

cape Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

May 1995 Number 210

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Is Education a National Priority?

"Education is a priority of national importance" is the message that education advocates have tried to impress upon Members of Congress in recent weeks with battles being waged on two fronts. While appropriators were hammering out a compromise on cuts in current year funding, House and Senate Budget Committees advanced their long-term blueprints for balancing the Federal budget by 2002. The education community has mobilized throughout May to make its case on Capitol Hill.

Using levels of financial support as a yardstick, education advocates—including President Clinton, Secretary Richard Riley, and various organizations of students, teachers, and administrators—are arguing that Congress is abandoning education as a national priority. To cut funding at a time a great economic change is shortsighted and counterproductive, they argue.

Rescissions

A House-Senate conference committee was charged with reaching a compromise between radically different versions of a measure to cut current year spending passed in the two chambers. The House version of the rescissions bill, passed in late March, cut \$17 billion in total, including \$1.7 billion from education and training programs. While the Senate passed a version close in total savings—\$16 billion—Senators chose a much different path for achieving their goal.

Education was targeted for a \$403 million cut in the Senate version of HR 1158.

Conferees compromised quickly on most areas of the bill but stalled on the education and training portion of the measure. The final agreement cuts \$874.5 million from previously appropriated funds for education. President Clinton, citing the need to invest in the nation's future, has said he will veto the compromise. It is unlikely that Congress can muster the necessary two-thirds majority in each chamber to override the President's veto.

The Budget Resolution:

12% -16% Education Hit in '96

In early May, members of the House and Senate Budget Committees began piecing together their separate versions of the Fiscal Year 1996 Budget Resolution. The House passed its version on May 18 on a 238-193 vote. The Senate was still debating its version as of press time although passage was expected. Both versions would radically alter Federal spending, streamlining the bureaucracy and shifting major responsibilities to the states.

The budget resolution is the blueprint which sets total spending and revenue levels for the Federal government. It is an internal, congressional working document but is binding in the first year and gives general direc-

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CAPE Vice President Accepts New Role

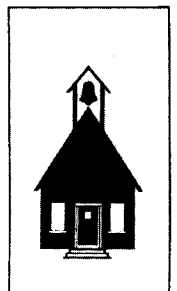
CAPE's loss is a gain for aspiring teachers at the University of Notre Dame.

Effective July 1, Sister Lourdes Sheehan, R.S.M., will leave her position as secretary for education at the United States Catholic Conference, and consequently her position as a member of the CAPE board of directors, to become director of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE). ACE is a project sponsored by the University of Notre Dame to provide committed Catholic teachers for understaffed parochial schools and to provide recent college graduates with intensive teacher training.

Sister Lourdes has served as USCC secretary for education since 1990. She was elected vice president of the CAPE board of directors in 1993.

CAPE Executive Director Joyce G. McCray recognized Sr. Lourdes and her contribution to the private school community during the CAPE Legislative Conference in March. "We will miss her," McCray said. "She has made an outstanding contribution to CAPE. Her thoughtful and sensitive

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Priority ?

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tion for the following years. The budget resolution sets broad priorities, leaving specific decisions on which programs to fund to the appropriations subcommittees.

Both the House and Senate Budget Committee chairmen, Rep. John Kasich (R-OH) and Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM), released long lists of programs to cut or eliminate to reach a balanced budget in seven years. While these lists are not binding and merely provide suggestions for achieving the goal of a balanced budget, the lowered funding levels are binding. The pool of funds available for the variety of education programs will be significantly smaller, virtually ensuring that many programs will be terminated.

House Resolution. The House version of the budget resolution includes \$1.04 trillion in aggregate deficit reduction over its seven year life from Fiscal Year 1995 levels. Education funding is cut approximately 30 percent from 1995 levels with recommendations for terminating the Department of Education and 89 of its programs. Among pro

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grams recommended for elimination are Title I Concentration Grants, several technology assistance programs, and a consolidation of the Title II/Eisenhower Professional Development program into a block grant. Kasich also recommends terminating the National Diffusion Network; CAPE administers the Private School Facilitator Project part of the NDN.

"In a time when this country should be investing in education to maintain our economic competitiveness, the committee's proposal offers no real solution for Americans who are concerned about deficit reduction and the education and futures of their children," Education Secretary Richard Riley said after Kasich announced his plan. "It is

clear that the future strength of our nation lies in the education of our citizens and on how well prepared they are to meet the challenges of the 21st century. This is no time to walk away from our children and education."

