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**OA/ID Number:** 13778  
**Folder ID Number:** 13778-006

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**Folder Title:**  
Republican Governors Assoc. 10/29/91 [OA 8317]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>

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8 OCTOBER 1991  
3 PM

MEMO TO DAN MC G

FROM:

JMB *JMB*

SUBJECT: REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR'S DINNER (10/29/91)

So far -- Alabama (A 2000 kick 10/29/91)  
 Delaware  
 Iowa (A 2000 kick 10/27/91)  
 Maine  
 Massachusetts  
 Minnesota  
 North Carolina  
 American Samoa ✓  
~~South Carolina (A 2000 kick Nov. 21, 1991)~~

are the states/territories with Republican Govs who have or will Kick off Am. 2000. (By tomorrow we will have more information on 26 other states planning a kick-off)

Oddly enough eight Democratic Gov. states have kicked-off A 2000 - almost as many as the Republican----

In tot there are 24 Republican Govs. including the Northern Mariana Island, and American Samoa.....

ADD: SCHEDULED

- MISSOURI → 10/29/91
- MONTANA → 12/10/91
- ILLINOIS → 11/19/91
- MICHIGAN → 11/13/91
- N. HAMPSHIRE → 11/13/91
- S. CAROLINA → 11/21/91
- S. DAKOTA → 10/31/91
- UTAH → 12/11/91
- WISCONSIN → 11/20/91

} 9

8 / 22 states  
1 / 2 districts

ON BOARD:

- ARIZONA
- CALIFORNIA
- LOUISIANA
- OHIO
- RHODE ISLAND

} 5



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Office of Public Affairs  
Room 2089  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

91 SEP 23 P 4: 08

Telephone: (202) 401-1576

FAX Number: (202) 401-3130

Date: Sept. 23, 1991

**TO:**

Jeannie Bunton


**FAX NUMBER:**

456-6218

**FROM:**

Jay Diskey

**MESSAGE:**

Jeannie:  
Here is the list we discussed. I'll be in touch as soon as we have a figure on AMERICA 2000 communities. Thank you.  


**CLOSE HOLD****AMERICA 2000 FIELD REPORT  
September 4, 1991****I. STATE 2000 KICKOFF COMPLETED**

<u>State</u>	<u>Governor</u>	<u>Kickoff Date</u>
1 COLORADO	Roy Romer (D)	June 17, 1991
2 WYOMING	Mike Sullivan (D)	June 21, 1991
3 OREGON	Barbara Roberts (D)	August 22, 1991
✓4 AMERICAN SAMOA	Peter Coleman (R)	August 30, 1991
-5 MAINE	John McKernan (R)	September 3, 1991

**II. STATE 2000 KICKOFF SCHEDULED**

<u>State</u>	<u>Governor</u>	<u>Kickoff Date</u>
6 MARYLAND	William Schaefer (D)	September 5, 1991
7 NEBRASKA	Ben Nelson (D)	September 5, 1991
✓8 MINNESOTA	Arne Carlson (R)	September 12, 1991
✓9 DELAWARE	Michael Castle (R)	September 19, 1991
10 VERMONT	Howard Dean (D)	September 20, 1991
✓11 NORTH CAROLINA	James Martin (R)	September 27, 1991
12 INDIANA	Evan Bayh (D)	October 3, 1991
13 PUERTO RICO	Rafael Hernandez-Colon (D)	October 2, 1991 (T)
✓14 MASSACHUSETTS	William Weld (R)	October 16, 1991 (T)
15 ALASKA	Walter Hickel (I)	October 17, 1991 (T)
16 GEORGIA	Zell Miller (D)	October 18, 1991
✓17 IOWA	Terry Branstad (R)	October 27, 1991
✓18 ALABAMA	Guy Hunt (R)	October 31, 1991

In addition to these 18 states or territories, the governors of 26 other states or territories are at work planning State 2000 efforts. It is expected that many of these may be ready for a public kickoff during the Fall. Hundreds of AMERICA 2000 Community organizations are being formed -- from San Antonio to Cincinnati and from Memphis to Tucson -- including efforts in virtually every state.

9 October 1991  
10:40 a.m.

MEMO FOR DAN MC G

FROM:

JMB 

SUBJECT: REPUB. GOVS DINNER

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Lawsuits are challenging the fairness of school taxes (funding formula) in 22 states (New York Times 10/9/91):

Alabama	Montana
Alaska	New York
Arizona	New Jersey
California	New Hampshire
Idaho	North Dakota
Illinois	Ohio
Indiana	Oklahoma
Kansas	Pennsylvania
Massachusetts	Tennessee
Minnesota	Texas
Missouri	Washington

Based on data we have:

Of these 22 states, 10 have Republican Governors:

Alabama	Minnesota
Arizona	Missouri
California	Montana
Illinois	New Hampshire
Massachusetts	Ohio

Of these 10 states, 3 have kicked-off America 2000:

Alabama (10/31/91)  
Massachusetts (10/16/91)  
Minnesota (9/12/91)

Additionally - the article states the number of lawsuits has grown to 22 from 8 two years ago. In 1970 the Connecticut Legislature enacted a formula to distribute state funds more equitably among school districts.

