

*Clintons back in focus as team, this time to ...*

DOCUMENT 157 OF 343

ATJC9729800231

NATIONAL NEWS

\* Clintons back in focus as team, this time to spotlight child care  
Cautious proposals may reflect the first-lady's ill-fated effort to  
spark changes in the nation's health care system.

Julia Malone WASHINGTON BUREAU

545 Words

3953 Characters

\* 10/24/97

The Atlanta Journal; The Atlanta Constitution

A;03

(Copyright 1997 The Atlanta Journal / The Atlanta Constitution)

Washington ---President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham

Clinton initiated another national conversation Thursday, hosting a

\* White House conference on child care and warning that lack of quality  
\* child care imperils the nation's prosperity.

"It is America's next great frontier in strengthening our families  
and our future," the president said in the East Room.

\* "Too often, child care is unaffordable, inaccessible and sometimes  
even unsafe," he told those at the conference, which was beamed via  
satellite to more than 100 locations in 40 states.

\* Declaring that the cost of child care "strains millions of family  
budgets," Clinton said that in January he will offer a plan to help  
parents by giving more tax breaks or federal subsidies. He also said  
he would ask Congress for a \$300 million scholarship fund to train  
\* child care workers.

The president offered some small immediate steps, including a  
proposal for a law that would give access to criminal records in all  
\* 50 states so child care centers and parents could more thoroughly  
\* check the backgrounds of child care workers. In addition, he  
assigned Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to head an advisory group of  
business leaders to encourage employers to provide more day care  
services.

Although Clinton stopped far short of launching a specific  
program, the all-day talkathon tapped into a subject dear to the  
hearts of many families. Nearly 30 million children younger than 17  
come from homes where both parents or the only parent go to work.

The Clintons, whose last joint leadership of a nationwide reform  
effort was the first lady's ill-fated project to improve the health

\* care system, stepped cautiously into the child care issue.

"We hope that this conference will spur the conversations around

kitchen tables and water coolers and standing in supermarket aisles or at soccer games . . . whatever it takes to engage more Americans in this discussion," she said. But she, too, stopped far short of proposing steps to be taken.

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry underscored the Clintons' division of duties. "Policy comes from the president," he said. "She helps shine the spotlight on issues."

Citing what she called a "silent crisis," the first lady told ABC-TV on Thursday, "Every national survey demonstrates what unfortunately we have to recognize, and that is that too much of our \* child care is not adequate. 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."

\* Her portrayal of child care as being in a state of crisis and in need of national action was criticized in a report released Thursday by the Cato Institute, which cited a 1990 survey in which 96 percent of parents said they were "satisfied" or "highly satisfied" with \* their child care arrangements.

The Cato Institute's Darcy Olsen, author of the report, which argues against government regulation, said the key issue is who should determine quality. "There is a split between those who trust parents' judgment and those who want national standards," she said.

\* Child care professionals welcomed the flurry of interest from the White House, but they expressed concern that the one-day discussion would not lead to enough action.

#### MORE FOR WEB USERS

\* White House Conference on Child Care:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/New/Childcare/>

I0607 \* End of document.

*Concern about child care due local, state ...*

Editorial

\* Concern about child care due local, state initiative

275 Words

2012 Characters

\* 10/24/97

San Antonio Express-News

Alamo

04B

Editorial

(Copyright 1997)

\* Initiating a national effort to address child-care issues will not immediately solve working parents' problems.

\* The quality of child care and rules governing it vary among states.

\* But a White House conference on child care Thursday was at least a beginning.

\* The meeting featured President Clinton's proposals on child care, including:

A public-education campaign and literature to help parents find

\* high-quality child care.

\* New incentives, such as loans or grants, to help child-care workers get more training.

\* A campaign to get businesses more involved in providing child

\* care for their workers.

Advocates for children are right to want even more.

\* A report earlier this year by the Child Care Action Campaign pointed out that employees with children miss an average of eight days annually because of disruptions in child care, costing U.S. businesses an estimated \$3 billion in lost productivity.

Further, studies show that every dollar invested in good early child care and education saves more than \$7 later on in costs of remediation, social services and jails.

San Antonio is ahead of the curve. The San Antonio Corporate Child Care Collaborative, a coalition of the city's largest employers, have pooled their resources for child-care initiatives.

Aided by grants from the city, the collaborative's fund-raising has helped to pay for child-care providers to receive training and accreditation.

This summer, the collaborative also established a telephone line where parents can receive guidance on how to choose a day-care center and how to help it succeed.

While White House attention is welcome, federal intervention should not be necessary. States must take the lead in helping working parents. It is in every community's best interest.

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**LINTONAPPLAUDS KOHL FOR EFFORTS ON CHILD CARE**

DOCUMENT 176 OF 343

XWST9729800081

Front

\* CLINTONAPPLAUDS KOHL FOR EFFORTS ON CHILD CARE

Laura Weisskopf The Capital Times/Medill News Service

846 Words

5487 Characters

\* 10/24/97

The Capital Times

All

1A

(Copyright (c) Madison Newspapers, Inc. 1997)

President Clinton praised Wisconsin Sen. Herb Kohl during a

\* White House conference on child care for his efforts to increase employers' help for parents with young children.

The high-profile conference was convened Thursday to draw

\* attention to problems plaguing the country's patchwork child care system and launch a national conversation on how to fix it.

\* The administration's attention to the need for quality child care, a problem facing millions of American families, is necessary, said Kohl, if policy-makers are to take notice and improve the state of child care in the United States.

Kohl, D-Wis., was a member of a bipartisan group of 10

\* congressmen invited to the White House conference by its hosts, President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. The president recognized Kohl as the author of legislation to promote the further involvement of employers as partners in providing quality child care.

The president also announced a \$300 million proposal to provide training scholarships for day care providers and boost their wages when they return to work after training. Annual stipends of up to \$1,500 would be provided to as many as 50,000 current and future child care providers who agree to stay in the field for at least a year after receiving the training. The beneficiaries would receive a bonus when they complete their course work.

In addition, the president unveiled three initiatives aimed

\* at improving the affordability, safety and quality of child care, including a measure that would make it easier for states to conduct criminal background checks on prospective child care workers.

Clinton also said his next State of the Union address would include a new agenda to improve the quality and affordability of

\* child care.

"No government can love a child, and no policy can substitute for a family's care," Clinton said. "But there is much that we can do to help parents do their duty to their children."

Kohl said he hopes the president will include his bill, which would create a 50 percent tax credit for up to \$150,000 of an employer's expenditures for increasing the supply of child care, as part of a greater child care policy.

"There is so much that needs to be done," Kohl said. "We as a society have not come to grips with child care and its importance to our society."

Kohl's business tax credit bill was passed by the Senate in June as an amendment to the balanced budget bill, but was later dropped from the final bill during last-minute negotiations between Republicans and the White House. He said he will reintroduce the measure next year.

\* Kohl said the White House conference will help focus policy-makers' attention on the issue of child care. He thinks Congress will follow the Clintons' lead by adopting child care legislation. "It will be accomplished in bits and pieces over many years," he predicted.

\* Hillary Clinton called child care in America the "silent crisis" facing families. "With 45 percent of our children under the age of one in day care regularly, the issue of quality has a tremendous bearing not just on individual lives but on the future of our nation," she said.

Dorothy Conniff, director of Madison's Community Services, said in a phone interview that she hopes the new focus on child care will result in additional federal dollars. "The core problem in child care is money," she said. "We've trained staff in centers and then had them leave to work in McDonald's where they got a 50-cent raise."

Conniff said that young families struggle the most to pay for child care and are least likely to be able to afford to place their children in quality situations. "Since 85 percent of the costs in child care comes from the parents, you just have to do something about the cost," she said.

A March 1997 report indicates that 1,447 children in Dane County, 862 of them from Madison, receive federally supported, locally administered child care assistance. Conniff said that employers can do more to alleviate the situation, and she endorsed Kohl's plan, with some hesitation.

"The businesses that have been involved on a voluntary basis have been more affluent businesses with more affluent employees," she said. "A couple of things have happened when those businesses have gotten involved. The more affluent families that help

stabilize the community-based programs are drawn out of the system."

- \* In addition, the businesses that provide child care centers tend to pay better wages and, therefore, attract higher-quality staff, she said.
- \* Recruiting top child care workers is key, experts at the
- \* White House conference said. But it is difficult to find and keep them when average pay is \$6.89 an hour. One-third of workers leave their jobs each year.
- \* 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.

I0607 \* End of document.

*Action plan for child care*

DOCUMENT 3 OF 61

FTI9729600234

NEWS: US AND CANADA

NEWS DIGEST

\* Action plan for child care

By Gerard Baker

148 Words

1315 Characters

\* 10/24/97

Financial Times

USA Edition

7

Digests

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\* CLINTON PROMISE

\* Action plan for child care

US President Bill Clinton yesterday promised he would come up with a

\* plan next year to improve the availability and quality of child care for working parents.

Mr Clinton spoke shortly before launching a one-day conference on

\* child care at the White House, in which he and the first lady, Hillary Clinton, heard from a range of experts on the current problems.

Mr Clinton said he would use his State of the Union address in January to outline measures that could include help for businesses to enable them to provide childcare for their employees, and efforts to encourage schools to keep their buildings open after classes.

\* At the White House conference, the Clintons heard from experts that day care was too expensive for many parents, and that the quality of the care available was often very mixed. Gerard Baker, Washington

I0607 \* End of document.

*Austinites bemoan lack of child-care workers // ...*

DOCUMENT 179 OF 343

AAS9729700064

- \* Austinites bemoan lack of child-care workers // Area professionals
- \* hope to use White House conference to refocus local efforts

Clara G. Herrera

616 Words

4291 Characters

- \* 10/24/97

Austin American-Statesman

B1

(Copyright 1997)

- \* As national leaders focused on child care at a White House
- \* conference Thursday, local experts talked about the crisis in Austin and the dire need for qualified workers in the field.

The problem is so bad some centers are closing. After seven years, Clara Spriggs-Adams is closing "The Best Lil' Day Care -N-Texas," in North Austin. In her years in business, she's gone through 100 workers. In the last four weeks, she's had to fire four people.

"Some of these people I would not trust to care for my animals if I had animals," said Spriggs-Adams, who on Monday informed parents of 29 children about the closing, which will occur later this month. "I don't want just to put a body in (the classroom). If I stayed in business that's what I'd have to do. I just can't do it."

The issue isn't new. Nationwide, one-third of workers leave their jobs in a year. On average they are paid minimum wage.

- \* Child-care centers feel caught in the middle. They can't afford to pay more without charging parents more. They say parents can't afford it.
- \* "A lot of what we're finding is that families want quality child
- \* care for their children, but the cost is too high," said Sherryl Rogers-Adams, executive director of the Ebenezer Child Development Center, a facility that has three staffing vacancies.

At Thursday's conference in Washington, D.C., President Clinton said he plans to unveil ways to help parents in January. His proposal will include tax breaks, new federal subsidies and a pitch to Congress for a new \$300 million scholarship fund to train workers.

- \* Local child-care professionals said they welcomed the national spotlight on the issue. Austin plans to channel that energy to local
- \* efforts, said Rhonda Paver, who heads the Austin Child Care Council.

- \* The council, which advises city leaders about child-care issues,

used the Washington conference to relaunch Thrive by 5. Thrive by 5, officially kicked off in January, is an effort stressing the need for

- \* good, safe child care for children up to age 5.

The program, with a current \$30,000 budget, plans to air public-service announcements on local television stations in the near future, Paver said.

By airing an announcement and a telephone number, the group wants people to pitch in with support and money that can be used to train

- \* child-care workers, help pay the cost of setting up centers and pay
- \* for fire safety kits for home child-care providers.

As first lady Hillary Clinton called the national conference an

- \* opportunity to "start a conversation" about a "silent crisis," child
- \* care is a topic Austin has been focusing on for about a year.

- \* In January, members of the Austin Child Care Council conducted a one-day conference for employers to talk about collaborating in
- \* child-care efforts. Some businesses have launched programs on their own, but little has been done to forge a citywide public/private partnership like those that exist in San Antonio and Fort Worth.

- \* About 40 people viewed the White House conference in a University of Texas classroom. Few businesses were represented. Organizers said they didn't have time to inform businesses about the national viewing or a local panel discussion that followed.

- \* President Clinton said finding solutions to child-care problems is not "rocket scienceInc., the agency in charge of Head Start programs locally.

"It's not rocket science," he said. "It's brain surgery. It's brain molding. What we're dealing with today is we're all fueled up and ready to launch but we don't have the people trained to be good

- \* child-care workers."

For more information about Thrive by 5 call 374-0930.

- \* What can our community do to improve local child care? Post your thoughts and ideas at [www.Austin360.com/news](http://www.Austin360.com/news)

I0607 \* End of document.

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**AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

DOCUMENT 184 OF 343

SETL9729800051

EDITORIAL

\* AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

NORM RICE, RON SIMS

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

1141 Words

8080 Characters

\* 10/24/97

The Seattle Times

FINAL

B5

OP-ED

(Copyright 1997)

MANY children with working parents spend at least half of their waking hours in child care. As parents, we entrust the care of our children to others. Each day, our children are shaped and nurtured by child-care staff and the program environment. The quality of their care greatly influences their success in school and the adults they will grow up to become. We all have a stake in the care our children receive.

With the area unemployment rate at its lowest, our economy thriving, and welfare-to-work initiatives under way, more people in this region are working, with child-care demand greatly increasing. Nationally, women now work in the overwhelming majority of American families. Three out of four women with children ages 6-17 work, and three out of five preschoolers are in child care every day.

In response to this need, President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted the White House Conference on Child Care this week in Washington D.C. King County Councilwoman Jane Hague attended the conference, which examined the strengths and weaknesses of child care in America and explored how the nation can better respond to working families' needs for affordable, high-quality child care.

Many working families cannot afford the full costs of child care, creating unstable work situations and forcing hard choices between paying rent, food and child-care costs. Full-day child care easily costs \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year. For many parents in lower-paying jobs, more than half of their wages may go to child care.

Child-care providers also struggle to make ends meet, since parent fees are typically the only source of revenue for programs. A

\* national wage study found that most child-care workers earn only \$12,058 per year (only slightly above minimum wage) and receive no benefits or paid leave. Low wages produce high turnover rates among early childhood teachers - 42 percent a year in Seattle. This "revolving door" of caregivers is damaging to children's development.

\* The need for high-quality, affordable child care is everybody's business. Employers rely on parents as employees, and employees must be able to depend on child care. Absenteeism caused by a lack of child care costs U.S. businesses \$3 billion per year.

President and first lady Clinton have invited all of us - community, church, business and school leaders, parents and providers - to work together in improving the quality and availability of child care for all of our children and families. King County and city of Seattle governments are recognized as national leaders in the child-care arena. But we need your help. We invite you to join us in the following goals:

\* 1. Help working families get affordable, high-quality child care.

The city's Department of Housing and Human Services and county child-care programs support lower-income working families' success by improving access to quality care that supports their culture and diversity. Partial child care financial assistance is provided to 1,650 children and their parents annually. High-quality programs reflect the cultures and languages of the children and families served, and also incorporate anti-bias practices into their programs. The child-care community in King County benefits from the research and guidance of African American, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander and Gay and Lesbian child-care task forces.

\* 2. Support child care professionals with training to improve the quality of care.

Affordable workshops and college credit classes are provided by Seattle community colleges, School's Out Consortium/YWCA and Child Care Resources. Roughly 300 early childhood and school-age care providers receive technical assistance and monitoring services from city and county child-care and public-health specialists.

3. Increase after-school and summer programs for elementary and middle-school youth.

Learning continues all day long, not just during school hours. Many of the 23 school districts in King County offer school-based care, largely driven by parent demand. Roughly three-quarters of Seattle public elementary schools have school-based care programs operated by community child-care providers. All Seattle public middle schools have free after-school activities two to three days per week, coordinated by the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department. The Seattle MOST (Making the MOST of Out-of-School Time) Initiative, funded by DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, has

resulted in increased culturally based out-of-school programs for children and youth from refugee and immigrant families.

4. Volunteer your time and talents.

There are many ways to get involved with our community's youth. The newly launched "It's About Time for Kids" Initiative asks all adults to help build youth assets by developing caring relationships with kids and encouraging their involvement in structured, positive activities. The Washington Mutual One-to-One Tutoring Program, with the help of United Way, promotes, recruits and refers volunteer tutors for schools and after-school programs. Last spring's "President's Summit for America's Future" resulted in a local ongoing effort, "A Sound Promise to Youth," to engage volunteers on behalf of youth.

\* 5. Help employees with their child-care needs.

\* Business investment in child-care benefits have been shown to result in improved employee retention, higher productivity, reduced absenteeism and increased employee commitment. Area employers like Boeing, City of Seattle, King County, Starbucks, the Seattle Times and Virginia Mason Medical Center are increasing their family-friendly practices, such as child-care financial assistance, on-site child care, sick child care, flex time, child-care information and referral services, job-sharing, family leave, family health-care coverage and/or telecommuting. King County will open an employee-sponsored child-care center in 1998, joining the city of Seattle in offering on-site care.

\* 6. Make child care a priority investment.

\* Companies are also making community investments into child-care and youth programs. The American Business Collaboration for Quality Dependent Care (ABC) is a national partnership of 22 companies committed to invest \$100 million in child-care support through the year 2000. Locally, they fund training for child-care providers. Boeing, Seafirst and Washington Mutual recently teamed up to print the MOST Neighborhood Guides to Out-of-School Activities. The Child Care Resources' Business/Child Care Partnership aims for higher child-care teacher wages by generating business support of child-care providers. When businesses furnish in-kind supplies, equipment and professional services, child-care programs can budget more toward teacher salaries and benefits.

There is more to be done. For many working families, affordable child care is still not within their reach. Roughly 850 families are on child-care subsidy waiting lists, and families typically wait for up to two years for assistance. Studies have shown that families waiting for child-care subsidies fall into significant levels of debt, turn back to welfare, depend on food stamps or quit their jobs due to child-care problems or costs.

Broader involvement from all sectors of society, not just

government, can remedy these challenges. Business, neighborhood, school and religious leaders can work together with parents and \* providers to improve access to affordable, high-quality child care and to volunteer their time and talents to support children. We ask that you join us - we can't do it without you.

Norm Rice is mayor of Seattle.

Ron Sims is Metropolitan King County executive.

I0607 \* End of document.

*Clinton Unveils Plan to Aid Child-Care Training, ...*

DOCUMENT 12 OF 19

LATM9729700530

National Desk

- \* Clinton Unveils Plan to Aid Child-Care Training, Wages
- \* Conference: At White House gathering on day care, president proposes \$300-million initiative. He also outlines steps aimed at costs, safety and quality.

ELIZABETH SHOGREN

TIMES STAFF WRITER

605 Words

4641 Characters

\* 10/24/97

Los Angeles Times

Home Edition

A-20

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- \* WASHINGTON -- Addressing a White House conference on child care, President Clinton announced a \$300-million proposal Thursday to provide training scholarships for day-care providers and boost their wages when they return to work.

In addition, the president unveiled three initiatives aimed at

- \* improving the affordability, safety and quality of child care, including a measure that would make it easier for states to conduct criminal
- \* background checks on prospective child-care workers.

- \* "No government can love a child, and no policy can substitute for a family's care," Clinton told participants at the White House conference. "But there is much that we can do to help parents do their duty to their children."

- \* The high-profile conference was convened to draw attention to the problems plaguing the country's patchwork child-care system and launch a national conversation on how to fix it. The burgeoning child-care industry suffers from low wages, uneven quality and a spotty safety record.

- \* Child care has become an increasingly acute issue for American families. Twelve million children younger than 6 (representing half of all infants and 60% of all preschoolers) are in the care of someone other than their parents part of the day. 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 that the president announced Thursday are part

of an ongoing effort by the 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 advisor 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.

The president's \$300-million, five-year scholarship plan is designed  
\* to improve the qualifications of child-care workers while cutting down on  
the rapid turnover of caregivers, as many as half of whom quit every  
year. Annual stipends of up to \$1,500 would be provided to as many as  
\* 50,000 current and future child-care providers who agree to stay in the  
field for at least a year after receiving the training. Beneficiaries  
would receive a bonus when they complete their course work.

The initiative, which will be included in the president's 1999 budget  
and must be approved by Congress, is modeled after a North Carolina  
program that gives participating caregivers wage increases of 10% for  
taking an average of 18 credit hours of classes a year.

\* In an effort to make child care safer, Clinton is asking Congress to  
pass a law that for caregiver applicants would waive the prohibition on  
the sharing of criminal records between states.

Clinton announced that his Corp. for National Service would train  
volunteers so the programs could provide better care to more children.

The president also directed Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin to  
oversee a working group of business executives to spotlight companies  
\* that help provide child care for the children of their employees,  
including on-site facilities. Group members then will preach to their  
peers about why such programs make good business sense.

\* Some who have studied child care downplayed Clinton's initiatives.

"These are small, somewhat useful proposals that are mixed in their  
wisdom," said Douglas Besharov of the American Enterprise Institute, a  
conservative think tank. They "are minor stuff compared to the need out  
there," and "it would be a great mistake" to expect them to "make any  
difference."

Times staff writer Melissa Healy contributed to this story.

I0607 \* End of document.

**AVAILABLE, AFFORDABLE AND SAFE CLINTON: ...**

DOCUMENT 77 OF 121

FLSS9729700346

NATIONAL

AVAILABLE, AFFORDABLE AND SAFE CLINTON: PEOPLE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO  
RAISE KIDS AND SUCCEED AT WORK

JILL YOUNG MILLER Washington Bureau

449 Words

3506 Characters

\* 10/24/97

Sun-Sentinel Ft. Lauderdale

FINAL

3A

(Copyright 1997)

\* Can you get child care? Can you afford it? Can you trust it?  
President Clinton on Thursday promised 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  
\* criminal pasts of child care workers.

\* 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 hoped the conference would  
"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.

Under Clinton's direction, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin is to lead a group of business leaders in search of day care answers.

- \* The president said businesses should help employees get good child
- \* care.

- Clinton is sending Congress legislation to help students earn
- \* degrees in exchange for at least a year's work in child care. In addition, the legislation would give bonuses to workers who complete training.

- Another measure \_ what Clinton called the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact \_ would improve background checks on
- \* child care workers by eliminating state barriers to sharing criminal histories.

"We have to weed out the people who have no business taking care of our children in the first place," Clinton said.

I0607 \* End of document.

*Shining a Light on Child Care / First lady runs ...*

DOCUMENT 76 OF 121

NDAY9729700045

NEWS

\* Shining a Light on Child Care / First lady runs D.C. conference  
By Glenn Kessler. WASHINGTON BUREAU

832 Words

5405 Characters

\* 10/24/97

Newsday

ALL EDITIONS

A07

(Copyright Newsday Inc., 1997)

Washington - In the early years of the Clinton administration, Hillary Rodham Clinton - an accomplished lawyer, trusted adviser to the president and controversial first lady - found herself the subject of intense media speculation for her penchant for rapidly changing her hair style.

Yesterday, a few days shy of her 50th birthday and taking her first overt policy role since the health debacle of 1994, she could laugh about it.

\* During a White House conference on child care, which Hillary Clinton put together, a panelist noted that only requirement for  
\* being a child care provider is to be alive and breathing and over 18 years old.

"You know, that just reminds me of how often I've heard it said that we have all kinds of licensing and professional requirements for people who do your hair or other kinds of important functions," Clinton remarked. "Why did I think of hair first?" she added mischievously as laughter spread through the crowd. "I don't know. Can't imagine."

After the high-profile burnout of her health-care initiative and  
\* several years of behind-the-scenes "stealth" influence, the child  
\* care conference yesterday may be a model for how Hillary Clinton plans to operate in the final three years of President Bill Clinton's term.

\* The problem of ensuring affordable child care has long been an important issue for Hillary Clinton, and yesterday she ran the day-long conference. She co-chaired the morning sessions with the president and the afternoon sessions with the vice president.

President Clinton, however, announced the policies - a four-part  
\* plan that would in part increase scholarships for child care providers and make it easier for parents and employers to run

background checks. He also pledged to announce even more proposals in his State of the Union address in January.

"This is a happy day because I have been listening to the first lady talk about this for more than 25 years now and it may be that I will finally be able to participate in at least a small fraction of what I have been told for a long time I should be doing," the president said.

\* White House spokesman Mike McCurry said the first lady "helps shine a spotlight on issues that need to be more in focus, both for the president and for the American people generally. . . . She very frequently has got the capacity because of her intense interest in these issues to lift them up and bring greater public attention and focus on them. But she would be the first to say that the president is the one who is elected to make policy."

Strikingly, Hillary Clinton's domestic profile is still significantly different than her image overseas. There, she is hailed and celebrated, and does not hesitate to make provocative statements, such as a recent speech in staunchly Catholic Argentina that alluded to abortion and a tough human rights address in China in 1995. There is even a village named after her in Bangladesh.

Carl Anthony, a historian of first ladies, said she has taken by far more solo foreign trips than any other first lady - 14 at last count.

The pace of foreign travel appears to be picking up now that Chelsea, her only child, has left for college. Hillary departs for Northern Ireland at the end of the month and is expected to make a swing through the former Soviet republics in Central Asia by the end of the year.

At yesterday's conference, there were signs that the criticisms raised during the health-care battle still rankled her. She insisted \* that she had no particular solution in mind to solve the child care crisis, noting that the conference only was "meant to start a conversation."

During the health-care debate, she was accused of scheming to take away the Americans' choice of doctors and planning to impose what critics called "Clintoncare." Yesterday, she pointedly noted, "We also know how important it is to ensure choice for parents in \* their selection of child care. One-size-fits-all child care does not fit America's families."

Hillary Clinton turns 50 on Sunday, and she will make a nostalgic return next week to the Chicago area where she grew up. On Monday, she will tour her school, her childhood home, her church and the hall where she first heard the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. speak. Mayor Richard Daley also plans to throw a big party for her, declaring her the city's "favorite daughter."

But in an interview published in the Boston Globe yesterday,

Hillary Clinton wondered about one choice she made as a teenager that ended up pushing her into a career in public policy.

"I'm not sure I would have become a lawyer," she mused. "I might have studied something else. Maybe I'd have aimed for a career as a teacher, either at high school or college level. Also, I might have studied a musical instrument more diligently and persevered longer so that I might have some of the joy that comes from playing."

I0607 \* End of document.

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**CHILD CARE GOALS CALLED TOUGH TO MEET**

DOCUMENT 4 OF 19

LAD9729900060

News

\* **CHILD CARE GOALS CALLED TOUGH TO MEET**

Blanca E. Cordova Daily News Staff Writer

342 Words

2610 Characters

\* 10/24/97

Los Angeles Daily News

VALLEY

N17

(Copyright 1997)

\* It might be difficult to provide inexpensive child care for Americans and improve quality at the same time, San Fernando Valley authorities and parents said in reaction to President Clinton's comments Thursday.

The nation's parents need substantial financial assistance to make quality care available to children, they said.

Dianne Philibosian, associate dean of the College of Health and Human Development at CSUN and chairwoman of the State of California Child Development Policy Advisory Committee, said she

\* agrees with Clinton that the nation's child care programs need improvement.

\* "Quality child care should be universal," she said.

But it's a difficult task to balance affordability and quality - teachers must not be underpaid, Philibosian said.

"It's very expensive to attract teachers who have the necessary educational level," she said. "That's going to take some financing and subsidies other than the parents themselves."

Alicia Gold, a Tarzana mother with two children in the Warner Center Children's Corner day care program, said quality is a primary consideration.

\* "I think it is important to have (quality and affordable child care) available to all working parents," Gold said. "You need to have a sense of confidence that when you walk out the door, your child is safe and cared for. In order to have high quality, the caregivers need to have backgrounds in child education, especially early childhood education."

Jerry Doctors of Woodland Hills, who has two children at the Warner Center Children's Corner, said the most important aspect of \* child care is safety.

A number of students at California State University,

Northridge, who are majoring in child development are doing internships at the Warner Center Institute for Family Development, \* which provides child care at the Warner Center Children's Corner.

Philibosian and officials at the Warner Center Institute said \* improving child care means providing a greater educational component.

