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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Tulsa, Oklahoma)

For Immediate Release

May 4, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE DINNER

Maxwell Convention Center
Tulsa, Oklahoma

8:08 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much. And thank you especially, Senator Nickles, for that warm introduction. To Governor Henry Bellmon, early supporter and friend of longstanding; Senator Boren, to whom I give enormous credit for this wonderful evening, and all the principals that lead to this evening and will lead to so much more for academic excellence. And to other distinguished members of the Congress that might be here, especially I want to pay my respects to Carl Albert and Mrs. Albert, who's here; and members of the Foundation, honored guests, and ladies and gentlemen. I'd like the Tulsa Band, too. I thought they did an outstanding job over there. (Applause.)

You'll be pleased, this will be a short speech. I will leave before the broccoli. (Laughter.) Did you see the sign -- did you see the kid over there while I was speaking at Oklahoma State University holding up a sign, "George, eat your broccoli." I don't need advice from little kids about what I'm going to eat. (Laughter.)

But earlier today I gave that speech -- first, just let me say I appreciate this reception very much and am delighted to be in this state of open hearts and open skies. But let me say a word about Oklahoma State. I gave that speech over there at Oklahoma State University, and I was delighted to be there, at Stillwater. They'll never forgive me in Norman. After all, the musical "Oklahoma" says "the farmer and the cowman should be friends." It doesn't say a thing about the Sooners and Cowboys. (Laughter.)

This evening, though, I want to talk about one thing all Americans have in common, the reason we're all here: our dedication to America's most enduring legacy. I refer, of course, to the education that is vital to everything we are and can become.

It's been said, "There are only two bequests we can hope to give our children -- one of these is roots, and the other, wings." A theme embodied, I might add, in the beautiful sculptures here. These words reaffirm that knowledge provides the foundation for every idea that takes flight in the mind of a child.

Yet today the facts are clear, and they don't make for pleasant reading. Erratic standards -- Dave referred to this -- an unacceptable drop-out rate, too little parental involvement, too little accountability by teachers and students, too many schools wracked by drug use and too many kids ill-equipped to read or write. Let's be honest: our educational system isn't making the grade.

Five years ago, a United States senator acted to convert that grade to "pass" from "fail." Believing, like you, that if excellence breeds achievement, then excellence should be rewarded. So David Boren set out to ensure that future generations will say of us: They taught their children well. His creation was the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence.

MORE

This Foundation wisely believes that America can only be as great as her children are educated. And that while the federal government must help, education is and should be a local and a state responsibility. Parents, teachers, local administrators -- not faraway, distant bureaucrats -- best understand the local needs. So this program here affirms values as central to Oklahoma as love of freedom and of God.

First of all, the Foundation reflects Oklahoma's belief in high achievement. Someone said, "Anything can have happened in Oklahoma. Practically everything has." Your work has raised private money to give \$1,000 cash scholarships to the state's top 100 high school seniors. And I loved seeing those kids march across this stage just a minute ago. I salute these academic all-staters who are the true trustees of our posterity.

Next, this Foundation mirrors your dedication, Oklahoma's dedication to excellence. You understand that those with the responsibility for our children's education literally hold the future in their hands. So you're giving \$5,000 each to three magnificent teachers and a superb public school administrator. I salute the recipients of the 1990 Oklahoma Medals for Excellence in Teaching and Administration. (Applause.) And I also want to mention that \$5,000 award to the public school system that has had the most effective drop-out prevention program. Keeping kids in schools is absolutely critical -- and you're doing a great job.

Finally, the Foundation for Excellence reflects the belief that education can be the great uplifter and equalizer. Perhaps that great Broadway character, Oklahoma's Aunt Eller, put it best when she said, "I don't say I'm better than anybody else, but I'll be danged if I ain't just as good." Well, your idea can enrich education and help education enrich our lives.

Achievement, excellence and equality -- what a definition of Oklahoma. And I love the button that Henry Bellmon gave me here -- Oklahoma, state of excellence. What a wonderful signal that sends to everybody here and all that come here. And what a magnificent difference this movement has made in just five years. Over \$2 million raised. Today, more than 100 Oklahoma communities have local private foundations -- many inspired by your lead. Think of it: Each of these foundations -- I call them "points of light" -- each does what the federal government cannot do -- serve as a wonderful model for other states and localities to emulate. So tonight I challenge every state in America to do what Oklahoma has already done -- make American education a beacon of excellence. (Applause.) By increasing private support for public education, you've enriched academic opportunities for students all across this state. If there's any doubt, you've resolved it. When it comes to Oklahoma education, Washington doesn't know best, Oklahomans do.

The result is that today Oklahoma ranks first, per capita, in the number of private foundations. Yet you also know that progress made can't be measured by dollars spent alone. So you're showing how parents, teachers, administrators, school boards can work together to help our kids -- like Oklahoma's fabled pioneers -- discover the unlimited frontiers of learning.

We know, of course, that it won't be easy. Let me recall how once, marking an examination written shortly before Christmas, the noted Yale scholar William Lyon Phelps came across this note: "God only knows the answer to this question. Merry Christmas." Phelps returned the paper with the annotation: "God gets an A. You get an F. Happy New Year." (Laughter.) You remember that?

Yes, of course, education is going to meet roadblocks. But they're obstacles we can overcome. For you're not in this alone. The federal government does have a legitimate role. That's why a year ago we sent to the Congress our Educational Excellence Act,

legislation which can help America out-think, out-work and out-perform any nation, any day of the week.

For instance, we want to create a \$500-million program by 1994 to reward schools that improve the most. And a Magnet Schools of Excellence Program: We believe parents -- not Big Brother -- should decide which public schools their kids attend. Our program will reward schools that cut the drop-out rate; create a National Science Scholars Initiative providing incentive to excel in science, mathematics, and engineering. And recently I signed into law legislation to help schools that are hit the hardest by drug use.

Now, these steps will help our children unlock the future, give them the tools to master the new world of new technologies. And reverse the trend we saw in a recent comparison of 13-year-olds in the United States and five other countries where America placed last in mathematics and near last in science.

Most of all, our Educational Excellence Act can help make American education number one again by achieving the goals that we announced in February with governors like Henry Bellmon. We want U.S. students to be first in math and science by the year 2000, and every American to be skilled and literate. We want every student to start school ready to learn. That means Head Start and it means programs like it. And each school to have an environment where kids can learn. That means making every school drug-free. Finally, we want to see a graduation rate of at least 90 percent with every student competent in important subjects. Like a future graduate -- Erin Amato, a third-grader from Sugarland, Texas -- who recently wrote me this letter:

"Dear President Bush. I have been doing good in school. I made all 'A' honor roll last six weeks and I hope I make it this six weeks also. Do you like rolls? I like rolls but I do not like broccoli." Obviously, a bright kid here. (Laughter.) And then Erin concluded, saying, "I do like carrots. I love Texas."

Let me close with a story that I think this kid would appreciate -- a story about the scholarship that, together, all of us can build. The story goes that physicist James Franck was Professor at Gottingen University in Germany when Robert Oppenheimer, then only 23, was being examined for his doctorate. On emerging from the oral exam, Professor Franck said, "I got out of there just in time. He was beginning to ask me questions."

In coming years, these Academic All-Staters will ask many questions. Questions about their faith and future, why we're here, and what we can become individually and as a nation. How can education supply some answers? The same way this administrator and these teachers have. By embodying the spirit of Oklahoma's past.

Think of the heroes who settled this state. They didn't believe in government by bureaucrat. They believed in themselves. They built homes out of sod, schoolhouses from scatch. Salt Fork, Black Bear, Apache. Dirt floors. Log walls. Often, supplies were limited -- but there were always enough hands. Pitching in. Teaching classes. Fighting off everything from claim-jumpers to bears.

These pioneers dreamed dreams as big as Oklahoma and made their dreams come true. Like us, they knew where the future lay: In their kids, through education. The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence can help us achieve our dreams. So that future generations will proclaim, as the musical Oklahoma says, American education, "you're doing fine -- OK."

Thank you for this occasion. Good luck to the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. And God bless each and every one of you that cares about our kids. Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*
SUBJECT: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE

Enclosed is a revised draft of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence speech. On page 1, "the Sooners and the Cowboys" refers to the rivalry between Oklahoma University and Oklahoma State University. Pages 3-4 contain references to the Foundation as a model for other States and a source of more than 100 "points of light." Also, per your request, we have included a humorous story on page 4 and Presidential letter on page 5.

