for the Violent Child

DOCUMENT 17 OF 17

WP9730400107

Sports

JUDY MANN

Crucial Help for the Violent Child

Judy Mann

736 Words

5044 Characters

* 10/31/97

The Washington Post

FINAL

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A small proportion of children, perhaps 5 or 10 percent, grow up to account for about 50 percent of all arrests and the majority of all violence. And those children telegraph their future behavior from an early age.

They are aggressive, disobedient and disruptive. Their peers don't like them. They are neglected by parents and teachers, and they are likely to fail in school and drop out.

Those are key findings in a report on violence released this month by the American Psychological Society. Warning that aggression and violence usually erupt from a multiplicity of causes, the report calls for a broad-based "ecological" approach to prevention that targets high-risk children and adolescents.

"Reducing Violence: A Research Agenda" was also sponsored by the American Psychological Association, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute of Mental Health and the William T. Grant Foundation. It notes that a decade of costly growth in the prison population has not reduced violence in society and that the time has come to "test the promise of well-developed, fully implemented early prevention programs."

We know that poor parenting can produce aggressive children. "Early help in parenting and home visits from trained outreach workers in early childhood have interrupted this negative sequence for many young children," the report found. "Such help may be particularly important for children of young, poor, single mothers. For as a group, these children have extremely high rates of aggressive behavior."

Children who grow up in deprived environments, with endemic poverty, frustration and hopelessness, are at much greater risk of becoming violent than other children. So are children in

abusive families and children who witness violence either in their neighborhoods or day in and day out in the media. Children who are not properly supervised and not appropriately disciplined are also more likely to be aggressive and violent as adults.

Harsh punishment does not prevent future violence, particularly with young offenders, the report found: "Extreme punishment is as likely to provoke aggression as inhibit it, for example, and harsh, abusive discipline may undermine the development of self-control as surely as a lack of monitoring and nurturance."

A similar conclusion was reached in a study of a community-based jail diversion program in San Francisco by Randall G. Shelden, a professor in the University of Nevada's Department of Criminal Justice. He monitored the progress of 271 at-risk youths in the Detention Diversion Advocacy Project, which returns juveniles to their communities and provides daily monitoring and mentoring to them and their families. The study found their rate of committing another offense was 34 percent, compared with 60 percent in the control group.

"If we focus on the negative and tell kids they're bad, it plays to their weaknesses and creates more crime," Shelden said. "But if we focus on the positive and build on their strengths, the results can be phenomenal."

The Clinton administration has been in the forefront of efforts to showcase recent scientific findings about the importance of good parenting in the healthy development of children from infancy. Yet many children are not getting this kind of care. At the White House conference on learning in April, Deborah Phillips of the Institute of Medicine, in Washington, made the point that every study

* of child-care settings has found "that about 15 to 20 percent . . . are in fact dismal and even dangerous," and those findings come in "settings that will let us observe them."

Last week, President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton
* were hosts of a child-care conference at which he proposed a \$300 million scholarship program to improve the training of day-care workers and boost their wages to reduce turnover.

The APS report outlines where the research ought to be going, focusing on such things as teaching young parents how to discipline appropriately and which interventions work best. Meanwhile, there is much that can be done to reach at-risk mothers and children through doctors, hospitals, neighborhood clinics, schools and day-care centers.

A child who is loved and nurtured from the start will be much less likely to be violent later on. That is the central point in all of the research we have been hearing about. The challenge ahead is to get this knowledge and these skills into the hands of every parent
* and every child-care worker. We know some things we can do to reduce violence. The question is: Do we have the will to do them?

Beware postmodern day care

A learned colleague handed down the following definition of pre-modern, modern, and postmodern, according to the wisdom of baseball umpires.



**Suzanne
Fields**

The pre-modern umpire says, "I call 'em like they are." The modern umpire says, "I call 'em like I see 'em." The post-modern umpire says, "They don't exist until I call 'em."

That's the reasonable approach to understanding the American family. Through World War II, families were what they were and nobody disputed it. A mother, father and children were the family, which sometimes included extended satellite relations.

Law and culture determined the roles of family members and religion enormously influenced the way each family lived.

After the war, with the coming of modern feminism, an expansive view of women's possibilities changed the definition of family to one that stayed in a state of constant change.

Only a backlash from the impoverished victims of the change forced feminists to think about their less privileged sisters of the underclass who, when they pursued low-income "liberation," were often left holding the baby without the benefits of clergy, a daddy, or a job.

The phrase "post-modern family" was coined in 1975 by Edward Shorter, a historian and a liberal, who saw new family arrangements as undermining the stability of life for children. He identifies the malign influences as divorce, illegitimacy and women working when their children were still in the nesting stage. He asks: "How did the sugar-plum visions of postmodernity of 1975 turn into the nightmare specter of 1995?"

He blames the ideology of individual "rights" and "entitlements" as sacrificing both the greater needs of children and the community. He's right, and how we see those greater needs today will determine how we define the postmodern family.

The greatest need according to many feminists is day care, the issue Hillary Clinton uses to reemerge in the spotlight. The first lady shows a good grasp of the importance of coherent personal history. She's calling for a national "conversation" rather than an overhaul of policy, in sharp contrast to the "co-president" approach to health care, which was her personal disaster.

She hosted the child care experts at the White House conference during the week she celebrated her 50th birthday. She kept her public

relations demeanor and strategy at low-key. She didn't suggest a government takeover of day care: The federal government could offer tax credits for child care, but the real burden should fall on the village — churches, charities, unions, employers, schools and local government.

But lurking in the background is an increasing appeal to the nanny state — incrementally rather than in one big package as the Clintons once pursued health care. The president plans to describe his policy initiatives in the State of the Union.

Forewarned, we should forearm. The recent welfare-to-work reforms have revived concerns about availability and affordability of day care.

"The Advancing Nanny State," by the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, reminds us that rigid standards and bureaucratic regulations and licensing requirements will put grandmothers, extended families and small homey environments out of business at a time we need them more than ever. How many grandparents who take care of their grandchildren could satisfy a government inspector?

Quality care, despite what you read, is difficult to measure. More important than abstract standards is the loving, attentive and talkative maternalism of the caretaker. Are there some lousy day care arrangements? You bet. Do we want inspectors from Washington passing judgment on granny?

What most women (and men) want most of all is the economic freedom to spend more time with their children, which means lower taxes and tax credits, enabling them to choose. We haven't yet defined the greatest needs of the postmodern family. We don't need the government to do it for us.

Suzanne Fields, a columnist for The Washington Times, is nationally syndicated. Her column appears here Monday and Thursday.

Defining what's best for family

DOCUMENT 35 OF 343

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Main

Defining what's best for family

SUZANNE FIELDS

627 Words

4184 Characters

* 10/30/97

Times Union (Albany, NY)

THREE STAR

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(Copyright 1997)

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CHILD CARES

DOCUMENT 36 OF 343

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EDITORIAL

CHILD CARES

380 Words

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* 10/30/97

Richmond Times-Dispatch

City

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(Copyright 1997)

- At least Hillary Clinton was honest about her motive regarding
- * last week's White House Conference on Child Care. In her syndicated column she wrote, People ask me what I want this conference to achieve. The answer is simple: I want it to call attention to the
 - * fact that we must make quality child care more accessible and more affordable.

"Accessible," of course, means enrolling more children; "affordable" means shifting more of the costs to taxpayers. But notice what Mrs. Clinton did not say - (1) that parents are clamoring for more and better day care, or (2) that expanding enrollment is in children's best interests. There's a reason for that: Neither is true.

The national crisis in day care was manufactured by the Clintons. There is no scarcity of providers, and most parents report being satisfied with their arrangements. The prime source of dissatisfaction - which the Clintons studiously ignore - is that most parents wish they didn't need day care. A recent Parents magazine poll found that nearly two-thirds of mothers would prefer to work only part-time; almost another third would prefer not to work at all. Their concern is understandable: Who could possibly provide more attentive, loving day care than a child's own mother?

Yet many are in the workforce nonetheless because their salaries are needed - not to buy cereal and soccer shoes, but to pay the family's tax bill.

According to the 1990 Census, working mothers (in a two-parent household) generally contribute about 25 percent of the family's total income. But the average family pays 24 percent of its income in federal payroll taxes. So most mothers work not to help support their families but almost solely to support the federal government. If the Clintons were truly family-friendly, they'd be pushing for tax relief.

The First Lady implicitly admitted as much when she returned to her hometown this week. One of her first stops was at her old elementary school, where she reminisced about riding her bike home as a little girl to have lunch with mom. "I just have lots of wonderful memories," she told the assembled students.

No doubt. One wonders if she ever thinks how many children today could form such memories if only the government would relinquish first claim on their mothers.

I0607 * End of document.

CHILD CARE - RIGHT JUMPS ON CLINTONS YET AGAIN

DOCUMENT 39 OF 343

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OP/ED

TOM TEEPEN COLUMN

* CHILD CARE - RIGHT JUMPS ON CLINTONS YET AGAIN

TOM TEEPEN

556 Words

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* 10/30/97

Dayton Daily News

CITY

15A

COMMENTARY

(Copyright 1997)

Modest talk sets off demagogues, ending rational review

If you haven't heard yet, let me - putting myself modestly in mind of Paul Revere - rush to warn you: Bill and Hillary Clinton are out to snatch your children and have them raised in government centers so they can be indoctrinated in ... well, in whatever it is the evil Clintons want them indoctrinated in.

- * You, naif that you are, may have thought the recent White House
- * conference on day care was just an unexceptionable pitch for centers that are safe and that contribute to the kids' mental and emotional development.

If that's what you thought, that's why you don't have your very own radio talk show.

Talk radio attacks

The first lady had no more than cleared her throat by way of an introduction to the conference than talkmasters and listeners were erupting in that weird mix of fatalism and delicious fear that they bring to their close readings of the passing scene.

Mrs. Clinton emphasized that the conference would not propose federal day-care standards. Repeat: not. It would hope that concerns for quality care instead would be taken up by the states and by businesses whose work forces must rely on day care. An education campaign, she suggested, could help parents know on their own what to look for and what to look out for.

From these platitudes and this political mincing, talk radio instinctively concluded that the president and first lady mean to create federal requirements that will be applied even to parents rearing their children at home and that families who flunk federal inspections will have their kids removed to government care

centers, where the young minds will be warped to whatever ends suit bureaucrats in cahoots with the White House.

The goofball right and its radio demagogues have by now so thoroughly calumnized the Clintons in their own minds that they believe whatever either says can be accurately understood only, but simply, by reversing the apparent meaning.

Toxic talk has acid effect

Here in the real world, the president is almost militantly moderate. If Clinton were driving instead of presiding, he'd be one long moving violation, crossing back and forth over the yellow line. In talk radio, he is a crazed leftist; typically, 'socialist.'

It is all quite lunatic, and the temptation is strong just to sit back and watch the political freak show for whatever small amusements it brings. Grotesqueries exert a certain, if regrettable, appeal.

But that's too luxurious. Talk radio's constant stream of paranoia and toxic rhetoric has acid consequences. It keeps some not-small part of the electorate in a stew of fright and hate, largely centered on the person of Bill Clinton. And doing so, the medium raises the threshold against rational review and civil consideration of one after another public matter.

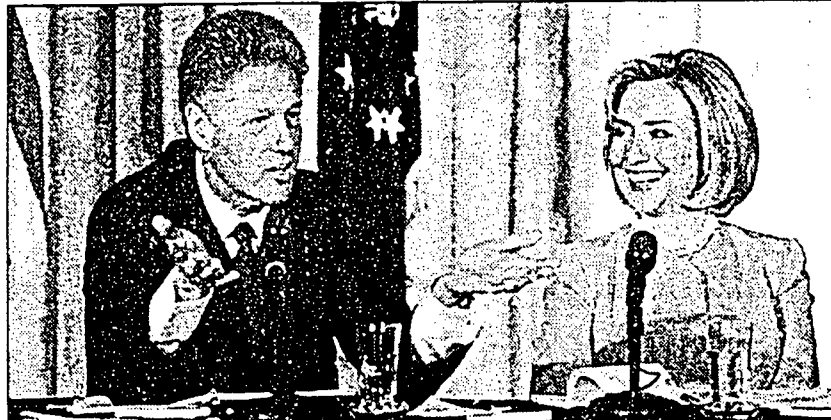
We have 10 million children under 5 in day care; 45 percent of infants under 1 year old. About 5 million school-age kids are on their own after school.

There are enormous implications for the future of the nation in the nature of care provided for that many children. Too bad we can't even talk about the matter without the nut cases poisoning the conversation.

* TOM TEEPEN

is national correspondent for Cox Newspapers. Address: c/o The Atlanta Constitution, P.O. Box 4689, Atlanta, Ga. 30303.

I0607 * End of document.



White House Conference *on* Child Care

Child care: Acknowledging that quality care for children often is unaffordable and inaccessible to working parents, President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton last week proposed federal programs to improve training and wages of day-care workers. At a conference Thursday for child-care advocates and business, state and federal officials, the administration pledged to push for a comprehensive program to provide safer, more affordable and accessible day care for children of working parents. Right, Louise Woodward, 19-year-old au pair from Chester, England, after testifying in Cambridge, Mass., court where she was charged with shaking to death an 8-month-old baby, one of two children in her care as a live-in baby sitter.



AP photos

Child care important beyond family, business; it's also public safety issue

USA TODAY's editorial on child care makes some important points but ultimately misses the mark ("Parents need quality care, want choices for children," Our View, Debate, Oct. 17).

Child care is more than a parents' issue or a business issue. It is a crucial public safety issue. Quality early-childhood and after-school programs are among our most powerful weapons in the war on crime.

Study after study shows that quality early-childhood care and after-school programs dramatically reduce crime and that failing to provide these services, especially to our most vulnerable children, can multiply the risk that they will become juvenile delinquents or adult criminals.

Yet early-childhood programs like Head Start and Early Head Start get so little funding that they can serve only a small fraction of the at-risk kids who need them. Millions of poor working families cannot afford the care that can give their kids the right start, help them succeed later, and turn them away from crime. In the end, it is all of us who pay the price — in higher crime costs, in lives and in fear.

In the hour after the school dismissal bell turns millions of kids out on the streets without constructive activities or adult supervision, violent juvenile crime suddenly triples. By dinner time, nearly half of each school day's violent juvenile crimes have been committed.

That's why dozens of us on the front lines of the war on crime — including police, prosecutors and victims — have formed Fight Crime: Invest in Kids (www.fightcrime.org) to tell our neighbors and leaders that when America doesn't invest in kids, we're forced to fight crime with one hand tied behind our backs.

Everyone knows that the delivery of child care must take place not in our capitals but in our communities, through partnerships of schools, parents, businesses and community groups.

But there is no government responsibility more fundamental than protecting public safety. That means standing in the gap, doing what it takes to see that every kid gets the right start. State and federal governments can't meet that obligation without committing to major new initiatives and investing public funds in the early-childhood and after-school programs that are among our most powerful crime-prevention weapons.

John J. Millner, chief of police
Elmhurst, Ill.

Working parents in Catch-22

As a working mother of two toddlers with a few nightmare nanny stories of my own, I was pleased to hear that the White House as represented by Hillary Rodham Clinton is focusing on the child-care issue in the United States.

Hillary Clinton's position on behalf of underrepresented populations is needed, and I hail her willingness to act as a voice for those who do not have one. American families, which we consider to be the primary social and economic building blocks of society, are in crisis.

We are possibly into a second generation of family development where the economic independence of a household requires both parents to work to provide for basic medical, educational and domestic needs. There is a Catch-22 here that says responsible parents must work, but affordable child care is not available.

American women have become part of the economic and social foundation of the family life and the future of America. With the loss of this primary caregiver, the family is no longer self-sufficient.

The traditional domestic support person is now a necessary part of the American workforce. There must be support services upon which the family can rely to provide care for children. The cohesive strength of this basic unit of society is necessary to the future security of our nation.

Lauren Kingsmore-Lutz
Washington, D.C.

Au pairs are not nannies

As a participant in the White House Conference on Child Care, I am most distressed that the media are still referring to au pairs as nannies.

Au pairs are foreign cultural exchange visitors ages 18 to 26, of all backgrounds, who wish to spend a year in the United States enjoying American culture. In exchange for room and board with a family, they agree to work 45 hours a week looking after the family's children.

While in England recently, I discussed the situation of Louise Woodward — the British au pair accused of shaking an 8-month-old Massachusetts baby to death — with nanny educators, nannies and parents ("Nanny trial raises lifestyle issue," News, Friday). All concurred that with only a few hours' experience baby sitting, Woodward

was ill-equipped to assume unsupervised, full-time care of an infant and toddler.

Working parents should not be faulted for leaving their children with a caregiver. However, they should be faulted if they don't thoroughly investigate the credentials of the caregiver.

To be a nanny, one must be qualified to accept the responsibility for a child's physical, emotional, cognitive and intellectual development in a safe and healthy environment. Au pairs are not required to meet these demanding standards.

Without knowledge of the serious consequences, a frustrated, impatient caregiver or parent could, with only a good shake, cause shaken baby syndrome with resulting anguish to many.

Sheilagh Roth, executive director
English Nanny & Governess School Inc.
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

To comment . . .

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Child care: Less talk, more action

DOCUMENT 10 OF 121

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FYI

* Child care: Less talk, more action

DRU SEFTON

Staff Writer

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* 10/29/97

The Kansas City Star

METROPOLITAN

F1

(Copyright 1997)

Great - but it's about time.

* That was the reaction of several local participants to the White

* House Conference on Child Care last week.

In Washington, President Clinton, the first lady, Cabinet officials and experts proposed improvements to the system. Their meeting was linked by satellite to spots nationwide, including Kansas State University in Manhattan and Rockhurst College in Kansas City.

At Rockhurst, Rebecca Curtis listened intently as Hillary Rodham Clinton described a "silent crisis," the lack of good-quality,

* affordable child care.

Curtis couldn't agree more.

"Those of us participating, there was a basic feeling that it's nothing that we hadn't known for a long time," she said. Curtis is resource coordinator of the Francis Child Development Institute at Penn Valley Community College - and a new mother.

* She and six other area child-care advocates participated in the

* local discussion. "Everyone on our panel was pleased to see child

* care finally become an important issue," Curtis said.

Why now? Because Clinton can't expect welfare reform to succeed if people are saying, "What kind of places are we putting the kids in?" Curtis said.

The president's suggestions were good ones, Curtis said. He would fund scholarships for providers. make it easier to check their
* backgrounds. look into child care at the workplace and possibly expand the successful Head Start program.

Another subject was the tough choice women face: to stay home or return to work. "But I'm not sure that women really have a choice when things cost so much," Curtis said.

She is an example. "I have an 8-month-old son. I go to Walmart

for diapers and formula; it's expensive. Mathematically I don't know how I could be home. I've been told by other women, 'You should stay home with your baby.' I can't."

Money is also a problem for providers. Curtis hears that a lot,
* as the Francis Institute assists about 50 child-care centers and in-home facilities in this area.

* While local parents may think they pay a lot for child care - up to \$218 weekly for an infant - providers have many expenses: Taxes. Utilities. Craft supplies. Insurance. Toys. Food.

"It's hard to make ends meet. We hear that from everybody," Curtis said.

Good wages are important to keep qualified workers in the field. In Kansas City, for instance, higher salaries at the casinos are luring them away, Curtis said.

Under Clinton's plan, \$300 million would help up to 50,000
* child-care providers get more training. They would get \$1,500 each and promise to remain in the field at least a year. "That's a good start," Curtis said.

But Clinton could have gone further. Curtis thinks in-home providers should get federal funds. Finding care for children with disabilities remains a challenge. Infant care is scarce and costly. And most providers offer only "9-to-5" services.

"We need care with more flexible hours," Curtis said. "With welfare reform, parents may have to take a job that ends at midnight.

* Child care has to be available for those people, and it's not."

* Beverly Watson, another panelist and longtime local child-care provider, also thought Clinton hit important points. "But how many times have they been identified?" she said. "I've been a child advocate for years, and we have been talking about these issues on the state and local level for years."

Her main concern is the youngest children. "Our country is suffering greatly because we do not invest the dollars we should in the zero-to-5 (year-old) children," she said. Babies need a strong foundation to build a good life. "When you look around and see all the juvenile delinquents, something's wrong."

Watson recently traveled to South Africa to visit schools and
* child-care centers; she was amazed at the conditions. One facility held 120 children in a small, dirt-floored room. If a youngster disobeyed, he was literally locked in a cage. There were no supplies, no activities.

In America, "we have so many advantages over so many countries. It's up to us."

It would be fine with her, she said, "if we would just take all the models for programs we already have and all the old ideas we've been talking about for years, dust them off and let's go do it."

What it all comes down to, agreed panelist Angela Jennings, is

the children.

Jennings, of Kansas City, has three: a 6-year-old, a 3-year-old and a 3-month-old. She participated as a working parent in search of * affordable, flexible child care. "I'm just a parent, but I know what I need and what I'd like to see."

Jennings works at the North Kansas City Post Office four days a week, sometimes four hours a day, sometimes eight. She has her kindergarten-age son in day care before and after school and her two youngest with a baby sitter.

"I try to keep my kids out of day care. I want them to be with me; that's my goal," she said. "I'm trying not to work so many hours but Christmas is coming up and the post office is constantly busy."

Jennings thought the panel discussion "was well worth it, but it just wasn't long enough. I wanted to hear something that was actually being resolved.

"Everybody on the panel was talking politics, but when you come right down to it, reality is the parents and their kids," she said.

