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Mike Cowan

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HAIL TO THE CHIEF

SPECIAL EDITION



***PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
ADDRESSES THE
139th DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MAY 8, 1998***

DELAWARE CLIPPER
Digest of Articles of Interest to Delaware Legislators
May 12, 1998

DELAWARE CLIPPER

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The Delaware State News
The Dover Post
Delaware Today Magazine
Delaware Capitol Review

May 12, 1998

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

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Legislative Hall ready for Clinton

NJ 5-8-98

By **NANCY CHARRON**
Dover Bureau chief

DOVER — President Clinton arrives in Dover today to address the General Assembly on education reform, and to talk to the troops at Dover Air Force Base.

The area around Legislative Hall should be spick-and-span when Clinton arrives. It buzzed Thursday with activity, from phone technicians installing extra lines to the state's official china being delivered to Gov. Carper's office for refreshments for guests.

The president has used state legislative venues on several occasions to talk about policy initiatives. Delaware is among states implementing education reforms, many of them similar to Clinton's program.

But not all of the 62 lawmakers are going to hear the 12:30 p.m. address in the Senate chamber.

The chamber, which holds only about 230 people, will be packed with lawmakers and their guests, the governor's Cabinet, the judiciary, statewide elected officials and a large media contingent.

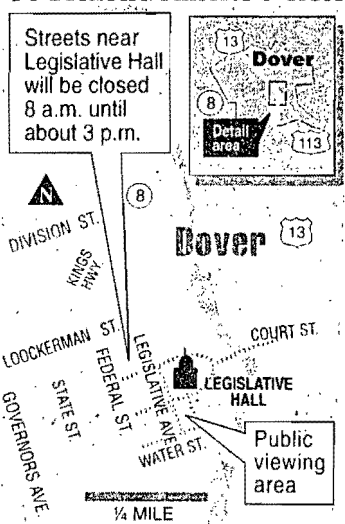
Of the 41 House members, nine will be absent, including Rep. Al O. Plant Sr., D-Wilmington Central, who said he liked the president but had personal business, to Rep. Jeffrey G. Mack, R-New Castle, who said he could not leave his teaching assignment. Many lawmakers have full-time jobs.

Only one senator will be absent — Sen. Colin R.J. Bonini, R-Dover South. He is the only lawmaker admittedly absent as a matter of principle. Bonini said he has serious ethical and policy differences with the president.

"I think it is an immature thing to do," Senate President Pro Tem Thomas B. Sharp, D-Pinecrest, said. "He is the president. You have a duty to go."

But the absences haven't ruffled

President Clinton's visit



The News Journal

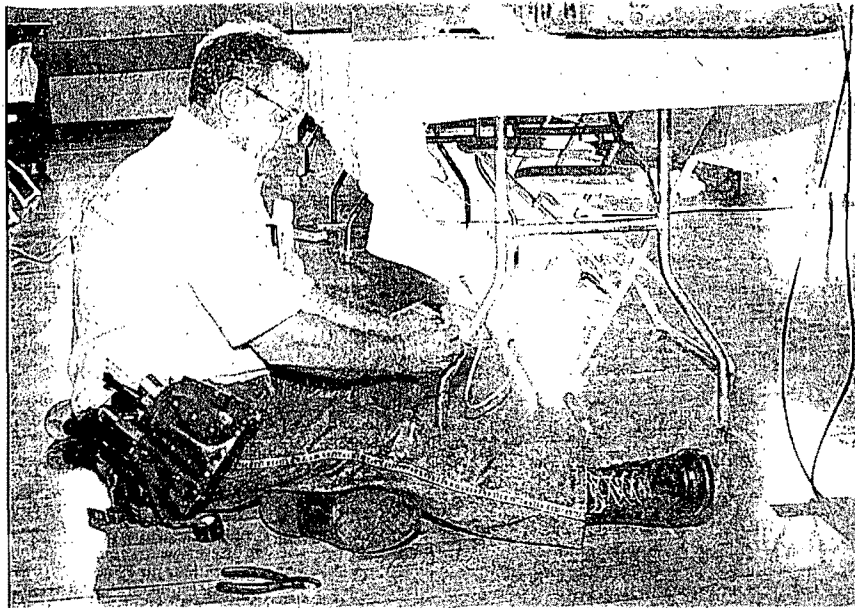
the Carper administration.

"We recognize that Friday is not a regular legislative day and legislators have scheduling conflicts," said Sheri Woodruff, Carper's press secretary.

The speech will be broadcast outside the building. Afterward, the president will go to the south side of Legislative Hall to greet the public.

Streets around the building will be closed to through traffic from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the Water Street branch of the Dover Federal Credit Union will be closed for the day.

Motorists also can expect some delays on U.S. 113 between the base and the capital when the presidential motorcade passes through in late morning and mid-afternoon.



Preparations follow strict protocol

By D.L. Bonar
Staff writer

DOVER — Protocol is king as this historic day dawns on Legislative Hall.

The General Assembly and Gov. Thomas R. Carper play host today to President Bill Clinton, Education Secretary Richard W. Riley and Defense Secretary William Cohen.

Getting in to Legislative Hall for the visit is tightly controlled and, dictated by the governor's office, with the cooperation of the White House.

"No one will be permitted into the building unless they have an invitation or credentials," said Sheri L. Woodruff, a spokeswoman for Gov. Carper.

Thursday, the Carper administration announced a public appearance would be made by the president following his address to the General Assembly. The public appearance will take place on the south end of Legislative Hall, along William Penn Avenue.

"The public is encouraged to attend this open appearance," Ms. Woodruff said.

Each person entering the building will be required to pass through a metal detector, which was installed on Thursday.

"We have a very specific method of protocol which must be followed for the session," Ms. Woodruff said.

On the floor of the Senate Chamber will be a select list of Delaware officials, she said. Each member of the legislature will be allowed one guest. After that, come cabinet secretaries, statewide elected officials and chiefs of the judicial branch of state government.



Staff photos/John King

Top, Charles Porter of Milford installs phone lines at the Armory on the Green, which will serve as national media headquarters. Above, Giffie Brown plants some shrubs to help prepare for the president's visit.

Above the floor in 68 seats contained in the Senate balcony will be 34 members of the media including 15 local reporters and 34 representatives of senior staff to the governor, the legislature and White House staffers.

As dusk settled over Legislative Hall, the "big event" was obviously having a huge effect on the historic building.

Inside the hall, technicians were turning the Senate chambers into a stage. Television lights were installed, platforms erected on which cameras and photographers would be located and chairs were being brought in on which to seat the guests.

"Quite an event," said Rep. Robert F. Gilligan, D-Newark, the house minority leader as he left the building just after 7 p.m.

"It's a once in a lifetime thing for all of us. Just think, Monday, all we'll have is the memory and some photographs, but we'll all be a permanent part of Delaware history."

D.L. Bonar can be reached at 741-8228 or at daverpa@newszap.com.



Staff photo/John King

Jim Spencer of Comcast Cable sets up a TV for the media outside to watch the speech.



Staff photo/John King

Above, Craig Stevens, a broadcast engineer for ABC, sets up a transmitter to feed to the White House media pool before the president's speech.

DSN- 5-12-98

Ready if he decides to chow down

DSN 5-8-98

Staff report

President Clinton has been known to pay unexpected visits to fast food restaurants in his travels. Jeffery Mack, assistant manager for Burger King at 211 S. Dupont Highway, wasn't aware that the nation's chief executive was coming to town.

"I think we would just carry on as usual if the president came here," he said. "It would be a surprise but we'd give him our utmost best service as we do each customer and treat him as we usually treat our customers even though he's the president."

The Burger King Restaurant at Dover Air Force Base is geared up for President Clinton.

"Everybody's talking about him today," said Assistant Manager Karmella Regaspi. "We would shake his hand and show him around the store. I know some don't want to see him but I would definitely want to meet him. I came from the Philippines. In my country, I met our leader. I have seen him. I would want to meet President Clinton, too."

Ms. Regaspi said employees were instructed to come into the base early in case there is restricted access.

"Our manager wants us to be in here and ready," Ms. Regaspi said.

Traffic restrictions still not certain

According to Michael R. Bundick, state Facility Management deputy director there will be some parking restrictions and road closures in the area of the capital complex, but as of 4 p.m. Thursday they were still being firming up.

"Most of the parking around downtown Dover will be unaffected," Mr. Bundick said. "I can say almost confidently that Legislative Avenue will be closed, and some of Court Street, but how much has not been determined."

Carper says Clinton crack was just a joke

Lots of jokes have been poked at President Clinton in the past year.

One of the joke-tellers, Delawareans will remember, was Gov. Thomas R. Carper.

At the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce breakfast in January, Gov. Carper joked to breakfast joked about the controversy involving President Clinton and White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"My staff had asked me as a joke whether I would be interviewing interns with a lawyer," Gov. Carper said earlier this week. "It was just a joke."

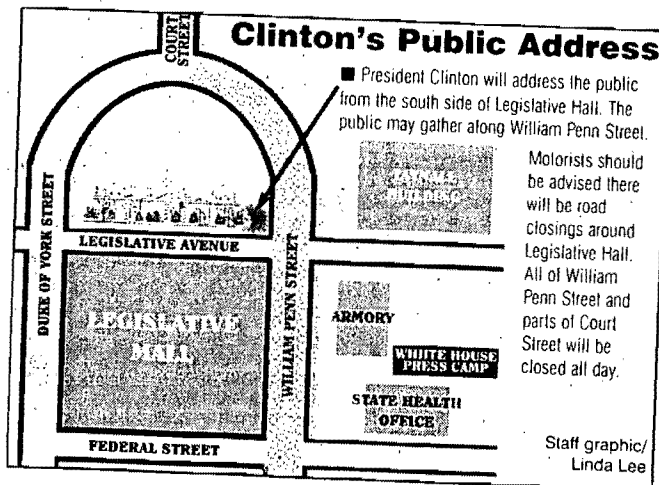
The governor said he was not trying to distance himself from the president.

Gov. Carper's jokes came the day after the president gave the State of the Union address.

Expect to get wet

The president will likely be welcomed by overcast skies and showers when he arrives in Dover today.

The weekend weather, beginning today, is expected to be cloudy, with showers likely throughout the period. Highs will be in the mid- to upper 60s.



Abe was here, too, by George

First State frequent stop for presidents, research reveals

NJ 5-8-98

By **NANCY CHARRON**
Dover Bureau chief

President Clinton is the first president to address a joint meeting of the Delaware General Assembly.

But he's just one in a long line of sitting presidents to visit the First State, starting with the nation's first president, George Washington.

The Clinton visit sparked a major research effort by the state's Public Archives and Legislative Council to give some perspective to the occasion.

Researchers found that in 1789, President-elect Washington stopped in Wilmington on his way to the first presidential inauguration in New York. He visited at least 12 more times, the last on Dec. 15, 1798, a year before his death.

President John Adams and his

wife visited Wilmington in 1801, and President Andrew Jackson docked at New Castle on the Steamboat Ohio twice in 1833.

Northern Delaware was a popular stopover for presidents traveling along the East Coast by train.

President James K. Polk visited in 1847, as did President Millard Fillmore and his Cabinet in 1851. Franklin Pierce passed through in 1856.

In 1848, Abraham Lincoln made a speech in Delaware while a member of Congress. After his assassination in 1865, his funeral train passed through Wilmington. President Andrew Johnson visited the state in 1866.

The most elaborate reception apparently was accorded President Ulysses S. Grant in 1873, when the General Assembly adjourned to go to Wilmington to meet him.

In 1923, President Warren G. Harding and his wife visited during a tour that ended in his death in San Francisco.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt drew large crowds through the 1930s, according to the researchers, and his visits were followed by ones from Harry S. Truman, Dwight D.

CLINTON'S SCHEDULE

President Clinton's schedule at Legislative Hall

Noon — Gate opens at Water Street and Legislative Avenue near south entrance of Legislative Hall for people who

want to see the president.

12:30

p.m. — Clinton's address in the

Senate chamber to a joint session of the

General Assembly,

which will be broadcast to the public

outside the hall.



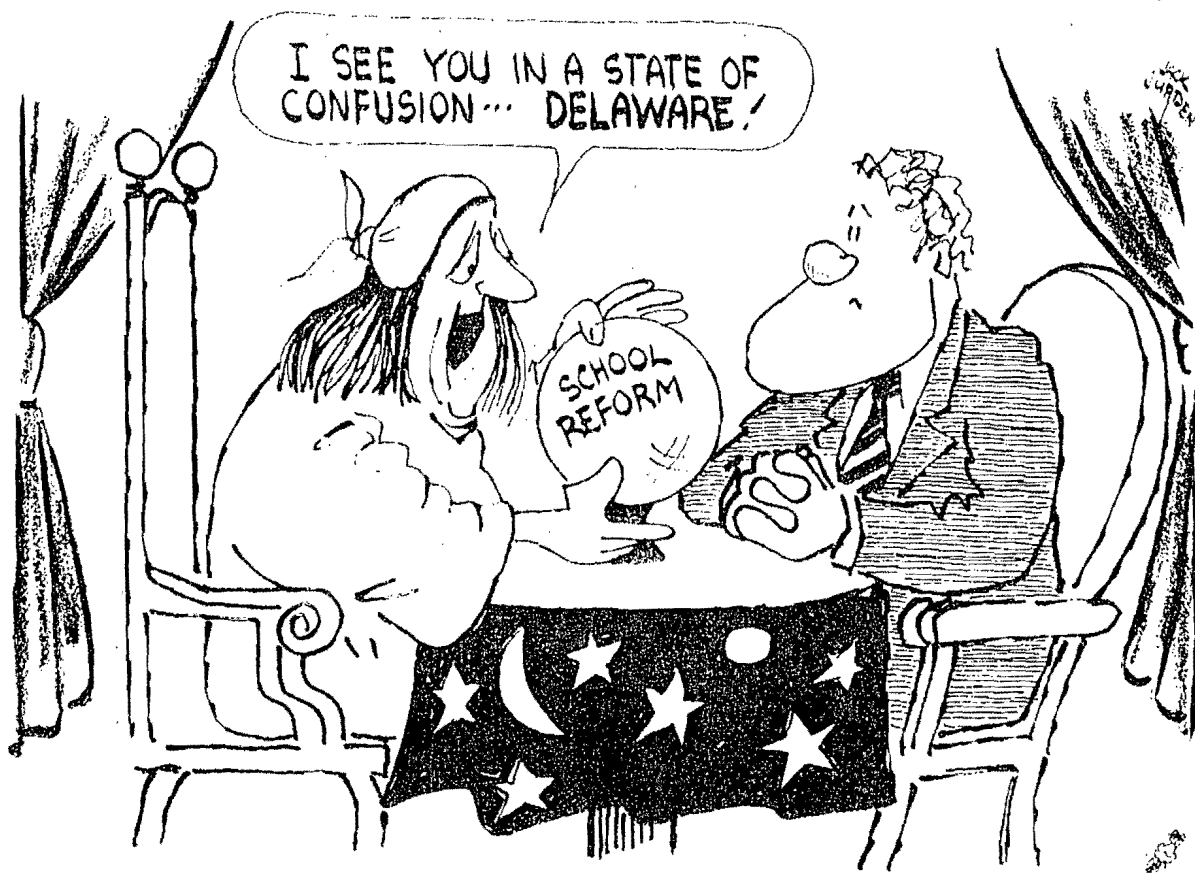
President Clinton

After the address, the president will greet the public at the south side of Legislative Hall along William Penn Street.

Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

In recent years, President George Bush visited three times. Today marks Clinton's fourth visit.

So who didn't stop by in recent years? Neither Ronald Reagan nor Gerald Ford visited Delaware while they were president.



NJ 5-8-98

Defense secretary will be with president

By **Tom Eldred**
Staff writer

DSN
5-8-98

DOVER — Another star has been added to the entourage of officials coming with President Bill Clinton to Dover today.

According to the White House, Defense Secretary William Cohen will join the chief executive and Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley on the trip.

"At the request of the president, Secretary Cohen will be traveling with Mr. Clinton to Dover," White House spokeswoman Julie Payne said. "He will be attending the president's address to the state legislature."

Ms. Payne stressed President Clinton's visit will focus entirely on education priorities. However, Gov. Thomas R. Carper said he plans to find time to remind Secretary Cohen of the extreme importance of maintaining Dover Air Force Base as a strategic military facility.

"It's so modern and efficient," Gov. Carper said. "It would be the last base the Pentagon would think of closing. I will express those views to Secretary Cohen."

There was some confusion Thursday between the White House and Pentagon as to exactly what role Secretary Cohen

will have when President Clinton speaks to personnel at the base later in the day.

Ms. Payne said the defense secretary is also scheduled to speak.

But the Department of Defense said the president is the only scheduled speaker.

"We don't have (Secretary Cohen) down for any remarks at the base," said Army Col. Edwin F. Veiga, a Department of Defense spokesman. "He will be traveling with the president, at the president's request, and he might introduce him at the base. There are no plans to address personnel. The president is doing all the speaking."

Ms. Payne offered a different version. "We have him speaking at the base," she said.

Secretary Cohen was asked, Ms. Payne said, to lend support to the president's message on education initiatives, which she said include proposals for improving schools on military bases for children of military personnel.

"The president made a statement sev-



**William
Cohen**

eral months ago that he wants the schools on our military bases upgraded to meet the standards proposed for all public schools," Ms. Payne said.

Maj. Kirk E. Farynaisz, a spokesman at the Dover facility, said there are three schools — two elementary schools and a middle school — on base property to serve Air Force families. All three facilities are administered by Caesar Rodney School District.

Although Maj. Farynaisz did not have a listing for the total number of students being schooled at the base, he said the Air Force spends millions of dollars annually for operating the schools, as well as for children from military families who attend high school off-base.

"For school year 1996-97, the base contributed \$7,142,052 through June 1997 to the Caesar Rodney district," he said. In addition, \$30,136 went to Capital School District.

Congressman Michael N. Castle, R-Del., is attending the presidential visit. He



**Richard W.
Riley**

echoed Gov. Carper's sentiments about the Dover base, especially in light of recent word from Washington the Air Force may consider eliminating some bases in favor of a consolidated group of "superbases."

"I believe that Secretary Cohen's visit to Dover Air Force Base will be to recognize and pay tribute to the personnel that serve the Air Force's only base for C-5 airlift aircraft on the East Coast," Rep. Castle said. "He also will bring attention to the fact that Dover is a valuable staging ground for airlift operations to the Middle East and Europe. Quite frankly, our worldwide military reach could not succeed without Dover Air Force Base."

Gov. Carper said he's delighted the two cabinet officials are accompanying the president to Dover. He called Secretary Cohen a "credit to both political parties" and referred to Secretary Riley as a "wonderful, decent human being," deeply committed to improving American education.

"You will see Dick Riley's lips move when the president speaks," the governor said.

**Tom Eldred can be reached at
741-8212 or at
teledred@newszap.com.**

Select group will meet privately with Clinton

By Ashley Gray
Staff writer

DSN-98
5-8-98

LEWES — A handful of people will meet President Bill Clinton during an intimate, private gathering today while he visits Dover.

The gathering will be about 20 minutes long, and held in Gov. Thomas R. Carper's legislative hall office just before the President addresses a joint session of the General Assembly, said press secretary Andy Lippstone.

"Because (his) speech revolves around education, we thought it was appropriate to invite some of the state's major players in education for a brief, informal event," Mr. Lippstone said.

A list of those invited wasn't available because of security reasons, but at least one person attending will be Cape Henlopen School District Superintendent Suellen Skeen. Others will be business people involved in education reform, administrators and top school board officials.

Dr. Skeen was invited to represent the Chief School Officers Association, of which she is president.

"I'm looking forward to it," Dr. Skeen said. "I've never met one of our presidents before."

While Secretary of Education

Dr. Iris T. Metts mentioned to Dr. Skeen that she may be invited, her attendance wasn't confirmed until Wednesday, after security clearance and such. "I'll try to behave myself and act like I know what I'm doing," she said, laughing.

Delmar School District Superintendent George E. Stone met President Clinton only two years ago on his turf in Washington, D.C. "My school was a blue ribbon school of excellence when I was principal of Seaford Middle School, so we were invited to a reception and we all got to meet him. I'm not one to be impressed by power, mine or anybody's else's, but there is definitely an aura to the president and being at the White House," he said.

Millford Superintendent Robert D. Smith III hasn't ever met Bill Clinton, but he's brushed shoulders with other heads of state.

When he was in college, around 1970, he got to meet the 37th president.

"I met (Richard) Nixon in Washington at a dance for his daughter, Trisha," he said. "That was sort of neat."

Ashley Gray can be reached at 644-6323 or at ashgray@newszap.com.

Who won't be there

Nine representatives and one senator will not be attending today's speech:

Representatives

- Al O. Plant Sr., D-Wilmington
- Arthur L. Scott, D-Wilmington
- David D. Brady, D-Claymont
- Bruce C. Reynolds, R-Bear
- Jeffrey G. Mack, R-New Castle
- Joseph R. Petrilli, R-Newark
- William A. Oberle Jr., R-Newark
- Richard F. David, R-Newark
- Clifford G. "Biff" Lee, R-Laurel

Senate

- Colin R.J. Bonini, R-Dover

DCR will have presidential coverage

Watch Monday for a presidential edition of the Delaware Capitol Review. The publication, which is normally mailed on Friday, will be delayed until Monday to provide the readers with coverage of President Clinton's trip to Dover.

Wet weather welcomes president

By Tom Eldred
Staff writer

DSN
5-9-97

DOVER — Gray skies turned darker and a hard rain drenched Dover Air Force Base Friday as President Bill Clinton stepped off Air Force One at the base.

It was 12:03 p.m.

The president was met by a small group of dignitaries, including Gov. Thomas R. Carper, Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, Dover Mayor James L. Hutchison and base commander Col. Felix M. Grieder.

The rain continued.

"Where are the umbrellas, where are the umbrellas?" a security officer yelled seconds before the chief executive began to descend the movable exit steps wheeled up to the legendary aircraft.

Two large umbrellas were rushed out. One for the governor and Lt. Gov. Minner. Another for Mayor Hutchison.

President Clinton, bareheaded, seemed not to notice the pelting rain. Without an umbrella, he moved down the row of waiting officials. He chatted briefly, shook hands, and then was ushered into one of the waiting presidential limousines for the motorcade into Dover and Legislative Hall.

Nearby, on a flatbed truck, local photographers and writers recorded every wet moment. The national press and White House photographers, with higher security clearance, moved closer. The rain was still pouring down. They were drenched too.

Base security personnel, hours earlier, had moved the press corps through various debriefings on the president's visit. Strict rules to follow. Those receiving



Staff photo/Linda Laird

President Clinton arrives into the rain at Dover Air Force Base.

clearances in the morning would not be permitted to leave the base until after the president delivered his address in Hangar 706 around 3 p.m.

Final security "sweeps" were conducted by Secret Servicemen. The agents, dressed in ubiquitous black or tan trench coats, each sported a small, gold-colored lapel pin. They also wore a small microphone — always in the right ear.

Much later in the afternoon, with Pres-

ident Clinton safely on his way back to the White House, the extra security measures vanished. News reporters were escorted back to their vehicles by proficient base public affairs officers. They scattered to file their stories.

The president of the United States had come to Dover.

**Tom Eldred can be reached at
741-8212 or at
teldred@newszap.com.**

Wet weather welcomes president

By **Tom Eldred** *DSN*
Staff writer *5-12-98*

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Tom Eldred can be reached at 741-8212 or at teldred@newszap.com.

Storm doesn't dampen the crowd's spirits

By Delarita C. Ford

Staff writer *DSN 5-9-98*

DOVER — Some people walked and stood for hours in the rain. Some people looked through binoculars. Some people stood on the curb with a crowd behind them, but no one saw the president.

Some Dover High School ninth-graders who were excused from school for the event walked through a downpour of rain, got their clothes and hair messed up, only to be disappointed.

Stef Phillips and Sharnetta Scott said they could not believe how many students left school to see the president.

"It's supposed to be about us," Sharnetta said.

"I thought he would have come out here and wave. That is the least thing he could do," said Heather Baustert.

"We wanted to see him and see what he was going to say to us," said Juliann Jake. She and her friends, Cornelia Patten and Tallisha Brittingham, said they appreciated the president coming to Dover to speak on education but could not believe they didn't get to see him.

Christie Brittingham, a Dover High senior, said she was content watching his public address on a television monitor displayed outdoors in a truck. She was pleased President Clinton dealt with building renovations because Dover High School is undergoing a renovation process.

"This is amazing. It would have been even more amazing if I could have seen him, but it was well worth it. I'll remember it as a time I almost saw Bill Clinton," Christie said. "I liked the fact that he actually came down here to Dover trying to better our school system."

Among the spectators were several groups of school-age children who waited about 1½ hours, only to have their hopes to see President Clinton washed away by the downpour.

"We wrote to him about the environment and he wrote back," said Keely Webber, a West Dover Elementary School third-grader. "We wanted to see him."

Michelle Ross, a West Dover Elementary School third-grade teacher, said the experience was a wet one, and she had hoped

the children would have had the chance to see the president.

"I would have liked them to have had the opportunity to see the president. When we came here, we thought it was going to be a public appearance," said the teacher, who brought 26 students. "It would have been a rewarding experience since they wrote to him."

Charles and Holly Johnson, who have lived in Dover for about 15 years, said they came out in the rain twice in one day to see the president and went through two raincoats and pairs of boots each.

"This is an opportunity to see him," said Mr. Johnson, adding that Dover is a small state and he was delighted to have President Clinton visiting so he could have the chance to see who was running things.

Ella Wynn was prepared with her binoculars and waited for the president to come outdoors.

"I am trying to see the president when he comes out. If he comes out that door, I will," Ms. Wynn said as she looked through her binoculars.

Tracee Brogden stood beside her and watched people come in and out of the doors, but not the president.

"I have never seen the president before and I have always wanted to see Bill Clinton," Ms. Brogden said.

Myra McDermott brought her five-year-old daughter, Mariah, to see the president, and had a nice position in front of the crowd. Mrs. McDermott said she never thought they would be in the front row.

"This is a moment in history for a five-year-old. She will appreciate this in the future," Mrs. McDermott said.

Kathleen Johnson, who walked briskly in high-heeled shoes, followed the crowd where she thought they could get a look at the president as he exited a side door. She said she dressed up for the presidential visit and hoped to see the president.

"I want to be fixed up and looking halfway right when I see the president," Mrs. Johnson said.

Delarita C. Ford can be reached at 741-8233 or at rita@newszap.com.

Hopes of meeting Clinton soaked



The News Journal/GARY EMEIGH
Vicki McGranahan, son Joshua, 3, and Debra May (with flag), all of Dover, wait at Legislative Hall Friday to see President Clinton. The weather forced a change in plans, and the crowd left disappointed.

Supporters, detractors, students waiting outside don't see president

NT 3-9-98

By ROBERT MOORE
Staff reporter

DOVER — Hundreds of Delawareans who gathered outside Legislative Hall to catch a glimpse of President Clinton had their hopes doused Friday when heavy rainfall led to a last-minute change in plans by the White House.

OUTSIDE LEG HALL

Some, such as Harold and Anna Darlington of Felton, were miffed that contingency plans had not been made for the public.

"Knowing how sociable the president is, there should have been a chance for the people to greet him, to show their respect," Anna Darlington said. "We at least wanted to hear what he had to say."

"We waited two hours in the rain for the official car to come around and we never saw it," said her husband, Harold.

Mary Dailey of Dover and Janet Williams of Wyoming said they were both "good Democrats," but they, too, were disappointed.

But Dailey said she wasn't angry. "The rain changed everything. They have to do what the Secret Service tells them to do and I understand."

Gov. Carper's chief of staff, Jeffrey Bullock, said the Secret Service told state officials Clinton would not greet those who turned up on Legislative Mall. He said the Secret Service also decided not to use a public-address system to allow the 200 hardy souls who withstood the noontime downpour to hear the president.

"The governor obviously regrets that a lot of people — especially a lot of school-age children — who were looking forward to seeing the president were not able to," Bullock said.

The governor's office had considered setting up an outdoor tent to accommodate the people who might turn out. "That was not very realistic given the crowd we anticipated," Bullock said. "A bubble that would encapsulate the city of Dover was not a practical idea."

So the Clinton supporters, detractors and the just plain curious

huddled beneath trees and umbrellas on Legislative Mall for two and a half hours as Clinton talked to Delaware lawmakers about public education.

Among them was a group of 26 West Dover Elementary School third-graders who had been invited by Carper's staff to be inside Legislative Hall when Clinton arrived. They were still waiting with the approximately 200 others behind police barricades on Legislative Avenue well after Clinton's arrival.

Parents and teachers were not happy with the circumstances, but the students didn't seem to mind the sudden downpour.

"My mom was so excited," said Ashley Shelton, 8, of Dover. "She wanted to come but she said she didn't want to stand in the rain. So she watched it on TV."

The West Dover Elementary class wrote a letter to Clinton telling him about the importance of the environment. Clinton wrote back last month. From that came the invitation to Friday's event.

Harold and Margaret Whitfield, who retired to Dover from New York City in April, didn't plan to stop at Legislative Hall until the last minute. "We were riding by when we saw that the crowd wasn't big at all. We said, 'We can handle this.' So we stopped."

Korean War veteran Donald G. Gis traveled from his Claymont-area home hoping Clinton would get a glimpse of a placard he held criticizing the president for his support of the United Nations and criticizing Clinton's foreign policy. "Wars are about money and Mr. Clinton is being manipulated by the big-money people."

Eleven-year-old Laspencer Saunders had his own message for the president about schools.

"I wanted to ask him to see that we got better food and fix up our lunchroom," the William Henry Middle School student said.

Laspencer's mother, Tonia, brought him and his three brothers and sisters to Legislative Mall hoping to get as close as they could. "I think it's important that they see him. He shows me whenever he speaks that he cares a great deal about children."

A momentous occasion in the capital

By **D.L. Bonar**
Staff writer

DSN
5-9-98

DOVER — At precisely 12:38 p.m., history began unfolding in Delaware Senate chambers.

President William Jefferson Clinton became the first sitting president in the history of Delaware to address a joint session of the Delaware General Assembly.

Even a heavy rain could not douse the spirits of legislators and various officials, who waited in Senate chambers for up to two hours as the president and his entourage landed at Dover Air Force Base, then traveled by motorcade to Legislative Hall.

The president — who stopped momentarily at the entrance to the main chamber — was escorted by President Pro Tem Sen. Thomas B. Sharp, D-Wilmington; House Speaker Terry R. Spence, R-New Castle; Sen. Robert J. Voshell, D-Milford; and House Minority Leader, Wayne A. Smith, R-Wilmington.

"Madame President (referring to Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, who was presiding over the joint session), the President of the United States," said Clarence Schwatka, the 78-year-old sergeant-at-arms for the Senate and the applause began.

It took seven minutes for President Clinton to walk the 70 or so feet from the door to the front of the chamber. Looking thinner than some thought, the president stopped along the way to shake hands with legislators and guests, even taking a moment to autograph a straw basket offered by Rep. George Robert Quillen, R-Harrington, a long-time member of the House of Representatives.

"For the first time in our 211 years, we have a visit for a joint session from the president of the United States," Sen. Sharp said in his introduction.

From that point on, it was for-

malty.

The speech was written, the platitudes were given and the president keyed in on his well-publicized issues.

Afterward, Sen. Sharp — who is known for his wit and tongue of the same name — was overwhelmed.

"This is the first time I ever met a president," Sen. Sharp said.

With hands which were still ringing wet, not from rain but from nervousness, he said he had met the president at Dover Air Force Base and taken a towel to help dry the back of his suit. The president was drenched by rain after exiting Air Force One.

"I'm just a little guy," Sen. Sharp said. "I thought, 'Geez, here I am drying off the back of the president of the United States.' I am very, very proud of our state and more than a little nervous."

Other members of the welcoming team had similar comments. It was clear escorting the chief executive of the United States, was an emotional experience.

"I thought, 'Here I am getting ready to retire and I get to escort the president into the Senate,'" said Sen. Voshell. The Democratic majority leader said he had never had such a feeling in his life and admitted to having his heart rate elevated to a higher than normal level.

With education as the primary topic, many lawmakers chose to bring children as their guest.

"I still don't believe I got to shake his hand," said 10-year-old Paul Amick, son of Sen. Steven H. Amick, R-Newark. The youngster was quick to show off the autograph the president gave him, which read, "To Paul, best wishes, Bill Clinton."

Another of the youngsters kept the whole thing in perspective.

"I thought it was good he talked about schools," said Derick Wilkins, son of David Wilkins, the Republican assistant to the Senate.

The Dover boy had been invited as the guest of Sen. Dorinda Connor, R-Newark.

"It was good to see him talk about improving schools," Derick said. "The music room at my school is cold."

After a quick lunch with Gov. Carper and his close associates, President Clinton posed for staff photographs and headed down the steps to the basement of Legislative Hall.

Walking out the cellar door to the waiting limousine, he grabbed a cup of coffee placed on the roof of the car by a Secret Service agent. He climbed into the back seat with Gov. Carper and Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

The black Cadillac pulled out of the parking area and headed east on Court Street away from Legislative Hall.

