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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR PROJECT HEAD START'S 35th BIRTHDAY
WASHINGTON, DC
April 26, 2000**

I am delighted to have this opportunity to join you in celebrating the 35th birthday of Head Start – and to thank you for work in representing the 835,000 children in Head Start programs across the country. *yur*

Thirty-five years ago, President Lyndon Johnson announced a program of hope for our Nation's most vulnerable children, a program designed to give [them] a true "Head Start." He said that day: "Poverty can be eliminated from this country...For that struggle is not only for the liberation of those imprisoned in poverty, but for the conscience of a prosperous and free nation."

All of our children need and deserve a caring environment, the security of knowing they are loved, and the encouragement and opportunity to make the most of their God-given talents. Our Administration, with your help, has worked hard to give parents the tools they need to fulfill these crucial responsibilities. - + so real harder to bring the table

We held the first-ever White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. We are working to keep guns out of the reach of children. We are improving the quality of our children's schools by making a national commitment to high academic and teaching standards. And together, we have expanded Head Start for low-income families, so that our children have the right access to health, educational, and social services. And we established Early Head Start, to enhance child development and empower parents with the tools they need to be better caregivers.

But we still have work to do if we want all of America's children to meet their fullest potential. That's why my budget boosts funding for Head Start by \$1 billion – the largest increase in the history of the program. That puts us well on our way to meeting our goal of serving one million children by 2002.

Since its founding, more than three decades ago, Head Start has served almost 18 million children. Let us recommit ourselves to continuing that effort, so that all of our nation's parents have the opportunity to raise happy, healthy children. And all our nation's children have the Head Start they need to succeed and fulfill their dreams. Thank you and God bless you.

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~~(LAST)~~ ~~ADMINISTRATION~~ We held the first-ever White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. We are working to keep guns out of the reach of children. We are improving the quality of our children's schools by making a national commitment to high academic and teaching standards. And together, we have expanded Head Start for low-income families, so that our children have the right access to health, educational, and social services. And we established Early Head Start, to enhance child development and empower parents with the tools they need to be better caregivers.

brighten
the future
of AMERICAN
CHILDREN
AND ID

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Ann O'Leary
04/22/2000 02:35:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: joshua s. gottheimer/who/eop@eop, eugenia chough/opd/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: W2W video 

see note below on child care piece

Andrea Kane

Andrea Kane

04/22/2000 02:35:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP@EOP, Eugenia Chough/OPD/EOP@EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: W2W video 

Josh - see inserts below. Here's paper on our related budget initiatives - I pulled what I thought fit best here.



Budget 5 pager 040400 .

Ann, can you fill in the right number that covers this general child care statement -- see **bold xx**?
Joshua S. Gottheimer



Joshua S. Gottheimer
04/21/2000 01:57:38 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject:

do you mind helping us w/ the bracketed numbers? thanks

Draft 04/21/00
Gottheimer/Silver

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75

Letter to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House on Stepping Up the War on Poverty.

February 17, 1965

Dear Mr. President: (Dear Mr. Speaker:)

I request the doubling of the War Against Poverty.

In addition I request legislation to improve our ability to conduct that war.

We reaffirm our faith that poverty can be eliminated from this country, and our solemn commitment to prosecute the war against poverty to a successful conclusion. For that struggle is not only for the liberation of those imprisoned in poverty, but for the conscience and the values of a prosperous and free nation.

From the very beginning, this country, the idea of America itself, was the promise that all would have an equal chance to share in the fruits of our society.

As long as children are untrained, men without work, and families shut in gate-less poverty, that promise is unkept. New resources and knowledge, our achievements and our growth, have given us the resources to meet this pledge. Not meanly or grudgingly, but in obedience to an old and generous faith, let us make a place for all at the table of American abundance.

Our objective was stated by the Congress in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964: "to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this Nation by opening to everyone, the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity."

THE PAGE. OF PROGRESS

We have already begun to move toward this objective:

Local anti-poverty programs have been approved in 44 of the 50 states, and by June every state will be taking part.

Work is now underway on 53 Job Corps Centers. Seven are already in operation and 15 will be completed each month. Each will be filled with young men or women anxious to learn and work, and to give themselves a new and often unexpected opportunity for a productive life.

We will, this year, provide a school readiness program for 100,000 children about to enter kindergarten. This will help them overcome the handicaps of experience and feeling which flow from poverty and permit them to receive the full advantages of school experience.

By July, 3,500 VISTA Volunteers, aged 18-82, will be working to help their fellow Americans in communities across the country.

25,000 families, eligible for public assistance, are now enrolled in a work-experience program which provides jobs and skills for [p.200] the family breadwinners, giving them a new prospect of emerging from a poverty which often reaches back through three generations.

We have established procedures, processed applications, and begun to make loans to thousands of struggling rural families and to small businesses.

In 49 cities and 11 rural communities, Neighborhood Youth Corps have been established. In these Corps, young men and women, between 16-21 can work to keep themselves in school, to return if they have dropped out, or to prepare for permanent jobs.

35,000 college level students can now continue their education through the income provided by part-time jobs. And 35,000 adults will be taught to read and write this year.

THE RISE OF NATIONAL CONCERN

All of these programs—the accomplishments of the first year and the hopes of the future—depend upon the concern and initiative of local communities. It is now clear that the war against poverty has touched the hearts and the sense of duty of the American people. This cause has truly become their cause.

Community action organizations, planning and organizing the local effort to end poverty, have sprung up in communities in every part of the country. Over 5,000 prominent citizens are serving, without pay, on such organizations. National groups, such as the American Bar Association, have pledged their special resources to the plight of the poor. And 75 national organizations have banded together in a Citizens Crusade Against Poverty to begin specific projects.

And the response of the American nation is growing each day. New community action proposals from local groups are coming in at a rate of 130 a month. We have already received 750 applications.

Applications for the Job Corps are arriving at a rate of nearly 6000 a day.

8,000 men and women have volunteered to serve their fellow citizens in the VISTA program.

We estimate that at least 90,000 adults will be ready to enroll in adult basic education programs during the coming year.

And the same steady rise of interest and hope can be seen in every part of our program. We cannot afford, in conscience or in the national interest, to disappoint these hopes or to waste the valuable resources of human skill and energy which we are now beginning to tap.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Therefore I am requesting the Congress to authorize the continuation of these programs for the next two years, and to authorize and appropriate 1.5 billion dollars to conduct them during the fiscal year.

I am also asking Congress to extend for ten months, to June 30, 1967, the period during which certain programs may be funded with 90 percent federal assistance. If we do not do this, then many communities, especially those in rural or isolated areas and which lack the resources to get underway quickly, will be unable to qualify before the cutoff date.

In addition I recommend transfer of the work-study program to the Office of Education in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, as well as a series of technical amendments.

Last year Congress and my administration took a step unparalleled in the history of any nation. We pledged ourselves to the elimination of poverty in America. That was [p.201] our commitment to the people we serve, and it reflected not only our own intentions but the will of the American people. We knew, and said then, that this battle would not be easily or swiftly won. But we began. Today we can take together another step along the path to the fulfillment of the American dream for all our citizens. Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

NOTE: This is the text of identical letters addressed to the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, President of the Senate, and to the Honorable John W. McCormack, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

For congressional actions in response to the President's recommendations see Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1965 (Public Law 89-253, 79 Stat. 973) and Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1966 (Public Law 89-309, 79 Stat. 1133).

On March 8 the White House made public the following release entitled "Presidential Report to the Nation on Poverty":

More than 3,400 communities have said that they want to set up Project **Head Start** classes to prepare the children of poverty for school this fall, President Johnson announced today. These requests have been received since the project was launched on February 19, 1965.

The President ordered Sargent Shriver, director of the War on Poverty, to set aside \$50 million for the summer effort, three times the amount originally planned.

The President has budgeted \$150 million for fiscal 1966 to put **Head Start** on a year-round basis.

Project **Head Start** is an eight-week, nationwide, crash program to prepare children whose development has been slowed by poverty to enter school on an equal footing with their more fortunate classmates.

The President said that a million deprived children would be entering school this fall, and noted that "many of them have never looked at a picture book or scribbled with a crayon. When these children enter school they are already a year behind their classmates," the President said. "The purpose of **Head Start** is to make up that year, to help them get the most out of school."

This announcement was one of the highlights in a progress report on the first five months of the War on Poverty. President Johnson signed the bill financing the federal anti-poverty program last October 7.

In a letter transmitting the report to the President, Shriver said that "your individual crusade has literally become every American's War on Poverty."

Highlights of the report. More than one thousand projects costing \$317 million have been announced since the **start** of the War on Poverty.

Community Action. Ninety percent of the communities of more than 50,000 population and hundreds of rural counties have formed community action organizations. About 1.5 million urban and rural Americans in 46 states will be helped through 192 approved federal grants totalling \$36 million.

Education services for young and old, and neighborhood service centers have been the most popular projects with local community action planners. An estimated 60,000 children in San Antonio and Bexar County, Texas, many of them offspring of migrant families, will learn to read and write along with their parents. The youngsters speak Spanish and English but cannot read or write in either language.

Job Corps. More than 140,000 young men and women 16 through 21 have volunteered for the Job Corps. By June 30, twenty to twenty-five thousand young men and women will be in training and the Corps will expand rapidly thereafter.

Of 86 centers announced, eight are in operation, and 46 others are under construction. Some 200 Job Corps enrollees are working with special crews to clean up flood damage in Oregon and northern California. Enrollees include many who had never been to a doctor or dentist, many who had rarely been more than a few miles from home, and some suffering from severe malnutrition.

