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**Folder Title:**  
G.I. Bill for Children 6/25/92 [OA 7575]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 25, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
IN CEREMONY FOR G.I. BILL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN

The South Lawn

10:20 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Welcome, all. Hey, we're glad you guys are here. Welcome, welcome, and pleased be seated. All you kids, welcome to the South Lawn of the White House. And to the Vice President and Mrs. Quayle and Secretary Alexander, a warm welcome. A particularly warm welcome to the members of Congress, both House and Senate, that are with us today. Welcome to all of you, our very special guests, on this special occasion.

I have just come from a working session in the White House, working with some of the great experts on school choice. And the parents, I think, made the most significant contribution to our working session because their dreams for their kids are the same dreams that all of us have. And they want their kids to have a first-class education. And they know from practical experience that a good education is absolutely essential to making a good living and to making a good life.

So let me just share a little from that meeting. Janette Williams told me about her son, Javon. The Williamses are here with us somewhere here today -- whoops, here she is over here. Her kid starred on 60 Minutes, and that says something about the guy. If you go on that program and come off in one piece, he must be doing real well. (Laughter.) But she gave us -- here's what she said -- and this is serious. She said: "At his old school that was crowded, he used to get so bored that he would walk out. And thanks to the choice program in Milwaukee, he's at a new school. And he's not doing those things anymore. He's doing his homework; he's even helping clean up the classroom after school. And they took the energy and turned it around."

Now, the Governor here, Tommy Thompson, the Governor of Wisconsin, is here with us today. I'm sorry that Polly Williams, who's been at the forefront of the school choice movement couldn't be here, but she's at home looking after her mother. I would salute her values, but we miss her very, very much. Together, Polly and Tommy Thompson, the Governor, have taken the lead in helping parents like Janette Williams realize her dreams for her son Javon -- creating scholarships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from low-income families so that they can attend private schools. Now, theirs is a bold experiment, to give low-income families more of the same choices of schools already available to wealthier families.

Mike Joyce of the Bradley Foundation was also in our meeting. And Bradley recently joined with other foundations and Milwaukee businesses to raise \$3 million dollars so that Milwaukee's low-income families will be able to choose their family's schools, including the religious schools. Mike told us this morning that parents picked up every one of the 4,500 scholarship applications, the day after the scholarships were announced -- 4,500, that fast. And don't let anybody tell you that the people of Milwaukee don't care about their kids' education.

No one should underestimate what's at stake here. A revolution is underway in Milwaukee and across this country, a

MORE

revolution to make American schools the best in the world. And I salute out Secretary of Education who is helping lead that revolution, Lamar Alexander. (Applause.)

Together with the nation's governors, we've set six ambitious national education goals. And I might say that this wasn't a partisan move; Democrats and Republicans alike of the governors coming together to set six ambitious national education goals. And in 44 states and 1,400 communities, we've already launched America 2000 to meet these goals.

Even earlier, still, in January 1989, just before I was sworn-in as President, we helped organize the White House Conference on Choice in Education. We believed then and we believe today, a few fundamental truths. We believe that parents are their children's first teachers. (Applause.) Parents, not bureaucrats, know what's best for their kids.

And at this point I would like to salute one of the two in purple, Barbara Bush -- (laughter) -- for her pointing this out to parents. That it's what they do, what happens in their home. (Applause.) And Barbara's done a lot of that here and around the country. And I might say that Marilyn Quayle's taking that same message of parental involvement all across our country, and we're very grateful to her. (Applause.) So it is our belief, then, that parents, not the government, should choose their children's schools.

And so today I am proposing that we take another giant step forward in this revolution. And I am sending to Congress legislation that would authorize an ambitious demonstration program, a \$1.5 billion new federal dollars to help communities all across America give \$1,000 scholarships to children of middle and low-income families, so they can choose which schools their kids will attend. (Applause.)

This revolution is in the greatest American tradition, and we've done it before and it's worked. Forty-eight years ago this very week, President Roosevelt signed the GI Bill, creating scholarships that veterans could use at any college -- any college of their choice. The GI Bill created opportunity for Americans who never would have had it, and in doing so it helped create the best system of colleges and universities in the world.

And now we can do that again, this time by helping state and local governments -- and we're delighted the Mayor of Milwaukee is with us here today -- this time by helping state and local governments create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world. The GI Bill for children will help. It'll provide that help to these families. These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice will become the muscle that parents need to create the best schools for their kids.

Let me say to those who will attack our school choice initiative on the ground that it permits government money to go to religious schools, you're wrong. I believe those critics are wrong. This is aid to the families, not aid to institutions. (Applause.) And, again, if you set the clock back to the creation of that original GI Bill, no one told the GIs that they couldn't go to SMU or Notre Dame or Yeshiva or Howard. I haven't heard members of Congress suggest that students stop using Pell Grants and guaranteed student loans at Baptist colleges or Presbyterian seminaries. I don't hear an outcry because poor children at Catholic schools get their lunch paid for by federal taxpayers. In the same way, parents must be free to use this money at the school they believe will best teach their child, whether that school is public, private or religious. (Applause.)

