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COLLECTION TITLE:

Speechwriting, White House Office of

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Video Taping: Focus on the Family
June 29, 2002
Draft #2

Thank you very much. I am honored to join all of you at Focus on the Family as you celebrate your first twenty-five years. I especially want to salute my friend James Dobson for his leadership and his commitment to that sacred bedrock of our society—the American family.

For twenty-five years, Focus on the Family has sought to protect our families and promote our values. And they are values that you and I share together. We believe in fostering a culture of life, and that marriage and family are sacred institutions that should be preserved and strengthened.

We believe that life is a creation, not a commodity, and that our children are gifts to be loved and protected, not products to be designed and manufactured by human cloning.

We believe that protecting human dignity and promoting human rights should be at the center of America's foreign policy – and that our government should view the good people who work in faith-based charities as partners, not rivals.

We believe that the days of discriminating against religious institutions simply because they are religious must come to an end.

Faith teaches us that God has a special concern for the poor and that faith proves itself through actions and sacrifice, through acts of kindness and caring for those in need. For some people, Jesus's admonition to care for "the least of these" is an admirable moral teaching. For many Baptists, it is a way of life.

Faith is also a source of comfort during times of grief. We saw this in the aftermath of the attacks on September 11th. Millions of Americans turned to prayer for wisdom and resolve, for compassion and courage, and for grace and mercy. And in these moments of prayer we were reminded of important truths – that suffering is temporary, that hope is eternal, and that ruthless will not inherit the Earth.

Many of you have prayed for my family and me. We have felt sustained and uplifted by your prayers – and Laura and I are incredibly grateful to you for them. We consider your prayers to be among our most precious gifts.

Congratulations on twenty-five years. May God bless Focus on the Family. And may God bless America.

Drafted by: Kasey Pipes, Office of Strategic Initiatives
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Hot Topics: Advocacy >

Activism and the Role of Government

"We the People" was meant to include all—including people of faith. Yet many Christians are discouraged from involvement in "politics." In the power vacuum, judicial activists engage in "court-made law" from their benches, usurping representative democratic power. Governmental agencies appear to be anything but neutral to faith: Grants to faith-based organizations are out of bounds, yet provocative art grants add to the growing sense of "tyranny" and "piracy" at taxpayers' expense. Other tax money is applied to programs opposed by principled people of faith. And it's all extracted via a harmful tax system that overburdens the American family while simultaneously contributing to its decline. Our witness for Christ in society will be incomplete—and irrelevant—if we fail to address the ills of our time.

- Why be involved?
- Active citizenship
- Contacting media and elected leaders
- Stewardship in the public square
- Biblical perspective on the role of government
- Government sponsorship of art
- Faith-based charity

Related Resources

Request resources in our online resource center, or call (800) A-FAMILY (232-6459) and request resources by the item code in parentheses.

- **The Light in the City** Janet and Craig Parshall
Christians who believe in "separation of church and state" read this book and realize that just a little involvement in political issues could change the course of history—for the better! (BD243)
- **America's God and Country** William J. Federer
Quotes from their diaries, speeches and private correspondence all prove America's founding fathers believed in God... (BP133)
- **Citizen**
Find the information you need to make our nation a better place for your children, and their children." (FAMPK)
- **Why Christians Need to Get Involved**
Echoing a passionate call to love our communities the way Jesus did, "Why Christians Need to Get Involved", #1 in the Community Impact Seminar Series, presents a lively and biblical call to action that will inspire you and others to take action against the darkness that threatens our culture. (VI183)
- **How to Speak Out for Truth**
How to Speak Out for Truth, empowers you to approach your opponents

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with the love and compassion of Jesus. Learn how to state your case, avoid pointless arguments and address the needs of those around you with biblical truth. (VI185)

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Dear Friends,

A warm September greeting to you! It is hard to believe the summer is over and the nation's children have scurried off to begin another school year. If there are students in your household, you might be interested to know that Focus on the Family offers a number of resources relating to education. Please just give us a call (1-800-A-FAMILY) or log on to our Internet "Resource Center" at www.family.org/resources to search for information on these materials. Perhaps you will find something that will be helpful to you as your young ones head back to class.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER OFFERS

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I'd like to comment this month on some important developments in the ongoing debate over embryonic stem cell research. As you know, last month (on Thursday, August 9, to be precise), President George W. Bush made his first prime-time TV address to the American people. The purpose of the speech was to announce his long-awaited decision on the question of whether or not federal funds should be used to

underwrite scientific research on stem cells taken from embryos—one of the earliest forms of human life. An embryonic stem cell is a cell with the potential to grow into various forms of tissue—like blood cells or brain cells. If you're familiar with the basics of embryonic stem cell procedures, you know that the harvesting of these stem cells from human embryos results in their death 100 percent of the time. We are adamantly opposed to *any* form of medical research that results in the taking of human life. (For more technical information about this practice, see our Web site at www.citizenlink.org .

As some of you may know, my own mother suffered from Parkinson's disease. She wasn't able to speak during the final five years of her life, nor did she even recognize me or the other members of my family as she wasted away. She weighed scarcely 80 pounds when she died. Having witnessed firsthand my mother's suffering, I can certainly understand the passionate hopes of people like Christopher Reeve, Mary Tyler Moore, Michael J. Fox and others who are looking to stem cell research as their last great opportunity for physical health. But in our zeal to find cures for a range of catastrophic illnesses, we must not do so at the expense of other human beings—even those who are too tiny for us to see. Once we become willing to sacrifice even one life to benefit another, there is no place to stop. It will lead inevitably to the growing of babies in order to cannibalize their body parts, and other horrors.

