

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Eric L. Schnure ( CN=Eric L. Schnure/O=OVP [ OVP ] )

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SUBJECT: Rough draft

TO: Jonathan H. Schnur ( CN=Jonathan H. Schnur/O=OVP @ OVP [ OVP ] )  
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Robert M. Shireman ( CN=Robert M. Shireman/OU=OPD/O=EOP @ EOP [ OPD ] )  
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:  
Here's a rough draft.

Remarks

Vice President Al Gore

Presidential Awards for Excellence  
in Science and Mathematics Teaching  
Washington, DC  
June 11, 1997

(Acknowledgments from advance)

It was once said that Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard  
for it is a lost tradition. 8

This morning, we hope to take an important step in restoring that  
tradition by congratulating these wonderful teachers -- the winners of the  
Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching.

Earlier somebody told me these were like the Academy Awards for teachers. My family and I watched the Oscars this year, and I couldn't believe my ears. I don't know if you saw it, but Billy Crystal hosted this year, and on national television as he was addressing those who were nominated and might not win . . . he said there's no guarantees. . . The only person who is certain to wake up with a statute tomorrow morning is Tipper Gore.

Kidding aside, we live in a nation awash in awards -- not only the Oscars, but the Emmys, the Tonys, and the Grammys. It's great to celebrate success. But sometimes the glitz and glamour prevent us from seeing the quieter heroes of American life -- especially our nation's teachers.

This week, I'm glad to say, is different. Tomorrow all of you get will receive your much-deserved awards. But today, on behalf of President Clinton and a grateful nation -- as a parent . . . and yes, as a former student -- I have the opportunity to honor your excellence and applaud your dedication. Most important, I get to thank you for your service.

Simply put: you are the best. Congratulations.

We all know that is a crucial time for education.

In this country -- and throughout the world, for that matter -- people are experiencing profound changes as we move from the Industrial Age to the Information Age. In this new economy, what you earn depends on

what you learn.

That's why we have made it our number one priority to ensure that Americans have the best education in the world. Specifically, we must meet these important goals: Every 8-year-old must be able to read; every 12-year-old must be able to log on to the Internet; every 18-year-old must be able to go to college; and every adult must be able to keep on learning for a lifetime and get the skills necessary to get good jobs.

I'm pleased that the bipartisan balanced budget agreement reflects this priority. It includes the largest federal investment in education in over a generation.

This budget will help . . . by expanding Head Start . . . supporting Title I . . . investing in the America Reads initiative . . . and supporting higher academic standards.

I'm especially proud that this budget makes the strategic investments our country needs to connect all our people to the Information Age -- and to sharpen America's technological edge.

With it -- with more NetDays . . . and with the FCC's E-Rate decision -- we will link every American classroom to the Internet by the year 2000 and make the badly-needed investments in science and technology, so that America can continue to lead the world in innovation. And, of course, we will also train our teachers to use these technologies -- giving all of you the tools you need to lift our students.

Finally, this budget will also help us swing open the door to college. It includes the largest Pell Grant increase in two decades . . . and, as the original bipartisan agreement stipulated, tax cuts targeted to higher education to make college more affordable for American families.

As President Clinton said yesterday, it is absolutely critical that the tax package under consideration in Congress reflect the commitments to education made in our balanced budget agreement. Sadly, the latest version we have seen from Congress fall short.

Their plan falls \$13 billion short in the amount of higher education tax cuts specifically agreed upon earlier. And the House plan cuts the President's HOPE Scholarship proposal in half -- slamming the door shut to those who want to gain new skills or go to community college.

I think the award winning math teachers in this room would agree with me: we can't help families -- we can't create opportunity -- with an education policy that's all subtraction and division.

And we're not the only ones who feel that way. There is a broad consensus of education organizations -- from the American Association of Community Colleges to the American Association of State Colleges to the United States Student Association -- and just last night, The College Board . . . all voiced their strong disapproval for the Republican tax package as it currently stands.

Let me be clear: the Republican tax package is a betrayal of our bipartisan balanced budget agreement. But it is also a betrayal of our support for teachers and parents . . . and it is a betrayal in our belief in the promise of their students and children.

Teachers and parents demand better. Our children deserve better.

The truth is that educating our children works best when it operates above partisan, ideological politics. As President Clinton has said, in the Cold War, when the nation needed a bipartisan foreign policy, politics stopped at the water's edge. In the knowledge economy of the coming century, politics ought to stop at the schoolhouse door.

That is hasn't is deeply troubling. Because if there's one thing that's clear, it is this: when we find common ground and invest in education -- invest in our future -- we take great strides forward. We have the strongest economy in a generation. And our schools and teachers are getting better and better.

