

- ① Judy Winston - call Clay / Paper

② Alexis to call Mayor Owens
[road bike race]

Andy

- Cuts - Sette + Hoern
- Andy - Farm

Andy - Lumsden

Peter - Cuts

Elm - OMA

Riley - Bennett

Darold - Cuts

Gene / Mayes -

Ray - 204

Robert Tack

Colt Call 11:00

- 11g PB

- Gene's AT/Cuts

Fund for the Improvement of Education
Fiscal Year 1998 Spending

Continuation of Congressional Directives	\$1,209,929
New Senate Directives	19,250,000
New House Directives (estimate)	2,000,000
Comprehensive School Reform	50,000,000
Voluntary National Tests	16,250,000
Other Continuations	14,835,478
Other New Activities	<u>1,454,593</u>
Total	105,000,000

FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION

FY 1997

FY 1998

MATH/SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY--TIMSS FOLLOW-UP

NAS TIMSS Follow-Up, Etc.	\$430,830	\$246,710
CBE TIMSS Proposal	\$25,000	\$0
TIMSS District Level Benchmarking	\$1,024,969	\$0
Math Olympiad	\$100,000	\$100,000

TEACHING

OERI Urban Schools Initiative	\$69,755	\$0
State Level Responses to Teacher Ed Reform	\$604,411	\$0
Model Professional Development Award Program	\$250,000	\$250,000
Christa McAuliffe Fellowship	\$2,212,964	\$2,225,720
Blue Ribbon Schools Program	\$1,738,917	\$976,860
Foundation for the Advancements of Science & Education	\$1,058,565	\$719,000
Baldrige Awards	\$250,000	\$0
Teacher Forum	\$130,000	\$130,000

ASSESSMENT

Board on Testing and Assessment (BOTA)	\$100,000	\$0
Student Assessment Initiative -- FY 97	\$1,122,443	\$1,567,034
Student Assessment Initiative -- FY95	\$3,037,654	\$2,443,507

National Voluntary Testing Program	\$15,293,021	\$16,250,000
Specifications	\$960,473	
Development	\$13,035,848	
Evaluation	\$1,238,800	
Comparison	\$57,900	

READING

Cultural Exchange	\$300,000	\$302,609
Literacy Inc.	\$350,000	\$375,000

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Boston Music Education Collaborative	\$317,133	\$326,068
First Book -- Book Distribution Program	\$666,503	\$333,497
In-School Mentoring Program	\$300,000	\$200,000
Space Science Demo	\$248,352	\$51,648
Scholar Athletes Games	\$800,000	\$0
National Student Parent Mock Election	\$125,000	\$0
Stevens Institute for Technology	\$302,333	\$298,716
Educational Software	\$0	\$0
Consumer Education	\$0	\$0
Employability Curriculum	\$0	\$0
NEW SENATE DIRECTIVES	\$0	\$19,250,000
NEW HOUSE DIRECTIVES (est.)	\$0	\$2,000,000

FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION

	FY 1997	FY 1998
<u>COMPREHENSIVE REFORM</u>	\$0	\$50,000,000
<u>OTHER ACTIVITIES</u>		
Key Issues in Critical Transitions	\$135,271	\$0
National Alliance for Business	\$350,000	\$350,000
Citizenship Education Fund	\$30,875	\$0
Boston Plan for Excellence	\$251,180	\$227,499
N. Carolina Quality Service Center	\$300,000	\$300,000
Friends of Fermi Lab	\$64,300	\$0
Education Commission of the States	\$25,000	\$0
New American Schools	\$30,000	\$0
Character Education -- FY 97 Starts	\$999,524	\$999,621
Character Education -- FY 96 Starts	\$990,331	\$997,270
Character Education -- FY 95 Starts	\$802,093	\$525,823
Elementary School Counseling -- FY 95 Starts	\$2,393,539	\$0
Jump Start	\$250,000	\$250,000
National Mentoring Coalition	\$495,946	\$383,635
Efficacy Institute	\$357,621	\$360,190
MetaNetworks	\$250,000	\$250,000
Library Assessment	\$25,000	\$0
Career Academy Assessment	\$125,000	\$230,000
NEA-Arts Partnership	\$120,000	\$110,000
NEA-Arts Edge	\$200,000	\$190,000
CCSSO	\$800,000	\$0
Early Childhood Research	\$75,000	\$75,000
FIE Grantee Meetings	\$1,185	\$50,000
Field Readers	\$70,285	\$200,000
<u>OTHER NEW ACTIVITIES</u>	\$0	\$1,454,593
TOTAL	\$40,000,000	\$105,000,000

SUMMARY

	FY 1998
CONTINUATION OF CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES	\$1,209,929
NEW SENATE DIRECTIVES	\$19,250,000
NEW HOUSE DIRECTIVES (est.)	\$2,000,000
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL TESTS	\$16,250,000
OTHER CONTINUATIONS	\$14,835,478
COMPREHENSIVE REFORM	\$50,000,000
OTHER NEW ACTIVITIES	\$1,454,593
TOTAL	\$105,000,000

NATIONAL TESTING

- The **Administration** requested \$40 million for the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE), of which \$16 million is needed to fund the national tests.
- The **Senate** provided FIE with \$50 million, \$10 million above the Administration's request. At this level, national testing would be funded, as would a significant number of continuation awards and new projects. The Senate report language includes several projects that it "urges" Education to fund, although they are not earmarked in appropriations language (listed in an attachment).
- The **House** provided FIE with \$80 million, \$40 million above the Administration's request in total, but \$11 million below the request once funds for earmarks are subtracted. The House bill includes two earmarks in appropriations language: (1) \$50 million for Rep. Obey's whole school reform initiative; and (2) \$1 million for the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate various aspects of the national tests.

Of the \$29 million for unearmarked projects, \$16 million would be for the national test. But, the remaining funds would be insufficient to adequately support continuation grants (e.g., State assessments, character education, McAuliffe fellowships), new projects (e.g., materials on the international math test), and congressional directives included in report language (listed in attachment).

NATIONAL TESTING - ATTACHMENT

The **Senate** report language includes several directives in which it “urges” or “encourages” the Department of Education (ED) to fund specific projects from the Fund for the Improvement of Education FIE, which finances the national tests. Although the report language is non-binding, ED traditionally attempts to honor as many of these directives as possible. The directives include:

- \$2,000,000 to develop a common fiber-optic infrastructure plan for multiple college campuses;
- \$750,000 for a demonstration project to assist second grade students who need help with reading;
- \$1,000,000 to support a university-based research project with an emphasis on university consortium efforts which target inner-city public schools;
- \$1,000,000 for a demonstration project designed for children in grades three through nine who are educationally and/or socially at risk for school failure;
- \$1,000,000 to support an expansion of the Women in Natural Sciences Program, developed and managed by the Academy of Natural Sciences, which will permit the dissemination of information and an evaluation component;
- \$3,000,000 for activities to extent the time for learning within or beyond the school year or day;
- \$5,000,000 for a demonstration project designed to improve student achievement through curriculum improvement and the effective use of information technology;
- \$5000,000 to begin a national study of curriculum education programs; and
- \$1,000,000 to conduct a demonstration project using state-of-the-art technology to help students learn English.

In addition to the two appropriations earmarks, the **House** report language also includes several directives:

- instructs the Secretary to give careful consideration to applications for a \$500,000 proposal for enhanced teacher training for the Foorman, Frances, and Fletcher NICHD approved longitudinal project “Early Interventions for Children with Reading Problems”;
- \$125,000 included for a national student and parent mock election;
- urges ED to give careful consideration to any applications submitted for the Empire State College International Center for Educational Technology and Distance Learning;
- encourages ED to support the evaluation, expansion and dissemination of the Woman in Natural Sciences program;
- encourages ED to support a model youth concert demonstration program to provide additional information on the contribution of music to learning; and
- urges the Secretary to give high priority to applications from urban school districts attempting to effectively educate Hispanic students in areas of science and math.

August 31, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO BRUCE REED

FROM: MIKE COHEN

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON NATIONAL TESTS

Welcome back! I hope you had a good vacation.

This memo is designed to give you a quick update on the current status of the fight against the Goodling amendment and the actions that have been taken over the past two weeks. I expect that we will talk sometime between now and Tuesday morning to cover this in more depth.

Overall Picture:

Two things summarize the overall picture: it looks bleak, and it's tough to count or change votes at the end of August, when members are gone. More specifically:

- o Goodling is pushing ahead in the House, apparently with solid Republican support, and very likely with the Hispanic Caucus, about half of the Black Caucus, and perhaps some other liberal Democrats as well. Best guess -- he gets 250 votes. We expect a vote on Thursday, Sept. 4.
- o We expect a similar amendment in the Senate, probably from Coats. This is speculative; Coats hasn't yet done anything we can detect to validate the widespread speculation about his intentions. However, the Senate rules don't require any advance warning, so this is little ground for comfort. The Senate is supposed to take up Labor/HHS appropriations bill on Tuesday, but not vote on amendments until Thursday at the earliest. This situation is fluid--it could get pushed back further.
- o Ravitch has publicly broken with us over our failure to put NAGB in charge in a timely fashion (she had an op-ed in last week's Post). Now that we are fully on record in favor of putting NAGB in control, I don't know if she will come back on board; the latest signals (e-mails between us, and a conversation she had with BRT staff) from her are not encouraging. However, she and I have been trying to connect by phone, and I won't write her off until we speak directly. In the short run, however, it's not clear that she will directly move many votes even if she does come back on board.
- o At present, our vote counts in both houses are not reliable. Few members are around, and even fewer have focused on this issue over the recess, leaving staff unable to predict their votes accurately. Riley has been making a number of Hill calls from the road, and the Education Department is coordinating a whip count in the House, pulling together

information from our supporters in the education and business community and from anyplace else we can get it. We will know better on Tuesday what we have learned from this (and I will try to talk to Riley and Scott Fleming in ED over the weekend).

Administration Response:

We have been in high gear for the past week and a half/two weeks.

- o Elena raised the issue at the senior staff meetings just about every day last week. People caught on to the fact that we were facing a crisis.
- o We sent a memo to POTUS alerting him to the situation, outlining the steps we were launching to address it (and raising the Spanish testing issue at the same time).
- o We have had two very focused strategy meetings (last Monday and Wednesday), chaired by Elena, involving the following people at one or both meetings (Rahm, Paul B., Sylvia, Anne, Gene, Andy Blocker, Michael Waldman, Maria E., Lynn Cutler, Jon Schnur, Kris Balderston and assorted others from the Education Department and elsewhere). John Hilley returned to DC late last week (though not to the office yet; by Friday he was in touch with Andy, and Sylvia talked with him as well). **We need to schedule another meeting, ideally for mid afternoon on Tuesday.**

As a result of all of this, here is what we have been doing.

Legislative Strategy: We have been trying to work on several fronts over the past week. First, we want to make sure we don't get a Goodling-like provision added in the Senate. We will most likely be in better shape if the Senate votes before the House, though, as indicated above, the timing of the Senate vote is in doubt right now.

