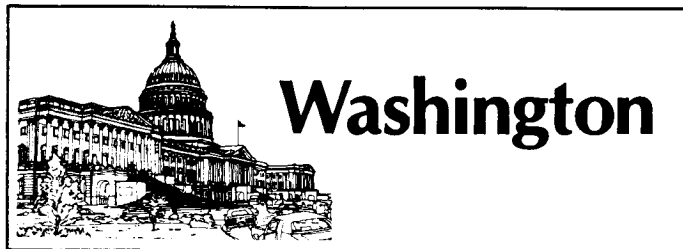


CAPE OUTLOOK



NAIS Conference Hears Reagan, Bennett

Speaking on February 28 to a jammed-packed Ballroom in the Washington Hilton Hotel at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Independent Schools President Reagan covered a full agenda of educational issues in a major address arranged only days before by the White House. Noting that the swelling economy was offering us dazzling progress for the future through technology and making possible increased funds for college and university endowments, he said we should work hard to strengthen basic learning and to carry out all the important prescriptions in "A Nation At Risk" for improving education.

The President reiterated his support for increasing choice in education through tax credits and vouchers, encouraging better teaching through merit pay, teaching "basic skills and basic values" while giving students a picture of America that is "balanced and full", making the school a place where students can learn without fear, develop values, and where the control of education is given to parents. His speech ended with a reading from "Huck Finn". When Huck and Jim floated down the Mississippi at night past towns on hillsides which appeared to be "nothing but a shiny bed of lights."

"In the decades to come, may our schools give to our children the skills to navigate through life as gracefully as Huck navigated the Mississippi. May they teach our students the same hatred of bigotry and love of their fellow men that Huck shows on every page, and especially in his love for his big friend, Jim. And may they equip them to be as thankful for the gift of life in America in the twenty-first century, as was one Huckleberry Finn in the nineteenth."

In a preliminary message to the Conference Secretary of Education Bennett, a private school graduate

(Gonzaga High School in Washington, D.C.), stated his view that character is as important a goal of education as is intellect and lauded his independent school hosts for having long made these the twin goals of the work of their schools. He said he would be talking a lot about this matter throughout his tenure. He also reiterated his view that the quality of education now being received by many college students is one of his highest priority concerns. He explained that his support of the Administration's income cutoff for student aid eligibility is on the basis of the equity proposition that the poor should not be asked to support the rich in attending college.

The Secretary was well-received by an audience which clearly agrees with the Secretary's concern for the centrality of academic learning and character building in education.

Recognition Project Begins Site Visits

The Exemplary Private School Recognition Project took to the road during February in holding 6 site visitor orientation sessions in Philadelphia, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and Dallas. Invited were school administrators expected to do school site visits in all regions of the country. Though turnout was smaller than hoped (bad traveling weather was a crucial factor at 3 of the meetings), the sessions provided a needed opportunity to explain new elements of the Project and to give a common core of information to those involved in the critically important preparation of the site visitor report.

Father Vincent Duminuco, President of the Jesuit Secondary Education Association and Michael Guerra, Executive Director of the Department of Secondary Education of the National Catholic Educational Association individually assisted CAPE's executive director in 5 of the 6 sessions. Three were held in airport areas, two in schools in New York and Atlanta and one in a Friends Meeting House in Philadelphia. Delta Airlines was particularly helpful by providing its conference room at Chicago's O'Hare Airport.

School site visits are beginning in the first week in March and will run into early May.

House Committee Presses Bennett on Ed Budget

At the House Education and Labor Committee's hearing on the Department of Education budget on March 2nd, Chairman Augustus Hawkins (D-CA) began the questioning of Secretary William Bennett by asking for his views on tuition tax credits and vouchers. The Secretary said that in both programs parental choice is central, it is good and should be encouraged. He said polls show that parents overwhelmingly support the idea of there being parental choice. He said research indicates that those most likely to benefit from a tuition tax credit program would be low income parents and that a tax credit program would be a stimulus to competition among schools, a decidedly beneficial situation.