(Smith/Blessey)
May 2, 1990
4 P.M.
HOMA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

Thank you, Senator Nickles, for your introduction. Governor Bellmon, Senator Boren, Congressmen Inhofe and Watkins, Speaker Carl Albert, members of the Foundation, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. I appreciate your reception, and am delighted to be in this State of open hearts and open skies. //

Earlier today, I gave the Commencement Speech at Oklahoma State University. // They'll never forgive me in Norman. // ((After all, the musical Oklahoma says "the farmer and the cowman should be friends." It doesn't say a thing about the Sooners and the Cowboys.)) //

This evening I'd like to talk about one thing all Americans have in common: our dedication to America's most enduring legacy. I refer, of course, to the education that is vital to everything we are, and can become. //

The great preacher, Henry Ward Beecher, once said, "There are only two bequests we can hope to give our children -- one of these is roots; the other, wings." ((A theme embodied, I might add, in these beautiful sculptures you see before me.)) Henry Beecher knew -- as we do -- that knowledge provides the foundation for every idea that takes flight in the mind of a child. //

Yet today the facts are clear -- and they don't make for pleasant reading. Erratic standards. An unacceptable drop-out rate. Too little parental involvement. Too little accountability by teachers and students. Too many schools wracked by drug use and too many kids ill-equipped to read or write. Let's be honest: Our educational system isn't making the grade. //

Five years ago, a United States Senator acted to convert that grade to "pass" from "fail." Believing, like you, that if excellence breeds achievement, then excellence should be rewarded. // So David Boren set out to ensure that future generations will say of us: They taught their children well. His creation was the Oklahoma Foundation of Excellence. //

This Foundation wisely believes that America can only be as great as her children are educated. And that while the Federal government must help, education is and should be a local and State responsibility. // Parents, teachers, and local administrators -- not distant bureaucrats -- best understand local needs. // So this program affirms values as central to Oklahoma as love of freedom and of God.

First of all, the Foundation reflects Oklahoma's belief in high achievement. Someone said, "Anything can have happened in Oklahoma. Practically everything has." // Your work has raised private money to give \$1,000 cash scholarships to the State's top 100 high school seniors. I salute these Academic All-Staters who are the true trustees of our posterity. //

Next, this Foundation mirrors Oklahoma's dedication to excellence. You understand that those with the responsibility for our children's education literally hold the future in their hands. So you're giving \$5,000 to each of three magnificent teachers and a superb public school administrator. I salute the 1990 Oklahoma Medals for Excellence recipients in Teaching and Administration. // And I also want to mention your \$5,000 award to the public school system that has had the most effective drop-out prevention program. Keeping kids in school is critical -- and you're doing a great job.

Finally, the Foundation for Excellence reflects the belief that education can be the great uplifter and equalizer. ((Perhaps that great Broadway character, Oklahoma's Aunt Eller, put it best when she said, "I don't say I'm better than anybody else, but I'll be danged if I ain't just as good!")) // Your idea can enrich education -- and help education enrich our lives. //

Achievement, excellence, and equality -- what a definition of Oklahoma. And what a magnificent difference this movement has made in just five years. // Over \$2 million raised. Today, more than one hundred Oklahoma communities have local private foundations -- many inspired by your lead. // Think of it: Each of these foundations -- what I call "points of light" -- each does what the Federal government cannot: serve as a wonderful model for other States and localities to emulate. So tonight I challenge every State in America to do what Oklahoma has already done: Make American education a beacon of excellence. // By

increasing private support for public education, you have enriched academic opportunities for students across the State. If there's any doubt, you've resolved it: When it comes to Oklahoma education, Washington Doesn't Know Best, Oklahomans Do. //

The result is that today Oklahoma ranks first, per capita, in the number of private foundations. Yet you also know that progress made can't be measured by dollars spent alone. So you're showing how parents, teachers, administrators and school boards can work together to help our kids -- like Oklahoma's fabled pioneers -- discover the unlimited frontiers of learning.

We know, of course: It won't be easy. ((Let me recall how once, marking an examination written shortly before Christmas, the noted scholar William Lyon Phelps came across this note: "God only knows the answer to this question. Merry Christmas." Phelps returned the paper with the annotation: 'God gets an A. You get an F. Happy New Year.")) //

Yes, education will meet roadblocks. But they are obstacles we can overcome. For you're not in this alone. The Federal government has a role. That's why a year ago we sent to the Congress our "Educational Excellence Act" -- legislation which can help America outthink, outwork, and outperform any Nation any day of the week. //

For instance, we want to create a \$500 million program by 1993 to reward schools that improve the most. And a Magnet Schools of Excellence program: We believe parents -- not Big

Brother -- should decide which public school their kids attend.
// Our program will reward schools that cut the drop-out rate.
Create a National Science Scholars Initiative providing incentive
to excel in science, mathematics, and engineering. And recently,
I signed into law, legislation to help schools hit hardest by
drug use. //

These steps will help our children unlock the future. Give
them the tools to master the new world of new technologies. And
reverse the trend we saw in a recent comparison of 13-year-old
students in the United States and 5 other countries where America
placed last in mathematics and near last in science. //

Most of all, our Educational Excellence Act can help make
American education Number One again by achieving the goals we
announced in February with Governors like Henry Bellmon. We want
U.S. students to be first in math and science by the year 2000.
And every American to be skilled and literate. We want every
student to start school ready to learn. That means Head Start
and programs like it. And each school to have an environment
where kids can learn. That means making every school drug-free.
Finally, we want to see a graduation rate of at least 90 percent
with every student competent in important subjects. Like a
future graduate -- Erin Amato, a third-grader from Sugarland,
Texas -- who recently wrote me this letter:

"Dear President Bush. I have been doing good in school. I
made all A Honor Roll last six weeks and I hope I make it this
six weeks also. Do you like rolls? I like rolls but I do not

like broccoli." ((Obviously, an enlightened student.)) And then Erin concluded by saying, "I do like carrots. I love Texas!"

((Let me close with a story I think Erin would appreciate -- a story about the scholarship that, together, all of us can build. The story goes that physicist James Franck was Professor at Gottingen University in Germany when Robert Oppenheimer, then only 23, was being examined for his doctorate. On emerging from the oral exam, Franck said, "I got out just in time. He was beginning to ask me questions.")) //

In coming years, these Academic All-Staters will ask many questions. Questions about their faith and future, why we are here, and what we can become individually and as a Nation. // How can education supply some answers? The same way this administrator and these teachers have. By embodying the spirit of Oklahoma's past. //

Think of the heroes who settled this State. They didn't believe in government by bureaucrat. They believed in themselves. // They built homes out of sod, and schoolhouses from scratch. Salt Fork, Black Bear, Apache. Dirt floors. Log walls. Often, supplies were limited -- but there were always enough hands. Pitching in. Teaching classes. Fighting off everything from claim-jumpers to bears.

These pioneers dreamed dreams as big as Oklahoma -- and made their dreams come true. Like us, they knew where the future lay: In their kids, through education. // The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence can help us achieve our dreams. So that future

generations will proclaim, as the musical Oklahoma says: American education, "you're doing fine -- OK."

Thank you for this occasion. Good luck to the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. And God bless our beloved land -- the United States of America.

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Speech.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

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TO Mike - WHCA

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COMMENTS Foundation Speech

FROM Steph Laudner

OFFICE NUMBER 456-2930

OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

THANK YOU, SENATOR NICKLES, FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION.
GOVERNOR BELLMON, SENATOR BOREN, CONGRESSMEN INHOFE AND
WATKINS, SPEAKER CARL ALBERT, MEMBERS OF THE
FOUNDATION, HONORED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I
APPRECIATE YOUR RECEPTION, AND AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN
THIS STATE OF OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN SKIES. //

EARLIER TODAY, I GAVE THE COMMENCEMENT SPEECH AT
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY. // THEY'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME
IN NORMAN. // ((AFTER ALL, THE MUSICAL OKLAHOMA SAYS
"THE FARMER AND THE COWMAN SHOULD BE FRIENDS." IT
DOESN'T SAY A THING ABOUT THE SOONERS AND THE
COWBOYS.)) //

THIS EVENING I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT ONE THING ALL
AMERICANS HAVE IN COMMON: OUR DEDICATION TO AMERICA'S
MOST ENDURING LEGACY. I REFER, OF COURSE, TO THE
EDUCATION THAT IS VITAL TO EVERYTHING WE ARE, AND CAN
BECOME. //

IT HAS BEEN SAID, "THERE ARE ONLY TWO BEQUESTS WE CAN HOPE TO GIVE OUR CHILDREN -- ONE OF THESE IS ROOTS; THE OTHER, WINGS." ((A THEME EMBODIED, I MIGHT ADD, IN THE BEAUTIFUL SCULPTURES YOU SEE BEFORE ME.)) THESE WORDS REAFFIRM THAT KNOWLEDGE PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERY IDEA THAT TAKES FLIGHT IN THE MIND OF A CHILD. //

YET TODAY THE FACTS ARE CLEAR -- AND THEY DON'T MAKE FOR PLEASANT READING. ERRATIC STANDARDS. AN UNACCEPTABLE DROP-OUT RATE. TOO LITTLE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT. TOO LITTLE ACCOUNTABILITY BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS. TOO MANY SCHOOLS WRACKED BY DRUG USE AND TOO MANY KIDS ILL-EQUIPPED TO READ OR WRITE. LET'S BE HONEST: OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM ISN'T MAKING THE GRADE. //

FIVE YEARS AGO, A UNITED STATES SENATOR ACTED TO CONVERT THAT GRADE TO "PASS" FROM "FAIL." BELIEVING, LIKE YOU, THAT IF EXCELLENCE BREEDS ACHIEVEMENT, THEN EXCELLENCE SHOULD BE REWARDED. // SO DAVID BOREN SET OUT TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL SAY OF US: THEY TAUGHT THEIR CHILDREN WELL. HIS CREATION WAS THE OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE. //

THIS FOUNDATION WISELY BELIEVES THAT AMERICA CAN ONLY BE AS GREAT AS HER CHILDREN ARE EDUCATED. AND THAT WHILE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST HELP, EDUCATION IS AND SHOULD BE A LOCAL AND STATE RESPONSIBILITY. // PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS -- NOT DISTANT BUREAUCRATS -- BEST UNDERSTAND LOCAL NEEDS. // SO THIS PROGRAM AFFIRMS VALUES AS CENTRAL TO OKLAHOMA AS LOVE OF FREEDOM AND OF GOD.

