l!S. to the NEWS

by PHYLLIS SCHLA.FLV
Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002
Phone: 618-462-5415

RELEASE: July 30, 1976

MONDALE BABY-SITTING BILL

When Jimmy Carter selected Walter Mondale as his running mate, he created a major national confrontation between those who believe in family and local control over children, as opposed to those who favor Federal spending and control.

While the polls claimed that Mondale had name recognition with only one percent of the public, and a comedian cracked that most Americans thought Mondale was "a suburb of Los Angeles," the fact is that he is widely known at the grassroots as the Senate sponsor ef the bill that has generated more opposition mail than any in many years. Mondale himself said, in referring to the mail that reached Capitol Hill, "it started down in Oklahoma and Texas, then it came north like the hoof-and-mouth disease."

The .' rget of all this protest was the Brademas-Mondale Child and Family Services Bill. It is a proposal to spend nearly $2 billion of the taxpayers' money to set up a new bureau in charge of baby-sitting and child development facilities to be operated by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

With all the other mischief HEW has been getting into, such as forced busing of students and worrying about whether schools are committing sex discrimination by allowing a mother-daughter fashion show or a father-son baseball game, it is hard to see why anyone would want to give HEW new jurisdiction over the lives of pre-school children, too.

The Brademas-Mondale Bill states that it will "insure decision making at the community level, with direct participation of the parents ••• and other individuals and organizations••• through a partnership

{more)

of pa:cents, state andlocal . . • mtd Federal Governrrnut. 11 In other wo:n.;s, the :,}rademas-11ondal e :Jill wculi} replace the right of decision-making that presently rests in the parents alone by a new "partner-ship' with lIE an assortcrj other bur0nu rats and orga izations t t cl ,1irn they are ;1inte:irestedn in your child.

The scope of the Brademas-.M:ondale :Bill is v:ornt. Hy lH' tHHm · tr;; it liruitea merely to custodinl care. It novers the physical, eau tional, nutrit"1-onal, [1ocial, reereational, medicel, r,sychoJor:tr nl, ar.d enotional development of the child, as well as "other suc:1 services clUCl activities as the J.l};i,; Secretary deems appropriate. 1·

Nor is the Braoemas-},Iondale Hill a measure primarily dcsig;xiec to help the poor and !Wedy. It leorly states that the pror;r::ir "shnll include children fr·om a range of socio-economic l}ac.kground;-- ." The taxpayers will thus be forced to pay the costs of caring for the pre-school children of middle class and even wealthy mothers *11ho* choose to evade the so-called bu:r,: en o:•.' f;a?.:ing fm· their balJie :.

11e are told that the Brademas-Mondale Dill will strengthen t n family, whereas actually it will do the opposite becausn it will relieve parents of their res pons :nJil i ty :t'or chi ld-r<'aring. /\..nyonc ho wants t strengthen the family should encourage mothers to st y lrn1nf, c:1nd care for their own pre-school c:1U.::l:r-en. E:xpert psyciwlotii,ts say thot a mother's loving care is the single most valuable thin thnt can he given to a pre-school cbil<!.

'l'he Bratl.emas-.Mondale Bill states that participation will 1Jo voluntary. There are, however, no safeguard.a agaiast *a* latm· in aYctio11 oi' :(1a11datory participation simi1*ax* to the present school truancy 1:*zfiJS* that now apply to school children over the age of six. There are nl,"eacly many -pressure grou:ns in our country der1and:int 1'uni vr::ir ;cl '' overnment child-care fHcilitics.

.1 "1ter Iim.1dnle r::ay not lJe well lrn.om1 to the 1m1Jlio ..d l:::rge, lmt 1-·.nong those 1,ho *Co* know hiln, he earrtes the grc,.,_'. t, lia.iJJ.Lt *tJ* 01: ;ersonal sponsorship of the Brademas-Mondale Federal Baby-sitting thnt 11ould inevitably cr.;,use hi;::her taxes, norc Pederal control. j_:n the hfm::'.ls of HF\ , snri more mothe::cs n:,-ut b;ilLi.1: :; ler,vj_:n,g t:ieir w.a, .

{emt)