At 2:47 p.m., history had been made.

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The President In Delaware

NJ 5-9-98



President Clinton is greeted by Sen. Richard A. Hauge, R-Windy Bush, as he enters Legislative Hall on Friday to address a joint session of the General Assembly. The News Journal/GARY EMEIGH



Clinton visits Del., touts education plan

5/9/98 Daily Times

Clinton plugs education

■ The president visited Delaware yesterday, urging the state legislature to embrace school accountability proposals.

By TODD SPANGLER
Associated Press Writer

DOVER, Del. — President Clinton gave Gov. Thomas Carper's stalled education reforms a boost yesterday when he urged the Delaware legislature to embrace school accountability proposals and reduce class sizes.

"If we are going to prepare our children for the 21st century, we cannot do it unless we can say with a straight face we're giving

them the best education," said Clinton, the first sitting president to ever address a joint session of the Delaware General Assembly.

Clinton praised the state's education reform efforts to date, suggesting that school districts across the nation should have achievement tests that gauge success against local and national standards like those being used for the first time this week in Delaware.

The president added that Delaware can serve as a model for education reform

because of its efforts to implement charter schools and school choice, allowing parents and students to attend any public school in the state they wish.

Although the president plugged his nationwide efforts — including his legislation to hire 100,000 new teachers to lower class sizes — he noted that school standards and accountability systems remain the domain of local and state governments.

He recommended that any accountability system include "consequences, both positive and negative."

"I urge you to have a long, vigorous debate," Clinton told lawmakers.

"Nobody will take your system seriously unless there are consequences."

Carper is pushing legislation that would hold back students who fail to meet reading levels tested in grades 3, 5, 8 and 10. His proposal would also allow for schools where test scores remain poor, year after year, to be put under the control of better performing schools districts.

The governor's class size proposal would provide for one teacher for every 15 students in kindergarten through grade three. Currently, the state pays for one teacher for every 19 students in those grades.

A historic occasion

DSN 5-12-98

Clinton praises education initiatives

By Todd Spangler
Associated Press

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Staff photo/John King

President Clinton addresses the gathering at Legislative Hall on Friday.

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The governor's class size proposal would provide for one teacher for every 15 students in kindergarten through grade three. Currently, the state pays for one teacher for every 19 students in those grades.

"I can assure you, the rest of us will be watching," President

Clinton said of the debate over education reform in Delaware.

Following the president's 45-minute-long speech, Gov. Carper was ebullient over President Clinton's praise of Delaware and its successful efforts in Head Start programs and other education reforms.

"Actually, it was an embarrassment of riches," said Gov. Carper.

The debate over his education proposals has already narrowed, he said.

"The president's very positive

remarks only serve to further narrow the differences," Gov. Carper said.

State Education Secretary Iris Metts said she is sure, given the president's remarks, a version of both proposals will pass the General Assembly by its adjournment June 30.

"It was," said Senate President Pro Tem Thomas B. Sharp, holding a reception in his office as President Clinton had his photo taken with staffers inside the Senate Chamber, "right on target."

An educated attempt?



DSN 5-10-98

Staff photo/John King

President Clinton makes a point during his speech Friday to the Delaware General Assembly, as Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner looks on.

An 'A' for Delaware

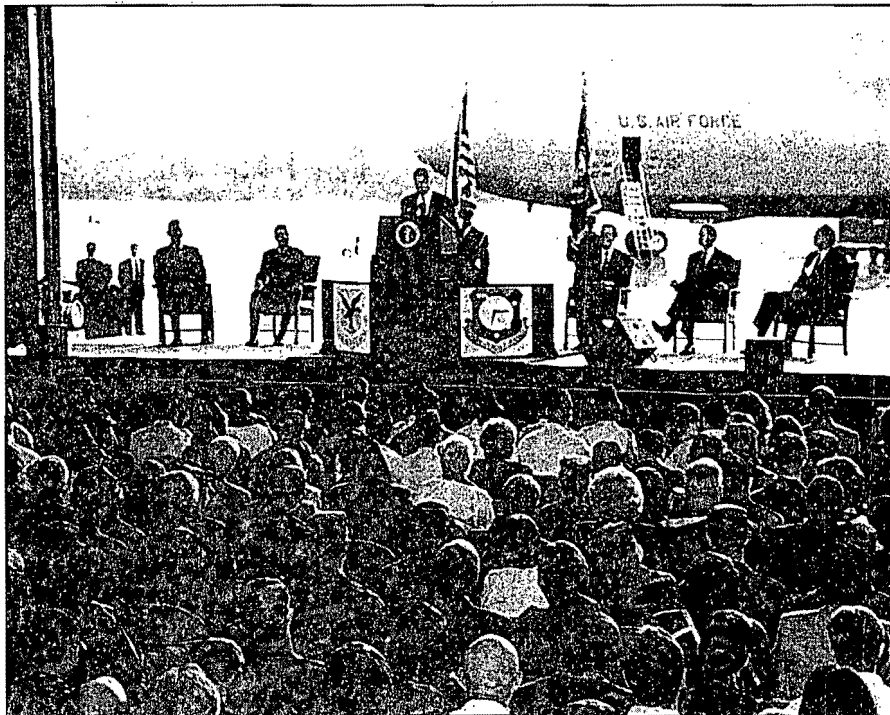
DSN 5-9-98





Staff photo/John King

President Clinton cracks a joke during his speech which bring a smile to Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner and Sen. Thomas B. Sharp, president pro tem of the Senate.



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Dover, Delaware)

For Immediate Release

May 8, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE DELAWARE STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate Chambers
Dover, Delaware

12:50 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Governor. I took good notes -- no children on a child care waiting list, all poor four-year-olds in Head Start, every classroom wired. I'll be saying that now every time I go to another city or another state -- I'll be saying, if Delaware can do it, why can't you. And I thank you. (Applause.)

I want to thank the Governor, and Senator Sharp, Speaker Spence, Lt. Governor Minner, the members of the legislature, the judiciary, the state officials who are here; former governors Peterson and Tribbitt, and other distinguished citizens of this state; Mr. Mayor. I'm delighted to be joined today by the Secretary of Defense, who is going with me to Dover Air Base when we finish here to thank our airmen and women there for their distinguished service, and who has also been a leader in education, because the Department of Defense-run schools all over the world for American children -- by our wonderful Secretary of Education, Dick Riley; by Mickey Ibarra, the Director of our Office of Inter-governmental Affairs; and others. We are all delighted to be here.

And I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to Congressman Castle for coming up here with me. He's an old friend of mine. We worked together on welfare reform more than a decade ago now. I have been trying to decide, when Mike and Tom changed jobs, which one really got the promotion. (Laughter and applause.)

I am delighted to be the first President ever to speak here. The others did not know what they were missing. (Applause.) I love your Capitol Building. I like the feel of your legislature. I like the size of your legislature. (Laughter.) I wonder if it would take a constitutional amendment to reduce Congress to this size. (Laughter.) It's a wonderful idea.

And I like the fact that the first state in the nation is leading in doing the nation's first business of educating our children. I've come here to talk about that work, why it is -- in the states and in many communities around the country, and must be in Washington the work of both Republicans and Democrats -- why it must be a national crusade to give our children the world's best education.

We have a history of putting nation above party when the nation's security and future are at issue. We did it for 50 years, which is why the Cold War turned out the way it did. The tradition was deeply honored by Secretary Cohen, who left a distinguished career in the United States Senate as a Republican Senator from Maine to join our administration, and he

is performing well for the American people as Secretary of Defense.

It is a tradition embodied by your Senators, Bill Roth and Joe Biden, who led the recent stunningly successful effort to expand NATO to include Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. And you should be very proud of both of them. (Applause.)

And I have seen it, having had the opportunity to work for years now with Mike Castle and Tom Carper when they were in those jobs in succession, on welfare reform, on child care, on the education of our children. And you can be very proud of both of them.

And Delaware, maybe because it's a small state and maybe because I came from a small state and was often ridiculed for it in national politics -- my experience is that maybe because we're smaller, people learn to treat each other as people. They learn to listen to people on opposite sides of the aisle. They learn that they don't have all the answers and that everybody's got a valuable perspective, and that in the end, we all have to get together and do something that moves our country or our state or our community forward. And for all of that, I am very grateful to the State of Delaware.

Thomas Jefferson once said of your state that, "Delaware is like a diamond; small, but having within it inherent value." If he were today, here, giving this speech, he might say, being as he was a modern thinker, Delaware is like a silicon chip -- (laughter) -- small, but having within it enormous inherent value; namely, the power to shape the future.

You have always looked to the future, from the time you did become the first state to ratify the Constitution. It was the beginning of many firsts: Delaware was the first state to produce a transatlantic iron steamship. Then there was the first commercial telephone call between an airplane and a moving car, 100 years later. Some of us would probably like it if telephone calls on airplanes and cars were not possible. (Laughter.) All the way to the remarkable innovations now being dreamed up in the Dupont Labs.

All of this is dramatically changing the world. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, came by the White House for one of our periodic meetings a few days ago, and we were talking about this incredible economy. And he said, you know, we really are living in an economy of ideas. He said, there is a measure of a nation's output in wealth compared to its physical output, the literal physical density of all the goods that are produced. He said, the measure is more skewed now than ever before. There is hardly any increase in the mass of what we're producing, but the wealth of what we're producing is exploding. Why? Because ideas are driving the increase in the wealth of the nation.

Today we learned that our unemployment rate has dropped to 4.3 percent, the lowest since 1970. (Applause.) That is particularly impressive in light of the fact that inflation now is the lowest in more than 30 years, homeownership is at an all-time high, the welfare rolls are the lowest in 27 years, the crime rate is the lowest in 24 years.

Our social fabric is mending. We saw that teen pregnancy had had a substantial drop for the second years in a row, something I know that the Governor has been passionately committed to. Our leadership in the world is still unrivaled, although we seem sometimes to be in some doubt about it here at home.

In Delaware your unemployment is all the way down to 3.4 percent. You've had tens of thousands of new jobs, twice the rate of new business growth as five years ago.

The thing I would like to say about all this is, no one can claim full responsibility for it. There was not a totally coordinated strategy, but it did not happen by accident. America has been on the same page, from our strategy in Washington to balance the budget, invest in our people, and expand trade -- to the entrepreneurs, to the scientists and technicians, to the teachers in our schools and the people who run our business, and the folks who work in our

factories. We have been on the same page. Good things don't happen by accident, even when millions -- even hundreds of millions of people are responsible.

And we must be on the same page when it comes to education. Before I get into what I want to say about education, I want to make a point I tried to make in the State of the Union. I've had a lot of people -- people who are primarily political people, good people, but people who normally think about things in political terms -- say to me, well, you know, why don't you just relax and start playing golf three times a week. I mean, you've got low unemployment, low inflation, people are suspicious of government, why don't -- just don't do much and everybody will be happy. There is an answer to that. And the answer is that might be a decent prescription for a static time, but in a dynamic time, where things are changing very rapidly, the fact that things are good in the moment does not guarantee they will be good five months or five years from now, because they're changing. So you have to keep working to stay ahead of the curve. And those of us in public life have to work no less than entrepreneurs do.

If you go to Silicon Valley, you don't see anybody out there sort of laying down on the job just because the stock prices are high, because they know how dynamic the world is. And there is a second answer, which is that we still have some very profound challenges that, if left unmet, will come back to haunt us in the 21st century. What are they? I can only tell you what I think they are. I think, first of all, in Washington we have to reform our major programs of social cohesion -- Social Security and Medicare -- for the needs of the 21st century and for the reality that the baby boomers are going to retire and when they do, there will only be about two people working for every one person drawing Social Security. The present systems are unsustainable as they are. We have to change them, consistent with our values and the real facts.

Two, we have to prove that you can grow the economy without destroying the environment. And we have to convince people in developing countries that they can and to embrace new technologies to do that.

Just a few days ago I was out in California at a low-income/moderate-income housing development which is cutting by 40 percent the energy usage on low-income housing, using solar panels that are now those big, heavy things you've seen on the roof, but that look just like ordinary shingles -- using windows that keep over half the heat in in the wintertime and over half the heat out in the summertime and still let more light in, and other basic things like that. We have to prove that we can make environmental preservation and economic growth go hand in hand.

The third thing we've got to do is to bring the spark of enterprise to poor inner-city communities and rural communities, including Native American ones that haven't felt it. The fourth thing we have to do is to prove that we can live together as one America in an increasingly diverse society. The fifth thing we have to do, I would argue, is to prove that we can lead the world after the Cold War in a consistent, firm way toward peace and prosperity and freedom and democracy.

But none of that will matter if we don't save our children. And that's what I want to talk about today -- only one aspect of it, but in some ways the most important one. And Delaware, again, is leading the nation. So I may be preaching to the choir, but that's not all bad. I'll polish the sermon and see if I do better in other places. (Laughter.)

The condition of education in America and the importance of it and the impact it's going to have on all our futures, as well as all our children, demands action from all of us, in Washington, in state capitals, in communities all across the country. Many of our greatest challenges don't fall under the authority of Washington, nor should they. I have supported giving states more authority in the area of welfare reform and in many other areas. Secretary Riley has cut by two-thirds the burden of regulations coming out of federal education aid.

We started two new programs, Goals 2000 and School-to-Work, without a single new federal regulation.

The federal government can't do all this. Some of our major challenges don't even fall primarily under state government, nor should they. The power and the responsibility of America to meet the challenges of the 21st century rests with all levels of government and with all sectors of society. Sometimes more with the private sector; sometimes more with its most fundamental unit, the American family. And that is as it should be.

But just because responsibility and power are dispersed doesn't mean that we don't all have to ask ourselves, what power do we have to have a positive impact; what is our responsibility? And then we have to move, because a revolution in education will not occur by accident anymore than the revolution in the American economy has occurred by accident, even though there will be millions of people working on it and we may not all be calling each other on the phone every day.

Yesterday I talked to mayors from all over the country, I received their report on what they think should be done. Their agenda is very much like yours and very much like mine.

I suppose that I've spent more time on education than any other thing in my 20 years and more in public life now. Nearly 10 years ago, when I was a governor of my state, I stayed up almost all night down at the University of Virginia at President Bush's Education Summit, working with Republican governors to write goals for education for the year 2000. It was clear then, it was clear way back in 1983, when the Nation At Risk report was issued, and it is certainly clear today, that if we are going to prepare our children for the 21st century we cannot hope to do it unless we can say with a straight face, we are giving them the best education in the world. Not just a few of them, but all of them.

And we can all say, well, we can't be responsible for every teacher, we can't be responsible for every principal, we can't be responsible for every home, we can't be responsible for every unmotivated child. That's all true, but we can play the odds. Secretary Cohen runs, arguably, the most effective organization in the entire United States -- not every soldier, not every airman, not every Marine, not every sailor is a stunning success, but they've got a pretty good system. And it didn't happen by accident. And we should take that as our responsibility.

It seems to me the keys are high expectations, high standards, and high performance, fueled by more opportunity, more accountability, and more choice. Secretary Riley and I have worked at this for more than five years. In one area, we have been especially successful and widely supportive across partisan lines and in states and local communities. We've opened the doors to higher education wider than ever before.

The Balanced Budget Act I signed last year represented the greatest expansion of college opportunity since the G.I. Bill was passed 50 years ago, with college tuition tax credits, including the \$1500 a year HOPE Scholarship for the first two years of college, education IRAs, expanded Pell Grants, deductibility of interest on student loans, 300,000 more work-study slots, another 100,000 young people earning education credits by serving in the national service program, AmeriCorps, and lifetime learning credits for adults who have to go back to school.

All of these things together mean that any American who is willing to study and work hard can get an education in college, and that is very important. It will change the face and the future of America. We learned in the 1990 Census that Americans, younger American workers who were high school dropouts, high school graduates or who had less than two years of post-high school education, were likely to get jobs where their incomes went down over time compared to inflation. Those that had at least two years of post-high school training were likely to get and keep jobs where their incomes went up. So that was

fundamentally important, and we can all be proud of it. And many states have done more to try to give scholarships and make college more affordable, and that's important.

The Senate just this week -- and I want to compliment them -- passed 91-7 what I have called "the G.I. Bill for Workers --it basically consolidates this incredible tangle of federal training programs into a skills grant, so that if a person is unemployed or underemployed and eligible, you just get basically the skills grant and then you decide where to take it. Since nearly every American lives within driving distance of a community college or some other very efficient institution, we no longer need the federal government micromanaging the definition of all these training programs, and we don't need anybody in the way of it.

Now, we have some provision, particularly that the governors wanted who live in rural areas -- who have lots of people in rural areas that may not have readily available services, but this is very important. And we've got to resolve the differences now in the House and the Senate bill and pass it. This is a huge thing. And the Congress can be proud of it and the country can be proud of it.

But with all that said and done, I don't think there is a person here who would dispute the following two statements: We have the best system of higher education in the world. We do not have the best system of elementary and secondary education in the world. You don't have to criticize your favorite teacher, you can honor the PTA leaders and the school board members -- no one believes it's the best in the world. And until it is, we can't rest. That is the bottom line.

The budget that I have presented, which is a balanced budget, has the biggest commitment in history from the federal government to K through 12 education. But we all know that's less than 10 percent of the total. Still, I think it's important that the national government focus on results, because things don't happen by accident. I think we should focus on high standards, real accountability, more choice, and, finally, I'd like to say a word about safe schools, because that is a problem in some parts of our country.

First, there's no substitute for standards. I want to compliment Delaware for what you're doing. This week, 3rd, 5th, 8th and 10th graders all over the state are participating in your new assessment process to see how well they're doing in reading, writing, and math. And you're going to add other subjects, the Governor told me, in the next couple of years. You also have done something that may give us a key to how to solve the national issue, which is that about a quarter of your exam questions are apparently taken from the National Assessment of Education Progress, which is a national test most states participate in, but by definition, it's only given to a representative sample of students, not all students. I compliment you on that. I think that is a brilliant reform.

And I think it's important that we find a way to have national standards and exams at least in the basics. It is very important -- Secretary Riley and I were talking on the way out, he was talking about South Carolina still have quite an old state test. We had some old state tests when I was Governor of Arkansas. Our kids just knocked the top off of them -- the same test we'd been giving for years. And then when we took a national test that was current, we didn't do so well. So without in any way undermining local control of the schools or the constitutional responsibility of the states for education, we need to have a set of national standards, and an accountability system which tell us all honestly how we're doing.

We're working hard now with an independent nonpartisan board -- the acronym known to all the education experts in the audience is the NAGB Board. We've got Republicans and Democrats on the board and people -- I don't even have any idea what their political affiliation is -- all of whom are simply committed to educational excellence. And we want to find ways to coordinate with the states and the state tests to avoid unnecessary costs and burdens. You may have found a way to do it in Delaware, by having a test that is both rooted in your state standards and encompassing national questions. But it's a very good

start.

The second thing we have to do, and I understand the Governor said you were debating that, that may be tougher, is figure out what the accountability system is. Now, a lot of these questions should definitely be decided by people at the state and the local level. But let me, first of all, say that no test is worth a flip unless there are some consequences -- not just negative ones, but positive ones; not just what you do to the students, but what the rest of us have to do for the education system based on the consequences of the test.

We have to start by demanding accountability from the students, and I strongly believe that we should end the practice of so-called social promotion everywhere in the country. (Applause.) For many years there was a current theory in America that, well, it hurt a child's self-esteem too much to be held back and the child could maybe pick it up next year. And besides that, children do learn at different paces. That is absolutely true, especially in the early years, the dramatically different learning patterns of children in the early years.

Then sooner or later, somehow, parents figured out that one reason kids dropped out of school in the 9th or 10th grade is because the material was going over their heads, it didn't mean anything to them, so why should they sit around, because they weren't able to do the work. And then even the kids figured out that being 20 years old and not being able to fill out an employment application and not being able to even read your high school diploma was far more destructive of self-esteem than spending another year in some grade along the way.

Then, school districts began to figure out that they didn't necessarily have to hold people back if they had proper after-school help and a little help in the summer -- where a lot of kids having learning problems forget huge chunks of what they learned the year before.

So we're now kind of coming to grips with this. I have often talked about the Chicago system; it probably had the most widely-condemned school system in the country because they had a strike every year whether they needed it or not, for one thing, and because they weren't producing results. Now, the Chicago summer school system -- they've ended social promotion, you have to go to summer school if you fail the test and you want to go on to the next grade -- their summer school is the fifth biggest school district in America. The summer school. They have thousands of children going to school after school so many hours that thousands of them actually take three hot meals a day in the schools, in an inner-city environment where they're safe, they're not getting in trouble and nobody's hurting them.

Now, if a place that has those kinds of challenges can take them on, everywhere in America can take them on. I've asked Congress to pass what we call education opportunity zone legislation, that will basically give extra resources to schools in poor communities if they will insist on high standards in social promotion, demand performance from students and teachers, and actually support the kids that are in trouble and give them the extra help they need. I hope Congress will pass it.

Again, I say, in many ways we're following your lead. And I urge you to have a big, vigorous debate on this -- what are the consequences of this exam. And I wouldn't presume to tell you what to do, but I can make two observations based on 20 years of working, and hours and hours and hours spent in classrooms listening to teachers and watching things unfold.

One is, nobody will take your system seriously unless there are consequences. Two is, if there are consequences, whatever you decide they are, they cannot be exclusively negative ones, they must also be positive ones, because you have to believe that -- in order to believe in democracy, you have to believe that almost everybody can learn almost everything they need to know to make this country run right, which means almost everybody in the world

can succeed in school. And if they're not, it's probably not entirely their fault. So there should be consequences -- some of them should be negative, but there must be positive ones as well. And I wish you well and I can assure you the rest of us are going to be watching.

The next thing I think we have to do is to develop and demand accountability and performance from teachers, but also support them. I had the great pleasure this week -- or last week -- of hosting the Teachers of the Year at the White House. And that's one of the happiest days of the year. You'll never find 50 more upbeat people than the teachers that are selected Teachers of the Year. And you talk to these people, and you can't imagine that there's ever been a problem in American education.

The man who was named National Teacher of the Year is a teacher from Virginia who teaches history and social studies and who makes his kids role-play. So they play ancient Athenians and Spartans debating the Greek wars. They play Jefferson and Adams debating each other about fundamental questions of what the real nation of the Union that we all belong to is. I mean, it was exhilarating.

Those are the kind of teachers that we wish all our children had all the time. And I think we need to do more to reward teachers who strive for excellence. One of the things that we can do at the national level that I hope you will support, that Tom and Mike's former colleague, Governor Jim Hunt, has worked his whole career on, is to support the master teacher program, the National Board for Professional Teacher Certification. It's a completely voluntary thing which qualifies teachers based on, number one, their complete academic preparation for the course they're teaching; and, number two, their success in teaching; and thirdly, I might add, their ability to help other teachers improve their teaching skills.

Now, today there are only a few hundred master teachers in America. My balanced budget contains enough funds to certify 100,000 master teachers. When we get one of these teachers in every school building in America -- every school building in America -- going to the teachers' lounge, going to the faculty meetings, talking to the principals, it will change the culture of education in America. Every other profession in the country just about has national board certification. And believe me, this is a good thing that is a worthy investment. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say, I because that if teachers don't measure up after getting all the support and help they need, there ought to be a swift process -- fair, but swift; it should not be endless -- to resolve the matter in a satisfactory way. Because you're not doing anybody any favors -- no one -- fundamentally, nobody is happy doing something they're not good at. You can never make me believe anybody is really happy when they know deep down inside they're not doing the job. So there has to be some system that is perfectly fair to every teacher, but doesn't take from now to kingdom come to resolve the matter in a way that allows the education system to go forward.

Now, I also think as we demand responsibility for results from the schools, we have to give the tools they need to the students and the teachers. I've said that, and I will say it again. Let me just mention one or two things. First, smaller class sizes. Children in some classes in America are in classes that are so big and crowded, there is no way any teacher -- I don't care how good he or she is -- can deal with all the challenges that are presented -- where classes are so big where the students are barely known by name to the teacher, much less the particular circumstances of their lives. Given the fact that so many kids have so many troubles today, it's very, very important. In classrooms like this, teachers are often forced to teach to the middle, leaving both the best kids and the most troubled kids behind.

The Department of Education and Secretary Riley today are releasing a report on class size and learning, basically reaffirming what Hillary and I have long believed. We adopted very rigorous class sizes for our state 15 years ago. When class sizes go down enough, learning goes up -- that's what the report shows -- especially in the early years. And when children

come from disadvantaged backgrounds, small classes can make an even greater difference.

Let me just give you a few examples from the study. In Tennessee, test scores were consistently higher among students that were in classes of fewer than 20 students. These children kept the edge even when they moved into larger classes in their later years of schooling. From Wisconsin, North Carolina, and classrooms across the country, other studies confirmed the same findings.

Governor Carper and many of you here today are trying to reduce class size. I just want to encourage you and tell you that I have presented to the Congress a plan to do the same thing, which would not in any way conflict with what you're doing, but will enable you to get some funds to support it.

Today, I'm sending legislation to Congress cosponsored by Senators Murray and Kennedy and Congressman Clay that will make class size reduction a national goal and if enacted, would help school districts to hire another 100,000 teachers, which is about the number necessary, properly distributed across the country, to give us average class size of 18 in the first three grades. (Applause.)

It would also require the new teachers to pass competency exams to make sure they have the training and preparation they need. Many states now require this anyway.

The second thing I'd like to say is Delaware may be the only state now where every classroom is wired -- but every classroom should be wired. You remember, I'm sure, a few years ago, the Vice President and I went to San Francisco and got with a lot of people from the big computer companies and said that we wanted to try to wire every classroom and library by the Year 2000. And we are making great headway. We've got more than twice as many classrooms and libraries wired today as we did just three and half years ago when we did that. We have in the budget now funds to continue this urgent national priority. I hope that will pass.

But, finally, let me say, believe it or not, we've got an enormous percentage of the school buildings in this country are ill-equipped to take the wiring because they're so old. We have cities in this countries with average school buildings -- average school buildings -- over 65 years old and in terrible shape. I was in a small, growing district in Florida the other day where there were not one, not five, but 17 trailers outside the main school building there for the kids.

Now, when you come to work here every day in this Capitol it makes you feel good, doesn't it? It's a beautiful

building and you've obviously put a lot of funds into restoring it, and it makes you feel good. It say you're important -- it matters to be a member of the Delaware legislature. One of the ways you know without anybody telling you is you come into this nice building and it's important. And if grown-ups are affected by their surroundings, children are even more so.

What does it say to an inner-city kid from a poor family if they go to a school building every day and one of the whole floors is closed because for want of repair? What does it say about how important those children are if every day they walk through the front door and they look up and see three or four broken windows? What does it say if the blackboard is only half there because it's been cracked? What about the kids in the crowded school districts?

You know, the first year or two, if you show up and there are a lot of house trailers, it's kind of exciting because it means you've got a growing district and a lot of stuff going on. After five or six years, it means things aren't getting better. It's a very different message. And the

important thing is not whether the buildings are old or not; it is whether they are safe, clean, light, whether they send the message that this is a place where learning can occur and this is a place where children are important.

Now, I think education is a part of the national infrastructure. That's why I wanted the federal government to help places who need it. Wire all the classrooms and libraries. And I have proposed for the first time that we help with the infrastructure needs of school districts -- again, not in any way that would conflict with what any state or local school district is doing, but instead to reinforce it.

This budget contains funds that would help us to modernize 5,000 schools and build 1,000 new ones. It would be a very good start on the incredible infrastructure needs of America's schools. And for people who say it doesn't matter, just think how you feel when you come through these doors every day. It does matter, and I hope we can pass it. (Applause.)

The third thing I'd like to emphasize very briefly is that we need greater choice in our schools. We do need more competition. You mentioned the Charter School of Wilmington, Governor, and other charter schools in your state. When I was elected President in 1992, there was only one charter school in the entire country -- public schools that tailor their programs to meet the needs and demands of their customers -- the students and their parents. Since then, I've done everything I could to support them.

Today, there are 800 charter schools, 32 of our 50 states authorize them. Just last week in an overwhelming bipartisan vote, California voted in the legislature to create another 100 charter schools a year in our largest state. That's great, great news -- 100 a year. They had 150 cap, I think, on the whole state. They blew off the cap and said, this is working -- and I've been in some of them out there, they are working -- we want 100 a year.

Now, my goal is to have 3,000 by the year 2000 in the whole country, and I have presented a budget to Congress which would give communities around the country any start-up funds they need to do this. It's not so easy to do if you've never thought about it and never done the work and if you come from a place with limited resources. So I did present some money in the budget to do that. But I hope you will support that.

Delaware has been at the forefront of the charter school movement. It is a good, good thing to do, along with having statewide public school choice plans. And I applaud you for yours.

The fourth thing I'd like to talk just a little about is school safety. You know, it's pretty hard to learn if you feel insecure. One of the main reasons that I supported the school uniform movement, not as a mandatory thing but when people needed it, was that I thought it would make our schools safer. And I've been around the country and seen a lot of schools that had terrible discipline problems. And we're worried about the safety of the kids going to and from school. And in every case where they had a terrible problem and adopted a uniform policy, it made a big difference. We want to do more to ensure our children's safety. We want to make sure that our children are exposed to teachers and team leaders, not drug dealers and gang leaders. (Applause.)

There are a lot of things we can do. Let me just mention one thing. We are trying in this budget to give states and communities more funds to support even wider and more extensive after-school programs, not only because they're important educationally -- which they are, and that's their primary mission -- but because almost all kids get in trouble after school lets out and before the folks get home from work. A huge percentage of juvenile crime is committed between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. And if we can have extensive after school programs, we can make our children safer and our schools safer. Let me also --(applause)-- even one hand is good on that. (Laughter and applause.)

Today, the Department of Education is releasing a report which also shows we're doing a

better job as a country in detecting guns in the schools. That's really good -- that's the good news. The bad news is there are a lot of guns in the schools -- and other weapons. In 1997, more than 6,000 students were expelled for bringing firearms to school. But I think that means we must continue and bear down on this policy of zero tolerance for guns in our schools. (Applause.)

And again, it works to prevent problems. The Superintendent of the Alexandria, Virginia, schools -- which, by the way, is now the most diverse school district in America -- Fairfax County has kids from 180 different racial and ethnic groups, speaking over 100 native languages. But because they have a rigorous zero tolerance program, they have cut suspendable offenses over the past couple of years by more than 40 percent. It works. And we can have those results all over the country.

But let me say, going back to an issue you're debating, Secretary Riley asked all these school security experts what they thought we could do as a people, not just the federal government, to make the schools safer. And they said, interestingly enough, one of the most important things we could do is to create the smallest possible classes in the early grades, because the kids with problems would be found by the teachers. And then the teachers and the families and the counselors could work together to try to prevent these kids from getting in trouble in the first place. I thought it was a stunning thing, amazing. (Applause.)

So Delaware is leading the nation, and the nation must follow. And we must, Republicans and Democrats together, all Americans, make a commitment to a revolution in standards and accountability, in choice and safety, based on high expectations, accountability, and performance. It will take all of our commitment to do the job, but the challenge must be met because America can't become what it ought to be if we don't.

We can do this. This is not rocket science. This is an affair of the mind which most of us can comprehend. Fundamentally, it is also an affair of the heart. We know -- we know -- that the best days of this country are still ahead. You may be the oldest state, but you still want to have the longest future. And the only way we can do it is with this.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)



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HE SAID



The News Journal/GARY EMEIGH
President Clinton addresses the General Assembly in Legislative Hall on Friday. Behind him is Sen. Thomas B. Sharp, D-Pinecrest.

Excerpts from President Clinton's address Friday at Legislative Hall:

I love your Capitol Building. I like the feel of your Legislature. I like the size of your Legislature.

[Laughter]

I wonder if it would take a constitutional amendment to reduce Congress to this size.

[Laughter]

It's a wonderful idea.

And Delaware, maybe because it's a small state and maybe because I came from a small state and was often ridiculed for it in national politics — my experience is that maybe because we're smaller, people learn to treat each other as people. They learn to listen to people on opposite sides of the aisle. They learn that they don't have all the answers and that everybody's got a valuable perspective, and that in the end, we all have to get together and do something that moves our country or our state or our community forward. And for all of that, I am very grateful to the State of Delaware.

Thomas Jefferson once said of your state that, "Delaware is like a diamond — small, but having within it inherent value."

If he were today, here, giving this speech, he might say, being as he was a modern thinker, Delaware is like a silicon chip — [laughter] — small, but having within it enormous inherent value; namely, the power to shape the future.

You have always looked to the future, from the time you did become the first state to ratify the Constitution.

I don't think there is a person here who would dispute the following two statements: We have the best system of higher education in the world. We do not have the best system of elementary and secondary education in the world. ... And until it is, we can't rest. That is the bottom line.

First, there's no substitute for standards. I want to compliment Delaware for what you're doing. This week, third-, fifth-, eighth- and 10th-graders all over the state are participating in your new assessment process to see how well they're doing in reading, writing, and math. ... I compliment you on that. I think that is a brilliant reform.

And I think it's important that we find a way to have national standards and exams at least in the basics.