FIRST OF ALL, THE FOUNDATION REFLECTS OKLAHOMA'S BELIEF IN HIGH ACHIEVEMENT. SOMEONE SAID, "ANYTHING CAN HAVE HAPPENED IN OKLAHOMA. PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING HAS." // YOUR WORK HAS RAISED PRIVATE MONEY TO GIVE \$1,000 CASH SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE STATE'S TOP 100 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. I SALUTE THESE ACADEMIC ALL-STATERS WHO ARE THE TRUE TRUSTEES OF OUR POSTERITY. //

NEXT, THIS FOUNDATION MIRRORS OKLAHOMA'S DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE WITH THE RESPONSIBIITY FOR OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION LITERALLY HOLD THE FUTURE IN THEIR HANDS. SO YOU'RE GIVING \$5,000 EACH TO THREE MAGNIFICENT TEACHERS AND A SUPERB PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR. I SALUTE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 1990 OKLAHOMA MEDALS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATION. // AND I ALSO WANT TO MENTION YOUR \$5,000 AWARD TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT HAS HAD THE MOST EFFECTIVE DROP-OUT PREVENTION PROGRAM. KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL IS CRITICAL -- AND YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB.

FINALLY, THE FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE REFLECTS THE BELIEF THAT EDUCATION CAN BE THE GREAT UPLIFTER AND EQUALIZER. ((PERHAPS THAT GREAT BROADWAY CHARACTER, OKLAHOMA'S AUNT ELLER, PUT IT BEST WHEN SHE SAID, "I DON'T SAY I'M BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE, BUT I'LL BE DANGED IF I AIN'T JUST AS GOOD!")) // YOUR IDEA CAN ENRICH EDUCATION -- AND HELP EDUCATION ENRICH OUR LIVES. //

ACHIEVEMENT, EXCELLENCE, AND EQUALITY -- WHAT A DEFINITION OF OKLAHOMA. AND WHAT A MAGNIFICENT DIFFERENCE THIS MOVEMENT HAS MADE IN JUST FIVE YEARS. // OVER \$2 MILLION RAISED. TODAY, MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED OKLAHOMA COMMUNITIES HAVE LOCAL PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS -- MANY INSPIRED BY YOUR LEAD. // THINK OF IT: EACH OF THESE FOUNDATIONS -- WHAT I CALL "POINTS OF LIGHT" -- EACH DOES WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT: SERVE AS A WONDERFUL MODEL FOR OTHER STATES AND LOCALITIES TO EMULATE. SO TONIGHT I CHALLENGE EVERY STATE IN AMERICA TO DO WHAT OKLAHOMA HAS ALREADY DONE: MAKE AMERICAN EDUCATION A BEACON OF EXCELLENCE. // BY INCREASING PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, YOU HAVE ENRICHED ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS ACROSS THE STATE. IF THERE'S ANY DOUBT, YOU'VE RESOLVED IT: WHEN IT COMES TO OKLAHOMA EDUCATION, WASHINGTON DOESN'T KNOW BEST, OKLAHOMANS DO. //

THE RESULT IS THAT TODAY OKLAHOMA RANKS FIRST, PER CAPITA, IN THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS. YET YOU ALSO KNOW THAT PROGRESS MADE CAN'T BE MEASURED BY DOLLARS SPENT ALONE. SO YOU'RE SHOWING HOW PARENTS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND SCHOOL BOARDS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO HELP OUR KIDS -- LIKE OKLAHOMA'S FABLED PIONEERS -- DISCOVER THE UNLIMITED FRONTIERS OF LEARNING.

WE KNOW, OF COURSE: IT WON'T BE EASY. ((LET ME RECALL HOW ONCE, MARKING AN EXAMINATION WRITTEN SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, THE NOTED SCHOLAR WILLIAM LYON PHELPS CAME ACROSS THIS NOTE: "GOD ONLY KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION. MERRY CHRISTMAS." PHELPS RETURNED THE PAPER WITH THE ANNOTATION: "GOD GETS AN A. YOU GET AN F. HAPPY NEW YEAR.")) //

YES, EDUCATION WILL MEET ROADBLOCKS. BUT THEY ARE OBSTACLES WE CAN OVERCOME. FOR YOU'RE NOT IN THIS ALONE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS A ROLE. THAT'S WHY A YEAR AGO WE SENT TO THE CONGRESS OUR "EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE ACT" -- LEGISLATION WHICH CAN HELP AMERICA OUTTHINK, OUTWORK, AND OUTPERFORM ANY NATION ANY DAY OF THE WEEK. //

FOR INSTANCE, WE WANT TO CREATE A \$500 MILLION PROGRAM BY 1994 TO REWARD SCHOOLS THAT IMPROVE THE MOST. AND A MAGNET SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM: WE BELIEVE PARENTS -- NOT BIG BROTHER -- SHOULD DECIDE WHICH PUBLIC SCHOOL THEIR KIDS ATTEND. // OUR PROGRAM WILL REWARD SCHOOLS THAT CUT THE DROP-OUT RATE. CREATE A NATIONAL SCIENCE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE PROVIDING INCENTIVE TO EXCEL IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND ENGINEERING. AND RECENTLY, I SIGNED INTO LAW, LEGISLATION TO HELP SCHOOLS HIT HARDEST BY DRUG USE. //

THESE STEPS WILL HELP OUR CHILDREN UNLOCK THE FUTURE. GIVE THEM THE TOOLS TO MASTER THE NEW WORLD OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES. AND REVERSE THE TREND WE SAW IN A RECENT COMPARISON OF 13-YEAR-OLD STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND 5 OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE AMERICA PLACED LAST IN MATHEMATICS AND NEAR LAST IN SCIENCE. //

MOST OF ALL, OUR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE ACT CAN HELP MAKE AMERICAN EDUCATION NUMBER ONE AGAIN BY ACHIEVING THE GOALS WE ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY WITH GOVERNORS LIKE HENRY BELLMON. WE WANT U.S. STUDENTS TO BE FIRST IN MATH AND SCIENCE BY THE YEAR 2000. AND EVERY AMERICAN TO BE SKILLED AND LITERATE. WE WANT EVERY STUDENT TO START SCHOOL READY TO LEARN. THAT MEANS HEAD START AND PROGRAMS LIKE IT. AND EACH SCHOOL TO HAVE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE KIDS CAN LEARN. THAT MEANS MAKING EVERY SCHOOL DRUG-FREE. FINALLY, WE WANT TO SEE A GRADUATION RATE OF AT LEAST 90 PERCENT WITH EVERY STUDENT COMPETENT IN IMPORTANT SUBJECTS. LIKE A FUTURE GRADUATE -- ERIN AMATO, A THIRD-GRADER FROM SUGARLAND, TEXAS -- WHO RECENTLY WROTE ME THIS LETTER:

"DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH. I HAVE BEEN DOING GOOD IN SCHOOL. I MADE ALL 'A' HONOR ROLL LAST SIX WEEKS AND I HOPE I MAKE IT THIS SIX WEEKS ALSO. DO YOU LIKE ROLLS? I LIKE ROLLS BUT I DO NOT LIKE BROCCOLI." ((OBVIOUSLY, AN ENLIGHTENED STUDENT.)) AND THEN ERIN CONCLUDED BY SAYING, "I DO LIKE CARROTS. I LOVE TEXAS!"

((LET ME CLOSE WITH A STORY I THINK ERIN WOULD APPRECIATE -- A STORY ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP THAT, TOGETHER, ALL OF US CAN BUILD. THE STORY GOES THAT PHYSICIST JAMES FRANCK WAS PROFESSOR AT GOTTINGEN UNIVERSITY IN GERMANY WHEN ROBERT OPPENHEIMER, THEN ONLY 23, WAS BEING EXAMINED FOR HIS DOCTORATE. ON EMERGING FROM THE ORAL EXAM, FRANCK SAID, "I GOT OUT JUST IN TIME. HE WAS BEGINNING TO ASK ME QUESTIONS."))
//

IN COMING YEARS, THESE ACADEMIC ALL-STATERS WILL ASK MANY QUESTIONS. QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR FAITH AND FUTURE, WHY WE ARE HERE, AND WHAT WE CAN BECOME INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A NATION. // HOW CAN EDUCATION SUPPLY SOME ANSWERS? THE SAME WAY THIS ADMINISTRATOR AND THESE TEACHERS HAVE. BY EMBODYING THE SPIRIT OF OKLAHOMA'S PAST. //

THINK OF THE HEROES WHO SETTLED THIS STATE. THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE IN GOVERNMENT BY BUREAUCRAT. THEY BELIEVED IN THEMSELVES. // THEY BUILT HOMES OUT OF SOD, AND SCHOOLHOUSES FROM SCRATCH. SALT FORK, BLACK BEAR, APACHE. DIRT FLOORS. LOG WALLS. OFTEN, SUPPLIES WERE LIMITED -- BUT THERE WERE ALWAYS ENOUGH HANDS. PITCHING IN. TEACHING CLASSES. FIGHTING OFF EVERYTHING FROM CLAIM-JUMPERS TO BEARS.