* Local child care

* Here's a look at child care in the Kansas City area in 1996, provided * by the Metropolitan Council on Child Care of the Mid-America Regional Council:

Cost: Varies greatly. The average weekly fee at local day-care centers for an infant is \$105; toddler, \$97; preschooler, \$78; school-age child, \$64. In-home care averages are, for an infant, \$68; toddler, \$79; preschooler, \$60; school-age child, \$18.

* Age of children in child care: About 65 percent are preschool age.

Educational background of providers: At local day-care centers, an average of 11 percent of staff members have completed degrees in early childhood education. In day-care homes, that figure is 1 percent.

Staff turnover: In this area nearly 50 percent of centers reported at least one staff member resigning for better pay or benefits. Of the staff members who do leave, 34 percent do so to seek better pay; 34 percent return to school.

* Wages: The lowest-paid local providers at child-care centers earn an average of \$5.85 an hour; the highest \$7.40 an hour.

Benefits: More than one-third of providers employed by early-care and education centers do not receive such benefits as paid attendance at training and paid sick leave.

I0607 * End of document.

... OR IS THIS HILLARY'S MADE-FOR-MEDIA CRISIS?

DOCUMENT 41 OF 343

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EDITORIAL

... OR IS THIS HILLARY'S MADE-FOR-MEDIA CRISIS?

Robert Holland

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6504 Characters

* 10/29/97

Richmond Times-Dispatch

City

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(Copyright 1997)

When First Lady Hillary Clinton hyped last week's "first-ever"

- * White House Conference on Child Care as dealing with a "Silent Crisis," she used her media-savvy instincts to good advantage. Sure enough, headlines and broadcasts across the country featured her assertion of a Silent Crisis.

There are only two problems with that poignant phrase: The Silent Crisis is neither.

- * There is no sudden "crisis" in child care - and, by the way, Mrs. Bill Clinton's conference was not the first on this topic, notwithstanding the inclination of the aging '60s boomers in the current regime to credit themselves with inventing everything. The
- * Nixon administration held a White House Conference on Child Care in 1970.
- * Advocates of nationalized child care have been screaming - not whispering - "crisis" so many years as to become like the little boy who cried "wolf" too often. Their guru, Yale psychologist Edward Zigler, declared in a 1987 forum that, "We can solve the
- * child care crisis by implementing a second system within already existing elementary school buildings, where formal education takes place, and creating the school of the 21st Century."

With schools as the hub of all social services, all children would be in institutionalized care, and the government would conduct "outreach" into private homes, to instruct parents how to rear their infants. Zigler estimated the cost of such a grand system of full-service schools at \$75 billion to \$100 billion. The seeds for such a system will be found today in Goals 2000.

Furthermore, Hillary Clinton and her entitlements mentor - Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund - have been

- * pushing for nationally standardized child care, with the financial backing of foundations (primary Carnegie) for at least two decades.

Liberals have trumpeted bills before - remember the "ABC" (Act For
* Better Child Care Services) of the 1980s? - only to crash into the
reality that most Americans don't want a Nanny State.

AS FOR the latest revival of the "crisis," how can anyone call
it "silent" when the media Mouseketeers of ABC-TV/Disney are
constantly tooting the horns for Hillary's regimented Village? It
was on "Good Morning America" the day of the conference that
Hillary proclaimed the Silent Crisis. And when the current
* propaganda offensive began last spring with Hillary's White House
* conference on brain research and early learning, "Good Morning
America" devoted a solid week to selling as "new" research that
isn't.

Not only that but ABC aired a one-hour Rob Reiner special, "I
* Am Your Child," featuring Tom Hanks and governmental child care in
Hampton, that was perhaps the most bogus TV documentary since the
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation paid \$2.5 million for a two-hour
NBC-News special in 1994 hawking Hillary's plan for nationalized
health care.

No, ABC is not the only network that disgraces the First
Amendment by shilling for statism. Consider how the egregious Tom
Brokaw opened "NBC Nightly News" the day of Hillary's latest
conference (as recorded by the Media Research Center):

It is one of the fundamental changes in America. Working
mothers and their most fundamental need is inadequate,
inconsistent, expensive, and getting more so all the time. It is
* child care - what to do with the kids when mom is on the job. And
60 percent of the women in the workforce have children under the
age of 6. Tonight we have two stories that go to the heart of the
matter. One, a promise of better times ahead. The other, a chilling
and mysterious case involving a nanny and murder. We begin with the
promise of better times that came from President and Mrs. Clinton
today.

That's a diabolical juxtaposition: (1) a tragic, isolated case
in Massachusetts in which a 19-year-old English nanny was accused
of killing an infant entrusted to her care by a working couple, and
* (2) Hillaryized child care, which in NBC fantasy, will snuggle all
children in the bosom of government day care, where they all
assuredly will be safe.

AS THE Media Research Center noted, none of the networks
bothered to offer their audiences even 30 seconds of views
dissenting from Hillary's vision. Totally ignored, for example, was
a recent report by Darcy Olsen, entitlements policy analyst at the
* Cato Institute, on "The Fabricated Crisis in Child Care." Among her
findings:

Source: Richmond Times-Dispatch (Va.), October 29, 1997

- * More than 95 percent of American parents say they are
- * "satisfied" or "highly satisfied" with their child-care arrangements.
- * * There is no scarcity of affordable child care (contrary to Brokaw's squawkings). In 1990, there was a 12 percent vacancy rate
- * in child care centers, according to a survey that did not even take into account 1.1 million non-regulated family day care providers, who tend to have even higher rates of openings.
- * In 1993, half of all arrangements for preschoolers with working parents required no cash payment. Among those employed and
- * paying for child care, the average expenditure was \$50 a week for those below the poverty line, and \$76 a week for those above.

FOR HOMES in which both parents work, or for single-parent
* homes, child care may be a problem; however it is an individual problem, not a national crisis.

Parents want to know their children will be where health and safety standards are observed; but that does not mean they necessarily want them to be in government-controlled centers that seek to instill sociopolitical views in the sandbox.

Furthermore, as Heidi Brennan, policy director of Mothers at Home, points out: Most parents want the kind of help that will enable them to make their own choices of care for their children from a variety of options. "Family-friendly" changes would emphasize parental "time with children rather than time away from them." Ways to bring that about could include part-time work, telecommuting, flex-time, and job-sharing.

Of course, the friendliest action of all would be a substantial tax cut enabling more families to have the means for one parent to stay at home with preschool children or for the family to purchase higher-quality care. But serious tax relief is not a crisis item - either silent or loud - at the White House.

I0607 * End of document.

WHITE HOUSE RAISING FOCUS ON PROPER CHILD CARE

DOCUMENT 45 OF 343

LAD9730300309

Editorial

*** WHITE HOUSE RAISING FOCUS ON PROPER CHILD CARE**

Kerby T. Alvy

568 Words

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*** 10/29/97**

Los Angeles Daily News

VALLEY

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(Copyright 1997)

- * THE** recent White House Conference on Child Care was an extraordinary and historic event. It served to bring to the public's attention the importance and complexity of improving the out-of-home care of infants and children that millions of America's parents need.

The conference exposed, defined and addressed the numerous challenges that parents face. It focused on such critical issues as

- * the** affordability and accessibility of child care, and on the safety and quality of care provided.

It demonstrated how the vast majority of parents who need out-of-home care, including those moving from welfare to work, are frustrated and dispirited by the lack of options and opportunities.

The conference showed that many parents are confronted by Solomon-like decisions between working or staying at home because

- * they** can't find adequate and affordable child care.
- * Especially** important to the issue of quality child care was
- * the** discussion of the need for child care workers to be warm and responsive in caring for the infants and children in their charge. Indeed, the main announcement by the president about concrete actions that will emerge from the conference was directed at fostering this child-caring approach.

The president's proposal for a \$300 million scholarship

- * training** program for child care personnel spoke to the types of actions that are needed to promote warm and responsive care, which is the type of care that is at the heart of all successful relationships with infants and children.

Strangely, however, except for one comment by the president, the conference speakers failed to take this issue to its next practical step - the provision of classes, seminars or in-home visits to help the child's foremost caregivers, their parents, to

be more warm and responsive. This oversight was glaring in light of numerous research studies that confirm that childhood programs that involve and educate parents are the most effective.

Warm caregiving is characterized by an abundance of affection, praise and encouragement that lets children know they are valued and loved, which is fundamental to the growth of a strong sense of self-worth and personal experience.

Responsive caregiving involves mutual problem solving and nonviolent conflict solution that helps to maintain positive relations with children, while at the same time instilling moral values of what is right and wrong. This approach models for children how to make wise and healthy decisions about life itself.

Altogether, caregiving that is warm and responsive predisposes children to become productive and healthy members of society, and it diminishes the likelihood of their becoming gang members, delinquents, youth parents or abusers of harmful substances.

- * When child care settings ensure that their workers are warm and responsive, and when they also help parents to be more warm and responsive, we have an ideal connection between out-of-home and parental care. And everyone benefits.

It is to President Clinton's credit that he recognized this when he raised the question of parents also receiving the type of

- * training that child care workers need. The next step would be to engage in concrete actions to make this happen, such as encouraging
- * or requiring all child care programs to provide parenting education. Or to train more parenting instructors who work in community agencies who can then offer parenting education classes
- * at child care facilities.

If such actions are taken, we will have truly high-quality

- * child care that is supportive of the skillful and sensitive guidance of America's children outside and inside of the home.

I0607 * End of document.

Unusual problem for Congress

Debate opens on how it can spend surplus

By William M. Welch
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — For two decades, the federal budget deficit has dominated politics.

Now, with the budget nearly balanced, the debate of the future is erupting, one that seemed unthinkable just a year ago: What to do with a surplus?

President Clinton announced Monday that the government finished fiscal 1997, which ended Sept. 30, with a deficit of \$22.6 billion, the lowest since 1974. At just 0.2% of the nation's total economy, that is so small it amounts to "virtual balance," the Congressional Budget Office says.

The shrinking deficit is the result of strong economic growth and better-than-expected tax collections. Monday's Wall Street sell-off could further improve the fiscal 1998 deficit outlook by increasing taxes collected on stock profits.

"We could have a surplus next year or sometime between now and 2002, if the planets remain in alignment," says Bob Reischauer, the former CBO chief.

The debate over what to do with a surplus is going on in both parties, but particularly among the Republicans, who control Congress. Some want to pay down the national debt. Some want to cut taxes. And some want more spending.

"This is one of the most important dialogues we are going to have in our generation," House Speaker Newt Gingrich says. The decisions will affect everything from interest rates to taxes to road construction. The choices will be central to next year's congressional elections and the 2000 presidential race.

To the surprise of no one, some politicians want to do it all. That's the option Gingrich outlined last week to the House Budget Committee.

Responded Rep. John Spratt,

D-S.C.: "All of that's a tall order ... for a surplus that has yet to materialize."

All the optimistic projections assume that the government will continue counting the Social Security surplus — the amount that Social Security taxes exceed benefits paid to recipients — in its deficit calculations. In the current fiscal year, the government expects Social Security taxes will produce \$88 billion more than needed to cover the program's expenses. Take away Social Security, and projections for a surplus disappear.

Any surplus also is likely to be transitory. After the next decade, all sides agree, the aging of the baby boom generation will send Social Security and Medicare costs soaring and bring a new era of deficits.

"It is a very temporary surplus, to be used while we figure out how to build a more permanent surplus," says House Budget Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio.

Nevertheless, Congress is ready to begin divvying it up. The three major camps:

Pay down the debt

Decades of borrowing have left the United States with an total debt of \$5.4 trillion, or about \$20,000 per American. If there's a surplus, "we should

retire the debt," says Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y. "There was a sense that we had to do this after World War II and World War I. In the Cold War, we ran up an enormous debt. Pay it off."

A year ago, Rep. Mark Neumann, R-Wis., was a lonely voice with a plan for using surpluses to pay down the nation's debt. Now he has lots of company.

More than 100 other members of Congress are co-sponsors of Neumann's resolution, which would require the government to spend 1% less each year than it takes in. Neumann originally wanted to use the entire surplus to pay down the debt. But to attract wider support, his plan now calls for putting one-third toward the debt, one-third for tax cuts and one-third for spending.

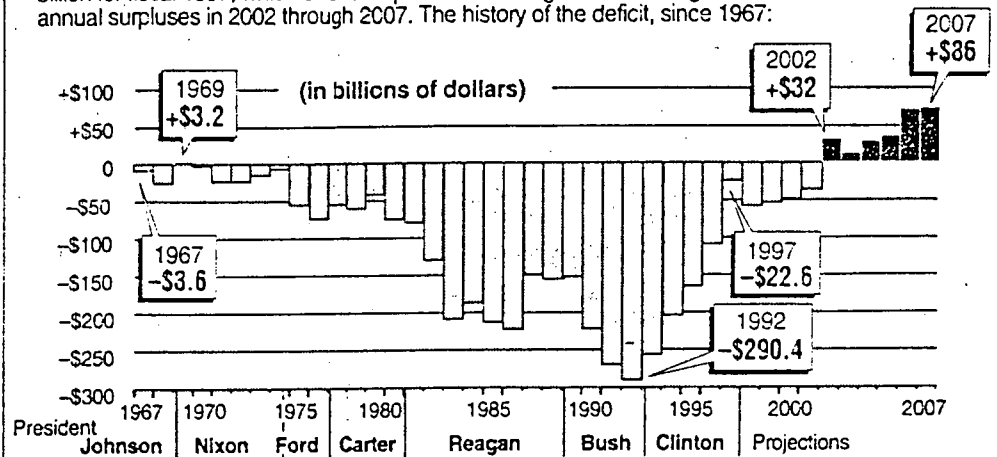
"This is a moral and an ethical responsibility, that our generation pays for the bills that we've run up over the last 15 years," says Neumann.

Just the interest on that debt will cost \$250 billion this year, consuming nearly one of every six dollars in the federal budget.

Moynihan predicts that paying down the debt would cause interest rates to fall, lowering the cost of borrowing for homes, cars and other items, and offering more benefits than a tax cut for many Ameri-

Federal deficit ups and downs

Over the past 30 years, the federal government has ended the fiscal year with a budgetary surplus just once, in 1969. President Clinton said Monday that the deficit dropped to \$22.6 billion for fiscal 1997, which ended Sept. 30. The Congressional Budget Office forecasts annual surpluses in 2002 through 2007. The history of the deficit, since 1967:



Sources: White House Office of Management and Budget, Congressional Budget Office projections for 1998-2007.

By Dave Merrill, USA TODAY

cans.

"It's that cycle of virtue: the more virtuous you get, the less virtuous you have to be," Moy-nihan says. "You're going to have money freed up, and you can do other things."

Cut taxes

This year's tax cuts have whetted appetites for more. "The first priority ought to be to let the taxpayers have a break," says Sen. Spencer Abraham, R-Mich. "I think it will be a big debate. I hope it will be The Debate."

Republican tax-cut advocates see the chance to expand the tax cuts Clinton signed in August.

A surplus "is not a license to spend," says Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, the No. 4 House GOP leader. "It is a dividend earned by taxpayers and owed to taxpayers. It's their money."

Though Boehner has signed on as a sponsor of Neuman's do-it-all resolution, that merely papers over a fundamental divide within the GOP. Advocates of tax cuts will increase pressure within their party once the surplus appears real. Abraham has joined with Boehner to co-sponsor a rival plan that makes tax cuts paramount. Gingrich, while advocating spending and paying

down the debt, also says Republicans want a tax cut every year.

Tax cuts are the option that might trigger the most Democratic opposition. While Clinton has not tipped his hand, his budget director, Franklin Raines, says he prefers reducing the debt while increasing spending for public works, technology and the military.

Spend it

Years of budget restraints in Congress have created pent-up demand for spending.

"Clearly, additional investment is needed in education, health care and child care," says Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. "These critical national priorities should have first claim on any budget surplus generated in the years ahead."

In the House, Transportation Chairman Bud Shuster, R-Pa., leads this group. He argues that for years Congress has diverted money collected through gasoline taxes for purposes other than transportation.

"America is growing, but our infrastructure is crumbling," Shuster says.

He has plenty of support. Highways are a priority for virtually every House member, regardless of party.

Democrats say similar needs exist for science and health research, environmental cleanup, education, the space program and economic development.

What's next?

The debate might pick up momentum next spring, if the budget picture continues to improve. But if Congress does nothing, that will be a decision too.

The government constantly borrows new money as it pays off old notes and bonds that mature periodically. If the government runs a surplus, the total amount of debt would decline automatically.

Call it the default option.

"You don't have to vote to pay down the debt," says Reichauer, who advocates this approach. "If we do nothing, we end up doing the right thing."

Three plans for any surplus

Members of Congress already are debating how to spend any future federal budget surpluses. Three options:

1. PAY DOWN THE DEBT

Leading proponent: Rep. Mark Neumann, R-Wis.

Pros

- ▶ National debt has risen to \$5.38 trillion.
- ▶ Moral obligation to future generations to repay.
- ▶ Interest alone will cost government \$250 billion in fiscal 1998, which started Oct. 1.
- ▶ Frees capital and promotes lower interest rates.



Neumann

Cons

- ▶ National debt is smaller than nation's total economy.
- ▶ Over time, growing economy will reduce importance of stable debt and interest.
- ▶ Nation could use money for other pressing needs or to lower taxes.

2. CUT TAXES

Leading proponent: Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Pros

- ▶ Chance to expand modest tax cuts signed in August.
- ▶ Popular with voters and GOP leaders.
- ▶ Returns money to taxpayers: "It's their money."
- ▶ Permits more family spending and saving.
- ▶ Could ease transition to different federal tax system, such as flat tax.



Boehner

Cons

- ▶ Further complicate tax cuts just enacted.
- ▶ Could undo progress toward a balanced budget.
- ▶ Cutting too much could produce big future deficits.

3. SPEND MORE

Leading proponent: Rep. Bud Shuster, R-Pa.

Pros

- ▶ Chance to meet needs neglected in years of deficits: Highways, bridges crumbling, for instance.
- ▶ Gas taxes haven't been used for transportation as intended.
- ▶ Money could aid education, research, health care, the elderly and children.
- ▶ Nation needs to invest in defense and science to remain global leader.



Shuster

Cons

- ▶ Spending restraint needed to ensure budget balances.
- ▶ Spending more on one need encourages other demands; could bust budget.
- ▶ Voters want smaller government, not bigger.
- ▶ Less money may be available for Social Security, Medicare.

Child care has become crisis for working poor

DOCUMENT 54 OF 343

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Editorial

* Child care has become crisis for working poor

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Editorial

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* Last week's White House conference on child care only scratched the surface of problems facing working parents.

For the working poor and welfare recipients who now must find work, the problem is a long-standing crisis.

* The chief culprit is the cost of quality child care. The Washington Post reports that, on the average, families with

* preschool-age children pay \$74 a week for child care, making it the third-largest expense, after housing and food, for many working parents.

Even then, the \$3,700 pays for less than half of what experts estimate quality care would cost - as much as \$8,500 per child per year.

What parent who earns minimum wage can afford that?

The conference, while long on talk, did little to suggest ways to alleviate these parents' needs. Nearly \$3 billion in federal

* subsidies are available to help low-income parents pay for child
* care, but the Post reports only one in 10 children who are eligible for those funds is receiving them. Parents of many of these children are welfare recipients and soon will have to find work. What will come of the children?

Ignoring the concerns would be negligent and potentially disastrous for this nation. Studies consistently have shown that critical brain development occurs during the first five years of a child's life. Without the proper early care, much of children's potential can be lost.

This gamble is not one policymakers should want to make. They

* already have waited too long to consider child care a serious issue. Working parents and their children have suffered enough.

I0607 * End of document.

First five years of child care are critical to ...

DOCUMENT 58 OF 343

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FEATURES

- * First five years of child care are critical to our future

ROCHELLE RILEY

STAFF

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- * 10/28/97

The Courier-Journal Louisville, KY

01C

(Copyright 1997)

Sitting in a darkened auditorium last week, I learned some new things:

- * Every day 60 percent of all preschoolers are in child care, care that the Carnegie Corp. reports ``has a lasting impact on children's well-being and ability to learn."
- * Some families spend almost half their income on child care.
- * Six of seven child care centers provide care that is mediocre to poor.

I heard something else too: One way to help may be all in a name.

Typically, the people who keep, clean, delight and challenge our

- * preschool children are called child care workers. But they're more:
- * They're child care teachers, a title they'd prefer, along with a 200 percent raise.

If we see them this way, maybe we'll pay more attention to their impact on children.

IT CAME UP as 100 or so people and I sat watching, via satellite,

- * the White House Conference on Child Care, convened by President Clinton and first lady Hillary Clinton (We have got to find something else to call her) to find ways to improve the availability and
- * quality of child care.

The Rev. Frank Youngblood and his wife, Janice, who plan to open a center in their home, were there.

``You have to get involved," Janice Youngblood said. ``I'm a child of Jesus. I can't stand by."

Kids these days ``are hard," she said. ``They're angry. They don't have any trust. They test you to see if they do something, will you still show up the next day?"

Waiting until they're 16 or 17 is a sure way to fail. Why?

Across from the Youngbloods sat George Perkins, who works with teens addicted to drugs and alcohol.

"I get the kids who didn't have proper day care," he said.

- * Child care in America.

It's a business issue.

It's a labor issue.

It's a social issue.

- * ONE THING WRONG with our patchwork child care efforts is the attempt to categorize it. We can't afford to narrow the numbers of people who should be concerned about it.

How well we develop our future work force, leaders, moms and dads begins with a child's first five years.

Frustration in how we're doing now was clear on the faces in a Louisville auditorium and in the voices at the White House.

Specialists and Cabinet secretaries joined the Clintons in

- * reminding that poor child care affects workers' productivity and morale.

