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Folder Title:
Meeting of Nation's Governors 2/26/90 [OA 4728]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 26, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION'S GOVERNORS

The East Room

11:59 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Before I talk about the issues that we've been discussing with the Governors, I'd like to make a brief comment on yesterday's election in Nicaragua. Any friend of democracy can take heart in the fact that Violeta Chamorro won the election. And the election process, by all accounts, free and fair, is a credit to the people of Nicaragua who chose to determine their nation's future at the ballot box. And that is a victory for democracy.

Yesterday's election moves us one step closer to the day when every nation in this hemisphere is a democracy. And I'll soon send messages -- I think they may have already gone out -- to Mrs. Chamorro, congratulating her on her victory; to President Ortega, congratulating him on the conduct of the election and on his pledge to stand by its results; to President Carter and his counterpart on that one, Dan Evans; to Mr. Soares of the OAS; to Perez de Cuellar and Elliot Richardson of the United Nations for their leading roles in observing the elections.

In the next few days I'll be speaking with Central and South American leaders. This morning I talked to President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela about appropriate trade and economic measures that we can take to support the new government of Nicaragua.

We hope now for a peaceful transition for the institutionalization of the democratic process in Nicaragua. And there is space in a democratic Nicaragua for all political points of view. Given the clear mandate for peace and democracy, there is no reason at all for further military activity from any quarter. And we hope the cease-fire will be reestablished without delay and respected by all sides. For years the people of Nicaragua have suffered, and today the people of Nicaragua have spoken, and now is the time for Nicaragua to move forward to freedom.

And now, back to our agenda at hand. I am very pleased to be with you on this occasion -- an occasion which I believe will be viewed in years to come as a dramatic turning point for our country. You've come to Washington for this annual meeting with an uncommon agenda. Today, we're launching a new era in education reform. Its focus: high expectations. Its hallmark: results. Its energy derived from the people of our great nation who will insist on a world-class education for our kids.

For the first time in America's history we now have national education goals and objectives. Goals that pave the way to a decade-long commitment to excellence in education for all Americans. Goals that will guide us on the journey toward an American renaissance in education.

We made the commitment to develop national goals last fall there in Charlottesville, Virginia. Five months later, I'm glad to see that the spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship, so much in evidence there at Charlottesville, is still very much alive. That spirit has got to endure. And over the coming months and years, the spirit must serve as a signal to America that our commitment to these

MORE

common goals remains unshakable, very strong. Not for just today, not just tomorrow, but for the rest of the decade, to the year 2000, until we get the job done and get it done right.

You know, only a year or so ago, the notion of the President and the Governors agreeing on education goals was considered a bold step for America to take. Even now, there are some who say the goals we've established are too ambitious. I think they're mistaken. They've failed to appreciate the depth of our commitment to restructuring and change.

We've all been following the extraordinary events which have unfolded before our eyes in Eastern Europe over the last year. And there is a lesson in those events for all of us in this room and for all Americans. And that lesson is, when people unite behind common goals and demand the freedom to pursue their dreams, no system can stop them. And nothing will stop us.

There is nothing more important to the long-term stability and stature of America than establishing a first-class education system. Nothing is more important to a competitive America in the 21st century. Nothing is more important to improving the quality of life for our citizens, and nothing is more important than the promise inherent in these goals that all children in America can realize their fullest potential and reach out for their dreams.

I want to see these goals posted on the wall in every school, so that all who walk in -- the parents, students, teachers -- know what we're aiming for, so that everyone knows we have set for ourselves the goal that every child will be ready to learn from the first day they walk into the classroom. The goal of raising the graduation rate to 90 percent by making our schools meaningful, challenging and relevant to the needs of our students. Of setting high standards of achievement among our students, seeing that they leave the transition grades of four, eight and 12, having mastered the important subject matter. The goal of achieving first place in math and science among industrialized nations. Of every American adult being skilled and literate, equipped to be a productive worker and a responsible citizen. And finally, the goal of every school in America being safe, disciplined, and drug-free.

These goals and objectives have been developed with a great deal of energy and effort over these past five months. And with the input of hundreds of citizens from all sectors of society. And I want to thank everyone who has participated in this process. Governor Branstad and the members of your Education Task Force, I thank you for your commitment, your dedication, and all the hundreds of hours of hard work -- that as we acknowledge this first step, we've also got to recognize that hard work lies ahead.

Over the next few months I know you'll be looking at strategies in your states which will move us forward to these goals. And strategies that will focus on measuring progress by results, by how well students are doing. One of the Governors encouraged me in the meeting in there to encourage the people of this country to support state and local initiatives that have to do with making the educational system better. And certainly, I am prepared to do that, just as I am grateful to the Governors for their participation in setting these goals.

In the coming months, we'll work together with Congress on legislation to increase flexibility in federal funding in return for enhanced accountability. And you, the nation's Governors, have committed to break the bureaucratic shackles that smother innovation and stand guard over the status quo.

Although the federal government traditionally has a limited role in education -- and we all respect and acknowledge that it is the dynamism at the state and local level that achieves excellence -- I promise you that this administration is determined to walk with you every step of the way.

MORE

When I next meet with the Cabinet, my Cabinet, many of whom were with us there in Charlottesville, I'll ask each to work with our domestic policy advisor to devise strategies that can support your efforts and those of your communities in helping to achieve these goals. I will work with you to establish a bipartisan group to ensure that proper and constructive measurements of our educational performance are developed where they don't already exist. And this group is going to report to me each year on the progress we make.

And I'm calling on America's private sector to be a third party in this enterprise. We need to know from them what the workplace will need and expect of our citizens in the 21st century. And we need their talent and their commitment to help move this reform effort forward. And finally, I will do everything I can to provide the national leadership and energy to keep education in the forefront of America's domestic agenda.

The work ahead will not be easy. We're traveling uncharted waters, and never before have we as a nation set such goals for education. And never before have the nation's leaders stepped forward to say we are willing to be held accountable for the results of this process. And never before have the President of the United States and the Governors joined together in a partnership and a long-term commitment on a single issue.

