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January 29, 2001

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Office of the Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301
via telecopier (703) 697-9080

RE: N2H2

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

Last Friday, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the Defense Department is a client of N2H2 Inc., which uses child-tracking software to snoop on the Web-browsing of our nation's schoolchildren, and then sells the data to marketers.

According to the *Journal*, N2H2's Bess filtering system "knows where the students go on the Web and how long they spend there....Late last year, N2H2 began selling its data. The information, called Class Clicks, is aggregated, meaning it can't be used to identify surfing habits of specific students, or even specific schools....for \$15,000 a year, marketers and Web-site operators can get monthly reports that detail where kids are going on the Internet, along with Roper Starch's aggregate estimates of the kids' ages and races."

During the Clinton Administration, the Defense Department must have grown confused about its mission. It should spy on national security threats, not our own schoolchildren. Please straighten this out, and cut all Defense Department ties to N2H2 immediately. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gary Ruskin
Director