

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. schedule	Schedule of the President for Thursday, May 22, 1997 (partial) (1 page)	05/22/97	P6/b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Michael Cohen (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 13363

FOLDER TITLE:

[West Virginia Trip] [1]

2012-0160-S
ry1226

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

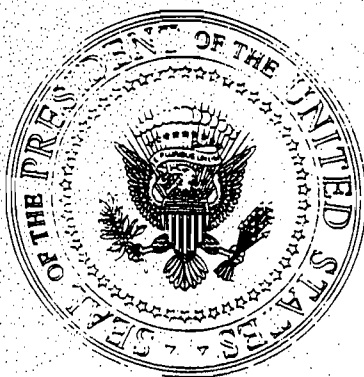
P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.



**The Trip of the
President
to
Clarksburg, West Virginia
May 22, 1997**

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**THE TRIP OF
THE PRESIDENT
TO
BRIDGEPORT, WEST VIRGINIA**

May 22, 1997

Staff Copy

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Thursday, May 22, 1997

BRIDGEPORT, WEST VIRGINIA

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SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

FOR

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1997

SCHEDULING DIRECTOR:

STEPHANIE STREETT

HOME:

P6(b)(6)

[001]

OFFICE:

202-456-2823

WHCA PAGER:

4033

TRIP COORDINATOR:

AVIVA STEINBERG

HOME:

P6(b)(6)

OFFICE:

202-456-2920

WHCA PAGER:

4022

PRESS COORDINATOR:

JEREMY GAINES

HOME:

P6(b)(6)

OFFICE:

202-456-5771

WHCA PAGER:

4194

WEATHER:

Washington, DC

Partly cloudy. Wind northwest at 12 to 18 knots.
Low 46 to 51. High 70 to 75.

Clarksburg, West Virginia

Partly cloudy. Wind northwest at 8 to 12 knots.
Low 40 to 45. High 64 to 69.

**SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1997**

NOTE: Staff vans depart at 9:30 am from the West Basement.

9:00 am-
9:15 am

MEETING
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Erskine Bowles

9:15 am-
9:45 am

**BRIEFING AND PHONE CALL TO CHANCELLOR
HELMUT KOHL OF GERMANY**
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Sandy Berger
CLOSED PRESS

9:45 am-
9:55 am

MEETING
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Stephanie Streett

10:00 am-
10:30 am

BRIEFING FOR THE EDUCATION TOWN HALL
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Bruce Reed
Rahm Emanuel

10:30 am

THE PRESIDENT proceeds to the South Lawn

Note: This departure is closed to staff and guests.

10:35 am

THE PRESIDENT departs the White House via Marine One en route
Andrews Air Force Base
[flight time: 10 minutes]

10:45 am

THE PRESIDENT arrives Andrews Air Force Base

11:00 am

THE PRESIDENT departs Andrews Air Force Base via Air Force
One en route Benning Airport, Bridgeport, West Virginia
[flight time: 1 hour, 10 minutes]

12:10 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives Benedum Airport, Bridgeport, West Virginia

OPEN PRESS

CLOSED PUBLIC

Greeters: Governor Cecil H. Underwood
Hovah Underwood
Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin
Speaker of the House Robert Kiss
Secretary of State Ken Hechler
Attorney General Darrell McGraw, Jr.
State Treasurer John Perdue
State Auditor Glen Gainer III
Mayor Carl Furbee, Bridgeport
Mayor Robert Flynn, Clarksburg

12:25 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs Benedum Airport via motorcade en route Robert C. Byrd High School
[drive time: 15 minutes]

12:40 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives Robert C. Byrd High School

Greeters: Lewis Iquinto, Clarksburg City Council
Dan Thompson, Clarksburg City Council
Kathy Folio, Clarksburg City Council
Jim Hunt, Clarksburg City Council
Herman Kesling, Clarksburg City Council
Percy Ashcraft, Clarksburg City Council
Hank Marocki
Leon Pilewski, Principal, Robert C. Byrd High School
Lexanna Pilewski
Bob Kittle, County School Superintendent
Garrett Snyder, Harrison County School Board
Wilson Carrey, Harrison County School Board
Bud Pritchard, Harrison County School Board
Doug Gray, Harrison County School Board
Lloyd Jackson, Harrison County School Board

12:45 pm-

1:00 pm

HOLD/BRIEFING

GREEN ROOM

Robert C. Byrd High School

1:00 pm-
2:15 pm

**EDUCATION TOWN HALL
GYMNASIUM**

Robert C. Byrd High School

Remarks: Terry Edmonds

Staff Contact: Bruce Reed

Event Coordinator: Aviva Steinberg

OPEN PRESS

- Bob Kittle, County School Superintendent, opens the program and introduces Mary Helen Shields, student, Robert C. Byrd High School.
- Mary Helen Shields introduces **the President**.
- **The President** makes remarks.
- Questions are taken from the audience.

2:30 pm-
2:50 pm

**GREET STUDENTS OF ROBERT C. BYRD
HIGH SCHOOL**

THEATER

Robert C. Byrd High School

Staff Contact: Bruce Reed

Event Coordinator: Aviva Steinberg

POOL PRESS

- Dan Phares, Student Body President, Robert C. Byrd High School, makes remarks and introduces **the President**.
- **The President** makes remarks.
- Upon conclusion of remarks, **the President** works a ropeline and departs.

3:00 pm. **THE PRESIDENT** departs Robert C. Byrd High School via motorcade en route Benedum Airport
[drive time: 15 minutes]

3:15 pm **THE PRESIDENT** arrives Benedum Airport

3:20 pm- **REMARKS TO THE PEOPLE OF CLARKSBURG**
4:10 pm **TARMAC**

Benedum Airport

Remarks:

Staff Contact: Bruce Reed

Event Coordinator: Aviva Steinberg

OPEN PRESS

-- Mayor Carl Furbee makes brief remarks and introduces Mayor Robert Flynn.

-- Mayor Robert Flynn makes brief remarks and introduces Governor Underwood.

-- Governor Underwood makes brief remarks and introduces **the President**.

-- **The President** makes remarks.

-- Upon conclusion of remarks, **the President** works a ropeline and departs.

4:15 pm **THE PRESIDENT** proceeds to the departure area

4:30 pm **THE PRESIDENT** departs Benedum Airport, Bridgeport, West Virginia via Air Force One en route Andrews Air Force Base
[flight time: 55 minutes]

5:20 pm **THE PRESIDENT** arrives Andrews Air Force Base

5:30 pm **THE PRESIDENT** departs Andrews Air Force Base via Marine One
en route the White House
[flight time: 10 minutes]

5:40 pm **THE PRESIDENT** arrives the White House

6:00 pm- **DOWN TIME**
7:15 pm **RESIDENCE**

7:15 pm **THE PRESIDENT** and First Lady depart the White House via
motorcade en route family event
[drive time: 5 minutes]

7:20 pm **THE PRESIDENT** and First Lady arrive family event

HOLD FOR FAMILY TIME

BC AND HRC RON THE WHITE HOUSE

97 MAY 21 PM 8:47

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 21, 1997

EDUCATION TOWN HALL

DATE: May 22, 1997
LOCATION: Robert C. Byrd High School
Clarksburg, West Virginia
EVENT TIME: 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm
FROM: Bruce Reed

I. PURPOSE

To highlight what national standards are and why they are important. You will announce that West Virginia and Massachusetts have agreed to participate in your national standards and testing initiative, and that the National Alliance of Business has endorsed it.

II. BACKGROUND

You will be holding a town hall meeting at the Robert C. Byrd High School attended by 160 students, parents, teachers, principals, school administrators, and other individuals interested in education from throughout the state. Bob Kittle, the Superintendent of Harrison County Schools, will serve as the moderator, and he will call on individuals to ask you questions. You should feel free to pose questions to the audience and call on individuals yourself at anytime. (You should also know that Bob Kittle's mother passed away two days ago, and he will be attending her funeral following this event.)

You will conclude your opening remarks by viewing slides with the audience and walking through a fourth grade reading and an eight grade math standards question. The rest of the program will be a question and answer session between you and members of the audience.

The Robert C. Byrd School is an excellent school which provides many advanced courses and extensive extra-curricular activities. The school is technologically advanced and has a satellite down link site that offers distance learning. Robert C. Byrd is developing a Community Environmental Learning Center which has an outdoor lab that is available to all students and teachers in the County.

