

OUTLOOK

A report from the Council for American Private Education, Washington, D.C.

April, 1975

WHITE HOUSE INVITES GROUP
FROM PRIVATE SCHOOL SECTOR
FOR TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION

A 45-member delegation for private elementary and secondary education meets this month with Ford Administration officials under a new open-door policy at the White House. Representation will include the

Council for American Private Education (CAPE), national and state private school groups, and prominent supporters of private education.

The White House recently opened doors for two-way communication with organized public interests. Presidential aide William J. Baroody Jr. heads the Administration's Office of Public Liaison, at the same staff level as offices for the press and Congress. He says the public now will have "equal access" to the White House.

Baroody says the office focuses on "major nongovernmental organizations in the private sector," from academic, civic, and business groups to farm, labor, and ethnic interests. The communication drive has three aspects: weekly White House gatherings for invited groups to discuss concerns with top administrative leaders; biweekly "special issues" sessions; and, twice each month, regional "White House Conferences" around the country.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE
VITAL TO PRIVATE EDUCATION,
CAPE TELLS BLUE-RIBBON PANEL

Private elementary and secondary schools, which serve one-tenth of the children in the nation's classrooms, often are diverse, "trailblazing" forces in American education. While public schools are financed through

public taxes, private schools are not; hence, the private school sector considers private philanthropy "its only partner." And, to remain vital, private schools need a climate that supports, even increases, the flow of private contributions to schools.

Those are key conclusions of two CAPE studies made for a national blue-ribbon panel, the Commission on Private Philanthropy and Public Needs. The 1½-year-old panel is probing what it sees as the "erosion" of public readiness to contribute to "recognized community needs" served by private educational, cultural, research, and welfare institutions.

In one CAPE study, Donald A. Erickson discussed the historical and current contributions of private schools to American education and society in general. Dr. Erickson, a scholar of private education and member of the President's Commission on School Finance, voiced concern for the future of private schools in the face of inflation and increasing taxes. To enhance incentives for private support for such schools, Erickson offered six options, ranging from minor changes to an overhaul of America's framework of school finance.

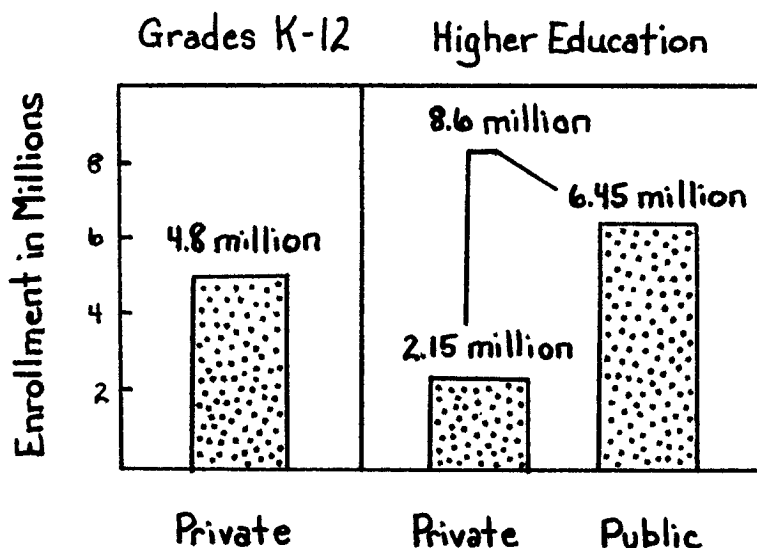
The second study by CAPE supplemented Erickson's panoramic view of the impact of private philanthropy on independent, Catholic, Hebrew, and other church-related private schools. Cary Potter and Al Senske, of national associations of independent and Missouri Lutheran schools respectively, collaborated with Robert Lamborn of CAPE to illustrate practical implications of private giving to private education.

The authors showed the wide range of dependence that private schools place on charitable gifts. They described philanthropy's impact in financing the establishment, operating expenses, and development of facilities and endowments of private schools.

A report from the commission is due late in the summer. From research in all areas of community service, the panel will compare public and private initiative for financing public needs. It will assess the "price" to government of tax deductions for charitable gifts and offer alternatives for encouraging private philanthropy. The panel's goal is to provide "blueprints for response" from all levels, from local volunteers to Congress. The commission was formed with encouragement from John D. Rockefeller III and members of Congress. The panel's research effort has the endorsement of Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon.

STUDENT COUNT IN NATION'S
PRIVATE SCHOOLS TOPS HALF
TOTAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

America has one student in a private elementary or secondary school for every two in higher education. For 1974-75, the U.S. Office of Education (OE) estimates there are 4.8 million students in private schools compared to 8.6 million seeking degrees in universities, colleges, junior colleges, and professional schools. This graph illustrating the ratio, higher than 1-to-2, is based on data from an OE release of September, 1974.



By OE estimates, of the nation's degree-seekers in higher education, 6.45 million are at public institutions while 2.15 million attend private institutions. So, private schools serving students from kindergarten through 12th grade have 2.2 times the total enrollment of private colleges and other private institutions of higher education.

BICENTENNIAL ISSUES CHOSEN
FOR NATIONWIDE EXPLORATION
OF AMERICA'S PAST, FUTURE

For the Bicentennial, the American Issues Forum has designed a calendar of nine monthly and 36 weekly topics for serious, nationwide study by persons of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. The Forum is asking 225,000 organizations, groups, agencies, and individuals to promote the concerted exploration of issues chosen as basic to America's development and future.

CBS Anchorman Walter Cronkite was first to call for a coordinated study of fundamental issues for the nation's 200th birthday; in response, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission are co-sponsoring the Forum.