... No test is worth a flip unless there is some consequences — not just negative ones, but positive ones; not just what you do to the students, but what the rest of us have to do for the education system based on the consequences of the test.

We have to start by demanding accountability from the students, and I strongly believe that we should end the practice of so-called social promotion everywhere in the country.

Finally, let me say, I believe that if teachers don't measure up after getting all the support and help they need, there ought to be a swift process — fair, but swift; it should not be endless — to resolve the matter in a satisfactory way.

Delaware may be the only state now where every classroom is wired — but every classroom should be wired. ... An enormous percentage of the school buildings in this country are ill-equipped to take the wiring because they're so old.

Now, when you come to work here every day in this Capitol, it makes you feel good, doesn't it? It's a beautiful building and you've obviously put a lot of funds into restoring it, and it makes you feel good. It says you're important — it matters to be a member of the Delaware Legislature. One of the ways you know without anybody telling you is you come into this nice building and it's important. And if grown-ups are affected by their surroundings, children are even more so.

So Delaware is leading the nation, and the nation must follow. And we must, Republicans and Democrats together, all Americans, make a commitment to a revolution in standards and accountability, in choice and safety, based on high expectations, accountability and performance. It will take all of our commitment to do the job, but the challenge must be met because America can't become what it ought to be if we don't.



Staff photos/John King
 Above, President Clinton waves to the crowd in the balcony during his appearance Friday in the General Assembly. Top right, Secretary of Defense William Cohen and Secretary of Education Richard Riley applaud during the president's speech. Right, President Clinton, Gov. Thomas R. Carper and Sen. Thomas B. Sharp, president pro tem of the Senate.



Staff photo/Linda Laird
 Charles Carson, the longtime base mortician who recently retired, and his wife Virginia were among those in attendance for the president's visit.

Staff photos/Linda Laird
 Left, the president walks through the rain as he arrives at the base. Above, the president waves goodbye to the crowd at Dover Air Force Base. Right, Capt. Erik Sant, a pilot at Dover Air Force Base holds his 2-year-old daughter Sydney so she can wave her flag for the president.



Staff photos/John King

Top, President Bill Clinton addressed the joint session of the General Assembly at Legislative Hall. Above, President Clinton signs an autograph for Ryan Hauge, 8, son of Sen. Richard Hauge, R-Wilmington.

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Staff photo/John King

Some young people got the chance of a life-time Friday when the president came to Dover. Above, President Clinton signs an autograph for Ryan Hauge, 8, son of Sen. Richard Hauge, R-Wilmington. Right, Dover High School Band members Angela Smith, 15; Lady Johnson, 16; and Miranda Coverdale, 15; get ready to perform for President Clinton.



Staff photo/Linda Laird

Clinton lauds education initiatives

By Todd Spangler
Associated Press

DSN
5-9-98

DOVER — President Bill Clinton gave Gov. Thomas R. Carper's stalled education reforms a boost Friday when he urged the Delaware legislature to embrace school accountability proposals and reduce class sizes.

"If we are going to prepare our children for the 21st century, we cannot do it unless we can say with a straight face we're giving them the best education," said President Clinton, the first sitting president to ever address a joint session of the Delaware General Assembly.

President Clinton praised the state's education reform efforts to date, suggesting that school districts across the nation should have achievement tests that gauge success against local and national standards like those being used for the first time this week in Delaware.

The president said Delaware can serve as a model for education reform because of its efforts to implement charter schools and school choice, allowing parents and students to attend any public school in the state they wish.

Although the president plugged his nationwide efforts — including his legislation to hire 100,000 new teachers to lower class sizes — he noted that school standards and accountability systems remain the domain of local and state governments.

He recommended that any accountability system include "consequences, both positive and negative."

"I urge you to have a long, vigorous debate," President Clinton told lawmakers. "Nobody will take your system seriously unless there are consequences."

Gov. Carper is pushing legislation that would hold back students who fail to meet reading levels tested in grades 3, 5, 8



Staff photo/John King

Rep. Robert F. Gilligan, standing, and Rep. J. Benjamin Ewing share a laugh before the president arrives at Legislative Hall.

and 10. His proposal would also allow for schools where test scores remain poor, year after year, to be put under the control of better performing schools districts.

The governor's class size proposal would provide for one teacher for every 15 students in kindergarten through grade three. Currently, the state pays for one teacher for every 19 students in those grades.

"I can assure you, the rest of us will be watching," President Clinton said of the debate over education reform in Delaware.

Following the president's 45-minute-long speech, Gov. Carper was ebullient over President Clinton's praise of Delaware and its successful efforts in Head Start programs and other education reforms.

"Actually, it was an embarrassment of riches," said Gov. Carper.

The debate over his education proposals has already narrowed, he said.

"The president's very positive

“The president's very positive remarks only serve to further narrow the differences.”

— Gov. Thomas R. Carper

remarks only serve to further narrow the differences," Gov. Carper said.

State Education Secretary Iris Metts said she is sure, given the president's remarks, a version of both proposals will pass the General Assembly by its adjournment June 30.

"It was," said Senate President Pro Tem Thomas B. Sharp, holding a reception in his office as President Clinton had his photo taken with staffers inside the Senate Chamber, "right on target."



The News Journal GARY EMEIGH
President Clinton acknowledges the crowd in the balcony Friday after his speech to the state General Assembly. Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner listens.

DOVER — President Clinton's historic visit to the Delaware General Assembly drew a warm welcome. But the public education agenda he pushed brought mixed reactions from state legislators.

"Delaware became a jewel in the national crown," said Sen. Margaret Rose Henry, D-Wilmington East. "We should receive high marks for what we have done in education."

But leaders in the state House had a different message.

"While we appreciate President Clinton taking the time to visit Delaware ... we are not convinced that his educational plan is in the best interests of Delaware's public schoolchildren," said House Majority Leader Wayne A. Smith, R-Clair Manor.

Del. lawmakers mixed on Clinton's school vision

NJ 5-9-98

By ROBERT MOORE and NANCY CHARRON
Staff reporters

Smith criticized what he called the "federalization" of schools through national standards and testing as interference with "pure education reform."

His remarks underscored the state's sometimes rocky six-year journey toward educational reform.

Though Delaware is ahead of many states in such areas as developing academic standards and providing school choice, none of the major reforms has been in place long enough to produce significant results.

Clinton asked Friday for support for legislation to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide, repair old schoolhouses and implement national standards and testing in reading and math. He also touched on accountability.

The president laid out general goals. The specifics of reaching them are being left mainly to state and local officials.

"I think the vision is a good vision," said Rep. Charles W. Welch, R-Hunters Pointe. "The question is how to get there."

If Delaware is any example, the solutions will be neither quick nor easy.

Officials wrestled for years devising the reading, writing and math tests Clinton praised. Lawmakers only now are beginning to talk about increasing state funding for school construction and repair.

The other two issues have spawned major debates that continue to occupy the General Assembly: how to establish an accountability system for schools and how to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio in kindergarten through third grade.

Who will be held accountable — administrators, teachers, students, parents? And how will they be held accountable?

Rep. Nancy Wagner, R-Dover North, a teacher, said she noticed Clinton mentioned accountability but didn't say anything about parents.

Wagner said she could have the worst of everything from school buildings to supplies. But if she has cooperative parents, "I can teach those children something."

Several proposals are floating around Legislative Hall to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio — an idea that would require more teachers and more schools. Because voters have been increasingly reluctant to approve local tax increases, lawmakers are debating whether the state should take on more of the financial burden for education.

After Clinton's speech, GOP lawmakers said he should support two school funding proposals currently working their way through Congress.

One measure would earmark a third of the money now designated for federal education spending for block grants issued to the states, with the only requirement that 95 percent of the money be spent in the classroom. The other proposal would allow parents to put up to \$2,000 a year into a special IRA account for education-related expenses.

"Send the money, keep the strings," Smith said.

Sen. Robert L. Venables, D-Laurel, entered the Senate chambers skeptical but left convinced Clinton had made "one of the greatest speeches I have ever heard."

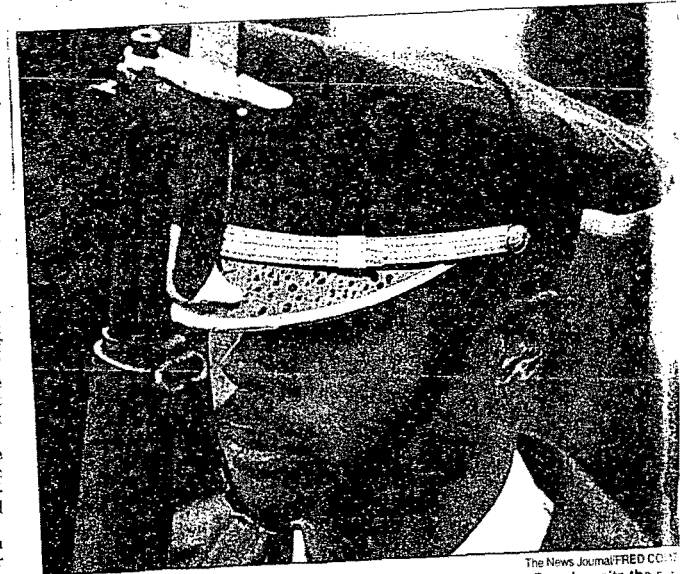
"I was afraid of the discussion of the federal government and mandates about our schools," Venables said, "but I think he is really only trying to help."

Republicans and Democrats alike largely agreed the speech was classic Clinton — personable and smooth and offering the proper mix of local flavor and policy discussion.

"To me, it was a very Republican speech," said Senate Minority Leader Myrna L. Bair, R-Foulk Woods, emphasizing that many of the public education decisions should be made at the local level.

Most lawmakers agreed Clinton's Delaware appearance might help keep pressure on to resolve these issues, but wouldn't affect the nuts and bolts of how the issues are resolved.

But Iris Metts, secretary of the state Department of Education, said she is optimistic that Clinton made lawmakers feel good about their role in education reform and predicted the state would have an accountability bill before the end of June. "It's now a matter of pride," she said.



The News Journal FRED COLE
Airman 1st Class James Davis with the Dover Air Force Base Honor Guard awaits the arrival of President Clinton on Friday at the base. Clinton spoke to the Delaware General Assembly.

Republicans give president praise — with a catch

Say most of the education initiatives were their idea

By D.L. Bonar
Staff writer

DSN 5-9-98

DOVER — Delaware Republicans, mindful that President Clinton's visit was orchestrated by Democrats, lost no time in letting their view of Friday's speech be known.

The quickly let it be known many of the education initiatives had been started by their side.

"As speaker of the House, it made me proud, President Clinton knew this was a bi-partisan effort on education," said Rep. Terry R. Spence, R-New Castle. "Many of the issues he spoke about were issues addressed by Republicans."

"To me, it was a very Republican speech," said Sen. Myrna L. Bair, R-Wilmington, Senate Minority Leader.

About a dozen members of the Republican caucus from the House and Senate held court shortly after the president left the building.

The partisan group pointed out it was Rep. Stephanie A. Ulbrich, R-Newark, which introduced the first legislation authorizing school choice, three years ago.

Sen. Donna Reed, R-Newark, said she had introduced the first legislation allowing charter schools, and the bill was still in committee because Democrats would not allow it out.

Rep. Nancy H. Wagner, R-Dover, said more emphasis needs to be placed on an end to "social promotion" — the practice of sending children to the next grade regardless of their academic achievement.

"I think it needs to be tied to a child's success in learning," Rep. Wagner said.

As a teacher, Rep. Wagner said she was disappointed the president did not mention parental responsibility.

"It is interesting, we all talk about taking all these measures, but have no solution in place yet," she said. "I think a lot of parents think it is the school's job to watch their kids. We should require them to sign an agreement they'll get involved and take part of the responsibility for their child's education."



Staff photo/John King

Rep. Nancy H. Wagner gives the Republican response after the president's speech at Legislative Hall on Friday.

House Majority Leader Wayne A. Smith, R-Wilmington, said there needs to be accountability in school.

"There should be real consequences," Rep. Smith said. "If you fail, you fail!"

None of the legislators thought solutions to the accountability or the education issue in general would be easy.

Some spoke of a need to give parents a half day a semester in which to spend time in school with their children. That time, according to Sen. Steven H. Amick, R-Newark, should be paid time off with the blessings of business.

Rep. Spence gathered significant support

toward the end of the Republican press conference with a controversial promise.

"I will propose an amendment to any accountability bill which passes to require school uniforms for grades K through three," the House Speaker said. "It's been proven it helps level the playing field."

"Let's keep this in perspective," said Rep. Smith. "This was a nice way for President Clinton to have a nice backdrop to emphasize education. The problem is, most of what he's talking about are what Republicans have been saying all along."

D.L. Bonar can be reached at 741-8228 or at daverpa@newszap.com.

DSN 59-98 Highlights from the day

■ **SUPER DAY FOR SECRETARY METTS:** Delaware Secretary of Education Iris T. Metts was all smiles Friday afternoon after President Bill Clinton thrust Delaware's education initiatives into the national spotlight.

"I liked how quickly he mastered and understood the details of education reform in Delaware. He understood it was on the cutting edge of educational reform and leading the nation," Dr. Metts said.

Dr. Metts noted the parallels between President Clinton's plans for education reform and what officials are trying to establish in Delaware, which includes implementing reductions in class sizes, school-building constructions and renovations, and ending social promotion.

In addition to President Clinton, Dr. Metts also heard NAACP president Kweisi Mfume speak at an educational conference at Delaware State University Friday.

"They are truly gifted individuals," Dr. Metts said. "They truly promote and support educational issues. They care about children."

"What an impressive day. The spotlight was on Delaware."

■ **WASHED OUT:** Rain forced the cancellation of the outdoor appearance planned for President Bill Clinton. About 100 people lined along the barricades at the intersection of Legislative and William Penn avenues to get a glimpse of President Clinton.

Instead, they got very wet.

About 50 people stood under umbrellas while the chief executive addressed state lawmakers. They hoped the president would stick his head out the door.

"We're standing out here like fools," chuckled June Bartel, who drove up in vain from Milford. "We're wet, but loyal."

Kathleen G. Johnson of Dover remained with the 50 faithful and endured the rain.

"I just wanted to say 'hi' to President Clinton," Mrs. Johnson said. "He's my president, and since he came all the way to Dover, Del., we should be here to see him."

■ **CAN WE GO NOW?** A long line of motorists were forced to say "good-bye" as their travel on U.S. 13 was stopped for the presidential motorcade taking President Clinton and his entourage back to Dover Air Force Base.

Traffic in the U.S. 13 northbound lane was backed up from Court Street to beyond the St. Jones River bridge just before 3 p.m.

Traffic in both directions was held to an idling halt for 16 minutes as the long line of motorcade cars proceeded across the highway on U.S. 13, while a few pedestrians got a wave from the president as he went by.

Although the motorcade was past the intersection in less than four minutes after the highway was closed, U.S. 13 was stopped in both directions for another 12 minutes before it was reopened by Dover police.

During the delay, a few horns were sounded, and one motorist stuck at the Citgo gas station became particularly impatient.

"What do we got to do, wait on him to get on the plane?" called Lamont Byrd of Dover to the officer halting traffic. "He's already a mile down the road. What are we going to do to him now?"

According to Capt. J. Robert Mays, Dover police spokesman, it is standard procedure to keep the road closed for an additional 10 minutes for security purposes to prevent a would-be attacker from following the motorcade.

■ **PRESIDENTIAL DUTY:** Assigned to work in and around Legislative Hall Friday were 76 state troopers, 24 Facilities Management employees, 19 Capitol Police officers, at least 36 Secret Service agents and an undetermined number of Dover police officers.

■ **LAST WORDS:** So, how did the President's speech stack up in quick political terms?

Speaking for the Democrats, Senate President Pro Tem Thomas Sharp: "It was right on target."

For the Republicans, House Majority Leader Wayne Smith: "Send the money but keep the strings."

— Compiled by Carlos Holmes,
Tom Eldred and Delarita Ford

Del. leaders, pupils alike bask in glow

DSN By NANCY CHARRON 5.9.98
Dover Bureau chief

DOVER — He couldn't stop the rain, but President Clinton proved Friday that the weather is about the only thing in Delaware beyond the reach of his charm.

Wide-eyed kindergartners and calloused politicians from Dover Air Force Base to Legislative Hall and back again basked in the glow of Clinton's smile and the praise he showered on Delaware's efforts to reform education.

Before a special joint session of the General Assembly, Clinton touted a clutch of issues that have become familiar terms to education-conscious Delawareans — academic standards, accountability, school choice and an end to social promotion.

"We can do this," he summed up as his 43-minute speech meandered toward its close. "This is not rocket science."

Throughout his four-hour visit, he showed off the most valuable assets any president can have — a tireless right arm and an unwavering handshake. He shook hands with everyone from schoolchildren to servicemen, and left them all feeling enriched by the experience.

The legislators figured to be a tougher audience, but most of them, too, fell under Clinton's spell.

Sen. Robert L. Venables, D-Laurel, said he started the day a skeptic, until Clinton delivered "one of the greatest speeches I have ever heard." Most agreed it was quintessential Clinton — like a martini, a few sweet nothings made the earnestly dry policy discussion go down smooth.

He was lavish in his praise of Delaware. For instance, he updated Thomas Jefferson's famous "diamond among the states" quip by comparing it to a silicon chip: "Small, but having within it enormous inherent value; namely, the power to shape the future."

It might lack the power or poetry to ring down through the centuries, but Delaware officials, who said Clinton selected the state as a platform for his speech because of its position near the head of the education-reform class, beamed with self-esteem.

"I was never so excited or proud as a member of the Senate," said Senate President Pro Tem Thomas B. Sharp.

He wasn't alone.

NJ 5-9-98

THEY SAID



The News Journal/BRIAN BRANCH-PRICE
Gov. Carper applauds as President Clinton greets Rep. Michael N. Castle, R-Del., after Clinton's speech Friday at Dover Air Force Base. Clinton thanked the base's personnel for their airlifts and support.

"He looked cute. ... He's so cute, I could kiss him."

Monique Montague, 6, Dover

"I enjoyed listening to him. He reconfirmed some of the stuff we've been saying all along."



Sen. Donna Reed, R-Newark East

"He looked like he does on television. I thought his hands would be hot but they were cold."

Tim Mihok, 14, Dover

"I was never so excited or proud as a member of the Senate."



Senate President Pro Tempore Thomas B. Sharp

"Knowing how sociable the president is, there should have been a chance for the people to greet him, to show their respect."

Anna Darlington, Felton, one of about 200 people who waited in vain in a downpour to see Clinton

"That was not very realistic given the crowd we anticipated. A bubble that would encapsule the city of Dover was not a practical idea."



Jeffrey W. Bullock, Gov. Carper's chief of staff, on why the state didn't set up a tent for spectators

"I was afraid of the discussion of the federal government and mandates about our schools, but I think he is really only trying to help."



Sen. Robert L. Venables, D-Laurel

"We appreciate President Clinton taking the time to visit Delaware [but] we are not convinced that his educational plan is in the best interests of Delaware's public schoolchildren."



House Majority Leader Wayne A. Smith, R-Clair Manor

Downstate educators have mixed reaction to president's speech

DSN 5-10-98
Compiled from staff reports

DOWNSTATE — President Bill Clinton's speech on education in Delaware recommended cutting class size and hiring more teachers, which drew a mixed reaction from Downstate educators.

Secretary of Education Dr. Iris T. Metts noted the parallels between President Clinton's plans for education reform and what is trying to be established in Delaware which includes

addressing reduction in class sizes and school building constructions and renovations, and social promotion.

"I loved when he made the analogy of how good the General Assembly felt going into their buildings," Dr. Metts said.

She said the president likened that to how students should feel going into their schools and should not have to be in buildings falling down with leaking roofs.

Dr. Metts said she appreciated that President Clinton brought out that there were going to be positive and negative consequences of accountability.

"You can't have an accountability system unless you have both," Dr. Metts said.

She said the president could identify with the vision of Delaware's education and its goals to prepare students for the future.



Iris T. Metts

We are not only looking at needs of our students today we are looking at the needs our students in tomorrow's world," Dr. Metts said.

James B. Boyd, supervisor of Secondary Programs for the Lake Forest School District, agreed with the president's stance on expansion. "I agree with what the president said about overcrowded conditions in schools today and students attending classes in trailers. When I look at schools in the area and the condition they are in, it's clear that we don't make schools a priority in our society. That makes me worry about our future."

Betty Ann Wyatt, Lake Forest Teacher of the Year, said the state needs to play a bigger role. "It is time that our Delaware legislators realize that our state is too small to have the 'haves' and the 'have nots' in education."

"Funding to all districts must be fairly and equitably distributed. All students should have access to equal opportunity and resources."

Lewes resident Walter G. Rosen, a retired educator, said he caught President Clinton's speech on television after a friend called to remind him about the Delaware visit.

"I watched it on CNN. I was very impressed, and I'm not ordinarily very impressed by Mr. Clinton. I'm an educator myself, and he said all the right things," Mr. Rosen said.

Not everyone thought the president's speech was good, however.

Joseph J. Matriccino, president of the Woodbridge Education Association, said that President Clinton's comments are nothing more than political rhetoric.

"It's a political thing. It sounds good," he said. "Then

it goes to the legislation and they see how much it's going to cost."

He said that teachers would certainly be overjoyed if the government took steps to reduce class size.

"If you reduce class sizes, say, from 30 to 15 students, it's going to help not only discipline, but comprehension for all students," said Mr. Matriccino, a social studies teacher at Woodbridge High School. "Teachers would jump up and down. That would definitely improve things in the classroom, but is it really going to get done?"

Mr. Matriccino said he thinks that the notion of national certification for teachers is wrong-headed, as well.

"National certification, what's that mean? The only thing that's going to make you a better teacher is experience," he said.

Charles S. Postles Jr., president of the Milford School District Board of Education, was not entirely impressed with the president's speech.

"One of my concerns is when (President Clinton) talks about 100,000 new teachers. It's like the 100,000 cops from the Biden Crime Bill. We haven't seen 100,000 yet, and the ones we've seen are funded on a three-year grant that will require local governments to fund them once federal funds run out," he said.

"I would personally be delighted to see less money coming from Washington. I wouldn't mind if the U.S. Department of Education disappeared entirely. Money from Washington always comes with strings attached, and creates more bureaucracy."

"I thought a lot of what the president had to say was nice. And, I agree with a lot of his goals. They're laudable goals. I

just don't agree with his plan to reach those goals. I want to see more money spent in the classroom, not in bureaucracy."

Some educators were tied up with school duties, and have not had time to digest the president's speech.

Robert D. Smith III, superintendent, was laboring over an accountability plan to be presented to the Delaware legislature later this week on behalf of the state's superintendents.

"I've been typing since five o'clock this morning, and I

haven't even had a chance to eat lunch," Dr. Smith said. "Hopefully, I can get out later to pick up the paper, and see what (President Clinton) said. But, right now, I don't know enough about his remarks to make a comment."

Dr. Jeanel D. Starling, Lulu M. Ross principal and Delaware's distinguished principal of the year, spent Saturday in Philadelphia taking seminary classes, although Friday she said she would hurry home to see what President Clinton had to say.

"I was hoping to go to capital to see him speak," she said. "But I had to be at the Dover Sheraton while he was scheduled to speak. Our school librarian won state media specialist of the year, and I was honored to see her win the award."

Associate editors John Finnerty and Carol Ann Porter and staff writers Delarita Ford, Ashley Gray and Gregory S. Layton contributed to this story.

Attention Educators

President Clinton's historic speech to the joint session of the Delaware General Assembly is available on NewsPhone.

The 43-minute speech can be shared with students.

If a short version is desired, NewsPhone also features excerpts from the President's speech.

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President Clinton's speech

Education in Transition

For an archive of the president's visit to Dover or the changing face of education in Delaware, check online at www.newszap.com.

Clinton, Carper agree on education

President's plan
seems to mirror
the governor's

By Angela Trout ^{DSN}
Staff writer ⁵⁻⁸⁻⁹⁸

DOWNSTATE — The president's speech today should shed some insight on his plans for the future of the nation's educational system.

It is expected that the president will hit three main points: reduced class size, additional classroom space, and the call for more after-school programs.

According to Gov. Thomas R. Carper's policy advisor on education, Peg Bradley, the president's plan mirrors the governor's.

"When I heard the president's State of the Union Address (in February), it was as if he was reading the governors' statements on (educational reform) off of the Internet. Their agendas are very similar."

Gov. Carper called for similar action in January when he unveiled his budget proposals for the 1999 fiscal year. He also vowed that education would be at the forefront of his agenda.

Gov. Carper's plans for reduction in class size came in the way of several vehicles. He proposed the allocation of \$6.1 million in his budget to hire an additional 120 teachers.

He also proposes an increase in Division I teacher funding to local school districts at the Kindergarten through third grade level to provide a teacher for every 15 regular students. He has also recommended funding increases for grades fourth through 12th to provide a teacher for every 16.3 regular students.

This initiative drew criticism from educators and parents when Senate Bill 249 was introduced earlier this year. The bill was designed to aid in class size reduction.

The bill calls for the end of special unit counts for special education students, meaning that while the teacher to student ratios lower for regular students, the teacher to student ratio for students with special needs increase.

Another issue raised by school administrators was whether schools could afford to provide the additional space needed to accommodate the overflow of students.

The Indian River School District is one of the districts that is struggling with overcrowded schools.

According to the district's administrative assistant, Charles W. Hudson, Sussex Central Middle School, Sussex Central High School and Indian River High School are operating out of portable classrooms.

Sussex Central High is using six portable classrooms, Indian River High has 77 students over capacity and is utilizing five portable classrooms, and Sussex Middle is 400 students over capacity and use nine portable classrooms.

"Reducing class size is great. I am in full support of it," said Edward B. Seibert, director of Business and Finance for Indian River. "But reducing class size must also deal with the overcrowding issue. If you reduce class size, you have to provide additional funding."

While President Clinton's pitches his priorities, the cost for local school districts to implement them will cost money. But even though failed referendums to increase taxes appears to be the norm, one superintendent does not think increased federal funding is the answer.

Dr. James E. Hammond, Capital School District superintendent, said because federal funds are usually compensatory funds designed to address deficiencies in a student group, federal funding

would not help his district with the needs it tried to satisfy with the referendum that failed recently.

"The president can help support the notion of reduced class size ... and make sure that appropriations toward construction funds come to the state level onto the district level," Dr. Hammond said.

After school programs, also referred to as "extended-time" programs, are also being considered to be beefed up by the governor. He proposes an additional \$3 million to an existing \$7.6 million allocated to such programs.

David Vaughan, principal for Fairview Elementary School, has been running after school programs since the beginning of the year.

The program offers Arts and Crafts and cake decorating to science clubs and tutoring. The sessions normally run until 5:30 p.m., which is a help to working parents, Mr. Vaughan said.

"The (after-school program) benefits the students and their parents, but mainly the parents," Mr. Vaughan said.

But such programming comes with a price. Funding is derived through the states'

Extended Time grant and Drug Free grants.

He said they do not charge students an activities fee at this point. He said that would be a last resort if funding dries up.

Another aspect of Gov. Carper's educational reform is his call for more accountability.

Sen. David P. Sokola, D-Newark, is the chief sponsor of the accountability bill. He said the Senate is working on the bill, S.B. 250, and making progress, but don't figure on having the entire package ironed out by the end of this legislative session.

S.B. 250 focuses on reducing social promotion, which is advancing a student to the next grade simply because of their age. It also calls for rewarding the academic achievement of students, schools and school districts, and holding schools and school districts accountable for inadequate testing results.

State wide testing was implemented for the first time this week to grades 3, 5, 8 and 10.

Assistant editor Carlos Holmes contributed to this story.

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Education Bills

■ **S.B. 249** — (David P. Sokola, D-Newark; two representatives.) This bill, the "Class Size Reduction and Education Finance Improvement Act of 1998," will reduce class sizes in core academic subjects.

■ **S.B. 250** — (Sen. David P. Sokola, D-Newark; Sen. Robert J. Voshell, D-Milford; two representatives.) This bill, denominated the "Educational Accountability Act of 1998," will improve Delaware's educational system by drastically reducing social promotion, rewarding the academic achievement of students, schools, and school districts, and holding schools and school districts accountable for inadequate results.

■ **S.B. 292** — (Sen. Thomas B. Sharp, D-Wilmington; 12 senators, four representatives.) Reduces class size in grades K-3; requires elementary schools to publish class sizes in annual school profiles; permits school districts to use up to 5% of their teaching units to employ instructional aides; and guarantees state funding for a number of units equal to each school district's actual unit count for the preceding school year.

Giving Clinton a piece of their mind

By **Carlos Holmes**
Assistant Editor

DSN
5-8-98

DOWNSTATE — Several Downstate residents would like to have a few minutes to say something to President Bill Clinton.

Dena Sechrist of Rehoboth said she would give President Clinton a piece of her mind concerning maternity leave.

"As a mom, I know he gave three months without pay for mothers after they have a child," Mrs. Sechrist said. "But he should give six months with some sort of income. I had to go back to work after three months and had to get a babysitter.

Linda S. Montague of Laurel said her son's college education would weigh heavily on her mind.

"I would talk to him about the raising cost of college education," Ms. Montague said. "My son is 13 and in five years, I don't know what I am going to do."

Robin M. Fisher of Laurel said she would speak to the president on behalf of the elderly citizens she serves as head of First State Community Action Agency's Senior Companion program.

"My concern is not for Bill Clinton's personal life. I would speak with the president on the needs of the elderly, and how

volunteer programs are geared toward youths, but not as much towards the elderly," Ms. Fisher said.

But while some people would politely steer clear of the president private affairs, Rehoboth resident Jim Waldin said he would pull no punches, literally.

"I'd slap him upside his head and ask him why he can't keep his pants on," Mr. Waldin said. "I'd also ask him why does he pick ugly women (to have affairs with). He's president, and you'd think he could come up with some better looking women."

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NJ 5-9-98

The President In Delaware



President Clinton salutes as he arrives Friday at Dover Air Force Base. Defense Secretary William Cohen follows him in the pouring rain.

The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS



Staff photo/Linda Laird

Defense Secretary William Cohen and President Clinton.

Cohen talks about virtues of Air Force

By Tom Eldred
Staff writer

DSN
5-9-98

DOVER — Defense Secretary William Cohen went directly to the point in a brief address at Dover Air Force Base.

The secretary accompanied President Bill Clinton to Dover Friday and presented the commander-in-chief to an enthusiastic crowd of base personnel, families and friends.

"Shortly after the Wright Brothers' first flight in 1903, one observer commented, 'It is beyond dispute that Wilbur Wright is in possession of power that controls the fate of nations,'" Secretary Cohen said.

"Almost a hundred years later, you, the highly trained professionals in the greatest Air Force in the history of the world, are living proof of that statement."

Speaking of the time 50 years ago when the "fires of World War II were still smoldering," Secretary Cohen also recalled the words of President Harry S. Tru-

man when President Truman said, "It is individuals who make history, not the other way around."

"And today, as the embers of the cold war are extinguished, we stand on the brink of a new American century, led by a commander-in-chief with a clear, persistent vision of America's role in the world," the secretary said.

He applauded President Clinton for consistently doing "what is militarily necessary and what is right, even in the face of tremendous political pressure."

He also called personnel at the base "today's citizen-soldiers" who represent the country throughout the world.

"Ladies and gentlemen of Dover Air Force Base, I am proud to present to you the president of the United States, President Bill Clinton," Secretary Cohen said.

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Base given kudos by commander-in-chief

By Tom Eldred
Staff writer

DSN
5-9-98

DOVER — Excitement and intense anticipation pulsed through a giant hangar at Dover Air Force Base Friday as thousands of base personnel and their families awaited a visit from President Bill Clinton.

They were not disappointed.

After brief opening remarks by base commander Felix M. Grieder and Secretary of Defense William Cohen, the commander-in-chief delivered a rousing speech aimed at the hearts and minds of the men and women who serve in defense of the nation.

"To all the members of the United States Air Force, and their families and friends, thank you especially for bringing the children today," the president said. "I would like to say a special word of thanks to the Dover High School Band. . . . I am delighted to be here."

The president wasted no time in zeroing on the theme of his address — the 36 C-5 aircraft based in Dover and gratitude to all who make thousands of flights taking off and landing at the base each year possible.

"Those of you who work around the clock to support our defense and our freedom, I thank you," Mr. Clinton said.

"Delaware calls itself 'Small Wonder,' the president continued. "It's not too small to have the C-5s, which do so much for America's intervention." "It's not too small for the 60,000-pound 'Tanner' loader, moving heavy cargo."

"Your efforts are essential," President Clinton said. "We live in a time of enormous promise, and you know that it will work. But there is also a tremendous responsibility for the United States out there, both to take advantage of the promise and meet the challenges of the post-Cold War era."

The chief executive noted America's unemployment rate was pegged Friday at 4.3 percent, the lowest since 1970. But one-third of the new jobs that have been created since 1993, he said, come from trading with other nations.

"Like it or not, our future, and the future of every child in this audience today, is bound up in our ability to maintain leader-

ship and peace and freedom and security and opportunity throughout the world."