Second, we are not giving up on the House; we are looking for ways to shore up the Democratic base as much as possible and to drive a wedge between Goodling and his far right supporters on the one hand, and more moderate Republicans (and R's who want to pass an appropriations bill) on the other.

Third, in the event that strategy 2 doesn't work (and especially if strategy 1 does), we have contemplated asking Porter and Obey to accept the Goodling amendment rather than lose a recorded vote in the House, and then working to remove it in conference.

Fourth, the SAP that is circulating for the Senate vote (to be sent up on Tuesday) includes a "senior advisers veto threat" on several issues, including the prospect of an amendment to stop the testing initiative. Along similar lines, Riley's calls to Porter and Livingston were supposed to have indicated the strong possibility of a veto over this provision.

In the context of this strategy, here are the specific steps that have been taken or are in process:

- o With regard to the Senate, Riley had a number of calls to make (e.g., Jeffords and Daschle) to solidify our base there. There were similar staff level efforts underway. However, I don't have good feedback from any of these calls yet. Lieberman's staff told us on Friday that he expected Coats to approach Lieberman about co-sponsoring a stop-the-testing amendment, and that he wasn't sure where Lieberman was on this issue. Riley was to try and call Lieberman to talk him out of this; I wouldn't be surprised if you have to call Lieberman as well.
- o Among House Democrats, several things have occurred. First, POTUS indicated, as expected, that we are not developing a Spanish version of the test. I told Bercerra this late Friday, and I fully expect we will lose almost all of the Hispanic Caucus as a result. Second, we know the Black Caucus is split (Major Owens has announced his support for Goodling, while Bill Clay, Bobby Rush and a number of others are solidly in our camp). Third, we are picking up some important support: Clay, Martinez (probably our sole ally in the Hispanic Caucus) and George Miller are sending a supportive "dear colleague" out on Tuesday. Tim Romer wouldn't sign the letter because of far right pressure back home; Riley talked to him on Friday, but I don't know the outcome yet. Fourth, because of the split in the caucus, it doesn't look like the Dem. leadership will take a stand on this. Fifth, we are working to get Riley on the agenda of the Dem. caucus on Thursday, before the vote. We are also working to get Riley with the Blue Dogs, the New Democrats, and anyone else we can.
- o With regard to our Republican strategy, we have made clear that we are sending up legislation to put NAGB in charge. Riley announced it on Face the Nation last Sunday, and ED has put out a press release. The legislation is in OMB clearance and should be ready for transmittal by Tuesday or Wednesday. We've talked to Riggs about this, who is glad we are doing it (but will not break with Goodling on the vote). We have sent Riggs a draft of the legislation, and are awaiting feedback--though he knows and is comfortable with us transmitting asap. Riggs is going to try and cut a deal with Goodling using the NAGB legislation; no one else can imagine that this will work, but we have encouraged him to try. In the meantime, Riley was to have talked to Porter and Livingston by Friday. Bottom line; we doubt that our supporters on the committee (Riggs, Castle) will break with Goodling, and we doubt that Goodling is going to give any ground since he has political reasons back home to oppose us and also seems to have the upper hand right now. However, we hope that some combination of Riggs, Livingston and Porter can push Goodling towards a compromise that lets us move forward on test development while giving him something

he wants (perhaps no implementation of the test without specific authorization from Congress).

Outreach Strategy

- o The education groups that support us (AFT, NEA, Great City Schools, chief state school officers, elementary school principals and a few others) have sent a letter opposing Goodling to all members in both houses. NAB is supposed to be doing the same, as is BRT. Mike Casserly has sent a very good op-ed to the NYTimes, though it hasn't appeared yet. BRT has sent an op-ed to the Post, and NAB also has one in the works. John Doerr and his high-tech colleagues have also been working selected members, including some well placed calls to the Republican leadership in both houses.
- o Maria is setting up meetings with Black and Hispanic groups for early next week. We won't change any minds in these sessions, though we might diminish the enthusiasm with which they oppose us. (I have higher hopes for the Black groups than the Hispanic groups at this point.)
- o Lynn Cutler has been calling supportive mayors and governors (from the places that have signed up), urging them to contact appropriate members in both houses. I've talked with Engler's staff, and, as a result of our NAGB move they are trying to help, at least with the Michigan delegation. NGA is sitting this one out so far; I'm trying to reach Romer to see if he can help turn that around. The argument here is that Congress shouldn't take away the option from governors if they want to participate.

Communications

- o The President focused on the threat to national standards and tests in the radio address yesterday.
- o Riley sent an op-ed to the Post; instead he got a letter in yesterday's Post.
- o Riley will be in Philadelphia on Tuesday announcing good news on test scores with Rendell and Dave Hornbeck. ED is trying to figure out how to get a national bounce out of that, and how to get some favorable coverage for our tests in Goodling's district at the same time.
- o The VP will do an education/testing event on Thursday, the first likely day of a vote. The event will probably be in a local school, and will include some leading supporters from education and business community. In addition, the VP's office is setting up a conference call with business leaders (Doerr et. al) on Wednesday. There will be no press for this event, but he will refer back to it in on Thursday.
- o We have a hold on Sept. 8 for a POTUS event; we will need to figure out what that should be as we get closer.

NEXT STEPS

- o Hold strategy meeting on Tuesday
- o Make sure the SAP has a strong veto threat in it
- o Get the NAGB legislation transmitted ASAP (Tuesday or Wed. at latest--unless Riggs gives us credible reason to further negotiate details with him and Goodling)
- o Keep pushing Porter/Livingston/Riggs to press Goodling for a compromise. There is growing sentiment in WH and ED that we would do ok if we came out with a deal that let us keep moving, while requiring Congressional approval for implementation. This will work better if we can also get our NAGB legislation included in the approps. bill -- and it will be even better if we can get an agreement from Goodling to actually move a bill he will oppose to the floor for a vote.
- o Make sure we come out of the Senate without this provision. Make sure Hilley gets actively engaged in pulling this off.
- o Figure out if there is anything we need POTUS to do this week (e.g., make phone calls). Figure out if there is anyone in WH who will ask him to do it. Figure out which is worse--asking him to work during the last week of vacation, or losing the tests and not asking him to work during the last week of vacation.

Jellison → Coallins

Mingo, et

National Test Strategy Meeting September 2

- High Price (Neh Cobb
Club League
- More all that

1. Legislative Strategy

House

Securing the base

Updates on:

- Hispanic Caucus - letter from Rick today? - some help?
- Black Caucus
- ✓ Riley calls? - where is he
- ✓ Miller, Clay, Martinez letter → letter gone Shumer/Mayer
- Riley meeting set up with Dem caucus?
- other updates - N's not coord
- may lose Mant/clay?

Republicans

- update on NAGB legislation (it's ready to go -- we need to figure out sponsors)
- Update from Riggs'
- other updates

Senate

- overall update

2. Outreach Strategy

- education groups - at. ch stat?
- business groups
- governors and mayors
- African-American and Hispanic groups

3. Communications

- Riley Philadelphia event today
- POTUS event Wednesday
- VPOTUS events Wednesday (conference call--no press) and Thursday
- Sat. Radio address
- Sept. 8 event

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v. Hars
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etc

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National Test Strategy Meeting September 2

1. Legislative Strategy

House

Securing the base

Updates on:

- Hispanic Caucus
- Black Caucus
- Riley calls?
- Miller, Clay, Martinez letter
- Riley meeting set up with Dem caucus?
- other updates

Key issue -
Are we doing enough
to get Dem's on board?

Republicans

- update on NAGB legislation (it's ready to go -- we need to figure out sponsors)
- Update from Riggs
- other updates

Senate

- overall update

2. Outreach Strategy

- education groups
- business groups
- governors and mayors
- African-American and Hispanic groups

3. Communications

- Riley Philadelphia event today
- POTUS event Wednesday
- VPOTUS events Wednesday (conference call--no press) and Thursday
- Sat. Radio address
- Sept. 8 event

**National Test Strategy Meeting
August 27**

1. LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY

House

- **Securing the Base**
 - Riley calls and caucus meetings
 - Black Caucus
 - Hispanic Caucus
- **Republicans**
 - Update on NAGB proposal

Senate

- Likelihood of amendment
- Democratic support
- Key Republicans

2. OUTREACH STRATEGY

- Education Groups
- Business Community
- Governors and Mayors
- African-American and Hispanic Groups

3. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

- Radio Address
- VPOPTUS --9/3 and/or 9/4
- Sept. 8 event

*Wright
Ashkan*

CRush Bas Comm.

②

National Test Strategy Meeting August 27

ED?

verb - SAP one

strongly agreed

1. LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY

House

- **Securing the Base**

- Riley calls and caucus meetings
- Black Caucus
- Hispanic Caucus

- Livingston

- **Republicans**

- Update on NAGB proposal

- Press - who will be in

- Cg. date/clearance

- Spander?

- help w.

Senate

- Likelihood of amendment
- Democratic support
- Key Republicans

VOT - Low level
AFT - Cth - other

2. OUTREACH STRATEGY

- Education Groups
- Business Community
- Governors and Mayors
- African-American and Hispanic Groups

enb - Cth

enb - Cth - wss

re: house to pt too direct

3. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

- Radio Address
- VPOPTUS --9/3 and/or 9/4
- Sept. 8 event

George Miller, Martinez, Clay Gitter

Marc Davis - Russi still
- look into

1. Need WH strategy group to meet regularly (every other day)

- Elena
- Rahm
- Leg. Affairs--Hilley/Andy/Barbara Chow
- Ann Lewis
- Paul Begala
- ???--ED leg affairs and Susan Frost
- Overall strategy
- Event/Communications possibilities for POTUS
- POTUS calls to make

① Leg
② Oct
③ Cg

2. Strategy meeting with education and business groups next Tuesday afternoon

- Joint statement of support from groups to be circulated to members
- target list of members/vote count

3. Call to John Doerr/High Tech CEO's

- full page add in Post, Times or Journal
- get Republican CEO (Barksdale) to ask Gingrich not to make this a caucus issue
- give list of members to target

4. NAB/BRT

- Have an op-ed from head of DuPont (new education head of BRT) ready to go;
- Have asked for additional op-eds, so we get Post, Times and Journal
- Will ask CEO's on ACHIEVE for ACHIEVE endorsement after NAGB announcement

5. NAGB

- Need to draft NAGB legislation for rapid transmittal
- Need back-up announcement strategy if Riley doesn't make statement on Face the Nation
- Once announced, call Diane Ravitch and Engler and re-engage
- Follow-up re: Bill Bennett (and Jack Kemp) statements

6. Hispanic Caucus

- Can we gain any support by appealing to them (1) outside of education issues, or (2) by letting them know about Chakkah-Fattah and Urban school reform initiatives?

7. Black Caucus

- Andy Blocker has set up meetings with Caucus staff; he and Tanya will go
- set up meetings with NAACP and Urban League (other groups??)

