

September 30, 1998

EDUCATION EVENT

DATE: October 1, 1998
LOCATION: The East Room
BRIEFING TIME: 2:05 pm - 2:30 pm
EVENT TIME: 2:30 pm - 2:45 pm (Meet and Greet)
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm (Event)
FROM: Bruce Reed

I. PURPOSE

To unite Democrats behind challenge to the Republican Leadership to stop playing politics and pass your remaining education proposals.

II. BACKGROUND

So far, the current Congress has done almost nothing to improve public schools. This is an opportunity to call on the Republican leadership to set aside one of the few remaining days this year to vote on and pass your education agenda to reduce class size, modernize schools, and make the needed investments in after-school programs, technology, and other tools to bring our schools into the 21st century.

At this event you will be joined by more than 60 Congressional Democrats, 150 educators and education leaders, and a 6th grade class from a local elementary school who will be wearing t-shirts displaying the "One Day, One Vote" challenge to Congress.

We have worked with Daschle, Gebhardt, and other leading Democrats on a unified, three-part agenda that a willing Congress could pass in a single day:

- **Smaller Classes With Well-Prepared Teachers.** You will urge Congress to pass your Class Size Reduction and Teacher Quality Act, to provide \$12 billion over 7 years to help local communities hire 100,000 teachers and reduce class size to a national average of 18 in grades 1-3.
- **Modern Schools for the 21st Century.** You will urge Congress to pass your School Modernization initiative, which will provide local communities with \$22 billion in interest-free bonds to help renovate, modernize and build over 5,000 schools nationwide to reduce overcrowding, fix leaky roofs, and make schools safer.

- **Critical Investments in After-School Programs, Education Technology and Basic Education.** You will urge Congress to fully fund your FY 1999 budget request to strengthen public schools by raising standards, increasing accountability, expanding public school choice, strengthening teaching and learning and keeping our schools safe and drug-free. Overall, the House Labor/HHS appropriations bill is \$2 billion below the funding you requested for your education priorities, and fails to make critical investments needed to raise academic standards, help young children learn to read and all students master the basics, keep our schools drug-free, and give disadvantaged students and their families pathways to college. While the Senate bill rejects the extreme cuts made by the House, it falls \$1 billion short in funding your education priorities, and shortchanges programs that help young children learn to read, help children become proficient in English and learn academic subjects, establish innovative charter schools, and keep middle schools safe and drug-free.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The Vice President

Secretary Riley

Representative David Bonior (*Note: Rep. Gephardt will be in flight to D.C. at this time)

Senator Tom Daschle

Kathryn Scruggs, Reading Teacher, Ashlawn Elementary School, Arlington, Va.

Seated on stage: 60 Members of Congress.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

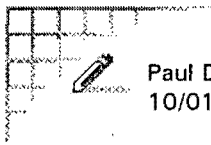
V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **YOU** will be announced out of the State Dining room accompanied by all stage participants and Members of Congress and proceed to the stage in the East Room.
- Secretary Riley will make welcoming remarks and introduce Rep. Bonior.
- Rep. Bonior will make remarks and introduce Senator Daschle.
- Senator Daschle will make remarks and introduce Kathryn Scruggs.
- Kathryn Scruggs will make remarks and introduce the Vice President.
- The Vice President will make remarks and introduce **YOU**.
- **YOU** will make remarks.
- **YOU** will work a ropeline and then depart.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting.

education initiatives by failing to make critical investments needed to raise academic standards, help young children learn to read and all students master the basics, keep our schools drug-free, and give disadvantaged students and their families pathways to college. While the Senate bill rejects the extreme cuts made by the House, it falls one billion short in funding the President's priorities, and shortchanges programs that help young children learn to read, help children become proficient in English and learn academic subjects, establish innovative charter schools, and keep middle schools safe and drug-free.



Paul D. Glastris
10/01/98 10:20:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: latest version of ed speech

Revised final 10/1/98 10:00 am

Paul Glastris

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON EDUCATION
EAST ROOM, WHITE HOUSE
October 1, 1998**

Acknowledgments: Sec. Riley; Sen. Daschle; Rep. Bonior; VP Gore; Sen. Kennedy; reading teacher Kathryn Scruggs.

Yesterday, it was my privilege to announce to the American people that our nation has triumphed over an enormous challenge: The red ink of federal budget deficits has been replaced by the black ink of surplus. Today, I want to talk about another major challenge: The need to strengthen our public schools. Every child in America deserves the opportunity of a first-class education. We now have a golden opportunity, and a profound responsibility, to give it to them--if we put progress above partisanship.

Think of the challenges we have overcome in just the last six years when we put politics aside and focused on the issues that matter. We came together across party lines to pass historic crime, welfare, and budget measures that gave the citizens of this country the tools they needed to face these problems. The results speak for themselves: Rising wages and the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years...the lowest crime rate in 25 years...the smallest percentage of people on welfare in 29 years...the lowest African American poverty rate since statistics have been kept; the lowest inflation in 32 years...and budget surpluses as far as the eye can see.

Now, the moment is right to put partisanship aside once again, for one day, in the name of our children. We must devote one day between now and the end of this congressional session to strengthening America's public schools. One day to debate and vote on a plan to provide America's public schools with the tools they need: 100,000 well-qualified new teachers to reduce class size....after school and summer school programs to help students meet

higher academic standards...and modernized schools for the 21st century.

In recent days Congress has chosen progress over partisanship by passing a higher education bill that includes my initiatives on higher education. These initiatives will help millions of Americans receive the college education they need to compete in the global economy.

Our nation is blessed with the finest system of higher education in the world and I applaud Congress for making it even better.

But our nation also needs and deserves the finest K-through-12 educational system in the world. Nothing we can do will more profoundly expand the circle of opportunity than strengthening our public schools. Nothing we can do will more directly enhance our economic competitiveness than strengthening our public schools.

Nothing we can do will more assuredly bridge the divisions among our people and bind this nation together than strengthening our public schools. Yet no issue has suffered more from misplaced priorities and partisan pursuits than our public schools.

Eight months ago I sent Congress an education agenda that I believe can dramatically improve public schools in America. It is an agenda that demands accountability from everyone involved in public schools--students, parents, teachers, administrators. It is an agenda that says to students, we expect you to meet high standards of discipline and academic achievement, but we will give you the help you need to meet those standards. It is an agenda that is, or should be, bipartisan in its appeal. And yet in the last eight months, my agenda has been largely ignored.

But it is not too late. There is still time before the end of the legislative session for Congress to spend one day and cast one vote on a plan that would transform public education by doing three things.