VISTA. About 9,000 Americans, more than half of them between the ages of 18 and 30, have volunteered for VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), the domestic Peace Corps. Volunteers are already at work, living and working with the poor in 11 urban and 22 rural projects. VISTA expects to have more than 2,000 volunteers in training or working in 218 projects in 40 states. Volunteers now are working among the mountain people of eastern Kentucky, with migrant farm workers in Gridley, California, and with dislocated poverty residents in Hartford, Connecticut.

Neighborhood Youth Corps. Some 15,000 young men and women, 16 through 21, have been enrolled in 40 Neighborhood Youth Corps projects. They receive training and work in full- or part-time jobs that enable them to stay in school, return to school, or improve their chances of getting a job. In all, 113 projects which have been approved will provide work training for 69,000 urban and 7,000 rural young people.

Work study. Forty-three thousand students from needy families are attending classes in over 600 colleges with the help of part-time jobs under the college Work-Study program.

Project **Head Start**. Project **Head Start** medical [p.202] screening is expected to reveal, among every 100,000 children: 500 cases of tuberculosis, 12,000 children with at least partial blindness and 45,000 others with other eye difficulties requiring professional care, 30,000 partially-deaf children who would fail in school without care, 5,000 cases of nutritional anemia, and 6,000 mentally-retarded tots who can be given special education.

Rural family loans. More than 1,600 low-income rural families in 42 states and Puerto Rico have received loans averaging \$1,850 to improve their incomes under the Economic Opportunity Act. The loans total nearly \$3 million.

Work experience. About 32,000 unemployed parents of more than 100,000 children, most of them in families on relief, are working in Work-Experience projects that will develop their ability to hold regular jobs. Thirty-six Work-Experience projects in 23 states and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are being financed by \$30.5 million in federal antipoverty funds.

Gratifying support from private sector. Thousands of community leaders from all walks of life are serving in local community action programs, Job Corps community councils in towns near Job Corps centers, Project **Head Start** committees, recruiting efforts for women's Job Corps centers and VISTA, and in other projects. Thirty-two American business firms have submitted proposals to operate Job Corps urban centers. Spirited competition has resulted in extremely high quality contracts at low cost. Shriver said that the tremendous response to various volunteers and other War on Poverty programs was due in no small part to the donated time and effort of American communications media.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.199-202

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Sacramento Bee

April 1, 2000, Saturday METRO FINAL EDITION

SECTION: SCENE; Pg. 15**LENGTH:** 924 words**HEADLINE:** NAACP CHIEF TO SPEAK IN DAVIS SUNDAY**BYLINE:** Fahizah Alim Bee Staff Writer**BODY:**

Kweisi Mfume, president of the **NAACP**, says Americans should learn from history that hard-earned rights can be stripped away if citizens do not "agitate and advocate" to make government more responsive to their needs.

"There is a lesson in history, when you look at the Civil War and what happened following the Reconstruction period after Emancipation," he said in a phone interview from his office in Baltimore.

During the Reconstruction of 1867-1877, many African Americans were elected to Congress and state offices, enjoying a brief period of political empowerment.

"People thought that society was prepared to overcome the dark legacy of the past," said Mfume, who will be the featured speaker of UC Davis Presents on Sunday night. "But through the. . . (1880s and 1890s) came the establishment of Jim Crow laws and the intolerance of the Black Codes."

Mfume, who has headed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since 1996, said a similar rollback in human rights occurred in the mid-1980s to late 1990s, following gains made in the 1960s and 1970s. Most of this was "caused by an overly active Supreme Court and a out-of-touch Congress," he said.

"People are still judged by their skin color; there is great disparity in income, education and access to affordable housing," he said. "As long as we have this type of disparity, it is not a matter of having come a long way, it's a matter of still having a long, long way to go."

In his speech, Mfume said, he will address the **NAACP's** focus on excessive force by police, economic empowerment in the African American community, education, reinterpretation of civil rights, and voting district set-asides.

The **NAACP** is also very concerned that people of color and low income are in danger of being left behind in the technological race, he said.

"The **digital divide** . . . is a gulf and ever-expanding river that suggests that there will be an electronic, technical ghetto-izing if we are not quick to make sure that everyone has access." AT A GLANCE **NAACP** President Kweisi Mfume Will speak at 8 p.m. Sunday at UC Davis' Freeborn Hall.

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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April 3, 2000, Monday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional**LENGTH:** 382 words**HEADLINE:** Colorado programs part of national research**DATELINE:** DENVER**BODY:**

Two preschools in Denver could provide valuable long-term guidance for similar child-development programs that focus on low-income families.

The Family Star preschool in northwest Denver and Clayton Mile High Family Futures in northeast Denver are two of 17 Early **Head Start** programs chosen from across the country for intense research on child care for infants and toddlers from low-income families.

"We don't want these children to fall behind but to live up to their potential," said Robert Emde, principal investigator for the two programs.

The goal is to help 175 babies and toddlers at Family Star and Clayton be prepared to read, write and compute by the time they enter kindergarten.

If successful, the programs will be used as models for more than 500 fledgling Early **Head Starts** nationwide, said John Love who heads the national research effort in Princeton, N.J.

Early **Head Start** was launched in 1995 when it became apparent that students from poor families needed help earlier in life, said Emde, an international expert in infant psychiatry at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

The program was a spinoff of **Head Start**, which for 25 years focused on early development for 4- and 5-year-olds.

Research over the years showed that many of the skills children needed to be successful in school should have been developed earlier than age 4, particularly social skills like learning to take turns.

"If opportunities are missed, kids aren't able to develop their potential," Emde said. "If they couldn't sit still and pay attention and get along in the classroom, they're obviously not going to learn."

The Clayton preschool originally served mostly black families, but now represents an increased number of Latino families who have moved into the area. Family Star's families are mostly Latino.

"An opportunity we have in Denver is to learn all we can about culture variation," Emde said. "It's a major frontier."

Research on the first wave of Early **Head Starts** is nearing completion and will look at cognition, language development, emotional regulation, parent-child interactions and responsiveness to a variety of different situations.

Though he cannot reveal any results, many of the children are benefiting a great deal, Emde said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 4, 2000

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34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2148

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : [Presidential Documents](#)Terms: [headline \(head start\) or atl 2 \(head start\) and date\(geq \(1/1/93\) and leq \(4/20/2000\)\)](#) ([Edit Search](#))*Public Papers of the Presidents*

Public Papers of the Presidents

October 27, 1998

CITE: 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2148**LENGTH:** 685 words**HEADLINE:** Statement on Signing the Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services Act of 1998**BODY:**

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 2206, the "Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services Act of 1998." This legislation reauthorizes and amends **Head Start**, Community Services Block Grants (CSBGs), and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). In addition, this bill effectively completes the community empowerment agenda I proposed in 1992 by establishing a new Individual Development Account (IDA) demonstration program to empower low-income individuals and families by helping them accumulate assets for their futures.

I particularly want to thank the chief sponsors of this legislation, Senators Coats, Jeffords, Kennedy, and Dodd and Representatives Goodling, Martinez, and Clay. Let me also thank Senator Harkin and Representative Tony Hall for their efforts to champion the IDA demonstration project.

More than 33 years have passed since President Johnson signed the legislation that began the historic experiment in child development called **Head Start**. I am proud that since I became President, we have raised **Head Start** funding by more than 50 percent; increased dramatically the number of children served; and improved the quality of the program significantly. I am particularly proud that we launched Early **Head Start** to bring **Head Start** services to children through age three.

As we approach the 21st century, S. 2206 strengthens and expands **Head Start** -- renewing our commitment to prepare our neediest children for school and helping parents to teach and support them. The legislation continues to build on the themes first expressed in the 1994 Report of the Advisory Committee on **Head Start** Quality and Expansion: improving program quality and accountability, responding to family needs, and strengthening partnerships with other community services. It raises qualifications for **Head Start** teachers; invests additional dollars in program quality improvement by increasing teacher salaries, benefits and training; and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to study the effects of these investments on children.

The bill also incorporates my recommendation to double the funding set-aside for the Early **Head Start** program. In light of new research on the significance of the earliest years, this expansion is an essential step to reach more of our most vulnerable infants and toddlers with critical services.

S. 2206 also includes a number of other important provisions to address the needs of low-income families. The IDA demonstration program provides incentives through Federal matching funds for

low-income individuals and families to invest in their futures by saving for higher education, a first home, or to start a new small business. In addition, the bill's CSBG and LIHEAP provisions will help to address the need for critical urban and rural community development projects and heating and cooling assistance for vulnerable senior citizens, children, and persons with disabilities.

The Department of Justice advises, however, that the provision that allows religiously affiliated organizations to be providers under CSBG would be unconstitutional if and to the extent it were construed to permit governmental funding of "pervasively sectarian" organizations, as that term has been defined by the courts. Accordingly, I construe the Act as forbidding the funding of pervasively sectarian organizations and as permitting Federal, State, and local governments involved in disbursing CSBG funds to take into account the structure and operations of a religious organization in determining whether such an organization is pervasively sectarian.

Overall, the bill is a fine example of the good that can be achieved when the Congress and the Administration join together to support programs that can break the cycle of poverty and despair and create economic opportunities for our Nation's neediest families. It is with great pleasure that I sign this legislation.

William J. Clinton

The White House, October 27, 1998.

NOTE: S. 2206, approved October 27, was assigned Public Law No. 105-285.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 25, 1998

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1994

HEAD START BILL SIGNING

Date: May 18, 1994
Location: East Room
Time: 2:30 pm
From: Christine Varney
Jennifer O'Connor



I. PURPOSE

Today's event will demonstrate the Administration's commitment to the Head Start program and commemorate the 29th Anniversary of the founding of Head Start with the formal signing the Head Start Act Amendments of 1994, the reauthorizing legislation for the Head Start program.