"Children in early childhood learn through play and exploration and discovery," Philibosian said. "That's what's educational for them."

The Warner Center Institute operates in partnership with CSUN, the Warner Center Association and the city of Los Angeles' Department of Transportation.

I0607 \* End of document.

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**CLINTON TOUTS PLAN TO MAKE CHILD CARE MORE ...**

DOCUMENT 9 OF 19

SBEE9729800198

MAIN NEWS

\* CLINTON TOUTS PLAN TO MAKE CHILD CARE MORE ACCESSIBLE

Leo Rennert Bee Washington Bureau Chief

521 Words

3678 Characters

\* 10/24/97

The Sacramento Bee

METRO FINAL

A6

(Copyright 1997)

\* President Clinton is preparing a major child-care initiative for his 1998 State of the Union address that would create a new bundle of federal subsidies to help put day-care services within the reach of millions of low- and middle-income parents.

\* "We have to do more," the president told the first-ever White

\* House Conference on Child Care Thursday. "Too often, child care is unaffordable, inaccessible and sometimes even unsafe. The cost strains millions of family budgets."

While urging state and local governments, civic groups and businesses to pitch in, Clinton offered to look at several new policy options for expanded federal child-care support that may pump billions of dollars into a system besieged by mounting financial and personnel problems.

Bruce Reed, Clinton's chief domestic adviser, said plans under active consideration include:

\* Expansion of the dependent-care tax credit, which provides tax relief to families with two working parents. Reed said current credit limits of \$2,400 per child and \$4,800 for two or more children could be raised. He also left open the possibility that income qualifications could be eased.

\* An increase in block grants to states to help low-income families, particularly working mothers who move from welfare to jobs. Congress approved \$4 billion for the next six years under last year's welfare-overhaul legislation.

\* \* Tax subsidies to businesses that build on-site child-care centers for workers. The administration may support legislation by Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., that would give employers a 50 percent tax credit for as much as \$150,000 in expenditures for day-care facilities.

As a down payment on his 1998 initiative, Clinton said he will ask

- Congress to finance a five-year, \$300 million scholarship program to
- \* improve the quality of child-care providers. The scholarships, worth as much as \$1,500, would finance training and better pay in an industry suffering from huge staff turnover.
  - \* Recent studies have shown that child-care workers earn an average of less than \$7 per hour, or about \$12,000 a year.  
Clinton's scholarship fund is modeled after a North Carolina
  - \* early-childhood program that has reduced turnover rates in child-care centers from 42 percent to 10 percent.  
Pushing for early action to demonstrate a greater federal commitment, Clinton also:
    - \* Asked Congress to finance a program to keep schools open for unsupervised youngsters after classroom hours. He estimated that 5 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are left to fend for themselves after school.
    - \* Announced that Americorps volunteers under his national service program will help staff after-school programs.
    - \* Sent Congress legislation to remove state privacy barriers for
    - \* child-care centers seeking background checks on job applicants.
    - \* Asked Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to head a coalition of government, business, labor and community leaders to encourage
    - \* businesses to provide high-quality child care.
    - \* Politically, the president's decision to boost federal child-care investments was made easier by a robust economy that has pushed the budget deficit to unexpectedly low levels.
    - \* First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who co-hosted the White House
    - \* conference, said too many parents still can't afford quality child
    - \* care, while a spate of new studies shows that care at most centers is poor to mediocre.

I0607 \* End of document.

*Clintons, locals talk child care \* Valley ...*

DOCUMENT 11 OF 19

FBEE9729800006

METRO

\* Clintons, locals talk child care \* Valley group watches

\* presidential discussion on child care.

Karla Bruner The Fresno Bee

533 Words

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.

# Child Care Talks Return First Lady to Spotlight

## G.O.P. Right Is Wary of Conference Today

By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 — Hillary Rodham Clinton convenes a White House conference on Thursday to highlight what she and the President see as an urgent need for safe, affordable child care. But conservative Republicans say they fear that the conference will lay the groundwork for plans to increase Government spending or regulation.

Hoping to overcome such skepticism, Administration officials have been trying to enlist moderate Republicans and business executives in their campaign, arguing that improved child care would not only produce healthier, happier children, but would eventually increase the nation's economic output as well.

Mrs. Clinton today described the conference and the Administration's approach to child care in purposefully reassuring terms. The most successful day care programs result from "public-private partnerships," not Government mandates, she said at a briefing for reporters.

The White House conference will probably generate several new policy initiatives, she indicated, but they will not require enormous amounts of public money or a broadly expanded state regulatory role.

And Mrs. Clinton delivered a preemptive answer to critics who say that the focus on child care sends an implicit message to women that it is better for them to work outside the home than to stay at home caring for their own children.

"Despite our rhetoric about family values, we don't do very much to help the parents who want to stay home," Mrs. Clinton said. "We don't want one stereotypical, one-size-fits-all approach to child care."

In their handling of this issue, the Clintons are clearly drawing on lessons learned from the health care debacle of the President's first term. Their proposals to overhaul the health care system were rejected in part because critics painted them as an inflexible Government-decreed solution to major social needs.

In announcing the day care conference on July 23, President Clinton said affordable, high-quality care was "critical to the strength of our families and to healthy child development." Moreover, he said, "it is good for the economy and central to a productive American work force."

Mrs. Clinton's work on the child care conference is her most visible effort at policy making since the failure of the health care project. The conference follows months of White House planning, aides said. It centers on an issue of long interest to Mrs. Clinton and was scheduled to capitalize on favorable publicity surrounding her 50th birthday on Sunday.

Although Mrs. Clinton is the event's chief organizer, she took pains today to emphasize that any policy proposals would come from her husband, not from her. "The President will make recommendations," she said.

Senator James M. Jeffords, a Vermont Republican who recently introduced a comprehensive bill to increase the supply of day care, said, "Having affordable, convenient child care is tied directly to a family's ability to produce income."

Most child care, Mr. Jeffords said, is mediocre, and some threatens the health and safety of children.

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, said she hoped that the conference would be "a launching pad for significant new investments" in child care, by Federal and state governments and by employers across the country. "The quality of infant and toddler care is shockingly low," said Mrs. Edelman, a longtime mentor to Mrs. Clinton.

Ten million children under the age of 5 have working mothers and need

child care. The Census Bureau says that 30 percent of the children are in day care centers or nursery schools, while the others receive care from relatives or neighbors.

The debate over child care is filled with paradoxes. Parents cite the cost of care as one of their biggest concerns. Families with incomes under \$14,500 a year spend one-fourth of their income on child care, the Census Bureau reports.

But many child care experts are seeking higher pay for child care workers, higher quality care and stricter regulation, which — in the absence of new investments by government or business — could lead to increased costs for working parents.

Helen Blank, a policy analyst at the Children's Defense Fund, said that child care workers, on the average, earned less than bus drivers, garbage collectors and bartenders.

Marcy Whitebook, co-director of the National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force, in Berkeley, Calif., said nearly one-third of child care teachers earned the minimum wage, now \$5.15 an hour. The low wages, Ms. Whitebook said, lead to high turnover among child care workers, who come and go so fast that they cannot develop stable relationships with the children for whom they are responsible.

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## The White House learned a lesson from the health care debacle.

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Congress is considering many bills to increase Federal spending and tax breaks for child care. Democratic authors of such measures have worked closely with moderate Republicans like Mr. Jeffords, Senator Olympia J. Snowe of Maine and Representative Nancy L. Johnson of Connecticut. A few conservatives have also endorsed the proposals.

Republican Governors in Illinois, Ohio, Rhode Island and Wisconsin have joined Democratic governors in efforts to increase spending for child care.

But the White House conference has drawn a cool reception from many conservatives, who note that Congress approved a major increase in child care spending as part of the 1996 welfare law.

Gary L. Bauer, a former Reagan Administration official who is president of the Family Research Council, said: "When I see conferences in Washington, the bottom line almost always seems to be something that makes Government grow. There are deep suspicions on the right that the purpose of this conference is to soften up the ground for proposals involving an entitlement program or new subsidies for institutional child care."

For their part, Administration officials said they wanted to raise the prominence of child care as an issue on the national political agenda, without proposing specific new legislation at this time.

The White House conference will focus on three questions: how to increase access to child care, how to make it more affordable and how to guarantee the quality of care, so children will be safe.

In a report on the nation's child care needs, prepared for the conference, the Department of Health and Human Services makes these points:

¶Forty-five percent of children under the age of 1 are in child care on a regular basis.

¶States with stronger licensing requirements have larger numbers of high-quality child care centers. But the quality of care varies immensely.

¶"Nearly five million school-age children spend time as latchkey kids without adult supervision during a typical week." Juvenile crime is most likely to occur after school hours, when children are unsupervised.

David M. Blau, a professor of economics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said the availability of "family day care," in which one person typically supervises several children, had a major effect on the entire market for child care.

"Many women are willing to take care of other people's children for relatively low remuneration," said Mr. Blau, who has studied the industry. "They are able to take care of their own kids at the same time, and that provides them with nonmonetary benefits. This tends to hold down wages, so the cost of informal child care is very low. The effects spill over to larger day care centers because the two types of child care providers compete with each other."

In the 1996 welfare law, Congress created a new program of Federal grants to the states, designating \$13.9 billion over six years to help finance child care. The Congressional Budget Office said this sum was an increase of more than \$4 billion, or nearly 50 percent, over what would have been spent under prior law.

# Child care issue isn't kid stuff for advocates

By Peggy McGlone

STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Most working parents treat child care as a personal matter. Today the White House is making it a national concern.

When the White House Conference on Child Care convenes this morning, its panelists will make the case that adequate child care should be a national priority and that the nation's 30 million children under age 13 with parents in the work force should be educated and nurtured in safe environments.

"It goes back to 'it takes a village,'" said Dr. Susan S. Aronson of Philadelphia, a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a conference panelist.

Moderated by the President and Hillary Clinton, the sessions will address quality, affordability and access, and outline research linking quality child care to crime prevention, education and good business.

It will have the attention of about 100 New Jersey child-care professionals, who will participate through a satellite link at Princeton University's

## National forum on care opens

Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, one of 58 satellite connections nationwide. In New Jersey, where more than 50 percent of children under the age of 6 come from families with two working parents, more than 220,000 children are cared for in child-care centers, preschool programs and by family day-care providers.

Kathryn Carliner of Maplewood, a working mother with two children, will introduce President Clinton and is featured in a special video to be shown at the conference. The film was shot at the South Mountain YMCA and Child Care Center in Maplewood.

Among the main issues to be discussed will be how to shift the burden of choosing someone to watch the kids from parents to communities.

"It's unrealistic to expect parents to be able to identify all of the qualities of good care," said Aronson.

Government, nonprofits and businesses need to come to the table, too, according to Gail Richardson, interim executive director of Child Care Action Campaign, a national advocacy group. "The conversation needs to begin with how to make sure (nonfamily) sectors see that they too can get benefits," she said.

According to the CCAC, research

shows children who have experienced quality child care have better success in school, have less need for remedial classes and are less likely to drop out. In addition, studies have shown that most juvenile crime and adolescent sexual activity skyrockets during the hours after school; good after-school care would affect those statistics, too.

"We have standards for the foods kids eat and the clothes they wear, but not the child care they get," said Richardson, who advocates national standards.

Quality programs must be economically feasible, too.

"The question is how to provide child care that supports healthy development and learning and make it affordable to families who need it," said Barbara Willer of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. "The public sector can do more, and certainly the private sector, the employers," she said.

Child care's rise to the national agenda is a result of the nexus of social policy and scientific research. The continuing increase in the number of working parents, the advent of changes in the welfare system and their impact on the numbers of child-care center spaces needed, and the scientific data showing the extensive brain development of children from birth to age 3 make this an issue of enormous importance.

"All of a sudden a bubble seems to have burst and now everyone realizes you have to have a good place (for children)," said Tony O'Flaherty, vice president of the Newark Preschool Council and vice president of the Child Care Advisory Council, established by the

state Legislature in 1983 to advise the state on child-care issues, policies and programs.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 12 million children under age 6 and another 17 million between the ages of 6 and 13 have both parents, or their only parent, in the work force. By the age of 6, 84 percent of children have received some form of supplemental care and education, reports the National Center for Health Statistics.

In New Jersey, 56 percent of mothers in the labor force have children under 6, and 53 percent of children

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**"We have standards for the foods kids eat . . . but not the child care they get"**

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— GAIL RICHARDSON, Child Care Action Campaign

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under 6 are from families in which both parents work, according to the Department of Human Services, which reports a 5 percent annual growth rate in licensed centers. Currently, about 194,000 children are cared for in 3,100 licensed center-based facilities, and 14,500 in 4,400 family day-care homes.

Another 3,000 a month are cared for by relatives, friends and neighbors in state approved homes, and 9,400 children are enrolled in pre-kindergarten programs, according to Human Services.

Several state initiatives, including the Bright Beginnings program proposed last spring by Gov. Christie

Whitman, are under way to improve the professional standards and wages of child-care workers, to increase subsidies to low-income families, and to ensure that quality care is available to families who need it, especially those living in lower-income areas.

In addition, Whitman last week announced plans to increase the rates of state subsidies to those families who qualify, to provide subsidized care for an additional 1,000 children, and to increase the frequency of center inspections from 18 months to annually.

The child-care council is also working on professional development, parental education and registration of family day-care providers. A five-year plan for the creation of the New Jersey Professional Development Center for Early Care and Education is in place (requests for proposals were issued earlier this week), and funds have been allocated to conduct a statewide campaign to educate parents on the definition of quality care. Also, a half-million dollars was earmarked in April to register family day-care providers. Though family day-care registration is voluntary, there is a backlog of more than 2,500 prospective providers wishing to gain this status.

"We have made some gains in all these areas," said O'Flaherty, who adds that the next step is to assess their gains. "(Our) emphasis will be on determining what is really available — we don't know if the centers are in places where they're needed — and how much of it is quality," she said.

Though they welcome their moment in the national spotlight, many of the state's professionals acknowledge that today's conference is largely a ceremonial gesture.

"Historically, not much comes of (these) conferences," said Ann MacVicar, president of the New Jersey Council on the Education of Young Children. "It heightens awareness, but in terms of getting programs and money, we'll have to wait and see."

# Dialogue on Child Care Is Just What U.S. Needs

**T**ODAY, THE White House shines an unforgiving light on a dark secret. It's got nothing to do with long-lost tapes or nefarious foreign financiers. This has to do with our kids.

By and large, today's White House conference on child care will show that they aren't well-cared for while we're at work.

They are in day-care arrangements — in suburban houses and church basements, with hired neighbors and with unpaid grandmas — that are most often poor or mediocre. Infants and toddlers, the kids we love to feature on Christmas cards and in campaign ads, are subjected to the worst of it: 40 percent of centers that cater to the youngest children don't meet basic sanitary and safety conditions, according to private research.

Our kids are cared for by workers who earn poverty-level wages and who move on quickly — half of them leave in any given year — for the pay raise to be gained from taking a job as, say, a grocery clerk or a waitress. Parents are burdened by child-care costs that can eat up a quarter of the pre-tax income of a working-class family. And across all

income groups, parents — that is, mothers — are so riddled with internal conflict about leaving the child behind that they can't seem to use the same clear-eyed judgment in choosing day care that they would in choosing a new dishwasher.

"This feeling that you have to leave your child with someone else almost prevents parents from looking at this the way they would at any other thing they would purchase," said Ellen Galinsky of the Families and Work Institute, a private research foundation. Searching for child care, she said at a White House briefing yesterday, "is wanting to get the pain over."

The most cynical of Washington watchers are free to call the White House conference another photo-op by the feel-your-pain president and his feminist wife. The dismissiveness is insulting. At its core is the idea that talking about children is the equivalent of spooning out political pabulum.



Marie  
Cocco

In fact, Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton are courageous in exposing the hard reality behind what our national abdication of responsibility for children has wrought. Every working parent — and every business that suffers lost productivity from unreliable child care — should thank them for finally starting a national debate about this.

After more than two decades of economic and social changes that have propelled most mothers with young children into the work force, it's high time. The last president to give this much thought to child care was Richard Nixon, who vetoed a bipartisan bill in 1971 that would have begun a child-care entitlement program for working parents.

Then, as now, the focus on child care was a by-product of welfare-revision efforts. Then, as now, social conservatives warned of a Soviet-style system that would usurp parental authority. Patrick Buchanan, then Nixon's top speechwriter, wrote the veto message. It warned against committing "the vast moral authority of the national government to the side of communal approaches to child rearing over family-centered approaches."

A generation later, what's changed?

The United States remains unique among western nations in having no national policy for the care of children in working families. The idea that naughty working women should fend for themselves — with all the financial and emotional burdens that has imposed on families — hasn't sent us scurrying back to the kitchen. It's just left millions who need good care unable to get it, afford it or trust it. And it's left kids — not just in the cities, but in the suburban middle class — at risk of developmental problems that research shows can lead to poor school performance, social troubles and crime.

The first lady treads valiantly, but lightly into this thicket, careful to propose no grand new schemes. She wants the conference to focus not only on ways to improve care, but on how to help mothers who want to stay home.

"We don't do a very good job in this country, despite our rhetoric about family values, to create work and family situations that permit more parents to make the choice they may think is right for them," Hillary Clinton said.

The goal is to start a dialogue without igniting a shouting match. Achieving that would make the White House conference a smashing success.

## Day Care Becomes Night Care In Era of Busy Work Schedules

SCOTT GOHL/ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS

■ White House summit focuses attention on growing need for extended-hour care.

By Skip Tarrman

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON

**F**OR parents who don't work the usual 9-to-5 shift, child-care arrangements can be complicated or makeshift. Certainly, the options are limited.

Now, as welfare reform sends more moms into the work force and as the US economy hums well past 5 p.m., many child-care providers already are seeing a surge in demand for "night care," or round-the-clock day care.

As a White House conference today examines child-care shortcomings in America, parents and experts say providing care that extends past daytime work hours should become a national priority.

"There is growing attention to people who've been underserved by work-family efforts," says



**NIGHT CARE:** Carolyn Roange sleeps at the Agape Child Development Center in Minneapolis, until a parent picks her up after midnight.

Robin Hardman of the Families and Work Institute in New York. Companies "are starting to think more about hourly employees."

At 7 p.m. in a gritty neighborhood of north Minneapolis, as many as 21 children fold out cots, don pajamas, and enjoy a bedtime story with a staff member of the

Agape Child Development Center. The newly opened center offers working parents - mostly single mothers just leaving welfare for jobs - a reliable child-care option that can accommodate their late-night or overnight work schedules.

Each child brings something special to his or her cot: a pillow, a well-worn blanket, a favorite toy. "Anything that makes them feel comfortable, we ask the moms to bring it," says Diane Thibodeaux, Agape's executive director.

But this 24-hour center is unusual in the world of day care. Ms. Hardman and other experts estimate there are just a dozen or so round-the-clock care centers in the nation.

But demand for such flexible-hour child care is expected to rise over the next 10 years.

"The standard work day is now a 24-hour work day, and people have to fill different parts of it," says Arnold Brown, a trends analyst at Weiner, Edrich and Brown in New York. In an economy increasingly dominated by the service sector, "some people have to be available at all hours."

These people - including a growing number of single moms formerly on welfare - work in hotels, hospitals, restaurants, cleaning services, and factories. They are among the 1 in 5 US workers who hold down jobs with nontraditional hours, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Despite mounting pressure to extend day-care hours, most small or medium-size child-care centers cannot afford to do so. "We currently do not offer 24-hour care. It would be too expensive to staff," says Jayna Richmond, associate director of Amy's Daycare in Sacramento, Calif. The center would also need to add beds and more space to accommodate sleeping arrangements, she says.

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agency held six meetings in different locations across the country last spring. The meetings, which sought to learn where children of late-working parents are staying, confirmed the need for more care alternatives. "Everyone knows a desperate parent, desperate for care for their child," says Atlanta-based Ruth Anne Foote of the NACCRRA.

Parents who need early or late care often prefer to rely on family, neighbors, or someone who can come to their homes, NACCRRA found. Day-care centers that operate a second or third shift were often subsidized by an employer, the community, or a church.

"There are some good models, but we are still struggling with providing quality of life for the child if he has to go to bed in a strange place and get up in the middle of the night and go back to bed," says Ms. Foote.

At Agape in Minneapolis, three-fourths of those using the center are just leaving welfare and entering the workplace, says the center's Ms.

**'We are still struggling with quality of life for the child if he has to go to bed in a strange place.'**

*- Ruth Anne Foote*

Thibodeaux. Minnesota's welfare-to-work program will put an extra 22,000 preschoolers in the market for extended day care by 1999 - a similar surge is expected to occur nationwide under federally mandated welfare reform.

The good news for parents is that child care has become more of a mainstream concern of

SCOTT HOIHL/ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS



**24-HOUR CARE:** Danielle Robinson writes on the blackboard at the Agape Child Development Center in north Minneapolis. The center is the first all-night facility in the city and caters to single parents coming off welfare and taking night jobs.

corporate America. A work-family movement is picking up steam in the business community. Moreover, some companies are seeing a link between the bottom line and employee confidence that family needs are being met.

"On-site child care is offered by many of our clients, but they are large, leading companies. They are ahead of the game," says Deborah Parkinson of The Conference Board, a business research firm in New York.

Nevertheless, Ms. Parkinson points to a growing number of groups and industries pooling resources to provide on-site, extended day care, including hotels, hospitals, and some large insurance firms.

Atlanta's Inn for Children, for example, began accepting preschool-age last July, averting what odd-houred minimum-wage earners described as a crisis. The hotel industries banded together to create the Inn, providing reliable, low-cost care for their employees.

"The more you do for your people, the more you get back," says Wayne Learned of Commercial Financial Services, a firm of 3,000 employees, in Tulsa, Okla. The bill-collecting firm offers employees a free, in-house service that is used by parents of 356 preschoolers. The day-care center is open anytime a parent

would be asked to work late or work overtime. Typically, it operates from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., at a cost to the company of \$600 per month per child.

According to Mr. Learned, the investment in extended care helps the bottom line. "It attracts and retains employees. We can provide a setting where parents don't have to worry," he says.

This summer, Commercial Financial Services also ran a summer camp for youngsters. It hired 175 high school and college-aged kids of employees to run it. "[Our employees] are focused, fiercely loyal, and rarely absent," Learned says.

■ *H.J. Cummins in Minneapolis contributed to this report.*

## Child care: Parents need more choices; USA needs more resources, new ideas

If we, as adults and as nations, can be judged by the way we care for our children, we cannot wait a moment longer to address child care.

As the nation's largest civilian provider of that care, the YMCAs applaud the Clinton administration for focusing attention on the evolving child-care system with a conference held in the White House today. But as USA TODAY says, "Government must devise ways to enhance quality without compromising a family's child-care choices" ("Parents need quality care, want choices for children," Our View, Debate, Friday).

Indeed, parents need more choices. Child care needs new resources and new ideas. We must enhance quality. We must make child care more accessible and more affordable.

What 36 million American children urgently require is not a place to be warehoused while parents work, but a safe and nurturing place with high-quality programs that challenge and excite them and throw in added measures of character development and love.

Economic and social changes during past decades and an influx of single parents into the workforce have added chilling immediacy to this problem. At the same time, new research has linked the benefits of learning experience for preschoolers, and after-school programs for school-agers, to school achievement and lifetime success.

Experience with millions of kids in YMCA programs has convinced us that:

- ▶ Federal, state and local governments must join with the private sector to provide better funding so working-poor families can find high-quality, affordable child care.

- ▶ Before- and after-school programs should be available and affordable.

- ▶ Concerned Americans — not only those with children but all of us who hope to live in a nation strong and competitive — must join in the dialogue that the White House is entering.

If we do not take action now, making child care more accessible and more affordable, if we do not aspire to put every child in the high-quality programs that we know determine their future, then we will surely fail them — and ourselves.

David R. Mercer  
National executive director  
YMCA of the USA  
Chicago, Ill.

### Disabled need child care, too

We agree with USA TODAY that "innovative experiments" are happening across the country and that "information, incentives and resources that give parents, communities and state and local leaders a chance to create child-care solutions" are urgently needed.

The National Easter Seal Society commends President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton for convening the White House Conference on Child Care.

By examining the strengths and shortcomings of the existing child-care system, this conference can provide leaders at all levels with the tools they need to improve dramatically the availability of safe, affordable, quality child-care services.

Child care that includes children with disabilities is one critical issue that must be examined.

While the lack of safe, affordable, quality child care for all children continues to plague the nation, families with children with disabilities face additional burdens in securing child care. Children with disabilities are barred from far too many child-care programs because of myths, fears and stereotypes.

Moreover, child-care providers too often lack the information and supports necessary to effectively meet the child-care needs of children with disabilities and their families.

Easter Seals directly services more than 100,000 children in early-education and care programs across the country. In many communities, Easter Seals is partnering with public and private organizations to expand the supply of high-quality child care.

Child-care initiatives that follow the White House conference must address the needs of working families with children with disabilities.

Child-care providers need training and technical assistance on how to meet their responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and on how to collaborate with programs targeted at children with disabilities and their parents.

These efforts will increase the availability of quality care for all the nation's children.

James E. Williams Jr., pres., CEO  
National Easter Seal Society  
Chicago, Ill.

# Hillary leads boomer women into their 50s

By Gail Sheehy

Welcome, Hillary, to the flaming 50s.

This Sunday the first lady officially enters the stage when women soar. Rather than turning off their mental engines and retreating into invisibility, as did so many of our mothers, women in their flaming 50s today find themselves blazing with post-menopausal zest and accomplishing things they never thought possible. The woman in her 50s today broke out of '50s conformity, into '60s revolution, '70s feminism and '80s ambition, only to roar into the '90s having detonated all the expectations for herself.

Surprise. She is enjoying higher well-being than at any stage of life. Among the thousands of professional women I have surveyed in their 50s, almost all say that 50 feels like "an optimistic, can-do stage of life." In fact, they have a third of their adult lives yet to live — time for a second adulthood.

Hillary Rodham Clinton felt much older five years ago. The press criticism that stung her the most in the '92 campaign was reading that she was "middle-aged" — and then she was only 45. This is what often happens; women go from the pits in their mid-40s to the peak at 50.

From Hillary's generational perspective, there is not more middle age. Fifty is what 40 used to be. And women of the Vietnam generation are on a demographic roll. By 2000, 30% of American women will be age 50 or over.

But en route to this stage, Hillary has struggled through a very rough midlife passage — in public. Over the past four years, she has lost her father, lost her mother-in-law and lost a dear friend to suicide. She recently let go of her adored daughter, arguably the most satisfying and successful work of her life. And like all of us, she has had to give up some dreams and illusions, including her dream of becoming the first female president.

Back in the heady days of the first presidential campaign, when I asked Bill Clinton who he saw as his successor, he responded: Hillary Rodham Clinton. Hillary herself told an audience, "We'll have

a woman president by 2010." Asked if she'd consider running, she said, "We'll talk later."

But later, she lost enormous popularity. Few would recall that Hillary entered the White House with a more favorable poll rating than her husband. A majority of Americans saw her as an asset to her husband's campaign — intelligent, tough-minded, and a good role model. But in office her know-it-all style overshadowed her husband, and voters punished them both. When the administration's critics found Bill Clinton able to brush off whatever mud was thrown at him, they looked for feet of clay in Hillary. Attacks on her moral and ethical probity all but shattered her. But instead of growing bitter or depressed, she strategically withdrew from any overt policymaking role.

Hillary is determined to rehabilitate herself and to divert her attention and energies from the empty nest. As a woman of 50, she is no longer confined by society's narrow definition of woman as sex object and breeder. She is freer to use both the masculine and feminine aspects of her nature.

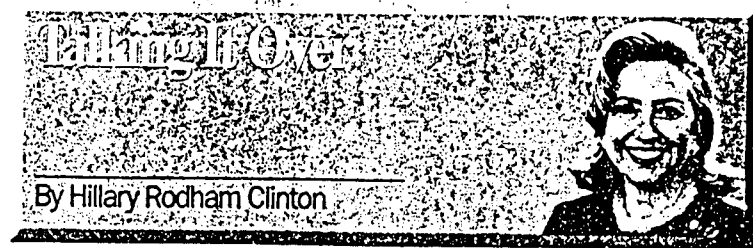
The greatest gift to a woman on her 50th birthday is the license to say what she thinks. A crisis of meaning challenges us all in midlife: What can we do that matters?

