

# CAPE Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

January 1995 Number 206

**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

## Education Policy's Future Questioned

The dust from the recent midterm elections has settled, and the future of American education policy debates has become clearer, with a variety of conservative recommendations being currently discussed in the nation's capital.

Former Education Secretaries Lamar Alexander and William Bennett, together with Senator Dan Coats (R-IN), spelled out their vision of education policy objectives for the new Congress in a December 19 article in *National Review*. They call for the Federal government to withdraw from elementary and secondary education, and write that "today's Department of Education could be reduced to something far humbler and less costly."

The thesis of the so-called "ABC" article is that control of education should be returned to states and localities. "Insofar as any education functions stay in Washington, their guiding principles should be choice, deregulation, innovation, accountability, and serious assessment keyed to real standards in core subjects," the three write.

Other critics of Federal education policy have targeted not only the Department, but specific statutes as well. The conservative Heritage Foundation, which played a significant role in developing the "Contract With America," has circulated to new members of Congress a booklet advocating the demise of the Department and the repeal of special education legislation.

The Heritage Foundation, a Washing-

ton-based think tank, which has strong ties to the Republican party, also sponsored a two-day orientation session for incoming and returning members of Congress — Republicans and Democrats alike — in early December. No Democrats chose to attend.

While the elimination of the Department of Education would have a far less significant impact on private schools than on our public counterparts, radical changes to elementary and secondary education law — including the ESEA and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act — are being discussed. *Continued on page 2*

## CAPE has moved...

### Just not as far as we had planned.

After five years in our current location, CAPE moved on January 4, 1995, to new quarters. However, we did not move as far as we had planned. After beginning negotiations for office space in a different building in Washington, our current landlord made an attractive offer which keeps us at the same street address — with only a change in suite numbers. CAPE moved from our eleventh floor quarters to a suite on the seventh floor. Our address as of January 4, 1995, is: Suite 703, 1726 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. Our phone (202-659-0016) and our fax (202-659-0018) remain unchanged. Please make a note of the change in suite numbers.

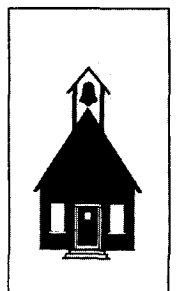
## Prisoners of Time Report Supplements Released

The National Education Commission on Time and Learning, which issued its final report in May to positive reviews, has completed its work and was disbanded on September 30. To buttress its findings, the Commission prepared two supplemental reports — one on the research of the Commission, the other providing descriptions of schools and programs which reflect promising ideas about time and learning.

The Commission's report thesis was simple and straightforward: Time is the unacknowledged design flaw in American schools.

*Prisoners of Time: What We Know and What We Need To Know* summarizes the key research reviewed by the Commission members as they developed their report. It also suggests some important questions which demand further investigation because too little information is available to answer them. Knowledge acquired through research — that which is now available and that which has yet to be done — can greatly assist American schools to raise the quality of learning for all children.

*Prisoners of Time: Schools and Programs Making Time Work for Students and Teachers*  
*Continued on page 2*



## Education Policy

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Disabilities Education Act — would affect all schools and their students.

The Heritage Foundation calls the IDEA “a huge federal mandate which is costing states billions of dollars.” Reauthorization of IDEA had been expected to highlight the 104th Congress’s education agenda in 1995, but the new Republican majority has led to speculation about the Act’s future.

At the earliest, IDEA would be considered after completion of the “Contract with America,” the ambitious agenda for the first 100 days of the 1995 legislative session. One of the 10 bills included in the “Contract” and scheduled for a vote before April 14 is major welfare reform legislation entitled the “Personal Responsibility Act” (PRA). As written, the PRA would terminate the present school breakfast and lunch entitlement programs and replace them with a discretionary child nutrition block grant program to states. It is anticipated that funding would be severely reduced, and as a discretionary program, would be subject to annual funding fluctuations.

CAPE will participate in the debates surrounding any proposals to eliminate the Department of Education, or to cut severely its budget, as well as debates regarding the reauthorization of IDEA.

## Prisoners of Time

*continued from front*

includes 40 brief program descriptions — 15 elementary schools, 15 middle and senior high schools, 4 district-wide efforts, and 6 special programs, primarily summer camps or university-sponsored efforts to apply new technologies to the teaching and learning process. The report is notable primarily for its illustration of the remarkable creativity on the part of school personnel in reconceptualizing the use of school time. Furthermore, the models used indicate that approaches to redesigning time-usage in schools differ by school level. Although the report is a nonrepresentative sample of schools, it appears clear that approaches to nontraditional schedules differ markedly

between elementary schools, on the one hand, and middle and secondary schools on the other.