8. September 8 event???

9. Riley contacts with Democrats

- calls to leadership if needed
- set up meetings with caucuses upon return (Dem. caucus, Blue Dogs, New Dems)

10. Governors and Mayors

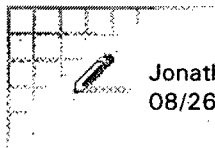
- get NGA involved -- call in to Scheppach and Hunt's office
- work with Andy Blocker and Mickey/Lynn to identify members to be contacted by governors and mayors

11. Columnists/Editorials

- David Broder (likes testing proposal in general but thinks its too small)
- Bill Rasberry
- Frank Rich
- LA Times
- ????

12. Phi Delat Kappan poll results

- released on Tuesday
- demonstrate public support for tests (58-60+%), though, less than technology, and support declines when described as Clinton tests



Jonathan H. Schnur @ OVP
08/26/97 12:12:30 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject:

I am forwarding Ron's latest e-mail on VP events next week. It would be great to discuss at the next mtg on the tests -- whether later today or early tomorrow. -- Jon Schnur

----- Forwarded by Jonathan H. Schnur/OVP on 08/26/97 12:19 PM -----

Ron Klain
08/26/97 11:46:31 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan H. Schnur/OVP

cc:

bcc:

As an update, here is where things stand.

1. I would like you to work on a small, non-press conference call for Wed aft. We would then sell this to reporters as part of our overall effort.
2. We would do an event on Thurs. Public. Support before the vote. Site: TBD, but presumably at the WH.
3. On Fri, we would do the planned event in NH, with this as the message; i.e., either celebrate the victory, or vow to fight on in Conference. Hopefully, Sec. Riley would join us.

Please coord with sched, commun, and leg aff on this. This is a great idea and we can have a great run with this. Thanks!!!

Message Sent To:

Follow-up to National Tests Strategy Meeting

Legislative Strategy

HOUSE

SECURE BASE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

- Andy Blocker will make out a list of calls for Secretary Riley to make ASAP, as well as possible calls for other Cabinet members, POTUS and VPOTUS.
- Judy Winston to call Clay
- Alexis Herman to call Payne
- Education Department to develop talking points for calls on racial bias and the test.
- Blocker/Scott Fleming to request time for Riley to speak to House Democratic Caucus meeting when they return.

PEEL OFF REPUBLICAN MODERATES

- ED develop NAGB legislation ASAP
- Need to figure out timetable for transmitting --- ASAP!
- Secretary should call Bennett given his statements on Fox News Sunday.
- Mike C. to call Ravitch, and find out if Jack Kemp stated support for test in speech last month.
- Andy Blocker to talk to Riggs about NAGB legislation

SENATE

- Very important to assess where Senate moderate Republicans are --- especially if that vote is first. Could have a WIN in Senate before we get to the House

Should also request to

speak to Senate Caucus lunch on first Tuesday. Talk to Daschle and Gephardt.

OUTREACH STRATEGY

I. (SUSAN/MIKE C./MISSY) ED Strategy meeting with larger group of possible supporters TUES at 2 pm. Will brief them on developments of last 3 weeks and answer questions.

Small group strategy meeting at 3:30 with AFT, NEA, NSBA, NAESP, NASDSED (special directors), CHIEFS, COUNCIL of GREAT CITIES, ROUNDTABLE, NAB. All of the above ED groups have joined on a letter drafted by CHIEFS that is ready to send this week. NAB and Roundtable are not on letter as of now.

SET OF POINT/COUNTERPOINT ARGUMENTS ARE BEING PREPARED BY WH AND

WILL BE READY TUESDAY TO USE FOR THIS MEETING AND OTHERS.

II. (DAVID F/MIKE C.)Mike Casserly has drafted an OPED that he is shopping to POST. JOHN DOERR is considering a full page ad in Post, Times and Journal of the 260 CEOs who signed on to TEST. VP may do conference call with CEOs on test issues. Can also use Rubin and Daley.

III. (WHITE HOUSE--Mickey I.,Lynn C., Maria E.) will work with Mayors and Governors. Meetings are being set up with NAACP, Urban League, Asian groups, Hispanic Groups, and others.

COMMUNICATIONS

PRINCIPALS

I. August 30 Radio Address on Test --- may raise the "v" word. ED will do briefing on NAEP results on Friday to be held for Saturday address.

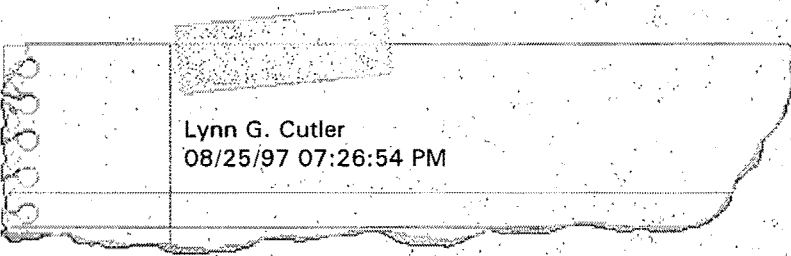
II. Holding September 6th Radio Address --- if needed can use for test message.

III. September 8th Event on Standards is available --- POTUS. VP is available September 3,4,and 5. In NH with Secretary on Sept 5th for AGBTS event already.

IV. CABINET --- Use AGBTS events to give message on TEST. Chris B. will talk about this on AGBTS conference call TUES AM --- DPC Will join that call. (ED Assistant Secretaries should be giving this message in every presentation.)

V. Barry Tiov will talk about Phi Delta Kappan poll results on TEST at 10 AM briefing. (See Secretary's press statement.) Can also SAT announcement on Tuesday as part of message.

VI. Overall theme should be that killing the test is akin to killing high standards. Need surrogates to give message -- can use ROMER and others.



Lynn G. Cutler
08/25/97 07:26:54 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP

cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Sylvia M. Mathews/WHO/EOP

Subject: Washington

Mayor Rice is going to call Sen. Murray. He is very strong on the standards question. He may be able to help us with some of the members of the Black Caucus as well.

Do you have information about what Gov. Locke's problems were with the standards?

4:30 focus

Riley not at 6 EAC
- Maxine
- Honda Ford

1. Need WH strategy group to meet regularly (every other day)

- Elena
- Rahm
- Leg. Affairs--Hilley/Andy/Barbara Chow
- Ann Lewis
- Paul Begala
- ???--ED leg affairs and Susan Frost

Mickey

Maria

Craig Smith

Shirley

Mike, Scott, Susan, Terry

- Overall strategy
- Event/Communications possibilities for POTUS
- POTUS calls to make

2. Strategy meeting with education and business groups next Tuesday afternoon

- Joint statement of support from groups to be circulated to members
- target list of members/vote count

3. Call to John Doerr/High Tech CEO's

- full page add in Post, Times or Journal
- get Republican CEO (Barksdale) to ask Gingrich not to make this a caucus issue
- give list of members to target

4. NAB/BRT

- Have an op-ed from head of DuPont (new education head of BRT) ready to go;
- Have asked for additional op-eds, so we get Post, Times and Journal
- Will ask CEO's on ACHIEVE for ACHIEVE endorsement after NAGB announcement

5. NAGB

- Need to draft NAGB legislation for rapid transmittal - *Do do it*
- ~~Need back-up announcement strategy if Riley doesn't make statement on Face the Nation~~
- Once announced, call Diane Ravitch and Engler and re-engage
- Follow-up re: Bill Bennett (and Jack Kemp) statements

Apply
Micken

6. Hispanic Caucus

- Can we gain any support by appealing to them (1) outside of education issues, or (2) by letting them know about Chakkah-Fattah and Urban school reform initiatives?

7. Black Caucus

- Andy Blocker has set up meetings with Caucus staff; he and Tanya will go
- set up meetings with NAACP and Urban League (other groups??)

8. September 8 event???

9. Riley contacts with Democrats

- calls to leadership if needed
- set up meetings with caucuses upon return (Dem. caucus, Blue Dogs, New Dems)

NATIONAL TEST STRATEGY FOR GOODLING AMENDMENT

Legislative strategy

HOUSE

- Secure base as much as possible
 - Calls to leadership by Riley, senior WH staff, POTUS?
 - Riley meetings with Democratic Caucus, Blue Dogs, New Dems
 - Black Caucus -- Andy Blocker setting up meetings and will report on prospects
 - Hispanic Caucus -- memo to POTUS on testing in Spanish
 - Need list of key members to target

Peel off Republican moderates from Goodling

- Commit to transmit legislation (Riley on Face the Nation, ED press release)
- ED developing legislation
- Need a plan to transmit legislation (how quickly? POTUS or ED?)
- Work Republican opinion leaders (e.g., Ravitch, Finn) and Gov's (Engler)
- Follow-up re: Bill Bennett (and Jack Kemp?) statements
- Target Republican prospects (e.g., Castle, Riggs)

Pursue Conference Strategy

SENATE

- Monitor status -- assess odds of similar amendment on 9/2
- Work with Daschle, Kennedy/Jeffords to develop strategy

Outreach strategy

1. ED Strategy meeting with education and business groups Tuesday afternoon

- Joint statement of support from groups to be circulated to members
- report on Member contacts

2. NAB/BRT

- Have an op-ed from head of DuPont (new education head of BRT) ready to go;
- Have asked for additional op-eds, so we get Post, Times and Journal

3. John Doerr/High Tech CEO's

- considering full page ad in Post, Times or Journal signed by 240+ CEO's
- Republican CEO to contact Republic leadership, urging not to make this a caucus issue
- Will contact a target list of members we give him

4. Governors and Mayors

- work with Andy Blocker and Mickey/Lynn to ensure governors and mayors contact key members

Riley not the answer

Scott/Ally

Fazio

Cabinet as Motion

Clay not enough - set

Scott Ford

Payne Clay Fatch

Lungren, P. L. C. P. L. C. P. L. C.

Call Riley to Lungren

Chile ART MEN CA SLS MMB ART

Cabinet

Wed at. conf. w. Rep

City/LL P.J.

Andy Calk

Clay work

Support

E-mail Calk

E-mail Calk

Riley -> Bennett

5. African - American and Hispanic Groups

- meetings with NAACP and Urban League (other groups??)
- determine how to reach out to Hispanic groups once final policy decision made

6. Other Groups to Activate???

Communications Strategy

Principals

- August 30 Radio Address
- September 8 event available
- Event for VPOTUS on ~~Sept 8~~

Senior Staff

- Senior WH or ED staff talk to columnists???
- Phi Delat Kappan poll results released on Tuesday

Yoon Sars

Labor
CTA
AFF

Sept 8 Mather
Koreyand

Sept 5 Radio
address
Sept 8

7/12 - Radio Address
- web - h. sh
- MSEP well
- broad support
- Congress - Phil
- Veto marker

Stompy
emphatically

Tally Park

VPOTUS
- Cal. call outland

Planner

Sept 20 - Reg/Ar

Wed 2nd
4th
5th

Sept 20th
Am M - SF

Nat'l Stel

Em. A.