June 12 / Administration of George Bush, 1990

And just to guarantee that—as I walked up here, I'm sure you wondered what the deep, dark secret was that Howard told me—that thanks to the generosity of Armand Hammer, to the tune of \$500,000, that we're now over the top and going strong. So, Armand, my great vote of thanks to you.

And that is a very nice supplement to what so many others have done, either through wearing out the telephone—guys like Jack McDonald, my old colleague in the House, who I understand is modestly standing back here but should be hanging from the rafters because of his performance, probably the leading ticket seller or participant in that manner, according to Howard. And then, of course, Carl Lindner and Dwayne Andreas—just stars in this, and I am very grateful to them. But in the same vein, I'm grateful to every single person here, you who did the heavy lifting out there and most of the work. So, thank you all very much because this comes at an important time in what we feel could be an historic year.

The dinner I hope will be fun if we can see each other across a rather intimate ballroom over there—[laughter]. But nevertheless, it's marvelous. Let me just say a word about it, and I really should defer to Don Nickles, who's our superb chairman on the Senate side, and Guy, on the House side, and, of course, the National Committee weighing in in a great way on all this, too. And I want to thank them. But they are better to comment on the day-to-day political activity.

But you know the litany: The party in power loses seats in an off year, historically. Well, we want to change that. And I had a report from both Senator Nickles and Congressman [Guy] Vander Jagt when I met in the Cabinet Room with the leadership of the party this morning on the Hill—our Hill leadership—Dole, Michel, et cetera. Without kind of putting too optimistic a spin on it, the Senate report was very strong, and the House report—where everyone knows we have a great difficulty because of the locking in of incumbency—even there, Guy was able to give us a pretty upbeat report.

And I can tell you I'm going to try to do my share. The Vice President has been magnificent—Dan Quayle—in what he's

been able to do in helping candidates raise money. The recruitment, I think I can say without putting words in the mouths of these two, has gone well. The party under Lee Atwater and Mary Matalin is pitching in. Jeannie Austin doing a good job on that as well. So, the team is together, and the importance of the year is enormous.

I don't want to overlook the Governors' races because they are key when you look at this concept of redistricting that we're going to have to grope with in the years ahead. And we have some very key Governors' races out there. And the Republican Governors Association has been active and strong in doing their part.

So, we're getting the assistance, and we're getting the financial support, thanks to the approach that many of you have taken to this. But again, the election is important. I know Howard Baker is probably better able to speak to this than anybody else here. But the difference between controlling one body in the Congress and not is night and day in terms of how a President can operate. And Howard saw it when he so effectively led the Senate majority when he was Senate leader. And you could move the agenda. The President would campaign on certain things, and then he'd be able to at least be sure they were considered.

The way it is now in the Senate, as Don knows, we're playing—our leader is doing a superb job. Bob Dole is just outstanding, and he and I are working very closely together for the same objectives. But the problem is, with the numbers the way they are, it is very difficult to get our agenda placed ahead of their agenda. And the result is we're often playing defense and trying to amend a proposal that's far different philosophically than what we would have proposed in the first place.

So, we're keeping working on it, and I'm very pleased that we've been able to get some things done. Sometimes you measure progress by keeping bad things from happening. And I don't know what's going to happen at 6:15 p.m. on our veto override. We've got a technical bill up there that has a technicality that even some of our own Republicans are having difficulty with. But we've been very lucky that the vetoes have been sustained and not overridden. We may

take one on the chin next few days on another.

But generally, the stayed together enough very unhappy legislation take that a step forward: it a more optimistic perspective take the offense and that join us all together those who come from side of the ledger when economy, free market kinds of points.

I might—just looking know of the interest of international aspects. word on the summit with Gorbachev. I want it—not that we solved tough problems of the different. I told him very frankly and, indeed, reference, sitting side table about our difference without people getting over the way it used

We've got different States, and I'm very back there talking to the three Baltic States that that can be resolved dialog going and getting lifted and then move that are very important chev and the Soviet to the United States. a freer, more open we can interact with the economic side, but that is in the interest know it is in the interest an economy that has change. But the next them, in my view, change and the success come.

And so, the meeting a good one. We made lot of subjects. One heart—they accepted lead to a ban on chemicals think is a very civil about in the year 1 you to know that there were quite different

international cooperation in  
it, the Republic of Korea is  
ward a democratic society,  
eral welfare. Economically, it  
eness along with stability.  
traveling on the road to a  
nocracy. Korea, commensu-  
tinued economic and polit-  
ats, will assume new roles  
ties in promoting peace and  
theast Asia and, in a broad-  
urther promoting East-West  
nd North-South cooperation.  
thank the U.S. Government  
an people for the warm hos-  
d to me and my party on  
you very much.