II. BACKGROUND

Head Start Act Amendments of 1994

On May 11 and 12, the Senate and House voted overwhelmingly to pass the Head Start Act Amendments of 1994 which extends authority for Head Start through 1998. The legislation enjoyed broad bipartisan support in the House and Senate, and carries out the vision and many of the recommendations contained in Creating a 21st Century Head Start, the December 1993 report of the Advisory Committee on Head Start Quality and Expansion, the bipartisan committee appointed by Secretary Shalala.

The Head Start legislation reflects unprecedented agreement among Republican and Democratic Members of Congress. In advance of the submission of the legislation to Congress, the Administration sat down with the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Relations and the House Committee on Education and Labor and negotiated a consensus bill. The bill was then unanimously reported out of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and passed by voice vote in the House Education and Labor Committee.

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III. PARTICIPANTS

Program Participants:

The President
The Vice President
The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Secretary Shalala

Jeanne Kendall: A former Head Start parent, Ms. Kendall, of Paris, Kentucky, credits Head Start's strong family involvement program with giving her the courage to go back to school. She earned her G.E.D. and on Mother's Day, May 8, 1994, received a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Eastern Kentucky University.

Dr. Ansel Johnson: Dr. Johnson graduated from the first Head Start program in 1965 at Lincoln Memorial Elementary School in Robbins, IL. Currently, Dr. Johnson is the only African-American optometrist in private practice in south suburban Chicago.

Brian Rivera: Five year old Brian attends the Village II Head Start Center operated by the National Child Day Care Association. He and his mother, Elsy Rivera, live in the Adams Morgan area of Washington D.C.

The Audience:

Secretary Riley

Members of Congress

Attending, and joining the President on the stage for the signing:
Sen. Ted Kennedy
Sen. Nancy Kassebaum
Sen. George Mitchell - tentative
Rep. Bill Ford
Rep. Bill Goodling

PHOTOCOPY
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Attending:

Sen. Kent Conrad
Sen. Chris Dodd
Sen. Paul Simon
Sen. Paul Sarbanes
Sen. Wendall Ford
Rep. Matthew Martinez
Rep. Susan Molinari
Rep. Steny Hoyer
Rep. Neal Smith
Rep. John Porter
Rep. Philip Sharp
Rep. Dale Kildee
Rep. Maxine Waters
Rep. Bill Barrett
Rep. Bobby Scott
Rep. Lynn Woolsey
Rep. Leslie Byrne
Rep. Mel Reynolds

Invited but not confirmed:

Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun
Sen. Jeff Bingaman
Rep. Major Owens
Rep. Rob Andrews
Rep. Carlos Moorhead
Rep. Scotty Baesler
Rep. Louis Stokes
Rep. Jim Moran

Local Officials:

Thelma Moore, President, National Association of Black County Officials
Hon. Marge Kil Kelly, State Representative, Maine
Carol Sanconi, School Board President, Montgomery County, MD
Gary Jones, School Board President, Fairfax County, VA
Anton Gardner, Arlington County Manager, VA

Head Start Founders:

Sargent Shriver and Eunice Kennedy Shriver
Julius Richmond, first Head Start Director
Edward Zigler, Member of the Head Start Planning Committee
Urie Brofenbrenner, Member of the Head Start Planning Committee
Robert Cooke, Chair of the Head Start Planning Committee
Marian Wright Edelman
Bettye Caldwell
Lynda Robb Johnson (representing the Johnsons)

The rest of the audience includes the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Head Start Quality and Expansion, former Head Start graduates, Head Start parents and children, Head Start directors from around the country, and representatives from the Head Start and early childhood advocacy community. A full list is attached.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Program participants Ms. Jeanne Kendall and Dr. Ansel Johnson are seated on the stage. Then the President, Vice President, First Lady, Mrs. Gore and Secretary Shalala are announced onto the stage.
- **The First Lady** delivers a welcome and brief remarks. She then introduces Mrs. Gore.
- **Mrs. Gore** delivers brief remarks and introduces Ms. Jeanne Kendall.
- **Ms. Jeanne Kendall**, a former Head Start parent, gives brief remarks and introduces Secretary Shalala.
- **Secretary Shalala** gives brief remarks and introduces the Vice President.
- **The Vice President** gives brief remarks and introduces Dr. Ansel Johnson.
- **Dr. Ansel Johnson**, a graduate of the first Head Start class in 1965, delivers brief remarks and introduces you.
- **You** deliver brief remarks.
- At the conclusion of your remarks, you ask **Brian Rivera**, a five year old currently enrolled in Head Start, to join you on stage. **You** then move to the desk on stage and Brian joins you and hands you the pen you will use to sign the bill. **You** then sign the bill.
- **The First Lady** returns to the podium to invite the audience to the State Dining Room and Grand Foyer for a small reception with Head Start anniversary cake. The chef will bring out a presentation cake to show the audience.

VI. REMARKS

Brief remarks are attached.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Remarks
Guest List

REMARKS

75

Letter to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House on Stepping Up the War on Poverty.

February 17, 1965

Dear Mr. President: (Dear Mr. Speaker:)

I request the doubling of the War Against Poverty.

In addition I request legislation to improve our ability to conduct that war.

We reaffirm our faith that poverty can be eliminated from this country, and our solemn commitment to prosecute the war against poverty to a successful conclusion. For that struggle is not only for the liberation of those imprisoned in poverty, but for the conscience and the values of a prosperous and free nation.

From the very beginning, this country, the idea of America itself, was the promise that all would have an equal chance to share in the fruits of our society.

As long as children are untrained, men without work, and families shut in gate-less 'poverty, that promise is unkept. New resources and knowledge, our achievements and our growth, have given us the resources to meet this pledge. Not meanly or grudgingly, but in obedience to an old and generous faith, let us make a place for all at the table of American abundance.

Our objective was stated by the Congress in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964: "to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this Nation by opening to everyone, the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity."

THE PAGE. OF PROGRESS

We have already begun to move toward this objective:

Local anti-poverty programs have been approved in 44 of the 50 states, and by June every state will be taking part.

Work is now underway on 53 Job Corps Centers. Seven are already in operation and 15 will be completed each month. Each will be filled with young men or women anxious to learn and work, and to give themselves a new and often unexpected opportunity for a productive life.

We will, this year, provide a school readiness program for 100,000 children about to enter kindergarten. This will help them overcome the handicaps of experience and feeling which flow from poverty and permit them to receive the full advantages of school experience.

By July, 3,500 VISTA Volunteers, aged 18-82, will be working to help their fellow Americans in communities across the country.

25,000 families, eligible for public assistance, are now enrolled in a work-experience program which provides jobs and skills for [p.200] the family breadwinners, giving them a new prospect of emerging from a poverty which often reaches back through three generations.

We have established procedures, processed applications, and begun to make loans to thousands of struggling rural families and to small businesses.

In 49 cities and 11 rural communities, Neighborhood Youth Corps have been established. In these Corps, young men and women, between 16-21 can work to keep themselves in school, to return if they have dropped out, or to prepare for permanent jobs.

35,000 college level students can now continue their education through the income provided by part-time jobs. And 35,000 adults will be taught to read and write this year.

THE RISE OF NATIONAL CONCERN

All of these programs—the accomplishments of the first year and the hopes of the future—depend upon the concern and initiative of local communities. It is now clear that the war against poverty has touched the hearts and the sense of duty of the American people. This cause has truly become their cause.

Community action organizations, planning and organizing the local effort to end poverty, have sprung up in communities in every part of the country. Over 5,000 prominent citizens are serving, without pay, on such organizations. National groups, such as the American Bar Association, have pledged their special resources to the plight of the poor. And 75 national organizations have banded together in a Citizens Crusade Against Poverty to begin specific projects.

And the response of the American nation is growing each day. New community action proposals from local groups are coming in at a rate of 130 a month. We have already received 750 applications.

Applications for the Job Corps are arriving at a rate of nearly 6000 a day.

8,000 men and women have volunteered to serve their fellow citizens in the VISTA program.

We estimate that at least 90,000 adults will be ready to enroll in adult basic education programs during the coming year.

And the same steady rise of interest and hope can be seen in every part of our program. We cannot afford, in conscience or in the national interest, to disappoint these hopes or to waste the valuable resources of human skill and energy which we are now beginning to tap.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Therefore I am requesting the Congress to authorize the continuation of these programs for the next two years, and to authorize and appropriate 1.5 billion dollars to conduct them during the fiscal year.

I am also asking Congress to extend for ten months, to June 30, 1967, the period during which certain programs may be funded with 90 percent federal assistance. If we do not do this, then many communities, especially those in rural or isolated areas and which lack the resources to get underway quickly, will be unable to qualify before the cutoff date.

In addition I recommend transfer of the work-study program to the Office of Education in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, as well as a series of technical amendments.

Last year Congress and my administration took a step unparalleled in the history of any nation. We pledged ourselves to the elimination of poverty in America. That was [p.201] our commitment to the people we serve, and it reflected not only our own intentions but the will of the American people. We knew, and said then, that this battle would not be easily or swiftly won. But we began. Today we can take together another step along the path to the fulfillment of the American dream for all our citizens. Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

NOTE: This is the text of identical letters addressed to the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, President of the Senate, and to the Honorable John W. McCormack, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

For congressional actions in response to the President's recommendations see Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1965 (Public Law 89-253, 79 Stat. 973) and Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1966 (Public Law 89-309, 79 Stat. 1133).

On March 8 the White House made public the following release entitled "Presidential Report to the Nation on Poverty":

More than 3,400 communities have said that they want to set up Project **Head Start** classes to prepare the children of poverty for school this fall, President Johnson announced today. These requests have been received since the project was launched on February 19, 1965.

The President ordered Sargent Shriver, director of the War on Poverty, to set aside \$50 million for the summer effort, three times the amount originally planned.

The President has budgeted \$150 million for fiscal 1966 to put **Head Start** on a year-round basis.