The Harrison County School District is one of the 19 partners benefitting from a Department of Education "Education Technology Challenge Grant," which was awarded in October, 1996 for \$4.1 million over five years. The purpose of the grant is to increase

computer skills of students, teachers, and community members, and it will fund the creation of Technology Opportunity Centers in each district. These Centers are computer labs where people can go to learn basic computer skills. The Bridgeport High School is the first school in Harrison County to house a Technology Opportunity Center.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Bob Kittle, Superintendent of Harrison County Schools
Mary Helen Shields, Robert C. Byrd High School Senior Student
Hannah Galey, Fourth Grade Student, Nutter Fort Intermediate School
Jeremy Thompson, Student at Bridgeport High School and National Merit Finalist
Danny Phares, Robert C. Byrd Student Body President (*will introduce you to overflow audience in theater following the event.)

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Outline of Event attached.
(*Following the Town Hall Meeting, you will make brief remarks to overflow audience.)

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by speech writing.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

TOWN MEETING PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

1

Name	Position/Student/Grade
Sharon Diaz	Coord. Reading Lang. Arts Soc.Stud. HCBE
Libby Bucy	Title I Coord. Of Instruction
Karen Morgan	English Teacher Lincoln High School
Renee Wyatt	Music Teacher West Milford Elem.
Jim Eschenmann	Technology Coordinator HCBE
Frank Devono	Principal Bridgeport Middle
Georgette Griffith	Art Teacher RCB High
Ronald Fragale	House of Delegates
Carole Kniceley	Parent/Teacher
Tina Canon	Parent of students at Liberty High School
Scott Thorne Holcombe	Minister/Parent
Thomas Mellott, Jr.	Parent Bridgeport High School
James Archer	Production Manager Northrop Gruman
Robert J. Caplan	Executive Director Harrison Co. Chamber
Matthew Kittle	Parent/Administrator Buckhannon Upshur Mid.
Dennis Bone	President/CEO Bell Atlantic WV
Louis Nardelli	School Counselor
Felix Veltri	Secondary Teacher Baseball Coach
Anthony Barberio	Secondary Teacher
Christine Fragale	Secondary Teacher

Name	Position/Student/Grade
Peter J. Conley	President Harrison Co. Board of Education
Miriam Jane Conley (Mimi)	5th Grade Student Bridgeport Middle
Joan Smith	Director United Technical Center
Barbara Warner	House of Delegates
Samuel J. Cann	House of Delegates
Larry Linch	House of Delegates
William Douglas Robbins	Elementary Principal
Jerry M. Toth	Secondary Principal Lincoln High School
Wilson W. Currey	Harrison County Board of Education
Kimberly Clark Nuzum	Parent/Kindergarten Teacher Big Elm Elem.
Lexsana Pilewski	Adult Instruction Lost Creek Family Connection
Philip Beede Brown	Principal Norwood Elem.
Alice Mae-Ann Hines Rowe	Journalism/Photography Bridgeport High
Robert Thomas Flynn	Mayor of Clarksburg
Anita Karol Byrd	Anat./Physiology Bridgeport High
Connie L. Bowers	Parent Simpson and Bridgeport Middle
Walter Pritchard	Member, Harrison County Board of Education
Patricia M. Schaeffer- Dresler	Parent Association Council of Schools
Rebecca White	Senator and School Librarian
Garrett Snyder	Vice President Harrison Co. Board of Education
Doug Gray	Member Harrison County Board of Education

TOWN MEETING PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

(2)

Name	Position/Student/Grade
John Myers	Superintendent Logan County Schools
Judge John Marks	Judge of Harrison County Circuit Court
David Hardesty	President WVU
Chuck Archer	Assistant Director in Charge FBI
Larry Milov	President & CEO West Va. High Tech Cons.
Jennifer Brown	5th Grade Student Simpson Elem.
Joel Francis Williams	5th Grade Student Harden Grade School
Karah Cottrill	5th Grade Student Adamston
Mary Beth Mazzie	5th Grade Student North View Elem.
Carol McDonald	4th Grade Student Lost Creek Elem.
Joshua Bakrer	12th Grade Student Liberty High
Kristen House	8th Grade Student Gore Middle
Christopher Greaver	12th Grade Student Lincoln High
Jared Scott Bryant	8th Grade Student Lumbert Middle
Justin Michael Lawrence	11th Grade Student South Harrison High
Olivia Rebecca Hill	8th Grade Student Washington Irving Middle
Hannah Scott	5th Grade Student Lumberport Grade
Dr. Mary Marockie	Dir. Programs & Research RESA VII
Kristen Nicole Moore	10th Grade Student Bridgeport High
Christopher Kitzmiller	5th Grade Student Norwood Elementary
Jared Novotny	8th Grade Student South Harrison Middle

Name	Position/Student/Grade
William R. Sharpe	Senator, President Protemp of WV Senate
Kelly Raphael Nelson	Medical Director Medbrook Medical Center
Geneveve McCutcheon	Past PTA President Parent Volunteer
Fred Radabaugh	Ex. Dri. WV Assoc of School Admin.
Dr. Janet Elizabeth Dudley-Esbhbach	President Fairmont State College
Hannah Galey	4th Grade Student
Irene M. Keeley	Federal Judge
Jeremy Thompson	12th Grade Student Bridgeport High
Joann Harman	1996 Teacher of the Year
Ann Wilson	State Social Studies Fair
Brittany Audia	4th Grade Student
Raymond Alvarez	VP Fairmont General Hospital
Marjorie Wolfe	Parent Volunteer and Reading Tutor Ohio Co. Schools
Carol Frear	Harrison Co. Schools PTA President
Marianna Kittle	School Counselor Tri-County High School
Tom Lange	VP WVEA
Mary Helen Shields	12th Grade Student Robert C. Byrd High
Sharon K. Brisbin	History Teacher Lincoln High School
Ron Adams	President CNG Transmission Corporation
Sara Fernandez	5th Grade Student Johnson Elementary

TOWN MEETING PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

(3)

Name	Position/Student/Grade
Andrea R. Pritchard	Student Nutter Fort Primary
Amy Compton Shaffer	Student
Thomas Alan Bedell	Circuit Judge 15th Judicial Circuit
Tami A. Mayle.	
James E. Griffin	Chief of United Way
Diane Furman	President Elect WV Science Teachers
Denise Reese	National School Nurse of the Year
Dolores Gribble	Retired UCAR
Cathy Fallis	WV Board of Education
Mike Queen	
Jessica Keegan	
Rebecca Snider	
Lloyd Jackson	Chairman Senate Education Committee
Jerry Mezzatesta	Chairman House Education Committee
Speaker Robert Kiss	Speaker of the House of Delegates
President Earl Ray Tomblin	President of the Senate
Bob Ashley	Minority Leader House of Delegates
Richard Browning	
Clifford Trump	Chancellor
Charles Manning	
David Ice	
Nick Renzelli	
Joseph Momen	

Name	Position/Student/Grade
Heather Kirby	
Kris P. Cecil-Crihfield	1997 Achievement Scholar. For Black Americans
Katie Joyce Cook	1997 Presidential Scholars Semifinalist
Amanda Boyce Walker	1997 Presidential Scholar
Ray James Nestor	1997 Presidential Scholars Semifinalist
Derek Courtney	1997 Presidential Scholar
Eric Claussel	1997 Achievement Scholar. For Black Americans
Deizunne Mosby	1997 Achievement Scholarship for Black Amer.
Jubin Ryu	1997 Presidential Scholars Semi-Finalist
Keisha Riley	1997 Achievement Scholarship for Black Amer.
Anne Yujin Lee	1997 Presidential Scholars Semifinalist
Elizabeth Skidmore	
Rosalyn Queen	
Dr. Henry Marockie	State Superintendent of Schools
Sheila Hamilton	VP West Virginia Board of Education
Raymond Franklin Mace	President WV Reading Association
Bane McCracken	National PE Teacher of the Year
Judy Hale	President WV Federation of Teachers AFL-CIO
Ernest Page	Executive Director, WV Professional Educators
Ann Bailey	Teacher
Morton William Adler	Consultant
Shawn Williams	Housewife
Joe Minard	Restaurant Owner

