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Jeff Shesol

8-23-00

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
CROSSROADS MIDDLE SCHOOL
MONMOUTH JUNCTION, NEW JERSEY

August 23, 2000

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Acknowledgments: Rep. Rush Holt. It is gratifying to me – and so important for all of you – that this district is finally represented in Congress by such a strong champion for children and for investing in education.

Also: Malaika [*ma-LAY-ee-kah*] Carpenter, Crossroads Middle Schl grad (attending So. Brunswick HS this fall); her parents Nancy & Lenny and brother Jerren; Dr. Samuel Stewart, Superintendent, So. Brunswick Schls; people of So. Brunswick Township.

Dr. Jim Wayne Prin

I want to thank everybody for joining us today. With the new school year only a couple of weeks away, I know this is a busy time for all of you. You know, I've always thought of the back-to-school season as sort of a new beginning: new books, new school supplies, new faces in the classrooms. It's a time when a lot of parents stop and think of the vital role that education plays in their children's lives. And it's a good time for our nation to do the same.

Today I'd like to talk to you about the ways we must prepare America's schools not just for the new school year, but for the new century. We've never had a greater opportunity.

We're in the midst of the longest economic expansion in history, with more than 22 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 30 years, and the highest home ownership ever. ~~And our success is about far more than~~
~~Ray~~ ~~well 35, 100%, 100% low~~
 economics. America's social fabric is on the mend. This is a time of great prosperity and even greater promise.

There's a great debate underway – not just in Washington but across our country – about how to keep our prosperity going and how best to use our hard-won budget surplus. ~~Let me tell you what I think we should~~
~~do.~~ I think we should meet America's long-term challenges: ~~I think we should seize this once-in-a-lifetime~~
~~opportunity to pay down the debt, save Social Security,~~
 and strengthen Medicare with a voluntary prescription drug benefit. And I think we should ~~invest in our~~
~~our~~ ~~children's future by investing in education.~~

8-23-00

~~That's why~~, for seven and a half years now, Al Gore and I have been working hard to bring dramatic change to our public schools – by investing more in them and demanding more from them. ~~That's why, in an era of fiscal discipline,~~ we've nearly doubled investment in ~~education and training~~ education and training and expanded college opportunity more than at any time since the G.I. Bill, a half century ago.

With the help of Vice President Gore's E-rate program, we've ^{help} connected 95 percent of our schools to the Internet, up from only 35 percent five years ago.

We're working to turn around failing schools, and provide after-school and summer school programs for all the kids who need them.

And we're focused on reducing class size in the early grades and hiring 100,000 new, highly trained teachers for our children. I'm told we have some first-time teachers in the audience today – here for their very first day of orientation. Will all of the new teachers please stand? We want to applaud you for choosing this important and proud profession. America needs a lot more just like you.

You're joining a great group of teachers here. But I know that you all wish this facility were every bit as strong as the faculty. I've seen the trailers. And across America, I'm hearing more and more about conditions like Malaika and Dr. Stewart described: overcrowded classrooms and a learning environment that's not much good for learning – or for teaching.

The strain on America's schools is showing as our student population is growing. Earlier this week, we learned that during this academic year, more than 53 million students will fill America's schools – the highest number in history. We call this phenomenon the “Baby Boom echo” – and it's shattering enrollment records for the fifth year running. Today, I'm releasing a report by the Department of Education that shows that New Jersey is facing its highest enrollment in 20 years. If you had a statewide roll call here in New Jersey, it would list 1.3 million names this year – a 20 percent boost during the last decade. Over the next ten years, the growth in this state's high school population will put it in the top ten in the nation.

8-23-00

This report is further evidence that America must act now – because we can't expect our students to reach high standards when their school buildings are substandard. We ought to be building new schools and fixing old ones – in order to reduce class size and give all our children the education they deserve. That is why I've proposed new tax credits to help communities across America to build or modernize 6,000 schools. As part of my balanced budget, I have also proposed to give grants and loans to ^{ask for 5 yr} 5,000 schools for the emergency repairs they so desperately need.

*Added benefit of reducing capital punishment programs
taxes, poor problem in the US - the.*

Reps. Charlie Rangel and Nancy Johnson have proposed legislation to do exactly that. ~~I want you to~~
your Rep, Cong
~~know that Rep.~~ Holt is a co-sponsor of that bill.

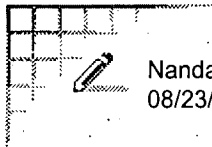
It has strong, bipartisan support in the House; and that's due in no small part to the teachers and the building and construction trades who have really stood behind it.

Those of you who are here today, I thank you.

A bipartisan majority is ready to pass that bill; but the House leadership, unfortunately, is trying to prevent a vote on school construction – to put it off another year, and probably another year after that. Now, every year the Congress stalls is another year that these kids have to go to class in trailers like those over there. Every year the Congress sits on this bill is another year that students across America will sit in crowded classrooms, in crumbling schools. Well, I think our kids deserve better. They're our future and they deserve better.

School is just about back in session, and so is Congress. For those of us in elected office, there's still time to finish the assignments the American people have given us. If you hear anyone saying that there's just no time left to get anything done, that this is an election year, I hope you'll remind them that this is also a school year; and there's plenty of time left to invest in a world-class education for our children. Congress should not go home until it invests in fixing old schools and building new ones.

I also call on Congress to invest in proven strategies that boost achievement: smaller classes and highly trained teachers; and resources to turn around failing schools and expand learning opportunities like after-school and summer school. In addition, Congress should act to expand college opportunity by passing our middle-class tax credit for college tuition. At this time of prosperity, we have no greater responsibility than to prepare our children for this new century. So let's get back to work. By building stronger schools, we build a stronger nation. Thank you.



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Subject: 8/23/00 Remarks By The President To The Crossroads Middle School Community

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Monmouth Junction, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

August 23, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE CROSSROADS MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Crossroads Middle School
Monmouth Junction, New Jersey

1:35 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Please be seated, everybody. We all appreciated the standing ovation; but you're about to get tired. (Laughter.) I am so glad to be here. Let me say, first of all, I thought Malaika Carpenter gave a terrific talk, didn't you? (Applause.) I understand her parents, Nancy and Lenny, and her brother Jerren are here. Where are they? Stand up there. (Applause.) You did well.

I'd like to thank Dr. Stewart for welcoming us here, and Dr. Warfel, the principal here. I'd also like to say a special word of appreciation for this terrific band. Weren't they great, this jazz band? (Applause.) I mean, they played "Hail To The Chief," and "On Broadway," and "Caravan," and lots of other things, and they did it very, very well. There aren't many middle school bands in America that are that good, I can tell you. And you should be very proud of them. They're really good. (Applause.)

And I'd like to thank the other students that met with me just a few moments ago. And I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to your Representative in Congress, Rush Holt, who is here with me. (Applause.) Since I'm at a school, I can say this -- Rush was a university professor for about a decade, an educator, a trained physicist. When he got elected, we all used to kid him that he knew entirely too much to be a politician. We thought it would be a terrible burden. But I can tell you, from my point of view, as someone who has worked for eight years to improve the quality and the availability of opportunity in education, it has been a real joy to have someone like him with the depth of commitment to education that he has demonstrated these last two years. It's been wonderful. (Applause.)

Well, we're about to go back to school. And I've always thought of back to school time as sort of a new beginning. It certainly is for the students and the teachers -- new students, new books, new school supplies, new faces in the classroom, a time when a lot of parents stop and think again about the role of education in their own children's lives and what they hope will be their children's future. I think it's a good time for our country to do the same. So today, I'd like to talk a little bit about what we can do to prepare our schools and our children not just for the new school year, but for the new economy of the 21st century.

We are very fortunate in America today to be living in the longest economic expansion in our history, to have 22 million new jobs and the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years and the highest homeownership ever, a 25-year low in the crime rate, a 35-year low in the welfare rolls, with incomes going up and poverty going down. The great -- (applause) -- thank you. The great debate that I hope our country will have not only in this election year, but in the remaining weeks of this session of Congress is what are we going to do with this good fortune.

You know, the parents here in the audience can empathize with this. One of the things you learn when you live long enough is that sometimes you make mistakes not because times are so tough, but because they're good, and you kind of break your concentration and you let moments pass by. And anybody that lives over 30 years can think of some time in his or her life when you made a mistake like that.

So this is a very important time for our country. What are we going to do with this good fortune, unprecedented in our whole history? I hope that we will use this time to dream about the future we want for our children and to literally make a list of what we have to do to achieve it. I hope we'll use this time to pay down our debt and get this country out of debt for the first time since 1835, to keep interest rates lower and keep the economy going. I think that's a good thing to do. (Applause.)

I hope we'll use this opportunity to create incentives for people to invest in the poor areas that still aren't participating in our recovery. Here in New Jersey, you might find it hard to believe, but there are several Indian reservations in America where the unemployment rate is still over 50 percent, even though the national rate is 4; and inner city areas and small rural towns. So I hope we'll do that.

I hope we will take this opportunity when we have some money to lengthen the life of Social Security and Medicare -- take it out beyond the baby boom generation so that when those of us who are baby boomers retire, we don't bankrupt our kids and their ability to raise our grandchildren, because they shouldn't be prejudiced by the fact that time has taken us into our later years. I hope we'll use this time to provide some needed health care advances, including prescription drug benefits for seniors on Medicare. (Applause.)

But there is nothing more important for us to do if we want to use this moment to build a future of our dreams for our kids than to make sure all of our children get a 21st century education. And that requires both investment and standards in accountability.

It requires us to invest more and demand more. It requires us to do what Vice President Gore and I have been trying to do for eight years now. We have doubled our investment in education and training. We've expanded college opportunity by more than any time since the G.I. Bill 50 years ago with the student loan program improvements, and saved \$8 billion for our kids with the HOPE scholarship, which gives every family a \$1,500 tax credit on the cost of college tuition -- just about covers community college, makes it free in most states in the country. And we're now trying to get the Congress to allow taxpayers to deduct the cost of college tuition up to \$10,000 from their tax bill, which will be worth \$2,800 a year in lower taxes for families with kids in college. (Applause.)