Senate Resolution. The Senate budget resolution would save \$961 billion over seven years, including a 33 percent cut in education funding, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates. Domenici's plan assumes that current law funding is frozen at 1995 levels for all major education programs such as Title I, Head Start, Special Education, Pell Grants, and the Community Services Block Grant. It eliminates all Federal initiatives to develop and provide educational technology for the classroom through collaboration with private funders and, like the House version, eliminates the National Service Corps.

CAPE's Reaction. Because of the non-binding nature of the program recommendations offered as part of the budget resolution, CAPE has chosen to take a cautious approach in the political debate currently raging on Capitol Hill. Rather, a set of principles of education is being developed for consideration by the CAPE board of directors. These principles, when approved, can then be applied to the specific funding decisions that will emerge over the summer when the House and Senate Appropriations Committees begin their deliberations.

CAPE Vice President Accepts New Role

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analyses have earned her the respect of the entire CAPE board and among her colleagues throughout the country. We wish her only the best."

The USCC and the National Catholic Education Association, another CAPE member, have been collaborators in initiating ACE. The project, only a year old, has already placed 40 graduates in 30 Catholic schools throughout the nation. Plans for the second year call for more than doubling the number of placements.

Sister Lourdes' replacement at USCC — and on CAPE's board of directors — will be determined later this summer.

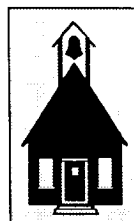
Legislative Update

► **Telecommunications legislation progresses.** A House subcommittee passed its version of legislation rewriting the nation's telecommunications law on May 17, but the bill's language with respect to access and affordability for schools is very weak. The measure calls for a policy that "should include recommendations to ensure access to advanced telecommunications for students in elementary and secondary schools." By contrast, the version of the bill currently pending in the Senate includes strong language which "requires that any telecommunications carrier shall provide ... service to elementary and secondary schools and libraries at rates that are affordable ... " A number of broad-based coalitions have been working to strengthen the House language and to retain the Senate's language.

An amendment with language similar to that passed by the Senate Commerce Committee was anticipated when the full House committee marked up its version of the bill On May 24. CAPE sent a letter to the full committee, urging members to "support any amendment that ensures affordable access to the information superhighway by schools."

No amendments affecting schools were offered during the session, and the committee passed the bill with the weaker language.

► **Tax legislation would encourage charitable contributions.** Freshman Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN) recently introduced legislation to increase the deduction for charitable contributions and to restore the deduction for non-itemizers. The "Giving Incentive and Volunteer Empowerment (GIVE) Act," HR 1575 would allow taxpayers to deduct from the income 120% of contributions made to charity. It also restores the ability of non-itemizers to deduct charitable donations from taxable income, a practice allowable before the 1986 tax code overhaul. The GIVE Act removes charitable giving from the 3% floor imposed by the 1990 tax bill and would extend the deadline for donations to April 15.



CAPE Awardee James Coleman Dies

James Coleman, a 1994 recipient of the CAPE Education Leadership Award, died March 25 at the University of Chicago Hospital. He was a renowned sociologist and educational researcher whose work influenced many national debates on education policy.

Coleman, who was a professor of sociology and education at the University of Chicago, had a distinguished academic career. His report for the Federal government in 1966 entitled "Equality of Educational Opportunity" — now known simply as the Coleman Report — was the first major systemic evaluation of American education. The CAPE citation awarded to Coleman last year noted that the Coleman Report became a "catalyst for examining and thinking about education reform."

"Private education ... is increasingly seen as a true alternative to public schooling ... which constitutes both an opportunity and a challenge ..." James Coleman

Media reports of Coleman's death noted that he believed social science research was important to the public policy debate and that he was frequently a part of the more controversial debates of the time. Another study, issued in 1981, reported public schools in an unfavorable light compared to private and religious schools.

Poor health prevented Coleman from being present to receive the CAPE Education Leadership Award in 1994. In remarks prepared for the event, Coleman said, "Private education ... is increasingly seen as a true alternative to public schooling ... which constitutes both an opportunity and a challenge" that private schools should accept.

CAPEnotes

► **Private school teachers earn national professional certification.** Six private school teachers were among the first 81 teachers to meet professional standards established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) in the Early Adolescence/Generalist certificate fieldtest. Teachers demonstrated their knowledge and skills through an extensive series of performance-based assessments including interviews, portfolios of student work, videotapes and other documentation of their classroom instruction, and essays that probed the depth of their knowledge of their subject and of teaching.