If we can accomplish just one thing today -- and it may be the simplest, and yet, most valuable of all -- it is to send a message to parents, teachers, community leaders and every other American. These goals are not the Governors' goals, they're not the President's goals. They are the nation's goals. And we are rejecting the status quo, raising our sights, investing our faith in the American people. And so today, I hope the Governors and the Cabinet will join me in extending a challenge to all Americans to adopt these goals as their own, and to take aim now at the year 2000 and to enlist every ounce of American innovation, energy, resolve, in the effort to achieve these education goals and prepare this nation for the challenges of a new century.

Thank you all very, very much for your superb cooperation. (Applause.)

END

12:10 P.M. EST

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February 26, 1990

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Thank you all very, very much for your superb cooperation. (Applause.)

END

12:10 P.M. EST



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 23, 1990

EDUC /
BATES

MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of the Speechwriters

FROM: Chino Chapa
Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks for Meeting with the Governors

→ on page 4 in the fourth full paragraph beginning with, "I will work with you to establish. . ." reference is made to a national commission being developed to oversee the progress being made since the Education Summit. At this point, the Department of Education is still opposed to the formation of such a commission, and, therefore, feel that no reference to this commission be made at this time.

In the last paragraph on page 4 beginning with "I am calling on America's private sector. . ." the Department of Education when referring to the private sector is also referring to the workplace (which is mentioned in the next sentence of that paragraph). Therefore, for clarification, the phrase "private sector" needs to be changed to "calling upon parents, teachers, local boards, etc."

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON


February 24, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Meeting with the Governors

I have reviewed the draft presidential remarks for the meeting with the Governors. The draft is excellent and should help us in advancing the President's education agenda.

Several minor comments are marked on the attached copy. You will note that I have suggested the last sentence in the first full paragraph on page two read: "They fail to appreciate the depth of our commitment to restructuring and change." It is important that we include the term restructuring, which is something of a code word for the ideas of choice, alternative certification of teachers and principals, magnet schools, site-based management, etc. 

In the fourth full paragraph on page four, we need to keep it bracketed until after the meeting this afternoon when I will seek to come to an agreement with the governors on the language relative to a followup mechanism.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/23/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2/24/90 9:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH THE GOVERNORS

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ANDERSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 9:00 AM, Saturday, February 24, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

McGroarty/Dooley
February 23, 1990
2:30 pm
[MON.NAG]

1990 FEB 23 PM 3 11

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH THE GOVERNORS
FEBRUARY 26, 1990
STATE DINING ROOM
TIME??

I am very pleased to be with you today on this occasion --
an occasion which I believe will be viewed in years to come as a
dramatic turning point for our nation.

You have come to Washington for this year's annual meeting
with an uncommon agenda. Today, we are launching a new era in
education reform. Its focus -- high expectations. Its hallmark
-- results. * Its energy -- derived from the people of our great
nation who will not be deprived of a world-class education. [for
our children. //

* IS PASSION --
OUR CHILDREN.

For the first time in America's history, we now will have
national education goals and objectives. Goals that will pave
the way to a decade-long commitment to excellence in education
for all Americans. Goals that will ^{STRT} guide us on the journey
toward an American renaissance in education. //

We made the commitment to develop national goals last fall
in Charlottesville, Virginia. Five months later, I am glad to
see that the spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship so much in
evidence in Charlottesville is still very much alive.

We ~~all~~ hope that spirit ^{must} will endure, and over the coming
months and years, ^{that the spirit will} serve as a signal to America -- that our

commitment to these common goals will remain strong and unyielding. Not for just today or tomorrow -- but for the rest of this decade, to the year 2000. Until we get the job done and get it done right.

You know, only a year or so ago the notion of education goals was considered ^A bold ⁹ step for America to take. Even now, there are some who say the goals we've established are too ambitious. They are mistaken. They fail to appreciate the ^{DEPTH} ^{COMMITMENT} ^{RESTRUCTURING AND CHANGE.} degree of our dedication to ~~accomplishing these goals.~~ //

We've all been following the extraordinary events which have unfolded before our eyes in Eastern Europe over the last year. There is a lesson in those events -- for all of us in this room, and for all Americans. And that lesson is: when people unite behind common goals and demand the freedom to pursue their dreams, no system can stop them.

And nothing will stop us. There is nothing more important to the long-term stability and stature of America than establishing a first-class education system. Nothing is more important to a competitive America in the 21st century. Nothing is more important to improving the quality of life for our citizens. Nothing is more important than the promise inherent in these goals that all children in America can realize their fullest potential -- and reach for their dreams.

I want to see these goals posted on the wall of every school, so that all who walk in -- parents, students, teachers - - know what we're aiming for:

So that everyone knows we have set for ourselves the goal that every child will be ready to learn from the first day they walk into that classroom.

The goal of raising the graduation rate to 90% by making our schools meaningful, challenging and relevant to the needs of our students.

Of setting high standards of achievement among our students. Seeing that they leave the transition grades of four, eight and twelve having mastered important [subject matter].

The goal of achieving first place in math and science among industrialized nations.

Of every American adult being skilled and literate, equipped to be a productive worker and ^{RESPONSIBLE} citizen.

And finally, the goal of every school in America being safe, disciplined -- and drug-free. //

These goals and objectives have ~~not~~ been developed with~~out~~ a lot of help -- with~~out~~ your energy and effort these past five months and the input of hundreds of citizens from all sectors of society. I want to thank everyone who has participated in this process. Governor Branstad, and the members of your Education Task Force: I thank you for your commitment, your dedication, and all the hundreds of hours of hard work.

But as we acknowledge this first step, we've also got to recognize that the hard work lies ahead. Over the next few months I know you will be looking at strategies in your states which will move us forward toward these goals. Strategies that

will focus on measuring progress by results -- by how well students are doing.

And in the coming months, we'll work together with Congress -- on legislation to increase flexibility in Federal funding in return for enhanced accountability. And you -- the nation's governors -- have committed to break the bureaucratic shackles that smother innovation and stand guard over the status quo.

