

cape outlook

COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN PRIVATE EDUCATION

October 1988 Number 144

EDUCATION CANDIDATE GETS AN EDUCATION

The Bush campaign sent two representatives to exchange ideas on the federal role for education to the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) on September 9. Joe Scherer is long familiar with the Washington education scene, as he is a former director of government relations and associate executive director of the American Association of School Administrators, and a former director of the Washington office of the National PTA. He also served on the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Youth under Senator Mondale's chairmanship. Bob Brown is currently a professor at St. Thomas College in Minnesota and has devoted his career to both politics and education, having been a Minnesota state senator, chairman of the Minnesota Republican Party and special assistant to Terrell Bell.

The two began with an apology of sorts, explaining why the Republicans have not had a more visible education policy. Many on Capitol Hill and in other Washington sectors have assumed that the National Education Association (NEA) has embodied most of the interests of all of the education community. In 1980 the NEA began endorsing presidential candidates, always Democrats. Consequently, contend Scherer and Brown, much of the Republican establishment has written off the education community as a contentious lot.

But in 1983, then Secretary of Education Terrell Bell called on Bob Brown to join his staff to help rally Republicans, particularly congressmen, to come together to support federal initiatives in education. Bell and Brown were successful in "building bridges" between NEA and the White House, and also interested 30 congressmen in forming an education task force.

Now Bell co-leads Bush's national coalition of educators with President Reagan's other former secretary of

education, William Bennett. This summer's Republican Convention included a day-long forum on education. The well known items on the platform include emphasis on standards and accountability, merit pay and teacher career ladders, values education, discipline, stronger curricula, parental choice including vouchers and tuition tax credits and magnet schools. The agenda also contains Bush's merit schools plan which awards cash to schools with a high concentration of disadvantaged and show significant improvement, with that criteria determined by states. A Bush administration would increase Head Start spending and establish a college savings bond program with tax-exempt interest.

But whether or not this was the case, Scherer and Brown told those of us at CEF that Bush needed more "education on education." The recurring theme from CEF members was skepticism about funding for these programs. The American Council on Education expressed the concern well: "Since so many of Bush's new proposals for all federal programs call for tax credits and a flexible freeze in order to balance the budget and decrease deficits...", where is the new money for domestic discretionary programs? The American Association of School Administrators noted that the remarks "indicate a lessening influence of the hard right," which Scherer and Brown confirmed. They mentioned reliance on men like James Baker (former White House Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Treasury) and Lauro Cavazos, who would most likely remain as secretary of education. A final suggestion Bush received from this meeting was that state and local taxes again become deductible from federal income tax, thereby making it more feasible for state and local jurisdictions to spend more on education.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LOWERS THE DECIBELS

The old-fashioned idea that education should be above politics, hardly recognizable over the past 12 years, has just gotten a new lease on life here. The Secretary of Education-designate, Dr. Lauro Cavazos, showed himself to be refreshingly open, non-ideological and pragmatic. Thus he appears to baffle and disarm potential Washington critics. That is the conclusion of the Outlook reporter who attended the recent confirmation hearing of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources chaired by Senator Edward Kennedy.

Introduced as the son of a cowboy who fulfilled the American dream by becoming president of one of his state's finest universities, Texas Tech, Dr. Cavazos spoke of the need for more caring as the key to the problem of at-risk students. Speaking of a student he knew, a Hispanic, who said that his life had turned around because somebody had cared for him at a critical time in his education, Cavazos said, "Let's raise awareness about these (at-risk) students. Let's come together, every citizen in America. This won't turn around in one generation." He said that he is a listener, and that he wants to go around the country to find out what people are thinking "to better learn how to help people to work together in partnerships."

Dr. Cavazos was questioned closely by Senator Kennedy about his views on pushing for higher budgets for education in non-election years, and surprised many by saying he would work hard "to get the budget up as far as possible." On another controversial matter, the existence of the Department of Education, Cavazos called it "vital" and "the most important department." He answered potentially divisive questions about bilingual education and unpaid student loans from a large store of personal experience and without regard to political overtones. (continued on p.2)

Both Senator Kennedy and his Republican counterpart Senator Hatch said that the secretary-designate would do a lot to heal rifts that now exist between Congress and the Department.

No questions were raised about specific issues affecting private schools, nor in his brief opening comment did Dr. Cavazos mention them. In fact, he didn't refer to any specific segment of education. However it is clear that this modest Hispanic educator, father of 10 ("one more than the Kennedys," quipped the Chairman), at once president of the University and head of the Health Science Center of Texas Tech, and formerly Dean of Tuft's School of Medicine is long on sensitivity for those at the lowest end of the educational ladder. Our conclusion is that he is a man whom all sectors of the educational community will respect, and with whom they will feel comfortable.

His confirmation will be voted upon by the Committee during the week of September 13, and soon after by the Senate as a whole. *Outlook* expects to interview Dr. Cavazos in a future issue.



SUPREME COURT TESTS KEY PRIVATE SCHOOL LAW

Private schools cannot discriminate on the grounds of race. That was the 7-2 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976 in the case of Runyon-McCrary, the most important civil rights decision in the history of private education.

