

Book of The Century

Report to the
President
White House
Conference
on Children

Nixon – 1970 WHC

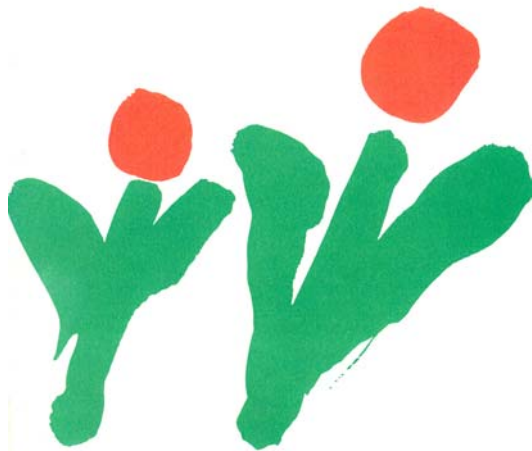
Richard M Nixon
President
The White House

Dear Mr. President,

On December 5, 1969, when you appointed me as National Chairman of the White House Conference on Children and Youth, you stated:

Never has this White House Conference come at a time of greater national questioning. Long held attitudes on such subjects as family planning, pornography, health services, school curricula, sex education, family structure, drug abuse, moral standards, governance of higher education, responsiveness of government—all are now openly challenged and debated.

The White House Conference can and will define problems, seek new knowledge, evaluate past success and failures, and outline alternative courses of action.



White House Conference on Children 1970, Washington, D.C.

Stephen Hess
National Chairman
December 5, 1969

Minority Report of Forum 15: Children and Parents Chairman, Urie Bronfenbrenner. 1970 White House Conference on Children.

I take issue with the accompanying document on two major counts. First, the report, in my judgment fails to convey the urgency and severity of the problem confronting the nation's families and their children. Second, the document underestimates and consequently fails to alert the reader to the critical role played by business and industry—both private and public—in determining the life style of the American family and the manner in which parents and children are treated in American society. The working draft of the original Forum 15 Task Force report began with the following statement:

America's families, and their children, are in trouble, trouble so deep and pervasive as to threaten the future of our nation. The source of the trouble is nothing less than a national neglect of children and those primarily engaged in their care— America's parents. The Editorial Committee objected to this statement on the grounds that it applied only to a minority of the nation's children and that, therefore, no note of urgency was justified. I strongly disagree (p. 252) (Bronfenbrenner, 1970).

Not much has changed from 1970 to 2008 except a continuing deterioration of America's children and families, an indictment of failed health policy in America—jwp.