*Bush spoke at 1:23 p.m. in  
at the White House. Presi-  
in Korean, and his remarks  
by an interpreter. Earlier,  
ents met privately in the  
d with South Korean and  
the Cabinet Room. They  
luncheon in the Residence.*

s Committee on

reatened.  
progressed through the leg-  
my senior advisors indicat-  
uld recommend I veto the  
cluded expanded Federal  
ion beyond the life of the  
. Although I wrote a letter  
ongress clearly expressing  
ring consideration of the  
bia Appropriations bill for  
heless asked my senior ad-  
ther look at this complex  
the role of public funds,  
h, with my position as  
is one that I have not  
lightly. Many citizens and  
ress were consulted as this

question was reviewed. Abortion is a diffi-  
cult, often painful, and very personal deci-  
sion for all Americans. It is made even  
more difficult when the underlying issue is  
whether the government—and ultimately  
the American taxpayer—is asked to pay for  
abortions and under what circumstances.  
Since 1981, the Federal Government has  
determined, I think wisely, that taxpayer  
funds should be used for abortion in only  
the most narrow of circumstances: where  
the life of the mother is endangered. If  
abortion funding were expanded to include  
other circumstances, it would be difficult  
to limit to the few cases of actual rape or  
incest, and could have the unintended con-  
sequence of allowing the taking of countless  
other lives of unborn children well beyond  
the few cases argued as reasons for the pro-  
posed legislative change.

My intense personal concern for those  
women who are victims of the crimes of  
rape and incest is as strongly felt as my  
position on abortion. Rape and incest are  
crimes of violence which must not go un-  
punished, and those convicted of such  
crimes must be brought to justice.

The question raised by H.R. 2990, howev-  
er, involves whether the Federal Govern-  
ment and American taxpayers should be  
forced to pay for the termination of an  
unborn child's life in the case of rape or  
incest. That such a child may have been  
conceived through an unconscionable act of  
violence makes this question difficult and,  
indeed, agonizing; it does not, however,  
alter the basic fact that Federal funding is  
being sought that would compound a vio-  
lent act with the taking of an unborn life.  
And in the absence of perfect legislation  
that would reconcile these difficult issues, if  
I have to err, I prefer to err on the side of  
human life.

For these reasons, should H.R. 2990 reach  
my desk with language expanding Federal  
funding of abortion, I will veto the measure  
and return it to the Congress.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

*Note: Identical letters were sent to Senators  
Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, Tom  
Harkin of Iowa, Mark O. Hatfield of  
Oregon, and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.*

Remarks at the Republican Governors' Association Annual Dinner  
October 17, 1989

Thank you, Chairman Hayden. Thank  
you, Mike, Governor, for that gracious in-  
troduction. And my congratulations go to  
you for your effective tenure and the suc-  
cess on this dinner and, of course, to your  
successor, John Ashcroft, the Governor of  
Missouri. And I'm just delighted to be here  
with both of you. And, Lee, it's always good  
to see you here. I'm very proud of our na-  
tional chairman. He's doing an outstanding  
job in broadening the base of our party.

I want to thank the members of my Cab-  
inet for being here. We have a good Cab-  
inet—outstanding men and women of abili-  
ty. We have a real team, and I think that is  
understood and appreciated around this  
country. I'm proud of them all, and I'm just  
delighted they're here with me tonight.

I want to thank the Chaplain of the

Senate, Chaplain Halverson, for his invoca-  
tion. Eight years I was Vice President, and  
that meant I was the President of the  
Senate. And though I had known Dick Hal-  
verson before, while—it was there that I  
heard him, and I'm just delighted that he's  
with us tonight. I don't want to start sin-  
gling out additional members of the White  
House staff who are here, but I do think it's  
appropriate to mention my Chief of Staff, a  
former Governor, John Sununu. He's out  
there somewhere. He's gone!

And I'm very pleased that one of our re-  
tiring Governors—retiring, meaning leaving  
office—Tom Kean, will be the part of our  
team as the head of the Advisory Commit-  
tee on the President's Points of Light Initia-  
tive Foundation, the whole voluntary effort  
that I'm determined to see successful. And

so, Professor Kean, wherever you may be, before you go on, thank you. It's very important, and thank you for doing it. I'm also sorry that my good friend and fellow Texan Governor Clements could not make it tonight. You may not know this—I expect Tom Loeffler does—but the Dallas paper reported last week that Bill Clements was dining in a restaurant when a holdup and shootout occurred right in front of him. The most remarkable part of all, however, is that not once through the whole ordeal did he put down his hamburger. [Laughter] And I'm not sure if that was Texas courage or hunger or the need for a new pair of glasses or a hearing aid. [Laughter] But nevertheless, you talk about trauma.

As you all know, I'm not an alumnus of this organization, but over the years as I've worked with the Governors, I have come to fully appreciate the responsibility that you are shouldering and the leadership that is provided at the State level. And I'm sure there are times when federalism seems to be a mixed blessing. It's not possible for a Governor to shy away from the hard decisions. But to sit where the buck stops, to resolve disputes, to help those in need, and to set a course for the future is to know a special kind of satisfaction. And for that reason, I believe we can—indeed, that we must—as chief executives take responsibility, join forces, and make common cause of building a better America.