And Clinton, who announced a \$300 million proposal for training

- * scholarships for child care teachers and who plans to make child care a major legislative issue next year, reminded that: "Every child counts. No parent should have to choose between work and family."

NOW HE'S TALKING. He should be proud of the Family Leave Act, and finally joining congressional efforts to remake the Internal Revenue Service. But the progress made could be wiped out by shortsightedness when developing our next generation of workers and citizens.

Without change, we'll wind up spending as much tax money on juvenile delinquents as on roads.

We'll have a prison population triple that of our school population.

We'll live in fear, no matter where we live, of people who as children might have been helped by proper care.

No one at the conference had all the answers, but there were some.

"If we're going to be excellent anywhere, be excellent in the first five years," Rick Hulefeld, executive director of Children Inc. in Covington, told the Louisville audience after the national

- * panel took a break. "Child care is a community good.

"Can we speak in the language of people who have no children? Can we speak in the language of people who have raised their children? Can we get across the message that this is a community issue?"

- * When I think of child care, I think of my friend Ursula Jennings,
* a child care teacher who helped instill in a 3-year-old transplant from Dallas values she still has as an 8-year-old.

My daughter is a better person for having had Ursula's attention.

- * That's why every child should have an Ursula. That's why child care teachers should earn more than \$12,058 a year.

It's a community problem.

Rochelle Riley's column appears on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Features. She can be reached at (502) 582-4674 or at RILEY525@aol.com.

Clintons convene 'village' meeting on child care

Issue seen as part of president's legacy

By Paul Bedard
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It's "village" time at the White House again.

Promoting one of their favorite issues, President Clinton and the first lady today are hosting a day-long conference on child care aimed at expanding and improving institutional day care and building on Hillary Rodham Clinton's model spelled out in her 1995 book "It Takes a Village: And Other Les-

sons Children Teach Us."

The conference is part of a combined effort to touch on an issue the president considers one of his lasting "legacies" and to reach out to women groping for solutions to day care.

"It's one of the hallmarks of the Clinton presidency — making children and education a national issue," said the president's former

political adviser Dick Morris.

And, he added of the conference, it helps the Democrats seize a major factor in the political gender gap.

"The Republicans think the gender gap is due to abortion, but it's due to education and children. It's the cause of the gender gap," Mr. Morris said.

While framed in family-friendly themes, the conference marches head first into the politically charged debate over government regulation and involvement in day care.

While liberal advocates such as the first lady want greater federal regulation and participation by the federal government in day care, conservatives want the president to promote home and church day care while providing tax breaks for

families so that parents can stay home more to care for their children.

"Everything they are doing is geared toward institutionalizing day care," said Gary Bauer, president of the influential Family Research Council.

"The Clintons care about children, but they believe that the solution for America's children lies with bureaucrats and social workers," he said in an interview.

"Their goal is to let the government get your kids and train them, and when they get older they accept their thinking," added Carmen Pate of Concerned Women of America.

Robert Rector, a senior policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation, said the Clinton agenda "is exactly the opposite agenda of what parents want."

He joined Mr. Bauer in calling on the government to provide tax breaks to working families, especially low-income mothers, so they can spend more time at home with their children instead of dumping them in day care centers, where parents have little control over the curriculum.

"The agenda of the left has been the dismantlement of the family ... ultimately by dismantling family child care," Mr. Rector said. "If you want to help families raise their children, stop stealing from them through taxes," he added.

Conservatives have not been invited to speak at the conference.

Advocates of the Clinton approach, however, argue that the only way to provide safe and healthy day care is for the government to get involved.

Featuring participants who generally favor government or corporate day care operations, the conference is expected to back efforts to make day care facilities safer, cleaner and healthier through greater regulation and demands on providers for improved services.

The administration has already called on corporations to provide free day care, and the White House is eager to push the Pentagon into helping local communities set up day care centers and to persuade local school boards to keep school doors open later, or until parents can get home, said a senior Clinton adviser.

Those involved with the Clintons' second White House child care conference in six months said the administration has accepted as "reality" that both parents or single parents must work to make ends meet and that day care availability must be expanded.

"As long as we are promoting an economic system where two parents or single parents work, it is the responsibility of the federal government" to promote affordable and accessible day care, said Joyce Shortt, a conference participant who runs a three-city day care organizing group.

"The role of the government is consumer protection here," added conference speaker Dr. Susan S. Aronson, a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

FACTS ABOUT CHILD CARE

Who uses it:

- 12.9 million children under age 6 are in child care.
- 45 percent of children under age 1 are in child care on a regular basis.
- About 3 million people work in child care.

Types:

- Of children with working mothers, almost 30 percent are in child care centers, preschools or nursery schools; 25 percent are cared for by relatives; 16 percent are cared for by fathers; 16 percent are cared for in someone else's home; and the rest are cared for some other way.
- About 2,200 employers sponsor child care centers.

The cost:

- Families with working mothers and preschool children spend an average of \$74 a week on child care, or 8 percent of their annual income. The richest families spend \$92 a week, or 6 percent of income. The poorest spend \$47 a week, or 25 percent of income.
- Workers in child care centers make an average of \$6.89 an hour, or \$12,058 a year.

Source: Associated Press

The Washington Times

She wants the government to help make day care centers healthy and safe; take advantage of day care centers to provide health care such as immunizations; and coordinate government, private and corporate providers to join in day care programs.

"We need to teach everyone how to work with each other," Dr. Aronson said.

The event at the White House will be broken into six sessions, according to White House documents. It will also be broadcast to satellite sites around the nation.

The opening session will include comments from Mr. Clinton and Mrs. Clinton.

That will be followed by a panel

discussion on why child care is important and include "presentations by experts addressing the relationship between child care and the economy and work force; child care and children's healthy development, particularly in the earliest years of life; and child care and the health of our communities, with a focus on the need for adequate care for children of school age."

The next session will cover "good" child care from the eyes of a lawmaker, a parent and a day care provider.

Several Cabinet aides will host luncheon working sessions.

After that, the conference will study successful day care models, such as the military system's.

The Clintons' day-care model: the Pentagon

The military way emphasizes standards and, not surprisingly, more spending

BY BRUCE B. AUSTER

Five years ago, after receiving an anonymous tip, Linda Smith and her team of Pentagon specialists sped south to Quantico, Va., to inspect, unannounced, the Marine Corps's child-care center there. The facility, a wooden World War II-era structure that housed 85 kids under age 5, was so dilapidated that Smith's heel broke through the floor. One day later, she had shut it down.

Quantico's center has long since reopened in a new facility, with strict health and safety standards, and mandatory training and better wages for its staff. Many other military day-care centers were also bad a few years ago and are good today—a pattern that will lead first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to praise the military model at this week's White House conference on child care. But while the military—which provides care

for more than 200,000 children—provides many lessons for improving day care in the civilian sector, some can be copied only at great expense.

The armed services were stung by a General Accounting Office report in 1982 that concluded that many military facilities—including centers run in condemned buildings and one set up in a former stable—were “neither safe nor suitable places” for children. The military responded by demanding high standards of all its 800 centers and 9,800 in-home care providers. In theory, troops, who transfer to new posts every two or three years, should now find quality care wherever they are based. In contrast, child-care programs in the civilian world vary in quality from the very good to the very bad.

Facing turnover rates of 300 percent, the military placed an unusual emphasis on training and retaining its caregivers.

Although entry-level pay for military day-care jobs isn't much better than the \$7 an hour most civilian providers earn, it can rise to \$9 an hour for teachers who get additional training. By contrast, in the civilian sector 32 states don't even require training. At Fort Meade in Maryland, turnover among the child-care center staff is less than 20 percent, compared with 36 percent in the civilian sector nationally. The center received a coveted national accreditation.

Surprise inspections. In the military, home-based caregivers, who serve one third of military kids, receive the same training as those at the large centers and are subject to the same health and safety standards. In the civilian sector, as many as 1.1 million at-home providers are unlicensed. Sheila Gregg, who has been caring for kids for 10 years in her Fort

Meade duplex, gets four surprise inspections a year, in addition to monthly visits from an outreach worker. Although the standards mirror those in the civilian world, they are rigorously enforced.

But these improvements do not come cheap. The Pentagon spends \$273 million a year on child care; combined with parents' investment, it costs about \$6,800 a year for each child-care slot. That's well above the \$3,700 national average for day care and roughly comparable to the \$6,300 to \$8,500 average for high-quality care. Even that investment fails to provide for 130,000 military children, whose parents must make other arrangements. And while the White House will showcase model child-care programs this week, it will not propose adding much to the \$3 billion the federal government now spends, mostly targeted to low-income families. Business and civic leaders, who are already spending tens of millions of dollars on child care, will be called on to do more. But even the Pentagon, with its deep pockets, invested in child care only reluctantly, reasoning that its soldiers and sailors would fight better if they knew their kids were well cared for. “It was difficult for [the Pentagon] to fund child care,” says Carolyn Becraft, the official responsible for day care. “But it's a readiness issue for us. It's a business decision.” Part of the Clintons' goal is to persuade companies, parents, and communities that significant financial investments are in their interests, too. ■

WHITHER CHILD CARE?

► As the White House prepares for an Oct. 23 conference on child care, business can stop sweating. The Administration is ruling out federal requirements on business to provide child-care benefits. It is also rejecting national quality standards for day-care providers. On the table: expanding the child-care tax credit for families earning up to \$28,000. The White House may also want to expand subsidies beyond the 1 million low-income kids now covered.

Steady progress in the child-care debate

OP-ED

* Steady progress in the child-care debate

Thomas Oliphant, Globe Staff

801 Words

5136 Characters

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New England from Washington

Much of the research about what happens and doesn't happen in infancy and early childhood comes from Yale University.

Not surprisingly, the first, attention-focusing legislative proposal to forge a national commitment in the policy area where

* child care and education are synonymous came from Representative Rosa LeLauro of Connecticut. Nor was it a shock that Senator John Kerry has led a similar initiative in the Senate along with a conservative colleague, Christopher Bond of Missouri.

That was then, earlier this year. This is now, and it is much

* more interesting that in time for a second White House conference built around very young kids, DeLauro and Kerry have reworked their proposals in preparation for what looks like real legislating next year.

And that should focus attention on two more New Englanders whose role in human services efforts is always critical: James Jeffords of Vermont, chairman of the Senate committee that oversees these kinds of programs, and his relentlessly innovative ranking Democrat, Kennedy.

This gathering of forces was focused on much more than last week's

* White House conference on child care. It is also focused on the State of the Union Message and budget that President Clinton is already at work on for next year. Last week, the president and Hillary Rodham Clinton led the national conversation on early-childhood development and showed the tip of an emerging policy iceberg -- some proposals to improve the training, pay, and

* regulation of child-care providers.

So far they have emphasized consciousness-raising and steered clear of specific national policy proposals. That is what is in the process of changing, as their careful inclusion of DeLauro and Kerry in last week's conference showed.

At the time of the first conference here last April, top administration officials pleaded for time on new initiatives because the agreement with Congress finally balancing the federal budget had not yet been forged.

Source: Boston Globe, October 27, 1997

* Now, however, early-childhood development and child care generally are being considered in a changed atmosphere. Not only is the budget deal likely to generate scores of additional billions over the next few years if the economy remains strong; there is also the potential of a national settlement with the tobacco racket that could generate money that makes the budget deal pale by comparison.

And on top of all that, there is now going to be a tax credit for families with children, and the onset of welfare reform has
* produced a significant increase in child-care activity at the state and local level.

At last April's White House meeting, Mrs. Clinton did a masterful job assembling and presenting for maximum impact the latest research on infants and children -- leaning heavily on Yale's Child Study Center. By now there is no longer any discussion about how the first six months and first three years of life are central to both brain development and social and academic progress.

* Last week, child care more broadly defined came under a critical microscope at a time when half the country's mothers with babies under the age of 1 are working, and more than 5 million kids under 3 are in the care of other adults while their parents work.

My four favorite facts: The studies indicate that fewer than 20 percent of this care is of adequate quality; one found in several
* states that nearly half the child care for babies is so bad that it threatens their safety as well as their healthy development; that families with kids younger than 3 are the country's largest poverty population; and that one in three abuse victims is a baby.

The good news is that a great deal of good work is being done, enough so that experts know what works. The major problem is money,
* both to pay and train child-care workers adequately and to subsidize working parents of limited means because cost can be prohibitive.

The DeLauro and Kerry proposals wisely draw on this experience by emphasizing block grants to the states that would enable them to build on their existing efforts. They would also significantly expand the toddlers' version of Head Start, called Early Start, which is still reaching less than half the 4-year-olds in eligible families.

Where they differ is on the extent to which they require matching money from the states -- the DeLauro bill seeks at least 30 percent, the Kerry proposal less than half that. But while state effort is an important issue, it is still a detail.

Six months ago, Mrs. Clinton was mobilizing activists and raising consciousness. Now, she and her husband are clearly in the process of proposing to raise some serious money.

It's still risky to hope around here, but early childhood and
* child care are moving rapidly to the center of the national policy stage. Not bad for a year's work.

Child-Care Trap

DOCUMENT 64 OF 343

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EDITORIAL

* Child-Care Trap

732 Words

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Tulsa World

FINAL HOME EDITION

A8

EDITORIAL

(Copyright 1997)

SOME REPUBLICANS hate Bill Clinton so much that if he endorsed apple pie, they would come out against it. For these folks, if Clinton is for apple pie then it must be un-American.

* So, when the president calls an innocuous White House conference
* to talk about ways to promote better child care, a number of Republicans automatically issue jerkleg statements of opposition. They say, in effect, there's no problem.

Or, as Rep. Clay Shaw, R.-Fla., put it, "No government agency can replace vigilant parents in making sure that day care promotes their children's development and safety."

So, you see, there is no reason for the federal government or anybody else to worry about day care. Vigilant parents must take care of it. If they can't manage it without help, well, that's just tough.

This may not be exactly the message that Shaw and other critics of
* the Clinton child-care promotion intended, but that is what comes
* through. The president is for better child care; his opponents are against it.

It is a trap for the hardline Clinton-haters. And the president knows how to make it work. He endorses motherhood and they oppose it. He endorses the Golden Rule and they say it is another example of Big Government. He calls a meeting to talk about ways to improve the lives of children and ...

Fortunately, most Republicans are not so easily trapped. The GOP was well-represented at the conference. A bipartisan group of legislators promised action next year on a major initiative. Members of both parties may honestly disagree on what needs to be done, but they at least recognize the need for better care. Unlike the jerkleg Clinton critics, they will not give the appearance of being against decent care for kids.

Clinton's own program is extremely modest, heavy on PR, light on substance. It calls for changes in the law to make it easier to

- * check the possible criminal background of child-care job applicants. It establishes a volunteer business group to look for ways to provide on-site care for the children of workers.

The only substantial expense proposed is a \$300 million,

- * five-year scholarship program for child-care providers. As federal programs go, this is peanuts.

It is enough, however, to put President Clinton on the record

- * for better child care. And it has helped him, once again, to lure some of his bitterest critics into taking another strong stand against apple pie.

Starting Early // North Carolina Makes Children ...

DOCUMENT 65 OF 343

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NEWS

FOCUS: Children

Starting Early // North Carolina Makes Children Highest Priority

Leslie Wakulich

1113 Words

7799 Characters

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Tulsa World

FINAL HOME EDITION

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(Copyright 1997)

Three states to the east, children in rural communities are getting their teeth cleaned for the first time ever, and mothers are able to focus on their work, knowing their babies are in the best of hands.

However, this wasn't always the case in North Carolina, where dentists didn't want the poor children in their chairs and bosses didn't think too much about a woman's responsibilities to her children.

Since 1993, North Carolina's children have experienced a major change.

With the birth of Smart Start North Carolina, the state has made children its highest priority, making sure the youngest of their communities are healthy and safe.

In Tulsa, a similar grassroots movement to make the needs of young children No. 1 in everyone's mind began in February and is led by the Community Service Council. Members of the task force are looking at programs such as Smart Start North Carolina to formulate a plan of action for Tulsa.

In 1993, a group of child advocates appealed to North Carolina Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. to lead the march for children in their state. With \$20 million and his word to fight for kids, Smart Start was born. The program's budget doubled the next year and in 1997, the state legislature gave up a record-breaking \$97 million to fund Smart Start. In the next three years, Hunt said he plans to have 300 million state dollars being pumped into the program.

As a non-profit agency, Smart Start now disburses funds to over 100 of its state's counties to start up programs that fall within the realm of a young child's needs.

However, before a community receives funds for a program, it is

required first to survey the community, determine its needs, its resources and formulate a plan of action, Hunt said during last
* week's White House conference on child care.

Karen Ponder, program director for Smart Start at the North Carolina Partnership for Children, said that in the beginning, "Our goal was to have every child arrive at school better prepared for success."

Within a year, they saw positive results.

More children were being screened for learning delays, more
* children were being immunized, and higher quality child care was made available to more families.

"We know it's working," Ponder said. "The strategies are working."

However, some things are happening that they hadn't expected.

The communities have started to see children's issues "as a starting point, not as an afterthought," she said. And the barriers between the county and state have nearly disappeared. Ponder and other representatives at Smart Start act as liaisons between the communities and the state agencies, helping to dissolve their differences in the way programs are run.

So often she would hear agency employees at the county level say, "we would do this a different way but the state won't let us."

Now, thanks to Smart Start, programs are run "not (from the) top down which is typical, but (rather from the) bottom up," Ponder said.

In fact, that is partially what makes North Carolina's program shine in the company of children's initiatives that are popping up around the country.

Because of varying resources and needs, "If you were to come to North Carolina and look at Smart Start, you would find it very different in different communities," Ponder said.

* Gov. Hunt spotlighted one of the programs in the White House
* conference. In one county, Smart Start provides families partial funding for diapers and formula if a parent chooses to stay home until the child reaches 1 year of age. Each family would receive about \$1,500 for the year, which isn't much, he said. However, that is the need the county identified for itself.

Hunt also pointed out another strength of the program: private and public funding partnerships. Local businesses are encouraged to become involved in the local Smart Start programs, and it is an agency requirement that the funds aren't strictly from the state. Ten percent of the budget must come from private donations -- 5 percent in cash and 5 percent from in-kind donations.

"It's not just local, it's not just state," Ponder said of the program's unique characteristics. "It's using state and local to solve the problems, and then to incorporate not just those players

that typically make the decisions, but families, businesses, faith communities."

They make a point to involve "anyone that may have a stake in what happens (in the community) but usually doesn't get to make the decisions about how it happens."

Having parents and other interested parties participate in designing programs allows them to shed light on everyday problems. "A parent on the board might say to a Department of Social Services person, 'The reason people don't come in is because of the way your staff treats them.'"

Before Smart Start, the people affected by the policies and procedures didn't have much of a voice, Ponder said.

That is one reason the program creators felt it necessary to develop an entirely new agency to sponsor Smart Start. "We were really intentional in not having the perception of a lead agency," she said of the partnerships. "We wanted everybody to come together."

She said having an existing agency take the reins would "distort the process." For example, the Health Department or Department of Social Services would have a controlling interest in the program, she said.

Although Smart Start focuses its attention on pre-school age children, whereas Tulsa's movement will begin by addressing the needs of those from birth to age 3, the diversity and funding methods of the program attract Tulsans searching for answers for Oklahoma's children.

"They're not afraid to seek out state dollars to make the program work," said Nancy McDonald, president of the board of directors for the Community Service Council. Still, "each community decides how it will be used for their needs.

"That's the way Oklahomans like to work," she said.

Smart Start's web address is <http://www.smartstart-nc.org>

FAST FACTS

Each year more than 400 infants die from health problems, birth complications, birth defects, poverty, injuries and infections.

Last year DHS confirmed 11,700 cases of child abuse and neglect.

Almost 50 percent of Oklahoma women who first gave birth at age 17 or younger will not have completed high school by the time they are out of their teens.

During the 1994-95 school year (the most recent statistics available) 10,796 children under age 19 dropped out of school.

Source: Tulsa World (Okla.), October 27, 1997

Girls who are abused and neglected in childhood are 77 percent more likely to be arrested as juveniles.

In 1995, nearly 1,500 Oklahoma youths from age 10 to 17 were arrested for violent crimes (homicide, forcible rape, robbery)

Source: Oklahoma Kids Count Factbook '97

I0607 * End of document.

In America

BOB HERBERT

3:00, Nowhere to Go

The peak hours for juvenile crime are 3 P.M. to 8 P.M., with the biggest, most dangerous burst coming in the very first hour after school.

"In the one hour after the school bell rings, juvenile crime triples," said Sanford Newman, a lawyer and president of a national organization called *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids*.

The fundamental problem, of course, is a lack of adult supervision. The number of families that leave children unsupervised for part of the day has increased drastically in the past two to three decades. More women are working, more couples are divorcing and more children are being born to single mothers. After being closely supervised all day, millions of youngsters find themselves suddenly on their own at 3 P.M.

A report prepared for Attorney General Janet Reno by Mr. Newman and James Alan Fox, dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University, said: "Experts estimate that between five and seven million 'latchkey children' go home alone after school, and that roughly 35 percent of 12-year-olds are regularly left to fend for themselves while their parents are at work."

A lot of those kids get in trouble. Some will vandalize property, some will do drugs, some will have sex (the hours immediately after school are the peak hours for the conception of teen-age pregnancies), some will join gangs and some will commit violent crimes.

The report to Ms. Reno focused on the crime problem and said a national commitment to well-run after-school programs would be among the most effective ways of responding to it.

"When we send millions of young people out on the streets after school with no responsible supervision or constructive activities, we reap a massive dose of juvenile crime," the report said.