Although the Federal government traditionally has a limited role in education -- and we all respect and acknowledge that it is the dynamism at the state and local level that achieves excellence -- I promise you that my Administration is determined to walk with you every step of the way.

[[When I next meet with my Cabinet -- many of whom are were with us in Charlottesville -- I will ask each Department and Agency head to look at their programs, ~~[look at their budgets]~~ and report back to me on what they can do to achieve these goals.

[I will work with you to establish a ^{BIPARTISAN GROUP} national commission, which will be charged with ensuring that proper and constructive measurements are developed where they do not already exist. This ^{GROUP} ~~commission~~ will report to me, to you, and the American public once a year -- every year -- on the progress we make over the next decade.]

I am calling on America's private sector to be a third partner in this ^{ENTERPRISE.} process. We need to know from them what the workplace will need and expect of our citizens in the 21st century. And we need their talent and ^{COMMITMENT} ~~resources~~ ^{HELP} to drive this

reform effort.]]

And finally, I will do everything I can to provide the national leadership and energy to keep education in the forefront of America's domestic agenda. //

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We are rejecting the status quo. Raising our ^{SIGNS} sites -- and investing our faith in the American people. So today I hope the the Governors and the Cabinet will join me in extending a challenge to all Americans to adopt these goals as their own. To take aim now at the year 2000 -- and to enlist every ounce of American innovation, American energy, American resolve in the effort to achieve these education goals -- and prepare this Nation for the challenges of a new Century.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 26, 1990

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

In this remarkable year of political change, democracy won another victory yesterday. I am most pleased that there has been a free and fair election in Nicaragua and that the results are being accepted by both sides.

I am sending messages to Mrs. Chamorro congratulating her on her victory and to President Ortega congratulating him on the conduct of the election and his stated willingness to abide by the results. The United States looks forward to working with Mrs. Chamorro's new government in support of her stated goals of national reconciliation and economic reconstruction, and with President Ortega in helping ensure a peaceful transition of power.

I have talked this morning with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and we agree completely on the need to help all parties in Nicaragua to achieve a peaceful reconciliation and transfer of power.

We also congratulate the international observer delegations whose activities, which took place at the request of the Sandinista Government, helped ensure an open and safe electoral process. There were many, but may I single out that led by former President Jimmy Carter and former Governor Dan Evans, the United Nations delegation led by former Secretary Elliot Richardson and the OAS delegation led by Secretary General Baena Soares.

We hope that all sides in this hotly fought contest will extend the hand of reconciliation and cooperate together in rebuilding their country for the good of all Nicaraguans. There is space in a democratic Nicaragua for the expression of all political points of view. We also hope that the ~~cease fire~~ will be re-established immediately and respected by all sides. Given the elections clear mandate for peace and democracy, there is ~~no reason at all~~ for further military activity from any quarter.

We are confident the international community will strongly support the results of yesterday's elections and will join in the effort to help all Nicaraguans to rebuild their country.

* * *

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CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
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We've all been following the extraordinary events which have unfolded before our eyes in Eastern Europe over the last year. There is a lesson in those events -- for all of us in this room, and for all Americans. And that lesson is: when people unite behind common goals and demand the freedom to pursue their dreams, no system can stop them.

And nothing will stop us. There is nothing more important to the long-term stability and stature of America than establishing a first-class education system. Nothing is more important to a competitive America in the 21st Century. Nothing is more important to improving the quality of life for our citizens. Nothing is more important than the promise inherent in these goals that all children in America can realize their fullest potential -- and reach for their dreams.

I want to see these goals posted on the wall of every school, so that all who walk in -- parents, students, teachers -- know what we're aiming for:

*The President and the Governor
Agreeing on*

So that everyone knows we have set for ourselves the goal that every child will be ready to learn from the first day they walk into that classroom.

The goal of raising the graduation rate to 90% by making our schools meaningful, challenging and relevant to the needs of our students.

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And in the coming months, we'll work together with Congress -- on legislation to increase flexibility in Federal funding in return for enhanced accountability. And you -- the nation's governors -- have committed to break the bureaucratic shackles that smother innovation and stand guard over the status quo.

Although the Federal government traditionally has a limited role in education -- and we all respect and acknowledge that it is the dynamism at the state and local level that achieves excellence -- I promise you that my Administration is determined to walk with you every step of the way.

[[When I next meet with my Cabinet -- many of whom ~~are~~ were with us in Charlottesville -- I will ask each Department and Agency head to look at their programs, look at their budgets, and report back to me on what they can do to achieve these goals.

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see
Thomas
9

Deb.
Anderson
DELETE
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LEAVE THIS
FOR NOW

McGroarty/Dooley
February 26, 1990
8:40 a.m.
[MON.NAG]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH THE GOVERNORS
FEBRUARY 26, 1990
STATE DINING ROOM
11:15 A.M.

Before I begin, I'd like to make a brief comment on
yesterday's election in Nicaragua. *fruit of democ*
can take heart in the fact that
Any form of freedom
It appears that Violeta
Chamorro has won. ///

The election process -- by all accounts free and fair -- is
a credit to the people of Nicaragua -- who chose to determine
their nation's future at **the ballot box. And that is a victory**
for democracy.

Yesterday's election moves us one step closer to the **day**
when every nation in this hemisphere is a democracy. I will soon
send messages to Mrs. Chamorro -- congratulating her on her
victory -- and to President Ortega -- congratulating him on the
conduct of the election and his pledge to stand by its results.

In the next few days, I will be speaking with Central and
South American leaders **[-- spoke with President Carlos Andres**
Perez of Venezuela this morning --] about appropriate trade and
economic measures we can take to support the new government of
Nicaragua.

We hope now for **a peaceful transition -- for the**
institutionalization of the democratic process in Nicaragua.
There is space in a democratic Nicaragua for all political points

of view. Given the clear mandate for peace and democracy --
there is no reason at all for further military activity from any
quarter -- and we hope the cease-fire will be re-established
without delay -- and respected by all sides. ///

////

Now, back to the task at hand. // I am very pleased to be
with you today on this occasion -- an occasion which I believe
will be viewed in years to come as a dramatic turning point for
our nation.