Hillary is doing the most important thing a woman can do in her flaming 50s — following her passion. Having championed better child care for years, she now intends to make it a national issue. She will put us on the spot, forcing us to decide what responsibility the government and private sector have for keeping the two-earner family together and strong.

She will be the poster woman for boomer women hitting their flaming 50s. She is demonstrating how to redirect their creative, nurturing instincts into the broader world. If she can't have make-'em-jump power, she will exercise every opportunity for influence.

I'd be willing to predict that 10 years from now, her efforts to redefine the first lady's role will be seen as courageous and historic.

*Gail Sheehy is author of New Passages: Mapping Your Life Across Time.*



## Good child care calls for societywide effort

As Bill and I prepared for Thursday's White House Conference on Child Care, we tried to recall what things were like when we were two working parents with a young child. Back then, we did what most American parents do all the time: juggle and hope for the best.

And we were lucky. Because we were both employed, had flexible schedules and had the privilege of living in a governor's mansion with a staff for all but two years of Chelsea's young life, Bill and I did not have to worry that our daughter was being well cared for when we were out of the house.

That is not the case for most Americans. In the last 4½ years, as I have traveled our country talking to parents, no concern has been more prominent than child care. I know the questions by heart: How can I find quality child care? How can I afford it? Will child care harm my child?

According to a survey released this week by Parents magazine, nearly 75 percent of American families with young children use some form of child care. More than half of these parents worry every week whether or not their child is looked after properly.

Parents have reason to be concerned. According to research by the Families and Work Institute, 13 percent of regulated and 50 percent of nonregulated family child care providers offer care that is inadequate. That can mean centers that are unsanitary or lack toys and other materials to encourage development. It also can mean caregivers who rarely interact with children — or who are simply outnumbered by them. A recent University of Colorado at Denver study of child care in four states found only one in seven child care centers to be of good quality.

And the quality care that is available is often financially out of reach for parents. According to 1995 Census Bureau figures, families earning less than \$1,200 a month pay an average of 25 percent of their income for child care. A divorced mother I met who works as a secretary said she was able to send her child to day care only because of a scholarship and because she had moved back in with her parents. Otherwise, she told me, "I would probably have to quit my job and go on welfare. Who would watch my child during the day?"

The urgency of improving child care in America is heightened by

new information about the intellectual and emotional development of children. As we learned at the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development in April, what happens to a child in the earliest years can make a difference in how well he or she can learn for a lifetime. With 45 percent of children under age 1 in day care regularly, the issue of quality has tremendous bearing not just on individual lives, but on the future of our nation.

Fortunately, recent studies tell us that good care — whether given at home or at a day care center — is good care. Done right, day care can be beneficial for children.

At the White House conference this week, experts from around the country will gather to discuss steps to raise the quality and expand the accessibility of child care. It is important to remember that any solutions that come out of the conference must involve all sectors of society. The national government has a role to play, but so do state governments, the private and nonprofit sectors, school systems, and individual citizens. It is important, too, that we find ways to make it easier for parents who want to stay home with their children to afford to do so.

We should take inspiration from the fact that there are models of quality child care around the country. This month, I visited two of them. At the Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia, I learned how the military has put in place a superb child care system — with high standards, mandatory training, and good wages and benefits for the staff. In Florida, I saw how the business community is getting involved. Funds raised by the Florida Child Care Executive Partnership are matched by the state and then disbursed in grants to communities with child care initiatives.

When I asked Quantico's commander and the Florida business leaders why they were focusing on day care, their answers were remarkably similar. When parents come to work confident that their children are well looked after, they can make a much more positive contribution. It doesn't matter whether they are Marines or bank tellers.

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. And I hope it will prepare the way for specific actions to make that happen.

# Skeptics leery of Clinton day care agenda

By Julia Duin  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Although today's White House Conference on Child Care is expected to put the topic in the best possible light, it is unlikely to change the minds of those parents who refuse to add their offspring to America's 13 million children in day care.

They include King Ferry, N.Y., artist Antò Parseghian, who, as the father of nine whose wife stays at home, paints tableaux of a lonely child being left at a curb. They also include the Fairfax-based Mothers at Home, which says parents would rather have tax breaks and family-friendly work policies than a national day care system.

"Although full-time child care is a necessity for some families and a choice for others, it is *not* what the majority of America's parents want for their children," writes MAH public policy analyst Heidi Brennan.

"Parents want respect and support for their decisions about how to care for their children," Mrs. Brennan says. "Parents don't want their government, influenced by the advice of some well-funded day care and education interests or so-called 'experts' to create and/or fund expensive 'one-size-fits-all' solutions."

She's referring to proposals put forth by Edward Zigler, one of the invited guests to the White House gathering. As a psychology professor at Yale University and director of that university's Bush Center for Child Development and Social Policy, he advocates a national day care system costing \$75 billion to \$100 billion annually to the American taxpayer.

"[The government] subsidizes people who go to school," Mr. Zigler says. "I don't see these as taxes or costs; I see these as investments. I'm reluctant about government intrusion, but we don't mind it when we want our water safe to drink or our medicine safe to take.

"Sixty to 75 percent of family day care is not regulated and is underground. Parents are so desperate for child care. As a nation, we've moved so slowly on this."

He predicts today's conference will look favorably on day care centers reconstituted as "schools of the 21st century" or "family resource centers." Those would be a vast improvement, he says, over

"family day cares" — typically one woman caring for her own children plus four or five others.

"I've been working with the Clinton people because they have to come up with some initiatives," he says. "One will be school-aged child care, which will solve the delinquency problem."

What he'd prefer, he says, is day care beginning at age 3. Of the 13 million children requiring child care, 6 million of them are 2 years old or younger.

"That way, every child would get preschool education and their day would be as long as the workdays for mothers and fathers," he says. "There would be before- and after-school care, as well as summer care for children up to the age of 12. Thus, you've solved all the child care needs of families of kids ages 1 through 12."

The jury still appears to be out on day care's effect on children. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, which is doing a multiyear study involving 1,364 racially and socially diverse children in 10 cities, said in April that children in day care test out as less warm and responsive than those whose mothers are at home.

This alienation is most pronounced with children less than 6 months old, the study said. The more hours they spend in day care, the fewer "positive strokes" — hugs, kisses and praise — they get. This has broad social implications because half of all working mothers leave their infant children in day care beginning at ages 4 to 6 months.

More than half of all American infants less than 1 year old are cared for by people other than their mothers.

Proponents of a national day care system say that parents simply need to select better caregivers for their children. At the same

time, they concede how rare such caregivers are.

Mr. Zigler, who is releasing his own study of day care in four states — Colorado, Connecticut, California and North Carolina — says only 14 percent of these centers were of high quality. In 40 percent of the cases, the care was so poor that children's health and safety were at risk. He suggests that caregivers, especially those caring for children under 3, combine forces with their local elementary schools, where they would get training.

At present, "we have a hodgepodge of profits, nonprofits and family day care homes; every study shows we have a very poor system," he says. "A woman with two of her own kids providing day care for five others often has no training and no support. What if she gets sick one day?"

"I've proposed taking all the family day care centers around a school and using the school as a hub to train and support these women so if one mom gets sick, the kids can go to another home."

As for qualifications, a day care center under his system would require what he terms a "child development associate certificate."

"Day care is a cosmic crapshoot. Behind one door is a wonderful woman who will love your children. Behind another door, if you leave your child with that woman, when you come back that night, it will be dead."

Allan Carlson, president of the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, which is aligned with the Rockford Institute in Rockford, Ill., rejects Mr. Zigler's views. Mr. Carlson believes the government is ignoring the most recent research on infants.

"What's come up regarding infant brain development and the need for close human attachments in the first three years all points to one conclusion never brought up at these [White House-sponsored] events," says Mr. Carlson, who will be listening to the White House conference from a nearby auditorium.

"We need to ensure every infant receives the full-time protective care of its mother, or its two natural parents," he says. "Instead, we examine strategies on how to expand the day care movement. Because there's an agenda. And that agenda is social parenting."

*Clinton promises to unveil comprehensive child ...*

DOCUMENT 12 OF 28

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\* Clinton promises to unveil comprehensive child care legislation

JON FRANDBSEN

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WASHINGTON -- President Clinton on Thursday promised people "worried sick about their children" that he will propose comprehensive legislation in the State of the Union address that would make child care better, safer and more accessible to working parents.

"Especially in this day and age when most parents work, nothing is more important ... than finding child care that is affordable, accessible and safe. It is America's next great frontier in strengthening our families and our future," Clinton said at a White House conference on improving child care.

Sens. James Jeffords, R-Vt., and Chris Dodd, D-Conn., who already are pushing a plan for improving child care in the United States, promised redoubled, bipartisan efforts to pass a bill next year.

Dodd claimed commitments from at least one Democratic and one Republican senator from each committee that would have a hand in shaping child care legislation to work on a task force with the White House to shape an ambitious package with broad support.

Dodd's goal, he said in a telephone interview after the conference, is to use public concern about child care to make policymakers "begin thinking of child care in the same way we think about public education and public health. ... There is an opportunity emerging for us to do something major."

Clinton also announced immediate steps he was taking to improve child care, including asking Congress to set up a scholarship fund for the education of child care workers and make it easier for states to share information about the criminal backgrounds of people working with children.

\* With 1 in 3 children under the age of 5 in child care -- and parents facing a regular stream of horror stories about poorly trained staff and weak or non-existent enforcement of safety regulations -- the issue has become a key political concern of

parents.

``Working parents are desperate. ... Studies show that as few as  
\* 12 to 14 percent of children (in child care) are getting good quality  
\* care," Susan Seliger, a child care expert who attended the White  
\* House conference, said.

``People in this country have to be able to succeed at work and at home in raising their children," Clinton said. ``And if we put people in the disposition of essentially having to choose one over the other, our country is going to be profoundly weakened. Obviously, if people are worried sick about their children, then they fail at work."

\* Added to the pressure of finding safe and affordable child care is the growing scientific evidence that brain development in children in later years is greatly dependent upon the mental stimulation of babies.

``At the most important time in the development of a child's brain, more than 12 million children are being cared for by people who are paid less than the person who picks up your garbage each week, and are required to have less training than the person who cuts your hair," said Jeffords, chairman of the Senate Labor and Human  
\* Resources Committee, which will be instrumental in any child care bill.

``Our goal must be to promote the healthy development of children  
\* in child care -- to move child care from babysitting to early childhood education," Jeffords said.

\* Dodd pointed out that there is a huge and growing demand for child  
\* care, especially in rural areas and inner cities.

\* He said there are 39,000 people in Florida, for example, on child  
\* care waiting lists -- and another 40,000 slots will need to be filled when Florida's welfare work requirement takes effect next year.

Such market pressures make desperate parents easy prey for ``quick-buck artists" and ``fly-by-night operators," he said.

Jeffords and Dodd have been working closely on legislation that  
\* would improve tax breaks for parents who use child care and for  
\* businesses willing to provide day care centers; help states and  
\* businesses finance improved training of child care workers; and  
\* expand information about child care approaches that are proven to work.

\* However, Dodd told the White House conference Thursday that this bill does not go far enough and that he now is making a new push for  
\* even broader legislation that would make quality child care more affordable to millions more parents.

Dodd claimed support of Jeffords, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orin Hatch, R-Utah, and Sens. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, and Patty Murray, D-Wash.

But all participants at the conference, including Clinton, shied

away from any specific proposal, saying the meeting and the next few months should be dedicated to searching for the best solutions.

``Right now (Clinton) wants to get people energized about this problem so they want a solution before they start drawing up specific solutions," said Seliger, who was editor of Working Mother magazine and now is marketing a videotape that tells parents how to pick a child car provider.

To defuse concerns about the cost of such programs, Seliger said there would be higher costs without the programs.

``People who want to see the next generation unable to compete, to see crime going up instead of going down -- juvenile crime especially -- then don't spend the money," she said.

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*Child Care to Get Brief Spotlight at a Crucial ...*

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National Desk

\* Child Care to Get Brief Spotlight at a Crucial Time

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WASHINGTON -- In the hierarchy of American occupations, it falls somewhere between hamburger flipper and truck driver.

With a median income of \$260 per week and meager if any benefits, the  
\* average child-care worker toils in an industry widely viewed as requiring few skills and minimal training, little continuity and scant oversight.

But those who teach and care for small children will have their day at  
\* the White House today as President Clinton convenes the first-of-its-kind  
\* child-care meeting. Clinton's conference spotlights the industry at a time of both dramatic growth and deep concern--for its workers, its standards and its product.

It will not, as they say at the changing table, be a pretty sight.

\* Every year, more than one in three child-care workers--as many as half when the economy is humming--quit their jobs and go elsewhere in search of better working conditions or higher pay. That's a turnover rate almost three times that of truck drivers--another low-skill occupation, but one  
\* that commands far better wages than child care. In a typical light manufacturing plant, managers would panic if they had to contend with a rate of worker replacement that high.

In an industry whose finished product is young minds, however, it's an even scarier proposition. If small children are to grow up to be happy and secure adults, a mounting body of research underscores the importance of consistent supervision by adults attentive to their needs. Yet large  
\* numbers of child-care workers live in or at the edge of poverty, holding down more than one job, juggling children of their own and scraping to make ends meet.

"If I had to live off this with my kids, I couldn't make it," said 42-year-old Marquita Bonner, who owns a small nonprofit day-care center

in Compton called The Learning Tree. "And my workers, they're making minimum wage. I know they deserve more. I know they're worth more. But I can't afford more. I try to give them little incentives to keep them but it's just a hardship, it really is."

Bonner believes that she is giving parents good value for their \$65 per week (\$75 for toddlers). But as recently as last week, she told herself: "Maybe I'm in the wrong business."

For legions of working Americans, including many middle-class couples with two incomes, reliance on this sprawling industry is a daily fact of life.

More than 12 million children under 6--representing 60% of American preschoolers and half of all infants--are in the care of someone other than their parents for a large portion of their day. With about 4 million welfare-dependent parents being pushed into the work force, the number of \* children in child care could near 20 million in the next few years.

#### One of Nation's Biggest Growth Industries

\* As a result, child care ranks as one of the nation's biggest growth industries. Between now and 2005, the number of jobs it provides is expected to grow by 33%, more than twice the average rate of growth of the overall work force. Many fear that the dramatic growth could further erode quality control in an already-beleaguered industry.

\* As Clinton convenes his White House conference today, experts say that the industry cries out for more attention, more money and more uniform oversight. But in an era of strict federal spending limits and resurgent states' rights, the president and his advisors really have only one of those powers--high-level attention--to wield.

Hard-pressed to push for expansive new federal spending and regulation, Clinton can do little more than exhort states to do the right thing by children, laying down markers for quality care, pointing to innovative new programs and creating incentives for improving and \* expanding child care.

\* In doing so, he has his work cut out. The child-care industry is as uneven in quality as it is vast, ranging from sparkling new company-subsidized day-care centers to squalid tenement apartments in which a single woman takes in neighborhood children.

The last authoritative count (taken in 1990, and the industry has grown steadily since) showed 80,000 American day-care centers serving nearly 5 million children and as many as 1.2 million family day-care providers operating from homes.

Beyond that, an estimated one in three parents leave their children in the care of a friend or relative--an inexpensive and almost completely unregulated form of care that is expected to grow as millions of poor women leave home for work.

\* And much of the nation's child care--from high-priced ventures to low-cost alternatives--is not very good.

In an oft-cited 1995 study, researchers judging the quality of

family-run day-care centers in four states found that 86% provided care below the level considered good. Roughly three-quarters were ranked as mediocre, and 12% provided "less than minimal" care.

For those parents who leave their children in the care of relatives or friends, the picture is even grimmer: A 1994 study found that almost 70% of situations involving friends or relatives provided care characterized as "potentially harmful to children's growth." Only 1% were judged to be "potentially enhancing."

"Our children are being raised in pumpkin seats," said 39-year-old \* Patti Gleason, a 17-year "warhorse" of the child-care industry who oversees six nonprofit sites in southwestern Ohio. "They're carried in in their car seats and set down and they sit in that pumpkin seat until they scream. . . . Parents either think that's OK, or they just don't want to admit to themselves what's happening, because they couldn't live with themselves if they did."

#### Physical, Intellectual Risks to Poor Care

In many cases, children could pay dearly for inadequate care--with injuries, increased illnesses or lower levels of intellectual and emotional growth than might have been achieved in better settings.

But even mediocre care does not come cheaply. According to a 1995 Census report, families living at or near the poverty line pay an average \* of 25% of their income for child care. Middle-class families earning up \* to \$36,000 spend on average 12% of their income on child care.

As might be expected, affluent Americans tend to command good-quality \* child care. More unexpectedly, researchers have found that the very poor, because of their access to federally funded programs such as Head Start, \* tend to get pretty good child care as well.

Between these economic extremes, a family's hefty investment is no assurance of high quality. As First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told an audience recently, "it is difficult to think of a consumer situation in America where so many people are paying so much and too often getting so little."

\* To child-care advocates and to many of the nation's most dedicated \* child-care workers, the reason for the industry's shortcomings is simple: Its consumers--parents, communities and the country as a whole--may passionately love their children and want the best for them but they do not always know what the best is. And when faced with competing priorities, many are just not willing to pay for it.

That's in spite of findings which indicate that the cost of delivering \* good child care is only about \$10 more per week per child than the cost \* of delivering poor child care. And in spite of consistent evidence showing that two factors--teacher training and high ratios of care-givers to children--are the best assurances of quality.

\* Forty-one states require no training for child-care workers. As a result, many see the kind of training or degrees that experts believe are so key to quality day care as a costly and unnecessary frill.

Source: Los Angeles Times, October 23, 1997

"People treat you like someone who has no skills. They see you like a housekeeper," said Mirielle Belizaire, who spends 11 hours a day caring for four infants in her Charlotte, N.C., home and, in her spare time, is pursuing an associate's degree in early childhood development. "Some even say your job is easy. They don't know."

To be sure, the federal government will spend \$14 billion over the next six years to help states provide child care for the nation's poor--an unprecedented investment prompted by the bid to put welfare-dependent parents to work. But the welfare reform bill that provided those funds would allow states to spend as little as 4% of their share to ensure and enhance the quality of child care. That's down from a past practice of requiring 25% of such funds to go toward quality assurance.

#### Fear That Reform Will Relax Standards

What child-care advocates fear is that states scrambling to meet daunting new demands for child care from their welfare populations will relax standards for day-care centers and family-based child care. They point to Wisconsin, which has created a new class of "provisional" caregivers who do not have to meet training requirements but who will charge half as much as accredited caregivers. And they cite states such as Connecticut and Michigan, where funds for the inspection of centers and the enforcement of standards have been deeply cut.

"There's a basic national flaw in our thinking," said Marcy Whitebook, co-director of the National Center for the Early Childhood Workforce. "On one hand, we just keep piling up information that the early years are really important, that what happens then determines the rest of children's lives. But we basically do not value the job of taking care of children. There's a disconnect between what we know children need and the kind of work environment we know we need for children."

But in many states, the challenge of meeting rising child-care demands has helped spawn a flurry of innovation, and those models are expected to dominate the agenda at this week's White House meeting.

Rhode Island, for instance, has begun to offer health benefits to child-care workers who meet licensing standards, offering an attractive incentive to seek accreditation and helping day-care centers draw and retain more workers.

Colorado allows citizens to check a box on their income tax forms that automatically funnels part of their taxes to a program called the Quality Care Improvement Fund. The fund provides grants to Colorado child-care providers wishing to expand or improve their services.

California has one of the nation's best-established mentoring programs. Started as a small pilot in 1991, the California Early Childhood Mentor Program has expanded statewide with federal funds and enlists experienced preschool teachers in the training of novice caregivers. The program not only boosts mentors' earnings by offering them a \$1,000 stipend but has increased professionalism and driven down

job departures among both mentors and the newcomers they help train.

One of the most promising programs began in North Carolina in 1990, at  
\* a time when turnover rates among child-care workers ran about 40% per  
year. The program, called Teacher Education and Compensation Helps,  
\* provides scholarships for more than 2,000 North Carolina child-care  
workers every year to pursue or continue their training in child  
development and education.

I0607 \* End of document.

**FIRST FAMILY FOCUSES ON CHILD CARE**

DOCUMENT 8 OF 12

CLEV9729700042

NATIONAL

\* FIRST FAMILY FOCUSES ON CHILD CARE

TOM BRAZAITIS PLAIN DEALER BUREAU

852 Words

5566 Characters

\* 10/23/97

The Plain Dealer Cleveland, OH

FINAL / ALL

13A

(Copyright (c) The Plain Dealer 1997)

Every working day in the United States, three out of five preschoolers, some as young as six weeks, spend part of the day under the care of someone other than their parents.

Three out of five women with children under age 6 and three out of four women with children ages 6 to 17 work outside the home.

They leave their children with a friend or relative or take them to

\* a child-care provider in a private home or public building.

In cities, full-time care for a 3-year-old typically costs \$4,000 to \$10,000 a year - about the same as college tuition plus room and board at a public university. Half the families with young children earn less than \$35,000 a year.

\* The nation's 3 million child-care providers (98 percent of whom are women) are paid, on average, \$12,058 per year. Half the

\* child-care workers leave their jobs every year, creating instability throughout the system.

With these statistics from the Children's Defense Fund as a background, President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

\* will preside today over the first White House Conference on Child

\* Care.

The all-day conference will be beamed by satellite TV to Capitol Hill and to locations across the country, including an auditorium at Ohio State University in Columbus, in the hope of drawing attention and spurring action on the problem of substandard

\* child care. (C-SPAN, the public affairs network, said it plans to broadcast the conference, but as of yesterday did not know when.)

In the morning session, participants will address the

\* relationship between child care and the economy and ways in which private business can team with government to provide care.

In the afternoon, Health and Human Services Donna Shalala will

\* give her overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the child-care

system; state officials, military personnel, a religious leader and business and labor representatives will report on "promising \* models" for child care.

\* The quality of non-parental child care in the United States has come under increased scrutiny since a 1994 Carnegie Corp. report emphasizing the importance of early childhood development.

Marian Wright Edelman, funder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, said Tuesday that "the heightened awareness about the importance of the first three years of life in a child's development" has focused attention on the fact that "the quality of \* infant and child care is shockingly low.

"In our conversations with parents we find some willing to \* visit as many as 50 child-care homes before they find one that they are comfortable enough to leave their infant," Edelman said. "This is an unconscionable burden on parents."

The welfare reform law signed by President Clinton last year \* provides more money for child care for welfare mothers who go to work, but at the expense of the working poor, who find it harder to \* get child-care subsidies from the government or private sources, she said.

Less money has been allocated for before-school and after-school care, Edelman said, despite research showing that juveniles who have positive alternatives to the street do better in school and are less apt to participate in criminal activity.

Marcy Whitebook, co-director of the National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force, commented on the high turnover rate \* among child-care providers.

"Why? Because even with 20 years experience and a bachelor's degree, a Wisconsin provider finds that her teenage daughter earns more as a grocery checker than she does working with children," Whitebook said.

"A gifted young after-school teacher in suburban Los Angeles knows he can earn twice as much washing UPS trucks at night as he can doing the work he loves."

Billie Osborne-Fears, director of Starting Point, the \* child-care resource and referral agency for Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, \* Lake and Geauga counties, said the average salary of a child-care worker in northern Ohio is \$12,000 - with no vacation time, sick time, health insurance or pension.

\* "Most child-care workers in our community qualify for food stamps," Osborne-Fears said. "People working at the Cleveland Zoo caring for the animals make more money than those caring for our children."

Osborne-Fears was to participate today in a panel discussion on Capitol Hill between the morning and afternoon sessions at the \* White House.

In a telephone interview, Osborne-Fears praised the emphasis Gov. George V. Voinovich has put on Head Start for 3-to-5-year-olds, but said she worries that low-income workers will

- \* be forced onto welfare by the high cost of child care even as
- \* welfare recipients take jobs with child-care subsidies.

Jackie Sensky, Voinovich's deputy chief of staff for children's issues, said there is no arguing with statistics that show the

- \* number of children in subsidized child care has grown from 18,000 when the governor took office to 81,000 today.

Subsidies are offered to welfare recipients making the transition to work and for one full year to the working poor whose income is less than 150 percent of poverty.

- \* "Child care is the most difficult issue to work on," Sensky said. "There is so much need and only so many dollars. You have to ask yourself, are you trading one entitlement for another - welfare
- \* for child care?"

I0607 \* End of document.

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**PRIVATE SECTOR PLAYS GROWING ROLE IN CHILD CARE**

DOCUMENT 236 OF 343

REC9729700064

NEWS

\* PRIVATE SECTOR PLAYS GROWING ROLE IN CHILD CARE

By PEGGY O'CROWLEY, Staff Writer

642 Words

4513 Characters

\* 10/23/97

The Record, Northern New Jersey

All Editions.=.4 Star. 3 Star Late. 3 Star. 2 Star. 1; Star

a04

(Copyright 1997)

A 14-month-old boy at the Mahwah day-care center crawled up a set of padded stairs to look out the window. Other toddlers, barely walking, lurched from one activity to another on the carpeted floor.

The newly configured "activity centers" are designed to stimulate walking and crawling and to encourage curiosity about what children will find next \_ a teacher with a picture book to look at, a little "house" to play in.

"There used to be cribs lining the walls, and we didn't have as much room," said Rae Ann Jandris, owner of the Children's Learning Center of Wyckoff at Fardale in Mahwah. Now space has been created by replacing cribs with mats.

The changes are the result of a new program, paid for by a group of New Jersey corporations, that allows day-care center directors to attend weeklong seminars to learn more about their business. A consultant then visits each center and makes recommendations \_ such as changing the setup of classrooms.

The program is just one example of the public-private efforts  
\* that are expected to be a focus of today's White House Conference on  
\* Child Care.

No specific policies or new programs are expected to come out of the Washington conference. But Richard B. Stolley, president of the  
\* New York-based Child Care Action Campaign, and other advocates hope the gathering will encourage the private and public sectors to do more to help care for the millions of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers of working parents.

\* Better child care is crucial for two reasons, said Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund. First, the huge pool of mothers coming off the welfare rolls will need places to leave their children. Second, recent research has shown that the brain is enormously affected by the kind of stimulation it receives

in its first three years.

In North Jersey, it costs an average of \$6,664 a year to send a preschooler to a day-care center. The fees for infants are even higher.

Nearly all those costs are now shouldered by parents and by the government, which provides subsidies. But experts say both funding sources are about tapped out and that the private sector must get more involved if the affordability, quality, and quantity of day care are to improve.

One way businesses can get involved is to set up day-care centers on company property, experts say. A second way is to create partnerships with local day-care centers in which businesses provide resources for the center in return for a discount for employees.

A third way is simply to provide employees with day-care benefits as part of their compensation.

A recent national poll of working women found that one in 10 had  
\* employers that offered child-care benefits, said Karen Nussbaum of the AFL-CIO. "Despite a lot of talk about family-friendly policies,  
\* few women see child-care policy at the workplace," she said.  
\* Stolley said the Child Care Action Campaign has been focusing on how to sell the idea to businesses.

"Business needs to be convinced there's a bottom line to  
\* investing in child care," he said. "Now we are getting hard, true empirical evidence that workers are retained longer, it improves productivity and lowers absenteeism."

The New Jersey program is part of a national effort called the American Business Collaborative for Dependent Care. In the Garden State, 10 corporations, including AT&T, Johnson & Johnson, Bell Atlantic, and IBM, have provided \$500,000 for training day-care center directors.

\* Debi Wilson, the corporate child-care specialist with Child and Family Resources of Morris County, has organized the seminars, drawing on instructors from nationally known schools and programs.

Thirty North and Central Jersey day-care center directors and operators \_ including some from Bergen and Passaic counties \_ are attending three weeklong seminars in Princeton. Topics include improving infant care, hiring staffers, and accommodating parents whose children don't need full-time care.

I0607 \* End of document.