"If, instead, we were to provide students with quality after-school programs, safe havens from negative influences, and constructive recreational, academic enrichment and community service activities, we would dramatically reduce crime while helping students develop the values and skills they need to become good neighbors and responsible adults."

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a bipartisan crime prevention group. Its membership is composed primarily of high-ranking police officials, prosecutors and victims of crimes.

Youth programs are seen as a critical crime-fighting tool by police departments across the country. A national survey of police chiefs found that 92 percent believed the nation could make much sharper inroads against crime if there was a willingness to invest more in youth development programs and activities.

In an interview last week, Police Chief George Sweat of Winston-Salem, N.C., said: "In our local system

Chief Sweat said Winston-Salem had been considering the possibility of an 11 P.M. to 6 A.M. curfew for young people, but when he looked at the peak hours for juvenile crime he quickly found that the overnight period was not the problem.

"It just blew us away," he said. "There was no comparison. It was that period after school when we were finding our juvenile suspects and our juvenile victims. Right after school is when most of the kids are still congregated together, they haven't totally dispersed, and that's when you see the influence of the bad kids. You know, 'Let's follow the leader.'"

"The other kids get caught up in it. The fisticuffs. They go the 7-Eleven and shoplift. The statistics will show you that the after-school programs are far more important than a curfew."

Mr. Fox said the need for after-school programs will only grow over the next several years as the nation's teen-age population increases substantially. But he cautioned against seeing such programs simply as a way of fighting crime.

"They will reduce crime," he said, but they are needed for other reasons as well. "It is not a great idea that we have more and more kids who are getting less and less supervision. For their general well-being, we need to get more adults into their lives." □

Peak time for youth crime.

we used to have after-school sports and they cut back on them in the late-80's, and I think that's been one of the problems we've had with crime after school. It's since then that we've felt the brunt of the juvenile crime."

The children's hours

DOCUMENT 73 OF 343

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EDITORIAL PAGE

The children's hours

325 Words

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The Boston Globe

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(Copyright 1997)

- * The White House brought focus to child-care issues last week as only it can. With heavy press coverage, it gathered advocates from throughout the nation for a daylong conference. President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton spent hours participating.

Such national attention is beneficial but is only a first step.

Local organizations, states, Congress, and the White House itself will have to redouble their efforts and sharpen their focus if what Mrs. Clinton called the "silent crisis" is to be addressed. Much depends on their success. Some 60 percent of the nation's 12 million preschoolers receive care from someone other than a parent for large parts of the day, and that number is certain to grow with 4 million welfare-dependent mothers being pushed into the work force.

Even as participants spoke enthusiastically about the conference, gaps in the system were evident.

For instance, the largest specific proposal made by Clinton was a request for \$300 million over five years in incentives to improve the pay and training of day-care workers. By contrast, US Representative James McGovern of Worcester, a conference participant, believes \$4.25 billion is needed over five years -- 14 times as much -- simply to improve care for children through the age of 3.

On the other hand, even minimal progress may come hard. Representative Clay Shaw of Florida argues that Congress should do nothing until the effects of last year's welfare reform play out. But the substantially increased need for day care caused by that very act is already apparent.

An important part of the issue, pointed to by the president but often overlooked, is the need for structured after-school activities for older children, many of whom wander daily through what might be called a teenage wasteland period -- those three or four hours after schools close and before parents arrive home.

- * The White House conference might have felt good. But only action from Washington and state and local officials will do good.

Source: Boston Globe, October 26, 1997

SWEET DREAMS A DAY-CARE SYSTEM ...

DOCUMENT 12 OF 21

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COMMENTARY

SWEET DREAMS A DAY-CARE SYSTEM WORTHY OF OUR MOST
PRECIOUS COMMODITY

Joan Beck.

957 Words

6317 Characters

* 10/26/97

Chicago Tribune

NORTH SPORTS FINAL; C

19

(Copyright 1997)

It's a soccer mom issue. A photo-op and sound-bite showcase for the first lady's newly rehabilitated image. A way to convince America that Hillary Rodham Clinton also feels our pain. A push for the nanny state so dear to the Clintons' political hearts.

* So last week's White House Conference on Child Care punched a lot of the personal, political and economic buttons, touched a lot of the emotional bases, plugged away at the appealing theme of "access, affordability and safety."

* The president called child care "the single, most important question about social policy today" and urged a "national conversation" on the issue. Those are almost exactly the same sound-bite words he used about race several weeks ago. What he didn't offer was a lot of federal dollars. And maybe that's a good thing.

While conferees acknowledged that high-quality day care simply cannot be provided at a price most young working parents can afford, they sidestepped the issue of how much of the bill-paying and regulating the federal government should take on. Instead there were calls for vague "public-private partnerships" and a promise by the president to talk more about the issue in next year's State of the Union address.

The stark economics of day care are simple. Experts recommend there be one caregiver for every two infants, one for every four toddlers and one for every 10 preschoolers--in contrast to elementary schools where a teacher typically has 20 to 30 children. Unlike school, day care must be available eight to 10 hours a day and 52 weeks a year to accommodate working parents.

So day-care centers typically skimp on salaries--and often on staffing. Caregivers, generally, are paid less than almost all

other workers in America--usually a little more than minimum wages, often without health insurance and on a par with dog kennel employees, according to government surveys.

It should be no surprise that it is difficult to recruit trained staffers or that turnover is disastrously high, making it difficult for young children to form essential bonds with their parent substitutes.

President Clinton proposed using \$300 million in new federal money over five years for scholarships to train day-care providers who agree to stay on the job for at least a year and to add a little to their salaries. But it won't help much as long as pay remains abysmally low.

The more we learn about the mental and emotional development of children before age 6, the more important it is that the adults who care for them understand this new knowledge and use it well. Teachers who work with children younger than 6 should have as much training as those who teach older kids. It's hard to argue they shouldn't be paid as much.

Paying adequate salaries would, of course, push day care beyond the reach of most young parents. State and federal programs do provide day care for some youngsters from poor families, although waiting lists can be long and demand is growing as more young mothers are being pushed off welfare.

Other parents rely on relatives or on family day care--usually an informal arrangement with a mother who takes in several children to supervise along with her own offspring. The quality of care can range from great to indifferent to dangerous.

The "public-private partnerships" the Clintons are proposing * are an effort to shift more of the burden of paying for child care to employers. They cited as examples the successful businesses that run centers for workers' children or subsidize community facilities or offer referral services. Mrs. Clinton said such efforts would save money because parents wouldn't spend so much work time worrying about their kids.

There is much to worry about. Surveys rate less than 15 percent of day care as "good" and a bigger percentage as "dangerous." Clinton did propose new legislation that would make it easier to do background checks on day-care providers.

And there are other matters that must be talked about in this "national conversation" the Clintons propose.

Many experts still have qualms about the effects of day-long day care starting at an early age. Young children may not bond well with their parents, affecting later emotional development, they say. Even with optimal staffing, even in family day care, caregivers can't provide all the immediate, one-to-one, mental stimulation that increases IQ. Day care children also have more

infectious illnesses than other kids.

Although it's probably too late in the social revolution that has swept tens of millions of mothers into the workforce, we should also be asking whether it makes economic sense to expand day care and make it a new norm for this country.

Single-parent families may have no choice. But in some
* two-income families, the costs of child care, work expenses, taxes and extra services such as carry-out food may eat up most of the second salary.

In their concern about day care, the Clintons should lean harder on employers for other alternatives--strategies that can make it easier for parents to work and spend more time with their kids. Flexible hours help. So do telecommuting options, job sharing and better part-time options. All have been proven to be cost-effective for businesses.

Many women with career ambitions are now afraid to take time off to parent for a few years for fear their opportunities will be lost forever. We need new programs, similar to those for executives making mid-career changes, to help these parents catch up and a corporate culture that would welcome them back on the fast track.

The vast social and economic changes that are occurring as the workforce changes impact hardest on vulnerable children and young families. They do need help. And it should come from a changing and responsive workplace--not from a federal nanny state.

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A matter of choice

DOCUMENT 78 OF 343

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EDITORIAL

A matter of choice

Dennis Byrne

628 Words

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* 10/26/97

Chicago Sun-Times

LATE SPORTS FINAL

37

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Something that first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said on Thursday

* at the White House conference on child care should have stopped everyone cold.

* Arguing for more, not less, child care, she said, without batting an eye, " . . . 45 percent of our children under the age of 1 (are) in day care regularly. . . . "

Wait, stop. This, if true, should have been the news from the conference, not the launch of another government program. Think what this means: Nearly half of American infants are being farmed out, to be tended (not reared) by someone else. Nearly half are being denied a parent's loving, intimate and continuous interaction when they most need it, in the awakening of their lives.

The destructive impact of this is laid out by Stanley Greenspan, a clinical professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at George Washington University Medical School and author of *The Growth of the Mind: The Endangered Origins of Intelligence*. Writing in the

* Washington Post, he warned that most out-of-home child care, even at some "excellent" facilities, cannot provide all of the "six essential building blocks for a child's healthy mind and brain." Three of the six - "on-going, intimate relationships; interactions made up of lengthy, back-and-forth emotional dialogues, and long problem-solving discussions with gestures" - are "compromised due to the very structure of center-based day care," he said.

"The other three components of good care - providing stimulation appropriate to the baby's nervous system; shared use of creative ideas, and logical use of ideas through eliciting opinions and debates - vary significantly, depending on the staff and the chemistry between caregivers and the children," he said. "Impersonal

* child care is but the most obvious symptom of a society that is moving toward more impersonal modes of communication, education, and

health and mental health care."

And this is in the name of . . . what? Necessity?

- * Yes, single mothers and low-income families must have good child
- * care available. But the assertion that everyone needs it is malarkey. Too many people "need" it because it takes two wages to support a lifestyle they want.

Now the Clintons have the audacity to add yet another materialistic argument for why children must pay the price for our lifestyle choices: It is "essential to keeping our economy strong," President Clinton said Thursday.

- * If we give a damn about children, what we should do, instead of shoving millions more into baby centers, is find ways to allow more
- * to be reared at home by the full-time child care "professionals" who care best and most for them. Employers, as corporate citizens, must accommodate mommy and daddy trackers with flexible working hours and benefit packages that allow them to meet their first obligation to their children. That includes the payment of a living wage that lets more parents stay home to provide for their kids' legitimate, minimum needs. And the voice from the White House bully pulpit must join the increasing numbers that demand renewed respect for child-rearing in an intact, two-parent family.

Instead, the Clintons give us '90s-style tripe about how Americans must have it all: Americans, President Clinton said, in effect asserting a middle-class entitlement to day care, "have to be able to succeed at work and at home in raising their children. And if we put people in the position of essentially having to choose one over the other, our country is going to be profoundly weakened."

- * Wrong. Sometimes we can't have it all. Sometimes, we must make
- * choices. The first responsibility for high-quality child care rests with parents, and sometimes that means choosing denial. Which is not
- * a word we heard used much in the White House conference.

Dennis Byrne is a member of the Sun-Times editorial board.
E-mail: dbyrne@suntimes.com

I0607 * End of document.

Spilling the beans on Hillary's child care conference

This week, we have heard much rhetoric about children, brain development, family counseling and lack of money and services. On Thursday, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, with help from the Children's Defense Fund and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), put on a great show at the White House Conference on Child Care. They are trying to convince the American people that the sky is falling and all will be lost if we don't accept and support their big-government, big-spending and Big Brother ideas about children, parenting and families.

They have presented us with myriad anecdotal stories and add their usual brand of warm fuzzies. They have brought to Washington busloads of children for a 1960s-style sit-in to raise awareness.

For the uninitiated and inexperienced, this may sound wonderful and new but, actually, it's an old story that has been dusted off and given a new cover. After all the kick-off noise has died down, members of Congress will be bombarded with child care legislation just about the time they take their seats in January. The same liberals who carried the ball for Hillary and company before will carry it again. They will include Democratic Sens. Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut, Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Barbara A. Mikulski of Maryland.

We can expect another attempt at national child care regulations for day care centers and home providers. These regulations will no doubt conflict with already-existing state regulations, not to mention the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The last attempt to implement such national regulations was with the Federal Interagency Day Care Requirements of the 1970s Mondale-Brademas Act. Those requirements were so poorly received that they were repealed almost as soon as they were implemented.

Also, watch for an all-out assault on the privacy of the family. In her recent speech at the University of Maryland, Mrs. Clinton made it clear that every home and family should be taught, through parenting education and family visitation by social-service intermediaries, how to raise children. This would begin in the prenatal stages and continue throughout childhood.

There's more. Expect great emphasis on child care resource and referral, another expensive layer of bureaucracy, designed to tell parents where to find "quality" child care. What's wrong with that? Plenty. What Mrs. Clinton means by quality child care is NAEYC-accredited programs that she hopes will become the national base for federal regulations and "quality control."

NAEYC publishes numerous books and teacher-training materials that have become controversial. The organization's radical and politically motivated ideologies have even prompted the 1997 General Assembly of North Carolina to pass legislation prohibiting the requirement or the promotion of NAEYC materials and products by state agencies. The Virginia General Assembly dealt with this in 1996 with a bill of its own and rejected NAEYC for the same reasons. The idea of resource and referral as a "controlled business" entity has been bathed in controversy, including antitrust and conflict-of-interest issues.

Throughout the debate, one theme rings loud and clear — money. Though Congress and the states are spending more on children's programs and services than ever before in the history of this country, Mrs. Clinton and Children's Defense Fund spokeswoman Marian Wright Edelman continue to claim that it isn't enough. They offer no advice on how to make the existing programs more efficient.

In Virginia, as in most other states, we've already dealt with many of these issues. In addition to

getting our state government lean and efficient, we've provided more dollars for real services to the most needy families. With the passage of both state and congressional welfare-reform bills, which provided much-needed flexibility, our Child Care Development Fund State Plan provides the maximum amount of funding for direct purchase of services for those families most in need while fully respecting and upholding parental choice. This puts mom and dad in the driver's seat, not the social-welfare bureaucracy.

To help parents find child care, the George Allen administration implemented Virginia Child Care Online as part of Virginia's Internet Web site. This provides a searchable database of every legal child care provider in the state and is complemented by a print version available at local public libraries and Department of Social Services offices. This is all at a cost of about \$10,000.

As for regulations, our child care regulations, currently plagued with rambling verbiage, redundancy and special-interest favoritism, have been streamlined by the Child Day Care Council to get to the real concerns — health and safety. These new streamlined regulations, it is hoped, will be adopted and will result in easier enforcement and better compliance.

What does Mrs. Clinton have to say about all this? Well, it's clear that she has little or no respect for 10th Amendment issues and states' rights. She wants federal-to-local grants and programs that "bypass" state lawmakers. She wants Washington bureaucrats in the driver's seat, not mom and dad.

What does the White House Conference on Child Care mean for parents? Gather up your children and guard your wallets, because Hillary is coming.

VERNON L. HOLLOMAN JR.

Chairman
Governor's Advisory Commission
on Welfare Reform in Virginia
Richmond

Child-care ideal vs. reality

DOCUMENT 93 OF 343

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Main News

* Child-care ideal vs. reality

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The Des Moines Register

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* Thursday's White House Conference on Child Care focused on this ideal: That each of the millions of youngsters left in the charge of someone other than their parents should get ample attention from the same loving person for years to foster trust and other kinds of learning.

The reality for many families is so different as to be almost laughable -if the potential repercussions weren't so lamentable.

* How to provide good child care has long been on the national agenda, but the obstacles remain.

Whether it's a day-care center, a baby sitter's home or a nanny, turnover tends to be high because pay for providers is often low and we live in a mobile society. The single most crucial issue still is trying to assure an ongoing bond between child and caregiver -a bond that includes proper emotional, intellectual and social interaction.

Then there are issues such as making night and weekend care available, the lack of high state standards for infant and toddler

* care, and child-care costs consuming low-income families' budgets.

* Experts at the White House conference talked about the
* importance of subsidizing child care to help poor families get off or stay off welfare. They talked about persuading more businesses
* to look at high-quality child care and flexible work schedules as smart investments. They talked about seeing to it that children
* have a chance to develop their skills while in child care.

The discussion under way is important, and some good will no doubt come of it. But it is also important to remember this: Parents have the first responsibility for making sure their children receive good care, however difficult that may be.

An undercurrent of the discussion under way is to shift that responsibility away from parents. Others can and should help, but no one else generally will do it as faithfully as a mother or a father.

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Child Care White House conference highlights ...

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EDITORIALS

Editorials

* Child Care White House conference highlights looming problem

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HOME FINAL

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The lack of affordable, high-quality day care is a critical issue to millions of American parents.

Congress and the media have mostly ignored it.

* So first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton organized a White House

* conference to draw attention to the issue. President Clinton

* attended and offered several ideas to improve child care. Partisans should suppress any urge to assail his modest, helpful proposals, which include:

* . \$300 million spent over five years to improve child-care workers' pay and training.

. New legislation to make it easier to check the backgrounds of

* child-care providers.

. Diverting some AmeriCorps workers to watch over latchkey kids.

Each proposal tackles a slightly different aspect of the

* child-care problem. Each could help. But the need is so great that parents, employers, regulators, social service agencies and providers need to seek the broadest possible range of solutions.

For instance, lower-income parents, and single parents, may have no choice except full-time work outside the home. But upper-middle-income families have more options. Some can adjust their lifestyles _ buy a smaller house and drive an older car _ and save enough money so that only one parent has to work full time.

* That lessens the demand for child care.

Employers can help more. Flexible schedules, job-sharing arrangements and cross-training employees (so they can fill in for each other during emergencies) would ease parents' burdens. Many parents would welcome more on-site day-care centers, which allow moms and dads to visit during the day and constantly monitor quality. Small- and medium-sized companies could offer vouchers or even create a shared center to serve an office or industrial park.

Legislators must adequately fund licensing and inspection programs. They, too, can offer scholarship funds or subsidies so

- * chronically underpaid child-care workers can improve their skills.
- * Child care is not a women's issue. It is a family issue with a
- * significant impact on our nation's future. Consider the White House
- * conference the prologue to what needs to be a lengthy national discussion.

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Clinton Pledges \$300 Million Toward Improving Child Care

By JOHN M. BRODER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 — Hillary Rodham Clinton invited the President to her conference on child care today, and he obliged by offering a few modest proposals to alleviate parents' concerns about the cost and quality of day care centers.

The President promised to send to Congress a measure providing \$300 million over five years to improve the pay and training of child care workers. He also said he would propose legislation to make it easier for parents to run background checks on potential day care providers. And he said he would instruct his AmeriCorps national service program to divert some of its young volunteers to look after latchkey kids — children who return to empty homes after school.

Mr. Clinton also ordered Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin to jaw-bone private employers about providing on-site child care for their workers.

Although Mr. Clinton provided the day's policy proposals, the spotlight shone on the First Lady. The child care conference was her return to the domestic policy stage after three years of relative obscurity as controversy over her role in the Administration's failed health care initiative and questions about her involvement in the complex of scandals known as Whitewater swirled around her.

But those dark days are past and Mrs. Clinton is riding a wave of popularity to draw notice to issues of concern to women and families that have animated her. Foremost among those issues is the plight of 13 million American children who spend all or some of their day in the care of

A First Lady returns to favor and domestic policy.

someone other than a parent. She said today that the quality of many of the facilities ranges from mediocre to poor and that the pay of child care workers is "abysmal."

Today was her day, as she put it, to inaugurate a national "conversation" about the vast disparity between the demand for affordable, high-quality child care and the paucity of supply. The day of discussion in the White House East Room was a testament to the Clintons' continuing belief in the healing power of talk.

"We hope that this conference will spur the conversations around kitchen tables and water coolers and standing in supermarket aisles or at soccer games, or while going to or from work in the car pool," Mrs. Clinton said in calling the daylong conference to order, "whatever it takes to engage more Americans in this discussion, to make it clear that we want American parents to succeed at the most important task they have, caring for the next generation."

But despite hours of testimony about the crying need for more and better day care, the Administration's proposed response was quite restrained, in deference to political and fiscal realities.

Both the President and the First Lady have adopted an incremental approach to social progress, using

the White House pulpit to lay issues before the public and urging others to find solutions — and, for the most part, to pay for them.

Mrs. Clinton emphasized that while the Federal Government can contribute to improving the quality of the nation's child care network, through tax credits and other incentives, the bulk of the task lies with employers and unions, churches and charitable organizations, schools and local Governments, and, especially, parents.

Thus the Clintons set out to address a problem identified by millions of working parents as their gravest concern: who is looking after their kids while they are out earning wages.

Mr. Clinton called child care "the single, most important question about social policy today" — although he spoke in similar terms about the issue of race in America, about which he has also launched a national conversation.

The conference, like other such affairs at the White House, was heavily laden with statistics ("between 58 percent and 75 percent of parents feel they have zero choices" of day care arrangements) and scripted questions and answers.

But the President also noted that such conferences pose a danger of substituting talk for real action and real resources from communities. What is needed, he said, are partnerships that "add up to a system that serves everybody instead of just makes nice, touching stories they can all tell each other at seminars till kingdom come."

Mr. Clinton said that he was preparing a package of child care meas-

ures that will be announced in his State of the Union address in January. But as a down payment, he offered today's low-cost proposals.

The most ambitious is a scholarship program for caregivers. The \$300 million proposal would provide funds to train 50,000 day care providers who promise to stay in the field at least a year. White House officials said the plan is designed to address the twin problems of low pay and high turnover.

The President is also urging businesses to provide their workers more day care options, perhaps as part of a "cafeteria-style" benefits menu. And he wants to open more after-school programs, staffed by volunteers from Americorps.