Just yesterday President Clinton announced the results of the Third International Math and Science Study . . . or TIMSS. It showed we're making great progress -- and that we should settle for nothing less than being the very best in the world.

But it also showed we still have some work to do -- that we must continue to invest in teacher training and support higher standards.

[NOTE: The study showed that while 4th graders have been making strong

improvements -- near the top of the world in science, and above average in math -- earlier data showed that 8th grade math is still slightly below average.]

Looking out at all of you, I know we can and will be the best in the world.

One of my favorite stories is the one about the little girl who is asked by her teacher, to name some of Thomas Edison's contributions to society.

"If it weren't for Thomas Edison," the girl answered. "We'd all still be watching television by candlelight."

We know that your jobs aren't easy. And although a student's answer may bring a smile, it's not an easy task to make a child understand the complexities of why it's so important to recycle... or even the significance of Thomas Edison's wonderful inventions. So thank you.

Thank you for your patience in explaining multiplication tables and long division.

Thank you for your enthusiasm when you talk about something as small as a single-cell organism or as big as the solar system.

Thank you, from the very bottom of our hearts, because each morning you unlock the doors of your classrooms and open the minds of our

children. And you don't do that for the award you receive tomorrow. . .  
but rather the deepest reward there is: enriching the lives of your  
students forever.

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Ansley Jones ( CN=Ansley Jones/O=OVP [ OVP ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME: 2-JUL-1997 09:03:05.00

SUBJECT:

TO: Jonathan A. Kaplan ( CN=Jonathan A. Kaplan/OU=OPD/O=EOP @ EOP [ OPD ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

fyi - we hope to get an answer today. I will forward you my previous

e-mail

----- Forwarded by Ansley Jones/OVP on 07/02/97 09:12 AM

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Jonathan H. Schnur

07/01/97 10:12 PM

To: Ron Klain/OVP

cc: Lorraine A. Voles/OVP, Virginia M. Terzano/OVP, Lisa A.

Berg/OVP, Maurice Daniel/OVP, Michael B. Feldman/OVP, Steven W.

Adamske/OVP, Ansley Jones/OVP

Subject: Re: options for the 8th

I wanted to add a few quick points on the potential message for the budget event next Tuesday, and a little more explanation why --- based on discussions with the Department of Education and the NEC -- the University of Pittsburgh may be the best option for highlighting the differences between the Administration's and congressional versions of the education tax cuts.



Messages for the event can be:

- 1) contrasting newly released numbers of families and students benefitting from the administration's education tax cuts with estimates of those benefitting from the congressional package.
- 2) highlighting the kinds of students and families who would benefit from our education tax cuts who would not benefit as much (or at all) from the congressional version.
- 3) announcing some kind of support from higher education groups for the administration's education tax cuts.

For each of these messages, Education and NEC agree that it will be important to highlight the benefits of both components of the education tax cuts in the tax package we announced this week:

-- the HOPE scholarship for the first two years of college and

-- even more important for next week, the 20% tax credit for older students (3rd and 4th year of undergrad, grad school, and adults) to acquire the skills they need to succeed in the workplace.

Emphasizing the 20% tax credit provides an important contrast with the congressional plans, which do not offer a comparable tax cut to invest in life-long learning for older students and adults needing to acquire new

skills to succeed in the workplace. The public and media have not yet focused on this important difference in the tax packages, instead focusing on the important but increasingly narrow difference between the administration's and congressional versions of the HOPE scholarships.

The benefits of both components -- but particularly the 20% tax credit -- would be conveyed well at the University of Pittsburgh. (Feel free to ignore the rest if you don't need this level of detail...)

Benefits of the 20% tax credit. The tuition at University of Pittsburgh is relatively high, so the tax cut offered to students and their families would be substantial. (For example, the family of a junior at University of Pittsburgh trying to cover nearly \$6000 in full-time tuition could get nearly a \$1200 tax cut, in comparison with \$0 tax cut for the same family under the congressional plan Compare to a family needing to pay University of Louisville's \$2600 tuition that gets approximately a \$520 tax cut under the Administration's plan.)

Benefits of the HOPE scholarship. Meanwhile, an event at the University of Pittsburgh could also include students from community colleges in the state that would highlight to some extent the benefits of our HOPE proposal. Pittsburgh community colleges will not highlight as dramatic a difference between the administration and congressional versions of HOPE; Pittsburgh community colleges are relatively expensive and the benefits of our HOPE proposal are best seen at average or low-cost community colleges. However, there are lower-cost community colleges elsewhere in the state that can help illustrate the difference between the

Administration and congressional versions of HOPE.

University of Connecticut would not be a bad second choice, mostly for the same reasons I have explained for Pittsburgh. Meanwhile, while Kentucky would even better illustrate the differences in the HOPE proposals, it would do a poor job at showing the benefits of the 20% tax cut.