THESE PIONEERS DREAMED DREAMS AS BIG AS OKLAHOMA -- AND MADE THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE. LIKE US, THEY KNEW WHERE THE FUTURE LAY: IN THEIR KIDS, THROUGH EDUCATION. // THE OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE CAN HELP US ACHIEVE OUR DREAMS. SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL PROCLAIM, AS THE MUSICAL OKLAHOMA SAYS: AMERICAN EDUCATION, "YOU'RE DOING FINE -- OK.'"

THANK YOU FOR THIS OCCASION. GOOD LUCK TO THE OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE. AND GOD BLESS OUR BELOVED LAND -- THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 1, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*
SUBJECT: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE

I. SUMMARY

On Friday, May 4, at 6:53 p.m., you will address about 2,500 people at the awards ceremony of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. The ceremony will be broadcast live on PBS in Oklahoma. Senator Don Nickles will introduce you. Also, Governor Bellmon, Senator David Boren, former Speaker of the House Carl Albert, and Congressmen James Inhofe and Wes Watkins will attend.

II. DISCUSSION

The attached remarks (10 minutes, teleprompter) applaud the Foundation for awarding excellence in education. In particular, the text outlines the Administration's Educational Excellence Act.

*114 - Foundation Concept
Totally based on
Education - 10 min*

(Smith/Blessey)
May 1, 1990
7 P.M.
HOMA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

Thank you, Senator Nickles, for your introduction. Governor Bellmon, Senator Boren, Congressmen Inhofe and Watkins, Speaker Carl Albert, members of the Foundation, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. ~~Barbara and~~ I appreciate your reception. ~~We are~~ delighted to be in this State of open hearts and open skies. //

*will be in
the house??*

Earlier today, I gave the Commencement Speech at Oklahoma State University. // They'll never forgive me in Norman. //

((After all, the musical Oklahoma says "the farmer and the cowman should be friends." It doesn't say a thing about the Sooners and the ~~Cowboys~~ ^{Longhorns?})) // *(on-Tu rivalry)*

~~Well,~~ ^{Texas} this evening I'd like to talk about one thing ~~both~~ ^{and all Americans} schools ~~like all~~ Oklahomans -- have in common: ~~their~~ ^{our} dedication to America's most enduring legacy. I refer, of course, to the education that is vital to everything we are, and can become. //

The great preacher, Henry Ward Beecher, once said, "There are only two bequests we can hope to give our children -- one of these is roots; the other, wings." ((A theme embodied, I might add, in these beautiful sculptures you see before me.)) Henry Beecher knew -- as we do -- that knowledge provides the

foundation for every idea that takes flight in the mind of a child. //

Yet today the facts are clear -- and they don't make for pleasant reading. Erratic standards. An unacceptable drop-out rate. Too little parental involvement. Too little accountability by teachers and students. Too many schools wracked by drug use and too many kids ill-equipped to read or write. Let's be honest: Our educational system isn't making the grade. //

Five years ago, a United States Senator acted to convert that grade to "pass" from "fail." Believing, like you, that if excellence breeds achievement, then excellence should be rewarded. // So David Boren set out to ensure that future generations will say of us: They taught their children well. His creation was the Oklahoma Foundation of Excellence. //

This Foundation wisely believes that America can only be as great as her children are educated. And that while the Federal government must help, education is and should be a local and State responsibility. // Parents, teachers, and local administrators -- not distant bureaucrats -- best understand local needs. // So this program affirms values as central to Oklahoma as love of freedom and of God.

First of all, the Foundation reflects Oklahoma's belief in high achievement. Someone said, "Anything can have happened in Oklahoma. Practically everything has." // Your work has raised private money to give \$1,000 cash scholarships to the State's top

100 high school seniors. I salute these Academic All-Staters who are the true trustees of our posterity. //

Next, this Foundation mirrors Oklahoma's dedication to excellence. You understand that those with the responsibility for our children's education literally hold the future in their hands. So you're giving \$5,000 to each of three magnificent teachers and a superb public school administrator. I salute the 1990 Oklahoma Medals for Excellence recipients in Teaching and Administration. // And I also want to mention your \$5,000 award to the public school system that has had the most effective drop-out prevention program. Keeping kids in school is critical -- and you're doing a great job.

Finally, the Foundation for Excellence reflects the belief that education can be the great uplifter and equalizer. ((Perhaps that great Broadway character, Oklahoma's Aunt Eller, put it best when she said, "I don't say I'm better than anybody else, but I'll be danged if I ain't just as good!")) // Your idea can enrich education -- and help education enrich our lives. //

Achievement, excellence, and equality -- what a definition of Oklahoma. And what a difference this movement has made in just five years. // Over \$2 million raised. Eighty new local foundations created -- many inspired by your lead. // By increasing private support for public education, you have enriched academic opportunities for students across the State. If there's any doubt, you've resolved it: When it comes to Oklahoma education, Washington Doesn't Know Best. Oklahomans do.

The result is that today Oklahoma ranks first, per capita, in the number of public school foundations. Making your Foundation a model for other States to follow. You know that progress made can't be measured merely by dollars spent. So you're showing how parents, teachers, administrators and school boards can work together to help our kids -- like Oklahoma's fabled pioneers -- discover the unlimited frontiers of learning.

*"Exciting Corner"
Tonight I'd like to challenge other states to localities to emulate what Okla. has already done!*

We know, of course: It won't be easy. There'll be obstacles along the way. But they are obstacles which can be overcome, because you're not in this alone. *(The Fed Govt has a role)* That's why a year ago we sent to the Congress our "Educational Excellence Act" -- legislation which can help America outthink, outwork, and outperform any Nation any day of the week. //

For instance, we want to create a \$500 million program by 1993 to reward schools that improve the most. And a Magnet Schools of Excellence program: We believe parents -- not Big Brother -- should decide which public school their kids attend.

Use 100 points "a Light"

// Our program will reward schools that cut the drop-out rate. Create a National Science Scholars Initiative providing incentive to excel in science, mathematics, and engineering. And recently, I signed into law, legislation to help schools hit hardest by drug use. //

These steps will help our children unlock the future. Give them the tools to master the new world of new technologies. And reverse the trend we saw in a recent comparison of 13-year-old

to President?

*little speech
humor - a letter*

students in the United States and 5 other countries where America placed last in mathematics and near last in science. //

Most of all, our Educational Excellence Act can help make American education Number One again by achieving the goals we announced in February with Governors like Henry Bellmon. We want every student to start school ready to learn, ^{that means head start ~~set~~ program} And each school to have an environment where kids can learn. // That means making every school drug-free. We want to see a graduation rate of at least 90 percent with every student competent in important subjects. We want U.S. students to be first in math and science by the year 2000. And every American to be skilled and literate. Great goals? Obtainable goals. In this State? In every State.

((Let me close with a story about the scholarship that, together, all of us can build. The story goes that physicist James Franck was Professor at Gottingen University in Germany when Robert Oppenheimer, then only 23, was being examined for his doctorate. On emerging from the oral exam, Franck said, "I got out just in time. He was beginning to ask me questions.")) //

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Think of the heroes who settled this State. They didn't believe in government by bureaucrat. They believed in

themselves. // They built homes out of sod, and schoolhouses from scratch. Salt Fork, Black Bear, Apache. Dirt floors. Log walls. Often, supplies were limited -- but there were always enough hands. Pitching in. Teaching classes. Fighting off everything from claim-jumpers to bears.

These pioneers dreamed dreams as big as Oklahoma -- and made their dreams come true. Like us, they knew where the future lay: In their kids, through education. // The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence can help us achieve our dreams. So that future generations will proclaim, as the musical Oklahoma says: American education, "you're doing fine -- OK."

Thank you for this occasion. Good luck to the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. And God bless our beloved land -- the United States of America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/2/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE

	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 type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ANDERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			BENNETT		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Blessey)
May 1, 1990
7 P.M.
HOMA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

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Well, this evening I'd like to talk about one thing both schools -- like all Oklahomans -- have in common: their dedication to America's most enduring legacy. I refer, of course, to the education that is vital to everything we are, and can become. //

The great preacher, Henry Ward Beecher, once said, "There are only two bequests we can hope to give our children -- one of these is roots; the other, wings." ((A theme embodied, I might add, in these beautiful sculptures you see before me.)) Henry Beecher knew -- as we do -- that knowledge provides the

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students in the United States and 5 other countries where America placed last in mathematics and near last in science. //

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Thank you for this occasion. Good luck to the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. And God bless our beloved land -- the United States of America.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/30/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 PM 5/1/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Rogers</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Winston</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Pinkerton</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Wray</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Anderson</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Romley</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<u>Bonne H</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with a copy to my office no later than 3:00 PM, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1990. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

See comments.

Holly Williamson *HW*
5-1-90

90 MAR 31 P2:49

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

CHRISS --

The Department of Education would like the following inserted in this speech (Oklahoma Foundation) as well as in the Oklahoma State Commencement address on Friday, May 4.

Thanks.