But the libertarian Cato Institute today released a study contradicting the premises of the White House parley. The report, by the institute's domestic policy analyst Darcy Olsen, found that the supply of day care workers has kept up with the demand. The report also asserted that employers, unions and communities have responded to the need for day care with creative, low-cost programs. And it said that most families are satisfied with their child care arrangements.

Ms. Olsen's report said that the Clinton Administration would replace the flexibility shown by families and employers "with a set of rigid standards, which would run roughshod over the individual needs of parents and children."

She concluded: "Congress should resist any attempt to increase funding for child care and to impose Federal standards on providers and parents."

President Announces Child-Care Initiatives

Scholarship, Wage Plan Proposed at Conference

By Barbara Vobejda
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton yesterday proposed a \$300 million program of scholarships to improve the training and raise the wages of day-care workers and promised to unveil early next year a broader plan to improve child care across the country.

The proposal was among several offered by the president at a day-long White House conference on child care, where numerous experts described a system suffering from poor quality, high costs and a lack of accessible care, particularly for infants and school-age children.

"Too often, child care is unaffordable, inaccessible and sometimes even unsafe," Clinton said. "Even for those who can afford it, sometimes good care is hard to find."

The conference, which brought together state and federal officials, business leaders and child-care advocates, is the first high-profile effort to find solutions to a problem affecting millions of American families.

Several national studies have documented that most of the care provided in centers and in providers' homes is mediocre or even poor quality. Experts attribute that to several factors, including lack of training and low pay among workers, which leads to high turnover rates.

"At the same time, the cost of child care presents an enormous financial burden to many families and federal-state subsidies are reaching only about one-tenth of those who are eligible.

"Advocates have argued that only a major investment by government or the private sector can address the fundamental problem—parents simply cannot afford to pay the cost of high-quality care.

But the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has played a leading role in the administration's efforts to focus on child care, suggested that a large-scale federal program was not the answer. Instead, they explored solutions that relied more on public-private partnerships and efforts by businesses to help make child care more avail-

In addition to the scholarship program, the president proposed legislation that would make it easier to conduct background checks on child-care providers, announced the formation of a group of business leaders to spur private investment in child care and said volunteers in the Corporation for National Service would help improve after-school care programs.

Clinton said he would unveil in his State of the Union speech in January a more comprehensive plan to improve access, affordability and safety of child care.

Aides said the administration would consider increasing federal funding to states to help low-income parents pay for care. Also, the White House will look at expanding the dependent care tax credit, which allows some families to claim a credit on their income tax for child-care expenses up to a certain level.

Bruce Reed, the president's domestic policy adviser, also cited the possibility of creating a tax benefit to encourage businesses to help provide child care.

The scholarship proposal, which will be included in the president's budget package next year, would provide at least \$250 million in federal funds over five years.

State, local or private sources would contribute one dollar for every four federal dollars they received, bringing the total to about \$300 million. The money would be used by states to design programs to help providers earn credits toward an early-childhood education credential, certificate or college degree. A portion of the scholarship fund would go to increase wages or pay a bonus when workers complete their course work.

The proposal is modeled on a North Carolina program known as TEACH, which was designed not only to improve the training of providers but to reduce turnover, which runs as high as 50 percent among day-care workers nationally each year.

In North Carolina, where the statewide turnover rate is 42 percent, the figure among those who have participated in the program dropped to about 10 percent, child-care experts said, in large part because of wage increases the workers earned after completing training.

Child-care advocates said they welcomed the proposal because it included funds for both training and higher wages.

"What was really good about today was that everybody seemed to understand that if we want quality child care we have to improve child-care jobs and the people have to get adequately compensated," said Marcy Whitebook, co-director of the National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force.

But while they expressed relief that the administration had focused on the issue, advocates also cautioned that the proposals were relatively modest.

"Obviously these are all small things and we need more pieces," said

Helen Blank, who specializes in child care for the Children's Defense Fund.

Among the other proposals announced yesterday was legislation creating a compact among states agreeing to release criminal history information for background checks on day-care workers. Currently, laws in many states prohibit the release of such information except for certain criminal investigations, making it impossible for child-care agencies to conduct nationwide checks on prospective employees.

Clinton's Right to Ask 'Who's Minding the Kids?'

A generation after American women surged into the work force and changed work and family arrangements, the nation still dodges a critical question: Who is really minding the kids? Why is child care — so fundamental to children's well-being and the economy's efficient functioning — so haphazard?

Yesterday's White House conference on child care was overdue, and urgent. It underscored the woeful inadequacies of the current patchwork that, research shows, provides mediocre care at best for poor and middle-class kids alike.

President Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham

Clinton also shined a spotlight on inventive public-private partnerships that have improved child care in some communities.

At bottom, the problem is economic: Most parents can't afford to pay more for care than they do now, so the system remains cash-starved. Child-care workers are sorely underpaid and undertrained and turnover is high, so the fragile emotional bonds that are key to a child's healthy development are frequently severed. Few districts provide after-school care for older children, who are at greater risk of getting into trouble when left on their own. As a society, we've never tried to come to

grips with this, and Clinton deserves credit for the effort. His own initiatives are small: a \$300-million scholarship fund to finance training for child-care workers, easier ways to check the criminal backgrounds of potential caregivers. Significantly, Clinton appointed Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to head a business and labor task force, to prod employers — who have a stake in reducing productivity losses from unreliable child care — into a greater role.

These are baby steps, to be sure. But at least Clinton is trying to creep forward where others have dared not go.

White House conferees alarmed at 'silent crisis'

Seek public funding, regulation of child care

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

More leadership, money and respect for caregivers are needed to address the nation's "silent crisis" of day care for working families, speakers at an unprecedented White House conference said yesterday.

"It is America's next great frontier in strengthening our families and our future," said President Clinton, who with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin tied quality child care to the nation's continued prosperity.

Conferees claimed that severe shortages of care — especially for infants, disabled children, teen-agers and children of parents who work odd hours — undermine the ability of parents, especially women and single parents, to work effectively.

This, in turn, affects the nation's productivity and competitiveness, panelists said. They also spoke of a lack of "quality" child care that can respond to the extraordinary mental and emotional development that occurs between infancy and age 3.

"I think it's a silent crisis," first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" before the conference.

"There are wonderful child care settings and very many good, solid providers who are taking care of our children, but every national survey demonstrates what unfortunately we have to recognize: Too much of our child care is not adequate," Mrs. Clinton said.

The Clintons and Vice President Al Gore gathered some 130 child care leaders, parents, businessmen, members of Congress and Cabinet officials for a daylong conference in the East Room. The proceedings were also watched through more than 100 satellite hookups around the nation.

Many of yesterday's panelists concluded that:

- More public funding is needed for subsidize child care, to ensure that all needy families can find care. Additional funds should come from local communities and private and nonprofit groups.
- More training — and perhaps accreditation — is needed for day care providers.
- Higher wages and more respect is needed for the child care profession, to attract and keep good workers.

Mr. Clinton yesterday proposed several solutions, including a new public-private partnership to expand after-school programs, legislation to help day care employers conduct background checks on pro-

spective employees, and a \$300 million scholarship fund for child care providers.

Congressional Republicans said that critical changes, including \$4 billion in new funding, are already moving to solve many day care problems.

Last year's welfare reform "completely overhauled federal child care programs" and boosted government spending on child care to \$30 billion by 2002, GOP Reps. E. Clay Shaw of Florida and Frank Riggs of California said in a letter to Mr. Clinton this week.

The federal funds are intended to "help parents pay for child care" while allowing parents to choose where they want their children cared for, the Republicans said.

The welfare law also requires states to set health and safety standards in day care facilities, and prohibits spending federal funds on substandard facilities, they said.

"We are confident that states have the legislative tools and financial means to help low-income parents find suitable child care for their children," the Republican lawmakers said. "We should avoid further changes that would make federal law a constantly moving target."

Mrs. Clinton noted on "Good Morning America" that while the welfare-reform law boosted child care funding, it also will "put a lot more children in the child care market" as welfare parents are moved into jobs.

"The real difficulty," Mrs. Clinton added, "is that the real cost of providing child care by well-trained, stable caregivers is not cheap."

In 1995, about 13 million of the 21 million children under age 6 were in child care. Another 5 million school-age children under age 14 are unsupervised after school during a typical week.

Parents pay an average of \$50 to \$92 a week for child care, according to a 1993 Census Bureau report. But while parents pay an average of \$4,000 a year per child in care, "quality" child care costs closer to \$6,800 a year per child, experts say.

Because many parents can't afford that, child care providers cut costs. As a result, experts say, roughly 14 percent of day care situations are good, as many as 20 percent are bad, and the rest are safe but "mediocre."

"Mediocre" means the kids "are wandering aimlessly ... running from the front of the couch to the back of the couch," said Families and Work Institute leader Ellen Galinsky, one of the White House panelists.

Government child care

There are two key things to remember in considering Hillary Clinton's latest foray into public policy, kicked off by a White House conference on child care this week.

First of all, like just about everything else in this country, the issue of child care does not lend itself to one big homogeneous solution. Second, the last thing anyone needs or wants is for the government — any government, local, state or federal — which has made such a hash of public schooling, to start working its bureaucratic magic on child care.

Before taking any step at all — or considering allowing Mrs. Clinton and her husband to take any step — we need to separate the apples from the oranges in what Mrs. Clinton insists is to be no more than a national discussion of the problems women are having finding people to take care of their children while they work. Are we, for example, or, rather, are Mrs. Clinton and her collection of entitlement gurus (like Children's Defense Fund leader and Hillary adviser Marian Wright Edelman), to be talking about women who need child care because they need to work to feed, clothe and house their families? Or are we talking about women, like Mrs. Clinton herself, in fact, who wish to have child care — who actually seem to believe they're entitled to have child care — because they wish to work in order to lead fulfilled lives? (Mrs. Clinton, of course, as she is the first to admit, comes to the issue with no experience of her own: she's always had free help around the house, thanks first to the taxpayers of Arkansas, and now to the rest of us as well.)

It certainly seems it would be difficult to address these two entirely different situations in the same

way, at the same time. For women who work because they want to, the problem of child care is hardly an emergency; and complaints about it frequently seem to amount to not much more than the old-fashioned tongue-clucking about how hard it is to find good help these days.

For women who work out of economic necessity — many of whom might well choose not to if there were any choice — finding adequate, affordable child care has always been a problem. For them, one can envision at least one helpful hint for Mr. Clinton: How about cutting taxes in a serious way, for instance, so that these women and their husbands and families could use their own hard-earned money as they see fit — to keep mom at home, perhaps, or to pay for better-quality care — rather than handing it over to the government?

Is there an ideal solution to this problem? Quite likely not, just as there are no ideal solutions to most of life's knottier problems.

The one thing to be avoided at all costs, and the one thing one can't help suspecting is the ideal of those involved in Mrs. Clinton's new crusade, is universal, low-cost, high-quality child care for everyone. Quite apart from the fact that this is a fantasy impossible to realize, there is the fact that it isn't even everyone's fantasy. Not by a long shot. While the idea of universal child care, like that of universal health care, may be the utopian dream of the aging '60s types who inhabit the Clinton administration, most Americans prefer to manage their own lives, with the least possible intervention from Washington.

They will be as loath to invite the government into their nurseries as they were to allow it into their doctors' offices.

Nanny, on the Stand, Denies Killing Baby

By CAREY GOLDBERG

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Oct. 23 — Every working parent's deepest fear has a new face: one with a milk-maid's wholesome roundness, clear blue eyes and a broad, serene brow.

It belongs to a 19-year-old British au pair named Louise Woodward, accused of handling the baby in her care so roughly that he died of brain injuries from a force equal to a two-story fall.

Today, in the most riveting moments yet in her three-week-old murder trial here, Ms. Woodward took the stand and said that she had never, and would never, hurt her charge, 9-month-old Matthew Eappen of Newton, Mass.

"I love kids," she said in a voice so soft that she was repeatedly told to speak up.

Ms. Woodward's defense argues that Matthew's injuries may have come weeks earlier, and that the young live-in nanny, though frustrated by her job's strictures, had always given children exemplary care.

The case, broadcast gavel-to-gavel on Court TV as "The Nanny Murder Trial," has become the talk of Boston — and of England, where cameras are not allowed in the courtroom.

There, doubts about whether Ms. Woodward is being treated fairly by the American justice system, combined with the heady new experience of watching a trial unfold, have attracted so much attention that some call it Britain's version of the O.J. Simpson obsession.

But here in the United States, the trial stands out from other nanny-abuse cases. Not only has it struck chords of anxiety and guilt among working parents; it has also put a spotlight on the backlash against working mothers who consign their children to the care of others.

Dr. Deborah Eappen (pronounced EE-pen), Matthew's mother, has reported receiving angry letters telling her that she should have stayed home with her two sons. The response to Dr. Eappen's loss, on a Web site devoted to the trial, in newspapers and in television broadcasts, has not been unmitigated sympathy.

"We've had a fair amount of criticism of her, and your heart goes out to her," said Erik Sorenson, head of programming for Court TV, which regularly broadcasts phone calls from viewers during the trial. (One viewer who called last week was Mr. Simpson, who expressed sympathy for Ms. Woodward.)

Mr. Sorenson added, "It's a double tragedy for her that she not only has to lose her child, but to withstand criticism for the life style she was leading."

Not that it was such an unusual life style. Dr. Eappen, an ophthalmologist, worked three days a week, and often came home for lunch. Her husband, Sunil, is an anesthesiologist; they and their older son, Brendan, live in a modest house in Newton, a heavily professional Boston suburb.

But the reaction appears to fit with a lingering unwillingness among some Americans to accept the idea of working mothers, said Stephanie Coontz, professor of history and family studies at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., and author of "The Way We Really Are: Coming to Terms with America's Changing Families" (Basic Books, \$23).

Two-thirds of American mothers of children under 6 work, Ms. Coontz said. Yet instead of creating a national child-care policy, she said, "we say to individual women, 'You go out there blindfolded and get the best child care you can, and if you can't, we're going to blame you.'"

The criticism of Dr. Eappen prompted one Boston Globe reader to write in outrage that when welfare mothers stayed home with their children, they were branded lazy; when working mothers put their children into day care, they were accused of "dumping" them in germ-infested settings; and when they used au pairs, they were accused of abandoning their children to inexperienced teen-agers.

Ms. Woodward's trial has also provoked some re-examination of the au pair system, under which young foreigners are brought to this country under a program overseen by the United States Information Agency, in what amounts to a cross between a cultural exchange and a nanny employment service. The au pairs — the term is French for "as an equal,"

*With a soft voice, a
resolute denial of
any wrongdoing.*

because an au pair is to be treated as a virtual member of the family — are generally much cheaper than professional child care, since they receive only about \$140 a week plus room and board.

Last month, the agency announced stringent new rules for au pairs, who number about 10,000 per year. Those who care for children under 2 years of age must have at least 200 documented hours of child-care experience, it said; the agency also limited the number of hours that au pairs could work to 10 a day and 45 a week.

The au pair system plays an intrinsic role in Ms. Woodward's trial, because the prosecution is arguing that the young woman, chafing at the strictures of her job, took out her anger and resentment on Matthew.

Prosecutors say Ms. Woodward, who came to the United States in mid-1996 to take a year off between high school and college, was furious that the Eappens wanted to impose a

curfew on her. It would crimp a social life that included seeing the Boston production of the musical "Rent" at least 20 times, they said.

Prosecution witnesses said Ms. Woodward had told them she disliked her job, and medical experts testified that it appeared the baby had been shaken violently and slammed against an object. A police officer who came to the house when Ms. Woodward, panicking when she noticed the baby was semiconscious and barely breathing, phoned 911, said she told him she had been "a little rough" with the baby.

But the defense, which began last Friday and may end as early as this Friday, has produced its own forensic experts to argue that Matthew Eappen's brain injuries could have been sustained weeks earlier. It argues that the injuries merely became aggravated on Feb. 4, the day Ms. Woodward phoned 911.

Today, Ms. Woodward, on the stand for most of the day, proved an effective witness in her own defense, well-spoken and remaining largely self-possessed except for some teariness when she described her panic at finding the child unresponsive.

She said that she shook Matthew as she tried to get him to respond, but only lightly, demonstrating a gentle motion that would not have caused the injuries found in his brain. And she said the police officer who said she had admitted to being rough with Matthew must have misunderstood her.

"They said to me, 'So maybe you were just a little rough with him? You know, it must have been frustrating for you. Maybe you were a little rough?'" she recalled.

She continued, "So I told him maybe I wasn't as gentle with him as I could have been — what I meant was that I was being kind of quicker than usual."

Asked if she had actually been rough with Matthew, she replied, "I don't think so."

If convicted of first-degree murder, Ms. Woodward would face life in prison without parole, prosecutors say. The jury also has the option of convicting her of second-degree murder or manslaughter.

Nanny trial raises lifestyle issue

For parents, careers clash with child-care

By John Larrabee
USA TODAY

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Looking slightly nervous and speaking in calm, measured tones, the British nanny accused of shaking an 8-month-old baby to death took the stand Thursday and denied doing anything wrong. "Never," said Louise Woodward, 19.

Over the past week, a half dozen doctors have offered opinions on the death of Matthew Eappen. Those called by the prosecution said he was most likely shaken and struck on the head. Those called by the defense said he may have had previous, undetected injuries.

Inside the courtroom, the trial is about how one baby died. Outside, the trial has renewed debate over how a generation of suburban parents chooses to live.

And as Matthew's parents struggle with their heartbreak, they find themselves under public scrutiny for leaving their children with a sitter while they pursued careers.

"You go to work every day thinking you're doing the right thing for your kids, providing them with a good home in a town with good schools," said marketing consultant Helen Murphy of Newton, the same Boston suburb where the Eappens make their home. "Then you see the fingerpointing, and you wonder."

Sunil and Deborah Eappen, both doctors in their early 30s, were introduced to Woodward last November through a cultural-exchange program that brings European college students to the USA to work as au pairs, or live-in baby sitters.

The Eappens had two children — Brendan, 2, and Matthew, then 6 months — and Deborah wanted to return to work three days a week so they could afford a bigger home.

The arrangement was rocky from the start. Woodward, then 18, had dreams of becoming an actress and often headed into Boston at night to explore the theater district.

The Eappens complained to Woodward about her late hours and long phone calls. Woodward, according to trial testimony, told friends little Matthew was "a fussy brat."

It all ended in tragedy on Feb. 4,

when Woodward was alone with the children. The tape of her frantic 911 call was played at the start of her trial. "Help!" she says. "There's a baby — he's barely breathing. I think he choked on his vomit."

By the time emergency medical technicians carried the baby into an emergency room, he was comatose.

Life-support equipment kept him breathing for four days. Then his parents decided to turn it off. Matthew died from severe head injuries.

"We lit a candle. We played baby music and prayed," said a tearful Deborah Eappen as she testified earlier this month.

On the witness stand Thursday, Woodward said she may have been a little rough with the baby when she found him sick. "He was unresponsive," she said, beginning to cry. "I was really frightened. I panicked."

After her arrest, many observers expected Woodward, accused of murder, to plead guilty to a lesser charge. That changed when E.F. Au Pair, the agency that placed her with the Eappens, offered to pay for her lawyers, in part to avoid the negative publicity a conviction might bring. The defense team includes Barry Scheck, the forensics expert best known for his work on the O.J. Simpson case.

The trial has presented conflicting portraits of Woodward. Prosecutor Gerard Leone has described her as "frustrated, unhappy, resentful." He told jurors she slammed the baby against a hard object in a fit of rage. Friends describe her as a well-adjusted teen, straight-A student and a veg-

etarian with a reverence for life.

If convicted she faces a mandatory life prison term.

In the blue-collar neighborhood that surrounds the Cambridge courthouse, many have sharp words for Matthew's parents. "A lot of mothers do have to work," said grandmother Doris Rodriguez. "But that doesn't mean you should trust strangers with your kids. Not at that age."

In Newton, a city of 65,000 where nannies and day-care programs are considered basic necessities for professionals, friends and neighbors have formed a formal support group for the Eappens.

Back in her own country, Woodward is viewed by many as a victim. One TV network is broadcasting the trial, a rare event in a country where cameras are banned from courtrooms. And before her death, Princess Diana wrote Woodward's family promising to monitor the trial.

"A lot of young people in England are coming to America for a year of work or travel before college," said Dominic Herbert, a British reporter covering the trial for England's *Evening Leader*. "This case has mothers thinking 'It could have been my daughter.'"

Clinton's Right to Ask 'Who's Minding the Kids?'

DOCUMENT 74 OF 121

NDAY9729700138

VIEWPOINTS

Clinton's Right to Ask 'Who's Minding the Kids?'

277 Words

2120 Characters

* 10/24/97

Newsday

QUEENS

A48

(Copyright Newsday Inc., 1997)

A generation after American women surged into the work force and changed workandfamily arrangements, the nation still dodges a

- * critical question: Who is really minding the kids? Why is child care
 - so fundamental to children's well-being and the economy's efficient functioning
 - so haphazard?

- * Yesterday's White House conference on child care was overdue, and urgent. It underscored the woeful inadequacies of the current patchwork that, research shows, provides mediocre care at best for poor and middle-class kids alike.

President Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton also shined a spotlight on inventive public-private partnerships that have improved

- * child care in some communities.

At bottom, the problem is economic: Most parents can't afford to pay more for care than they do now, so the system remains

- * cash-starved. Child-care workers are sorely underpaid and undertrained and turnover is high, so the fragile emotional bonds that are key to a child's healthy development are frequently severed. Few districts provide after-school care for older children, who are at greater risk of getting into trouble when left on their own.