Project **Head Start** is an eight-week, nationwide, crash program to prepare children whose development has been slowed by poverty to enter school on an equal footing with their more fortunate classmates.

The President said that a million deprived children would be entering school this fall, and noted that "many of them have never looked at a picture book or scribbled with a crayon. When these children enter school they are already a year behind their classmates," the President said. "The purpose of **Head Start** is to make up that year, to help them get the most out of school."

This announcement was one of the highlights in a progress report on the first five months of the War on Poverty. President Johnson signed the bill financing the federal anti-poverty program last October 7.

In a letter transmitting the report to the President, Shriver said that "your individual crusade has literally become every American's War on Poverty."

Highlights of the report. More than one thousand projects costing \$317 million have been announced since the **start** of the War on Poverty.

Community Action. Ninety percent of the communities of more than 50,000 population and hundreds of rural counties have formed community action organizations. About 1.5 million urban and rural Americans in 46 states will be helped through 192 approved federal grants totalling \$36 million.

Education services for young and old, and neighborhood service centers have been the most popular projects with local community action planners. An estimated 60,000 children in San Antonio and Bexar County, Texas, many of them offspring of migrant families, will learn to read and write along with their parents. The youngsters speak Spanish and English but cannot read or write in either language.

Job Corps. More than 140,000 young men and women 16 through 21 have volunteered for the Job Corps. By June 30, twenty to twenty-five thousand young men and women will be in training and the Corps will expand rapidly thereafter.

Of 86 centers announced, eight are in operation, and 46 others are under construction. Some 200 Job Corps enrollees are working with special crews to clean up flood damage in Oregon and northern California. Enrollees include many who had never been to a doctor or dentist, many who had rarely been more than a few miles from home, and some suffering from severe malnutrition.

VISTA. About 9,000 Americans, more than half of them between the ages of 18 and 30, have volunteered for VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), the domestic Peace Corps. Volunteers are already at work, living and working with the poor in 11 urban and 22 rural projects. VISTA expects to have more than 2,000 volunteers in training or working in 218 projects in 40 states. Volunteers now are working among the mountain people of eastern Kentucky, with migrant farm workers in Gridley, California, and with dislocated poverty residents in Hartford, Connecticut.

Neighborhood Youth Corps. Some 15,000 young men and women, 16 through 21, have been enrolled in 40 Neighborhood Youth Corps projects. They receive training and work in full- or part-time jobs that enable them to stay in school, return to school, or improve their chances of getting a job. In all, 113 projects which have been approved will provide work training for 69,000 urban and 7,000 rural young people.

Work study. Forty-three thousand students from needy families are attending classes in over 600 colleges with the help of part-time jobs under the college Work-Study program.

Project **Head Start**. Project **Head Start** medical [p.202] screening is expected to reveal, among every 100,000 children: 500 cases of tuberculosis, 12,000 children with at least partial blindness and 45,000 others with other eye difficulties requiring professional care, 30,000 partially-deaf children who would fail in school without care, 5,000 cases of nutritional anemia, and 6,000 mentally-retarded tots who can be given special education.

Rural family loans. More than 1,600 low-income rural families in 42 states and Puerto Rico have received loans averaging \$1,850 to improve their incomes under the Economic Opportunity Act. The loans total nearly \$3 million.

Work experience. About 32,000 unemployed parents of more than 100,000 children, most of them in families on relief, are working in Work-Experience projects that will develop their ability to hold regular jobs. Thirty-six Work-Experience projects in 23 states and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are being financed by \$30.5 million in federal antipoverty funds.

Gratifying support from private sector. Thousands of community leaders from all walks of life are serving in local community action programs, Job Corps community councils in towns near Job Corps centers, Project **Head Start** committees, recruiting efforts for women's Job Corps centers and VISTA, and in other projects. Thirty-two American business firms have submitted proposals to operate Job Corps urban centers. Spirited competition has resulted in extremely high quality contracts at low cost. Shriver said that the tremendous response to various volunteers and other War on Poverty programs was due in no small part to the donated time and effort of American communications media.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.199-202

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Remarks on Project Head Start.

May 18, 1965

Mr. Shriver, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests:

On this beautiful spring day it is good to be outside in the Rose Garden. Of course, the White House is a place where when you go outside you are still inside.

In that same vein, I would note that the Rose Garden is a garden without roses today, and the Fish Room is now a room without fish. But there is one compensation—open nearly any door here in the West Wing and you are liable to run into Sargent Shriver, and sometimes you will find him in more than one room at the same time.

This is a very proud occasion for him and for us today, because it was less than 3 months ago that we opened a new war front on poverty. We set out to make certain that poverty's children would not be forevermore poverty's captives. We called our program Project **Head Start**.

The program was conceived not so much as a Federal effort but really as a neighborhood effort, and the response we have received from the neighborhoods and the communities has been most stirring and the most enthusiastic of any peacetime program that I can remember.

Today we are able to announce that we will have open, and we believe operating this summer, coast-to-coast, some 2,000 child development centers serving as many as possibly a half million children.

This means that nearly half the preschool children of poverty will get a **head start** on their future. These children will receive preschool training to prepare them for regular school in September. They will get medical and dental attention that they badly need, and parents will receive counseling on improving the home environment.

This is a most remarkable accomplishment and it has been done in a very short time. It would not be possible except for the willing and the enthusiastic cooperation of Americans throughout the country.

I believe this response reflects a realistic and a wholesome awakening in America. It shows that we are recognizing that poverty perpetuates itself.

Five and six year old children are inheritors of poverty's curse and not its creators. Unless we act these children will pass it on to the next generation, like a family birthmark.

4~ This program this year means that 30 million man-years—the combined life span of ~~these~~ youngsters—will be spent productively and rewardingly, rather than wasted in tax-supported institutions or in welfare-supported lethargy.

I believe that this is one of the most constructive, and one of the most sensible, and also one of the most exciting programs that this Nation has ever undertaken. I don't say that just because the most ardent and most active and most enthusiastic supporter of this program happens to be the honorary national chairman, Mrs. Johnson.

We have taken up the age-old challenge of poverty and we don't intend to lose generations of our children to this enemy of the human race.

This program, like so many others, will succeed in proportion as it is supported by voluntary assistance and understanding from all of our people. So we are going to need a million good neighbors—volunteers—who will give their time for a few hours each week caring for these children, helping in a hundred ways to draw out their potentials. We need housewives and coeds. We [p.557] need teachers and doctors. We need men and women of all walks and all interests to lend their talents, their warmth, their hands, and their hearts.

The bread that is cast upon these waters will surely return many thousandfold.

What a sense of achievement, and what great pride, and how happy that will make all of us who love America feel about this undertaking.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:20 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his opening words he referred to Sargent Shriver, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

On the same day the White House made the following announcement:

"President Johnson announced today that 2,500 **Head Start** projects which will reach about 530,000 children of the poor this summer in 11,000 Child Development Centers will be operated as part of the War on Poverty in every state in the Union. The program will cost \$112 million.

"The President made public the first 1,676 projects approved. They involve 9,508 centers at which 375,842 children will be given special training at a total cost of \$65,686,741. The remainder will be announced within two weeks.

"The centers will provide pre-school training to prepare youngsters to enter regular school in the Fall.

"President Johnson said the program will 'rescue these children from the poverty which otherwise could pursue them all their lives. The project is designed to put them on an even footing with their classmates as they enter school.'

"The Project will use the services of 41,000 professionals, including teachers, doctors, dentists, nurses, etc. More than 47,000 poor will be employed. As many as 500,000 part-time volunteers will be needed. Local contributions will be \$16 million.

"President Johnson emphasized that the program—administered by Sargent Shriver, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity—is aimed to achieve the following:

"—Include one-half of all the children of the poor reaching school age this Fall.

"—Strike at the basic cause of poverty.

"—Assist the parents as well as the children.

"—Assist children to face life.

"—Treat known defects among the half million children, including 100,000 with eye difficulties; 50,000 with partial deafness; 30,000 with nutritional deficiencies; 75,000 with no immunizations.

"The President noted that the response of the communities to the invitation to submit proposals was so great the size of the program had been multiplied. At the outset, local projects involving \$17 million and 100,000 children were anticipated.

"Forty-nine percent of all applications are from rural areas. In West Virginia every county will be represented in the program. Of the 300 counties in the Nation having the largest number of poor families, 261 will operate projects under the program.

"The President congratulated the many thousands of civic leaders, businessmen, educators, housewives, labor leaders, welfare workers, minority group leaders and representatives of the poor who together developed the local projects to meet the high standards imposed by national planning groups."

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.556-557

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The President's Statement to the Cabinet on Project **Head Start**. *June 19, 1965*

THIS SUMMER more than 500,000 children from low-income families will be enrolled in Project **Head Start** Child Development Centers throughout the United States. More than 2,000 communities will join in giving these children a better chance to succeed when they **start** to school next fall. Tens of thousands of Americans are giving unselfishly of their time and skills to this nationwide war on poverty. Their dedication is the best proof we have that this war will be won.

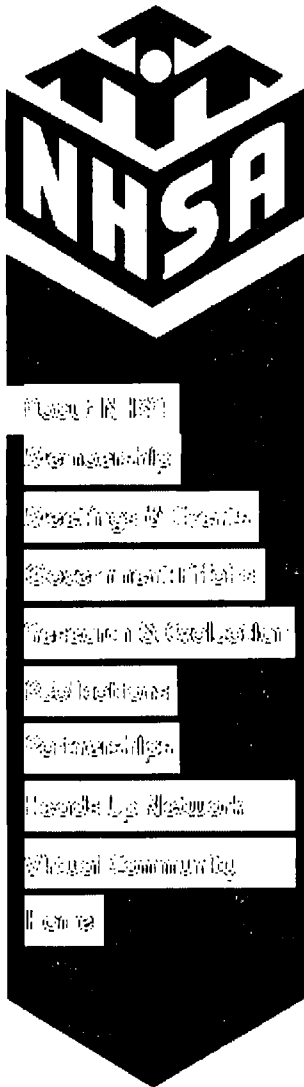
Mrs. Johnson is Honorary Chairman of Project **Head Start**. On June 30, Sargent Shriver, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, will present her with the insignia of **Head Start**. On that day, in all the communities with a **Head Start** project, the local officials will raise a similar flag. It will serve as a symbol of hope to the thousands of families whose children will take part in **Head Start**.