Let me say it another way. When Hollywood celebrities describe how their diseases and injuries may benefit from the sacrifice of embryonic life, we are touched by their personal circumstances. But there is another compelling story that must also be told. It is what we would hear if the tiny babies we are about to kill could

by some miracle be transformed into a mature adult state, and then begin to plead for their lives. Tens of thousands of voices would blend into a chorus, each saying, "Please let us have our chance. We are human beings, too!" That "other story" would be just as compelling, or more so, as the deeply moving appeals of Mr. Reeve, Ms. Moore and Mr. Fox. It is up to us in the pro-life community to give voice to the voiceless.

Perhaps you were watching "Larry King Live" immediately after the president's statement. I was one of several guests on the show that night who were asked to comment on Mr. Bush's decision. Thankfully (and indeed, *astoundingly*, considering the fervor with which members of the entertainment industry and media establishment were speaking out in favor of embryonic stem cell research), our president made the courageous decision to allocate *no* federal funding for research that would destroy human embryos!¹ Mr. Bush's bold statement of moral principle was truly one of the most remarkable moments in recent memory.

The pro-life community *does* have reason to be concerned about certain aspects of the new policy on stem cell research, and I will address those concerns in a moment. Nevertheless, what is good about the president's policy is very good. It represents a defining moment, not only for Mr. Bush's presidency, but also for those who believe that human life, beginning at conception, is sacred and worthy of protection.

Before discussing its implications, I'd like to take a moment to explain why the president's decision was so gratifying, especially from our perspective here at Focus on the Family. Early last month, I felt led to host a broadcast on the issue of stem cell research, even though the president's decision on the issue wasn't expected to be made public until at least August 21.²

Life

Accordingly, on Tuesday, August 7, Dr. Walt Larimore, our vice president of medical outreach, co-host John Fuller and I recorded a broadcast during which we encouraged listeners to pray for wisdom for Mr. Bush as he grappled with his difficult decision. That program was aired on Thursday, August 9, which, unbeknownst to us when we recorded it, turned out to be the very day that the president chose to make his public statement! Some would call that a coincidence, but I firmly believe that the Lord laid it upon my heart to tape that program before we knew what would happen just 48 hours later.

When I heard the news Thursday morning, I began monitoring various reports coming out of Washington throughout the day. Gradually, a sense of dread came over me as it appeared that the president might be planning to make a disastrous decision—namely, extending full federal funding to the destruction of tiny human embryos in the name of science. Several of my colleagues here at Focus felt the burden as well. We called our 1,300 employees together that afternoon for a time of earnest prayer. Corporately, we knelt before the Lord, asking Him to grant President Bush wisdom and crying out to Him on behalf of the tens of thousands of innocent embryonic human beings in frozen “orphanages” across the country.³

A few minutes before Mr. Bush made his speech, Karl Rove, the president’s senior advisor, called and gave me a “heads up” on what was about to take place. Needless to say, I was elated to learn that, contrary to our fears, Mr. Bush was planning to act on behalf of unborn life! To quote directly from his speech, he stated that his policy “allows us to explore the promise and potential of stem cell research without crossing a fundamental moral line by providing taxpayer funding that would sanction or encourage further destruction of

human embryos. . . ."⁴

The president reportedly spent a great deal of time in prayer about this issue in the days leading up to his announcement, and I believe that his comments represent an answer to our prayers, as well.

The most remarkable aspect of Mr. Bush's speech was the public recognition of his belief that human life begins at conception. Never before has an acting president made such a bold national address in support of the sanctity of unborn human life. (Mr. Bush also affirmed his belief that life begins at conception during a campaign interview with Tim Russert on "Meet the Press" in 1999.)⁵ Columnist Robert Novak went so far as to say that "the pro-life rhetoric of his 11-minute speech surpassed anything Ronald Reagan or Bush's father ever said."⁶ That is true. My friend Chuck Colson was similarly impressed with Mr. Bush's moral fortitude when he wrote, "For the first time, in my memory at least, a sitting president has grappled publicly with a critical moral issue and, unapologetically, drawn a line in the sand. . . . Human life is sacred."⁷

Another positive aspect of the president's policy is his calling for the creation of a council on biomedical ethics. Bush's choice to head this commission is Leon Kass, M.D., Ph.D., a leading biomedical ethicist at the University of Chicago who has a strong record on opposing cloning and other morally questionable forms of medical experimentation.⁸ In addition, the president issued a strong call for the medical community to step up its efforts to conduct research involving adult stem cells, placentas and umbilical cord blood—all of which can provide stem cells without necessitating the destruction of human life. It is critical that we turn our

focus toward these non-embryonic sources because, as Mr. Colson said, this is “where we can make the greatest medical advances without trampling the moral boundaries.”⁹ You should also know that so far virtually all of the current benefits to patients have come from non-destructive stem cell sources. In fact, the very same week that Bush made his speech, there were reports of four different medical studies showing early success with adult stem cells and umbilical cord blood.¹⁰

Still, as I mentioned earlier, there are elements of the president’s policy that are troubling to those of us in the pro-life community. Most notably, we were disappointed by Mr. Bush’s decision to allow federal funding of research on 60 or so existing stem cell lines. The president has concluded that “we should allow federal funds to be used for research on these existing stem cell lines, where the life-and-death decision has already been made.”¹¹

As members of the pro-life community, we cannot endorse that. The killing of embryos—even if it happened in the past—is never justifiable for scientific gain. Powerful evidence of the humanity of these frozen embryos is found in the story of John and Lucinda Borden, a California couple who, after learning that they couldn’t have children of their own, adopted several embryos through the Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program.¹² In case you’re not familiar with either that term or that program, please allow me to explain.

