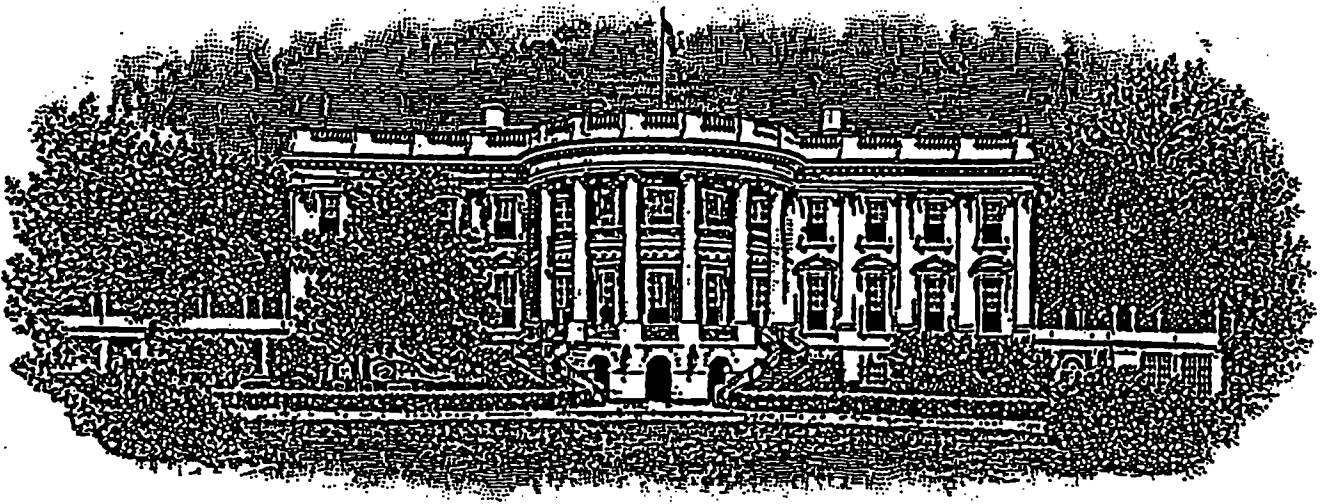


The White House

*Informational
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Domestic Policy Council
Old Executive Office Building, Room 220
Washington, DC 20502

Telephone Number: (202) 456-2857
Alternate: (202) 456-2216

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Alternate FAX: (202) 456-7431

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Phil Leder

FAX: 429-1959

FROM: BILL KINCAID

THIS FAX INCLUDES THE COVER SHEET PLUS 1 PAGES.

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE COMPLETE FAX, PLEASE CALL (202) 456-2857.

MESSAGE:

This is a little dated, but I thought
you'd be interested anyway
Bill

liberal arts or other fields, making it easier for them to pay off loans.

Most students do repay their loans. A report by the Washington-based Student Loan Marketing Association, better known as Sallie Mae, shows that 10.7

percent of loans scheduled for repayment in 1994 were defaulted on either in 1994 or 1995.

Ms. Harris, 22, who said her parents would pay off the \$15,000 she has borrowed for her education, said most

students are worried about getting a job and paying off loans, not purchasing new cars.

"Most of us expect when we graduate to trade in our old clunkers for another clunker that's slightly more reliable." ■

15. Agence France-Presse

05/14/97

Education is new government's first priority

LONDON, May 14 (AFP) - Education is the new British government's stated first priority and topped the list of proposals in its legislative programme announced Tuesday.

"My government intends to govern for the benefit of the whole nation," said Queen Elizabeth II in her speech to both houses of parliament.

"The education of young people will be my government's first priority. They will work to raise standards in schools, colleges and universities and to promote lifelong learning at the workplace."

In a clear change of tone, the tradition of the Queen's speech dealing first with foreign affairs and Europe was ditched in favour of measures on schools and jobs topping her address.

The importance attached to education reflects Prime Minister Tony Blair's general election campaign statement that

a Labour government would have three priorities: "Education, education and education."

Specific measures to be introduced by the education department under Britain's first blind cabinet minister, Education Secretary David Blunkett, were spelled out in two bills.

The first would abolish the assisted places scheme, which subsidises fees at private schools for children from less well-off families.

The money released would fund the key general election pledge to cut class sizes to 30, over the course of a five-year Parliament, for five, six and seven-year-olds. Existing assisted places would be protected.

The second bill, due to be introduced in the autumn after a consultative white paper in June, would launch the raft of measures which the Government plans to

raise school standards.

The measures cover reform of nursery education provision, new literacy and numeracy and other achievement targets for schools, improved vocational training, an increased voice for parents in education authorities, more public/private partnerships to repair school buildings, and a council to promote and regulate the teaching profession and a compulsory qualification for head teachers.

Blair's government has said it will review the use of calculators in primary schools as part of a campaign to boost numeracy standards.

The government has also committed itself to helping 250,000 young unemployed with a welfare-to-work programme financed by a one-off tax on windfall profits of privatised utilities. ■

16. Philadelphia Inquirer

May 16, 1997

States have cut 18,000 families

By Barbara Vobejda
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — States have cut off welfare benefits to 18,000 families in recent years, mostly to sanction people who failed to find work or move sufficiently toward that goal, a government study released yesterday found.

About one-third of those families returned to the welfare rolls later, after agreeing to comply with state requirements, the study found. And three-quarters of those who lost benefits were still receiving some form of federal assistance, including Medicaid, food

stamps, disability payments or housing aid.

The study by the General Accounting Office is the first to look systematically at how many welfare recipients have been affected by a flurry of welfare reform efforts around the country aimed at pushing recipients into the work force.

Until now, there has been relatively little firm evidence of whether states would have the political will to actually curtail benefits to families that failed to meet tough new work requirements.

Authors drew no conclusions about the well-being of families who lost benefits, saying a lack of information

made it impossible to know whether their circumstances had improved because they were forced to find work or whether they have fallen deeper into poverty.

In many cases, states could not say what had happened to as many as half of the families who lost benefits.

Said Margie Shields, the primary author of the report: "They might have a job and be doing really well, or they could be desperate, and you don't really know."

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