As a society, we've never tried to come to grips with this, and Clinton deserves credit for the effort. His own initiatives are small: a \$300-million scholarship fund to finance training for

- * child-care workers, easier ways to check the criminal backgrounds of potential caregivers. Significantly, Clinton appointed Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to head a business and labor task force, to prod employers - who have a stake in reducing productivity losses
 - * from unreliable child care
 - into a greater role.

These are baby steps, to be sure. But at least Clinton is trying to creep forward where others have dared not go.

I0607 * End of document.

Clinton offers a hand on child care President ...

DOCUMENT 152 OF 343

NSL9729700811

NEWS

- * Clinton offers a hand on child care President supports training, background checks on providers

Peggy McGlone

Star-Ledger Staff

706 Words

4995 Characters

- * 10/24/97

The Star-Ledger Newark, NJ

FINAL

003

(Copyright Newark Morning Ledger Co., 1997)

- * Calling unaffordable and inaccessible child care an obstacle to the American dream, President Clinton pledged to help America's working parents be both good parents and good workers.

"If we put them in the position of having to choose one over the other, our country will be . . . weakened," he said yesterday during

- * the White House Conference on Child Care.

The President also unveiled a scholarship program to fund training

- * for child care providers and a plan to improve background checks for caregivers. In addition, he charged Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin with convening a group of business leaders to explore the issue, and said further initiatives will be announced next year.

- * About 100 New Jersey government officials, child care providers and advocates viewed the morning session via a satellite downlink at Princeton University, and then participated in an afternoon panel addressing the state's progress and goals.

In a logical followup to last spring's conference on early childhood learning, the White House program outlined the problems

- * facing child care and early childhood education and offered models for improvement.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton opened the discussion by noting the increase in demand for quality care - the result of the booming economy and newly implemented welfare reform - and the importance of infant and toddler programs, given the scientific data showing the early years of life are critical to healthy brain development.

She said working parents need more options and more information to identify programs and providers that meet their individual needs.

"One size fits all doesn't work for American families," she said.

The panel of experts - representing government, advocacy groups

* and child care providers - were in agreement about many issues, including the definition of quality care, the need for the business community to become involved, and the fact that high quality comes with a high price tag.

Ellen Galinsky of the Families and Work Institute in New York defined good care as a safe and nurturing place where a well-trained caregiver provides love and stimulation.

"We need warm and responsive caregivers. Early experiences are education before school. (They) are the foundation for school readiness and success," said Galinsky, who defined a warm and responsive caregiver as someone "who pays attention to the child, loves the child and who will tell you what's going on during the day."

* Each panelist in turn emphasized that child care should be the
* priority of all Americans. "Child care is a collective good, it doesn't just benefit the families and children it serves, and we've got to get that word out," said Valora Washington of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Studies have shown children who experienced good quality early care have less need for remedial help and are more likely to stay in school. Additionally, quality after-school programs mean children are less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as substance abuse and juvenile crime.

In describing the economic benefits of good programs, Rubin mentioned a small Pennsylvania business that provided on-site care for the children of its 600 workers. Ninety-four percent of women on maternity leave returned to work after the center was established, he said, up from 50 percent before it was in operation.

The conflict between high quality and affordability was also addressed. "You can't do this on the cheap," said Gov. James Hunt of North Carolina, who outlined his state's Smart Start initiative.

"That's why we need business's help, and in-kind (services) from churches to provide places, and all the federal help we can get."

Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala said improving the caliber of care means increasing workers' wages. "The biggest threat to quality is the low wages and poor training of
* workers," she said, noting the national average salary for a child
* care worker is about \$12,000. Low wages lead to high turn-over rates, she said, which damages quality.

In Princeton, New Jersey's professionals cheered references to increased wages and professional standards, and praised the idea of community collaborations and public-private partnerships.

"They could be in the room with us," said Thomas Zsiga of the
* North Jersey Community Coordinated Child Care about the White House speakers. "These are the same issues we have been talking about all along."

Workplace at heart of family matters

DOCUMENT 135 OF 343

CHI9729700230

EDITORIAL

Workplace at heart of family matters

Cindy Richards

709 Words

4532 Characters

* 10/24/97

Chicago Sun-Times

LATE SPORTS FINAL

43

(Copyright 1997)

Those Clintons are at it again. Sticking their noses into other people's business. Attempting to insert government where parents should be.

At least that's what the opposition believes about Thursday's
* White House Conference on Child Care. They're worried those lefties in Washington figure government is the only solution to any problem.

Interestingly, President Clinton himself admitted at the start of the conference that despite "all this money" the government has
* thrown at child care, it hasn't fixed anything.

That's because the group of people most able to solve this growing problem - private employers - never really have come to the table.

It's been years since researchers studying working parents found that those who were comfortable with their children's caregivers made better employees. Rather than spending long minutes (or hours) worrying about whether little Heather was happy, Mom and Dad were getting their work done, secure in the knowledge that their little bundle of joy was indeed joyful.

Too many companies still haven't gotten the message. For every
* firm that puts in a child care resource and referral hotline, there is a manager firing an employee because she took off too much time to be with a sick child.

Yes, there is a cadre of people who say the answer to this problem is to simplify our lives so we all can live on one income, with one parent at home caring for their kids.

They're right. I did it. For the better part of the last three years either my husband or I was home with the kids. But he is self-employed, which gives him the flexibility he needs to work when he wants, and I have an employer who allowed me to take six months after the birth of each child.

Most employees don't have that kind of flexibility. Low-paid workers can't afford to take off time without pay. Middle-class workers who might be able to afford it in the short term fear its long-term price will be too high: walking away from the career that will pay them enough to send the kids to college one day. Those parents live by the corporate rules: six weeks of paid leave following the birth of the baby, then back to work, full-time, no questions asked, no leeway given.

My question of those employers is: Why, exactly, would you want a new mom back after six weeks?

When my babies were six weeks old, I wasn't any good to anyone but them. I hadn't had a decent night's sleep in months (when you factor in those last restless weeks of pregnancy). I was so tired that I, literally, walked into walls. With the first one, I still wasn't convinced after six weeks that I was even up to the task of taking care of something so tiny and so needy. Would I make a mistake? Would he survive my inept mothering? Would I hurt him if I was carrying him the next time I walked into a wall at 3 a.m.?

What good would I possibly have been at work? What would be the point of sitting down to a keyboard when I was so bleary-eyed I could barely read the screen?

Some companies understand they are members of the village that is needed to raise our children. They offer extended (although usually unpaid) maternity and paternity leaves. They foot the bill * for child care resource and referral services. They do those things because they've read the research: Happier employees are more productive employees.

But there are a host of others that have yet to step up to the challenge. Companies don't have to build on-site day care centers to be a part of the solution. They just need to offer flexible shifts to everyone, including the lowest-rung employees. Or they can help pay the day care bill, just as they help pay the health care bill. Or they can create a corporate culture in which managers are expected to let employees leave in time for the T-ball game.

It's a corporate policy that would serve everyone well, including the company that adopts it. No need to take my word for it. You can read the research.

Cindy Richards is deputy editorial page editor of the Sun-Times.
E-mail: crichard@suntimes.com

I0607 * End of document.

Seeking a strategy for child care

DOCUMENT 73 OF 121

RNOB9729700035

News

* Seeking a strategy for child care

RUTH SHEEHAN

STAFF WRITER

801 Words

5319 Characters

* 10/24/97

The News & Observer Raleigh, NC

Final

A1

(Copyright 1997)

* WASHINGTON -- Defining high-quality child care is easy. Getting it to the children is the tricky part.

* Such was the running theme of Thursday's White House Conference on

* Child Care. The conference, held by President and Hillary Rodham Clinton, brought together experts - including Gov. Jim Hunt of North

* Carolina - to discuss ways to improve child care and make it more affordable and accessible.

For many parents, high-quality care can command up to a third of the family income. For others, it is simply unavailable. Assuring responsive, safe care for all children, the president said, is "the next great frontier in strengthening our families and our future."

Clinton kicked off the conference by announcing several initiatives aimed at that goal - two of which should sound very familiar to North Carolinians. The first is a scholarship fund for * child care providers, modeled after the N.C. TEACH program. The proposed \$300 million fund would provide up to \$1,500 grants to current and future providers who agree to remain in the field for a year after receiving the money; pay raises or a bonus would also be provided through the fund or by the provider's employer upon completion of degree work.

The second proposal was for a National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, which would speed criminal checks of potential day-care providers. In North Carolina, such checks have begun.

Clinton also proposed using volunteers to help staff before- and after-school programs for the nation's 5 million latchkey kids. And he promised to find ways to encourage business leaders to get more * involved in the proliferation of good child care, a theme echoed by Hunt in a panel discussion of his Smart Start program for early childhood.

Hunt noted that many of the panelists had talked of "pilot
* programs" for improving child care. He warned that such efforts are too narrow.

"We need a systematic approach," Hunt said. "Pilots are great, but I want something that works for every kid in my state and yours."

Hunt explained how Smart Start money is used by individual counties depending on their needs. In some counties, that may mean vaccination programs. In Stanley County, he noted, it meant a fund to help pay for diapers and formula for mothers who choose to stay home with their infants in the first year.

The program drew special praise from the Clintons, who said they decided to hold the conference after seeing how important the first three years of life are in the development of a child's brain. These days, Mrs. Clinton said, many children are spending the lion's share
* of those critical early years in child care.

Half of mothers with children under age 1 work outside the home. And that number is sure to increase as parents are forced to work more hours, and as more people come off the welfare rolls into the work force.

What is alarming about that trend, Mrs. Clinton said, is that so many of the affected children are ending up in sub-par day care. She cited a 1995 study led by researchers at the Frank Porter Graham Early Childhood Development Center in Chapel Hill that indicated that nearly half of all infants are in care that actually jeopardizes their safety, health and intellectual development.

* She hailed efforts to improve child-care standards in states such as North Carolina, which this summer adopted stricter training requirements for day-care workers. But in North Carolina, as in other states, workers are allowed under state law to watch far more children than experts think is conducive to learning. Hunt has vowed to press for lower staff-to-child ratios and smaller groups over the next three years.

Still, Mrs. Clinton said, no matter how good the care is, it's worthless if families can't afford it.

"Quality care, when available, is financially out of reach for many families," she said.

Mrs. Clinton recalled touring a model day-care center at the University of Maryland and, afterward, meeting a divorced mother with one child. This parent told Mrs. Clinton she could not afford to send her son to the model center - it would claim a quarter of her income. As a result, the woman said, she had to settle for a lesser center.

Ellen Galinsky, president of the Families and Work Institute in Boston, said that woman's experience sums up what many parents face: a cost-benefit analysis in which a child's development hangs in the

balance.

In a survey conducted by the institute, she said, nearly three out of four parents said that even if they had questions about their
* child care, they thought they had no other options.

"We have a notion in this country that we have a system of choice," Galinsky said. "For many parents, we don't."

Ruth Sheehan can be reached ~ at 829-4828 or rsheehan@nando.com

I0607 * End of document.

LACK OF QUALITY DAY CARE CALLED A 'SILENT ...

DOCUMENT 69 OF 121

TRIB9729700887

NEWS

LACK OF QUALITY DAY CARE CALLED A 'SILENT CRISIS' CLINTONS SAY
EASING BURDEN ON PARENTS MUST BE A PRIORITY

Jan Crawford Greenburg, Washington Bureau.

1065 Words

7566 Characters

* 10/24/97

Chicago Tribune

NORTH SPORTS FINAL; N

1

(Copyright 1997)

The first day Judith Hawley left her baby at day care, she couldn't stop crying. Her distress all but convinced her colleagues she wouldn't be back to work the next day--or ever.

"I spent the first morning in tears," recalled Hawley, a legal secretary. "They said, 'Don't go home.' They thought I wouldn't come back."

Today, three months and a few more emotional mornings later, Hawley is more comfortable leaving her 7-month-old son, Dylan, at his day-care center with its cheery atmosphere and attentive, experienced staff. Her office is nearby, so she can spend lunchtime with her son.

Out of millions of working parents, Hawley, who works part-time, considers herself among the fortunate. Although the overwhelming majority of parents work, a recent national study

* found that child care at most centers is "poor to mediocre."

* The lack of good quality, affordable child care is a "silent crisis," said First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who joined the

* president Thursday in convening a daylong White House Conference on

* Child Care.

"We want American parents to succeed at the most important task they have: Caring for the next generation and being good workers," Hillary Clinton said.

Those two goals often conflict for working parents struggling to find quality care they can afford. Many spend much of their workdays "worried about the snuffle their daughter had or how their son is faring," the first lady said, "murmuring into the telephone instructions their children need."

* The conflict between work and child care was in particularly

* sharp relief Thursday. As the conference was under way at the White

* House, CNN was broadcasting live coverage of the trial of a teenage English au pair who is charged with murdering a baby in her care.

In Boston and across the country, the trial has stirred the debate about the role of working mothers and sent shivers through those who turn to others to help care for their children.

Today the number of children cared for by someone other than their parents is staggering: more than 12 million children under age 6. That amounts to 60 percent of all preschoolers and half of all infants under 1 year old. That number could double in the next few years, as some 4 million parents on welfare are forced to get jobs.

The odds that those children will get quality care aren't good, and recent studies have brought into focus the ramifications * of poor child care. Among other things, it can compromise children's social and intellectual development, hinder their ability to form emotional attachments and prevent them from having trusting relationships later in life.

"I know it sounds very melodramatic, but the reality is that unless we put the kind of resources and attention on this group . . . we do so at our peril," said Matthew Melmed, executive director of Zero to Three, a non-profit organization that studies infant and child development.

Even when parents manage to afford it, quality care still can be hard to come by. Hawley, for example, was on a waiting list for months to get a spot at her son's center, which costs \$900 a month. This month alone, the center had to turn away five infants on a waiting list, said owner Marjorie Schwartzberg.

At the conference, President Clinton said he hopes to draw up a plan by early next year that would make quality day care more available and more affordable by combining government initiatives with business and community programs.

He and Mrs. Clinton stressed the bottom line: Poor day care results in lower productivity today, as workers worry about their children. Tomorrow, it could create a generation that never achieves its promise.

"It's America's next great frontier--strengthening our families and our future," Clinton said.

Conservative Republicans eyed the conference warily, concerned that it would lead to plans to increase government spending or regulation. But both Clintons emphasized private solutions, rather than sweeping federal initiatives.

The president noted that "no government can love a child," but said, "There is much we can do."

He said he will propose a number of initiatives that would tap corporations for day-care solutions. He also said he will ask Congress to approve legislation that would give scholarships to

* child care workers to attract quality providers.

And he will push for a program that would make background

* checks on child care workers easier by removing state barriers to sharing criminal histories.

"We have to weed out the people who have no business taking care of our children," he said.

Child development experts said Thursday that the conference was a promising start toward solving a rapidly developing problem, but they said the true challenges were ahead.

"We need to improve the quality of care. To do that, we need to have much greater government subsidies and individual subsidies," said Stanley Greenspan, clinical professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at George Washington University Medical School and author of "The Growth of the Mind: The Endangered Origins of Intelligence."

"Basically, we've been giving lip service to the fact that the quality of care is often inadequate."

Greenspan said most day care doesn't give infants and toddlers the intimate connections they need for social and intellectual development.

Even recent studies that have a positive spin, that seem to reassure working parents that day care isn't harmful, aren't all good news, he said. For example, a study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development found that quality day care for infants didn't necessarily compromise the social and intellectual development of children--but only if the children had very sensitive care at home.

"When we have looked at even the best day-care centers, the less than 20 percent deemed adequate--which is a very small percentage to begin with--even there, we find (day care) can't take over family functions," he said. "Babies require ongoing intimacy."

Melmed said that, as a result of the studies, people are beginning to understand that questions about day care no longer should be considered philosophical or political.

"Science is telling us what we do from the very earliest moments of life with babies will have a profound impact on how they develop, how--as they grow older--they'll do in school, how they'll be in terms of moral development, how they'll be as workers," Melmed said. "All that is very clearly rooted in the types and quality of relationships they have as babies and toddlers."

I0607 * End of document.

President outlines ideas for a national day-care ...

DOCUMENT 137 OF 343

FWST9730100094

NEWS

President outlines ideas for a national day-care proposal

JILL YOUNG MILLER

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

337 Words

2301 Characters

* 10/24/97

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FINAL AM

10

(Copyright 1997)

* WASHINGTON - Can you get child care? Can you afford it? Can you trust it?

President Clinton promised yesterday to present a plan in January

* to make child care in America more available, more affordable and safer.

"People in this country have to be able to succeed at work and at home in raising their children," Clinton said at the opening of the

* White House Conference on Child Care. "If we put people in the position of essentially having to choose one over the other, our country is going to be profoundly weakened."

Clinton said he would pitch a national day-care plan during his State of the Union address. Meanwhile, he's asking Congress to

* create a \$250 million scholarship fund for child care providers - and

* to pass legislation to enable better state-to-state tracking of child

* care workers with criminal pasts.

* Accessible, affordable and safe child care is "America's next great frontier in strengthening our families and our future," Clinton said.

The conference in the East Room of the White House was long on discussion and short on broad federal initiatives. Instead of concrete proposals, the spotlight was on stimulating national

* discussion about the quality and cost of child care.

Hillary Rodham Clinton called on parents, businesses, schools, states and local communities to work to solve what she called a

"silent crisis." She said she hopes the conference will "spur the conversations around kitchen tables and water coolers and standing in supermarket aisles or at soccer games."

"What happens to a child in the earliest years affects how well he or she learns for a lifetime," she said. "With 45 percent of our

children under the age of 1 in day care regularly, the issue of quality has tremendous bearing not just on individual lives but on the future of our nation."

- * Industry experts say the White House conference comes at a time when the country's low unemployment rate and healthy economy have
- * made staffing shortages and high turnover in child care worse.

PHOTO(S): The Associated Press

I0607 * End of document.

Clinton urges more support for child care; ...

DOCUMENT 146 OF 343

BSUN9729900189

NEWS

- * Clinton urges more support for child care; President, first lady lead
- * White House conference; funds, legislation sought

FROM WIRE REPORTS

1131 Words

7882 Characters

* 10/24/97

The Baltimore Sun

FINAL

3A

(Copyright 1997 @ The Baltimore Sun Company)

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton, addressing what Hillary Rodham Clinton declared "a silent crisis," presented a proposal yesterday

- * to ease the shortage of safe, affordable child care for millions of Americans.

Warning that the country would be "profoundly weakened" unless the problem is solved, Clinton called on Congress to establish a

- * \$300 million scholarship fund for child-care providers and pass
- * legislation to better track the criminal histories of child-care workers.

- * Clinton detailed the initiatives in a daylong White House
- * Conference on Child Care, an event that marked one of Mrs. Clinton's most prominent turns on the policy stage since her failed push to overhaul the health care system in the president's first term.

- Mrs. Clinton, seated beneath a bank of glittering chandeliers
- * in the East Room, explored the question of safe child care with a panel of specialists.

"Many parents will go to work, but they will have trouble focusing on work," Mrs. Clinton said, "because they are worried about the sniffle that their daughter had or wondering how their son is faring."

- Numerous studies have shown that many of the nation's 93,200
- * child-care facilities provide poor and mediocre care that, in some cases, threatens the health and safety of young children.

* "Nothing is more important than finding child care that is affordable, accessible and safe," the president said. "It is America's next great frontier in strengthening our families and our future."

* Under Clinton's five-year scholarship plan, 50,000 child-care providers would receive grants up to \$1,500 for additional training if they remain in the field for at least a year. They would receive raises afterward, which specialists said would help stem the industry's rampant turnover.

The average hourly wage of the nation's estimated 3 million
* child-care workers is \$6.89, and benefits are scarce.

Clinton also directed Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin to convene a group of business, labor, and community leaders to seek
* ways to provide more on-site child care and make other kinds of care more affordable.

He called for better tracking of criminal histories "to weed out the people who have no business taking care of our children in the first place."

He is asking Congress to pass a law that, in the case of
* applicants for child-care jobs, would waive the prohibition on the sharing of criminal records between states.

To beef up staffing and improve the quality of after-school programs for older children, Clinton announced that his Corporation for National Service would train volunteers so the programs could provide better care to more children.

Clinton said he would provide a more comprehensive plan to
* address child-care inadequacies in his State of the Union address in January.

* Child-care advocates generally applauded the administration's attention to the issues facing the industry. But several said the initiatives were only a small step forward.

About 1 million needy children receive federal subsidies for
* child care, but there is no money to help an additional 9 million eligible children, said Donna E. Shalala, secretary of Health and Human Services.

* Child care has become an increasingly acute issue for American

families; 12 million children under 6 -- representing half of all infants and 60 percent of all preschoolers -- are in the care of someone other than their parents. And with welfare reform pushing
* more single parents into the work force, the demand for child care is expected to grow significantly.

The modest initiatives the president announced yesterday are part of an effort by the Clinton administration to bolster the
* country's child-care industry without president's first term.

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* more single parents into the work force, the demand for child care is expected to grow significantly.

The modest initiatives the president announced yesterday are part of an effort by the Clinton administration to bolster the
* country's child-care industry without resorting to a big government solution, which the GOP-controlled Congress would surely reject.

"We're not interested in some big federal program directed from Washington that sets one-size-fits-all rules," said Bruce Reed, a domestic policy adviser to the president.

Clinton's goal is "to help more states and communities succeed at this" and to encourage "companies that don't do much in the way
* of child care to follow the lead of successful companies that do," Reed said.

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I0607 * End of document.