~~Mrs. Johnson and I are proud of the Nation's response to **Head Start**. I want to call on all Americans to join with us in declaring Wednesday, June 30, **Head Start Day**, and to give wholehearted support to this vital undertaking.~~

~~NOTE: On June 30, 1965, in a ceremony held in the East Room at the White House, Mr. Shriver presented the first **Head Start** flag to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson. The red, white, and blue banner, with a design of building blocks, had an arrow pointing upward to represent the uplifting of spirits.~~

~~Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), p.689~~

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About NHSA

The National Head Start Association
A Brief History of the NHSA
NHSA Staff Information

National Head Start Association

The National Head Start Association (**NHSA**) is a private not-for-profit membership organization representing the 835,000 children, upwards of 170,000 staff and 2,051 Head Start programs in America. It is governed by a 49-member Board of Directors composed of a director, staff, parent and friend representative from each of the 12 federal regions and the immediate past president. **NHSA** provides a national forum for the continued enhancement of Head Start services for poor children ages zero to five, and their families. It is the only national organization dedicated exclusively to the concerns of the Head Start community.

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A Brief History of the National Head Start Association

Mirroring the history of the Head Start program itself, the National Head Start Association (**NHSA**) was formed quickly and on a tremendous scale. Like the federal program, the association rapidly became a national success, uniting the members of the Head Start community into a strong voice of Head Start advocacy.

The idea

The idea for a Head Start association was born in 1973 in Kansas City, Missouri, at a national conference for directors of community action agencies. A handful of Head Start program directors attending the conference discussed the need for a private, national association that could advocate specifically for the Head Start community in Congress. They were concerned by the Nixon administration's threat to eliminate community action agencies, which sponsored the majority of Head Start programs.

Head Start directors unite

During the remainder of 1973, the core group of directors from Kansas City met several times with other Head Start directors from across the country. Pooling their broad resources, they formed the National Directors Association-the forerunner of **NHSA**. In addition to protecting Head Start's funding, the association aimed to strengthen the quality of Head Start. All Head Start directors were urged to join the National Directors Association and to attend its first annual meeting from May 31 to June 3, 1974, in Chicago, Illinois.

Head Start parents expand the mission

The meeting in Chicago was a striking success. Drawing strength from their collective experiences, the directors organized advocacy efforts and planned for ways to increase the scope of the association. Most significantly, they passed a resolution to invite Head Start parents to form an affiliate association.

At the request of the National Directors Association, Head Start parent delegates from each state met in Washington, D.C., in September 1974 to begin forming the parent affiliate of the Head Start association, called the Head Start Parents Association. The delegates met again in January 1975 in Los Angeles, California, to draft their bylaws and elect temporary officers to serve until the second annual meeting, which was held in Kansas City, Missouri, in May 1975.

All staff members invited to join

At the January 1975 organizational meeting in Los Angeles, the parents passed a motion to invite Head Start non-director staff members to the second annual conference. It was their feeling that all Head Start staff members were critical to the association's long-term success. Non-director staff members formed the third affiliate association, the Head Start Staff Association. By the time the second annual meeting was held in Kansas City, the three associations as a group were named the National Head Start Association.

Friends of Head Start join the effort

At the second annual conference, a number of the attendees did not fit into any of the three affiliate associations already organized. These "friends" of Head Start organized themselves into the final affiliate association of National Head Start Association, presenting their bylaws and charter at the second annual conference.

The associations merge

The members of the **NHSA's** four affiliate associations voted to merge into one association on June 7, 1990. In the new structure, Head Start directors, parents, staff members, and friends were all members of one association, distinguished

only by a different class designation. Although this essentially reflected the way **NHSA** had been organized before the merger, the new structure simplified the association's structure, unified its members, and helped clarify its mission of bringing together all members of the Head Start community.

An evolving mission

Over the past 25 years, **NHSA's** mission has changed from simply defending Head Start in Congress to actively expanding and improving the program. Membership types have been created for Head Start agencies, Head Start state and regional associations, and both commercial and nonprofit organizations. From planning massive annual training conferences to publishing a vast array of publications, the National Head Start Association continually strives to improve the quality of Head Start's comprehensive services for America's children and families.

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\$7.1
~~16.1~~

GOAL:

1 mil CHILDREN

NEARLY DOUBLED FEDERAL RESOURCES
NATIONS MOST IMPT

MENTION EARLY HEAD START

EDUCATION QUOTES

- “Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource.” John F. Kennedy
- “If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest,” Benjamin Franklin
- “Learned Institutions ought to be favorite objects with every free people. They throw that light over the public mind which is the best security against crafty & dangerous encroachments on the public liberty,” James Madison
- “Enlighten the people generally, and tyranny and oppressions of body and mind will vanish like evil spirits at the dawn of day,” Thomas Jefferson
- “Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation,” John F. Kennedy
- “Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in. That everyone may receive at least a moderate education appears to be an objective of vital importance,” Abraham Lincoln
- “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime,” Chinese Proverb
- “Only the educated are free,” Epictetus
- “Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army,” Edward Everett
- “The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living from the dead,” Aristotle
- “He who opens a school door, closes a prison,” Victor Hugo
- “Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire,” W. B. Yeats
- “The benefits of education and of useful knowledge, generally diffused through a community, are essential to the preservation of a free government,” Sam Houston
- “I have never let my schooling interfere with my education,” Mark Twain
- “Education, then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men,—the balance-wheel of the social machinery,” Horace Mann

- “Upon the education of the people of this country the fate of this country depends,” Disraeli
- “Education is a social process ... Education is growth.... Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself,” John Dewey
- “To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society,” Theodore Roosevelt
- “Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one,” Malcolm S. Forbes
- “Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained,” James A. Garfield, July 12, 1880.
- “The great aim of education is not knowledge but action,” Herbert Spencer
- “If you think education is expensive, Try Ignorance!!!” Andy McIntyre.
- “Education alone can conduct us to that enjoyment which is, at once, best in quality and infinite in quantity,” Horace Mann
- “The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives,” Robert M. Hutchins.
- “Jails and prisons are the complement of schools; so many less as you have of the latter, so many more must you have of the former,” Horace Mann

The Public Papers of the Presidents, John F. Kennedy 1963, Pg. 337, Item 136, April 20

"It is not learning," said President Wilson, "but the spirit of service that will give a college place in the public annals of the Nation." "It is indispensable," he said, "if it is to do its right service, that the air of affairs should be admitted to all its classrooms... the air of the world's transactions, the consciousness of the solidarity of the race, the sense of the duty of man toward man . . . the promise and the hope that shine in the face of all knowledge The days of glad expansion are gone, our life grows tense and difficult; our resource for the future lies in careful thought, providence, and a wise economy; and the school must be of the Nation."

EDUC

Education

The Public Papers of the Presidents, Harry S. Truman 1950, Pg. 386, Item 127, May 12

Money spent for education is a valuable investment in the future of this country. We should move forward and secure a brighter future for the generations in the coming years that will guide the Nation. There is nothing that could be more important to our country's welfare.

QwR

The Presidential Papers of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1938, Item 124 Message for American Education Week. September 27

Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education. It has been well said that no system of government gives so much to the individual or exacts so much as a democracy. Upon our educational system must largely depend the perpetuity of those institutions upon which our freedom and our security rest. To prepare each citizen to choose wisely and to enable him to choose freely are paramount functions of the schools in a democracy.

QwR → SW
FDR on education

Ann O'Leary
04/21/2000 07:04:27 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP, Mara A. Silver/WHO/EOP@EOP

CC:

Subject: Head Start

Here is the FY '01 budget paragraph and below is background. Call with questions -- 6-6275.
Thanks!

Proposing the Largest Head Start Expansion in History. The President's budget boosts funding for Head Start by \$1 billion – the largest funding increase ever proposed for the program -- to provide Head Start and Early Head Start slots to approximately 950,000 children, nearing the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002. Head Start is our nation's premier early childhood development program preparing low-income children for a lifetime of learning and development by providing early, continuous and comprehensive child development and family support services. Early Head Start, created by the Clinton-Gore Administration in 1994, brings Head Start's successful comprehensive services to families with children ages zero to three and to pregnant women, and works to enhance children's overall development and enable parents to be better caregivers of and teachers to their children. Since 1993, this Administration has already boosted funding for Head Start by 90 percent.

Head Start Background Info

Head Start is a national program providing comprehensive developmental services to low-income preschool children and their families. To help children achieve their full potential, Head Start provides comprehensive health, nutritional, educational, social and other services. Operating within a set of federal performance standards, Head Start programs are locally designed and provide services through a variety of program options, such as center-based and home-based services, adapted to the needs of the children and families enrolled in the program. Begun in 1965 as part of the War on Poverty, Head Start has served almost 18 million children over the past 34 years.

Operating with a \$4.66 billion budget in FY 1999, Head Start will fund services for a projected 835,000 pre-school children from families with incomes below the poverty line. Special efforts are made to serve children with disabilities and each local program must reserve ten percent of its enrollment for such children.

In recognition of the mounting evidence of the importance of the earliest years of life to children's later development, the Early Head Start program was created in 1995. It provided

child development and family support services to 35,000 pregnant woman, infants and toddlers in FY 1998 and will expand to reach nearly 39,000 enrollees in FY 1999.