TOWN MEETING PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Name	Position/Student/Grade
Dr. Ron Ohl	President Salem Teikyo
Esther Lauderman	Kindergarten Teacher
Susan Stafford	Head of WV Head Start
Gary Phillips	
Robert Antonuchi	
Gaston Caperton	Former Governor of WV
Pina Price	Self-Employed
Phyllis Barnhart	Head of Science Education for West Virginia
James J. McCallum	Secretary, WV Board of Education
Robert Upton	
John Perdue	Treasurer, State of West Virginia
Kennedy Perdue	Secretary-Treasurer WV AFL-CIO
Thomas Patrick Maroney	Co-Chair, WV Democratic Executive Committee
Steven White	Co-Chair WV Democratic Executive Committee
Jayne Armstrong	District Manager, Small Business Administration
George Carenbauer	Partner, Steptoe & Johnson, Charleston, WV
Bernard Gottlieb	
Jimmy LaRosa, Jr.	President Pete Dye Golf Club
Robert Steptoe, Jr.	Managing Partner, Steptoe & Johnson
Linda Annmons	President of CWA Local 2011
Earl Ray Tomblin	President WV State Senate
Allison Deem	Pres. Clarksburg Harrison Liberty Bd. Of Education

Name	Position/Student/Grade
Gary A. Nicholas	VP of Operations & GM of Hope Gas
Benjamin A. Hardesty	President, Dominion Appalachian Development
Martin Shaffer	President, WV Vending
Stanley N. Pickens	Chairman, Dominion Appalachian Development
Angelo Basile	Market Analyst, CNG
Katie Folio	Student
Benjamin Ashby Hardesty, Jr.	Student
Rocky Alan Cianfrocca	Student
Russell Bonasso	
Louis Ortenzio	Family Practice Dr. Founder of Health Access

OUTLINE OF EVENT -- EDUCATION TOWN HALL

MAY 22, 1997

- 1:00-1:05 MODERATOR BOB KITTLE, Superintendent of Harrison County Schools, will welcome audience and introduce Mary Helen Shields, senior at the Robert C. Byrd High School.
- STUDENT MARY HELEN SHIELDS, will introduce the President.
- 1:05-1:15 **THE PRESIDENT MAKES OPENING REMARKS: EXPLANATION OF STANDARDS/POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS.**
- THE PRESIDENT will make remarks about education standards and announce new support for national standards and testing initiative.
- THE PRESIDENT will present and walk-through a sample 4th grade reading question which will be displayed for the audience on an overhead projector. THE PRESIDENT will invite 4th grade student Hannah Galey to read a passage from Charlotte's Web.
- THE PRESIDENT will present a sample 8th grade math question, which will be displayed by overhead projector. THE PRESIDENT will then bring this section of the program to a close.
- 1:15 - 1:35pm MODERATOR WILL CONVENE THE TOWN HALL MEETING: The Moderator will call on each participant in the town hall.
- THE PRESIDENT** responds to questions/asks questions.
- 1:35-1:40 MODERATOR HIGHLIGHTS TEACHER
- Moderator calls on Donna Rose, Reading teacher at the Lost Creek Elementary School, who speaks about Title I reading programs at her school and asks the President if there are other programs that would help her school.
- 1:45-2:00 **THE PRESIDENT** responds to questions/asks questions.
- 2:00-2:05 **THE MODERATOR HIGHLIGHTS STUDENT**
- Moderator calls on Jeremy Thompson, National Merit Finalist from the Bridgeport High School, who talks about how high standards/good education has helped him.
- 2:05-2:15 **THE PRESIDENT** responds/asks questions. (*Moderator calls last question.)
- THE PRESIDENT CLOSSES PROGRAM** by reviewing again the sample math question -- this time giving the answer, and explaining how U.S. students compared to students in other countries.

ST MAY 21 PM 2:03

**NATIONAL EDUCATION STANDARDS:
FOURTH-GRADE READING**

BASIC:

- CAN RECOGNIZE MOST WORDS, IDENTIFY MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PROFICIENT:

- CAN SUMMARIZE PASSAGE, FIND SPECIFIC INFORMATION, DESCRIBE THE WAY AUTHOR PRESENTS INFORMATION

ADVANCED:

- CAN PROVIDE A MORE DETAILED AND THOUGHTFUL EXPLANATION

SAMPLE PASSAGE FROM E.B. WHITE'S *CHARLOTTE'S WEB*:

HAVING PROMISED WILBUR THAT SHE WOULD SAVE HIS LIFE, SHE WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP HER PROMISE. CHARLOTTE WAS NATURALLY PATIENT. SHE KNEW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT IF SHE WAITED LONG ENOUGH, A FLY WOULD COME TO HER WEB; AND SHE FELT SURE THAT IF SHE THOUGHT LONG ENOUGH ABOUT WILBUR'S PROBLEM, AN IDEA WOULD COME TO HER MIND. FINALLY, ONE MORNING TOWARD THE MIDDLE OF JULY, THE IDEA CAME. "WHY HOW PERFECTLY SIMPLE!" SHE SAID TO HERSELF. "THE WAY TO SAVE WILBUR'S LIFE IS TO PLAY A TRICK ON ZUCKERMAN. IF I CAN FOOL A BUG," THOUGHT CHARLOTTE, "I CAN SURELY FOOL A MAN. PEOPLE ARE NOT AS SMART AS BUGS."

UNDERSTANDING *CHARLOTTE'S WEB*:

Q: BASED ON THE ABOVE PASSAGE, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE CHARLOTTE TO A FRIEND?

BASIC

- CHARLOTTE KEEPS HER PROMISE

PROFICIENT

- CHARLOTTE WORKS HARD TO KEEP HER PROMISE

ADVANCED

- CHARLOTTE PLANS TO KEEP HER PROMISE TO SAVE WILBUR'S LIFE BY TRICKING ZUCKERMAN

**MEETING NATIONAL STANDARDS IN FOURTH GRADE READING:
HOW AMERICA IS DOING**

<u>BELOW BASIC:</u>	40%
BASIC:	30%
PROFICIENT:	23%
ADVANCED:	7%

**NATIONAL EDUCATION STANDARDS:
EIGHTH-GRADE MATH**

A CAR HAS A FUEL TANK THAT HOLDS 15 GALLONS OF FUEL. THE CAR CONSUMES 5 GALLONS OF FUEL FOR EVERY 100 MILES DRIVEN. A TRIP OF 250 MILES WAS STARTED WITH A FULL TANK OF FUEL. HOW MUCH FUEL REMAINED IN THE TANK AT THE END OF THE TRIP?

- A. 2.5 GALLONS
- B. 12.5 GALLONS
- C. 17.5 GALLONS
- D. 5.0 GALLONS

**NATIONAL EDUCATION STANDARDS:
EIGHTH-GRADE MATH**

A CAR HAS A FUEL TANK THAT HOLDS 15 GALLONS OF FUEL. THE CAR CONSUMES 5 GALLONS OF FUEL FOR EVERY 100 MILES DRIVEN. A TRIP OF 250 MILES WAS STARTED WITH A FULL TANK OF FUEL. HOW MUCH FUEL REMAINED IN THE TANK AT THE END OF THE TRIP?

- A. 2.5 GALLONS
- B. 12.5 GALLONS
- C. 17.5 GALLONS
- D. 5.0 GALLONS

THE CORRECT ANSWER IS A

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ANSWERING SIMILAR QUESTION CORRECTLY:

UNITED STATES: 34%

KOREA: 50%

SINGAPORE: 70%

BACKGROUND ON EDUCATION IN WEST VIRGINIA

SCHOOL REFORM EFFORTS

West Virginia's reform efforts have been piecemeal rather than comprehensive, but nevertheless have received high marks from outside observers. As both one of the nation's poorest states and one of its most rural, West Virginia faces some unusual challenges in education. Efforts to overcome these challenges in the past fifteen years have included a substantial investment in information technology for the classroom; raising teacher salaries to near the national average (when adjusted for cost of living); a statewide effort to replace and renovate decaying schools; and, most recently, a restructuring of the high school curriculum to focus on job skills and vocational training as well as academics. If the 1996 National Assessment of Educational Progress in Mathematics results are any guide, West Virginia's schools are improving. The state tied for third in improvement over 1992 in both 8th grade and 4th grade scores.