MORE

Let me try to be clear on this point: Accepting students with vouchers does not mean a school must sacrifice school prayer. And let me say this to those who stand against extending school choice to low-and middle-income families: I simply do not buy the idea that someone cannot make a good decision just because that person is poor. (Applause.) We heard the same argument when we proposed child care vouchers for low-income families, or when we proposed help for public housing tenants to own their own homes. And so it's my belief that we ought to let families own their own home and choose their own schools regardless of their income level -- and give them help. (Applause.) Give them a shot at the American Dream, if you will.

And finally, to those who claim that school choice will hurt the public schools, let me underscore this point: All of this new money can go to public schools if that's where the child chooses to go -- where the family choose to have the kid go. And that decision will be in the hands of families -- where it belongs.

There are several points to make about money. First, I want to make it clear that we're not talking here about a new federal entitlement program. The federal government cannot afford one more entitlement, even for education. And I've said many times that money alone isn't the answer. The United States already spends more per student for schools than any country in the world except Switzerland. And I don't have to tell you where we stand in the international rankings of educational performance at the level we're talking about here today.

Our universities and colleges are respected and have achieved the highest levels of achievement. But that, unfortunately, is not true as we talk about K-12. So we need a revolution in American education -- not more money to do it the same old way.

Investment in our schools will remain a primarily state and local responsibility. But federal support for state and local scholarships can be a catalyst. For schools that attract choice students, it will give teachers and principals a welcome source of new funds. And for our children, choice can help open up opportunities, create genuine change in our schools.

For too long, we've shielded schools from competition -- allowed our schools a damaging monopoly power over our children. And this monopoly turns students into statistics and turns parents into pawns. And it is time we began thinking of a system of public education in which many providers offer a marketplace of opportunities -- opportunities that give all of our children choices and access to the best education in the world. (Applause.)

And so it is our firm belief -- it is our firm belief that this GI Bill for Children will move America inevitably in that direction.

Abraham Lincoln once said: "Revolutions do not go backward." Milwaukee is not the only place in America that our revolution is underway. Last year in Indianapolis, Pat Rooney and the Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust began to offer tuition vouchers to Indianapolis students. And I understand a busload of parents and students drove all night to be here today. And if you're still awake, welcome -- a special welcome to all of you. (Applause.) In San Antonio, the CEO Foundation has earmarked \$1.5 million in vouchers for children in their community.

California -- Joe Alibrandi and thousands of supporters are pushing for a ballot initiative to provide voucher scholarships for every school-age child in the state. And overall, in 1991, 10 states approved some form of new choice legislation. And 37 states had choice legislation pending in one form or another.

MORE

And I've been told that there may just be a few folks here from Pennsylvania. (Applause.) We're outnumbered. Well, it may take a few tries, but I never underestimate the persistence of parents: The Children of Pennsylvania will have school choice. (Applause.)

From California to East Harlem, from coast to coast, the leaders of the school choice movement are sparking a revolution in American education. And they're the true heroes of this education reform, and some of them are here with us today.

They aren't afraid to stand up to the status quo -- to say, loud and clear, that when it comes to educating our kids, business-as-usual simply isn't good enough. (Applause.) Let there be no mistake: Barbara and I and the Vice President and Marilyn, and certainly our Secretary, are very proud to stand with you.

You see, this revolution will succeed. And it will succeed because it draws its strength from the very heart of the American creed. We have no truth more enduring than the idea that every American should have the opportunity for a first-class education.

We have no principles more important than freedom, opportunity and choice. (Applause.)

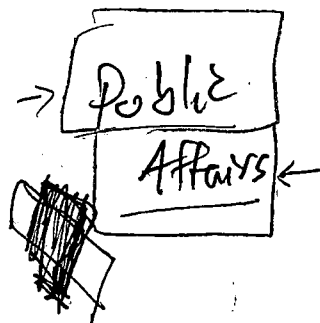
So thank you very, very much. And look at it this way, you're doing the Lord's work for our nation's future. And you're doing for the young people of this country. (Applause.) And we are grateful to all of you. And may God bless the United States. And now I will sign this. (Applause.)

END

10:35 A.M. EDT

Spending (Dept. of Education -- OPBE)

- The U.S. already spends more per pupil on elementary and secondary education than most other countries.
- The U.S. already spends more per pupil on elementary and secondary education than any of our competitors -- except Switzerland.



Berea, ky.

