

cape outlook

COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN PRIVATE EDUCATION

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CAPE CONTRIBUTES TO EDUCATION SUMMIT

President Bush is meeting with all of the nation's Governors on September 27-28 at the University of Virginia for an Education Summit. This is only the third summit conference between Governors and the President in history. It is a major step in validating the "Education President," and extensive preparations have been made to make it a working summit and a summit that works. CAPE was asked to submit written testimony for the Governors' briefing as were the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). John Esty, President of both CAPE and NAIS was also asked to the White House with other members of the Education Leaders Consortium to help the President prepare for the Summit.

According to David Broder of the **Washington Post** the Summit is to focus on six topics to include recruitment and retention of talented teachers; improving the learning environment by ridding schools of drugs and crime and by addressing the health needs of at-risk pre-schoolers; "restructuring schools and increasing the choices for parents and students; life-long learning;" higher education including federal aid; "and the roles of federal, state and local governments in meeting education needs."

Broder writes that the White House supports the Governors in setting specific targets for the year 2000 in dropout and illiteracy reduction and setting measurable performance standards for schools and students, so the Summit will address concrete goals. He adds "(t)he standards will be high enough to make the United States competitive in the world economy and to sustain a common culture and informed citizenry in this increasingly diverse republic."

Those briefing the President and the Governors were asked to focus their testimony on federal and state education issues specific to their interests. We

(CAPE, including NCEA and NAIS) reminded the Governors that 12 percent of the country's school children and 25 percent of its schools are private, and that most of those schools are actively non-discriminatory.

We asked that tax measures be carefully evaluated so that private schools continue to benefit from charitable contributions, which result in helping both private and public schools.

We asked that private schools continue to receive government support in their efforts to improve drug education prevention and counseling.

We asked that our schools—especially Catholic schools because of their large numbers in inner cities, but all of our schools—be acknowledged for their contribution to educating at-risk children and that they be supported for their role.

We asked that we be included in discussions of school reform. There are suc-

cessful models in private schools in terms of the school reform dialogue on "restructuring," school choice and teaching values, for example. CAPE's Executive Director Joyce McCray wrote the Governors that "there are many models in private schools which translate to successful education in any school. Learning takes place when the environment is safe and when children are connected to each other, to teachers and to their schools. In such a place children can explore the democratic values which prepare them for citizenship and adult responsibility."

Finally we asked that our schools continue to be supported in their efforts to eliminate environmental hazards.

The states were called upon to contact Governors and present them with their private school concerns, and the state CAPEs and their networks played a vital role in presenting a CAPE agenda to this important Education Summit.



REVERSING THE EDUCATION EQUATION

On his White House meeting of education leaders with President Bush, John Esty, president of CAPE and president of the National Association of Independent Schools writes the following (excerpted remarks):

The President, flanked by Secretary of Education Cavazos and Chief of Staff Sununu, was a thoughtful and attentive listener. He began with several cogent remarks about the federal role in education, and then started around the table. Albert Shanker, head of the American Federation of Teachers, led off with new and gloomy statistics about the dismal state of America's schools. As the meeting progressed, it gradually dawned on me that our frame of reference—schools and schooling—was too small to contain the solutions to the problems my colleagues were enumerating.

It was a brief meeting. When my turn came, there wasn't time to offer the perspective on private education, which I represent..., so I decided to try to offer a synthesis. There was one really powerful and radical idea that embraced what had been said. For generations of Americans, education has been the key to a better quality of life. Now we have a totally new and radical situation. The equation is reversed: a better quality of life is the key to better education. Only when children can go off to school healthy, fed, supported, unviolated, undrugged and undistracted by TV or the street, can the schools do their job and do it better.

I believe we cannot have better schools until we are clear about these choices:

*Either we stop asking the school to provide all kinds of social services in addition to teaching, and greatly strengthen community social services, or, we acknowledge that school is the last best hope to provide both educational and social services, and supply schools with the resources to do both jobs.

*Either we understand that a socially damaged two-year-old costs much less to save than a hardened criminal 20 years later, or, we bankrupt our society by spending \$70,000 per year to incarcerate the latter in order to save the expense of \$4,000 per year for the former.

This set of issues apparently comprises only one of the six main agenda items for the education summit. For me, it is the one on which all the others depend, the one on which we should concentrate all our resources before we can even hope for success in addressing the others.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

HR. 3—The Child Development and Education Act— was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee on September 7. A different version of the bill was approved in June by the House Education and Labor Committee.

Ways and Means dropped the section creating a new grant program for states to help pay for child care, or the ABC title for infants, toddlers and young children. However it did retain the section establishing a National Advisory Committee on model child care standards. It added an increase for child care funding of \$1.75 billion over five years to the Social Services Block Grant program, Title XX to replace ABC. (Title XX is the second largest federal source of funding for child care services; the child and dependent care tax credit is the largest.)

Ways and Means also increased the earned income tax credit for families earning under \$21,000 with children and added a supplemental credit for children under age six. (The earned income tax credit provides an advanced refundable tax credit to taxpayers with children.)

