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NEWS

PRESIDENT CLINTON DELIVERS REMARKS CHILD CARE, EDUCATION INITIATIVE AT WHITE HOUSE

JACKIE JUDD / JEFFREY TOOBIN / SAM DONALDSON, PETER JENNINGS

ANNOUNCER: This is an ABC News Special Report. "Crisis in the White House."

PETER JENNINGS: Good morning, everybody. I'm Peter Jennings in Washington. We're going to interrupt a previously scheduled event at the White House today to give you a pretty good example of the dilemma in this city today.

The President and Mrs. Clinton are at a ceremony in The Roosevelt Room of the White House this morning to celebrate part of the President's child care initiative. And we interrupt partly to give you a sense of

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...t of the kids that get in trouble get in trouble after school closes
...d before their parents get home from work. So in the adolescent years
and later, it's profoundly important to try to give kids something to
say yes to and something positive to do. But we can't do it alone.

As I said, our plan involves a public-private partnership. So it's
fallen to me to announce that our distinguished guest from the Mott
Foundation of Flint, Michigan, has pledged up to \$55 million to help
insure that after-school programs supported by federal funds are of the
highest quality.

That is an astonishing...

(Applause)

Thank you, Bill White. Thank you.

(Applause)

We are determined to help Americans succeed in the workplace; to raise
well-educated, healthy kids; and to help Americans succeed at the

toughest job of all, that of being a parent. And the Mott Foundation
has gone a long way toward helping us. I thank them.

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gone a long way toward helping us. I thank them.

Now, I have to go back to work on my State of the Union speech. And I worked on it until pretty late last night. But I want to say one thing to the American people. I want you to listen to me. I'm

going to say this again.

I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms. Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie, not a single time --never. These allegations are false, and I need to go back to work for the American

people.

Thank you.

(Applause)

PETER JENNINGS: The President speaking in The Roosevelt Room to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which is a

public-private program between the government and the Mott Foundation to help children after school and saying again there -- we had known in advance he was going to say something -- he wants the American people listen to him, he did not have a sexual relationship with Monica

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ten to him, he did not have a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, he never told anyone to lie and those allegations are not correct.

The person who has been covering what is indisputably a crisis in the Clinton presidency at the moment for us since the beginning is ABC's Jackie Judd. Jackie, when you hear the President say that this morning, I'm inclined to ask you first, what does the special prosecutor currently have to work with that we know can be confirmed?

JACKIE JUDD: Ken Starr's investigation is now working on two tracks, Peter. First, there are still efforts to get Monica Lewinsky to cooperate. For Ken Starr to be convinced that she will give her full and complete testimony. Those negotiations are still going on.

The second track is that his office is trying to find evidence, find eyewitnesses to establish a case that could stand on its own with or without that full and complete testimony of Monica Lewinsky.

We reported, for example, over the weekend, Peter, that Starr's office is investigating whether or not there was a witness to a moment between the President and Lewinsky at the White House. If true, that kind of witness could support allegations of an affair again with or without Ms. Lewinsky.

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ut, most notably education, trying to prepare kids for the next century is imperiled by this story of sex and possibly perjury and possible obstruction of justice that looms over him.

Hope you'll stay with us for breaking news. I'm Peter Jennings in Washington.

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