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

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**OA/ID Number:** 13629  
**Folder ID Number:** 13629-003

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**Folder Title:**  
State and Local GI Bill for Children 6/25/92 [OA 5809] [2]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

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CHARLIE

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

06/22

DATE: 06/19/92

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. Monday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G. I. BILL FOR KIDS, 06/25

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			KILBERG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments directly to Dan McGroarty no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 06/22, with a copy to this office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

92 JUN 22 PM 12:31

*Dan - comments noted. Call if you can assist.  
Charlie Kolts*

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

Draft 1  
June 19, 1992  
1:45 p.m.  
[GI]

2 JUN 18 P1:57

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G.I. BILL FOR KIDS  
THE ROSE GARDEN  
JUNE 25, 1992  
10:15 A.M.

[Acknowledgements.]

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

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

Governor Tommy Thompson and state Representative Polly Williams were also in our working session. They have taken the lead in helping [Janette Williams] realize her dreams for [Javon] -- creating \$2500 scholarships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from low-income families so they could attend non-religious private schools. Governor Thompson and Representative Williams wanted to see what would happen when children of poorer families have more

of the same choices of schools that people with money already have.

Representatives of the Bradley Foundation and several other Milwaukee businesses were also in our meeting. They recently pledged \$3 million to expand further the number of families and the number of choices -- including religious schools -- that low-income Milwaukee families have.

What has been happening in Milwaukee is truly a revolution in American education.

Today I am proposing that the federal government join that revolution. I am sending Congress legislation that would authorize ~~the~~ <sup>g</sup> spending <sup>a</sup> of half billion new federal dollars to help cities like Milwaukee give \$1,000 scholarships to children of middle and low-income families so they <sup>(no)</sup> can have more of the same choices of all schools that families with money already have.

This revolution is in the greatest American tradition. We have done this before and it has worked. We called it the GI Bill.

As World War II was coming to a close, 48 years ago this week, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill creating scholarships that veterans could <sup>use</sup> ~~spend~~ at any college. Most of my generation went to college on the GI Bill -- the college of our choice.

Diane Ravitch, the historian who is now our assistant secretary of education, says that the GI Bill "was the most

successful piece of social legislation in our nation's history." It created opportunity for Americans who never would have had it; at the end of World War II, only five percent of Americans had a college degree. It gave our country a new generation of leaders. The consumer power it gave veterans -- dollars to spend at the college of their choice -- helped to create the best system of colleges and universities in the world.

We can do it again.

Now that the Cold War is over, I am calling on America to create new state and local GI bills for children -- to create scholarships for children of middle and low-income families that their families can use at the school of their choice. Just as we gave veterans consumer power that helped create the best system of higher education in the world, the federal government should help state and local governments and the private sector give children of middle and low-income families consumer power that can help to create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world.

These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice become the muscle parents need to create the best schools for their children.

*[This is repeated on page 10]*

~~If we can put missiles down smokestacks, if our astronauts can capture a 4.5 ton satellite in space, then we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren.~~

Specifically, I have asked Congress to appropriate a half billion ~~of~~ dollars to help a number of state and local

governments create \$1,000 scholarships that middle and low-income children could spend at any lawfully operating elementary or secondary school.

For example, these new federal dollars would help a city like Milwaukee create \$1,000 <sup>2</sup>dollar scholarships for every child of a family who makes less than the national median family income, which is roughly \$40,000 a year for a family of four. If Milwaukee applied for a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, it could receive \$50 million, enough to provide scholarships for 50,000 children from middle- and low-income families.

Milwaukee could compete for the federal dollars in a demonstration grant with other state or local governmental units. There are only three conditions. First, in order to apply, the governmental unit would have to take substantial steps to provide a choice of schools to families within its jurisdiction. Second, families would be permitted -- must be permitted -- to spend the \$1000 federal scholarship at any participating school that they believe best meets the needs of their child. Third, the governmental unit must allow all lawfully operating schools in the area -- public, private, and religious -- to participate if they choose.

The legislation that I am transmitting to Congress today also permits parents to use up to half of the thousand dollars for other academic programs that might be offered after school, on Saturdays, or in the summers. I believe this is one of the

most powerful parts of the legislation. One of our greatest wastes is that our schools are closed so much of the time when children could be using them. Many of the educators I see believe if they could offer academic programs in the afternoon or on Saturday children would flock to them. This is our chance to find out.

There is enough federal money in my proposal to provide \$1,000 dollar scholarships to all of the middle and low-income children in Milwaukee and 45 other cities the size of Trenton. This is enough money for a good demonstration grant, to find out what happens when children with families with less money have more of the same choices of schools that people with money have.

I believe I know exactly what will happen. We know because of our experience with the GI Bill. We know because of our experience with federal grants and loans for college, which one of every two full time four year college students now have. Consumer power creates opportunity and better schools for all students.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for children would be a truly revolutionary change for elementary and secondary education in America. It causes controversy and concern because it takes some risks. Let me talk about some of those concerns:

1. Some will say this mixes up church and state because it permits government money to go to religious schools -- that is wrong. This is aid to families, not aid to institutions. It is also good policy. No one told the GIs they couldn't go to SMU or

Notre Dame or Yeshiva or Berea or Fisk. I haven't heard Congress suggesting that students stop taking Pell grants and guaranteed student loans to Baptist Colleges or even Presbyterian seminaries. I don't hear an outcry because poor children who attend Catholic schools get a free lunch paid for by federal tax payers. And I don't think Congress is about to repeal the voucher poor mothers have that can be spent at the day care center of their choice, public, private, or religious. We should let government money follow the child to any lawfully operating school that the parent feels does the best job of helping the child.

2. Some will say letting parents choose will leave some children behind -- I simply do not buy this idea that someone cannot make a good decision just because he or she is poor. That is the same thing I heard when we proposed day care vouchers for poor families or when we proposed that the poor own their homes. Let the poor own their own home, choose their own schools. Give them help in standing on their own two feet and building and climbing their own ladder so that they can grab a share of the American Dream.

3. Some believe that letting parents choose private schools will hurt public schools -- I believe the opposite will happen. Look at what has happened to colleges and universities over the last half century as a result of the enormous consumer power made available by the GI Bill and the Pell grants and student loans. 80 per cent of our college students attend public universities

and our public and private colleges together have become the best in the world.

[I am glad that Howard Fuller, the Superintendent of Milwaukee schools is here today. He is not afraid of choice.] And I hope that he sees that this proposal for federal help for a GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee can build stronger public schools. Today in Milwaukee, as in most of America, 90% of children attend public schools. If Milwaukee applied for and received a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, about \$45 million, 90% of the grant, would probably go to the education of children in the public schools. This would roughly double the amount of federal aid from the Department of Education to the Milwaukee public schools.

4. Some will say choice could be the door to racial discrimination -- so that there can be no question about this, I have put in this proposed legislation provisions of federal anti-discrimination laws.

5. There are several points to make about money. First, I want to make it absolutely clear this is not a new federal entitlement program. The federal government can not afford one more entitlement, even for education. And I have said many times that money alone is not the answer to our education problems.

The U.S. already spends more per student for schools than any country in the world except Switzerland. We need <sup>a</sup> revolutions

~~not~~ more money for more of the same.

*the  
status quo.*

*in  
education  
that reforms  
and restructures  
American  
education;  
we don't need*

But making real changes that create the best schools in the world can require new investment. Primarily that is a state and local responsibility. But federal support for state and local scholarships for children of middle and low-income families can ~~depend to~~ create opportunity and change our schools. It is an appropriate and promising method of federal support for education.

Milwaukee is not the only place in America this revolution is occurring.

In 1991 in Indianapolis, <sup>Pat Romney and</sup> ~~the Golden Rule Insurance Company,~~ <sup>Christa Chae-Felle Trout Fund</sup> began to offer tuition vouchers of up to \$800 to Indianapolis students. In ~~the~~ first year, over 700 students were given vouchers to attend any school of their choice. In San Antonio, <sup>← home?</sup> the CEO Foundation has earmarked 1.5 million dollars in vouchers for up to half of any child's school tuition, up to a maximum of 750 dollars. The program will serve 840 children, with over 1,000 children on a waiting list. In California, <sup>For Alibrandi and thousands of supporters</sup> ~~a proposed~~ <sup>are proposing</sup> ~~ballot initiative~~ <sup>that</sup> would provide a voucher scholarship for every school age child in the state. Scholarships could be redeemed at any public or private school that chooses to participate. In Vermont, school boards have sent children to private schools for 75 years. The second largest high school in New Hampshire, in Derry, is a private school with most of its students paid for by area school boards.

The leaders of the choice movement --  
from California to East Harlem, Calif. to coast --  
are leading a revolution to reform American  
education. They are true heroes and  
heroes -- some of whom are here in  
the Los Angeles today --  
who aren't  
reluctant to  
stand up  
for what  
is best for  
America's  
schools  
children

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

Instead of thinking just of public schools run by one single provider who assigns all except wealthy children to one specific school, it is time we began thinking of a system of public education with many providers offering a marketplace of opportunities that give all of our children choices and access to the best education in the world.

The GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee and in other cities will move America inevitably in that direction.

There are risks, but we need revolutions and revolutions carry with them risks.