The Secretary said that scholars are still not agreed and are vague about the Alan Rock voucher experiment. Some things didn't work as planned, some did but there's still no scholarly agreement on the benefits.

A period of questioning by Chairman Hawkins about the Title I voucher plan of the Administration indicated his concern that some reasonable means be developed for making sure Title I students who opt for a private school get responsible instruction. The Chairman expressed himself as highly critical of the Administration's proposal suggesting it would lead to the creation of fly-by night schools. The Secretary and Deputy Undersecretary, Gary Bauer, suggested that LEA's as well as parents will be able to satisfactorily monitor the use of the Title I voucher if it were to be used in private schools.

Attention was drawn to states in which a voucher program for public schools is now in existence or proposed. There was no sense in how Committee members felt about this relatively new form of educational funding.

In the course of the hearing the Secretary defended the Administration's budget cuts for higher education and repeated his concern that a number of postsecondary institutions are not giving good value for the money. Most of the panel members' questions focused on proposed cuts in student loans and grants.

Study Group Addresses NIE Priorities

The National Institute of Education (NIE) recently brought together in Washington for a second day long meeting the National Study Group on Educational Practice. Composed of approximately 25 researchers, state superintendents and association leaders, this group acts as a sounding board for the thinking plans and priorities of NIE.

Manuel Justiz, NIE's Director, and Hunter Moorman gave an overview of NIE's '86 budget and the priority research interests of the Institute in the period ahead. Primary attention will be paid to teachers (training, development and retention), to the effective school, to improvement of post-secondary education and to educational technology.

Discussion was wide ranging and concerned such matters as finding better ways to measure and publicize research findings, what school graduates should know about, how practitioners can most effectively be informed about research which could help them, how to bring the educational labs and centers funded by NIE into closer focus with practitioners, and the Study Group's new leadership. One of the most perplexing questions dealt with the fact that student and school progress in some of the most important areas of educational growth and change takes many years yet, those who ultimately fund research in these areas feel the need to have relatively quick results. Also, some of the most important student learning is quite intangible. In an age which thinks everything can be quantified, how can a responsible research institute respond?

CAPE's representative was particularly concerned that attention be paid to finding better ways to easily and relatively quickly transfer research information to the kind of practitioners who are either skeptical of the whole educational research enterprise or who normally pay it almost no attention (i.e. many in the private school community). He was equally concerned that research, especially on effective schools and on teachers, include experience in private schools.

The Study Group was impressed with NIE's professionalism as well as its openness to new ideas and occasionally to friendly criticism.

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A coalition of 15 national organizations serving private schools (K-12)

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Cape Honors Title I

To mark the 20th anniversary of the signing into law the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, particularly Title I (Chapter I), CAPE is cosponsoring a day of forums and seminars on Capitol Hill. 26 education organizations and 5 members of Congress will sponsor the day of seminars and forums on April 24th for the exchange of information on the history of the programs and current developments with the program. The National Association of State Chapter I Coordinators and the International Reading Association are sponsoring a banquet the night before.

Representatives are expected from CAPE member organizations closely involved with Title I in New York, California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Maryland, Wisconsin and perhaps others.

Chapter I, the largest pre-collegiate federal education program, is targeted at low-achieving students in low-income neighborhoods. It is and has been since 1973 the federal education program serving the largest number of private school students, primarily minorities. It is also, not incidentally, the federal program which indirectly triggered the creation of CAPE in 1971. For it was the issue of private school support of an involvement in what was then called Title I which precipitated the need for a private school voice and view in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1972 and 1974. Many private school administrators who are familiar with the workings of Chapter I in their cities and states, consider it a well-run program and a model of public-private school cooperation.

Former CAPE E.D. Heads New Advisory Group at UCLA

At a recent meeting at UCLA chaired by CAPE's former Executive Director, Bob Lamborn and attended by Bob Smith, a new advisory group was put into place to work with UCLA's Graduate School of Education on its private school initiatives. The Private School Advisory Committee to the Specialization on Administrative and Policy Studies in Education of the Graduate School of Education at UCLA is the imposing name of this group of southern California private school association administrators which includes representatives from Lutheran, Catholic, Independent and CSI schools. They will work with Bob Lamborn at UCLA to better plan and implement activities through which UCLA's Graduate School of Education can work with the private school administrators and teachers.