First, the plan would help school districts hire 100,000 new teachers to reduce class sizes in the early grades--goals Sen. Patty Murray and Cong. Bill Clay have been fighting for. Small classes are one of the first things parents look for in a school, and the latest research shows that they are wise to do so.

Children who receive the individual attention they need in the early grades show permanent academic gains. Every child in America deserves a chance to make those gains, and in one day Congress can vote to make that happen.

Second, the plan would help build or modernize 5000 schools around the country--goals Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun and Cong. Charlie Rangel have been fighting for. The need is great. In fast-growing school districts kids are taught in trailers euphemistically known as "learning cottages." In older districts, children sit in magnificent old schools where chunks of plaster fall on their desks. That's wrong.

technology to improve learning

We cannot ask students to show self-respect when their schools don't show self-respect. Our plan will also help connect every school to the Internet by the year 2000 and train teachers to use the Internet. Every child in America deserves a school as modern as the world we live in, and in one day Congress can vote to make that happen.

Third, the plan would help students meet higher standards with after school and summer school programs and other targeted investments--investments Sen. Barbara Boxer and Congwmm. Nita Lowey have been fighting for. (A study by Mott Foundation showed overwhelmingly same)

I have seen the benefits of such investments with my own eyes. Last week I visited a school in Chicago where students no longer advance to the next grade unless they can pass tests to demonstrate that they have learned what they were supposed to learn. Students who have trouble passing those tests are offered academically-enriched summer school and after school programs, with three hot meals a day for students who need it. The result: test scores in Chicago are up three years in a row.

Every school district in America can do what Chicago has done, and in one day Congress can vote to make that happen.

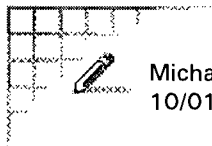
Yet for partisan reasons, Congress has not even found time to send me an appropriations bill that invests in education. They must not go home until they do, and I know Sen. Tom Harkin and Cong. David Obey will insist they do. /

Let me be clear: The men and women with me here today are ready to act now to strengthen our public schools. All they need is one day. One day to affirm the bedrock American value that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity, or income, deserves the chance share the bounty of this country's prosperity by gaining a first-class education.

One day to put in place a plan that will insure the future of that prosperity in a world economy driven by knowledge. One day to put aside partisan games and do the work that the American people elected us to do.

Thank you and God bless you.

tomorrow the House may vote on an education appropriation
that is \$2 billion short of what is needed
for education. If it comes to my desk I
will veto it.



Michael Cohen
10/01/98 10:49:32 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Paul D. Glastris/WHO/EOP

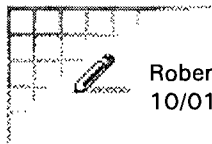
cc:

Subject: latest version

I like the speech. In addition, I agree with Bob's technology suggestion below. In addition, I would urge two additional changes:

1. On page 3 "Our plan will also...and train teachers to use the Internet" should read "...and train teachers to use technology to improve learning." This is more accurate, and fits with Bob's point about responding to the study released yesterday.
2. On same page, add to the graph about after-school: "A study released by the Mott Foundation just last week showed that American's overwhelmingly endorse the expansion of after-school programs. " POTUS indicated in his comments on this item in the weekly that he wanted to include this point in today's event.

----- Forwarded by Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP on 10/01/98 10:43 AM -----



Robert M. Shireman
10/01/98 10:35:05 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Paul D. Glastris/WHO/EOP

cc: Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP

Subject: latest version

Two items:

1. I think it would be good to spin the new ed-tech study in our direction: Something like "earlier this week, a new study showed that technology can help students, *but only if it used the right way*. That's why Congress needs to fund my proposal to help teachers be as comfortable with a computer as they are with a chalkboard."
2. Congressman Becerra's office called to find out if the President was going to mention the Hispanic Education Action Plan. It's part of appropriations, but I'm not sure how to fit it in. Maybe a line about English (like the CHC speech), OR if President starts mentioning other members: "Everyone here has been active on education: Congressmen Becerra and Hinojosa helped develop our Hispanic Education Action Plan; Congressman X has done Y, etc. (we could get a couple more)." What do you think?

ONE DAY, ONE VOTE FOR AMERICA'S SCHOOLS: PRESIDENT CLINTON CHALLENGES CONGRESS TO SET POLITICS ASIDE AND PASS EDUCATION PLAN

"Stop playing partisan politics for just one day and devote that day to strengthening America's public schools."

President Bill Clinton October 1, 1998

ONE DAY FOR AMERICA'S SCHOOLS. President Clinton will challenge Congressional leaders to leave politics at the schoolhouse door and take immediate action to help ensure every American student receives a world-class education. Joined by Vice President Gore and Congressional Democrats, President Clinton will urge the Congress to set aside one of the few remaining days this year to vote on and pass his education agenda to reduce class size to a national average of 18, modernize 5,000 schools nationwide, and make the needed investments to provide schools and students with after-school programs, technology, and other tools to bring our schools into the 21st century.

- **Smaller Classes With Well-Prepared Teachers.** President Clinton will urge Congress to pass the Class Size Reduction and Teacher Quality Act, to provide \$12 billion over 7 years to help local communities hire 100,000 teachers and reduce class size to a national average of 18 in grades 1-3. Studies show that smaller classes help teachers provide more personal attention to students, reduce discipline problems, and improve student achievement.
- **Modern Schools for the 21st Century.** President Clinton will urge Congress to pass his School Modernization initiative, which will provide local communities with \$22 billion in interest-free bonds to help renovate, modernize and build over 5,000 schools nationwide to reduce overcrowding, fix leaky roofs, and make schools safer.
- **Critical Investments in After-School Programs, Education Technology and the Basics.** President Clinton will urge the Congress to fully fund his FY 1999 budget request to strengthen public schools by raising standards, increasing accountability, expanding public school choice, strengthening teaching and learning and keeping our schools safe and drug free.
 - **After-School programs for academic enrichment and extra help in a safe, supervised environment.** The President's budget would provide after-school opportunities for up to 500,000 students, with tutoring, academic enrichment, supervised recreation and community service opportunities in safe, drug-free environments.
 - **Education technology.** The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology to the classroom by calling for technology training for teachers and expanding access to computers in the classroom. His budget asks for \$721 million.
 - **Strengthening public schools, not selling them short.** Overall, the House Labor/HHS appropriations bill fails to fund \$2 billion of the President

education initiatives by failing to make critical investments needed to raise academic standards, help young children learn to read and all students master the basics, keep our schools drug-free, and give disadvantaged students and their families pathways to college. While the Senate bill rejects the extreme cuts made by the House, it falls one billion short in funding the President's priorities, and shortchanges programs that help young children learn to read, help children become proficient in English and learn academic subjects, establish innovative charter schools, and keep middle schools safe and drug-free.