To the surprise of nearly everyone who follows civil rights issues, the Supreme Court, by a vote of 5-4, issued an order on July 25 of this year calling for arguments on whether this decision should be reconsidered and perhaps overturned. Interestingly, Justice Kennedy supplied the winning vote whereas Robert Bork, U.S. Solicitor General in 1976, filed an amicus brief which in effect supported the Court's decision. Reargument will take place on October 12 and a decision is expected in July of 1989.

At issue is whether the Court's interpretation of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which formed the basis of Runyan-McCrary, should be considered. That act was designed immediately after the end of the Civil War to bind up the nation's wounds. It was intended to secure the rights of minority citizens to make and enforce contracts and to acquire property. It states, for example, that "all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States" should have the same right "to make and enforce contracts...as is enjoyed by white citizens."

CAPE filed an amicus brief in 1976 in the Runyon case and was joined by its member organization, the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and its affiliate, the Southern Association of Independent Schools. In its brief, CAPE contended that a prohibition on discrimination "does not con-

stitute an unwanted or unreasonable interference with ...the legitimate operations of private schools," an argument made by opponents. A prohibition on discrimination would, however, provide "an added means by which the stain of racial discrimination in American education can be the sooner removed and the opportunity of a private education be made available to those black persons as well as those white persons who seek it and can qualify for it."

CAPE will issue a statement prior to the Court's October 12 hearing. It is deeply concerned that there continues to exist the public perception that private schools are not wholeheartedly dedicated to non-discrimination. Though this is a false perception left over from an earlier era when discrimination was practiced by perhaps two percent of all private schools, the difficulty of erasing it is increased through legal arguments often used in support of the private schools' right to do as they choose even in the absence of any discrimination or intention.

The arguments to be heard by the Court on October 12 are highly technical. Civil rights lawyers close to the issue appear hopeful. But if the Court should decide to reconsider the case and perhaps overturn it, Congressional efforts to pass a new law would result, taking several years.

CAPE agrees with the outpouring of support for Runyon which included 66 senators and 119 congressmen, the American Bar Association, 47 state attorney generals and many others. Our schools and our image have a great stake in the October 12 proceedings.

COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN PRIVATE EDUCATION/1625 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006

(202)659-0016

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

[ISSN 0271-1451]

Robert L. Smith, Executive Director; Carol Ruppel, Editor; Jay Roudebush, Art Editor

Outlook is published monthly (September through June) by the Council for American Private Education. Annual subscription \$10. Council members: American Montessori Society • Association of 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 • Associated state organizations in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

H.R. 4783—The House and Senate passed the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education departments' appropriations bill in mid-September, sending it to the President, who is expected to sign it.

H.R. 5210—Both chambers are working on omnibus drug bills which would fight youth drug abuse by funding programs to work with youth gangs, establish a sports program, and year-round programs at colleges. Programs would also be funded for working with children of alcoholics. The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act would be expanded to fund more teacher training and to reach dropouts.

AASHA—Congress appropriated \$47.5 million for the Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act loan and grant program. EPA should be mailing to each LEA details concerning grant application. Grants will be awarded based upon severity of the asbestos problem, and financial need. LEAs in the upper 30% per capita income bracket will not qualify.

Fundraising—IRS recently issued a ruling (Rev. Ruling 67-246) stipulating that sponsors of fund-raising events must provide specific written information to potential attenders about the extent to which their payments for such events are tax-deductible.

H.R. 4333—The House passed a bill reducing the tax-exemption for employee educational assistance from \$5,250 to \$1,500. It also excludes from tax forgiveness most programs leading to graduate degrees. The Senate has not yet acted.

H.R. 4775—This appropriations bill, passed by the House and Senate for Treasury, Postal Service and General Government would continue the current reduced postal rates for non-profit, educational and other preferred second, third and fourth class mailers.

Cavazos Nomination—The Senate Labor, HHS and Education Committee approved the nomination of Lauro F. Cavazos as secretary of education, and quick floor approval is expected.

NEW PRIVATE SCHOOL STATISTICS

Although the number of private school students declined 2.5 percent between 1979 and 1986, nursery and kindergarten enrollment rose dramatically during this period, by 85 and 47 percent respectively. And although the number of black students in private schools dipped four percent, Hispanic enrollment jumped 38 percent.

These are among the statistics just released by the Census Bureau in its annual education report, *School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1986*.

Also of interest is the fact that private school enrollment in grades 1-6 declined 2.4 percent; in grades 7-8, 13 percent, and rose in grades 9-12, .003 percent.

The family income levels of private school parents rose over the seven year period. Whereas in 1979 10 percent of the families earned under \$10,000, in 1986 3.3 percent were in that bracket. In 1979 32.6 percent earned between 10 and 20 thousand dollars, and in 1986, 17 percent were in that range. In 1979 57.4 percent earned \$25,000 and over, and in 1986, 79 percent earned that.

CAPENOTES

*David Zwiebel, director of government affairs and general counsel for Agudath Israel of America, has been appointed by President Reagan to the National Commission on Children, a new 12-member panel created to "explore ways to 'safeguard and enhance the physical, mental and emotional well-being of all the children of the nation.'"

