

cape Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

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New Year - New Education Secretary

Former Governor and Tennessee University President Andrew Lamar Alexander, Jr. was named by President Bush to be the new Secretary of Education on December 17. Senate confirmation hearings are to be held later this month with no delay or controversy expected.

CAPE has been invited to provide testimony for Alexander's nomination hearings by the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. In a letter to Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), panel chairman, Joyce G. McCray, CAPE Executive Director, requested the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of private schools. The letter cited CAPE's vital interest "in being included in the debate on the future of education" and the future Secretary whose leadership will be of "paramount importance" to educational quality and reform.

Bush, in his White House announcement of the nomination, said that "no Governor in the country is so clearly identified with the imperative to improve education in America." Bush went on to say that Alexander was "instrumental in bringing education reform to the very top" of the national agenda. Alexander served as Governor of Tennessee from 1979 to 1987.

Cavazos Departure Swift

The announcement came just five days after the swift and controversial res-

ignation of Lauro F. Cavazos who was reportedly asked to leave the Cabinet post by White House Chief of Staff John Sununu. Cavazos, first appointed by President Reagan in September 1988, was reappointed by fellow Texan Bush when the new Administration took over in 1989.

In his resignation letter, Cavazos thanked Bush "for the opportunity to work with the administration in helping to further its goals towards excellence in education" as well as cited satisfaction with the Department's efforts in advocating educational "choice". Cavazos' resignation became

Bush: "He (Alexander) was instrumental in bringing education reform to the very top of the agenda."

effective three days after its announcement following his winter commencement address at West Virginia State College.

Deputy Secretary Ted Sanders will head the Department as Acting Secretary prior to Senate confirmation of the new Secretary.

Governor Alexander's Reform Bill

Alexander served as Chairman of the National Governors' Association in 1985-86, where he strongly advocated education quality and reform to his fellow state chief

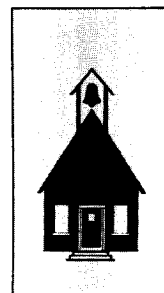
executives. He championed Tennessee's Comprehensive Education Reform Act of 1984 as a blueprint for national reform of education.

That legislation, narrowly passed by the Tennessee legislature, encompassed many of the concepts of school restructuring and teacher pay bonuses subsequently debated in other states. Despite defeat of the measure a year earlier, Alexander set out on a high energy statewide campaign to win passage of the proposal against the strong opposition of the Tennessee Education Association.

The education measure was narrowly approved in 1984. The merit pay component was financed by a one-cent sales tax increase and gave some teachers as much as a \$7,000 bonus, based on performance review. The package also included increasing the number of math and science teachers and putting more computers in classrooms.

Political/Education Background

Lamar Alexander's dedication to education since leaving the Governor's mansion in Tennessee has remained consistent. He was appointed by Bush to the President's Education Policy Advisory Committee after



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being named President of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in January 1988.

He also served as a commissioner and steering committee member with the Education Commission of the States (ECS), a national education policy organization, from 1979-1983. In 1988, he received the James Bryant Conant Award from ECS, one of the most prestigious honors in the education community. ECS President Frank Newman lauded Alexander's appointment and his "keen understanding of education issues" and "unique perspective to this important position in President Bush's cabinet."

Alexander's political experience is expected to be a helpful attribute upon assuming the job of Secretary, a quality cited as lacking in Cavazos. Alexander's Washington credentials also include serving as a Congressional and Nixon White House aide.

At the White House news conference with the President, Alexander was asked about the recent controversy with the Department's announcement on the discriminatory nature of racially-based scholarships. Alexander claimed he will "be full of advice to the President" and will discuss it at Senate confirmation hearings, but declined to comment. Further badgered by the press, he concluded by stating that "when you're wandering through Constitutional thickets, a warm heart and a little common sense are helpful."

Legislative Conference to Celebrate CAPE's 20 Years

Plans are being finalized for the CAPE Legislative Conference and 20th Anniversary Reception on March 19 & 20.

With the growing national debate on education reform and the need for private education to be united and visible on Capitol Hill, the CAPE Board of Directors at their fall meeting approved planning for a broad-based conference in conjunction with their March meeting. As the conference will occur 20 years after CAPE's initial organization and filing for IRS tax-exempt status, a reception honoring CAPE's found-

ers and members has been set for the evening of Tuesday, March 19.

The reception will occur in the ornate Russell Senate Office Building Caucus Room - site of the historic McCarthy, Watergate, and Iran-Contra hearings. Invited guests include Members of the House and Senate, the new Secretary of Education, the President and First Lady, as well as other government officials and guests. The reception will be held from 6-8:00 p.m.

The conference will begin earlier that day with registration at the Embassy Row Hotel at 11:30 a.m. followed by a 12:30 p.m. luncheon and speaker. Eleanor Clift, Chief Congressional Correspondent in the Washington Bureau of *Newsweek* magazine and guest commentator on numerous television news programs, will speak about her perspectives on current events in Washington.

