

AK Revision

**MORE CITIZEN ACTION NEEDED!**

# Clinton administration under fire on child porn law

AFA JOURNAL • JANUARY, 1994

By PAT A. TRUEMAN, *Legal Counsel, AFA, Washington, D.C.*  
(see Nov/Dec Journal for background information)

Attorney General Janet Reno shows no sign of backing down on her effort to weaken the federal child pornography law. More citizen action is needed to stop this outrage.

Reno doesn't acknowledge that she has attempted to weaken the law, instead, she maintains that current law is weak and in need of change. President Clinton, in a public letter, ordered Reno to prepare new child pornography legislation. But this was merely a ruse designed to shift blame for the Administration's problem to Congress. Not one sponsor could be found for the legislation in either house of Congress when the Reno legislation was sent to Capitol Hill in late November.

Citizen action to date has been overwhelming. Phone calls, primarily generated by Dr. James Dobson on his nationally

syndicated radio show, Focus on the Family, heard on nearly 1,300 stations daily, all but closed down many offices of the Justice

Department. The Department got the message from outraged callers, but refused to change policy. Dr. Dobson next urged his listeners to call the White House. So oppressive was the volume of calls that a new "child pornography comment line" was established. Still, no policy change.

Callers report that personnel at the Justice Department and the White House have often been rude. Nevertheless, we encourage concerned citizens to continue to call and voice their opinion. The telephone numbers are: Justice Department, 202-514-2001; and the White House, 202-456-1414.

The U.S. Senate voted 100-0 on November 4, 1993, to condemn the Justice Department for its attempt to weaken the child pornography law. More than half the members of the U.S. House have sponsored a similar resolution (H.R. 281). This will likely be debated on the floor of the House in early 1994. It is hoped that this resolution will also pass unanimously, which may cause President Clinton to rethink this Administration's position on the prosecution of child pornography. Is your Congressman a sponsor? Call 202-225-3121 to find out.