Head Start grants are awarded directly to local private and government agencies by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the Department of Health and Human Services. In FY 1998, 1513 local grantees plus approximately 600 sub-grantees provided services in almost 16,000 communities throughout the country. Because Head Start services are designed and operated at the local level with parent participation, efforts to support diversity have been an integral part of Head Start since it was created.

The same grantees continue to receive funds from year to year, provided they maintain high quality services that conform to Head Start Performance Standards. Local programs receive a comprehensive federal review at least once every three years. The Administration's recent efforts to assure that all grantees are providing high quality services has resulted in 100 grants being terminated or relinquished since 1993 and new sponsors chosen through a competitive process.

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33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 531

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Public Papers of the Presidents

April 17, 1997

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 531**LENGTH:** 2397 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the Opening of the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning**BODY:**

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, and welcome to the White House. I was relieved to hear Hillary say that the brain is the last organ to fully develop. It may yet not be too late for me to learn how to walk down steps. [Laughter] Or maybe I was thinking it was because I was always hugged when I fell down as a child, I did this subconsciously on purpose. [Laughter]

Let me begin by thanking the members of the Cabinet who are here. I see Secretary Riley and Secretary Glickman. I thank Governor Romer and Governor Chiles for being here. I think Governor Miller is coming. There are many others who are here. Congresswoman DeLauro is either here or coming. Thank you, Governor Miller. I see I was looking to the left there. [Laughter] He's from Nevada -- he just went up five points in the polls when I said that. [Laughter]

Let me say, first of all, the first time I met Hillary, she was not only a law student, she was working with the Yale Child Study Center, and she began my education in these issues. And for that, I am profoundly grateful. And I thank her for bringing the scientists, the doctors, the sociologists, the others whose work is the basis for our discussion today here. And I, too, want to thank the thousands of others who are joining us by satellite.

This unique conference is a part of our constant effort to give our children the opportunity to make the most of their God-given potential and to help their parents lead the way and to remind everyone in America that this must always be part of the public's business because we all have a common interest in our children's future.

We have begun the job here over the last 4 years by making education our top domestic priority, by passing the family leave act and now trying to expand it and enact a form of flex time which will give parents more options in how they take their overtime in pay or in time with their children, by the work we have done to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act and by the work we've tried to do to give parents more tools with the V-chip and the television rating system and the work we are still carrying on to try to stop the advertising and marketing and distribution of tobacco to our children and other work we've done in juvenile justice and trying to keep our kids away from the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

All these are designed to help our parents succeed in doing their most important job. Now it seems to me maybe the most important thing we can actually do is to share with every parent in America the absolutely stunning things we are learning from new scientific research about how very young



children learn and develop. In that regard, I'd like to thank Rob Reiner and others who are committed to distributing this information, and I'd like to thank the media here in our Nation's Capital and throughout the country for the genuine interest that they have shown in this conference.

I think there is an instinctive understanding here that this is a very, very big issue that embraces all of us as Americans and that if we learn our lessons well and if we're patient in carrying them out, as Hillary said, knowing that there is no perfect way to raise a child, we are likely to have a very positive and profound impact on future generations in this country. So I want to thank, again, all of you for that.

Let me say there are some public programs that bear directly on early childhood development: the **Head Start** program, which we've expanded by 43 percent over the last 4 years; the WIC program, which we've expanded by nearly 2 million participants. I have to say that I was a little disappointed -- or a lot disappointed to see a congressional committee yesterday vote to underfund the WIC program. I hope that if nothing else happens out of this conference, the results of the conference will reach the members of that congressional committee and we can reverse that before the budget finally comes to my desk.

I would also like to remind all of you that this conference is literally just a start. We have to look at the practical implications of this research for parents, for caregivers, for policymakers, but we also know that we're looking at years and years of work in order to make the findings of this conference real and positive in the lives of all of our children. But this is a very exciting and enormous undertaking.

This research has opened a new frontier. Great exploration is, of course, not new to this country. We have gone across the land, we have gone across the globe, we have gone into the skies, and now we are going deep into ourselves and into our children. In some ways, this may be the most exciting and important exploration of all.

I'm proud of the role that federally funded research has played in these findings in discovering that the earliest years of life are critical for developing intellectual, emotional, and social potential. We all know that every child needs proper nutrition and access to health care, a safe home, and an environment, and we know every child needs teaching and touching, reading and playing, singing and talking.

It is true that Chelsea is about to go off to college, but Hillary and I have been blessed by having two young nephews now -- one is about 2, and one is about 3 -- and we're learning things all over again that, I must say, corroborate what the scientists are telling us.

We are going to continue to work on this, and I know that you will help us, too. Let me just mention two or three things that we want to work on that we think are important. We've got to do a lot more to improve the quality, the availability, and the affordability of child care. Many experts consider our military's child care system to be the best in our country. I'm very proud of that, and not surprised.

The man responsible for administering the Navy's child care system, Rear Admiral Larry Marsh, is here with us today. He leads a system that has high standards, including a high percentage of accredited centers; a strong enforcement system with unannounced inspections; parents have a toll-free number to call and report whatever concerns they may have; training is mandatory; and wages and benefits are good, so, staff tends to stay on.

I am proud that the military places such importance on helping the families of the men and women who serve our country in uniform. But it's really rather elementary to know that they're going to do a lot better on the ships, in the skies, in faraway lands if they're not worried about how their children are faring while they're at work serving America.

To extend that kind of quality beyond the military, I am issuing today an executive memorandum asking the Department of Defense to share its success. I want the military to partner with civilian child care centers to help them improve quality, to help them become accredited, to provide training

to civilian child care providers, to share information on how to operate successfully, and to work with State and local governments to give on-the-job training and child care to people moving from welfare to work.

I think this is especially important. Let me say in the welfare reform bill, we put another \$ 4 billion in for child care. In addition to that, because the States are getting money for welfare reform based on the peak case load in welfare in 1994, and we've reduced the welfare rolls by 2.8 million since then, most States, for a period of time until an extra session comes along, will have some extra funds that they can put into more child care. This gives States the opportunity they have never had before to train more child care workers, to use funds to help even more people move from welfare to work, and perhaps even to provide more discounts to low-income workers to make child care affordable for them.

This welfare reform effort, if focused on child care, can train lots of people on welfare to be accredited child care workers and expand the availability of welfare in most of the States of the country. It's not true for every State, because some of them have had smaller drops in the caseload and three have had no drops. But by and large, the welfare reform bill, because of the way it's structured, gives all of you who care about child care about a year or two to make strenuous efforts, State by State, to create a more comprehensive quality system of child care than we have ever had before. And I certainly hope that what we can do here, plus the support of the military, we'll see dramatic advances in that regard.

I'd like to thank the people here who have done that work. And I'd like to say that we are going to hold a second conference; this one devoted exclusively to the child care issue here at the White House in Washington this fall. And I hope all of you who care about that will come back.

The second thing we want to do is to extend health care coverage to uncovered children. The budget I have submitted will extend coverage to as many as 5 million children by the year 2000 with the children's health initiative in the budget proposal, to strengthen Medicaid for poor children and children with disabilities, to provide coverage for working families through innovative State programs, to continue health care coverage for children of workers who are between jobs. There is an enormous amount of interest in this issue in both parties, I'm happy to say, in the Congress in this session. And I am quite confident that if we'll all work together, we can get an impressive expansion in health care coverage for children in this congressional session.

I'm pleased that Dr. Jordan Cohen, the president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges, is with us today to lend his association's strong support to these efforts. With the support of leaders in medicine, again I say, I am convinced we'll have a bipartisan consensus that will extend coverage to millions more uninsured children.

The third thing we want to do is this. ~~Because we know the great importance of early education, we're going to expand Early Head Start enrollment by at least one-third next year. Early Head Start was created in 1994. It's been a great success in bringing the nutritional, educational, and other services of Head Start to children aged 3 and younger and to pregnant women. It has been a real success, and we need to expand it.~~

Today we are requesting new applications for Early **Head Start** programs to accomplish the expansion. And to help parents to teach the very young, we developed a toolkit called, "Ready, Set, Read," part of our America Reads challenge, designed to make sure that every child can read independently by the third grade. This kit gives tips on activities for young children. It's going out to early childhood programs all across the country along with a hotline number for anyone else who wants the kit.

The fourth thing we're going to do is to protect the safety of our children more. In particular, we have to help young children more who are exposed to abuse and violence.

Let me tell you, as you might imagine, I get letters all the time from very young children. And my staff provides a significant number of them for me to read. The Secretary of Education not very long

ago gave me a set of letters from children who were quite young -- a couple of years ago gave me a set of letters from children who were in the third grade. But sometimes I get them from kindergarten children and first grade children, talking about what they want America to look like. And it is appalling the number of letters I get from 5- and 6-year-olds who simply want me to make their lives safe, who don't want to worry about being shot, who don't want any more violence in their homes, who want their schools and the streets they walk on to be free of terror.

So today the Department of Justice is establishing a new initiative called Safe Start, based on efforts in New Haven, Connecticut, which you will hear about this afternoon. The program will train police officers, prosecutors, probation, and parole officers in child development so that they'll actually be equipped to handle situations involving young children. And I believe if we can put this initiative into effect all across America, it will make our children safer. And I'm glad we're announcing it today during Victims of Crime Week.

We all know that it's going to take a partnership across America to help our children reach their full potential. But the toughest job will always belong to our parents, first teachers, main nurturers. Being a parent is a joy and a challenge. But it's not a job you can walk away from, take a vacation from, or even apply for family leave from. *[Laughter]* The world moves too fast, and today, parents have more worries than ever. Work does compete with family demands, and finding a balance is more difficult than before. That's why this must always be part of the public's business.