Following an afternoon briefing, participants will attend a 4:00 p.m. White House briefing given by Bush Administration officials on education policy. From there, participants will be transported to Capitol Hill for the gala 20th Anniversary Reception.

The next day's activities begin with a continental breakfast and legislative briefings, after which point, CAPE organization members will be taken to the House and Senate office buildings. They will then have an opportunity to meet with Members of Congress and staff from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. about legislative issues of importance to CAPE.

Among issues to be discussed by conference members with Congress will be the CAPE position paper on "choice". The CAPE Board in October approved a policy statement calling for legislation to "provide all parents the opportunity to exercise fully their right to choose their child's school, religious, private or public."

The conference will conclude with a debriefing meeting from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. During that time, participants will be greeted by a Member of Congress and have time to enjoy refreshments and report on their visits in Congressional offices.

The luncheon, briefings and breakfast will be at the Embassy Row Hotel, where a block of rooms have been reserved for CAPE conference participants. The

Embassy Row is located near Dupont Circle on embassy-lined Massachusetts Avenue in Northwest Washington, D. C. The Hotel is also home to the award-winning restaurant "Lucie" with Washington's 1990 "Chef of the Year".

Reservations can be made directly with the hotel toll-free at (800) 424-2400 by referring to the "CAPE" conference. Rates are set at \$125 plus D.C. taxes for single or double occupancy. Reservations must be made by February 20 to insure space and the rate.

A registration fee of \$120 will be required of each participant in the conference to cover the costs of meals, speakers, transportation, and meeting space. Registration should be made prior to February 1, with the registration fee due by March 1.

Anyone associated with CAPE member schools and associations is invited to participate in the conference. For more information regarding the conference and reception, please call the CAPE office at (202) 659-0016. Persons wishing to register may do so by filling out and returning the form on page 3.

The Collaborative School

The ERIC Clearinghouse on Educational Management and the National Association of Secondary School Principals have jointly sponsored the publication of a book entitled, *The Collaborative School: A Work Environment for Effective Instruction*.

Authored by Stuart C. Smith and James J. Scott, the work contends that the push to achieve educational reforms will not succeed until educators deal with the long-standing problem of teacher isolation. Despite the strong national push for educational reforms, they assert the concept of collaboration among school faculty and administrators has received little consideration.

While assuring readers that there is no single collaborative school model, the authors argue that it can take on a number of forms, can occur in formal programs or informal interactions and cannot be mandated. Rather, successful cooperation be-



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tween classrooms and the school administration must emerge from educators' voluntary efforts "to improve their schools and their own skills through teamwork," according to Smith and Scott.

Researchers discover that collaborative norms strongly correlate with improved teaching and learning as well as greater opportunities for professional development and increased student cooperation. An in-depth survey of current collaborative practices is included covering the practices in areas of school improvement, professional development, teacher evaluation, and school decision-making.

A copy of the 77-page book can be ordered from ERIC Clearinghouse on Educational Management, 1787 Agate Street, Eugene, Oregon 97403. Telephone (503) 346-5044, FAX (503) 346-5890. *The Collaborative School* costs \$8.00 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. Full payment or purchase order must accompany all orders. Make checks payable to University of Oregon/ERIC.

Legislative Update:

102nd Congress Convenes

Congress was sworn in on January 3 with 44 new House members and 4 new Senators. While full sessions were originally not to resume until January 23, the Persian Gulf crisis and the January 15 United Nations deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait prompted House Speaker Thomas

S. Foley and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell to cancel the recess.

In a letter welcoming and congratulating the new Members of Congress, CAPE Executive Director Joyce G. McCray offered CAPE's assistance as the new Congress debates "the continuing challenges to our education system." McCray went on to say that "private schools give significant illustration to the success of 'school-based management', 'empowered' teachers and principals, and 'parental choice'."

Congress will meet throughout the month with President Bush's State of the Union Address set for January 29. Further, the Administration's budget is scheduled to be submitted to Congress on February 4.

237 Bills on First Day

House members were able to introduce legislation on the first day of the new session and did so in a flurry. Following are five of the many bills of interest to private schools:

H.R. 1 - A bill to restore and strengthen civil rights laws that ban discrimination in employment. This is the Civil Rights Act of 1990 which was vetoed by President Bush. (Introduced by Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Texas).

H.R. 34 - A bill to allow deduction for contributions to education savings accounts. Those educational expenses paid from such an account would not be subject to income tax. (Introduced by Rep. Richard Arme, R-Texas).

H.R. 86 - A bill to provide that in-

come of a child which is used for the child's educational expenses shall be taxed at the child's rate and not the parent's rate. (Introduced by Rep. Bill Emerson, R-Missouri).