→ mandatory student labor

606. - 986 - 9341

[Ed Ford]

Dir Public Relations

→ No tuition ←

→ for any student that applies

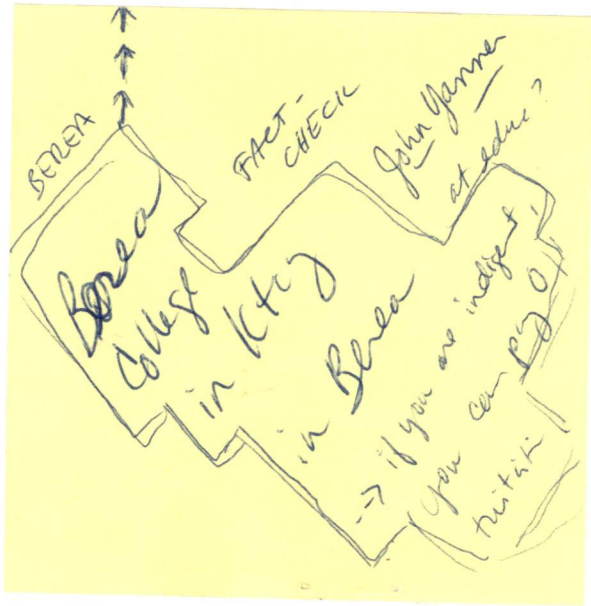
→ only for low income students

→ income ceilings

→ sizable endowment

→ raise 3 mill per year

1500 students



June 18, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR AF1

FROM: JAG  
SUBJECT: "G.I. BILL FOR KIDS"

I've got calls in to Arsht and Rae, we'll see what they have. Meanwhile.

QUOTES

- 1) "The nation's most valuable asset is the children; for the children are the nation of the future. All people alive to the nation's need should join together to work for the moral, spiritual, and physical welfare of the children in all parts of our land."  
--Theodore Roosevelt.
- 2) \*\*\*A woman in Chicago told Vice President Quayle: "We are tire of schools that are nothing more than factories for failure."
- 3) "U.S. educational policy over the past three decades has been a massive experiment that has tested whether spending more money...will result in better-educated students. The results are in. The experiment has failed."  
--John Chubb, Brookings.

JUNE 25 IN HISTORY

- 1) George Orwell's birthday (I can't think of any quotes that would really be appropriate).  
  
\*FYI: it's also Sidney Lumet's birthday.
- 2) Thirty years ago, on the very day of the speech, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that prayer in public shools is unconstitutional.

#### 45. *G. I. Bill of Rights*

There would also be an international court of justice to deal primarily with justiciable disputes.

We are not thinking of a superstate with its own police forces and other paraphernalia of coercive power. We are seeking effective agreement and arrangements through which the Nations would maintain, according to their capacities, adequate forces to meet the needs of preventing war and of making impossible deliberate preparation for war, and to have such forces available for joint action when necessary.

All this, of course, will become possible once our present enemies are defeated and effective arrangements are made to prevent them from making war again.

Beyond that, the hope of a peaceful and advancing world will rest upon the willingness and ability of the peace-loving Nations, large and small, bearing responsibility commensurate with their individual capacities, to work together for the maintenance of peace and security.

#### 45 ( The President Signs the G. I. Bill of Rights.

June 22, 1944

THIS bill, which I have signed today, substantially carries out most of the recommendations made by me in a speech on July 28, 1943, and more specifically in messages to the Congress dated October 27, 1943, and November 23, 1943:

1. It gives servicemen and women the opportunity of resuming their education or technical training after discharge, or of taking a refresher or retrainer course, not only without tuition charge up to \$500 per school year, but with the right to receive a monthly living allowance while pursuing their studies.
2. It makes provision for the guarantee by the Federal Government of not to exceed 50 percent of certain loans made to veterans for the purchase or construction of homes, farms, and business properties.
3. It provides for reasonable unemployment allowances pay-

#### 45. G. I. Bill of Rights

able each week up to a maximum period of one year, to those veterans who are unable to find a job.

4. It establishes improved machinery for effective job counseling for veterans and for finding jobs for returning soldiers and sailors.

5. It authorizes the construction of all necessary additional hospital facilities.

6. It strengthens the authority of the Veterans Administration to enable it to discharge its existing and added responsibilities with promptness and efficiency.

With the signing of this bill a well-rounded program of special veterans' benefits is nearly completed. It gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down.

By prior legislation, the Federal Government has already provided for the armed forces of this war: adequate dependency allowances; mustering-out pay; generous hospitalization, medical care, and vocational rehabilitation and training; liberal pensions in case of death or disability in military service; substantial war-risk life insurance, and guaranty of premiums on commercial policies during service; protection of civil rights and suspension of enforcement of certain civil liabilities during service; emergency maternal care for wives of enlisted men; and reemployment rights for returning veterans.

This bill therefore and the former legislation provide the special benefits which are due to the members of our armed forces — for they "have been compelled to make greater economic sacrifice and every other kind of sacrifice than the rest of us, and are entitled to definite action to help take care of their special problems." While further study and experience may suggest some changes and improvements, the Congress is to be congratulated on the prompt action it has taken.