With the help of the e-rate program, which the Vice President pioneered through Congress, we

have worked with schools to connect 95 percent of our schools to the Internet. That's up from only 35 percent five years ago when we started. (Applause.) We're also working to help turn around failing schools with after-school and summer school programs and mentoring programs. I was in a school in New York the other day, an elementary school where, two years ago, 80 percent of the kids were reading below grade level and doing math below grade level. Today, two years later, 74 percent of the kids are at or above grade level in both reading and math. These schools can be turned around. The teachers can do the job. We've got to give them the support that they need to succeed, and we can do it. (Applause.)

We're working hard to put 100,000 more teachers in the early grades to have smaller classes because of all the research that shows how important that is. And I know that with all these kids coming into this school district, filling these trailers -- now you've had to hire a lot of new teachers. And I understand that you've got some of your first-time teachers here, Mr. Superintendent, for their first day of orientation. So I'd like to ask all the new teachers, stand and be recognized. Where are the new teachers in this district? Raise your hands back there. Give them a hand. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

I want to thank you for choosing a proud and challenging profession. When you made a decision to become a teacher, you knew you would ever become wealthy -- (laughter) -- but you will be in the most important way of all because of what you're going to do for the children of this country and this community. And I thank you for that. (Applause.)

Now, that brings me down to what we're here about, what I think is a very important part of our long-term commitment to our children. All over America our faculties are better than our facilities -- nice ring, don't you think? (Laughter.) Why is that? Because we now have the largest student population in history, what's called the baby boom echo -- 53 million echoes in our schools -- shattering enrollment records for five years running. That's right, for the last five years, it's the first time since the baby boomers in school that we have a group of kids in our schools bigger than the baby boom generation.

Today, I'm releasing a report from the Department of Education showing that New Jersey has its highest enrollment in 20 years. If you had a statewide roll call, 1.3 million students would answer. That's a 20-percent increase in the last 10 years alone. I understand in this school district the increase has been more like 90 percent in the last 10 years.

Now, what's the problem? The problem is that you've got all these kids who are going into schools that were never built for this many kids. You have them in small towns -- I was in a little town called Jupiter, Florida, a couple of years ago where there were 12 trailers out behind the school, a community much smaller than this one. You have the suburban areas that are swollen up. I was in a community in Queens the other day where the same thing was true -- where there were 400 more children in a school than the school was built for.

So you've got the problem of the trailers, and then you've got the problem in our cities of so many old school buildings that either can't be or haven't been modernized, so that you've got whole floors in some of these schools that are shut down, even though the schools are filled to the gills, because the schools cannot afford the cost of modernizing these old buildings.

Philadelphia, the average school building is 65 years old; New Orleans, 68 years old. New York City, schools still being heated in the winter by coal-burning furnaces. So you have these two big problems. And I believe the federal government has a responsibility to help the states and the local school districts deal with it. And I believe that -- this is the important thing, and you all have to think about this, whether you're Democrats, Republicans, or independents, because it is a new thing. This is virtually unprecedented except for a temporary amount of help the government gave to school districts after World War II for the baby boom generation.

So the leaders of the majority party in the Congress in Washington say that we shouldn't do this because the federal government has never been in the business of school building. In some states the

states don't help school building, it's all local. I think we should do it for the following reasons -- and I want you talk to your friends and neighbors about it, because you're living with it here.

Number one, education is the constitutional responsibility of the states, and the operational responsibility of the localities, but it is a national priority, and it must be. (Applause.)

Number two, we've got some money now and a lot of states and localities don't, and there's no better way to spend it than by investing in our children's future. (Applause.)

Number three, there are real practical problems with saying that this school district here should solve this whole problem. And you know what they are. Even though we've got the largest number of school children in our history, the actual percentage of property owners who have kids in the schools is slightly smaller than it has been at its largest time -- first. A lot of you nodding your head, you know this. Secondly, there are a lot of states like New Jersey, New York, and many others which already rely very heavily on the property tax to finance their schools and there's just a limit to how big it can be.

And I don't think we ought to let, in this sense, philosophy get in the way of practicality here. I'm not proposing to take over the schools. I'm not proposing to do anything except to have legislation that will give tax credits to communities to help them build or drastically modernize 6,000 schools, by lowering the property tax burden on you to do what you're going to do anyway. That's what I want to do. (Applause.)

And, by the way, our bill would also provide grants and loans to repair another 5,000 schools a year, every year, for five years, to help with a lot of these problems with the old school buildings that need to be upgraded.

Now, I hope that you will talk to your friends and neighbors about this. Now, Congressman Holt is already a cosponsor of the legislation by Representative Rangle of New York and Nancy Johnson of Connecticut, a Democrat and a Republican. As I said, we have a bipartisan majority in the House for this, thanks in no small measure to the work of the teachers and the members of the Building and Construction Trades Union who are here today. And I thank them, the teachers and the Building and Construction people for what they've done. (Applause.) I think if we can get the bill up in the Senate we'd have a bipartisan majority there.

But, again, there is this debate, should the federal government be involved in this. Now, the Congress is coming back. We've got almost all the major budget work still to be done. We'll be there a month, maybe five weeks, six weeks. We debated this for two years now. Nobody's in the dark about how it works. It's just a question of whether we can get over this philosophical objection that the federal government's never done it before.

And all I can tell you is, I was there looking at these wonderful children behind me, talking to me in their school, and these two young teachers, full of enthusiasm, thinking that all the good they're doing and all the practical arguments for not putting them in a decent classroom just evaporated. There just are none. So, if people ask you why this is a big deal, first, you can cite what's going on in your school district.

And then they say, but the federal government's not doing this anymore -- is this setting a dangerous example. Remember, all we're proposing to do is spend some of the surplus to provide tax credits to lower the cost to local school districts and to states where they do this, of building these facilities, so that it eases the property tax burden and makes it easier to do that.

And we're proposing to give direct loans and grants to repair another 5,000 schools a year for five years where there's a building that's not fully usable. And the need is enormous. It is national. And these children's education is a national priority.

Look -- all over America today, the schools are working better. Reading scores are up, math scores are up. I was in a school in Kentucky the other day that four years ago was one of the worst schools in the state, where -- listen to this, this is what they did in three years -- over half the kids were on student lunches. Three years ago, 12 percent of the kids were reading at or above grade level. Today, almost 60 percent. Three years ago, five percent of the kids were doing math at or above grade level -- today, 70 percent.

Three years ago, not a single kid in that elementary school was doing science at or above grade level. Today, nearly two-thirds. This is happening all over America. The schools are working better. We actually have learned a lot in the last 15 years about how to increase student performance -- the teachers, the principals -- it's breathtaking what's going on.

College enrollment's at an all-time high. But sooner or later, we're going to pay price after price after price, just like Malaika said, in describing this in very human terms -- we say, our children are the most important things in the world to us, but we don't really care if they've got a decent place to go to school. We really want all these young people, like those enthusiastic young teachers that waved their hands back there, to go into teaching, but we don't care if they have a lousy place to go to work.

Now, sooner or later, we have to deal with this. This is not consistent. If we care about it, we need to put it beyond politics and put our children first and get this done. So I'd like to ask you for your help. I need your help. (Applause.) Talk to your friends and neighbors who don't live here, who don't live in this congressional district. Tell them it is not a political issue, it's about the children.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END 1:51 P.M. EDT

Revised Draft 08/23/00 9:15am

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I want to thank everybody for joining us today. With the new school year only a couple of weeks away, I know this is a busy time for all of you. You know, I've always thought of the back-to-school season as sort of a new beginning: new books, new school supplies, new faces in the classrooms. It's a time when a lot of parents stop and think of the vital role that education plays in their children's lives. And it's a good time for our nation to do the same.

Today I'd like to talk to you about the ways we must prepare America's schools not just for the new school year, but for the new century. We've never had a greater opportunity.

We're in the midst of the longest economic expansion in history, with more than 22 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 30 years, and the highest home ownership ever. And our success is about far more than economics: America's social fabric is on the mend. This is a time of great prosperity and even greater promise.

There's a great debate underway – not just in Washington but across our country – about how to keep our prosperity going and how best to use our hard-won budget surplus. Let me tell you what I think we should do. I think we should meet America's long-term challenges. I think we should seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pay down the debt, save Social Security, and strengthen Medicare with a voluntary prescription drug benefit. And I think we should invest in our children's future by investing in education.

That's why, for seven and a half years now, Al Gore and I have been working hard to bring dramatic change to our public schools – by investing more in them and demanding more from them. That's why, in an era of fiscal discipline, we've nearly doubled investment in education and training, and expanded college opportunity more than at any time since the G.I. Bill, a half century ago.

With the help of Vice President Gore's E-rate program, we've connected 95 percent of our schools to the Internet, up from only 35 percent five years ago.

We're working to turn around failing schools, and provide after-school and summer school programs for all the kids who need them.

And we're focused on reducing class size in the early grades and hiring 100,000 new, highly trained teachers for our children. I'm told we have some first-time teachers in the audience today – here for their very first day of orientation. Will all of the new teachers please stand? We want to applaud you for choosing this important and proud profession. America needs a lot more just like you.

You're joining a great group of teachers here. But I know that you all wish this facility were every bit as strong as the faculty. I've seen the trailers. And across America, I'm hearing more and more about conditions like Malaika and Dr. Stewart described: overcrowded classrooms and a learning environment that's not much good for learning – or for teaching.