**Questions and Answers on Rally for Education
October 1, 1998**

Q. Is the President threatening a government shutdown if the Republicans do not give him the education programs that he wants?

A. The President is calling on the Republicans to spend a day working cooperatively and productively to address the needs of our schools -- to provide children with better-trained teachers, smaller classes, modern classrooms and technology, and after-school programs. The passage of the higher education legislation earlier this week is a demonstration that bipartisanship can yield results. The President is calling on Congress to learn from that lesson, and do the same with elementary and secondary education.

Q. Hasn't the President said he would veto the Labor-HHS appropriations bill?

A. Yes, the President made it clear on July 14 that the House appropriations bill was unacceptable, and that he would veto it if it came to him. He has indicated that the Senate Committee version is a step in the right direction, but is still deficient. He is calling on the Republican leadership in Congress to work with him and with their Democratic colleagues to develop an education plan that we can all rally behind.

Q. Didn't you actually lose your education initiatives when your tobacco effort stalled?

A. First, out of all of our education initiatives, only the Class Size Reduction proposal was funded out of projected tobacco revenues. Funding to help modernize schools, put technology in the classroom and train teachers in how to use it, provide after-school programs, and expand charter schools, was not funded out of tobacco revenues, and is part of the President's balanced budget proposal. Second, when Congress wants to accomplish something, it finds ways. For example, many different savings proposals were cobbled together to fund the highway bill earlier this year. That kind of effort should be put into education, too.

Q. Is it really fair to say that Republicans have done nothing on education? Isn't their agenda just different (education savings accounts, D.C. vouchers, block grants)?

A. Regardless of one's view of vouchers, most children will continue to be in public schools, so it is critical that we invest in improving them. The gimmicks that the Republicans have put forward -- including the block grant proposal (Dollars to the Classroom) the House voted on recently, would actually rob public schools of resources, and reduce accountability for results.

Q. The Republican tax bill has a school construction component. Do you support that?

A. The Republican tax bill threatens Social Security by raiding the surplus. The President's school construction tax credit is fully paid for in his budget. If the Republican leadership would like to join us in Saving Social Security First, then we would be happy to sit down to discuss different ways to address the school construction and renovation needs of the Nation.

Q. The Congress just passed a higher education bill with strong bipartisan support. Isn't it also quite possible that a number of education bills supported by the administration will pass in the next week: head start reauthorization, child literacy, charter schools? Does that make this a do-something Congress?

A. We hope Congress passes those bills. But we worry that Congress may be intending to pass those bills, but then not to fund them. And while these steps are important and will help, the best way for Congress to help strengthen our schools and begin to provide our students with a world-class education is to provide our students with smaller classes and modern school buildings. That's what we are talking about today.

INTERNAL
STATUS OF EDUCATION ISSUES
(Week of September 7)

EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

1. **APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET**

- Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Bill -- House full Committee marked-up on July 14
House floor before adjournment
Senate full Committee marked-up September 3
Senate floor possibly end of next week
- District of Columbia Appropriations Bill -- Passed by House on August 6 (includes vouchers)
Senate full Committee marked-up July 21
Senate floor possibly September 28
- Budget Resolution-- Senate passed 57-41 (no new initiatives; \$1.6 billion below President)
House passed 216-204 (no new initiatives; \$1.3 billion below President)

2. **E-RATE**

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

3. **SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT**

- **Workforce Bill (signed on August 7)**

4. **IN CONFERENCE**

- **Higher Education Act**
 - **Student Loan Interest Rates on New Loans**
 - **Student Loan Interest Rates on Consolidation of Old Loans**

5. **AWAITING FLOOR ACTION**

- **SENATE: America Reads (passed Senate Committee May 13)**
- **SENATE: Ed-Flex (passed Senate Committee July 29)**
- **SENATE: Charter Schools (passed Senate Committee July 29)**
- **HOUSE: Pitts "Dollars to the Classroom" Block Grant -- H.R. 3248 (passed House Committee June 24)**
- **HOUSE: Riggs Bilingual Education bill -- H.R. 3892 (passed House Committee June 4)**
- **HOUSE: Riggs IDEA Prisoners bill -- H.R. 3254 (passed House Committee June 4)**

6. **INTRODUCED AND WAITING FOR COMMITTEE ACTION**

- **School Construction and Modernization**
- **Class Size Reduction**
- **Educational Opportunity Zones (no action expected)**

7. **VETOED**

- **Coverdell Conference Report (vetoed July 21)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ MAJOR THEMES

- **National School Modernization Day**
- **America Goes Back to School**
- **School Safety**

EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

1. APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET

Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations

House Bill

Message: In a statement issued on July 14, The President said, "I am deeply concerned with the Labor/HHS appropriations bill that Congress is considering today... On balance, this bill fails to provide young Americans with the schooling and training that will be essential to their success as working adults, and to our success as a nation. The bill is fundamentally flawed. Overall, it cuts \$2 billion from our request for education investment, short-changing initiatives on education reform, on raising educational achievement for our children, and on providing focused help for students who need it most... By turning their backs on America's young in this bill, the House Republicans are taking a step backward... This bill shortchanges investments in education, and if it were sent to me in its current form, I would have no choice but to veto it."

The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 4274) did not go to the House floor before recess. The bill did go to the Rules committee on August 4, but there was no vote on the rule. There may be a "managers package" that includes a \$600 million increase to the Low-Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and a restoration of some Summer Jobs program funds paid for with some of the extra Pell funds. Other possible amendments include: Riggs (R-CA) amendment to move funds from Comprehensive School Reform to Charter Schools; Goodling (R-PA) amendment to strike funding for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; an amendment to strike provisions regarding blocking and filtering software; and a possible amendment on loan consolidation.

On July 14, the House Appropriations Committee marked-up the FY1999 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill with only small changes in the funding levels agreed to in Subcommittee on June 23. The Committee bill falls over \$2 billion short in funding the President's priority education programs and new initiatives. The Committee did not provide funds for any of the new education initiatives in the President's budget, such as: School Construction, Class Size, America Reads, Safe and Drug-free School Coordinators, Education Opportunity Zones, High Hopes, Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships, and the Interagency Research Initiative.