Its calendar of issues is disseminated for use in schools, homes, businesses, and clubs, starting in September, 1975. It provides nine major topics: "A Nation of Nations"; The Land of Plenty; "Certain Unalienable Rights"; "A More Perfect Union"; Working in America; "The Business of America"; America in the World; Growing Up in America; and "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." The Forum says key topics were selected not from current events or problems, but from "abiding issues which have characterized American society and life from its beginnings."

ENERGY TASK FORCE WORKING
FOR NONPROFIT SCHOOL SECTOR

In approaches to Congress and the Administration on the nation's energy policy, an Energy Task Force is speaking for nonprofit educational institutions--private schools among them. The Energy Task Force is composed of business officers of representative universities across the country. Working with the American Council on Education, the group also has drawn CAPE into its efforts.

A first task is a nationwide "Energy Consumption Survey" with a sampling of universities and private schools. Each of CAPE's nine member organizations will poll selected schools about their fuel usage, their conservation efforts to date, and their comparative costs since the energy crisis started.

Task force head Jack Embersits of Yale University says there are three goals: to help build a national energy policy that takes into account all nonprofit educational institutions; to encourage both short and long-range fuel conservation; and to assure that the burden of added fuel costs is equitable for the nonprofit educational sector.

IRS WANTS PRIVATE SCHOOLS
TO PROVE NONDISCRIMINATION
FOR ANNUAL TAX EXEMPTIONS

The Internal Revenue Service proposes to require added yearly proof of racial nondiscrimination for private schools to qualify for federal income tax exemptions. While recently proposed IRS procedures concentrate on admissions and treatment of students, they also could affect the racial composition of faculty and staff of private elementary and secondary schools. Scholarship aid and directors' organizational ties would fall under more systematic scrutiny.

In draft form, the IRS rules apply to each private school that wants to obtain or keep an exemption from federal income taxes. Rules would require annual publicity about each school's open admissions policy. IRS would require annual reports and three-year retention of all applications, scholarships, and employment files, with notations about the actions taken and reasons for each rejection.

CAPE member associations favor the thrust of the IRS proposal, soundings show, but also question the burden of record-keeping and reporting requirements and the lack of definite procedures for IRS to declare discrimination toward faculty, staff, or students. CAPE's nine member groups—with 12,000 schools—support nondiscriminatory admissions policies.

ONTARIO COALITION WORKS
FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL GOALS
AS STATE GROUPS IN U.S. DO

Private schools in Ontario, Canada, have joined in a province-wide coalition. In its inception and aims, the Ontario Association of Alternative and Independent Schools is much like broad-based groups for private schools in 16 states in the U.S.A. The Ontario group cites in its statement of purpose part of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children."

The Ontario coalition draws members from the province's "rich variety" of 300 private schools, which together serve about 90,000 children. Its thrust, founders say, is to educate the public and the provincial and Canadian governments "toward the desirable goal of financial equity for all kinds of schools."

The four-month-old coalition wants Ontario's private schools to share in the educational services and facilities "which are supplied by all taxpayers." A prime concern is gaining access to federal grants for teaching French. Administered by provinces, the second-language grants go to all schools in British Columbia, but only public ones in Ontario.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS BEAR PUBLIC TRUST, NAIS CONFERENCE HEARS

The trend toward "greater public accountability" is a challenge that private schools should welcome, according to Cary Potter, President of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). At the association's recent annual conference, Potter said that schools, while safeguarding their independence, must also seek to comply with "duly determined societal standards."

Potter said more and more public agencies "are asking questions, requiring reports, and directing schools in one way or another." Concern among private schools about "this new intrusion" is understandable, but not always well-founded, he said.

An independent school, Potter advised, "cannot forget that it is in the last analysis a public institution, and that its privileges are a public trust."

Private schools may be both independent, he said, and accountable to the public--in their finances, treatment of students, faculty, and staff, and regard for student rights. The NAIS conference in Atlantic City drew 3,000 delegates from 747 member schools.

NCEA CONVENTION ATTRACTS HEBREW, CHICANO LEADERS; PARENTS PONDER UNITING

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) holds its 72nd annual convention in April for about 10,000 Catholic educators and parents. The keynote speaker is a Judaic scholar, Rabbi Marc Tananbaum of the American Jewish Community, who helped the Second Vatican Council in redefining the church's view of Jews. Cesar Chavez, a leader of the farm labor movement, also speaks at the four-day session in Atlantic City.

Father John F. Meyers, NCEA President, says parents at the convention are considering whether to form a national parent-teachers group for Catholic schools. At local levels, there are about 5,000 "home and school" organizations scattered in the nation's Catholic schools, according to Father Meyers.

OE ASKS CAPE TO RELAY CONFERENCE INVITATION

A new kind of invitation for private school participation was extended by the U.S. Office of Education (OE) for four conferences across the nation in March. Dr. Robert R. Wheeler, Acting Deputy Commissioner for School Systems, asked CAPE to help draw private school representatives to the regional sessions in San Jose, Calif., Dallas, Tex., Atlanta, Ga., and Silver Spring, Md. CAPE relayed the invitation to its national member groups, to the 16 broad-based state organizations for private schools, and to the 50 CAPE state representatives. At Wheeler's behest, state school chiefs also encouraged private educators to attend the two-day conferences which dealt with regulations for and implementation of federal educational aid programs and the Family Rights and Privacy Act.

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Council members: The American Lutheran Church • Friends Council on Education • Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Board of Parish Education • National Association of Episcopal Schools • National Association of Independent Schools • National Catholic Educational Association • National Society for Hebrew Day Schools • National Union of Christian Schools • U.S. Catholic Conference.

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