Holly Williamson

May 4, 1990, marks the tenth anniversary of the U.S. Department of Education. This is a time not only to reflect on the many accomplishments of the past ten years, but, more importantly, to look toward the future and the achievement of our national education goals. There is a lot of work to do during the next ten years to achieve the six education goals the Governors and I set back in February. Secretary Cavazos is doing an outstanding job at the Education Department working to restructure our educational system so our youth can compete with other countries when they enter the job market. To further show our commitment to the education of our Nation's youth, Secretary Cavazos is hosting a fair at the Department in celebration of its tenth anniversary and inviting local school children to participate. The slogan for the fair is "Educational Excellence: America's Goal."

1990 APR 30 PM 3:15

(Smith/Blessey)
April 29, 1990
2 P.M.
HOMA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

Friday = May 4

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Five years ago, a friend of ours acted to convert that grade to "pass" from "fail." Believing that true learning comes from basics like the Three R's. And that if excellence breeds achievement, then excellence should be rewarded. // He set out to ensure that future generations will say of us: They taught their children well. // His name was David Boren. His idea was the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. //

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/30/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 PM 5/1/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rogers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Winston	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pinkerton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wray	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anderson <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bromley <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Bonne H	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

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

*Congressmen Inhofe and Watkins,
Speaker Carl Albert*

1990 APR 30 PM 3.15

(Smith/Blessey)
April 29, 1990
2 P.M.
HOMA

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Yet today the facts are clear -- and they don't make for pleasant reading. Erratic standards. An unacceptable drop-out rate. Too little parental involvement. Too little accountability by teachers and students. ^{Too phony} Our schools are wracked by drug use ^{and Too money} Our kids are ill-equipped to read or write. Let's be honest: Our educational system isn't making the grade.//

tone down Five years ago, a friend of ours acted to convert that grade to "pass" from "fail." Believing that true learning comes from basics like the Three R's. And that if excellence breeds achievement, then excellence should be rewarded. // He set out to ensure that future generations will say of us: They taught their children well. // His name was David Boren. His idea was the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. //

This Foundation wisely believes that America can only be as great as her children are educated. And that while the Federal government must help, education is and should be a local and State responsibility. // Parents, teachers, and local administrators -- not distant bureaucrats -- best understand local needs. // So this program affirms values as central to Oklahoma as love of freedom and of God.

First of all, the Foundation reflects Oklahoma's belief in high achievement. Someone said, "Anything can have happened in Oklahoma. Practically everything has." // Your work has raised private money to give \$1,000 cash scholarships to the State's top 100 high school seniors. I salute these Academic All-Staters who are the true trustees of our posterity. //

Drop-out prevention program. Keeping kids in schools is critical and you're doing a great job.

3

Next, this Foundation mirrors Oklahoma's dedication to excellence. You understand that those with the responsibility for our children's education literally hold the future in their hands. So you're giving \$5,000 grants to three magnificent teachers and a superb public school administrator. I salute the 1990 Oklahoma Medals for Excellence recipients in Teaching and Administration.

And I also want to mention your \$5,000 award to the public school system that has had the most effective

Finally, the Foundation for Excellence reflects the belief that education can be the great uplifter and equalizer. ((Perhaps that great Broadway character, Oklahoma's Aunt Eller, put it best when she said, "I don't say I'm better than anybody else, but I'll be danged if I ain't just as good!")) // *Your* David Boren's idea can enrich education -- and help education enrich our lives. //

Achievement, excellence, and equality -- what a definition of Oklahoma. And what a difference this movement has made in just five years. // Over \$2 million raised. Eighty new local foundations created -- *many inspired by you* each following your lead. // By

increasing private support for public education, you have *enriched* raised ~~academic opportunities for students across the state.~~ test scores and slashed drop-out rates and illiteracy. If

there's any doubt, you've resolved it: When it comes to Oklahoma education, Washington Doesn't Know Best. Oklahomans do.

The result is that today Oklahoma ranks first, per capita, in the number of public school foundations. Making your Foundation a model for other States to follow. You're showing how parents, teachers, administrators and school boards can work

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We know, of course: It won't be easy. There'll be obstacles along the way. But they are obstacles which can be overcome, because you're not in this alone. // That's why a year ago we sent to the Congress our "Educational Excellence Act" -- legislation which can help America outthink, outwork, and outperform any Nation any day of the week. //

For instance, we want to create a \$²⁵⁰500 million program to reward schools that improve the most. And a Magnet Schools of Excellence program: We believe parents -- not Big Brother -- should decide which public school their kids attend. // Our program will reward schools that cut the drop-out rate. ^{Create} ~~Found~~ a National Science Scholars Initiative providing incentive to excel in science, mathematics, and engineering. And recently, I signed into law, legislation to help schools hit hardest by drug use. //

These steps will help our children unlock the future. Give them the tools to master the new world of new technologies. And reverse the trend we saw in a recent comparison of 13-year-old students in the United States and 5 other countries where America placed last in mathematics and near last in science. //

Most of all, our Educational Excellence Act can ^{help} make American education Number One again by achieving the goals we announced in ^{February} ~~January~~ with Governors like Henry Bellmon. We want every student to start school ready to learn. And each school to have an environment where kids can learn. // That means making

with every student competent in important subjects →

5

We want to see

every school drug-free, and a graduation rate of at least 90 percent. We want U.S. students to be first in math and science by the year 2000. And every American to be skilled and literate. Great goals? Obtainable goals. In this State? In every State.

((Let me close with a story about the scholarship that, together, all of us can build. The story goes that physicist James Franck was Professor at Gottingen University in Germany when Robert Oppenheimer, then only 23, was being examined for his doctorate. On emerging from the oral exam, Franck said, "I got out just in time. He was beginning to ask me questions.")) //

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Think of the heroes who settled this State. They didn't believe in government by bureaucrat. They believed in themselves. // They built homes out of sod, and schoolhouses from scratch. ~~Dry Run, Sitting Up, Crocus Hill.~~ *Salt Fork, Black Bear, Apache.* Dirt floors. Log walls. Often, supplies were limited -- but there were always enough hands. Pitching in. Teaching classes. Fighting off everything from claim-jumpers to bears.

These pioneers dreamed dreams as big as Oklahoma -- and made their dreams come true. Like us, they knew where the future lay: In their kids, through education. // The Oklahoma Foundation for

Excellence can help us achieve our dreams. So that future generations will proclaim, as the musical Oklahoma says: American education, "you're doing fine -- OK."

Thank you for this occasion. Good luck to the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. And God bless our beloved land -- the United States of America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/30/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 PM 5/1/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Winston</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Wray</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Anderson</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Romley</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<u>Bonne H</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with a copy to my office no later than 3:00 PM, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1990. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Please see comments. (5/1/90) Greg

~~He~~ Petermeyer was going to check on whether to name the foundation as the daily point of light per a Boren request. Even if the foundation is not the daily point of light, we would recommend that ~~that~~ there be some reference in the speech to it being a point of light

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

1990 APR 30 PM 3 15

(Smith/Blessey)
April 29, 1990
2 P.M.
HOMA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

Governor Bellmon, Senator Boren, ^{Congressman Inhofe [IN-HOFF] ?} members of the Foundation,
honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for that
introduction -- and for your kind reception. Barbara and I are
delighted to be in this State of open hearts and open skies. //

Earlier today, I gave the Commencement Speech at Oklahoma
State University. // They'll never forgive me in Norman. //
((After all, the musical Oklahoma says "the farmer and the cowman
should be friends." It doesn't say a thing about the Sooners and
the Cowboys.)) //

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schools -- like all Oklahomans -- have in common: their
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Thank you for this occasion. Good luck to the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. And God bless our beloved land -- the United States of America.

#

X 7170

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1990

Dear Governor Bellmon,

On behalf of the President, I would like to thank you for your recent letter concerning the President's speech this week at Oklahoma State University.

The President is well aware of the hard battle you have fought over the last year to win passage of your education package in Oklahoma. He is encouraged by the outstanding efforts being made to improve our educational system in the United States and appreciates your diligence in this area.

While in Oklahoma, the President will have two opportunities to address his education initiatives, but neither speech is likely to be devoted exclusively to education. Your letter will be most helpful in helping us to better understand this new Oklahoma program.

I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the Office of Policy Development for their information and also to the Office of Presidential Speechwriting to ensure their familiarity with your educational proposals.

I appreciate your bringing your Administration's work to the attention of the Administration. Please let me know if we can be of further assistance to you in any way.

Sincerely,

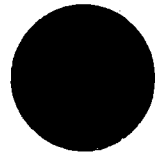


Lanny Griffith

Special Assistant to the President for
Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Henry Bellmon
State of Oklahoma
Office of the Governor
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Henry Bellmon



135472

HENRY BELLMON
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
73105-4888

212 STATE CAPITOL
(405) 521-2342

April 24, 1990

Honorable George Bush
President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On Wednesday, April 25, I will sign HB 1017. A historic act which will reform and properly fund education in Oklahoma.

On May 4 you are scheduled to make the commencement address at Oklahoma State University.

A summary of HB 1017 is attached. As you will see, this legislation is aimed at accomplishing essentially the goals (also attached) adopted by the National Governors' Association as a result of the President's Education Summit held last summer in Charlottesville. We believe Oklahoma is the first state to have succeeded in enacting such comprehensive reforms. Hopefully some mention of this accomplishment could be made during your remarks and credit given to the legislative leaders who made this possible.