Let me come now to the bottom line. The more we focus on early years, the more important they become. We know that these investments of time and money will yield us the highest return in healthier children, stronger families, and better communities.

Now, let me say, finally, I know that none of us who are in politics, none of us who are just parents, will ever know as much as the experts we're about to hear from today. But what they're going to tell us is the most encouraging thing of all, which is, they have found out that we can all do the job. No matter how young, a child does understand a gentle touch or a smile or a loving voice. Babies understand more than we have understood about them. Now we can begin to close the gap and to make sure that all children in this country do have that chance to live up to the fullest of their God-given potential.

Again, I thank you all for being here. I thank our experts. I thank the First Lady. And I'd like to ask Dr. David Hamburg to come up and sit there and take over the program.

David?

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado; Gov. Lawton Chiles of Florida; Gov. Bob Miller of Nevada; Rob Reiner, founder, I Am Your Child campaign; and David A. Hamburg, president, Carnegie Corporation of New York.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Date/Time: Monday, April 17, 2000 - 3:58 PM EDT

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**Comments for
President William J. Clinton
NHSA 27th Annual Training Conference
Opening Night - April 26, 2000**

on May 10-11
JSCW

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To the National Head Start Association's president, Ron Herndon, CEO, Sarah Greene, board members, directors, teachers, staff, parents, families, and friends. While I regret that I am unable to be with you today, I am thrilled to have this opportunity to share with the National Head Start Association the celebration of this marvelous milestone in the life of the nation's premiere program for children and families. Happy 35th Birthday Head Start!

In the nearly seven and one-half years since being sworn in as President, I can think of no greater achievement in my administration than the doubling of federal resources available to Head Start. I thank each of you for your help in making that happen and in the work that you do every day.

I have learned a great deal as President.

I've learned what government can do to stimulate the courage in individuals fighting against the odds to take charge of their lives.

I've learned what the American community can do, pulling together to deal with crises or sharing in the bounty of this nation's wealth.

And I've learned what Head Start can do - giving a child the tools she will need to start school, giving a parent the power to be his child's first (and best) teacher, and connecting communities around a single purpose: our children and our future.

To be honest, I credit Hillary with really turning me on to the power of Head Start. For it was her work of many years with you and your colleagues which has made Head Start the quality program it is today.

Don't get me wrong. We've got many challenges ahead to face together.

I share your goal of broadening Head Start into a seamless program where grantees can universally provide services to families with children from birth through school age.

And I share your goal for providing the funds to not only attract but retain the quality teachers and staff needed in Head Start - particularly where that means paying a livable wage to the trained professional who work in classrooms and homes every day.

There is no finer tribute to what can be achieved by a nation working together than the more than 17 million children and their families whose lives have been touched by Head Start over the past 35 years.

Each Head Start graduate is the program's success story. Each one of you deserves a round of applause. [Applause]

Thank you for allowing me to join with you in celebrating Head Start's 35th birthday. I look forward to continued successes for many years to come. Thank you and God Bless you.

By the way, if you need a hand in a classroom or two come next January, I'll make sure to leave a forwarding address!

on this 35th birthday

SCHEDULING PROPOSAL

00 MAR 17 TODAY'S DATE: 3/17/00

☒ ACCEPT

☐ REGRET

☐ PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President
Director of Presidential Scheduling

FROM: Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and
Director of the Domestic Policy Council

REQUEST: Video Message for National Head Start Association

PURPOSE: To celebrate the 35th birthday of Project Head Start and
open the 27th Annual Training Conference of the National
Head Start Association

BACKGROUND: The National Head Start Association is a private, non-profit
membership organization representing the 835,000
children, over 170,000 staff, and 2,051 Head Start
programs in America. NHSA provides a national forum for
the continued enhancement of Head Start services for poor
children, ages zero to five, and their families. It is the only
national organization dedicated exclusively to the concerns
of the Head Start community.

The President and First Lady have been invited to host the
opening ceremony of the 35th Birthday Celebration of
Project Head Start during the 27th Annual Training
Conference of NHSA, which is taking place in Washington,
D.C. April 26-30, 2000. Over 10,000 administrators,
parents, teachers, federal employees, and staff nationwide
will be in attendance at the conference.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: N/A

DATE AND TIME: April 26, 2000

BRIEFING TIME: 2 minutes

DURATION: 2 minutes

LOCATION: Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC

PARTICIPANTS: Over 10,000 administrators, parents, teachers, federal employees, and NHSA staff nationwide.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Draft script attached.

MEDIA COVERAGE: TBD

RECOMMENDED BY: Bruce Reed

CONTACT: Karin Kullman
X61732

ORIGIN OF THE PROPOSAL: National Head Start Association
(See attached letter)

SOURCE OF PAYMENT: National Head Start Association



On Our Block

National Head Start Association Government Affairs Division

March 29, 2000

Pending Issues

Budget

Appropriations - FY 2000 Supplemental

EITC/Marriage Penalty Relief

ESEA Title I Reauthorization

Minimum Wage

Budget Matters

The House passed its version of the FY 2001 budget resolution (containing broad spending and revenue guidelines for the coming fiscal year) in the early morning hours of March 24 on a largely party-line vote of 211-207. The final package was very similar to one passed by the House Budget Committee on March 15 by a vote of 23-18.

Keep in mind, the budget resolution does not get signed by the President. It is a congressional blueprint for broad spending and revenue plans for the coming fiscal year, in this case FY 2001 running from October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001. From the resolution, the appropriations committees are given overall spending limits which they then divide among the 13 appropriations subcommittees which have jurisdiction over funding of particular federal programs. For example, Head Start is funded under the jurisdiction of the Labor/Health and Human Services/Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

In the House-passed budget resolution, total discretionary (non-entitlement) spending was set at \$596.5 billion, with defense spending getting all the increases for a total of \$306.8 billion and nondefense spending being reduced to only \$289.7 billion - \$30 billion less than is included in the president's budget (which included a \$1 billion increase for Head Start). The House measure places some of the most important programs that protect children and families in danger of deep cuts in the coming years. Over five years, defense spending would increase by \$25 billion above inflation while non-defense spending would be cut by \$135 billion from current services adjusted for inflation.

The Office of Management and Budget estimates that if the final budget resolution retains these

numbers and increases funding for education, Section 8 housing renewals, NIH funding, and critical programs for children and families could be cut as much as 10 percent. Since children are not protected under the budget resolution, the following bipartisan investments could be slashed:

PROGRAM	FY2000 Funding	10% Cut = budget of...
Head Start	\$5.267 billion	\$4.740 billion
WIC	\$4.03 billion	\$3.627 billion
Social Services Block Grant	\$1.77 billion	\$1.593 billion
Child Care (CCDBG)	\$1.18 billion	\$1.062 billion
LIHEAP	\$1.1 billion	\$990 million
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$528 million	\$475 million

The next step is passage in the Senate, where the Senate Budget Committee will mark up the resolution on Wednesday, March 29. While Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici’s (R-NM) plan proposes to increase Head Start funding, other domestic spending will be cut.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicts an "on budget" surplus of \$69 billion in FY2001 and nearly \$2 trillion over the next decade. At the same time, 13.5 million children live in poverty (70 percent of whom live in working families); Head Start serves only half of all eligible children; nearly 12 million children lack health insurance; and only 10 percent of eligible children receive child care assistance. If we can't protect and invest in children now, when will the time be right to invest in our nation's children?

Instead of protecting children and working families, the budget resolution protects and invests in defense spending and tax cuts that would primarily benefit the wealthiest and most secure Americans. We believe that a portion of the surplus should be dedicated to investments in children, specifically in helping to move families with children out of poverty.

ACTION NEEDED:

Members of the Head Start community should contact their Members of Congress by phone, personal letter, and/or email, to secure their support for increased Head Start funding in fiscal year 2001 in an amount no less than the \$1 billion increase proposed by the President, as well as delivering the message that "protecting children is not a partisan issue. Do not unfairly deny services to low income children and families at a time when the economy is strong and the Federal budget is in balance."

WHEN YOU CALL: Call your Members' offices at 202/224-3121 (This is the Capitol Switchboard number that can connect you to your Senators and Representative's offices.) Request to speak to the staffer who handles children's funding issues.

Appropriations - FY 2000 Supplemental

On March 9, the House Appropriations Committee passed a \$9 billion emergency supplemental spending package (H.R. 3908) for the current fiscal year (FY 2000) containing \$600 million in new

contingency funds for the Low Income Heating and Emergency Assistance Program (LIHEAP). It is expected to reach the House floor on Wednesday, March 29. The Senate has not yet acted on companion legislation.

EITC/Marriage Penalty Relief

The House passed marriage penalty relief legislation (H.R. 6) containing proposed changes to the EITC on February 10 by a vote of 268-158. The bill is being threatened with a veto by the Clinton administration and is awaiting action in the Senate.

ESEA Title I Reauthorization

On March 9, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee approved legislation (S. 2) reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), including the Title I program, which is the primary federal education program for disadvantaged students. While the bill is opposed by Democrats as a whole, it includes bipartisan language offered by Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT) that would increase the authorized level of spending for Title I in FY 2001 to \$15 billion. The bill may see action on the Senate floor in April. Companion legislation (H.R. 2) was passed in the House on October 21, 1999, by a vote of 358-67.

Minimum Wage

By a vote of 282-143, the House passed legislation (H.R. 3846) on March 9 that would increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.15 per hour over two years. The House also passed a companion bill (H.R. 3081) by a vote of 257-169 that would provide \$46 billion in tax cuts over five years (\$122 billion over ten) for wealthy individuals and for businesses. The president has threatened to veto the House-passed bill because of provisions affecting overtime pay and pension coverage and because of the size of the attached package of tax cuts. The next steps for the bill, procedurally, are unclear. On February 2, the Senate passed bankruptcy legislation (S. 625) by a vote of 83-14 that contained a \$1 increase in the minimum wage over three years and tax breaks for businesses worth \$18.4 billion over five years. It is not yet clear, however, how the two chambers will reconcile a House minimum wage bill with what, on the Senate side, is primarily a bankruptcy bill.