In a typical in-vitro fertilization procedure, many frozen embryos may be “left over,” and the couple involved has the choice of either putting the embryos in cold storage, donating them for research or having them

destroyed. There are literally tens of thousands of these embryonic human beings currently stored in clinics across the country, and the Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program brings them to birth in families that want them. The embryos are called "snowflakes" because they are unique, fragile and, of course, frozen.

For Mr. and Mrs. Borden, two of those embryos survived and grew into the couple's twins, Luke and Mark. When testifying before the Congress on stem cell research this July, Mr. Borden proved in no uncertain terms that destroying these little human beings for the sake of research is wrong. "Which one of my children would you kill? Which one would you take?" he asked as he held his beautiful babies up in front of the Congressmen.¹³ Likewise, I recently had an encounter with another of these precious little ones. Some of you may have heard the radio broadcast on which 2-year-old Hannah Strege, also born as the result of embryonic adoption, sat on my lap and sang "Jesus Loves the Little Children."¹⁴ That precious little girl is all the proof anyone would need to realize that the destruction of embryos is unthinkable.

With this in mind, we must not forget that even the existing stem cell lines to which Mr. Bush referred were created at the expense of innocent, helpless babies in the embryonic stage. We would prefer that there be no federal involvement in embryonic stem cell research, even with these existing stem cell lines. In retrospect, I regret that in my brief interview with Larry King, I was not able to place greater emphasis on our concerns about this issue. Nevertheless, we are still very thankful that the president did not authorize the killing of more babies and that he remained true to his campaign statement that taxpayer funds should not underwrite research that "involves destroying living

human embryos.”¹⁵

It's worth mentioning that many conservative voices in the country felt that the president's decision represented the best possible solution at this point. Senator Rick Santorum noted that if Bush had banned all embryonic stem cell research—including that on existing cell lines—“he very well could have gotten *rolled in* the Congress. This cuts off the attempt to do that at the pass.”¹⁶ Other pro-life members of Congress have told us privately that Mr. Bush would surely have been presented with a veto-proof bill that would have allocated federal money for embryonic stem cell research. If that had happened, little preborn children could have been killed.

Conservative commentator George Will hailed the president's decision as “measured and principled,”¹⁷ and Representative Dick Armey expressed his encouragement with Mr. Bush's advocacy of other, non-lethal forms of stem cell research. He told *The New York Times*, “We must not lose sight of the non-embryonic stem cell research that will avoid these moral and ethical dilemmas.”¹⁸ We will join with the president and our friends in Congress in pushing for a dramatic increase in federal funding of research on stem cells derived from adult stem cells, placenta and umbilical cord blood.

Some of you may have read conflicting reports from the media on the critical issue of the 60 existing stem cell lines that will be studied using federal funds. Not surprisingly, the liberal press endeavored to create the impression that there was a terrible rift in the pro-life community between those who supported the president's statement and those who did not.¹⁹ In fact,

it seems clear to me now that the secular media was expecting a strong backlash from the pro-life community, and felt compelled to create controversy when that backlash wasn't as volatile as they had hoped it would be. The morning after my appearance on "Larry King Live" (after the president's remarks), no fewer than three major news outlets *withdrew* their requests for interviews with me after learning that I was cautiously optimistic about Bush's statement. ABC News admitted to us that they were looking for a critical voice and that they had thought I would provide it. So much for journalistic integrity!

It is true, of course, that some of our friends in the pro-life community felt called to highlight the negative aspects of the president's decision and less inclined to celebrate the positives. I support their right to do so. These differences aside, the news media's sensationalistic cries of "division" within the pro-life camp were grossly exaggerated. Members of the pro-life community were unanimous in their belief that there are complex ethical questions surrounding the use of the existing stem cell lines from destroyed embryos and that additional ethical issues will likely be raised as research progresses. Still, a number of pro-life groups and leaders, including Focus on the Family, National Right to Life, The Wilberforce Forum, Christian Coalition, Chuck Colson and Jerry Falwell, chose to commend the president for keeping his campaign promise and for speaking so powerfully and eloquently about the humanity of those frozen embryos.²⁰ The fact that others in the pro-life community chose not to praise these encouraging signs does not mean that a war has broken out among our ranks. We're still all working toward the same goals, no matter what the secular media tells you!

Now that the president's speech has been on record

for about a month and the dust has begun to settle, the question in many people's minds is "Where do we go from here?" In practical terms, the federal government, through the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institutes of Health, will oversee the implementation of President Bush's policy. Hopefully, the presidential council on biomedical ethics will also provide strong moral leadership on the questions raised with regard to research on the existing stem cell lines.

But make no mistake: the battle is far from over. Proponents of unlimited embryonic stem cell research are already hard at work promoting legislation that would remove any restrictions whatsoever on the destruction of human embryos for research, to be funded by your tax dollars. Now is the time for our friends in Congress to meet the challenge and prevent any such legislation from passing. On an encouraging note, the president has already pledged to veto any bill that crosses the line he set last month. Mr. Bush recently reiterated his firm conviction that stem cell research is a "moral" issue and told reporters, "I laid out the policy that I think is right for America. And I'm not going to change my mind."²¹ He also gave me the same assurances a few weeks ago.