I look forward to seeing you in Stillwater.

Sincerely,

Henry Bellmon

Henry Bellmon

HB:ss

Attachments

MAJOR REFORMS IN HB 1017 - EDUCATION REFORM AND FUNDING ACT

1. Increases funding through the state funding formula by 27 percent.
2. Provides greater equity in school funding
3. Increases over a five-year period the minimum salary schedule by \$9,000; from \$15,060 to \$24,060
4. Raises all steps on the minimum salary schedule accordingly
5. Grants local districts the right to formulate incentive pay programs
6. Requires plans to be academically based
7. Establishes procedure whereby the State Board of Education may grant certificates to person with baccalaureate degrees who wish to teach a foreign language, mathematics or science
8. Replaces current teacher tenure system with a more efficient due process procedure
9. Adds two more causes for teacher termination: instructional ineffectiveness and unsatisfactory performance
10. Provides local boards of education with more flexibility in dealing with substandard teachers
11. Makes annexation and consolidation dependent on educational results
12. Provides \$35 million for a school consolidation assistance fund to encourage voluntary consolidation or annexation
13. Guarantees that schooling shall be provided in an efficient manner and that districts shall comply with rigid outcome-based standards
14. Denies accreditation to districts that do not meet accreditation, curriculum or class-size standards
15. Requires standards be adopted by February 1, 1991, and be implemented during the 1993-94 school year

SCHOOL REFORMS/HB 1017 (cont)

16. Reduces class size to 20 in grades K-6
17. Limits total number of pupils a teacher can instruct to 140 in secondary schools
18. Mandates kindergarten (1/2 day) beginning with the 1991-92 school year
19. Permits districts to implement a state-funded program for at-risk four year olds
20. Makes high school graduation dependent upon students obtaining designated competency levels
21. Gives school districts the option of establishing an extended school year
22. Provides \$15 million for competitive grants
23. Amends current law to provide for student transfer appeals to the State Board of Education
24. Requires a teacher assistant in classes with 20 students in grades K-2 that serve at-risk students

NATIONAL GOALS FOR EDUCATION

- Goal 1: By the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn.
- Goal 2: By the year 2000, the high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90 percent.
- Goal 3: By the year 2000, American Students will leave grades four, eight and twelve having demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter including English, mathematics, science, history and geography and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning and productive employment in our modern economy.
- Goal 4: By the year 2000, U. S. students will be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement.
- Goal 5: By the year 2000, every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- Goal 6: By the year 2000, every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/30/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 PM 5/1/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
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RESPONSE:

*3 pm 5/1
for O&A DEP
do comment
per Daniel Chase
& John Balistreri
#176 4/29/90*

90 MAR 31 P 3:45

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

1990 APR 30 PM 3:15

(Smith/Blessey)
April 29, 1990
2 P.M.
HOMA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

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Blessey's Des

(Smith/Blessey)
April 29, 1990
2 P.M.
HOMA

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TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

Introduction by: Senator Don Nickles, Congressman Inhofe and Wes Watkins,
Governor Bellmon, Senator Boren, members of the Foundation, Speaker Carl Albert

honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for that introduction -- and for your kind reception. Barbara and I are delighted to be in this State of open hearts and open skies. //

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will be in semi-circle in front of POTUS
POTUS will be gone for ceremony

Yet today the facts are clear -- and they don't make for pleasant reading. Erratic standards. An unacceptable drop-out rate. Too little parental involvement. Too little accountability by teachers and students. Our schools are wracked by drug use. Our kids are ill-equipped to read or write. Let's be honest: Our educational system isn't making the grade. //

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This Foundation wisely believes that America can only be as great as her children are educated. And that while the Federal government must help, education is and should be a local and State responsibility. // Parents, teachers, and local administrators -- not distant bureaucrats -- best understand local needs. // So this program affirms values as central to Oklahoma as love of freedom and of God.

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and Award to ^{re} public school system ^{that} who has had the most effective drop-out prevention program. ^{And}

Only Award not mentioned

Next, this Foundation mirrors Oklahoma's dedication to excellence. You understand that those with the responsibility for our children's education literally hold the future in their hands. So you're giving \$5,000 ~~cost~~ ^{each of} grants to three magnificent teachers and a superb public school administrator. I salute the 1990 Oklahoma Medals for Excellence (recipients) in Teaching and Administration.

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Achievement, excellence, and equality -- what a definition of Oklahoma. And what a difference this movement has made in just five years. // Over \$2 million raised. Eighty new local foundations created -- ~~each following your lead.~~ ^{many inspired by your lead} // By increasing private support for public education, you have ~~raised test scores and slashed drop-out rates and illiteracy.~~ ^{enriched academic opportunities for students across the state.} If there's any doubt, you've resolved it: When it comes to Oklahoma education, Washington Doesn't Know Best. Oklahomans do.

The result is that today Oklahoma ranks first, per capita, in the number of public school foundations. Making your Foundation a model for other States to follow. You're showing how parents, teachers, administrators and school boards can work

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We know, of course: It won't be easy. There'll be obstacles along the way. But they are obstacles which can be overcome, because you're not in this alone. // That's why a year ago we sent to the Congress our "Educational Excellence Act" -- legislation which can help America outthink, outwork, and outperform any Nation any day of the week. //

For instance, we want to create a \$500 million program to reward schools that improve the most. And a Magnet Schools of Excellence program: We believe parents -- not Big Brother -- should decide which public school their kids attend. // Our program will reward schools that cut the drop-out rate. Found a National Science Scholars Initiative providing incentive to excel in science, mathematics, and engineering. And recently, I signed into law, legislation to help schools hit hardest by drug use. //

These steps will help our children unlock the future. Give them the tools to master the new world of new technologies. And reverse the trend we saw in a recent comparison of 13-year-old students in the United States and 5 other countries where America placed last in mathematics and near last in science. //

Most of all, our Educational Excellence Act can make American education Number One again by achieving the goals we announced in January with Governors like Henry Bellmon. We want every student to start school ready to learn. And each school to have an environment where kids can learn. // That means making

every school drug-free, and a graduation rate of at least 90 percent. We want U.S. students to be first in math and science by the year 2000. And every American to be skilled and literate. Great goals? Obtainable goals. In this State? In every State.

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Excellence can help us achieve our dreams. So that future generations will proclaim, as the musical Oklahoma says: American education, "you're doing fine -- OK."

Thank you for this occasion. Good luck to the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. And God bless our beloved land -- the United States of America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 1, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*
SUBJECT: Oklahoma Foundation Speech

The Oklahoma Foundation speech is timely and well focussed. I have three comments which might clarify the section on education goals.

Page 4, para. 4

Please insert "help" in the first sentence to read, "our Educational Excellence Act can help make American education number one again."

In line 3, please substitute February for January as the President and the Governors endorsed the education goals on February 26.

Page 5, lines 1 and 2

There is no reference to one of the six education goals. This could be remedied by inserting "having" and the phrase, "and being sure that every student masters important subjects" at the top of the page. The first two lines would then read "every school drug-free, having a graduation rate of at least 90 percent, and being sure that every student masters important subjects."

Please let me know if you have any questions on these comments or if I can be of assistance in any way.

Please also see other comments on text.

Thanks.

90 MAR 31 P 3: 18

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/30/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 PM 5/1/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Winston</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Pinkerton</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Wray</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Anderson</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Romley</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<u>Bonne H</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with a copy to my office no later than 3:00 PM, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1990. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

1990 APR 30 PM 3.15

(Smith/Blessey)
April 29, 1990
2 P.M.
HOMA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
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GREAT
QUOTE

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RESPONSE:

JK SL

90 MAR 31 P 2: 49

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
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Ext. 2702

1990 APR 30 PM 3.15

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DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Pinkerton</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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RESPONSE:

Good speech but w/ all Ed. speeches we should stress more \$ from D.C. is not the solution and we cannot measure quality by the price tag etc etc.

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

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Achievement, excellence, and equality -- what a definition of Oklahoma. And what a difference this movement has made in just five years. // Over \$2 million raised. Eighty new local foundations created -- each following your lead. // By increasing private support for public education, you have raised test scores and slashed drop-out rates and illiteracy. If there's any doubt, you've resolved it: When it comes to Oklahoma education, Washington Doesn't Know Best. Oklahomans do.

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We know, of course: It won't be easy. There'll be obstacles along the way. But they are obstacles which can be overcome, because you're not in this alone. // That's why a year ago we sent to the Congress our "Educational Excellence Act" -- legislation which can help America outthink, outwork, and outperform any Nation any day of the week. //

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Most of all, our Educational Excellence Act can make American education Number One again by achieving the goals we announced in January with Governors like Henry Bellmon. We want every student to start school ready to learn. And each school to have an environment where kids can learn. // That means making

every school drug-free, and a graduation rate of at least 90 percent. We want U.S. students to be first in math and science by the year 2000. And every American to be skilled and literate. Great goals? Obtainable goals. In this State? In every State.

((Let me close with a story about the scholarship that, together, all of us can build. The story goes that physicist James Franck was Professor at Gottingen University in Germany when Robert Oppenheimer, then only 23, was being examined for his doctorate. On emerging from the oral exam, Franck said, "I got out just in time. He was beginning to ask me questions.")) //

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Excellence can help us achieve our dreams. So that future generations will proclaim, as the musical Oklahoma says: American education, "you're doing fine -- OK."