Standards and Testing

West Virginia has not made a substantial investment in development of its own standards. This year, students will be taking the nationally normed Stanford Achievement Test. State Superintendent Henry Marockie suggests that with adequate norm-referenced tests available, state education funds can be better spent in other areas. He says West Virginia has spent less than \$100,000 on its standards program, whereas its neighbor, Kentucky, has spent nearly \$29 million.

Rather than establishing academic standards and then developing tests aligned to the standards, West Virginia started with the test first. Once selected the Stanford Achievement Test, the state developed specific instructional objectives for each subject area, based on the content of the test.

School Finance

In April 1997, a West Virginia judge held that the state has not complied with a 1982 decision ordering higher quality and greater statewide equity in schools. The original decision, which included unusually detailed specifications for curriculum, personnel, materials, equipment and facilities in 16 academic areas as well as in guidance, health services and transportation, served as a catalyst for many of the reforms that have been enacted in the past 15 years. However, although the state attempted to equalize funding among districts by guaranteeing a minimum per-pupil allocation to every district, substantial inequities remain because districts may impose excess levies on their residents to generate higher per-pupil spending.

Technology

Both Gov. Caperton and now Gov. Underwood have made technology a major priority in education. As a result, West Virginia is a national leader in the use of technology in classrooms. In 1989, the legislature launched the computer-assisted basic skills program, a ten-year effort to place computers in every elementary school classroom. Since then, the state has purchased

19,500 computers for local districts and expects to meet its ten-year goal. The state's 11-to-1 student-computer ratio in elementary schools is one of the lowest in the nation, and in 1996 the legislature appropriated \$8.8 million to increase technology in middle and high schools. To date, 14,000 educators have been trained to use computers for basic skills instruction.

Forty percent of West Virginia's schools are now connected to the Internet, and state officials plan to reach 85% in 1997. Bell Atlantic has been a major partner in this effort, called WORLD SCHOOL. The state has 320 distance learning downlink sites across the state. Students may take a number of courses through the system, including advanced placement and foreign language classes.

In February 1997, West Virginia received a Technology Innovation Challenge Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which will help 152 schools in eight county school districts (including Harrison County, in which Clarksburg is located), the West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation, and several other partners increase the use of computers in the classroom. Part of the grant will also support Technology Opportunity Centers, at which students, parents and displaced workers can receive computer training and use computers for job searches.

Teachers

West Virginia teacher salaries in 1990 were among the lowest in the country, but are now 17th in the nation when adjusted for cost of living. The state's student-teacher ratio, at about 15-to-1, is one of the lowest anywhere. Last year the West Virginia Education Fund, a statewide fund established by business leaders in 1983 to foster innovation and excellence in the public schools, helped overhaul West Virginia University's teacher education program. Students now will study for five years and will earn a bachelor's degree in a subject area and a master's degree in education. Students also will receive three years of internship experience through "professional development schools" run by colleges and universities.

School Construction

A 1989 law created the statewide School Building Authority (SBA) to fund the construction and renovation of schools. The SBA has funded the construction of 61 new schools and renovations or additions to 780 schools.

Full-day Kindergarten

In 1993, the state legislature required all districts to offer full-day kindergarten classes to all eligible students by 1996. A 1996 law allowed the state superintendent to grant extensions to systems with significant school building projects or sizable enrollment growth.

Jobs Through Education Act

A 1996 law requires teachers and counselors to work with eighth grade students to establish five-year job skills plans. High schools must offer students choices of career clusters, each incorporating both academic and vocational skills. The state's Certificate of Proficiency will be replaced by a CD-ROM electronic portfolio containing students' academic records, awards, test scores and exemplary work. Some groups oppose the reform due to its emphasis on early career preparation, and a bill has been introduced in the legislature to repeal the law.

1997 Legislative Session

There were no new initiatives proposed or enacted in the last legislative session. The Governor's major education priority was continued support for technology implementation.

One controversial issue that arose during the legislative session pertained to funding for 4yr olds in kindergarten. The state's school finance formula provides additional funds for 4yr olds who participate in kindergarten programs. During the legislative session it became apparent that a number of local superintendents were using this financial incentive to aggressively recruit 4yr olds in order to boost state funding. Several legislators threatened to cut off this program because they viewed the local behavior as an abuse of the funding mechanism. As a compromise, the legislature delayed the termination of this component of the formula until school year 98-99, since student placement and teacher hiring decisions had already been made for the coming school year.

There was also an unsuccessful move in the legislature to end the state's participation in the federal School-to-Work program, which has come under attack by far right groups. Supporters of School-to-Work were able to turn this effort back.

WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOLS STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

SIZE

Enrollment: 310,511 (95% White, 4% Black, less than 1% all other groups)

School Districts: 55

Public Schools: 848

STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

Population: 1.8 million

Children in Poverty: 29%

Single Parent Families: 24%

SCHOOL SPENDING

State Spending: \$1.783 billion

Per Pupil: \$5,713 (1993-94 school year)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

MATH:

West Virginia's 4th and 8th graders have improved their performance in mathematics during the 1990's.

1996 4th Grade NAEP Math

Proficient or Advanced -- 19% (Nation: 20%)

At or above basic -- 63% (62%)

Below basic -- 37% (38%)

Average public school 4th grade math scores increased significantly from 1992 to 1996; in 1996 students performed near the national average. The percentage at or above proficient increased from 12% to 19%.

1996 8th Grade NAEP Math

Proficient or Advanced -- 14% (Nation: 23%)

At or above basic -- 54% (Nation: 61%)

Below Basic -- 46% (Nation: 39%)

Average public school 8th grade math scores increased significantly from 1990 to 1996, and from 1992 to 1996, although average student performance remained below the national average. In addition, the percentage of students at or above proficient increased from 1990 to 1992, and from 1992 to 1996.

READING:

On reading, West Virginia performed about the same in 1992 and 1994. Students performed near the national average.

1994 4th Grade NAEP Reading

Proficient or advanced -- 26% (Nation: 28%)

At or above basic -- 58% (Nation: 59%)

Below Basic -- 42% (Nation 41%)

SCIENCE:

1996 8th Grade NAEP Science

Students performed near national average (Test is not yet nationally normed)

DROPOUTS AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

16-19-Year-Old Dropout Rate: 10.6% (National: 11.2%)

College Attendance Rate: 49.5% (National: 57.5%) (Estimates)

QUESTIONS FROM PRESIDENT TO AUDIENCE:

Student Expectations and Parent/Teacher Support

West Virginia recently adopted new instructional goals in core subject areas (its own effort at standards); education is improving steadily. In 1996, the state tied for 3rd in improvement over 1992 in both 8th grade and 4th grade math – very impressive, since it is 49th in per capita income.

Q: A recent survey of high school students by Public Agenda showed that more than 70% felt students would pay more attention to school and learn more if standards were raised and enforced. Do you think we are challenging our students enough, or expecting too little?

Q: [To students:] Do your teachers and parents push you to work as hard as you can? Is schoolwork more interesting when the teachers demand more, or just harder? Could most of your classmates learn more if they worked harder?

Q: [To teachers:] How can parents help teachers achieve higher standards for students? What can teachers do to help parents be more supportive?

Q: What are some of the ways that parents are involved in schools here -- and do you think that role needs to increase?

Q: [To parents:] How do you find the time to know what your child is doing in school, and to help them? How do you let them know that they must work hard and do well? What could the schools do to help you do a better job? Will it be useful for you to have the kinds of individual test results for your child that our standards plan will provide?

Teaching

West Virginia has one of the lowest student-teacher ratios anywhere (15 to 1). Teacher salaries, among the lowest in the nation in 1990, have been raised to 17th in the nation – the biggest 3-year salary increase in the country.

Q: What do you do in this community to attract the best teachers and reward excellence in teaching?

Q: What do you do about the few teachers who aren't effective in the classroom?

Q: [To teachers:] Were you adequately prepared by your teacher training programs for the challenges you face in the classroom? Do you get the kind of support you need to stay current, grow professionally, and become more effective?

Q: [To students:] Tell me about your best teachers. What makes them so good?

Accountability

Q: How can we reward schools that are doing a good job?

