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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 3, 1997

The Honorable George E. Brown
2300 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brown:

George

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 1997. The legislation that you recently introduced for an educational satellite loan guarantee program clearly shows that the President's interests in advancing education enjoys the widest support both here and abroad.

On the President's just completed trip to South America, education was a prominent theme. We signed the US/Brazil Partnership for Education which will enhance joint cooperation in five areas including the use of technology to enhance educational outcomes and distance learning. The Partnership will benefit both American and Brazilian students and will open up opportunities for American information technology companies.

Education will also enjoy pride of place at the Santiago Summit of the Americas in April of 1998, where it will be the first initiative in the Plan of Action. Negotiations on the Plan are moving forward in the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), a policy-level body, where all of the hemisphere's 34 democracies are represented. As responsible coordinator for the theme of education since the Miami summit, Mexico has already chaired two meetings focused on developing the education initiative.

I expect that distance education and educational technology will both be part of the action plan when our negotiation is completed. Whatever focus these action items take, the way educational programming and messages are transmitted will be very important. I am pleased to know that you and others have begun work on this important next step.

As the Santiago Summit quickly approaches, I hope you will continue to share with me your ideas for improving the lives of citizens in our hemisphere.

Personally,

Bill Clinton

Nelson-FVT

Rtc -

Santiago Summit

Barack Obama

Summit - Education

GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

MEMBER,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN,
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

10123

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0542

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October 6, 1997

Thomas (Mack) McLarty
Counselor for the President and
Special Envoy for the Americas
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. McLarty:

It has recently come to my attention that the agenda for the 1998 Summit of the Americas includes, among many ambitious and admirable action items, discussions on distance education programs and the incorporation of new technologies in education throughout the hemisphere, in addition to the establishment of an adequate hemispheric infrastructure, especially in the matters of transportation and telecommunications.

I am very pleased to see the importance of educational technology being recognized and believe that the development of an adequate telecommunications infrastructure will be an extremely beneficial vehicle for the transmission of knowledge throughout our hemisphere, and the world.

I recently introduced legislation that, I believe, fits very well with the agenda for the Summit of the Americas. The purpose of the legislation is to provide for an educational satellite loan guarantee program that is designed to facilitate the development of an integrated, national and global telecommunications system dedicated to instruction. The bill will fund U.S. participation in, and show U.S. support for, a national/international organization designed to use the resources of satellite technology and other telecommunications to increase and maintain the accessibility and affordability of education and instructional training services around the world.

I would like to encourage you to consider such a system as you discuss the world of distance education and examine ways to provide nations, states, and localities with the best educational resources that technology can provide.

Thank you in advance for your time and interest. Should you wish to discuss this bill, or any related matters, I would, of course, be happy to do so.

Sincerely,

George E. Brown, Jr.

George E. Brown, Jr.
Member of Congress

GEB:sp

Please prepare
response.
Eric - Bill Grady - AB
Santh Prehoda
225-6161
-Linda Isaac

Congressman
George E. Brown, Jr.

42nd District of
California

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Facsimile
Communication

To: Nelson Cunningham

From: Sarah Prehoda

Page 1 of 6 pages including this page

Date: 10/16/97

Message:

Copy of H.R. 2320. Please
call me if you have
any questions.

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2320

To establish an education satellite loan guarantee program to facilitate the development of an integrated, national and global telecommunications system dedicated to instruction and used solely for communications among Federal, State, and local instructional institutions and agencies and instructional resource providers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California (for himself and Mrs. MORELLA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish an education satellite loan guarantee program to facilitate the development of an integrated, national and global telecommunications system dedicated to instruction and used solely for communications among Federal, State, and local instructional institutions and agencies and instructional resource providers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PURPOSE.**

4 It is the purpose of this Act—

1 (1) to develop a communications satellite sys-
2 tem which is accessible to educational and instruc-
3 tional programming and can be provided free from
4 preemption; and

5 (2) to provide an initial loan that will be de-
6 signed to fund United States participation in, and
7 show United States support for, a national or inter-
8 national organization designed to use the resources
9 of satellite technology and other telecommunications
10 to increase and maintain the accessibility and af-
11 fordability of education and instructional training
12 services around the world.

13 **SEC. 2. EDUCATIONAL SATELLITE LOAN GUARANTEE**
14 **PROGRAM.**

15 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
17 is authorized to carry out a program to guarantee,
18 for a period of not more than 3 years, any lender
19 against loss of principal or interest on a loan de-
20 scribed in paragraph (2) made by such lender to a
21 non-Federal, nonprofit, public corporation—

22 (A) whose charter is designed for affili-
23 ation with State and local instructional institu-
24 tions and agencies, and other distance learning
25 and instructional resource providers;

3

(B) whose governing board includes members representing elementary and secondary education, vocational and technical education, community and State colleges, and universities; and

(C) whose sole purpose is to acquire and operate a communications satellite system dedicated to transmitting instructional programming.

(2) ELIGIBLE LOANS.—The Secretary of Commerce only shall guarantee a loan under this Act if—

(A) the non-Federal, nonprofit, public corporation described in paragraph (1) has—

(i) investigated all practical means to acquire a communications satellite system;

(ii) reported to the Secretary the findings of such investigation; and

(iii) recommended the most cost-effective, high-quality communications satellite system to meet the purpose of this Act; and

(B) the proceeds of such loan are used solely to acquire and operate a communications

1 satellite system dedicated to transmitting in-
2 structional programming.

3 (3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
4 section—

5 (A) the term “acquire” includes acquisition
6 through lease, purchase, or donation; and

7 (B) the term “communications satellite
8 system” means one or more communications
9 satellites capable of providing service from
10 space, including transponder capacity, on such
11 satellite or satellites.

12 (b) LOAN AMOUNT LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary of
13 Commerce may not guarantee more than \$100,000,000 in
14 loans described in subsection (a), with respect to the pro-
15 gram assisted under this section, of which—

16 (1) not more than \$85,000,000 shall be for the
17 guarantee of such loans the proceeds of which are
18 used to acquire a communications satellite system;
19 and

20 (2) not more than \$15,000,000 shall be for the
21 guarantee of such loans the proceeds of which are
22 used to pay the costs of not more than 3 years of
23 operating and management expenses associated with
24 providing the communications satellite system serv-
25 ices described in subsection (a).

1 (c) LIQUIDATION OR ASSIGNMENT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order for a lender to re-
3 ceive a loan guarantee under this section such lender
4 shall agree to assign to the United States any right
5 or interest in the communications satellite system or
6 communications satellite system services that such
7 lender possesses upon payment by the Secretary of
8 Commerce on such loan guarantee.

9 (2) DISPOSITION.—The United States may ex-
10 ercise, retain, or dispose of any right or interest ac-
11 quired pursuant to paragraph (1) in any manner the
12 United States deems fit, upon the recommendation
13 of the Secretary of Commerce.

14 (d) SPECIAL RULE.—Any loan guaranteed under this
15 section shall be guaranteed with full faith and credit of
16 the United States.

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
19 necessary for each fiscal year to carry out this section.

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