Thank you for this occasion. Good luck to the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. And God bless our beloved land -- the United States of America.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/30/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 PM 5/1/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Rogers</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Winston</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Wray</u> →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Anderson</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Romley</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<u>Bonne H</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with a copy to my office no later than 3:00 PM, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1990. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(S/1)
 See comments pages 3, 4, 5.
 EOW Wray
 Please Tone down
 the Bone & bites
 [Signature]

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

1990 APR 30 PM 3.15

(Smith/Blessey)
April 29, 1990
2 P.M.
HOMA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

See the record

*Senator Niddles
Rep. Inhofe*

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Earlier today, I gave the Commencement Speech at Oklahoma State University. // They'll never forgive me in Norman. // ((After all, the musical Oklahoma says "the farmer and the cowman should be friends." It doesn't say a thing about the Sooners and the Cowboys.)) //

Well, this evening I'd like to talk about one thing both schools -- like all Oklahomans -- have in common: their dedication to America's most enduring legacy. I refer, of course, to the education that is vital to everything we are, and can become. //

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Concern

*Please
Don't
Toss This Document*

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Is this appropriate wording in light of the recent teachers strike?

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Great degree of controversy over the Bellmon educational plan + tax increases.

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SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Winston</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Wray</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Anderson</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Ronmley</u> →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<u>Bonne H</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE: 5/1/90

*Good speech!
Alan Fowler*

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

1990 APR 30 PM 3.15

(Smith/Blessey)
April 29, 1990
2 P.M.
HOMA

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TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

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#

Goodspeech.
I like it.
- Steve Olson

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 1, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM:

JIM PINKERTON

SUBJECT:

Oklahoma Foundation

A good, solid draft. We found the Oppenheimer anecdote at page five, para. 2, line 1 to be a little far afield from Oklahoma, but otherwise the draft is first-rate.

###

31 : AID 16 MAR 31

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



May 1, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
Deputy Assistant to the President for
Communications

FROM: BRENT O. HATCH ~~Out~~
Associate Counsel to the President

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks -- Oklahoma Foundation

Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks. We have no legal objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter.

cc: James W. Cicconi

30 MAR 31 10:44

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/30/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 PM 5/1/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Achievement, excellence, and equality -- what a definition of Oklahoma. And what a difference this movement has made in just five years. // Over \$2 million raised. Eighty new local foundations created -- each following your lead. // By increasing private support for public education, you have raised test scores and slashed drop-out rates and illiteracy. If there's any doubt, you've resolved it: When it comes to Oklahoma education, Washington Doesn't Know Best. Oklahomans do.

The result is that today Oklahoma ranks first, per capita, in the number of public school foundations. Making your Foundation a model for other States to follow. You're showing how parents, teachers, administrators and school boards can work

together to help our kids -- like Oklahoma's fabled pioneers -- discover the unlimited frontiers of learning. //

We know, of course: It won't be easy. There'll be obstacles along the way. But they are obstacles which can be overcome, because you're not in this alone. // That's why a year ago we sent to the Congress our "Educational Excellence Act" -- legislation which can help America outthink, outwork, and outperform any Nation any day of the week. //

For instance, we want to create a \$500 million program to reward schools that improve the most. And a Magnet Schools of Excellence program: We believe parents -- not Big Brother -- should decide which public school their kids attend. // Our program will reward schools that cut the drop-out rate. Found a National Science Scholars Initiative providing incentive to excel in science, mathematics, and engineering. And recently, I signed into law, legislation to help schools hit hardest by drug use. //

These steps will help our children unlock the future. Give them the tools to master the new world of new technologies. And reverse the trend we saw in a recent comparison of 13-year-old students in the United States and 5 other countries where America placed last in mathematics and near last in science. //

Most of all, our Educational Excellence Act can make American education Number One again by achieving the goals we announced in January with Governors like Henry Bellmon. We want every student to start school ready to learn. And each school to have an environment where kids can learn. // That means making

every school drug-free, and a graduation rate of at least 90 percent. We want U.S. students to be first in math and science by the year 2000. And every American to be skilled and literate. Great goals? Obtainable goals. In this State? In every State.

((Let me close with a story about the scholarship that, together, all of us can build. The story goes that physicist James Franck was Professor at Gottingen University in Germany when Robert Oppenheimer, then only 23, was being examined for his doctorate. On emerging from the oral exam, Franck said, "I got out just in time. He was beginning to ask me questions.")) //

In coming years, these Academic All-Staters will ask many questions. Questions about their faith and future, why we are here, and what we can become individually and as a Nation. // How can education supply some answers? The same way this administrator and these teachers have. By embodying the spirit of Oklahoma's past. //

Think of the heroes who settled this State. They didn't believe in government by bureaucrat. They believed in themselves. // They built homes out of sod, and schoolhouses from scratch. Dry Run, Sitting Up, Crocus Hill. Dirt floors. Log walls. Often, supplies were limited -- but there were always enough hands. Pitching in. Teaching classes. Fighting off everything from claim-jumpers to bears.

These pioneers dreamed dreams as big as Oklahoma -- and made their dreams come true. Like us, they knew where the future lay: In their kids, through education. // The Oklahoma Foundation for

Excellence can help us achieve our dreams. So that future generations will proclaim, as the musical Oklahoma says: American education, "you're doing fine -- OK."

Thank you for this occasion. Good luck to the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. And God bless our beloved land -- the United States of America.

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OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1990
6:53 P.M.

THANK YOU, SENATOR NICKLES, FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION.
GOVERNOR BELLMON, SENATOR BOREN, CONGRESSMEN INHOFE AND
WATKINS, SPEAKER CARL ALBERT, MEMBERS OF THE
FOUNDATION, HONORED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I
APPRECIATE YOUR RECEPTION, AND AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN
THIS STATE OF OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN SKIES. //

EARLIER TODAY, I GAVE THE COMMENCEMENT SPEECH AT
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY. // THEY'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME
IN NORMAN. // ((AFTER ALL, THE MUSICAL OKLAHOMA SAYS
"THE FARMER AND THE COWMAN SHOULD BE FRIENDS." IT
DOESN'T SAY A THING ABOUT THE SOONERS AND THE
COWBOYS.)) //

THIS EVENING I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT ONE THING ALL
AMERICANS HAVE IN COMMON: OUR DEDICATION TO AMERICA'S
MOST ENDURING LEGACY. I REFER, OF COURSE, TO THE
EDUCATION THAT IS VITAL TO EVERYTHING WE ARE, AND CAN
BECOME. //

IT HAS BEEN SAID, "THERE ARE ONLY TWO BEQUESTS WE CAN HOPE TO GIVE OUR CHILDREN -- ONE OF THESE IS ROOTS; THE OTHER, WINGS." ((A THEME EMBODIED, I MIGHT ADD, IN THE BEAUTIFUL SCULPTURES YOU SEE BEFORE ME.)) THESE WORDS REAFFIRM THAT KNOWLEDGE PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERY IDEA THAT TAKES FLIGHT IN THE MIND OF A CHILD. //

YET TODAY THE FACTS ARE CLEAR -- AND THEY DON'T MAKE FOR PLEASANT READING. ERRATIC STANDARDS. AN UNACCEPTABLE DROP-OUT RATE. TOO LITTLE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT. TOO LITTLE ACCOUNTABILITY BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS. TOO MANY SCHOOLS WRACKED BY DRUG USE AND TOO MANY KIDS ILL-EQUIPPED TO READ OR WRITE. LET'S BE HONEST: OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM ISN'T MAKING THE GRADE. //

FIVE YEARS AGO, A UNITED STATES SENATOR ACTED TO CONVERT THAT GRADE TO "PASS" FROM "FAIL." BELIEVING, LIKE YOU, THAT IF EXCELLENCE BREEDS ACHIEVEMENT, THEN EXCELLENCE SHOULD BE REWARDED. // SO DAVID BOREN SET OUT TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL SAY OF US: THEY TAUGHT THEIR CHILDREN WELL. HIS CREATION WAS THE OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE. //

THIS FOUNDATION WISELY BELIEVES THAT AMERICA CAN ONLY BE AS GREAT AS HER CHILDREN ARE EDUCATED. AND THAT WHILE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST HELP, EDUCATION IS AND SHOULD BE A LOCAL AND STATE RESPONSIBILITY. // PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS -- NOT DISTANT BUREAUCRATS -- BEST UNDERSTAND LOCAL NEEDS. // SO THIS PROGRAM AFFIRMS VALUES AS CENTRAL TO OKLAHOMA AS LOVE OF FREEDOM AND OF GOD.