The president recalled that he traveled through Africa in March. "Guess what," he said. "On my whole trip, you provided the transportation. You provided the helicopters, and you provided the communications. I thank you."

The next month he was in Chile. "And guess what, you provided my transportation and communications. And I thank you."

"In a few days I will leave for Europe," the president continued, where among other initiatives, he will work with the new NATO treaty to assure "a Europe that is peaceful, undivided and free for the first time in all of history."

"And, if nothing happens to the chain of command," he said, "you're going to provide the transportation and communication."

President Clinton reminded his audience that the 21st Century "will be America's greatest time" if the nation does its part to protect freedom and security around the world.

"But the world is still not free of dangers," he warned. "Not by a long shot." He said new technology, while helping to open and expand communications across the world, has also spawned new avenues "for the organized forces of destruction" and "new mobility" to international terrorists and criminals.

"The United States must continue to lead in the world and that means we need you more than ever," the president said. He said Dover base is responsible for 25 percent of America's strategic airlift capacity, and played a vital role in supplying the troops in Bosnia.

"Please remember, in ways large and small, you are making a huge difference in making the world a better place for the children who share this room with us today," Mr. Clinton concluded. "You in Dover make it happen. You deliver. You are essential to America's security."

"You make us all very proud. Thank you very much and God bless you."

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Base goes bananas for Bill

By Tom Eldred
Staff writer

DSN

5-9-98

DOVER — Dover Air Force Base staged a great big welcome for President Bill Clinton Friday, a welcome likely to be remembered for a long time to come.

From the vibrating percussion of the Dover High School Band to the intense security efforts of Secret Service and base personnel, the event was an intense display of presidential power with all the trappings.

"Our kids have been so excited ever since we got permission they could come," said Juanita Cooper, a kindergarten teacher at West Dover Elementary School, as she and fellow teacher Jane Tinsley directed 67 youngsters into Hangar 706 to wait for the president.

"We've been on Cloud 9 ever since. We even brought a special 'Welcome to Delaware' cap to give to the president."

Across the cavernous hangar, Dover High School Band director David DeLong was fine-tuning his musicians for a rousing salute to the chief.

"It is a great honor to be here," Mr. DeLong said. "It's an overwhelming experience for everybody. We feel extremely privileged to play for the president of the United States and represent the capital city of Delaware for this great occasion. The kids are literally bursting at the seams."

Dozens upon dozens of Secret Service and base security officers circulated about the hangar, as thousands of base personnel and family members filed in through specially set-up metal-detector gates. Extra seats were provided for ticketholders who were supposed to see the event outside Legislative Hall, which was rained out.

Finally, when the hangar was full just before 3 p.m., all entrances were sealed except for a massive opening at one end where the president would speak. With a giant C-5 aircraft framed outside on the flight line, the now-captive audience waited for their president.

Master Sgt. Dennis A. Desilet came with his 12-year-old son, Josh. "I took him out of Dover Air Middle School for this," Sgt. Desilet said. "I thought it was important for him to see the president up close."

Josh, who sat with two school-age friends, was excited. "I'm looking forward to what he

says," Josh explained. "In the news, they said he'd be talking about education, and I want to hear that."

Smyrna residents Joseph and Ann Snyder obtained tickets from state Rep. Bruce C. Ennis, D-Smyrna. Mr. Snyder is a World War II veteran and a member of VFW Post 8801 in Clayton.

"I think it's just great," Mrs. Snyder said. "I got my camera ready!"

Sitting close to where President Clinton would speak were Charles and Virginia Carson. Mr. Carson was a well-known figure for decades at the base, where he ran the mortuary for 26 years.

"The last time I was in this hangar was for the Ron Brown accident," Mr. Carson recalled. "They certainly go all-out. It's amazing how they can change the configuration of the place."

Ericka Grieder, 16, daughter of base commander Felix M. Grieder, was in the front row — camera ready — with her 11-year-old brother, John. "It's all pretty amazing," the Caesar Rodney High School junior said. "I know my Dad's excited about it." John took a slightly different view. "I'm happy to be here because I got out of school," he said with an honest grin.

When President Clinton finally arrived, he lauded the base and its personnel in a speech greeted with near-deafening applause. Afterwards, many in the crowd moved forward to shake hands with their charismatic leader. President Clinton,

warming to the occasion while worried Secret Service men looked on, spent a full 45 minutes shaking hands and chatting with the people.

Two young airmen, Airman 1st Class Cynthia De La Vara and Airman Valerie Skelly, were positively thrilled when the chief threw his arms around them for a spontaneous hug.

"At first, Valerie was going to ask for a picture with him," Airman De La Vara said. "But she ran out of film. So, I figured, what the heck, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; I'd ask for a hug. He put his arms around

us and hugged us both!"

"Not only that, but one of my friends had a camera, so, we got a picture," Airman Skelly said.

As he exited the hangar and was preparing to leave, the president learned of the little children from West Dover Elementary School and the special cap they'd prepared. Mr. Clinton came back into the hangar. In a final gesture, he graciously accepted the cap and signed a banner for the class.

It was quite a day.

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Base personnel praised for their supportive role

'You are making a huge difference,' Clinton says

By MOLLY MURRAY
Staff reporter

DOVER — With a massive C-5 transport jet as his backdrop, President Clinton on Friday praised Dover Air Force Base personnel for the "essential" role they play in maintaining world peace and keeping him mobile and in touch when he travels to foreign lands.

More than 1,000 people — Air Force personnel, state and local officials, schoolchildren and Democratic Party activists — turned out to hear the president.

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE

But perhaps most touched by the message were the wives of the airmen who carry out the base mission of delivering military cargo and hardware around the world.

"It's sometimes hard to be left behind," said Mary Mihok, the mother of five. "It means a lot to me" that the president realizes the sacrifice military families make. "You miss a lot of things."

Her husband, Tom, is a master

sergeant with almost 19 years of active military duty. Ten of those years have been spent in Dover.

In recent months, Dover base personnel have helped keep Clinton on the go and in contact with home.

There was a trip to Africa in March. "Guess what? On my whole trip, you provided the transportation and communications ... I thank you," Clinton said.

Last month, it was a trip to Chile. "Guess what? You provided my communications and transportation and I thank you."

And there is an upcoming European trip.

"You're going to provide my transportation and communication and I thank you," he said.

So what's all this transportation and communication equipment? Some of it's a secret. But then, there's the president's limo, the helicopter — the stuff that keeps him moving.

"He keeps us pretty busy," Master Sgt. Mihok said.

It was a big day for the Mihok children, too. Tim, 14, got to shake the president's hand.

"He looked like he does on television," the youngster said. "I thought his hands



The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS

A Dover Air Force Base honor guard silently leaves Air Force One in the pouring rain Friday after the president's departure. Clinton toured a C-5 transport jet at the base.

would be hot but they were cold."

And there was the big moment for the 220 members of the Dover High School Band, who Clinton praised for their enthusiasm.

He turned serious as he talked about his tour of a C-5 and the important role cargo bases such as Dover play in times of conflict and with humanitarian aid.

"Our leadership is more important

than ever," he said. "We need you more than ever. ... Here at Dover, you are leading the way. ... When your joints ache from loading pallets ... when you fly all night ... when you're too far from home and you wonder sometimes what you're doing it all for, please remember, in ways large and small, you are making a huge difference in making the world a better place for the children in this room today."

West Dover students given an opportunity to meet the president

By **Delarita C. Ford**
Staff writer

DSN
5-8-98

DOVER — Dover High School Band members are not the only students who will have the once in a lifetime experience of seeing the president in real life.

Kindergartners from West Dover Elementary School who had a scheduled trip to the Dover Air Force Base Museum were invited to come to the base after all so they will have the opportunity to greet and meet the president, according to Maj. Kirk E. Farynlasz, Dover Air Force Base public affairs officer.

He said the kindergartners' tour, which the base received requests for four weeks ago, was not cancelled but had been postponed until May 13, and that the base would "bend over backward" to accommodate the children.

"We were originally told it would be 100

percent military identification checks at the gate and none of these children would have those, so then we rescheduled them for the 13th of May," Maj. Farynlasz said. He said he hopes nothing will interfere with that rescheduled date like another presidential visit.

Maj. Farynlasz said the children have been invited to the base and will be in the "big hanger where the president will be speaking to the base folks."

While the kindergartners have their orders to be at the base by noon, West Dover Elementary School third graders in Michelle Ross' and Latende Henry's class will be walking at 12:30 p.m. to Legislative Mall to see the president.

Central Middle School students in a mentoring program will not be left out of the action either as guidance counselor, Bessie Lewis, and associate principal, Phyllise Wilkins-Church, have arranged for eight to

10 students to go on a journey in hopes of seeing the president, while learning the significance of what goes on in Legislative Hall, what affiliation does President Clinton have with Dover Air Force Base and learning about other jobs, including what a Secret Service agent does.

"This will be an important adventure. We are trying to expose our children to anything educational and cultural in and around the city of Dover. Those activities are important to their educational success," said Ms. Wilkins-Church, who has been in education for over 30 years.

She said the school has walking permission slips for students just in case an important event comes up like a visit from the president.

"We're out and about quite a bit," Ms. Wilkins-Church said, adding that children's learning success enhances when they have such opportunities to meet the president.

go to cultural concerts, plays, college functions.

"They will see someone like the president and realize that this is a real live person," she said.

Dover High School Principal Joseph DeFelice announced to his student body Thursday that they could be dismissed to see the president at Legislative Mall if they turned in notes from their parents during homeroom.

Although, he said he would like the opportunity to see the president himself, he said as long as some of his students have the chance, he is satisfied.

"If I get to see the president fine, if I don't get to see him, then that's fine too, as long as my kids are there. I would hate for them to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Dr. DeFelice said.

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After four hours, West Dover pupils get to meet Clinton

N 3
5-9-98

By MOLLY MURRAY
Staff reporter

They waved their American flags. They danced to the beat of the Dover High School Band. They fidgeted, squirmed and fidgeted some more.

For the 5- and 6-year-olds from West Dover Elementary School, the wait to see President Clinton seemed to span a lifetime.

Four hours after they settled in at a hangar at Dover Air Force Base, "the boss of the country" arrived.

Six-year-old Brittany Brokenbrough's reaction: "I'm hungry. ... Do you think they have any cookies left?"

THE KIDS

Monique Montague, 6, was impressed.

"He didn't look like the man on TV," she said. "He looked cute. ... He's so cute, I could kiss him."

The children, like hundreds of other people, had hoped for a close-up look at Clinton and a chance to shake his hand.

Their teachers and principal scrambled to get the youngsters to the event, calling parents throughout Thursday evening to secure permission slips and running to every store in Dover to buy tiny American flags. They even made a banner to welcome Clinton to Dover.

Once the speeches were over, the children began

chanting: "We want the president! We want the president!"

For a while, it appeared they would be disappointed.

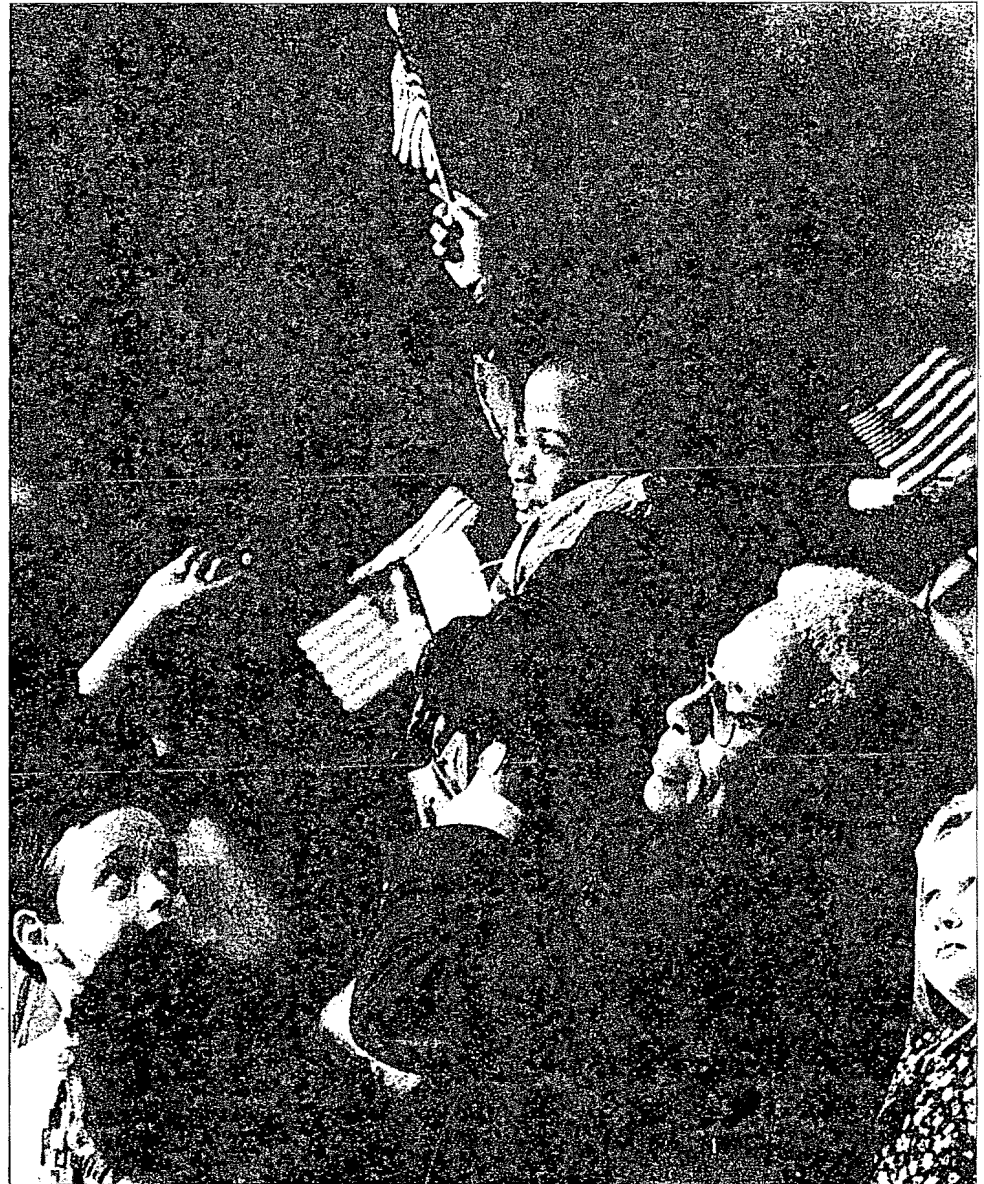
Clinton shook hands with hundreds of people and spent about a half-hour moving among the crowd. But the West Dover kindergartners were not among them. Most of the children couldn't even see over the security barriers.

Then Gov. Carper, noticing the sea of tiny hands waving above the barricade, walked over to greet the youngsters.

Clinton, meanwhile, started in the direction of his car. He signed some autographs, then, prompted by Carper, noticed the children.

In an instant, he was there, shaking hands for another 10 minutes.

"This is it, boy. I tell you," said Principal Cecil Wilson. "Good things come to those that wait."



The News Journal BRIAN BRANCH-PRICE

West Dover Elementary School Principal Cecil Wilson lifts kindergartner Jeremiah Smith so he can see President Clinton arriving Friday at a hangar at Dover Air Force Base. Wilson brought students and teachers to see Clinton.



The president in Dover



Dover High School performs for president

By Delarita C. Ford
Staff writer *DSN 3-12-98*

DOVER — It was music to their ears for band members of Dover High School when they heard Wednesday afternoon that they will be performing for the president.

"The kids are thrilled," said Joseph DeFelice, Dover High School principal, who said he received a phone call from one of President Clinton's staff 4 p.m. Tuesday.

He said when asked if the Dover High School Band, made up of over 200 students including those in the jazz ensemble and other performers, would be able to play for the president Friday, he replied "If there's any way we can do it we will."

After that conversation, Dr. DeFelice said he had to rearrange student schedules, arrange bag lunches for the band members to eat on the way to Dover Air Force Base, and tell students to make sure it was okay with their parents since there was not enough time to do formal permission slips.

"It was exciting talking to the guy who goes ahead and makes plans for the president," Dr. DeFelice said. "This is exciting, it is really exciting."

Dr. DeFelice said the students will send their band equipment to Dover Air Force Base before they arrive so it can be inspected so it does not slow down the security process when they go through their check. He said the band will have to entertain dignitaries an hour and a half before the President arrives.

"They could have gotten a lot of different bands, it makes us feel kind of proud," Mr. DeFelice said.

Dr. James Hammond, Capital School District superintendent, said the band was most likely recommended to perform for the President because of its reputation.

"It's the best band in the state of Delaware and it has a very fine reputation for excellence and quality," Dr. Hammond said.

Although it may have been the first time current band members have played for the president, it is not the first time for Dover High School Band instructor David C. DeLong. He had the opportunity to lead former band members over six years ago when they played for former president George Bush.

"You are in for an experience you will not forget. I have been fortunate to see and do this before," Mr. DeLong said, before a White House official arrived in

the band room to hear the band practice.

Dr. DeFelice said the band is keeping up its reputation for playing for presidents and has had the opportunity to play for two consecutive presidents.

"That is a pretty good start. We're aiming for 10," Dr. DeFelice said.

Mr. DeLong told students the experience would be new for them and let them know what they should expect and what was expected of them Thursday afternoon while practicing.

"I want all of you to understand what a privilege and honor this will be. Twenty, 30 and 40 years from now it will be an incredible thing to say that you played for the president," Mr. DeLong said to the band of over 200 members including a jazz ensemble, dancers, a pom-pom and flag squad.

Mr. DeLong told the students they will be representing not only the band, but the school, the community, and the state's capital. After the band practiced some peppy, upbeat tunes such as Jungle Boogie and Respect, the instructor gave them another pep talk.

"We were selected to do this. We have an incredible opportunity for this school, this community and believe me we are going to make the most of it," Mr. DeLong said.



Staff photo/Linda Laird

President Clinton greets members of the Dover High School band.

"Ever since I heard this 3 p.m. Wednesday, I have been very tense, on edge. I have seen a lot of bands on television play for things like this and some were not very impressive. That is not going to be us," Mr. DeLong said.

He reminded band members to be in complete uniform, which included having black socks, black shoes, a white T-shirt underneath, "no substitutes." He said the band will be under scrutiny and will be watched on every television station

from "little ones in Salisbury to Philadelphia to nationally on CNN."

"This is an awesome thing to represent our school district and the capital of our state. That is so important to me because I care about you, our school and our district and in the next 12 hours you really need to prepare yourself to be the kind of representative you want..." Mr. DeLong said.

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Band tunes up

By Delarita C. Ford

Staff writer *DSN 5-8-98*

DOVER — The Dover High School Band is continuing a legacy for performing for presidents and has a reputation to uphold.

Although it may be the first time current band members have played for the president, it is not the first time for Dover High School Band instructor David C. Delong. He had the opportunity to lead former band members over six years ago when they played for former president George Bush.

"You are in for an experience you will not forget. I have been fortunate to see and do this before," Mr. Delong said, before a White House official arrived in the band-room to hear the band practice.

Dr. Joseph DeFelice said the band is keeping up its reputation for playing for presidents and has had the opportunity to play for two consecutive presidents.

"That is a pretty good start. We're aiming for 10," Dr. DeFelice said.

Mr. Delong told students the experience would be new for them and let them know what they should expect and what was expected of them Thursday afternoon while practicing.

"I want all of you to understand what a privilege and honor this will be. Twenty, 30 and 40 years from now it will be an incredible thing to say that you played for the president," Mr. Delong said to the band of over 200 members including a jazz ensemble, dancers, a pom-pom and flag squad.

Mr. Delong told the students they will be representing not only the band, but the school, the community, and the state's capital. After the band practiced some peppy, upbeat tunes such as Jungle Boogie and Respect, the instructor gave them another pep talk.

"We were selected to do this. We have an incredible opportunity for this school, this community and believe me we are going to make the most of it," Mr. Delong said.

"Ever since I heard this 3 p.m. Wednesday, I have been very tense, on edge. I have seen a lot of bands on television play for things like this and some were not very



Staff photos/John King
Above, Beck McCall, Jessica Gilreath and Stephanie Manzi warm up for the Dover High School band performance for the president. Right, David C. Delong directs the band.

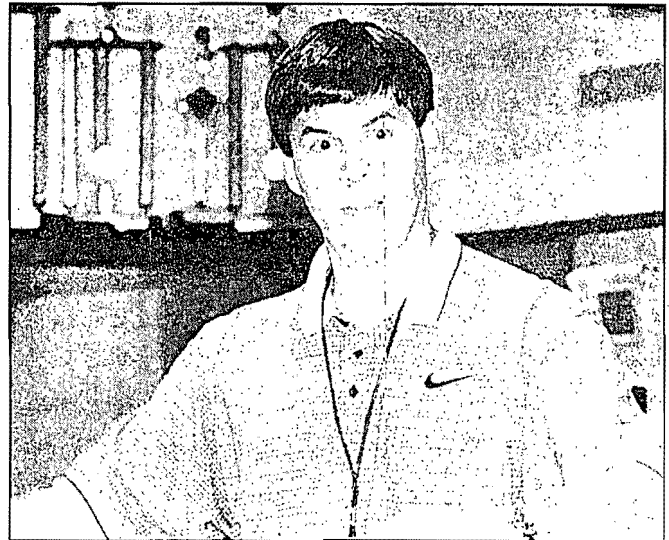
impressive. That is not going to be us," Mr. Delong said.

He reminded band members to be in complete uniform, which included having black socks, black shoes, a white T-shirt underneath, "no substitutes. He said the band will be under scrutiny and will be watched on every television station from "little ones in Salisbury to Philadelphia to nationally on CNN."

"This is an awesome thing to represent our school district and the capital of our state. That is so important to me because I care about you, our school and our district and in the next 12 hours you really need to prepare yourself to be the kind of representative you want..." Mr. Delong said.

In between taking breathers and blowing into wind instruments, students expressed their excitement of being able to play "Hail to the Chief" and "Ruffles and Flourishes" for the commander-in-chief and other dignitaries.

"This is very exciting because it's a first time opportunity for a lot of people. Not many people had the opportunity to play for the president," said 11th-grader Angela Carter.



Jamie Goodman, a saxophone player and band secretary, and Lorrell Ayers, 11-graders, said they were honored to have the experience.

"This will be a great experience for the Dover High School Band and an opportunity for us to represent Dover High School," Lorrell said.

After Mike Frazier, a White House official, reiterated the security process for the students and their instruments, he encouraged them to "play their hearts out."

"On behalf of the White House and the president of the United States, I am happy you are play-

ing for us. We hear you have a really good record in terms of your performance throughout the state and other venues," Mr. Frazier said. "Play your hearts out and afterward come out of the bleachers and try to shake the president's hand. He would like to meet as many of you as possible."

Delarita C. Ford can be reached at 741-8233 or rita@newszap.com.

The President In Delaware

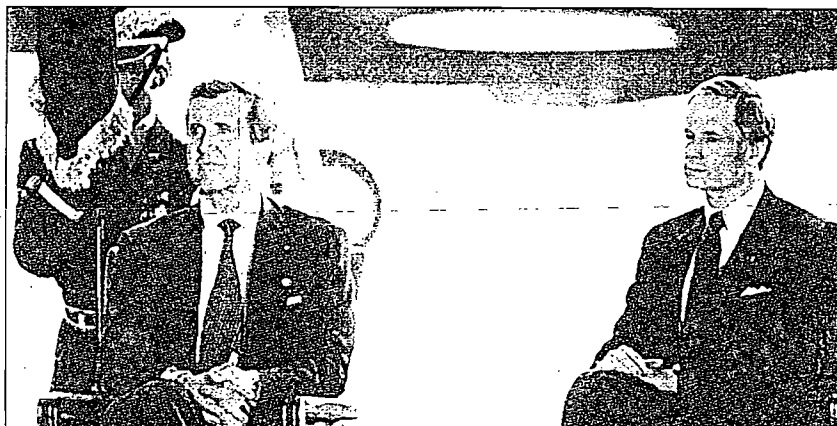
Clinton charms First State



The News Journal/BRIAN BRANCH-PRICE
Caitlin Hogeboon, 5, talks to President Clinton after his speech at the Dover Air Force Base. Pupils from West Dover Elementary waited hours to meet Clinton.



Staff photo/Linda Laird



Staff photo/Linda Laird

Left, President Clinton speaks to the gathering at Legislative Hall. Above, Dover High School band members, from left, Jessica Ball, 15; Kira Gordon, 15; Kristin Wheatley, 16; Becky McCall, 14; and Brian hollar, 18; are psyched after meeting the president. Right, Capt. Erik Sant, a pilot at Dover Air Force Base holds his 2-year-old daughter Sydney so she can wave her flag for the president. Below left, Sen. Patricia M. Blevins ties her son John's tie before the president arrives. Below right, Secretary of Defense William Cohen and Gov. Thomas R. Carper listen to the president's speech at the base.



Staff photo/Linda Laird



Staff photo/John King



Staff photo/Linda Laird

DSN 5-9-98

Left, President Clinton enters Dover Air Force Base, Above, Dover High School Band member Angela Smith, 15; Lady Johnson, 16; and Miranda Coverdale, 15. Right, the president shakes hands with students from West Dover Elementary School.



Staff photo/Linda Laird



Speical to the State News/Tech Sgt. Don Perrie



Staff photos/Linda Laird

Above, the Dover High School band plays for the crowd and the president. Right, Tyler Wall, 6, and Scott Odgen, 6, wait for President Clinton to come so they can give him the hat from their class at West Dover Elementary.

DSN 5-9-98



55

DSN 5-12-98



President Clinton greets members of the Dover High School band.



President Clinton shakes hands with the crowd.

DSN 5-12-98



the president salutes the crowd at the base.



Charles Langloss, 11, Ben Materna, 13, and Jessica Langloss, 14, entertain themselves while waiting for the president to arrive at the base. Below right.



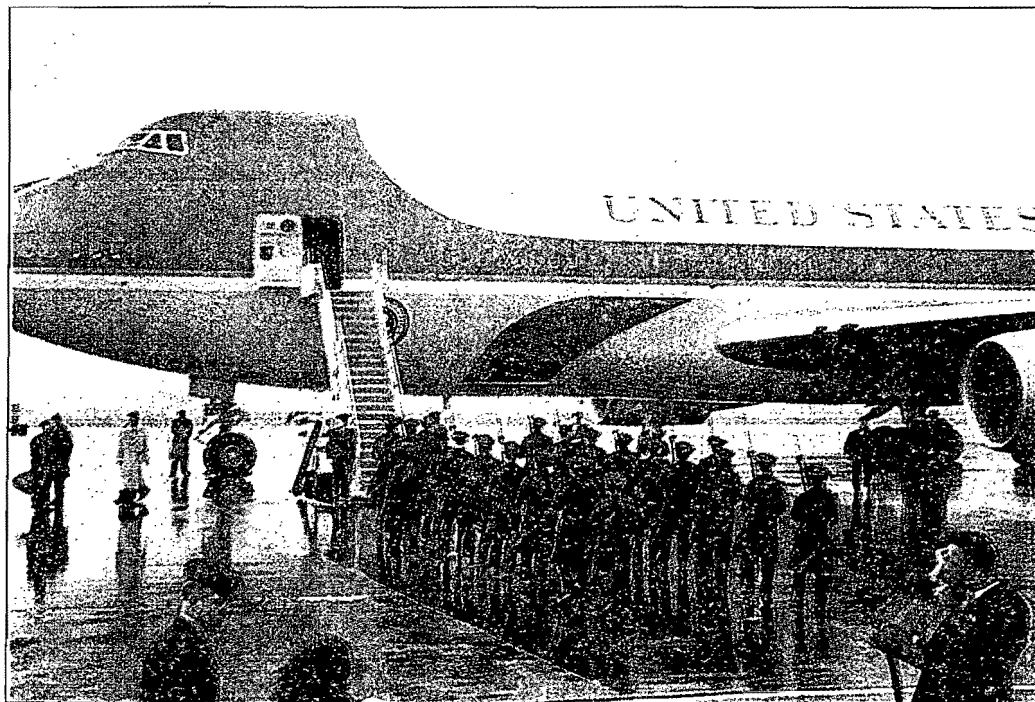
Staff photos/Linda Laird

Left, President Clinton greets Dover Air Force Base personnel and West Dover Elementary school kindergartners at Dover Air Force Base on Friday.

the base Honor Guard read-
ies for the president's
departure.

Rainia
Sheath, 6, and Catlin
Hodgeboon, 5, of West
Dover Elementary School
strain to see the president
over the crowd.

DSN 5-12-98



Staff photos/Linda Laird
Left, West Dover Elementary
School students wave their
flags and chant "We want the
president."

to: Micky ✓
Mike Cohn —

fyi
Jua

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

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Delaware*



***PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
ADDRESSES THE
139th DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MAY 8, 1998***

DELAWARE CLIPPER
Digest of Articles of Interest to Delaware Legislators
May 12, 1998

DELAWARE CLIPPER

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from any of the following publications.
if another source is used, it will be so noted:

The Wilmington News-Journal
The Delaware State News
The Dover Post
Delaware Today Magazine
Delaware Capitol Review

May 12, 1998

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

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Legislative Hall ready for Clinton

N J 5-8-98

By **NANCY CHARRON**
Dover Bureau chief

DOVER — President Clinton arrives in Dover today to address the General Assembly on education reform, and to talk to the troops at Dover Air Force Base.

The area around Legislative Hall should be spick-and-span when Clinton arrives. It buzzed Thursday with activity, from phone technicians installing extra lines to the state's official china being delivered to Gov. Carper's office for refreshments for guests.

The president has used state legislative venues on several occasions to talk about policy initiatives. Delaware is among states implementing education reforms, many of them similar to Clinton's program.

But not all of the 62 lawmakers are going to hear the 12:30 p.m. address in the Senate chamber.

The chamber, which holds only about 230 people, will be packed with lawmakers and their guests, the governor's Cabinet, the judiciary, statewide elected officials and a large media contingent.

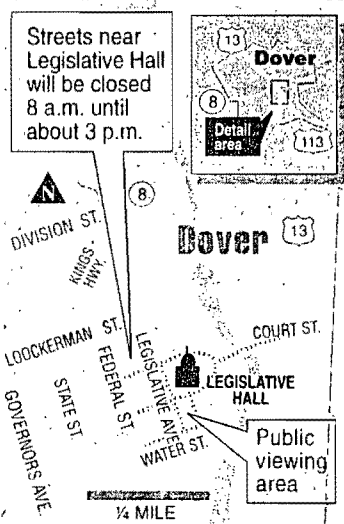
Of the 41 House members, nine will be absent, including Rep. Al O. Plant Sr., D-Wilmington Central, who said he liked the president but had personal business, to Rep. Jeffrey G. Mack, R-New Castle, who said he could not leave his teaching assignment. Many lawmakers have full-time jobs.

Only one senator will be absent — Sen. Colin R.J. Bonini, R-Dover South. He is the only lawmaker admittedly absent as a matter of principle. Bonini said he has serious ethical and policy differences with the president.

"I think it is an immature thing to do," Senate President Pro Tem Thomas B. Sharp, D-Pinecrest, said. "He is the president. You have a duty to go."

But the absences haven't ruffled

President Clinton's visit



The News Journal

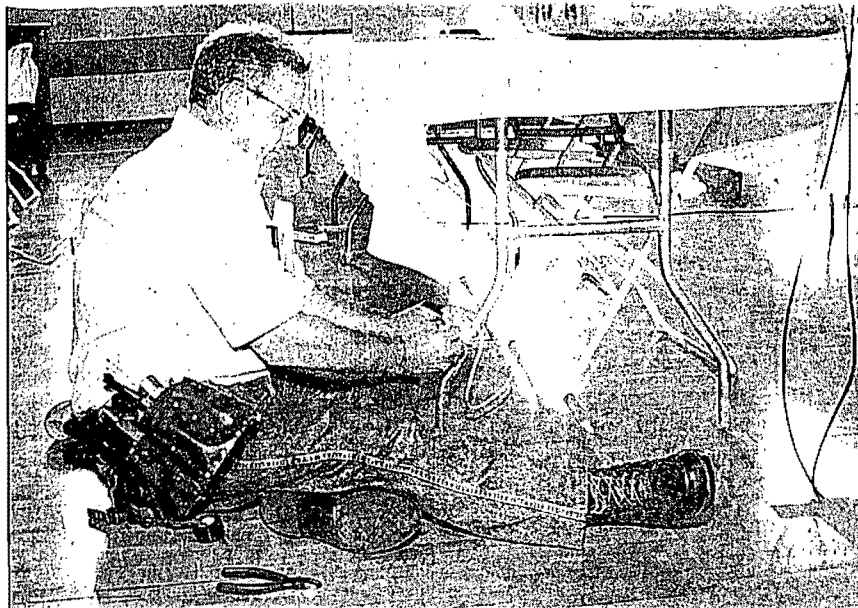
the Carper administration.

"We recognize that Friday is not a regular legislative day and legislators have scheduling conflicts," said Sheri Woodruff, Carper's press secretary.

The speech will be broadcast outside the building. Afterward, the president will go to the south side of Legislative Hall to greet the public.

