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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Backup Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13680  
**Folder ID Number:** 13680-009

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**Folder Title:**  
[Family Circle Magazine] 9/89 [OA 6265]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

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((Grant))  
May 11, 1989  
9 a.m.  
A:circle

INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY CIRCLE MAGAZINE  
BACK-TO-SCHOOL ISSUE  
SEPTEMBER, 1989

To the readers of Family Circle:

As we watch the children hustling off to school, facing new teachers, new subjects and the difficulties of a new school year, we can often get wrapped up in the day-to-day concerns of school.

The bigger challenge is to realize that every child's individual education directly influences the success or failure of America's next generation. Each child's excellence in school builds the competitiveness and well-being of the nation in the next century. Excellence in American business, technology and science begins in each one of our classrooms.

As a nation, we have no natural resource more precious than our intellectual resources. For America to maintain its commercial, technological and scientific excellence, no investment in machines or laboratories will by itself be sufficient; there will have to be the people who have the knowledge and the commitment.

Yet, by one estimate, it takes 10,000 high school students expressing an interest in a science or engineering major to

assure us of 20 men and women who will go on to receive doctorates. Right now, American universities confer only about 77,000 engineering degrees at the undergraduate level. That's about the same number that Japan produces with a total population only half the size of ours. That's not enough.

We've got to work together to promote interest in math and science programs for our students. I have proposed a National Science Scholars Program that would provide 570 college scholarships each year. These would be for up to \$10,000 a year for four years, and would draw a young scientist from every Congressional District in the nation.

BBB  
Among the educational proposals we've put forth, the Administration's budget proposals also target \$100 million in new FY 1990 funding for Magnet Schools of Excellence; \$250 million in FY 1990 funding for Presidential Merit Schools; and funding for \$5000 cash awards to be given in every state for teachers who win the President's Awards for Excellence in Education.

In working to improve educational excellence, I was guided by four principles: recognizing excellence; targeting those most in need; giving flexibility and choice to teachers, students and parents; and increasing accountability. This Administration believes that the nation must invest in its young people, giving them the knowledge, skills and values to compete successfully in the marketplace -- and to build a better America.

But it can't end here. The momentum for education reform must be carried forth at the state and local level across the country. The hard work and courage of teachers, parents and students who care about the future -- and who are willing to stand up and pitch in -- are what will determine the future of American education.

I look to programs that have accomplished so much already -- the State of Missouri's "Parents as Teachers" program, for example -- as models for others across the nation. We will encourage improvement and reward excellence by recognizing those who stand for innovation and a can-do attitude. And in doing so, we will build a better America.

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