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Council for American Private Education

outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

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CAPE, Secretary Riley Honor Ernest Boyer

Years of collegiality and friendship were evident at CAPE's Educational Leadership Award Dinner on March 14, when Education Secretary Richard Riley honored Dr. Ernest Boyer as "a comrade in arms in the ongoing battle to make our schools better".

Riley spoke before the award dinner of long-term visions for educating children and criticized recent actions in Congress as being shortsighted.

It concerns me that some members of Congress, in their haste to meet their 100-day deadline, are focusing on short-term 'solutions.'"

"I hope you will help me to keep the focus where it ought to be — beyond 100 days — on what is good for our children and the long-term future of our great nation. Children may only be 20 percent of our population, but they are 100 percent of our future."

After dinner, CAPE Board President Kay Edstene read the citation approved by the CAPE Board which in part reads: "You help shape the public policy debate so that teaching and learning are central and so that each student is provided opportunity and access.

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Conference Success

The Fifth Annual Legislative Conference recently sponsored by the Council for American Private Education has been given very high marks by those who attended, some calling it the best yet. CAPE's conference is a yearly event bringing together private school educators from around the nation to discuss issues of concern with Members of Congress and the Administration. Held in Washington March 14 - 15, this year's conference coincided with congressional action on budget cutting and spending reform. At the opening luncheon, participants were treated to the insights of the long-time counsel to the former House Education and Labor Committee, Jack Jennings. Now the director of the Center on National Education Policy, Jennings highlighted the profound impact on private and public schools of legislation currently being debated in Congress. In preparation for the central focus of the conference — the participants' visits to congressional offices — a discussion followed on the issue papers written for the conference. After learning more about legislation affecting education funding, technology, and blockgranting, individuals shared

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Kay Edstene, CAPE Board President, presents Education Leadership Award to Ernest L. Boyer



Conference Success

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thoughts on how congressional actions could impact private schools. Later in the afternoon, the conference moved to the White House complex where the Clinton Administration prepared a briefing on education and technology policy.

The next morning, conference participants heard from U.S. Rep. William Goodling (R-PA), chairman of the House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, about education policy and the perspective brought to the table by the new congressional majority. The breakfast meeting, held in the Rayburn House Office Building, gave the chairman an opportunity to share his vision of the future of education policy and his priorities. Afterwards, individuals visited congressional offices, meeting with Members and staffers to lobby an education issues



Chairman William Goodling addresses conference participants on Capitol Hill

followed by a debriefing lunch back at the Capitol. Coinciding with Cape confrees visits, the House was debating controversial legislation to cut education spending by \$1.7 billion.

The fifth annual conference boasted a record 99 participants representing nearly 30 states from as far away as California, Oregon, and Puerto Rico.

Boyer Honored

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... You bring to your role as educator those central values of respect for each individual and for community. Your creativity and vision inform your perspective and decisions; you leadership inspires us."

"One word describes my thoughts on education," Boyer said as he accepted the award. "Connection." Boyer remarked that the United States does not have an integrated, coherent concept of education. "Look at any high school or college course catalog," he said. "You see pieces, but no pattern."

CAPE recognized Boyer, the president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and a former U.S. Commissioner of Education, for his leadership as an educator, author, and advocate for children. While acknowledging his many years in the field of education, and expressing gratitude for the honor given by CAPE, Boyer chose to focus his remarks on the nation's responsibilities to children.

Quoting anthropologist Margaret Meade, Boyer said that a healthy culture is one in which there is an ongoing interaction between the generations. He noted that in the

United States, there is less vertical integration of generations. Instead, individuals move through life in horizontal age strata, interacting primarily with others of their own age cohorts.

In a personal anecdote, Boyer described the adopt-a-grandparent program at his father's retirement village, which also had an on-site daycare center for employees' children. "I call him, and instead of talking about his aches and pains, he tells me about his new little friend."

As the grandfather of eight, Boyer prompted a burst of laughter when he explained the natural bond between grandparents and grandchildren. "After all, they share a common enemy!"

Boyer said the nation should be drawn together around the early years of the child. He said that, of the eight national education goals contained in the GOALS2000 legislation passed last year, the first is the most important: ensuring that all children begin school ready to learn.

"That is a pledge to children," Boyer said. "It is immoral to make a pledge to children and then walk away from them."

Legislative Update

The race is on as the new Republican majority in the House works to finalize action on several items contained in its "Contract With America" before a self-imposed 100 day deadline on April 14. Several major Contract items — including a middle class tax cut, and changes in Social Security taxes — remain for consideration by the full House.

■ **Tax credit for children.** Of the remaining Contract issues, the \$500 per child tax credit is of particular interest to the private school community. The Contract's "American Dream Restoration Act," would offer a tax credit of \$500 for each child under age 18 to families earning up to \$200,000. While not targeted specifically for education purposes, the credit could be used by families to offset the cost of enrolling children in private schools.

It appears, however, that support for significant tax cuts may be eroding in the House. The estimated cost of the tax cuts proposed by the GOP will amount to approximately \$188 billion. Some Republicans are suggesting a more targeted tax credit — to those families earning up to \$95,000 a year — in an effort to shave \$12-\$14 billion from the cost of the proposal. Others are saying that in light of the Federal deficit, there should be no major tax cuts, or that if they are enacted that they should not take affect until after the budget has been balanced. House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich (R-OH), however, is committed to finding budget savings to pay for the tax cuts proposed in the Contract.