You have come to Washington for this year's annual meeting
with an uncommon agenda. **Today, we are launching a new era in
education reform.** Its focus -- **high expectations.** Its hallmark
-- **results.** Its energy -- derived from the people of our great
nation who **will insist on a world-class education for our
children.** //

For the first time in America's history, we now have
national education goals and objectives. Goals that pave the way
to a decade-long commitment to excellence in education for all
Americans. Goals that will guide us on the journey toward an
American renaissance in education. //

We made the commitment to develop national goals last fall
in Charlottesville, Virginia. Five months later, I am glad to
see that the spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship so much in
evidence in Charlottesville is still very much alive.

That spirit must endure. And over the coming months and
years, that spirit must serve as a signal to America -- that our

*The people of
N. have waited
long enough --
Now is the time
for N.
to move
forward --
in freedom.*

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/23/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2/24/90 9:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH THE GOVERNORS

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ANDERSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 9:00 AM, Saturday, February 24, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

See comments

90 FEB 23 P 6 : 09

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1990 FEB 23 PM 3:11

McGroarty/Dooley
February 23, 1990
2:30 pm
[MON.NAG]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH THE GOVERNORS
FEBRUARY 26, 1990
STATE DINING ROOM
TIME??

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I want to see these goals posted on the wall of every school, so that all who walk in -- parents, students, teachers - - know what we're aiming for:

Note: There have been Presidentially declared goals in the past

the President and the Government agreeing on

HRL
x5171

So that everyone knows we have set for ourselves the goal that every child will be ready to learn from the first day they walk into that classroom.

The goal of raising the graduation rate to 90% by making our schools meaningful, challenging and relevant to the needs of our students.

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Insert next page

~~[[When I next meet with my Cabinet -- many of whom are were with us in Charlottesville -- I will ask each Department and Agency head to look at their programs, look at their budgets, and report back to me on what they can do to achieve these goals.~~

HR 221 + 5m8

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I am calling on America's private sector to be a third partner in this process. We need to know from them what the workplace will need and expect of our citizens in the 21st Century. And we need their talent and resources to drive this

Insert

The President should not issue such a blanket, formless charge to the cabinet. It will be severely criticized. A substitute might be:

I have instructed my chief Domestic Policy Advisor to work with the Cabinet and Agency Heads to devise strategies through which the Federal Government can best lend support to the Governors, the State education agencies, the teachers, principals and students as they work to achieve each of the national goals.

DALMAN

reform effort.]]

And finally, I will do everything I can to provide the national leadership and energy to keep education in the forefront of America's domestic agenda. //

The work ahead will not be easy. We are travelling uncharted waters. Never before have we as a nation set goals for education. Never before have the nation's leaders stepped forward to say we are willing to be **held accountable** for the results of this process. Never before have the President of the United States and the nation's Governors joined together in a partnership and a long-term commitment on a single issue.

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We are rejecting the status quo. Raising our ^{sights} ~~sites~~ -- and investing our faith in the American people. So today I hope the the Governors and the Cabinet will join me in extending a challenge to all Americans to **adopt these goals as their own**. To take aim now at the year 2000 -- and to **enlist every ounce of American innovation, American energy, American resolve in the effort to achieve these education goals -- and prepare this Nation for the challenges of a new Century.**

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DATE: 2/23/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2/24/90 9:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH THE GOVERNORS

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
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GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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RESPONSE:

OK - Bruce Zann for SR

90 FEB 23 4:43

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

McGroarty/Dooley
February 23, 1990
2:30 pm
[MON.NAG]

1990 FEB 23 PM 3 11

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH THE GOVERNORS
FEBRUARY 26, 1990
STATE DINING ROOM
TIME??

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###

McGroarty/Dooley
February 23, 1990
2:30 pm
[MON.NAG]

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FEBRUARY 26, 1990
STATE DINING ROOM
~~TIME?~~ 11:15 A.M.

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BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ANDERSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 9:00 AM, Saturday, February 24, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

90 FEB 24 P 3: 57

Good
memo
comments
JC

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

McGroarty/Dooley
February 23, 1990
2:30 pm
[MON.NAG]

1990 FEB 23 PM 3:11

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH THE GOVERNORS
FEBRUARY 26, 1990
STATE DINING ROOM
TIME??

I am very pleased to be with you today on this occasion -- an occasion which I believe will be viewed in years to come as a dramatic turning point for our nation.

You have come to Washington for this year's annual meeting with an uncommon agenda. Today, we are launching a new era in education reform. Its focus -- high expectations. Its hallmark -- results. Its energy -- derived from the people of our great nation who will ^{insist on} ~~not be deprived~~ of a world-class education for our children. //

For the first time in America's history, we will have national education goals and objectives. Goals that will pave the way to a decade-long commitment to excellence in education for all Americans. Goals that will guide us on the journey toward an American renaissance in education. //

We made the commitment to develop national goals last fall in Charlottesville, Virginia. Five months later, I am glad to see that the spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship so much in evidence in Charlottesville is still very much alive.

We all hope that spirit will endure, and over the coming months and years, serve as a signal to America -- that our

commitment to these common goals will remain strong and unyielding. Not for just today or tomorrow -- but for the rest of this decade, to the year 2000. Until we get the job done and get it done right.

You know, only a year or so ago the notion of education goals was considered too bold a step for America to take. Even now, there are some who say the goals we've established are too ambitious. **They are mistaken.** They fail to appreciate the degree of our dedication to accomplishing these goals. //

We've all been following the extraordinary events which have unfolded before our eyes in Eastern Europe over the last year. There is a lesson in those events -- for all of us in this room, and for all Americans. And that lesson is: when people unite behind common goals and demand the freedom to pursue their dreams, no system can stop them.

And nothing will stop us. There is nothing more important to the long-term stability and stature of America than establishing a first-class education system. Nothing is more important to a competitive America in the 21st century. Nothing is more important to improving the quality of life for our citizens. Nothing is more important than the promise inherent in these goals that all children in America can realize their fullest potential -- and reach for their dreams.

