

CAPE Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

November 1991 Number 175

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 Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

New Generation of American Schools

In his speech announcing the "America 2000" education strategy in April, President George Bush stated that "for tomorrow's students, the next generation, we must create a new generation of American schools." Weeks later, Bush proclaimed the founding of the New American Schools Development Corporation, with former New Jersey Governor Tom Kean as its Chairman.

The NASDC is a private non-profit, tax-exempt organization formed by American business at the request of the President. Its purpose is to "jump-start and underwrite the design of new high-performance learning environments for American children". The board is made up of 19 business leaders with Saul Cooperman, former commissioner of education in New Jersey, as the chairman of the Education Advisory Panel. The two-fold mission of the organization is to raise \$150-\$200 million and utilize those resources to fund up to seven design teams with "break-the-mold" blueprints for schools for the 21st century. Reporting to the nation in his July announcement of the Board's founding, Bush said that \$30 million had already been raised with a \$10 million challenge grant coming from the Annenberg Foundation.

The board will use those funds to make grants to "design teams" which "will bring together a unique assemblage of talent,

drawing on knowledgeable individuals and experienced organizations with expertise in organizational behavior, instructional technology, community organizing, curriculum development, cognitive science as well as outstanding teachers and veteran school reformers." The central challenge to each of seven teams to be funded is "what would it

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Lamar Alexander,
Secretary of Education

take to create the best schools in the world, schools that enable all students to reach world class standards in five core subjects - English, mathematics, science, history, and geography."

Rejecting the idea that this effort would be merely to fund high-tech models for new schools, the President stated that the designs of new schools "must be more than shrines where we worship the state-of-the-art" but a balance of new technology and traditional values. Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander stated "to make the quantum leap

in student learning that the nation requires, we must create a new generation of American schools, community by community."

The recent focus of the NASDC was their first design conference which centered on establishing the mechanism to award design teams the research and development grants. The August 26 meeting, held in Arlington, Virginia, attracted 350 prospective researchers and interested parties gathered to hear the board's plans. NASDC President Frank Blount released draft bid requests at that time which called for teams to establish school designs with the only constraints being "that they help all students reach world class standards, and that they operate on a budget comparable to conventional schools." Joyce G. McCray, CAPE executive director, who attended the conference, said that "Private schools should show interest in working in a consortium to submit a design to the board." A second design conference was held in Los Angeles on September 13.

While progress was made on attracting research, fund-raising appeared to fall behind. By mid-October only \$6 million more had been raised from the time of the board's formation. After a meeting with the President and Secretary Alexander at Camp



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David, Maryland on October 4, the directors set a tentative deadline of December 1992 for meeting the \$200 million goal. While the focus of fundraising will be on corporations and wealthy individuals, smaller donors will be sought with the assistance of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business associations according to a staff consultant to the board.

A 60-page "request for proposals" (RFP) was unveiled in mid-October by the board. Proposals are to be submitted by mid-January with the first contracts of a five year process to be awarded by May 31. The grant awards will likely range from \$500,000 to \$3 million.

For more information about the NASDC and/or a free copy of the RFP, write to: New American Schools Development Corporation, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 2710, Arlington, Virginia 22209 or call (703) 908-9500.

Distinguished Principals Honored

Four private school principals were among 59 honored by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals at a Washington banquet on October 4. The black-tie event was to pay tribute to "outstanding elementary and middle school administrators who assure that America's children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement."

Speaking at the event, Education Secretary Lamar Alexander applauded their contributions and praised their inspiring "the teachers and students in your schools to make academic excellence their standard." After his remarks, the Secretary presented each principal with a framed certificate and an engraved school bell.

Four principals representing private schools were selected: Sister M. Catherine Wingert of St. Dorothy School in Chicago, Illinois; Raymond W. Fricke of Immanuel Lutheran School in Palatine, Illinois; Rabbi Mordechai Besser of Hebrew Academy of Five Town and Rockaway in Lawrence, New York; and Diane B. Cooper of Immaculate Conception School in Grand Prai-

rie, Texas.

Sister Catherine, who oversees the 500 student school in the inner-city, has been a principal for 36 years. She regards her most important task as training new teachers and inspiring veteran teachers to continue to grow. Mr. Fricke's students have seen their average composite on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills rise from 88.7 to 94.3 in the last three years. In his nine years at Immanuel, Fricke helped raise enrollment to over 500 and added new classrooms and a science lab.

Rabbi Besser believes that "ethics and moral education are as important as academic learning." He has overseen a wide range of student and community services including peer tutoring, participation in national academic contests, and social activities on behalf of the elderly, disabled and the sick. Ms. Cooper went to Immaculate Conception when it had only three teachers, 147 students, and a school building that was nearly closed for health department violations. With personal determination and involved parents, she's been able to enrich the curriculum, develop a latch-key program, and enroll 300 students with a waiting list.