Senate Bill

Message: In a September 1 statement, Secretary Riley said, "The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee's action recognizes the importance of making practical investments in education and is a marked improvement from the house Committee's appropriations bill... I continue to have strong concerns about some specifics in the bill and will work with Congress to create high national standards for all our children and encourage full funding for critical programs..."

The Senate Appropriations bill was marked-up in Subcommittee on September 1 and in full Committee on September 3. The Senate bill includes increases in Title I, After-School and Pell Grants, and provides funds for new initiatives such as High Hopes ("Connections" in the Senate bill), Teacher Recruitment and Preparation, and Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships. However, the funding levels fall short of those requested by the Administration in these and other programs. The bill also contains language which

prohibits funds to be used for field testing, administering, or implementing any national test (except for TIMSS and NAEP) and continues the development under the control of NAGB.

A floor date has not yet been scheduled. Senator Murray (D-WA) plans to offer an amendment to the Senate Appropriations bill on the Senate floor to fund her Class Size Reduction proposal.

Materials:

- **Statements by the President and Secretary Riley on the Senate Appropriations Bill (9/1); "President Clinton's Education and Training Priorities for the Fall" (8/31)**
- **"The President Calls on Congress to Enact His Education Agenda"; Chart: Cuts in the President's Priority Programs (7/16) -- PLEASE DISTRIBUTE WIDELY!!**
- **Statement of Administration Policy: House Labor, HHS, Ed Appropriations Bill (8/4)**
- **White House Documents:**
 - "Congress Retreats from Support for Education and Youth"; "President Clinton: Fighting to Support Children and Education" (7/29)**
- **Talking Points regarding the President's education agenda and the House Appropriations Committee's failure to fund the President's priorities**

District of Columbia Appropriations

Message: In a July 30 letter to House Appropriations Chairman Livingston (R-LA), OMB Director Jack Lew wrote: "We would strongly oppose any legislation allowing the use of Federal taxpayer funds for private school vouchers. Instead of investing additional resources in public schools, vouchers would allow a few selected students to attend private schools and would draw resources and attention away from the hard work of reforming public schools that serve the overwhelming majority of D.C. students. Establishing a private school vouchers system in the Nation's Capital would set a dangerous precedent for using Federal taxpayer funds for schools that are not accountable to the public. If such an amendment were adopted and included in the bill presented to the President, his senior advisers would recommend that the President veto the bill."

The DC Appropriations bill may reach the Senate floor this week. We understand that Sen. Coats (R-IN) is seeking the support of Senate Majority Leader Lott (R-MS) to add a voucher proposal to the Senate bill. We also understand that Democratic Senators will offer a number of message amendments such as our School Construction and Class Size Reduction proposals.

Background

On August 6, the House passed a voucher amendment (214-208) offered by Rep. Armey (R-TX) "to provide both tuition scholarships and enhanced achievement scholarships for grades K through 12 for District of Columbia residents whose family incomes meet the eligibility qualifications." Shortly thereafter, the House passed H.R. 4380, the DC Appropriations bill by a vote of 214-206. Rep. Moran (D-VA), ranking member of the DC Appropriations Subcommittee, has expressed support for the bill with the voucher provisions. There were also IDEA provisions (see IDEA section).

Materials:

- **Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 4380 -- District of Columbia Appropriations (8/5)**
- **Letter from OMB Director Lew to Rep. Livingston (R-LA) regarding DC Appropriations (7/30)**

Budget Resolution

Message: "With our balanced budget and prosperous economy, we can well afford to -- and must -- invest in our future, and that means our children's education. The Senate and House budget plans do not recognize this commitment to education and would deny crucial investments in improving the basics in reading and math, smaller classes, quality teachers, safe and modern schools, and resources to pay for college -- all of which are needed to provide America's children with the best possible opportunities for learning." - U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley

Background

On April 2, the Senate passed their budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 86) by a vote of 57-41. On June 4, the House passed their budget resolution -- by a vote of 216-204 -- which cuts education and training by \$1.3 billion below the President's budget and does not include any of our initiatives. The House budget cuts discretionary education programs even deeper than the Senate budget plan in the out years -- a total of \$100 billion below the Bipartisan Balanced Budget Agreement.

The budget resolution has been stalled. Since the House resolution calls for \$101 billion in tax cuts and the Senate resolution calls for only \$30 billion, the Republican leadership has not been able to agree on how to proceed.

2. E-RATE

E-Rate

Message: The FCC decision to fund the E-Rate at \$1.925 billion (January 1998-June 1999) is an important step in connecting America's school children to the Internet and preparing our children for the 21st century. The decision would fully fund telecommunications and Internet services while providing internal connections to the poorest schools will help this nation overcome the digital divide. If some in Congress continue to threaten to unplug the E-Rate from our classrooms, they will soon get a reputation for being anti-education.

On September 16, there will be a joint hearing of the House Education and Commerce Committees regarding the E-Rate.

Background

Rep. Scarborough (R-FL) did not offer his amendment to the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations (CJS) Bill to prevent the FCC from funding the E-Rate.

On August 4, the House Ways & Means Oversight Subcommittee held a hearing on E-rate funding, and Rep. Tauzin (R-LA) testified concerning his proposed legislation (see below). FCC Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth, FCC General Counsel Chris Wright, and Rep. Blumenauer (D-OR) testified.

On July 29 at the National Press Club, the Secretary made a major technology address to the Congressional Youth Leadership Conference. This speech had a broad focus on technology, with particular emphasis on the E-Rate.

On July 23, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held a hearing on the "Taxpayer's Defense Act" to determine whether the FCC exceeded its authority by unlawfully levying a new tax. Also on July 23, a bill by Reps. Tauzin (R-LA) and others to fund the E-Rate through the Federal excise tax instead of the Universal Service Fund was introduced and referred to the Ways and Means and Commerce Committees (H.R. 4324). This proposal has many shortfalls -- it requires budget offsets (\$25 billion over 5 years), block grants the money without the ability to target needy schools, and delays funding existing applicants. Rep. Dingell (D-MI) may introduce similar legislation.

On July 16, the Senate Commerce Committee reviewed the GAO report on the E-Rate, with testimony from the GAO and Ira Fishman, CEO of the Schools and Libraries Corporation (SLC). During the hearing, the SLC agreed to address all of the issues raised by the GAO report which included waste, fraud and abuse; ability of applicants to overestimate their discount percentage; and administration of the E-Rate.

Letters in support of the E-Rate have been signed by 35 Democratic Senators (there is additional support in the Senate among other Democrats and Republicans) and by 137 Members of the House.