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

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

The parents with whom I met this morning know that America can do whatever it wants to do. That if we can put missiles down

smokestacks and capture a 4.5 million ton satellite in space, we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren. That we must change our schools to be the kind of country we want to be, and if their children are going to have the kind of life they want them to have.

That changing our schools will require several revolutions at once.

That is why with all the Governors we have <sup>established</sup> ~~created~~ very ambitious national education goals and a ten year community-by-community strategy to reach those goals called AMERICA 2000.

Revolution No. 1 is starting over, school by school, to create a new generation of break-the-mold New American Schools-- so students have choices among the best schools of the world. Some 700 design teams have submitted proposals to do just that.

Revolution No. 2 is changing what we teach; helping educators and others create world-class standards and a voluntary system of national examinations -- call them American Achievement Tests -- so parents and communities can tell how their kids and schools are doing.

Revolution No. 3 is getting the government off the teachers' backs. Teachers don't need a federal recipe book.

Revolution No. 4 is our state and local GI Bill for Children to get parents more involved, to give them consumer power -- dollars to spend at the schools of their choice -- give them muscle to help their kids, to make all schools better.

Many Americans are anxious today, because the world is changing. We should remember the problems we have are not different than the problems people are having in every country in the world today. We should also remember that we have more capacity to solve our problems than any country in the world.

There has never been a time in our history when more countries wanted to be like us, wanted to try our American dream. We have done better realizing our dream when we have remembered what is most important to us, the principles that have bound us together, our most enduring values. We have no principles more important than freedom, opportunity and choice. We have no value more enduring than the idea that every American should have the opportunity for a first class education.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for Children in Milwaukee and cities and towns across America will give more of the same opportunities for a first class education to children with less money than children from families with money already have.

I can think of nothing that could do more to extend the American revolution or expand the American dream.

# # #

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

06/22

DATE: 06/19/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. Monday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G. I. BILL FOR KIDS, 06/25

*\*wait - extension requested*

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
<i>H</i> VICE PRESIDENT <i>Kristol</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>V</i> DARMAN <i>(Sully)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>P</i> PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>X</i> PORTER <i>*KOLB</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>V</i> CALIO <i>NK</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>X</i> DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>GRAY</i> <i>has some minor suggestions</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>X</i> HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			<i>X</i> KILBERG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments directly to Dan McGroarty no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 06/22, with a copy to this office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*(\*) phone*

*Waiting on:  
Porter  
Kilberg?*

*→ Pinkerton comments  
phoned to Sh. G.  
\* plus memo*

*1:45 pm (MK)*

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

2 JUN 19 11:57

Draft 1  
June 19, 1992  
1:45 p.m.  
[GI]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G.I. BILL FOR KIDS  
THE ROSE GARDEN  
JUNE 25, 1992  
10:15 A.M.

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But making real changes that create the best schools in the world can require new investment. Primarily that is a state and local responsibility. But federal support for state and local scholarships for children of middle and low-income families can spend to create opportunity and change our schools. It is an appropriate and promising method of federal support for education.

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Revolution No. 4 is our state and local GI Bill for Children to get parents more involved, to give them consumer power -- dollars to spend at the schools of their choice -- give them muscle to help their kids, to make all schools better.

Many Americans are anxious today, because the world is changing. We should remember the problems we have are not different than the problems people are having in every country in the world today. We should also remember that we have more capacity to solve our problems than any country in the world.

(There has never been a time in our history when more countries wanted to be like us, wanted to try our American dream. We have done better realizing our dream when we have remembered what is most important to us, the principles that have bound us together, our most enduring values. We have no principles more important than freedom, opportunity and choice.) We have no value more enduring than the idea that every American should have the opportunity for a first class education.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for Children in Milwaukee and cities and towns across America will give more of the same opportunities for a first class education to children with less money than children from families with money already have.

I can think of nothing that could do more to extend the American revolution or expand the American dream.

# # #

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

06/22

DATE: 06/19/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. Monday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G. I. BILL FOR KIDS, 06/25

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			KILBERG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments directly to Dan McGroarty no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 06/22, with a copy to this office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*Please see comments. p. 1, 7, 9,  
Thank you -*

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

2 JUN 19 1:57

Draft 1  
June 19, 1992  
1:45 p.m.  
[GI]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G.I. BILL FOR KIDS  
THE ROSE GARDEN  
JUNE 25, 1992  
10:15 A.M.

[Acknowledgements.]

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

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

Governor Tommy Thompson and state Representative Polly Williams were also in our working session. They have taken the lead in helping [Janette Williams] realize her dreams for [Javon] -- creating \$2500 scholarships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from low-income families so they could attend non-religious private schools. Governor Thompson and Representative Williams wanted to see what would happen when children of poorer families have more

of the same choices of schools that people with money already have.

Representatives of the Bradley Foundation and several other Milwaukee businesses were also in our meeting. They recently pledged \$3 million to expand further the number of families and the number of choices -- including religious schools -- that low-income Milwaukee families have.

What has been happening in Milwaukee is truly a revolution in American education.

Today I am proposing that the federal government join that revolution. I am sending Congress legislation that would authorize the spending of half billion new federal dollars to help cities like Milwaukee give \$1,000 scholarships to children of middle and low-income families so they can have more of the same choices of all schools that families with money already have.

This revolution is in the greatest American tradition. We have done this before and it has worked. We called it the GI Bill.

As World War II was coming to a close, 48 years ago this week, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill creating scholarships that veterans could spend at any college. Most of my generation went to college on the GI Bill -- the college of our choice.

Diane Ravitch, the historian who is now our assistant secretary of education, says that the GI Bill "was the most

successful piece of social legislation in our nation's history." It created opportunity for Americans who never would have had it; at the end of World War II, only five percent of Americans had a college degree. It gave our country a new generation of leaders. The consumer power it gave veterans -- dollars to spend at the college of their choice -- helped to create the best system of colleges and universities in the world.

We can do it again.

Now that the Cold War is over, I am calling on America to create new state and local GI bills for children -- to create scholarships for children of middle and low-income families that their families can use at the school of their choice. Just as we gave veterans consumer power that helped create the best system of higher education in the world, the federal government should help state and local governments and the private sector give children of middle and low-income families consumer power that can help to create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world.

These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice become the muscle parents need to create the best schools for their children.

If we can put missiles down smokestacks, if our astronauts can capture a 4.5 ton satellite in space, then we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren.

Specifically, I have asked Congress to appropriate a half billion of dollars to help a number of state and local

governments create \$1,000 scholarships that middle and low-income children could spend at any lawfully operating elementary or secondary school.

For example, these new federal dollars would help a city like Milwaukee create \$1,000 dollar scholarships for every child of a family who makes less than the national median family income, which is roughly \$40,000 a year for a family of four. If Milwaukee applied for a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, it could receive \$50 million, enough to provide scholarships for 50,000 children from middle- and low-income families.

Milwaukee could compete for the federal dollars in a demonstration grant with other state or local governmental units. There are only three conditions. First, in order to apply, the governmental unit would have to take substantial steps to provide a choice of schools to families within its jurisdiction. Second, families would be permitted -- must be permitted -- to spend the \$1000 federal scholarship at any participating school that they believe best meets the needs of their child. Third, the governmental unit must allow all lawfully operating schools in the area -- public, private, and religious -- to participate if they choose.

The legislation that I am transmitting to Congress today also permits parents to use up to half of the thousand dollars for other academic programs that might be offered after school, on Saturdays, or in the summers. I believe this is one of the

most powerful parts of the legislation. One of our greatest wastes is that our schools are closed so much of the time when children could be using them. Many of the educators I see believe if they could offer academic programs in the afternoon or on Saturday children would flock to them. This is our chance to find out.

There is enough federal money in my proposal to provide \$1,000 dollar scholarships to all of the middle and low-income children in Milwaukee and 45 other cities the size of Trenton. This is enough money for a good demonstration grant, to find out what happens when children with families with less money have more of the same choices of schools that people with money have.

I believe I know exactly what will happen. We know because of our experience with the GI Bill. We know because of our experience with federal grants and loans for college, which one of every two full time four year college students now have. Consumer power creates opportunity and better schools for all students.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for children would be a truly revolutionary change for elementary and secondary education in America. It causes controversy and concern because it takes some risks. Let me talk about some of those concerns:

1. Some will say this mixes up church and state because it permits government money to go to religious schools -- that is wrong. This is aid to families, not aid to institutions. It is also good policy. No one told the GIs they couldn't go to SMU or

Notre Dame or Yeshiva or Berea or Fisk. I haven't heard Congress suggesting that students stop taking Pell grants and guaranteed student loans to Baptist Colleges or even Presbyterian seminaries. I don't hear an outcry because poor children who attend Catholic schools get a free lunch paid for by federal tax payers. And I don't think Congress is about to repeal the voucher poor mothers have that can be spent at the day care center of their choice, public, private, or religious. We should let government money follow the child to any lawfully operating school that the parent feels does the best job of helping the child.

2. Some will say letting parents choose will leave some children behind -- I simply do not buy this idea that someone cannot make a good decision just because he or she is poor. That is the same thing I heard when we proposed day care vouchers for poor families or when we proposed that the poor own their homes. Let the poor own their own home, choose their own schools. Give them help in standing on their own two feet and building and climbing their own ladder so that they can grab a share of the American Dream.