The strain on America's schools is showing as our student population is growing. Earlier this week, we learned that during this academic year, more than 53 million students will fill America's schools – the highest number in history. We call this phenomenon the “Baby Boom echo” – and it's shattering enrollment records for the fifth year running. Today, I'm releasing a report by the Department of Education that shows that New Jersey is facing its highest enrollment in 20 years. If you had a statewide roll call here in New Jersey, it would list 1.3 million names this year – a 20 percent boost during the last decade. Over the next ten years, the growth in this state's high school population will put it in the top ten in the nation.

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Today, I'm releasing an analysis from DeVos that shows that NJ is now facing its highest enrollment in 30 years.
This report is further evidence that America must act now – because we can't expect our students to reach high standards when their school buildings are substandard. We ought to be building new schools and fixing old ones – in order to reduce class size and give all our children the education they deserve. That is why I've proposed to help communities like this one across America to build or modernize 6,000 schools. As part of my balanced budget, I have also proposed to give grants and loans to 5,000 schools for the emergency repairs they so desperately need.

new tax credits
Reps. Charlie Rangel and Nancy Johnson have proposed legislation to do exactly that. I want you to know that Rep. Holt is a co-sponsor of that bill. It has strong, bipartisan support in the House; and that's due in no small part to the teachers and the building and construction trades who have really stood behind it. Those of you who are here today, I thank you.

A bipartisan majority is ready to pass that bill; but the House leadership, unfortunately, is trying to prevent a vote on school construction – to put it off another year, and probably another year after that. Now, every year the Congress stalls is another year that these kids have to go to class in trailers like those over there. Every year the Congress sits on this bill is another year that students across America will sit in crowded classrooms, in crumbling schools. Well, I think our kids deserve better. They're our future and they deserve better.

School is just about back in session, and so is Congress. For those of us in elected office, there's still time to finish the assignments the American people have given us. If you hear anyone saying that there's just no time left to get anything done, that this is an election year, I hope you'll remind them that this is also a school year; and there's plenty of time left to invest in a world-class education for our children. Congress should not go home until it invests in fixing old schools and building new ones.

I also call on Congress to invest in proven strategies that boost achievement: smaller classes and highly trained teachers; and resources to turn around failing schools and expand

learning opportunities like after-school and summer school. In addition, Congress should act to expand college opportunity by passing our middle-class tax credit for college tuition. At this time of prosperity, we have no greater responsibility than to prepare our children for this new century. So let's get back to work. By building stronger schools, we build a stronger nation. Thank you.

NJ
CONF. CALL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8/21 3:00 pm

12:05 Arr. Trenton

Mobile classroom 103

- 5 students - 2 teachers - principal
- Krall will provide Qs
- print only

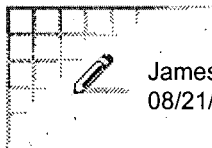
(15) POTUS announced
Rush Holt - no speak role

programs

- 2) student TBD
- 1) principal
superintendent
- 3) POTUS

audience 450 people
parents, teachers,
community, electeds

* - 100 new teachers are there
for 1st day's orientation



James R. Kvaal
08/21/2000 02:05:52 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Well,

this is the draft analysis to be released by the Education Dept. they are adding more NJ-specific numbers, and I'm trying to get a reliable count of portables, enrollment growth, etc. in S Brunswick so I will get those to you.

----- Forwarded by James R. Kvaal/OPD/EOP on 08/21/2000 02:05 PM -----



"Gist, Deborah" <Deborah_Gist@ed.gov>
08/18/2000 05:07:39 PM

Record Type: Record

To: James R. Kvaal/OPD/EOP
cc:
Subject: Well,

here is what I have for now. There are a few issues to resolve. For example, I'm using the data from the NCES report here. The numbers I received from the NJDOE do not match NCES's. Tom explained why that might have happened. Also, haven't heard back from the NJEA lady, but I haven't included the teacher stuff yet anyway.

Call me.

d

<<The Baby Boom Echo Continues NJ.doc>>



- The Baby Boom Echo Continues NJ.doc

GROWING PAINS

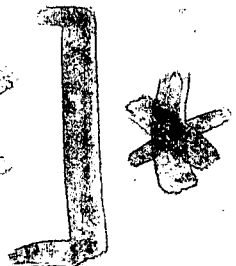
The Challenge of Overcrowded Schools Is Here to Stay
~~New Jersey Report~~

"Instead of building schools for 1950, let's build schools for 2050. Schools designed with the community and for the community. Schools that reflect a dedication to excellence and innovation; and schools that are open to Americans of all ages; that reaffirm the democratic spirit of our great country in this new era of lifelong learning."

**Richard W. Riley
U.S. Secretary of Education
July 12, 2000**

The next decade will usher in the beginnings of a steady and significant increase in the number of school-age children in the United States during the 21st Century. By the year 2100, our public and private institutions, from pre-kindergarten through college, will accommodate an estimated 94 million American children and young adults—an increase of more than 42 million than the current school population. These coming generations of children will require many more public resources, including a major investment in the construction, modernization and renovation of school facilities, many of which are already overcrowded and in disrepair.

~~Indeed, the population growth is already well underway. This September, 53 million children will enter in public and private elementary and secondary schools in the United States—the highest enrollment in U.S. history and a net increase of 8 million schoolchildren in the last 15 years. Over the next five years enrollments at all levels of education will grow—to an estimated 53.5 million in grades K-12.~~



Dramatic Increases in Student Enrollment

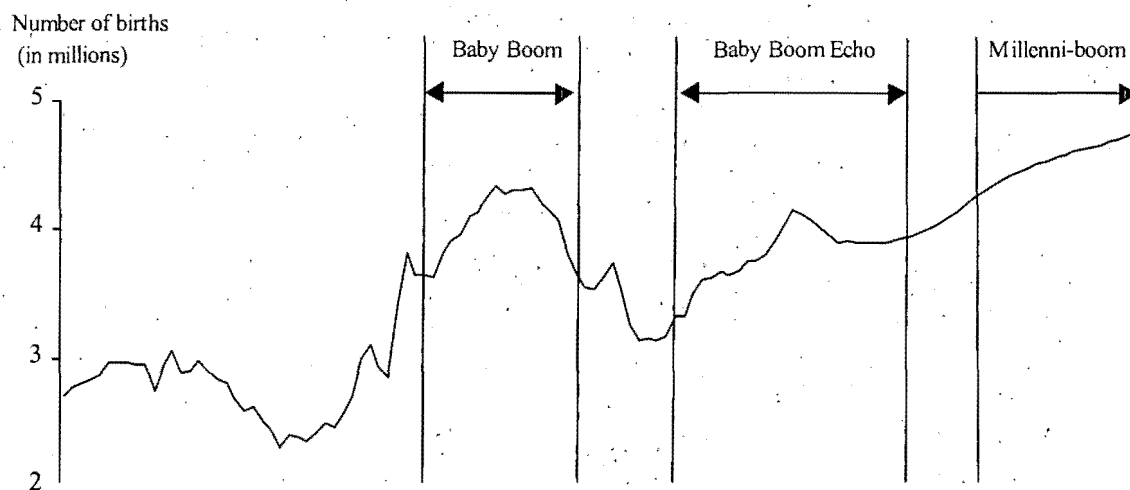
- U.S. public and private elementary school enrollment continues to rise, from 52.8 million students in 1999 to 53.0 million in 2000.
- Public and private elementary school enrollment will rise by 4.2 million students.
- Student enrollment in New Jersey in 2000 is expected to increase to 1.3 million—the highest student enrollment for about 30 years.

The Echo Comes of Age

The children entering school in the coming decade are direct descendants of the Baby-Boom Echo—the expanding birth rate begun in 1977 when millions of young adults born in between 1948 and 1975 had children themselves. In other words, they are the grandchildren of the Baby Boomers—those born during a surge in the number of births after World War II—as well as the children of the increasing number of families immigrating to the United States in the last 20 years.

Unlike the decline in the post-baby boom era, when births dropped down to 3.1 million in the early 1970s, the number of births in the post-baby boom echo era is expected to remain fairly stable at nearly 4 million for about a decade. Long-range projections by the U.S. Bureau of the Census indicate a rising number of births thereafter, from 4.2 million in 2010 to 4.8 million in 2028. This dramatic increase in the number of births is being considered “The Millenni-boom.” See Figure 1.

**Figure 1.--Annual number of births, with projections:
1908 to 2028**



Rise in the Number of School-Age Children

The consequences of this population crescendo will not immediately overwhelm the education system. In fact enrollment in elementary and secondary schools will briefly stabilize between 2005 and 2010 before beginning to rise again *for the remainder of the century*. Unlike the 20th century, when enrollment rose and dipped repeatedly, growth in the 21st century will be constant. Between 2010 and 2020, the number of school-age children 5 to 17 years old will increase by 6 percent. In 2020, about 55 million children will be enrolled in our nation's schools and will rise to 60 million by 2030. By 2100, the pattern of steady increases is expected to result in a total of 94 million school-age children, reflecting an 82 percent increase from 2000. See Figure 2.

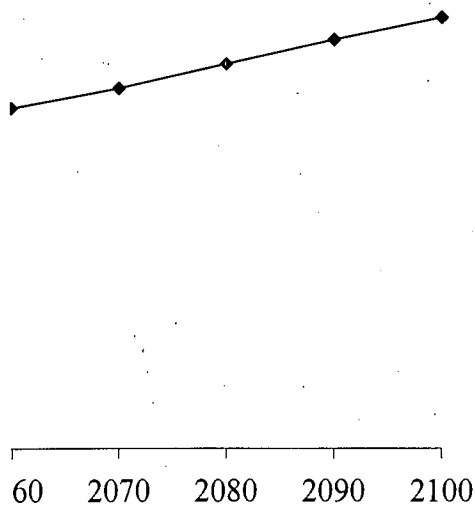


During the next ten years this stable growth trend will affect every sector of the country—including New Jersey. Public school enrollment in New Jersey will increase from 1 million students in 1990 to 1.3 million students in 2000.