Ways and Means retained the section expanding the hours and number of days of Head Start services. (Head Start is the largest program of federal assistance providing early childhood development services, and helps low-income three to five-year-old children and their families with cognitive and language development, medical, nutritional and social services.)

Ways and Means also retained Title II of the Education and Labor measure which would make grants to states to expand, establish and operate early childhood development programs and before and after-school programs through public schools for children of working parents or parents in training or education programs. Under Title II the public school could make grants and contracts with other public entities and eligible private nonprofit community-based organizations with non-sectarian programs, but priority must be given to programs housed in public school buildings if the cost is comparable.

Ways and Means retained Title IV which funds needs assessments, enforcement, training, local resource and referral and salary upgrades under the state lead agency as well as grants for business partnerships, loans for renovations and to meet licensing requirements, etc.

Ways and Means retained Title V which makes matching grants for business involvement in meeting child care needs. Finally Ways and Means added a Title VI for a Child Care Standards Improvement Incentive Grant Program and a Child Development Systems Demonstration Program. All states receiving federal funds for child care would be required to have standards.

Both committees have attached their measures to deficit reduction legislation or "reconciliation" now being developed. Both measures are before the House Rules Committee which will decide which one advances to the floor.

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A coalition of 14 national organizations serving private schools (K-12)

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The Senate child care bill, S. 5, passed the Senate on June 23. The ABC portion of the bill provides 70 percent of the appropriated funds to pay for child care through contracts and certificates to low-income parents to choose their children's care providers. The Senate bill passed with a refundable dependent care tax credit, an expanded earned income tax credit and a credit for low-income children's health insurance costs.

S. 933 and H.R. 2273—The Senate passed the *Americans With Disabilities Act* on September 7. This bill prohibits discrimination against individuals in the private sector with physical or mental impairments and would entitle them to all the rights and privileges available to others, treating those rights as civil rights. Of interest to private non-sectarian schools in the Senate-passed version are the sections dealing with employment and with public accommodation by private entities. In both employment and admission policies, private (non-religious schools in the Senate bill) would have to make "reasonable accommodations." Changes on the existing plant which are "readily achievable" would be required, and new facilities would require accommodations for the disabled. New buses holding more than 16 would be required to be wheel chair-accessible, and owners of existing buses would be required to make modifications to barriers where readily achievable and where not, to provide alternatives. The House held subcommittee hearings in September. The Senate bill has the support of the Administration.

H.R. 2990—The bill appropriating funds for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on September 13. Chapter 1 would be increased by \$.5 billion from FY 89, whereas the House-passed bill had a \$1.1 billion increase. The Senate version contains \$22 million for Chapter 1 Capital Expenses while the House contains \$30 million. The House and Senate contain identical figures on Chapter 2 block grants. The differences in the two proposals will be worked out in conference committee soon.

H.R. 2916—The bill appropriating funds for the Veterans Administration, HUD and independent agencies including EPA passed the Senate on September 13 with \$52 million for ASHAA, asbestos abatement grants and loans to schools. The House-passed figure was \$47.5 billion. A compromise will be reached in conference.

The Senate passed on September 7 an amendment to the legislative branch appropriations bill which would eliminate postage-free mass mailings for members of Congress. The savings would provide \$45 million in FY 1990 for a program seeking to reduce the number of children born with drug or alcohol addictions, and is the first Congressional action since the President's address to the nation on drugs. The House passed its legislative appropriations bill without such an amendment; consequently the future of this measure is unclear.

H.R. 2710 and S. 1182—minimum wage—the House Education and Labor Committee marked up its bill on September 19 which would increase the minimum wage to \$4.25 per hour over the next two years. The Senate measure is pending on the floor. (The Administration proposal would raise the wage over three years and authorize a longer training wage period.)

CAPENOTES

*"The Internal Revenue Service has announced that it will not require employers to begin testing employee benefit plans for compliance or to comply with the reasonable notification requirement of IRS Code Section 89 nondiscrimination rules until December 1, 1989. The notice modifies Notice 89-65, issued earlier this year, which delayed compliance testing and notification testing until October 1." (American Council on Education memo, September 11, 1989)

*EPA and several educational organizations including CAPE are sponsoring a series of six one-day workshops in six cities to help school administrators learn their responsibilities in asbestos abatement, testing and control of lead in all drinking water and other contaminants in non-transient, non-community water systems and radon testing and abatement. There is still time to register for the following seminars: San Francisco, October 17; Dallas, October 19; Boston, October 30 and Chicago, November 1. Call Carol Ruppel at CAPE for details.

*Charles Nunley, Director of the Private School Facilitator Project, reminds private schools that they have access to more than 400 exemplary education programs. These programs, approved by the U.S. Department of Education for the National Diffusion Network (NDN) cover all aspects of curriculum and instruction for pre-kindergarten through

grade 12. Each state has a facilitator, and Dr. Nunley works together with the private school and the state facilitator in choosing and adopting programs which meet a school's needs. Over 2,000 private schools to date have availed themselves of these programs. Limited financial assistance is available. CAPE believes that the NDN is useful to private schools in their on-going pursuit of excellence. Contact CAPE/NDN, 1625 Eye St., NW, suite 412, Washington, DC 20006; 202-659-0177.