3. Some believe that letting parents choose private schools will hurt public schools -- I believe the opposite will happen. Look at what has happened to colleges and universities over the last half century as a result of the enormous consumer power made available by the GI Bill and the Pell grants and student loans. 80 per cent of our college students attend public universities

and our public and private colleges together have become the best in the world.

[I am glad that Howard Fuller, the Superintendent of Milwaukee schools is here today. He is not afraid of choice.] And I hope that he sees that this proposal for federal help for a GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee can build stronger public schools. Today in Milwaukee, as in most of America, 90% of children attend public schools. If Milwaukee applied for and received a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, about \$45 million, 90% of the grant, would probably go to the education of children in the public schools. This would roughly double the amount of federal aid from the Department of Education to the Milwaukee public schools.

4. Some will say choice could be the door to racial discrimination -- so that there can be no question about this, I have put in this proposed legislation provisions of federal anti-discrimination laws.

5. There are several points to make about money. First, I want to make it absolutely clear this is not a new federal entitlement program. The federal government can not afford one more entitlement, even for education. And I have said many times that money alone is not the answer to our education problems. The U.S. already spends more per student for schools than any country in the world except Switzerland. We need revolutions, not more money for more of the same.

*When we talk about revolutionary change, we're talking about empowerment -- giving parents the power over their children's education. And ~~strong~~ strong schools must have support from the entire community -- not just the government or the education establishment.*

But making real changes that create the best schools in the world can require new investment. Primarily that is a state and local responsibility. But federal support for state and local scholarships for children of middle and low-income families can spend to create opportunity and change our schools. It is an appropriate and promising method of federal support for education.

Milwaukee is not the only place in America this revolution is occurring.

In 1991 in Indianapolis, the Golden Rule Insurance Company, began to offer tuition vouchers of up to \$800 to Indianapolis students. In the first year, over 700 students were given vouchers to attend any school of their choice. In San Antonio, the CEO Foundation has earmarked 1.5 million dollars in vouchers for up to half of any child's school tuition, up to a maximum of 750 dollars. The program will serve 840 children, with over 1,000 children on a waiting list. In California, a proposed ballot initiative would provide a voucher scholarship for every school age child in the state. Scholarships could be redeemed at any public or private school that chooses to participate. In Vermont, school boards have sent children to private schools for 75 years. The second largest high school in New Hampshire, in Derry, is a private school with most of its students paid for by area school boards.

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

Instead of thinking just of public schools run by one single provider who assigns all except wealthy children to one specific school, it is time we began thinking of a system of public education with many providers offering a marketplace of opportunities that give all of our children choices and access to the best education in the world.

The GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee and in other cities will move America inevitably in that direction.

There are risks, but we need revolutions and revolutions carry with them risks.

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

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

together. That's why I have repeatedly called on all Americans to imitate the example of those Points of Light in Communities across the Country: ~~the~~ the neighborhood groups, the business partnerships, and the individual tutors and mentors who are helping to create excellent schools. I see some of them here this morning.

The parents with whom I met this morning know that America can do whatever it wants to do. That if we can put missiles down

smokestacks and capture a 4.5 million ton satellite in space, we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren. That we must change our schools to be the kind of country we want to be, and if their children are going to have the kind of life they want them to have.

That changing our schools will require several revolutions at once.

That is why with all the Governors we have created very ambitious national education goals and a ten year community-by-community strategy to reach those goals called AMERICA 2000.

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# # #

02 JUN 19 P 1:57

Draft 1  
June 19, 1992  
1:45 p.m.  
[GI]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G.I. BILL FOR KIDS  
THE ROSE GARDEN  
JUNE 25, 1992  
10:15 A.M.

[Acknowledgements.]

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*too detailed*

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*Do not raise this.*

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

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smokestacks and capture a 4.5 million ton satellite in space, we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren. That we must change our schools to be the kind of country we want to be, and if their children are going to have the kind of life they want them to have.

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# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 22, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: G.I. Bill for Kids

We have reviewed the attached remarks and have noted several suggested changes on the draft.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may help in any other way.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

JMH  
- EN  
- CK

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

06/22

DATE: 06/19/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. Monday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G. I. BILL FOR KIDS, 06/25

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			KILBERG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments directly to Dan McGroarty no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 06/22, with a copy to this office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

2 JUN 19 11:57

Draft 1  
June 19, 1992  
1:45 p.m.  
[GI]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G.I. BILL FOR KIDS  
THE ROSE GARDEN  
JUNE 25, 1992  
10:15 A.M.

[Acknowledgements.]

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

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

Governor Tommy Thompson and state Representative Polly Williams were also in our working session. They have taken the lead in helping [Janette Williams] realize her dreams for [Javon] -- creating \$2500 scholarships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from low-income families so they <sup>CAN</sup> ~~could~~ attend non-religious private schools. Governor Thompson and Representative Williams wanted to <sup>PROVIDE</sup> ~~see what would happen when~~ children of poorer families ~~have more~~

WITH  
of the same choices of schools that <sup>2 WEALTHIER</sup> people with ~~money already~~ have.

Representatives of the Bradley Foundation and several other Milwaukee businesses were also in our meeting. They recently pledged \$3 million to expand further the number of families <sup>RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS</sup> and the number of choices <sup>AVAILABLE</sup> -- including religious schools -- <sup>TO</sup> that low-income Milwaukee families have. <sup>THE EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO EDUCATION SYSTEM</sup> ~~What has been happening~~ in Milwaukee <sup>REPRESENT</sup> is truly a revolution in American education.

Today I <sup>REPEAT MY CALL FOR</sup> ~~am proposing that~~ the federal government <sup>TO</sup> join that revolution. I am <sup>TRANSMITTING TO</sup> ~~sending~~ Congress legislation that would authorize the <sup>A</sup> spending of half billion new federal dollars to help cities like Milwaukee give \$1,000 scholarships to children of middle and low-income families so they can have <sup>THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE</sup> ~~more of the~~ same choices <sup>ABOUT WHICH SCHOOL THEIR CHILD WILL ATTEND</sup> of all schools that families with money already have.

This revolution is in the greatest American tradition. We have done this before and it has worked. We called it the GI Bill.

As World War II was coming to a close, 48 years ago this week, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill creating scholarships that veterans could spend at any college. Most of my generation went to college on the GI Bill -- the college of our choice.

<sup>A</sup> Diane Ravitch, ~~the~~ historian who is now our assistant secretary of education, says that the GI Bill "was the most

successful piece of social legislation in our nation's history."

It created opportunity for Americans who never would have had it

at the end of World War II, only five percent of Americans had a college degree. It <sup>HELPED PROVIDE TRAINING FOR</sup> gave our country <sup>OUR COUNTRY'S</sup> a new generation of leaders.

The consumer <sup>FREEDOM</sup> power it gave veterans -- dollars to spend at the college of their choice -- helped to create the <sup>WORLD'S</sup> best system of colleges and universities in the world.

~~And~~ We can do it again.

~~Now that the Cold War is over,~~ I am calling on America to create new state and local GI bills for children -- to create scholarships for children of middle and low-income families that their families can use at the school of their choice. Just as we

gave veterans consumer <sup>FREEDOM</sup> power that helped create the best system of higher education in the world, the federal government should help state and local governments and the private sector <sup>PROVIDE</sup> give

~~children of~~ middle and low-income families <sup>WORLD'S</sup> consumer power that can help to create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world. <sup>WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CHOICES</sup>

the phrase  
NOW THE COLD  
WAR IS OVER  
MAKES IT  
SOUND LIKE  
AN ENTIRE-  
MENT NOT  
A DEMONSTRATION  
PROBLEM

These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice become the muscle parents need to create the best schools for their children.

~~If we can put missiles down smokestacks,~~ If our astronauts can capture a 4.5 ton satellite in space, then we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren.

Specifically, I have asked Congress to appropriate a half billion of dollars to help a number of state and local

governments create \$1,000 scholarships that middle and low-income children could spend at any lawfully operating elementary or secondary school.

CAN WE STATE THIS IDEA IN A MORE POSITIVE MANNER?

AWK.

For example, these new federal dollars would help a city like Milwaukee create \$1,000 dollar scholarships for every child of a family who makes less than the national median family income, which is roughly \$40,000 a year for a family of four. If Milwaukee applied for a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, it could receive \$50 million, enough to provide scholarships for 50,000 children from middle- and low-income families.

FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

INSERT FROM P. 5

DELETE REDUNDANT.

Milwaukee could compete for the federal dollars in a demonstration grant with other state or local governmental units. There are only three conditions. First, in order to apply, the governmental unit would have to take substantial steps to provide a choice of schools to families within its jurisdiction. Second, families would be permitted -- must be permitted -- to spend the \$1000 federal scholarship at any participating school that they believe best meets the needs of their child. Third, the governmental unit must allow all lawfully operating schools in the area -- public, private, and religious -- to participate if they choose.

STEP

The legislation that I am transmitting to Congress today also permits parents to use up to half of the thousand dollars for other academic programs that might be offered after school, on Saturdays, or during the summers. I believe this is one of the

SCHOLARSHIP

ELEMENTS

most powerful ~~parts~~ of the legislation. One of our greatest wastes is that our schools are closed so much of the time <sup>when</sup> ~~children could be using them~~. Many of the educators I <sup>SPEAK WITH</sup> ~~see~~ believe if they could offer academic programs in the afternoon or on Saturday children would flock to them. This is our chance to find out.