The increases in student enrollment in New Jersey are among the very highest in the Northeastern United States. In grades 9 to 12, student enrollment has increased 11 percent from 306,000 in 1990 to 339,000 in 2000 and is expected to increase to 381,000 in 2005.

These projections place New Jersey on the list of the top ten states with the largest public school enrollment increases in grades 9 to 12 for 2000 to 2010.

1-age children,
2100



Meeting the Challenges for the Coming Century

As the United States embraces the new generations and new arrivals to our schools, we must be prepared to be able to provide a quality education to all students. The challenges are great: overcrowded classrooms, a shortage of teachers, aging and unsafe schools. But we know how to overcome these challenges and ensure that America's schools will provide a world-class education and give the next generation the opportunities it deserves.

To help communities nationwide modernize their schools, President Clinton has called on Congress to pass his school construction proposals: \$25 billion in School Modernization Bonds and \$6.5 billion in Urgent School Renovation Loans and Grants.

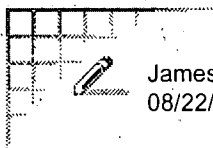
\$25 BILLION IN SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BONDS. In the U.S. House of Representatives, Reps. Charles Rangel (D-NY) and Nancy Johnson (R-CT) introduced bipartisan legislation (H.R. 4094) based on the president's proposal. In the Senate, Sen. Charles Robb has introduced a similar bill. The Johnson-Rangel America's Better Classrooms Act now has 226 cosponsors—more than half the members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The proposal would create \$24.8 billion in school construction bonds that would be interest-free for school districts and would help modernize 6,000 schools nationwide.

- **How School Modernization Bonds Work.** Bondholders would receive federal tax credits rather than interest payments from school districts, allowing districts to borrow interest-free money for school construction. A similar mechanism has been used successfully for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs). Districts could use these 15-year bonds to modernize existing schools as well as build new ones. The proposal would cost \$2.4 billion over five years. The bill's innovative financing mechanism is a cost-effective approach to leveraging local construction that avoids a new bureaucracy. All decisions regarding which schools to build or repair would be left to states and local school districts.
- **How Bonds Would Be Allocated.** Of the \$24.8 billion in school construction bonding authority: \$2.4 billion would be allocated to expand the existing Qualified Zone Academy Bonds program, \$400 million to Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, \$13.2 billion to states based on enrollment, and \$8.8 billion to the 125 school districts with the largest number of low-income children.

\$6.5 BILLION IN LOANS AND GRANTS FOR URGENT REPAIRS. President Clinton proposed a \$1.3 billion initiative to make \$6.5 billion in grants and interest-free loans for emergency repairs at 5,000 schools a year. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Rep. William Clay (D-MO) have introduced urgent school repair legislation.

- **A Five-Year Effort to Help 25,000 Schools.** Over five years, the initiative would help 25,000 schools—more than one-fourth of all schools—repair roofs, heating and cooling systems, and electrical wiring. These repairs can help make schools safer and more energy efficient, as well as improve access to technology.

- **Targets Funds to Meet Need.** Of the \$1.3 billion in renovation funds:
 - \$125 million in grants would be provided to other high-need school districts with little or no capacity to borrow money for emergency repairs. The smaller grant program would provide direct funding to the neediest school districts unable to finance the capital expenditures associated with school renovation.
 - \$50 million in grants would fund repairs and construction at school districts where half or more of students live on Indian lands.
 - The remaining \$1.125 billion would fund \$6.5 billion in interest-free, seven-year loans.



James R. Kvaal
08/22/2000 11:03:51 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: FW: analysis for president's 8/23 event

jeff, see suggestions from secretary riley's speechwriter below.

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Sullivan, Kevin

>Sent: Monday, August 21, 2000 4:02 PM

>To: Rossi, Diane; Frost, Susan; Peterson, Terry; Wohl, Alexander;

>Fleming, Scott

>Cc: Kvaal, James; Tucker, Ben

>Subject: RE: analysis for president's 8/23 event

>

> James:

>

> Send over the NJ numbers and we will see what we can do

>

> fax: 260-7753

>

> ~~In terms of his remarks I would tilt them toward high school.~~

>

> ~~Between 1990 and 2010, high school enrollment will have gone up~~

>19.2 percent, public and private, with most of the growth in the last

>ten years,

>

> New Jersey's ranks 9th in the nation in terms of overall

>enrollment increases in grades 9 -12. Enrollment will increase an

>additional 26,000 students in the next 10 years.

>

> All this leads to the fact that full time college enrollment

>will increase by 19% in the coming decade. Which means he can also plug

>the College Opportunity Tax Cut as well.

>

> We put New Jersey along with Ohio in a special box in the

>report, so

>you could handout the entire Baby Boom and then do a one or two page

>addition about New Jersey.

>

> New Jersey legislature just approved spending \$8.6 billion to

>build and modernize their schools.

>

> This would be a great place for POTUS to talk about building

>schools in a new way -- as centers of community for the entire
>community. Schools that are open later and longer for all people.

>
> I am happy to talk to the speechwriter who is doing the
>remarks.

>
> Kevin

>Kevin

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Rossi, Diane

> Sent: Monday, August 21, 2000 3:34 PM

> To: Sullivan, Kevin; Frost, Susan; Peterson, Terry; Wohl,

>Alexander; Fleming, Scott

> Cc: Kvaal, James; Tucker, Ben

> Subject: FW: analysis for president's 8/23 event

>
> What do you all think? Please advise. Diane

>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: James_R._Kvaal@opd.eop.gov

>[mailto:James_R._Kvaal@opd.eop.gov]

> Sent: Monday, August 14, 2000 10:07 AM

> To: Rogers, Diane; Rossi, Diane

> Subject: analysis for president's 8/23 event

>
>
>
> Diane and Diane --

>
> as you know, the President will be speaking on Wed. Aug 23rd in
>Rush Holt's

> district on school construction. (the Secretary was there in
>April.)

>
> would it be possible for Education to do an issue brief/analysis
>on the

> baby boom echo for the President to release? maybe 3 to 5 pages
>of text

> that is largely adapted from the baby boom echo report that RWR
>will

> release on the 21st with numbers specific to enrollment growth
>in New

> Jersey.

>
> (NCES ran NJ school district numbers for me and i can fax those
>over if

> that would be helpful. i think they are consistent with the
>nationwide

> trend, although it's hard to be sure because there was no
>statewide total.)

>
> please let me know. thanks.
>

Draft 08/22/00 8:00pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
CROSSROADS MIDDLE SCHOOL
MONMOUTH JUNCTION, NEW JERSEY
August 23, 2000**

Acknowledgments: Rep. Rush Holt. It is gratifying to me – and so important for all of you – that this district is finally represented in Congress by such a strong champion for children and for investing in education. Also: Malaika [*ma-LAY-ee-kah*] Carpenter, Crossroads Middle School grad (attending So. Brunswick HS this fall); her parents Nancy & Lenny and brother Jerren; Dr. Samuel Stewart, Superintendent, So. Brunswick Schls; people of So. Brunswick Township.

everybody
I want to thank ~~you all~~ for joining us today. With the new school year only a couple of weeks away, I know this is a busy time for all of you. You know, I've always thought of the back-to-school season as sort of a new beginning: new books, new school supplies, new faces in the classrooms. It's a time when a lot of parents stop and think of the vital role that education plays in their children's lives. And it's a good time for our nation to do the same.

Today I'd like to talk to you about the ways we must prepare America's schools not just for the new school year, but for the new century. We've never had a greater opportunity. We're in the midst of the longest economic expansion in history, with more than 22 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 30 years, and the highest home ownership ever. And our success is *far* more than economic: America's social fabric is on the mend. This is a time of great prosperity and even greater promise.

There's a great debate underway – not just in Washington but across our country – about how to keep our prosperity going and how best to use our hard-won budget surplus. Let me tell you what I ~~believe~~ *think* we should do. I think we should meet ~~our long-term challenges~~ *America's* ~~and invest in the lives and potential of our children~~. I think we should seize this opportunity to pay down the debt, to save Social Security, and to strengthen Medicare with a voluntary prescription drug benefit. And I think we should invest in our children ~~by investing in education~~.

is future
That's why, for seven and a half years now, Al Gore and I have ~~worked~~ *been in* hard to bring dramatic change to our public schools – by investing more in them and demanding more from them. That's why, in an era of fiscal discipline, we've nearly doubled investment in education and training, and expanded college opportunity more than at any time since the G.I. Bill *a half* century ago.

With the help of Vice President Gore's E-rate program, ~~we've connected 95 percent of our schools to the Internet, up from only 35 percent five years ago.~~ *And* That's why we've focused on reducing class size in the early grades and hiring 100,000 new, highly trained teachers for our children, ~~turning around failing schools, and providing after-school and summer school programs for all kids who need them~~ *we're* I've been told we have some first-time teachers in the audience

today – here for their very first day of orientation. ^{of the} Will all ~~those~~ new teachers please stand? We want to applaud you for ^{choosing} making this proud choice ^{of a} profession. America needs a lot more just like you. ^{- important}

You're joining a great group of teachers here. But I know that everyone here wishes this facility were as strong as the faculty. I've seen the trailers. And across America, I've heard of ^{learning} conditions like Malaika and Dr. Stewart described: overcrowded classrooms and ^{an} environment that's not good for teaching ^{much} ~~or~~ for learning. ^{on hearing more about}

^{for the} The strain on America's schools is showing as our student population is growing. Today, I'm releasing a report by the Department of Education that shows that this academic year, more than 53 million students will fill America's schools – the highest number in history. We call this phenomenon the "Baby Boom echo" – and it's shattering enrollment records for the fifth year running. If you had a statewide roll ^{call} here in New Jersey, it would list 1.3 million names – a 20 percent boost during the last decade, and the highest enrollment in 30 years. Over the next decade, the growth in New Jersey's high school population will put it in the top ten in the nation. ^{analysis}

This report is further evidence that America must act now – because we can't expect our students to reach high standards ^{when} their school buildings are substandard. We need to build new schools and fix old ones ^{to} reduce class size and give all our children the education they deserve. That is why I've proposed to help communities like ^{one} ~~this one~~ ^{reference} across America to build or modernize 6,000 schools. As part of my balanced budget, I have also proposed to give grants and loans to 5,000 schools for the emergency repairs they so desperately need.