Child care crisis

DOCUMENT 149 OF 343

NSL9729700838

EDITORIAL

* Child care crisis

331 Words

2252 Characters

* 10/24/97

The Star-Ledger Newark, NJ

FINAL

026

(Copyright Newark Morning Ledger Co., 1997)

The nation's effort to reform the welfare system has inevitably

* focused attention on another issue - how to provide child care services that are safe and affordable for the growing number of working parents.

The Clinton administration certified the issue's importance during

* a daylong White House conference to highlight what it called a "silent crisis."

* Child care has become a paramount concern for working parents struggling to make ends meet and for single mothers trying to balance work and family.

* Child care advocates say a shortage will worsen over the next three years as welfare reform funnels an estimated 1 million more

* children into an already strained child care system.

Yesterday's conference focused on the twin issues of cost and quality. The administration offered no plan. Experts worry that

* child care is too expensive for many parents, and studies question its quality.

* One vexing problem is finding the flexible, off-hours child care that people in entry-level jobs often require. Those who need it most - shift workers and poor parents - are least able to afford it.

* Child care centers have little incentive to provide costly off-hours or infant care, particularly in poor areas. In addition, they face such obstacles as zoning, licensing and staffing problems.

The continuing increase in the number of working parents, changes in the welfare system and concerns about early childhood brain development make this an issue of the utmost importance.

The need is clear, and focusing national attention on the issue is a wise move. But more than conferences and statistics is required. There is the question of money, and if the effort is to succeed, everyone must pony up to meet the costs.

There are no quick fixes. A cooperative effort by the public and

* private sectors is needed to find ways to provide child care and effectively distribute the costs.

Uniform standards must be established and fiercely monitored to guarantee that services are safe.

All this is not easy - just imperative.

I0607 * End of document.

'Good care is hard to find' The child-care ...

DOCUMENT 103 OF 343

PROV9730100003

- * 'Good care is hard to find' The child-care crunch hits home
- * The state has done a lot to help families in need of child care, but for many working parents, it's still not enough.

LAURA MEADE KIRK Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

1038 Words

6837 Characters

- * 10/24/97

The Providence Journal-Bulletin

ALL

A-01

(Copyright 1997)

- No one needs to tell Elaine Blackman about the need for
- * affordable, quality child care for working families.

Blackman, a single mother, earns about \$28,000 a year as a clerk for Eastern Utilities - just enough so that she doesn't qualify for

- * state child-care subsidies for her two daughters, Amberlee, 5, and Michaela, 3.

- But she also can't afford to pay the going rate of more than \$200
- * a week that many of child-care centers charge for two children, especially since her take-home pay after taxes and other deductions is only about \$300 a week.

- She could have taken a lower-paying job, making her eligible for
- * welfare, food stamps, housing assistance and child-care subsidies.
 - * But instead, she was able to work out a deal with Child Care Connection in Pawtucket, which is using a grant to help subsidize her
 - * child-care costs so she pays \$138 a week.

- But working parents shouldn't have to rely on deals, grants and
- * other temporary fixes for child care - or go on welfare, Blackman said. Instead, she said, the state - and the nation - should do more
 - * to make quality child care more affordable and attainable for everyone.

- * That's what yesterday's White House Conference on Child Care was
- * all about, as a host of national experts in the child-care field
- * gathered to focus attention on the need for affordable, quality child
- * care nationwide and to highlight some of the ways different states and private businesses are working to provide it.

- Here in Rhode Island, much more needs to be done, according to a
- * group of child-care experts who gathered at the Greater Providence
 - * Chamber of Commerce to watch the White House Conference and participate in a panel discussion on some of the things this state is

doing - and should do in the future.

Christine Ferguson, director of the state Department of Human Services, noted that the state has already made great strides, by

- * providing child-care entitlements to families earning up to \$30,000,
- * increasing the amount of money the state pays child-care providers for youngsters in these subsidized slots and offering health insurance to some child-care providers. "What I'm struggling with," she said, "is what's the next step?"

Other panelists and participants offered a variety of suggestions, from holding a forum with the state's business leaders to discuss

- * child-care concerns, to pushing for legislation, locally or statewide, that would provide busing to and from local schools for children who attend child care.

The bottom line, they seemed to agree, is that they have to work together to make everyone in the community and the business world

- * more aware of these child-care issues so they get the attention, financing and support they need.

"We talk about these things all the time," Ferguson said. The questions now, she said, are: "How do we do it? How do we get it done?"

One of the key things they have to do is change people's attitudes

- * toward child care and child-care providers, several of the participants said.

Judy Victor, a day-care provider from Central Falls, said she doesn't feel she gets the respect she deserves for the service she provides.

"I am not looked at as a professional," she said. "I'm looked at basically as someone who just does baby-sitting. It's disheartening, because some of us work hard at what we do."

Besides, Victor said, "We're not just watching their kids during the day. . . . We're not just helping the parents, to allow them to go to work. We are preparing their children for kindergarten."

Indeed, she and others agreed that they have to try to change

- * society's attitude so that they realize that child care is an important part of a child's education and that education isn't limited to Grades K through 12.

As Reeva Murphy, a kindergarten teacher and director of the local chapter of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, noted: "They're getting educated wherever they are." And the quality of education, she added, is directly linked to the quality of care they receive.

- * If child care is considered part of the child's education, several speakers noted, communities may be more willing to commit more time, attention and resources to it.

Everyone agreed that it will take time, resources and commitment

- * to bring about the changes needed in child care. But as Patricia

Nolin, executive director of Options for Working Parents, a
* child-care referral agency sponsored by the Greater Providence
Chamber of Commerce, noted, "We have to think big. We have to move
the ball forward."

Blackman, the single working mother, yesterday said she was
encouraged to hear that people were talking about these issues - both
in Washington and in Rhode Island. On the other hand, like many
parents, she worries that it's just that: Talk.

Realistically, she said, lawmakers have to do something.

"They have a choice. They can address the issue, or they can have
people like me who are on the border (between working and welfare).
We could start making less and start collecting" things like welfare,
* housing assistance, food stamps and child-care subsidies. Or, she
* said, they could do something to make quality child care more
affordable so she can keep working and be a role model for her
children, keeping her family off welfare.

"Otherwise," she said, "my kids are going to see how I suck off
the (welfare) system and they'll grow up to suck off the system,
too."

CAPTION: IN A BIND - Working mother Elaine Blackman earns too much
to qualify for help with the expenses of caring for her children,
Michaela Perry, 3, and Amberlee Perry, 5. But she couldn't afford
* child care without a subsidy.

CAPTION: LEARNING AT PLAY: Michaela Perry, 3, and Rebecca Boudreau
play with shapes and colors under the direction of Michelle
* Kingsbury, assistant director of Child Care Connection, in Pawtucket.
* Many child-care providers say they not only care for, but educate,
young children.

Journal-Bulletin/KATHY BORCHERS

CAPTION: CONCERNED: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, via
satellite, communicates with participants in a teleconference
yesterday at the Chamber of Commerce in Providence. Below, Amerlee
Perry, 5, and Michaela Sherry, 5, listen to teacher Michelle LaSalle
* at the Child Care Connection kindergarten in Pawtucket.

Journal-Bulletin/KATHY M. BORCHERS

I0607 * End of document.

Clinton proposes child-care breaks Kennedy ...

DOCUMENT 102 OF 343

PLQM9730300115

News

- * Clinton proposes child-care breaks
Kennedy starts ball rolling in Congress

Alexis Chiu

For The Patriot Ledger

797 Words

5200 Characters

- * 10/24/97

The Patriot Ledger Quincy, MA

All

01

(Copyright 1997)

- * WASHINGTON -- Saying the cost of child care is a hardship for too many working parents in America, President Clinton has urged Congress to provide tax breaks or new federal subsidies for them.

- * "Too often, child care is unaffordable, inaccessible and

- * unsafe," Clinton told a special White House conference on the subject yesterday. "Even for those who can afford it, sometimes good care is hard to find."

The president promised to send to Congress a measure for tax breaks and subsidies, and for providing \$300 million in federal

- * funds over five years to improve the pay and training of child-care workers. He also said he would propose legislation to make it easier for parents to run background checks on potential day-care providers.

And he said he would instruct his Americorps national service program to divert some of its young volunteers to look after latchkey kids -- children who return to empty homes after school.

Clinton also ordered Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to jawbone

- * private employers about providing on-site child-care facilities for their workers.

Meanwhile, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., co-sponsored a

- * Capitol Hill breakfast for child-care providers and started the ball rolling in Congress.

- * Child care "is not a Democratic or a Republican issue. Children ought to have a healthy start. We know what works. The issue is: Do we have the will to do it?" Kennedy said.

Kennedy, who has proposed naming the last Friday of every April

- * as National Child Care Professionals' 1

- * Day, said child care in Massachusetts is facing a "continuing

challenge" that needs attention.

"We have some very outstanding centers there," he said in an interview. "But it's a continuing challenge to get good

* professionals to strengthen the quality of child care. We want to make sure the good providers are going to be replicated in the rest of the state."

Although Clinton provided the policy proposals, the spotlight at

* the White House child care conference was on first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The East Room assembly of parents, providers and government officials marked her return to the domestic policy stage after three years of relative obscurity after the controversy over her role in the administration's failed health care initiative and questions about her involvement in the complex of scandals known as Whitewater swirled around her.

But those dark days are past and Hillary Clinton is riding a wave of public popularity to draw notice to issues of concern to women and families that have animated her throughout her career.

Foremost among those issues is the plight of 17 million American children who spend all or some of their day in the care of someone other than a parent. She called it America's "silent crisis,"

saying the quality of many of the facilities ranges from mediocre

* to poor and that the pay of child-care workers is "abysmal."

"Every national survey demonstrates what, unfortunately, we have

* to recognize -- and that is too much of our child care is not adequate," the first lady said. "It's not taking care of a child's developmental needs, and, even worse, there are too many situations that don't even meet basic standards of safety and hygiene."

* But her portrayal of child care as being in a state of crisis and in need of national action was roundly rejected in a study released by the Cato Institute.

"There just is no crisis from all of the evidence that I've looked at," said Darcy Olsen, author of the report. Although she agreed that there are pockets of severe day care shortages, she

* cited the National Child Care Survey of 1990, which found that 96 percent of the parents reported they were "satisfied" or "highly satisfied" with their child care arrangements.

Olsen said that the key issue is who should determine quality.

"There is a split between those who trust parents' judgment and those who want national standards." Her report argues against government regulation.

* On the other hand, child care professionals welcomed the flurry of interest from the White House but expressed concern that the one-day discussion would not lead to enough action.

* "We have to resist the public feeling that child care has become the flavor of the month," said Richard B. Stolley, president of the

* Child Care Action Campaign. "We would be deluding ourselves if we think this (conference) is going to make an enormous difference. This is a launch pad."

The daylong White House discussion was a testament to the Clintons' belief in the healing power of talk.

"We hope that this conference will spur the conversations around kitchen tables and water coolers and standing in supermarket aisles or at soccer games or while going to or from work in the car pool," Hillary Clinton said.

The New York Times and Associated Press contributed to this report.

I0607 * End of document.

Affordable, Quality Care Not a Given in Nebraska

DOCUMENT 112 OF 343

OMHA9729800068

NEWS

Affordable, Quality Care Not a Given in Nebraska

JUDITH NYGREN

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

395 Words

2780 Characters

* 10/24/97

Omaha World-Herald

Bulldog

10

(Copyright 1997 Omaha World-Herald Company)

All the boasting about the state's robust economy and low unemployment rate belies the reality facing many Nebraska parents who
* are searching for quality, affordable child care, some child-care providers lamented Thursday.

Omaha's 2 percent unemployment rate isn't as enviable as it might seem, considering all the parents working two and three jobs just to make ends meet while their children spend 12 to 16 hours a day in
* child care, said Deborah Mabry-Strong, executive director of Children and Family Development Corporation.

In some cases, Ms. Mabry-Strong and other providers said, children leave one center only to be bused to another one that stays open a bit later.

* On the heels of the White House conference on child care, several providers gathered at the headquarters of the Omaha School District to talk about the issues confronting local families. The concerns that national leaders expressed about affordable, quality care were echoed by the Omaha group.

Certainly, Omaha and other Nebraska communities have good, reliable care, the providers agreed. But too often, parents, even
* the providers themselves, aren't sure what quality child care should look like, said Penny Gildea, who is with the Early Childhood Training Center.

Many people assume erroneously that just because a place looks clean and inviting, it provides good care, Ms. Gildea said.

Some parents never actually see the inside of their child's care center because they don't have a car and instead opt to have the center's van stop at their home, Ms. Mabry-Strong said.

If Omaha is going to assure quality care for all children, the
* group agreed, parents, business people, government leaders and child-

* care providers must work together to meet the needs of families. One of the most pressing issues to be addressed is cost, they said.

Almost every provider talked about underpaid workers who left for better jobs, creating a void in their staff and in the continuity of children's lives. That problem won't be resolved until parents

* understand the value of good child care and employers and lawmakers help subsidize it, they said.

Businesses that help parents pay for reliable, quality care find that productivity typically goes up, with employees taking less time off and spending fewer hours worrying about their children's well-being, said Marlen Frost, who is with the Omaha Schools Foundation

* and is chairwoman of the Child Care and Early Childhood Education Coordinating Committee.

I0607 * End of document.

Clintons stress need for better day-care services

DOCUMENT 120 OF 343

HOU9730201970

NEWS

Clintons stress need for better day-care services

NANCIE L. KATZ

Special to the Chronicle

788 Words

5231 Characters

* 10/24/97

Houston Chronicle

3 STAR

2

(Copyright 1997)

- * WASHINGTON - Calling access to affordable, safe child care the "next great American frontier," President Clinton proposed measures Thursday that could help bolster services for working parents.
- * In a theme reiterated throughout a daylong White House conference on the issue, Clinton sought to link the importance of affordable,
- * available and safe child care to the success of the American economy and called for private-public partnerships to take care of the 13 million children with working parents.

His wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who hosted the conference, also stressed the need for economic options for mothers who choose to stay at home.

"If we put people in the position of essentially having to choose (between work or staying at home with family), our country is going to be profoundly weakened," said the president. "If people are worried sick about their children and they fail at work, it's not just individual firms, it's the economic fabric and strength of the country that is weakened.

- "For centuries, the American dream has represented a compact that those who work hard and play by the rules should be able to build
- * better lives for themselves and their children," he said. "Child
- * care that is too expensive, unsafe or unavailable will be a stubborn obstacle to realizing that dream."

According to national statistics, three out of five women with children younger than age 6 are working full time. Yet a University of Colorado study found that only one out of seven centers were of good quality.

- In stories familiar to parents nationwide, participants at the
- * conference ranging from mothers to child care analysts to Cabinet members each recited stories of workers left in a virtual desert in

terms of logistical or financial support when faced with searching for caregivers for their children. Many providers are undertrained and underpaid, they said. The breadth of the crisis, all noted, ranged from a stark absence of any care at all for small infants under three months to abandonment of teens after school hours.

"Thirteen million American children spend all or some of their day being cared for by someone other than their parent," said Hillary

* Clinton. "Yet, a recent national study found that child care at most centers in our country is 'poor to mediocre, with almost half of the infants and toddlers in rooms having less than minimal quality.' "

Other studies found that nearly half of juvenile crime occurred in afternoon hours, when youth are often left to fend for themselves because of a lack of adequate after-school activities.

The president called on Congress to establish a "new scholarship
* fund for child-care providers" to ensure they have adequate training to deal with children. He said he was forwarding proposed legislation that would improve background checks on personnel and allow states to share information.

The president also announced establishment of a working group overseen by Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin made up of "business leaders working with labor and community representatives to find ways
* more businesses can provide child care or help their employees afford
* high quality child care."

He pledged to devote more national youth service volunteers toward working with children in after-school programs.

And the president said he would develop a plan to be "unveiled at the next State of the Union to improve access and availability."

The conference focused on encouraging grass-roots and community
* efforts to build better child care services.

Rubin pledged to have business representatives communicate to
* colleagues about how addressing employees' child care needs was "the bottom line" for a successful business.

He said business representatives would "bring to their peers'
* their experience (with corporate child care programs) . . . rather than having someone not in their world" dictate to them.

Much attention focused on seeking higher pay and training for day-care providers, who experts said were the key to improving the quality of care.

Concern was directed toward single mothers now on welfare who must find adequate day care in order to get a job as required under last year's welfare reform. A single mother on minimum wage in

* California, said panel participant Patty Siegel who runs a child-care
* resource center, spends 68 percent of her income on child care.

For their part, Republicans cautioned the Clintons about
* introducing legislation on child care. In a letter to the president, Rep. E. Clay Shaw, the Florida Republican who chairs the House

Subcommittee on Human Resources, urged the president to wait to see the impact from welfare reform measures that targeted more funding to
* child-care programs.

"We should avoid further changes that could make federal law a constantly moving target that is impossible for states to implement and that complicate parents' ability to find proper care for their children," he wrote.

I0607 * End of document.

Clintons address child care Conference seeks ...

DOCUMENT 123 OF 343

BOGL9729800053

NATIONAL/FOREIGN

* Clintons address child care

Conference seeks ways to solve 'a silent crisis'

Bob Hohler, Globe staff

532 Words

4076 Characters

* 10/24/97

The Boston Globe

City Edition

A3

(Copyright 1997)

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton, addressing what Hillary Rodham Clinton has called "a silent crisis," presented a proposal yesterday

* to ease the shortage of safe, affordable child care for millions of Americans.

Warning that the country would be "profoundly weakened" unless the problem is solved, Clinton called on Congress to establish a \$300

* million scholarship fund for child-care providers and pass

* legislation to better track the criminal histories of child-care workers.

* Clinton detailed his initiatives in a daylong White House

* Conference on Child Care, an event that marked one of Mrs. Clinton's most prominent policy appearances since her unsuccessful push to overhaul the health-care system in the president's first term.

Mrs. Clinton, seated beneath a bank of chandeliers in the East

* Room, explored the question of safe child care with a panel of specialists.

"Many parents will go to work but they will have trouble focusing on work," Mrs. Clinton said, "because they are worried about the sniffle that their daughter had or wondering how their son is faring."

* Under the president's scholarship plan, 50,000 child-care providers over five years would receive grants up to \$1,500 for additional training if they remain in the field for at least a year. They would receive raises afterward, which specialists said would help stem the industry's rampant turnover.

The average hourly wage of the nation's estimated 3 million

* child-care workers is \$6.89, and benefits are scarce.

Clinton also directed Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin to convene a group of business, labor, and community leaders to seek

* ways to provide more on-site child care and make other kinds of care more affordable.

He called for better tracking of criminal histories "to weed out the people who have no business taking care of our children in the first place."

Clinton said he would provide a more comprehensive plan to

* address child-care inadequacies in his State of the Union address in January.

* Child-care advocates generally applauded the administration's attention to the issues facing the industry. But several said the initiatives were only a small step forward.

About 1 million needy children receive federal subsidies for

* child care, but there is no money to help an additional 9 million eligible children, said Donna Shalala, secretary of health and human services.

"This begins the job, but it's not enough," said Marta Rosa,

* executive director of the Cambridge-based Child Care Resource Center Inc., which manages 45 contracts with businesses in Greater Boston.

Rosa and other Massachusetts advocates watched the conference on a closed-circuit television from a Senate office building. Notable among the conference participants was Michelle Seligson, founder of the National Institute on Out-of-School Time, formerly the School-Age

* Child Care Project at Wellesley College.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy told the conferees that he would press

* a number of child-care initiatives in the next session of Congress, including "better training, higher wages, more vigilant monitoring, and improved health and safety standards."

Also participating was Representative James McGovern, a Worcester Democrat, who filed a bill yesterday that would provide states \$4.25 billion over five years to improve the quality and availability of care for children under age 3. The White House, with its more modest proposals, has not taken a position on the bill.

I0607 * End of document.

PANEL ECHOES U.S. CONCERN ABOUT CHILD CARE ...

DOCUMENT 124 OF 343

SYRC9729800144

Local News

* PANEL ECHOES U.S. CONCERN ABOUT CHILD CARE
DISCUSSION AT THE NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS IS PART OF A
DAYLONG NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Series: First Class

PAUL RIEDE The Post-Standard

557 Words

3846 Characters

* 10/24/97

The Post-Standard Syracuse, NY

Metro

B3

SERIES

(Copyright 1997)

A panel of seven experts agreed Thursday there are plenty of
* reasons to worry about the local child care system.

Their concerns ranged from parents being unable to find
* affordable care to the low pay and poor training of many child-care
providers. Some panelists also pointed to a lack of understanding
among both parents and providers about the crucial importance of
early childhood education.

"If we don't do something with an organized approach, we're
going to have a lot of children suffering," said Sarah Merrick,
executive director of Success by Six, a local group focusing on
preparing children to succeed in school.

The panel found room for hope in the growing attention being
* given to child-care issues. Their discussion at the S.I. Newhouse
School of Public Communications at Syracuse University followed a
* live satellite transmission of the start of the White House
* Conference on Child Care.

The daylong conference, with President and Hillary Clinton as
hosts, was beamed to dozens of sites around the country. It was
called to draw attention to the growing national need for
* affordable, quality child care.

Hillary Clinton said 13 million American children spend some
* time in child care every day, and the nation must take a "fearless
approach" to ensure that care is affordable, dependable and of high
quality. She noted that families making minimum wage now spend a
* quarter of their income on child care, if they can find it.

President Clinton said he will announce a major initiative on

- * child care in his State of the Union Address in January. In the meantime, he proposed a new scholarship fund to improve education
- * for child-care providers, an expansion of community service jobs devoted to after-school day care, and a plan to make it easier to track care-givers' criminal histories across state lines.

- * He also announced the formation of a working group on child
- * care, chaired by Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, to get more businesses involved.