MOVE TO END OF FIRST FULL P ON PAGE 4.

REUNANT

~~There is enough federal money in my proposal to provide \$1,000 dollar scholarships to all of the middle and low-income children in Milwaukee and 45 other cities the size of Trenton. This is enough money for a good demonstration grant, to find out what happens when children with families with less money have more of the same choices of schools that people with money have.~~

~~I <sup>AM CONFIDENT</sup> believe I know exactly what will happen. We know because of our experience with the GI Bill. We know because of our experience with federal grants and loans for college, which one of every two full-time four year college students now have. Consumer <sup>POWER</sup> ~~power~~ creates opportunity and better schools for all students.~~

A new system of state and local GI Bills for children would be a truly revolutionary change for elementary and secondary education in America. It causes controversy and concern because it takes some risks. Let me talk about some of those concerns:

1. Some will say this <sup>INITIATIVE DOES NOT ADEQUATELY SEPARATE</sup> ~~mixes up~~ church and state because it permits government money to go to religious schools -- that is wrong. This is aid to families, not aid to institutions. It is also good policy. No one told the GIs they couldn't go to SMU or

Notre Dame or Yeshiva or Berea or Fisk. I haven't <sup>SEEN MEMBERS OF</sup> heard Congress suggesting that students stop <sup>RECEIVING</sup> taking Pell grants and guaranteed student loans to <sup>ATTEND</sup> Baptist Colleges or even Presbyterian seminaries. I don't hear an outcry because poor children who attend Catholic schools get a free lunch paid for by federal tax payers. And I don't think Congress is about to repeal the voucher poor mothers have that can be spent at the day care center of their choice, public, private, or religious. We should let government money follow the child to any lawfully operating school that the parent feels does the best job of helping the child.

2. Some will say letting parents choose will leave some children behind -- I simply do not buy this idea that someone cannot make a good decision just because he or she is poor. That is the same thing I heard when we proposed day care vouchers for poor families or when we proposed that the poor own their homes. Let the poor own their own home, choose their own schools. Give them help in standing on their own two feet and building and climbing their own ladder so that they can grab a share of the American Dream.

3. Some believe that letting parents choose private schools will hurt public schools -- I believe the opposite will happen. Look at what has happened to colleges and universities over the last half century as a result of the <sup>FUNDS</sup> ~~enormous consumer power~~ made available by the GI Bill and the Pell grants and student loans. 80 per cent of our college students attend public universities

and our public and private colleges together have become the best in the world.

[I am glad that Howard Fuller, the Superintendent of Milwaukee schools is here today. He is not afraid of choice.] And I hope that he sees that this proposal for federal help for a GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee can build stronger public schools. Today in Milwaukee, as in most of America, 90% of children attend public schools. If Milwaukee applied for and received a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, about \$45 million, 90% of the grant, would probably go to the education of children in the public schools. This would roughly double the amount of federal aid from the Department of Education to the Milwaukee public schools.

4. Some will say choice could be the door to racial discrimination -- so that there can be no question about this, I have put in this proposed legislation provisions of federal anti-discrimination laws.

5. There are several points to make about money. First, I want to make it absolutely clear this is not a new federal entitlement program. The federal government can not afford one more entitlement, even for education. And I have said many times that money alone is not the answer to our education problems. The U.S. already spends more per student for schools than any country in the world except Switzerland. We need revolutions, not more money for more of the same.

But making real changes that create the best schools in the world can require new investment. Primarily that is a state and local responsibility. But federal support for state and local scholarships for children of middle and low-income families can ~~spend to~~ create opportunity and change <sup>IN</sup>our schools. It is an appropriate and promising method of federal support for education.

Milwaukee is not the only place in America this revolution is occurring.

In 1991 in Indianapolis, the Golden Rule Insurance Company, began to offer tuition vouchers of up to \$800 to Indianapolis students. In the first year, over 700 students were given vouchers to attend any school of their choice. In San Antonio, the CEO Foundation has earmarked 1.5 million dollars in vouchers for up to half of any child's school tuition, up to a maximum of 750 dollars. The program will serve 840 children, with over 1,000 children on a waiting list. In California, a proposed ballot initiative would provide a voucher scholarship for every school age child in the state. Scholarships could be redeemed at any public or private school that chooses to participate. In Vermont, school boards have sent children to private schools for 75 years. The second largest high school in New Hampshire, in Derry, is a private school with most of its students paid for by area school boards.

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

Instead of thinking just of public schools run by one single provider who assigns all except wealthy children to one specific school, it is time we began thinking of a system of public education with many providers offering a marketplace of opportunities that give all of our children choices and access to the best education in the world.

The GI Bill for Children ~~in Milwaukee and in other cities~~ will move America inevitably in that direction.

*Awk.* There are risks, but ~~we need revolutions and revolutions~~ carry with them risks.

We need revolutions because our world is changing. [Janette Williams] and the parents I visited with this morning know what was enough education for them isn't enough for their kids -- or for them, today. They know their children are growing up differently. They see teachers are stymied and kids are bored <sup>o</sup> ~~because schools are in a time warp, designed for another age?~~

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

The parents with whom I met this morning know that America <sup>ACHIEVE ITS GREATEST ASPIRATIONS</sup> ~~can do whatever it wants to do.~~ That if we can put missiles down

~~smokestacks and capture a 4.5 million ton satellite in space,~~ we  
 can create the best schools in the world for our children and  
 grandchildren. ~~That we~~ we ~~must~~ TO PROVIDE OUR change our schools to be the kind of  
 country we want to be, and ~~if their children are going to have~~ WITH  
A PRODUCTIVE AND FULFILLING ~~the kind of life they want them to have.~~

That changing our schools will require several revolutions  
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That is why with all the Governors we have created very  
 ambitious national education goals and a ten year community-by-  
 community strategy to reach those goals called AMERICA 2000.

Revolution No. 1 is starting over, school by school, to  
 create a new generation of break-the-mold New American Schools--  
 so students have choices among the best schools of the world.  
 Some 700 design teams have submitted proposals to do just that.

Revolution No. 2 is changing what we teach; helping  
 educators and others create world-class standards and a voluntary  
 system of national examinations -- call them American Achievement  
 Tests -- so parents and communities can tell how their kids and  
 schools are doing.

Revolution No. 3 is getting the government off the teachers'  
 backs. Teachers don't need ~~a~~ THE federal ~~recipe~~ GOVERNMENT DICTATING THEIR EVERY LESSON. book. STET

Revolution No. 4 is our state and local GI Bill for Children  
 to get parents more involved, to give them consumer FREEDOM ~~power~~ -- STET  
 dollars to spend at the schools of their choice -- ~~give them~~  
~~muscle to help their kids,~~ to make all schools better.

Many Americans are anxious today, because the world is changing. We should remember the ~~problems~~ <sup>CHALLENGES</sup> we ~~have~~ <sup>FACE</sup> are not different than ~~the problems~~ <sup>THESE</sup> people are having in every country in the world today. We should also remember that we have more capacity to ~~solve our problems~~ <sup>FIND SOLUTIONS TO THESE CHALLENGES</sup> than any country in the world.

There has never been a time in our history when more countries wanted to be like us, wanted to try our American dream. We have done better realizing our dream when we have remembered what is most important to us, the principles that have bound us together, our most enduring values. We have no principles more important than freedom, opportunity and choice. We have no value more enduring than the idea that every American should have the opportunity for a first class education.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for Children in ~~Milwaukee~~ <sup>J</sup> and cities and towns across America will give more of the same opportunities for a first class education to children with less money than children from <sup>WEALTHIER</sup> families ~~with money~~ <sup>J</sup> already have.

I can think of nothing that could do more to extend the American revolution or expand the American dream.

# # #

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

06/22

DATE: 06/19/92

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. Monday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G. I. BILL FOR KIDS, 06/25

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			KILBERG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments directly to Dan McGroarty no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 06/22, with a copy to this office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*Tim M...  
2/28/15-1084*

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

2 JUN 19 P 1: 57

Draft 1  
June 19, 1992  
1:45 p.m.  
[GI]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G.I. BILL FOR KIDS  
THE ROSE GARDEN  
JUNE 25, 1992  
10:15 A.M.

[Acknowledgements.]

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

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

Governor Tommy Thompson and state Representative Polly Williams were also in our working session. They have taken the lead in helping [Janette Williams] realize her dreams for [Javon] -- creating \$2500 scholarships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from low-income families so they could attend non-religious private schools. Governor Thompson and Representative Williams wanted to see what would happen when children of poorer families have more

of the same choices of schools that people with money already have.

Representatives of the Bradley Foundation and several other Milwaukee businesses were also in our meeting. They recently pledged \$3 million to expand further the number of families and the number of choices -- including religious schools -- that low-income Milwaukee families have.

What has been happening in Milwaukee is truly a revolution in American education.

Today I am proposing that the federal government join that revolution. I am sending Congress legislation that would authorize the spending of <sup>a</sup> half billion new federal dollars to help cities like Milwaukee <sup>1</sup> give \$1,000 scholarships to children of middle and low-income families so they can have more of the same choices of all schools that families with money already have.

This revolution is in the greatest American tradition. We have done this before and it has worked. We called it the GI Bill.

As World War II was coming to a close, 48 years ago this week, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill creating scholarships that veterans could spend at any college. Most of my generation went to college on the GI Bill -- the college of our choice.