And that is why we came together in Charlottesville at an historic summit—only the third of its kind in the history of this country. And we came together with your Democratic counterparts—and I salute them for the nonpartisan way in which they approached it—in open, wide-ranging, and creative sessions to seek a new direction in education. And in the end, we agreed to an historic compact, a Jeffersonian compact, if you will, to set national goals, to allow for greater flexibility, more creativity, and then to be accountable for the results.

And we could achieve this because in Charlottesville we put progress before partisanship, the future before the moment, and our kids before ourselves. And America simply faces too many of these long-term challenges for us to act only as Republicans or Democrats or conservatives or liberals.

And still, in spite of that, there is a Republican approach to the challenges we face, and we have proven time and again that the Republican approach is the best approach.

Now, I consider this a matter of record, a record that includes 83 months of economic growth and more than 20 million new jobs. A few years ago when our opponents said that a tax cut would hurt the economy, we cut the taxes, and it did the opposite. And when our opponents said that a stronger defense would make the Soviets more militant, we revitalized our Armed Forces, and the Soviets met us at the negotiation table.

In short, whatever has worked at the Federal level happened only because Republicans and enlightened Democrats in Congress joined forces to make it work. And so, the bottom line is this: Throughout the 1980's, the Republican Party has been the party of ideas. This is no less true at the State level. And while Republicans are leading the way, where is the opposition? Answer: in the throes of an identity crisis. And after the longest peacetime expansion in history, the Democrats can't quite bring themselves to admit that Republicans were right. And nor do they have a new vision of where America should be going. All they can do is cloak their out-of-step ideas in the language of moderation.

I don't often quote Franklin D. Roosevelt on partisan matters, but the little story he told to make fun of his Republican opponents fits the liberal Democrats so well today. Remember the story of the unfortunate chameleon which turned brown when placed on a brown rug and turned red when placed on a red rug, but who died a tragic death when they put him on a scotch plaid. [Laughter] And this is precisely what we've got to do—[applause]—it's precisely what we have to do in the 1990 election: to keep the focus on the issues and expose the true colors of the chameleon candidates. For the national and State elections of the 1990's will not just be a battle of the century, it will be the first battle for the 21st century.

We have proven time and again that our party can keep the White House; but to win a majority of Governorships, State offices, seats in Congress, we've got to roll up our

sleeves and get down to winning elections. And we're competitive; we must rede the nuts and the bolts c as our opponents do. An upcoming elections, we have set achievable goals: first, to move our party to the place as the majority party. Our second goal is to move federalism has enhanced control of the Government. Our third goal is to open the House of Representatives to the most critical party competition.

But the key to all three is to elect more Republican C coincidence that our pa majority status in the Hou tives as we became a mir ernment. The Founding the House to be the most ter of the changing need people. And instead, v have never known what i ence a change in part House.

Let me tell you about way to illustrate the se nature of the Democratic years old—born on Janua 3 weeks after the last R turned the gavel over to once in his lifetime has h ship of the House of change parties—not one t all the millions of men a America in their twentie: has never known true t tion in the House.

Well, will the House re other 34 years? Yes, but c passively accept it. Toda: have a redistricting adva that compose about 90 p in Congress. And as Repu: can veto these gerryma and take our message to States by declaring that t discrimination must end.

But we have far grea: apportionment to pursue t of America. America face problems that require m

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time and again that our  
White House; but to win  
rnorships, State offices,  
we've got to roll up our

sleeves and get down to the basics of win-  
ning elections. And we must be more com-  
petitive; we must rededicate ourselves to  
the nuts and the bolts of grassroots politics  
as our opponents do. And as we look to the  
upcoming elections, we have three obtain-  
able goals: first, to move toward our rightful  
place as the majority party of Governors. As  
federalism has enhanced your role, so the  
control of the Governorships has become  
one of the most critical national goals of our  
party. Our second goal is to recapture the  
United States Senate. And third, we must  
open the House of Representatives to two-  
party competition.

But the key to all three goals is the first:  
elect more Republican Governors. It is no  
coincidence that our party slipped to mi-  
nority status in the House of Representa-  
tives as we became a minority in State gov-  
ernment. The Founding Fathers intended  
the House to be the most sensitive barome-  
ter of the changing needs of the American  
people. And instead, whole generations  
have never known what it means to experi-  
ence a change in party control of the  
House.

Let me tell you about our son Neil as a  
way to illustrate the seemingly unending  
nature of the Democratic majority. He's 34  
years old—born on January 22d, 1955, and  
3 weeks after the last Republican Speaker  
turned the gavel over to a Democrat. Not  
once in his lifetime has he seen the leader-  
ship of the House of Representatives  
change parties—not one time. And think of  
all the millions of men and women across  
America in their twenties and thirties who  
has never known true two-party competi-  
tion in the House.