*Clintons seek to spark new debate about federal ...*

DOCUMENT 17 OF 19

FBEE9729700125

TELEGRAPH

- \* Clintons seek to spark new debate about federal role in child care \*
- \* White House says it won't advocate a governmental role at meeting today.

Ann McFeatters Scripps Howard News Service

481 Words

3325 Characters

- \* 10/23/97

The Fresno Bee

HOME

A10

(Copyright 1997)

President Clinton and Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton will hold a

- \* White House Conference on Child Care today, hoping to stimulate a new debate on what the federal role should be but unwilling to propose specific solutions.

Although they won't advocate a governmental role, the Clintons have talked at length about working-parents' problems and say they

- \* want policy-makers to address child care availability, affordability, safety and quality in America.

However, conservatives say that the Clintons' real agenda is another "entitlement" program.

- \* Richard Nixon was the last president to tackle the issue of child care when he vetoed a bill that would have set national standards.
- \* White House press secretary Mike McCurry said Wednesday that a conference like this "can change the dynamic for policy-makers" and "organize and launch a concrete policy-making exercise."

He said Clinton is "very keen on stimulating a national discussion that we have not had before."

- \* Hillary Clinton has said that child care is critical for business as well as parents. "The investments we make in our children today will be returned to us in the form of stronger families, better communities and a more productive workforce."
- \* The problems in child care are enormous. Of 3 million child-care givers in the nation, about half quit each year, partly because they earn on average only \$12,000 a year, according to the National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force, a nonprofit group that advocates higher wages for child-care workers.

But many single parents struggle to pay the high cost of care, an average of \$74 a week. Quality care costs a parent at least \$8,500 a

year, experts say. As for poor families, only a small percentage get government subsidies.

The current court case of a teen-age nanny, accused of killing a baby in her care, has focused new attention on the issue of safety \* and has led some opponents of child care to say that mothers should not work when children are small.

Hillary Clinton, a longtime supporter of the child advocacy group Children's Defense Fund, has said that she has ideas for easing the \* child-care crisis for parents, such as creating some sort of \* insurance programs for child-care workers who fear being sued.

After being severely criticized for her role in the administration's failed health-care reform plan, she is said to be eager to avoid seeming to be seeking new government action in another controversial arena.

Gary Bauer, head of the Family Research Council, a conservative think tank and lobbying group, says dryly that he doubts the Clintons \* will hold a White House conference without wanting some government action.

\* Linda Chavez, who was head of public liaison in the Reagan White \* House, says, "Make no mistake, if {Hillary} Clinton has her way, \* Thursday's White House conference on child care will usher in a new era in which Uncle Sam takes on primary responsibility for minding the nation's children."

I0607 \* End of document.

*Clintons hosts for conference on child care ...*

DOCUMENT 13 OF 28

APOL9729700075

\* Clintons hosts for conference on child care `silent crisis'

LAURA MECKLER

Associated Press

725 Words

4915 Characters

\* 10/23/97

The Associated Press Political Service

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WASHINGTON (AP) \_ President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham

\* Clinton called attention to a "silent crisis" in child care Thursday

\* as hosts for a White House conference seeking ways to boost quality without raising costs.

The president proposed a modest package of help, including a scholarship fund to attract workers to the field. He said he would present a more comprehensive proposal next year.

\* "Nothing is more important ... than finding child care that is affordable, accessible and safe," Clinton said. "It is America's next great frontier in strengthening our families and our future."

North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt was among those speaking at the conference.

As much as anything, the conference was meant to "start a conversation," said Mrs. Clinton, calling the problems facing many parents a "silent crisis."

Experts told the Clintons they already know the key to high quality care: talented workers. But it's tough to find and keep them when average pay is just \$6.89 an hour. One-third of workers leave their jobs each year.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Clinton noted, some states have higher standards  
\* for beauticians than for child care workers.

The federal role has been limited, mostly providing money to help subsidize costs for low-income families. Clinton suggested a slightly broader focus but no major investment:

\_ Setting up a scholarship fund that would provide \$300 million

\* over five years to help up to 50,000 child care providers get additional training. The workers, who would get \$1,500 each, would have to remain in the field at least a year. They'd be guaranteed a raise when they finished.

It's modeled after a North Carolina program where teachers received raises averaging 10 percent. The people in the program had a turnover rate of less than 10 percent, compared with 42 percent for

the state.

\_Eliminating state barriers to checking criminal backgrounds of  
\* child care workers. That plan must be approved by Congress and all 50 states.

\_Forming a group of business leaders, headed by Treasury Secretary  
\* Robert Rubin, to look for ways to provide on-site child care or help employees afford it.

\* Clinton promised child care would be a top priority next year, although he acknowledged there would be "fierce competition for limited money." He suggested money might be spent to expand Head  
\* Start, improve worker salaries or boost the tax credit for child care expenses.

Hunt discussed North Carolina's Smart Start program, which allows local community groups to shape programs for pre-school children.

"You give children the kinds of opportunity, love and care, all those things we've heard about here today, in those first five years, and our schools will just zoom. No question about it," Hunt said at the conference.

Congressional reaction to the proposals was mixed.

Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., chairman of the subcommittee that handles  
\* child care, wrote Clinton that he should wait to see the effect of last year's welfare law before doing more.

\* Child care standards are the responsibility of state and local governments, Shaw wrote, adding, "No government agency can replace vigilant parents in making sure that day care promotes their children's development and safety."

But a bipartisan group of legislators attending the conference promised action next year on a major initiative. "It's going to be a first priority," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

Most speakers at Thursday's conference focused on the quality of care available. Several studies indicate that across the country, it is often poor and usually mediocre.

\* A good child care worker offers something simple: "warm and responsive care," said Ellen Galinsky, president of the New York-based Families and Work Institute.

Parents should check out the center they use, Galinsky said: Do the children all look busy with their own activities? Does each worker have to watch too many children? How much are the workers paid? And do the workers seem to really like children?

"There are a lot of people who take care of children who don't really want to," Galinsky said.

\* But even excellent child care doesn't help parents who can't afford it.

One million low-income children receive federal subsidies but there isn't enough money for an additional 9 million eligible children, said Donna Shalala, secretary of health and human services.

The challenge, Clinton said, is to develop a national system that addresses the problem rather than a set of "nice touching stories we can all tell each other."

**'CRISIS SITUATION': DAY CARE OFFICIALS DISCUSS ...**

DOCUMENT 84 OF 121

SLMO9729700495

NEWS

'CRISIS SITUATION': DAY CARE OFFICIALS DISCUSS PAY, EDUCATION,  
WELFARE

Carolyn Bower Of The Post-Dispatch Staff

682 Words

4494 Characters

\* 10/23/97

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

FIVE STAR LIFT

07C

(Copyright 1997)

A 2-year-old in a power struggle. A mother on crack. A father with an alcohol problem.

These are the issues some day-care workers face as they care for children from birth to kindergarten. And yet many of these workers make less than garbage collectors, day-care center directors say.

"We say these are the formative years of life, and society says it is OK to stick these children with someone making five dollars an hour," said Paula Lorio, director of the child development center at St. Charles County Community College. "We need to say \* early child care is important and to put the dollars there. . . .

We are in a crisis situation."

Lorio was among three dozen people from metropolitan school districts, day-care agencies and colleges who attended a hearing Wednesday at United Services in St. Peters. The agency offers day care and other services for children with special needs and others.

The hearing was one of two forums held Wednesday before representatives of the Governor's Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education. A second forum was set to take place Wednesday night at Harris-Stowe State College in St. Louis.

The commission will meet at 10 a.m. today in the Gateway Room of the United Way Building, 1111 Olive Street in St. Louis.

Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan appointed the commission of educators, state workers and business and political leaders May 28 to study the state's efforts to improve the care and education of young children. The commission is expected to deliver a report to Carnahan in December with the possibility of recommendations for state legislation.

The work of the commission comes at a time of national

discussion on the issue. President Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham

\* Clinton will sponsor a White House conference on child care today.

A number of conferences in recent years have pointed to research that shows brain development in the first several years of life largely affects a child's subsequent educational and social progress.

The appointment of the commission signals that early childhood education and care have become a priority for the governor and for Missouri, said Joe Moseley, chairman of the commission and general counsel for Shelter Insurance Co. in Columbia, Mo.

\* "We want to make quality child care available to every child from birth to 5 years old in the state," Moseley said Wednesday.

The need for day care continues to grow as a result of welfare reform and a growing number of women going back to work. Many of those women are single parents who can ill afford increases in the cost of day care. Several day-care directors spoke of the need for

\* more centers to provide night or weekend child care.

Ann Bingham, executive director of the Stella Maris Child Center in St. Louis, wants to see large block grants from the state given to pay for day-care salaries and educational programs.

Mary Jo Griffith, director of early childhood education for the Francis Howell School District, dreams of forming networks of groups to handle early childhood education and special education, groups such as school districts, social agencies, private day-care providers and parents.

Andi Schleicher, executive director of the Child Day Care Association, said the licensing structure for day care in Missouri is a problem. She said people are angry that the state will pay to keep children for day care in private homes and not run child abuse and neglect checks on these providers.

Carole Dawn Arrendale, executive director of the Lemay Early Childhood and Family Development Center and a parent of children at the center, asked: "Why does the state sink so much into juvenile detention, penitentiaries and jails? Why not put more toward early

\* child care and prevention?"

Loretta Lloyd, director of Sunshine Academy in St. Louis, expressed concern about a lack of raises for day-care workers in the last eight years. She asked, "How can the state let this go on, and we keep doing our jobs? There is no money to be made. But we keep working because we care about children, and we care about their parents."

I0607 \* End of document.

*ON WASHINGTON White House spotlights child care*

DOCUMENT 208 OF 343

ATJC9730200677

NATIONAL NEWS

\* ON WASHINGTON White House spotlights child care  
Compiled by Ernie Freda; from staff, news services and  
published reports

987 Words

6674 Characters

\* 10/23/97

The Atlanta Constitution

A;12

(Copyright 1997 The Atlanta Journal / The Atlanta Constitution)

- \* Cost and quality are the two biggest issues in child care, and
- \* they'll be in the spotlight today at the first White House conference
- \* on child care, a gathering of educators and experts from around the country.

Officials expect the conference to set the stage for President Clinton's State of the Union speech next year, when he is expected to

- \* highlight child care. The administration also plans to include some initiatives in next year's budget proposal.

- \* Generally, the federal government has only a small role in child
- \* care. States are responsible for setting standards, enforcing them and adding any other money for subsidies.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, a working mother, said Wednesday that any

- \* program for improving child care should include help for stay-at-home moms. She also made clear that the conference would not yield major new federal initiatives, but instead identify model care programs and encourage their replication.

The Georgia congressional delegation, like the Clintons, has

- \* little firsthand experience with professional child care. Only two of the state's 13 members, Republicans Bob Barr and John Linder, said
- \* Wednesday that they used child care services when their families were young ---and only occasionally at that.

Surgery for Chambliss

Rep. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.) underwent successful Achilles' tendon reconstructive surgery Wednesday afternoon at Bethesda National Naval Hospital in Maryland. Chambliss suffered an "insertional Achilles' tendon rupture" during routine exercises Tuesday evening in the House gym. Dr. Francis McGuigan, the chief orthopedic surgeon, called the procedure a success and said the outlook for a complete recovery was excellent. The 90-minute procedure, according to McGuigan, was more complicated than a routine repair and will require at least a

three-month recovery period.

A+ vote coming up

Sen. Paul Coverdell (R-Ga.) and two Democrats ---Sen. Robert Torricelli of New Jersey and Rep. Floyd Flake of New York ---joined forces Wednesday to make a case for education savings accounts. The proposal, which would help parents pay for primary and secondary school expenses, is expected to be voted on today in the House. The House version of the Coverdell-Torricelli plan would permit parents to place up to \$2,500 a year per child in an "A+ account." The money would be allowed to earn interest tax-free, and funds left over could be used to cover college expenses. The three lawmakers said the initiative would help middle-income parents choose the best schools for their children without diverting money from public schools.

Rights for all

Facing opposition from conservatives, President Clinton's nominee to head the government's top civil rights office pledged at his confirmation hearing Wednesday to "enforce the law on behalf of all of our people." After Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), chairman of the Judiciary Committee, used his opening statement to criticize the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, Bill Lann Lee, the son of a Chinese immigrant, said, "My career has been devoted to finding pragmatic solutions under the law to real-life problems of discrimination and exclusion. I believe nonpartisan, evenhanded enforcement of our civil rights laws will advance those principles."

Luce(y) in the sky

The diaries of the late Clare Boothe Luce ---a journalist, playwright, congresswoman (Connecticut) and ambassador (Italy) ---show that she experimented with LSD. The Library of Congress has made public some of Luce's journals documenting her experiments with the hallucinogenic drug during the early 1960s. In them, Luce methodically notes her observations and physiological reactions to the drug. She wrote in one account: "I am unpleasantly aware of colored papier-mache masks over the bar, who are colored like black and blue devils. When I am 'under,' I have the premonition I am not going to like those masks at all." Luce apparently began using LSD under the guidance of a medical researcher, Dr. Sidney Cohen, who had asked her to take part in a research experiment. Luce was the wife of Henry R. Luce, founder and head of Time magazine.

Posting to old country

Rep. Thomas Foglietta (D-Pa.) will resign from his House seat and head to Rome by next month to be the next U.S. ambassador. The Senate unanimously confirmed the nine-term lawmaker from Philadelphia, and he'll be sworn in next month. Foglietta, 68, speaks Italian and has made about 50 trips to Italy. His grandparents came to the United States with his mother more than a century ago.

ELSEWHERE

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, spiritual leader of the 270 million-member Orthodox Christian Church, had a busy day in Washington, receiving Congress' Gold Medal, discussing religion and the environment with President Clinton, and attending a White House reception with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton before dinner with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. . . . Reflecting a bipartisan consensus that another government shutdown would be awful politics, the House voted overwhelmingly to keep agencies running through Nov. 7 ---when Congress hopes to adjourn for the year ---while lawmakers and Clinton sort through lingering budget fights. . . . Hillary Rodham Clinton will travel to England, Ireland and Northern Ireland next Thursday through Saturday, the White House announced, focusing her attention on the roles of women and youth in democracy and the Irish peace process. . . . Typically wary of spending taxpayers' money, Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas) intends to make an exception, saying he will introduce legislation intended to double federal spending on medical, space and other civilian research to \$68 billion over the next decade. . . . Ex-President Gerald Ford and wife Betty, grandparents of five girls, got their first grandson last week when son Jack and wife Juliann had 6-pound, 15-ounce Christian Gerald in San Diego.

DULY NOTED

"We could have matched them dollar for dollar and I could be here tonight saying, 'Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.' "  
---Ross Perot on CNN, saying the Reform Party "could have been competitive" in 1996 had it used soft money for issue ads.

TODAY'S AGENDA

Happening: Rep. Jay Kim (R-Calif.) is sentenced in Los Angeles for accepting illegal campaign contributions.

10607 \* End of document.

**HILLARY CLINTON'S CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE HAS ...**

DOCUMENT 212 OF 343

LAD9729800120

NEWS

\* HILLARY CLINTON'S CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE HAS GOP WARY

The New York Times

281 Words

2136 Characters

\* 10/23/97

Los Angeles Daily News

VALLEY

N12

(Copyright 1997)

\* Hillary Rodham Clinton will convene a White House conference today to highlight what she and the president see as an urgent need for safe, affordable child care. But conservative Republicans say they fear the conference will lay the groundwork for plans to increase government spending or regulation.

Hoping to overcome such skepticism, administration officials have been trying to enlist moderate Republicans and business executives in their campaign, arguing that improved child care not only would produce healthier, happier children, but eventually would increase the nation's economic output as well.

The first lady on Wednesday described the conference and the administration's approach to child care in purposefully reassuring terms. The most successful day care programs result from "public-private partnerships," not government mandates, she said at a briefing for reporters.

\* The White House conference probably will generate several new policy initiatives, she indicated, but they will not require enormous amounts of public money or a broadly expanded state regulatory role.

And Clinton delivered a preemptive answer to critics who say the focus on child care sends an implicit message to women that it is better for them to work outside the home than to stay at home caring for their own children.

"Despite our rhetoric about family values, we don't do very much to help the parents who want to stay home," Clinton said. "We don't want one stereotypical, one-size-fits-all approach to child care."

In their handling of this issue, the Clintons clearly are drawing on lessons learned from the health care debacle of the president's first term. Their proposals to overhaul the health care system were rejected in part because critics painted them as an inflexible government-decreed solution to major social needs.

*Overwhelming Dilemma Of National Child Care*

DOCUMENT 13 OF 19

SFC9730000835

EDITORIAL

EDITORIALS

\* Overwhelming Dilemma Of National Child Care

398 Words

2695 Characters

\* 10/23/97

The San Francisco Chronicle

FINAL

A24

(Copyright 1997)

\* CHILD CARE is a Catch-22: With half of America's working families  
\* earning \$35,000 a year or less, what they can afford to pay for child  
\* care does not amount to enough to ensure a decent wage for the  
\* child-care provider. Workers are paid an average of \$6.89 an hour.  
\* And without decent wages and benefits, child-care workers stay only  
briefly in those jobs, which means instability at a place where  
stability is crucial.

The Clinton administration will address this dilemma at the  
\* first-ever White House conference on child care today. It's not  
\* clear what will come out of the conference of child-care experts and  
policy makers, and the Clintons are not specific about what they  
want.

The goal, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said, is to "call  
national attention to an issue that political leaders and  
policymakers should focus on, but which has often been ignored."

\* The difficulty of obtaining good child care is daunting. Any  
success will depend on cooperation and support at every level -- from  
federal, state and local governments to private business and parents.

But the need for quick action is evident to help the three out of  
five preschoolers who need care and the 5 million children who are  
home alone each weekday. Good care gives children a good foundation  
for school and it also has been shown to prevent delinquency.

Despite such evidence of the benefits of good care, six out of  
\* seven child care centers offers mediocre to poor care. Half of  
infant and toddler rooms in centers are judged to be potentially  
harmful to children. Most states require no training for providers  
\* before they offer child care in homes. Full-day care is often far  
beyond the reach of many working families.

A number of bills in Congress would help families and businesses  
\* pay for child care. Especially appealing are ones that would bring

the dependent care tax credits into the '90s by increasing from \$2,400 to \$4,000 for one child and from \$4,800 to \$8,000 for two or more children the amount of expenses that could be claimed.

Some of the measures would provide tax incentives for businesses.

- \* The White House conference will have done a service if it convinces lawmakers of the urgency of the problem and shows them that
- \* an investment in child care is an investment in public safety and the emotional and intellectual health of children.

I0607 \* End of document.

*Local advocate at White House child-care talks*

DOCUMENT 223 OF 343

CINP9729700442

NEWS

\* Local advocate at White House child-care talks

Stephen Huba Post staff reporter

310 Words

2279 Characters

\* 10/23/97

The Cincinnati Post

FINAL

15A

(Copyright 1997)

A Cincinnati consultant active in child development issues

\* is among participants in today's first-ever White House conference  
\* on child care.

Chad P. Wick, president of Resources and Instruction for Staff Excellence Inc., is one of the conference guests, his office confirmed.

Wick would not comment on his role in the meeting.

Today's conference, called by President Bill Clinton, will

\* focus on the cost and quality of child care, among other things.

Earlier this year, Wick's organization inaugurated a training

\* program to help parents and child-care providers stimulate learning  
in children from infancy to age 5.

The pilot program, titled "Winning Teams for Young Children," was offered in 20 locations throughout Ohio, including two in Greater Cincinnati, in January, March and May.

It is Wick's conviction that parents and educators often focus on learning between kindergarten and 12th grade.

But a critical part of education also occurs between birth and age 5, when children gain the fundamental social and learning skills on which their later learning is based.

"New scientific research is telling us that without quality care and nurturing in early childhood, we are handicapping our children in the future," Wick told The Post in April.

"Winning Teams for Young Children" brought parents and teachers together in video conferences and workshops to discuss ways to cooperate in early childhood learning.

There are 840,000 children under age 5 in Ohio, and about 500,000 of them are in day care.

Text of fax box follows:

\* White House spotlight on child care

President Clinton is not expected to announce any major initiatives at today's conference, just a handful of modest ideas, including:

- A public education campaign and literature to help parents
- \* chose high-quality child care.
- \* New incentives, such as loans or grants, to help child-care workers get more educations.
- \* A campaign to get businesses more involved in providing child
- \* care for their workers.

I0607 \* End of document.

*Child-care aid bypasses county's working poor ...*

DOCUMENT 227 OF 343

INDY9729700022

NEWS

\* Child-care aid bypasses county's working poor

Thousands of local residents who have jobs must remain on waiting list for assistance.

KATHLEEN SCHUCKEL

753 Words

5076 Characters

\* 10/23/97

The Indianapolis Star

CITY FINAL

A01

(Copyright 1997)

\* Government is giving the issue of child care lots of attention.

\* President Clinton will be the host of the first-ever White

\* House conference on the issue today.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon has promised millions for the working poor who need help with their kids while they're punching the clock.

But government hasn't solved things yet in Marion County.

Thousands of low-income families here remain on a waiting list,

\* hoping to get government aid to pay for child care.

People like Julie Barrett, a single mother of two.

A youth group-home coordinator, she spends a third of her \$18,000

\* annual salary on child care. She pays an elderly neighbor to baby-sit but wishes she could afford to send her daughters to a more stimulating learning environment.

"It's hard," she said. "It makes my stress level go up."

In July, O'Bannon announced that \$62 million in savings from

\* welfare reform would be used to subsidize child care for welfare and working-poor families.

He predicted then that waiting lists for help would be virtually eliminated by the infusion of cash.

But Barrett and others are still on the list and still waiting.

More than 4,700 children of the working poor in this community need government help for day care but aren't getting it. That's despite a huge increase in the number of children being served this year - 7,500 compared with 2,000 a year ago.

The problem?

In large part, welfare reform.

Most of the new money available in Indianapolis has been used to support those forced off welfare and required to work. Welfare

\* reform laws guarantee them at least a year of child-care subsidies if they stay in a low-income bracket.

That creates friction among the new poor and the old poor, said Lee Meriwether, executive director and president of Daybreak Management Corp., the agency that administers the state's

\* child-care subsidies in Indianapolis.

Why should those who worked hard all these years wait on a list while they watch those coming off welfare get immediate help?

"Everybody should be able to have a tax break, or there should be more programs to accommodate the low-income," Barrett said.

Diane Gardenhire, office manager at Daybreak, sees a difference in the groups' attitudes as well. The working poor appreciate

\* child-care help; those just off welfare expect it, she said.

Those coming off welfare resent having to come into the Daybreak offices to sign up for the subsidies, Meriwether said. He calls them his "hard-core" clients. Many swear at the Daybreak staff.

"They're used to entitlements. They don't really appreciate the subsidy."

In the summer, O'Bannon said working families in Indiana would get assistance until their earnings reached 150 percent of the poverty level - or \$19,995 for a family of three.

And that's happening in most Indiana counties.

\* Janet Deahl, state director of the child-care subsidy program, said that at year's end it will be clear if money remains from other areas to help fill the gap here and wherever else there are shortfalls.

Meriwether never promoted the Daybreak programs. People find out about the subsidies by word of mouth, he said. "If we did advertise, the waiting list might include 20,000," he said.

Indianapolis needs to add \$16 million to its \$23 million annual budget to eliminate its waiting list, Meriwether said. He's not optimistic.

At some point, the state will have to figure out how to meet the ongoing needs of the working poor and their children who need care.

Low-income people are rarely in jobs that give annual raises sufficient to pay for good-quality care, which runs several thousand dollars a year per child, Meriwether said.

\* Directors of child-care centers and homes say they can't afford to charge less. Many of their own employees are paid so poorly that  
\* they qualify for child-care subsidies themselves.

But the working poor won't go away. Their numbers will grow.

"How do we support these families in the long run?" Deahl said.

"We don't want to create a revolving door."

TV Coverage

- \* A satellite broadcast of the White House Conference on Child Care will be shown at Ivy Tech State College, 1 W. 26th St., from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. today.

Conference facts

- \* What: White House Conference on Child Care.  
When: Today.  
Participants: The president has invited educators and experts from across the country.  
Goal: To stimulate national debate on what role the federal government should play in improving child care. More than 12 million children younger than 6 are in child care.

I0607 \* End of document.

**CLINTON PLAN COULD MAKE OR BREAK DAY-CARE ...**

DOCUMENT 238 OF 343

NOTP9729700133

NATIONAL

CLINTON PLAN COULD MAKE OR BREAK DAY-CARE SERVICES PARENTS LIKE  
INITIATIVES; OPERATORS ARE SKEPTICAL

JOAN TREADWAY and STEPHANIE GRACE Staff writers

1047 Words

7730 Characters

\* 10/23/97

The New Orleans Times-Picayune

THIRD

A1

(Copyright 1997)

Murray Thomas and his wife raised eight children, but their job is not done.

Early Wednesday morning, as usual, he walked their 2-year-old granddaughter Jamieann to the Ann DeBose Busy Hands and Minds Day Care and Learning Center on St. Anthony Street, not far from their Gentilly home.

Thomas, 49, a painting contractor who loves children and volunteers his time to a Boy Scout troop, said he was selective in choosing who would care for the toddler he and his wife are now responsible for. "I lost two weeks of work, trying to get her into a good center," he said. He checked several places, turning down some because he didn't feel comfortable with the staffs, before a friend recommended the DeBose center. Thomas described DeBose as "real good."

After this experience, he said he wholeheartedly supports President Clinton's three proposals for improving the nation's

- \* child care: a public education campaign to help parents find high
- \* quality child care; incentives such as loans or grants to help
- \* child-care workers get more education; and a campaign to get
- \* businesses more involved in providing child care for their employees.

The initiatives, previewed in news reports Wednesday, will be

- \* presented in more detail today at the first-ever White House
- \* conference on child care.

Around the metropolitan area, the proposal on educating

- \* child-care workers had the most resonance with parents and day-care operators. Many parents said the quality and training of the people who care for their children is their biggest concern.

Amy Vickers of Metairie looked at three other centers when she

moved to her neighborhood before settling on Metairie Kids' City for 2 1/2 -year-old Kayla. Besides the fact that it's new, and looked clean and safe - at one of the other centers, she said, paint was chipping off the ceiling - Vickers said the most important variable was the staff.

"The most important thing is the teachers, and what kind of skills are they (the kids) going to be learning," Vickers said. "I want them to be teachers, not baby sitters."

Kim Acosta, the center's director, agrees that training is important and said she tries to hire people with experience and strong references. In general, she said, it's tough for many

\* child-care centers to attract qualified people - and, more important, keep them - because wages and benefits tend to be low.

Tanisha Rivera of Metairie said Wednesday she's happy with the care 2-year-old Brianna gets at Kids' City, but said she had a bad experience at a previous day-care center when workers could not get another child to stop biting.

"Part of the problem is they're not trained properly," she said. "I don't think they pay enough attention to the kids."

The only Clinton proposal that appeared to draw controversy locally is the campaign to get businesses more involved in

\* providing child care for their employees.

Some day-care providers fear it will mean more on-site centers at parents' workplaces, which could hurt the day-care business. And nationally, at least one organization, Mothers at Home of Vienna, Va., put out a press release warning that "expanding funding for full-time day care without similar breaks for at-home parents endangers the choice of parental care and is not what the majority of American parents want."

Hillary Rodham Clinton, in a session with reporters in

\* Washington on the eve of the child-care conference, acknowledged the need to keep in mind parents who choose to stay home. "We don't do a very good job in this country, despite our rhetoric about family values, to create work and family situations that permit more families to make the choice that they think is right for them," Hillary Clinton said.

She made clear that the conference, which President Clinton plans to attend in part, would not yield major new federal initiatives but instead identify model care programs and encourage their replication.

Judy Watts, director of Agenda for Children, an advocacy organization based in New Orleans, said that while she supports

\* more business involvement in child care, not all parents want or need a care center at their workplace. Other options exist, such as

\* businesses paying part of their employees' costs for child-care centers in their neighborhoods, she said.

For her part, Rose Williams, 26, who dropped off her son Nicholas, 2, at the DeBose center in Gentilly, said she would be delighted if Bally's Casino on Lake Pontchartrain, where she works as a cashier, would someday start providing on-site day care.