In addition, pro-life leaders in Congress will attempt the annual renewal of the "Dickey Amendment"—language first implemented in 1996 which forbids the use of federal funds for research that harms or destroys human embryos. However, they will have their work cut out for them as they confront liberal members of the House and Senate who continue to advocate unrestricted research on embryonic stem cells. You should know that there are bills on both sides of this debate. Legislation has been proposed that would allow embryos to be destroyed for research with tax

dollars.²² Conversely, there are other proposals to increase federal funding for research using non-destructive sources, such as umbilical cord blood.²³ You can find more information about stem cell issues and contact information for your elected officials on our **CitizenLink Web site**.

Finally, please know that Focus on the Family and other organizations which are involved in bioethical discourse will continue to evaluate the ramifications



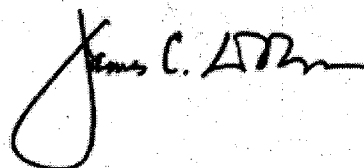
of conducting research on the existing stem cell lines. We promise to keep you updated on the latest developments within the scientific community as new questions and concerns arise. Please pray for us as we endeavor to separate fact from fiction, and as we seek to promote medical research that is morally acceptable while simultaneously opposing that which pompously allows man to "play God." Many critical battles on this issue surely lie ahead.

That's all for this month. As you may have noticed, our emphasis throughout September is on young families. Each of our daily radio programs this month deals with some practical aspect of raising kids. If you know of young couples that are not acquainted with this ministry, I hope you will give them a call and suggest that they check us out.

On a final note, my new book called *Bringing Up Boys* will be released in October, and, God willing, I plan to give you a special preview in my next letter. Until then, please remember the staff at Focus on the Family in your prayers, and don't hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do for you and your loved ones.

God's blessings to you all.

Sincerely,



James C. Dobson, Ph.D. President

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Endnotes:

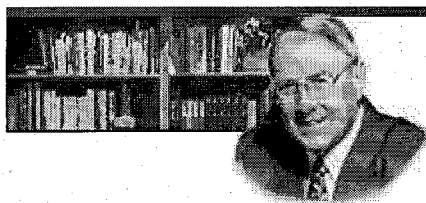
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 17. George Will, "Bush Draws the Line on Stem Cells," *The Washington Post*, 14 August 2001, p. A15.
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Dear Friends,

The long-awaited report from the U.S. Census Bureau was released May 15, reflecting population trends and living patterns during the 10 year period ending in the year 2000.¹ It was a shocker! The report confirmed that the institution of the family has continued the downward spiral that began in the early '70s.² Indeed, it is now in an unfettered free-fall. Our local paper here in Colorado Springs, *The Gazette*, shouted the news in 84-point type, "Nuclear Family Fading."³ The *Boston Herald*, in a column written by Don Feder, carried the headline, "Nuclear Family in Meltdown."⁴ Allan Carlson of the Howard Center for the Family said, "We are moving toward a post-family society."⁵ Sadly and ominously,

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JULY NEWSLETTER OFFERS

these assessments are true. This God-ordained institution, which has prevailed in almost every culture on earth since the Garden of Eden,⁶ is unraveling right in front of our eyes.

Here are some of the most disturbing findings from the report: Households headed by unmarried partners grew by almost 72 percent during the past decade, most of them involving people living together out of wedlock.⁷ Households headed by single mothers increased by more than 25 percent,⁸ and those led by single fathers grew by almost 62 percent.⁹ For the first time ever, nuclear families dropped below 25 percent of households.¹⁰ A third of all babies were born to unmarried women, (33 percent) compared to only 3.8 percent in 1940.¹¹ From other studies, we know that cohabitation increased by close to 1,000 percent from 1960 to 1998.¹² We are also seeing a growing number of unmarried women in their 20s and 30s who, like actress Jodie Foster, are choosing to bear and raise children alone.¹³

On Wednesday, June 13, the Census Bureau released another disturbing finding. It indicated that same-sex homes are soaring. The word they used, in fact, was "skyrocketing," in two states, Vermont and Delaware.¹⁴

In essence, the old taboos against divorce and cohabitation are disappearing, and the culture is abandoning its commitment to lifelong marriage. Indeed, I doubt if most young adults have any significant understanding of why previous generations defended the family so vigorously or why they were disdainful of those that blatantly "shacked up." It was because they violated biblical moral principles that

were deeply ingrained within the culture. That belief system has almost disappeared. Now, the divorce rate is actually higher by a small margin among born-again Christians than for those who profess to have no faith at all.¹⁵ These social changes represent a growing decadence with far-reaching implications for the future.

It is predicted now, based on these trends, that about half of the children today will spend at least part of their childhood in single-parent homes.¹⁶ Already, the United States is the world's leader in the percentage of single parents among industrialized nations,¹⁷ and that number is skyrocketing. What will happen if marriage does, indeed, become obsolete or largely irrelevant in the days ahead? It portends a world where almost every child will have several "moms" and "dads," perhaps six or eight "grandparents," and dozens of half-siblings. It will be a world where little boys and girls are shuffled from pillar to post in an ever-changing pattern of living arrangements—where huge numbers of them will be raised in foster-care homes or are living on the street (as millions do in Latin America today.)¹⁸ Imagine a world where nothing is stable, and where people think primarily about themselves and their own self-preservation. In short, the demise of families will produce a chaotic world that will be devastating to children. But here is the most important implication of family disintegration. It will represent a virtual end of evangelism, as has occurred in Western Europe. George Barna's research reveals that if a child hasn't been introduced to Jesus Christ by the time he or she is 14, there is only a 4 percent chance that such conversion will happen between ages 14 and 18 and a 6 percent chance that it will occur in the remainder of life.¹⁹ The family is absolutely critical to the propagation of the faith. If it falls apart in nations

Family

around the world, we will, perhaps in our lifetime, see another moral collapse "as it was in the days of Noah."