Well, will the House remain static for an-  
other 34 years? Yes, but only if Republicans  
passively accept it. Today, Democrats now  
have a redistricting advantage in the States  
that compose about 90 percent of the seats  
in Congress. And as Republican leaders, you  
can veto these gerrymandering schemes  
and take our message to the voters of your  
States by declaring that this form of voter  
discrimination must end.

But we have far greater reasons than re-  
apportionment to pursue the Governorships  
of America. America faces tough problems,  
problems that require more than Federal

solutions. And they require national solu-  
tions. And solutions are now possible be-  
cause the States are embracing a new dyna-  
mism based on an old vision.

The great Supreme Court Justice Louis  
D. Brandeis foresaw a time when a single  
courageous State may serve as a laboratory  
and try novel social and economic experi-  
ments without risk to the rest of the coun-  
try. To borrow a phrase, the States are be-  
coming these laboratories of democracy,  
with each State endowed with freedom—  
freedom to fail, freedom to succeed, and  
freedom to discover and share its discover-  
ies.

In an era of tight resources, necessity, the  
mother of invention, has also proven to be  
the mother of creative politics, of policies.  
You're following the advice of Teddy Roose-  
velt, a great Republican Governor, who said  
that our national greatness is not what we  
have that will make us a great nation, it is  
the way in which we use it.

Dozens of States are experimenting with  
ways to remove obstacles to opportunity  
and to bring the creative energy of entre-  
preneurship to the public sector. Some of  
your experiments are certain to become the  
national policies of the next century. But to  
be creative, you've got to have freedom.  
You tell me the Federal Government must  
not tie your hands, must not mandate your  
programs, must not dictate your policies.  
And I hear you, and I am ready to work  
with you to ease the Federal control and  
mandates over the States.

The States are at the forefront precisely  
because the first instinct of our Governors is  
not to look to Washington but to the com-  
bined strength of the public and private  
sector. And much has been written about  
how Governors in both parties are rejecting  
the old ideologies and stale approaches of  
the past. Credit should be given where it's  
due.

But I have to say, while Democrats have  
been adept at promoting new programs  
that attract a lot of fanfare, the Republican  
Governors have quietly distinguished them-  
selves with programs that work. The people  
know this. And come November 1990, I be-  
lieve the voters will choose innovation and  
daring for their State government: They



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 17, 1991

MEMORANDUM TO MARGARET ALEXANDER  
FROM: LANNY GRIFFITH *Lanny Griffith*  
SUBJECT: REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ADDRESSES

*Margaret Alexander*  
~~Handwritten scribble~~  
*ALABAMA*

The following is a list of republican governors' names, addresses and spouses names. Hope this is helpful.

- ① **ALABAMA**  
*A 2000 KICKOFF OCT. 31, 1991*  
*school finance lawsuit pending*  
*formula*  
Governor and Mrs. Guy Hunt (Helen)  
Office of the Governor  
11 St. Union Street, 2nd Fl  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130
- ② **CALIFORNIA**  
*school finance lawsuit pending*  
Governor and Mrs. Pete Wilson (Gayle)  
Office of the Governor  
Post Office Box 94268  
Sacramento, CA 94268-0001
- ③ **DELAWARE**  
*A 2000 KICK OFF SEPT. 19, 1991*  
Governor Mike Castle (none)  
Office of the Governor  
Legislative Hall  
Dover, DE 19901
- ④ **GUAM**  
Governor and Mrs. Joseph Ada (Roseanne)  
Office of the Governor  
Executive Chambers  
Post Office Box 2950  
Agana, Guam 96910
- ⑤ **ILLINOIS**  
*school finance lawsuit pending*  
Governor and Mrs. Jim Edgar (Brenda)  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706
- ⑥ **IOWA**  
*A 2000 KICK OFF OCT. 27, 1991*  
Governor and Mrs. Terry Branstad (Christine)  
Office of the Governor  
Executive Office, State Capitol  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
- ⑦ **ARIZONA**  
*school finance lawsuit pending*  
Governor and Mrs. J. Fife Symington, III  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

① **MAINE**

*A 2000 KICKOFF SEPT. 3, 1991*

Governor and Mrs. John McKernan, Jr. (Olympia Snowe)  
Office of the Governor  
State House Station #1  
Augusta, ME 04333

② **MASSACHUSETTS**

*A 2000 KICKOFF OCT. 16, 1991  
school finance lawsuit pending*

Governor and Mrs. William Weld (Susan)  
Office of the Governor  
Room 360, State House  
Executive Office  
Boston, MA 02133

③ **MICHIGAN**

Governor and Mrs. John Engler (Michelle)  
Office of the Governor  
Post Office Box 30026  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48909

④ **MINNESOTA**

*A 2000 KICKOFF SEPT. 12, 1991  
school finance lawsuit pending*

Governor and Mrs. Arne Carlson (Susan)  
Office of the Governor  
130 State Capitol  
Aurora Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55155

⑤ **MISSOURI**

*school finance lawsuit pending*

Governor and Mrs. John Ashcroft (Janet)  
Office of the Governor  
Room 216, State Capitol  
Post Office Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