There still remains one recommendation which I made on November 23, 1943, which I trust that the Congress will soon adopt — the extension of social security credits under the Federal

#### 45. *G. I. Bill of Rights*

Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance Law to all servicemen and women for the period of their service.

I trust that the Congress will also soon provide similar opportunities for postwar education and unemployment insurance to the members of the merchant marine, who have risked their lives time and again during this war for the welfare of their country.

But apart from these special benefits which fulfill the special needs of veterans, there is still much to be done.

As I stated in my message to the Congress of November 23, 1943,

"What our servicemen and women want, more than anything else, is the assurance of satisfactory employment upon their return to civil life. The first task after the war is to provide employment for them and for our demobilized workers. . . . The goal after the war should be the maximum utilization of our human and material resources."

As a related problem the Congress has had under consideration the serious problem of economic reconversion and readjustment after the war, so that private industry will be able to provide jobs for the largest possible number. This time we have wisely begun to make plans in advance of the day of peace, in full confidence that our war workers will remain at their essential war jobs as long as necessary until the fighting is over.

The executive branch of the Government has taken, and is taking, whatever steps it can, until legislation is enacted. I am glad to learn that the Congress has agreed on a bill to facilitate the prompt settlement of terminated contracts. I hope that the Congress will also take prompt action, when it reconvenes, on necessary legislation which is now pending to facilitate the development of unified programs for the demobilization of civilian war workers, for their reemployment in peacetime pursuits, and for provision, in cooperation with the States, of appropriate unemployment benefits during the transition from war to peace. I hope also that the Congress, upon its return, will take prompt action on the pending legislation to facilitate the orderly disposition of surplus property.

A sound postwar economy is a major present responsibility.

#### 45. G. I. Bill of Rights

*NOTE:* The President laid the basis for the G. I. Bill of Rights in November, 1942, when he appointed a committee of educators to study the problem of education and training of veterans of the armed forces (see Item 122 and note, 1942 volume, and Item 118 and note, 1943 volume, for an account of the early steps taken by the President to provide for the post-war education of war veterans).

Under the terms of the G. I. Bill of Rights, as amended, veterans with at least ninety days of active service part of which was between September 15, 1940, and July 25, 1947, could qualify for education or training, regardless of age or previous education. An individual was eligible if discharged for a disability incurred in service or if the discharge was other than dishonorable. Education or training was allowed for one year plus the time served in the armed forces — up to a total of four calendar years. Veterans were allowed to choose any school approved by State authorities or the Veterans Administration, including trade, business, and industrial schools, any grade from elementary schools through universities, or farm schools.

For each qualified veteran, the Veterans Administration paid up to \$500 per school year for tuition and for books, supplies, equipment, and fees required of all students in the same course; this sum was paid directly to the teaching institutions. To assist in living expenses, sub-

sistence allowances of \$65 per month for veterans without dependents, and \$90 per month if veterans had one or more dependents were provided under the terms of the original Act (these subsistence allowances were increased by later legislation). Specified deductions were made from the subsistence allowances if the veteran had a full- or part-time job while attending school. Provision was also made to assist in the financing of on-the-job and apprentice training of veterans, including payment for tools and equipment.

The Veterans Administration lent no money directly under the G. I. Bill of Rights, but guaranteed or insured payment to the lender when veterans made certain types of loans from banks, building and loan associations, public and private lending agencies and, in some circumstances, from individuals. In the case of home real estate, the Veterans Administration guaranteed or insured loans up to certain amounts to buy or build a veteran's residence; to make repairs, alterations, or improvements on the veteran's home; or to buy or build a dwelling to be partly rented to others, and partly used by the veteran as his or her residence. In regard to farm real estate, the Veterans Administration also guaranteed or insured loans within certain fixed limits to buy land or purchase or build buildings for veterans' farming operations; and for the improvement of land, or

#### 45. *G. I. Bill of Rights*

major repairs, alterations, or improvements of farm buildings. In addition, loans for the purchase of business real estate or to make major repairs, alterations, or improvements on buildings could also be guaranteed or insured by the Veterans Administration, and under certain conditions loans to re-finance defaulted debts on real estate or to pay overdue taxes on property could be guaranteed or insured. Under the terms of the G. I. Bill, the Veterans Administration could also back part of loans for the following: purchase of all or part of a going business concern; the establishment of a business by a veteran; the purchase of equipment and supplies for a veteran's business or farming operation — including farm machinery, seed, livestock, and other equipment; purchase of inventories and stock-in-trade for business or farming operations; the supplying of operating capital; payment of overdue business taxes; and certain heavy household equipment, such as furnaces and boilers. In general, the Federal Government guaranteed up to 50 percent of such loans, and the interest rate was limited to not more than 4 percent per year.

As of February 25, 1949, the Veterans Administration reported that since the start of the loan guarantee program, veterans had made 1,570,000 home, business, and farm loans. The loans had an \$8,500,000,000 face value and were insured by the Veterans Administration for about \$4,000,000,000.