Children, of course, will be the first to suffer. Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, writing in her acclaimed article "Dan Quayle Was Right," said this about the stresses experienced by children when their families fall apart:

All this uncertainty [in a single-parent home] can be devastating to children. Anyone who knows children knows that they are deeply conservative creatures. They like things to stay the same. So pronounced is this tendency that certain children have been known to request the same peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich for lunch for years on end. Children are particularly set in their ways when it comes to family, friends, neighborhoods, and schools. Yet when a family breaks up, all these things may change. The novelist Pat Conroy has observed that "each divorce is the death of a small civilization." No one feels this more acutely than children.²⁰

Given the national crisis that appears to be on the horizon, one would think that the federal government would be trying desperately to support the institution of marriage and do everything possible to restore it to a position of health and vitality. Quite the opposite is true. Our political leaders have been shameless in their disregard for the institution of the family. When Margaret La Montagne, White House Domestic Policy Advisor to President George W. Bush, was asked about her reaction to the Census report during a C-SPAN interview, she replied, "I guess I would respond to say, you know, 'So what?'"²¹ Her comment sets some kind of record for its ignorance. The nation's families are steadily disintegrating, yet La Montagne

said, in effect, "Who cares?" The disturbing thing is that this woman sits at the highest level of government, offering advice and counsel every day to the most powerful man on earth. Lord, help us! Unfortunately, her flippant remark reflects the cavalier attitude toward families that is common in Washington. How long has it been since you've heard one of our prominent leaders talk about the pressures on marriages, or the desperate need for government to lend a hand?

There are a few bright spots on this dark landscape, of course. For example, the president recently nominated Dr. Wade Horn to a top position in the Department of Health and Human Services. Some of you may recognize Dr. Horn as the president of the National Fatherhood Initiative, an organization that has long proclaimed the importance of the two-parent household and warned of the increased risks that children face without a father in their lives. If confirmed as assistant secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Horn would have authority over welfare policy, child care, child support, foster care, adoption, Head Start and refugee services.²² Not surprisingly, however, the National Organization for Women has already trained its guns on Dr. Horn, erroneously suggesting that, by supporting the view that stable families with two parents are vital to child development, he will actually be pressuring women to "stay married to men who abuse them."²³

The majority of our congressmen and senators have not only ignored the needs of families—they have consistently made matters worse. For 32 years, married couples who have poured their lives into their kids, packing lunch boxes, buying sneakers and nursing fevered children through their illnesses, have been taxed at a higher rate than those living together

without benefit of marriage.²⁴ That is unconscionable!

Focus on the Family and other conservative organizations have been begging our representatives since 1985 (literally) to give families a fair shake. I have devoted numerous radio programs to the issue, and you, our friends, have burned the phone lines of the Capitol Hill switchboard, demanding action. Nevertheless, the majority of our lawmakers remained deaf to our pleas. They gave us political gobbledygook about not having enough federal money to deal with the penalty. They warned that it would "break the budget" to fix it. Then when it became apparent that our government would have a huge budget surplus, their dance quickly changed. The new excuse was that there were more pressing concerns to be funded. Yeah, like what? Like allocating hundreds of millions annually for Planned Parenthood and similar organizations?²⁵ Like the initiative of Democrats, (which thankfully failed by a hair) to fund abortion providers around the world with millions of our tax dollars?²⁶ Like the \$1.5 million to refurbish a statue of the ancient Roman god of fire, Vulcan, in Alabama?²⁷ Or like the "Big Dig"—the underground highway in Boston that was supposed to cost \$2.6 billion, and has now cost \$13.6 billion?²⁸ Or like the \$3 billion held in trust for American Indians by the Interior Department that has simply disappeared?²⁹ Yes, there are many other priorities for those who are oblivious to the family.

President Clinton was a most aggressive opponent of family relief during his term in office. At an impromptu White House press conference on August 5, 2000, he said that to lower the taxes on families would be to "squander the surplus."³⁰ That about puts it in

perspective, doesn't it? The government is squandering untold billions every year! There was plenty of money to kill babies and fund pork-barrel projects of our legislators, but not enough to give a break to married couples.

At last this year, President Bush's tax-relief measure found favor in Congress. Washington is awash in revenues and the president urged our representatives to let the people keep some of their own money. There was even some encouraging talk of putting an end to the marriage penalty tax. Well, the subsequent bill has now passed, as you know, offering relief to tax-paying Americans. The president is to be commended for promoting a tax cut (the biggest in two decades)³¹ that will help families on a general level; however, thanks to many liberals in Congress, there is not one dollar allocated to end the marriage penalty tax, for four more years. That's right! Out of \$1.35 trillion allocated for a reduction in taxes, *none* of it will go toward the marital inequity until 2005, and then only a small adjustment is proposed.³² It will never materialize if the liberals in Congress have their way. Democratic consultants James Carville and Paul Begala wrote in *The New York Times*, "The Democrats must work to spend and shrink: spend the money and shrink the tax cut . . . there is plenty of time to fix things."³³ What a surprise that is!