Reps. Charlie Rangel and Nancy Johnson have proposed legislation to do exactly that. I want you to know that Rep. Holt is a co-sponsor of that bill. It has strong, bipartisan support in the House; and that's due in no small part to the teachers and the building and construction trades who have really stood behind it. Those of you here today, I thank you. ^{who are}

A bipartisan majority is ready to pass that bill; but the House leadership, unfortunately, is trying to prevent a vote on school construction – to put it off another year, and probably another year after that. Now, every year the Congress stalls is another year that these kids have to go to class in trailers like those over there. Every year the Congress sits on this bill is another year that students across America will sit in crowded classrooms, in crumbling schools. Well, I think our kids deserve better. They're our future and they deserve better.

School is just about back in session, and so is Congress. ^{So} for those of us in elected office, there's still time to finish the assignments the American people have given us. If you hear anyone saying that there's just no time ^{off} to get anything done, that this is an election year, I hope you'll remind them that this is also a school year; and ~~that~~ there's plenty of time to invest in a world-class education for our children. Congress should not go home until it invests in fixing old schools and building new ones.

I also call on Congress to invest in proven strategies that boost achievement: smaller classes and ~~more~~ highly trained teachers; and resources to turn around failing schools and expand learning opportunities like after-school and summer school. In addition, Congress should act to

expand college opportunity by passing our middle-class tax credit for college tuition. At this time of prosperity, we have no greater responsibility than to prepare our children for this new century. So let's get back to work. By building stronger schools, we build a stronger nation. Thank you.

MODERNIZING AMERICA'S SCHOOLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

AUGUST 23, 2000

DRAFT

Today, President Clinton will describe the urgent national need to build new schools and modernize existing ones at Crossroads Middle School in South Brunswick, New Jersey. Crossroads Middle School is almost 25 percent above capacity and has eight temporary classrooms. President Clinton will release a new U.S. Department of Education analysis on school enrollment in New Jersey, which is now the highest in 30 years. Finally, President Clinton will call on Congress to modernize schools nationwide by passing his plan: \$25 billion in School Modernization Bonds and \$6.5 billion in loans and grants for urgent school renovation.

RECORD-SETTING SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS IN NEW JERSEY. This year, 1.3 million students will attend New Jersey schools, a 30 percent increase over the last decade and the most in 30 years, according to today's Department of Education analysis. South Brunswick school enrollment has increased by 90 percent in the past decade, fast enough to fill a new school every two to three years. These enrollment surges are consistent with the nationwide trend: 53 million students will begin school this fall, the most ever. Unlike our past experience — when enrollment rose and dipped repeatedly — schools in the 21st century will see sustained, steady growth for generations.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN. All students need a safe, healthy, and modern place to learn. To meet this national priority, President Clinton and Vice President Gore propose:

- **\$25 BILLION IN SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BONDS:** President Clinton proposed \$25 billion in school construction bonds that would be interest-free for school districts. The bonds would help build and modernize 6,000 schools nationwide. In the U.S. House of Representatives, Reps. Charles Rangel and Nancy Johnson introduced bipartisan legislation based on the President's proposal with 226 sponsors. In the Senate, Sen. Charles Robb introduced a similar bill.
 - Bond owners would receive federal tax credits rather than interest payments from school districts, allowing districts to borrow interest-free for school construction. A similar mechanism has been used successfully for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs).
 - Districts could use these 15-year bonds to modernize existing schools as well as build new ones. The \$25 billion would be allocated among states and school districts.
 - The President's proposal would cost \$2.4 billion over five years. The bill's innovative financing mechanism is a cost-effective approach to leveraging local construction that avoids a new bureaucracy.
- **\$6.5 BILLION IN LOANS AND GRANTS FOR URGENT REPAIRS:** President Clinton also proposed a \$1.3 billion initiative to make \$6.5 billion in grants and interest-free loans for emergency repairs at 5,000 schools. Over five years, the initiative would help 25,000 schools. It would help school districts repair roofs, heating and cooling systems, and electrical wiring. The assistance would be targeted to high-need districts, with the smaller amount of grant aid available for school districts unable to finance capital expenditures. Sen. Harkin and Rep. Clay have introduced urgent school repair legislation. Although the Republican budget plan allows school construction in its education block grant; now, we must dedicate these funds to construction and target them to meet our schools' needs.

DESIGNING SCHOOLS TO BE CENTERS OF COMMUNITIES. To meet rising enrollments, our nation must build and modernize thousands of schools in the coming years. Because these buildings will last for 40 to 50 years, we have a golden opportunity to create a generation of schools that serve as "centers of community" for entire neighborhoods. South Brunswick built its new high school four years ago with the active help of citizens, students, and school faculty. Its 1,000-seat performing arts center is open to the community, as well as high school students, and the school houses a youth services program to offer families and students counseling, health education, and employment services.

THE URGENT NATIONAL NEED FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION. Communities across the country are struggling to address urgent safety and facility needs, rising student enrollments, and smaller class sizes.

- An estimated \$127 billion is needed to bring America's schools into good overall condition, according to U.S. Department of Education. An estimated 3.5 million students attend schools that need of extensive repair or replacement. (*Condition of America's Public School Facilities: 1999, 2000*)
- Our schools need over \$300 billion including the costs of meeting rising enrollments and installing a modern technology infrastructure, according to the National Education Association. (*Modernizing Our Schools: What Will It Cost?, 2000*)
- ~~The average public school was built 42 years ago. About one-third of public schools were built before 1970 and haven't been renovated since at least 1980.~~ (National Center for Education Statistics, *Condition of Education 2000*, p. 63).
- ~~School conditions matter. A growing body of research links student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions and overcrowding. Good facilities are an important precondition for student learning, provided that other necessary conditions are also present.~~

CALLING ON CONGRESS TO INVEST IN AMERICA'S EDUCATION PRIORITIES. In February, the Clinton-Gore Administration sent Congress a balanced and responsible budget that made investments in key education initiatives to expand college opportunity, raise standards, and invest in what works. However, ~~the~~ **Republican budget:**

- ~~Ignores the pressing national need for school modernization.~~ The Republican budget fails to include the President's plans to build and modernize 6,000 schools and make emergency repairs to another 25,000 over the next five years.
- Fails to help prepare 600,000 disadvantaged students for college through GEAR UP, improve teacher quality, strengthen accountability and turn around failing schools, reduce class sizes, provide after-school learning opportunities to over 1 million children, and help bridge the digital divide.
- Excludes the \$36 billion College Opportunity Tax Cut to make college more affordable and accessible. The College Opportunity Tax Cut would allow families to claim a tax deduction or 28-percent tax credit for up to \$10,000 in tuition, saving them up to \$2,800. The tax cut would be fully phased-in by 2003. Meanwhile, the tax cuts passed by the Congress this year would drain more than \$900 billion of the surplus. Together with the substantial tax cuts supported by the Congressional majority, these proposals would return America to deficits and leave no money for key priorities. At the same time, the Congressional budget would cut domestic priorities \$28 billion below the President's level, an average cut of 9 percent.

Draft 06/15/00 8:00pm
Jeff Shesol

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
ABIGAIL ADAMS SCHOOL – P.S. 131
JAMAICA, QUEENS, NEW YORK
June 16, 2000

Acknowledgments: Reps. Crowley, Lowey, Maloney, Meeks, Weiner; NYC Schools Chancellor Harold Levy; Zahra [ZAH-rah] Mohamed & Andrew Wood, co-valedictorians of 6th grade; teacher Mary Minnick; other students & faculty of P.S. 131 & their families; Principal Walter O'Brien. Also, students & families from P.S. 206, in nearby Rego Park; the people of Queens.

Thank you for that very warm welcome. Though I'm not sure whether you're cheering me or the fact that we're holding class outside today.

You've got a wonderful old school here. I understand it was built back in 1926. That's a long time ago, even to an old guy like me. And it was an important time in the history of this borough. The 1920s were a time of incredible, explosive growth here in Queens: the population more than doubled over the course of that decade, and set off a building boom that changed the face of Queens. So many of the brick and wood-frame houses that we passed on our way here – maybe some of you even live in one – were built back then, at the same time they broke ground for this fine school.

You know, I've traveled all across this country, and I've visited a lot of schools like Abigail Adams – schools with history, schools with great stories to tell. And everywhere I go I talk about the need we have as a nation to prepare these schools – and all the children who work and learn and play within them – for the century that's just begun. We have to demand more of our schools, and invest more in them. That means modernizing schools like Abigail Adams, so that all our children can be in a place where they can fulfill their potential.

As the saying goes, the time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining. And today the sun is shining on America. We're in the midst of the longest economic expansion in history, with 22 million new jobs; the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; and the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates ever recorded.

So what should we do with this moment of prosperity? I say we should fix the roof. We should fix up these old schools, get them wired and ready for the 21st Century. We should build the new schools we need and give all our children the world-class education they deserve.

If we don't do these things now, when will we ever get around to it? Right now we've got the opportunity of a lifetime – and the obligation – to invest in our future. That's why, for the last seven and a half years, Vice President Gore and I have worked hard to provide our public schools with the tools they need to help students meet high standards. That's why, in an era of

fiscal discipline, we've also nearly doubled investment in education and training. That's why we're reducing class size in the early grades and hiring 100,000 new, highly trained teachers for our children.

We have also dramatically increased our investment in after-school and summer school programs. And with the help of Vice President Gore's e-rate program, nearly three quarters of all classrooms are now connected to the Internet, up from only 3 percent in 1993.