Streets around the building will be closed to through traffic from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the Water Street branch of the Dover Federal Credit Union will be closed for the day.

Motorists also can expect some delays on U.S. 113 between the base and the capital when the presidential motorcade passes through in late morning and mid-afternoon.



Preparations follow strict protocol

By D.L. Bonar
Staff writer

DOVER — Protocol is king as this historic day dawns on Legislative Hall.

The General Assembly and Gov. Thomas R. Carper play host today to President Bill Clinton, Education Secretary Richard W. Riley and Defense Secretary William Cohen.

Getting in to Legislative Hall for the visit is tightly controlled and dictated by the governor's office, with the cooperation of the White House.

"No one will be permitted into the building unless they have an invitation or credentials," said Sheri L. Woodruff, a spokeswoman for Gov. Carper.

Thursday, the Carper administration announced a public appearance would be made by the president following his address to the General Assembly. The public appearance will take place on the south end of Legislative Hall, along William Penn Avenue.

"The public is encouraged to attend this open appearance," Ms. Woodruff said.

Each person entering the building will be required to pass through a metal detector, which was installed on Thursday.

"We have a very specific method of protocol which must be followed for the session," Ms. Woodruff said.

On the floor of the Senate Chamber will be a select list of Delaware officials, she said. Each member of the legislature will be allowed one guest. After that, come cabinet secretaries, statewide elected officials and chiefs of the judicial branch of state government.



Staff photos/John King

Top, Charles Porter of Milford installs phone lines at the Armory on the Green, which will serve as national media headquarters. Above, Giffie Brown plants some shrubs to help prepare for the president's visit.

Above the floor in 68 seats contained in the Senate balcony will be 34 members of the media including 15 local reporters and 34 representatives of senior staff to the governor, the legislature and White House staffers.

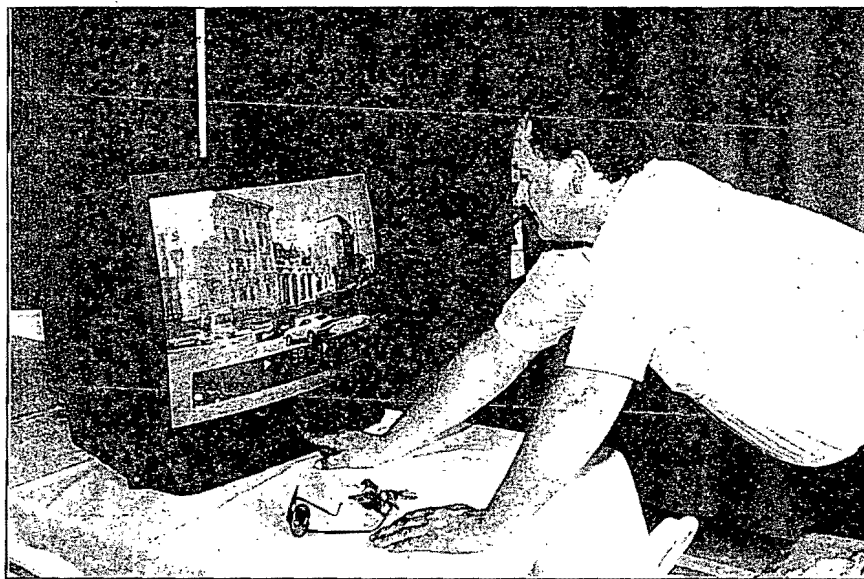
As dusk settled over Legislative Hall, the "big event" was obviously having a huge effect on the historic building.

Inside the hall, technicians were turning the Senate chambers into a stage. Television lights were installed, platforms erected on which cameras and photographers would be located and chairs were being brought in on which to seat the guests.

"Quite an event," said Rep. Robert F. Gilligan, D-Newark, the house minority leader as he left the building just after 7 p.m.

"It's a once in a lifetime thing for all of us. Just think, Monday, all we'll have is the memory and some photographs, but we'll all be a permanent part of Delaware history."

D.L. Bonar can be reached at 741-8228 or at daverpa@newszap.com.



Staff photo/John King

Jim Spencer of Comcast Cable sets up a TV for the media outside to watch the speech.



Staff photo/John King

Above, Craig Stevens, a broadcast engineer for ABC, sets up a transmitter to feed to the White House media pool before the president's speech.

DSN 5-12-98

Ready if he decides to chow down

DSN 3-8-98

Staff report

President Clinton has been known to pay unexpected visits to fast food restaurants in his travels. Jeffery Mack, assistant manager for Burger King at 211 S. Dupont Highway, wasn't aware that the nation's chief executive was coming to town.

"I think we would just carry on as usual if the president came here," he said. "It would be a surprise but we'd give him our utmost best service as we do each customer and treat him as we usually treat our customers even though he's the president."

The Burger King Restaurant at Dover Air Force Base is geared up for President Clinton.

"Everybody's talking about him today," said Assistant Manager Karmella Regaspi. "We would shake his hand and show him around the store. I know some don't want to see him but I would definitely want to meet him. I came from the Philippines. In my country, I met our leader. I have seen him. I would want to meet President Clinton, too."

Ms. Regaspi said employees were instructed to come into the base early in case there is restricted access.

"Our manager wants us to be in here and ready," Ms. Regaspi said.

Traffic restrictions still not certain

According to Michael R. Bundick, state Facility Management deputy director there will be some parking restrictions and road closures in the area of the capital complex, but as of 4 p.m. Thursday they were still being firmed up.

"Most of the parking around downtown Dover will be unaffected," Mr. Bundick said. "I can say almost confidently that Legislative Avenue will be closed, and some of Court Street, but how much has not been determined."

Carper says Clinton crack was just a joke

Lots of jokes have been poked at President Clinton in the past year.

One of the joke-tellers, Delawareans will remember, was Gov. Thomas R. Carper.

At the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce breakfast in January, Gov. Carper joked to breakfast joked about the controversy involving President Clinton and White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"My staff had asked me as a joke whether I would be interviewing interns with a lawyer," Gov. Carper said earlier this week. "It was just a joke."

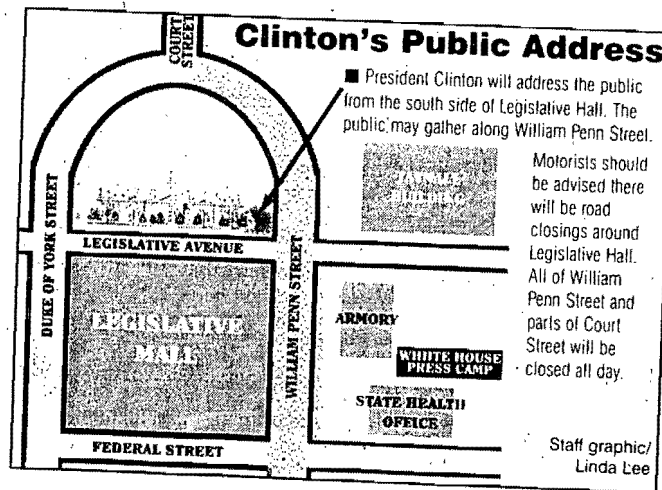
The governor said he was not trying to distance himself from the president.

Gov. Carper's jokes came the day after the president gave the State of the Union address.

Expect to get wet

The president will likely be welcomed by overcast skies and showers when he arrives in Dover today.

The weekend weather, beginning today, is expected to be cloudy, with showers likely throughout the period. Highs will be in the mid- to upper 60s.



Abe was here, too, by George

First State frequent stop for presidents, research reveals

NJ 5-8-98

By **NANCY CHARRON**
Dover Bureau chief

President Clinton is the first president to address a joint meeting of the Delaware General Assembly.

But he's just one in a long line of sitting presidents to visit the First State, starting with the nation's first president, George Washington.

The Clinton visit sparked a major research effort by the state's Public Archives and Legislative Council to give some perspective to the occasion.

Researchers found that in 1789, President-elect Washington stopped in Wilmington on his way to the first presidential inauguration in New York. He visited at least 12 more times, the last on Dec. 15, 1798, a year before his death.

President John Adams and his

wife visited Wilmington in 1801, and President Andrew Jackson docked at New Castle on the Steamboat Ohio twice in 1833.

Northern Delaware was a popular stopover for presidents traveling along the East Coast by train.

President James K. Polk visited in 1847, as did President Millard Fillmore and his Cabinet in 1851. Franklin Pierce passed through in 1856.

In 1848, Abraham Lincoln made a speech in Delaware while a member of Congress. After his assassination in 1865, his funeral train passed through Wilmington. President Andrew Johnson visited the state in 1866.

The most elaborate reception apparently was accorded President Ulysses S. Grant in 1873, when the General Assembly adjourned to go to Wilmington to meet him.

In 1923, President Warren G. Harding and his wife visited during a tour that ended in his death in San Francisco.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt drew large crowds through the 1930s, according to the researchers, and his visits were followed by ones from Harry S. Truman, Dwight D.

CLINTON'S SCHEDULE

President Clinton's schedule at Legislative Hall

Noon — Gate opens at Water Street and Legislative Avenue near south entrance of Legislative Hall for people who want to see the president.



President Clinton

12:30 p.m. — Clinton's address in the Senate chamber to a joint session of the General Assembly, which will be broadcast to the public

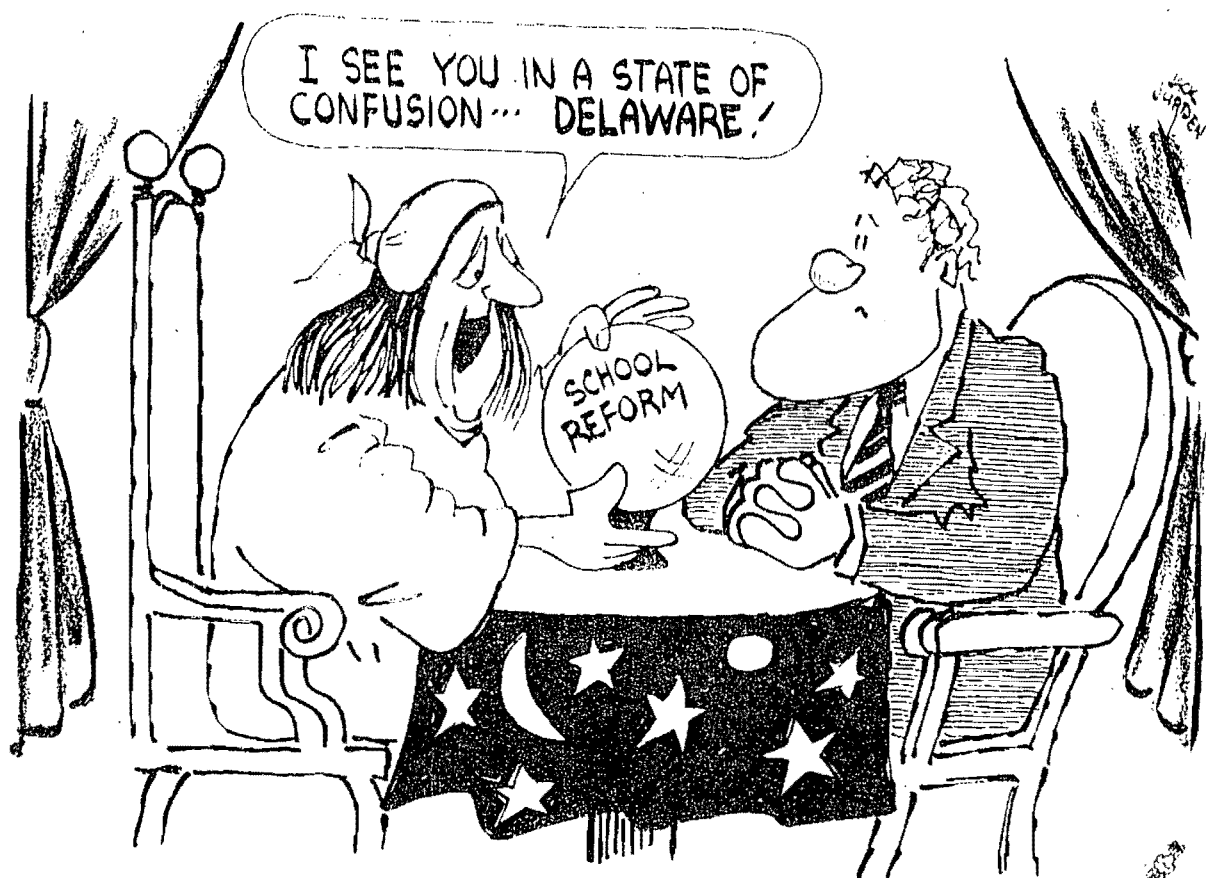
outside the hall.

After the address, the president will greet the public at the south side of Legislative Hall along William Penn Street.

Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

In recent years, President George Bush visited three times. Today marks Clinton's fourth visit.

So who didn't stop by in recent years? Neither Ronald Reagan nor Gerald Ford visited Delaware while they were president.



NJ 5-8-98

Defense secretary will be with president

By **Tom Eldred**
Staff writer

DSN
5-8-98

DOVER — Another star has been added to the entourage of officials coming with President Bill Clinton to Dover today.

According to the White House, Defense Secretary William Cohen will join the chief executive and Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley on the trip.

"At the request of the president, Secretary Cohen will be traveling with Mr. Clinton to Dover," White House spokeswoman Julie Payne said. "He will be attending the president's address to the state legislature."

Ms. Payne stressed President Clinton's visit will focus entirely on education priorities. However, Gov. Thomas R. Carper said he plans to find time to remind Secretary Cohen of the extreme importance of maintaining Dover Air Force Base as a strategic military facility.

"It's so modern and efficient," Gov. Carper said. "It would be the last base the Pentagon would think of closing. I will express those views to Secretary Cohen."

There was some confusion Thursday between the White House and Pentagon as to exactly what role Secretary Cohen

will have when President Clinton speaks to personnel at the base later in the day.

Ms. Payne said the defense secretary is also scheduled to speak.

But the Department of Defense said the president is the only scheduled speaker.

"We don't have (Secretary Cohen) down for any remarks at the base," said Army Col. Edwin F. Veiga, a Department of Defense spokesman. "He will be traveling with the president, at the president's request, and he might introduce him at the base. There are no plans to address personnel. The president is doing all the speaking."

Ms. Payne offered a different version. "We have him speaking at the base," she said.

Secretary Cohen was asked, Ms. Payne said, to lend support to the president's message on education initiatives, which she said include proposals for improving schools on military bases for children of military personnel.

"The president made a statement sev-



William Cohen

eral months ago that he wants the schools on our military bases upgraded to meet the standards proposed for all public schools," Ms. Payne said.

Maj. Kirk E. Faryniasz, a spokesman at the Dover facility, said there are three schools — two elementary schools and a middle school — on base property to serve Air Force families. All three facilities are administered by Caesar Rodney School District.

Although Maj. Faryniasz did not have a listing for the total number of students being schooled at the base, he said the Air Force spends millions of dollars annually for operating the schools, as well as for children from military families who attend high school off-base.

"For school year 1996-97, the base contributed \$7,142,052 through June 1997 to the Caesar Rodney district," he said. In addition, \$30,136 went to Capital School District.

Congressman Michael N. Castle, R-Del., is attending the presidential visit. He



Richard W. Riley

echoed Gov. Carper's sentiments about the Dover base, especially in light of recent word from Washington the Air Force may consider eliminating some bases in favor of a consolidated group of "superbases."

"I believe that Secretary Cohen's visit to Dover Air Force Base will be to recognize and pay tribute to the personnel that serve the Air Force's only base for C-5 airlift aircraft on the East Coast," Rep. Castle said. "He also will bring attention to the fact that Dover is a valuable staging ground for airlift operations to the Middle East and Europe. Quite frankly, our worldwide military reach could not succeed without Dover Air Force Base."

Gov. Carper said he's delighted the two cabinet officials are accompanying the president to Dover. He called Secretary Cohen a "credit to both political parties" and referred to Secretary Riley as a "wonderful, decent human being," deeply committed to improving American education.

"You will see Dick Riley's lips move when the president speaks," the governor said.

Tom Eldred can be reached at 741-8212 or at teledred@newszap.com.

Select group will meet privately with Clinton

By Ashley Gray
Staff writer

DSN
5-8-98

LEWES — A handful of people will meet President Bill Clinton during an intimate, private gathering today while he visits Dover.

The gathering will be about 20 minutes long, and held in Gov. Thomas R. Carper's legislative hall office just before the President addresses a joint session of the General Assembly, said press secretary Andy Lippstone.

"Because (his) speech revolves around education, we thought it was appropriate to invite some of the state's major players in education for a brief, informal event," Mr. Lippstone said.

A list of those invited wasn't available because of security reasons, but at least one person attending will be Cape Henlopen School District Superintendent Suellen Skeen. Others will be business people involved in education reform, administrators and top school board officials.

Dr. Skeen was invited to represent the Chief School Officers Association, of which she is president.

"I'm looking forward to it," Dr. Skeen said. "I've never met one of our presidents before."

While Secretary of Education

Dr. Iris T. Metts mentioned to Dr. Skeen that she may be invited, her attendance wasn't confirmed until Wednesday, after security clearance and such. "I'll try to behave myself and act like I know what I'm doing," she said, laughing.

Delmar School District Superintendent George E. Stone met President Clinton only two years ago on his turf in Washington, D.C. "My school was a blue ribbon school of excellence when I was principal of Seaford Middle School, so we were invited to a reception and we all got to meet him. I'm not one to be impressed by power, mine or anybody's else's, but there is definitely an aura to the president and being at the White House," he said.

Milford Superintendent Robert D. Smith III hasn't ever met Bill Clinton, but he's brushed shoulders with other heads of state.

When he was in college, around 1970, he got to meet the 37th president.

"I met (Richard) Nixon in Washington at a dance for his daughter, Trisha," he said. "That was sort of neat."

Ashley Gray can be reached at 644-6323 or at ashgray@newszap.com.

Who won't be there

Nine representatives and one senator will not be attending today's speech:

Representatives

- Al O. Plant Sr., D-Wilmington
- Arthur L. Scott, D-Wilmington
- David D. Brady, D-Claymont
- Bruce C. Reynolds, R-Bear
- Jeffrey G. Mack, R-New Castle
- Joseph R. Petrilli, R-Newark
- William A. Oberle Jr., R-Newark
- Richard F. David, R-Newark
- Clifford G. "Biff" Lee, R-Laurel

Senate

- Colin R.J. Bonini, R-Dover

DCR will have presidential coverage

Watch Monday for a presidential edition of the Delaware Capitol Review. The publication, which is normally mailed on Friday, will be delayed until Monday to provide the readers with coverage of President Clinton's trip to Dover.

Wet weather welcomes president

By **Tom Eldred**
Staff writer

DSN
5-9-97

DOVER — Gray skies turned darker and a hard rain drenched Dover Air Force Base Friday as President Bill Clinton stepped off Air Force One at the base.

It was 12:03 p.m.

The president was met by a small group of dignitaries, including Gov. Thomas R. Carper, Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, Dover Mayor James L. Hutchison and base commander Col. Felix M. Grieder.

The rain continued.

"Where are the umbrellas, where are the umbrellas?" a security officer yelled seconds before the chief executive began to descend the movable exit steps wheeled up to the legendary aircraft.

Two large umbrellas were rushed out. One for the governor and Lt. Gov. Minner. Another for Mayor Hutchison.

President Clinton, bareheaded, seemed not to notice the pelting rain. Without an umbrella, he moved down the row of waiting officials. He chatted briefly, shook hands, and then was ushered into one of the waiting presidential limousines for the motorcade into Dover and Legislative Hall.

Nearby, on a flatbed truck, local photographers and writers recorded every wet moment. The national press and White House photographers, with higher security clearance, moved closer. The rain was still pouring down. They were drenched too.

Base security personnel, hours earlier, had moved the press corps through various debriefings on the president's visit. Strict rules to follow. Those receiving



Staff photo/Linda Laird

President Clinton arrives into the rain at Dover Air Force Base.

clearances in the morning would not be permitted to leave the base until after the president delivered his address in Hangar 706 around 3 p.m.

Final security "sweeps" were conducted by Secret Servicemen. The agents, dressed in ubiquitous black or tan trench coats, each sported a small, gold-colored lapel pin. They also wore a small microphones — always in the right ear.

Much later in the afternoon, with Pres-

ident Clinton safely on his way back to the White House, the extra security measures vanished. News reporters were escorted back to their vehicles by proficient base public affairs officers. They scattered to file their stories.

The president of the United States had come to Dover.

Tom Eldred can be reached at 741-8212 or at teldred@newszap.com.

Wet weather welcomes president

By **Tom Eldred** *DSN*
Staff writer *5-12-98*

DOVER — Gray skies turned darker and a hard rain drenched Dover Air Force Base Friday as President Bill Clinton stepped off Air Force One at the base.

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Storm doesn't dampen the crowd's spirits

By Delarita C. Ford

Staff writer *DSN 5-9-98*

DOVER — Some people walked and stood for hours in the rain. Some people looked through binoculars. Some people stood on the curb with a crowd behind them, but no one saw the president.

Some Dover High School ninth-graders who were excused from school for the event walked through a downpour of rain, got their clothes and hair messed up, only to be disappointed.

Stef Phillips and Sharnetta Scott said they could not believe how many students left school to see the president.

"It's supposed to be about us," Sharnetta said.

"I thought he would have come out here and wave. That is the least thing he could do," said Heather Baustert.

"We wanted to see him and see what he was going to say to us," said Julienn Jake. She and her friends, Cornelia Patten and Tallisha Brittingham, said they appreciated the president coming to Dover to speak on education but could not believe they didn't get to see him.

Christie Brittingham, a Dover High senior, said she was content watching his public address on a television monitor displayed outdoors in a truck. She was pleased President Clinton dealt with building renovations because Dover High School is undergoing a renovation process.

"This is amazing. It would have been even more amazing if I could have seen him, but it was well worth it. I'll remember it as a time I almost saw Bill Clinton," Christie said. "I liked the fact that he actually came down here to Dover trying to better our school system."

Among the spectators were several groups of school-age children who waited about 1½ hours, only to have their hopes to see President Clinton washed away by the downpour.

"We wrote to him about the environment and he wrote back," said Keely Webber, a West Dover Elementary School third-grader. "We wanted to see him."

Michelle Ross, a West Dover Elementary School third-grade teacher, said the experience was a wet one, and she had hoped

the children would have had the chance to see the president.

"I would have liked them to have had the opportunity to see the president. When we came here, we thought it was going to be a public appearance," said the teacher, who brought 26 students. "It would have been a rewarding experience since they wrote to him."

Charles and Holly Johnson, who have lived in Dover for about 15 years, said they came out in the rain twice in one day to see the president and went through two raincoats and pairs of boots each.

"This is an opportunity to see him," said Mr. Johnson, adding that Dover is a small state and he was delighted to have President Clinton visiting so he could have the chance to see who was running things.

Ella Wynn was prepared with her binoculars and waited for the president to come outdoors.

"I am trying to see the president when he comes out. If he comes out that door, I will," Ms. Wynn said as she looked through her binoculars.

Tracee Brogden stood beside her and watched people come in and out of the doors, but not the president.

"I have never seen the president before and I have always wanted to see Bill Clinton," Ms. Brogden said.

Myra McDermott brought her five-year-old daughter, Mariah, to see the president, and had a nice position in front of the crowd. Mrs. McDermott said she never thought they would be in the front row.

"This is a moment in history for a five-year-old. She will appreciate this in the future," Mrs. McDermott said.

Kathleen Johnson, who walked briskly in high-heeled shoes, followed the crowd where she thought they could get a look at the president as he exited a side door. She said she dressed up for the presidential visit and hoped to see the president.

"I want to be fixed up and looking halfway right when I see the president," Mrs. Johnson said.

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Hopes of meeting Clinton soaked



The News Journal/GARY EMEIGH
Vicki McGranahan, son Joshua, 3, and Debra May (with flag), all of Dover, wait at Legislative Hall Friday to see President Clinton. The weather forced a change in plans, and the crowd left disappointed.

Supporters, detractors, students waiting outside don't see president

NJ 5-9-98

By ROBERT MOORE
Staff reporter

DOVER — Hundreds of Delawareans who gathered outside Legislative Hall to catch a glimpse of President Clinton had their hopes doused Friday when heavy rainfall led to a last-minute change in plans by the White House.

Some, such as Harold and Anna Darlington of Felton, were miffed that contingency plans had not been made for the public.

"Knowing how sociable the president is, there should have been a chance for the people to greet him, to show their respect," Anna Darlington said. "We at least wanted to hear what he had to say."

"We waited two hours in the rain for the official car to come around and we never saw it," said her husband, Harold.

Mary Dailey of Dover and Janet Williams of Wyoming said they were both "good Democrats," but they, too, were disappointed.

But Dailey said she wasn't angry. "The rain changed everything. They have to do what the Secret Service tells them to do and I understand."

Gov. Carper's chief of staff, Jeffrey Bullock, said the Secret Service told state officials Clinton would not greet those who turned up on Legislative Mall. He said the Secret Service also decided not to use a public-address system to allow the 200 hardy souls who withstood the noontime downpour to hear the president.

"The governor obviously regrets that a lot of people — especially a lot of school-age children — who were looking forward to seeing the president were not able to," Bullock said.

The governor's office had considered setting up an outdoor tent to accommodate the people who might turn out. "That was not very realistic given the crowd we anticipated," Bullock said. "A bubble that would encapsulate the city of Dover was not a practical idea."

So the Clinton supporters, detractors and the just plain curious

huddled beneath trees and umbrellas on Legislative Mall for two and a half hours as Clinton talked to Delaware lawmakers about public education.

Among them was a group of 26 West Dover Elementary School third-graders who had been invited by Carper's staff to be inside Legislative Hall when Clinton arrived. They were still waiting with the approximately 200 others behind police barricades on Legislative Avenue well after Clinton's arrival.

Parents and teachers were not happy with the circumstances, but the students didn't seem to mind the sudden downpour.

"My mom was so excited," said Ashley Shelton, 8, of Dover. "She wanted to come but she said she didn't want to stand in the rain. So she watched it on TV."

The West Dover Elementary class wrote a letter to Clinton telling him about the importance of the environment. Clinton wrote back last month. From that came the invitation to Friday's event.

Harold and Margaret Whitfield, who retired to Dover from New York City in April, didn't plan to stop at Legislative Hall until the last minute. "We were riding by when we saw that the crowd wasn't big at all. We said, 'We can handle this.' So we stopped."

Korean War veteran Donald G. Gis traveled from his Claymont-area home hoping Clinton would get a glimpse of a placard he held criticizing the president for his support of the United Nations and criticizing Clinton's foreign policy. "Wars are about money and Mr. Clinton is being manipulated by the big-money people."

Eleven-year-old Laspencer Saunders had his own message for the president about schools.

"I wanted to ask him to see that we got better food and fix up our lunchroom," the William Henry Middle School student said.

Laspencer's mother, Tonia, brought him and his three brothers and sisters to Legislative Mall hoping to get as close as they could. "I think it's important that they see him. He shows me whenever he speaks that he cares a great deal about children."

A momentous occasion in the capital

By D.L. Bonar
Staff writer

DSN
5-9-98

DOVER — At precisely 12:38 p.m., history began unfolding in Delaware Senate chambers.

President William Jefferson Clinton became the first sitting president in the history of Delaware to address a joint session of the Delaware General Assembly.

Even a heavy rain could not douse the spirits of legislators and various officials, who waited in Senate chambers for up to two hours as the president and his entourage landed at Dover Air Force Base, then traveled by motorcade to Legislative Hall.

The president — who stopped momentarily at the entrance to the main chamber — was escorted by President Pro Tem Sen. Thomas B. Sharp, D-Wilmington; House Speaker Terry R. Spence, R-New Castle; Sen. Robert J. Voshell, D-Milford; and House Minority Leader, Wayne A. Smith, R-Wilmington.

"Madame President (referring to Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, who was presiding over the joint session), the President of the United States," said Clarence Schwatka, the 78 year-old sergeant-at-arms for the Senate and the applause began.

It took seven minutes for President Clinton to walk the 70 or so feet from the door to the front of the chamber. Looking thinner than some thought, the president stopped along the way to shake hands with legislators and guests, even taking a moment to autograph a straw basket offered by Rep. George Robert Quillen, R-Harrington, a long-time member of the House of Representatives.

"For the first time in our 211 years, we have a visit for a joint session from the president of the United States," Sen. Sharp said in his introduction.

From that point on, it was for-

ality.

The speech was written, the platitudes were given and the president keyed in on his well publicized issues.

Afterward, Sen. Sharp — who is known for his wit and tongue of the same name — was overwhelmed.

"This is the first time I ever met a president," Sen. Sharp said.

With hands which were still ringing wet, not from rain but from nervousness, he said he had met the president at Dover Air Force Base and taken a towel to help dry the back of his suit. The president was drenched by rain after exiting Air Force One.

"I'm just a little guy," Sen. Sharp said. "I thought, 'Geez, here I am drying off the back of the president of the United States.' I am very, very proud of our state and more than a little nervous."

Other members of the welcoming team had similar comments. It was clear escorting the chief executive of the United States, was an emotional experience.

"I thought, 'Here I am getting ready to retire and I get to escort the president into the Senate,'" said Sen. Voshell. The Democratic majority leader said he had never had such a feeling in his life and admitted to having his heart rate elevated to a higher than normal level.

With education as the primary topic, many lawmakers chose to bring children as their guest.

"I still don't believe I got to shake his hand," said 10-year-old Paul Amick, son of Sen. Steven H. Amick, R-Newark. The youngster was quick to show off the autograph the president gave him, which read, "To Paul, best wishes, Bill Clinton."

Another of the youngsters kept the whole thing in perspective.

"I thought it was good he talked about schools," said Derick Wilkins, son of David Wilkins, the Republican assistant to the Senate.

The Dover boy had been invited as the guest of Sen. Dorinda Connor, R-Newark.

"It was good to see him talk about improving schools," Derick said. "The music room at my school is cold."

After a quick lunch with Gov. Carper and his close associates, President Clinton posed for staff photographs and headed down the steps to the basement of Legislative Hall.

Walking out the cellar door to the waiting limousine, he grabbed a cup of coffee placed on the roof of the car by a Secret Service agent. He climbed into the back seat with Gov. Carper and Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

The black Cadillac pulled out of the parking area and headed east on Court Street away from Legislative Hall.

At 2:47 p.m., history had been made.

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The President In Delaware

NJ 5-9-98



The News Journal/GARY EMEIGH

President Clinton is greeted by Sen. Richard A. Hauge, R-Windy Bush, as he enters Legislative Hall on Friday to address a joint session of the General Assembly.

'Save our children'



Clinton visits Del., touts education plan

5/9/98 Daily Times

Clinton plugs education

■ The president visited Delaware yesterday, urging the state legislature to embrace school accountability proposals.

By TODD SPANGLER
Associated Press Writer

DOVER, Del. — President Clinton gave Gov. Thomas Carper's stalled education reforms a boost yesterday when he urged the Delaware legislature to embrace school accountability proposals and reduce class sizes.

"If we are going to prepare our children for the 21st century, we cannot do it unless we can say with a straight face we're giving

them the best education," said Clinton, the first sitting president to ever address a joint session of the Delaware General Assembly.

Clinton praised the state's education reform efforts to date, suggesting that school districts across the nation should have achievement tests that gauge success against local and national standards like those being used for the first time this week in Delaware.

The president added that Delaware can serve as a model for education reform

because of its efforts to implement charter schools and school choice, allowing parents and students to attend any public school in the state they wish.

Although the president plugged his nationwide efforts — including his legislation to hire 100,000 new teachers to lower class sizes — he noted that school standards and accountability systems remain the domain of local and state governments.

He recommended that any accountability system include "consequences, both positive and negative."

"I urge you to have a long, vigorous debate," Clinton told lawmakers.

"Nobody will take your system seriously unless there are consequences."

Carper is pushing legislation that would hold back students who fail to meet reading levels tested in grades 3, 5, 8 and 10. His proposal would also allow for schools where test scores remain poor, year after year, to be put under the control of better performing schools districts.

The governor's class size proposal would provide for one teacher for every 15 students in kindergarten through grade three. Currently, the state pays for one teacher for every 19 students in those grades.

A historic occasion

DSN 5-12-98

Clinton praises education initiatives

By Todd Spangler
Associated Press

DOVER — President Bill Clinton gave Gov. Thomas R. Carper's stalled education reforms a boost Friday when he urged the Delaware legislature to embrace school accountability proposals and reduce class sizes.

"If we are going to prepare our children for the 21st century, we cannot do it unless we can say with a straight face we're giving them the best education," said President Clinton, the first sitting president to ever address a joint session of the Delaware General Assembly.

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Staff photo/John King

President Clinton addresses the gathering at Legislative Hall on Friday.

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"I urge you to have a long, vigorous debate," President Clinton told lawmakers. "Nobody will take your system seriously unless there are consequences."

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levels tested in grades 3, 5, 8 and 10. His proposal would also allow for schools where test scores remain poor, year after year, to be put under the control of better performing schools districts.

The governor's class size proposal would provide for one teacher for every 15 students in kindergarten through grade three. Currently, the state pays for one teacher for every 19 students in those grades.