The G. I. Bill of Rights also provided for unemployment insurance up to a maximum of \$20 per week for 52 weeks. It included readjustment allowances for unemployed or partially employed veterans and for veterans in business for themselves but with a net income of less than \$100 a month.

As of March 31, 1949, the Veterans Administration reported that about 8,500,000 veterans had received one or more payments or readjustment allowances and that payments since inception of the program in September, 1944, had totalled \$2,957,000,000 for unemployment claims. Approximately \$558,000,000 had been paid in self-employment allowances.

In the foregoing statement on signing the G. I. Bill of Rights, the President made a number of further recommendations for legislation to aid veterans. Among these was a recommendation which he had first made on November 23, 1943 (see Item 26 and note, 1943 volume) for the extension of social security credits under the Federal Old Age and Survivors' Insurance Law to all servicemen and women for the period of their service. Under the terms of Public Law 719, 79th Congress, approved August 10, 1946 (60 Stat. 978), such social security credits were extended to cover survivorship cases.

At the close of February, 1948, 2,655,000 veterans were receiving subsistence allowances under education and training programs. A total of 1,828,000 were in schools,

#### 46. *Philippine Independence*

including 1,128,000 in colleges, and 596,000 were in on-job-training as apprentices in business and industrial firms under contract with the Veterans Administration.

Vocational rehabilitation for veterans was provided under the Act for as long as necessary to restore a veteran's ability to work — up to a total of four years, with additional training beyond four years authorized in extraordinary cases. The Veterans Administration furnished for each disabled veteran placed in training the necessary tuition, fees, books, equipment, or the tools and equipment necessary for on-the-job training. During training either in an institution or on the job, subsistence allowances were provided by the Veterans Administration, depending upon the nature and extent of the disability of veterans and the number of their dependents.

At the end of March, 1948, there were 2,898,000 veterans and their dependents drawing compensation or pensions at an estimated annual cost of \$1,795,000,000. This number of cases was a reduction of 6,000 from the peak which had been reached in July, 1947.

As pointed out by the President in his statement on signing the G. I. Bill of Rights, the Federal Government by additional legislation and administrative action had provided additional protection and allowances for members of the armed services, including hospitalization, medical care, vocational rehabilitation (see Item 101, 1942 volume), war-risk life insurance, veterans preference in Federal employment (see Item 18, this volume), reemployment rights for returning veterans, and many other related measures.

#### 46 ( Statement of the President on Signing Joint Resolutions Concerning Philippine Independence and Rehabilitation. June 29, 1944

I HAVE signed today two joint resolutions of Congress respecting the Philippines. The first of these resolutions lays down a policy for the granting of independence, and for the acquisition of bases adequate to provide for the mutual protection of the United States and the Philippine Islands.

In that resolution it is declared to be the policy of "the Congress that the United States shall drive the treacherous, invading

friction: in the grip of the foot

→ the speed: this is what happened...  
WILL → how far away  
to do it

the  
how  
it happens

- kids go to choice schools  
→ start opposed, but they  
support by majority

Minister  
of  
Education

Event: town in Milwaukee  
William & Thompson

→ his personal involvement  
→ as a member

Charles Cobb: specific challenges  
→ 2 min - kids in schools

→ give approval  
→ wanted to go to school  
because of choice

Ben Quayle, Choice Freedom  
another guy talks to  
him

Director of schools but  
hasn't been in schools for  
years  
"We are not on grounds for  
years"

John McConnel  
6573

Not  
rich

After: WH briefing, w/ Larry,  
Larry take questions

→ the groups will break up +  
meet w/ admin officials

→ one way to relieve mental tension

Yedie Aucht 401 ~~3046~~  
3046

→ Rae:

will have

→ what FDR said about GI Bill ←

→ POTUS might have used GI Bill ←

DPC (22) Room 7:45 ←  
Lamar will speak  
tomorrow morn

→ powerful recent

→ 13 states pass legis

→ Pat Reory, bus man in Indianapolis,  
giving kids scholarships

→ Anle <sup>bus</sup> leader "Free to Choose  
Charitable Trust"

→ Jack Jenkins in Chicago

→ stats: grad rates, Clint Bolick  
Catholic schools: high scores, high  
grad rates

→ Very same day, Ca choice init will get  
on ballot

Susan  
2690

... problem is Pete Wilson  
Joella  
Bauer

→ Milwaukee, Pally William

: starts a movement going on

- Mrs. Bush
- VP + Mrs. Quayle stay
- Sec Alexander
- Pat Robertson
- Sen Kastner
- Gov. Thompson

**FACT-CHECK**

→ Pres Gov Dupont  
 → ~~Pat Robertson~~  
 → ~~Condoleezza Rice~~

Draft 4  
 June 23, 1992  
 5:00 p.m.  
 [GI]

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G.I. BILL FOR KIDS  
 THE WHITE HOUSE  
 JUNE 25, 1992  
 10:15 A.M.**

→ Molly has  
 the rest.