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: Mike Cohen

SUBJECT: Legislative Options for National Testing

CC: Elena Kagan

In preparation for the testing meeting Sylvia Mathews is organizing, I thought the following might be helpful:

Key Background Information

- From the outset, our plan for developing the tests has been to proceed without provoking a Congressional debate; partly because we were uncertain of the outcome, partly because even a successful effort to enact legislation would be a drawn-out process and delay the implementation date. Further, the Congressional debate itself could well freeze the process of signing up states. The Education Department is developing the national tests, and planning to underwrite its administration, based on general authority the education department has to fund activities that promote the improvement of education. This is similar to the authority used by the Bush Administration to develop national standards.
- Also from the outset, we have recognized the need to create an independent policy committee to oversee the tests, in order to fulfill the President's commitment for the tests to be "national, not federal". The best way to accomplish this is to make the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB), the body that currently oversees NAEP, the policy body. Accomplish this would require changing the current statute--moving us toward a Congressional debate on the testing issue. We have been working to determine the best time and way to structure -- and win -- such a debate, and to continue our efforts to develop the tests at the same time..
- Thus far, the national tests are not highly visible in the Congress. Most members in the states that have signed up haven't been aware of that fact, though the Education Department has been bringing them up to speed.
- In the House, we've had decent support from Democrats. George Miller has volunteered to champion this in the House, and was outspoken in support at several hearing in which this came up. Other House Dem's, such as Kildee, Mink, Roemer, etc. have also been solid in their support. Obey has been helpful in the appropriations committee.
- The biggest threat to strong and continuing support from Democrats is the resistance from the civil rights groups, and in particular the concerns in the Hispanic community because we have not offered to develop a Spanish-language version of the 4th grade reading test.
- On the Republican side, Frank Riggs, the subcommittee chair, also supports the tests and wants to be helpful. John Porter is ok as well.

- As you know, Bill Goodling has been the major opponent of the tests, and is keeping Riggs and Porter from aggressively being supportive. While initially supportive of the tests when he met with the President earlier this year, he has since changed his position. Riley has talked with him several times, as have business groups--but to no avail. Goodling also is a roadblock to making NAGB the independent policy body. So far, we have dodged an effort by Goodling to attach a rider to the supplemental appropriations bill to prohibit the Education Department from funding the test development. He has attached a provision to the FY98 appropriations bill subcommittee mark, requiring the National Academy of Sciences to complete an evaluation of the test development and field test before we can proceed to implement.
- There is no real attention to the issue in the Senate, though we start with good support from Kennedy and Jeffords.

Legislative Objectives:

- Adequate funding (\$10 million in FY98) for continued test development
- Authority to establish independent policy body
- Funding for test administration (\$96 million in FY99¹ if every state participates)
- Creating a vehicle for the President to advance his testing agenda

Legislative options:

1. **Stay the current course, working quietly to secure sufficient funds in FY98 to continue test development and minimize potential impact of Goodling-like riders in conference. This could include an effort to get the Senate appropriators to attach a provision making NAGB the independent policy body, and trying to win that in conference.**

Pro's

- Keeps us moving forward in test development and state sign-up
- If we succeed at getting funding and governing authority for NAGB, our major Congressional battles are behind us
- If we get NAGB authority, we can make highly visible announcement of advisory committee

Cons

- Getting authority for NAGB through appropriations process is a stretch
- We would still vulnerable to Goodling-like attacks

2. **Introduce legislation seeking authority for NAGB as independent policy body. This could either be stand-alone legislation, or part of a bill to reauthorize NAGB and NAEP, which is needed sometime this year anyway. It could either contain explicit authority to develop and administer the tests, or simply focus on NAGB's role in a way that provides**

¹Recent discussions with state officials suggest that it would be ideal to get Congressional commitment to these funds now rather than in the FY99 appropriations; the Education Department is exploring if there are any ways to accomplish this.

implicit authority and still constitutes Congressional action on the tests.

Pro's

- If we win, legislative issue is settled and future of tests pretty well assured
- Provides President a new forum to promote the tests, and to define the Congressional debate on our terms

Con's

- Prospect's for victory are uncertain
- Congressional process may produce legislation that compromises the tests as a result of amendments from right or the left (e.g., prohibits the use of open-ended problem solving questions in math; prohibits the use of the tests for accountability purposes)
- Legislative process would slow down state sign-up; if debate produces a partisan fight, the value of the tests to the states is severely compromised, and participation by Republican governors will be restricted
- A highly partisan fight could jeopardize existing bipartisan support for NAEP and NAGB.

3. As part of any Chaka Fatah-like proposal, tie additional student financial aid to performance on 8th grade math test

Pro's

- Rewarding academic performance is good policy and good message

Con's

- Basic Chaka Fatah proposal contains fundamental weaknesses; it's chances of enactment are probably slim
- Civil Rights groups strongly oppose "high-stakes" testing; this proposal could activate their opposition to the test

Mike Chen

Background for Barry Toiv

Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Education Poll: This morning Phi Delta Kappa and Gallup released their 29th annual poll of public attitudes toward the public schools will be released, which addresses a wide range of contemporary education issues. This is a widely respected poll of a national telephone sample of 1517 adults, including 1,017 parents of public school students. **The poll shows strong support for national standards and tests.** In particular:

- 77% of respondents believe that “establishing national standards for measuring the academic standing of the public schools” would improve academic achievement in the local public schools (either “a great deal” or “quite a lot”).
- 67% of respondents agreed that “using standardized national tests to measure the academic achievement of students” would improve academic performance.
- 57% of respondents expressed support when asked specifically about “President Clinton’s proposal to assess the performance of the nation’s public schools according to how well students score on achievement tests at two different grade levels.”

Barry--also note **for your background that the poll looks at the voucher issue**, and shows stronger support for vouchers than in the past, and that the public is pretty evenly split on this issue; the press is also likely to pick up on this today. Relevant numbers:

- 44% of respondents favor allowing students to choose a private school to attend at public expense (52% oppose). The % favoring jumped from 36% last year to 44% this year.
- 48% favor (and 48% oppose) allowing students and parents to choose a private school to attend at government expense.
- 49% favor (48% oppose) allowing parents to send their kids, at government expense, to any public, private or church-related schools they chose.

Lynn G. Cutler
08/26/97 02:32:55 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP
Subject: proposed plan for outreach from IGA on Education Standards

Seattle--Mayor Norm Rice will call Sen. Murray, and wants to be helpful in other ways. We should think about his calling some members of Black Caucus.

Philadelphia--we will ask Mayor Rendell to call Chaka Fattah, Sen. Spector, Sen. Santorum

Atlanta--Mayor Campbell could be helpful with Black Caucus, and Senator Cleland. Don't know if it's worth his making other calls to the two House members from Georgia on the committee and Sen. Coverdell.

Los Angeles--unknown if Mayor Riordan will weigh in on this, but will make the call to him.

Long Beach--Mayor O'Neill is a very enthusiastic supporter, and we'll ask her to call her two Senators and other California members you all decide.

Fresno--Mayor Jim Patterson--need to scope him out.

Omaha--Mayor Hal Daub is a former Republican Congressman, and it's not certain what his level of commitment is on standards, but we'll call him and ask him to talk to his Senators.

Houston--Mayor Lanier will be asked to call both Senators.

San Antonio--Mayor Howard Peak will be asked to call Senators.

El Paso--Mayor Carlos Ramirez--depending on where he is on the standards, he could be extremely helpful with Hispanic Caucus.

Detroit and Michigan--Since we have both the city and the state, we are asking Governor Engler to reach out to Senator Abraham and to the three Republican House committee members. We should think of additional ways to involve Mayor Archer. We will ask him to call Abraham as well, but he could be very helpful with the Caucus, and Dale Kildee.

Cincinnati--We will ask Mayor Qualls to talk to both Sens. Dewine and Glenn.

Chicago--We will ask the Mayor to call Sens. Moseley-Braun and Durbin. It might also be worth asking him to call John Porter.

Broward County Florida--We are calling the Chair of the County Commission, as well as the mayors

of Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale. We'll ask them to call the Senators.

New York City--we need to think through how we approach the mayor (if we do) and what we ask him to do. We believe him to be supportive of the standards.

States:

Michigan--see above

North Carolina--we are asking Gov. Hunt to talk to Cong. Ballenger.

West Virginia--We'll ask the Governor to call his Senators

Kentucky--We'll ask the Governor to call his Senators.

Delaware--We'll ask Gov. Carper to call Cong. Castle.

Indiana--Gov. O'Bannon has expressed interest in the standards. If he is on board with us, we will ask him to talk to Roemer, Souder and McIntosh.

Maryland and Massachusetts--we can ask Govs. to talk to Sens., but will hold on this for now. In addition, Mickey will call Hispanic members of the Committee--he has already talked to Becerra, who is definitely opposed to the tests.

Lynn can call Lynn Woolsey, Dennis Kucinich, Patsy Mink, Dale Kildee, George Miller, and, if needed, Don Payne and Harold Ford, Jr.

Message Sent To:

Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Sylvia M. Mathews/WHO/EOP
Ann F. Lewis/WHO/EOP
Paul E. Begala/WHO/EOP
Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP
Ananias Blocker III/WHO/EOP
Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP

Betty Lou

- Coats dila tation h

↳ Cransley + crew

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la 2:00 hour

Hasnt teller f Speke

don't know Speke's name

get another

Will come up Tuesday

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Packet of w/

- who signed

- who sent

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Don Sick

Agmt - approx

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with Ruth

Car 314-8911

- Patch h

202 221-1560
Fax



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: 8/26/57

FROM: Dan Skelly

TO: Mike Loh

316-8911
can place

Beth Lewis is trying to call
you re Coates amendment on
tests (similar to booting). She
is leaving her Democrat staff; just
a runner.

However, she strongly encourages
Administration to work out a
compromise with booting. Otherwise,
Senate is likely to accept Coates'
amendment, making a conference
very difficult.

Action in Senate Tues. - Wed. - Thurs. of next
week.



Council of the
Great City Schools

Council of the Great City Schools

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. ♦ Suite 702 ♦ Washington, D.C. ♦ 20004

(202) 393-2427 ♦ (202) 393-2400 (fax)

<http://www.cgcs.org>

September 9, 1997

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chair:

I am writing on behalf of the Council of the Great City Schools, the coalition of the nation's largest urban school systems, to describe our perspective on President Clinton's proposal for Voluntary National Tests and to address issues that the urban community has raised about them.

First, you should know that the Council opposes the Goodling amendment to the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill barring federal funds from being used to develop or administer the tests; and supports development of the tests. No doubt, you also know that 15 urban public school systems from our coalition recently volunteered to take these tests in 1999. Other cities did not volunteer, and still others are expected to at a later date.

Urban public school systems volunteered to take the National 4th Grade Reading Test and 8th Grade Math Test to put to rest, once and for all, the notion that we are satisfied with inferior standards for our kids. We want and expect the same or better for urban kids than what much wealthier communities expect for theirs. Our children of color have been tyrannized and subjugated by society's low expectations long enough.