"I can assure you, the rest of us will be watching," President

Clinton said of the debate over education reform in Delaware.

Following the president's 45-minute-long speech, Gov. Carper was ebullient over President Clinton's praise of Delaware and its successful efforts in Head Start programs and other education reforms.

"Actually, it was an embarrassment of riches," said Gov. Carper.

The debate over his education proposals has already narrowed, he said.

"The president's very positive

remarks only serve to further narrow the differences," Gov. Carper said.

State Education Secretary Iris Metts said she is sure, given the president's remarks, a version of both proposals will pass the General Assembly by its adjournment June 30.

"It was," said Senate President Pro Tem Thomas B. Sharp, holding a reception in his office as President Clinton had his photo taken with staffers inside the Senate Chamber, "right on target."

An educated attempt?



DSN 5-10-98

Staff photo/John King

President Clinton makes a point during his speech Friday to the Delaware General Assembly, as Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner looks on.

An 'A' for Delaware

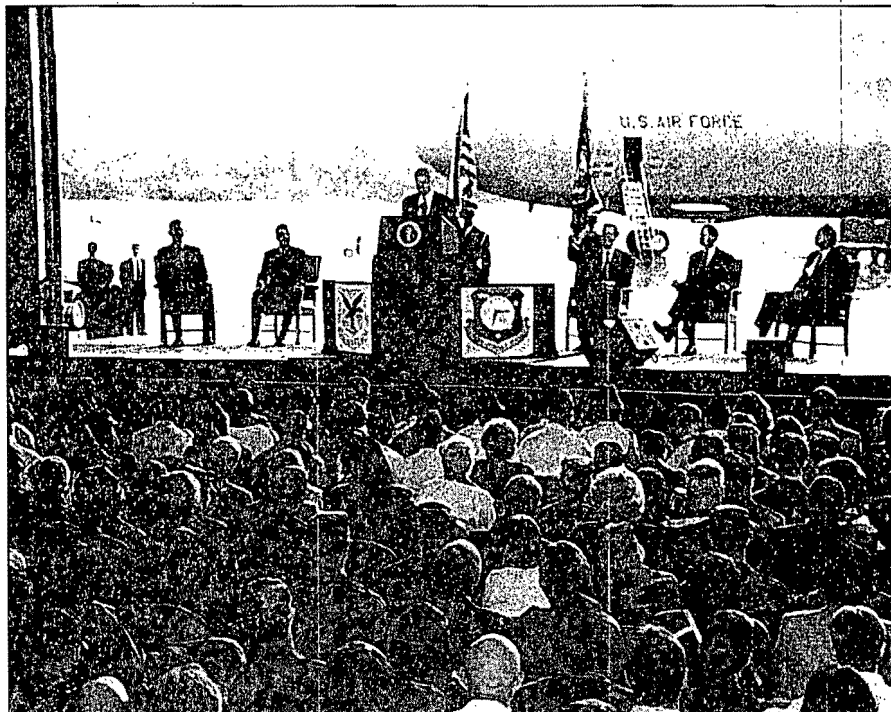
DSN 5-9-98





President Clinton cracks a joke during his speech which bring a smile to Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner and Sen. Thomas B. Sharp, president pro tem of the Senate.

Staff photo/John King



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Dover, Delaware)

For Immediate Release

May 8, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE DELAWARE STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate Chambers
Dover, Delaware

12:50 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Governor. I took good notes -- no children on a child care waiting list, all poor four-year-olds in Head Start, every classroom wired. I'll be saying that now every time I go to another city or another state -- I'll be saying, if Delaware can do it, why can't you. And I thank you. (Applause.)

I want to thank the Governor, and Senator Sharp, Speaker Spence, Lt. Governor Minner, the members of the legislature, the judiciary, the state officials who are here; former governors Peterson and Tribbitt, and other distinguished citizens of this state; Mr. Mayor. I'm delighted to be joined today by the Secretary of Defense, who is going with me to Dover Air Base when we finish here to thank our airmen and women there for their distinguished service, and who has also been a leader in education, because the Department of Defense-run schools all over the world for American children -- by our wonderful Secretary of Education, Dick Riley; by Mickey Ibarra, the Director of our Office of Inter-governmental Affairs; and others. We are all delighted to be here.

And I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to Congressman Castle for coming up here with me. He's an old friend of mine. We worked together on welfare reform more than a decade ago now. I have been trying to decide, when Mike and Tom changed jobs, which one really got the promotion. (Laughter and applause.)

I am delighted to be the first President ever to speak here. The others did not know what they were missing. (Applause.) I love your Capitol Building. I like the feel of your legislature. I like the size of your legislature. (Laughter.) I wonder if it would take a constitutional amendment to reduce Congress to this size. (Laughter.) It's a wonderful idea.

And I like the fact that the first state in the nation is leading in doing the nation's first business of educating our children. I've come here to talk about that work, why it is -- in the states and in many communities around the country, and must be in Washington the work of both Republicans and Democrats -- why it must be a national crusade to give our children the world's best education.

We have a history of putting nation above party when the nation's security and future are at issue. We did it for 50 years, which is why the Cold War turned out the way it did. The tradition was deeply honored by Secretary Cohen, who left a distinguished career in the United States Senate as a Republican Senator from Maine to join our administration, and he

is performing well for the American people as Secretary of Defense.

It is a tradition embodied by your Senators, Bill Roth and Joe Biden, who led the recent stunningly successful effort to expand NATO to include Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. And you should be very proud of both of them. (Applause.)

And I have seen it, having had the opportunity to work for years now with Mike Castle and Tom Carper when they were in those jobs in succession, on welfare reform, on child care, on the education of our children. And you can be very proud of both of them.

And Delaware, maybe because it's a small state and maybe because I came from a small state and was often ridiculed for it in national politics -- my experience is that maybe because we're smaller, people learn to treat each other as people. They learn to listen to people on opposite sides of the aisle. They learn that they don't have all the answers and that everybody's got a valuable perspective, and that in the end, we all have to get together and do something that moves our country or our state or our community forward. And for all of that, I am very grateful to the State of Delaware.

Thomas Jefferson once said of your state that, "Delaware is like a diamond; small, but having within it inherent value." If he were today, here, giving this speech, he might say, being as he was a modern thinker, Delaware is like a silicon chip -- (laughter) -- small, but having within it enormous inherent value; namely, the power to shape the future.

You have always looked to the future, from the time you did become the first state to ratify the Constitution. It was the beginning of many firsts: Delaware was the first state to produce a transatlantic iron steamship. Then there was the first commercial telephone call between an airplane and a moving car, 100 years later. Some of us would probably like it if telephone calls on airplanes and cars were not possible. (Laughter.) All the way to the remarkable innovations now being dreamed up in the Dupont Labs.

All of this is dramatically changing the world. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, came by the White House for one of our periodic meetings a few days ago, and we were talking about this incredible economy. And he said, you know, we really are living in an economy of ideas. He said, there is a measure of a nation's output in wealth compared to its physical output, the literal physical density of all the goods that are produced. He said, the measure is more skewed now than ever before. There is hardly any increase in the mass of what we're producing, but the wealth of what we're producing is exploding. Why? Because ideas are driving the increase in the wealth of the nation.

Today we learned that our unemployment rate has dropped to 4.3 percent, the lowest since 1970. (Applause.) That is particularly impressive in light of the fact that inflation now is the lowest in more than 30 years, homeownership is at an all-time high, the welfare rolls are the lowest in 27 years, the crime rate is the lowest in 24 years.

Our social fabric is mending. We saw that teen pregnancy had had a substantial drop for the second years in a row, something I know that the Governor has been passionately committed to. Our leadership in the world is still unrivaled, although we seem sometimes to be in some doubt about it here at home.

In Delaware your unemployment is all the way down to 3.4 percent. You've had tens of thousands of new jobs, twice the rate of new business growth as five years ago.

The thing I would like to say about all this is, no one can claim full responsibility for it. There was not a totally coordinated strategy, but it did not happen by accident. America has been on the same page, from our strategy in Washington to balance the budget, invest in our people, and expand trade -- to the entrepreneurs, to the scientists and technicians, to the teachers in our schools and the people who run our business, and the folks who work in our

factories. We have been on the same page. Good things don't happen by accident, even when millions -- even hundreds of millions of people are responsible.

And we must be on the same page when it comes to education. Before I get into what I want to say about education, I want to make a point I tried to make in the State of the Union. I've had a lot of people -- people who are primarily political people, good people, but people who normally think about things in political terms -- say to me, well, you know, why don't you just relax and start playing golf three times a week. I mean, you've got low unemployment, low inflation, people are suspicious of government, why don't -- just don't do much and everybody will be happy. There is an answer to that. And the answer is that might be a decent prescription for a static time, but in a dynamic time, where things are changing very rapidly, the fact that things are good in the moment does not guarantee they will be good five months or five years from now, because they're changing. So you have to keep working to stay ahead of the curve. And those of us in public life have to work no less than entrepreneurs do.

If you go to Silicon Valley, you don't see anybody out there sort of laying down on the job just because the stock prices are high, because they know how dynamic the world is. And there is a second answer, which is that we still have some very profound challenges that, if left unmet, will come back to haunt us in the 21st century. What are they? I can only tell you what I think they are. I think, first of all, in Washington we have to reform our major programs of social cohesion -- Social Security and Medicare -- for the needs of the 21st century and for the reality that the baby boomers are going to retire and when they do, there will only be about two people working for every one person drawing Social Security. The present systems are unsustainable as they are. We have to change them, consistent with our values and the real facts.

Two, we have to prove that you can grow the economy without destroying the environment. And we have to convince people in developing countries that they can and to embrace new technologies to do that.

Just a few days ago I was out in California at a low-income/moderate-income housing development which is cutting by 40 percent the energy usage on low-income housing, using solar panels that are now those big, heavy things you've seen on the roof, but that look just like ordinary shingles -- using windows that keep over half the heat in in the wintertime and over half the heat out in the summertime and still let more light in, and other basic things like that. We have to prove that we can make environmental preservation and economic growth go hand in hand.

The third thing we've got to do is to bring the spark of enterprise to poor inner-city communities and rural communities, including Native American ones that haven't felt it. The fourth thing we have to do is to prove that we can live together as one America in an increasingly diverse society. The fifth thing we have to do, I would argue, is to prove that we can lead the world after the Cold War in a consistent, firm way toward peace and prosperity and freedom and democracy.

But none of that will matter if we don't save our children. And that's what I want to talk about today -- only one aspect of it, but in some ways the most important one. And Delaware, again, is leading the nation. So I may be preaching to the choir, but that's not all bad. I'll polish the sermon and see if I do better in other places. (Laughter.)

The condition of education in America and the importance of it and the impact it's going to have on all our futures, as well as all our children, demands action from all of us, in Washington, in state capitals, in communities all across the country. Many of our greatest challenges don't fall under the authority of Washington, nor should they. I have supported giving states more authority in the area of welfare reform and in many other areas. Secretary Riley has cut by two-thirds the burden of regulations coming out of federal education aid.

We started two new programs, Goals 2000 and School-to-Work, without a single new federal regulation.

The federal government can't do all this. Some of our major challenges don't even fall primarily under state government, nor should they. The power and the responsibility of America to meet the challenges of the 21st century rests with all levels of government and with all sectors of society. Sometimes more with the private sector; sometimes more with its most fundamental unit, the American family. And that is as it should be.

But just because responsibility and power are dispersed doesn't mean that we don't all have to ask ourselves, what power do we have to have a positive impact; what is our responsibility? And then we have to move, because a revolution in education will not occur by accident anymore than the revolution in the American economy has occurred by accident, even though there will be millions of people working on it and we may not all be calling each other on the phone every day.

Yesterday I talked to mayors from all over the country, I received their report on what they think should be done. Their agenda is very much like yours and very much like mine.

I suppose that I've spent more time on education than any other thing in my 20 years and more in public life now. Nearly 10 years ago, when I was a governor of my state, I stayed up almost all night down at the University of Virginia at President Bush's Education Summit, working with Republican governors to write goals for education for the year 2000. It was clear then, it was clear way back in 1983, when the Nation At Risk report was issued, and it is certainly clear today, that if we are going to prepare our children for the 21st century we cannot hope to do it unless we can say with a straight face, we are giving them the best education in the world. Not just a few of them, but all of them.

And we can all say, well, we can't be responsible for every teacher, we can't be responsible for every principal, we can't be responsible for every home, we can't be responsible for every unmotivated child. That's all true, but we can play the odds. Secretary Cohen runs, arguably, the most effective organization in the entire United States -- not every soldier, not every airman, not every Marine, not every sailor is a stunning success, but they've got a pretty good system. And it didn't happen by accident. And we should take that as our responsibility.

It seems to me the keys are high expectations, high standards, and high performance, fueled by more opportunity, more accountability, and more choice. Secretary Riley and I have worked at this for more than five years. In one area, we have been especially successful and widely supportive across partisan lines and in states and local communities. We've opened the doors to higher education wider than ever before.

The Balanced Budget Act I signed last year represented the greatest expansion of college opportunity since the G.I. Bill was passed 50 years ago, with college tuition tax credits, including the \$1500 a year HOPE Scholarship for the first two years of college, education IRAs, expanded Pell Grants, deductibility of interest on student loans, 300,000 more work-study slots, another 100,000 young people earning education credits by serving in the national service program, AmeriCorps, and lifetime learning credits for adults who have to go back to school.

All of these things together mean that any American who is willing to study and work hard can get an education in college, and that is very important. It will change the face and the future of America. We learned in the 1990 Census that Americans, younger American workers who were high school dropouts, high school graduates or who had less than two years of post-high school education, were likely to get jobs where their incomes went down over time compared to inflation. Those that had at least two years of post-high school training were likely to get and keep jobs where their incomes went up. So that was

fundamentally important, and we can all be proud of it. And many states have done more to try to give scholarships and make college more affordable, and that's important.

The Senate just this week -- and I want to compliment them -- passed 91-7 what I have called "the G.I. Bill for Workers --it basically consolidates this incredible tangle of federal training programs into a skills grant, so that if a person is unemployed or underemployed and eligible, you just get basically the skills grant and then you decide where to take it. Since nearly every American lives within driving distance of a community college or some other very efficient institution, we no longer need the federal government micromanaging the definition of all these training programs, and we don't need anybody in the way of it.

Now, we have some provision, particularly that the governors wanted who live in rural areas -- who have lots of people in rural areas that may not have readily available services, but this is very important. And we've got to resolve the differences now in the House and the Senate bill and pass it. This is a huge thing. And the Congress can be proud of it and the country can be proud of it.

But with all that said and done, I don't think there is a person here who would dispute the following two statements: We have the best system of higher education in the world. We do not have the best system of elementary and secondary education in the world. You don't have to criticize your favorite teacher, you can honor the PTA leaders and the school board members -- no one believes it's the best in the world. And until it is, we can't rest. That is the bottom line.

The budget that I have presented, which is a balanced budget, has the biggest commitment in history from the federal government to K through 12 education. But we all know that's less than 10 percent of the total. Still, I think it's important that the national government focus on results, because things don't happen by accident. I think we should focus on high standards, real accountability, more choice, and, finally, I'd like to say a word about safe schools, because that is a problem in some parts of our country.

First, there's no substitute for standards. I want to compliment Delaware for what you're doing. This week, 3rd, 5th, 8th and 10th graders all over the state are participating in your new assessment process to see how well they're doing in reading, writing, and math. And you're going to add other subjects, the Governor told me, in the next couple of years. You also have done something that may give us a key to how to solve the national issue, which is that about a quarter of your exam questions are apparently taken from the National Assessment of Education Progress, which is a national test most states participate in, but by definition, it's only given to a representative sample of students, not all students. I compliment you on that. I think that is a brilliant reform.

And I think it's important that we find a way to have national standards and exams at least in the basics. It is very important -- Secretary Riley and I were talking on the way out, he was talking about South Carolina still have quite an old state test. We had some old state tests when I was Governor of Arkansas. Our kids just knocked the top off of them -- the same test we'd been giving for years. And then when we took a national test that was current, we didn't do so well. So without in any way undermining local control of the schools or the constitutional responsibility of the states for education, we need to have a set of national standards, and an accountability system which tell us all honestly how we're doing.

We're working hard now with an independent nonpartisan board -- the acronym known to all the education experts in the audience is the NAGB Board. We've got Republicans and Democrats on the board and people -- I don't even have any idea what their political affiliation is -- all of whom are simply committed to educational excellence. And we want to find ways to coordinate with the states and the state tests to avoid unnecessary costs and burdens. You may have found a way to do it in Delaware, by having a test that is both rooted in your state standards and encompassing national questions. But it's a very good

start.

The second thing we have to do, and I understand the Governor said you were debating that, that may be tougher, is figure out what the accountability system is. Now, a lot of these questions should definitely be decided by people at the state and the local level. But let me, first of all, say that no test is worth a flip unless there are some consequences -- not just negative ones, but positive ones; not just what you do to the students, but what the rest of us have to do for the education system based on the consequences of the test.

We have to start by demanding accountability from the students, and I strongly believe that we should end the practice of so-called social promotion everywhere in the country. (Applause.) For many years there was a current theory in America that, well, it hurt a child's self-esteem too much to be held back and the child could maybe pick it up next year. And besides that, children do learn at different paces. That is absolutely true, especially in the early years, the dramatically different learning patterns of children in the early years.

Then sooner or later, somehow, parents figured out that one reason kids dropped out of school in the 9th or 10th grade is because the material was going over their heads, it didn't mean anything to them, so why should they sit around, because they weren't able to do the work. And then even the kids figured out that being 20 years old and not being able to fill out an employment application and not being able to even read your high school diploma was far more destructive of self-esteem than spending another year in some grade along the way.

Then, school districts began to figure out that they didn't necessarily have to hold people back if they had proper after-school help and a little help in the summer -- where a lot of kids having learning problems forget huge chunks of what they learned the year before.

So we're now kind of coming to grips with this. I have often talked about the Chicago system; it probably had the most widely-condemned school system in the country because they had a strike every year whether they needed it or not, for one thing, and because they weren't producing results. Now, the Chicago summer school system -- they've ended social promotion, you have to go to summer school if you fail the test and you want to go on to the next grade -- their summer school is the fifth biggest school district in America. The summer school. They have thousands of children going to school after school so many hours that thousands of them actually take three hot meals a day in the schools, in an inner-city environment where they're safe, they're not getting in trouble and nobody's hurting them.

Now, if a place that has those kinds of challenges can take them on, everywhere in America can take them on. I've asked Congress to pass what we call education opportunity zone legislation, that will basically give extra resources to schools in poor communities if they will insist on high standards in social promotion, demand performance from students and teachers, and actually support the kids that are in trouble and give them the extra help they need. I hope Congress will pass it.

Again, I say, in many ways we're following your lead. And I urge you to have a big, vigorous debate on this -- what are the consequences of this exam. And I wouldn't presume to tell you what to do, but I can make two observations based on 20 years of working, and hours and hours and hours spent in classrooms listening to teachers and watching things unfold.

One is, nobody will take your system seriously unless there are consequences. Two is, if there are consequences, whatever you decide they are, they cannot be exclusively negative ones, they must also be positive ones, because you have to believe that -- in order to believe in democracy, you have to believe that almost everybody can learn almost everything they need to know to make this country run right, which means almost everybody in the world

can succeed in school. And if they're not, it's probably not entirely their fault. So there should be consequences -- some of them should be negative, but there must be positive ones as well. And I wish you well and I can assure you the rest of us are going to be watching.

The next thing I think we have to do is to develop and demand accountability and performance from teachers, but also support them. I had the great pleasure this week -- or last week -- of hosting the Teachers of the Year at the White House. And that's one of the happiest days of the year. You'll never find 50 more upbeat people than the teachers that are selected Teachers of the Year. And you talk to these people, and you can't imagine that there's ever been a problem in American education.

The man who was named National Teacher of the Year is a teacher from Virginia who teaches history and social studies and who makes his kids role-play. So they play ancient Athenians and Spartans debating the Greek wars. They play Jefferson and Adams debating each other about fundamental questions of what the real nation of the Union that we all belong to is. I mean, it was exhilarating.

Those are the kind of teachers that we wish all our children had all the time. And I think we need to do more to reward teachers who strive for excellence. One of the things that we can do at the national level that I hope you will support, that Tom and Mike's former colleague, Governor Jim Hunt, has worked his whole career on, is to support the master teacher program, the National Board for Professional Teacher Certification. It's a completely voluntary thing which qualifies teachers based on, number one, their complete academic preparation for the course they're teaching; and, number two, their success in teaching; and thirdly, I might add, their ability to help other teachers improve their teaching skills.

Now, today there are only a few hundred master teachers in America. My balanced budget contains enough funds to certify 100,000 master teachers. When we get one of these teachers in every school building in America -- every school building in America -- going to the teachers' lounge, going to the faculty meetings, talking to the principals, it will change the culture of education in America. Every other profession in the country just about has national board certification. And believe me, this is a good thing that is a worthy investment. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say, I because that if teachers don't measure up after getting all the support and help they need, there ought to be a swift process -- fair, but swift; it should not be endless -- to resolve the matter in a satisfactory way. Because you're not doing anybody any favors -- no one -- fundamentally, nobody is happy doing something they're not good at. You can never make me believe anybody is really happy when they know deep down inside they're not doing the job. So there has to be some system that is perfectly fair to every teacher, but doesn't take from now to kingdom come to resolve the matter in a way that allows the education system to go forward.

Now, I also think as we demand responsibility for results from the schools, we have to give the tools they need to the students and the teachers. I've said that, and I will say it again. Let me just mention one or two things. First, smaller class sizes. Children in some classes in America are in classes that are so big and crowded, there is no way any teacher -- I don't care how good he or she is -- can deal with all the challenges that are presented -- where classes are so big where the students are barely known by name to the teacher, much less the particular circumstances of their lives. Given the fact that so many kids have so many troubles today, it's very, very important. In classrooms like this, teachers are often forced to teach to the middle, leaving both the best kids and the most troubled kids behind.

The Department of Education and Secretary Riley today are releasing a report on class size and learning, basically reaffirming what Hillary and I have long believed. We adopted very rigorous class sizes for our state 15 years ago. When class sizes go down enough, learning goes up -- that's what the report shows -- especially in the early years. And when children

come from disadvantaged backgrounds, small classes can make an even greater difference.

Let me just give you a few examples from the study. In Tennessee, test scores were consistently higher among students that were in classes of fewer than 20 students. These children kept the edge even when they moved into larger classes in their later years of schooling. From Wisconsin, North Carolina, and classrooms across the country, other studies confirmed the same findings.

Governor Carper and many of you here today are trying to reduce class size. I just want to encourage you and tell you that I have presented to the Congress a plan to do the same thing, which would not in any way conflict with what you're doing, but will enable you to get some funds to support it.

Today, I'm sending legislation to Congress cosponsored by Senators Murray and Kennedy and Congressman Clay that will make class size reduction a national goal and if enacted, would help school districts to hire another 100,000 teachers, which is about the number necessary, properly distributed across the country, to give us average class size of 18 in the first three grades. (Applause.)

It would also require the new teachers to pass competency exams to make sure they have the training and preparation they need. Many states now require this anyway.

The second thing I'd like to say is Delaware may be the only state now where every classroom is wired -- but every classroom should be wired. You remember, I'm sure, a few years ago, the Vice President and I went to San Francisco and got with a lot of people from the big computer companies and said that we wanted to try to wire every classroom and library by the Year 2000. And we are making great headway. We've got more than twice as many classrooms and libraries wired today as we did just three and half years ago when we did that. We have in the budget now funds to continue this urgent national priority. I hope that will pass.

But, finally, let me say, believe it or not, we've got an enormous percentage of the school buildings in this country are ill-equipped to take the wiring because they're so old. We have cities in this countries with average school buildings -- average school buildings -- over 65 years old and in terrible shape. I was in a small, growing district in Florida the other day where there were not one, not five, but 17 trailers outside the main school building there for the kids.

Now, when you come to work here every day in this Capitol it makes you feel good, doesn't it? It's a beautiful

building and you've obviously put a lot of funds into restoring it, and it makes you feel good. It say you're important -- it matters to be a member of the Delaware legislature. One of the ways you know without anybody telling you is you come into this nice building and it's important. And if grown-ups are affected by their surroundings, children are even more so.

What does it say to an inner-city kid from a poor family if they go to a school building every day and one of the whole floors is closed because for want of repair? What does it say about how important those children are if every day they walk through the front door and they look up and see three or four broken windows? What does it say if the blackboard is only half there because it's been cracked? What about the kids in the crowded school districts?

You know, the first year or two, if you show up and there are a lot of house trailers, it's kind of exciting because it means you've got a growing district and a lot of stuff going on. After five or six years, it means things aren't getting better. It's a very different message. And the

important thing is not whether the buildings are old or not; it is whether they are safe, clean, light, whether they send the message that this is a place where learning can occur and this is a place where children are important.

Now, I think education is a part of the national infrastructure. That's why I wanted the federal government to help places who need it. Wire all the classrooms and libraries. And I have proposed for the first time that we help with the infrastructure needs of school districts -- again, not in any way that would conflict with what any state or local school district is doing, but instead to reinforce it.

This budget contains funds that would help us to modernize 5,000 schools and build 1,000 new ones. It would be a very good start on the incredible infrastructure needs of America's schools. And for people who say it doesn't matter, just think how you feel when you come through these doors every day. It does matter, and I hope we can pass it. (Applause.)

The third thing I'd like to emphasize very briefly is that we need greater choice in our schools. We do need more competition. You mentioned the Charter School of Wilmington, Governor, and other charter schools in your state. When I was elected President in 1992, there was only one charter school in the entire country -- public schools that tailor their programs to meet the needs and demands of their customers -- the students and their parents. Since then, I've done everything I could to support them.

Today, there are 800 charter schools, 32 of our 50 states authorize them. Just last week in an overwhelming bipartisan vote, California voted in the legislature to create another 100 charter schools a year in our largest state. That's great, great news -- 100 a year. They had 150 cap, I think, on the whole state. They blew off the cap and said, this is working -- and I've been in some of them out there, they are working -- we want 100 a year.

Now, my goal is to have 3,000 by the year 2000 in the whole country, and I have presented a budget to Congress which would give communities around the country any start-up funds they need to do this. It's not so easy to do if you've never thought about it and never done the work and if you come from a place with limited resources. So I did present some money in the budget to do that. But I hope you will support that.

Delaware has been at the forefront of the charter school movement. It is a good, good thing to do, along with having statewide public school choice plans. And I applaud you for yours.

The fourth thing I'd like to talk just a little about is school safety. You know, it's pretty hard to learn if you feel insecure. One of the main reasons that I supported the school uniform movement, not as a mandatory thing but when people needed it, was that I thought it would make our schools safer. And I've been around the country and seen a lot of schools that had terrible discipline problems. And we're worried about the safety of the kids going to and from school. And in every case where they had a terrible problem and adopted a uniform policy, it made a big difference. We want to do more to ensure our children's safety. We want to make sure that our children are exposed to teachers and team leaders, not drug dealers and gang leaders. (Applause.)

There are a lot of things we can do. Let me just mention one thing. We are trying in this budget to give states and communities more funds to support even wider and more extensive after-school programs, not only because they're important educationally -- which they are, and that's their primary mission -- but because almost all kids get in trouble after school lets out and before the folks get home from work. A huge percentage of juvenile crime is committed between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. And if we can have extensive after school programs, we can make our children safer and our schools safer. Let me also --(applause)-- even one hand is good on that. (Laughter and applause.)

Today, the Department of Education is releasing a report which also shows we're doing a

better job as a country in detecting guns in the schools. That's really good -- that's the good news. The bad news is there are a lot of guns in the schools -- and other weapons. In 1997, more than 6,000 students were expelled for bringing firearms to school. But I think that means we must continue and bear down on this policy of zero tolerance for guns in our schools. (Applause.)

And again, it works to prevent problems. The Superintendent of the Alexandria, Virginia, schools -- which, by the way, is now the most diverse school district in America -- Fairfax County has kids from 180 different racial and ethnic groups, speaking over 100 native languages. But because they have a rigorous zero tolerance program, they have cut suspendable offenses over the past couple of years by more than 40 percent. It works. And we can have those results all over the country.

But let me say, going back to an issue you're debating, Secretary Riley asked all these school security experts what they thought we could do as a people, not just the federal government, to make the schools safer. And they said, interestingly enough, one of the most important things we could do is to create the smallest possible classes in the early grades, because the kids with problems would be found by the teachers. And then the teachers and the families and the counselors could work together to try to prevent these kids from getting in trouble in the first place. I thought it was a stunning thing, amazing. (Applause.)

So Delaware is leading the nation, and the nation must follow. And we must, Republicans and Democrats together, all Americans, make a commitment to a revolution in standards and accountability, in choice and safety, based on high expectations, accountability, and performance. It will take all of our commitment to do the job, but the challenge must be met because America can't become what it ought to be if we don't.

We can do this. This is not rocket science. This is an affair of the mind which most of us can comprehend. Fundamentally, it is also an affair of the heart. We know -- we know -- that the best days of this country are still ahead. You may be the oldest state, but you still want to have the longest future. And the only way we can do it is with this.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)



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HE SAID



The News Journal/GARY EMEIGH

President Clinton addresses the General Assembly in Legislative Hall on Friday. Behind him is Sen. Thomas B. Sharp, D-Pinecrest.

Excerpts from President Clinton's address Friday at Legislative Hall:

I love your Capitol Building. I like the feel of your Legislature. I like the size of your Legislature.

[Laughter]

I wonder if it would take a constitutional amendment to reduce Congress to this size.

[Laughter]

It's a wonderful idea.

■ ■ ■

And Delaware, maybe because it's a small state and maybe because I came from a small state and was often ridiculed for it in national politics — my experience is that maybe because we're smaller, people learn to treat each other as people. They learn to listen to people on opposite sides of the aisle. They learn that they don't have all the answers and that everybody's got a valuable perspective, and that in the end, we all have to get together and do something that moves our country or our state or our community forward. And for all of that, I am very grateful to the State of Delaware.

■ ■ ■

Thomas Jefferson once said of your state that, "Delaware is like a diamond — small, but having within it inherent value."

If he were today, here, giving this speech, he might say, being as he was a modern thinker, Delaware is like a silicon chip — [laughter] — small, but having within it enormous inherent value; namely, the power to shape the future.

You have always looked to the future, from the time you did become the first state to ratify the Constitution.

■ ■ ■

I don't think there is a person here who would dispute the following two statements: We have the best system of higher education in the world. We do not have the best system of elementary and secondary education in the world. ... And until it is, we can't rest. That is the bottom line.

■ ■ ■

First, there's no substitute for standards. I want to compliment Delaware for what you're doing. This week, third-, fifth-, eighth- and 10th-graders all over the state are participating in your new assessment process to see how well they're doing in reading, writing, and math. ... I compliment you on that. I think that is a brilliant reform.

And I think it's important that we find a way to have national standards and exams at least in the basics.

... No test is worth a flip unless there is some consequences — not just negative ones, but positive ones; not just what you do to the students, but what the rest of us have to do for the education system based on the consequences of the test.

We have to start by demanding accountability from the students, and I strongly believe that we should end the practice of so-called social promotion everywhere in the country.

■ ■ ■

Finally, let me say, I believe that if teachers don't measure up after getting all the support and help they need, there ought to be a swift process — fair, but swift; it should not be endless — to resolve the matter in a satisfactory way.

■ ■ ■

Delaware may be the only state now where every classroom is wired — but every classroom should be wired. ... An enormous percentage of the school buildings in this country are ill-equipped to take the wiring because they're so old.

■ ■ ■

Now, when you come to work here every day in this Capitol, it makes you feel good, doesn't it? It's a beautiful building and you've obviously put a lot of funds into restoring it, and it makes you feel good! It says you're important — it matters to be a member of the Delaware Legislature. One of the ways you know without anybody, telling you is you come into this nice building and it's important. And if grown-ups are affected by their surroundings, children are even more so.

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So Delaware is leading the nation, and the nation must follow. And we must, Republicans and Democrats together, all Americans, make a commitment to a revolution in standards and accountability, in choice and safety, based on high expectations, accountability and performance. It will take all of our commitment to do the job, but the challenge must be met because America can't become what it ought to be if we don't.



Staff photos/John King
 Above, President Clinton waves to the crowd in the balcony during his appearance Friday in the General Assembly. Top right, Secretary of Defense William Cohen and Secretary of Education Richard Riley applaud during the president's speech. Right, President Clinton, Gov. Thomas R. Carper and Sen. Thomas B. Sharp, president pro tem of the Senate.



Staff photo/Linda Laird
 Charles Carson, the longtime base mortician who recently retired, and his wife Virginia were among those in attendance for the president's visit.



Staff photos/Linda Laird
 Left, the president walks through the rain as he arrives at the base. Above, the president waves goodbye to the crowd at Dover Air Force Base. Right, Capt. Erik Sant, a pilot at Dover Air Force Base holds his 2-year-old daughter Sydney so she can wave her flag for the president.



Staff photos/John King

Top, President Bill Clinton addressed the joint session of the General Assembly at Legislative Hall. Above, President Clinton signs an autograph for Ryan Hauge, 8, son of Sen. Richard Hauge, R-Wilmington.