But we can't expect our students to reach high standards where their school buildings are substandard. Across America I have seen too many schools that are old and crumbling. I have seen too many trailers and too many crowded classrooms. At a school in New Orleans, I saw walls infested with termites. At a school in Davenport, Iowa, the ventilation was so bad that it was hotter in there than it is out here.

The Abigail Adams School is facing the same sort of challenges. You're operating at more than 150 percent of capacity. You've got more students than you can handle – and yet no science lab, no computer lab, no music room. That's just not acceptable. And at a school where scores of different languages are spoken, it's just not acceptable that ESL classes have to be taught in the auditorium lobby. It's just not acceptable that Mrs. Minnick, after 33 years, should have to teach in such cramped, overcrowded classrooms.

There's also a crying need in our country for more schools. The children of the Baby Boomers are breaking enrollment records for the fourth year in a row. This academic year, our public schools are filled with 43.2 million students. And – as we can see here – they're bursting at the seams, struggling to make room for more.

I have proposed a major School Construction Initiative to help communities across America build or modernize 6,000 schools. I've also put forward a plan to give 5,000 schools the grants and loans for the emergency repairs they so desperately need. Rep. Lowey has been leading this fight for years now, and I want to thank her for that. I also want to acknowledge someone who couldn't be with us today, Rep. Rangel, who has worked tirelessly to build new and stronger schools. I am grateful for the work he's doing – alongside Rep. Nancy Johnson – on legislation that would do just that. Their bill enjoys strong, bipartisan support in the House; and that's due in no small part to the teachers and the building and construction trades who have really stood behind it. Those of you who are here today, I thank you.

A bipartisan majority is ready to pass that bill; but the House leadership, unfortunately, won't let them do it. The leadership is doing everything in its power to prevent a vote on school construction – to put it off another year, and probably another year after that. But let's be clear. Every year that the Congress stalls is another year that you have to go to class in those trailers over there. Every year that they sit on this bill is another year that students all across America will sit in crowded classrooms, in crumbling schools. Well, I think you deserve better. You're our future and you deserve better.

Just this week, the House did pass an education budget – along partisan lines – that fails to put a penny toward school construction. At the same time, their budget fails to strengthen

accountability to turn around failing schools; it fails to reduce class size or improve teacher quality; it fails to make adequate investments in HeadStart, or after-school opportunities, or bridging the digital divide. Simply put, the House budget invests too little in our schools and demands too little from them. As I've said, that's unacceptable. If this bill, in its present form, lands on my desk, I will take my pen and I will veto it.

School is out – or almost out – for the children of our country. But for those of us in Washington, there's still time to finish the assignments that the American people have given us. There's still time to invest in a world-class education for our children. There's still time to prepare them for the century ahead – the century that will belong to them, and to their children. We have no greater responsibility at this moment of promise. So let us fulfill that responsibility, and make the most of that promise. By building better schools, we will build a better America. Thank you.

Final 08/18/99 9:00pm
Jeff Shesol

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON EDUCATION AND THE BABY-BOOM ECHO
THE WHITE HOUSE

August 19, 1999

Acknowledgments: the First Lady TBD; Sec. Riley; Wendell Greer, principal, Manual Arts HS in L.A.; Dan Galloway, principal, Adlai Stevenson HS, Lincolnshire, IL; Dr. Daniel Domenech [*dom-men-NICHE*], Superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools; Dr. Iris Metts, Superintendent, PG County Public Schools (who spoke at the WH when I signed the Ed Flex Act in April)

This is surely a busy time for teachers and educators preparing for a new school year, so I'd like to thank you for joining us. I've been thinking about the back-to-school season – as all parents do – and all the ways it represents a new beginning. It's not just the new school supplies we buy for our children, or those brand-new pairs of jeans that feel like cardboard for the first couple of weeks. It's not just the new faces in the classrooms, or their expressions of hope. A new school year is a new beginning because it reminds us of the vital role of education in our children's lives, and in the life of our nation.

~~Today I'd like to talk about the ways we must prepare our nation's schools not just for the new school year, but for the new century.~~ In our lifetimes, America has never had a greater opportunity. This is the longest peacetime expansion in our history. Inflation, interest rates, and unemployment are low; wages and homeownership are high. Opportunity is abundant. Social problems, increasingly, are on the mend: crime is down to a 25-year low; teen smoking and teen pregnancy are down; and, just yesterday, our annual survey showed that drug abuse among young people declined significantly last year. This is a time of great prosperity and even greater promise.

There is, as you know, a great debate underway in Washington – about whether to fulfill this great promise, and how to use the surplus. There are a lot of elements to this debate. Really, though, we're debating one basic question: whether we will seize this chance to invest in the future of our nation and the lives of our children. I believe, in this time of unparalleled prosperity, that the best thing we can do for our children is to meet our long-term challenges: To pay off our debt instead of leaving it as a burden on our children. To save Social Security, so our children won't be forced to save it for us. To strengthen and modernize Medicare, so our children won't be forced to do that, too, for us. And to invest in our future by investing in their education.

~~Today, I am releasing a report by the Department of Education that makes it clear we must do more, not less, to meet our nation's growing educational needs.~~ It shows that every year, the halls of our schools resound more loudly with what we call the "Baby Boom echo." The children of Baby Boomers are breaking enrollment records for the fourth year running: this academic year, 53.2 million students will fill America's elementary and secondary schools.

That's nearly half a million more than last year. Moreover, the pattern of enrollment is changing: as these children grow older, it is high schools and colleges, not elementary or middle schools, that will carry the burden. During the next decade, America's high schools are projected to swell with the ranks of 1.3 million new students.

~~This new report on school enrollment gives our nation an important assignment: to make the investments in education that our future demands, and our children deserve.~~

~~My administration has worked hard, these six and a half years, to invest in education while bringing revolutionary change to our schools. [The First Lady and] Secretary Riley just spoke about the historic investments we have made to open the doors of college to every American willing to work for it; to connect every classroom, no matter how remote, to the Internet; and the work we are doing to strengthen performance and accountability in our schools.~~

~~But Principal Greer described the conditions that exist in too many American schools: the overcrowding, the classes held in trailers, the shortage of individual attention by trained teachers. These challenges will only grow as enrollments rise. They will demand greater resources and greater resolve. The Baby Boom echo is another reason why we must act to build new schools and fix old ones; and to hire trained teachers, particularly in math and science, especially for our high schools. I have proposed, as part of my balanced budget, to build or renovate up to 6,000 schools nationwide; and to fulfill the commitment the Congress and I made to hire 100,000 teachers for our nation's schools, to lower class size in the early grades.~~

Unfortunately, the majority in Congress wants to back off from our commitment to reduce class size. And the tax plan they have proposed would do further damage to our priorities. Not only would it fail to pay off the debt. . . not only would it fail to strengthen Social Security and Medicare. . . but it could also lead to drastic cuts in education and our other national priorities, from national defense to medical research, from fighting crime to protecting the environment.

I have said I will veto the Republican tax plan. Expanding enrollment in our nation's schools is yet another reason why their plan is wrong for America. Just think about the impact on education if we allowed the majority's plan to become law – while trying to keep the budget balanced. Today, we help 12 million children in poor communities to make more of their education. If the tax plan passes, we'd have to tell 6 million of those children: Sorry. We just can't help you to reach higher. Today, we help a million children learn to read independently by the 3rd grade. If the tax plan passes, we'd have to tell 520,000 of them: Sorry. We just can't help you learn to read. Today, we're nearing our goal of enrolling a million preschoolers in HeadStart. If the tax plan passes: Sorry. We'd have to turn 430,000 away. And compared to our proposal, here's what the tax plan would mean to those already in school: larger classes, fewer teachers, and more trailers. Well, that's a pretty sorry way to educate our children. They deserve the best, not the least, that we can do.

So let's do first things first. Let's pay off the debt for the first time since Andrew Jackson was President. Let's save Social Security and Medicare, and fulfill our obligation to older Americans. And let's invest in the education of our young people. We can do all these things

and still have sensible tax cuts. And if we rise to that responsibility, we can show our children that we still believe what we teach them, not just at school but at home: that every child should have the chance, and the tools, to succeed in the 21st Century. I believe that, and I know you do. Let's keep working to make it a reality for all Americans. Thank you.

Draft 08/22/00 7:15pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
CROSSROADS MIDDLE SCHOOL
MONMOUTH JUNCTION, NEW JERSEY
August 23, 2000**

Acknowledgments: Rep. Rush Holt. It is gratifying to me – and so important for all of you – that this district is finally represented in Congress by such a strong champion for children and for investing in education. Also: Malaika [*ma-LAY-ee-kah*] Carpenter, Crossroads Middle School grad (attending So. Brunswick HS this fall); her parents Nancy & Lenny and brother Jerren; Dr. Samuel Stewart, Superintendent, So. Brunswick Schls; people of So. Brunswick Township.

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There's a great debate underway – not just in Washington but across our country – about how to keep our prosperity going and how best to use our hard-won budget surplus. Let me tell you what I believe we should do. I think we should meet our long-term challenges and invest in the lives and potential of our children. I think we should seize this opportunity to pay down the debt, to save Social Security, and to strengthen Medicare with a voluntary prescription drug benefit. And I think we should invest in our children by investing in education.

That's why, for seven and a half years now, Al Gore and I have worked hard to bring dramatic change to our public schools – by investing more in them and demanding more from them. That's why, in an era of fiscal discipline, we've nearly doubled investment in education and training, and expanded college opportunity more than at any time since the G.I. Bill, a half century ago.

With the help of Vice President Gore's E-rate program, we've connected 95 percent of our schools to the Internet, up from only 35 percent five years ago. That's why we've focused on reducing class size in the early grades and hiring 100,000 new, highly trained teachers for our children, turning around failing schools, and providing after-school and summer school programs for all kids who need them. I've been told we have some first-time teachers in the audience

today – here for their very first day of orientation. Will all those new teachers please stand? We want to applaud you for making this proud choice of profession. America needs a lot more just like you.