Diane Ravitch, the historian who is now our assistant secretary of education, says that the GI Bill "was the most

successful piece of social legislation in our nation's history." It created opportunity for Americans who never would have had it; at the end of World War II, only five percent of Americans had a college degree. It gave our country a new generation of leaders. The *put* [consumer power] it gave veterans -- dollars to spend at the college of their choice -- helped to create the best system of colleges and universities in the world.

We can do it again.

Now that the Cold War is over, I am calling on America to create new state and local GI bills for children -- to create scholarships for children of middle and low-income families that their families can use at the school of their choice. Just as we gave veterans consumer power that helped create the best system of higher education in the world, the federal government should help state and local governments and the private sector give children of middle and low-income families consumer power that can help to create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world.

These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice become the muscle parents need to create the best schools for their children.

If we can put [missiles down smokestacks], if our astronauts can capture a 4.5 ton satellite in space, then we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren.

Specifically, I have asked Congress to appropriate a half billion of dollars to help a number of state and local

governments create \$1,000 scholarships that middle and low-income children could spend at any lawfully operating elementary or secondary school.

For example, these new federal dollars would help a city like Milwaukee create \$1,000 dollar scholarships for every child of a family who makes less than the national median family income, which is roughly \$40,000 a year for a family of four. If Milwaukee applied for a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, it could receive \$50 million, enough to provide scholarships for 50,000 children from middle- and low-income families.

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The legislation that I am transmitting to Congress today also permits parents to use up to half of the thousand dollars for other academic programs that might be offered after school, on Saturdays, or in the summers. I believe this is one of the

*important*

5

*disconnect*

most powerful parts of the legislation. One of our greatest *bully.*  
wastes is that our schools are closed so much of the time when children could be using them. Many of the educators I see believe if they could offer academic programs in the afternoon or on Saturday children would flock to them. This is our chance to find out.

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[ This is enough money for a good demonstration grant, to find out what happens when children with families with less money have more of the same choices of schools that people with money have. *Jawke.*

I believe I know exactly what will happen. We know because of our experience with the GI Bill. We know because of our experience with federal grants and loans for college, which one of every two full time four year college students now have.

→ [Consumer power] creates opportunity and better schools for all students.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for children would be a truly revolutionary change for elementary and secondary education in America. It causes controversy and concern because it takes some risks. Let me talk about some of those concerns:

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2. Some will say letting parents choose will leave some children behind -- I simply do not buy this idea that someone cannot make a good decision just because he or she is poor. That is the same thing I heard when we proposed day care vouchers for poor families or when we proposed that the poor own their homes. Let the poor own their own home, choose their own schools. Give them help in standing on their own two feet and building and climbing their own ladder so that they can grab a share of the American Dream.

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*poorly articulated*

and our public and private colleges together have become the best in the world.

[I am glad that Howard Fuller, the Superintendent of Milwaukee schools is here today. He is not afraid of choice.] And I hope that he sees that this proposal for federal help for a GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee can build stronger public schools. Today in Milwaukee, as in most of America, 90% of children attend public schools. If Milwaukee applied for and received a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, about \$45 million, 90% of the grant, would probably go to the education of children in the public schools. This would roughly double the amount of federal aid from the Department of Education to the Milwaukee public schools.

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There has never been a time in our history when more countries wanted to be like us, wanted to try our American dream. We have done better realizing our dream when we have remembered what is most important to us, the principles that have bound us together, our most enduring values. We have no principles more important than freedom, opportunity and choice. We have no value more enduring than the idea that every American should have the opportunity for a first class education.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for Children in Milwaukee and cities and towns across America will give more of the same opportunities for a first class education to children with less money than children from families with money already have.

I can think of nothing that could do more to extend the American revolution or expand the American dream.

# # #

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING REQUEST

unmarked copy ✓

Subject

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G.I. BILL FOR KIDS, JUNE 25

Date/Time Received: 6/19/92 6:15 P.M.      RESPONSE DUE: MONDAY, JUNE 22 12:30 P.M.

Response due to Director's Office Support Group, Room 254, Ext. 3060.  
Please respond to every staffing request, even if you have no comment.

Distribution Within OMB

<u>Action</u>	<u>FYI</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>FYI</u>
<u>        </u> Director	<u>  X  </u>	<u>        </u> Howard, R.	<u>        </u>
<u>        </u> Deputy Director	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> Legis. Affairs	<u>        </u>
<u>        </u> Dep. Dir./Mgmt.	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> MacRae, J.	<u>        </u>
<u>  X  </u> Al-Samarrie, A.	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> Martin, B.	<u>        </u>
<u>  X  </u> Anderson, B.	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> Mazur, E.	<u>        </u>
<u>        </u> Burman, A.	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> Murr, J.	<u>  X  </u>
<u>        </u> Dale, E.	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> Rockefeller, N.	<u>  X  </u>
<u>  X  </u> Damus, R.	<u>        </u>	<u>  X  </u> Scully, T.	<u>        </u>
<u>        </u> Gen. Mgmt. Div.	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> (Other)	<u>        </u>
<u>  X  </u> Grady, R.	<u>        </u>		
<u>        </u> Hale, J.	<u>        </u>		

5  
Comments:

Scully/OMB

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

06/22

DATE: 06/19/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. Monday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G. I. BILL FOR KIDS, 06/25

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			KILBERG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:  
Please provide any comments directly to Dan McGroarty no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 06/22, with a copy to this office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

2 JUN 19 1:57

Draft 1  
June 19, 1992  
1:45 p.m.  
[GI]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: G.I. BILL FOR KIDS  
THE ROSE GARDEN  
JUNE 25, 1992  
10:15 A.M.

[Acknowledgements.]

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

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

Governor Tommy Thompson and state Representative Polly Williams were also in our working session. They have taken the lead in helping [Janette Williams] realize her dreams for [Javon] -- creating ~~\$2500~~ scholarships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from low-income families so they could attend ~~non-religious~~ private schools. Governor Thompson and Representative Williams wanted to see what would happen when children of poorer families have more

*kids from higher income families*

of the same choices of schools that ~~people with money~~ already have.

Representatives of the Bradley Foundation and several other Milwaukee businesses were also in our meeting. They recently pledged \$3 million to expand further the number of families and the number of choices -- including religious schools -- that low-income Milwaukee families have.

What has been happening in Milwaukee is truly a revolution in American education.

*the private sector in supporting*

Today I am proposing that the federal government join that revolution. I am sending Congress legislation that would authorize the spending of half billion new federal dollars to help cities like Milwaukee give \$1,000 scholarships to children of middle and low-income families *other kids in other communities* ~~so they can have more of the~~ same choices ~~of all schools that~~ *higher income* families with money already have.

*can have the*

This revolution is in the greatest American tradition. We have done this before and it has worked. We called it the GI Bill.

As World War II was coming to a close, 48 years ago this week, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill creating scholarships that veterans could spend at any college. Most of my generation went to college on the GI Bill -- the college of our choice.

~~Diane Ravitch, the historian who is now our assistant secretary of education, says that the GI Bill "was the most~~

~~successful piece of social legislation in our nation's history."~~  
<sup>The GI bill</sup>  
 It created opportunity for Americans who never would have had it; at the end of World War II, only five percent of Americans had a college degree. It gave our country a new generation of leaders. The consumer power it gave veterans -- dollars to spend at the college of their choice -- helped to create the best system of colleges and universities in the world.

We can do it again.

~~Now that the Cold War is over,~~ I am calling on America to create new state and local GI bills for children -- to create scholarships for children of middle and low-income families that their families can use at the school of their choice. Just as we gave veterans consumer power that helped create the best system of higher education in the world, the federal government should help state and local governments and the private sector give ~~children of~~ middle and low-income families <sup>education</sup> consumer power that can help to create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world.

These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice become the muscle parents need to create the best schools for their children.

If we can put missiles down smokestacks, if our astronauts can capture a 4.5 ton satellite in space, then we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren.

Specifically, I have asked Congress to appropriate a half billion of dollars to help a number of state and local

governments create \$1,000 scholarships that middle and low-income children could spend at any lawfully operating elementary or secondary school.

For example, these new federal dollars would help a city like Milwaukee create \$1,000 dollar scholarships for every child of a family who makes less than the national median family income, which is roughly \$40,000 a year for a family of four. If Milwaukee applied for a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, it could receive \$50 million, enough to provide scholarships for 50,000 children from middle- and low-income families.

*4/10 + 11*  
*of*  
*total*

*For example*  
Milwaukee could compete for the federal dollars in a demonstration grant with other state or local governmental units. There are only three conditions. First, in order to apply, the governmental unit would have to take substantial steps to provide a choice of schools to families within its jurisdiction. Second, families would be permitted -- must be permitted -- to spend the \$1000 federal scholarship at any participating school that they believe best meets the needs of their child. Third, the governmental unit must allow all lawfully operating schools in the area -- public, private, and religious -- to participate if they choose.

The legislation that I am transmitting to Congress today also permits parents to use up to half of the thousand dollars for other academic programs that might be offered after school, on Saturdays, or in the summers. I believe this is one of the

most powerful parts of the legislation. One of our greatest wastes is that our schools are closed so much of the time when children could be using them. Many of the educators I see believe if they could offer academic programs in the afternoon or on Saturday children would flock to them. This is our chance to find out.

