

CAPE OUTLOOK

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New Education Secretary Bennett

CAPE forwarded a letter of warm congratulations to William Bennett, the Secretary-designate of the Department of Education. He is expected to be confirmed after hearings in the next month though not without some opposition.

We reminded Dr. Bennett of the CAPE Board's productive lunch with him during its fall Meeting in October, 1982. At that time he spoke of the "critical importance of the humanities in the nation's schools." One of the enduring legacies of his tenure as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities will be the unusual attention it paid to pre-college humanities education. We emphasized in our letter to him that we hoped he would be able to extend and broaden this interest in his new role.

As a graduate of an urban private school, Gonzaga High School in Washington, D.C., and with degrees in law and philosophy, and a term, prior to his present job, as an administrator of the National Humanities Center in Chapel Hill, N.C., Bennett brings to his new job a rich and broad interest in strong academic education as well as a special feeling for private schools.

We look forward to welcoming him in person and to working with him over the next four years.

In a related matter, CAPE and a number of its Directors have written to the White House over the past two months urging the retention of the Office of Private Education in the Department and the retention of Chuck O'Malley as its head. That office has usefully served the interests of the private school community and has acted as a constructive bridge to the public school community. Chuck O'Malley's Koffee Klatches, every six weeks or so, for representatives of school organizations, private and public, have become a valuable forum for discussion and information. We very much anticipate the new Secretary will continue with Dr. O'Malley and his office as well as this undertaking which touches so effectively such a broad spectrum of pre-college education.

Cape Monitors Tax Proposals

Washington private school representatives have been meeting regularly over the past several months to discuss the Treasury Department's tax simplification plan and other closely related tax and budget matters which could significantly affect our schools. Jack Sanders, NAIS's Director of Government Relations, has been chairing our meetings.

At this writing there is no clear indication of what the Administration's tax proposals will be. Members of Congress keep new tax ideas flowing on nearly a daily basis. Thus we have to speculate about different kinds of provisions as well as the varying strategies for dealing with this movable, highly disorganized feast. And we must keep in mind that not all of CAPE's member organizations have exactly the same set of interests and concerns about tax matters.

What has become very clear to us is the need to be heard on behalf of charitable giving tax incentives. An independent study commissioned by Independent Sector and conducted by Dr. Charles T. Clotfelter, Vice Provost of Duke University reports that the total Treasury reform package, including the change in appreciated property rules, a reduction in the overall tax rates, a two percent floor, and elimination of the deduction for nonitemizers, would reduce giving to educational institutions from \$3.8 billion to \$2.8 billion annually (26% decline). Another study, headed by Professor Larry B. Lindsey of Harvard University and the National Bureau of Economic Research, says giving would decline even more (38% decline).

We urge you to write your Representatives and Senators about the critical importance of gifts to the well-being of your school together with your concern that the Treasury Department's tax simplification proposal can seriously affect these. Addresses: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; the President, Washington, D.C. 20500.

EPA Asbestos Removal Grants Available

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has recently sent to all the nation's schools an application form to be used to seek federal financial help (loans and grants) for hazardous asbestos removal. Congress voted \$50 million during its last session to help finance school asbestos removal costs starting in June of 1985. CAPE representatives had three meetings over the past six weeks with EPA officials to ensure that private

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schools are equitably treated and that private school principals can gain assistance in completing an involved application form. Two results of these meetings are important for private school people concerned with this matter.

1. We are sending CAPE directors and state CAPE representatives a set of directions for completing the application and other information we have received so that each organization may inform schools as they see fit or as they get questions.

2. There is a hot line number at EPA's national office in Washington, D.C. which will respond to questions: 800-424-9065; or 202-554-1404 for the Washington, D.C. area and outside the continental U.S. The hotline is open from 8:30 am to 5:00 EST.

In general, after hearing EPA's explanation of the form and its answers to questions already received by its hotline, our advice is to use common sense in filling out the form and, if in doubt, simply respond narratively with as accurate an answer as you can give. Obviously the form is only useful to a school which has an asbestos problem which it will have serious difficulty paying for.