The second reason is the flip side of the first: urban schools want to state emphatically that we are confident in the ability of our children to compete against any students in the nation, anywhere, anytime, on any standard—given the same opportunity to meet them.

And it is to these two goals—high standards for urban children and the opportunity to learn to those standards—that the Council of Great City Schools is committed with equal fervor and passion.

We hear too often from policy-makers, the media and others that investing more in urban children would simply be pumping good money after bad; that urban children cannot learn; and that urban communities do not seem to care about low performance in their schools. These are self-serving excuses by America for not

Atlanta
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Buffalo
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Clark County
Cleveland
Columbus
Dade County
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Dayton
Denver
Detroit
El Paso
Fort Worth
Fresno
Houston
Indianapolis
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Memphis
Milwaukee
Minneapolis
Nashville
New Orleans
New York City
Newark
Norfolk
Oakland
Oklahoma City
Omaha
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Portland
Providence
Richmond
Rochester

providing poor urban and rural kids with the resources afforded the average child. We want to take that excuse away from America, not by setting the bar high and then allowing some kids to jump from a raised platform but by setting it high and making everyone leap from the same level. In short, our goal is to set high standards for urban school children and pursue the resources they need to obtain them. We think it important to demand both simultaneously.

Before elaborating on that point, however, we would like to address concerns important to our communities that have been raised about the National Tests.

1. Testing in Languages Other Than English. The Council of Great City Schools has the same concerns as the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF) and others about the Clinton Administration's decision not to provide the 4th grade reading test in any language other than English. We are proud of our alliance with MALDEF in advocating that accommodations be made in the reading test for students who are still learning English. We were profoundly disappointed in the decision by the Administration and released a statement following it indicating that we thought the intent of the exam to raise standards for all children had been compromised (copy attached). The likely result of this decision is that some urban school districts which have volunteered for the test will reconsider their participation in the reading portion but participate in the math exam that will be offered at least in Spanish. The Council of Great City Schools has asked the Administration to revisit its decision.
2. Use of Tests to Track and Label Students. The Council also agrees with the concern about using the tests to track, label or retain students. Schools have had a bad history of using tests to do that, creating a two-tier system for poor students and students of color. The Council opposes the use of the National Tests, or any test for that matter, to track students or to create "high stakes" consequences for them. We are in favor of using them to create more accountability for adults and better programs for students. We will urge every district participating in these exams to use them only for purposes of system-wide assessment and parental information. If school districts use them in some other manner, we would like to know about it so we can intervene.
3. Reporting of Results. The Council is not as concerned, however, about issues of reporting results as others have been. Urban school systems at one time were very reluctant to release the results of standardized testing, especially by race, income group or school. This is no longer the case. The vast majority of big city school systems report their scores according to these variables, and some even prepare school-by-school report cards. We are inclined to believe that the National Tests would further that trend rather than dampen it. The Council would also like to assure members that urban schools intend to share results with parents and the community, not hide them, and to do so in a way that shows the status and progress of each racial group. We are, in fact, eager to inform parents about the results in order to encourage them to get more involved in the schools and to spur their pushing states and the federal government for greater funding of urban programs.
4. Educational Resources and Opportunity. The Council of Great City Schools agrees with many that the tests do not directly redress the vast opportunity gap between poor urban

Great City Schools ID:202 000 2400 SEP 05 01 1:10 PM 001 1.12

school children and wealthier communities. The Council will publish a report later this year showing that the resources available to schools comprising the "First in the World Coalition" (i.e., of suburban Chicago school systems that out-scored every nation on the Third International Math and Science Study) are nearly twice those available to America's urban school students. We agree that the challenge is to provide opportunity for achievement, not just the measurement of it. The sorry truth, however, is that we are never going to get to issues of opportunity until the debates on standards are more settled. The nation should be able to walk and chew gum at the same time as it pursues both ends of the school reform process--but apparently it cannot or will not. Still, the data coming from the tests should give us better information from which to advocate better opportunity.

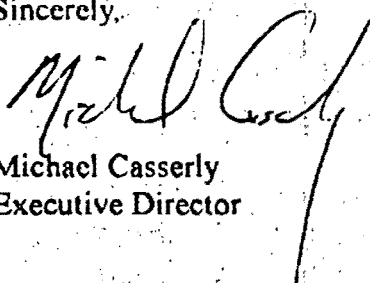
These concerns are critical. The Council of Great City Schools supports the Voluntary National Tests because high standards in education have more significance to urban communities from which so little has been expected than anywhere else. Popular perception that we do not care about performance contributes to the nation's reluctance to provide the resources we need to get the job done well. Again, we want to strip the nation of this excuse by not making it ourselves.

The initial test results, particularly out of urban schools, may—in fact—be low. That should catch few by surprise. It may astound more people that some city schools will do well and that many wealthier districts are not as good as they advertise. Few people have noticed yet that America's urban public schools are coming back. This recent ascendance has a lot to do with the attention they are paying to their bottom line: student achievement.

We are eager to work with the Congressional Black Caucus and other concerned individuals and groups to make sure that our mutual concerns are resolved, and that these tests are opportunities for our children's success rather than a barrier.

I would be pleased to discuss these issues with you at any time. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Casserly
Executive Director



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September 9, 1997

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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The second reason is the flip side of the first: urban schools want to state emphatically that we are confident in the ability of our children to compete against any students in the nation, anywhere, anytime; on any standard—given the same opportunity to meet them.

And it is to these two goals—high standards for urban children and the opportunity to learn to those standards—that the Council of Great City Schools is committed with equal fervor and passion.

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Memphis
Milwaukee
Minneapolis
Nashville
New Orleans
New York City
Newark
Norfolk
Oakland
Oklahoma City
Omaha
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
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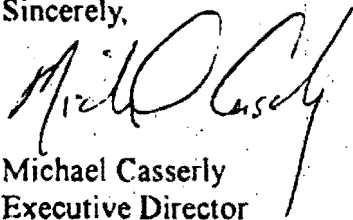
These concerns are critical. The Council of Great City Schools supports the Voluntary National Tests because high standards in education have more significance to urban communities from which so little has been expected than anywhere else. Popular perception that we do not care about performance contributes to the nation's reluctance to provide the resources we need to get the job done well. Again, we want to strip the nation of this excuse by not making it ourselves.

The initial test results, particularly out of urban schools, may—in fact—be low. That should catch few by surprise. It may astound more people that some city schools will do well and that many wealthier districts are not as good as they advertise. Few people have noticed yet that America's urban public schools are coming back. This recent ascendance has a lot to do with the attention they are paying to their bottom line: student achievement.

We are eager to work with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and other concerned individuals and groups to make sure that our mutual concerns are resolved, and that these tests are opportunities for our children's success rather than a barrier.

I would be pleased to discuss these issues with you at any time. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Casserly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Casserly" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Casserly
Executive Director



NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Robert F. Chase, President
Reg Weaver, Vice President
Dennis Van Roekel, Secretary-Treasurer
Don Cameron, Executive Director

1201 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-3290

September 24, 1997

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 2.3 million members of the National Education Association (NEA), we want to share our views with you regarding HR 2264, the FY 98 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. While NEA is pleased that both the House and Senate versions of this bill contain important increases for education programs, there are significant differences in funding levels for most education programs. As conferees negotiate the final bill, we urge you to support the provisions of the Senate and House bills outlined below that would provide children and public schools the support they need to receive and provide a quality education.

To ensure that education programs receive the increased investments needed to help local schools meet pressing needs, NEA believes additional funds must be provided under the 602(b) allocation for this bill so that all priorities of the House, Senate, and the Administration can be accommodated on a bipartisan basis. These special needs range from helping all students meet high academic standards and incorporating educational technology into the classroom to providing professional development for teachers, and responding to serious infrastructure problems. They also include ensuring safety and order, serving record numbers of students, and helping families gain access to postsecondary education.

In a related matter, NEA strongly urges Members of Congress to oppose inclusion of the Senate provision in the final bill that would lump more than 40 elementary and secondary education programs into two block grants totaling more than \$13 billion. We also urge your support for conferees to accept the Senate proposal on voluntary national testing.

The following are our detailed recommendations for addressing these important policy issues, as well as for establishing funding levels for major education programs:

- **GORTON BLOCK GRANT AMENDMENT:** NEA strongly urges conferees to reject this drastic and radical block-grant scheme. This amendment would effectively convert the Title I program into a block grant, because Local Education Agencies (LEAs) would be able to use funds from this program for any purpose, removing the guarantee that they provide special services to disadvantaged children. The second block grant would combine funds from

virtually all other K-12 programs, with the exception of Impact Aid and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and similarly allow LEAs to use the funds for any purpose. These block grants would eliminate all requirements for parental and teacher involvement in the design of programs, eliminate all requirements that funds be used to ensure students meet high academic standards, remove all other accountability requirements, and allow states and local school districts simply to reduce their share of education funding by the amount of federal block-grant funds they receive. School districts that serve large numbers of special needs students, ranging from limited-English-proficiency students to gifted and talented students, would see a reduction in funds. Programs such as education technology, school-to-work, professional development for teachers, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Indian Education, Bilingual and Immigrant Education, Javits Gifted and Talented Education, and many others would be terminated.

- **VOLUNTARY NATIONAL TESTING:** NEA urges conferees to include in the final bill the Senate provision that would allow funds for the development of voluntary national tests in math and reading. The provision would allow the tests' development to proceed under the control of the bipartisan National Assessment Governing Board. NEA supports voluntary national testing that provides a useful national benchmark for states, schools, parents, and students to measure individual student achievement in fourth-grade reading and eighth-grade math.
- **COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM:** The \$200 million included in the House bill should be retained. This new effort, funded through Title I (\$150 million) and the Fund for the Improvement of Education (\$50 million), would provide incentive grants for schools that elect to initiate effective, research-based, comprehensive school reform models. These funds would support the design and implementation of school-wide reform programs that have the support of teachers, parents, and school staff, including parent outreach, development of new curriculum, and professional development for teachers and administrators.
- **TITLE I:** In addition to the House provision of \$150 million for comprehensive school reform under Title I, NEA supports the additional \$245 million provided in the House bill for grants to LEAs. The Senate bill freezes Title I funding at the FY 97 level. Title I, the foundation for all federal elementary and secondary education programs, provides math and reading instruction for children in poverty. Since the last reauthorization, Title I students have been held to the same challenging academic standards as other students, and more schools have utilized new flexibility options to use Title I funds to provide school-wide programs. But despite this flexibility, nearly one-third of students in poverty still are not served by Title I.
- **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT:** We recommend the conferees fund IDEA state grants to LEAs at least at the Senate level of \$3.95 billion, which represents an increase over FY 97 of \$840 million. This level would raise the federal share of total special education costs from 8 percent to approximately 10 percent. In light of the recent reauthorization of IDEA, which included many important reforms, NEA believes additional

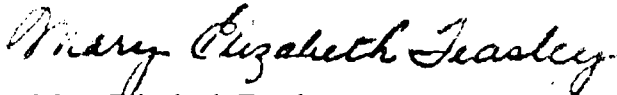
funding is necessary. We urge conferees to provide a total increase of \$1 billion, which will trigger an important provision of the IDEA reauthorization that allows local schools to reduce their contribution by 20 percent of this increase.