You're joining a great group of teachers here. But I know that everyone here wishes this facility were as strong as the faculty. I've seen the trailers. And across America, I've heard of conditions like Malaika and Dr. Stewart described: overcrowded classrooms and an environment that's not good for teaching or for learning.

The strain on America's schools is showing as our student population is growing. Today, I'm releasing a report by the Department of Education that shows that this academic year, more than 53 million students will fill America's schools – the highest number in history. We call this phenomenon the "Baby Boom echo" – and it's shattering enrollment records for the fifth year running. If you had a statewide roll call here in New Jersey, it would list 1.3 million names – a 20 percent boost during the last decade, and the highest enrollment in 30 years. Over the next decade, the growth in New Jersey's high school population will put it in the top ten in the nation.

This report is further evidence that America must act now – because we can't expect our students to reach high standards when their school buildings are substandard. We need to build new schools and fix old ones; to reduce class size and give all our children the education they deserve. That is why I've proposed to help communities like this one across America to build or modernize 6,000 schools. As part of my balanced budget, I have also proposed to give grants and loans to 5,000 schools for the emergency repairs they so desperately need.

Reps. Charlie Rangel and Nancy Johnson have proposed legislation to do exactly that. I want you to know that Rep. Holt is a co-sponsor of that bill. It has strong, bipartisan support in the House; and that's due in no small part to the teachers and the building and construction trades who have really stood behind it. Those of you here today, I thank you.

A bipartisan majority is ready to pass that bill; but the House leadership, unfortunately, is trying to prevent a vote on school construction – to put it off another year, and probably another year after that. Now, every year the Congress stalls is another year that these kids have to go to class in trailers like those over there. Every year the Congress sits on this bill is another year that students across America will sit in crowded classrooms, in crumbling schools. Well, I think our kids deserve better. They're our future and they deserve better.

School is just about back in session, and so is Congress. So, for those of us in elected office, there's still time to finish the assignments the American people have given us. If you hear anyone saying that there's just no time to get anything done, that this is an election year, I hope you'll remind them that this is also a school year; and that there's plenty of time to invest in a world-class education for our children. Congress should not go home until it invests in fixing old schools and building new ones. We have no greater responsibility at this time of prosperity; So let's get back to work. By building stronger schools, we build a stronger nation. Thank you.

Draft 08/22/00 6:15pm
Jeff Shesol

Buxton editz

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CROSSROADS MIDDLE SCHOOL
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There's a great debate underway – not just in Washington but across our country – about how to keep our prosperity going and how best to use our hard-won budget surplus. Let me tell you what I believe we should do. I think we should meet our long-term challenges and invest in the lives and potential of our children. I think we should seize this opportunity to pay down the debt, to save Social Security, and to strengthen Medicare with a voluntary prescription drug benefit. And I think we should invest in our children by investing in education.

That's why, for seven and a half years now, Al Gore and I have worked hard to bring ~~revolutionary~~ dramatic (revolutionary is the VP's term) change to our public schools by investing more in our schools and demanding more from them. ~~—to provide them with the tools to help students meet—and exceed—high standards.~~ That's why, in an era of fiscal discipline, we've nearly doubled investment in education and training and ~~increased investment in after-school and summer school~~; and expanded college opportunity more than at any time since the G.I. Bill, a half century ago.

That's why, with the help of Vice President Gore's E-rate program, we've connected nearly three quarters of all classrooms to the Internet, up from only 3 percent in 1993. ~~And~~

That's why we've focused on ~~we're~~ reducing class size in the early grades and hiring 100,000 new, highly trained teachers for our children, improving teacher quality across the country, turning around failing schools, and providing after-school and summer school programs for all who need them.

-I've been told we have some first-time teachers in the audience today – here for their very first day of orientation. Will all those new teachers please stand? We want to applaud you for making this proud choice of profession. America needs a lot more just like you.

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The strain on America's schools is showing as our student population is growing. Today, I'm releasing a report by the Department of Education that shows enrollments are rising to historic levels. This report is further evidence that America must act now – to build new schools and to fix old ones; to reduce class size and to give all our children the education they deserve.

We call this phenomenon the "Baby Boom echo" – and it's shattering enrollment records for the fifth year running. This academic year, more than 53 million students will fill America's elementary and secondary schools. If you had a statewide roll call here in New Jersey, it would list 1.3 million names – a 30 percent boost during the last decade, and the highest enrollment in 30 years. Over the next decade, the growth in New Jersey's high school population will put it in the top ten in the nation.

Well, we can't expect our students to reach high standards when their school buildings are substandard. That is why I've proposed to help communities like this one across America to build or modernize 6,000 schools. As part of my balanced budget, I have also proposed to give 5,000 schools the grants and loans for the emergency repairs they so desperately need.

Reps. Chuck Rangel and Nancy Johnson have proposed legislation to do exactly that. I want you to know that Rep. Holt is a co-sponsor of that bill. It has strong, bipartisan support in the House; and that's due in no small part to the teachers and the building and construction trades who have really stood behind it. Those of you here today, I thank you.

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School is just about back in session, and so is Congress. So, for those of us in elected office, there's still time to finish the assignments the American people have given us. If you hear anyone saying that there's just no time to get anything done, that this is an election year, I hope you'll remind them that this is also a school year; and that there's plenty of time to invest in a world-class education for our children. Congress should not go home until it invests in fixing old schools and building new ones.

Together with ensuring that we have the school facilities that our children deserve, I want to call on Congress to invest in proven strategies for increasing student achievement: smaller classes, highly trained teachers, resources to turn around failing schools, and extended learning opportunities like after-school and summer school. We have no greater responsibility at this time of prosperity; So let's get back to work. By building stronger schools, we will build a better America. Thank you.

Barclay

Draft 08/22/00 6:15pm
Jeff Shesol

ten edits

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Full edits

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Well, we can't expect our students to reach high standards when their school buildings are substandard. That is why I've proposed to help communities like this one across America to build or modernize 6,000 schools. As part of my balanced budget, I have also proposed to give 5,000 schools ~~the~~ grants and loans for the emergency repairs they so desperately need.

Reps. Chuck Rangel and Nancy Johnson have proposed legislation to do exactly that. I want you to know that Rep. Holt is a co-sponsor of that bill. It has strong, bipartisan support in the House; and that's due in no small part to the teachers and the building and construction trades who have really stood behind it. Those of you here today, I thank you.

A bipartisan majority is ready to pass that bill; but the House leadership, unfortunately, is trying to prevent a vote on school construction – to put it off another year, and probably another year after that. Now, every year the Congress stalls is another year that these kids have to go to class in ~~those~~ trailers like those over there. Every year the Congress sits on this bill is another year that students across America will sit in crowded classrooms, in crumbling schools. Well, I think our kids deserve better. They're our future and they deserve better.

School is just about back in session, and so is Congress. So, for those of us in elected office, there's still time to finish the assignments the American people have given us. If you hear anyone saying that there's just no time to get anything done, that this is an election year, I hope you'll remind them that this is also a school year; and that there's plenty of time to invest in a world-class education for our children. Congress should not go home until it invests in fixing old schools and building new ones. We have no greater responsibility at this time of prosperity; So let's get back to work. By building stronger schools, we will build a better America. Thank you.

Barbara
Chow

NEC / APC Anna Richter
talk w/ schools

TO: Joe Trahern
FROM: Sherrie Preische, District Director, Rep. Rush Holt
DATE: August 9, 2000
RE: Proposed visit by President Clinton

Need students
summer school
classes

Proposed locations for visit by President Clinton, August 23, 2000.

When does
School
start

We would like to do the event about School Construction.

New Jersey's 12th Congressional District is the fastest growing in New Jersey. Its location an hour away from New York City has given rise to ever increasing housing developments across the district. Communities across central New Jersey are struggling to provide school facilities for their rapidly growing school age population. Unfortunately, almost all of the burden falls on the property tax-payer.

Assuming that the President arrives at Trenton Mercer Airport, and the event following is held in Hopewell Township, here are three proposed locations.

1. ~~South Brunswick Township in Middlesex County. Enrollment grows by about 450 students each year - the size of a new school. The grounds shared by the South Brunswick Upper Elementary School and Crossroads Middle School have 18 modular units in use. Taxpayers have refused referendums to build entirely new schools. They are struggling with adding on to the High school that will soon have to accommodate 3,000 students.~~

Sept.
7
back-to-school

South Brunswick Upper Elementary School, Mr. Nathan Levy, Principal
635 Georges Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
732-329-4191

~~Crossroads Middle School, Mr. James Warfel, Principal
195 Major Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
732-329-4633~~

Dr. Samuel Stewart, Superintendent
4 Executive Drive, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
732-297-7800

Drive: 20 Miles Trenton -> South Brunswick (20 Minutes)
15 Miles South Brunswick -> Fundraiser (20 Minutes)

This trip might require closing Rt 1, a major artery in the area.

2. Montgomery Township in Somerset County. Montgomery is one of the fastest growing school districts in the state of New Jersey. The district's enrollment has doubled in the last five years with over 3500 students in the district. New schools have opened well over capacity. Orchard Hill Elementary School, designed for 1,100 students, opened with an enrollment of 1,550.

Montgomery school system is in the middle of a campaign to proceed on the issue of school construction. There is a \$70 million referendum slated for vote on October 3rd to build a new high school. There has been a request for trailers at the high school for administrative purposes, yet if the referendum fails to pass, then there will be a need for 17 trailers at the high school. This number will double to 36 trailers in 2 years if the referendum does not pass.

