

cape Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

September 1995 Number 212

Council Members: American Montessori Society • Association of American Military Colleges and Schools of the U.S. • Christian Schools International • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Friends Council on Education • Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • National Association of Episcopal Schools • National Association of Independent Schools • National Association of Private Schools for Exceptional Children • National Catholic Educational Association • National Society for Hebrew Day Schools • Seventh-day Adventist Board of Education, K-12 • Solomon Schechter Day School Association • U.S. Catholic Conference • **Affiliated state organizations in:** Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

NDN Private School Facilitator Will Close

As of October 1, the regular day-to-day business of the National Diffusion Network's Private School Facilitator Project (NDN/PSFP) will come to an end.

The Council for American Private Education, which has been home to the PSFP since its inception in 1987, received word from the Department of Education in mid-August that "the Congress recently passed a bill rescinding sizeable amounts of fiscal year 1995 funding from the Department ... After President Clinton signed this bill into law, the NDN had no money available with which to award new grants."

The PSFP grant, which would have been renewed beginning October 1, was considered a new grant. Enactment of the fiscal year 1995 spending cuts bill effectively terminates the PSFP.

"We are very disappointed by the shortsightedness of this action," said Joyce G. McCray, CAPE Executive Director. "The NDN is a voluntary program which is driven by the choices local schools -- public and private -- make about their curriculum needs. It is just the type of program Congress should like because it requires minimal involvement by the Federal government. If the NDN is continued at all in fiscal year 1996, which does not appear likely, private schools will find it difficult to participate in the NDN."

The rescissions bill, which cancels funds already appropriated by Congress, was signed by President Clinton on July 27. While the original version of the bill passed by the

House included the cuts for the NDN, the initial Senate-passed version did not. Despite efforts to have the Senate language adopted in the conference committee, the final bill ultimately cut \$2.7 million for new grants.

The PSFP grant was set to expire October 1 and CAPE had submitted in late May its proposal for a new grant. That 9-month grant would have put the PSFP on the same July 1 to June 30 timetable as the other NDN grant recipients.

"The Department's ability to award grants under this competition rested on the availability of funds," the Education Department writes in its August 11 letter. "We have ... cancelled the competition under which you applied."

The NDN is... just the type of program Congress should like because it requires minimal involvement by the Federal government.

*Joyce G. McCray
CAPE Executive Director*

CAPE has requested a two month, non-funded extension to close down the PSFP so that it may carry out several training sessions that had been planned for October and November. Pending approval from the Department, and completion of those trainings, the PSFP will close its books and archive its files before December 1.

Legislative Update: "Trainwrecks" Await Congressional Return

Battles between the White House and Capitol Hill over the budget, appropriations, welfare reform, and telecommunications reform, with the potential of shutting down the Federal government, could turn Washington into a full-scale war zone when the President and Congress return after Labor Day.

President Clinton has threatened to veto a number of appropriations bills if they arrive on his desk in their current form, and many are using the word "trainwreck" to predict upcoming negotiations on long term budget plans. Welfare reform, with its provisions regarding school lunch and breakfast programs and child care, remains a divisive issue in the Senate, and again, President Clinton is threatening veto.

There have been significant developments in much of the legislation CAPE has been following this year since the last edition of *Outlook* in June:

• Fiscal 1995 Rescissions

President Clinton vetoed Congress' first attempt of this bill, which

Continued on page 2



cancels funding already appropriated for the current fiscal year. He objected primarily to the \$874.5 million in cuts in education programs included in the bill and suggested a number of ways to improve the bill to ensure his signature.

Unable to muster the necessary two-thirds majority to override the President's veto, the House and Senate worked together to develop a bill incorporating the President's demands, ultimately a \$16.4 billion package which cut a total of \$575 million from education programs this year. (Please see "NDN Private School Facilitator Will Close" elsewhere in *Outlook*.) Among the cuts included in the bill, which President Clinton signed on July 27: \$16 million from Safe and Drug-Free schools, \$69 million from professional development grants, \$61 million from Direct Student Loan Administration, \$31.5 million from Goals 2000 school reform, and \$65 million from surplus Pell Grant money.

• **Fiscal 1996 Appropriations**

The House bill would cut funding for Education Department programs by 18% (\$4.4 billion) from fiscal 1995 levels, down to \$23 billion. Specifically, it outlines substantial cuts in Safe and Drug-Free schools (\$282 million less than 1995), Title I grants (\$1.1 billion), and vocational education (\$373 million). Another \$60 million for capital expenses for private schools, state Title I projects, and efforts for at-risk students was also eliminated, and the President's Goals 2000 program would be cut by \$403 million, effectively terminating it. President Clinton's 1996 budget proposal, by contrast, requested a 4% increase for education, to \$26 billion.

The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee is scheduled to take of the bill the week of September 11. President Clinton has threatened to veto the measure if it resembles the House version.

• **Telecommunications**

The House passed its version of telecommunications reform legislation on August 4 after blocking amendments which would have strengthened language regarding service to schools. The Telecommunications Act of 1995 (HR 1555) includes language recommending "access to advanced telecommunications service for students in elementary and secondary schools." CAPE and other education, library, and technology organizations working in coalition argued that unless

access is affordable, however, most schools are unable to tap into the rich educational resources available on the "information superhighway."