Meanwhile, she said she's satisfied with bringing Nicholas to the DeBose center, even though it's quite a drive from her home in the Carrollton area.

Ann DeBose, owner of the center, is among those concerned that day care at businesses may cut down her client list of 43 children. Still, she said she does not take issue with more education on high quality child care and that she is pleased with the proposal for the government to pay some of the cost of educating child-care workers.

Satisfaction is so high at a day-care center for employees at West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero that there are waiting lists for each age group, said Lisa Beary, its director.

At the Preschool Learning Center Inc. in eastern New Orleans, director Lydia McDougald said she expects that better education of parents will lead them to choose state-licensed centers like hers, which have to meet requirements such as limits on the number of children per worker, instead of "underground nurseries."

Watts, of Agenda for Children, said she supports more education for parents and more training for child-care workers, and said of the White House conference overall: "It's great."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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## BOOMING BABY BUSINESS

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\* A look at the growing child-care industry

### FACTS

Figures and estimates:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Children in day care                   | 10 million  |
| Licensed day-care centers              | 93 million  |
| Day-care workers                       | 3 million   |
| Average day-care worker wage           | \$6.89/hour |
| Centers with employee health insurance | 18%         |

\* Employer losses from child-care related absences 3 billion

\* Annual child-care teacher turnover\* 36%

\*Estimated U.S. average private sector turnover 10%

### MONTHLY COSTS

\* Average family child-care costs by income group

---

| INCOME | UNDER 1,200 | \$1,200-\$2,999 | 3,000-4,99 |
|--------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
|--------|-------------|-----------------|------------|

---

|        |       |       |       |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| CHILD- | \$205 | \$261 | \$317 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|

CARE COSTS

-----  
SHARE OF 25% 12% 8%  
INCOME  
-----

\$4,500 AND OVER  
\$398  
=====

KRT GRAPHIC

I0607 \* End of document.

*A CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE*

DOCUMENT 241 OF 343

LVL9731000634

FORUM

\* A CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE

READER

404 Words

2713 Characters

\* 10/23/97

The Courier-Journal Louisville, KY

14A

(Copyright 1997)

Today, President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton  
\* will be convening the nation's first White House Conference on Child  
\* Care. This conference will focus on the strengths and weaknesses of  
\* child care in America and explore how the nation can better support  
working families' need for quality, affordable care for their  
children. It will also highlight school-age care for our children  
and teens, responding to the concern that nearly five million  
children are left home alone each week.

The administration should be commended for focusing national  
\* attention on the child care needs of our children and youth. We hope  
the conference will be the beginning of a renewed effort in  
Washington and across the country to find solutions that make quality  
\* child care affordable for all.

\* There is good reason to move ahead. Child care is an issue that  
affects many American families. Every day, three out of five  
\* preschoolers are in child care. According to recent studies, many of  
these children are not in the safe and nurturing settings they  
\* deserve. Nationally, six out of seven child care centers provide  
care that is poor to mediocre, and care in as many as one-third of  
providers' homes could be harmful to children. Yet even average care  
remains unaffordable for many working families. Parents can easily  
\* have to pay \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year for a child in child care - as  
much as tuition, room and board at many colleges.

In Kentucky, many low-income working families cannot access  
\* programs that will help them afford child care. These parents are  
always in "Catch-22" situations - do they go to work and leave  
their children alone or in tenuous situations, or do they risk losing  
their jobs by staying home and assuring that their children are  
safe?

Quality standards, such as low child/staff ratios and small group  
\* sizes, need to be strengthened. But quality child care costs money -

- and the wages Kentucky's young families earn are not enough to pay
- \* for quality care. It's a vicious circle - child care programs can't provide quality care if families can't afford to pay for it.
  - \* I hope the White House Conference on Child Care will help all of us in Kentucky focus on how parents, employers, communities and all levels of government can work together to help find innovative
  - \* solutions to families' child care needs.

LINDA LOCKE

Public Policy Director

- \* Community Coordinated Child Care  
Louisville 40203

I0607 \* End of document.

*Child care issue isn't kid stuff for advocates*

DOCUMENT 257 OF 343

NSL9729600004

NEWS

\* Child care issue isn't kid stuff for advocates

Peggy McGlone

Star-Ledger Staff

148 Words

1188 Characters

\* 10/23/97

The Star-Ledger Newark, NJ

FINAL

001

(Copyright Newark Morning Ledger Co., 1997)

\* Most working parents treat child care as a personal matter. Today the White House is making it a national concern.

\* When the White House Conference on Child Care convenes this morning, its panelists will make the case that adequate child care should be a national priority and that the nation's 30 million children under age 13 with parents in the work force should be educated and nurtured in safe environments.

"It goes back to 'it takes a village,'" said Dr. Susan S. Aronson of Philadelphia, a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a conference panelist.

Moderated by the President and Hillary Clinton, the sessions will address quality, affordability and access, and outline research

\* linking quality child care to crime prevention, education and good business.

\* It will have the attention of about 100 New Jersey child-care professionals, who will participate through a satellite link at Princeton University's

I0607 \* End of document.

*Politics Using kids*

DOCUMENT 260 OF 343  
XFTU9729600727  
NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL  
Politics Using kids  
474 Words  
3059 Characters  
\* 10/23/97  
The Florida Times-Union  
CITY  
A-13  
EDITORIAL  
(Copyright 1997)

Although a lot of the money taxpayers pony up to take care of kids just goes around in circles, with the net after bureaucratic costs returning to the original taxpayer, the Clinton administration wants more.

Other people's children are being used by the unelected first lady to effect the social policy she wanted, but couldn't get, with health care and welfare.

Two manufactured crises being used in this political game are uninsured children and day care.

\* About 40 percent of child care in the United States already is paid for by taxpayers, and more than nine out of 10 parents are satisfied with the quality, the Cato Institute says.

Hillary Clinton, however, does not believe parents know what is good for their children. "If somebody's nice to them, it doesn't matter that they don't know the difference between caring for a 1-year-old or a 4-year-old," she has said, with regal condescension.

\* Child care generally is neither scarce nor expensive, although governments constantly are adding to the cost by regulation. Fees have not risen in real terms in almost 20 years, on average.

\* Many people continue to rely on family members for child care, but still pay taxes for other people's children.

Of course, if they didn't have to pay such high taxes, one of the parents might be able to spend more time at home with the children.

Employers, unions and communities have been doing more to provide child care as more women have joined the work force.

These marketplace adjustments still are not enough for the nanny state, which is determined to care for every American from

- \* cradle to grave. Today, at the first White House conference on
- \* child care, President Clinton plans to announce ideas that include:

A public education campaign and literature to help parents choose high quality child care.

- \* New incentives, such as loans or grants, to help child-care workers get more education.
- \* A campaign to get businesses more involved in providing child care for their workers.

"More involved" implies that businesses are not involved enough. We would like to see the arithmetic behind that neat calculation.

- \* A national registry of child-care workers with criminal records, an idea that has been floated by Hillary Clinton, apparently will not be proposed.

In his State of the Union speech next year, President Clinton

- \* is expected to highlight child care.

"The proof is in the pudding," said Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund, which has child care at the top of its liberal legislative agenda and is unlikely to be satisfied with anything Clinton does short of a full federal takeover of

- \* child care.

If Congress can get out of its funk and fend off the bad ideas that keep rising from the White House like swamp gas, there is still hope for a balanced budget. But it won't be easy.

I0607 \* End of document.

Today: Partly sunny, windy, cooler.  
 High 66, Low 41. Wind 10-20 mph.  
 Thursday: Partly sunny, breezy, cool.  
 High 62, Low 36. Wind 10-20 mph.  
 Yesterday: Temp range 44-61.  
 Rain count: 21. Details: Page B2.

# The Washington Post

- A: Front Page
- B: Metro
- C: National
- D: International
- E: Business
- F: Sports
- G: Entertainment
- H: Classifieds



BY GERALD MARTINEAU—THE WASHINGTON POST

Gloria Hicks, director of Teddy Bear Day Care in Fairfax, plays with Kyree Marshall, left, and Shakayla Reid. She says that when children see workers change, "all of a sudden, they have to develop a bond with a new person."

## Who's Minding the Children?

*Quality of Day Care Is Often a Casualty of the Booming Economy*

By Barbara Vobejda  
 Washington Post Staff Writer

Two day-care centers in Columbus, Ohio, have closed recently because their operators couldn't find enough workers. In California, where the public schools are hiring teachers to reduce class sizes, day-care administrators say they are unable to find replacements for the staff they are losing to the schools. In Battle Creek, Mich., centers say they can't compete with factory jobs making cereal for Kellogg's, which pays two or three times child-care salaries.

This is what specialists in the field call the crisis of day care: hiring and retaining the kind of high-quality people it takes to provide good care. And with numerous national studies finding that most day care

is of poor quality, child development experts warn that the emotional and intellectual development of a generation of children is being jeopardized.

Thursday, President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host a White House conference on child care, the single most visible effort yet to focus attention on the subject.

The conference agenda, acknowledging the problems of quality, availability and financing, is aimed at exploring solutions, primarily public-private sector partnerships to funnel new funds into the system. But even as advocates are encouraged by the high-profile platform, they are also skeptical that the federal government, states or the private sector are on the verge of making the kind of financial infusion it would

take to turn around an industry whose basic economics work against quality.

The conference comes at a particularly challenging time, industry experts say, because the nation's healthy economy and low unemployment rate have made staffing shortages and high turnover in child care even worse.

The result, said Ed Hassenger, executive director of the Altrusa Day Nursery in Battle Creek, is an applicant pool with very poor qualifications, some who struggle to read and write.

"You have a population . . . unable to work with children," he said, and so centers work on their skills. "Then you start over again. So you have a vicious circle."

Even when workers were in greater supply, the industry had trouble paying the kind of premium wages it would require to keep highly trained staff.

Of the 3 million day-care workers in this country, half are likely to quit their jobs this year, according to Marcy Whitebook, co-director of the National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force and a leading expert on the industry's economics.

They will leave to earn more money as grocery store clerks or washing United Postal Service trucks or, if they have a college education, teaching in the public schools. It is no wonder, since a third are paid only the minimum wage.

Child-care providers say they would pay more if they could, but that would mean charging parents more, which is difficult because day care already accounts for a huge portion of family expenses.

"There simply isn't enough purchasing power in the hands of parents to insure children get good quality care," said Gail Richardson, who heads the Child Care Action Campaign, a national advocacy group.

But fixing the problem is difficult, because when it comes to day care, the standard rules of the marketplace don't apply.

First, said Suzanne Helburn, a University of Colorado economist who has studied child-care quality, "there's not enough money in the system."

Helburn and others said child care should be viewed not as a typical market, but like public education or health care, where the cost of providing the service far outweighs the capacity of consumers to pay. Yet unlike child care, public schools and health care are heavily subsidized or underwritten entirely by government or employers.

The subsidy to child care is much more limited, with 70 percent of the total price tag paid from the pockets of parents. On 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.

While it strains a family budget, that \$3,700 a year provides less than half what experts estimate quality care would cost—as much as \$8,500 per child per year.

At the Shirlington Children's Center, an Arlington day-care center, director Anna Wodzynska is familiar with the problem. Two years ago, four of her seven workers left, and within a short time, all of the replacements quit.

"If you can keep a teacher for a year, that's great," she said.

But if she wanted to raise salaries from the \$8 she now pays teachers to the \$12 she thinks would lower turnover, it would increase the price of care from \$130 a week to \$200. But she said that is impossible. "Here, in Shirlington, no one could afford that."

Even the cost of day care is more than many parents can afford, especially low-income, single mothers.

Carrie Trombetta, a 20-year-old mother with two young children, earns \$5.15 working at Barnhill's Country Buffet in Pensacola, Fla. She gets up each morning and starts calling around to friends and family, asking who might care for her boys while she goes to work.

"I look all day for a babysitter until I go to work," she said. "I offer to pay them in food stamps because I can't afford to give them money."

When she applied for a government child-care subsidy, she was told there were 600 people on the waiting list in front of her.

Over the past decade, the federal government has increased what it spends to help low-income parents pay for child care from \$500 million to nearly \$3 billion. But only one in 10 children who are eligible for those funds is receiving them, leaving many states with thousands of families on their waiting lists.

Experts point to numerous studies underscoring their arguments that financing affects quality: A 1995 study by researchers at four universities rated just one in seven day-care centers as good quality and linked the problem to wages, training and experience.

A year earlier, the Families and Work Institute, a New York-based research organization, found comparably poor levels of quality in home day care, when children are taken to another person's home rather than a center.

And in April, a similar White House conference focused on brain development from birth to age 3, emphasizing that in

order to learn and develop properly, young children need consistent and positive relationships with adults.

Gloria Hicks, who runs the Teddy Bear Day Care in Fairfax, has seen firsthand the importance of that consistency.

"It's very hard for the younger ones, the infants and toddlers, to warm up to strangers," she said. "They're more fussy, crying" when new teachers take over. Hicks said she steps in and helps the children. Still, she said, "They have to develop a bond with a person, then all of a sudden, they have to develop a bond with a new person."

Even as advocates call for public and private investments to subsidize the system, they caution that simply adding dollars is not the answer.

Whitebook, the work force expert, argued that, even with the increased federal investment in recent years, little has been done to improve day-care wages or reduce turnover.

"The challenge is not just more money, but more money with an eye toward improving the care."

Indeed, even in the segment of the child-care system where there is plenty of money—high-income parents willing to pay hundreds of dollars weekly—there are still problems.

"The more affluent families are not very good consumers," said Helburn. "They don't understand what good quality is."

In part, parents lack the expertise to be good consumers but they also lack the emotional distance it sometimes takes to make a rational choice.

"Parents, when they're looking for child care, find it a very painful process," said Ellen Galinsky, co-president of the Work and Families Institute. The process of choosing day care, she said, "symbolizes separation. They don't look with dispassion" as they do in many other instances of comparison shopping.

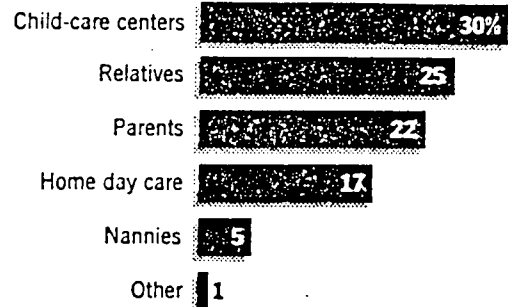
**FOR MORE INFORMATION** 

To read a special report on Washington-area day care, click on the above symbol on the front page of The Post's Web site at [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

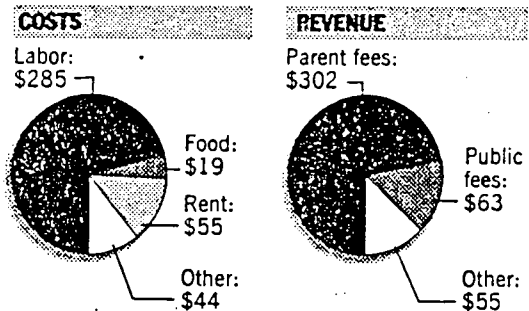
## DAY CARE IN AMERICA

*Experts argue that the quality of child care is harmed by high turnover among providers. One in two workers is expected to quit this year, in part because wages are limited by how much parents can afford to pay.*

### Care providers for preschoolers with employed mothers, 1993



### Budget for a typical child-care center, per child per month



*The poorest Americans spend the greatest share of their income on child care.*

| Annual income     | Weekly expense | Share of income |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Under \$14,400    | \$47.29        | 25%             |
| \$14,400-35,999   | 60.16          | 12              |
| \$36,000-53,999   | 73.10          | 8               |
| \$54,000 and over | 91.93          | 6               |

- Children under 6 who have both parents or only parent in work force: **12 million**
- Licensed child-care centers: **93,221**
- Average salary for providers in child-care centers: **\$6.89 an hour**
- Amount U.S. employers lose due to child-care-related absences: **\$3 billion**
- Percentage of employees eligible for employer-assisted child-care benefits: **4 percent**

SOURCES: Packard Foundation, Child Care Action Campaign

# Clintons to tackle child-care issues

## Aides won't give specifics about Thursday conference

By Mimi Hall  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — As if on cue to illustrate the problem Hillary Rodham Clinton was describing, secretary and single mom Paula Broglio stood up and presented herself to the first lady as a living example of a working woman who can't make it on her own.

On a \$25,000 salary and with no child support from her ex-husband, Broglio lives with her 4-year-old son in the guest bedroom of her parents' house so she can afford \$200-a-month subsidized child care at a Catholic school while she's at work.

"If I did not have that, and I didn't have my parents, I would probably have to quit my job and go on welfare, because who would watch my child during the day and how could I afford to live in an apartment?" Broglio asked earlier this month at the University of Maryland, where the first lady was speaking about her latest effort to influence public policy.

"That is the problem," Clin-

ton answered. "I could not more vividly describe it."

But Clinton couldn't say how the White House Conference on Child Care, which she and President Clinton will host Thursday, might help the 38-year-old Adelphi, Md., secretary and her little boy, Vincent.

"Your child will be in school before we probably get much of the changes that I would like to see happen," she said.

White House aides are being deliberately vague about what the Clintons have in mind to address the problems of affordability, availability and safety in the nation's child-care industry.

During the 1993-94 health-care debates, they learned that large-scale proposals can bring protest from those who see big government taking over a responsibility that should be left to families and private businesses.

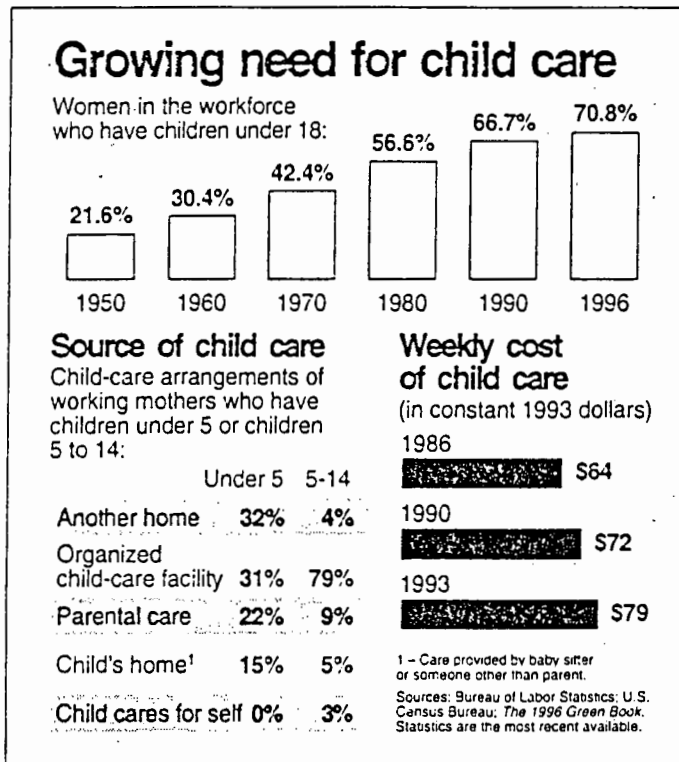
"If you're having a White House conference, I suspect you think there's a government solution," says Gary Bauer of the conservative Family Research Council.

In an interview with USA



Reuters

Clinton: Passionate on children's issues



By Genevieve Lynn, USA TODAY

TODAY on Tuesday, Hillary Clinton wouldn't say what the administration will propose.

"What I'm interested in is putting the spotlight on this issue and using the White House to... ignite a national conversation," she said.

The goal, she said, is to "call national attention to an issue that political leaders and policymakers should focus on but which has often been ignored."

She wouldn't talk specifics,

and her aides said she is not necessarily backing ideas she has mentioned recently: creating a national registry of child-care workers who have been convicted of crimes, for example, or offering protection for caretakers who fear being sued over minor accidents.

In her book *It Takes a Village*, Clinton said child care "is an issue that brings out all of our conflicted feelings about what parenthood should be and

about who should care for children when parents are working or otherwise unable to."

Children's issues have been a passion for Clinton since the early 1970s, when she worked as a lawyer at the Children's Defense Fund, a liberal advocacy group. Now she is wading back in to help tackle what the president calls "the next great frontier" in his effort to help working families.

In a recent speech at a Newark church, he ticked off a list of large and small initiatives he already has promoted: a new TV rating system to alert parents about violent or sexual content, a tobacco settlement that aims to stop smoking among children, a \$500-per-child tax credit for working families and a balanced federal budget that increases funding for health care for low-income children.

"But we still have to make sure that our parents have access to quality, affordable child care," he said. "That's the great, big hurdle left."

Richard Stolley, president of the Child Care Action Campaign, hopes Thursday's conference can help convince businesses that helping employees find child care helps productivity. "Business needs to be convinced there is a bottom-line benefit," he says.

But the nation's child-care system is in such bad shape, he says, that "we're deluding ourselves if we think this is going to make an enormous difference."

## WORK & FAMILY

BY SUE SHELLNBARGER

### Back-to-Work Effort Has Strained Supply Of Good Child Care

**T**ONI FALL IS the kind of bootstrap case policy makers like to tout. She escaped the unemployment lines two years ago by landing a temporary \$8.53-an-hour job as a machine operator. After a long search, she has nailed down a permanent, higher-paying job as an evening-shift worker for the post office. But in her climb to self-reliance, Ms. Fall just hit a brick wall: no child care.

She can't find anyone to care for her daughter, age eight, until her shift ends at 10:30 p.m. She had been counting on a new child-care center with extended hours, but it's full and has a long waiting list. So Ms. Fall is knocking on the doors of providers who work in their homes, hoping to find an evening opening. "I've been trying to get my feet on the ground for a long time," she says, and finds it "scary" that child care might derail her.

As more people get off welfare, the child-care crunch for all the working poor is getting worse. Millions of welfare-to-work parents are looking for the flexible, off-hours child care that entry-level jobs often require.

People on the front lines of child care say the shortage is going to get much worse over the next three years as welfare reform pumps an estimated one million more children into a child-care system already straining to accommodate 10 million.

Billie Osborne-Fears of Starting Point, a child-care agency in Cleveland, says 40,000 new child-care slots may be needed in her area. Already the mounting shortage "has created a nightmare for us," she says.

To a significant extent, welfare reform leans on the weakest links of the child-care system: off hours and infant care. An "exceptionally high" proportion of welfare-to-work parents will work nonstandard schedules, mainly because they lack other choices, says University of Maryland professor Harriet Presser. Also, a federal work exemption for mothers of children under three has ended, allowing states to require such women to work.

**M**ARY BETH Crandall, a single mother formerly on welfare, is trying to move up from part-time telemarketing to a full-time customer-service job for a home-health agency, with benefits and a retirement plan. But she needs child care until 6:30 p.m., a half-hour or more after most providers close. She has been turned down by 10 so far.

For Michele Leafs, an insurance-company employee, the search for affordable infant care has been a horror show. At one center she observed, a worker yanked a baby by the arm to "discipline" him; at another, babies were kept in a dark room, changed on computer paper and pushed down in their cribs if they didn't sleep at the assigned time. And at a child-care home where she briefly placed her baby, the caregiver left the child propped in a car seat in front of the TV all day.

The solution many policy makers and employers expect parents to use—leaving their children with relatives—is fraught with problems. Rel-

atives typically are already working, live too far away or aren't reliable. A study of 50 women on nontraditional schedules by consultants Mills & Pardee of Concord, Mass., found a lack of relatives and friends to help was the No. 1 child-care problem. Also, a Families & Work Institute study found relatives, who often take in kids only as a favor, generally don't provide very good care.

Tina Burt works full time, including weekends, at a nursing home so



Carol Lay

she can attend college in hopes of landing a better job. She can't always rely on her mother for weekend care because she works, too. Ms. Burt's sister "doesn't like to be bothered" and her grandmother's "nerves can't take" having three kids around, Ms. Burt says.

**T**HOUGH INCREASED federal child-care funding helps (some states are increasing funding as well), needed off-hours and infant care isn't developing in most areas. The reason lies in the upside-down economics of child care. Few parents can afford the cost of high-quality, flexible child care. Those who need it most, shift workers and poor parents of infants, are least able to afford it.

The supply of child care tends to grow most in affluent areas (termed "the yuppie supply effect" by a Harvard University study). Working-class areas have a tighter supply; government subsidies ease but don't eliminate the effect.

Child-care centers and homes have little incentive to provide costly off-hours or infant care, especially in poor areas. Rather, the Mills & Pardee study shows they face plenty of obstacles to doing so: zoning, licensing and staffing problems, and, in the case of in-home family providers, disruption of their own home lives.

The problem calls for cooperation among public and private groups. Six of 10 states studied by the Progressive Policy Institute are offering or considering higher subsidies for parents using off-hours or infant care. Marriott International has opened a round-the-clock subsidized center in Atlanta. Employers, in bargaining with Local 2 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, agreed to contribute 15 cents per employee-hour worked to a family-care fund. A White House child-care conference tomorrow is expected to spur added interest.

For employers, the stakes are high. In the short term, child-care shortages will worsen absenteeism and quit rates among employees on off-hours shifts. In the long term, as children damaged by inadequate child care begin entering the work force, the costs will be considerably higher.

*To take part in my Work & Family radio show, call 800-WSJ-TALK or fax 503-636-6951.*

*Mrs. Clinton sees few federal child-care ...*

DOCUMENT 14 OF 61

ASP9729600047

\* Mrs. Clinton sees few federal child-care initiatives

SANDRA SOBIERAJ

576 Words

3873 Characters

\* 10/22/97

The Associated Press

BUSINESS

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WASHINGTON (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton, herself a working

\* mother, said Wednesday that any program for improving child care should include help for stay-at-home moms.

But as the first lady sat down with reporters on the eve of her

\* White House conference on child care, she offered no policy prescriptions and appeared to abandon ideas mentioned in appearances outside Washington just last month - including her proposal for a national registry of caregivers with criminal histories.

She also made clear that the conference, which President Clinton plans to attend in part, would not yield major new federal initiatives but instead identify model care programs and encourage their replication.

"The federal government can take certain actions, but most of the \* efforts in child care happen at the state level and in the private sector," Mrs. Clinton said.

Making the conference her project, the first lady has traveled to \* child-care centers and made several recent speeches to stir interest in the issue, which she said is too often ignored by policy-makers. She deferred to her husband Wednesday when asked what proposals the conference might yield. "Can't do that. ... The president will make recommendations," she said.

\* As for her personal experience with child care, Mrs. Clinton acknowledged her family was exceptional. For all but two years of daughter Chelsea's childhood, the Clintons lived in the fully staffed Arkansas governor's mansion or in the White House where "there were always people around in an emergency to help out," she said.

Still, the former practicing attorney recalled kibitzing with fellow working moms. "Probably our biggest topic was all the problems we were having trying to balance all these responsibilities. I don't think the conversation has changed much," she said.

Of parents who choose to stay home, Mrs. Clinton said, "We don't

do a very good job in this country, despite our rhetoric about family values, to create work and family situations that permit more families to make the choice that they think is right for them."

Even the Family and Medical Leave Act, which Republicans fought for nine years before President Clinton signed it, does not go far enough, she said. The legislation guarantees workers unpaid leave in order to tend to family caregiving duties. But, Mrs. Clinton said, "It's hard to argue it's a realistic choice when it's unpaid."

Pressed by reporters for policy specifics, the first lady refused to resurrect ideas she raised during recent trips to Florida and  
\* Virginia - liability protection for child-care centers and a  
\* registry of criminal child-care workers.

Aides said the administration would not propose creating a registry.

The first lady, singled by criticism for her lead role in the administration's early efforts to overhaul health care, also would  
\* not elaborate on what hand she would have in writing child-care initiatives to be wrapped into the administration's budget request next year.

\* "I'm just going to keep working on ... (child-care issues) the same way I've been doing for the last 20 years," she said, with a shake of her head. "Same old story."

Outside the White House, several dozen parents, children and  
\* teachers protested the state of child care in the District of Columbia.

The children, most of whom were 5 years old or younger, wrote letters or drew pictures for the Clintons. Organizer Bobbi Blok of the Washington Child Development Council said, "I agree with the first lady about this being a village. D.C. is a village and we need federal intervention."

I0607 \* End of document.