I want to see these goals posted on the wall of every school, so that all who walk in -- parents, students, teachers -- know what we're aiming for:

So that everyone knows we have set for ourselves the goal that every child will be ready to learn from the first day they walk into that classroom.

The goal of raising the graduation rate to 90% by making our schools meaningful, challenging and relevant to the needs of our students.

Of setting high standards of achievement among our students. Seeing that they leave the transition grades of four, eight and twelve having mastered important [subject matter].

The goal of achieving first place in math and science among industrialized nations.

Of every American adult being skilled and literate, equipped to be a productive worker and citizen.

And finally, the goal of every school in America being safe, disciplined -- and drug-free. //

These goals and objectives have not been developed without a lot of help -- without your energy and effort these past five months and the input of hundreds of citizens from all sectors of society. I want to thank everyone who has participated in this process. Governor Branstad, and the members of your Education Task Force: I thank you for your commitment, your dedication, and all the hundreds of hours of hard work.

But as we acknowledge this first step, we've also got to recognize that the hard work lies ahead. Over the next few months I know you will be looking at strategies in your states which will move us forward toward these goals. Strategies that

will focus on measuring progress by results -- by how well students are doing.

And in the coming months, we'll work together with Congress -- on legislation to increase flexibility in Federal funding in return for enhanced accountability. And you -- the nation's governors -- have committed to break the bureaucratic shackles that smother innovation and stand guard over the status quo.

Although the Federal government traditionally has a limited role in education -- and we all respect and acknowledge that it is the dynamism at the state and local level that achieves excellence -- I promise you that my Administration is determined to walk with you every step of the way.

[[] When I next meet with my Cabinet -- many of whom are were with us in Charlottesville -- I will ask each Department and Agency head to look at their programs, look at their budgets, and report back to me on what they can do to achieve these goals.

I will work with you to establish a national commission, which will be charged with ensuring that proper and constructive measurements are developed where they do not already exist. This commission will report to me, to you, and the American public once a year -- every year -- on the progress we make over the next decade.

I am calling on America's private sector to be a third partner in this process. We need to know from them what the workplace will need and expect of our citizens in the 21st century. And we need their talent and resources to drive this

reform effort.]]

And finally, I will do everything I can to provide the national leadership and energy to keep education in the forefront of America's domestic agenda. //

The work ahead will not be easy. We are travelling uncharted waters. Never before have we as a nation set ^{such} goals for education. Never before have the nation's leaders stepped forward to say we are willing to be held accountable for the results of this process. Never before have the President of the United States and the nation's Governors joined together in a partnership and a long-term commitment on a single issue.

If we can accomplish just one thing today -- and it may be the simplest, yet most valuable of all -- it is to send a message to parents, teachers, community leaders, and every other American:

These goals are not the Governors' goals. They're not the President's goals. They are the Nation's goals. //

We are rejecting the status quo. Raising our sights -- and investing our faith in the American people. So today I hope the the Governors and the Cabinet will join me in extending a challenge to all Americans to adopt these goals as their own. To take aim now at the year 2000 -- and to enlist every ounce of American innovation, American energy, American resolve in the effort to achieve these education goals -- and prepare this Nation for the challenges of a new Century.

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MEETING WITH THE GOVERNORS / FEBRUARY 26, 1990
EAST ROOM / 11:15 A.M.

BEFORE I BEGIN, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A BRIEF COMMENT ON
YESTERDAY'S ELECTION IN NICARAGUA. ANY FRIEND OF
DEMOCRACY CAN TAKE HEART IN THE FACT THAT VIOLETA
CHAMORRO HAS WON. ///

THE ELECTION PROCESS -- BY ALL ACCOUNTS FREE AND
FAIR -- IS A CREDIT TO THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA -- WHO
CHOSE TO DETERMINE THEIR NATION'S FUTURE AT THE BALLOT
BOX. AND THAT IS A VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY.

- 2 -

YESTERDAY'S ELECTION MOVES US ONE STEP CLOSER TO
THE DAY WHEN EVERY NATION IN THIS HEMISPHERE IS A
DEMOCRACY. I WILL SOON SEND MESSAGES TO MRS.
CHAMORRO -- CONGRATULATING HER ON HER VICTORY -- AND TO
PRESIDENT ORTEGA -- CONGRATULATING HIM ON THE CONDUCT
OF THE ELECTION AND HIS PLEDGE TO STAND BY ITS RESULTS.

- 3 -

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, I WILL BE SPEAKING WITH
CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN LEADERS [[-- SPOKE WITH
PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OF VENEZUELA THIS MORNING
--]] ABOUT APPROPRIATE TRADE AND ECONOMIC MEASURES WE
CAN TAKE TO SUPPORT THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA.

WE HOPE NOW FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION -- FOR THE
INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN
NICARAGUA. THERE IS SPACE IN A DEMOCRATIC NICARAGUA
FOR ALL POLITICAL POINTS OF VIEW.

- 4 -

GIVEN THE CLEAR MANDATE FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY --
THERE IS NO REASON AT ALL FOR FURTHER MILITARY ACTIVITY
FROM ANY QUARTER -- AND WE HOPE THE CEASE-FIRE WILL BE
RE-ESTABLISHED WITHOUT DELAY -- AND RESPECTED BY ALL
SIDES.

FOR YEARS, THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA HAVE SUFFERED.
TODAY, THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA HAVE SPOKEN. NOW IS THE
TIME FOR NICARAGUA TO MOVE FORWARD -- TO FREEDOM. ///

Now, BACK TO THE TASK AT HAND. //

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU TODAY ON THIS OCCASION -- AN OCCASION WHICH I BELIEVE WILL BE VIEWED IN YEARS TO COME AS A DRAMATIC TURNING POINT FOR OUR NATION.

YOU HAVE COME TO WASHINGTON FOR THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING WITH AN UNCOMMON AGENDA. TODAY, WE ARE LAUNCHING A NEW ERA IN EDUCATION REFORM. ITS FOCUS -- HIGH EXPECTATIONS.