"We'll never be the country we ought to be unless we believe that every child counts," the president said.

- * "Hallelujah," was the reaction of one panel member, Peggy Liuzzi of the Child Care Council of Onondaga County, to the White
- * House conference. About 75 people, mostly child-care professionals, attended the Newhouse session. Said Liuzzi: "It's about time."

- * She said the time is right for Central New Yorkers to come
- * together to create a quality child-care system.

- * Recent research on the brain - a topic of a similar White House
- * conference in April - has convinced most experts that early childhood education is crucial to later learning.

The state this year pledged funding money to guarantee pre-kindergarten opportunities to all 4-year-olds. And school systems across the state are focusing on early intervention programs to help students reach higher academic standards.

"I think what we really have to focus on is not to create more poorly functioning, fragile programs," Liuzzi said. "We need quality."

- * At the White House and at Newhouse, panelists agreed that more
- * money must be pumped into the child-care system to increase the
- * wages and training of child-care workers.

- * Lisa Anderson, director of the child-care center at O'Brien & Gere Engineers in East Syracuse, said a first step would be for the county to increase its day-care subsidies for low-income children. Anderson said the subsidies are not covering the expenses of day-care centers.

I0607 * End of document.

Clinton unveils child-care initiatives

DOCUMENT 126 OF 343

MSP9729700419

NEWS

* Clinton unveils child-care initiatives

H.J. Cummins; Staff Writer

1124 Words

7428 Characters

* 10/24/97

Star-Tribune Newspaper of the Twin Cities Mpls.-St. Paul

METRO

01A

(Copyright 1997)

- * After taking public inventory on the sad state of child care in
- * America, President Clinton used Thursday's White House conference on the issue to announce four federal initiatives to alleviate parents' concerns about the cost and quality of day care.

Clinton also said he intended to do more in his next State of the Union address.

"We're here today to examine where we are and what we still have to do," he said in opening remarks to an East Room audience of

- * parents, child-care professionals and policymakers. "And what we still have to do is quite a lot."

- The conference, the latest of Clinton's trademark thinkfests/bulky pulpits, featured a daylong series of scary statistics and sad stories to argue for public resolve to help the
- * 13 million American youngsters now in child care and the 5 million more who return to empty homes every day after school.

Over and over, the dearth of available, affordable quality day care surfaced. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala summed up the challenge from the perspective of a working parent: "Can I find it? Can I afford it? And can I trust it?"

- Satellite links carried the conference to more than 100 sites across the country, including Minnesota's State Office Building in St. Paul, where an assembly of legislators, business leaders and
- * child-care professionals followed the proceedings.

Crisis in the early years

- * Child care is a growing issue. Experts complain that not only has this nation failed its children in recent decades, as more and more families have two working parents, but it now faces another crush of youngsters from the new welfare-to-work mandates.

Also, recent infant brain research has demonstrated the crucial

need for good care in the formative first three years of life.

"With 45 percent of our children under the age of 1 in day care regularly, the issue of quality has tremendous bearing not just on individual lives but on the future of our nation," First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said in her opening remarks.

Many youngsters don't get that quality care, according to a collection of studies reported by conference speakers.

One study found that 40 percent of the infant rooms in

* child-care centers provided such dismal care that it jeopardized the babies' health, safety and development, Hillary Clinton said. Also, a recent University of Colorado study of four states rated only one in seven centers as providing "good quality" care, she said.

* A 1994 study on home-based child care, by the Families and Work Institute in New York City, rated only 9 percent as "good" and put 56 percent in the "adequate/custodial" category.

The crucial difference is "warm, responsive care," said Ellen Galinsky, president of the institute. "That is not a soft, fuzzy concept. We can measure it in very reliable ways in research."

That research shows that as few as 18 to 36 hours of training

* for child-care providers markedly improved youngsters' care, she said, including a 75 percent drop in discipline problems, improved language development and more engaged youngsters.

A key obstacle has been day-care providers' low salaries, several speakers said; it averages only \$12,000 a year. It's the

* same reason why one out of every three child-care workers leave their jobs each year, they said.

* On the other hand, child-care costs consume about one-fourth of a poor family's annual income, studies show.

Four initiatives

Support for training is one of the four proposals that Clinton announced Thursday:

- He will ask Congress to establish a \$300 million, five-year

* scholarship fund for child-care training. It would also pay for a bonus or raise after the training.

- He also will ask Congress to pass a National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact to establish a national system to allow

* background checks on child-care providers.

- He has asked Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to oversee a

* project to encourage more businesses to get involved in child-care remedies.

- He pledged that AmeriCorps programs will provide volunteers to help staff after-school programs.

Clinton also said that in his next State of the Union address, he will announce his administration's plan "to improve access and

* affordability, and to help ensure the safety of child care in

America."

Among the conference's St. Paul audience, Laurie Ollhoff was delighted by Clinton's emphasis on training. Ollhoff works at Concordia University in St. Paul as an educational coordinator of what appears to be the nation's only college degree in school-age care. The long-distance program already has students in 23 states, and any extra incentive to train would interest a lot of providers, she said.

"We can make this happen," she said.

Barbara Yates, assistant commissioner of Minnesota's Department of Children, Families and Learning, said the state in its last legislative session "crafted historic increases" in some of its

* fundamental child-care programs.

* Legislators allocated \$92.5 million for the state's child-care assistance program over two years, a 130 percent increase, Yates said. Child-care development grants, for more specialized care such as infant or evening-hour care, got a 54 percent hike to \$7.7 million, she said. Also, Head Start funds rose 63 percent to \$37.5 million, including \$1 million set aside to focus on children up to age 3.

Emmett Carson, president of the Minneapolis Foundation, said he shared Clinton's wonder at why, if this nation knows so much about what's good care for children, it's doing so badly.

Carson said he doesn't think Clinton ever got a good answer. "I think we in Minnesota need to have an answer to that question," he said.

The four proposals:

- Establish a \$300 million, five-year scholarship fund for
- * child-care training.
- Create a national system to allow background checks on
- * child-care providers.
- * - Encourage more businesses to get involved in child-care remedies.
- Provide volunteers from AmeriCorps programs to help staff after-school programs.

* Child-care costs around the nation

Costs for one 3-year-old child in various cities.
(Care for babies and toddlers costs more.)

- Boston, Mass.: \$8,840

- Oakland, Calif.: \$6,500
- Boulder, Colo.: \$6,240
- Minneapolis: \$6,030
- Durham, N.C.: \$4,630
- Dallas, Texas: \$4,210

As percent of family incomes

Families with employed mothers of preschool children (under age 5)
* spend an average of \$74 a week on child care, or about 8 percent of their annual income. Families whose monthly income was:

- Less than \$1,200: Paid \$47.29 a week or 25 percent of their income.
- \$1,200 to \$2,999: Paid \$60.16 a week or 12 percent of their income.
- \$3,000 to \$4,499: Paid \$73.10 a week or 8 percent of their income.
- \$4,500 and over: Paid \$91.93 a week or 6 percent of their income.

Sources: Children's Defense Fund, "Current Population Reports: What Does it Cost to Mind Our Preschoolers?" by Lynn Casper, U.S. Census Bureau

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Goals set to improve child care

DOCUMENT 128 OF 343

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FLORIDA/METRO

* Goals set to improve child care

KARLA JACKSON

of The Tampa Tribune

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The Tampa Tribune

FINAL

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(Copyright 1997)

* TAMPA - Working parents get short shrift when it comes to child

* care, a fact of life the White House hopes to change.

Audrey Horne was working full time as a clerk for Citicorp and taking classes at night when her marriage crumbled two years ago.

* The divorce meant Horne would need to find after-hours child care - a rare commodity - and the money to pay for it while she finished her commercial art degree.

The tab for both day and evening care for her son Jordan, then 2: \$100 weekly, more than one-third of her income.

"It was a struggle, but God won't give you more than you can bear," she says.

Horne's situation is a local example of what Hillary Rodham Clinton has dubbed "the silent crisis," the lack and expense of

* quality child care for working parents here and nationwide.

* During a White House conference on child care Thursday, President Clinton pledged to pitch a plan in his State of the Union address in

* January to make child care in America safer, more available and more affordable.

Locally, some 7,500 children receive state and federal money to help their parents pay for day care, according to Lee Stark, director

* of Hillsborough's Community Child Care Coordinating agency. Another 500 children are on a waiting list.

To qualify, a parent or couple's income must be 150 percent or less of federal poverty guidelines, which vary according to the size of the family, from \$15,915 for a family of two (single parent and child) to \$32,235 for a family of six.

But those on the upper end of that scale, the "working poor" such as Horne, are out of luck.

* With Hillsborough's \$18 million in child care money stretched

thin, subsidy dollars go first to children in the state's foster care or protective care programs, and those whose parents are on welfare.

"The working poor category is the only one that is frozen," says Stark. "They are considered the lowest priority."

Many of those parents, like Horne, aren't aware that there are
* local organizations, called Community Child Care Coordinating, or "4C," agencies, that can help find affordable care, if not subsidy money.

Horne, 27, resolved her problem by moving in with her mother, so Grandma could watch Jordan in the evenings.

The Washington conference Thursday focused on finding answers to
* the child-care dilemma without increasing federal funding, through business partnerships and church, school and neighborhood efforts.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin will head a working group of corporate leaders in search of day-care solutions.

Clinton is sending Congress scholarship legislation that would help students earn degrees in exchange for at least one year's labor
* in the child-care industry. The legislation also would give bonuses to workers who complete training.

Another measure, which Clinton called a National Crime Prevention
* and Privacy Compact, would push background checks on child care workers by selectively eliminating state barriers to sharing criminal histories.

Even if all that happens, it will be too late to help Horne. She finishes her degree next summer.

Her first goal: to get a place for her and Jordan.

"It's a lot of ripping and running," she says. "Sometimes I feel like he's being cheated" - she doesn't have the time or money for extracurricular activities.

Next year, she vows to make it up to him.

"He can play T-ball, take piano or karate, whatever he wants."

(CHART) Care agencies

* If you are looking for affordable, convenient child care, local
* Community Child Care Coordinating agencies can help families in any income bracket.

These "4C" agencies keep track of day care centers and in-home providers by zip code, price, hours and availability. They also can help determine if a family qualifies for subsidized care.

For more information, call:

Hillsborough - (813) 930-7409 or (813) 744-6740

Pinellas - (813) 547-5750

Pasco - (813) 841-4184

Polk - (941) 644-8488

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Clintons Make Case For Better Child Care

Raegan McBride
Recalled In Hartford

By VALERIE FINHOLM
Courant Staff Writer

As Patricia Ward hurried toward Trinity College Thursday to view via satellite the White House Conference on Child Care, she paused to introduce herself: "I'm Raegan McBride's grandmother," she said.

Her words were a wrenching introduction to a daylong conference broadcast from Washington on the need for quality, affordable child care for children in America.

Two-year-old Raegan McBride, of Windsor, died Feb. 24, allegedly at the hands of her licensed day-care provider, Kathy Greene. The Windsor day-care operator, who was also a foster mother, has been charged with manslaughter in the child's death. She also faces 20 charges of abuse involving at least eight other children.

"I can't bring Raegan back," Ward said Thursday, "but I can make it better for other children."

Ward was among two dozen people who listened at Trinity's Cinestudio to remarks by President Bill Clinton, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, cabinet members and child-care experts at the conference, which was telecast to 50 sites across the country.

Every day, Hillary Clinton said, parents across America go to work and "have trouble focusing" because of child-care worries.

They worry for good reason.

"Most child care is poor to mediocre," she said, citing recent studies.

For that care, families earning less than \$15,000 pay 25 percent or more of their income. Middle-class families earning as much as \$36,000 pay 12 percent or more.

The national conference highlighted some major issues familiar to working parents: Child-care costs too much. There is not enough of it, especially for second-shift workers. Child-care workers are not trained enough or paid enough.

"We also need to make it easy and affordable for parents that want to stay home with their children to do so," Hillary Clinton said.

At the conference, President Clinton described quality child care as "America's next great frontier," and put forth several proposals to Congress, including:

- Creating a scholarship fund to help child-care workers earn degrees while working in the field. It would also provide bonuses once training is completed.

- Making it easier for states to track caregivers' criminal histories across state lines.

- Expanding after-school programs.

Clinton also said he had asked Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to lead a group of corporate leaders in a search of child-care solutions.

While the proposals were modest, child-care experts in Connecticut were heartened by the conference, which they said signaled a new profile for an issue long delegated to the political back burner.

"I actually didn't have a lot of expectations when I knew it was coming, but I was actually thrilled to hear that there's a lot more momentum going," said Judy Goldfarb, executive director of the Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative.

Goldfarb said she was particular-

ly pleased that at the conference Thursday "a lot of people are picking up on the compensation issue and linking that with quality."

Workers in Connecticut child-care centers are paid an average of \$14,000 to \$16,000 a year — even if they have a college degree — and, as a result, turnover is high.

Because of that, hiring standards at many centers are low.

"We're talking about warm bodies," Goldfarb said.

Another issue raised at the conference was the fragmented system Americans depend on for child-care.

As every working parent knows, finding quality child care is often a matter of luck: The chance meeting of a friend who has a friend that is a great child-care provider. Getting into a newly funded pilot program before enrollment closes. Finding a center where dedicated teachers stay with the job despite low pay.

Too often parents make-do by "cobbling together" child-care arrangements for their youngest children, while leaving their older children to "fend for themselves" after school, President Clinton said.

"The challenge is we need a system that touches everybody," Clinton said, "instead of nice, touchy stories we can tell everybody until kingdom comes."

Summing up, Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., noted that the United States sets national standards for toys that children play with, but none for the places they are left for 8 to 10 hours a day.

Raegan McBride's family "entrusted their child to a licensed, seemingly competent care-giver," he said. "Finding child care should not be like going to Las Vegas where you roll the dice and hope for the best."

*Clintons, locals talk child care * Valley ...*

DOCUMENT 153 OF 343

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METRO

- * Clintons, locals talk child care * Valley group watches
- * presidential discussion on child care.

Karla Bruner The Fresno Bee

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3685 Characters

- * 10/24/97

The Fresno Bee

HOME

B1

(Copyright 1997)

Children at the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center on the Fresno State campus don't know they are experiencing the "cutting edge" of early child-development care. They just squeal and giggle as they chase each other around the playground.

Several hundred yards away at the Satellite Student Union Thursday, a group of adults talked about how to make every child's experience as pleasant and rewarding as those children's, regardless of parents' incomes and job schedules.

- About 75 Valley child-development specialists gathered Thursday to
- * participate in the White House Conference on Child Care, which was taped and fed by satellite to the Satellite Student Union.

They watched President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham

- * Clinton talk about how they have made child care a priority. They
- * saw child-care specialists, children, parents and business leaders reiterate that same commitment and express ways to improve care.
- * Fresno was one of 100 cities in the nation to host the White House
- * conference downlink site.
- * The White House conference examined the state of child care in the United States and explored how Americans can respond better to the needs of working families for affordable, high-quality care.

Christine Balbas, a conference panelist and senior staff analyst for the Fresno County Department of Social Services, said the Clintons' involvement in the issue increases its visibility.

"It's free advertisement. It gets people talking about it," she said.

- Balbas said the county is in the process of coming up with a plan
- * on how it will provide child-care services for welfare participants starting work.

The state's new welfare system requires counties to submit their

* child-care plans as part of their welfare-reform programs by Jan. 10.

Balbas said public discussions, like the one Thursday, are helpful.

Selma Mayor Ralph Garcia, who attended the conference, is concerned about how his rural community will deal with the issue of

* child care when people move from welfare to work.

Selma already suffers an 18 percent to 23 percent unemployment rate, he said.

Conference participants said this is a serious issue affecting rural Valley communities. Garcia suggested that a solution could be found with the welfare recipients themselves.

"Maybe one of the solutions is to find this work force that has

* been staying home with kids, train them and create child-care centers

* where you can have these people . . . be the child-care providers -- with some assistance from all of the agencies that are getting involved," he said.

Shareen Abramson, professor of early childhood development and the director of the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center, said

* improved licensing and monitoring of child-care providers are needed to ensure quality.

"The funding that's provided for licensing is not very strong, so they're not able to really do the kind of monitoring," she said.

Abramson added that she would like to see increased compensation

* for child-care professionals.

"Obviously people who have a lot to offer, unless they're compensated, are going to choose other careers. . . . I did feel that this conference was willing to address that area."

CAPTION:

Kurt Hegre -- The Fresno Bee

Taped message. President Clinton tells Valley experts how he and

* first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton have made child care a priority.

I0607 * End of document.

LACK OF QUALITY DAY CARE CALLED A 'SILENT ...

DOCUMENT 156 OF 343

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NEWS

LACK OF QUALITY DAY CARE CALLED A 'SILENT CRISIS' CLINTONS SAY
EASING BURDEN ON PARENTS MUST BE A PRIORITY

Jan Crawford Greenburg, Washington Bureau.

1065 Words

7566 Characters

* 10/24/97

Chicago Tribune

NORTH SPORTS FINAL; N

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(Copyright 1997)

The first day Judith Hawley left her baby at day care, she couldn't stop crying. Her distress all but convinced her colleagues she wouldn't be back to work the next day--or ever.

"I spent the first morning in tears," recalled Hawley, a legal secretary. "They said, 'Don't go home.' They thought I wouldn't come back."

Today, three months and a few more emotional mornings later, Hawley is more comfortable leaving her 7-month-old son, Dylan, at his day-care center with its cheery atmosphere and attentive, experienced staff. Her office is nearby, so she can spend lunchtime with her son.

Out of millions of working parents, Hawley, who works part-time, considers herself among the fortunate. Although the overwhelming majority of parents work, a recent national study

* found that child care at most centers is "poor to mediocre."

* The lack of good quality, affordable child care is a "silent crisis," said First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who joined the president Thursday in convening a daylong White House Conference on

* Child Care.

"We want American parents to succeed at the most important task they have: Caring for the next generation and being good workers," Hillary Clinton said.

Those two goals often conflict for working parents struggling to find quality care they can afford. Many spend much of their workdays "worried about the snuffle their daughter had or how their son is faring," the first lady said, "murmuring into the telephone instructions their children need."

* The conflict between work and child care was in particularly sharp relief Thursday. As the conference was under way at the White

House, CNN was broadcasting live coverage of the trial of a teenage English au pair who is charged with murdering a baby in her care.

In Boston and across the country, the trial has stirred the debate about the role of working mothers and sent shivers through those who turn to others to help care for their children.

Today the number of children cared for by someone other than their parents is staggering: more than 12 million children under age 6. That amounts to 60 percent of all preschoolers and half of all infants under 1 year old. That number could double in the next few years, as some 4 million parents on welfare are forced to get jobs.

The odds that those children will get quality care aren't good, and recent studies have brought into focus the ramifications * of poor child care. Among other things, it can compromise children's social and intellectual development, hinder their ability to form emotional attachments and prevent them from having trusting relationships later in life.

"I know it sounds very melodramatic, but the reality is that unless we put the kind of resources and attention on this group . . . we do so at our peril," said Matthew Melmed, executive director of Zero to Three, a non-profit organization that studies infant and child development.

Even when parents manage to afford it, quality care still can be hard to come by. Hawley, for example, was on a waiting list for months to get a spot at her son's center, which costs \$900 a month. This month alone, the center had to turn away five infants on a waiting list, said owner Marjorie Schwartzberg.

At the conference, President Clinton said he hopes to draw up a plan by early next year that would make quality day care more available and more affordable by combining government initiatives with business and community programs.

He and Mrs. Clinton stressed the bottom line: Poor day care results in lower productivity today, as workers worry about their children. Tomorrow, it could create a generation that never achieves its promise.

"It's America's next great frontier--strengthening our families and our future," Clinton said.

Conservative Republicans eyed the conference warily, concerned that it would lead to plans to increase government spending or regulation. But both Clintons emphasized private solutions, rather than sweeping federal initiatives.

The president noted that "no government can love a child," but said, "There is much we can do."

He said he will propose a number of initiatives that would tap corporations for day-care solutions. He also said he will ask Congress to approve legislation that would give scholarships to

* child care workers to attract quality providers.

And he will push for a program that would make background

* checks on child care workers easier by removing state barriers to sharing criminal histories.

"We have to weed out the people who have no business taking care of our children," he said.

Child development experts said Thursday that the conference was a promising start toward solving a rapidly developing problem, but they said the true challenges were ahead.

"We need to improve the quality of care. To do that, we need to have much greater government subsidies and individual subsidies," said Stanley Greenspan, clinical professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at George Washington University Medical School and author of "The Growth of the Mind: The Endangered Origins of Intelligence."

"Basically, we've been giving lip service to the fact that the quality of care is often inadequate."

Greenspan said most day care doesn't give infants and toddlers the intimate connections they need for social and intellectual development.

Even recent studies that have a positive spin, that seem to reassure working parents that day care isn't harmful, aren't all good news, he said. For example, a study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development found that quality day care for infants didn't necessarily compromise the social and intellectual development of children--but only if the children had very sensitive care at home.

"When we have looked at even the best day-care centers, the less than 20 percent deemed adequate--which is a very small percentage to begin with--even there, we find (day care) can't take over family functions," he said. "Babies require ongoing intimacy."

Melmed said that, as a result of the studies, people are beginning to understand that questions about day care no longer should be considered philosophical or political.

"Science is telling us what we do from the very earliest moments of life with babies will have a profound impact on how they develop, how--as they grow older--they'll do in school, how they'll be in terms of moral development, how they'll be as workers,"

Melmed said. "All that is very clearly rooted in the types and quality of relationships they have as babies and toddlers."

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