**CHILD CARE GOES TO D.C. QUALITY, QUANTITY TO BE ...**

DOCUMENT 109 OF 121

PPGZ9729500692

NATIONAL

\* CHILD CARE GOES TO D.C. QUALITY, QUANTITY TO BE DISCUSSED AT WHITE

\* HOUSE CONFERENCE

SALLY KALSON, POST-GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

920 Words

6075 Characters

\* 10/22/97

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

SOONER

A-17

(Copyright 1997)

\* The high social costs of poor-quality child care are clear to the nation's early childhood experts. Among them are stunted intellectual and social development that can lead to trouble with school, relationships and the law.

But the experts have had a tough time convincing the rest of the country that good child care is worth the cost. Top quality centers in Pittsburgh can reach \$500 or more - a price beyond the reach of many families.

\* Tomorrow, the advocates will get a big boost from a White House

\* Conference on Child Care, as President and Mrs. Clinton focus national attention on ways to make high-quality care more accessible and affordable for working families.

Three items expected to be on the agenda:

\* A public education campaign and literature to help parents choose high quality child care.

\* \* New incentives, such as loans or grants, to help child-care workers get more education.

\* \* A campaign to get businesses more involved in providing child care for their workers.

After-school programs will also take center stage, as conferees explore ways of keeping school-age children out of trouble in the crucial hours before their parents get home from work.

"When you're talking about fighting crime, investing in kids is one of the most powerful tools in our arsenal," said George P. Graves, police chief of Downer's Grove, Ill., and a founding member of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, an anti-crime organization led by police, prosecutors and crime victims.

"Head Start for infants, after-school programs, child abuse prevention, mentoring at-risk youth - these are a public safety

issues," said Graves, who joined a roster of children's advocates  
\* yesterday in a nationwide phone hook-up in advance of the White  
\* House conference.

Nothing concrete is expected to emerge from tomorrow's events. But the advocates, mindful of the nation's aversion to large-scale entitlement programs, are looking at it as a "launching pad" for public and private action at the state and local levels.

"The private sector has played a modest role," said Richard B. Stolley, president of the Child Care Action Campaign.

\* "But it must do much, much more. Child care in this country has been neglected so long, we now have some of the worst services for children in Western society. We need to use this dialogue as a launching pad for strategies in all sectors. And business alone can't do it. The government is going to have to step up to the plate."

Considering that two-thirds of the nation's children regularly  
\* attend some form of child care, and that major studies show that 74  
\* percent of that care is mediocre while 12 percent is poor, the  
\* experts have been sounding the alarm about a child care crisis.

One major problem has been the abominable salaries of the  
\* nation's child care work force - almost entirely women earning  
under \$7 an hour, usually with no benefits. The low pay and long hours lead to high turnover, which is bad for children.

"What we call turnover, children experience as loss," said Marcy Whitebrook, co-director of the National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force. Her group is looking for ways to augment teacher salaries, which will never be much higher as long as they rely on parents' ability to pay tuition.

\* In conjunction with the White House conference, 22 corporations and 16 foundations - including the Heinz Endowments of Pittsburgh - have announced their intention to work together on improving quality in early childhood programs, although they've yet to set a specific agenda.

Thus far, the business and philanthropic groups have worked on parallel tracks.

The American Business Collaborative for Quality Dependent Care, formed five years ago, has invested \$9.4 million in programs to  
\* improve child care, especially by training staff and directors. The group, which includes Aetna, Xerox, AT&T and Johnson & Johnson, expects to spend another \$10 million in the next five years.

The foundations, which comprise the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, are spending \$2.4 million on similar initiatives. In addition to the Heinz Endowments, they include the Ford, Kellogg, Carnegie and Rockefeller foundations.

"We created a pooled fund to notch up the issue of quality," said Marge Petruska of the Heinz Endowments. The money is going to

Wheelock College in Boston, which in turn is setting up pilot programs at a dozen or more sites across the country.

The sites will look at improving quality two ways - by establishing credentials for center directors, and by getting more minorities into leadership positions.

\* "Child care directors currently don't have to be credentialed," Petruska said. "Yet we know that when they have the proper education and training, it's a major factor in their centers' quality. We're going to be asking what a credentialing model should look like."

In addition, she said, "if you look at the African-American \* staffers at child care centers, most are at the entry level. By the time you get to the top levels, it's a pretty white field across the country. We're going to look at whether more diversity in leadership will improve quality."

None of the sites will be in Pittsburgh, Petruska said, mainly because the Early Childhood Initiative of Allegheny County is already conducting a \$60 million quality enhancement experiment in the county's highest-risk neighborhoods. That initiative is being financed by local corporations and foundations.

As for the national joint venture, she said, "This is the first time the (business and foundation) leadership groups have \* identified child care quality as their number one philanthropic priority. That, in itself, is very significant."

I0607 \* End of document.

**LINTON ADDRESSES CHILD CARE NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET ...**

DOCUMENT 116 OF 121

FLTY9729600150

NEWS

\* CLINTON ADDRESSES CHILD CARE NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET EXPECTED TO REFLECT INITIATIVES

Dan Klepal

363 Words

2858 Characters

\* 10/22/97

Florida Today

FINAL/ALL

01A

(Copyright 1997)

In her search for quality day care, Sonya Iapaolo has made the rounds.

The single mother of two spent two years meandering through 12 places before she settled on Bear Hugs in Melbourne.

"I had a lot of difficulty finding a high standard of care that made me feel comfortable," Iapaolo said.

Experts will sort through such problems and potential solutions

\* Thursday at the first-ever White House conference on child care, the single most visible effort yet to focus attention on the subject.

Officials expect the conference to set the stage for President Clinton's State of the Union speech next year, when he is expected \* to highlight child care. Clinton plans to focus on a handful of proposed improvements:

- \* A public-education campaign and literature to help parents
- \* choose child care.
- \* \* A campaign to get businesses more involved in providing child
- \* care for their workers.
- \* \* Incentives, such as loans or grants, to help child-care
- workers get more education.

Cheryl Tillman, whose daughter, Katie, emerged from day care Tuesday with a smudge of blue paint on her nose, said cost and quality vary widely.

"There can be as much as a \$30-a-week difference per child," said Tillman, who visited about four facilities. "That can be a decision maker or breaker."

Betsy Farmer, executive director and founder of the Space Coast Early Intervention Center, said most people don't realize the poor \* state of child care.

"It's definitely a movement in the right direction," Farmer  
\* said of the White House conference.

Day care workers in Florida are required to have only 30 hours  
of training. Cindy Martin, office manager at Bear Hugs, said more  
education will mean less turnover.

"If you spend the time and energy going to school to learn a  
profession, the less quickly you'll want to leave," she said. "And  
the better off the children will be."

Florida Today wire services contributed to this report.

Cost vs. quality, 3A.

What's next

President Clinton's conference Thursday is expected to focus on:

- \* - An education campaign to help parents choose child care.
- \* - Getting businesses more involved in providing child care for  
their workers.
- \* - Incentives to help child-care workers get more education.

I0607 \* End of document.

*THE BOTTOM LINE . . . BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ...*

DOCUMENT 12 OF 14

TRIB9729500650

COMMENTARY

THE BOTTOM LINE . . . BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

Linda Chavez. Creators Syndicate.

737 Words

5122 Characters

\* 10/22/97

Chicago Tribune

NORTH SPORTS FINAL; N

21

(Copyright 1997)

She's back. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who tried unsuccessfully to revamp the American health-care system, is back in the public-policy saddle. This time, she has her sights set on child care. Her aim is no less revolutionary than it was four years ago--and perhaps more so since now, it involves restructuring the way families raise their children.

But her tactics and style have changed. Instead of beginning with a grandiose legislative proposal for a new federal child-care system, the first lady says she's simply asking questions and gathering information on the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care in the United States. But make no mistake, if Clinton has her way, Thursday's White House conference on child care will usher in a new era in which Uncle Sam takes on primary responsibility for minding the nation's children.

No one who is familiar with Clinton's role on children's issues should be surprised at this. For years, Hillary Rodham Clinton has worked for greater government involvement in the lives of children. From her early law review articles arguing that courts should recognize the full legal rights of minor children (including the right to sue their parents) to her work on the board of the Children's Defense Fund, a liberal advocacy group that promotes increased government spending for children, Clinton has championed a greater government role in dictating how families function.

The first lady is part of a growing segment of the feminist movement--the family feminists--who seek government programs, laws and regulations as a means to protect and provide for women and their children outside of traditional marriage.

European feminists have longed pushed this agenda. The International Feminist Congress in 1896, for example, declared that "motherhood is the principal social function and deserves to be

subsidized by the state." Their goal was to provide a subsidy paid directly to women, making them less dependent on their husbands to provide for them and their children. They also lobbied for

\* state-sponsored universal child care and health care. Indeed, much of what we think of as the modern welfare state in Europe grew out of those early feminist proposals. But U.S. feminists resisted this agenda, concentrating instead on securing women's right to vote, to equal pay and to equal opportunity in the work force.

But lately, American feminists have begun to rethink their goals and, in recent years, have looked to the European model for guidance. Feminists like author Barbara Bergmann ("Saving Our Children From Poverty: What the United States Can Learn From France") have urged the United States follow France's role in

\* setting up government child-care centers for infants and preschool children and providing parents with direct government payments to improve living standards for poor and working families.

Of course, these feminists rarely mention that France, Sweden, Denmark and other welfare states have had to pay for these programs with a crushing tax burden on all their citizens and that their productivity lags behind America's in large part because of these higher social welfare costs, regulations and taxes. But most importantly, the point missed by feminists, including Mrs. Clinton, is that most American women are not eager to trundle their children off to institutional day-care centers in the first place.

American families overwhelmingly rely on family members to care for young children. Parents and other family members account \* for the child-care arrangements of more than 60 percent of preschool-aged children. Center-based care accounts for only 31 \* percent of all child-care arrangements, and that includes all existing private and government programs, such as Head Start, pre-kindergarten and other early childhood programs, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

From everything we know about child development, it's a good thing more children, especially infants, are not being cared for in institutional settings. Babies and very young children need the kind of personal attention and caregiving that is impossible to find in day-care centers, no matter how well-trained or well-meaning the staff. As Dr. Stanley Greenspan, a professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at George Washington University, pointed out recently in an article in *The Washington Post*, "in the rush to \* improve and increase child care, we are ignoring a more fundamental \* reality: Much of the child care available for infants and toddlers in this country simply isn't good for them." It's a warning Hillary Rodham Clinton and her White House conferees ought to consider carefully before they rush to put more kids in day care.

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**STATE CHILD-CARE RULES ON SUBSIDIES TO STAND**

DOCUMENT 9 OF 14

TRIB9729500705

METRO CHICAGO

**\* STATE CHILD-CARE RULES ON SUBSIDIES TO STAND**

Melita Marie Garza, Tribune Staff Writer.

365 Words

2582 Characters

\* 10/22/97

Chicago Tribune

NORTH SPORTS FINAL; N

6

(Copyright 1997)

State legislators on Tuesday allowed to stand new state rules  
\* that require low-income families to pay more for subsidized child  
\* care, but they directed the state to work with child-care agencies  
whose enrollment has dropped because of the higher costs.

The increases, which went into effect Oct. 1, were designed  
to allow more families to participate in the programs. But critics  
say that while the fees may open the program to some who have been  
on waiting lists, others are being forced to remove their children.

"What scares me is that we may be driving people out of the  
safe, site-based quality care and into unsafe situations," Rep.  
Larry Woolard (D-Marion) said during a hearing of the Joint  
Committee on Administrative Rules in Chicago. "If the family has a  
9-year-old and a 2-year-old, is the 9-year-old now charged with  
caring for the 2-year-old?"

But Randy Valenti, associate director for the state's office  
of Childcare and Family Services, testified that the new program is  
working.

"For the first time there is no waiting list statewide (for  
\* subsidized child care)," he said, adding that last year an average  
\* of 98,000 children were in state-subsidized child care per month.  
This year, he expects up to 158,000 children to be in such programs  
monthly.

\* "I don't believe there is a wholesale number of child-care  
slots going unfilled," said Valenti, who agreed to help agencies  
now experiencing dropout rates to fill vacancies.

Under the new program, established by the Department of Human  
Services, any family earning less than 50 percent of the state  
\* median income qualifies for a child-care subsidy. That is more open  
than the old plan.

But under the old sliding-fee scale, a parent with two

preschool children in day care making \$13,500 paid only 25 cents a week. The same parent now pays \$22 a week, with the state picking \* up the remainder of the \$172 weekly child-care bill.

Erie Neighborhood House, a non-profit agency in Chicago's West Town Neighborhood, has had 15 children drop out of their school-age program--a 12 percent reduction in the program, said \* Dennis Puhr, the agency's assistant child care director. "We know that some are back to being latchkey children," Puhr said.

I0607 \* End of document.

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**THE BOTTOM LINE QUALITY CHILD CARE MAKES FOR ...**

DOCUMENT 11 OF 14

TRIB9729500651

COMMENTARY

\* THE BOTTOM LINE QUALITY CHILD CARE MAKES FOR GOOD BUSINESS ...

Rosemary Jordano ; Marie Oates. Rosemary Jordano is president of ChildrenFirst Inc., which develops and operates

\* corporate backup child-care services nationwide. Marie Oates is the executive director of Bayridge, a Boston-based residence that serves university and professional women.

836 Words

5898 Characters

\* 10/22/97

Chicago Tribune

NORTH SPORTS FINAL; N

21

(Copyright 1997)

Wall Street and corporate America beware: The recent resignation of Pepsi-Cola North America's president and chief executive Brenda Barnes is an omen. In the end, it wasn't cut-throat business deals that brought her down. The struggles of making her family life compatible with her business life made her leave. She's not alone and more will follow--men and women--unless business leaders and policymakers listen to her message.

"Every time you would miss a child's birthday, a school concert or a parent-teacher discussion, you'd feel the tug," said Barnes. "Tug" is the key word. For many working parents every day is a tug-of-war to make monetary, professional and family ends meet.

Unlike Barnes' case, the harsh economic realities for most people make the option of calling it quits an impossible dream. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that more than 41 million women of childbearing age work outside the home and that number will reach 44 million by 2000. Moreover, 60 percent of mothers with children under the age of 6 are in the workforce. Single parenting and dual-income families are on the rise. Amidst it all, deep in the hearts of most working parents is the desire that somehow their children be put first.

Industry leaders, politicians and academics who gather for \* the first White House Child Care Conference Thursday need to press their ears against the hearts of today's working parents. Children should come first in all their policy equations, followed by parents, then caregivers, employers of the working parents and last, the government. As citizens of the most advanced country in

the world we have a responsibility. Our children should be safe, nurtured, respected and educated. In particular, current developmental psychology shows that the first three years in a

- \* child's life are the most defining. Yet child-care standards and parental expectations are low in most states.

With tens of millions of U.S. workers dependent on it daily,

- \* the child-care industry is rapidly shaping into a viable, competitive market force--an estimated \$30 billion industry--yet it still remains largely fragmented and poorly monitored for quality. If the United Parcel Service strike could cripple our economy as it
- \* did, a similar strike by child-care workers could bring our economy close to a halt or leave millions of young children abandoned.
- \* Moreover, child-care workers often possess little formal training and make barely more than the minimum wage. This, combined with
- \* scarcity of available services, make child care difficult and too uncertain. The uncertainties translate into big losses all around.

For example, the absentee rate related to Americans missing

- \* work because of unreliable child care costs U.S. businesses an estimated \$3 billion annually. In a study of many companies, the Merrill-Palmer Institute found employee absenteeism caused by a
- \* breakdown in child-care services costs the surveyed companies between \$66,000 and \$3 million per year.

- \* Pushing all the numbers aside, at the core of child care is the well-being of the children themselves and the peace of mind
- \* parents should have with regard to their children in child care. Working parents value this peace of mind tremendously. A 1995 study conducted by Dupont found that employees with children were willing to trade off other employee benefits in exchange for work and family support. In another survey of more than 5,000 employees at a variety of Fortune 500 companies, ChildrenFirst Inc. found that 96 percent of the respondents reported that corporate-sponsored
- \* child-care services enhanced their job satisfaction.

Satisfaction in one's work bestows its own rewards. Providing

- \* quality child care is a competitive business advantage. Studies have shown that companies can lower their turnover costs--which can range between 93 percent and 200 percent of a departing employee's
- \* salary--by providing some form of child-care services for employees. A number of companies already recognize this.

Corporate America should heed the words of David Vitale, president of First National Bank of Chicago, who, after his bank

- \* instated a backup child-care center, said: "We no longer have to ask our employees to choose between the well-being of their children and the well-being of the bank."

More than getting the government directly involved, the White

- \* House needs to encourage more corporations to provide child care for employees. This means corporate tax incentives of some forms.

But not just for any care. These incentives should reward quality  
\* child care. It is estimated that 60 percent of children under the  
\* age of 6 are in some form of child care, and of that only 14  
percent of those children are in situations which meet the minimum  
standards that promote healthy child development.

This is not an area where minimum standards should apply.  
Instead, we need the courage and conviction to set the highest  
quality vision of how children should be respected and cared for.  
William Butler Yeats had this vision when he said "There is a  
country at the end of the world where no child is born but to  
outlive the moon." America can be that country again, but to do so,  
we need to put our children first.

I0607 \* End of document.

*Mrs. Clinton sees few federal child-care ...*

DOCUMENT 301 OF 343

APOL9729600059

\* Mrs. Clinton sees few federal child-care initiatives

SANDRA SOBIERAJ

Associated Press

576 Words

3918 Characters

\* 10/22/97

The Associated Press Political Service

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WASHINGTON (AP) \_ Hillary Rodham Clinton, herself a working  
\* mother, said Wednesday that any program for improving child care  
should include help for stay-at-home moms.

But as the first lady sat down with reporters on the eve of her  
\* White House conference on child care, she offered no policy  
prescriptions and appeared to abandon ideas mentioned in appearances  
outside Washington just last month \_ including her proposal for a  
national registry of caregivers with criminal histories.

She also made clear that the conference, which President Clinton  
plans to attend in part, would not yield major new federal  
initiatives but instead identify model care programs and encourage  
their replication.

"The federal government can take certain actions, but most of the  
\* efforts in child care happen at the state level and in the private  
sector," Mrs. Clinton said.

Making the conference her project, the first lady has traveled to  
\* child-care centers and made several recent speeches to stir interest  
in the issue, which she said is too often ignored by policy-makers.  
She deferred to her husband Wednesday when asked what proposals the  
conference might yield. "Can't do that. ... The president will make  
recommendations," she said.

\* As for her personal experience with child care, Mrs. Clinton  
acknowledged her family was exceptional. For all but two years of  
daughter Chelsea's childhood, the Clintons lived in the fully staffed  
Arkansas governor's mansion or in the White House where "there were  
always people around in an emergency to help out," she said.

Still, the former practicing attorney recalled kibitzing with  
fellow working moms. "Probably our biggest topic was all the  
problems we were having trying to balance all these responsibilities.  
I don't think the conversation has changed much," she said.

Of parents who choose to stay home, Mrs. Clinton said, "We don't  
do a very good job in this country, despite our rhetoric about family

values, to create work and family situations that permit more families to make the choice that they think is right for them."

Even the Family and Medical Leave Act, which Republicans fought for nine years before President Clinton signed it, does not go far enough, she said. The legislation guarantees workers unpaid leave in order to tend to family caregiving duties. But, Mrs. Clinton said, "It's hard to argue it's a realistic choice when it's unpaid."

Pressed by reporters for policy specifics, the first lady refused to resurrect ideas she raised during recent trips to Florida and Virginia \_ liability protection for child-care centers and a registry of criminal child-care workers.

Aides said the administration would not propose creating a registry.

The first lady, singled by criticism for her lead role in the administration's early efforts to overhaul health care, also would not elaborate on what hand she would have in writing child-care initiatives to be wrapped into the administration's budget request next year.

"I'm just going to keep working on ... (child-care issues) the same way I've been doing for the last 20 years," she said, with a shake of her head. "Same old story."

Outside the White House, several dozen parents, children and teachers protested the state of child care in the District of Columbia.

The children, most of whom were 5 years old or younger, wrote letters or drew pictures for the Clintons. Organizer Bobbi Blok of the Washington Child Development Council said, "I agree with the first lady about this being a village. D.C. is a village and we need federal intervention."

I0607 \* End of document.

*Expert on child care to advise Clintons | Spring ...*

DOCUMENT 324 OF 343

SDU9729600235

LOCAL

\* Expert on child care to advise Clintons | Spring Valley woman invited to conference

James Steinberg

STAFF WRITER | An Associated Press report was used in preparing this story.

667 Words

4867 Characters

\* 10/22/97

The San Diego Union-Tribune

UNION-TRIBUNE; 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

B-1

BIOG; INTERVIEW;

(Copyright 1997)

SPRING VALLEY -- You can't underestimate the importance of the early years, says Deborah Eaton. "Good beginnings," she insists, "do last a lifetime."

Eaton is one of about 100 experts who have been invited by President

\* Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton to a White House conference

\* tomorrow to discuss child care.

"I'm very honored to be representing San Diego," Eaton said yesterday. "I really feel this is important."

\* Eaton is owner-director of Strawberry Patch Family Child Care and provides care for about a dozen youngsters, from 6 weeks old to 6 years old, in her home.

\* "I love my work, but it isn't for everyone," said Eaton, a child-care provider for the last 14 years. "It does take a lot of patience."

Eaton, a past president of the San Diego County Association for the Education of Young Children and the San Diego County Family Care Association, began her home-care program when her sons, now 20, 22 and 26, were younger.

"I was a military spouse, and we moved around a lot," she said. "I wanted continuity."

Her husband, James, is a retired Navy officer.

Tomorrow's conference will focus on early development, which Eaton says is the key to maturing into a well-adjusted adult.

"It seems that everyone is interested in this issue," she said.

"We've shown the far-reaching effects of a good early childhood in preventing juvenile delinquency, and in keeping people off of social welfare programs . . . during their adult lives."

\* While child-care experts tomorrow will confront a myriad of problems, the president plans few concrete proposals. The focus, the White House said, will be on a handful of modest ideas, including:

{ } A public education campaign and literature to help parents choose  
\* high-quality child care.

\* { } New incentives, such as loans or grants, to help child-care workers get more education.

\* { } A campaign to get businesses more involved in providing child care for their workers, something Eaton supports.

"We need more public-private partnerships to help families in this  
\* area," she said, and not just with child care, noting that elder care is just as important.

Even a one-day conference can accomplish something, Eaton said, citing her experience in April, when she was invited by the White House to attend a similar get-together.

"At the end of the day the president issued an executive order that the military share (information about) its exemplary programs for young children with the civilian sector," she said.

Eaton, who grew up in Tennessee, has worked with children and their families across the South, in Maine and in San Diego.

\* Seen from a wider perspective, she said, child-care professionals have been treated as if they were neighborhood baby-sitters, not "trained and educated care-givers."

She said: "And we wonder why professionals leave the field due to inadequate wages . . . little or no benefits (and) no recognition?"

\* Part of that will be addressed tomorrow, before the White House  
\* conference, Eaton said. She will speak at a Senate Office Building  
\* ceremony designating April 24 as Child Care Professional Day.

Eaton was invited by two of the designation resolution's sponsors, Sens. James M. Jeffords, R-Vt., and Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. A similar resolution is pending in the House, she said.

\* Nationally, the problems in child care are many, including wide variations in quality and inconsistent regulations that sometimes go unenforced.

According to one survey, workers are paid an average of just \$6.89 an hour, and they come and go quickly. About one-third of workers leave each year.

\* Meanwhile, child care is expensive. A typical family will spend

\* nearly \$4,000 a year on child care. The poorest end up spending 25 percent of their income.

The problem cuts across class. Middle-class parents may be able to  
\* afford child care but worry whether centers and homes are safe.

For mothers trying to come off welfare and into low-wage jobs, the question is how to pay. Some subsidies are available, depending on the state, but even those who qualify have the same quality concerns.

10607 \* End of document.

*Child-care centers face worker shortage // Tight ...*

DOCUMENT 327 OF 343

AAS9729600041

KIM TYSON

\* Child-care centers face worker shortage // Tight labor pool in -  
Austin area pinches businesses and parents

Kim Tyson

691 Words

4584 Characters

\* 10/22/97

Austin American-Statesman

D2

(Copyright 1997)

\* Merrick Leler, owner of Child's Day child-care center, didn't think he would ever face problems finding qualified employees. His center paid above-market wages, provided company-paid health insurance, and offered training and other benefits.

Recently, however, Leler has struggled to fill staff vacancies at his center at 2525 Wallingwood Drive, near Zilker Park.

"It's been frustrating. We have filled four of the six openings, but it took two months," said Leler, whose business serves 170 children from two months to 5 years in age. The 10-year-old company grosses \$1.2 million a year.

Leler isn't alone in his concern. The shortage of quality

\* child-care workers gets national attention on Thursday with the White

\* House Conference on Child Care.

The conference will look at what it means when centers can't find

\* qualified staff and parents can't find the child care they need in order to go to work.

Leler says Austin's strong job market has created a tight labor pool and extreme pressure on small businesses that offer jobs paying \$6 to \$13 an hour. Meanwhile, fewer people are studying early childhood education because of the low wages.

Competition for top employees means Leler's customers pay among the highest rates in Austin.

A family sending a child to Child's Day pays \$6,500 to \$8,700 a year for care, depending on the age of the child. A family with two children would be looking at a yearly tab of \$13,000 to \$17,400.

"About two-thirds of our families live in the Eanes school district," Leler said. "We're expensive, but we also operate at the top end of the range of quality in the city."

Leler said many families can't afford to pay rates that might attract more people to careers in early childhood education.

"We don't value early childhood educators because most people view them as babysitters," Leler said. "Most people don't realize how critical the pre-school years are and how critical it is to have a quality environment, even before kindergarten."

Linda Welsh, director of community services for the Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services Department, said finding qualified \* child-care staff has become a universal problem.

"I think everyone's in the same boat. Even the high-quality programs are just looking at just having warm bodies," she said.

\* Welsh said the impact child care makes on the work force is likely to be the one that finally brings pressure to bear on the issue.

\* "When middle-class families aren't able to find child care, when employers find they can't get workers, they're going to get on the bandwagon and say we've got to do something about this," she said. "I just hope we're pro-active so we can prevent a crisis."

The Capital Area Workforce Development Board, which will be distributing federal work force training dollars for the Austin area, \* has already set up a child-care task force. The board conducted two \* surveys last year of employers and employees and learned that child \* care, transportation and training are the top issues facing Austin-area companies.

The Austin-Travis County human services department this week \* mailed out more than 100 salary surveys to Austin-area child-care centers to learn more.

Welsh said small businesses may be able to offer more flexibility to employees by giving them opportunities to balance work and family \* demands -- both getting good child care and affording it.

"Certainly flexible scheduling is one thing they can do to support working parents -- allowing people to come in a little bit later so there's not a struggle at the beginning or end of the day when they need to pick kids up.

"They can offer financial support to help pay for some of the cost \* of child care," she said. "There are some companies that will pay \* for slots at specific child-care centers so they can get a discount."

The Austin Employers' Collaborative is distributing a free resource manual that offers strategies companies can try to help their employees. To receive the manual call the Austin-Travis County Early Childhood Office, 326-4216. There is also information on the Employers' Collaborative Web site (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/childcare/>).

Kim Tyson writes Wednesdays on small business issues. Send information to her at P.O. Box 670, Austin, TX 78767.

I0607 \* End of document.

Source: Austin American-Statesman (Texas), October 22, 1997

*Child care mythmaking*

DOCUMENT 328 OF 343

BSUN9729600087

EDITORIAL

\* Child care mythmaking

Mona Charen

513 Words

3498 Characters

\* 10/22/97

The Baltimore Sun

FINAL

19A

OP-ED, COMMENTARY

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- \* FOLLOWING UP on last summer's White House conference on early childhood development, the Clinton administration this week is
- \* hosting what it is pleased to call the "first ever" White House
- \* conference on child care.

It's not the first ever. The Nixon administration hosted just such a conference in 1970 (facts always seem to trip up this crowd).

What the administration has in mind is fairly predictable, based on last summer's early childhood development conference. Then, experts offered testimony about the key brain development that occurs between birth and the age of 3 years.