Materials:

- Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 4276 -- Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations (8/5)
- Secretary Riley's Speech: "Technology and Education: An Investment in Equity and Excellence" (7/29)
- Statement by Vice President Gore on Department of Commerce Report about the Growing Digital Divide (7/28)
- New E-Rate one pager (7/16)
- INTERNAL E-Rate Outreach Highlights
- Secretary Riley's letter to the Editor (6/15) and other clips

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

3. SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT

Workforce Bill

Message: "I am pleased that both houses of Congress have now passed a comprehensive bill to give Americans new opportunities and choices to train for the jobs of the future... Modeled on my GI Bill for America's workers, this new training bill streamlines the vast array of existing job programs and empowers individuals to learn new skills with a simple grant. It will make sure that job training helps Americans meet the demands of a rapidly changing economy, and I look forward to signing it into law." -- President Bill Clinton, July 31, 1998

On August 7, President Clinton signed the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, legislation that includes his proposals to make America's employment and training system more responsive to our changing economy & more focused on the needs of our workers.

Conferees for Vocational Education, which was separated from the workforce legislation in a procedural move on June 12, have yet to schedule another meeting.

Materials:

- Remarks by the President at Signing Ceremony for the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (8/7)
- Statement by the President on Senate Passage Of Job Training Reform Legislation (7/31)

4. IN CONFERENCE

Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization

Message: In an August 7 letter to HEA Conferees, Secretary Riley wrote: "We now have the opportunity to work together during the conference deliberations to enact a strong bipartisan bill that will help more Americans prepare for and gain access to college, improve teacher recruitment and preparation, and promote better program management. In this work, we must all keep our focus on the goal of producing legislation that is grounded in sound educational and fiscal policy to provide maximum benefits to students. That is the ultimate purpose of the Higher Education Act."

The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill passed by full Committee on September 3 provides some funds for new initiatives such as High Hopes ("Connections" in the Senate bill), Teacher Recruitment and Preparation, and Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships. However, the funding levels fall short of those proposed by the President.

Background

On August 17, Secretary Riley joined Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA) in highlighting the President's High Hopes initiative in an event in Philadelphia, PA.

On August 7, Secretary Riley sent a letter to HEA conferees outlining issues that must be resolved in the HEA conference. These issues include: student loan interest rates; cuts in Section 458 administrative funds; prohibition of funding for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; High Hopes for College; teacher training and recruitment; distance learning; PBO; Year 2000; program integrity; and welfare.

On July 9, the Senate considered and passed (by a vote of 96-1) S. 1882, the Higher Education reauthorization bill. On May 6, the House passed H.R. 6, the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, by a vote of 414 - 4.

On July 22, the House appointed the following conferees: Reps. Goodling, (R-PA), McKeon (R-CA), Petri (R-WI), Graham (R-SC), Souder (R-IN), Peterson (R-PA), Clay (D-MO), Kildee (D-MI), Martinez (D-CA) and Andrews (D-NJ). On July 13, the Senate named conferees: Sens. Jeffords (R-VT), Coats (R-IN), Gregg (R-NH), Frist (R-TN), DeWine (R-OH), Enzi (R-WY), Hutchinson (R-AR), Collins (R-ME), Warner (R-VA), McConnell (R-KY), Kennedy (D-MA), Dodd (D-CT), Harkin (D-IA), Mikulski (D-MD), Bingaman (D-NM), Wellstone (D-MN), Murray (D-WA), and Reed (D-RI).

Materials:

- **Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships One-Pager (8/25)**
- Letter from Secretary Riley to Rep. Goodling regarding the HEA Conference (8/7)

HEA: Student Loan Interest Rates on New Loans

Message: We need to do everything we can to help students pay for college, including lowering the interest rate on student loans. The Administration continues to push for a low rate for students while providing reasonable returns to lenders in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Background

Both the House- and Senate-passed HEA reauthorization bills adopt the low student interest rate proposed by the Administration, but they also create an excessive new subsidy to boost lender profits. Both bills set the rate at 7.46% for students and 7.96% for lenders. Under this proposal, a typical four-year college student with a \$12,200 debt would save \$610 over a ten-year repayment period, and a graduate student who borrowed \$60,000 would save \$3,000 in interest. The recently enacted highway bill contains a short-term measure through September 30 that lowers the student rate on new loans to allow time for Congress to reach agreement on a permanent interest rate reduction in the HEA bill.

Materials:

- Press Release (6/18): "Good News for Students: New, Lower Loan Interest Rates Mean Big Savings"

HEA: Student Loan Interest Rates on Consolidation of Existing Loans

Message: Our policy has historically been that direct consolidation loans have the same interest rate as new student loans. Consistent with this longstanding policy, effective July 1, 1998, the interest rate on direct consolidation loans dropped with the interest rate on new student loans. This step is consistent with the Higher Education Act and with our longstanding regulations and policy, and it is the right thing to do for students and families.

Background

On July 1, consistent with the Department's long-standing policy, the interest rate on Direct Consolidation Loans dropped from 8.25% to 7.46% so as to match the interest rate on new student loans. This reduction in the consolidation interest rate will significantly benefit borrowers struggling to repay student loans by allowing them to consolidate their outstanding loans at the new lower student loan rate.

Materials:

- Response letters from Deputy Secretary Mike Smith to Chairman Goodling regarding the Direct Consolidation Loan Interest Rate (7/28 and 8/7)
- Packet on Loan Consolidation Interest Rates: Fact Sheets and Q&A for Borrowers (7/2)
- The Direct Loan Program High-Quality Service to Students and Schools (July 1998)
- What Financial Aid Administrators Are Saying About The Direct Loan Program (July 1998)
- Two Student Loan Programs: Continuous Improvement through Competition (July 1998)

5. AWAITING FLOOR ACTION

America Reads Challenge

Message: Congress missed their self-imposed July 1 deadline to pass legislation, thereby denying American children over \$200 million to support greater achievement in reading. We are working with the House and Senate committees to authorize a reading initiative and to ensure \$260 million is allocated through the FY99 Appropriations process.

We hope to have an agreement that will allow literacy legislation to go to the Senate floor within the next two weeks.

Background

The House passed Chairman Goodling's literacy legislation -- the Reading Excellence Act (H.R. 2416) -- on November 8, 1997.

On May 13, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee marked-up and unanimously passed Sen. Jeffords' literacy legislation. They adopted an amendment by Sen. Gregg which authorizes the Reading Excellence Act to receive \$210 million only if funding for IDEA is increased by at least \$500 million over the previous fiscal year. There are currently bipartisan discussions between Sen. Kennedy (D-MA) and Rep. Goodling (R-PA) to determine if a bill can be crafted that will be acceptable to both the House and the Senate.