⑥ **MONTANA**

*school finance lawsuit pending*

Governor and Mrs. Stan Stephens (Ann)  
Office of the Governor  
Room 204, Capitol Station  
Helena, MT 59620

⑦ **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

*school finance lawsuit pending*

Governor and Mrs. Judd Gregg (Kathleen)  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Concord, NH 03301

⑧ **NORTH CAROLINA**

*A 2000 KICKOFF SEPT. 27, 1991*

Governor and Mrs. James Martin (Dorothy)  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2905

⑨ **OHIO**

*school finance lawsuit pending*

Governor and Mrs. George Voinovich (Janet)  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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GOVERNORS

18 SOUTH CAROLINA Governor and Mrs. Carroll Campbell, Jr. (Iris)  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
Post Office Box 11369  
Columbia, SC 29211

A 2500 KICKOFF (POSS. NOV. 21, 1991)

19 SOUTH DAKOTA Governor and Mrs. George Mickelson (Linda)  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501

19 UTAH Governor and Mrs. Norman Bangertter (Colleen)  
Office of the Governor  
210 State Capitol  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

20 VERMONT Governor and Mrs. Richard Snelling (Barbara )  
Office of the Governor  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

21 WISCONSIN Governor and Mrs. Tommy Thompson (Sue Ann)  
Office of the Governor  
115 East State Capitol  
Post Office Box 7863  
Madison, WI 53702

22 AMERICAN SAMOA Governor and Mrs. Peter Tali Coleman (Nora)  
Office of the Governor  
Pago Pago, AS 96799

A 2000 KICKOFF AUG. 30, 1991

23 NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS Governor and Mrs. Lorenzo De Leon Guerrero (Matilde)  
Office of the Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Saipan, MP 96950

24 LOUISIANA Governor Charles E. Roemer, III (Buddy)  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

States / territories  
21 / 3

New York Times 10/9/91

"The other states in which lawsuits challenging school finance formulas are active are:

- Alabama (R)
- Alaska
- Arizona (R)
- California (R)
- Idaho
- Illinois (R)
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Massachusetts (R)
- Minnesota (R)
- Missouri (R)
- Montana (R)
- New Hampshire (R)
- North Dakota
- Ohio (R)
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Washington

(Texas, New York, New Jersey)



10 STATES HAVE REPUBLICAN GOV'S  
 OF 10 STATES 3 HAVE KICKED OFF A 2000

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# Equality Plan on School Financing Is Upsetting Rich and Poor in Texas

By ROBERTO SURO

Special to The New York Times

HOUSTON, Oct. 7 - For years "the Robin Hood plan" loomed as a dreaded last resort for Texas public schools, and now that it is operating, no one is very happy about it.

The rich say they are being robbed by the new system for financing public education. The poor say that despite sweeping revisions designed to eliminate financial inequities among school districts the state is still not giving them what they need.

Texas's success or failure will be closely watched in more than 20 states where education financing systems are under challenge in the courts. Among them are New Jersey, where the State Supreme Court last month ordered a new trial to determine whether the state's 1990 Quality Education Act adequately addresses equal financing between poor districts and rich districts, and New York, where arguments are scheduled this month in a lawsuit brought by a group of poor districts asking a state court to declare the school financing system unconstitutional.

## Equity and Excellence

In a groundswell of legal activity, the number of states with such lawsuits has grown to 22 from 8 two years ago. Poor school districts with a relatively small amounts of taxable property are contending in the suits that their students are unconstitutionally disadvantaged compared with those in rich districts, where large amounts of taxable property can raise more money for the schools.

The disadvantages may come in many forms, from the microscopes and computers available to students in richer districts to the crowded classes held in cafeterias or hallways in poorer districts. At a time of limited government resources, the increasingly urgent new question is whether equity and excellence can be achieved simultaneously.

"We were an exemplary district in Texas, and it is going to be much more difficult for us to maintain our standards now," said Charles Slater, superintendent of the Alamo Heights

School District in an affluent predominantly white suburb of San Antonio. "The real solution to equity should be to raise everyone to the level of Alamo Heights, not to bring us all down to some level of mediocrity."

But John Augenblick, a Denver-based consultant who has worked for several state governments helping to design school financing plans, said, "For some districts to insist that they want to remain at high levels of spending is all well and good, except that there are other districts that have never had the chance to even come close to the national average."

## Access to Equal Amount

More and more often, he said, "the courts are ruling that state governments have a responsibility to insure that all school districts have access to

## Lawsuits are challenging the fairness of school taxes in 22 states.

about the same level of funding, and whether that level is adequate or not depends on what the state is willing to spend."

The other states in which lawsuits challenging school finance formulas are active are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington.

In October 1989, almost as soon as the Texas Supreme Court struck down the old school financing system that was based primarily on property taxes, some prominent politicians began predicting that Texas could pay for school equity only by imposing corporate or personal income taxes.