Q: What do you do here in Clarksburg, and throughout West Virginia, if there is a school that is not meeting standards? How do you give a school the help it needs to improve?

Technology

West Virginia is a national leader in the use of technology in schools – well on its way to your goal of a computer in every elementary classroom by 1999. By the end of this year, 85% of all schools will be connected to the Internet. So far, 14,000 teachers have been trained to use computers to teach basic skills.

Q: How do computers in the classroom help prepare students? What do they enable teachers and students to do?

Q: How are classrooms making use of the Internet? What kinds of resources and Web sites are useful for students and teachers?

Q: Can new technology play a role in teaching the basic subjects, such as reading and math?

Q: Does it make a difference to have that background in technology for life after school?

Q: What kind of special training do teachers need to use technology in the classroom? Who provides it, and how can more teachers get involved?

Community Support

Examples: Last year, a new statewide fund (the West Virginia Education Fund) established by business leaders overhauled the state's teacher education program to make it more rigorous. A partnership between Bell-Atlantic and the state's Department of Education is giving all public schools access to the Internet. West Virginia is one of the top 10 states in offering service learning opportunities to students.

Q: What is the larger community doing to improve education here?

Q: What do higher standards and better education in the basics mean to West Virginia's businesses? What can the business community do to help raise standards?

Q: I've been asking America's colleges to encourage their students to work as reading tutors, to help 8-year-olds learn to read. Are there other ways in which colleges and universities can play a role in K-12 education in West Virginia?

197-212-2522

EDUCATION TOWN HALL MEETING
Thursday, May 22, 1997

Education Q & A's for the President

National Standards/National Tests

Question: **Standards:** Why is the development of national standards so important *now*?

Answer: Student achievement is not improving fast enough. Today's economy demands higher and higher levels of skill and education to succeed in all types of jobs and far too many children are not meeting the standards that will prepare them for tomorrow. High standards pull young people up and encourage them to work harder and create high expectations for themselves. They also provide a benchmark for parents and teachers for what children should know and whether they are learning it. Places that have set high standards have made progress in student achievement. I want that improvement for *all* our children.

Question: **Standards/National vs. Federal.** You say these are "national, not federal" standards and tests. What exactly does that mean, especially since the U.S. Department of Education is going to develop them?

Answer: It means that while the federal government will fund the development of the tests, it is not in charge of what the tests measure, when they are administered, or how they are used in schools and communities around the country.

The tests will be based on the existing National Assessment of Education Progress, which is already used in more than 40 states. The content for these tests -- the reading and math skills they measure -- has already been determined by outside groups of teachers, curriculum specialists and others, and by agreement of state education officials. These content frameworks for reading and math are widely accepted and are based on widespread input, and strong state involvement. They truly are national standards, built from the bottom up. And they are challenging for our youngsters. The new tests I have proposed will measure the same math and reading skills that NAEP already measures.

The federal government will pay for the development of these tests, just as it helps pay for other research and development in

education and other policy areas, and just as it has paid for the National Assessment of Education Progress for almost 30 years. Providing good information and good tools to improve our schools has long been part of the federal government's role in education, and should remain so.

Question: **Standards/Other National Standards.** What about other national standards that have been developed in subjects like science and history? Do you support those? Why do you focus so much on reading and math?

Answer: There have been excellent voluntary national standards produced in several subjects, such as math, geography, and civics, that many states and districts are finding useful as they develop their own state and local standards. Other proposed standards, such as the controversial history standards, have not been as successful. At the national level we are focusing on reading and math because they are the first basics, and there is a grassroots, national consensus that every student needs to master these two core subjects.

Question: **Standards:** How are you going to ensure that all children can meet these high standards?

Answer: First, these tests, together with state and local tests, will help teachers and parents know which children need help and what help they need.

Second, these tests are about lifting our students up, not putting them down. We must make sure that our students have safe and orderly classrooms, well prepared teachers, access to good textbooks, computers and other technology that will connect them to the information superhighway.

I'm doing my part to help by making sure that the federal government makes a substantial investment in education. And Secretary Riley and the Education Department will continue to provide information on the best practices in each area. But the primary responsibility lies here with those of you in this room -- parents, teachers and principals, school board members, others in the community and state and local officials. You have the responsibility to come together and provide our students with the preparation they need, for these standards and for the

future.

Question: **National Tests/High Stakes.** Do you believe students should be required to pass these tests in order to be promoted to the next grade level?

No state that participates will be required to use the math and reading tests for this purpose. However, I believe that if we set standards for students, they should be required to meet the standards in order to be promoted from elementary to middle school, from middle school to high school, and before graduating from high school. When I was Governor, we required students to pass an 8th grade test before moving into high school. While some students had difficulty passing the test the first time, almost everyone did ultimately. We gave extra help to students who needed it, including summer school. And over time, the percentage of students who passed the test on the first time increased, as students, teachers and parents came to understand how well the did mattered.

I believe every state should require students to meet standards before they move on. Every state gives their own tests, in addition to these national tests. Each state will need to decide what the best combination of tests would be.

Question: **National Test/Students with Disabilities.** What are you doing to support participation of students with disabilities in the 4th and 8th grade assessments you are developing?

Answer: We must expect more of all our children, including those with disabilities. The Department of Education, which is working with education experts to help develop the tests, will make the 4th grade reading and 8th grade math tests available to states and schools in formats accessible to students with disabilities. In addition, schools will be able to get technical assistance and other support to help ensure that students with disabilities are appropriately included.

Question: **National Test/Grade Levels.** Why 4th grade reading and 8th grade math?

Answer: Reading and math are two of the most basic skills. Children can't

move ahead in school in any subject if they can't read English by the 4th grade. And 8th grade math is a pivotal point in terms of making sure that a student has mastered the mathematics she needs to move forward in high school and go to college or into the work place.

Children go to school for the first three years of grade school to learn how to read, so they can spend the rest of their years reading to learn. There is a strong link between low reading skills, falling behind in school, disruptive behavior, and dropping out. Yet, about 40% of our children are not learning how to read well and independently by the end of third grade, decreasing their chances of succeeding in school and in life. We need to change this.

8th grade math is also a critical turning point for students. At that point, students need to have mastered the basics of math -- including the foundations of algebra and geometry -- so they are prepared to go on and take the harder math and science courses they need for college preparation or jobs right out of high school. In our high technology, international economy, our students will need to know more mathematics than most of us adults learned. And, having good math skills is increasingly a prerequisite for getting a good job, students who don't take algebra and geometry are much less likely to go to college than students who do.

Unfortunately, right now, the United States is below the international average in math at 8th grade. We can do better. Many more young people should be taking algebra by the end of the 8th grade so they can take more advanced course in high school. That is what most 13 year olds are doing around the world. Only 25% of our 8th graders have learned algebra -- as opposed to almost 100% of students in other industrialized nations. Having a national benchmark in math at 8th grade will show whether our students are where they should be.

Question: **National Test/Too Late?** Isn't 4th grade too late for a reading test?

Answer: No. Children are expected to have made the transition from learning to read to reading to learn by the 4th grade. This is the critical turning point -- and the point we should measure to see that all our students are making it.

Of course, a short national test in reading does not replace what

teachers and parents have always done -- paying attention to children's progress in learning to read all through the critical early childhood years.

Question: **National Test/Why Needed?** How will these tests differ from existing tests? What will they tell us that we don't already know?

Answer: These tests will provide information to parents and teachers about individual student scores and how close a child is to reaching high national standards. Currently, there is no way of knowing whether your child's progress or your child's school is measuring up to national and international standards. Now, each state sets its own standards, and some are more difficult than others, so it is difficult for parents to tell how well their child is actually doing compared with tough, meaningful national and international benchmarks--the kind they will be judged against in the real world. These tests will give parents and teachers, wherever they live, an opportunity to know how their children are doing.

Question: **National Test/Content.** Who decides what is on the tests?

Answer: The tests will be based on the widely accepted frameworks of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). These frameworks are developed by nationally recognized teachers and other educators and community leaders, with input from thousands of interested parents, teachers and others interested in education.

At present 43 states -- including West Virginia -- participate in the NAEP and have agreed that the NAEP frameworks in reading and math are good standards for what students should know in these critical subjects.

Question: **National Test/Privacy.** Will the federal government have my child's test score? Will it be private?