On June 3, the President announced that 1,000 colleges had signed-on to America Reads.

Materials:

- Secretary Riley's statement regarding Failure of Congress to Pass Literacy Legislation (6/26)
- Packet on the President's Announcement "One Thousand Colleges Take the America Reads Challenge": Fact Sheet, Press Release, and Snapshots of America Reads Colleges (6/3)

Ed-Flex

Message: In a July 28 letter to Sen. Jeffords, Secretary Riley said: "The opportunity to gain the authority to waive certain Federal requirement has encouraged States to eliminate their own regulatory roadblocks to local reforms when strong accountability mechanisms are in place. It has permitted the Federal Government and State Governments together to send a clear signal that local educators are to be held accountable for results. When needed, it has provided additional flexibility to local school districts in the use of Federal education funds while fully maintaining the basic purposes and core principles of those programs, as intended by Congress."

Senator Gorton has offered a block grant proposal that he has labeled "Ed-Flex", but it does not include accountability measures. The Administration does not support Sen. Gorton's proposal.

Background

On July 29, the Senate Labor Committee approved S. 2213, the Ed-Flex expansion legislation sponsored by Senators Frist (R-TN) and Wyden (D-OR), which would expand the 12-state pilot program to all 50 states. The Administration supports the proposal by Sens. Frist and Wyden. Only one Democratic amendment was accepted, the Bingaman Amendment that requires SEAs and LEAs applying for extension of waivers to establish procedures for increasing the percentage of teachers that have demonstrated knowledge and pedagogical skill in their content area. Sen. Dodd offered amendments to authorize \$1 billion for After-School programs and \$240 million over three years for a truancy prevention program -- both were defeated. Sen. Murray withdrew amendments regarding teacher technology training and class size reduction, but reserved the right to reintroduce them on the Senate floor.

Materials:

- Letter from Secretary Riley to Sen. Jeffords Supporting the Substitute Version of S.2213 (7/28)

Charter Schools

Message: During a July 24 speech to Boys Nation, the President said: "Across our nation, public school choice, and in particular, charter schools, are renewing public education with new energy and new ideas. Charter schools are creative schools, innovative schools, public with open enrollment, strengthened by the commitment of parents and educators in the communities they serve... We're well on our way to meeting my goal of creating 3,000 such schools by the beginning of the next century. And again I ask Congress to help us meet the goal and finish its work on the bipartisan charter school legislation that is now making its way through Congress."

On July 29, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee approved S.1380, the Coats-Lieberman Charter School Expansion Act, which authorizes \$100 million for states to establish public charter schools.

Background

On July 24, the President announced that in September, the number of charter schools will exceed 1,000, serving more than 200,000 students. He urged Congress to pass legislation strengthening Federal support for Charter Schools (S.1380).

Materials:

- Strengthening and Expanding Charter Schools; Remarks by the President to Boys Nation (7/24)

Block Grants

"Education at a Crossroads" Report

Message: In a July 16 statement, Secretary Riley said: "The contents of this report are riddled with inaccuracies and its recommendations again fail to address the most critical needs of America's students, teachers and schools. This is yet one more irresponsible way Republicans in Congress are trying to distract parents' attention from serious efforts to improve education. This latest effort shows that those who wanted to abolish the U.S. Department of Education two years ago have not learned their lesson and still don't want to invest in improving our schools. They remain out of touch with the American people."

On July 17, the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation reviewed and released Rep. Hoekstra's (R-MI) report: "Education at a Crossroads -- What Works and What's Wasted?" This report recommends block grants with no accountability, taking money from public schools to pay for private school vouchers, and meaningless education IRA's.

Pitts "Dollars to the Classroom" Legislation

Message: In a June 24 letter to Chairman Goodling, Secretary Riley wrote, "The issue here is not about who controls public education -- we all agree that responsibility rests at the local and State levels. At stake, rather, is whether the Federal Government will maintain its long-standing, bipartisan commitment to helping local communities to strengthen accountability, raise standards, and improve student achievement, by providing assistance that focuses on our neediest children and schools and on activities in which national leadership can play a critical role."

On June 24, the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families reported out, by a vote of 19-18 (party-line), Rep. Pitts' "Dollars to the Classroom" legislation (H.R. 3248). The bill would consolidate over 30 currently funded elementary and secondary education programs (with total FY98 appropriations of \$2.46 billion) into a program of block grants to States. It would also expand the "Ed-Flex" authority and the authority for schools to operate Title I schoolwide programs. These actions would grant authority for school districts to use Federal funds for general operating expenses instead of national priorities, and would result in a loss of targeting and accountability. This legislation is also likely to lead to a reductions in appropriations, and would create a confusing and "one-size-fits-all" approach to driving dollars to the classroom.

The President stated last fall that such a step in unacceptable, and that he would use his veto power to prevent this approach from becoming law.

Appropriations Bills

A smaller block grant was included in the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee markup on June 23. The bill would provide \$400 million for the Title VI block grant -- \$50 million more than FY98 and \$400 million more than the President's budget which proposed terminating the program. The bill would cut Goals 2000 funding in half and cut Eisenhower Professional Development funds and allow those reduced funds to be used for activities authorized under the Title VI block grant.

Sen. Gorton, who sits on the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations subcommittee, may resurrect his block grant proposal in the Senate Appropriations bill. However, it is more likely that he will continue instead to push a block grant proposal he calls "Ed-Flex" which has no accountability measures.

Materials:

- **"Analysis of the Republicans' Claims regarding the "Dollars to the Classroom Act"**
- Statement by Secretary Riley on the Crossroads Report (7/16)
- Letter from Secretary Riley to Rep. Goodling Opposing the "Dollars to the Classroom Act" (6/24)
- 2-pager: "Analysis of the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 3248, the "Dollars to the Classroom Act" (6/23)
- "Riley Says No to Education Block Grants: Report Shows 69 Percent of Federal Dollars Go to Local Communities" (4/30)
- Letter to Senate Minority Leader Daschle from Rep. Tierney (D-MA) and 179 additional Members opposing block grants (4/20)

Bilingual Education

Message: An August 6 Statement of Administration Policy stated: "The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 3892, which would significantly amend the Bilingual Education Act. While there is a need to strengthen programs designed to help students with limited English proficiency (LEP) learn English, meet challenging standards in academic subjects, and successfully move into mainstream classes, H.R. 3892 would not accomplish these purposes. It is a step in the wrong direction."