Meanwhile, Sen. Ted Kennedy and Rep. George Miller, working in conjunction with the White House, rammed through an education bill that gives (brace yourselves, now) a 29 percent increase to the Department of Education!³⁴ The money will go to an already bloated bureaucracy that has done irreparable damage to our schools. New Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle is still not satisfied with this allocation. He

is threatening to sabotage the president's agenda with even more massive appropriations.³⁵ This, despite the fact that it can't even account for \$450 million they "lost" in the past three years of the Clinton administration.³⁶ Nevertheless, they are about to get \$24 billion more for expansion of the federal control of our schools, while our representatives could not spare one thin dime to redress the inequity for married couples.³⁷ Thanks, senators and congressmen. You still don't get it. You have let this precious institution languish since the '60s. Now it is on the ropes. Every special interest group in the country seems to have its political benefactors who dole out money like water from a fire hose. Every special interest that is, except the traditional family. It is truly a ragged orphan crying for a morsel of bread among the Fat Cats in Washington. Daddy Warbucks is thinking about himself! Four more years, indeed!

All of these thoughts were burning through my mind as I read the recent Census Report. It took me back to the mid-70s, when I first became concerned about the well-being of families. At that time, I held a very rewarding and exciting position at the University of Southern California, serving as an associate clinical professor of pediatrics. I could have enjoyed that work for the rest of my life, because it involved children and an effort to make some of them healthier. It was a momentous decision for me to resign and open a little two-room office dubbed "Focus on the Family." Why did I do it? It was because I saw the institution of the family starting to unravel and felt I should do something to help. That has been my life for the past 24 years.

I don't want to sound like the Great Seer, but I foresaw the findings that now confront us in the new Census data. I watched as these disturbing developments

gathered momentum through the '80s and '90s. More recently, I have been warning that marriage as an institution appeared to be dying. I'm sure some of my readers and listeners saw those statements as alarmist and overstated, and in fact, some have emphatically told me so. No more. The facts are now indisputable. Let me say one more time that if the family and the Judeo-Christian ethic collapse, the entire culture will descend into the same black hole that consumed Greece, Rome and the other great empires of the world. It's just a matter of time.

The forces arrayed against the family are almost irresistible. Homosexual activists, radical feminists, abortion zealots and haters of Christianity have banded together to bring down the old order and substitute their own version of the Brave New World. With the help of the hostile media, the entertainment industry, the ACLU, People for the American Way, the National Education Association, and especially, the liberal judges who are undermining the Judeo-Christian ethic day by day, they have brought the institution of marriage to its knees. Meanwhile, millions of Christians and some of their leaders are still standing around muttering, "Let's not get political."

Forgive my harsh words, but I do get frustrated at times. This is one of those tougher moments. I see so little willingness among believers to fight for what is decent and right. They remind me of something that was shared by Diet Eman, author of *Things We Couldn't Say*, with a member of the Focus on the Family staff. Diet told a story about a rail line that ran nearby and was used by the Nazis to transport boxcars jammed with Jews and other "undesirables." They were on their way to the death camps in the East. Many times, the trains were sidetracked for hours while the miserable people begged pitifully for food, water

and mercy. There were no bathroom facilities for the journey, which could last four days or longer. Nearby, I'm told, was a small church located close enough to the rail line to hear the cries coming from within the boxcars. The church people attending services were deeply disturbed by these mournful "distractions," and so, they began singing more loudly so they wouldn't have to hear them. I wonder what the God of all compassion thought about His followers as they used their worship to drown out the calls for help from tortured people.

Isn't that story analogous to our response to the wickedness around us today? Unanesthetized babies continue to be murdered by a barbaric procedure known as partial-birth abortion. The clinics where this killing is done are located all around us, perhaps 2,042 of them, but we don't want to know about where they are.³⁸ Our children are being taught immoral lifestyles in our classrooms, but only a handful of parents show up at school board meetings. Homosexual propaganda is being disseminated in a growing number of schools to children as young as kindergarten,³⁹ and yet few pastors will mention this assault on innocence on Sunday morning. That would also be political, you know.

The *New York Post* reported that the seniors in a Minneapolis high school were given "kits" from Planned Parenthood before the prom. Each package contained condoms, confetti, breath mints and a discount coupon to a Planned Parenthood clinic.⁴⁰ Is it any wonder that genital herpes infections are soaring⁴¹ and that new cases of AIDS have again reached proportions not seen since before the disease was first identified?⁴² What is our reaction to these and hundreds of other

disturbing developments? Most of us cram our calendars with so many activities that there is no time left to care. Then we go to our sanctuaries each week and simply sing louder.

There are several influential organizations, perhaps a dozen or fewer, that have fought consistently for the preservation of the family. Focus on the Family is among this small cadre that has defended the unborn child, fought for a fair deal for families, opposed the agenda of homosexual activists, prepared helpful materials for parents and their children, and called for prayers for a national revival. Each of our sister organizations, including the Family Research Council, is struggling financially now. It's as though people think the battle is over and our side won. Unfortunately, as the Census report tells us, families and adherence to biblical morality continue to decline.