- **EISENHOWER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** While both bills freeze funding for this program, NEA supports a modest \$50 million increase. This program is designed to ensure that teachers have the skills and training to help students meet high academic standards in core subject areas. Several recent reports, including ones from the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future and the Third International Math and Science Study, call for increased emphasis on professional development for teachers, citing its close link to improved student learning.
- **TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANTS:** NEA supports the Senate level of \$106 million for these grants. The Senate bill would earmark \$30 million for competitive grants for training teachers and other educators in effective uses of technology. A recent report by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education warned that new teacher graduates are not fully prepared to use technology.
- **EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE:** We support the Senate bill's position of \$100 million for start-up funding for school infrastructure grants, which target funds to financially needy urban and rural school districts with urgent school repair and renovation needs. While the General Accounting Office reported the cost of repairing and replacing the nation's aging school buildings at \$112 billion and NEA continues to advocate a much larger federal commitment in this area, this initial \$100 million investment would be extremely useful in providing targeted help to schools with emergency repair needs.
- **NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS:** While both bills support the President's budget proposal, which called for a \$16 million increase for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) to expand the number of disciplines for which NBPTS certification and assessment of teachers are available, NEA urges conferees to support the House level. The additional \$5 million in funding from the House would be used to provide financial assistance to teachers seeking to meet this rigorous standard.
- **GOALS 2000:** NEA strongly opposes the House level, which would reduce Goals 2000 program funding by \$104 million. We recommend, at a minimum, approval of the \$530 million Senate level.
- **21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS:** NEA supports the House level of \$50 million to allow more public schools to remain open as after-school learning centers. This program would encourage schools to provide community programs for families, as well as provide opportunities for children to be in a safe, supervised environment where they can work on homework, receive tutoring and counseling, and participate in anti-drug and violence prevention programs.

- **PELL GRANTS:** While both bills raise the maximum award to \$3,000, we recommend adoption of additional funds to allow expansion of eligibility for independent students, at least at the level included in the House bill.

In closing, we look forward to working with you to enact a bipartisan FY 98 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill that provides needed funding for America's schools and students.

Sincerely,



Mary Elizabeth Teasley
Director of Government Relations



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COUNSEL
Roderick A. DeArment
Covington & Burling

October 16, 1997

Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
Committee on Appropriations
Room SD-184 Dirksen Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

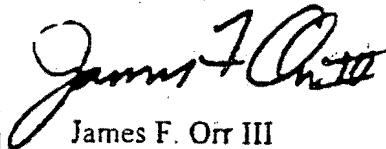
Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you work to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills that would fund Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education priorities, I want to reaffirm the importance placed by the Alliance and other business organizations on developing voluntary national tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade mathematics.

It is important to establish objective benchmarks against which parents, teachers, schools, and business can see how our children are doing in these core subjects. The information would help ensure that students are receiving an education commensurate with the requirements of the emerging American workplace and the global economy. Such information would help target aid and expertise where improvements need to be made. It would let us know how our schools are doing compared to other communities, other states, and other countries.

The business community has consistently supported the development of an independent, voluntary, national test that would provide this kind of information to parents and teachers as part of a larger effort to improve academic achievement.

Sincerely,



James F. Orr III
Chairman and CEO
UNUM Corporation
Chairman, National Alliance of Business



NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BUSINESS

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UNUM Corporation

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National Council of La Raza

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Roderick A. DeArment
Covington & Burling

October 16, 1997

Honorable Arlen Specter

Chairman

Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education

Committee on Appropriations

Room SD-184 Dirksen Building

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

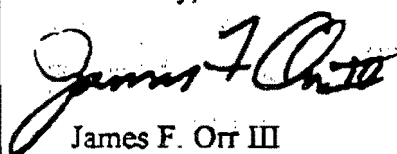
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Sincerely,



James F. Orr III

Chairman and CEO

UNUM Corporation

Chairman, National Alliance of Business

* Riggs
* Castle

* Clay
* Miller

Owers - opposed / Alexis Herman

Payne

* Roemer

* Porter

D * Livingston
Stokes

* Jeffords
Collins

~~Ken~~

* Harkin

D * Specter
Craig

* Stevens

D Inouye

D * Snowe

* Foley calls

D Sec. Cohn calls

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Bill Frist (TN)	Lori Meyer	SD565	43344
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Michael Enzi (WY)	Chad Calvert	SR290	43424
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House Education/Workforce Committee and Staff Contacts

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Chet Edwards (TX)	Tim Brommelkamp	2459	5-6105
Norman Dicks (WA)	Steve McBee	2467	5-5916
Steny Hoyer (MD)	Seth Statler	1705	5-4131

National Security

Bill Young (FL)	Douglas Gregory	2407	5-5961
Joseph McDade (PA)	Jack O'Donnell	2107	5-3731
Jerry Lewis (CA)	Letitia White	2112	5-5861
Joe Skeen (NM)	Bruce Donisthorpe	2302	5-2367
David Hobson (OH)	Kenny Kraft	1514	5-4324
Henry Bonilla (TX)	Marcus Lubin	1427	5-4511
George Nethercutt (WA)	Greg Koger	1527	5-2006
Ernest Istook (OK)	Paul Guppy	0119	5-2132
Randy Cunningham (CA)	Bill Bern	2238	5-5452

John Murtha (PA)	Carmen Scialabba	2423	5-2065
Norman Dicks (WA)	Steve McBee	2467	5-5916
Bill Hefner (NC)	Irene Schecter	2470	5-3715
Martin Sabo (MN)	Eileen Baumgartner	2336	5-4755
Julian Dixon (CA)	Paul Cunningham	2252	5-7084
Peter Visclosky (IN)	Johnson Ablett	2313	5-2461

Transportation

Frank Wolf (VA)	David Whitestone	0241	5-5136
Tom Delay (TX)	Monica Kladakis	0107	5-5951
Ralph Regula (OH)	Connie Veillette	2309	5-3876
Harold Rogers (KY)	Steve Carey	2468	5-4601
Ron Packard (CA)	Eric Monlero	2162	5-3906
Sonny Callahan (AL)	Todd Rich	2418	5-4931
Todd Tiahrt (KS)	Joe Cramer	0428	5-6216
Rodger Aderholt (AL)	Mark Zeldon	1007	5-4876
Martin Sabo (MN)	Majorie Dusk	2336	5-4755
Thomas Foglietta (PA)	Barbara Zylinski	0242	5-4731
Esteban Torres (CA)	Nancy Alcalde	2269	5-5256
John Olver (MA)	David Oliveira	1027	5-5335
Ed Pastor (AZ)	Blake Gable	2465	5-4065

Treasury, Postal

Jim Kolbe (AZ)	Jason Isaak	0205	5-2542
Frank Wolf (VA)	David Whitestone	0241	5-5136
Ernest Istook (OK)	Bill Duncan	0119	5-2132
Michael Forbes (NY)	Mary Valentino	0502	5-3826
Anne Northup (KY)	Kristi Craig	1004	5-5401
Robert Aderholt (AL)	Mark Busching	1007	5-4876
Steny Hoyer (MD)	Seth Statler	1705	5-4131
Carrie Meek (FL)	Ben Cohen	0401	5-4506
David Price (NC)	Jean-Louise Beard	2162	5-1784

VA, HUD

Jerry Lewis (CA)	Jeff Shockley	2112	5-5861
Tom Delay (TX)	Lori Eisner	0107	5-5951
David Hobson (OH)	Jenifer Cutcher	1514	5-4324
Joe Knollenberg (MI)	Darren Zeppelin	1221	5-5802
Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ)	Ed Krenik	0228	5-5034
Mark Neumann (WI)	Brad Hunt	0415	5-3031
Rodger Wicker (MS)	Chris Pedigo	0206	
Louis Stokes (OH)	Fredette West	2365	5-7032
Alan Mollohan (WV)	Leslie Robertson	2427	5-4172
Marcy Kaptur (OH)	Deron Roberson	2311	5-4146
Carrie Meek (FL)	John Shelby	0401	5-4506
David Price (NC)	Mark Harkin	2162	5-1784

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS MEMBER STAFF

Agriculture

Thad Cochran (MS)	Becky Davies	SD136	4-5054
Arlen Specter (PA)	Pam Muha	SH711	4-4254
Christopher Bond (MO)	Brian Klippensien	SR274	4-5721
Slade Gorton (WA)	Kelly Carlson	SH730	4-3441
Mitch McConnell (KY)	David Hovermale	SR361A	4-2541
Conrad Burns (MT)	Ric Molen	SD187	4-2644
Dale Bumpers (AR)	Gaylin Fountain	SD229	4-4843
Tom Harkin (IA)	Mark Halverson	SH731	4-3254
Herbert Kohl (WI)	Mark Rokala	SH330	4-5653
Robert C. Byrd (WV)	Terri Smith	SH311	4-3954
Patrick Leahy (VT)	Ed Barron	SD148	4-4242

Commerce, Justice, State

Judd Gregg (NH)	Zas Alexopoulos	SR393	4-3324
Ted Stevens (AK)	Dana Quam	SC146A	4-3004
Pete Domenici (NM)	Carol McGuire	SD605	4-6621
Mitch McConnell (KY)	Hunter Bates	SR361A	4-2541
Kay Bailey Hutchinson (TX)	Shelby Weiss	SR284	4-5922
Ben Nighthorse Campbell (CO)	Larry Vigil	SR380	4-5852
Ernest Hollings (SC)	Scott Gudes	SH123	4-6121
Daniel Inouye (HI)	Margaret Cummisky	SH722	4-3934
Dale Bumpers (AR)	Tom Walls	SD229	4-4843
Frank Lautenberg (NJ)	Mitch Sklar	SH506	4-4744
Barbara Mikulski (MD)	Paul Carliner	SH709	4-4654

Defense

Ted Stevens (AK)	Steve Cortese	SC128	4-3004
Thad Cochran (MS)	Mitch Kugler	SH442	4-5054
Arlen Specter (PA)	Gretchen Birkle(temporary)	SH711	4-4254
Pete Domenici (NM)	Carol McGuire	SD605	4-6621
Christopher Bond (MO)	Jeff Kuhnreich	SR274	4-5721
Mitch McConnell (KY)	Billy Piper	SR361A	4-2541
Richard Shelby (AL)	Kathy Casey	SH110	4-5744
Judd Gregg (NH)	Zas Alexopoulos	SR393	4-3324
Kay Bailey Hutchinson	Dave Davis	SR284	4-5922