We expect Rep. Riggs' "English Fluency Act" to reach the House floor this week.

Background

On August 4, the House Rules Committee adopted a modified open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3892, "The English Language Fluency Act," sponsored by Rep. Riggs (R-CA). The rule was approved on a party line voice vote. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate; a three hour limit on amendments after which only amendment printed in the Congressional Record will be in order; and provides 1 motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

On June 4, the full House committee marked-up and reported (22-17, party line) H.R. 3892 -- Rep. Riggs' Bilingual Education Bill -- which would impose a 2 year limit on Bilingual Education, convert the Federal program into a block grant, eliminate OCR's enforcement authority of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as it related to Limited-English Proficient children, and eliminate professional development for universities to train bilingual teachers.

The House Appropriations Committee bill marked-up on July 14 included language which: 1) removes the current 25% cap on "Special alternative instruction projects"; 2) limits student participation in federally-funded bilingual education programs to two years (two additional one-year extensions can be granted by the Secretary); and 3) requires the Secretary to give priority for funding multi-year grants to proposals focusing on the most rapid transition to English.

Materials:

- Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 3892 -- English Language Fluency Act (8/6)
- Compilation of materials: "The Clinton Administration Opposes California Proposition 227 (Unz initiative)", Secretary Riley's Statement regarding Unz Initiative (4/27); "Facts about Limited English Proficient Students"; "Research Findings regarding Schooling for Limited English Proficient Students"

IDEA

The House-passed District of Columbia Appropriations Bill contains provisions which: deny attorney fees for administrative hearings; give priority for private school placement in the DC metro area; limit attorney fees as a result of court hearings; increase placement periods from 50 days to 120 days; and other matters.

Background

The House Appropriations Committee bill marked-up on July 14 included language which would allow schools to "move a child with disability into an alternative educational setting in situations where that child exhibits violent behavior." The bill would also effectively deprive disabled youth incarcerated in adult prisons of a free appropriate public education (FAPE), a right granted under the Individuals With Disabilities Act. This provision is similar to a Rep. Rigg's bill -- the "IDEA Technical Amendments Act of 1998" (H.R. 3254) -- which was marked-up and reported by full committee on June 4 by a vote of 22-17 (party-line).

Materials:

- **Federal Restrictions on Dealing with Dangerous Children with Disabilities**
- Letter from Secretary Riley to Chairman Goodling regarding IDEA Legislation -- H.R. 3254 (6/4)

6. INTRODUCED AND WAITING FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

School Construction

Message: President Clinton and Vice President Gore want to help renovate, modernize and build over 5,000 schools by providing \$22 billion in interest-free school bonds. The majority in Congress has repeatedly blocked this critical investment to address overcrowding, fix leaky roofs and make schools safer. But it is not too late for Congress to act, and we will work to make sure that a bill is enacted before they go home in October.

On September 8, the President visited Pine Crest Elementary School in Silver Spring, MD for "National School Modernization Day" where he gave a speech on the importance of School Construction, Class Size Reduction and Educational Technology, and released the third annual Baby Boom Echo report. His address was broadcast live, via satellite, to community events around the country. Roughly 50 members of Congress, 15 ED Senior Staff and 4 Cabinet Officers participated in more than 84 events around the country.

Background

The President's School Construction initiative would authorize \$21.8 billion in bonding authority for school construction and modernization, at a Joint Committee on Taxation estimated cost of \$3.3 billion over 5 years.

Since the Republican Majority has refused to consider this legislation in committee, Democrats have offered it as a substitute for the Coverdell tax credit bill that the President vetoed on July 21. On May 7, the House rejected, by a vote of 192-222, Rep. Rangel's (D-NY) motion to instruct Coverdell conferees to agree to provisions consistent with the approach taken in his school construction bill, H.R. 3320, and on June 18, the House rejected Rep. Rangel's (D-NY) motion to recommit the Coverdell bill to conference with School Construction as a substitute by a vote of 196-225. On April 21, the Senate rejected, by a vote of 56-42, a Moseley-Braun Amendment to replace Coverdell IRA provision with the President's School Construction and Modernization proposal.

As of July 28, the President's bill introduced by Sen. Moseley-Braun's (S.1705) has 14 cosponsors, and Rep. Rangel's bill (H.R. 3320) has 115 cosponsors.

Materials:

- **Announcement: "National School Modernization Day: September 8"**
- Secretary Riley's Remarks at the Press Conference regarding School Construction Funding and Opposition to the Coverdell Bill (6/17)
- Fact sheets on the President's proposal
- Press Release: "Vice President Calls for Passage of Expanded School Construction Program to Bring States to \$22 Billion" (3/20)
- List of Organizations Endorsing School Modernization

Class Size Reduction

Message: President Clinton and Vice President Gore want to help reduce class size in the first three grades to give more personal attention to our young students. The majority in Congress has blocked this investment of \$12 billion over 7 years. But it is not too late for Congress to act, and we will work to make sure that a bill is enacted before they go home in October.

Senator Murray (D-WA) plans to offer an amendment to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill on the Senate floor to fund her Class Size Reduction proposal.

During the week of September 14, Members of Congress are planning a class size event at the Capitol to emphasize school overcrowding issues.

Background

On April 22, the Senate rejected an amendment by Sen. Murray to express the sense of Congress regarding reductions in class size by a vote of 49-50. Republican Senators voting in favor of Sen. Murray's amendment were Campbell (CO), D'Amato (NY), Jeffords (VT) and Specter (PA).

On May 8, the President transmitted the "Class Size Reduction and Teacher Quality Act of 1998" to Congress, and the President and Secretary Riley released a study, Reducing Class Size: What Do We Know?, that shows smaller classes enhance academic achievement. Rep. Clay introduced the Administration's proposal (H.R. 3876) on May 14, and his legislation currently has 57 cosponsors. Sen. Murray introduced the Administration's proposal (S. 2209) on June 24 with 18 cosponsors.

Materials:

- White House Fact Sheet: "President Clinton: Improving Our Schools to Help Children Prepare for the 21st Century" (5/8)
- Press Release: "New Study Shows Smaller Classes Enhance Academic Achievement" (5/8)
- Information Packet on National Effort to Reduce Class Size
- Press Release: "Vice President Gore Announces Benefits to Students of President's Class Size Reduction Plan" (4/1)

Educational Opportunity Zones

Background

On May 7 during the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, the President announced that the Administration's Educational Opportunity Zones legislation would be introduced that day by Sen. Kennedy (S. 2044) and Rep. Clay (H.R. 3813). As of July 28, Sen. Kennedy's legislation has 10 cosponsors, and Rep. Clay's bill has 34 cosponsors.