The coalition has been very active in supporting language included in the Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995 (S 652), which the Senate passed on June 15. Provisions inserted by Sens. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), and others require telecommunications carriers to provide telecommunication services to elementary schools, secondary schools, and libraries for educational purposes "at rates less than the amounts charged for similar services to other parties."

In a letter to members of the conference committee which will work out the differences between the two bills, coalition members wrote: "Both chambers have expressed their intent that schools and libraries should have access to advanced telecommunications services. As a Conferee, we urge you to adopt the most appropriate language which carries out the intent of the House and the Senate, which will benefit all learners, and which will enhance America's international competitiveness."

• **IDEA**

Both House and Senate committees have postponed further action on reauthorizing the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act until later this autumn. Several bills have been introduced which will serve as the basis of the debate.

S 916, introduced by Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN), would extend authorization for 14 IDEA programs (including those for personnel development and parent training and early intervention) until October 1, 1996.

The Education Department's plan, HR 1986, would eliminate IDEA's 14 disability categories and replace them with a single, broad definition of disability. The bill would also change Part B's state funding formula so that money exceeding the fiscal 1995 level of \$2.3 billion would be allocated based on the total child population in each state rather than the number of disabled children.

• **School Choice/Vouchers**

On July 12, Rep. Frank Riggs (R-CA) attempted to divert \$30 million from Title I into the Fiscal Year 1996 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill to pay for his

version of a low-income school choice demonstration project. The effort failed.

Riggs' demonstration project legislation, and a companion bill sponsored by Sens. Dan Coats (R-IN) and Joe Lieberman (D-CT) would provide \$30 million over three years for the Education Department to make up to 20 grants to finance school choice demonstration projects in low-income districts. Tuition credit for private, public, and charter schools of parents' choice would be provided, with funding to be taken from Title I. The school choice issue has also arisen in the context of discussions in the House Educational Opportunities Subcommittee to reform DC public schools.

It is expected that further hearings will be held in the coming months.

• **Lobbying reform**

A far-reaching rider to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill passed by the House in the closing days before the August recess, would effectively bar nonprofits which receive federal grants from political advocacy.

Introduced by Reps. Ernest Istook (R-OK), David McIntosh (R-IN), and Robert Ehrlich (R-MD), the provision covers any entity that receives a federal grant, including federal funds that pass through a state or local government, or a subgrant of federal funds. Contracts, loans, entitlement, and other forms of assistance like student loans and grants, are not covered.

Specifically, the provision bars nonprofits that use privately raised funds to engage in political advocacy above a specified threshold from receiving federal grants. If any one year during the preceding five years exceed the threshold, the organization would be ineligible for federal grants.

Furthermore, it prohibits the use of federal grants to do business (including membership and dues fees) with any organization that spends 15 percent or more of its overall budget on political advocacy.

"Political advocacy" is broadly defined in the bill to include not just lobbying, but all attempts - both direct and grassroots - to influence legislation, agency actions, litigation, or political campaigns at the local, state, or federal level. "Substantial" political advocacy is determined in the bill to be the expenditure of more than 5%



of a nonprofit's non-grant budget to that end. Described by its authors as a response to rampant grant abuse by nonprofit organizations, the bill could prevent groups such as CAPE from representing their members' views before Congress.

Independent Sector, a large coalition of volunteer and nonprofit organizations -- including CAPE, has mobilized its membership to oppose the provision. CAPE has signed on to a letter to Members of Congress that stresses the important positive role nonprofits play in communicating constituent views to government representatives, and providing valuable expertise in many areas to assist legislators.

• Education Department Restructuring

Several proposals to eliminate or restructure the Department of Education have been introduced in Congress. Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-FL) has introduced a bill which would repeal a number of federal elementary, secondary, and higher education programs (including Goals 2000 and Title I), and replace them with two state block grants. One grant would authorize up to \$9 billion a year for K-12 programs, while the other would provide for up to \$2 billion for higher education. These authorizations would be in effect from 1998-2000, at the end of which Congress would determine if the grants should be extended or replaced with tax credits for schooling.

Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-WI) expects to introduce a bill after Labor Day that would merge the Departments of Education and Labor into a new Department of Employment and Educational Opportunity. Education Secretary Richard Riley has testified that such a plan might not save money, as expected, and could create an unwieldy bureaucracy.

'95-'96 Blue Ribbon Schools Program Delayed

by Fay O'Brien

The 1995-96 Blue Ribbon Schools Program for elementary schools has been delayed, due to a reversal of the Americans with Disability Act criteria previously included in the 1994-95 application. The 1994-95 secondary school applications are

currently being reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education. Site visits for these schools will take place starting in late September and go through mid-November, with final announcements of schools to be recognized made by late December 1995. A national recognition ceremony is scheduled for the spring of 1996 in Washington, DC.