→ PW - not here  
 → Fuller - not there

[Acknowledgements.]

I have just come from a working session with parents from Milwaukee. Their dreams for their children are the same dreams all of us have. They want their kids to have a first-class education. They know that a good education is absolutely essential to making a good living, making a good life.

Let me tell you what Janette Williams told me about her son Javon Williams: ["At his old school that was crowded, he used to get so bored he would walk out. Thanks to the choice program in Milwaukee, he's at a new school. He's not doing those things any more, he's doing his homework and even helping clean up the classroom after school. They took the energy and turned it around."]

Governor Tommy Thompson and state Representative Polly Williams were also in our working session, along with Howard Fuller, the superintendent of Milwaukee schools. They have taken the lead in helping [Janette Williams] realize her dreams for [Javon] -- creating scholarships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from low-income families so they can attend private schools. There is a bold experiment: to give low-income families more of the same choices of schools already available to wealthier families.

NOT THERE

Ad libbed number: 60  
 after son about 10  
 minutes. I came out to  
 (pic - that got to see) some about

Stephanie  
 Smith  
 Thompson  
 Witz

Jatie  
 Hertel

as far as he knows, only Mr. Bradley <sup>is not</sup> other businesses.

Milo Joyce <sup>asst.</sup> 4/1/29/9915  
Tom Fontana  
Leffkowitz  
2090

<sup>only</sup> 2  
Representatives of the Bradley Foundation and ~~several other Milwaukee businesses~~ were also in our meeting. They recently pledged \$<sup>1.5</sup>3 million to increase the number of number of educational choices -- including religious schools -- for Milwaukee's low-income families. They told me this morning that parents picked up every one of the 4500 applications -- the day after the scholarships were announced.

No one should underestimate what is at stake here. You wouldn't know it to watch the evening news, but a revolution is underway in Milwaukee and across this country -- a revolution to make American schools the best in the world. We have set six ambitious national education goals, and together with the nation's governors and 1400 communities, we have launched America 2000 to meet those goals.

And even earlier still, in January 1989, before I was sworn in as president, I helped organize the White House Conference on Choice in Education. We believed then -- we believe today -- a few fundamental truths. We believe that parents are their children's first teachers. Parents, not bureaucrats, know what's best for their children. Parents, not the government, should choose their children's schools.

Today I am proposing that we take another giant step forward in support of school choice. I am sending Congress legislation that would authorize an ambitious demonstration program -- a half billion new federal dollars to help cities all across America

"PAVE"  
- Bill Shambaugh  
- Not Profit  
- organization  
- Bradley  
- Foundation  
- support  
- Parents  
- Adv  
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single out Barbara Appert & partner  
Appert

Ed Sabie on Sec of Education (Appert)

give \$1,000 scholarships to children of middle and low-income families so they can choose which school their kids will attend. off

This revolution is in the greatest American tradition. We have done this before -- and it has worked. 48 years ago this week, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill, creating scholarships that veterans could use at any college -- any college of their choice. The GI Bill created opportunity for Americans who never would have had it -- and in doing so, it helped to create the best system of colleges and universities in the world.

And now we can do it again -- this time by helping state and local governments create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world. The GI Bill for Kids will provide that help. These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice will become the muscle parents need to create the best schools for their children.

1944

Let me say to those who will attack our school choice initiative on the grounds that it permits government money to go to religious schools: You are mistaken. This is aid to families, not aid to institutions. No one told the GIs they couldn't go to SMU or Notre Dame or Yeshiva or <sup>Howard</sup> Fisk. I haven't heard members of Congress suggest that students stop using their Pell grants and guaranteed student loans at Baptist Colleges or Presbyterian seminaries. I don't hear an outcry because poor children at Catholic schools get their lunch paid for by federal taxpayers. In the same way, parents must be free to use this money at the

Founded

MD	1842
SMU	1911
Yeshiva	1886
FISK	1866

school they believe will best teach their child -- whether that school is public, private or religious.

And let me say this to those who stand against extending school choice to low- and middle-income families: I simply do not buy the idea that someone cannot make a good decision just because that person is poor. That is the same thing I heard when we proposed child care vouchers for low-income families -- or when we proposed help for public housing tenants to own their own homes. I say: Let families own their own home, choose their own schools -- regardless of their income. Give them help in climbing their own ladder, so that they too can grab a share of the American Dream.

*school program  
to  
applaud*

*same school point -> money can go to public school*

There are several points to make about money. First, I want to make it absolutely clear this is not a new federal entitlement program. The federal government can not afford one more entitlement, even for education. And I have said many times that money alone is not the answer. The U.S. already spends more per student for schools than any country in the world except Switzerland -- and I don't have to tell you where we stand in the international rankings of educational performance. We need a revolution in American education -- not more money for the status quo.

