

care; Improves aid to all needy children, regardless of the circumstances of their birth; Maintains current support for legal immigrants; and Builds public/private partnerships to overcome poverty.

In particular, we urge policy makers not to abandon the concept of "entitlement:" i.e. that there are certain categories of vulnerable people who are entitled to protection. The existing guaranteed support, in the form of support for poor children and the disabled, school lunch programs, and food stamp programs, must remain priorities for our nation.

Current proposals for block grants eliminate the structure of guaranteed support and leave our country's needy at risk from natural disasters and economic downturns. This system of block grants would also create annual budget battles over funding, which could further cripple the welfare safety net. If the Senate enacts block grant proposals despite these very troubling concerns, we strongly urge the inclusion of "maintenance of effort" requirements, which will guarantee that states will continue to do their part in supporting the poor. With the existing requirements that states must match federal funding, the states currently provide 45% of support for America's poor. Without "maintenance of effort" provisions, states could slash their funding to dangerously low levels, especially financially disadvantaged states where assistance is most needed.

The needs of children of unwed mothers under 18 years of age and of mothers already on welfare are just as legitimate as the needs of all other children, and they must not suffer as a result of their parents' circumstances or choices. Therefore, we urge you to vote against family caps and child exclusion provisions. Such measures have never been proven to be effective, and only succeed in encouraging women to have abortions or forcing children to live in extremely deprived conditions.

In addition to our faith-based ethics, these principles are based on years of experience in serving poor families in our churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and service agencies. Many religious social service providers have a strong track record in developing programs that achieve independence from welfare. We seek to work with the Congress to shape policies that build on these successes.

We are gravely concerned that some current proposals rely on the idea that the religious community can provide for those who will "fall through the cracks" of the safety net, cracks created by proposed reforms now before Congress. In fact, over the last decade, our social service providers have experienced a marked increase in the demand for our services, which are now operating at full capacity. Many of these services, in fact, are currently a partnership between government and religious bodies, dependent upon government funding. A recent study on the effect of the proposed budgetary reforms by Independent Sector reveals that charitable contributions would have to double over the next seven years in order to compensate for the massive cuts proposed by the House. Since the present system severely challenges the religious community's ability to meet the needs of the country's poor, we fear that the current proposals would completely overwhelm our resources for serving the needy.

We support a stronger partnership between the religious community and the government in serving and empowering poor families. For this crucial public-private partnership to survive, it is imperative that Congress pass welfare reform legislation that maintains an effective and helpful role for the federal government to care for our nation's needy.

Sincerely,

The Catholic Community:

Bishop John Ricard, S.S.J., Chair of the Domestic Policy Committee of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference;

The Very Reverend Gerald L. Brown, S.S.J., President, Roman Catholic Conference of Major Superiors of Men's Institutions;

Andree Fries, C.P.P.S., President, Leadership Conference of Women Religious;

Reverend Fred Kammer, S.J. President, Catholic Charities USA;

Reverend Michael Linden, S.J. Associate, Jesuit Conference USA, National Office of Jesuit Social Ministries;

Kathy Thornton, RSM, National Coordinator, NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby.

The Protestant Community:

Reverend Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Christ;

Reverend Dr. Gordon L. Sommers, President, National Council of Churches, and President, Moravian Church, Northern Province;

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America;

Bishop Edmond L. Browning, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Reverend Donald M. Hallberg, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois; Reverend Elenora Giddings Ivory, Presbyterian Church USA, Washington Office; Larry Jones, President, Feed the Children; Reverend Dr. Donald E. Miller, General Secretary, Church of the Brethren; Reverend Dr. Paul H. Sherry, President of the United Church of Christ; Ronald J. Sider, President, Evangelicals for Social Action; Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, Secretary, Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church; Reverend Robert Tiller, Director, American Baptist Churches USA, Office of Governmental Relations.

*Historical Black Churches:* Bishop H. Hartford Brookins, African Methodist Episcopal Church; Bishop William H. Grazes, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, First Episcopal District; Dr. E. Edward Jones, President, National Baptist Convention of America; Dr. Henry Lyons, President, National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.; Reverend H. Michael Lemmons, Executive Director, Congress of National Black Churches; Dr. B.W. Smith, President, Progressive National Baptist Convention; Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush, Church of God and Christ; Chair, Congress of National Black Churches.

*Quakers and Unitarians:* Kara Newell, Executive Director, American Friends Service Committee; Joe Volk, Executive Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation; Richard S. Scobie, Executive Director, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

*Religious Public Policy Organizations:* David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World.

*Muslim Community:* Abdurahman Alamoudy, Executive Director, American Muslim Council.