Schools which are under consideration for a grant (based on degree of asbestos hazard combined with a school financial need index which EPA has devised) will be given a visit by EPA and an opportunity to answer any questions which the initial application may not have covered adequately.

The Deadline is important: February 15 for getting the application submitted to the Governor's designee. (All the necessary addresses are included in the application packages mailed to each school.) Governors will rank and process the applications by March 15. Grant and loan recipients will be notified by June 6, 1985.

Peace Academy

Long sought by the leadership in at least three CAPE member associations, A National Peace Academy finally became a reality through an amendment proposed by Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR) on the 1984 Defense Authorization bill, H.R. 5167. It has as its purpose the development of a science of peace. The American Montessori Society, the Friends Council on Education and the United States Catholic Conference have all been concerned about peace education. The

new Academy will be the first federal undertaking focused on problems of making peace.

Under a compromise reached late in the last session of Congress to meet the objections that such an institution would be too bureaucratic the new institute will be decentralized. Named The Randolph Program for International Peace, in honor of a long time sponsor, retired Senator Jennings Randolph (D-WV), it will offer scholarships, fellowships and stipends to American and foreign leaders in an effort to teach methods of peaceful conflict resolution. The program was authorized for two years at \$16 million a year. A \$4 million appropriation was actually voted for FY 85.

Missouri Judge Strikes Down Chapter 1 By Pass

A U.S. District Court in Missouri late last year ruled that the federal Education Department cannot use contractors to provide Chapter 1 services in private schools if the instruction is given on the premises of religious schools. Chapter 1 services were being provided to private school children in Missouri under a "by pass" whereby a third party contractor, the Blue Hills Corporation, provided compensatory educational services to such children. Blue Hills, which began the Missouri Chapter 1 work in 1977, now provides private school compensatory education under the by pass to virtually all the nonpublic Chapter 1 instruction in the state — approximately 3,700 students in more than 150 private schools.

The Chapter 1 program (formerly Title 1) for educationally disadvantaged children, has a ten year old by pass provision that allows the Education Department to hire an independent contractor to provide compensatory education in districts where the local school district will not or cannot provide such instruction equal to that offered by public schools. The Education Department uses such by pass contracts in only two states — Missouri and Virginia — because both states have constitutional restrictions on providing state funds or servicing federal funds to nonpublic schools.

The decision was announced days before the Supreme Court heard the oral arguments in a similar Chapter 1 case from New York City, *Felton v. Bell*. The judge did freeze his ruling against the Chapter 1 program in Missouri until the *Felton* case is decided, probably by early summer.

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

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 99th Congress began on January 3 with the swearing in of members. On January 7 both chambers met in a joint session, as specified by the Constitution, to count the electoral college ballots which officially re-elected President Reagan and V.P. George Bush. After that Congress was in recess until Inauguration Day, January 21.

In the Senate, 33 Senators who won elections last November took the oath for a 6 year term. Among them are 7 first term Senators. The Democrats picked up 2 seats in the 100 member U.S. Senate but the Republicans retain control of the Senate 53-47. A new Republican leadership team led by Senator Robert Dole (R-KS) will guide the Senate over the next two years.

When the House of Representatives went into session, the entire membership of the House was sworn in. 44 freshmen took the oath for the first time, with the Democrats retaining the majority 251-182 (2 vacancies). The House re-elected, for the fifth time, Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill as the Speaker of the House. No legislative work is conducted until after the President takes the oath of office on January 20 and inaugural ceremonies take place on January 21. But during that time, Party Committees met to do preliminary work on committee assignments.