There is enough federal money in my proposal to provide \$1,000 dollar scholarships to all of the middle and low-income children in Milwaukee and 45 other cities the size of Trenton. This is enough money for a good demonstration grant, to find out what happens when children with families with less money have more of the same choices of schools that people with money have.

*think I know*  
I ~~believe~~ I know exactly what will happen. We know because of our experience with the GI Bill. We know because of our experience with federal grants and loans for college, which one of every two full time four year college students now have. Consumer power creates opportunity and better schools for all students.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for children would be a truly revolutionary change for elementary and secondary education in America. It causes controversy and concern because it takes some risks. Let me talk about some of those concerns:

1. Some will say this mixes up church and state because it permits government money to go to religious schools -- that is wrong. This is aid to families, not aid to institutions. It is also good policy. No one told the GIs they couldn't go to SMU or

Notre Dame or Yeshiva or Berea or Fisk. I haven't heard Congress suggesting that students stop taking Pell grants and guaranteed student loans to Baptist Colleges or even Presbyterian seminaries. I don't hear an outcry because poor children who attend Catholic schools <sup>have their</sup> ~~get a free~~ lunch paid for by federal tax payers. And I don't think Congress is about to repeal the voucher poor mothers have that can be spent at the day care center of their choice, public, private, or religious. We should let government money follow the child to any lawfully operating school that the parent feels does the best job of helping the child.

2. Some will say letting parents choose will leave some children behind -- I simply do not buy this idea that someone cannot make a good decision just because he or she is poor. That is the same thing I heard when we proposed <sup>child</sup> ~~day~~ care vouchers for <sup>low income</sup> ~~poor~~ families or when we proposed that the poor own their homes. Let <sup>families</sup> ~~the poor~~ own their own home, <sup>fund their own child care,</sup> choose their own schools. Give them help in standing on their own two feet and building and climbing their own ladder so that they can grab a share of the American Dream.

3. Some believe that letting parents choose private schools will hurt public schools -- I believe the opposite will happen. Look at what has happened to colleges and universities over the last half century as a result of the enormous consumer power made available by the GI Bill and the Pell grants and student loans. 80 per cent of our college students attend public universities

and our public and private colleges together have become the best in the world.

[I am glad that Howard Fuller, the Superintendent of Milwaukee schools is here today. He is not afraid of choice.] And I hope that he sees that this proposal for federal help for a GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee can build stronger public schools. Today in Milwaukee, as in most of America, 90% of children attend public schools. If Milwaukee applied for and received a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, ~~about \$45 million,~~ <sup>might</sup> 90% of the grant, ~~would probably~~ go to the education of children in the public schools. This would roughly double the amount of federal aid from the Department of Education to the Milwaukee public schools, <sup>-- but it would also enhance competition for good schools.</sup>

4. Some will say choice could be the door to racial discrimination -- so that there can be no question about this, I have put in this proposed legislation provisions of federal anti-discrimination laws.

5. There are several points to make about money. First, I want to make it absolutely clear this is not a new federal entitlement program. The federal government can not afford one more entitlement, even for education. And I have said many times that money alone is not the answer to our education problems. The U.S. already spends more per student for schools than any country in the world except Switzerland. We need revolutions, not more money for more of the same.

But making real changes that create the best schools in the world can require new investment. Primarily that is a state and local responsibility. But federal support for state and local scholarships for children of middle and low-income families can ~~spend to~~ create opportunity and change our schools. It is an appropriate and promising method of federal support for education.

Milwaukee is not the only place in America this revolution is occurring.

In 1991 in Indianapolis, the Golden Rule Insurance Company, began to offer tuition vouchers of up to \$800 to Indianapolis students. In the first year, over 700 students were given vouchers to attend any school of their choice. In San Antonio, ~~the CEO Foundation~~ has earmarked 1.5 million dollars in vouchers for up to half of any child's school tuition, up to a maximum of 750 dollars. The program will serve 840 children, with over 1,000 children on a waiting list. In California, a proposed ballot initiative would provide a voucher scholarship for every school age child in the state. Scholarships could be redeemed at any public or private school that chooses to participate. In Vermont, school boards have sent children to private schools for 75 years. The second largest high school in New Hampshire, in Derry, is a private school with most of its students paid for by area school boards.

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

Instead of thinking just of public schools run by one single provider who assigns all except wealthy children to one specific school, it is time we began thinking of a system of public education with many providers offering a marketplace of opportunities that give all of our children choices and access to the best education in the world.

The GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee and in other cities will move America inevitably in that direction.

There are risks, but we need revolutions and revolutions carry with them risks.

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

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

The parents with whom I met this morning know that America can do whatever it wants to do. That if we can put missiles down

smokestacks and capture a 4.5 million ton satellite in space, we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren. That we must change our schools to be the kind of country we want to be, and if their children are going to have the kind of life they want them to have.

That changing our schools will require several revolutions at once.

That is why with all the Governors we have created very ambitious national education goals and a ten year community-by-community strategy to reach those goals called AMERICA 2000.

Revolution No. 1 is starting over, school by school, to create a new generation of break-the-mold New American Schools-- so students have choices among the best schools of the world. Some 700 design teams have submitted proposals to do just that.

Revolution No. 2 is changing what we teach; helping educators and others create world-class standards and a voluntary system of national examinations -- call them American Achievement Tests -- so parents and communities can tell how their kids and schools are doing.

Revolution No. 3 is getting the government off the teachers' backs. Teachers don't need a federal recipe book.

Revolution No. 4 is our state and local GI Bill for Children to get parents more involved, to give them consumer power -- dollars to spend at the schools of their choice -- give them muscle to help their kids, to make all schools better.

Many Americans are anxious today, because the world is changing. We should remember the problems we have are not different than the problems people are having in every country in the world today. We should also remember that we have more capacity to solve our problems than any country in the world.

There has never been a time in our history when more countries wanted to be like us, wanted to try our American dream. We have done better realizing our dream when we have remembered what is most important to us, the principles that have bound us together, our most enduring values. We have no principles more important than freedom, opportunity and choice. We have no value more enduring than the idea that every American should have the opportunity for a first class education.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for Children in Milwaukee and cities and towns across America will give more of the same opportunities for a first class education to children with less money than children from families with money already have.

I can think of nothing that could do more to extend the American revolution or expand the American dream.

# # #

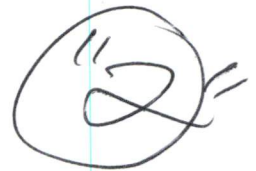
REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

DRAFT

DRAFT

IN CONNECTION WITH STATE AND LOCAL  
GI BILL FOR CHILDREN

92 JUN 19 All: On

(DRAFT 17 June '92)

(President would make these first few paragraphs of these comments extemporaneously based upon what he sees and hears at the working session with Milwaukee citizens.)

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

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

Governor Tommy Thompson and state Representative Polly Williams were also in our working session. They have taken the

lead in helping [Janette Williams] realize her dreams for [Javon]-- creating \$2,500 scholarships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from low-income families so they could attend non-religious private schools. Governor Thompson and Representative Williams wanted to see what would happen when children of poor families have more of the same choices of schools that people with money already have.

Representatives of the Bradley Foundation and several other Milwaukee businesses were also in our meeting. They recently pledged \$3 million to expand further the number of families and the number of choices--including religious schools--that low-income Milwaukee families have.

What has been happening in Milwaukee is truly a revolution in American education.

Today I am proposing that the federal government join that revolution. I am sending Congress legislation that would authorize the spending of a half-billion new federal dollars to help cities like Milwaukee give \$1,000 scholarships to children of middle- and low-income families, so they can have more of the same choices of all schools that families with money already have.

This revolution is in the greatest American tradition.

We have done this before and it has worked.

We called it the GI Bill.

As World War II was coming to a close, 48 years ago this week, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill creating scholarships that veterans could spend at any college. Most of my generation went to college on the GI Bill-- the college of our choice.

Diane Ravitch, the historian who is now our assistant secretary of education, says that the GI Bill "was the most successful piece of social legislation in our nation's history." It created opportunity for Americans who never would have had it; at the end of World War II, only 5 per cent of Americans had a college degree. It gave our country a new generation of leaders. The consumer power it gave veterans--dollars to spend at the college of their choice--helped to create the best system of colleges and universities in the world.

We can do it again.

Now that the Cold War is over, I am calling on America to create new state and local GI bills for children--to create scholarships for children of middle- and low-income families that their families can use at the school of their choice. Just as we

gave veterans consumer power that helped to create the best system of higher education in the world, the federal government should help state and local governments and the private sector give children of middle- and low-income families consumer power than can help to create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world.

These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice become the muscle parents need to create the best schools for their children.

If we can put missiles down smokestacks, if our astronauts can capture a 4.5 ton satellite in space, then we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren.

Specifically, I have asked Congress to appropriate a half-billion dollars to help a number of state and local governments create \$1,000 scholarships that middle- and low-income children could spend at any lawfully operating elementary or secondary school.

For example, these new federal dollars would help a city like Milwaukee create \$1,000 scholarships for every child of a family who makes less than the national median family income, which is roughly \$40,000 a year for a family of four. If Milwaukee applied for a grant to fund its own GI Bill for

Children, it could receive \$50 million, enough to provide scholarships for 50,000 children from middle- and low-income families.