*Jewish Community:* Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Rabbi Paul Menitoff, Executive Vice President, Central Conference of American Rabbis; Rabbi David Saperstein, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism; Alan Ades, President, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism; Rabbi Jerome Epstein, Executive Vice President, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism; Rabbi Alan Silverstein, President, Rabbinical Assembly; Rabbi Joel Meyers, Executive Vice President, Rabbinical Assembly; Dr. Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor, Jewish Theological Seminary; Michael Cohen, President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA); Yael Shuman, Executive Director, RRA; Jane Susswein,

President, Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot (FRCH); Rabbi Mordechai Leibling, Executive Director, FRCH; Rabbi David A. Teutsch, President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; Dr. Mandell I. Ganchrow, President, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations; Martin S. Kraar, Executive Vice President, Council of Jewish Federations; Lynn Lyss, Chair, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

#### FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, next month the Fourth World Conference on Women will take place in Beijing. During Senate consideration of S. 908, the foreign Relations Revitalization Act, last month, there was some discussion about this conference. At that time, an amendment offered by Senator HUTCHISON was adopted on a voice vote by Senator HELMS and me, as the managers of the bill. That amendment expressed the sense of the Congress on the goals that the United States delegation should promote at Beijing including ensuring that the traditional family is upheld as a fundamental unit of society and defining gender as the biological classification of male and female.

I would like to point out that I agreed to accept this amendment in the interest of moving the legislation process forward. I would also add that the underlying legislation, S. 908, was returned to the calendar because cloture was not invoked.

As Senator BOXER noted accurately in her comments on the Senate floor on the amendment, some of the language seems to raise questions or at least be unnecessary. We all know that there are only two genders, male and female. Why we need to insturct our delegation in that basic fact of biology is unclear to me. Also, the language about promoting the family as the fundamental unit of society raises questions in my mind as to whether a single woman constitutes a family with the right of protection by society. Are we saying that every woman must be married and have children to be protected? I would hope not because no woman should be denied rights simply because she chooses not to marry or if she is divorced. Unfortunately, Senator HUTCHISON was not on the Senate floor to address these questions at the time they were raised by Senator BOXER. Therefore, the real intent of her amendment, which to the best of my recollection only two Members of the Senate—the managers—agreed to, remains unclear.

Mr. President, on August 2, Ambassador Albright spoke to the Center for National Policy about the Women's Conference. In that address, she discussed the U.S. goals at that conference. I ask that her remarks be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

AMBASSADOR MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CONCERNING THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN CENTER FOR NATIONAL POLICY BREAKFAST—WASHINGTON, DC

Good Morning. I am pleased to be here. I may be prejudiced, but I think the Center for National Policy is a great organization, and I appreciate its willingness to sponsor this timely event.

The Fourth World Conference on Women will convene in China in 33 days and, let there be no doubt, the United States will be there.

We will be there because this conference is a rare opportunity to chart further gains in the status and rights of more than half the people on earth.

As leader of the American delegation, I am confident that U.S. goals will have strong support. These include—

- promoting and protecting the human rights of women and ending violence against women;

- expanding the participation of women in political and economic decisionmaking;

- assuring equal access for women to education and health care throughout their lives;

- strengthening families through efforts to balance the work and family responsibilities of both women and men; and

- recognizing the increased role of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in building strong communities—at the local, national and international levels.

The conference in Beijing will be the fourth in a series begun 20 years ago in Mexico City. These gatherings have spurred legal, social and political reforms that have enhanced the lives of women and girls around the globe. Our goal now is to build on past gains and to hasten the removal of continuing obstacles to the full and equal participation of women in society.

As someone whose family was driven from its home twice when I was a child, first by Hitler, then by Stalin, I believe it is the responsibility of every free person to do what he or she can to advance the freedom of others. And I intend to see that the U.S. delegation to the Women's Conference serves as an unabashed advocate for freedom and human rights.

Unfortunately, today, in countries around the world, appalling abuses are being committed against women. These include coerced abortions and sterilizations, children sold into prostitution, ritual mutilations, dowry murders and official indifference to violence.

The Clinton Administration will use the conference in Beijing to underline the truth that violence against women is no one's prerogative; it is not a cultural choice; it is not an inevitable consequence of biology—it is a crime that we all have a responsibility to condemn, prevent, punish and stop.

Now, there are those who say that we should withdraw from the Women's Conference because of human rights policies of the host country. Those suggestions are well-motivated, but they miss the main point. American withdrawal would not stop the conference or cause it to be moved; it would lead, instead, to a conference in which 130 million American women would be unrepresented and in which American influence and leadership would not be felt.

It just does not make sense, in the name of human rights, to boycott a conference that has, as a primary purpose, the promotion of human rights.