*Leslie  
Archie*

Investment in our schools will remain primarily a state and local responsibility. But federal support for state and local scholarships for children of middle and low-income families can

*summer activities + college*

for schools + 5

be a catalyst -- it can help open up opportunities, create genuine change in our schools.

For too long, we've shielded schools from competition -- allowed our schools a damaging monopoly power over our children. This monopoly turns students into statistics and parents into pawns. It is time we began thinking of a system of public education in which many providers offer a marketplace of opportunities -- opportunities that give all of our children choices and access to the best education in the world.

apple

The GI Bill for Children will move America inevitably in that direction.

[Janette Williams] and the parents I visited with this morning know that what was enough education for them isn't enough for their kids -- or for them, today. They know their children are growing up differently. They see teachers are stymied and kids are bored -- because schools are in a time warp, designed for another age.

Minn. 2000  
Gov. Carlson

They also know they have responsibilities to pay more attention, check the homework, turn off the television. That it's not just teachers, as the African proverb says, "It takes an entire village to educate one child." We're all in this together.

Abraham Lincoln once said: "Revolutions do not go backward." Milwaukee is not the only place in America our revolution is occurring. [Last year] in Indianapolis, Pat Rooney and the ~~Choice Trust Fund~~ began to offer tuition vouchers to

CHOICE Charitable Trust

(317-297-4123)

legislative analyst  
Mr. Rooney's assistant

Brian  
McManus

caps

Moderate to low income (McManus)

checking

Witney  
Carm  
6 Confid. Assist.  
Dept. Educ.

Robert  
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512/299-  
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John: a  
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the birds work  
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country, people

Indianapolis students. In San Antonio, the CEO Foundation has earmarked \$1.5 million in vouchers for children in their community. And in California, Joe Alibrandi and thousands of supporters are pushing a ballot initiative to provide a voucher scholarship for every school-age child in the state. //

Overall, in 1991, ten states approved some form of new choice legislation -- and 37 states had choice legislation pending in one form or another.

I doubted that  
there would be a  
few people  
here for

From California to East Harlem -- from coast to coast -- the leaders of the school choice movement are sparking a revolution in American education. They are the true heroes of education reform -- and some of them are here with us today. They aren't afraid to stand up to the status quo -- to say, loud and clear, that when it comes to educating our kids, business-as-usual isn't good enough. And let there be no mistake: I am proud to stand with you. //

This revolution will succeed -- because it draws its strength from the very heart of the American creed. We have no truth more enduring than the idea that every American should have the opportunity for a first class education. We have no principles more important than freedom, opportunity and choice.

Thank you for the work you're doing for this nation's future -- and may God bless the United States of America.

# # #

States and Choice (Dep. of Education -- Center for Choice)

- Since I took office in 1989, 12 states have passed major choice legislation and in 1991 37 states considered choice legislation.

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3101  
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Draft 5  
June 24, 1992  
3:00 p.m.  
[GI]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G.I. BILL FOR CHILDREN  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
JUNE 25, 1992  
10:15 A.M.

Welcome, all of you, to the White House. // I have just come from a working session with parents from Milwaukee. Their dreams for their children are the same dreams all of us have. They want their kids to have a first-class education. They know that a good education is absolutely essential to making a good living, making a good life.

Let me tell you what Janette Williams told me about her son Javon Williams: ["At his old school that was crowded, he used to get so bored he would walk out. Thanks to the choice program in Milwaukee, he's at a new school. He's not doing those things any more, he's doing his homework and even helping clean up the classroom after school. They took the energy and turned it around."]

Governor Tommy Thompson and state Representative Polly Williams were also in our working session, along with Howard Fuller, the superintendent of Milwaukee schools. They have taken the lead in helping [Janette Williams] realize her dreams for [Javon] -- creating scholarships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from low-income families so they can attend private schools. There is a bold experiment: to give low-income families more of the same choices of schools already available to wealthier families.

Representatives of the Bradley Foundation and several other Milwaukee businesses were also in our meeting. They recently pledged \$3 million to increase the number ~~of number~~ of educational choices -- including religious schools -- for Milwaukee's low-income families. They told me this morning that parents picked up every one of the 4500 applications -- the day after the scholarships were announced.

No one should underestimate what is at stake here. You wouldn't know it to watch the evening news, but a revolution is underway in Milwaukee and across this country -- a revolution to make American schools the best in the world. Together with the Nation's Governors, we have set six ambitious national education goals -- and in 44 states and fourteen hundred communities, we have launched America 2000 to meet those goals.

Witney  
Carm

Even earlier still, in January 1989, before I was sworn in as president, I helped organize the White House Conference on Choice in Education. We believed then -- we believe today -- a few fundamental truths. We believe that parents are their children's first teachers. Parents, not bureaucrats, know what's best for their children. Parents, not the government, should choose their children's schools.