Answer: The federal government will not be collecting individual student scores. It will be up to states and communities to do that, if they choose to and they will have to keep individual student scores confidential.

Question: **National Test/Cost.** How much will it cost to give the tests?

Answer: The total cost of developing the new tests will be between \$10 - 12 million per year in 1997 and 1998. The cost of administering the new tests is estimated to be \$10 - \$12 per student, and I've proposed that the Department of Education reimburse these costs for the first year. This investment is more than worth it to make sure we are doing all we can to help students master the basics.

Question: **National Test/LEP Students.** Will children with limited English proficiency be included in these tests?

Answer: Yes. We want to make sure that students with limited English will be able to take the test whenever possible. This means that we will provide the math test in Spanish. It also means that when the test is administered, schools would provide accommodations that students need such as access to an English dictionary.

Question: **National Test/English and Spanish.** Why is the math test being given in English and Spanish but the reading test is only being given in English?

Answer: Developing the ability to read in English is a basic skill that every child must have to succeed in American schools and society. However, there are many recent immigrants at the 8th grade level who may not speak English well but who can do advanced math and should be asked to show what math they know. We are providing a bilingual math test in Spanish and English because Spanish is the most common language other than English among students.

Question: **National Test/Calculators.** Will you allow kids to use calculators on the new tests? Shouldn't kids know their multiplication tables on their own and not rely on calculators?

Answer: Kids should learn the basics. They should know how to add, subtract, multiply and divide without using a calculator. However, after a child has mastered the basics of arithmetic, calculators can be useful for solving complicated math problems. As part of the test development process, an advisory committee of outstanding

math teachers and other experts will be considering this issue.

Question: **National Test/Teachers.** How will you ensure that teachers are prepared to help students meet these high standards?

Answer: Making sure that our teachers are prepared to teach to these high standards is a shared responsibility, primarily among school systems, colleges and universities, states, and the teachers themselves.

We must do a better job of preparing teachers before they get to the classroom, and helping them in their first several years. And we have to help teachers keep learning while they are on the job.

We also need standards of excellence for teachers and we've got to reward excellence. That's why I support the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, which has developed tough teacher standards. Today they are only about 500 nationally board certified teachers in the country, and none in West Virginia. I think we need at least one master teacher in every school. I hope West Virginia will take steps to do this and I have put money in my budget to help.

Question: **National Test/Home Schooling.** How will these tests affect students who participate in home schooling?

Answer: In a legal sense, it will not affect those students at all. No student in a home school will be required to take these tests, though they will be able to if they want to. Every parent will have access to the tests on the Internet each year, so if they want to see for themselves how well their students are measuring up against these standards, they can find out.

Budget-Related Questions

Question: **School Construction.** Why doesn't the budget plan include help for school construction?

Answer: This is a critical need, and I have proposed a plan for jump-starting State and local school construction and renovation efforts. Unfortunately, there was considerable resistance in the budget negotiations to including it in the agreement. I am disappointed

that it could not be included.

- We should remember that if we failed to reach agreement on a balanced budget plan, that would have made local school construction efforts more difficult, by raising interest rates.
- On balance, the agreement was a tremendous success on education overall.
- Within the context of the agreement, I will continue to look for opportunities to address this problem.

Question: **HOPE/Tuition Increases.** Won't Your HOPE Scholarship plan cause college tuitions to go up even more than they already have been?

Answer: Actually, Federal aid does not seem to have much of an effect on tuition costs. When Federal college aid was rising in the 1970s, real college tuitions remained fairly steady. But when real Federal aid dropped slightly during the 1980s, that is when tuitions rose most sharply. One study suggests that is partly because colleges are trying to provide aid to the lowest-income students, and to do that they increase tuition for everyone else. By restoring the Federal government's commitment to financial aid -- for both low-income and middle-income families -- we are helping to reduce one of the pressures that increases tuition and fees.

Question: **HOPE/IRS.** Will the IRS be looking at my grades to see if I'm eligible for the HOPE Scholarship?

[NOTE: On Sunday, Frank Raines told CNN that "we think that having the IRS trying to enforce grades may be going a little too far, and we're going to try to find a way to simplify the program."]

Answer: The IRS would not be looking at student transcripts. But I do want to make sure that we are not only helping people pay for college, but also that they have an incentive to work hard once they are there. A new study from Georgia State University suggests that the grade requirement in Georgia's HOPE Scholarship plan has helped some of the borderline students, those who started out very close to the B average, to perform better in college.

I have gotten some feedback about the grade requirement in my

HOPE Scholarship plan, and Secretary Riley and Secretary Rubin will be working closely with Congress to make sure that we encourage students to work hard, but that we do it in a simple way, without imposing any undue burdens on taxpayers or colleges.

Question: **Student Loans.** Does the budget agreement cut student loans?

Answer: No, it will not affect student loan borrowers in any way. There are some savings to taxpayers that we can achieve by making government more efficient and reducing subsidies to middlemen -- something that I proposed in my Budget in January -- and the negotiators agreed to some of those changes to help bring the deficit down by \$1.7 billion. But the agreement makes it clear that there can be no cuts in benefits or availability of loans. (And colleges may continue to choose to participate in the Direct Loan program or the guarantee system).

Question: **Education Investments.** With the tax cuts, will there be any money left for education programs?

Answer: The budget agreement includes ***the largest increase in our investment in education in 30 years, and the largest single boost in college aid since the G.I. Bill.*** It includes:

- **Roughly \$35 billion in tax cuts for higher education,** consistent with the HOPE Scholarship and \$10,000 tax deduction.
- **Pell Grant Expansion.** The largest increase in two decades -- a funding boost of 25%. The maximum award will reach \$3,000, an increase of \$300. In the 1998 budget alone, an additional 348,000 students will receive grants: 130,000 young people from moderate-income families, and 218,000 low income students over the age of 24.
- **Technology Literacy.** Double funding to help ensure that computers are in every classroom, every classroom is connected to the Internet, all teachers are trained, and that high quality software and on-line resources are available to help schools integrate technology into the curriculum so that students can become technologically literate.

- **Head Start.** Continued expansion toward my goal of 1 million kids in 2002.
- **America Reads.** A child literacy initiative consistent with the America Reads Challenge, to mobilize volunteers to help every child learn to read well and independently by the end of third grade.
- **Job Corps and other Job Training.** A 12% increase for job training programs, including continued expansion of Job Corps.

Question: **Reading.** What is the reading program that was including in the budget deal?

Answer: The agreement includes my plan to help make sure that every child learns to read well and independently by the end of third grade. Secretary Riley and Harris Wofford, the CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, will be working with Congress on some of the details. What I have proposed includes:

- **America's Reading Corps:** 25,000 reading specialists and 11,000 AmeriCorps members serving as recruiters and coordinators, to enlist an army of one million volunteer tutors.
- **Parents as First Teachers:** Grants to foster effective programs that help parents help their children to become successful readers (e.g. HIPPY).
- **Head Start expansion.**

General Topics and Issues

Question: **College Costs.** Why has college tuition been going up?

Answer: Between the 1990-91 academic year and the 1995-96 academic year, overall price inflation was only 17 percent, but the average tuition and fees at public colleges increased by 31 percent and at private colleges increased by 33 percent. Some of the increase is the result of research and staffing costs that increased faster than inflation. At the public colleges, funding from State legislatures did not grow as fast as costs did. And at private colleges, while

tuition went up, so did financial aid that the college was providing (in other words, not everyone was actually paying the full tuition and fees).

Question: **Goals 2000 Controversies.** Aren't these tests just another version of your Goals 2000 program, in which the federal government promotes outcomes-based education, politically-correct history, and a federal takeover of our schools?

Answer: These tests are not a part of Goals 2000, but let me say that I'm very proud of Goals 2000. Goals 2000 provides federal support for state and local efforts to raise academic standards in the basic skills and core academic subjects, and for local, bottom up efforts to improve teaching and learning. There are no federal standards or curriculum, and no requirement for outcomes-based education or any other particular approach.

With regard to a "federal takeover" of local schools, that simply isn't accurate. Goals 2000 supports local control, not federal control. You don't have to take my word for this. Harrison County and some 40 other school systems in West Virginia have received Goals 2000 funds. You should ask teachers, principals, school board members or parents in those communities if Secretary Riley and the U.S. Department of Education have come in and set their curriculum or otherwise tried to tell them what to do.