My inclination is to apologize for depressing you with these statistics and trends—but I will not do that. I have spoken from my heart. And I have spoken the truth. I beg you not to sit on your hands. Get involved. Use your influence. Lobby your representatives. Write the advertisers that are sending wretched television programs into our homes every night. Support your local crisis pregnancy center. Stay in touch with your local schools. Send letters to your newspapers. Answer Ms. La Montagne's "so what?" question about the disintegrating family. There are so many places and causes where support is needed. I'm enclosing a separate list of areas wherein your influence can be used effectively. More importantly, remember to pray for our nation and its families. Spiritual renewal is the only way out of the mess we are in.

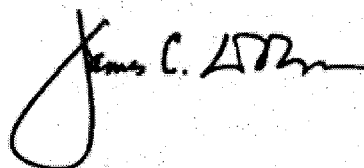
I'm also asking you to support not only Focus on the Family, but also the other organizations that are trying

to hold back the tide. Not only are we committed to defending the institution of the family against those who would seek to destroy it, but we also have an ongoing desire to come alongside individual families in the unique challenges they face. If we can be of any help to you, please call us at (800-A-FAMILY).

If you and God's people will accept that challenge, the 2010 Census Report may show a wonderful turn-around. But if we remain detached and unconcerned, the traditional family, as it was designed by our heavenly Father, will almost certainly perish in America. If that happens, its demise will effectively end this marvelous experiment in liberty. We must not be content to sing a little louder.

May the Lord bless each of you in His service.

Sincerely,



James C. Dobson, Ph.D.
President

Send this page to a friend!

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Press Room

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Press Room > November 26, 2001

Focus on the Family Urges Congress to Ban Human Cloning

Colorado Springs — Carrie Gordon Earll, Bioethics Analyst for Focus on the Family's public policy division, released the following statement in response to yesterday's announcement that Advanced Cell Technology, a Massachusetts biotechnology firm, has successfully cloned the first human embryo:

"This is human experimentation, pure and simple. To say that these embryos are 'cellular' life, but not human life, is to engage in a game of semantics. Every one of us started out as embryos. To redefine life in any other terms puts all life at risk.

"While this for-profit corporation claims it does not intend to clone humans for birth, other groups do. And they will use this research to that end. How many embryos will be created and destroyed before scientists perfect these experimental methods — methods with unknown results?"

Advanced Cell Technology also said it hopes to grow human embryos so that stem cells can be extracted for medical research — a process that destroys the embryo.

"Creating life for the sole purpose of destroying it is unethical and unnecessary," said Earll. "The medical community should continue to advance the research progress already underway, using adult stem cells, as well as stem cells from placenta and umbilical cord blood, that offer promise in healing the body without destroying human life.

"The pace of science is rapidly passing the social bounds of ethics and morality. It is time for public policy to set reasonable limits to advance the preservation of life and protect human dignity.

"We urge the Senate to act quickly and pass the Weldon-Brownback Human Cloning Bill, already approved by the House."

To schedule an interview on this subject with Focus on the Family's Bioethics Analyst, Carrie Gordon Earll, please call Julie Neils: (719) 548-4634

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Dear Friends,

Greetings! As you may know, the celebration of Focus on the Family's 25th anniversary—undoubtedly the biggest event in the ministry's entire history—is approaching at a rapid pace. I'm hoping that you and your loved ones will be able to take part!

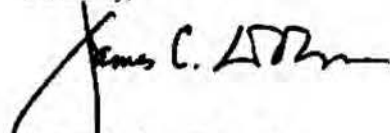
This once-in-a-lifetime gathering is going to take place July 26 and 27, 2002. The theme is God's Faithfulness—the amazing, never-failing faithfulness He has demonstrated toward this ministry from its very earliest days. In reflecting on this theme, I'm overwhelmed by the many ways He has blessed us during these 25 years. The Lord has transformed a two-person office into an international ministry with a staff of more than 1,300 here in Colorado Springs and affiliate organizations around the globe. And it appears the best is yet to come.

The festivities will convene the evening of the 26th at the Denver Pepsi Center, and will culminate with a joyous celebration Saturday night at the same location. The final evening's program will include an all-star line-up of Christian speakers and musicians, comments from Shirley and me, as well as other good friends of the ministry. We'd love to look out and see your faces in the crowd on that occasion!

The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to register your interest in attending as soon as possible. In order to cover the cost of transactions associated with the registration process, we're requesting a registration fee of \$25.00 per household. It is anticipated that tens of thousands of our supporters will be making the trip to Colorado Springs to join us for the festivities. That's why it's so important that you inform us of your intentions without delay, by calling us at 1-800-A-FAMILY or, preferably, by registering via our Web site at www.family.org/25.

I hope you'll consider joining us. Twenty-five years of gospel outreach and family ministry is something to cheer about, and we want your voice to be included in the chorus of praise we'll be offering to the Lord on this memorable occasion. We look forward to hearing from you soon! Blessings!

Sincerely,



James C. Dobson, Ph.D.
President

*"...and all the people were very happy because of what God had accomplished so quickly."
2 Chronicles 29:36, TLB*

25th
Anniv
2002

Video Taping: Focus on the Family
June 29, 2002
Draft #2

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Thank you very much. I am honored to join all of you at Focus on the Family as you celebrate your first twenty-five years. I especially want to salute my friend James Dobson for his leadership and his commitment to that sacred bedrock of our society—the American family.

For twenty-five years, Focus on the Family has sought to protect our families and promote our values. And they are values that you and I share together. We believe in fostering a culture of life—and that marriage and family are sacred institutions that should be preserved and strengthened.

We believe that life is a creation, not a commodity – and that our children are gifts to be loved and protected, not products to be designed and manufactured by human cloning.