Attending the meeting, in addition to the private school representatives, was Professor Don Ericson of UCLA, the elder statesman of private school research,

who offered a range of valuable comments about the state of affairs in private education. Bob Smith brought in the Washington perspective.

UCLA has become an important national center for furthering research and study in private education. Teachers and administrators who are interested in finding out more about opportunities there should contact Robert Lamborn at UCLA Graduate School of Education, 224 B. Moore Hall, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Congress returned from its Lincoln-Washington birthday recess facing committee schedules packed with oversight and budget hearings. Not much floor action yet except for farm credit legislation. Most of the attention is focused on various aspects of the FY'86 budget and appropriations.

The Senate Budget Committee, which is marking up a budget resolution to serve as a spending blueprint for Congress, late in the evening of March 13 approved spending cuts for the FY '86 budget which include some of the President's recommendations to cut child nutrition programs and the federal education budget. At press time, the Committee was working on adopting "reconciliation instructions" ordering congressional committees to make spending cuts necessary to meet budget targets.

The House Budget Committee continues its hearings on the FY '86 budget. There is not likely to be any action in the House Budget Committee until the full Senate acts on its version of the Budget Resolution.

Recent or Upcoming Action...

FY '86 Education Budget - The House Education and Labor Committee has held several days of hearings on the impact of the proposed FY '86 budget on education, child nutrition and employment training programs. The committee will draft its report to the House Budget Committee by March 12.

Civil Rights Restoration Act, HR 700, S.272, S.431 - The House Education and Labor Committee and Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee held a joint hearing on HR 700 a bill to amend 4 antidiscrimination laws to include a broader definition of "program or activity" as it relates to enforcement of the law. The legislation would overturn the Supreme Court ruling in *Grove City v. Bell* which narrowed the scope of antibias laws. Field hearings are being conducted this month in Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Santa Fe.

Just Introduced...

Math/Science Act Reauthorization, S.553 would reauthorize the math, science, computer learning and

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Research Update

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) last month highlighted some recent research related to private education which may be of interest to OUTLOOK's readers. These selections may be obtained by writing to EDRS, 3900 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304.

* *Minority Families Sacrifice for Quality Education*, by Virgil C. Blum. This 18 page paper reports and interprets findings of a study of 54 inner city private elementary schools in eight cities. Conducted by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights during the 1968-79 school year, the study examines the school's academic achievements; their growing appeal to low-income, minority families; the racial, socioeconomic and religious diversity of their students; and the financial sacrifices made by families who send their children to private schools. The study also makes conclusions about government policies concerning assistance to low-income families who choose private schools for their children.

* *State Legislative Policies on Private Education*. The 65 Tables included in this study show the results of a survey of all state and U.S. territorial statutes relating to private education. It shows that 37 states explicitly prohibit assistance to private schools or, in some states, to parochial schools. In some states, private schools are required to be accredited and in some other places to be licensed. And there are a few states which hardly make any demands on private schools.

In other areas of interest to private education one of CAPE's member associations, the National Association

of Independent Schools (NAIS), has available 2 publications which may be useful to OUTLOOK readers.

* *A Career in Independent School Teaching*. For teachers who are considering a career in a private or independent school, this brochure provides information on philosophies underlying private education; the distinguishing features of private schools in the areas of governance, finances, curriculum, and student and faculty selection. It also gives suggestions on how to look for a job in a private school.

On another subject which has received recent national attention, NAIS has surveyed its member schools on extended day care programs. This report portrays current services and presents the variety of extended day programs throughout the country.

Both NAIS publications are available through its office, 18 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02108.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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foreign language act, through FY '88 at the \$519 million 1985 level. Introduced by Sen. Domenici (R-NM); referred to Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

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