ITS HALLMARK -- RESULTS. ITS ENERGY -- DERIVED FROM THE PEOPLE OF OUR GREAT NATION WHO WILL INSIST ON A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN. //

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AMERICA'S HISTORY, WE NOW HAVE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. GOALS THAT PAVE THE WAY TO A DECADE-LONG COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOR ALL AMERICANS. GOALS THAT WILL GUIDE US ON THE JOURNEY TOWARD AN AMERICAN RENAISSANCE IN EDUCATION. //

WE MADE THE COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP NATIONAL GOALS LAST FALL IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA. FIVE MONTHS LATER, I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND BIPARTISANSHIP SO MUCH IN EVIDENCE IN CHARLOTTESVILLE IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE.

THAT SPIRIT MUST ENDURE. AND OVER THE COMING MONTHS AND YEARS, THAT SPIRIT MUST SERVE AS A SIGNAL TO AMERICA -- THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO THESE COMMON GOALS WILL REMAIN STRONG AND UNYIELDING.

NOT FOR JUST TODAY OR TOMORROW -- BUT FOR THE REST OF THIS DECADE, TO THE YEAR 2000. UNTIL WE GET THE JOB DONE AND GET IT DONE RIGHT.

YOU KNOW, ONLY A YEAR OR SO AGO, THE NOTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE GOVERNORS AGREEING ON EDUCATION GOALS WAS CONSIDERED A BOLD STEP FOR AMERICA TO TAKE. EVEN NOW, THERE ARE SOME WHO SAY THE GOALS WE'VE ESTABLISHED ARE TOO AMBITIOUS. THEY ARE MISTAKEN.

THEY FAIL TO APPRECIATE THE DEPTH OF OUR COMMITMENT TO RESTRUCTURING AND CHANGE. //

WE'VE ALL BEEN FOLLOWING THE EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS WHICH HAVE UNFOLDED BEFORE OUR EYES IN EASTERN EUROPE OVER THE LAST YEAR. THERE IS A LESSON IN THOSE EVENTS -- FOR ALL OF US IN THIS ROOM, AND FOR ALL AMERICANS.

AND THAT LESSON IS: WHEN PEOPLE UNITE BEHIND COMMON GOALS AND DEMAND THE FREEDOM TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS, NO SYSTEM CAN STOP THEM.

AND NOTHING WILL STOP US. THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT TO THE LONG-TERM STABILITY AND STATURE OF AMERICA THAN ESTABLISHING A FIRST-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM. NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO A COMPETITIVE AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY. NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR CITIZENS.

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PROMISE INHERENT IN THESE GOALS THAT ALL CHILDREN IN AMERICA CAN REALIZE THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL -- AND REACH FOR THEIR DREAMS.

I WANT TO SEE THESE GOALS POSTED ON THE WALL OF EVERY SCHOOL, SO THAT ALL WHO WALK IN -- PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS -- KNOW WHAT WE'RE AIMING FOR:

SO THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE HAVE SET FOR OURSELVES THE GOAL THAT EVERY CHILD WILL BE READY TO LEARN FROM THE FIRST DAY THEY WALK INTO THAT CLASSROOM.

THE GOAL OF RAISING THE GRADUATION RATE TO 90% BY MAKING OUR SCHOOLS MEANINGFUL, CHALLENGING AND RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS.

OF SETTING HIGH STANDARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT AMONG OUR STUDENTS. SEEING THAT THEY LEAVE THE TRANSITION GRADES OF FOUR, EIGHT AND TWELVE HAVING MASTERED IMPORTANT SUBJECT MATTER.

THE GOAL OF ACHIEVING FIRST PLACE IN MATH AND SCIENCE AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS.

OF EVERY AMERICAN ADULT BEING SKILLED AND LITERATE,
EQUIPPED TO BE A PRODUCTIVE WORKER AND RESPONSIBLE
CITIZEN.

AND FINALLY, THE GOAL OF EVERY SCHOOL IN AMERICA
BEING SAFE, DISCIPLINED -- AND DRUG-FREE. //

THESE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED WITH
A GREAT DEAL OF ENERGY AND EFFORT THESE PAST FIVE
MONTHS -- AND WITH THE INPUT OF HUNDREDS OF CITIZENS
FROM ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY.

I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS
PROCESS. GOVERNOR BRANSTAD, AND THE MEMBERS OF YOUR
EDUCATION TASK FORCE: I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT,
YOUR DEDICATION, AND ALL THE HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF HARD
WORK.

BUT AS WE ACKNOWLEDGE THIS FIRST STEP, WE'VE ALSO
GOT TO RECOGNIZE THE HARD WORK THAT LIES AHEAD. OVER
THE NEXT FEW MONTHS I KNOW YOU WILL BE LOOKING AT
STRATEGIES IN YOUR STATES WHICH WILL MOVE US FORWARD
TOWARD THESE GOALS.

STRATEGIES THAT WILL FOCUS ON MEASURING PROGRESS BY RESULTS -- BY HOW WELL STUDENTS ARE DOING.

AND IN THE COMING MONTHS, WE'LL WORK TOGETHER WITH CONGRESS -- ON LEGISLATION TO INCREASE FLEXIBILITY IN FEDERAL FUNDING IN RETURN FOR ENHANCED ACCOUNTABILITY. AND YOU -- THE NATION'S GOVERNORS -- HAVE COMMITTED TO BREAK THE BUREAUCRATIC SHACKLES THAT SMOTHER INNOVATION AND STAND GUARD OVER THE STATUS QUO.

ALTHOUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TRADITIONALLY HAS A LIMITED ROLE IN EDUCATION -- AND WE ALL RESPECT AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS THE DYNAMISM AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL THAT ACHIEVES EXCELLENCE -- I PROMISE YOU THAT MY ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED TO WALK WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

WHEN I NEXT MEET WITH MY CABINET -- MANY OF WHOM WERE WITH US IN CHARLOTTESVILLE -- I WILL ASK EACH TO WORK WITH MY DOMESTIC POLICY ADVISOR TO DEVISE STRATEGIES THAT CAN SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS, AND THOSE OF YOUR COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS.