## Legislative Update

► **House Education and Labor Committee Renamed** In keeping with their promises to reshape the Congress, to make it leaner and meaner, the new House Republican majority has eliminated three standing committees, renamed several others, pared the number of subcommittees, and slashed the number of committee staffers by about one-third.

Among the committees to receive a new name is the old House Education and Labor Committee, which will be known as the House Economic and Educational Opportunity Committee after January 4. Likewise, the number of subcommittees has been reduced by a net of one — two panels having been eliminated and a new one created.

Now a part of history are the subcommittees on Human Resources and Select Education and Civil Rights. The new addition is a subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, which will be chaired by sophomore Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-MI).

The remaining subcommittees, like the parent panel, will sport new names in the 104th Congress. The subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations replaces the former Labor-Management subcommittee. The new chair will be Rep. Harris Fawell (R-IL).

Rep. Cass Ballenger (R-NC) assumes the chair of the subcommittee on Worker Protections, formerly the subcommittee on Labor Standards, Occupational Health and Safety.

Childhood, Youth, and Families is the new name of the subcommittee once known as Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education. Its new chairman will be Rep. Duke Cunningham (R-CA).

Finally, Rep. Buck McKeon will take over at the helm of the new Postsecondary Education, Training, and Life-long Learning subcommittee, formerly known as the subcommittee on Postsecondary Education and Training.

Other members of the House Committee include (\* indicates new to the committee) Republicans: Thomas Petri (WI), Marge Roukema (NJ), Steve Gunderson (WI), Bill Barrett (NE), Mike Castle (DE), Jan Meyers\*

(KS), Sam Johnson\* (TX), Jim Talent\* (MO), Jim Greenwood\* (PA), Tir Hutchinson\* (AR), Joe Knollenberg\* (MI), Frank Riggs\* (CA), Lindsey Graham\* (SC), Dave Weldon\* (FL), David Funderburk\* (NC), Mark Souder\* (IN), David McIntosh\* (IN), Charles Norwood\* (GA). Democrats include (\* indicates new to the committee): William Clay (MO), George Miller (CA), Dale Kildee (MI), Pat Williams (MT), Matthew Martinez (CA), Major Owens (NY), Thomas Sawyer (OH), Donald Payne (NJ), Patsy Mink (HI), Robert Andrews (NJ), Jack Reed (RI), Tim Roemer (IN), Eliot Engel (NY), Xavier Becerra (CA), Robert Scott (VA), Gene Green (TX), Lynn Woolsey (CA), Carlos Romero-Barcelo (PR), Mel Reynolds\* (IL).

► **The Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform** issued its preliminary proposals in early December, including a proposal to limit or completely eliminate the income tax deduction for charitable contributions. CAPE responded with a strongly worded letter to each of the 32 commissioners urging them to reject any recommendation that would curtail the deduction for charitable giving.

CAPE Executive Director Joyce G. McCray cited an Independent Sector report showing a 25 percent decline in charitable giving after the tax code was overhauled in 1986. She wrote: “The Commission’s staff recommendations are even more troubling in light of broader Congressional proposals currently being drafted for consideration early next year. As part of an agenda for downsizing the Federal government, those legislative proposals would shift responsibility for providing the full range of social services to charitable organizations. Either taken as an individual recommendation or as part of the larger current political picture, any proposal to limit or deny the tax deduction for charitable giving is counterproductive, unacceptable, and should be rejected. On behalf of CAPE schools, and in conjunction with our colleagues at Independent Sector, ... we unequivocally request that Proposal 48 be excluded from the Commission’s final report.”

The Commission was unable to reach agreement on a final report to be submitted to the President at its last meeting in December.



## From the Editor's Desk ...

The human mind is a strange thing. January 1 is just another date on the calendar, yet we seem to need that date as a psychological breaking point separating the past from the future. New Year's, as the name implies, is a time for new beginnings — a time for reflections on the past and for plans for the future. I am no different from anyone else in that regard; I make New Year's Resolutions nearly every year — and sometimes even keep them.

One resolution for 1995 I intend to keep is making *Outlook* and CAPE as "user-friendly" as possible. CAPE exists to serve its members and to that end, it is important that I know what you like — and dislike — about *Outlook*.

