

Both sides in the denied to use stories of a denial mechanism, and report of abuses against civil forces must really have been the other side working in mas-

I have no word on the fate of those who helped me and testified before my camera. Nicaragua appears to me now as a nation filled with hostages.

## THE GOVERNORS AND POOR CHILDREN

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 1988

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, for many Americans, the long hot days of summer bring back memories of family vacations, good times at camp, and playing outside after supper. Substantial and growing numbers of American children may not look back on their summers so fondly.

Today one in five children is growing up in poverty. For black and Hispanic children the figure is one in four. They are beginning life under adverse circumstances which severely damage their ability to become healthy adults, productive members of the work force and active participants in a democratic society.

While the Reagan administration has callously neglected the needs of poor children, handful of activist Governors, both Republican and Democratic, have taken strong positive steps in their States to improve the condition of poor children's lives. At their urging, States are expanding preschool programs, improving health coverage, and broadening their efforts to keep children in school and off drugs.

The New York Times editorial which follows outlines a few of the Governors' most impressive efforts. Because the deprivation which poor children suffer affects us all, I commend this editorial to my colleagues' attention.

[From the New York Times, July 1, 1988]

#### THE GOVERNORS AND POOR CHILDREN

Few states are as far from urban tumult and despair as Idaho. Yet in his State of the State speech this year, Governor Cecil Andrus stressed a problem usually associated with cities: "We must help children at risk. We either help our children become responsible and self-sufficient, or we will pay the price dearly to provide many of them with welfare or put many of them in jail."

At the other end of the country, in his annual message, Governor Tom Kean of heavily urbanized New Jersey said: "If you talk to two-, three- and four-year-olds in some of our major cities, you realize that everything is not in order. One out of three of these children lives in poverty. More than half grow up in homes with only one parent. Some are malnourished... [Yet] we expect these city children to eventually compete with their more fortunate cousins."

Something is churning here. Mr. Kean and Mr. Andrus are not the only governors to focus on children this year. Governor Cuomo of New York proclaims this to be the Decade of the Child. Two dozen governors have made the well-being of children a theme of their programs this year.

Politicians' concern for children is hardly new. Education has always been the province of state government. This year, Vice President Bush wants to become the Education President. Working parents' need for decent day care attracts ever more official attention.

What's new and compelling is the focus on children at risk, children who, because of poverty, are much more likely to suffer poor health, poor education, poor prospects—and permanent poverty. Though one of every

five children now lives in poverty, the Federal Government is more concerned with cutting social spending. Governors and state legislatures are stepping into the breach to try to assure a fair chance for every child.

The earlier society intervenes the better, as the governors seem to recognize. One of the most popular initiatives is expanded prenatal and neonatal care under the Medicaid program. In Alabama, for example, Republican Gov. Hunt has proposed spending \$41 million from a utility tax in an effort to reduce the state's infant mortality rate.

In Colorado, Democrat Roy Romer first accepted a legislative committee's recommendation of a pilot preschool program for 2,000 at-risk children. Then he went the committee one better, proposing full-day child care. Eventually, he said, the program should be expanded to reach all 20,000 endangered children in the state.

Democrat Bill Clinton of Arkansas and Republican Jim Thompson of Illinois have pressed for prenatal care, teen-age pregnancy prevention, child abuse and neglect prevention, adoption services. Democrat Neil Goldschmidt challenges Oregonians to "become stewards of the child."

Probably the most ambitious plan is that of Democrat James Blanchard of Michigan. He wants to add funding to insure that every expectant mother gets prenatal care. And he proposes services to counsel teen-agers on child abuse, dropping out of school and teen-age pregnancy. Perhaps most important, Mr. Blanchard has undertaken a restructuring of state bureaucracies to insure that they do not work at cross purposes.

All the state's efforts, he says, must try to strengthen families as crucibles for child development. "By helping families provide permanent, nurturing environments for their children, we build strength in two generations at one time. By keeping children and their parents together—and by intervening to help adults meet their children's needs—we reduce the future chances of failure and dependency among at-risk children."

Well said. May it be as well done in Michigan and every other state.

## SUPPORT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEGISLATION

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 1988

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced H.R. 4990, a bill to expand the supply of low-cost housing to meet the growing national need.

This legislation is supported by a large number of organizations across the country that work very closely with homeless people and others in need. I recently submitted for the RECORD a partial list of organizations that have endorsed this bill. Today, I am inserting the remaining organizations to demonstrate the broad community-based support for this legislation.

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, Cleveland, OH.

Lutheran Social Services, Garden Grove, CA.

LV Coalition on Affordable Housing, Bethlehem, PA.

MACO, Detroit, MI.

Macon Outreach at Mulberry, Macon, GA.

writes to Cuomo: Show him how the R.F. ought to get out of the pretend position of our youth's overseer. Show how ineffective they have been — including the part about the desire what good is federal spending if the federal officers are controlled by Foundations?

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