■ **Rescissions.** Already moving through the Congress are efforts to cancel funds appropriated for the current fiscal year that have not yet been spent or obligated. The House has already passed two "rescissions" bills, the first to offset emergency spending for flood relief in California, the second as a down payment on promised tax cuts.

The second rescissions bill, approved by the House on March 16, would slash a record



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\$17.3 billion from fiscal year 1995 appropriations. Federal education funding, which accounts for less than 2 percent of the Federal budget, was targeted for a disproportionate 10 percent cut. (See related story on the Private School Facilitator Project.) The action would wipe out the \$812 million education increases slated for the current fiscal year and further push funding \$889 million below fiscal year 1994 levels. As a member of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), CAPE supports the CEF mission "to achieve adequate Federal financial support for our nation's educational system."

The Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its version of a rescissions bill on March 24. In a letter to members of the committee, CAPE Executive Director Joyce G. McCray noted that the House action "rejects education as a national priority" and urged the committee to reject "immediate education cuts that will result in long-term negative consequences for the nation's children. ... Rescinding funds for Federal education programs will undermine the ongoing process of preparing the nation's children for leadership in the 21st century."

The Senate Appropriations Committee's proposal for cutting education funds appropriated for the current fiscal year is approximately \$1 billion less than the House proposal - \$704.3 million compared to \$1.7 billion. Many popular programs still take hits in the Senate rescissions bill, but the cuts are much less severe.

For example, the House proposed slashing nearly \$472 million of the \$481 million slated for the popular Safe and Drug-Free Schools program. The Senate proposal cuts \$100 million. The House-passed version includes a \$140 million cut in \$6.7 billion Title I program while the Senate trimmed \$72 million.

Action on the measure, S.617, is expected during the week of March 27.

► Telecommunications and the National Information Infrastructure. Several weeks after circulating draft versions of legislation to reconfigure the nation's communications infrastructure, the Senate Commerce Committee on March 23 marked up a bill that is long on deregulation and short on protection for schools and other non-profit

educational, cultural and social entities.

An amendment offered by Sens. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) inserted language requiring telecommunications to "provide universal service at rates not higher than incremental cost to elementary schools, secondary schools, and libraries..." The definition of schools used in the bills is the same as that used in the Elementary and Secondary Act, ensuring inclusion of private schools.

► Welfare Reform — Child nutrition and child care provisions. Among the issues raised by participants of the CAPE Legislative Conference during their visits to congressional offices was the grave concern in the private school community that blockgranting child nutrition and child care programs could potentially result in private schools being excluded from the programs. CAPE and others have been urging Members of Congress to include provisions in welfare reform legislation safeguarding the continued participation of private schools in these programs.

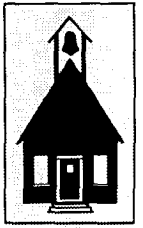
The House of Representatives debated its welfare reform legislation during the week of March 20. Because of the concerted efforts of many concerned parties, the United States Catholic Conference in particular, the safeguarding language was included.

The legislation repeals the current school lunch and breakfast programs, among others, consolidates funding, and provides lump-sum payments to the states to establish school based nutrition programs at their discretion. As much as 20% of the payment received by states could be used for other assistance programs.

CAPenotes

► Summer institutes offered. The Council for Religion in Independent Schools (CRIS) will sponsor two institutes this summer for school personnel interested in ethics or religious pluralism. The Institute for Religious Pluralism, the first of its kind by CRIS, will be held June 19-23 in Montecito, CA. In this institute, CRIS hopes to explore with participants ways in which pluralism

PSFP Could Be Terminated



The unique funding cycle of the National Diffusion Network/Private School Facilitator Project (PSFP) could result in the termination of the PSFP under a budget cutting plan recently passed by the House. In its \$1.7 billion rescission of education funding, the House included a \$2.5 million cut in new projects for the National Diffusion Network beginning after June 30. The PSFP contract expires September 30, and contract renewal would be considered a new project. While the PSFP was not singled out explicitly for elimination, the de facto result discriminates against private schools. The entire system should remain intact until its ultimate fate is decided in the debate on the fiscal year 1996 budget.

The Senate version of the rescissions bill does not include a cut in the National Diffusion Network. While this is encouraging, it is still possible that the House language could be retained when members of the two chambers sit down to work out the differences in the bill in the conference committee.

can enrich the community spirit of schools and to examine religious expression in a pluralistic community. The fourth annual summer ethics institute will be held in Washington, DC, July 16 and 21. Through study, participation, and interaction among participants, this institute will focus on fostering a moral community in the school, sharing experiences in teaching ethics and examining the partnership between home and school as sources for moral education. For more information, contact CRIS at 301-657-0912 or write to: 4405 East-West Highway, #506, Bethesda, MD 20814-4536



Jack Jennings, Director of the Center on National Education Policy, keynotes the Legislative Conference.



Gordon Ambach, Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, congratulates Ernest Boyer.



Secretary Richard Riley with Sr. Catherine McNamee, former CAPE board President, and Kay Edstene.

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