The U.S. Department of Education will not begin the 1995-96 Blue Ribbon Schools Program until the review process for the 1994-95 applicants has been completed. **The applications for the next cycle are not scheduled to be available until late spring, early summer 1996.** The Department has not yet determined whether the next program will be for elementary or secondary schools or both. As soon as CAPE receives notification from the U.S. Department of Education a letter will be sent to private school principals with background information and a new timeline for the program.

Safe and Drug-Free School Recognized by Department

CAPE congratulates Bishop O'Reilly High School in Kingston, PA for being recognized by the 1994-95 Safe and Drug-Free School Recognition Program. Representatives from Bishop O'Reilly were recently honored at a White House ceremony in Washington, DC.

The program honors schools that have made outstanding progress toward meeting the National Education Goal of having many more schools in America free of drugs and violence and offering a disciplined environment conducive to learning by the year 2000. Winning schools had a comprehensive prevention and intervention program that has prevented or substantially reduced disruptive behavior and acts of violence, as well as the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by students.

Community Service Award Established

Middle school and high school students who have initiated outstanding community service projects can now be honored in a new national program announced this month. It is part of the Prudential Spirit of Community

Initiative and is being cosponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

"This is an excellent opportunity to recognize some outstanding teenagers who are giving of themselves to help others," said CAPE Executive Director Joyce G. McCray. McCray served on the advisory committee which recommended selection criteria, judging procedures, and promotional activities for the project. "I urge everyone to look for opportunities to inform teenagers about this program and encourage their participation."

All middle level and high school principals are being mailed entry kits in October, and the school entry deadline is November 30. Schools may select one honoree for every 1,500 students, and these students will move onto state competition where one high school and one middle school student will be recognized in each state and the District of Columbia. Each state honoree will receive a \$1,000 award, a silver medalion, and an all-expenses paid trip to a national recognition even in Washington, DC, next spring. During the event in the nation's capital, 10 national honorees will be named with each receiving an additional \$5,000 award.

This recognition program is part of the Prudential Spirit of Community Initiative, a comprehensive effort to focus greater attention on the importance of community service.

State CAPEnotes

Reverend Howard Carroll, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for **South Dakota**, has announced he will step down as the State CAPE Representative for that state. Carroll, 70, has been with the Catholic schools for 41 years.

Jim Friesen of Huron, SD, will replace Carroll as the State CAPE Representative. He is currently the representative for the Association of Christian Schools International for the South Dakota Association of Non-Public Schools.

Hank Rausch of Phoenix, AZ, has taken over leadership of the **Arizona** CAPE. The current AZ State CAPE Rep-

continued on page 4



continued from page 3

representative, Reverend George Matanic of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix left his position effective July 1. He will spend the next year on sabbatical.

CAPEnotes

► **USCC Names New Education Secretary.** Msgr. Thomas J. McDade, priest/educator of the Catholic Archdiocese of Newark has been named the U.S. bishops' Secretary for Education. His appointment becomes effective September 18.

As Secretary for Education for the United States Catholic Conference, McDade automatically becomes a member of the CAPE Board of Directors. He replaces Sister Lourdes Sheehan, who left June 30 to head a teacher training program at the University of Notre Dame.

McDade, 47, holds a doctorate in education from Columbia University and has been the Vicar for Education for the Newark Archdiocese since 1990. He was founding executive director of the Fund for Educational Advancement, now known as the Scholarship Fund for Inner City Schools.

► **National Science Teaching Award.** Shell Oil Company is again sponsoring the National Science Teaching Award for an exemplary K-12 classroom science teacher. The \$10,000 award recognizes a teacher who enhances student knowledge, skills, and attitudes and employs unique methods to make science exciting and relevant.

To be eligible, a teacher's major responsibilities must include teaching science. Nominees must have taught science for at least 5 years and must teach in the United States. For more information, contact Lori Pinson, Manager, Science Teaching Award,

NSTA Award Programs, National Science Teachers Association, 1840 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201-3000, (703)243-7100. Deadline is November 15.

► **Fellowships for Teachers and Prospective Teachers to Study the Constitution.** The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation awards fellowships to in-service secondary school teachers of American history, American government, and social studies in grades 7-12 and to graduating college seniors who wish to teach these subjects. The \$24,000 awards cover tuition, fees, books, room and board associated with study toward a master's degree. Stipends cover five years of part-time study or two years of full-time study.

The deadline is March 1, 1996. For more information, contact: James Madison Fellowship Program, PO Box 4030, Iowa City, IA 52243-4030, 1-800-525-6928.

COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN PRIVATE EDUCATION 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 703, Washington, DC 20036-4502
(202) 659-0016, fax (202) 659-0018, CONNECT™: cape, Internet: cape@connectinc.com

a coalition of 14 national associations serving private schools K-12
Editor: David Early Executive Director: Joyce G. McCray
[ISSN 0271-1451]

Outlook is published monthly (September to June) by the Council for American Private Education. Annual Subscription is \$15.

cape outlook

COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN PRIVATE EDUCATION
1726 M Street, NW, Suite 1102
Washington, DC 20036

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Washington, DC
Permit No. 4665