The national tests we are discussing today are focused on basic reading and math skills that all students should master. They are not part of Goals 2000 in any way, and you don't have to give the tests in order to keep receiving Goals 2000 funds. However, I believe every states should participate in Goals 2000 and in these tests. They are both ways of helping our students reach for the highest possible standards.

Question: **School-to-Work Controversies** The School-to-Work program has been somewhat controversial in West Virginia. Is it true that School-to-Work tracks kids into inferior programs of study with low academic standards and requires them to make job decisions in elementary and middle schools?

Answer: No. The School-to-Work Program is designed to give students the academic and on-the-job training to prepare them for high skill jobs and further education. School-to-Work does not in any way track students into certain career paths, nor limit their options. It

gives students and parents information and opportunities to explore a wide range of career options, and it helps make sure that students learn basic and advanced academic skills that will prepare them either for work or for college.

Question: **IDEA and Discipline.** I am concerned about keeping our schools safe and disciplined. I understand that the new special education law (IDEA) just passed by Congress still makes it difficult to discipline disruptive students who are disabled. How can the other students learn if teachers can't maintain order?

Answer: First, let me point out that the federal special education law, first passed in the 1970's, has been essential for providing education opportunities for children with disabilities. Before that law was passed, many children with disabilities were denied an education. Since the law was passed, educational opportunities for children with disabilities have increased dramatically, because the law guarantees an education to these children. This is a good thing, because the education of every child is important, because education is the way for all of our people to become productive and independent citizens. I am proud to be able to sign, next month, the bill continuing this law in effect.

Second, I agree that it is very important for all children that classrooms be orderly places where children can learn and teachers can teach. While maintaining the responsibility to provide children with disabilities with a free and appropriate education, this new bill strengthens the ability of teachers and principals to deal with disruptive or dangerous students, including those with disabilities. It does this by:

- making it easier for principals to remove from the classroom children with disabilities who bring a gun, weapon or drugs to school, or who pose a danger to themselves, their teachers or their classmates, while continuing to provide them with an education in another setting.
- making it easier to address a child's behavior problems early on -- before they get out of hand -- by requiring that these be considered in the development of an Individual Education Plan, and by making the regular classroom teacher a part of the team that develops the plan.

Finding the right balance between the protection of individual

students and the needs of a larger group is often difficult. I am pleased that the Congress, with an overwhelming bipartisan majority, has found a way to strike that balance.

Question: **Safe Schools:** There are stories all the time about people walking into schools and shooting kids, fights, drugs, etc. What is the government doing to stop it?

Answer: I have challenged all schools to put in place high standards of discipline and behavior along with tough measures to keep guns and drugs out of schools. Last year I protected the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities program that supports school security, and drug and violence prevention programs in 97 percent of our country's school districts. I also support school uniforms as one way to deter school violence, and have encouraged communities to enforce truancy laws.

Question: **Teacher Salaries:** I'd like to become a teacher and I think I'd be a good one. But I can't afford it. Is there anything the government can do to make teacher salaries greater?

Answer: You set the salary for teachers here in West Virginia, just as states and local school districts do across America. In this state you have made substantial progress on teachers' salaries during the 1990s. Through income-contingent student loans, I have worked to make it easier for college graduates to enter teaching or pursue other service-related professions where starting salaries are relatively low.

Question: **Vouchers.** I think voucher programs provide an opportunity to some parents they otherwise would not have -- to send their child to a private or parochial school. What is your position on school vouchers?

Answer: I believe there are better ways to provide greater school choice to students and their families. One very good way is to have every state pass a charter school law that allows parents and teachers to start new public charter schools that stay open only as long they do a good job. In fact, I have proposed nearly doubling the charter school start-up program (to \$100 million next year) to help start 3,000 charter schools over the next several years.

While I support public school choice, I oppose federally funded tuition vouchers for private elementary and secondary schools. I also oppose state funded and locally funded vouchers. Vouchers take money away from public schools, and controversy over vouchers distracts communities from the hard work of improving our schools.

Family and Community Involvement

Question: **Parental Responsibility:** What can you do to make sure parents understand what they need to do to make sure their children are ready to start school, and how they can help their children as they go through?

Answer: Over thirty years of research shows that family involvement in children's learning is critical to their child's success. There are lots of things parents can do to help their children start school ready to learn. I strongly urge parents to read to their children starting in their earliest years. Schools can provide a welcoming atmosphere for parents, while local employers can help by giving paid leave for employees to be involved in their children's schools, or provide other means for employees to attend parent-teacher conferences or volunteer as tutors or mentors. Some of the best employers do it.

Question: **Parental Responsibility:** What about parents who can't read and write, or have other limitations? How can they help their children get ready for and successfully proceed through school?

Answer: Every parent can help, from the first days of a child's life--by talking and singing to them, paying attention to them, and helping them learn their colors and shapes. All parents can help their kids in other ways by showing up at school events, asking kids if they need help and getting it for them, being active in school activities, and giving them a place to do homework and making sure they do it. Through programs like Adult Education and Even Start family literacy we support local initiatives that assist parents to gain the skills they need to help their children and build a better life for themselves and their families.

Question: **Business Community Partnerships:** More and more, we are finding the need for employees with higher levels of training than we are seeing coming into the workplace. How can employers like

me help ensure that more highly qualified candidates will enter the workforce?

Answer: The business community knows as well as any how important high standards are in educating our youth. All over the country, businesses have successfully forged partnerships with their local school communities to provide resources like apprenticeship and mentoring programs, after school programs, etc. Last month, over 200 high-tech industry leaders who hire graduates from across the country endorsed my standards and testing initiative because they know first hand how important it is to have highly skilled graduates entering their workforces. You can help by partnering with your local school community.

Question: ***School to Work.*** How do I open my business up to the school to work program?

Answer: Business supports school-to-work partnerships because they represent an investment in people which yields access to highly trained, versatile workers who are certified and knowledgeable in all aspects of an industry. I would urge any employer interested in getting more involved to talk with their local school system and community colleges about how to participate.

Question: ***Local School Systems.*** What can local school systems do to help implement the goals set by the education summits and your national initiatives?

Answer: There are lots of things that local schools can do:

- Use the national tests and set high standards.
- Help prepare teachers to become national board-certified and reward them when they do.
- Develop and enforce fair standards of conduct for all students.
- Get the whole community involved in helping young children learn to read. Pediatricians should prescribe reading to parents of infants and preschoolers. College students and others should volunteer to tutor.

- Keep working, as you are in West Virginia, to make sure every 12 year old can log onto the Internet.
- Start early in letting students and families know that they will need at least 2 years of postsecondary education.

Question: ***After-School Programs:*** Both of my parents work. Will there be any money to have after-school programs at schools like mine?

Answer: My budget includes a new initiative to provide safe havens and to extend learning opportunities for children and their families at schools across the country. The initiative will help after-school, summer and weekend programs get started as Community Learning Centers and foster community involvement.

America Reads

Question: ***Reading.*** How can we become a nation of readers?

Answer: My America Reads Challenge is pursuing several essential strategies to help our children learn to read: creating more learning opportunities to supplement classroom reading instruction; encouraging parent involvement to help children develop readiness skills for reading beginning at birth, as well as involvement throughout the school years; and bringing best teaching practices into classrooms.

Question: ***Reading/Tutoring.*** Does Tutoring make a difference? Aren't teachers most important?

Answer: Even the best teachers will tell you that some children need extra help outside the classroom hours in order to catch up. And the research shows that tutoring programs that provide consistent help, with trained tutors, can make a big difference. For example:

--In Simpson County, Kentucky, 25 AmeriCorps members helped second graders jump 3 reading levels in one year

--At Hands on Atlanta, in the first three years of AmeriCorps

involvement, the schools have seen an 11 percent increase in performance on national standardized tests in reading and in math, and 25 percent fewer discipline problems.

--At Reading One-to-One in Texas, with just a semester of tutoring, children improve one full reading level.

The America Reads Challenge legislative proposal specifically would build on groundwork laid by classroom teachers, librarians, and reading specialists by drawing upon the invigorating spirit of community volunteers in tutoring. The proposal encourages family and community involvement in the education of America's children by linking AmeriCorps members, trained and qualified reading professionals, and volunteer tutors to community and school-based literacy efforts.