When that solution proved politically unpalatable, the Robin Hood ap-

proach of taking property tax money from rich districts and redistributing it among poor ones was adopted. The Texas plan sets in motion a spending proposal that would increase state spending on public schools by as much as \$5 billion over the next four years. But the Legislature imposed no new state taxes to cover the additional spending. Texas is one of three states without corporate or personal income taxes.

"We got this started without any specific funding changes relative to public education," said State Senator John Montford, a Democrat from Lubbock, who is a crucial legislator on tax issues. "But I think we are inevitably headed towards a major fiscal crisis and some tough decisions, because the spending is going to increase and the money won't be there."

The plan sets up new regional taxing authorities and obliges all school districts within those regions to tax at the same rate to pay for a basic educational program, and to then share the money. The system earned its nickname because, in the sharing process, about \$300 million in local property tax revenue will be taken from rich school districts to be given to poor ones this year, according to preliminary estimates.

## Minimum Money Assured

In addition, the state has committed itself to providing enough money to insure that poor districts have a minimum amount to spend if Robin Hood money falls short.

Rich districts are expected to take advantage of provisions allowing them to raise extra money through property taxes to enhance their programs, but they can do so only within certain limits.

Although the Robin Hood approach has been tried in different forms elsewhere, in Texas it has generated the most direct confrontation between rich and poor districts, which fought in court all summer and are promising further battles. Several rich districts have already challenged the new law, contending that the state is unconstitutionally appropriating local revenue.

In Utah, Wyoming and Montana, the state governments receive a portion of the revenue raised by local school districts and redistributes the money in districts around the state to equalize spending, Mr. Augenblick said. But, he said, Texas is the first state to redistribute money within regional districts.

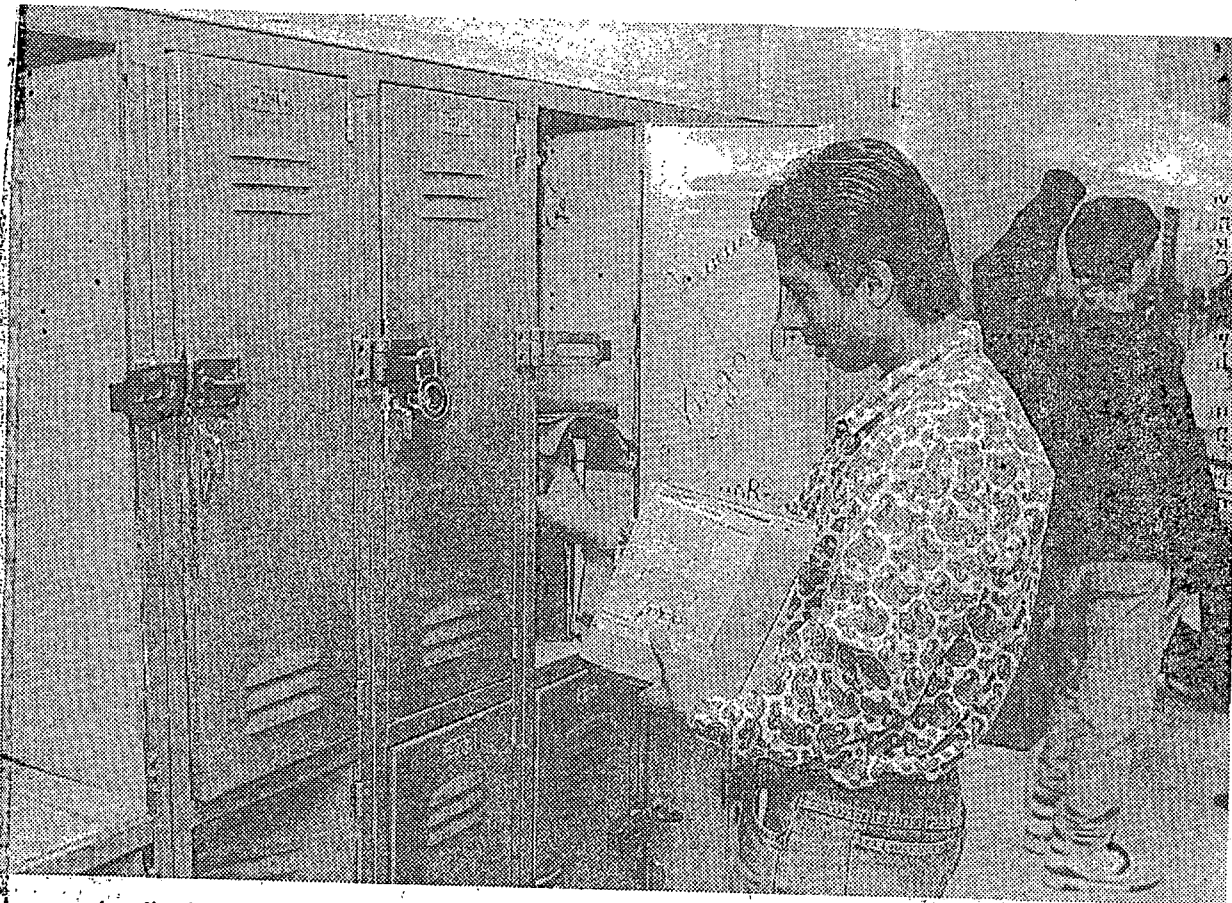
## Flowing Between Neighbors

With money flowing among neighboring school neighbors, the potential for resentment is heightened, especially when many of the rich districts are predominantly white while most of the poor districts have large minority populations.