On May 7, the President and Secretary Riley also released a Department of Education Guidebook: Turning Around Low-Performing Schools -- A Guide for State and Local Leaders.

Materials:

- "President Clinton Meets with U.S. Conference of Mayors: Strengthening Public Schools", "Education Opportunity Zones: Strengthening Urban and Rural Schools" (5/7)

- "Turning Around Low-Performing Schools: Education Department Releases Guidebook" (5/7)
- Summary: "Turning Around Low-Performing Schools--A Guide for State and Local Leaders"

7. VETOED

Coverdell K-12 IRAs

Message: In his July 21 veto message, the President said, "As I have said before, we must prepare our children for the 21st century by providing them with the best education in the world. To help meet this goal, I have sent the Congress a comprehensive agenda for strengthening our public schools, which enroll almost 90 percent of our students... By sending me this bill, the Congress has instead chosen to weaken public education and shortchange our children." In his statement, the President said that this bill would divert limited federal resources away from public schools, provide little benefit to low-income families, would do little to encourage savings for education, and would reward higher-income families for what they already do.

Background

On June 18, the House passed the conference report on Sen. Coverdell's (R-GA) K-12 IRA bill (H.R. 2646) by a vote of 225-197, after they rejected Rep. Rangel's (D-NY) motion to recommit the Coverdell bill to conference with School Construction as a priority by a vote of 196-225. The Senate passed the conference report on Coverdell on June 24 by a vote of 59 to 36. Democrats voting in favor were: Biden (DE), Breaux (LA), Byrd (WV), Cleland (GA), Feinstein (CA), Kohl (WI), Lieberman (CT) and Torricelli (NJ). Republicans voting against were: Chafee (RI) and Jeffords (VT).

The Coverdell K-12 IRA conference report was sent to the White House on July 14, and the President vetoed the bill on July 21.

Materials:

- The President's Veto Message (7/21)
- Secretary Riley's Remarks at the Press Conference regarding School Construction Funding and Opposition to the Coverdell Bill (6/17)
- Secretary's Editorial in San Francisco Chronicle; Washington Post Editorial
- Coverdell K-12 IRAs vs. School Construction; Inequities in Coverdell (Chart)

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ MAJOR THEMES

National School Modernization Day: September 8

Message: "It is time to show our children and the world that America truly values education. Let us make every school across America a shining, modern temple of learning -- a place where a computer is as common in the classroom as a chalkboard, where classes are small enough for teachers to teach and children to learn, where students are inspired to look to the future with hope and confidence. Our children deserve nothing less." -- President Bill Clinton, September 8, 1998

On September 8, the President visited Pine Crest Elementary School in Silver Spring, MD for "National School Modernization Day" where he gave a speech on the importance of School Construction, Class Size

Reduction and Educational Technology, and released the third annual Baby Boom Echo report. His address was broadcast live, via satellite, to community events around the country. Roughly 50 members of Congress, 15 ED Senior Staff and 4 Cabinet Officers participated in more than 84 events around the country.

Materials:

- **Baby Boom Echo Report (9/8)**
- **White House Press Paper (9/8)**
- **Department of Education Press Release (9/4)**

America Goes Back to School 1998

Message: "If we are going to seize the promise of our times and educate our children so they can keep their dreams alive, we must all work together. Not government alone, not individuals alone, but as parents and children, employers and employees, teachers and students, community leaders and community members, as government and citizens. We must renew our schools so every American child has the opportunity to get the best possible education for the 21st century." -- President Clinton

The *America Goes Back to School* initiative is an annual joint effort between ED and the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education that focuses attention on improving education across America during the back-to-school period of August through October. Thousands of *America Goes Back to School* events have taken place across the nation, in every state, since the effort began in 1995.

The theme of this year's *America Goes Back to School* initiative is: "Get involved, stay involved!", and the national co-chairs for the effort are Secretary Riley, Tipper Gore, Jane Pauley of NBC, and National PTA President Lois Jean White.

Materials:

- **America Goes Back to School Teaser Brochures**
- **America Goes Back to School Partners' Activity Kit**

School Violence

Message: "When children in inner city schools must walk through metal detectors to protect them from the threat of violence, when high schools in small towns like Springfield, Oregon and Jonesboro, Arkansas are torn apart by disturbed teenagers armed with deadly weapons, when gang violence still ravages communities large and small, we know we must do more." -- President Clinton, August 27, 1998

On August 27, the President and Secretary Riley traveled to Worcester, Massachusetts to discuss school safety. The President announced: (1) the release by ED and DOJ an Early Warning Guide for teachers and principals to help identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to violence in schools; (2) and (2) the release of \$30 million for states to provide college scholarships to aspiring law enforcement officers in return for a commitment of service.

During a July 20 speech to the American Federation of Teachers, the President discussed the importance of school discipline and safety to the nation. He announced that he will chair a White House Conference on

School Safety on October 15, 1998, and highlighted some of the school safety policies promoted by the Administration -- school uniforms, tough truancy laws, community-based curfews, and zero tolerance for guns.

On July 8, the President, joined by Secretaries Riley and Rubin and Attorney General Reno, announced three new steps the Administration is taking to promote gun safety and responsibility: (1) announce the publication of a final regulation requiring all federally licensed gun dealers to post signs and issue warnings concerning juvenile handgun possession; (2) call on states and Congress to pass Child Access Prevention (CAP) legislation; and (3) announce a partnership with the state of Maryland to reduce gun-related violence.

On June 9, Secretary Riley gave a speech entitled "Reconnecting with our Children and Keeping Them Safe" at the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Conference. In his remarks, the Secretary offered "Seven Action Steps in Response to School Tragedies" that the Department will undertake: listening to children; providing effective programs, shifting resources to prevention, developing a guide for early warning signs, linking schools to other community services, developing model crisis management plans, and conducting a major study of alternative schools.

Materials:

- **"The Clinton-Gore Administration: Protecting America's Communities (8/27); "Clinton Announces New Guide to Help Schools Prevent Violence" (8/27)**
- ***Early Warning -- Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools***
- **President Clinton's Remarks at the American Federation of Teachers Conference (7/20)**
- **Press Paper from AFT Speech: "Promoting Discipline and Safety in Schools (7/20)**
- **"President Clinton: Promoting Gun Safety and Responsibility" (7/8)**
- **Secretary Riley's Youth Violence Speech; "Seven action Steps in Response to School Tragedies Announced at Safe and Drug-Free Schools Conference" (6/9)**