A brand new elementary school, Village School, is under construction and will be finished in time for this coming school year. Last year, only kindergarten started in the new school, but when the construction is complete, grades first and second will be attending the school. There is construction still going on at the school. **This is the school construction site we suggest visiting.**

The Village School
Route 601 and Burnt Hill Road
Skillman, NJ

Dr. Jamie Savedoff, Superentenden
405 Burnt Hill Road
Skillman, NJ 08558
(908) 874-5201

Drive:
20 Miles Trenton -> Montgomery (30 Minutes)
15 Miles Montgomery -> Fundraiser (25 Minutes)

3. Lawrence Township, Mercer County – Currently there is no referendum slated for vote. Yet Lawrence is dealing with increased enrollment issues. Presently the school board is in the planning stages for a referendum and are looking to have one completed by fall of 2001 or winter 2002. The School Board is looking to either expand existing structures or build another school. Lawrence High school will be getting its fourth temporary classroom. In each of the four elementary schools, there is at least one temporary classroom. The Intermediate School will have one temporary classroom as of January 2001. The Lawrence Middle School has no temporary classrooms. All of the buildings are at capacity. The High School and Intermediate School are at the greatest capacity and are dealing with this maximum capacity issue the most.

There are no construction sites presently because they do not have the funding available.

Lawrenceville Elementary
40 Craven Lane
Lawrenceville, NJ
609-530-8452

Dr. Claire Sheff Kohn, Superintendent of School
(Dr. Max Riley, new Superintendent, will start September 18th)
2565 Princeton Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3698
609-530-8609

Drive:

8 Miles Trenton -> Lawrence (15 Minutes)
12 Miles Lawrence -> Fundraiser (20 Minutes)

Flood-Battered N.J. Towns Await More Storm Damages

By LYNNE DUKE
and CHRISTINE HAUGHNEY
Washington Post Staff Writers

SPARTA, N.J., Aug. 14—With rivers near this remote hamlet in the northwest part of the state near cresting and dams nearly full as more rain fell on the region today, officials were cleaning up from the weekend floods and watching nervously to see what further damage awaits this small town.

Almost 14 inches of rain fell here in just a few hours Saturday—the kind of rainfall a storm dumps on one area only about once every 500 years, according to weather forecasters.

No injuries have been reported. But officials were evacuating 100 residents today, after the evacuations over the weekend of about 200 people whose houses were submerged. An additional 800 children were evacuated today from a day camp in nearby Byram because of worries about the integrity of a nearby dam. Roads and bridges were washed out, streams turned to rushing rivers, small lakes turned to massive bowls of water and mudslides swept down hillsides. Water and sewage treatment systems in the area also were damaged, said John Hagerty, spokesman for the state's Office of Emergency Management in Trenton.

By this evening, Sparta had lost six bridges that spanned as long as 30 feet and 20 houses had been damaged or lost, said Phil Morlock, Sussex County's top health and safety official.

Still, for this rural region of rolling hills and pristine lakes, it wasn't the worst flooding in state history or even the most damaging or deadly. It was just bizarre, National Weather Service spokesman Robert Chartuk said.

"That's quite a lot of rain," he said. "You usually see that with tropical systems, which this is not." Thunderstorms usually roll and move. This one did not. It just poured water over this region, about 40 miles southwest of New York City, for more than half a day.

New Jersey, which was hit hard by torrential rains last fall as the remnants of Hurricane Floyd washed ashore, was hit the hardest Saturday and Sunday, when a "sta-

tionary thunderstorm" roiled over Sparta in Sussex County, as well as parts of Morris County next door.

"It just dumped everything there," Hagerty said.

As authorities continued to close and reopen major highways and country roads, travel became nearly possible. Sparta residents had to find alternative routes through bordering towns to return to their homes. A trip from Newark to Sparta that usually takes about 75 minutes took four hours because of closed roads, state officials said.

New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman (R) made an aerial tour of the area Sunday. The state is working on damage estimates that will likely run into the hundreds of millions. By late this afternoon, Whitman declared a state of emergency. In Sussex County, damage already is near \$166 million, Morlock said.

Today, as rainfall continued, officials kept a careful watch on the Musconetcong River, which is expected to remain at its crest for the next two to three days, according to the Associated Press.

Cathy Derechailo, a Red Cross spokeswoman, told the Associated Press that the river, which flows out of Sussex County and borders Morris and Warren counties, was rising a foot an hour today and was expected to close more roads. The continued rainfall likely will keep the Musconetcong River at "its crest peak for two to three days. So

this is far from over," she said.

Three dams in the region also are threatened with failure, Hagerty said. The dam at Seneca Lake already has crumbled, rendering the lake a brown serving bowl dotted with tiny white birds strutting through and picking up dead silver-colored fish.

John McCann and his son Matt stared at the muddy hole today as rain poured. "This is the most damage this town has ever seen," said the older McCann, who has lived here for 20 years.

Donna Enzale moved to a lakefront home with her husband and daughter in October. Today, she

stood gazing at what used to be Seneca Lake. "We fell in love with the lake. That's why we bought the house," she said as she cradled her 18-month-old daughter, Samantha. "It was gone before our eyes."

On Saturday afternoon, Enzale said, she and her husband noticed that the lake was overflowing. "Not after long, I saw gushes of mud," she said. Within hours, nearly all of the water had poured out of the lake where her family went swimming in the summer and ice-skating in the winter. Today, orange plastic shovels and yellow dump trucks littered the lake's narrow beach.

At nearby Tomahawk Lake, which has signs advertising "Swimming at its best" and "New Jersey's longest water slide," the gates remained closed.

Near downtown Sparta, residents stood in ankle-high water and stared dazed at the rocks and mud that had covered the front lawns of restored colonial-style houses. The main country road that connects downtown to the schools remained blocked by streaming water and a mudslide.

"Most of these homes had put in gardens and straightened up," said Susan Knauss, who has lived here for eight years. "It's unbelievable."

Tropical Storm Beryl Nears Texas and Mexico

Reuters

MIAMI, Aug. 15—Tropical Storm Beryl formed in the western Gulf of Mexico today and strengthened quickly, prompting hurricane warnings for the Texas and Mexico coasts.

Beryl's center was expected to come ashore on Tuesday on the northeast Mexican coast about 60 miles south of Brownsville, Texas, said hurricane specialist Stacy Stewart at the National Hurricane Center.

"The center is not that important. Beryl is a very broad, very large storm," Stewart said. "It could still bring 50-mph winds with gusts of 60 mph along the extreme south Texas coast, the Padre Island area."

Beryl could strengthen into a minimal hurricane before hitting land but the main threat was from flooding, Stewart said. The storm was expected to hit the shoreline with a 2- to 5-foot storm surge and dump 5 to 10 inches of rain on the area north of where the eye crosses the coastline, the forecasters said.

"You might lose a few car awnings, things like that, but no major structural damage is expected," Stewart said.

U.S. authorities issued a hurricane warning for the Texas coast from Galveston Bay to the Mexican border, cautioning residents to expect hurricane conditions by Tuesday morning. Mexican authorities issued a hurricane warning from the border southward to La Pesca and a tropical storm warning from

La Pesca south to near Tampico. Beryl was centered 135 miles south-southeast of Brownsville, moving northwest at 8 mph and was expected to continue on that path through Tuesday.

Beryl is the second named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season. The first, Hurricane Alberto, fizzled as chilly North Atlantic waters sapped its strength.

Alberto weakened to a tropical storm with 70 mph winds, 545 miles west of the westernmost Azores Islands.

Algerian Pleads Not Guilty in Bomb Plot

Reuters

NEW YORK, Aug. 14—An Algerian man believed to be a key figure in a plot to detonate bombs at millennium celebration sites in the United States pleaded not guilty today to charges he allegedly provided support to terrorists.

Mokhtar Haouari, 31, appeared in Manhattan federal court after arriving from Canada, where he had been held since his arrest Jan. 10. He waived extradition last month.

In May, President Clinton accused Saudi exile Osama bin Laden of being behind the millennium celebration bomb plot. Bin Laden was previously indicted in New York for allegedly masterminding the bombing at two U.S. embassies in East Africa in 1998 that killed more than 200 people.

In the U.S. millennium plot, Haouari and co-defendant Abdelghani Meskini were indicted for allegedly helping another Algerian man, Ahmed Ressay, cross into Washington state from Canada on Dec. 14 with a car full of explosives.

The six-count indictment filed in Manhattan federal court alleges that Haouari and Meskini provided and concealed material support to terrorists, transferred fraudulent identification documents, and trafficked and used fraudulent bank and charge cards. Meskini was arrested in Brooklyn on Dec. 30 and is awaiting trial.

Haouari was born in Arzew, Algeria, and arrived in Toronto in 1993, court papers said. When he entered Canada, he used a French passport with a different name and claimed refugee status. That application was denied. Court papers also said he was convicted in Canada in 1997 of dealing in stolen and counterfeit credit cards.

According to court papers filed in Canada seeking Haouari's extradition, authorities intercepted a Dec. 25 telephone call between Meskini and an unidentified individual in Algeria. During the call, Meskini stated that he and Haouari knew Ressay, that Ressay was part of a well-organized group and that Haouari was part of the same network.

After Meskini was arrested, he allegedly admitted to authorities that he considered Haouari to be a "very important brother," who was knowledgeable about jihad, or fighting the enemies of Islam.

Meskini allegedly told Haouari about his desire to participate in jihad, according to court papers. Haouari then told Meskini about Ressay, who had fought in the Algerian jihad and who had contacts in London and Afghanistan. He allegedly referred to Ressay as Abu Reda.

Early in December, Haouari allegedly called Meskini and told him that Ressay was in Vancouver but would be coming to Seattle and would need Meskini's assistance.

Haouari allegedly said that Meskini could escort Ressay in the United States and translate for him. A few days after the conversation, Haouari allegedly told Meskini that he had given his number to Ressay.

According to court papers, Ressay contacted Meskini and said he wanted Meskini to meet him in Seattle in mid-December. Meskini traveled to Seattle, but the meeting never took place because Ressay was arrested Dec. 14.