*The Department of Education published a combined application notice for most of the Department's direct funding opportunities. The announcement includes programs in the offices of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs, Educational Research and Improvement, Elementary and Secondary Education, Postsecondary Education, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and Vocational and Adult Education. Private schools may apply to these programs. Copies of the of September 15, which contains this announcement, are available for \$1.50 from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; 202-783-3238.

*The Department of Education will fund projects to improve teacher qualifications and skills and increase student access to math and science in elementary and secondary schools. Contact Allen Schmieder, Dept. of Ed., Fund for Improvement and Reform of Schools and Teaching, 555 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20808; 202-357-6496.

*Secretary of Education Cavazos invites parents, board members, state officials, education and business leaders, teachers, students and others to attend the regional meetings on choice in education. The Administration sees choice as "the single most promising idea" in school reform giving schools "a chance to distinguish themselves from one another and a chance to compete for and earn the loyalty of the students and families they serve." Those meetings will be held in East Harlem, NYC on October 16-17; Minneapolis/St. Paul, October 23-24; Charlotte, NC, November 13-14; Denver, November 16-17 and Richmond, November 28-29. Advance registration is required and should be requested immediately from Dr. Linda Varner Mount at 202-732-4039.

*Independent Sector reports that Americans volunteer about 3.5 hours a week and give about \$700 a year to charity. In 1988 charitable donations reached an estimated \$104.4 billion with religious organizations receiving \$48.2 billion of that amount. The **Give Five** campaign of Independent Sector has the support of cities and corporations nationwide and encourages a national standard for giving and volunteering: five hours a week and five percent of annual income. CAPE is a member of Independent Sector, a large coalition of non-profit organizations.

*Per pupil expenditures for public elementary and secondary schools will hit \$5,246 this year according to the Department of Education. For college students the figure is \$14,923. Total education spending will make up about 6.8 percent of the gross national product. The average public school teacher salary will be \$31,200. The Department counts 5,272,000 private and 45,595,000 public elementary and secondary school students in 1989. (**Education Daily**, 8/24/89)

*Under a cooperative agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and the National Association of State Boards of Education, 20 experts from law, medicine, public health and education put together guidelines for school policy on HIV carriers in their population. For a copy of "Someone at School Has AIDS: A Guide to Developing Policies for Students and School Staff Members Who Are Infected with HIV" send \$5 to NASBE, 1012 Cameron St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

*ism, Independent School Management announces its School Year Workshops open to all private schools. They include "Marketing Your School," "The Board Treasurer/Business Manager Team," "Tuition Setting," "Your School in the Spotlight: Positive Public Relations," "Evaluating the Head," "Evaluating the Board," "Successfully Manage an Early Childhood Program," and several other topics of interest to business managers and other private school administrators and boards. These workshops are held in Wilmington, DE; Boston, New Orleans and Indianapolis. Contact John Riddle at ism, 1316 North Union St., Wilmington, DE 19806-2594; 302-656-4944.

*The Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution announces its FY 1990 Bicentennial Educational Grant competition for the development of educational activities and instructional materials for use in elementary and secondary schools. This year commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Supreme Court, and the competition focuses on the history of the Judiciary. The 1990-91 competition focuses on the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments. Deadlines for submission of application with proposal are November 13, 1989 and May 21, 1990. For a program announcement contact the Commission at 808 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20006; 202-USA-1787.

*The Disney Channel aired a half-hour special on September 13 saluting the American teacher by honoring teachers from across the country. Ms. Lauradis Cardet, of St. Anthony of Padua in New Orleans was honored. A series of five-minute profiles of each of the selected

teachers will air every Monday and Thursday night at 8:50 and on Saturdays at 3:50. CAPE was among the associations assisting the program.

*The Education Policy Fellowship Program under the Institute for Educational Leadership is an opportunity for mid-career individuals who have demonstrated leadership in education or related policy areas and have worked in diverse professional environments to learn about public policy. Fellows from various fields remain in their full-time positions and use their work environment as the context for examining public policy. Program sites are Tempe, Los Angeles, Denver, Hartford, Springfield, IL; Boston, Lansing, Minneapolis, St. Louis, MO; Trenton, New York City, Raleigh, Cleveland, Salem, OR; Richmond and Washington, DC. For general information and a list of site contacts write the Institute for Educational Leadership at 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, suite 310, Washington, DC 20036.

*According to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, although the average total cost at a public university is about \$5,000 compared with private cost of \$10,300, the cost to the student is \$1,388 and \$2,947 respectively. Twice as many loans, grants and subsidized jobs go to private college and university students to make up the difference, and two-thirds of that aid is in grants. They also report that the public university student family's income is \$34,000 compared to the private college and university student family's income of \$36,000.

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