We believe that protecting human dignity and promoting human rights should be at the center of America's foreign policy – and that our government should view the good people who work in faith-based charities as partners, not rivals.

We believe that the days of discriminating against religious institutions simply because they are religious must come to an end.

Faith teaches us that God has a special concern for the poor, and that faith proves itself through actions and sacrifice, through acts of kindness and caring for those in need. For some people, Jesus's admonition to care for "the least of these" is an admirable moral teaching. For many Baptists, it is a way of life.

*of you?
Catholic
Protestant
Jewish
Muslim*

Faith is also a source of comfort during times of grief. We saw this in the aftermath of the attacks on September 11th. Millions of Americans turned to prayer for wisdom and resolve, for compassion and courage, and for grace and mercy. And in these moments of prayer we were reminded of important truths – that suffering is temporary, that hope is eternal, and that ruthless will not inherit the Earth.

Many of you have prayed for my family and me. We have felt sustained and uplifted by your prayers – and Laura and I are incredibly grateful to you for them. We consider your prayers to be among our most precious gifts.

Congratulations on twenty-five years. May God bless Focus on the Family. And may God bless America.

Drafted by: Kasey Pipes, Office of Strategic Initiatives
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Video Taping: National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice 29th
Annual Conference
June 29, 2002
Draft #2

Speak to
Jen

Thank you very much. I am honored to join everyone at the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice as you gather for your 29th Annual Conference and Training Institute.

I thank all of you for your commitment to the cause of justice. And I salute you for working with my Department of Labor to find ways of helping people leave their past behind and build a better future.

Last year, I announced one of the most important commitments of my administration, the Faith-Based and Community Initiative. The purpose is to apply the compassion of America to help solve the problems of our country.

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This initiative recognizes the power of faith in helping heal some of our nation's wounds. This initiative will rally the armies of compassion which are spread throughout the United States of America. And this initiative acknowledges that our greatest strength is the hearts and souls of the American people.

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Since the attacks of September the 11th, it has become obvious to everyone how essential the community and faith-based groups are to the well-being of our nation. They have saved lives. They have provided hope. They have helped heal the nation's wounds.

Right now, this office is working to eliminate barriers that discriminate against community and faith-based organizations. Government cannot stand in the way of the good works of the people in our neighborhoods. And that's why my Department of Labor is working with all of you to develop a network of faith-based and community programs to help mentor and employ those who were once in prison.

Government must expedite and stand on the side of faith-based programs. We should not discriminate at the federal level against people who are trying to help us solve the nation's problems.

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weird apostrophe

This office will also work closely with members of Congress from both parties to pass legislation that will put government squarely on the side of our faith- and community based groups.

I salute all of you for what you have done and what you are doing. Working together, we can make a difference. Thank you. May God bless you. And may God bless America.

Drafted by: Kasey Pipes, Office of Strategic Initiatives
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Video Taping: Daughters of the American Revolution
June 29, 2002
Draft #2

I am honored to address to the 111th National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Annual Continental Congress.

One of the great things about living in the White House is that I have some great neighbors. And just ~~right down the street~~ ^{a few blocks away} from me is the DAR Constitution Hall ^{is on D Street.} What a beautiful hall. And what a wonderful organization. ^{POTUS lives on Penn.}

Since 1890, this outstanding organization has sought to honor the memory and the purpose of the American Revolution. Today, there are more than 170,000 DAR members in some 3,000 chapters all across America. And your service to your country is more important than ever.

Today, we find ourselves at war ... fighting an enemy whose evil is beyond comprehension. We did not seek this conflict, nor did we begin it. But we will fight it, and we will win it.

Fighting terror will be costly. And that is why I have proposed the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was President. After all, while the price of freedom and security is high, it is never too high. Whatever it costs to defend our country, we will pay.

At the same time we fight this war overseas, we must protect and secure our homeland. Several weeks ago, at an event hosted by the DAR, Governor Tom Ridge announced the homeland security advisory system.

And I also recently proposed a permanent Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security to unite essential agencies that must work more closely together. Employees of this new agency will come to work every morning knowing their most important job is to protect their fellow citizens.

But I also want to make to make America a better place. And we can do that by promoting a sound economic policy. Any time someone wants to work and cannot find a job, I am concerned. That is why we passed a historic tax cut for the American people that will help promote job creation and economic growth. And I urge Congress to make this tax permanent.

We already passed HR 1
May want to talk about that and say that we continue to support that reform that increases local control...
We also need education reform ... one that increases local control, insists on high standards, and leaves no child behind. And we must also continue to call upon the American people to love a neighbor as you would like to be love yourself. Many, including the DAR, are doing this already. And this is the gathering momentum of a thousand acts of compassion and kindness which show the world the true spirit of America.

I thank the Daughters of the American Revolution for your spirit and your service. May we always remember our noble past. And may we never stop looking forward to our country's great future. May God bless the Daughters of the American Revolution. And may God bless America.

Drafted by: Kasey Pipes, Office of Strategic Initiatives
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*Info on FEMA grants and
the help (advance funds) that
came
after fires
began*



"Widomski, Michael" <Michael.Widomski@fema.gov>
06/25/2002 09:27:52 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeannette B. Reilly/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: FEMA information on Fire assistance

Jen,

I've attached a file that has the releases regarding all of the fire management assistance funds FEMA has released for Arizona. They start with the latest, and back to the earliest release this year. Call me if you need something further.

Michael

<<Arizona files.doc>>

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