The way to help women, in China and elsewhere, is not to abandon the field to others,

but rather to attend this conference, to debate head-on the differences of philosophy and ideology that exist, to lay out before the world the abuses we want to halt and the obstacles to progress we want to remove, and to gain commitments to change from the societies most in need of change. That is what leadership and a commitment to free and open discussion are all about.

With respect to Harry Wu, our position is clear. He should be released immediately and unharmed. His case is a top priority for the United States. I can understand why some would want to tie conference participation to Mr. Wu's release, but that assumes falsely that our attendance would be some sort of favor to Beijing. We have no cause to believe that our approach to the conference will have any impact on China's decisions concerning Mr. Wu.

We do have reason, however, to hope that the conference will have a positive effect on the status of women in China.

Conference preparations already have contributed to a heightened awareness within China of women's issues. There is public discussion of previously taboo subjects, including violence against women. Chinese returning from the preparatory meetings have described their heightened sensitivity to the treatment of women in the media and to the economic exploitation of women. It matters a great deal that more than 5,000 Chinese women will participate in the NGO forum and will take their impressions back to their communities.

Given the nature of China's human rights record, I do not mean to exaggerate the impact of this one conference. But as a former board member of the National Endowment for Democracy, I know that one of the best ways to promote democratic thinking is to expose people to new ideas on matters that relate directly to their own lives.

Exposure to such thinking matters to us not only in China, but around the world, because countries in which women have a fair share of power tend to be more stable, democratic, prosperous and just than those in which women are marginalized and repressed.

The Women's Conference will contribute to a freer and more equitable world. As its recommendations are implemented, it will also strengthen families around the world. We know from our own experience that when families are strong, children are cared for, socially constructive values are taught and an environment is created in which civility and law may thrive.

So we want momentum to build around the idea that women and men should share fairly in the responsibilities of family life; we want to see girls valued to the same degree as boys; we want parents and prospective parents to be able to make informed judgments as they plan their families; and we want to see domestic violence curtailed and condemned.

Each of these is a central element of the Conference draft Platform for Action. And effective action on each will help families and communities everywhere.

Despite recent gains, women remain an undervalued and underdeveloped human resource. This is not to say that women have trouble finding work; in many societies—especially in rural, agriculturally-based areas—they do the vast majority of the work; but they don't own the land, they are not taught to read, they can't obtain personal or business loans and they are denied equal access to the levers of political decisionmaking.

It is no accident that most of those in the world who are abjectly poor are women, often caring for children without the help of the children's father; many trapped from an

early age in a web of abuse, discrimination, ignorance and powerlessness from which only a few are able to escape.

We cannot be indifferent. It is reported that, in Angola, one-third of all homicides are perpetrated against women, usually by their spouse.

In Thailand, child prostitution is growing because clients believe older prostitutes are more likely to be infected by HIV.

In Senegal, females receive less than one-third the schooling received by males.

In Sierra Leone, women perform much of the subsistence farming and all of the child rearing and have little opportunity for education.

And almost everywhere, women are restricted by discriminatory attitudes and social and economic structures that are unjust.

The Women's Conference will not solve these problems overnight, but it will call attention to them and promote remedial action. Women the world over are prepared to be full partners in sustainable development, but they need access to education and health care; they need access to credit; and they need equality under the law. Releasing the productive capacity of women is one key to breaking the cycle of poverty; and that will contribute, in turn, to higher standards of living for all nations.

Since the first Women's Conference 20 years ago, opportunities for women have expanded throughout the world. It is no longer a question of whether women from all countries will have a strong voice in controlling their destinies, but only when and how that goal will be achieved.

But building inclusive societies is still a work in progress. The United States has been working on it for two centuries. For more than half our nation's history, until 75 years ago this month, American women could not even vote. Many traditional or authoritarian societies still have a very long way to go. The Fourth Women's Conference will offer guidelines and promote commitments for every state to move forward, whatever current practices and policies may be.

In preparing for this conference, I was reminded of an old Chinese poem in which a father says to his young daughter:

We keep a dog to watch the house;

A pig is useful, too;

We keep a cat to catch a mouse;

But what can we do

With a girl like you?

For me, the Women's Conference will be a success if it brings us even a little closer to the day when girls all over the world will be able to look ahead with confidence that their lives will be valued, their individuality respected, their rights protected and their futures determined by their own abilities and character.

In such a world, the lives of all of us—men and women, boys and girls—will be enriched.

And it is to make progress towards such a world that the United States will be participating actively, forcefully and proudly in Beijing.

Thank you very much. Now, I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have.

#### 1995 SUMMER PAGES

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of the summer 1995 pages be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Ryan Scott Rudominer, Adam Thompson, Sarah Goffinet, Nicole Didier, Clay Ford,