Milwaukee could compete for the federal dollars in a demonstration grant with other state or local governmental units. There are only three conditions. First, in order to apply, the governmental unit would have to take substantial steps to provide a choice of schools to families within its jurisdiction. Second, families would be permitted--must be permitted--to spend the \$1,000 federal scholarship at any participating school that they believe best meets the needs of their child. Third, the governmental unit must allow all lawfully operating schools in the area--public, private, and religious--to participate if they choose.

The legislation that I am transmitting to Congress today also permits parents to use up to half of the thousand dollars for other academic programs that might be offered after school, on Saturdays, or in the summers. I believe this is one of the most powerful parts of the legislation. One of our greatest wastes is that our schools are closed so much of the time when children could be using them. Many of the educators I see believe if they could offer academic programs in the afternoon or on Saturday children would flock to them. This is our chance to find out.

There is enough federal money in my proposal to provide \$1,000 scholarships to all of the middle-and low-income children in Milwaukee and 45 other cities the size of Trenton. This is enough money for a good demonstration grant, to find out what happens when children with families with less money have more of the same choices schools that people with money have.

I believe I know exactly what will happen. We know because of our experience with the GI Bill. We know because of our experience with federal grants and loans for college, which one of every two full time four year college students now have. Consumer power creates opportunity and better schools for all students.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for children would be a truly revolutionary change for elementary and secondary education in America. It causes controversy and concern because it takes some risks. Let me talk about some of those concerns:

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2. Some will say letting parents choose schools will leave some children behind--I simply do not buy this idea that someone cannot make a good decision just because he or she is poor. That is the same thing I heard when we proposed day care vouchers for poor families, or when we proposed that the poor own their own homes. Let the poor own their own home, choose their own schools. Give them help in standing on their own two feet and building and climbing their own ladder so that they can grab a share of the American Dream.

3. Some believe that letting parents choose private schools will hurt public schools-- I believe the opposite will happen. Look at what has happened to colleges and universities over the last half century as a result of the enormous consumer power made available by the GI Bill and the Pell grants and student loans. 80 per cent of our college students attend public universities and our public and private colleges together

have become the best in the world.

[I am glad that Howard Fuller, the Superintendent of Milwaukee schools is here today. He is not afraid of choice.] And I hope that [he] sees that this proposal for federal help for a GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee can build stronger public schools. Today in Milwaukee, as in most of America, 90% of children attend public schools. If Milwaukee applied for and received a grant to fund its own GI Bill for Children, about 45 million dollars, 90% of the grant, would probably go to the education of children in the public schools. This would roughly double the amount of federal aid from the Department of Education to the Milwaukee public schools.

4. Some will say choice could open the door to racial discrimination. So that there can be no question about this, I have put in this proposed legislation provisions of federal anti-discrimination laws.

5. There are several points to make about money. First, I want to make it absolutely clear this is not a new federal entitlement program. The federal government cannot afford one more entitlement, even for education. And I have said many times that money alone is not the answer to our education problems. The U.S. already spends more per student for schools than any country in the world except Switzerland. We need

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But making real changes that create the best schools in the world can require new investment. Primarily that is a state and local responsibility. But federal support for state and local scholarships for children of middle-and low-income families can create opportunity and change our schools. It is an appropriate and promising method of federal support for education.

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There are risks, but we need revolutions and revolutions carry with them risks.

We need revolutions because our world is changing. [Janette]

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

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

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We should remember the problems we have are not different than the problems people are having in every country in the world

today.

We should also remember that we have more capacity to solve our problems than any country in the world.

There has never been a time in our history when more countries wanted to be like us, wanted to try our American Dream.

We have done better realizing our dream when we have remembered what is most important to us, the principles that have bound us together, our most enduring values.

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

We have no value more enduring than the idea that every American should have the opportunity for a first class education.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for Children in Milwaukee and cities and towns across America will give more of the same opportunities for a first class education to children with less money than children from families with money already have.

I can think of nothing that could do more to extend the

American revolution or expand the American dream.

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Thank them:

we remain

committed:

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
IN CONNECTION WITH STATE AND LOCAL  
GI BILL FOR CHILDREN

DRAFT 1 DRAFT

(DRAFT 17 June '92)

(President would make these first few paragraphs of these comments extemporaneously based upon what he sees and hears at the working session with Milwaukee citizens.)

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

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

Governor Tommy Thompson and state Representative Polly Williams were also in our working session. They have taken the

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lead in helping [Janette Williams] realize her dreams for [Javon]-- creating \$2500 scholarships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from low-income families so they could attend non-religious private schools. Governor Thompson and Representative Williams wanted to see what would happen when children of poor families have more of the same choices of schools that people with money already have.

Representatives of the Bradley Foundation and several other Milwaukee businesses were also in our meeting. They recently pledged \$3 million to expand further the number of number of families and the number choices--including religious schools--that low-income Milwaukee families have.

What has been happening in Milwaukee is truly a revolution in American education.

Today I am proposing that the federal government join that revolution. I am sending Congress legislation that would authorize the spending of a half billion new federal dollars to help cities like Milwaukee give \$1,000 scholarships to children of middle- and low-income families so they can have more of the same choices of all schools that families with money already have.

This revolution is in the greatest American tradition.

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We have done this before and it has worked.

We called it the GI Bill.

As World War II was coming to a close, 48 years ago this week, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill creating scholarships that veterans could spend at any college. Most of my generation went to college on the GI Bill-- the college of our choice.

Diane Ravitch, the historian who is now our assistant secretary of education, says that the GI Bill "was the most successful piece of social legislation in our nation's history." It created opportunity for Americans who never would have had it; at the end of World War II, only 5 per cent of Americans had a college degree. It gave our country a new generation of leaders. The consumer power it gave veterans--dollars to spend at the college of their choice--helped to create the best system of colleges and universities in the world.

We can do <sup>what?</sup> (it) again.

Now that the Cold War is over, I am calling on America to create new state and local GI bills for children--to create scholarships for children of middle- and low-income families that their families can use at the school of their choice. Just as we gave veterans consumer power that helped to create the best

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system of higher education in the world, the federal government should help state and local governments and the private sector give children of middle- and low-income families consumer power than can help to create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world.

These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice become the muscle parents need to create the best schools for their children.

If we can put missiles down smokestacks, if our astronauts can capture a satellite in space, then we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren.

Specifically, I have asked Congress to appropriate a half billion dollars to help a number of state and local governments create \$1,000 scholarships that middle- and low-income children could spend at any lawfully? operating elementary or secondary school.

For example, these new federal dollars would help a city like Milwaukee create \$1,000 scholarships for every child of a family who makes less than the median family income, which is about \$40,000 a year. In Milwaukee, this would mean that about 23,000 children--or about 70 per cent of all the children in Milwaukee--would receive \$1,000 scholarships.

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Milwaukee could compete for the federal dollars in a demonstration grant with other state or local governmental units. There are only three conditions. First, in order to apply, the governmental unit would have to take substantial steps to provide a choice of schools to families within its jurisdiction. Second, families would be permitted--must be permitted--to spend the \$1000 federal scholarship at any participating school that they believe best meets the needs of their child. Third, the governmental unit must allow all lawfully operating schools in the area--public, private, and religious--to participate if they choose. ↙

The legislation that I am transmitting to Congress today also permits parents to use up to half of the thousand dollars for other academic programs that might be offered after school, or on Saturdays, or in the summers. I believe this is one of the most powerful parts of the legislation. One of our greatest wastes is that our schools are closed so much of the time when children could be using them. Many of the educators I see believe if they could offer academic programs in the afternoon or on Saturday children would flock to them. This is our chance to find out.

There is enough federal money in my proposal to provide \$1,000 scholarships to all of the middle-and low-income children in Milwaukee and 45 other cities the size of Trenton. This is enough money for a good demonstration grant, to find out what

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happens when children with families with less money have more of the same choices of schools that people with money have.

I believe I know exactly what will happen. We know because of our experience with the GI Bill. We know because of our experience with federal grants and loans for college, which one of every two full time four year college students now have. Consumer power creates opportunity and better schools for all students.

A new system of state and local GI Bills for children would be a truly revolutionary change for elementary and secondary education in America. It causes controversy and concern because it takes some risks. Let me talk about some of those concerns:

1. Some will say this mixes up church and state because it permits government money to go to religious schools--that is wrong. This is aid to families, not aid to institutions. It is also good policy. No one told the GIs they couldn't go to SMU or Notre Dame or Yeshiva or Berea or Fisk. I haven't heard Congress suggesting that students stop taking Pell grants and guaranteed student loans to Baptist Colleges or even Presbyterian seminaries. I don't hear an outcry because poor children who attend Catholic schools get a free lunch paid for by federal taxpayers. And I don't think Congress is about to repeal the voucher poor mothers have that can be spent at the day care center of their choice, public, private or religious. We should

let government money follow the child to any lawfully operating school that the parent feels does the best job of helping the child.

2. Some will say letting parents choose schools will leave some children behind--I simply do not buy this idea that someone cannot make a good decision just because he or she is poor. That is the same thing I heard when we proposed day care vouchers for poor families, or when we proposed that the poor own their own homes. Let the poor own their own home, choose their own schools. Give them help in standing on their own two feet and building and climbing their own ladder so that they can grab a share of the American Dream.