This new year nearly coincides with my arrival at CAPE and at *Outlook*. I come to the table with my own ideas and suggestions — and a very healthy respect for the traditions that have worked for CAPE in its 24-year history. Just as with the plans for

change that accompany the beginning of a new year, the changeover from one tenure to another is time for taking stock and planning for the future.

As your new editor, I invite you to drop me a note, sharing with me your thoughts about your newsletter — suggestions that would be helpful for the "new kid on the block." Although I can't guarantee an accommodation for every suggestion that is made, I assure you that all ideas are welcome and encouraged. As I embark on my new duties, and as we all begin the new year, your input is helpful. I look forward to working with you!

Happy New Year!

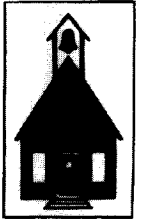
## CAPEnotes

► **The Holidays at the White House** were marked this December, in part, by the talent of students from CAPE schools. Students from Blue Ribbon Schools contributed handmade decorations for the Children's Tree, the first holiday tree visitors to the White

House saw as they entered through the East Entrance, and for the official White House Christmas tree in the Blue Room. And during the afternoon of December 15, visitors to the White House were treated to the talented voices of students from The Branson School in Ross, CA. The Branson delegation, which is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, was led by headmaster Richard Fitzgerald.

President and Mrs. Clinton wished to express their enthusiasm for the arts in American life and education as part of their holiday celebrations. Consequently, they sent requests to design and art schools throughout the country, asking students to create ornaments reflecting their personal interpretations of the traditional carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" — a theme carried throughout the Executive Mansion.

► **The IRS plans to increase the number of audits** it will conduct at tax-exempt institutions, according to word from the account-



### CAPE Legislative Conference 1995 Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Soc. Sec. #\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Required for White House security (bring photo ID to conference)

School/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

List your Members of Congress \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a personal contact with any of your Congressional delegation?: (list here) \_\_\_\_\_

Special Meal Requests: \_\_\_\_\_ Kosher meals \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian meals \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Fees:

Participant — \$175 (February 15, 1995 deadline)

\_\_\_ Guests\* — \$175 (February 15, 1995 deadline)

(Guests may attend the Opening Luncheon and CAPE Education Leadership Award Dinner only)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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ing firm Coopers and Lybrand. Targets will include contributions, nondiscrimination rule compliance, failure to file Form 5500, and benefit programs — especially tax sheltered annuities like TIAA.

► **No Smoking!** It's not just the headmaster you will be in trouble with if you're caught smoking in the restroom. An overlooked provision of the Goals 2000 law enacted earlier this year prohibits smoking during school hours within any indoor facility owned by a school, preschool, or library. Any school — including private schools — that receives any federal funding, including library aid or grants for professional development, will be required to comply.

► **The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Education Department** will make applications available in January for two three-day summer conferences for educators in 1995.

The Arthur and Rochelle Belfer National Conferences for Educators will be held at the museum in Washington, D.C., July 9-11 and

July 16-18, 1995. Middle and high school educators are encouraged to apply for one of the two conferences at which they will share with scholars strategies and approaches for presenting this period of history to students. Those who complete the program will receive a collection of educational materials and a stipend to assist with conference related expenses.

During each three-day conference, participants will have the opportunity to meet with museum staff; to visit the permanent exhibition; two special exhibitions, *Remember the Children* and *Liberation*; the interactive Wexner Learning Center; and the Resource Center for Educators. Conference sessions will emphasize planning and implementing units of study for teaching about the Holocaust in middle and high schools.

The application deadline is March 31, 1995. For information, contact Dorene Randolph, Program Assistant, at 202-488-0456 or write to Dawn Marie Warfle, Coordinator of National Outreach, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul

Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2150.

► **The National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institutes** has announced its schedule for Summer 1995. Topics range from "The African-American Roots of American Culture: The Harlem Renaissance" to "Teaching Japanese in High School" to "Divining America: Religion and the National Culture." In addition to the national institutes, there is a slate of regional and state institutes as well. All those currently teaching in an American elementary, middle, or high school — whether public, private, or church affiliated — are eligible to apply for admission to the summer institutes. Application is made directly to the institute, and the deadline for all applications is March 15.

For more information and a full schedule of national, regional, and state summer institutes, please write to the Division of Education Programs, Room 302, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20506 or call 202-606-8377.

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