DSN 5-9-98



DSN 5-12-98

Staff photo/John King

Some young people got the chance of a life-time Friday when the president came to Dover. Above, President Clinton signs an autograph for Ryan Hauge, 8, son of Sen. Richard Hauge, R-Wilmington. Right, Dover High School Band members Angela Smith, 15; Lady Johnson, 16; and Miranda Coverdale, 15; get ready to perform for President Clinton.



Staff photo/Linda Laird

Clinton lauds education initiatives

By Todd Spangler
Associated Press

DSN
5-9-98

DOVER — President Bill Clinton gave Gov. Thomas R. Carper's stalled education reforms a boost Friday when he urged the Delaware legislature to embrace school accountability proposals and reduce class sizes.

"If we are going to prepare our children for the 21st century, we cannot do it unless we can say with a straight face we're giving them the best education," said President Clinton, the first sitting president to ever address a joint session of the Delaware General Assembly.

President Clinton praised the state's education reform efforts to date, suggesting that school districts across the nation should have achievement tests that gauge success against local and national standards like those being used for the first time this week in Delaware.

The president said Delaware can serve as a model for education reform because of its efforts to implement charter schools and school choice, allowing parents and students to attend any public school in the state they wish.

Although the president plugged his nationwide efforts — including his legislation to hire 100,000 new teachers to lower class sizes — he noted that school standards and accountability systems remain the domain of local and state governments.

He recommended that any accountability system include "consequences, both positive and negative."

"I urge you to have a long, vigorous debate," President Clinton told lawmakers. "Nobody will take your system seriously unless there are consequences."

Gov. Carper is pushing legislation that would hold back students who fail to meet reading levels tested in grades 3, 5, 8



Staff photo/John King

Rep. Robert F. Gilligan, standing, and Rep. J. Benjamin Ewing share a laugh before the president arrives at Legislative Hall.

and 10. His proposal would also allow for schools where test scores remain poor, year after year, to be put under the control of better performing schools districts.

The governor's class size proposal would provide for one teacher for every 15 students in kindergarten through grade three. Currently, the state pays for one teacher for every 19 students in those grades.

"I can assure you, the rest of us will be watching," President Clinton said of the debate over education reform in Delaware.

Following the president's 45-minute-long speech, Gov. Carper was ebullient over President Clinton's praise of Delaware and its successful efforts in Head Start programs and other education reforms.

"Actually, it was an embarrassment of riches," said Gov. Carper.

The debate over his education proposals has already narrowed, he said.

"The president's very positive

“The president's very positive remarks only serve to further narrow the differences.”

— Gov. Thomas R. Carper

remarks only serve to further narrow the differences," Gov. Carper said.

State Education Secretary Iris Metts said she is sure, given the president's remarks, a version of both proposals will pass the General Assembly by its adjournment June 30.

"It was," said Senate President Pro Tem Thomas B. Sharp, holding a reception in his office as President Clinton had his photo taken with staffers inside the Senate Chamber, "right on target."



The News Journal GARY EMEIGH
President Clinton acknowledges the crowd in the balcony Friday after his speech to the state General Assembly. Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner listens.

DOVER — President Clinton's historic visit to the Delaware General Assembly drew a warm welcome. But the public education agenda he pushed brought mixed reactions from state legislators.

"Delaware became a jewel in the national crown," said Sen. Margaret Rose Henry, D-Wilmington East. "We should receive high marks for what we have done in education."

REACTION

But leaders in the state House had a different message.

"While we appreciate President Clinton taking the time to visit Delaware... we are not convinced that his educational plan is in the best interests of Delaware's public schoolchildren," said House Majority Leader Wayne A. Smith, R-Clair Manor.

Del. lawmakers mixed on Clinton's school vision

NJ 5-9-98

By ROBERT MOORE and NANCY CHARRON
Staff reporters

Smith criticized what he called the "federalization" of schools through national standards and testing as interference with "pure education reform."

His remarks underscored the state's sometimes rocky six-year journey toward educational reform.

Though Delaware is ahead of many states in such areas as developing academic standards and providing school choice, none of the major reforms has been in place long enough to produce significant results.

Clinton asked Friday for support for legislation to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide, repair old schoolhouses and implement national standards and testing in reading and math. He also touched on accountability.

The president laid out general goals. The specifics of reaching them are being left mainly to state and local officials.

"I think the vision is a good vision," said Rep. Charles W. Welch, R-Hunters Pointe. "The question is how to get there."

If Delaware is any example, the solutions will be neither quick nor easy.

Officials wrestled for years devising the reading, writing and math tests Clinton praised. Lawmakers only now are beginning to talk about increasing state funding for school construction and repair.

The other two issues have spawned major debates that continue to occupy the General Assembly: how to establish an accountability system for schools and how to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio in kindergarten through third grade.

Who will be held accountable — administrators, teachers, students, parents? And how will they be held accountable?

Rep. Nancy Wagner, R-Dover North, a teacher, said she noticed Clinton mentioned accountability but didn't say anything about parents.

Wagner said she could have the worst of everything from school buildings to supplies. But if she has cooperative parents, "I can teach those children something."

Several proposals are floating around Legislative Hall to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio — an idea that would require more teachers and more schools. Because voters have been increasingly reluctant to approve local tax increases, lawmakers are debating whether the state should take on more of the financial burden for education.

After Clinton's speech, GOP lawmakers said he should support two school funding proposals currently working their way through Congress.

One measure would earmark a third of the money now designated for federal education spending for block grants issued to the states, with the only requirement that 95 percent of the money be spent in the classroom. The other proposal would allow parents to put up to \$2,000 a year into a special IRA account for education-related expenses.

"Send the money, keep the strings," Smith said.

Sen. Robert L. Venables, D-Laurel, entered the Senate chambers skeptical but left convinced Clinton had made "one of the greatest speeches I have ever heard."

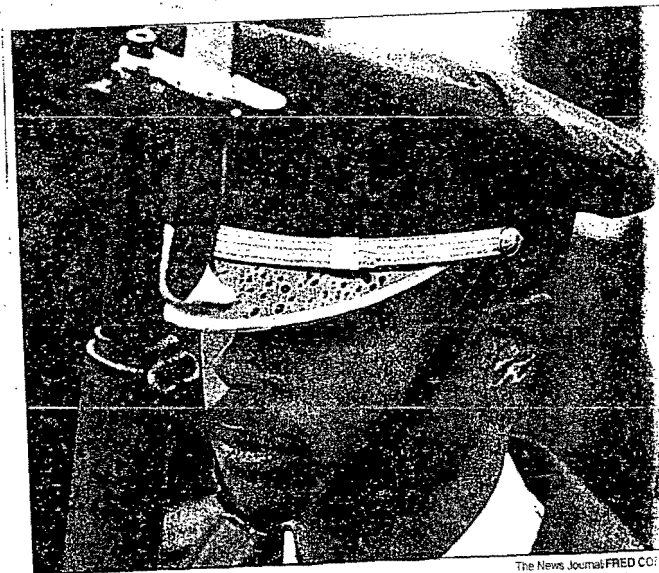
"I was afraid of the discussion of the federal government and mandates about our schools," Venables said, "but I think he is really only trying to help."

Republicans and Democrats alike largely agreed the speech was classic Clinton — personable and smooth and offering the proper mix of local flavor and policy discussion.

"To me, it was a very Republican speech," said Senate Minority Leader Myrna L. Bair, R-Foulk Woods, emphasizing that many of the public education decisions should be made at the local level.

Most lawmakers agreed Clinton's Delaware appearance might help keep pressure on to resolve these issues, but wouldn't affect the nuts and bolts of how the issues are resolved.

But Iris Metts, secretary of the state Department of Education, said she is optimistic that Clinton made lawmakers feel good about their role in education reform and predicted the state would have an accountability bill before the end of June. "It's now a matter of pride," she said.



The News Journal FRED COLE
Airman 1st Class James Davis with the Dover Air Force Base Honor Guard awaits the arrival of President Clinton on Friday at the base. Clinton spoke to the Delaware General Assembly.

Republicans give president praise — with a catch

Say most of the education initiatives were their idea

By D.L. Bonar
Staff writer

DSN 5-9-98

DOVER — Delaware Republicans, mindful that President Clinton's visit was orchestrated by Democrats, lost no time in letting their view of Friday's speech be known.

The quickly let it be known many of the education initiatives had been started by their side.

"As speaker of the House, it made me proud, President Clinton knew this was a bi-partisan effort on education," said Rep. Terry R. Spence, R-New Castle. "Many of the issues he spoke about were issues addressed by Republicans."

"To me, it was a very Republican speech," said Sen. Myrna L. Bair, R-Wilmington, Senate Minority Leader.

About a dozen members of the Republican caucus from the House and Senate held court shortly after the president left the building.

The partisan group pointed out it was Rep. Stephanie A. Ulbrich, R-Newark, which introduced the first legislation authorizing school choice, three years ago.

Sen. Donna Reed, R-Newark, said she had introduced the first legislation allowing charter schools, and the bill was still in committee because Democrats would not allow it out.

Rep. Nancy H. Wagner, R-Dover, said more emphasis needs to be placed on an end to "social promotion" — the practice of sending children to the next grade regardless of their academic achievement.

"I think it needs to be tied to a child's success in learning," Rep. Wagner said.

As a teacher, Rep. Wagner said she was disappointed the president did not mention parental responsibility.

"It is interesting, we all talk about taking all these measures, but have no solution in place yet," she said. "I think a lot of parents think it is the school's job to watch their kids. We should require them to sign an agreement they'll get involved and take part of the responsibility for their child's education."



Staff photo/John King

Rep. Nancy H. Wagner gives the Republican response after the president's speech at Legislative Hall on Friday.

House Majority Leader Wayne A. Smith, R-Wilmington, said there needs to be accountability in school.

"There should be real consequences," Rep. Smith said. "If you fail, you fail!"

None of the legislators thought solutions to the accountability or the education issue in general would be easy.

Some spoke of a need to give parents a half day a semester in which to spend time in school with their children. That time, according to Sen. Steven H. Amick, R-Newark, should be paid time off with the blessings of business.

Rep. Spence gathered significant support

toward the end of the Republican press conference with a controversial promise.

"I will propose an amendment to any accountability bill which passes to require school uniforms for grades K through three," the House Speaker said. "It's been proven it helps level the playing field."

"Let's keep this in perspective," said Rep. Smith. "This was a nice way for President Clinton to have a nice backdrop to emphasize education. The problem is, most of what he's talking about are what Republicans have been saying all along."

D.L. Bonar can be reached at 741-8228 or at daverpa@newszap.com.

5/9/98 Highlights from the day

■ **SUPER DAY FOR SECRETARY METTS:** Delaware Secretary of Education Iris T. Metts was all smiles Friday afternoon after President Bill Clinton thrust Delaware's education initiatives into the national spotlight.

"I liked how quickly he mastered and understood the details of education reform in Delaware. He understood it was on the cutting edge of educational reform and leading the nation," Dr. Metts said.

Dr. Metts noted the parallels between President Clinton's plans for education reform and what officials are trying to establish in Delaware, which includes implementing reductions in class sizes, school-building constructions and renovations, and ending social promotion.

In addition to President Clinton, Dr. Metts also heard NAACP president Kweisi Mfume speak at an educational conference at Delaware State University Friday.

"They are truly gifted individuals," Dr. Metts said. "They truly promote and support educational issues. They care about children."

"What an impressive day. The spotlight was on Delaware."

■ **WASHED OUT:** Rain forced the cancellation of the outdoor appearance planned for President Bill Clinton. About 100 people lined along the barricades at the intersection of Legislative and William Penn avenues to get a glimpse of President Clinton.

Instead, they got very wet.

About 50 people stood under umbrellas while the chief executive addressed state lawmakers. They hoped the president would stick his head out the door.

"We're standing out here like fools," chuckled June Bartel, who drove up in vain from Millford. "We're wet, but loyal."

Kathleen G. Johnson of Dover remained with the 50 faithful and endured the rain.

"I just wanted to say 'hi' to President Clinton," Mrs. Johnson said. "He's my president, and since he came all the way to Dover, Del., we should be here to see him."

■ **CAN WE GO NOW?** A long line of motorists were forced to say "good-bye" as their travel on U.S. 13 was stopped for the presidential motorcade taking President Clinton and his entourage back to Dover Air Force Base.

Traffic in the U.S. 13 northbound lane was backed up from Court Street to beyond the St. Jones River bridge just before 3 p.m.

Traffic in both directions was held to an idling halt for 16 minutes as the long line of motorcade cars proceeded across the highway on U.S. 13, while a few pedestrians got a wave from the president as he went by.

Although the motorcade was past the intersection in less than four minutes after the highway was closed, U.S. 13 was stopped in both directions for another 12 minutes before it was reopened by Dover police.

During the delay, a few horns were sounded, and one motorist stuck at the Citgo gas station became particularly impatient.

"What do we got to do, wait on him to get on the plane?" called Lamont Byrd of Dover to the officer halting traffic. "He's already a mile down the road. What are we going to do to him now?"

According to Capt. J. Robert Mays, Dover police spokesman, it is standard procedure to keep the road closed for an additional 10 minutes for security purposes to prevent a would-be attacker from following the motorcade.

■ **PRESIDENTIAL DUTY:** Assigned to work in and around Legislative Hall Friday were 76 state troopers, 24 Facilities Management employees, 19 Capitol Police officers, at least 36 Secret Service agents and an undetermined number of Dover police officers.

■ **LAST WORDS:** So, how did the President's speech stack up in quick political terms?

Speaking for the Democrats, Senate President Pro Tem Thomas Sharp: "It was right on target."

For the Republicans, House Majority Leader Wayne Smith: "Send the money but keep the strings."

— Compiled by Carlos Holmes,
Tom Eldred and Delarita Ford

Del. leaders, pupils alike bask in glow

DSN By NANCY CHARRON 3. 9. 98
Dover Bureau chief

DOVER — He couldn't stop the rain, but President Clinton proved Friday that the weather is about the only thing in Delaware beyond the reach of his charm.

Wide-eyed kindergartners and calloused politicians from Dover Air Force Base to Legislative Hall and back again basked in the glow of Clinton's smile and the praise he showered on Delaware's efforts to reform education.

Before a special joint session of the General Assembly, Clinton touted a clutch of issues that have become familiar terms to education-conscious Delawareans — academic standards, accountability, school choice and an end to social promotion.

"We can do this," he summed up as his 43-minute speech meandered toward its close. "This is not rocket science."

Throughout his four-hour visit, he showed off the most valuable assets any president can have — a tireless right arm and an unwavering handshake. He shook hands with everyone from schoolchildren to servicemen, and left them all feeling enriched by the experience.

The legislators figured to be a tougher audience, but most of them, too, fell under Clinton's spell.

Sen. Robert L. Venables, D-Laurel, said he started the day a skeptic, until Clinton delivered "one of the greatest speeches I have ever heard." Most agreed it was quintessential Clinton — like a martini, a few sweet nothings made the earnestly dry policy discussion go down smooth.

He was lavish in his praise of Delaware. For instance, he updated Thomas Jefferson's famous "diamond among the states" quip by comparing it to a silicon chip: "Small, but having within it enormous inherent value; namely, the power to shape the future."

It might lack the power or poetry to ring down through the centuries, but Delaware officials, who said Clinton selected the state as a platform for his speech because of its position near the head of the education-reform class, beamed with self-esteem.

"I was never so excited or proud as a member of the Senate," said Senate President Pro Tem Thomas B. Sharp.

He wasn't alone.

NJ 5-9-98

THEY SAID



The News Journal/BRIAN BRANCH-PRICE
Gov. Carper applauds as President Clinton greets Rep. Michael N. Castle, R-Del., after Clinton's speech Friday at Dover Air Force Base. Clinton thanked the base's personnel for their airlifts and support.

"He looked cute. ... He's so cute, I could kiss him."

Monique Montague, 6, Dover

"I enjoyed listening to him. He reconfirmed some of the stuff we've been saying all along."



Sen. Donna Reed, R-Newark East

"He looked like he does on television. I thought his hands would be hot but they were cold."

Tim Mihok, 14, Dover

"I was never so excited or proud as a member of the Senate."



Senate President Pro Tempore Thomas B. Sharp

"Knowing how sociable the president is, there should have been a chance for the people to greet him, to show their respect."

Anna Darlington, Felton, one of about 200 people who waited in vain in a downpour to see Clinton

"That was not very realistic given the crowd we anticipated. A bubble that would encapsule the city of Dover was not a practical idea."



Jeffrey W. Bullock, Gov. Carper's chief of staff, on why the state didn't set up a tent for spectators

"I was afraid of the discussion of the federal government and mandates about our schools, but I think he is really only trying to help."



Sen. Robert L. Venables, D-Laurel

"We appreciate President Clinton taking the time to visit Delaware [but] we are not convinced that his educational plan is in the best interests



of Delaware's public schoolchildren."

House Majority Leader
Wayne A. Smith, R-Clair Manor

Downstate educators have mixed reaction to president's speech

DSN 5-10-98
Compiled from staff reports

DOWNSTATE — President Bill Clinton's speech on education in Delaware recommended cutting class size and hiring more teachers, which drew a mixed reaction from Downstate educators.

Secretary of Education Dr. Iris T. Metts noted the parallels between President Clinton's plans for education reform and what is trying to be established in Delaware which includes

addressing reduction in class sizes and school building constructions and renovations, and social promotion.

"I loved when he made the analogy of how good the General Assembly felt going into their buildings," Dr. Metts said.

She said the president likened that to how students should feel going into their schools and should not have to be in buildings falling down with leaking roofs.

Dr. Metts said she appreciated that President Clinton brought out that there were going to be positive and negative consequences of accountability.

"You can't have an accountability system unless you have both," Dr. Metts said.

She said the president could identify with the vision of Delaware's education and its goals to prepare students for the future.



Iris T. Metts

We are not only looking at needs of our students today we are looking at the needs our students in tomorrow's

world," Dr. Metts said.

James B. Boyd, supervisor of Secondary Programs for the Lake Forest School District, agreed with the president's stance on expansion. "I agree with what the president said about overcrowded conditions in schools today and students attending classes in trailers. When I look at schools in the area and the condition they are in, it's clear that we don't make schools a priority in our society. That makes me worry about our future."

Betty Ann Wyatt, Lake Forest Teacher of the Year, said the state needs to play a bigger role. "It is time that our Delaware legislators realize that our state is too small to have the 'haves' and the 'have nots' in education."

"Funding to all districts must be fairly and equitably distributed. All students should have access to equal opportunity and resources."

Lewes resident Walter G. Rosen, a retired educator, said he caught President Clinton's speech on television after a friend called to remind him about the Delaware visit.

"I watched it on CNN. I was very impressed, and I'm not ordinarily very impressed by Mr. Clinton. I'm an educator myself, and he said all the right things," Mr. Rosen said.

Not everyone thought the president's speech was good, however.

Joseph J. Matriccino, president of the Woodbridge Education Association, said that President Clinton's comments are nothing more than political rhetoric.

"It's a political thing. It sounds good," he said. "Then

it goes to the legislation and they see how much it's going to cost."

He said that teachers would certainly be overjoyed if the government took steps to reduce class size.

"If you reduce class sizes, say, from 30 to 15 students, it's going to help not only discipline, but comprehension for all students," said Mr. Matriccino, a social studies teacher at Woodbridge High School. "Teachers would jump up and down. That would definitely improve things in the classroom, but is it really going to get done?"

Mr. Matriccino said he thinks that the notion of national certification for teachers is wrong-headed, as well.

"National certification, what's that mean? The only thing that's going to make you a better teacher is experience," he said.

Charles S. Postles Jr., president of the Milford School District Board of Education, was not entirely impressed with the president's speech.

"One of my concerns is when (President Clinton) talks about 100,000 new teachers. It's like the 100,000 cops from the Biden Crime Bill. We haven't seen 100,000 yet, and the ones we've seen are funded on a three-year grant that will require local governments to fund them once federal funds run out," he said.

"I would personally be delighted to see less money coming from Washington. I wouldn't mind if the U.S. Department of Education disappeared entirely. Money from Washington always comes with strings attached, and creates more bureaucracy."

"I thought a lot of what the president had to say was nice. And, I agree with a lot of his goals. They're laudable goals. I

just don't agree with his plan to reach those goals. I want to see more money spent in the classroom, not in bureaucracy."

Some educators were tied up with school duties, and have not had time to digest the president's speech.

Robert D. Smith III, superintendent, was laboring over an accountability plan to be presented to the Delaware legislature later this week on behalf of the state's superintendents.

"I've been typing since five o'clock this morning, and I

haven't even had a chance to eat lunch," Dr. Smith said. "Hopefully, I can get out later to pick up the paper, and see what (President Clinton) said. But, right now, I don't know enough about his remarks to make a comment."

Dr. Jeanel D. Starling, Lulu M. Ross principal and Delaware's distinguished principal of the year, spent Saturday in Philadelphia taking seminars, although Friday she said she would hurry home to see what President Clinton had to say.

"I was hoping to go to capital to see him speak," she said. "But I had to be at the Dover Sheraton while he was scheduled to speak. Our school librarian won state media specialist of the year, and I was honored to see her win the award."

Associate editors John Finnerty and Carol Ann Porter and staff writers Delarita Ford, Ashley Gray and Gregory S. Layton contributed to this story.

Attention Educators

President Clinton's historic speech to the joint session of the Delaware General Assembly is available on NewsPhone.

The 43-minute speech can be shared with students.

If a short version is desired, NewsPhone also features excerpts from the President's speech.

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President Clinton's speech

Education in Transition



For an archive of the president's visit to Dover or the changing face of education in Delaware, check online at www.newszap.com.

Clinton, Carper agree on education

President's plan
seems to mirror
the governor's

By Angela Trout
Staff writer

DSN
5-8-98

DOWNSTATE — The president's speech today should shed some insight on his plans for the future of the nation's educational system.

It is expected that the president will hit three main points: reduced class size, additional classroom space, and the call for more after-school programs.

According to Gov. Thomas R. Carper's policy advisor on education, Peg Bradley, the president's plan mirrors the governor's.

"When I heard the president's State of the Union Address (in February), it was as if he was reading the governors' statements on (educational reform) off of the Internet. Their agendas are very similar."

Gov. Carper called for similar action in January when he unveiled his budget proposals for the 1999 fiscal year. He also vowed that education would be at the forefront of his agenda.

Gov. Carper's plans for reduction in class size came in the way of several vehicles. He proposed the allocation of \$6.1 million in his budget to hire an additional 120 teachers.

He also proposes an increase in Division I teacher funding to local school districts at the Kindergarten through third grade level to provide a teacher for every 15 regular students. He has also recommended funding increases for grades fourth through 12th to provide a teacher for every 16.3 regular students.

This initiative drew criticism from educators and parents when Senate Bill 249 was introduced earlier this year. The bill was designed to aid in class size reduction.

The bill calls for the end of special unit counts for special education students, meaning that while the teacher to student ratios lower for regular students, the teacher to student ratio for students with special needs increase.

Another issue raised by school administrators was whether schools could afford to provide the additional space needed to accommodate the overflow of students.

The Indian River School District is one of the districts that is struggling with overcrowded schools.

According to the district's administrative assistant, Charles W. Hudson, Sussex Central Middle School, Sussex Central High School and Indian River High School are operating out of portable classrooms.

Sussex Central High is using six portable classrooms, Indian River High has 77 students over capacity and is utilizing five portable classrooms, and Sussex Middle is 400 students over capacity and use nine portable classrooms.

"Reducing class size is great. I am in full support of it," said Edward B. Selbert, director of Business and Finance for Indian River. "But reducing class size must also deal with the overcrowding issue. If you reduce class size, you have to provide additional funding."

While President Clinton's pitches his priorities, the cost for local school districts to implement them will cost money. But even though failed referendums to increase taxes appears to be the norm, one superintendent does not think increased federal funding is the answer.

Dr. James E. Hammond, Capital School District superintendent, said because federal funds are usually compensatory funds designed to address deficiencies in a student group, federal funding

would not help his district with the needs it tried to satisfy with the referendum that failed recently.

"The president can help support the notion of reduced class size ... and make sure that appropriations toward construction funds come to the state level onto the district level," Dr. Hammond said.

After school programs, also referred to as "extended-time" programs, are also being considered to be beefed up by the governor. He proposes an additional \$3 million to an existing \$7.6 million allocated to such programs.

David Vaughan, principal for Fairview Elementary School, has been running after school programs since the beginning of the year.

The program offers Arts and Crafts and cake decorating to science clubs and tutoring. The sessions normally run until 5:30 p.m., which is a help to working parents, Mr. Vaughan said.

"The [after-school program] benefits the students and their parents, but mainly the parents," Mr. Vaughan said.

But such programming comes with a price. Funding is derived through the states'

Extended Time grant and Drug Free grants.

He said they do not charge students an activities fee at this point. He said that would be a last resort if funding dries up.

Another aspect of Gov. Carper's educational reform is his call for more accountability.

Sen. David P. Sokola, D-Newark, is the chief sponsor of the accountability bill. He said the Senate is working on the bill, S.B. 250, and making progress, but don't figure on having the entire package ironed out by the end of this legislative session.

S.B. 250 focuses on reducing social promotion, which is advancing a student to the next grade simply because of their age. It also calls for rewarding the academic achievement of students, schools and school districts, and holding schools and school districts accountable for inadequate testing results.

State wide testing was implemented for the first time this week to grades 3, 5, 8 and 10.

Assistant editor Carlos Holmes contributed to this story.

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Education Bills

■ **S.B. 249** — (David P. Sokola, D-Newark; two representatives.) This bill, the "Class Size Reduction and Education Finance Improvement Act of 1998," will reduce class sizes in core academic subjects.

■ **S.B. 250** — (Sen. David P. Sokola, D-Newark; Sen. Robert J. Voshell, D-Milford; two representatives.) This bill, denominated the "Educational Accountability Act of 1998," will improve Delaware's educational system by drastically reducing social promotion, rewarding the academic achievement of students, schools, and school districts, and holding schools and school districts accountable for inadequate results.

■ **S.B. 292** — (Sen. Thomas B. Sharp, D-Wilmington; 12 senators, four representatives.) Reduces class size in grades K-3; requires elementary schools to publish class sizes in annual school profiles; permits school districts to use up to 5% of their teaching units to employ instructional aides; and guarantees state funding for a number of units equal to each school district's actual unit count for the preceding school year.

Giving Clinton a piece of their mind

By **Carlos Holmes**

Assistant Editor

DSN
5-8-98

DOWNSTATE — Several Downstate residents would like to have a few minutes to say something to President Bill Clinton.

Dena Sechrist of Rehoboth said she would give President Clinton a piece of her mind concerning maternity leave.

"As a mom, I know he gave three months without pay for mothers after they have a child," Mrs. Sechrist said. "But he should give six months with some sort of income. I had to go back to work after three months and had to get a babysitter.

Linda S. Montague of Laurel said her son's college education would weigh heavily on her mind.

"I would talk to him about the raising cost of college education," Ms. Montague said. "My son is 13 and in five years, I don't know what I am going to do."

Robin M. Fisher of Laurel said she would speak to the president on behalf of the elderly citizens she serves as head of First State Community Action Agency's Senior Companion program.

"My concern is not for Bill Clinton's personal life. I would speak with the president on the needs of the elderly, and how

volunteer programs are geared toward youths, but not as much towards the elderly," Ms. Fisher said.

But while some people would politely steer clear of the president private affairs, Rehoboth resident Jim Waldin said he would pull no punches, literally.

"I'd slap him upside his head and ask him why he can't keep his pants on," Mr. Waldin said. "I'd also ask him why does he pick ugly women (to have affairs with). He's president, and you'd think he could come up with some better looking women."

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NJ 5-9-98

The President In Delaware



President Clinton salutes as he arrives Friday at Dover Air Force Base. Defense Secretary William Cohen follows him in the pouring rain.

The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS



Staff photo/Linda Laird

Defense Secretary William Cohen and President Clinton.

Cohen talks about virtues of Air Force

By **Tom Eldred**
Staff writer

DSN
5-9-98

DOVER — Defense Secretary William Cohen went directly to the point in a brief address at Dover Air Force Base.

The secretary accompanied President Bill Clinton to Dover Friday and presented the commander-in-chief to an enthusiastic crowd of base personnel, families and friends.

"Shortly after the Wright Brothers' first flight in 1903, one observer commented, 'it is beyond dispute that Wilbur Wright is in possession of power that controls the fate of nations,'" Secretary Cohen said.

"Almost a hundred years later, you, the highly trained professionals in the greatest Air Force in the history of the world, are living proof of that statement."

Speaking of the time 50 years ago when the "fires of World War II were still smoldering," Secretary Cohen also recalled the words of President Harry S. Tru-

man when President Truman said, "it is individuals who make history, not the other way around."

"And today, as the embers of the cold war are extinguished, we stand on the brink of a new American century, led by a commander-in-chief with a clear, persistent vision of America's role in the world," the secretary said.

He applauded President Clinton for consistently doing "what is militarily necessary and what is right, even in the face of tremendous political pressure."

He also called personnel at the base "today's citizen-soldiers" who represent the country throughout the world.

"Ladies and gentlemen of Dover Air Force Base, I am proud to present to you the president of the United States, President Bill Clinton," Secretary Cohen said.

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Base given kudos by commander-in-chief

By Tom Eldred
Staff writer

DSN
5-9-98

DOVER — Excitement and intense anticipation pulsed through a giant hangar at Dover Air Force Base Friday as thousands of base personnel and their families awaited a visit from President Bill Clinton.

They were not disappointed.

After brief opening remarks by base commander Felix M. Grieder and Secretary of Defense William Cohen, the commander-in-chief delivered a rousing speech aimed at the hearts and minds of the men and women who serve in defense of the nation.

"To all the members of the United States Air Force, and their families and friends, thank you especially for bringing the children today," the president said. "I would like to say a special word of thanks to the Dover High School Band. . . . I am delighted to be here."

The president wasted no time in zeroing on the theme of his address — the 36 C-5 aircraft based in Dover and gratitude to all who make thousands of flights taking off and landing at the base each year possible.

"Those of you who work around the clock to support our defense and our freedom, I thank you," Mr. Clinton said.

"Delaware calls itself 'Small Wonder,' the president continued. "It's not too small to have the C-5s, which do so much for America's intervention." "It's not too small for the 60,000-pound 'Tanner' loader, moving heavy cargo."

"Your efforts are essential," President Clinton said. "We live in a time of enormous promise, and you know that it will work. But there is also a tremendous responsibility for the United States out there, both to take advantage of the promise and meet the challenges of the post-Cold War era."

The chief executive noted America's unemployment rate was pegged Friday at 4.3 percent, the lowest since 1970. But one-third of the new jobs that have been created since 1993, he said, come from trading with other nations.

"Like it or not, our future, and the future of every child in this audience today, is bound up in our ability to maintain leader-

ship and peace and freedom and security and opportunity throughout the world."

The president recalled that he traveled through Africa in March. "Guess-what," he said. "On my whole trip, you provided the transportation. You provided the helicopters, and you provided the communications. I thank you."

The next month he was was in Chile. "And guess what, you provided my transportation and communications. And I thank you."

"In a few days I will leave for Europe," the president continued, where, among other initiatives, he will work with the new NATO treaty to assure "a Europe that is peaceful, undivided and free for the first time in all of history."

"And, if nothing happens to the chain of command," he said, "you're going to provide the transportation and communication."

President Clinton reminded his audience that the 21st Century "will be America's greatest time" if the nation does its part to protect freedom and security around the world.

"But the world is still not free of dangers," he warned. "Not by a long shot." He said new technology, while helping to open and expand communications across the world, has also spawned new avenues "for the organized forces of destruction" and new mobility to international terrorists and criminals.

"The United States must continue to lead in the world and that means we need you more than ever," the president said. He said Dover base is responsible for 25 percent of America's strategic airlift capacity and played a vital role in supplying the troops in Bosnia.

"Please remember, in ways large and small, you are making a huge difference in making the world a better place for the children who share this room with us today," Mr. Clinton concluded. "You in Dover make it happen. You deliver. You are essential to America's security."

"You make us all very proud. Thank you very much and God bless you."

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Base goes bananas for Bill

By Tom Eldred
Staff writer

DSN
5-9-98

DOVER — Dover Air Force Base staged a great big welcome for President Bill Clinton Friday, a welcome likely to be remembered for a long time to come.

From the vibrating percussion of the Dover High School Band to the intense security efforts of Secret Service and base personnel, the event was an intense display of presidential power with all the trappings.

"Our kids have been so excited ever since we got permission they could come," said Juanita Cooper, a kindergarten teacher at West Dover Elementary School, as she and fellow teacher Jane Tinsley directed 67 youngsters into Hangar 706 to wait for the president.

"We've been on Cloud 9 ever since. We even brought a special 'Welcome to Delaware' cap to give to the president."

Across the cavernous hangar, Dover High School Band director David DeLong was fine-tuning his musicians for a rousing salute to the chief.