Some of the rich districts most

Photocopy-Preservation





Among the districts receiving "Robin Hood" money is the Edgewood School District in a poor, mainly Hispanic area of San Antonio, which has to use much of the money for maintenance and repair.

ing much higher taxes on their residents — could only average \$2,978 a student.

As a matter of principle, the poor school districts see the new law as a victory.

"There is more equality of opportunity among school districts than ever before and the state has put in more money than ever before," said Al Kauffman, a lawyer with the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund, who filed the original suit in 1984.

"For basically the same tax rates, almost every district will have similar revenues," he said, "and the tremendous disparities between the richest and the poorest school districts will be eliminated."

But many poor school districts feel they have so much catching up to do that the amount of new money they will receive is disappointing — especially because they have had to raise taxes in order to take full advantage of the law. That was the way the law was written.

For example, the Edgewood School

District in a poor, predominantly Hispanic area of San Antonio, raised its property taxes by 23 percent, and will get some Robin Hood aid from nearby districts, but even with both those sources of income, its school budget will increase by less than 10 percent.

Some of the new money will acquire things that used to be luxuries, like music teachers, said Earle Bolton, the deputy superintendent, but "for the main part, a lot of the money is going into maintenance and repair of physical facilities." Roofs that have been leaking for years will finally get fixed, and in two major buildings air conditioning units that date to the 1940's may be replaced.

Meanwhile, the rich districts are just as unhappy.

#### Giving and Raising Taxes

For example the Alamo Heights district will give up \$4 million in Robin Hood money. It has raised taxes this year by 36 percent, but is still cutting its budget by about \$1 million. Various economy measures taken in-

cluded a salary freeze, cuts in clerical positions, elimination of some instructional programs like accounting and the closing of the district's swimming pool.

The state's two big-city school districts, Dallas and Houston, feel doubly cursed. Both cities are losing residents to suburbs that offer better schooling, and both are required to provide costly services to students with special needs, like bilingual education for recent immigrants. Even so, because of their large-tax bases, both city school systems were categorized as rich districts under the Robin Hood plan.

School boards around the state are now coming up with their property tax rates and will be sending out their bills next month. With some school administrators predicting a tax revolt, the true impact of the law — and its ramifications for other states — may not become apparent until property owners learn its full price tag.

# School Spending Suits in New York Area

Nine years ago, New York State's highest court rejected a lawsuit intended to force the state to do more to equalize spending among school districts. It said unequal spending may be unfair but was not unconstitutional, "absent gross and glaring inadequacy."

Earlier this year a new challenge was filed, by a group of 20 property-poor school districts on Long Island. The districts argue that the gaps between rich and poor districts have grown so much wider since the Court of Appeals ruling in 1982 that they are now "gross and glaring" and therefore unconstitutional.

On Long Island alone, the spending per pupil ranges from \$17,435 in Shoreham-Wading River, the highest spending district in Suffolk County, to \$7,305 in Miller Place, the lowest spending district in that county, according to State Education Department figures.

## State Aid System Criticized

Nor is New York's situation unique. As in other states, the spending differences arise largely

because districts with low property values and poorer residents collect less in local taxes to spend on schools. But critics in New York say the Legislature increases the disparities with a haphazard, politicized system for distributing state aid, a system that insures that even rich districts get substantial amounts of state money.

Under the system, poorer districts do get more state aid for each student than wealthier districts, but the adjustment is far from enough to balance overall spending.

## Suit in New Jersey

On Long Island, Robert E. Sapir, a lawyer for the districts that filed the new suit, said the difference in spending for each student between the 10 poorest districts and the regional average has quadrupled in the last eight years — to about \$1,600 from \$400. The average spending gap between the poorest and the wealthiest has risen even more, he said, to about \$5,000 for each student.

In New Jersey, efforts to balance spending between rich and poor

districts have also landed the state in court again. In June 1991, lawyers representing the poor districts filed a motion alleging that the state had not lived up to terms of the court-ordered Quality Education Act of 1990, and asking that the act be revised.

That act, the result of nine years of litigation, was intended to increase spending in the state's 30 poorest school districts to an average equal to the spending in the state's 108 most affluent districts. But several months after its passage, under intense pressure from angry voters protesting tax increases, the Legislature amended the law, and diverted aid meant for schools to finance residential property tax relief.

Last month the State Supreme Court, in a 4-to-3 decision, sent the case back to State Superior Court for a new trial.

Connecticut has no lawsuit pending over state education financing, although a suit in the 1970's resulted in the Legislature enacting a formula that distributes state funds more equitably among school districts.