Everyone stressed how crucial it is that babies and toddlers get lots of stimulation during this period to maximize their intelligence and social growth. Yet, all of the participants stayed away from the obvious policy implications of the research -- namely, that babies and toddlers are best off in the care of their parents.

- \* The assumption is that institutional child care, even for very young children, is a good thing (when done properly).

That is not the way most parents see it.

According to the 1994 Census report "Who's Minding the Kids?" only 13 percent of preschool children are in center-based care.

Sixty-one percent are cared for by their mothers (4 percent of whom also have home-based businesses), fathers or both mothers and

fathers in tag-team arrangements. Twelve percent are looked after by grandparents or other relatives, 9 percent by neighbors, and 3 percent by nannies.

In other words, people are voting with their feet, and their preference is not for institutional care.

As well it should not be. Dr. Stanley Greenspan, a respected psychiatrist, has listed a number of reasons that institutional \* child care is bad for kids. Among his reason are a lack of continuity with one caregiver and a lack of prolonged interactions between child and adult.

\* Fully 80 percent of existing child-care centers, Dr. Greenspan asserts, are "inadequate."

Presidential aide Rahm Emanuel may speak of "access, affordability and safety," but affordability is simply not possible -- not if the aim is "quality care." Quality costs money. And even the finest day-care centers are not as good as the average mother.

Many families cannot afford to have one parent stay at home. But fewer than the propagandists would have us believe.

The average income of two-parent couples where the mother stays at home is \$35,876, which is about \$15,000 less than families with children in which the husband and wife are both employed.

American families are creative. Though we hear endless calls \* for more and better child care, 66.7 percent of mothers with children under age 6 are full-time mothers or are employed \* part-time. They are not crying out for more institutional child \* care.

They do need tax breaks, flex-time, work-at-home options, telecommuting and job-sharing.

\* The notion of a child care "crisis" is a myth. We now have expert testimony like that of Dr. Greenspan and the other experts cited by the Clintons themselves to bolster the common-sense intuition that parents are the best guardians of young children.

Mona Charen writes a syndicated column.

Pub Date: 10/22/97

*Child-care quandary: Improving quality without ...*

DOCUMENT 18 OF 61

ASP9729500034

\* Child-care quandary: Improving quality without increasing cost

LAURA MECKLER

734 Words

4751 Characters

\* 10/21/97

The Associated Press

BUSINESS

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WASHINGTON (AP) - The place smelled like dirty diapers.

"Yuck," thought Betsy Sullivan. She didn't want to leave her

\* daughter at a child-care center like that.

But the next place was worse. No one even realized she was there.

"I could have walked in and walked off with the place, or a kid for that matter," said Mrs. Sullivan, who lives outside San Francisco. "It was really scary."

And so it went, until the Sullivans found a center that was structured, but not a boot camp; a place without foul odors; a place they could leave 18-month-old Elva, the little girl who takes months to warm to strangers.

\* Cost and quality. They are the two biggest issues in child care. And they cut against each other: Improving quality usually means spending more.

Experts will sort through such problems and potential solutions

\* Thursday at the first-ever White House conference on child care. But President Clinton plans to announce few concrete proposals, instead focusing on a handful of modest ideas that include:

- A public education campaign and literature to help parents

\* choose high quality child care.

\* - New incentives, such as loans or grants, to help child-care workers get more education.

\* - A campaign to get businesses more involved in providing child care for their workers.

\* A national registry of child-care workers with criminal records, an idea mentioned in the past by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, will not be proposed, according to administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials expect the conference to set the stage for Clinton's

State of the Union speech next year, when he is expected to highlight

\* child care. His administration also plans to include some initiative

in next year's budget proposal.

Advocates say they'll be watching.

"The proof is in the pudding," said Marian Wright Edelman of the  
\* Children's Defense Fund, which has child care at the top of its 1998  
\* legislative agenda. "A White House conference, in and of itself,  
won't lead to much."

\* Generally, the federal government has only a small role in child  
\* care. One program provides about \$3 billion, mostly to help  
low-income parents pay bills. States are responsible for setting  
standards, enforcing them and adding any other money for subsidies.

\* But across the states, the problems in child care are many,  
including wide variations in quality and inconsistent regulations  
that sometimes go unenforced.

Workers are paid an average of just \$6.89 an hour, and they come  
and go quickly. Nationally, about one-third of workers leave each  
year. And a forthcoming study by the Families and Work Institute  
found that in Florida, a state with above-average retention, just 2  
percent of teachers remained after four years.

The bottom line, according to a recent University of Colorado  
study, is that 12 percent of centers provide less than minimal  
quality care, and only 14 percent are rated good.

Meanwhile, it's expensive. A typical family will spend nearly  
\* \$4,000 a year on child care. The poorest end up spending 25 percent  
of their income.

The problem cuts across class. Middle-class parents may be able  
\* to afford child care, but worry whether centers and homes are safe.

For mothers trying to come off welfare and into low-wage jobs, the  
question is how to pay. Some subsidies are available, depending on  
the state, but even those who qualify have the same quality concerns.

"It's probably the worst feeling in the world," said Kim Noyd of  
Menomonie, Wis., who stopped trusting centers after her 6-year-old  
daughter told her that a worker had touched her in a sexual way.

Meanwhile, the working poor are often caught in the middle, unable  
to afford much but too well-off to qualify for subsidies.

Deborah Loving works two jobs, taking home \$1,180 a month, which  
\* was enough when a subsidy covered most of her monthly \$650 child-care  
bill.

But that subsidy, for families at risk of going onto welfare,  
dried up last month.

"That kind of leaves parents like me stuck," said Loving, of  
Alameda, Calif., a part-time bank teller and office assistant in a  
law firm.

She's considered putting 3-year-old Yibo in a cheaper center -  
she knows one that charges just \$450 a month - but fears the new  
place would be less stimulating.

"It would be more of a baby-sitting situation - maybe some ABCs  
and 1-2-3s," she said. "It's worth the extra \$200, if I can come up  
with it."

*Federal bill seeks to improve child care ...*

DOCUMENT 335 OF 343

PROV9729500184

\* Federal bill seeks to improve child care \*Senator Chafee is a cosponsor of legislation that would provide tax credits for families, training for providers and incentives for businesses and communities.

LAURA MEADE KIRK Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

588 Words

4251 Characters

\* 10/21/97

The Providence Journal-Bulletin

ALL

B-01

(Copyright 1997)

Peggy Stocker says she's all for anything that will help improve the quality of child care and make it more affordable for everyone.

That's why Stocker - whose sons Nicholas, 4, and Robert, 3, attend the West Bay Children's Center - was on hand yesterday for a news conference to show support for federal legislation to improve child care nationwide.

"As a parent, it's kind of almost a traumatic event when you have to go back to work when you have two very young children at home," said Stocker, of Warwick, an administrative assistant at the Groden Center Inc. in Providence.

It's hard to find a high-quality program that is also convenient and affordable, she said. That's why she said of this bill: "I'm really hoping it will help us."

Sen. John H. Chafee, cosponsor of the federal legislation, said the goal is to provide "affordable, accessible, quality and safe child care for young children" through a series of tax credits for parents and incentives for child-care providers, businesses and states to improve care.

\* He noted that child care is such an important issue that First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will be hosting the White House Conference on Child Care on Thursday.

Chafee said statistics show that more than 60 percent of women with preschool children work full- or part-time. And nearly half of all infants under age 1 are cared for by someone other than a parent at least part-time.

All told, the statistics show, more than 12 million children under age 5 now spend at least part of their day being cared for by someone other than a parent. And millions more school-age children under age 12 also are in child care when not in school.

Rhode Island already has done a lot to improve the quality of  
\* child care, Chafee said. And he believes the federal government can  
help improve the quality of care nationwide, which is why he joined  
Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont as a sponsor of the CIDCARE Act:  
\* "Creating Improved Delivery of Child Care: Affordable, Reliable and  
Educational."

The CIDCARE Act has a number of features designed to help parents,  
\* child-care providers and communities, Chafee said.

Among other things, it would:

- \* \*Increase the current child-care tax credit for families making  
less than \$55,000, and increase the amount of pre-tax dollars  
employees can contribute to Dependent Care Assistance Plans.
- \* \*Allow higher tax credits and greater pre-tax contributions for  
\* families who use accredited or credentialed child-care services,  
since they usually cost more.
- \* \*Give child-care providers a larger tax deduction for educational  
expenses related to achieving or maintaining accreditation.
- \* \*Provide \$50 million to create and operate technology-based  
training that uses distance learning, the Internet and satellite  
\* resources to help child-care providers nationwide to receive  
training, education and support.
- \* \*Allow businesses a charitable deduction for donating educational  
\* equipment to nonprofit child-care providers and public schools.
- \* \*Help employers who provide child care by implementing a tax  
\* credit for startup costs for child-care centers, professional  
development expenses, and costs related to achieving accreditation.
- \* \*Establish a \$260-million competitive grant program that would  
\* help states improve the quality of child care by doing such things as  
\* increasing the salaries of credentialed child-care providers;  
developing standards for the accreditation and credentialing of  
providers; offering scholarships to help providers pay for education  
and training, or for use on consumer-education efforts.

As he said in a written statement outlining the legislation:

"There's no underestimating the importance that quality, affordable  
\* child care can play in helping young children grow into competent,  
caring adults."

I0607 \* End of document.

# The Reasons Why We Need To Rely Less On Day Care

By Stanley I. Greenspan

**O**n Thursday, the White House will direct its attention—and probably much of the nation's—to a subject that desperately needs attention: the state of day care for the young children of millions of working parents in this country.

The White House Conference on Child Care will focus on the quality, the affordability and the supply of child care, among other topics. It plans to figure out how best to help parents identify high-quality child care and discuss how best to bring good child care to under-served populations, such as welfare mothers headed to work.

These are important questions, of course. But in the rush to improve and increase child care, we are ignoring a more fundamental reality: 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. A growing body of recent research indicates that most of our children are cared for in child-care centers and in other out-of-home day-care arrangements that have significant limitations. Recent studies by the University of Colorado, the Families and Work Institute of New York, and the National Institute of Child Health and Development, for example, have concluded that more than 80 percent of day care in child-care centers is inadequate and that, for infants, out-of-home care, especially day-care centers, tend to be inferior to parental care.

This negative conclusion about day care is not motivated by the misguided nostalgia of the Christian Right for the days when fewer women worked outside the home nor by a conservative hostility to government social programs aimed at helping children. Nor am I unmindful of the economic realities that force many parents to rely on day care. But rather than increase our reliance on day care, we should begin fundamentally rethinking the way we organize work and child care.

The best way to begin is to review and

understand the best research into the effects that different types of care have on the development of very young children.

President Clinton identified this basic issue at last April's White House Conference on the Brain and Early Development. The conference, which helped kick off a national discussion on how best to help children's early development, attracted hundreds of participants, including pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton, Carla Shatz, professor of neurobiology at the University of California at Berkeley and David A. Hamburg, then president of the Carnegie Corp. There was a healthy consensus that early interactions between infants and caregivers are essential not only for a healthy mind, but also for the physical growth and wiring of the brain.

When Clinton asked those of use at the conference what kinds of experiences are most important for babies' development and how much is needed, he opened up a subject that is far more politically sensitive than he probably anticipated. That's because I—and many other researchers—have identified the quantity and quality of experiences that babies and young children need to develop optimally. There are six stages that families with children who are emotionally and intellectually healthy provide to their children. A review of these six stages makes clear why most out-of-home child care cannot provide a number of essential building blocks for a child's healthy mind and brain. Briefly, children need:

- 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 (such as when a toddler takes a caregiver to the fridge to get the juice) 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 ("Juice!") in order to foster language and creativity.
- Logical use of ideas through a caregiver eliciting a child's opinion ("I like this because . . .") and debates in order to promote logical thinking, planning and readiness for reading and math.

These aren't interactions that can occur on the fly. Child-care experts suggest that during the first two years of life, these types of experiences need to be available one-half or more of a baby's waking hours. Many parents provide these interactions during feeding, bathing and diaper changes. Yes, children get fed and get their diapers changed in day care, but even at excellent centers with outstanding, well-trained staff, there are significant limitations. Because day-care workers are often caring for several infants, their interactions with each baby tend to be brief, which means the infants aren't getting the long interactive "dialogues" through words and gestures that many parents provide at home.

Even in good day-care centers, we've seen many an eager, expectant 8-month-old baby give up and stare at the wall as his caregiver stops by his crib briefly but then hurries away to attend to a crying rival.

Even more important, day-care workers don't get a chance to build long relationships with the children in their care because, at most centers, babies change caregivers each year as they move on to the toddler room. And in centers where there is less training, lower wages and high turnover, caregivers may change even more frequently.

In short, three of the six essential building blocks are compromised due to the very structure of center-based day care: ongoing,

intimate relationships; interactions made up of lengthy, back-and-forth emotional dialogues; and long problem-solving discussions with gestures.

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.

There is some resistance to this idea. For example, the initial results of an ongoing day-care study conducted by the National Institute of Child Health and Development have been interpreted by many media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, CNN and popular parents' magazines as "good news for parents." In fact, the news isn't quite as upbeat as all that. The study is finding 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 evenings—that is, providing the types of experiences missing in the day-care centers.

The child-care challenges we face cannot be dismissed. Current patterns of out-of-home child care have significant limitations that endanger the growing minds of future generations. An entirely new set of guiding assumptions is necessary. We need to re-evaluate the professed value we place on children. Children and the care of them must be elevated to a higher priority, both within families and society. This will be unrealistic for parents who, no matter how much they want to stay home, have no choice but to work. So we need to gradually bring about social arrangements which maximize at home care of young infants by their parents.

I believe many two-parent working families would do well to consider the "4/3 Solution," or some variation of it. Under this plan each parent works two-thirds time to pursue career goals and together they provide 4/3 of a single income. Thus, one-third of each parent's time is left for direct baby and child care. Obviously, some families will elect other part-time arrangements. This will mean a significant pay cut, which clearly not all families can afford. But if those who do will make child care the significant part of their lives that it deserves to be.

In the short run, parents and future parents need to more carefully plan their careers and lifestyles so they can fit in the time and the attention that children need. In the long run this solution will involve considerable government and industry support, to put it mildly. Options that will need to be considered will include government incentives, including tax incentives for employers to provide part-time work options for men and women and more flextime to employees, so parents can arrange more flexible work schedules.

Unpaid parental leave should be extended from three months to six months and, whenever possible, parents should be permitted to return to full- or part-time work schedules gradually.

To facilitate the 4/3 solution over the next generation, our education system needs to get involved. Subjects like child development and family life need to become a core part of school curriculums in order to prepare students for their futures. We now have a detailed body of knowledge about how children develop the best. Kids should learn about it in school to better prepare them for parenthood.

For two-parent families and single-parent families where full-time work is essential to provide food, shelter and medical care, we must improve the quality of child care, including having caregivers stay with the same group of babies for three years or longer.

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. Intimate ongoing interactions between children and their parents, we're learning, are essential for the proper growth of the brain and mind. These types of interactions also makes for reflective citizens as well as a sense of cohesion that makes societies work.

*Stanley Greenspan is author of "The Growth of the Mind: The Endangered Origins of Intelligence," and clinical professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at George Washington University Medical School.*

# Many Doubt D.C. Day Care Can Match Welfare Reform

## *Changes to System Studied by Council Panel*

By Hamil R. Harris  
Washington Post Staff Writer

District officials, children's advocates and day-care providers voiced serious doubt yesterday that the city can find subsidized day care for the children of 4,000 mothers who are required by the federal welfare reform act to seek jobs.

"The bottom line is that the District has not made a commitment to its children," Wayne D. Casey, deputy director of the D.C. Department of Human Services, testified at a D.C. Council hearing.

Casey and other city officials told council members that they have a daunting task in trying to find enough private facilities to comply with the federal mandate that day care be available to welfare mothers moving to the work force.

"Even without welfare reform we need more infant care facilities," said Barbara Kamara, who supervises the DHS's day-care program. "This only exacerbates the process."

There are 15,000 children under day-care supervision in centers and homes in the District. More than half of the 350 facilities continue to operate although their city licenses have expired. In most cases, city officials say, license renewal has been delayed because of serious health and safety problems, ranging from crowding to rat infestation.

The city officials say part of the problem is that it pays providers about \$18 a day per child and \$21 per infant, compared to an average rate of \$30 a day or higher in other cities. In addition, a District day-care license now costs as much as \$175, with part of each fee earmarked to help pay for construction of the MCI Arena.

"If we are serious about trying to get welfare parents to work and are serious about keeping the working poor at their jobs, we must provide many more subsidized slots," testified Elizabeth Siegel, interim executive director of D.C. Action for Children, a children's advocacy group.

Sandy Allen (D-Ward 8), who heads the council's Committee on Human Services, sought public comment on two pieces of legislation that the council must approve if the city is

to receive a \$92 million federal block grant made available under the welfare reform act.

Bobbi Black, executive director of the Washington Child Development Council, the city's largest referral network for day-care outlets, said that the legislation under consideration did not address the problems plaguing the city's day-care centers. She presented a plan that urged changes in licensing procedures and fee scales, and proposed ways to educate and involve parents in the day-care system.

The D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs is required to inspect each facility once a year, but the agency's five inspectors—half the number of three years ago—routinely do not complete the mandated inspections, according to the results of an investigation which appeared this year in *The Washington Post*.

Ellen Yung-Fatah, who oversees DCRA's day-care inspectors, said yesterday that the agency would close more facilities if it had more resources.

"I am pulling people from other departments," she said. "We are robbing Peter to pay Paul. I need personnel as well as non-personnel resources. We don't have paper; I have to buy pens."

Theresa Campbell, a 35-year-old mother of seven, testified that without day care she would not have been able to give up welfare to become a teacher's aide.

"I am here today because I fear for the children of the District of Columbia," Campbell said. "I fear that the reduction that child-care centers have received over the past two years will mean that some centers will refuse to serve subsidized families and those parents will not have the opportunity that I did to prove that they can be successful, too."

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read a Post series on D.C. government mismanagement, click on the above symbol on the front page of *The Post's* Web site at [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

### Today's debate: CARING FOR CHILDREN

# Parents need quality care, want choices for children

**OUR VIEW** The White House conference should look to the marketplace, not Washington, for options.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton performs a valuable service by hosting next week's White House child-care conference. She promises to ignite a national dialogue about day-care trials that bedevil working parents and their 32 million children.

What role should government play? That's the conference's overriding question. And Clinton has telegraphed the White House's preferences through recent high-profile visits to federally subsidized day-care centers.

But heavy-handed proposals for national standards and massive federal programs, which have bogged down past debates, should not be the emphasis. This discussion instead should focus on exploration of market-based methods to improve quality without threatening the existence of church programs, neighborhood homes and for-profit centers that most families use.

What's needed are dependable day-care options that are high quality yet affordable. Until families find an answer, child-care problems will continue to rank among the most stressful distractions for employees. Already, parents miss between five and 29 days of work a year, costing \$12 billion in lost productivity, according to *Women and Health* magazine.

The dilemma. The day-care search is tricky because every family has its own needs. And day-care requirements change as children age.

Still, the industry is beset with common problems. High staff turnover, estimated at 40% a year, and the lack of well-trained workers interfere with the delivery of high-quality, consistent care in centers, church nurseries and school-based programs.

Previous unsuccessful attempts to improve the quality of child care have focused on federal regulations that would usurp the ability of states to mandate staffing requirements and child-provider ratios.

### Who's watching the kids . . .

Studies show that day-care providers vary, depending on the child's age.

| Caregiver        | Under 1 year | 1 to 2 | 3 to 4 |
|------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| Parent           | 37%          | 32%    | 25%    |
| Family-based     | 20           | 20     | 17     |
| Day-care center  | 14           | 21     | 37     |
| Relative's home  | 11           | 13     | 10     |
| In-home provider | 13           | 11     | 7      |
| Other            | 5            | 3      | 4      |

Source: The Urban Institute 1991 National Child Care Survey

### . . . and what care costs

Average child-care costs are highest in the Northeast. But they eat up the largest share of family income in the West.

| Location     | Weekly cost | % of income |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Northeast    | \$85.07     | 7.9%        |
| Midwest      | 71.47       | 7.3         |
| South        | 69.17       | 7.1         |
| West         | 79.32       | 8.4         |
| All families | 74.15       | 7.6         |

Source: Census Bureau, 1995

And toughened regulations have their own problems. States have discovered that strict regulations frequently force some day-care centers out of business while encouraging other providers to operate underground. A study by the Urban Institute found more families use unregulated care in states with the strictest regulations.

**The challenge.** Government must devise ways to enhance quality without compromising a family's child-care choices.

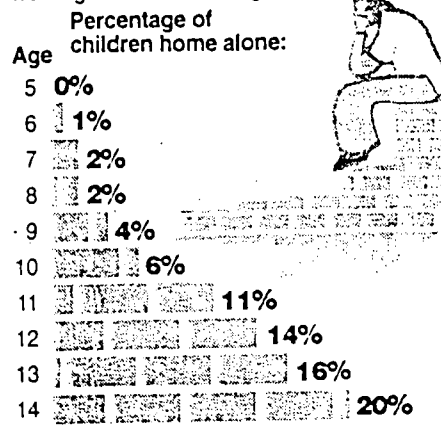
A series of innovative experiments by states and corporations suggests it can be done through targeted financial incentives that prod day-care providers to upgrade their own ranks.

► IBM has pledged \$50 million by 2000 to improve child-care offerings. To qualify for funding, though, providers must be accredited. Since 1990, IBM has funded child-care training in 36 communities.

► Nine states award cash grants to day-care centers and home-based providers that voluntarily improve their credentials.

## Home alone

The number of "latchkey kids" who care for themselves while their parents are working increases with age.



Source: Census Bureau, 1991

By Julie Stacey, USA TODAY

► New Jersey is creating a professional development center to raise professionalism of child-care workers, awarding grants to providers who take training courses.

Applying the same sensible strategies nationally, Sen. Jim Jeffords, R-Vt., has proposed manipulating the federal tax code to encourage parents to seek better-quality child care. Among his proposals: gradually reducing the value of the dependent care tax credit for families who don't use trained child-care workers; providing grants to states willing to boost government subsidies for trained child-care workers; and awarding education grants to providers.

Using similar financial carrots, North Carolina increased the number of high-quality, licensed day-care centers 60% between 1993 and 1996 and encouraged 26,000 providers to enhance their training.

The White House hopes next week's talks will lead to national child-care reforms. If so, realistic proposals to improve quality, and preserve family choice, should dominate this critical discussion.

# Families need feds' help

**OPPOSING VIEW** Parents look to Washington for two necessities: standards and money.

By Gail Richardson

Child care is a real-life issue for working families. During job hours every day, they entrust their children to child-care centers, family child-care homes, baby sitters and after-school programs. Parents stretch to find and pay for these arrangements. Yet national studies report that most child care fails to help children develop to their full potential. And some is outright dangerous.

Most parents cannot get out of this predicament on their own. Very few can afford the \$6,300 to \$8,500 per child per year it takes to give children access to attentive and motivated caregivers in safe and stimulating environments — that is, to good-quality care.

States, of course, license child care. But one recent study found that no state has adequate regulations for infants and toddlers. As brain research shows, such poor environments can decisively impede development and learning in little children.

On Oct. 23, White House conference speakers likely will call for stepped-up efforts by all sectors to improve child care. Obviously, states and localities, businesses, schools, philanthropies and communities of faith all must pitch in.

But the success of new state and local efforts will depend on an expanded federal role in two key areas: embracing standards

of quality and boosting investment to make child care more affordable.

National child-care standards already exist. They have been developed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) from research showing, for example, that trained and well-compensated caregivers, small group sizes, and appropriate child-to-adult ratios enhance children's social skills, reduce behavior problems, increase cooperativeness, and improve language skills.

Congress should take action to make NAEYC standards available to all parents, caregivers and decision makers so they know what it takes to provide safe, nurturing and educational child care. Financial incentives should be offered to states to adopt these standards.

A larger federal investment also is imperative: Parent fees alone cannot finance quality care. Funding should be available for all children eligible for low-income subsidies under present programs. The Dependent Care Tax Credit, which gives families a tax break for child-care expenses, should be increased for low- and middle-income families and made refundable.

The federal government cannot directly solve all child-care quandaries of working families. But it can and should provide information, incentives and resources that give parents, communities, and state and local leaders a real chance to create child-care solutions the nation urgently needs.

*Gail Richardson is interim executive director of Child Care Action Campaign, a national nonprofit organization.*

## Putting More Care In Day Care

■ **White House meeting next week will focus on the quality and shortage of day care in America.**

By **Ann Scott Tyson**

Special to The Christian Science Monitor

**WASHINGTON**  
**B**YOND the barbed-wire fence, dumpster, and asphalt lot, a sign painted on the wall of a Washington day-care center reads "Love and Care for our Children." Other signs promise a "safe environment" for infants as young as six weeks old.

Yet the center was recently fined for leaving chemicals within children's reach, and roomfuls of babies and toddlers still play behind reinforced metal doors for lack of a playground.

The government-certified center in Washington's Shaw neighborhood is only one indication of a quiet crisis in day care nationwide, as too much demand for too few slots leaves thousands at risk of substandard care, experts say.

The influx of children is fueled by mothers coming off welfare, as well as the growth of two-earner families. States are boosting efforts to safeguard the quality of care but are often hampered by shortfalls in staff. A White House conference on the topic is scheduled for Oct. 23.

Already, between 12 and 20 percent of children in US day-care centers and homes are in unsafe environments that jeopardize their development, studies show. Still, Americans today depend on child care more than ever. Three out of 5 women with children younger than 6 are now in the labor force, triple the rate in 1965. An estimated 10 million to 13 million children are served by child-care centers and homes.

And demand is growing, especially as welfare reform pushes more parents into jobs. For example, in the Chicago area officials are predicting a "massive need" for new centers that can supply a minimum of 12,500 new child-care slots each year. In Washington, 4,000 low-income children are expected to be channeled into the city's overburdened day-care system in coming months. And at least 100,000 children in 38 states are on waiting lists for subsidized child care.

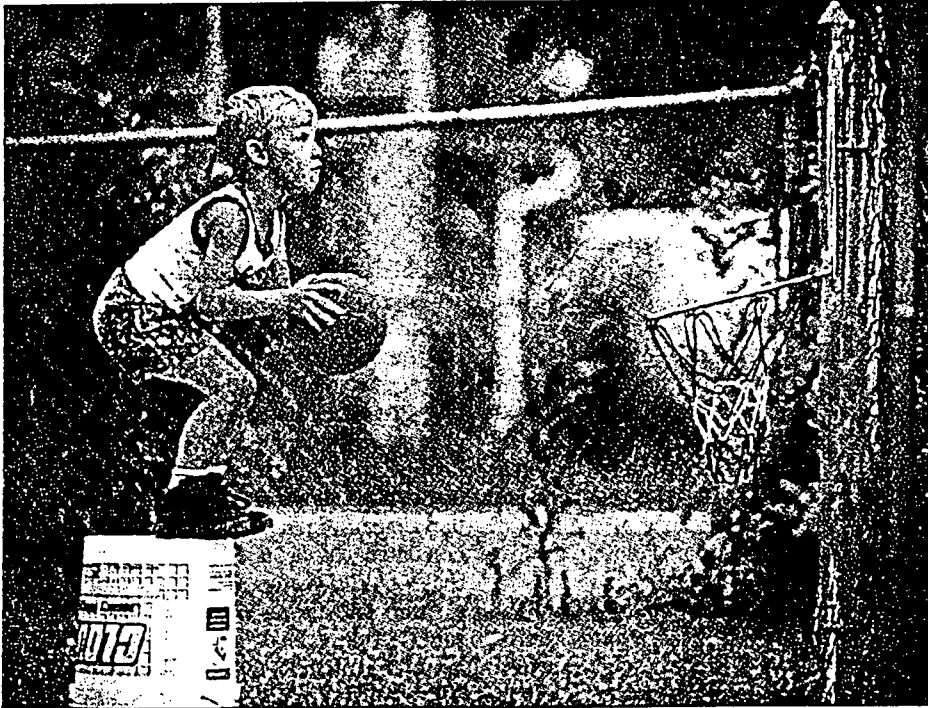
### **Policing day-care centers**

The rush may imperil quality, experts say, as state regulators, hard-pressed by funding cut-backs, fail to keep up with licensing and inspections. "It's a growing concern of almost all the states that they just don't have enough staff to enforce the regulations," says Karen Kroh, president of the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) in St. Paul, Minn.