Candidates' performances were judged by other teachers who were trained as scorers, according to standards and assessment criteria developed by teachers and other specialists working with the NBPTS. The NBPTS is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and non-governmental agency. It was created in 1987 by a team of teachers, policymakers, academics, and corporate leaders to establish rigorous standards for what teachers should know and be able to do as professionals. It is a voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet these standards.

Among the first teachers to earn NBPTS certification are four Catholic school teachers: Sister Therese Gregoire O'Carm, Vermilion Catholic High School, Abbeville, LA; Evelyn McShane, St. Paul School, St. Clair Shores, MI; Kathleen Licari, St. William School, Milford, MI; and Lynn Werner, St. Norbert School, Yorba Linda, CA. One Lutheran school teacher — Bruce Boehne, Immanuel First Lutheran School, West Covina, CA — and one Independent school teacher — Michael Roche, Cranbrook Kingswood Middle School, Bloomfield Hills, MI — also earned certificates.

For more information about earning NBPTS certification, contact the NBPTS at 1-800-22-TEACH.

► **Smoking regulations clarified.** The U.S. Department of Education has issued guidance regarding the smoking ban included

in the Goals 2000: Educate America Act enacted last year. According to the Department, the law requires that smoking be prohibited in "any facility, or in some cases a portion of a facility," used to provide services to children under age 18, if those services are funded by specified Federal programs.



A private school is required to comply if it receives funding from the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, or Agriculture (through the nutrition program WIC), either directly or through state or local governments, to provide regular kindergarten, elementary or secondary education; library services; health services; or day care services to children. A private school does not have to comply if it merely receives funding under the Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or if the school's students receive services (such as compensatory education services) from a local education agency.

The law prohibits smoking within any facility owned or leased for the provision of regular education services. Smoking lounges, even if separately ventilated, must be prohibited. Schools *may* choose to prohibit smoking at all times; however, at a minimum, the law requires that smoking not be permitted in a building while children's services are being provided. Smoking may be permitted in schools during community or privately sponsored events *as long as regular children's services are not simultaneously being provided.*

For additional guidance, contact the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, 600 Independence Avenue SW, The Portals — Room 604, Washington, DC 20202-6123, or phone 202-260-3954.

► **Poetry competition announced.** The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$24,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The deadline for the contest is June 30, 1995. It is open to students, faculty, administrators and anyone else who is interested. The entry is free.

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To enter, send one original poem on any subject and in any style to: The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-1941, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by June 30. A new contest opens July 1.

NDN/PSFP Forges Ahead

Like the post office, which perseveres through all adversity, CAPE and its National Diffusion Network Private School Facilitator Project (NDN/PSFP) forged ahead in May with a new grant application despite the program's uncertain future.

CAPE's application was delivered to the Department of Education by the May 26 deadline at the same time a political firestorm which would determine the PSFP's future raged between the two ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

On Capitol Hill, education advocates like Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT) dug in their heels and put up a good fight for a variety of

education programs as appropriators from the House and Senate worked to eliminate the differences in their two versions of legislation to cut current year funding by approximately \$16 billion. At the White House, President Clinton said that he would not tolerate the deep cuts in education being discussed in Congress and threatened a veto.

The PSFP's uncertain future stems from a provision in the House version of the bill, which was included in the final version, to cancel \$2.7 million for new NDN grants in Fiscal Year 1995. An unusual funding cycle and the timing of the PSFP grant deadline places it in the category of "new grants."

Regardless, a 65-page proposal, complete with 24 appendices, was assembled throughout May by CAPE and PSFP staff. As noted in the application, CAPE entered the competitive process because of the desire to "offer quality, cost-efficient, direct service to private schools. ... We were, and are, also convinced that we are uniquely suited to do the best job possible in linking the NDN and private schools."

If Clinton is able to thwart Congressional rescission plans and the funding for the NDN

in Fiscal Year 1995 is salvaged, the Department of Education should notify CAPE by late summer whether its application was successful.

Save the Date!

It's hard to believe that it's been more than four years since CAPE celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a reception on Capitol Hill! Plans are already underway for a grand celebration for the Silver Anniversary in 1996 in conjunction with CAPE's 6th Annual Legislative Conference.

Mark your calendars now! The 25th Anniversary and Legislative Conference will kick off with lunch on Tuesday, March 12 to be followed by legislative and White House briefings and a special evening event. On Wednesday, March 13 participants will visit with their congressional delegations to discuss the issues.

Don't miss the festivities!

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a coalition of 14 national associations serving private schools K-12
Editor: David Early Executive Director: Joyce G. McCray
[ISSN 0271-1451]

Outlook is published monthly (September to June) by the Council for American Private Education. Annual Subscription is \$15.

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Washington, DC 20036

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