*The AIDS Information Resource Directory offers school officials an important tool for developing AIDS education programs, describing pamphlets, videos, films, posters and curricula. To order send \$10 to the American Foundation for AIDS Research, Box 2108, Passaic, NJ 07055.

*The National Student/Parent Mock Election, endorsed by the President and by both parties, will hold televised mock presidential, congressional and gubernatorial elections on November 3. *Time Magazine* is sponsoring this largest ever voter education project, and makes teachers guides on the issues available to all secondary schools. Send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to the National Student/Parent Mock Election, suite 174, 7925-A N. Oracle, Tucson, AZ 85737.

*National Geographic sponsors "Teaching Geography" one-day workshops to groups of 20 to 50 teachers taught by teachers and geographers. Workshops are available throughout the country from September-December of this year. Contact Mark Sanders at the National Geographic Society, 17th and M Sts., N.W., Washington, DC 20036; (202) 775-6581.

*The United States Information Agency (USIA) announces the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program open to current full-time teachers with three years of experience. The majority will directly exchange positions with foreign teachers, and will remain on salary with their (American) school. There are also overseas summer seminars available to teachers with at least two years' experience. Application deadline: October 15. Call them at (202) 485-2555.

*The Joseph Klingenstein Summer Institute is open to 50 independent school secondary teachers with two to five years of experience. This is a three-week program beginning in mid-June designed to enhance the skills of highly motivated, successful teachers. The foundation also offers 12 independent school secondary teachers a full-year fellowship at Teachers College, Columbia University. Write them at Box 125, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027; (212) 678-3156.

CAPENOTES

*The Department of Education has set its new research priorities for the current two-year funding cycle. They include language skills for limited-English-speaking students; the effect of state and local reform measures; the impact of family, culture and community on education and parental choice.

*Secretary Bennett's model elementary school curriculum, "James Madison Elementary School: A Curriculum for American Students" is available for \$2.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, document #065-000-00350-3.

*The American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and the American Lung Association launched a 12-year campaign at the end of August for a "smoke-free class" for the year 2000. They are providing educational kits to one million first-graders. Information is available from state and local chapters of the three organizations.

*The Scott Newman Center, founded by Paul Newman in memory of his son, is dedicated to drug abuse prevention. It produces videos and other very good materials for children and their parents in English and Spanish. The thrust of their work is to teach youngsters to recognize and resist media influences. One of their programs is a TV public service announcement contest for high school students, requiring research on drug use and surveys of local community atti-

tudes. The winning entry is professionally judged, and makes national television. The 1987 winners were three students at the Cate School in California. For more information contact them at 6255 Sunset Blvd., suite 1906, Los Angeles, CA 90028; (213) 469-2029.

*ACTION is accepting grant applications for projects to youth drug abuse. Possible grant projects would add a drug prevention component to an existing youth development or recreational activity; organize drug-free recreational alternatives for youth or expand parents' involvement in prevention activities. These one-time grants of \$38,000 to \$50,000 are available to non-profit organizations and public agencies from ACTION, 806 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20505; (202)634-9759. Deadline: October 17.

**Who's Who Among American High School Students* surveyed 2,024 high-achieving teens on a variety of topics. It found that business was the top career choice of 18%; engineering, 17%;, medicine, 15% and computer science only 4%. Forty-eight percent approve of schools dispensing condoms because of the AIDS risk: 53% of public school students, 37% of parochial school students and 33% of non-sectarian private school students. Less than 5% of those surveyed smoke marijuana more than once a month or use other drugs. Sixty-three percent said they never drink alcohol. Thirty-eight percent have considered suicide and 4% have attempted it. Only 15% believe that sex is an expected part of a romantic relationship between teens; 25% of the females and 21% of the males are sexually active. And 56% attend religious services at least once a week.

*A survey by the Department of Health and Human Services of 11,000 eighth and tenth graders in more than 200 public and private schools in 20 states indicated that 41% of the boys and 24% of the girls could obtain a handgun if they wanted to. Twenty-three percent of boys said they had carried a knife to school at least once during the school year; 7% said they carried one daily; 3% had carried a handgun to school, and 1% carried one daily.

**Drawing in the Family* is a new report from the Education Commission of the States (ECS) which encourages schools to educate parents about child development and parenting and teachers to involve parents in their children's education and to work closely with schools. CAPE highly recommends this book, available from ECS Distribution Center, 1860 Lincoln St., suite 300, Denver, CO 80295 for \$12. Request #PI-88-2.

**Facts and Faith: A Status Report on Youth Service* summarizes research, describes current local, state and national initiatives and presents policy considerations for renewing a service ethic among youth. It addresses the fact that family, church and school have less influence now, and that part-time work and consumerism are strong pulls, leaving youth without experience in caring for others, and consequently unlikely to be concerned about civic responsibility and social welfare issues as adults. For a copy send \$5.00 to the W. T. Grant Foundation Commission on Work, Family and Citizenship, 1001 Connecticut Ave., N.W., suite 301, Washington, DC 20036.

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1625 Eye Street, N.W.

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