

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
S; 2003-0262-F

FOIA Number:

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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Smith, Curt, Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1992

OA/ID Number: 13889
Folder ID Number: 13889-046

Folder Title:
Christian Schools, Anaheim, California, 11/25/91

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	18	29	1	5

(Smith/Grossman)
November 17, 1991
Draft One
TEACHERS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1991

Thank you. It is a great pleasure to talk with you, and be
a part of the 41st annual Association of Christian Schools
International Convention. / I especially want to ^{salute the} thank your
~~seven thousand teachers and administrators / the 35,000 other~~ _{as individuals + all}

~~teachers and administrators who~~ will see this event by videotape /
and the parents of the 533,000 students enrolled in ACSI schools.

/ You are all the true heroes of American education. //

~~Let me take a few moments to salute how your schools~~ ^{up to 2k} _{you'd} (have
~~enriched America's children. // For more than 200 years you have~~
shown that America is special because of God. ~~According to every~~

~~survey, America is the most religious Nation on earth. // Just~~
as faith can move mountains, the American Character has mountains
of faith. / While no country can claim a special place in God's
heart, we are better as a people because he has a place in ours.

//

Listen to Thomas Jefferson: "The God who gave us life, gave
us liberty at the same time." / Or Ben Franklin, himself an
educator. He often quoted the 127th Psalm: "Except the Lord
built the house, they labor in vain that build it." / And it was
perhaps my favorite President, Dwight Eisenhower, ~~beloved Ike~~ -
who began his first Inaugural Address with a hand-written

prayer: "Almighty God, give us, we pray, the power to discern clearly right from wrong." //

Today, as the largest group of Protestant schools in America, you ^{teach} ~~teach~~ right from wrong as your legacy and your life.

// You believe, as I do, that schools can nurture values like ethics, citizenship, ^{values} morality, self-discipline. Let others talk of trendy curricula. / We know what counts are verities that endure -- reading, learning, courtesy, kindness. //

We call these ^{basics} ~~teachings~~ the basics. They give students a foundation -- a way to conduct their lives -- which opens wide the possibilities of tomorrow. / They ^{ACSB} ~~teach that~~ without God's help, we can do nothing. With God's help, we can do great things for America, and the world. // ((Perhaps a small boy once expressed this fidelity to faith. "God bless mother and daddy, my brother and sister," he said. Then, he went on to pray, "And, oh God, do take care of yourself, because if anything happens to you we're all sunk.")) //

Because I believe these words, I support a Constitutional Amendment restoringg voluntary prayer to our classrooms. We need the Faith of our Fathers back in our schools. // I also support other aspects of ^{Chick} ~~our education~~ approach. I applaud your administrators for insisting that Christian schools have a non-racial discrimination enrollment policy. / We need a Nation of quality -- not quotas. // I commend your teachers for their ~~skill and~~ scholarship. Think of it: For the last quarter-century, you have produced student achievement scores one full

year ahead of the national norm. // [[]] // Finally, here's
 to all of you for realizing that learning is impossible without
 classroom discipline -- that students who go to school to nourish
 their minds shouldn't feel the need to use their fists. //

All this has helped your schools succeed where often public
 schools have failed. // That is why we have introduced our bold
 program -- America 2000 -- to promote excellence in education. //
 We believe in schools that are market-oriented and performance-
 based -- because it's time to recognize that competition can spur
 scholarship ^{achievement} in our schools. // We want choice to be extended not
 only to private schools and other religious schools as well. //

I thank you for your support of our Tuition Tax Credit and
 Education Voucher plans. I intend to promote them regardless of
 demagoguery from groups like the NEA. // And I pledge to you, in
 a related matter, that I will not allow the option of religious-
 based child care to be reduced or eliminated. // As long as I am
 President, liberal special interest groups are not going to bully
 America's good, quiet, decent people who know that political
 values without moral values cannot sustain a Nation. //

During the darkest days of the Civil War, a man we revere
 not merely for what he did -- but what he was -- was asked
 whether he thought God was on his side. / Said Abraham Lincoln:
 "My concern is not whether God is on our side -- but whether we
 are on God's side." /

I believe schools like yours are on God's side, and I will
 work to protect them -- for America's sake, and our kids'. //

4 after you care

Thank you for the chance to talk with you, and ~~yes~~, God bless America. Now, I will be delighted to take your questions.

And # # # #