Today I am proposing that we take another giant step forward in this revolution. I am sending Congress legislation that would authorize an ambitious demonstration program -- a half billion new federal dollars to help communities all across America give

\$1,000 scholarships to children of middle and low-income families so they can choose which school their kids will attend.

This revolution is in the greatest American tradition. We have done this before -- and it has worked. 48 years ago this week, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill, creating scholarships that veterans could use at any college -- any college of their choice. The GI Bill created opportunity for Americans who never would have had it -- and in doing so, it helped to create the best system of colleges and universities in the world.

And now we can do it again -- this time by helping state and local governments create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world. The GI Bill for Children will provide that help. These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice will become the muscle parents need to create the best schools for their children.

Let me say to those who will attack our school choice initiative on the grounds that it permits government money to go to religious schools: You are mistaken. This is aid to families, not aid to institutions. No one told the GIs they couldn't go to SMU or Notre Dame or Yeshiva or Howard. I haven't heard members of Congress suggest that students stop using their Pell grants and guaranteed student loans at Baptist Colleges or Presbyterian seminaries. I don't hear an outcry because poor children at Catholic schools get their lunch paid for by federal taxpayers. In the same way, parents must be free to use this money at the

school they believe will best teach their child -- whether that school is public, private or religious.

And let me say this to those who stand against extending school choice to low- and middle-income families: I simply do not buy the idea that someone cannot make a good decision just because that person is poor. That is the same thing I heard when we proposed child care vouchers for low-income families -- or when we proposed help for public housing tenants to own their own homes. I say: Let families own their own home, choose their own schools -- regardless of their income. Give them help in climbing their own ladder, so that they too can grab a share of the American Dream.

Finally, to those who claim school choice will hurt the public schools -- let me underscore this point: all of this new money can go to public schools -- if that's where students choose to go. //

There are several points to make about money. First, I want to make it absolutely clear this is not a new federal entitlement program. The federal government can not afford one more entitlement, even for education. And I have said many times that money alone is not the answer. The U.S. already spends more per student for schools than any country in the world except Switzerland -- and I don't have to tell you where we stand in the international rankings of educational performance. We need a revolution in American education -- not more money for the status quo.

Investment in our schools will remain primarily a state and local responsibility. But federal support for state and local scholarships can be a catalyst -- for schools that attract choice students, it will give teachers and principals a welcome source of new funds. And for our children, choice can help open up opportunities, create genuine change in our schools.

For too long, we've shielded schools from competition -- allowed our schools a damaging monopoly power over our children. This monopoly turns students into statistics and parents into pawns. It is time we began thinking of a system of public education in which many providers offer a marketplace of opportunities -- opportunities that give all of our children choices and access to the best education in the world.

The GI Bill for Children will move America inevitably in that direction.

Janette Williams and the parents I visited with this morning know that what was enough education for them isn't enough for their kids -- or for them, today. They know their children are growing up differently. They see teachers are stymied and kids are bored -- because schools are in a time warp, designed for another age.

They also know they have responsibilities to pay more attention, check the homework, turn off the television. That it's not just teachers, as the African proverb says, "It takes an entire village to educate one child." We're all in this together.

Abraham Lincoln once said: "Revolutions do not go backward." Milwaukee is not the only place in America our revolution is occurring. Last year in Indianapolis, Pat Rooney and the Choice Trust Fund began to offer tuition vouchers to Indianapolis students -- and I understand a busload of parents and students drove all night to be here today. // In San Antonio, the CEO Foundation has earmarked \$1.5 million in vouchers for children in their community. And in California, Joe Alibrandi and thousands of supporters are pushing a ballot initiative to provide a voucher scholarship for every school-age child in the state. // Overall, in 1991, ten states approved some form of new choice legislation -- and 37 states had choice legislation pending in one form or another.

And I've been told today there may just be a few folks here from Pennsylvania. /// It may take a few tries -- but I never underestimate the persistence of parents: the children of Pennsylvania will have school choice. //

From California to East Harlem -- from coast to coast -- the leaders of the school choice movement are sparking a revolution in American education. They are the true heroes of education reform -- and some of them are here with us today. They aren't afraid to stand up to the status quo -- to say, loud and clear, that when it comes to educating our kids, business-as-usual isn't good enough. And let there be no mistake: I am proud to stand with you. //

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Thank you for the work you're doing for this nation's future -- and may God bless the United States of America.

# # #

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 1 DOCUMENT

Public Papers of the Presidents

Remarks to the Lehigh Valley 2000 Community in Allentown,  
Pennsylvania

28 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 665

April 16, 1992

LENGTH: 3389 words

... reinvent the American school. But you know that story because, once again, Lehigh Valley has led the way.

I want to share with you an old African proverb that's the motto of Minnesota 2000, "It takes an entire village to educate one child." And that is what it takes because education doesn't just happen in the classroom. It doesn't start at 8:20 each morning and end at 5 of 3. All of us lead busy lives, but we ...