"It is a great honor to be here," Mr. DeLong said. "It's an overwhelming experience for everybody. We feel extremely privileged to play for the president of the United States and represent the capital city of Delaware for this great occasion. The kids are literally bursting at the seams."

Dozens upon dozens of Secret Service and base security officers circulated about the hangar as thousands of base personnel and family members filed in through specially set-up metal-detector gates. Extra seats were provided for ticketholders who were supposed to see the event outside Legislative Hall, which was rained out.

Finally, when the hangar was full just before 3 p.m., all entrances were sealed except for a massive opening at one end where the president would speak. With a giant C-5 aircraft framed outside on the flight line, the now-captive audience waited for their president.

Master Sgt. Dennis A. Desilet came with his 12-year-old son, Josh. "I took him out of Dover Air Middle School for this," Sgt. Desilet said. "I thought it was important for him to see the president up close."

Josh, who sat with two school-age friends, was excited. "I'm looking forward to what he

says," Josh explained. "In the news, they said he'd be talking about education, and I want to hear that."

Smyrna residents Joseph and Ann Snyder obtained tickets from state Rep. Bruce C. Ennis, D-Smyrna. Mr. Snyder is a World War II veteran and a member of VFW Post 8801 in Clayton.

"I think it's just great," Mrs. Snyder said. "I got my camera ready!"

Sitting close to where President Clinton would speak were Charles and Virginia Carson. Mr. Carson was a well-known figure for decades at the base, where he ran the mortuary for 26 years.

"The last time I was in this hangar was for the Ron Brown accident," Mr. Carson recalled. "They certainly go all-out. It's amazing how they can change the configuration of the place."

Ericka Grieder, 16, daughter of base commander Felix M. Grieder, was in the front row — camera ready — with her 11-year-old brother, John. "It's all pretty amazing," the Caesar Rodney High School junior said. "I know my Dad's excited about it." John took a slightly different view. "I'm happy to be here because I got out of school," he said with an honest grin.

When President Clinton finally arrived, he lauded the base and its personnel in a speech greeted with near-deafening applause. Afterwards, many in the crowd moved forward to shake hands with their charismatic leader. President Clinton,

warming to the occasion while worried Secret Service men looked on, spent a full 45 minutes shaking hands and chatting with the people.

Two young airmen, Airman 1st Class Cynthia De La Vara and Airman Valerie Skelly, were positively thrilled when the chief threw his arms around them for a spontaneous hug.

"At first, Valerie was going to ask for a picture with him," Airman De La Vara said. "But she ran out of film. So, I figured, what the heck, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; I'd ask for a hug. He put his arms around

us and hugged us both!"

"Not only that, but one of my friends had a camera, so, we got a picture," Airman Skelly said.

As he exited the hangar and was preparing to leave, the president learned of the little children from West Dover Elementary School and the special cap they'd prepared. Mr. Clinton came back into the hangar. In a final gesture, he graciously accepted the cap and signed a banner for the class.

It was quite a day.

Tom Eldred can be reached at 741-8212 or at teldred@newszap.com.

Base personnel praised for their supportive role

'You are making a huge difference,' Clinton says

NJ

By MOLLY MURRAY
Staff reporter

5-9-98

DOVER — With a massive C-5 transport jet as his backdrop, President Clinton on Friday praised Dover Air Force Base personnel for the "essential" role they play in maintaining world peace and keeping him mobile and in touch when he travels to foreign lands.

More than 1,000 people — Air Force personnel, state and local officials, schoolchildren and Democratic Party activists — turned out to hear the president.

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE

But perhaps most touched by the message were the wives of the airmen who carry out the base mission of delivering military cargo and hardware around the world.

"It's sometimes hard to be left behind," said Mary Mihok, the mother of five. "It means a lot to me" that the president realizes the sacrifice military families make. "You miss a lot of things."

Her husband, Tom, is a master

sergeant with almost 19 years of active military duty. Ten of those years have been spent in Dover.

In recent months, Dover base personnel have helped keep Clinton on the go and in contact with home.

There was a trip to Africa in March. "Guess what? On my whole trip, you provided the transportation and communications ... I thank you," Clinton said.

Last month, it was a trip to Chile. "Guess what? You provided my communications and transportation and I thank you."

And there is an upcoming European trip.

"You're going to provide my transportation and communication and I thank you," he said.

So what's all this transportation and communication equipment? Some of it's a secret. But then, there's the president's limo, the helicopter — the stuff that keeps him moving.

"He keeps us pretty busy," Master Sgt. Mihok said.

It was a big day for the Mihok children, too. Tim, 14, got to shake the president's hand.

"He looked like he does on television," the youngster said. "I thought his hands



The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS

A Dover Air Force Base honor guard silently leaves Air Force One in the pouring rain Friday after the president's departure. Clinton toured a C-5 transport jet at the base.

would be hot but they were cold."

And there was the big moment for the 220 members of the Dover High School Band, who Clinton praised for their enthusiasm.

He turned serious as he talked about his tour of a C-5 and the important role cargo bases such as Dover play in times of conflict and with humanitarian aid.

"Our leadership is more important

than ever," he said. "We need you more than ever. ... Here at Dover, you are leading the way. ... When your joints ache from loading pallets ... when you fly all night ... when you're too far from home and you wonder sometimes what you're doing it all for, please remember, in ways large and small, you are making a huge difference in making the world a better place for the children in this room today."

West Dover students given an opportunity to meet the president

By **Delarita C. Ford**
Staff writer

DSN
5-8-98

DOVER — Dover High School Band members are not the only students who will have the once in a lifetime experience of seeing the president in real life.

Kindergartners from West Dover Elementary School who had a scheduled trip to the Dover Air Force Base Museum were invited to come to the base after all so they will have the opportunity to greet and meet the president, according to Maj. Kirk E. Faryniasz, Dover Air Force Base public affairs officer.

He said the kindergartners' tour, which the base received requests for four weeks ago, was not cancelled but had been postponed until May 13, and that the base would "bend over backward" to accommodate the children.

"We were originally told it would be 100

percent military identification checks at the gate and none of these children would have those, so then we rescheduled them for the 13th of May," Maj. Faryniasz said. He said he hopes nothing will interfere with that rescheduled date like another presidential visit.

Maj. Faryniasz said the children have been invited to the base and will be in the "big hanger, where the president will be speaking to the base folks."

While the kindergartners have their orders to be at the base by noon, West Dover Elementary School third graders in Michelle Ross' and Latende Henry's class will be walking at 12:30 p.m. to Legislative Mall to see the president.

Central Middle School students in a mentoring program will not be left out of the action either as guidance counselor, Bessie Lewis, and associate principal, Phyllise Wilkins-Church, have arranged for eight to

10 students to go on a journey in hopes of seeing the president, while learning the significance of what goes on in Legislative Hall, what affiliation does President Clinton have with Dover Air Force Base and learning about other jobs, including what a Secret Service agent does.

"This will be an important adventure. We are trying to expose our children to anything educational and cultural in and around the city of Dover. Those activities are important to their educational success," said Ms. Wilkins-Church, who has been in education for over 30 years.

She said the school has walking permission slips for students just in case an important event comes up like a visit from the president.

"We're out and about quite a bit," Ms. Wilkins-Church said, adding that children's learning success enhances when they have such opportunities to meet the president.

go to cultural concerts, plays, college functions.

"They will see someone like the president and realize that this is a real live person," she said.

Dover High School Principal Joseph DeFelice announced to his student body Thursday that they could be dismissed to see the president at Legislative Mall if they turned in notes from their parents during homeroom.

Although he said he would like the opportunity to see the president himself, he said as long as some of his students have the chance, he is satisfied.

"If I get to see the president fine, if I don't get to see him, then that's fine too, as long as my kids are there. I would hate for them to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Dr. DeFelice said.

Delarita C. Ford can be reached at 741-8233 or rita@newszap.com.

After four hours, West Dover pupils get to meet Clinton

N 5-9-98

By MOLLY MURRAY
Staff reporter

They waved their American flags. They danced to the beat of the Dover High School Band. They fidgeted, squirmed and fidgeted some more.

For the 5- and 6-year-olds from West Dover Elementary School, the wait to see President Clinton seemed to span a lifetime.

Four hours after they settled in at a hangar at Dover Air Force Base, "the boss of the country" arrived.

Six-year-old Brittany Brokenbrough's reaction: "I'm hungry. ... Do you think they have any cookies left?"

Monique Montague, 6, was impressed.

"He didn't look like the man on TV," she said. "He looked cute. ... He's so cute, I could kiss him."

The children, like hundreds of other people, had hoped for a close-up look at Clinton and a chance to shake his hand.

Their teachers and principal scrambled to get the youngsters to the event, calling parents throughout Thursday evening to secure permission slips and running to every store in Dover to buy tiny American flags. They even made a banner to welcome Clinton to Dover.

Once the speeches were over, the children began

chanting: "We want the president! We want the president!"

For a while, it appeared they would be disappointed.

Clinton shook hands with hundreds of people and spent about a half-hour moving among the crowd. But the West Dover kindergartners were not among them. Most of the children couldn't even see over the security barriers.

Then Gov. Carper, noticing the sea of tiny hands waving above the barricade, walked over to greet the youngsters.

Clinton, meanwhile, started in the direction of his car. He signed some autographs, then, prompted by Carper, noticed the children.

In an instant, he was there, shaking hands for another 10 minutes.

"This is it, boy. I tell you," said Principal Cecil Wilson. "Good things come to those that wait."

THE KIDS

"He didn't look like
the man on TV.
He looked cute. ...
He's so cute, I
could kiss him."

Monique Montague, 6,
of West Dover
Elementary School



West Dover Elementary School Principal Cecil Wilson lifts kindergartner Jeremiah Smith so he can see President Clinton arriving Friday at a hangar at Dover Air Force Base. Wilson brought students and teachers to see Clinton.

The News Journal BRIAN BRANCH-PRICE



The president in Dover



Dover High School performs for president

By Delarita C. Ford
Staff writer *DSN 5-12-98*

DOVER — It was music to their ears for band members of Dover High School when they heard Wednesday afternoon that they will be performing for the president.

"The kids are thrilled," said Joseph DeFelice, Dover High School principal, who said he received a phone call from one of President Clinton's staff 4 p.m. Tuesday.

He said when asked if the Dover High School Band, made up of over 200 students including those in the jazz ensemble and other performers, would be able to play for the president Friday, he replied "If there's any way we can do it we will."

After that conversation, Dr. DeFelice said he had to rearrange student schedules, arrange bag lunches for the band members to eat on the way to Dover Air Force Base, and tell students to make sure it was okay with their parents since there was not enough time to do formal permission slips.

"It was exciting talking to the guy who goes ahead and makes plans for the president," Dr. DeFelice said. "This is exciting, it is really exciting."

Dr. DeFelice said the students will send their band equipment to Dover Air Force Base before they arrive so it can be inspected so it does not slow down the security process when they go through their check. He said the band will have to entertain dignitaries an hour and a half before the President arrives.

"They could have gotten a lot of different bands, it makes us feel kind of proud," Mr. DeFelice said.

Dr. James Hammond, Capital School District superintendent, said the band was most likely recommended to perform for the President because of its reputation.

"It's the best band in the state of Delaware and it has a very fine reputation for excellence and quality," Dr. Hammond said.

Although it may have been the first time current band members have played for the president, it is not the first time for Dover High School Band instructor David C. DeLong. He had the opportunity to lead former band members over six years ago when they played for former president George Bush.

"You are in for an experience you will not forget. I have been fortunate to see and do this before," Mr. DeLong said, before a White House official arrived in

the band room to hear the band practice.

Dr. DeFelice said the band is keeping up its reputation for playing for presidents and has had the opportunity to play for two consecutive presidents.

"That is a pretty good start. We're aiming for 10," Dr. DeFelice said.

Mr. DeLong told students the experience would be new for them and let them know what they should expect and what was expected of them Thursday afternoon while practicing.

"I want all of you to understand what a privilege and honor this will be. Twenty, 30 and 40 years from now it will be an incredible thing to say that you played for the president," Mr. DeLong said to the band of over 200 members including a jazz ensemble, dancers, a pom-pom and flag squad.

Mr. DeLong told the students they will be representing not only the band, but the school, the community, and the state's capital. After the band practiced some peppy, upbeat tunes such as Jungle Boogie and Respect, the instructor gave them another pep talk.

"We were selected to do this. We have an incredible opportunity for this school, this community and believe me we are going to make the most of it," Mr. DeLong said.



Staff photo/Linda Laird

President Clinton greets members of the Dover High School band.

"Ever since I heard this 3 p.m. Wednesday, I have been very tense, on edge. I have seen a lot of bands on television play for things like this and some were not very impressive. That is not going to be us," Mr. DeLong said.

He reminded band members to be in complete uniform, which included having black socks, black shoes, a white T-shirt underneath, "no substitutes." He said the band will be under scrutiny and will be watched on every television station

from "little ones in Salisbury to Philadelphia to nationally on CNN."

"This is an awesome thing to represent our school district and the capital of our state. That is so important to me because I care about you, our school and our district and in the next 12 hours you really need to prepare yourself to be the kind of representative you want..." Mr. DeLong said.

Delarita Ford can be reached at 741-8233 or at rita@newszap.com.

Band tunes up

By Delarita C. Ford
Staff writer *DSN 5-8-98*

DOVER — The Dover High School Band is continuing a legacy for performing for presidents and has a reputation to uphold.

Although it may be the first time current band members have played for the president, it is not the first time for Dover High School Band instructor David C. Delong. He had the opportunity to lead former band members over six years ago when they played for former president George Bush.

"You are in for an experience you will not forget. I have been fortunate to see and do this before," Mr. Delong said, before a White House official arrived in the band room to hear the band practice.

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Staff photos/John King
Above, Beck McCall, Jessica Gilreath and Stephanie Manzi warm up for the Dover High School band performance for the president. Right, David C. Delong directs the band.

impressive. That is not going to be us," Mr. Delong said.

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"This is an awesome thing to represent our school district and the capital of our state. That is so important to me because I care about you, our school and our district and in the next 12 hours you really need to prepare yourself to be the kind of representative you want..." Mr. Delong said.

In between taking breaths and blowing into wind instruments, students expressed their excitement of being able to play "Hail to the Chief," and "Ruffles and Flourishes" for the commander-in-chief and other dignitaries.

"This is very exciting because it's a first time opportunity for a lot of people. Not many people had the opportunity to play for the president," said 11th-grader Angela Carter.



Jamie Goodman, a saxophone player and band secretary, and Lorrell Ayers, 11-graders, said they were honored to have the experience.

"This will be a great experience for the Dover High School Band and an opportunity for us to represent Dover High School," Lorrell said.

After Mike Frazier, a White House official, reiterated the security process for the students and their instruments, he encouraged them to "play their hearts out."

"On behalf of the White House and the president of the United States, I am happy you are play-

ing for us. We hear you have a really good record in terms of your performance throughout the state and other venues," Mr. Frazier said. "Play your hearts out and afterward come out of the bleachers and try to shake the president's hand. He would like to meet as many of you as possible."

Delarita C. Ford can be reached at 741-8233 or rita@newszap.com.

The President In Delaware

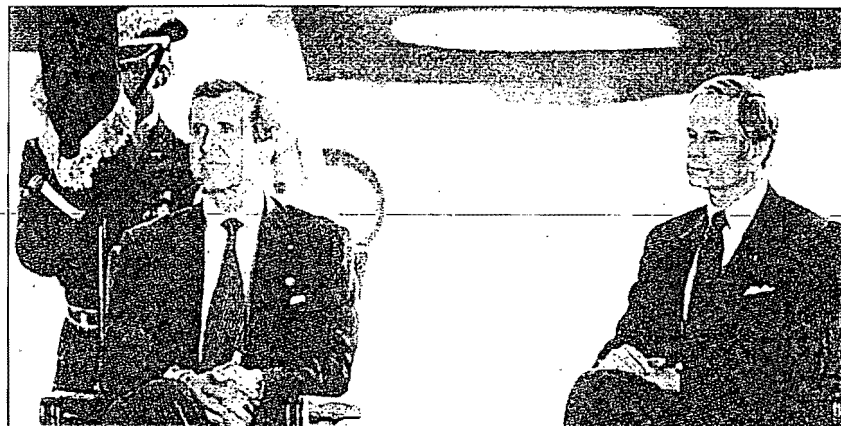
Clinton charms First State



The News Journal/BRIAN BRANCH-PRICE
Caitlin Hogeboom, 5, talks to President Clinton after his speech at the Dover Air Force Base. Pupils from West Dover Elementary waited hours to meet Clinton.



Staff photo/Linda Laird



Staff photo/Linda Laird

Left, President Clinton speaks to the gathering at Legislative Hall. Above, Dover High School band members, from left, Jessica Ball, 15; Kira Gordon, 15; Kristin Wheatley, 16; Becky McCall, 14; and Brian Hollar, 18; are psyched after meeting the president. Right, Capt. Erik Sant, a pilot at Dover Air Force Base holds his 2-year-old daughter Sydney so she can wave her flag for the president. Below left, Sen. Patricia M. Blevins ties her son John's tie before the president arrives. Below right, Secretary of Defense William Cohen and Gov. Thomas R. Carper listen to the president's speech at the base.



Staff photo/Linda Laird



Staff photo/John King



Staff photo/Linda Laird

DSN 5-9-98

Left, President Clinton enters Dover Air Force Base, Above, Dover High School Band member Angela Smith, 15; Lady Johnson, 16; and Miranda Coverdale, 15. Right, the president shakes hands with students from West Dover Elementary School.



Staff photo/Linda Laird



Speical to the State News/Tech Sgt. Don Perrie



Staff photos/Linda Laird
 Above, the Dover High School band plays for the crowd and the president. Right, Tyler Wall, 6, and Scott Odgen, 6, wait for President Clinton to come so they can give him the hat from their class at West Dover Elementary.

DSN 5-9-98



DSN 5-12-98



President Clinton greets members of the Dover High School band.



President Clinton shakes hands with the crowd.

DSN 5-12-98



the president salutes the crowd at the base.



Charles Langloss, 11, Ben Materna, 13, and Jessica Langloss, 14, entertain themselves while waiting for the president to arrive at the base. Below right.



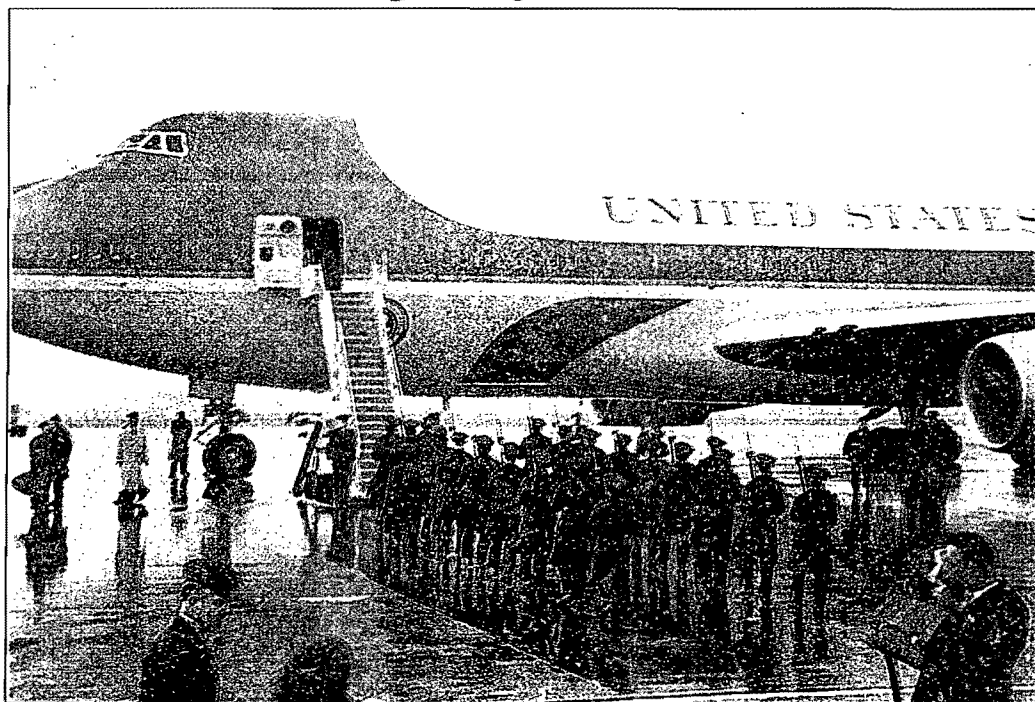
Staff photos/Linda Laird

Left, President Clinton greets Dover Air Force Base personnel and West Dover Elementary school kindergartners at Dover Air Force Base on Friday.

the base Honor Guard readies for the president's departure.

Rainia Sheath, 6, and Catlin Hodgeboon, 5, of West Dover Elementary School strain to see the president over the crowd.

DSN 5-12-98



Staff photos/Linda Laird
Left, West Dover Elementary School students wave their flags and chant "We want the president."



This Fax = 10 Pages

→ cc: Mickey
Fred
Mike Cohen

SENATE
STATE OF DELAWARE
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

Sen. McDowell is
looking for a
mention in

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(D)

POTUS

speech

I told
him we'd
(J&A)

talk more

w/ him next week.

S. Dale

COMMITTEES
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SMALL BUSINESS

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302 658 9732

Susan Dale

Fax # 202 456 6220

RE: SB 18

Susan

Senate Bill 18 is similar to the "Hope Scholarship"
Bills the President has championed in Arkansas and
in Georgia. The attached Editorial gives a concise
explanation. The income levels have been raised to
\$40,000 and I would like to go higher

This Bill passed the Democratic^{Senate} twice 21-0 and 19-1
But SB 18 has hit a stone wall in the Republican
controlled House of Representatives.

The Bill would cost approximately \$3,500,000 which I
believe would be more than offset by savings (well fore
prisons, teen pregnancy etc) and increased taxes paid by
college grads. Delaware has had an unexpected increase
in State Revenues this year of over \$120,000,000 !!!

Thanks in advance for any assistance you can give

Sincerely

H. B. McDowell

A12, Friday, June 28, 1986

The News Journal
A Gannett newspaperW. Curtis Fiddle
President and Publisher

Opinio

OUR VIEW

MERIT SYSTEM

Free college tuition for
low-income students
is good investment

It is hard to imagine a more sensible, more vital, more positive piece of legislation than the bill moving through the General Assembly to pay college tuition and fees for young people whose families could not otherwise afford to send them on to school.

WHERE WE STAND
Academic achievement of at least a 2.5 average would be needed to qualify.

This proposal, sponsored by Sen. Harris B. McDowell Jr., will mean access to higher education this fall for more than 100 young people who otherwise would have had to compete in a job market without the background to build a future. We can only estimate how much this will raise the hopes — and more important — the aspirations of hundreds of students now in the lower grades.

This may be what is needed to turn around kids who otherwise might have despaired of ever enjoying an attractive career, who let their grades slide or even drop out.

This targets the hard-working, reasonably intelligent kids from moderate- and low-income families that often have been closed off from higher education since the days of the generous GI Bill of Rights. A one-child family could have an average two-year income of no more than \$27,000 a year, with an extra \$5,000 allowance for each other child in the family.

To qualify, young people would have to take college-preparatory courses and maintain a minimum grade-point average of 2.5.

If the maximum income figures prove too restrictive, legislators say they will consider adjusting the number.

Estimates of the state's cost for this school year range from \$350,000 to \$481,000, which seems to us a very small investment for a much larger payoff in human terms as well as dollars.



OUR REAL

Joke about shootings
insulted Wilmington

I found your editorial cartoon of June 19 insulting. It said, "The secret is to get through Wilmington without being shot."

I have lived in Wilmington all my life (8 years) and have never felt threatened. The cartoon was insulting to Wilmington residents and the Olympic torch carriers.

Natasha Plett
Wilmington

Bill wasn't fashioned
to help one candidate

Without contacting me, The News Journal editorial writers concluded that I introduced House Bill 488 to support



SPONSOR: Sens. McDowell,
Blevins, Henry, Marshall
& Sokola; Reps.
Buckworth, DiLiberto,
DiPinto, Fallon, & Stone

DELAWARE STATE SENATE

139TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1

MAY 8 1997

TO

SENATE BILL NO. 18

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend Chapter 34, Title 14 of the Delaware Code by adding thereto a
2 new subchapter, designated as Subchapter X, which new subchapter shall read as follows:

3 "SUBCHAPTER X. THE DELAWARE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS ACT

4 §3491. Purpose

5 There is hereby created the Delaware Higher Education Access Program. Under
6 this subchapter, qualified, college-bound state resident students are relieved of the burden
7 of paying undergraduate tuition at the University of Delaware, Delaware State University,
8 and Delaware Technical and Community College provided that these students meet the
9 criteria set forth in this Act and are pursuing studies leading to an associate or
10 baccalaureate degree. Students who qualify under this Act shall not have to repay the
11 State of Delaware because it is the intent and purpose of the Delaware General Assembly,
12 through this subchapter, to help ensure that Delaware students stay in high school, excel

13 academically, and have better access to higher education regardless of a family's financial
 14 circumstances and therefore payments under this Program shall be grants, not loans.

15 §3492. Definitions

16 The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Act, shall have the
 17 meaning ascribed to them except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

18 (a) 'Commission' shall mean the Delaware Higher Education Commission.

19 (b) 'Family' for an unemancipated applicant shall mean the applicant, the
 20 applicant's parents or legal guardian, and other children under the age of twenty-one of
 21 the applicant's parents or legal guardian. The term 'family' for an emancipated applicant
 22 shall mean the applicant, an applicant's spouse and any children under the age of twenty-
 23 one of the applicant and spouse.

24 §3493. Administration

25 (a) This subchapter shall be administered by the Commission.

26 (b) The Commission shall adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary
 27 and proper to the administration of this subchapter.

28 (c) The Commission shall annually report to the General Assembly of the State
 29 the names of those students enrolled in the Delaware Higher Education Access Program
 30 and the total amount of expenditures made under this subchapter.

31 §3494. Eligibility

32 To be eligible to participate in the Delaware Higher Education Access Program
 33 and to qualify for a grant to pay tuition by the State of Delaware over and above current
 34 higher education funding pursuant to this subchapter for the first semester or other
 35 academic unit of post-secondary enrollment, either at the University of Delaware,
 36 Delaware State University or the Delaware Technical and Community College, a student
 37 shall meet all of the following:

38 (a) A student shall be eligible for such grant who satisfies the Delaware residency
 39 requirements set forth in §3404(c) of this title. For purposes of this Program and of
 40 §3404(c), a parent or guardian of a student under 18 or dependent on parental financial
 41 support shall satisfy the residency requirement relating to voting if such person is

42 disqualified from voting in Delaware solely because such person has committed a
43 disqualifying criminal offense.

44 (b) The student shall not have been convicted of any crime and no criminal
45 proceedings shall be pending against the student, other than misdemeanor traffic
46 violations, and the student and his or her parent or legal guardian shall certify such fact.

47 (c) A student shall have demonstrated financial need to be eligible for the
48 Program as follows:

49 (1) An applicant shall be found to be in financial need if the family has
50 one child under the age of twenty-one and the family's two year average annual adjusted
51 gross income, for the two years prior to the student participating in the Delaware Higher
52 Education Access Program, is less than forty-thousand dollars (\$40,000), plus five
53 thousand dollars for each additional child in the family under the age of twenty-one. This
54 figure shall be adjusted yearly by a percentage of the change equal to the change, if any,
55 in the Consumer Price Index for the previous twelve months ending on March 30 of every
56 year. The two-year average annual adjusted gross income of a family shall be verified by
57 the Higher Education Commission.

58 (d) A student shall have successfully completed the state requirements for high
59 school graduation in a rigorous, college preparatory core curriculum in the subjects of
60 math, science, social studies, English, and foreign languages as established by the State
61 Board of Education and as promulgated in the Handbook for K-12 education specifically
62 for this Program and which shall be more rigorous than those required for high school
63 graduation. The Commission shall inform students and parents of the curriculum
64 requirements for the Program in its outreach efforts pursuant to §3498 hereof. Until such
65 time as the State Board specifies a specific curriculum for the Program tied to the State's
66 Academic Content Standards, a curriculum including at least seventeen and one-half units
67 in the following courses shall be sufficient for eligibility:

68 (1) English I, II, III, IV (four units);

69 (2) Algebra I and II (two units);

- 70 (3) Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or comparable Advanced
 71 Mathematics (one unit);
 72 (4) Biology (one unit);
 73 (5) Chemistry (one unit);
 74 (6) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II,
 75 Chemistry II, or Physics (one unit);
 76 (7) American History (one unit);
 77 (8) World History, World Cultures, Western Civilization, or World
 78 Geography (one unit);
 79 (9) Civics and/or Economics (one unit);
 80 (10) Fine Arts Survey (one unit or substitute two units of performance
 81 courses in music, dance, or theater, or substitute two units of studio art
 82 courses);
 83 (11) Foreign Language (two units in a single language);
 84 (12) Computer Science, Computer Literacy, or Data Processing (one
 85 unit);
 86 (13) Electives from one of the above (one unit).
- 87 (e) A student shall, effective upon the implementation of the relevant assessments
 88 in the Delaware State Testing Program, have demonstrated a level of performance and
 89 knowledge which meets or exceeds the State Content Standards for high school students
 90 in the core curriculum areas (10th grade standards in English language arts and
 91 mathematics and 12th grade standards in science and social studies).
- 92 (f) A student shall (i) have graduated from a Delaware high school with a
 93 minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, not counting honor
 94 points, for all work attempted in grades nine through twelve or (ii) have graduated from a
 95 Delaware high school with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0
 96 scale, not counting honor points, for work attempted in grades nine through twelve and is
 97 entering the Delaware Higher education system as a freshman, and attained a score of at

127 (2) A grant recipient receiving other financial assistance specifically
128 designated for tuition and other regularly assessed fees shall receive a
129 grant equal to the balance of tuition.

130 (3) A grant recipient's eligibility for assistance from the State's need-
131 based grant program shall be reduced by any amount received from this
132 Program.

133 (4) If, as a result of applying for federal and state student financial aid, or
134 through other means, it becomes apparent that a recipient's financial status
135 has substantially improved since eligibility was determined, or that
136 deliberate fraud was involved in the application process, the Commission
137 may reevaluate the recipient's eligibility for grant assistance, and may
138 withdraw a grant award.

139 §3496. Maintaining Eligibility

140 (a) To maintain continued state payment of tuition once enrolled at the University
141 of Delaware, Delaware State University, or Delaware Technical and Community College,
142 the student shall meet all of the following:

143 (1) Make steady academic progress toward an associate or baccalaureate
144 degree, earning not less than the minimum number of hours of credit
145 required for full-time standing in each academic period.

146 (2) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than two semesters in
147 each successive academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by
148 the Commission.

149 (3) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 calculated on a
150 4.0 scale at the end of the first academic year and thereafter maintain such
151 a cumulative grade point average. The Higher Education Commission
152 may grant exceptions upon appeal.

153 (4) The student and family shall certify that the student has no criminal
154 record in any jurisdiction, not including misdemeanor traffic violations,
155 and is not under the probation of any court of law in any jurisdiction.

156 (b) Grants made by the Delaware Higher Education Access Program shall not be
 157 allowed for courses or other post-secondary units repeated, taken in excess of the
 158 requirements for completion of an associate or baccalaureate degree, or taken more than
 159 five (5) years after the student's first semester of post-secondary enrollment.

160 (c) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent a student from transferring
 161 between Delaware institutions of higher education after the student has been accepted
 162 into the Delaware Higher Education Access Program.

163 §3497. Disbursement

164 (a) Funds awarded from this program shall be disbursed on a semester by
 165 semester basis upon receipt of enrollment verification from the educational institution.

166 (b) No disbursement on behalf of an individual student, pursuant to this
 167 subchapter, shall be greater than the tuition charged by the school.

168 §3498. Additional Commission Responsibilities

169 (a) The Commission shall develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness
 170 program to inform students and parents of the Delaware Higher Education Access
 171 Program. Each school year, every third grade student and every fifth through twelfth
 172 grade student in the State shall be informed, together with the student's parent or legal
 173 guardian, of the curriculum and grade point average requirements and the student's
 174 opportunity for access to higher education under the Delaware Higher Education Access
 175 Program.

176 (b) The Commission shall ensure that every school district designates at least one
 177 Delaware Higher Education Access Program contact person, who shall be either a
 178 counselor or teacher, at each high school site in this State."

179 Section 2. The Delaware Higher Education Access Program shall be available to
 180 students immediately following this Act's enactment.

SYNOPSIS

This Act creates the Delaware Higher Education Access Program. The goal of this Act is to encourage Delaware students to stay in school, excel academically, and have access to higher education regardless of a family's financial circumstances. This substitute (1) makes the bill subject to annual appropriations; (2) raises academic standards required for eligibility; (3) ties the bill to the State's initiative to raise academic standards and strengthen state assessments of student performance by requiring students

to pass any required state assessment to be eligible; (4) makes the curriculum requirement consistent with the State's education reform; (5) in the event of limited funding, gives priority to qualifying students with the highest academic achievement; (6) strengthens the Delaware residency requirement and other eligibility provisions to avoid unintended or unfair consequences.

Author: Sen. McDowell