Legislative Hotline

For up-to-date weekly Head Start reauthorization and appropriation legislative information, call the National Head Start Association Government Affairs Division Hotline at (703) 739-0879.

NHSA Head Start Legislative Handbook

This easy-to-read handbook discusses the complete legislative process, and how you can be involved. Topics include how a bill becomes a law, congressional committees, voter registration, advocacy techniques, and how to hold a public forum. A must for anyone trying to start a successful grassroots campaign or for veteran advocates who want to fine tune their skills. GAD 001 Member \$15, Non-member \$20. Please call 1-800-687-5044 to order.

Head Start Advocacy Kit

Learn the basic techniques of grassroots advocacy with this simple, compact guide. Straightforward and packed with tips, this guide teaches parents, staff and friends of Head Start how to voice their concerns on Capitol Hill through telephone calls, letters, visits and much, much more! The best how-to book for new advocates and organizers. GAD002, Member \$5, Non-Member \$7. Please call 1-800-687-5044 to order.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

May 18, 1994

CITE: 30, Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1112

LENGTH: 416 words

HEADLINE: Statement on Signing the Human Services Amendments of 1994

BODY:

He said let by next ->

Twenty-nine years ago today, President Lyndon Johnson announced a program of hope for our Nation's most vulnerable children and their families, a program designed to give children a true "Head Start".

I am particularly pleased that many of those who helped launch Head Start could join us today to witness the fruits of their vision and see the faces of those who entered Head Start programs in that first summer of 1965. They represent more than 13 million children and families whose lives have been touched by this great program.

It is with tremendous pride that I help turn the next page in the distinguished history of Head Start by signing S. 2000, legislation that sets forth a bold new agenda for the future of the Head Start program. Over the years, Head Start has been successful in improving the lives of low-income children and their families by providing health and social services and education. These comprehensive services have changed numerous lives and contributed to a stronger future for our Nation.

He was her 3 decades now

I am particularly pleased that this legislation, which authorizes a wide array of human services programs, is the product of extraordinary bipartisan cooperation. This effort began last June when Secretary Shalala announced the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Head Start Quality and Expansion. Its groundbreaking report set forth a blueprint for creating a 21st century Head Start and laid the foundation for the landmark legislation that we celebrate today.

This legislation seeks to re-energize the Head Start program for generations to come. Through this legislation, strong new efforts will be made to improve the quality of Head Start programs, and an important new initiative will be launched to provide Head Start services to families with children under age three. Services I will be tailored to meet the needs of today's families, and creative partnerships will be forged with other key programs at the State and local level.

Head Start reminds us that our country cannot afford to waste its young or ignore their families. We must value every child and help every parent succeed. Head Start creates the sense of community that all of us need in our lives. The dedication of thousands of volunteers, staff, and parents helps create the special relationship that defines the Head Start program. Head Start is indeed a celebration of human diversity and creativity.

It

William J. Clinton

President of the United States
Head Start Signing Remarks
South Lawn
May 18, 1994

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Twenty-nine years ago, President Lyndon Johnson appeared in the Rose Garden to announce a program of hope for our nation's children and their families.

It is fitting that so many of the leaders who helped launch Head Start could join us today to witness the fruits of their vision, to listen to a Head Start parent and a graduate of the first Head Start class of 1965, and to know that they represent more than 13 million children and their families whose lives have been touched by this historic endeavor.

Everyone here knows that Head Start is not just another government program. It doesn't have far-away bureaucrats making decisions that individuals and localities ought to make for themselves. Just the reverse: it gets parents involved and builds stronger families. It gets neighborhoods involved and builds stronger communities.

For as I've often said: government doesn't raise children, parents do. But parents can't make it on their own. They need safe neighborhoods and nurturing communities. Head Start says it loud and clear: government can help create opportunity, but only if you the parents, you the teachers, you the communities, do your part and accept responsibility for your children and for your own lives.

Head Start was important in 1965. It is even more important today. For in the past thirty years, too many families have ~~weakened~~ and too many neighborhoods have become less safe. In too many communities, violence has escalated while hope has dwindled. As a nation, we have been coming apart when we should have been pulling together.

That is why I ran for President. And that is what I am determined to attack, with all the powers of my office, with all my energy, with all the strength at my command.

With this high purposes and resolve, it is with tremendous pride that I come before you to help turn the next page in the distinguished history of Head Start.

I am particularly proud to sign into law a bill that represents one of the most successful bipartisan efforts ever, with key leaders getting together across party lines to sponsor the bill and move it through the Congress in record time.

COPY

This wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of Secretary Shalala and her Advisory Committee on Head Start Quality and Expansion. Their report drew a blueprint for the Head Start of the 21st century and laid the foundation for the landmark legislation we celebrate today.

Let me tell you what we have accomplished together in this bill.

To begin with, we have invested in reform. We have put quality first, with a new system to ensure over time that more and more Head Start centers are as good as the best. This means added responsibility and tough new performance standards. And it means added opportunity for staff to get the training they need.

~~Second, we have dramatically expanded the program.~~ Head Start will serve more children: up from 621,000 in 1992 to as many as 840,000 in 1995, and even more in the years to come. Local communities will have the option to meet the new needs of parents and children with full day and full year programs.

And because our families and society have changed so much since 1965, this bill contains new provisions to help meet the needs of families with infants and toddlers aged 0 to 3. I am particularly pleased by the broad coalition--Congress, the executive branch, and concerned groups around the country--that came together to focus attention on this vital area.

Third, we have acted to keep the gains from Head Start going through the elementary grades, with improved coordination and information between Head Start and the schools and--critically--continuing parental involvement in shaping the education of their children. When Head Start kids get to kindergarten and first grade, the school door shouldn't be slammed shut on their parents. The bill will help stop that, and so will the elementary and secondary reform bill now moving through the Congress.

In today's new economy and society, the old ways just aren't good enough. Today, learning must begin at birth and continue throughout life. Head Start is the foundation of the comprehensive agenda for lifelong learning that I have proposed to the Congress.

During the past few weeks alone, three parts of that agenda have become law: Goals 2000 education reform, a new national system of school-to-work opportunities, and today Head Start. With continued hard work and bipartisan cooperation, we can reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for our students, pass the Reemployment Act for our dislocated workers--and complete the new system of lifelong learning before the end of the 103rd Congress this fall.

When I was a young man, I read a book by a fellow southerner named James Agee, called Let Us Now Praise Famous Men. It was the story of desperately poor people in my region of the country during the Great Depression. It remains as powerful today as it was the day it was written.

This is what Agee wrote:

"In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances and no matter what parents, the potentiality of the whole human race is born again. And in him, too, once more, and of each of us, our terrific responsibility toward human life, toward the utmost idea of goodness, of the horror of error, and of God."

So as I sign this Head Start bill into law, let us accept our "terrific responsibility" to every child. Let us rededicate ourselves to building a society in which all children are surrounded by safety and security and love, and in which they all--each and every one--have an equal opportunity to develop to the limits of their God-given potential.

For the America we all want, nothing less will do.

And now, let me call on a young Head Start student, Brian Rivera, to help me out with this important signing.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

October 10, 1997

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1548**LENGTH:** 637 words**HEADLINE:** Proclamation 7040 -- National Children's Day, 1997**HIGHLIGHT:**

By the President of the United States of America

BODY:*A Proclamation*

With the birth of every child, the world becomes new again. Within each new infant lies enormous potential -- potential for loving, for learning, and for making life better for others. But this potential must be nurtured. Just as seeds need fertile soil, warm sunshine, and gentle rain to grow, so do our children need a caring environment, the security of knowing they are loved, and the encouragement and opportunity to make the most of their God-given talents. There is no more urgent task before us, as a people and as a Nation, than creating such an environment for America's children.

One of the surest ways to do so is to strengthen American families and help parents in their efforts to raise healthy, happy children. My Administration has worked hard to give parents the tools they need to fulfill their crucial responsibilities. We have sought to put tobacco and guns out of the reach of children. We are improving the quality of our children's schools by making a national commitment to high academic and teaching standards. Recognizing the importance of a child's early years to his or her development, we have expanded **Head Start** and established Early **Head Start** for low-income families with children 3 years old or younger. We have made it easier for millions of parents to take time off to be with a sick child without losing their jobs, and to keep their health insurance when they change jobs. We have protected Medicaid coverage for 36 million Americans, including about 20 million children, and the Balanced Budget Act I recently signed into law will provide meaningful health care coverage to millions more uninsured children.

But there is still much to be accomplished if we are to ensure that America's children grow up to meet their fullest potential. Our next important goal must be to build upon our efforts and improve the quality and affordability of child care in our Nation. With more people in the work force, with more single-parent homes, and with more families in which both parents have to work to make ends meet, millions of American children are already in some form of day care, and the demand for affordable, quality child care is growing. Later this month, the First Lady and I will host the White House Conference on Child Care to work with and learn from other parents, child care providers and experts, business leaders, and economists. Together we will focus on the best means to increase the quality, availability, and affordability of child care in our Nation.

As we observe National Children's Day this year, let us recommit ourselves to creating a society where parents can raise healthy, happy children; where every newborn is cherished, where every child is encouraged to succeed, and where all our young people are free to pursue their dreams.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 12, 1997, as National Children's Day. I urge all Americans to express their love and appreciation for children on this day and on every day throughout the year. I invite Federal officials, State and local governments, and particularly all American families to join together in observing this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:16 a.m., October 14, 1997]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 15.

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