H.R. 95 - A bill to authorize the use of Chapter 1 funds for programs to provide monetary compensation to students for reading and reporting on books. (Introduced by Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Georgia).

H.R. 143 - A bill to provide for the establishment of, and deduction of contributions to, education savings accounts.

(Introduced by Rep. Bob McEwen, R-Ohio).

Democrats Name New Education Panel Members

Committee assignments have been completed by the House Democratic Committee on Committees and the Senate Democratic Steering Committee. Four new House Members and the only Senate challenger to have won in November have been assigned to committees which oversee education policy.

The House Education and Labor Committee will have the services of Representatives Robert E. Andrews (N.J.), William J. Jefferson (La.), John F. Reed (R.I.), and Tim Roemer (Ind.). Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota will serve as a member of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

Legacy Preference

Senate Republican Leader Robert Dole, (R-Kansas), has written the Department of Education asking for a review of their policy on "legacy preference", charging such policies are unfair and discriminatory.

Legacy preference, the practice of giving advantage to children of alumni in admission policies, was criticized by Dole as an "alumni perk" which unfairly impairs "economically less advantaged" individuals seeking educational opportunity.

The letter from Dole to Department Secretary nominee Lamar Alexander appears to be prompted by an October decision by the Department's Office of Civil Rights (OCR). In that action, Harvard University was cleared of discrimination charges against Asian Americans. The OCR ruled that Harvard's policy, which gives preference to racial minorities, chil-

cape Legislative Conference & 20th Anniversary Reception Registration Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP+4: _____

- Yes, I will attend the CAPE Conference
- I will contact the Embassy Row for Reservations, OR
- I will not require accommodations during my stay.
- I have enclosed my registration fee of \$120, OR
- I will send my registration fee prior to March 1.

Dates & Deadlines

Registration Deadline:	February 1, 1991
Hotel Reservation Deadline:	February 20, 1991
Registration Fee Deadline (\$120):	March 1, 1991
Conference Begins & 20th Anniversary Reception:	March 19, 1991

For more information on the Conference, please call the CAPE office at (202) 659-0016 during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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dren of alumni, and recruited athletes, was "legitimate and not a pretext for discrimination".

Capenotes:



▶ The Commission on Schools for the 21st Century in Wisconsin has debated several recommendations for improving education in the state. Included in the list is expansion of the Milwaukee voucher program

which gives state-funded vouchers to low-income families to enable children to attend private, non-religious schools.

The 76-member panel, appointed by Gov. Tommy G. Thompson, has discussed wide-ranging ideas including public school open enrollment, breakfast service, and allowance for employees to take time off from work to attend parent-teacher conferences.

Further, the panel has urged an expansion of the Milwaukee voucher program to three more school districts on a pilot basis. The Milwaukee program was previously struck down by a state appellate court but is expected to remain in litigation.

▶ Projects to improve Foreign Language Education can be funded through the Na-

tional Endowment for the Humanities. Types of projects to receive grants will include summer institutes for teachers that focus on cultural materials from the target culture to enhance language instruction. The amount available for 1991 awards is \$2.5 million.

Elementary and secondary educators may contact Angela Ioveno, Education Division, The National Endowment for the Humanities, Room 302, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20506 or call (202) 786-0377.

Application deadline is March 15.

▶ World Children's Day, celebrated the fourth Sunday in April since 1986 at the United Nations Building, offers a unique way for children ages 6 through 12 to have a voice in shaping the world they will inherit.

Students can participate in the Day by submitting their entries of community service which live up to the theme of "Lend a Hand, Let's Build a Bright, Clean Land". Further, participating schools can show off their projects which illustrate the community service they perform. Banners, posters, paintings or quilts depicting the projects will be displayed at the United Nations in New York on April 28.

UNICEF and the World Children's Day Foundation collaborate to sponsor and administer the projects. For more informa-

tion on World Children's Day, contact the foundation at 4401 A Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 287, Washington, D. C. 20008 or call (202)966-7226.

Any school with children ages 6 to 12 is invited to participate. Entry form deadline is February 15.

▶ The Social Science Education Consortium (SSEC) has published "Activities for Teaching Russian and Soviet Studies in the High School" to help American students understand the risks in the Soviet struggle for reform as well as the past role of the Soviets in the world.

The consortium's publication includes 20 activities in Russian history and literature developed by participants in an institute conducted at the Soviet and East European Language and Area Center at Harvard University. Step-by-step directions for conducting the lessons are presented, along with numerous handouts, many of which present primary source documents not readily available in textbooks.

The "Activities" publication costs \$21.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling. It is available from SSEC Publications, 3300 Mitchell Lane, Suite 240, Boulder, Colorado 80301-2272. For more information, call Laurel Singleton with SSEC at (303) 492-8154.

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a coalition of 14 national associations serving private schools K-12

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