Daniel Inouye (HI)	Charlie Houy	SD117	4-3934
Ernest Hollings (SC)	Derel Willis	SR125	4-6121
Robert Byrd (WV)	Terry Sauvain	SH311	4-3954
Patrick Leahy (VT)	Bill Delaney	SR433	4-4242
Dale Bumpers (AR)	Brian Moran	SD229	4-4843
Frank Lautenberg (NJ)	Sharon Waxman	SH506	4-4744
Tom Harkin (IA)	Peter Tyler	SH731	4-3254
Byron Dorgan (ND)	Jeremey Bates	SH713	4-2551

District of Columbia

Lauch Faircloth (NC)	Jim Hyland	SH317	4-3154
Kay Bailey Hutchinson (TX)	Quin Dodd	SR284	4-5922
Barbara Boxer (CA)	Karen Day	SH112	4-3553

Energy and Water

Pete Domenici (NM)	Carol McGuire	SH328	4-6621
Thad Cochran (MS)	Jmaes Loston	SR326	4-5054
Slade Gorton (WA)	Chuck Berwick	SH730	4-3441
Mitch McConnell (KY)	Scott O'Malia	SR361A	4-2541
Robert Bennett (UT)	Tim Stewart	SD431	4-5444
Conrad Burns (MT)	Ric Molen	SD187	4-2644
Larry Craig (ID)	Nils Johnson	SH313	4-2752
Harry Reid (NV)	Pater Arapis	SH528	4-3542
Robert Byrd (WV)	Sue Masica	SD129	4-3954
Ernest Hollings (SC)	Joey Lesesne	SR125	4-6121
Patty Murray (WA)	Marla Marvin	SR111	4-2621
Herb Kohl (WI)	Mark Rokala	SH330	4-5653
Byron Dorgan (ND)	Allen Huffman	SH713	4-2551

Foreign Operations

Mitch McConnell (KY)	Billy Piper/Steve Knight	SR361A	4-2541
Arlen Specter (PA)	Bill Rosenau	SH530	4-4254
Judd Gregg (NH)	Zas Alexopoulos	SR393	4-3324
Richard Shelby (AL)	Kathy Casey	SH110	4-5744
Robert Bennett (UT)	Bill Tripplet	SD241	4-5444
Ben Nighthorse Campbell (CO)	Jack Broderick	SR380	4-5852
Ted Stevens (AK)	Brian Utter	SH522	4-3004
Patrick Leahy (VT)	Tim Rieser	SR123	4-4242
Daniel Inouye (HI)	Kieth Gouveia	SH722	4-3934
Frank Lautenberg (NJ)	Sharon Waxman	SH506	4-4744
Tom Harkin (IA)	Rosemary Guitierrez	SH731	4-3254
Barbara Mikulski (MD)	Julia Frifield	SH709	4-4654
Patty Murray (WA)	Ben McMakin	SR111	4-2621

Interior

Slade Gorton (WA)	Chuck Burwick	SH730	4-3441
Ted Stevens (AK)	Ann McNery	SH522	4-3004
Thad Cochran (MS)	Hunt Shipman	SR326	4-5054
Pete Domenici (NM)	Carol McGuire	SH328	4-6621
Conrad Burns (MT)	Ric Molen	SD187	4-2644
Robert Bennett (UT)	Tim Stewart	SD241	4-5444
Judd Gregg (NH)	Rick Murphy	SR393	4-3324
Ben Nighthorse Campbell (CO)	Matthew Downs	SR380	4-5852

Robert Byrd (WV)	Sue Masica	SH311	4-3954
Patrick Leahy (VT)	Susan Fleck	SR433	4-4242
Dale Bumpers (AR)	Kira Finkler	SD312	4-4843
Ernest Hollings (SC)	Joey Lasesne	SR125	4-6121
Harry Reid (NV)	Peter Arapis	SH324	4-3542
Byron Dorgan (ND)	Allen Huffman	SH713	4-2251
Barbara Boxer (CA)	Linda Delgado	SH112	4-3553

Labor, HHS, and Education

Arlen Specter (PA)	Betti Lou Taylor	SH530	4-4254
Thad Cochran (MS)	Clayton Heil	SR326	4-5054
Slade Gorton (WA)	Kristen Michal	SH730	4-3441
Christopher Bond (MO)	Shawn Dilleylen/Joe Pierly (HUD)	SR293	4-5721
Judd Gregg (NH)	Alyssa Shoosan	SR393	4-3324
Lauch Faircloth (NC)	Christine Hesse	SH317	4-3154
Larry Craig (ID)	Dana Bostic	SH313	4-2752
Kay Bailey Hutchinson (TX)	Allen Poss	SR284	4-5922

Tom Harkin (IA)	Marsha Simon	SH731	4-3254
Ernest Hollings (SC)	Eddy Moore	SR125	4-6121
Daniel Inouye (HI)	Pat DeLeon	SH722	4-3934
Dale Bumpers (AR)	Mary Ann Chaffee	SD 229	4-4843
Harry Reid (NV)	Susan Mabry	SH324	4-3542
Herbert Kohl (WI)	Steve Kimball	SH330	4-5653
Patty Murray (WA)	Greg Williamson (EDUC)	SH111	4-2621
	Anne Grady (HEALTH)		
	Mike Egen (LABOR)		

Legislative Branch

Robert Bennett (UT)	Corine Larsen	SD241	4-5444
Ted Stevens (AK)	Lisa Sutherland	SC128	4-3004
Larry Craig (ID)	Damon Tobias	SH313	4-2752
Byron Dorgan (ND)	Doug Norell	SH713	4-2551
Barbara Boxer (CA)	Karen Day	SH112	4-3553

Military Construction

Conrad Burns (MT)	Jennifer Chartrand	SD187	4-2644
Kay Bailey Hutchinson (TX)	Micheal Ralsky	SR284	4-5922
Lauch Faircloth (NC)	Zas Alexopoulos	SR393	4-3324
Larry Craig (ID)	Damon Tobias/Janice Nielsen	SH313	4-2752
Patty Murray (WA)	Ben McMakin	SH111	4-2621
Harry Reid (NV)	Peter Arapis	SH324	4-3542
Daniel Inouye (HI)	Charlie Houy	SH722	4-3934

Transportation

Richard Shelby (AL)	Karen Casey	SH110	4-5744
Pete Domenici (NM)	Carol McGuire	SH328	4-6621
Arlen Specter (PA)	Don Renberg	SH530	4-4254

Christopher Bond (MO)	Tracy Henke	SR293	4-5721
Slade Gorton (WA)	Brett Hale	SH730	4-3441
Robert Bennett (UT)	Shawn Parkin	SD431	4-5444
Lauch Faircloth (NC)	Steven Later	SH317	4-3154

Frank Lautenberg (NJ)	Liz O'Donoghue	SH506	4-4744
Robert Byrd (WV)	Peter Rogoff	SH311	4-3954
Barbara Mikulski (MD)	Paul Carliner	SH709	4-4654
Harry Reid (NV)	Greg Daines	SH324	4-3542
Herb Kohl (WI)	Eileen Hatten	SH330	4-5653
Patty Murray (WA)	Mike Egen	SR111	4-2621

Treasury, Postal

Ben Nighthorse Campbell (CO)	Larry Vigil	SR380	4-5852
Richard Shelby (AL)	Kathy Casey	SH110	4-5744
Lauch Faircloth (NC)	David Zanders	SH317	4-3154

Herb Kohl (WI)	Barbara Retzcass	SH330	4-5653
Barbara Mikulski (MD)	Paul Carliner	SH709	4-4654

VA, HUD

Christopher Bond (MO)	Kerry Apostolu/James Kamarck (HUD)	SR293	4-5721
Conrad Burns (MT)	Paul Van Remortel	SD187	4-2644
Ted Stevens (AK)	Ann Marie Murphy	SH522	4-3004
Richard Shelby (AL)	Kathy Casey	SH110	4-5744
Ben Nighthorse Campbell (CO)	Tom Compton	SR380	4-5852
Larry Craig (ID)	Damon Tobias	SH313	4-2752

Barbara Mikulski (MD)	Andy Givens	SH709	4-4654
Patrick Leahy (VT)	Amy Rainone	SR433	4-4242
Frank Lautenberg (NJ)	Gabby Engle	SH506	4-4744
Tom Harkin (IA)	Richard Bender	SH731	4-3254
Barbara Boxer (CA)	Stacy Rampy	SH112	4-3553

Conference Strategy Meeting Summary

1. Objectives

- Come out of conference with authority and funds to proceed with the testing initiative, and with the tests under the control of an independent NAGB along the lines of the Senate provisions
- Secure a veto-proof margin in both Houses
- Secure broader support for initiative within Democratic Caucus and among moderate Republicans in the House

2. Timing

- Conferees are likely to be appointed and work begin next week.
- It is conceivable that Goolding would be appointed to the conference for this issue.
- Legislative affairs predicts that this will be a long conference, and that we are looking at 1-2 CR's to carry us to mid-October.
- It is too early to determine the likely shape of the trade-offs we will need to consider within conference

3. Communications

- Tie the House vote on testing, the Senate block grant vote, and the anticipated DC voucher proposals together to support an overall message that we are trying to improve public education, while Republicans are once again trying to abandon and weaken it.
- Hammer the message home over the next several weeks, starting with:
 - Saturday Radio Address
 - Saturday Charter Schools event
 - Possible VP event on Friday, tied to release of positive Wall Street Journal poll
 - Riley press conference next week
 - Other events as we can schedule them
- Identify key editorial boards, especially in states/districts of conferees, for ED to work
- Urge business leaders and supportive Republican opinion leaders to place op-eds

4. Legislative

- Quiet work to address concerns of Black and Hispanic Caucuses
 - Look for ways to support School Construction Initiative
 - Look for ways to increase comfort level of Hispanic Caucus
- Explore if moderate R's (e.g., Castle, Riggs) can coalesce behind Senate approach

5. Outreach

- ED work with education groups to amplify broad message

Call Barbara Chow re: Chugl. Smith's (2/20/01)

Testing Action Steps

1. Target list of 20+ Republicans we can reach:

- get from Andy, Barbara, Scott Fleming, and Tom Lindsley
- Ask NEA/AFT locals and NSBA locals, to put out press releases in support of test and urging R's to support them as well
- Ask BRT/NAB, Chamber and High-tech CEO's to target

2. Call Sue Bedtka/Mike Smith tonight re: FIE testing (test gets 1st claim on FIE \$, or increase FIE total)

3. Get NAGB straightened out

- Terry Peterson re: Ravitch/Engler and Riley's appointments ✓
- Let Coats' staff know where we are
- • Call Ravitch and Engler

4. Test Specifications

- Riley object to calculator decision ✓
- ✓ Riley indicate that test specifications will not be transmitted to test contract until NAGB is placed in charge; then they will be given to NAGB for review, revision and approval. Riley will urge NAGB to change calculator decision ✓
- Riley reiterate that test specs, etc. all for NAGB approval ✓

5. Ask Ravitch/Finn/Engler for op-ed this week

6. Compromise options with R's

- NAGB in charge
- Delay in full implementation until 2000; [1998 pilot test with national sample, 1999 field test in interested states and cities, 2000 full implementation]
- Prohibition on federal control over curriculum