The National Distinguished Principals program was launched in 1984 as an annual event by the Department of Education and the NAESP in corporate partnership with the Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company (VALIC).

Legislative Update:

House "Choice" Plan Clears Hurdle

A comprehensive education bill authorizing \$700 million in federal grants to states to fund reform efforts passed the House Education and Labor Committee on October 17 by a vote of 26 to 12. In doing so, sponsors of the measure beat back threats to strip out or limit the provision dealing with educational choice from the bill.

The "Comprehensive Neighborhood Schools Revitalization Act", H.R. 3320, was introduced by House education subcommittee chairman Representative Dale Kildee (D-Michigan) along with ranking Republican Representative Bill Goodling (R-Pennsylvania) and full committee chair-

man Representative William Ford (D-Michigan). The legislation offers grants to states which present reform plans to revitalize their educational system. Included in the menu of options for states to utilize were programs highlighting merit schools, site-based management, activities to improve student motivation and achievement, choice, and parental involvement.

At an earlier subcommittee mark-up on September 26, Representative William J. Jefferson (D-Louisiana) held off from offering his amendment to delete any reference to choice from the bill. Then, at the full committee mark-up, as negotiations between the committee leadership and the Bush Administration ensued, it became more apparent that the President would veto any education bill absent choice. During consideration, Goodling read from a letter he received from White House chief of staff John Sununu which stating that the "current framework, if not weakened, is acceptable."

In an effort to narrow his opposition to choice, Jefferson changed his amendment to limit the bill to public school only choice. Despite his claim that "I'm not comfortable with it [choice] on a philosophical basis at all", committee chairman Ford voted against the Jefferson amendment to hold together the deal with the White House. In the end, the Jefferson amendment failed to win committee approval by a vote of 17 to 23.

The measure is now ready for consideration by the full House. The bill was introduced as an alternative to the President's "America 2000" legislation, H.R. 2460.

Civil Rights Negotiations Breakthrough

After over a year and a half of off-and-on negotiations, a compromise has been worked out between the Bush Administration and Senate Republican leaders on language for civil rights legislation. The purpose of the measure is to reverse five controversial Supreme Court decisions from 1989 that limited the ability of women and minorities to bring lawsuits due to discrimination in employment.

The bill, S. 1745, prohibits an employer from making hiring and firing decisions based in any way on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. It also includes protection against sexual or racial harass-

ment on the job. The controversial aspect of the bill has been in placement of caps on compensatory and punitive damages that could be sought from plaintiffs in a discrimination case. President Bush's previous opposition to the legislation had been characterized by his insistence that the legislation was a "quota bill".

Similar legislation was passed by the House and Senate last year which was vetoed by the President. That veto was sustained by a 66 to 34 Senate vote, one short of the needed two-thirds margin.

The House has already passed a version of the civil rights bill earlier this year. The Senate has been in negotiations with the White House to avoid another veto show-down.

Tax Bill Hopes Rise

A ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee told a group of representatives of non-profit groups that there is "no bonfire burning" to repeal the 3% floor on income tax deductions including charitable contributions. Representative Byron Dorgan (D-North Dakota) discussed the prospects for a tax bill at a breakfast meeting with members of "Independent Sector" in late September.

Dorgan explained that with a \$348 billion operating budget deficit for this year, the chances for a tax relief bill look dim. Proponents of legislation to remove gifts of appreciated property from the alternative minimum tax (AMT) have hoped that a broad tax bill in 1991 would provide the opportunity for that legislation to move up the tax agenda.

However, three weeks later, Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee disclosed his plan to grant tax relief to middle income taxpayers including a restoration of the tax deductibility of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Speaker of the House Thomas Foley (D-Washington) gave a positive signal with an October 22 statement that he too will push for tax legislation this year.

Both Independent Sector and the "Appreciated Property Working Group" - two coalitions working on legislation to remove gifts of appreciated property from the AMT - have intensified their activities with Congress. CAPE is affiliated with both coalitions.

Alexander Defends President on TV

House Democrats took a swipe at President Bush by holding a public hearing on the White House's use of \$26,750 in Department of Education funds to produce and nationally televise a recent classroom speech by the President. Bush spoke to students on October 1 at the Alice Deal Junior High School in Washington, DC.

House Education and Labor Committee Chairman William Ford called the hearing stating he was interested in the rationale of the Department for giving its funds to the White House "to produce a media event." Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander claimed the President was doing "exactly what the President ought to be doing" to promote the "America 2000" education strategy by communicating the role of young people in it.

Secretary Alexander further pointed out that the Department's money was used in accordance with the law allowing for expenses to promote educational improvement.

Alexander was later backed up by a General Accounting Office opinion which found the expenditure as appropriate.