3. Some believe that letting parents choose private schools will hurt public schools-- I believe the opposite will happen. Look at what has happened to colleges and universities over the last half century as a result of the enormous consumer power made available by the GI Bill and the Pell grants and student loans. 80 per cent of our college students attend public universities and our public and private colleges together have become the best in the world.

[I am glad that Howard Fuller, the Superintendent of Milwaukee schools is here today. He is not afraid of choice.] And I hope that he sees in this proposal for federal help for a GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee can build stronger public

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schools. Today in Milwaukee, as in most of America, 90% of children attend public schools. The amount of chapter one federal support for elementary and secondary schools in Milwaukee is 15.8 million. If Milwaukee public schools continue to attract 90% of the students as they do now, the Federal share, if Milwaukee participated in the Gi Bill, would be \$72 million.

4. Some will say choice could the door to racial discrimination--So that there can be no question about this I have put in this proposed legislation provisions of federal anti-discrimination laws.

5. There are several points to make about money. First, I want to make it absolutely clear this is not a new federal entitlement program. The federal government cannot afford one more entitlement, even for education. And I have said many times that money alone is not the answer to our education problems. The U.S. already spends more per student for schools than any country in the world except Switzerland. We need revolutions, not more money for more of the same.

But making real changes that create the best schools in the world can require new investment. Primarily that is a state and local responsibility. But federal support for state and local scholarships for children of middle-and low-income families can spend to create opportunity and change our schools and is an appropriate and promising method of federal support for

education.

Milwaukee is not the only place in America this revolution is occurring.

In 1991 in Indianapolis, th Golden Rule Insurance Company, began to offer tuition vouchers of up to \$800 to Indianapolis students. In the first year, over 700 students were given vouchers to attend any school of their choosing.

In San Antonio, the CEO Foundation has earmarked 1.5 million dollars in vouchers for up to half of any child's school tuition, up to a maximum of 750 dollars. The program will serve 840 children, with over 1,000 children on a waiting list.

In California, a proposed ballot initiative would provide a voucher scholarship for every school age child in the state. Scholarships could be redeemed at any public or private school that chooses to participate.

In Vermont, school boards have sent children to private schools for 75 years.

The second largest high school in New Hampshire, in Derry, is a private school with most of its students paid for by area school boards.

Instead of thinking-just of public schools run by one single provider who assigns all except wealthy children to one specific school, it is time we began thinking of system of public education with many providers offering a marketplace of opportunities that give all of our children choices and access to the best education in the world.

The GI Bill for Children in Milwaukee and in other cities will move America inevitably in that direction.

There are risks, but we need revolutions and revolutions carry with them risks.

We need revolutions because our world is changing. Howard Jones and the parents I visited with this morning know what was enough education for them isn't enough for their kids--or for them, today. They know their children are growing up differently. They see teachers are stymied and kids are bored because schools are in a time warp, designed for another age.

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

The parents with whom I met this morning know that America

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can do whatever it wants to do. That if we can put missiles down smokestacks and capture a 4.5 ton satellite in space, we can create the best schools in the world for our children and grandchildren. That we must change our schools to be the kind of country we want to be, and if their children are going to have the kind of life they want to them to have.

That changing our schools will require several revolutions at once.

That is why with all the Governors we have created very ambitious national education goals and a ten year-community-by-community strategy to reach those goals called AMERICA 2000.

Revolution No. 1 is starting over, school by school, to create a new generation of break-the-mold New American Schools--so students have choices among the best schools in the world. Some 700 design teams have submitted proposals to do just that.

Revolution No. 2 is changing what we teach; helping educators and others create world-class standards and a voluntary system of national examinations--call them American Achievement Tests--so parents and communities can tell how their kids and schools are doing.

Revolution No. 3 is getting the government off the teachers

backs. Teachers don't need a federal e book.

Revolution No. 4 is our state and local Gi Bill for Children to get parents more involved, to give them consumer power--dollars to spend at the schools of their choice---give them muscle to help their kids, to make all schools better.

Many Americans are anxious today, because the world is changing.

We should remember that our problems are different from the problems of people in other countries in only one way.

That difference is this. We have more capacity to solve our problems than any country in the world.

There has never been a time in our history when more countries wanted to be like us, wanted to try our American Dream.

We have done better realizing our dream when we have remembered what is most important to us, the principles that have bound us together, our most enduring values.

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

We have no value more enduring than the idea that every American should have the opportunity for a first class education.



A new system of state and local GI Bills for Children in Milwaukee and cities and towns across America will give more of the same opportunities for a first class education to children with less money than children from families with money already have.

I can think of nothing that could do more to extend the American revolution or expand the American dream.

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of George Bush, 1992

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his remarks; he referred to Gov. Tommy  
Thompson of Wisconsin.

**Remarks Announcing Proposed  
Legislation To Establish a "GI Bill"  
for Children**

June 25, 1992

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

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

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

Now, the Governor here, Tommy Thomp-  
son, the Governor of Wisconsin, is here with  
us today. I'm sorry that Polly Williams, who's  
been at the forefront of the school choice  
movement, couldn't be here, but she's at

home looking after her mother. I would sa-  
lute her values. But we miss her very, very  
much. Together, Polly and Tommy Thomp-  
son, the Governor, have taken the lead in  
helping parents like Janette Williams realize  
her dreams for her son Javon, creating schol-  
arships for 1,000 Milwaukee children from  
low-income families so that they can attend  
private schools. Now, theirs is a bold experi-  
ment, to give low-income families more of  
the same choices of schools already available  
to wealthier families.

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

No one should underestimate what's at  
stake here. A revolution is underway in Mil-  
waukee and across this country, a revolution  
to make American schools the best in the  
world. I salute our Secretary of Education  
who is helping lead that revolution, Lamar  
Alexander.

Together with the Nation's Governors,  
we've set six ambitious national education  
goals. And I might say that this wasn't a par-  
tisan move; Democrats and Republicans alike  
of the Governors coming together to set six  
ambitious national education goals. In 44  
States and 1,400 communities, we've already  
launched America 2000 to meet these goals.

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

At this point I would like to salute one  
of the two in purple, Barbara Bush—[laugh-  
ter]—for her pointing this out to parents, that  
it's what they do, what happens in their  
home. Barbara's done a lot of that here and



around the country. I might say that Marilyn Quayle's taking that same message of parental involvement all across our country, and we're very grateful to her.

So, it is our belief then that parents, not the Government, should choose their children's schools. So today I am proposing that we take another giant step forward in this revolution. I am sending to Congress legislation that would authorize an ambitious demonstration program, 1.5 billion new Federal dollars to help communities all across America give \$1,000 scholarships to children of middle- and low-income families so they can choose which schools their kids will attend.

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are several points to make about money. First, I want to make it clear that we're not talking here about a new Federal entitlement program. The Federal Government cannot afford one more entitlement, even for education. I've said many times that money alone isn't the answer. The United States already spends more per student for schools than any country in the world except Switzerland. I don't have to tell you where we stand in the international rankings of educational performance at the level we're talking about here today. Our universities and colleges are respected and have achieved the highest levels of achievement. But that, unfortunately, is not true as we talk about K-12. So we need a revolution in American education, not more money to do it the same old way.

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

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... be clear on this point: Ac- with vouchers does not ust sacrifice school prayer. s to those who stand against choice to low- and middle- simply do not buy the idea not make a good decision person is poor. We heard at when we proposed child or low-income families or ed help for public housing their own homes. So it's my ht to let families own their oose their own schools re- come level and give them a shot at the American

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opportunities, create genuine change in our schools.

For too long, we've shielded schools from competition, allowed our schools a damaging monopoly power over our children. This monopoly turns students into statistics and turns parents into pawns. It is time we began thinking of a system of public education in which many providers offer a marketplace of opportunities, opportunities that give all of our children choices and access to the best education in the world. And so it is our firm belief, it is our firm belief that this "GI bill" for children will move America inevitably in that direction.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Revolutions do not go backward." Milwaukee is not the only place in America that our revolution is underway. Last year in Indianapolis, Pat Rooney and the Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust began to offer tuition vouchers to Indianapolis students. I understand a busload of parents and students drove all night to be here today. If you're still awake, welcome, a special welcome to all of you. In San Antonio, the CEO Foundation has earmarked \$1.5 million in vouchers for children in their community. California: Joe Alibrandi and thousands of supporters are pushing for a ballot initiative to provide voucher scholarships for every school-age child in the State. Overall in 1991, 10 States approved some form of new choice legislation, and 37 States had choice legislation pending in one form or another.

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

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

Marilyn, and certainly our Secretary, are very proud to stand with you.

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

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

*Note: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Polly Williams, Wisconsin State legislator. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.*

**Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Legislation To Establish a "GI Bill" for Children June 25, 1992**

*To the Congress of the United States:*  
Forty-eight years ago this week, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the GI Bill. With the hope of duplicating the success of that historic legislation, I am pleased to transmit for your immediate consideration and enactment the "Federal Grants for State and Local 'GI Bills' for Children." This proposal is a crucial component of our efforts to help the country achieve the National Education Goals by the year 2000. Also transmitted is a section-by-section analysis.

This legislation would authorize half-a-billion new Federal dollars in fiscal year 1993, and additional amounts in later years, to help States and communities give \$1,000 scholarships to middle- and low-income children. Families may spend these scholarships at any lawfully operating school of their choice—public, private, or religious. The result would be to give middle- and low-income families consumer power—dollars to spend at any