7. Compromise options with Hispanic Caucus

- ✓ Commercially available tests [David S, Gary Phillips and Dalia get working with Casserly ASAP; need to figure out when to bring MALDEF and others into the conversation]
- Place Hispanic Mayor [from Sacramento?] on NAGB
- Include in legislation language that authorizes NAGB to (1) consider use of native language tests as accomodation; (2) give reading test in Spanish [native language] to kids who take test in English -- California language
- *Hisp. Dropout Bill*

8. Compromise options with Black Caucus

- School Construction → *Shannon/Harris*
- Delay/Prohibition on High Stakes testing

- Reporting Requirements in law, comparable to Title 1

Compromise options with Hispanic Caucus

- Commercially available tests [paid for with Title 1 or other funds]
- Place Hispanic Mayor on NAGB
- Include in legislation language that authorizes NAGB to (1) consider use of native language tests as accomodation; (2) give reading test in Spanish [native language] to kids who take test in English (perhaps patterned after the Cal. provision -- all kids take English test, at local option, kids with less than one year of school can also be given test in native language if appropriate test is available)

Compromise options with Black Caucus

- School Construction
- Delay/Prohibition on High Stakes testing
- Reporting Requirements in law, comparable to Title 1



Susan_Frost @ ed.gov
08/25/97 10:33:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Michael Cohen

cc:

Subject: = "Minutes" on Monday's Test Meeting

Scott and I attended the Monday WH meeting on the test. Please excuse the spelling of the names but attending were: Mike Cohen, Elana Kagan (running the meeting for DPC); Bill Kincaid, Jon Schnur, Ann Lewis, Sylvia Matthews, Mike Waldman, Maria E., Paul Begala, Jennifer Palmery(scheduling), Karen Skelton (political affairs), Chris Balderston, Tim Gininda (?) AND Andy Blocker

OBVIOUSLY this is a VERY high priority at the WH.
We agreed to meet almost every day until it is no longer needed.

AGENDA AND WHAT WE AGREED TO:

SECURE BASE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

I. (WHITE HOUSE) Andy Blocker will make out a list of calls we all agreed the Secretary should make ASAP. He will send the list over on Tuesday. (In addition, Judy Winston will call Clay; Alexis will call Payne.)

II. (SCOTT/ANDY) Secretary should request to speak to first House Democratic Caucus meeting when they return. Should also request to speak to Senate Caucus lunch on first Tuesday. Talk to Daschle and Gephardt.

III. (DAVID STEVENSON) Department should do talking points on the issue of inherent racial bias and the test. Need to have arguments for Black and Hispanic caucus calls ASAP.

Discussion: Difficult Dem Caucus issue since Dems are divided. Blue Dogs and New Dems are with us BUT will get pressure from the right and home schoolers. If we can't resolve Hispanic issue we could lose 10 to 20 votes --- but those may be offset by Repubs on the other side. Need policy decision from above --- memo going to him on Tuesday. Black Caucus needs work (see calls list).

PEEL OFF REPUBLICAN MODERATES

I. (MIKE COHEN/MIKE SMITH/DAVID S.) We have committed to send legislation on NAGB as independent board to oversee test (Face the Nation). This decision may delay implementation BUT ALL OF WH wants to go ahead and are prepared for delay if it comes to that. DPC talked about including an additional provision so that Congress would have to

approve the test down the road.....most around the table thought that was going too far. Need to figure out timetable for developing legislation and sending to the HILL --- ASAP!

II. (SECRETARY) Agreed that Secretary should call Bennett given his statements on Fox News Sunday. (He supports test but thinks NAGB should oversee.) Ravitch, Finn and Bennett are important to business and to moderate republicans. (Find out if Jack Kemp stated support for test in speech last month.)

*Senate
- Hatch
- Feinstein*

DISCUSSION: In addition to Secretary's calls, VP and other members of the cabinet are willing to make calls where appropriate. Very important to assess where Senate moderate Republicans are --- especially if that vote is first. Could have a WIN in Senate before we get to the House --- that would help!

OUTREACH STRATEGY

I. (SUSAN/MIKE C./MISSY) ED Strategy meeting with larger group of possible supporters TUES at 2 pm. Will brief them on developments of last 3 weeks and answer questions.

Small group strategy meeting at 3:30 with AFT, NEA, NSBA, NAESP, NASDSE (specialized directors), CHIEFS, COUNCIL of GREAT CITIES, ROUNDTABLE, NAB. All of the above ED groups have joined on a letter drafted by CHIEFS that is ready to send this week. NAB and Roundtable are not on letter as of now.

SET OF POINT/COUNTERPOINT ARGUMENTS ARE BEING PREPARED BY WH AND WILL BE READY TUESDAY TO USE FOR THIS MEETING AND OTHERS.

II. (DAVID F/MIKE C.) Mike Casserly has drafted an OPED that he is shopping to POST. JOHN DOERR is considering a full page ad in Post, Times and Journal of the 260 CEOs who signed on to TEST. VP may do conference call with CEOs on test issues. Can also use Rubin and Daley.

III. (WHITE HOUSE--Mickey I., Lynn C., Maria E.) will work with Mayors and Governors. Meetings are being set up with NAACP, Urban League, Asian groups, Hispanic Groups, and others.

COMMUNICATIONS

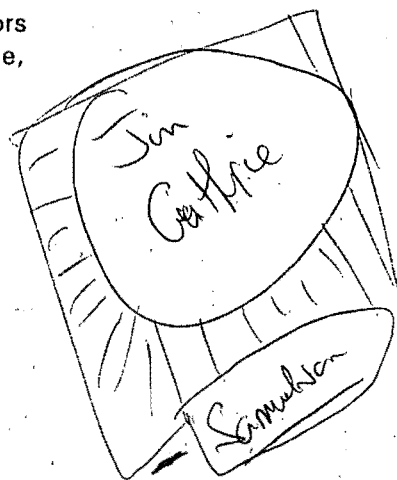
PRINCIPALS

I. August 30 Radio Address on Test --- may raise the "v" word. ED will do briefing on NAEP results on Friday to be held for Saturday address.

II. Holding September 6th Radio Address --- if needed can use for test message.

III. September 8th Event on Standards is available --- POTUS VP is available September 3, 4, and 5. In NH with Secretary on Sept 5th for AGBTS event already.

IV. CABINET --- Use AGBTS events to give message on TEST. Chris B. will talk about this on AGBTS conference call TUES AM --- DPC Will



join that call. (ED Assistant Secretaries should be giving this message in every presentation.)

V. Barry Tiov will talk about Phi Delta Kappan poll results on TEST at 10 AM briefing. (See Secretary's press statement.) Can also SAT announcement on Tuesday as part of message.

VI. Overall theme should be that killing the test is akin to killing high standards. Need surrogates to give message -- can use ROMER and others.

MIKE C./SCOTT --- did I miss anything?????

National Test: Who I've talked to:

Congress

1. Frank Riggs -- we need to get back to him to discuss NAGB

2. Dale Kildee

States

1. New York: Rick Mills: The NY Regents are considering participating in the test; Rick has solicited input from constituencies and key leaders in the state; he has also talked with governor, who (a) is not opposed, (b) doesn't really understand what the tests are all about. I will keep in touch with Rick. I last talked to him about 2 weeks ago.

2. New Jersey: Leo Klagholz, who would like NJ to participate and was checking with Gov, who he thought would be supportive. Recent NJ Supreme Court decision declaring school finance system unconstitutional may complicate prospects, since Gov's approach to dealing with school finance was to tie funding to cost of meeting standards. I will touch base with Leo within the week. I last talked with him about 3 weeks ago.

3. New Hampshire: Betty Twomey, who is interested, has talked to the Gov. Gov. does not want to take this on while she is fighting for kindergarten funding.

4. Rhode Island: Peter McWalters. Peter is interested, but didn't have a plan for working state board of education or governor. He thought the fastest and most effective way to get this to happen in RI was for Jack Reed to indicate he would like Rhode Island to participate. Kay C. needs to arrange a meeting with Reed.

5. Illinois: Joe Spagnola. While Joe is supportive, he doesn't see much chance in Illinois, since there is a state law that restricts the amount of time the state can require kids to participate in state tests, and they are pretty close to the ceiling already. Note that, in addition, Joe has been in a number of controversies lately, and is probably not in a position to push this. I suggest we not spend much time working Illinois in the near future.

6. South Carolina: Barbara Neilson. Barbara had originally been supportive of the tests and thought they would be a relatively easy sell in SC. Now she is opposed, claiming that we are moving too fast and won't do a good job.

7. Tennessee: Jane Walters is a supporter, believes that Tennessee will be willing to participate. We need to get back to her.

8. Oregon: Norma Paulus is interested in having Oregon participate, but wants to wait until after legislature adjourns (sometime this summer) before making public commitment.

9. Colorado: Gov. Romer met with RWR, myself and Jennifer, and is clearly supportive. I will follow up with him regarding timing of Colorado announcement, and plans to reach out to other

governors.

10. Nevada: Gov. Miller met with RWR, myself and Jennifer, and is clearly supportive. Jennifer should follow up with his staff regarding timing of Nevada announcement, and plans to reach out to other governors.

11. Utah: Gov. Leavitt met with RWR, myself and Jennifer; he is interested but wanted to talk with his chief state school officer first. I will get back to him in about a week.

12. Wyoming: Gov. xxxxx was on the phone with RWR and other governors; he sounded interested but it was difficult to tell. Jennifer or I should check with NGA staff and ask them if they can get a better reading of his interest. If they can't one of us should call directly.

Education Associations

1. PTA: Arnie Fege. I had two long telephone conversations with Arnie, and got no place. Susan Frost is setting up a follow-up meeting with PTA President.

2. AASA: Bruce Hunter was at Susan's outreach meeting and indicated AASA would be supporting the tests (even though he clearly doesn't). I will follow up with Paul Houston.

3. NSBA: Mike Resnick was at Susan's outreach meeting; Mike Smith is supposed to follow up with Ann Bryant; I can if necessary.

4. NEA: I talked briefly with Bob Chase, and we are trying to schedule a meeting soon. I think he would like to be supportive, but the NEA won't be easy on this one.

5. NAB: Bob Jones and Milt Goldberg. We got NAB's endorsement just before the West Virginia Town Meeting, but haven't talked with them about how to best use it.

6. BRT: Susan Traiman. We also have BRT endorsement, but haven't used it well either,

7. High-tech CEO's. Endorsed at the California event in early April, but haven't taken full advantage of this group yet. I will follow up.

8. Council of Great City Schools. Mike Casserly is helping to recruit cities to sign up for the tests. He has canvassed about 15 superintendents, and has gotten positive reactions. Mike will call the superintendents to follow up. ED staff, including Judith Johnson, Judy Wurtzel, Debbie Fine, and Missy Kincaid are involved in regular meetings with Mike on recruiting cities.

Others

1. NAGB: I met with NAGB in early May, and discussed a possible role for it. They are very interested. I talk with NAGB chair Bill Randall on occasion.