Education Funding Bill Stalls

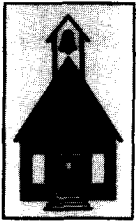
Despite a tentative agreement by House and Senate conferees for the Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education Appropriations bill, H.R. 2707, negotiations broke down over how to cut \$800 million from the spending bill. The original agreement allocated nearly a \$2.1 billion increase for education programs including the Chapter 1 program for disadvantaged and low-income students.

CAPE, as well as the 100 member coalition of the Committee for Education Funding, have urged the panel to resist further cuts to the education function of the appropriations legislation. In a letter to House and Senate conferees, CAPE executive director Joyce G. McCray urged members of Congress to "maintain the needed increase for education on behalf of the nation's children".

The battle to bolster education funding has been an ongoing effort since the "Homefront Budget Initiative" began earlier this Spring in the Congress.

Capenotes:

► In an effort to update the mailing list for **Outlook**, subscribers were mailed an October 8 letter reviewing our new annual billing policy. Renewal for non-complimentary subscribers will continue through December. If you've not received a letter or need to update your \$10 annual subscription, please call CAPE or send your check today.



► The Office of Educational Research and Improvement has issued **Youth Indicators 1991**, a statistical look at various trends for 13- to 24-year-olds. The 148-page book presents each of 59 statistical indicators in a two-page format with charts, tables, descriptions, and some historical data dating back to 1950.

The OERI research shows that in the space of a generation, young people today take longer to leave home, finish college, form their own households, marry and have children. The study also presents that more than half of all elementary school children used computers at school in October 1989.

An education indicator compares the percentage of time 13-year-olds spend doing homework and watching television with their peers in other countries. In the United States, 29% of this age group do two or more hours of homework a day while 74% spend three or more hours watching television. A total of 36% of students in the United Kingdom do homework while 73% watch television. This compares with 59% doing homework and 54% watching television in Spain.

Another fact presented shows the total cost of raising a child from birth to age 18 in a Midwestern urban area in 1989 was \$105,055, 2.1% of which is for education expenses.

A copy of this U.S. Department of Education study is available for \$5.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325. The order stock number is #065-000-00446-1.

► Making the point that the **National Diffusion Network** can play an integral part in the "America 2000" education strategy, Nelson Smith, former Director of the

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Department's Programs for the Improvement of Practice, says "schools and communities that want to jump-start their reform processes can turn to NDN right now."

The NDN is a body of over 400 educational programs validated by the Department of Education as educationally effective, cost-efficient, and replicable. These programs are disseminated to private schools nationwide through the CAPE-sponsored Private Facilitator Project.

The "America 2000" strategy and legislation calls for world class standards in each of the core subject areas. Smith argues that "as regulatory barriers are removed, we will see emerging the school as site of reform. This means that teachers and principals will be freed to create their own instructional programs, using the kinds of resources NDN provides.

For more information on NDN, contact Dr. Charles Nunley, project director at the CAPE office or call (202) 659-0177.

► **The Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program** offers fellowships for teachers to continue their education and develop projects to assist them in their work. Any full-time elementary or secondary school teacher in a public or private school may apply for the fellowships.

Seventy-one awards will be given rang-

ing from \$16,650 to \$34,800. Deadline for application is December 13, 1991. For more information, contact Janice Williams-Madison at the Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 2049, Washington, DC 20202 or telephone (202) 401-1059.

► In a surprisingly narrow vote, the **New York State Regents** voted down a limited parental choice proposal by an 8 to 6 margin this summer. Speaking to his colleagues on the education board in support of measure, Vice Chancellor R. Carlos Carballeda's said: "Children have to be the focus of our decision on this matter, not the needs of powerbrokers, not the needs of institutions - whether public or nonpublic - but the needs of children. What we need is a new and powerful catalyst for change, a new dynamic. And lest you doubt the power of this proposal to stimulate a response... just look at the incredible reaction it has caused so far."

► A Harris poll published recently in Scholastic Inc.'s **Agenda** magazine points out that strained budgets may prompt education reform. Eight of 10 Americans "are convinced that the current budgeting process is a disaster and should be overhauled," in their state.

Louis Harris claims that "the deep crisis that states are facing over budget squeezes which affect the biggest recipient of all -- education -- may turn out to be a golden opportunity to restructure and reform more rapidly than might otherwise have been the case."

Another poll highlighted in *USA Today* found educators and the general public disagreeing over a major education issue -- "allowing parents to use public funds to send kids to private or public schools of their choice." The report notes that the public favors the idea by a margin of 2-to-1, but 3 of 4 educators say "no."

► The **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** offers summer seminars and institute programs for elementary and secondary school teachers. A total of 62 four- to six-week seminars and 36 three- to four-week programs are offered.

These study programs will occur all over the country and abroad, and are designed for elementary, middle, or high school teachers in public, private and church affiliated schools.

To obtain a copy of this lists, which also contain instructions on how and when to apply, write to: NEH Opportunities for School Teachers; 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Room 406, Washington, DC 20506.

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

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