AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

been way out front in innovation with Learnfare, Workfare, encouraging education to break the cycle of dependency. So we will have more to say on the Federal role later, but the thing for the moment is, speed up the relief that's necessary so these States can put into effect the kind of programs they think will work. These States aren't all the same. Welfare problems in Milwaukee are quite different than those in Juneau, Alaska, for example, or in California someplace. So this is a good step, and I'm very proud of Governor Thompson for his leadership.

Q. The Wisconsin plan penalizes women who have more than one child out of wedlock. Is that the kind of concept, Mr. President, that you would support?

The President. I'm very interested in the innovation of the Wisconsin plan. I want to see how it works. The Governor can defend or criticize any aspect of his own plan he wants. The Federal role is to encourage these Governors to do exactly what this Governor has done.

Q. But do you endorse that? Is that why you're giving——

The President. I'm not going into it point by point. I'm sure I have great confidence in him. If he thinks it's smart, that would be very persuasive with me. I can't say I know every detail of his plan.

British Elections

Q. Were you pleased with Mr. Major's victory?

The President. It was substantial, and it was wonderful. And I'll have more to say to you all later about that. I plan to meet with you a little more formally in something other than a photo op.

Q. Any parallel——

The President. So get your questions ready. [*Laughter*]

Q. Today?

Q. Before you leave? Is that when we're going to have something?

The President. No. We'll do something, I think, in the press room.

Q. What time?

The President. Well, we're working on that now. We have a lot to discuss.

Note: The exchange began at 9:40 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House, prior to a meeting with Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis W. Sullivan and Gov. Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin.

Statement on Wisconsin Welfare Reform

April 10, 1992

Last week in Philadelphia, I called for sweeping reform of how Government works. Nowhere is this need more apparent than in our Nation's welfare system. Our current system allows welfare to be a way of life. We must try new ways to get welfare to yield to work.

In our Federal system, States often act as laboratories for innovation. Welfare reform is an example. I am renewing my call to States to come forward with reforms which, like Wisconsin's, replace the assumptions of our current welfare system. We need to explore new incentives for welfare recipients to work and act responsibly in the best interest of their families. That is what underlies Wisconsin's "Parental and Family Responsibility Project."

I am committed to facilitating welfare reform by accelerating the approval process for every State with a worthy proposal that asks our help. Today, I am pleased to make good on my promise. Wisconsin's "Parental and Family Responsibility Project" has been approved 4 weeks after it was submitted.

Wisconsin is at the forefront of the welfare reform movement. Governor Tommy Thompson is a leader in the process of reform that will make welfare work.