Some critics say quality is suffering because many for-profit centers pay lower wages and have higher turnover. Some 40 percent of day-care providers are now for-profit, compared with a third a decade ago, says William Gornley, a child-care expert at Georgetown University here.

Another measure of the quality-of-care

JAMES WOODCOCK/BILLINGS GAZETTE/AP



**SHAQUILLE O'TODDLER:** Shaun Bell uses a bucket and low basket to improve his chances of pulling off an NBA-style shot at a day-care center in Billings, Mont. A White House conference will be held next week on how to increase the number and quality of day care nationwide.

crisis is that many states are suspending and revoking licenses more often, with some reporting dramatic increases since 1990, according to an April survey by NARA. "We are seeing a lot more criminal background problems and child-abuse history," says Pauline Koch, who oversees child-care licensing for Delaware, where enforcement actions have shot up 45 percent since 1995.

The defects in day care may have major implications not only for parents, but also for US social policy. Welfare reform could falter if child care prevents parents from holding down jobs. Furthermore, recent

studies link the mental development of children to the quality of care they get. Such findings are rekindling the debate over whether parents should attempt to take more of their children's care into their own hands.

Children's advocates hope next week's White House conference will cast a spotlight on the shortage of high-quality, affordable care.

Some advocates say parents need to demand good care — and that government should set better standards and monitor providers more closely. "It's a basic consumer protection," says Gina Adams, who

monitors child care for the Washington-based Children's Defense Fund.

Yet so far, most Americans have not rallied to the cause. Federal funding for child care, which was increased under the 1996 welfare act, will nevertheless fall \$1.4 billion short over six years of providing what is needed for parents who work, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

A proposed national registry for child-care employees has drawn criticism from union officials, who argue government should pay to train, not track, workers.

#### **Innovative ideas**

Much of the work in improving day care falls to the states. Several innovations are helping states stretch limited funds to boost quality:

- Improving the efficiency of monitoring by targeting troubled providers. Eleven states are fine-tuning their monitoring so centers that comply with rules can be screened more quickly and less frequently, according to a recent survey by Wheelock College in Boston.

- Monetary incentives for better care in government-subsidized centers. In New Mexico a new program uses the slogan "Go for the Gold." It offers providers Olympic-style ratings and up to \$3 more per day per child for boosting staff credentials and lowering child-adult ratios. Oklahoma has a similar program.

- Helping parents make better choices. Colorado has taken the lead by offering parents computerized data from licensing reports via child-care referral agencies. Parents get information on centers that have received substantiated complaints or have violated regulations. "Once the word is out that parents have been empowered, the centers will have much stronger incentives to improve," says Dr. Gormley.

# Goodbye to the Job. Hello to the Shock.

By JULIA LAWLOR

**A**S a regional director for Ross Perot's 1992 Presidential campaign, Tamara Hardy never stopped to think what life would be like without constant travel, 14-hour workdays, cellular phones, pagers and an endless supply of frequent-flier miles. When she finally quit to become a stay-at-home mother, reality hit hard.

"I was riding on a fast-moving train, it came to a screeching halt and I jumped off," said Mrs. Hardy, 32, who is now happily raising her three children in Seattle. "I gained weight, and my self-esteem dropped. Since I was hardly ever home while I was working, I knew no one. And it was hard to find people I had anything in common with."

It is the rare fast-tracker who hasn't entertained the thought of quitting a job, even though most men and women in dual-career marriages say they can't afford to make such a move. So when Brenda Barnes, 43, president of Pepsi-Cola North America, said last month that she was leaving the corporate world to spend more time with her husband and three children, the question was raised anew: Is dropping out a viable option when balancing work and family seems impossible?

Sometimes a woman finds the transition from work to home relatively easy, especially if it is her choice to go home and if her spouse supports the move. But many others struggle with feelings of loneliness, isolation, boredom and lower self-esteem.

And even if their families can withstand the drop in income, women also put themselves at risk by forgoing pensions at a time they are living longer than ever before. Today, a woman in her 50's can expect to live to 90.

"This is not some magic solution to today's stresses," 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).

"I'm not knocking anybody who cobbles together a personal arrangement," she said. "But research shows that women are least likely to be distressed if they have a job, a supportive partner and autonomy and flexibility at work."

The trend is for more women to enter the labor force and to stay there after the birth of their children. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, women with children younger than 6 are one of the fastest-growing segments of the work force: 62 percent of mothers with children younger than 6 were in the labor force last year, compared with 47 percent in 1980.

**W**HEN Ms. Barnes announced her departure last month, she left open the possibility of returning to the corporate world. (She denied that her departure was connected to the resignation of her husband from a high Pepsico post after he failed to get a promotion.) Ms. Barnes, of course, could live well financially for some time without returning to work, and she has said that she does intend to spend time with her children at home.

Some women, however, don't stay home for long — or at all.

Sheila Wellington, president of Catalyst, a research and advisory firm in Manhattan, said the firm had interviewed hundreds of women who had left corporate managerial positions in the last few years.

"Invariably they tell their employers they are leaving to go home," she said. "But very few actually do so. Women do not want to burn their bridges. They start their own businesses. Or they look for jobs where they can have a better balance, or where the opportunities for advancement are better. And they find them."

Women in all kinds of jobs can find it disorienting to leave the work force. Three years ago, Joanne Brundage of Elmhurst, Ill., went back to work in a job-sharing

arrangement after spending eight years at home with her two children. She had quit her job as a letter carrier for the Postal Service in 1986, after failing to find adequate child care for her son.

"I was really blindsided by how devastated I was emotionally," said Ms. Brundage, 45, who founded an organization called Female, for Formerly Employed Mothers at the Leading Edge, as a result of her experience in adjusting to life outside work. "I felt worthless. I suddenly didn't know who I was. I never realized how much my identity was wrapped up in my work. When I was working, I'd look forward to seeing my daughter when I got home. But then I was home all the time, and it was like that song, 'How will I miss you if you don't go away?'"

Several studies in the last decade have found that a job offers women psychological support as well as a paycheck. A 1989 study of 745 married professional and blue-collar women in the Detroit area found that women who stopped working to care for children reported 30 percent more distress over a three-year period than women who returned to work after the birth of a child.

Women who reduced their hours and worked part time or as freelancers reported 10 percent more symptoms of distress, said one author of the study, Elaine Wethington, an associate professor of human development and sociology at Cornell University. Those who had never been in the work force reported no change in their distress level during the three years.

"It's a difficult transition to make," Ms. Wethington said. "Work is truly a defining identity in the United States."

Yet that does not mean every stay-at-home mother is unhappy.

"I'd rather be here than anywhere right now," said Catherine Carbone Rogers, 36, a former television reporter who is raising two young children in Seattle. "I had always planned to be at home with my kids. Before, I was stretched at home, stretched at work and not giving 100 percent to either. Now I'm confident I'm giving my children what they need: a secure, stable environment."

Women who feel strongly that they want to be home usually are better off for doing so, said Janice Steil, professor of psychology at Adelphi University in Garden City, N.Y.

"Being employed is not better for all women," she said. "It depends a lot on factors such as how good your child care is and whether it's what you really want to do."

Ms. Wethington said women often adjusted by building support networks and finding other roles, like volunteer work.

What accounts for the improved mental health of women in the work force? Rosalind Barnett, author of "She Works/He Works" (HarperSanFrancisco, \$24), said work offers social interaction as well as a sense of mastery and immediate reward that tends to bolster self-esteem.

"You have performance criteria, you're using your skills, you're growing," said Ms. Barnett, senior scientist at the women's studies program of Brandeis University and senior scholar in residence at the Murray

Research Center at Radcliffe College.

Researchers have also found that the more roles people have, the happier they are.

"On average, if you lose roles, your anxiety and depression will increase," said Peggy Thoits, professor of sociology at Vanderbilt University. Yet the quality of the role is important, too. If you have a rigid, tension-filled job in which you think you lack control, the level of anxiety and depression could increase. "In that case," Ms. Thoits said, "abandoning the job might be a mental health benefit."

The state of a marriage also affects a woman's psychological well-being. Bonnie Strickland, professor of psychology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, said a 1986 study of depression in women found that stay-at-home wives with troubled marriages were the most depressed, followed by employed wives with troubled marriages and tension-filled jobs. Stay-at-home wives with happy marriages had relatively low levels of depression, but least depressed were employed wives with happy marriages and flexible jobs.

**I**N an interesting sidelight, a 1995 study by the Families and Work Institute with the Whirlpool Foundation showed that 85 percent of women and 67 percent of men reported wanting to work less than a full-time schedule or not at all. A third of women said they would prefer to stay home; but so did 21 percent of men.

But if one spouse quits, it is typically the woman, and that sends the wrong message, Ms. Coontz said.

"Not only does it reinforce women's second-class position in the work force, but it reinforces Dad's second-class position in the family," she said. "She becomes the expert, and he never catches up."

It is far better for a family, Ms. Coontz said, if both parents cut back on their hours and share the responsibilities equally.

After dropping out of the work force for two and a half years, Linda Kaye Briggs reached that conclusion last year. Ms. Briggs, 42, of Gig Harbor, Wash., stayed home with her son, Marcus, now 4, after losing her 70-hour-a-week job as a bank executive in a reorganization. She kept busy, at first giving luncheons, taking Marcus to the park and doing volunteer work. "Then came a time when it wasn't enough," she said. "I had always defined myself by my job, and I was lost. Financially, I wanted to share the burden with my husband."

But she also wanted time for her family, and so did he. So they decided to scale back. She took a job allowing her to work 40 to 50 hours a week, though the pay was \$30,000 less than her old job. He switched to a less-demanding job and took a \$20,000 pay cut. So far, they have no regrets.

"I think I'll always work outside the home," Ms. Briggs said. "But make no mistake what comes first. He has red hair, and he weighs about 36 pounds." □

# Empty Nest Is Cause for Flight as First Lady Increases Policy Trips

By Peter Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

MIRAFLORES LOCKS, Panama Canal—As the 33,000-ton South Korean cargo ship inched its way through this storied passageway between the oceans, the administrator called upon Hillary Rodham Clinton to turn the lever that opens the gates. Impressed by her performance, he offered her a job.

"I'm your person," she answered cheerfully. "Everybody's always asking what I'm going to do when my husband's no longer president. I have found my calling!"

Actually, the more immediate question these days is what she will do not when her husband leaves the White House but now that her daughter is gone. And the answer is plenty. With 17-year-old Chelsea living across the continent at Stanford University, the first lady is reentering the public policy arena with a burst of activity, from a new domestic campaign for better child care to a renewed international crusade for women's rights.

Her trip here last week to meet with the hemisphere's other first ladies and visit the Panama Canal was just an opener. Today she heads back to Latin America, this time with President Clinton. Later this month, she will hop over to Ireland, Northern Ireland and England for a few days, and then next month she takes off on a 10-day journey through "the Stans," as her staff calls

Central Asian republics such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. And laced through all this will be domestic trips to New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

Aides estimate with perhaps only a touch of exaggeration that Clinton will spend just two or three nights at the White House in the next month or so. If that seems like the schedule of someone avoiding the empty nest at home, that is no accident.

"You can't know it's empty," the first lady said, "if you're not there."

In an interview aboard her military jet on the way home Friday evening, Clinton talked about her daughter's absence, her own upcoming 50th birthday, her husband's new hearing aids and their plans for life after the White House. The notoriously media-wary first lady opened up with six reporters in a way she rarely does on the record, sharing stories, making jokes and revealing a human side that normally remains hidden behind a far cooler public persona.

Yet in a sign of how difficult such public exposure remains for her, aides later said she believed the tape-recorded session was off the record and insisted on clearing quotes with her before they could be used. In the end, she screened out only a few harmless recollections that dealt with other people or were seen as too personal.

Among them was an anecdote about the impact of Chelsea's departure on

her and the president. But her busy schedule tells the tale. "Oh, I miss her," the first lady lamented.

Her energies are focused on last week's gathering of first ladies, where she pressed her Latin American counterparts to push for more participation by women in their emerging democracies, and next week's White House conference on child care, where she will explore ideas including a national registry of those who watch children professionally.

Such a proscribed role may be less than she desired when she arrived at the White House five years ago, but it seems to be one that both she and the country are comfortable with. A new poll by U.S. News & World Report shows that 59 percent of registered voters have a favorable view of her generally and that 67 percent approve of the "job" she is doing—a higher rating than her husband has ever generated in the magazine's polling.

All this comes as the first lady is about to turn 50, an event she must confront if for no other reason than "people are not going to let me forget." Fifty days before her Oct. 26 birthday, her staff gathered 50 friends for a surprise White House ceremony in which each held a candle and gave a reason why they love her.

Each day since then, aides have given her gag birthday gifts, including candy "pep pills" and a book titled "E-mail for Dummies"—necessary to figure out how to communicate with her daughter. What she thought was going to be a simple birthday event in her home town of Chicago has mushroomed into a gala, as she discovered when she recently ran into a fellow native, Commerce Secretary William Daley.

"What is going on with your birthday?" asked Daley, the brother of the mayor. "I hear they're going to have fireworks."

"Fireworks!" the first lady exclaimed in disbelief as she related the story. "I didn't really feel anything until everybody started asking me about it," she said Friday. "Turning 50 doesn't bother me. Being told or sort of realizing that I'm a half a century old, that's different."

Yet another sign of age has not troubled her, namely her 51-year-old husband's prescription for hearing aids. "I'm really proud of him," she said, "because I know a lot of men who can't hear at all, but they're too vain to wear hearing aids. I hope that this really encourages more people, men and women, to get hearing aids."

She recalled sitting next to President Ronald Reagan at a White House dinner when he turned to her and said, "Now

just a minute, don't say anything because I want to hear everything you say,' and totally un-self-consciously he takes out his hearing aids from both ears, hands them over to his military aide, puts in new batteries and puts them back in—all of this right as we're sitting down to dinner—and says, 'Now I'm ready.'"

She added: "It was so touching."

Clinton herself is growing somewhat less self-conscious. At one point during her visit to Panama, she delved into a discussion of screwworms and the disease they transmit to livestock, demonstrating a remarkable mastery of the subject that she later attributed to her years in Arkansas.

"You guys think it's all glamour," she joked with reporters. "It's screwworms! It's brucellosis!"

While she said she is not given to much birthday-inspired introspection about her life, it was clear that she and the president, who celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary yesterday, have thought about what they want to do after his term ends in January 2001.

For all of the speculation about a move to California or Illinois or even Martha's Vineyard, Clinton said they plan to return to Arkansas, although she suggested that may only be a home base. "I think we'll spend time in lots of

other places," she said. "The Carters spend a lot of time in Plains, they spend time in Atlanta, but they also spend time everywhere else."

She noted that her husband will be one of the youngest ex-presidents and recalled that Theodore Roosevelt "did so many things" after leaving office at 50. However, she made a face when reminded that one of those things was an unsuccessful comeback try for the presidency. She pointed out with seeming satisfaction that the Constitution now precludes such an option.

Still, she acknowledged that leaving the White House will be tough for her husband. Already, she said, he is wistful about the approaching end of his administration—never mind that it remains three years away.

"My husband's a very nostalgic and philosophical man," the first lady said. "When I first met him, he was nostalgic about his boyhood in Arkansas. He just has a wonderful capacity for taking in every experience and savoring it. Now he realizes that he's got fewer years ahead of him in the White House than behind him. And so he's thinking, 'Maybe this is the last time I'll do this,' or, 'I really should enjoy this because I don't know if that'll happen again,'" she said.

"I'm not there yet. But I see that he is. He's really relishing it."

# Barry Urges Closer Check on Day Care

## *He Says Need for More Inspectors to Monitor City Centers Is Urgent*

By Katherine Boo  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Mayor Marion Barry, saying he is "extremely concerned" for the safety of District children in city day-care centers, called yesterday for increased funding for the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs so that the agency can hire more inspectors to monitor conditions at the centers.

"This is urgent," the mayor said while touring two of the city's publicly funded centers. "I'm kind of sad we had to come to this."

Barry's push to beef up oversight of day-care centers came as the agency ordered the emergency closing of the Rosemount child care center in Northwest Washington after inspectors found evidence there of rodent infestation.

Rosemount was one of 180 day-care centers operating with expired licenses, a situation described in a recent

Washington Post report. City officials told The Post that licenses for more than half of the District's 350 day-care centers have been delayed because of serious health and safety violations, including crowding, unqualified teachers and rat infestation.

Dozens of the centers with lapsed licenses are still receiving public funds to care for low-income children, even though city regulations forbid funding centers that don't have a current license.

In addition to asking that money be shifted to the agency to expand its inspection force, Barry asked the agency to come up with a plan to notify parents that their children are in centers with expired licenses.

He said closing centers with expired licenses "would wreak havoc on District families." Instead, the mayor urged the centers to work with the city to improve conditions.

Rosemount President Steven Steinborn declined to comment on the

agency's decision to close the child care facility, which officials said will be allowed to reopen when it can prove to inspectors that it is rodent-free.

A spokesman for the Department of Human Services, which monitors centers that provide taxpayer-subsidized day care for poor children, said the department will consult with top officials from several city agencies about how to improve the quality of the centers. The spokesman noted that the department submitted legislation this summer to modernize the city's 23-year-old day-care rules.

Helen Blank, director of child care for the Children's Defense Fund, said problems of rats and crowding may not be exclusive to District day-care centers.

"What's happening in the District is shocking and dismaying," Blank said, "but until we take child care seriously and ensure that good standards are enforced, we're going to see situations like this again."

*E. J. Dionne Jr.*

## Child Care Without Ideology?

President Clinton's detractors see child care as one of those adorable soccer mom issues he routinely embraces to his political benefit. No wonder he and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton are hosting a White House

Conference on Child Care on Oct. 23. What's not to like about nurturing kids?

It turns out that as soon as the government gets involved, the answer is: plenty. The veterans of two decades of child-care arguments bear the scars of ideological combat. The impasse created by the old battles is why so much remains to be done.

Already, there are warnings that this conference has a hidden agenda: to approve proposals for a massive federal day-care program. "If what we do is empower government to spend more time with our kids instead of empowering parents to have more private and sectarian [i.e., church-based] options, then we're moving in the wrong direc-

tion," says Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council.

"I certainly have qualms," said David Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values, "and I know others have qualms, about using recent research on early childhood development to justify new federal child-care programs and regulations."

The research he's talking about found that the amount of stimulation and affection children get in their first three years has a lot to do with how well their brains develop. Many parents know this instinctively, but the scientists helped kick off the new round of concern about infant care.

Two things are true about the child-care debate: (1) Ideological conflicts are inevitable, and (2) they are the last thing this discussion needs right now.

Ideology is a fancy word for people's morals, habits, values and commitments. Few questions raise more of a

moral ruckus than how kids should be brought up and who should do the job.

Conservatives make a fair point when they insist that government programs should not discriminate either against or in favor of couples in which a parent stays home. But if the debate gets bogged down in people's views of feminism and government, parents looking for just a little help won't get any.

Traditionalists such as Bauer say the problem is that parents, especially mothers, are working too much outside the home. But there are many two-paycheck families—earning, say, \$35,000 or \$40,000 a year—in which the mother or father would love to be home at 3 p.m. when the kids get out of school, yet simply can't afford to leave work.

If Bauer wants to lobby his allies among conservative business people to demonstrate their traditional values by letting more parents get home early, more power to him. In the meantime,

what about that two-paycheck couple? Might it not be helpful to keep the schools open until 6 p.m. with homework assistance, music, arts or sports programs?

Bauer says a loudly ideological "No!" because this would "continue down the road we're on where we think government bureaucrats and social workers can make up for what parents should do." Blankenhorn has a less reflexive response, welcoming the idea of "using school grounds for community-based programs available to all children."

Another idea likely to emerge from the conference is using regulatory and tax relief to help employers create more and better child care at workplaces and to encourage small employers to pool resources.

The conference will also deal with the reality that there's a lot of bad child care out there. This raises the hackles of conservatives, who warn that bureaucrats will regulate the care given

by churches, neighbors—or Grandma. Well, yes, some regulations can be crazy. But recent day-care horror stories suggest that the well-being of kids requires some enforceable rules and safety checks.

Expanding choice would help too. "If parents have choices, they're not going to choose the option where a kid has a roach crawling on him or gets locked in a closet," says Margy Waller, an analyst at the Progressive Policy Institute. But options require money, whether for vouchers, tax credits or more school-based infant care. Where will the money come from?

The mantra for the conference, says White House spin-doctor-in-chief Rahm Emanuel, is "access, affordability, safety." A clever slogan that, because it's designed to bury as many ideological issues as possible. In the case of child care, Clinton's gift for dodging ideology may be exactly what kids and their parents are looking for.

*Mrs. Clinton says too little child care available*

DOCUMENT 34 OF 61

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\* Mrs. Clinton says too little child care available

295 Words

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The Associated Press

NATIONAL

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COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday she

- \* hoped participants at a White House conference this month can come up
- \* with solutions to a shortage of child-care facilities in America.
- \* "There simply is not enough child care for those who need it," she
- said in a speech at the University of Maryland after touring the
- \* university's child-care center.

The speech capped a week in which the first lady also visited

- \* child-care centers in southern Florida and at the Marine Corps base

at Quantico, Va., in an effort to build interest in the Oct. 23

conference.

At Maryland, Mrs. Clinton cited research showing that much of

- \* existing child care is inadequate.

- \* "A recent national study of child-care centers found that 70
- percent of children are in care that is barely adequate," she
- explained. "Ten percent are in care that is dangerous to their
- health and safety.

"Infants and toddlers are at greatest risk, with 40 percent in

care that poses a threat to their health and well-being," she added.

"Only 20 percent of our children are in what we could call

high-quality care centers."

The first lady also contended that "equally disturbing patterns"

often are found in family homes.

And she added, "Even when quality care is available, frequently it

is out of reach financially."

- That point was emphasized after her speech by a university
- \* secretary who told the first lady that child care takes about 25
- percent of her salary. Without the aid of a church scholarship, she
- would not be able to afford the care, she said.

Mrs. Clinton said she hoped that some of the proposals at the

- \* White House conference will focus on the economic problems.

"We need more subsidies for working families, particularly for

single parents," she said.

*First lady suggests child-care liability cover, ...*

DOCUMENT 36 OF 61

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\* First lady suggests child-care liability cover, subsidized jobs

SANDRA SOBIERAJ

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The Associated Press

NATIONAL

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QUANTICO, Va. (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton is beginning to

\* outline a child-care initiative that could offer liability protection for caretakers and ask private business to subsidize jobs for low-income parents.

"This is not just an altruistic, good-feeling sort of an issue.

It's a real bottom-line one," Mrs. Clinton said Wednesday. Lacking

\* child-care worries, she argued, working parents are more productive and efficient.

The first lady staked out some potentially controversial positions in discussions here and with business leaders in Miami to preview an

\* Oct. 23 White House conference on child care.

While Mrs. Clinton has definite ideas about a framework for reform, spokeswoman Marsha Berry said it remains unclear whether her husband's administration will propose a package of legislative and

\* executive actions on child care.

Mrs. Clinton stressed that, in contrast to her ambitious and vain attempt in 1994 to overhaul health care, improving child care was likely to be an incremental feat accomplished through government-business partnerships. Her health care panel's splashy town hall forums have been replaced for this effort by toned-down classroom tours and roundtable talks with experts.

\* Would-be child-care reformers, she said, shouldn't "get spooked off by the nay-saying voices who tell them it's going to be impossible. ... We can be creative."

For the second time, Mrs. Clinton raised the possibility of creating a national registry of criminal child-care workers that would include "any allegations of abuse or neglect."

\* And she favored protection from lawsuits for child-care centers, if a way can be found to separate everyday accidents from "grossly negligent, reckless, intentional mistreatment."

\* "You cannot expect businesses or private homes to offer child care

unless they have some assurance that they can be protected from the unforeseen and accidental kinds of mishaps that happen in anybody's household," the first lady said.

At the Quantico Marine base, Mrs. Clinton lauded the military for offering "a good example" of high-quality, affordable care.

\* The Defense Department, which provides child care at nearly all hours to some 200,000 children daily, operates the largest employer-sponsored program in the nation. With fees set on an income-based sliding scale, the average family pays \$65 per week per child and the government picks up the rest of the tab.

"This, for us, is a readiness program. To be completely ready you have to take care of families," Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre said.

Bringing a small contingent of national reporters on her two-day trip, the first lady appeared determined to redouble her activism after a months-long lull in which she focused almost exclusively on packing her only child off to college.

"I'm looking for ways to divert myself from my empty nest," she joked.

The two days in Florida and Virginia provided glimpses of this first lady's many, sometimes conflicting, roles.

A traditional classroom visit, where she nodded approvingly as two dozen rowdy 4-year-olds sang "I am a VIP in my family," was followed by a substantive round table where Mrs. Clinton freely floated ideas

\* on reforming federal, state and private-sector child-care policies.

Mingled with the official was the political: a fund-raiser for the debt-ridden Democratic National Committee. Headlining eight donor events so far this year, Mrs. Clinton has brought the DNC close to \$900,000.

\* On child care, the first lady suggested:

- More small businesses to pool resources and form creative partnerships in order to subsidize costs for low-wage workers.

- A comprehensive public-education campaign to teach parents how

\* to identify quality child care. "A lot of times they don't know what is quality," she said. "If somebody's nice to them, it doesn't matter that they don't know the difference between caring for a 1-year-old or a 4-year-old."

- Help from the media to publish public-service announcements "helping to train parents to be better parents."

I0607 \* End of document.

*National child care registry suggested by Mrs. ...*

DOCUMENT 38 OF 61

ASP9727400165

\* National child care registry suggested by Mrs. Clinton

SANDRA SOBIERAJ

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NATIONAL

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MIAMI (AP) - A national registry might be what parents need to protect their kids from abusive caretakers, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton suggested Tuesday.

The proposal, which aides cautioned was only being explored and has yet to be fleshed out in detail, was one topic slated for \* discussion at the Oct. 23 White House conference on child care, the first lady said.

Mrs. Clinton spoke to reporters traveling with her to southern Florida, where she planned on Wednesday to visit to the Children's Center at Baptist Hospital, the first in a series of appearances meant to gin up interest in the October conference. She planned to cap the two-day trip with a tour of the Marine base at Quantico, Va., \* and a speech highlighting the military's innovations in child care.

On Tuesday night, she headlined a \$125,000 fund-raiser for the Democratic National Committee. Her private roundtable discussion and photo session with top donors, followed by a speech to some 500 women activists who had paid a minimum \$125 apiece, marked the first lady's seventh outing this year for the DNC.

President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and his wife Tipper have also fanned out to fund-raisers around the nation to help retire the party's \$15 million debt from last year's elections.

Possible fund-raising violations by Clinton, Gore and the DNC during the 1996 election cycle are now the subject of protracted Senate hearings and Justice Department scrutiny.

The first lady's spokeswoman, Marsha Berry, said Mrs. Clinton is not at all squeamish about her fund-raising role, particularly with the DNC's Women's Leadership Forum, which party officials describe as a means of involving women who can't afford the four- and five-figure price tags of many political events.

Mrs. Clinton "wants to energize women to get involved and she makes no bones about it," Berry told the three reporters traveling

with the first lady. It was only the second time in 4 1/2 years that Mrs. Clinton has allowed the press to accompany her on a domestic trip.

In a freewheeling discussion en route to Miami, Mrs. Clinton said she would explore the concept of a national registry to trace the \* employment histories of child care workers and give working parents a tool for checking the backgrounds of those to whom they entrust their children.

She suggested that such a registry could include information not only on caretakers who have been convicted of crimes, but also on \* those who have been fired with cause from a child care job.

Mrs. Clinton did not detail how the registry would be paid for and administered, or how privacy rights would be protected. Any such \* child-care registry is only being broadly explored as a possibility, Berry said.

I0607 \* End of document.