I WILL WORK WITH YOU TO ESTABLISH A BIPARTISAN GROUP TO ENSURE THAT PROPER AND CONSTRUCTIVE MEASUREMENTS OF OUR EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE ARE DEVELOPED WHERE THEY DO NOT ALREADY EXIST.

THIS GROUP WILL REPORT TO ME EACH YEAR ON THE PROGRESS WE MAKE OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

AND I AM CALLING ON AMERICA'S PRIVATE SECTOR TO BE A THIRD PARTNER IN THIS ENTERPRISE. WE NEED TO KNOW FROM THEM WHAT THE WORKPLACE WILL NEED AND EXPECT OF OUR CITIZENS IN THE 21ST CENTURY. AND WE NEED THEIR TALENT AND COMMITMENT TO HELP MOVE THIS REFORM EFFORT FORWARD.

AND FINALLY, I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO PROVIDE THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ENERGY TO KEEP EDUCATION IN THE FOREFRONT OF AMERICA'S DOMESTIC AGENDA. //

THE WORK AHEAD WILL NOT BE EASY. WE ARE TRAVELLING UNCHARTED WATERS. NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE AS A NATION SET SUCH GOALS FOR EDUCATION. NEVER BEFORE HAVE THE NATION'S LEADERS STEPPED FORWARD TO SAY WE ARE WILLING TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE RESULTS OF THIS PROCESS.

NEVER BEFORE HAVE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE NATION'S GOVERNORS JOINED TOGETHER IN A PARTNERSHIP AND A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT ON A SINGLE ISSUE.

IF WE CAN ACCOMPLISH JUST ONE THING TODAY -- AND IT MAY BE THE SIMPLEST, YET MOST VALUABLE OF ALL -- IT IS TO SEND A MESSAGE TO PARENTS, TEACHERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND EVERY OTHER AMERICAN:

THESE GOALS ARE NOT THE GOVERNORS' GOALS. THEY'RE NOT THE PRESIDENT'S GOALS. TODAY, THEY ARE THE NATION'S GOALS. //

WE ARE REJECTING THE STATUS QUO. RAISING OUR SIGHTS -- AND INVESTING OUR FAITH IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. SO TODAY I HOPE THE GOVERNORS AND THE CABINET WILL JOIN ME IN EXTENDING A CHALLENGE TO ALL AMERICANS TO ADOPT THESE GOALS AS THEIR OWN.

TO TAKE AIM NOW AT THE YEAR 2000 -- AND TO ENLIST EVERY OUNCE OF AMERICAN INNOVATION, AMERICAN ENERGY, AMERICAN RESOLVE IN THE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THESE EDUCATION GOALS -- AND PREPARE THIS NATION FOR THE CHALLENGES OF A NEW CENTURY.

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that's what the Germans want, that's what ought to happen. The U.S. troops are not in Europe against the will of any single country in which they're deployed—not one. And the Soviet troops have been for years inside the territory of countries that haven't wanted them. This is a fundamental difference. So, my answer is yes, I can so envision it.

Q. Mr. Chancellor, both of you have talked about U.S. troops and Soviet troops, but I'd like to ask a question about Germany's own troops. Both the Federal Republic and East Germany, the GDR, have substantial armies. I know a final decision about those armies won't be made until the united Germany is formed. But as you look ahead, what's your personal feeling? Do you think it will be necessary for Germany to retain an army of this size, or in the future will it be likely that those forces will be scaled down?

The Chancellor. Let me say, first of all, that's the question of the strength of forces which concerns us directly, but this question must be embedded in the overall situation, the overall security development. I do hope very much that in the area of disarmament we'll advance in leaps and bounds. And I do hope that we Germans will be able to profit from that.

That is why today I cannot answer that question, in particular since I am not the representative of an old German State. And I cannot tell you at all, in what I mentioned, a future German State would conceive of these things. In this question of will, one has to consider the effect that the answer will have on all our neighbors. I have spontaneously answered to the questions put to me by one of your colleagues. He asked, Did we want to have nuclear arms? And I spontaneously said no. And that is of greatest importance. There shouldn't be any fears in that direction. By the way, this and many other questions I consider to be able to be solved. We have had more difficult questions to solve—if I consider legal questions of private property in GDR, the social structure. So, the task ahead of us is enormous. And that is again why I'd plead it shouldn't be put under time pressure, but we should be advancing and solving these problems step by step.

The President. Thank you all very, very much.

Note: The President's 38th news conference began at 11 a.m. at Camp Greentop, MD. The Chancellor spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. Chancellor Kohl met with the President at Camp David on Saturday and Sunday, February 24-25.

Remarks to Members of the National Governors' Association

February 26, 1990

Before I talk about the issues that we've been discussing with the Governors, I'd like to make a brief comment on yesterday's election in Nicaragua. Any friend of democracy can take heart in the fact that Violeta Chamorro won the election. And the election process, by all accounts free and fair, is a credit to the people of Nicaragua, who chose to determine their nation's future at the ballot box; and that is a victory for democracy.

Yesterday's election moves us one step closer to the day when every nation in this hemisphere is a democracy. And I'll soon send messages—I think they may have already gone out—to Mrs. Chamorro, congratulating her on her victory; to President Ortega, congratulating him on the conduct of the election and on his pledge to stand by its results; to President Carter and his counterpart on that one, Dan Evans; to Mr. Soares of the OAS [Organization of American States]; to Perez de Cuellar and Elliot Richardson of the United Nations for their leading roles in observing the elections.

In the next few days I'll be speaking with Central and South American leaders. This morning I talked to President Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela about appropriate trade and economic measures that we can take to support the new government of Nicaragua. We hope now for a peaceful transition, for the institutionalization of the democratic process in Nicaragua. And there is space in a democratic Nicaragua for all political points of view. Given the clear mandate for peace and democracy, there is

no reason at all for further military activity from any quarter, and we hope the cease-fire will be reestablished without delay and respected by all sides. For years the people of Nicaragua have suffered, and today the people of Nicaragua have spoken, and now is the time for Nicaragua to move forward to freedom.