The number of seats on the House and Senate education committees may be reduced in the new Congress. The House Education and Labor Committee will lose at least 7 of its 23 Democrat members and 1 of its 13 Republicans. It is uncertain how many new members will be assigned to the committee. And the House education subcommittee's will have different leaders. The new committee Chairman, Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-CA), who succeeds the late Rep. Carl Perkins (D-KY), also will chair the Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Education subcommittee, which Perkins led. Other subcommittee assignments will be made during the next few weeks. On the other side of the Capitol, Senator Robert T. Stafford (R-VT) remains as chairman of the Education, Arts and Humanities subcommittee. Unless a committee shrinking measure is adopted in the Senate, the Senate education panel is expected to remain nearly identical to that of last year.

In both the Senate and House, hundreds of bills and resolutions were introduced on January 3. While top on the legislative agenda in the 99th Congress is reducing the federal deficit, reform of the tax system will receive serious attention along with measures to require a balanced budget.

Legislators resurrected several education bills of interest to private education which include the following:

Child Nutrition — H.R.7 would extend child nutrition programs through FY 89 and restore aid to programs eliminated in 1981. Also, it would increase the authorization levels for school lunch, child care and

special milk programs. Introduced by Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-CA) ; referred to House Education and Labor Committee.

Gifted and Talented Programs — S.134 would re-establish the Office of Gifted and Talented in the Dept. of Education which was eliminated in 1981. The bill authorizes \$40 million over the next five years to support programs for gifted and talented children. Introduced by Sen. D. Inouye (R-HI) ; referred to the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Tuition Tax Credits — H.R. 96 would provide a federal income tax credit for tuition to private elementary and secondary schools and colleges. Introduced by Rep. Phil Crane (R-IL); referred to Ways and Means Committee.

American Defense Education Act — S.177 would provide \$135 million over 3 years to support grants and research in math, science, foreign language and technology education. Introduced by Sen. Gary Hart(D-CO); referred to Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Civil Rights legislation — Bills designed to affirm civil rights laws and clarify Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments are expected to be introduced at the end of January. One proposal, to be introduced by Senate majority Leader Robert Dole, is identical to the compromise version he offered late in 1984. Some House members are preparing a measure which has a broader reach than the Dole bill and it should be introduced before the end of the month as well.

Education Hearings Scheduled — Chairman Augustus Hawkins has scheduled field hearings to examine 1) the effectiveness of ongoing federal programs 2) effects of budget cuts on these programs 3) future direction in new federal aid including legislation to promote educational quality 4) any special local problems and needs such as school drop-outs, crime and drug abuse. The hearings will be held in New Orleans, Feb. 14; Los Angeles, Feb. 16; New York, Feb.19.

DE Honors Principals in 85

At a black tie dinner last fall, at the new Marriott Hotel in Washington, 49 elementary schools principals were given awards by Secretary Bell as Distinguished Elementary School Principals. Four private school principals were among those honored.

Nominations of private school principals to receive the awards are made by school associations to the National Association of Elementary School Principals which, with the Department of Education and the Tandy Corporation, administers the program. For the coming years the private school principal selections will be made by those principals chosen last year together with 2 representatives from CAPE.

The Department of Education has found that its recognition programs, both for exemplary schools

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2nd Year Of Exemplary Private School Recognition Project In Full Swing

January was a busy month for the Exemplary Private School Recognition Project. School applications are in the process of being read and screened by teams of educators throughout the country. CAPE's Secretariat, a committee established to screen applications of schools whose associations choose not to do it themselves, will meet on January 24-25 in Washington to make recommendations about schools to be site visited. Final decisions on site visits will be made in a meeting of the Project Steering Committee and its Advisors on January 30-31, also in Washington. School site visits will take place during the latter part of February through mid-April after the completion of a series of 6 site visitor orientation sessions to be held in Philadelphia, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and Dallas.

The Project has again attracted a substantial number of applications from many sectors of private education. Thus we are again assured that the schools ultimately identified to give visibility to particular strengths found throughout private education will be representative of a good cross section of all types of private schools.

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and principals, result in significantly increased community support of schools and are therefore a low cost means of stimulating school improvement. Recognized private schools report that, for the most part, they have also enjoyed increased community enthusiasm. However, some private school heads have also expressed concern that the Project increases competitiveness among private schools which can have undesirable consequences.



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