FIRST OF ALL, THE FOUNDATION REFLECTS OKLAHOMA'S BELIEF IN HIGH ACHIEVEMENT. SOMEONE SAID, "ANYTHING CAN HAVE HAPPENED IN OKLAHOMA. PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING HAS." // YOUR WORK HAS RAISED PRIVATE MONEY TO GIVE \$1,000 CASH SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE STATE'S TOP 100 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. I SALUTE THESE ACADEMIC ALL-STATERS WHO ARE THE TRUE TRUSTEES OF OUR POSTERITY. //

NEXT, THIS FOUNDATION MIRRORS OKLAHOMA'S DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE WITH THE RESPONSIBIITY FOR OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION LITERALLY HOLD THE FUTURE IN THEIR HANDS. SO YOU'RE GIVING \$5,000 EACH TO THREE MAGNIFICENT TEACHERS AND A SUPERB PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR. I SALUTE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 1990 OKLAHOMA MEDALS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATION. // AND I ALSO WANT TO MENTION YOUR \$5,000 AWARD TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT HAS HAD THE MOST EFFECTIVE DROP-OUT PREVENTION PROGRAM. KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL IS CRITICAL -- AND YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB.

FINALLY, THE FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE REFLECTS THE BELIEF THAT EDUCATION CAN BE THE GREAT UPLIFTER AND EQUALIZER. ((PERHAPS THAT GREAT BROADWAY CHARACTER, OKLAHOMA'S AUNT ELLER, PUT IT BEST WHEN SHE SAID, "I DON'T SAY I'M BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE, BUT I'LL BE DANGED IF I AIN'T JUST AS GOOD!")) // YOUR IDEA CAN ENRICH EDUCATION -- AND HELP EDUCATION ENRICH OUR LIVES. //

ACHIEVEMENT, EXCELLENCE, AND EQUALITY -- WHAT A
DEFINITION OF OKLAHOMA. AND WHAT A MAGNIFICENT
DIFFERENCE THIS MOVEMENT HAS MADE IN JUST FIVE YEARS.
// OVER \$2 MILLION RAISED. TODAY, MORE THAN ONE
HUNDRED OKLAHOMA COMMUNITIES HAVE LOCAL PRIVATE
FOUNDATIONS -- MANY INSPIRED BY YOUR LEAD. // THINK OF
IT: EACH OF THESE FOUNDATIONS -- WHAT I CALL "POINTS
OF LIGHT" -- EACH DOES WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
CANNOT: SERVE AS A WONDERFUL MODEL FOR OTHER STATES
AND LOCALITIES TO EMULATE. SO TONIGHT I CHALLENGE
EVERY STATE IN AMERICA TO DO WHAT OKLAHOMA HAS ALREADY
DONE: MAKE AMERICAN EDUCATION A BEACON OF EXCELLENCE.
// BY INCREASING PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION,
YOU HAVE ENRICHED ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
ACROSS THE STATE. IF THERE'S ANY DOUBT, YOU'VE
RESOLVED IT: WHEN IT COMES TO OKLAHOMA EDUCATION,
WASHINGTON DOESN'T KNOW BEST, OKLAHOMANS DO. //

THE RESULT IS THAT TODAY OKLAHOMA RANKS FIRST, PER CAPITA, IN THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS. YET YOU ALSO KNOW THAT PROGRESS MADE CAN'T BE MEASURED BY DOLLARS SPENT ALONE. SO YOU'RE SHOWING HOW PARENTS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND SCHOOL BOARDS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO HELP OUR KIDS -- LIKE OKLAHOMA'S FABLED PIONEERS -- DISCOVER THE UNLIMITED FRONTIERS OF LEARNING.

WE KNOW, OF COURSE: IT WON'T BE EASY. ((LET ME RECALL HOW ONCE, MARKING AN EXAMINATION WRITTEN SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, THE NOTED SCHOLAR WILLIAM LYON PHELPS CAME ACROSS THIS NOTE: "GOD ONLY KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION. MERRY CHRISTMAS." PHELPS RETURNED THE PAPER WITH THE ANNOTATION: "GOD GETS AN A. YOU GET AN F. HAPPY NEW YEAR.")) //

YES, EDUCATION WILL MEET ROADBLOCKS. BUT THEY ARE OBSTACLES WE CAN OVERCOME. FOR YOU'RE NOT IN THIS ALONE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS A ROLE. THAT'S WHY A YEAR AGO WE SENT TO THE CONGRESS OUR "EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE ACT" -- LEGISLATION WHICH CAN HELP AMERICA OUTTHINK, OUTWORK, AND OUTPERFORM ANY NATION ANY DAY OF THE WEEK. //

FOR INSTANCE, WE WANT TO CREATE A \$500 MILLION PROGRAM BY 1994 TO REWARD SCHOOLS THAT IMPROVE THE MOST. AND A MAGNET SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM: WE BELIEVE PARENTS -- NOT BIG BROTHER -- SHOULD DECIDE WHICH PUBLIC SCHOOL THEIR KIDS ATTEND. // OUR PROGRAM WILL REWARD SCHOOLS THAT CUT THE DROP-OUT RATE. CREATE A NATIONAL SCIENCE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE PROVIDING INCENTIVE TO EXCEL IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND ENGINEERING. AND RECENTLY, I SIGNED INTO LAW, LEGISLATION TO HELP SCHOOLS HIT HARDEST BY DRUG USE. //

THESE STEPS WILL HELP OUR CHILDREN UNLOCK THE FUTURE. GIVE THEM THE TOOLS TO MASTER THE NEW WORLD OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES. AND REVERSE THE TREND WE SAW IN A RECENT COMPARISON OF 13-YEAR-OLD STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND 5 OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE AMERICA PLACED LAST IN MATHEMATICS AND NEAR LAST IN SCIENCE. //

MOST OF ALL, OUR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE ACT CAN HELP MAKE AMERICAN EDUCATION NUMBER ONE AGAIN BY ACHIEVING THE GOALS WE ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY WITH GOVERNORS LIKE HENRY BELLMON. WE WANT U.S. STUDENTS TO BE FIRST IN MATH AND SCIENCE BY THE YEAR 2000. AND EVERY AMERICAN TO BE SKILLED AND LITERATE. WE WANT EVERY STUDENT TO START SCHOOL READY TO LEARN. THAT MEANS HEAD START AND PROGRAMS LIKE IT. AND EACH SCHOOL TO HAVE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE KIDS CAN LEARN. THAT MEANS MAKING EVERY SCHOOL DRUG-FREE. FINALLY, WE WANT TO SEE A GRADUATION RATE OF AT LEAST 90 PERCENT WITH EVERY STUDENT COMPETENT IN IMPORTANT SUBJECTS. LIKE A FUTURE GRADUATE -- ERIN AMATO, A THIRD-GRADER FROM SUGARLAND, TEXAS -- WHO RECENTLY WROTE ME THIS LETTER:

"DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH. I HAVE BEEN DOING GOOD IN SCHOOL. I MADE ALL 'A' HONOR ROLL LAST SIX WEEKS AND I HOPE I MAKE IT THIS SIX WEEKS ALSO. DO YOU LIKE ROLLS? I LIKE ROLLS BUT I DO NOT LIKE BROCCOLI." ((OBVIOUSLY, AN ENLIGHTENED STUDENT.)) AND THEN ERIN CONCLUDED BY SAYING, "I DO LIKE CARROTS. I LOVE TEXAS!"

((LET ME CLOSE WITH A STORY I THINK ERIN WOULD APPRECIATE -- A STORY ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP THAT, TOGETHER, ALL OF US CAN BUILD. THE STORY GOES THAT PHYSICIST JAMES FRANCK WAS PROFESSOR AT GOTTINGEN UNIVERSITY IN GERMANY WHEN ROBERT OPPENHEIMER, THEN ONLY 23, WAS BEING EXAMINED FOR HIS DOCTORATE. ON EMERGING FROM THE ORAL EXAM, FRANCK SAID, "I GOT OUT JUST IN TIME. HE WAS BEGINNING TO ASK ME QUESTIONS."))

//

IN COMING YEARS, THESE ACADEMIC ALL-STATERS WILL ASK MANY QUESTIONS. QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR FAITH AND FUTURE, WHY WE ARE HERE, AND WHAT WE CAN BECOME INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A NATION. // HOW CAN EDUCATION SUPPLY SOME ANSWERS? THE SAME WAY THIS ADMINISTRATOR AND THESE TEACHERS HAVE. BY EMBODYING THE SPIRIT OF OKLAHOMA'S PAST. //

THINK OF THE HEROES WHO SETTLED THIS STATE. THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE IN GOVERNMENT BY BUREAUCRAT. THEY BELIEVED IN THEMSELVES. // THEY BUILT HOMES OUT OF SOD, AND SCHOOLHOUSES FROM SCRATCH. SALT FORK, BLACK BEAR, APACHE. DIRT FLOORS. LOG WALLS. OFTEN, SUPPLIES WERE LIMITED -- BUT THERE WERE ALWAYS ENOUGH HANDS. PITCHING IN. TEACHING CLASSES. FIGHTING OFF EVERYTHING FROM CLAIM-JUMPERS TO BEARS.

THESE PIONEERS DREAMED DREAMS AS BIG AS OKLAHOMA -- AND MADE THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE. LIKE US, THEY KNEW WHERE THE FUTURE LAY: IN THEIR KIDS, THROUGH EDUCATION. // THE OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE CAN HELP US ACHIEVE OUR DREAMS. SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL PROCLAIM, AS THE MUSICAL OKLAHOMA SAYS: AMERICAN EDUCATION, "YOU'RE DOING FINE -- OK."

THANK YOU FOR THIS OCCASION. GOOD LUCK TO THE OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE. AND GOD BLESS OUR BELOVED LAND -- THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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