And now back to our agenda at hand. I am very pleased to be with you on this occasion, an occasion which I believe will be viewed in years to come as a dramatic turning point for our country. You've come to Washington for this annual meeting with an uncommon agenda. Today we're launching a new era in education reform. Its focus: high expectations. Its hallmark: results. Its energy derived from the people of our great nation, who will insist on a world-class education for our kids. For the first time in America's history, we now have national education goals and objectives, goals that pave the way to a decade-long commitment to excellence in education for all Americans, goals that will guide us on the journey toward an American renaissance in education.

We made the commitment to develop national goals last fall there in Charlottesville, Virginia. Five months later, I'm glad to see that the spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship, so much in evidence there at Charlottesville, is still very much alive. That spirit has got to endure. And over the coming months and years, the spirit must serve as a signal to America that our commitment to these common goals remains unshakable, very strong, not for just today, not just tomorrow, but for the rest of the decade, to the year 2000, until we get the job done and get it done right.

You know, only a year or so ago, the notion of the President and the Governors agreeing on education goals was considered a bold step for America to take. Even now, there are some who say the goals we've established are too ambitious. I think they're mistaken. They've failed to appreciate the depth of our commitment to restructuring and change.

We've all been following the extraordinary events which have unfolded before our eyes in Eastern Europe over the last year, and there is a lesson in those events for all of us in this room and for all Ameri-

cans. And that lesson is: When people unite behind common goals and demand the freedom to pursue their dreams, no system can stop them. And nothing will stop us.

There is nothing more important to the long-term stability and stature of America than establishing a first-class education system. Nothing is more important to a competitive America in the 21st century. Nothing is more important to improving the quality of life for our citizens. And nothing is more important than the promise inherent in these goals that all children in America can realize their fullest potential and reach out for their dreams.

I want to see these goals posted on the wall in every school so that all who walk in—the parents, students, teachers—know what we're aiming for, so that everyone knows we have set for ourselves the goal that every child will be ready to learn from the first day they walk into the classroom; the goal of raising the graduation rate to 90 percent by making our schools meaningful, challenging, and relevant to the needs of our students; of setting high standards of achievement among our students, seeing that they leave the transition grades of 4, 8, and 12 having mastered the important subject matter; the goal of achieving first place in math and science among industrialized nations; of every American adult being skilled and literate, equipped to be a productive worker and a responsible citizen; and finally, the goal of every school in America being safe, disciplined, and drug-free.

These goals and objectives have been developed with a great deal of energy and effort over these past 5 months and with the input of hundreds of citizens from all sectors of society. And I want to thank everyone who has participated in this process. Governor Branstad and the members of your Education Task Force, I thank you for your commitment, your dedication, and all the hundreds of hours of hard work—that as we acknowledge this first step, we've also got to recognize that hard work lies ahead.

Over the next few months, I know you'll be looking at strategies in your States which will move us forward to these goals, and strategies that will focus on measuring progress by results, by how well students

are doing. One of the Governors encouraged me in the meeting in there to encourage the people of this country to support State and local initiatives that have to do with making the educational system better. And certainly, I am prepared to do that, just as I am grateful to the Governors for their participation in setting these goals.

In the coming months, we'll work together with Congress on legislation to increase flexibility in Federal funding in return for enhanced accountability. And you, the Nation's Governors, have committed to break the bureaucratic shackles that smother innovation and stand guard over the status quo. Although the Federal Government traditionally has a limited role in education—and we all respect and acknowledge that it is the dynamism at the State and local level that achieves excellence—I promise you that this administration is determined to walk with you every step of the way.

When I next meet with my Cabinet, many of whom were with us there in Charlottesville, I'll ask each to work with our domestic policy adviser to devise strategies that can support your efforts and those of your communities in helping to achieve these goals. I will work with you to establish a bipartisan group to ensure that proper and constructive measurements of our educational performance are developed where they don't already exist. And this group is going to report to me each year on the progress we make.

And I'm calling on America's private sector to be a third party in this enterprise. We need to know from them what the workplace will need and expect of our citizens in the 21st century. And we need their talent and their commitment to help move this reform effort forward. And finally, I will do everything I can to provide the national leadership and energy to keep education in the forefront of America's domestic agenda.

The work ahead will not be easy. We're traveling uncharted waters. And never before have we as a nation set such goals for education. And never before have the Nation's leaders stepped forward to say we are willing to be held accountable for the results of this process. And never before have the President of the United States and the Governors joined together in a partner-

ship and a long-term commitment on a single issue.

If we can accomplish just one thing today—and it may be the simplest and yet most valuable of all—it is to send a message to parents, teachers, community leaders, and every other American: These goals are not the Governors' goals. They're not the President's goals. They are the Nation's goals. And we are rejecting the status quo, raising our sights, investing our faith in the American people. And so, today I hope the Governors and the Cabinet will join me in extending a challenge to all Americans to adopt these goals as their own and to take aim now at the year 2000 and to enlist every ounce of American innovation, energy, resolve in the effort to achieve these education goals and prepare this nation for the challenges of a new century.

Thank you all very, very much for your superb cooperation.

Note: The President spoke at 11:59 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. Prior to his remarks, the President met with members of the association in the Blue Room.

Statement on the Election of Violeta Chamorro as President of Nicaragua February 26, 1990

In this remarkable year of political change, democracy won another victory yesterday. I am most pleased that there has been a free and fair election in Nicaragua and that the results are being accepted by both sides.

I am sending messages to Mrs. Chamorro congratulating her on her victory and to President Ortega congratulating him on the conduct of the election and his stated willingness to abide by the results. The United States looks forward to working with Mrs. Chamorro's new government in support of her stated goals of national reconciliation and economic reconstruction and with President Ortega in helping ensure a peaceful transition of power. I have talked this morning with Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez, and we agree completely on the need to help all parties in Nicaragua to