America Reads also calls for the expansion of Head Start to reach one million 3- and 4-year-olds; the strengthening and expansion of Title I and Even Start Programs to enhance teaching and learning during the school day, as well as family literacy efforts; and finally, challenging the private sector and community groups to work with schools and libraries.

Right now, each of us can do our part and get involved in the America Reads Challenge:

- 1) Instill a love of reading in your child. Parents are their child's first teachers and learning begins at home. By reading aloud to their children regularly and using TV wisely, parents can empower their children with the lifelong habit of reading and learning.
- 2) Call a local school or literacy program and volunteer as a reading tutor. Many community and civic groups already sponsor tutoring programs and always welcome volunteers.
- 3) Call 1-800-USA-LEARN and ask to get involved in READ*WRITE*NOW, a summer reading component of the America Reads Challenge.
- 4) Call the college or university nearest you, or your alma mater, to see if it has joined the America Reads Challenge. The best office to begin with may be the Financial Aid Offices.

Technology

Question: **Internet Access.** With the emphasis on connecting classrooms to the Internet, how can our public school children be protected from the harmful aspects of the Internet?

Answer: I am committed to ensuring that our children do not get exposed to indecent material and will take all constitutional measures to make sure that they don't. I signed the Communications Decency Act and we are currently defending that law in court. If the Act is invalidated, I will carefully consider alternative routes to the same goal. I also support industry efforts to develop and market technology, including Internet screening software--a V-chip for the Internet--that will give parents and teachers the ultimate control over what material is available to children.

Question: **E-rate.** E-rate funds for communications and Internet connection schools and libraries are being made on a first-come, first serve basis. Will the funds be available again and how will you ensure equity in distribution of funds?

Answer: Over the next several months, the Federal Communication Commission will work with the Department of Education and the education community to develop an easy application process for schools and libraries to follow. I have asked Secretary Riley and FCC Chairman Reed Hundt to work with local educators, communities and parents on how to help them understand the E-rate and upgrade their schools to take advantage of it. The level of the discount will be higher for the schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods and in rural schools with higher costs of connecting to the Internet.

Question: **Technology.** What can the business community do to help the educational community to stay up to date with the major technological advances that are occurring today?

Answer: The business community has been one of the biggest supporters of our education technology initiative and West Virginia is a national leader in the use of technology in the classrooms. Some 85% of West Virginia's schools will be connected to the Internet by the end of this year and 14,000 educators have been trained to use computers for basic skills instruction. I applaud Bell Atlantic-West

Virginia for its commitment to wiring schools, IBM for its support of technology innovation, and Ashland Oil and others for their work on behalf of education reform here in the state.

Q&A on Late-Term Abortion

Question: Will you sign the Partial Birth Abortion Act now that it has passed both the House and Senate with overwhelming majorities?

Answer: No, because I am still not convinced that this bill adequately protects women from grievous harm. I have said over and over that if Congress were to add a narrow exception covering the few cases where this procedure is needed to prevent women in dire circumstances from suffering serious injury, then I would gladly sign the bill. But until Congress does add that narrow exception, I will veto the bill -- no matter how many votes there are in favor it -- to protect the health of women.

Question: Why didn't the AMA's endorsement of the Partial Birth Abortion Act -- and its statement that the partial-birth procedure is not good medicine -- change your view of this legislation?

Answer: I looked at the AMA's letter, and it did not persuade me that this bill fully protects women from grievous injury. Let me remind you that the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, which is the organization of doctors that knows the most about this issue, opposes this bill for the same reason I do -- because it prevents doctors from using a procedure that in a small group of cases best protects women from serious physical injury. The AMA endorsed this bill after bargaining for a change that protects doctors. I've implored Congress to make a narrow change in the bill to protect women -- to ensure that they don't suffer grievous injury because Congress has tied the hands of their doctors -- and I will not sign the bill until I get it.

Question: Didn't you base your prior veto of the bill on false information -- i.e., that this procedure is performed only a few hundred times each year and only when women are in great danger?

Answer: I vetoed the bill because there are a small group of women in desperate circumstances who need this procedure in order to save their lives or prevent serious injury to their health. Let's be clear: I've never said that these are the only circumstances in which the procedure is used; I've just said that these few women need to be protected. If Congress does so, I will gladly sign the bill, because I think this kind of procedure should be banned except when necessary to save the life of a woman or prevent serious harm to her health.

Q: WHY DID YOU OPPOSE THE HATCH-KENNEDY AMENDMENT TO EXPAND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TO MORE CHILDREN?

I do not oppose the tobacco tax to be used as a financing mechanism for more health coverage, nor do I oppose the goals of the Hatch-Kennedy legislation. In fact, I am committed to building on the \$16 billion we have achieved in the balanced budget agreement. I look forward to working with Senator Hatch, Senator Kennedy, and other members in this regard.

My primary concern with the budget amendment offered yesterday was that I feared that it would severely undermine the possibility of a balanced budget agreement, including the \$16 billion investment for children. My commitment to health care coverage is well known, and I will fight this year and beyond to expand health care coverage.

Q: REP. GEPHARDT CRITICIZED THE BUDGET AGREEMENT BECAUSE AT THE SAME TIME YOU STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING IN CHILDREN'S COVERAGE YOU CUT MEDICAID SPENDING, WHICH HELPS HOSPITALS THAT SERVE UNINSURED CHILDREN. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THIS CRITICISM?

A: Studies have shown strong evidence that our Medicaid disproportionate share spending is not being appropriately allocated to hospitals that serve a greater portion of low-income and uninsured populations (e.g. Urban Institute). It is for this reason that even the public hospitals have said that we can get more savings from DSH if we better target this funding to these types of hospitals. We are currently working with the public hospitals to push the Congress to do just that.

Moreover, since we are investing \$16 billion to cover millions of uninsured children, these hospitals will treat more children who have health care coverage, thereby reducing their need for DSH funding to help offset uncompensated care.

Q: DOESN'T YOUR CHALLENGE TO DEVELOP AN AIDS VACCINE IN TEN YEARS RING HOLLOW SINCE YOU ARE NOT INVESTING ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN THIS EFFORT?

A: According to National Institutes of Health Director, Dr. Varmus, and Director of the Office of AIDS Research at NIH, Dr. Paul, challenging the scientific community greatly enhances the likelihood that we will develop an AIDS vaccine. Moreover, we have backed this challenge with a series of investments and initiatives to increase the likelihood that we will reach our goal. In the last two years, I have increased funding for the AIDS vaccine by 33 percent, and my FY 1998 budget increases spending for AIDS vaccine research by \$17 million.

Moreover, I have announced that there will be a new AIDS Vaccine Center at NIH. Our medical and scientific leaders believe that uniting scientists in immunology, virology, and vaccinology will create a highly collaborative effort to help develop an AIDS vaccine. I am also asking the leaders of the eight major industrialized nations meeting at the Denver summit in June to support a worldwide AIDS vaccine research initiative. To fully commit ourselves to developing an AIDS vaccine, we need to make sure that the best minds throughout the world are working together towards this goal.

Q: FOLLOW: WHY ARE YOU ISSUING THIS CHALLENGE NOW? AND WHY ARE YOU FOCUSING ON AN AIDS VACCINE RATHER THAN OTHER DISEASES?

A: In the last twelve months we have made tremendous progress in our understanding of the AIDS virus. The leaders at NIH have told me that we are moving forward on developing a vaccine for AIDS and that we have an opportunity now to focus our efforts on developing an AIDS vaccine. They believe that by issuing a challenge to the scientific community, bolstered by our new investments and initiatives, will greatly increase the likelihood that we will be able to develop a vaccine in the next decade.

Scientific leaders have also told me that we have made progress in our understanding of immunology. They believe that bringing together all of this new knowledge will not only increase the likelihood that we will develop an AIDS vaccine but also could provide a new paradigm for vaccines that will help develop effective vaccines for other diseases.

While developing an AIDS vaccine is an important priority, it in no way undermines our commitment to biomedical research in other areas. Since I took office, we have increased overall spending at the National Institutes of Health by 16 percent, including a 76 percent increase in breast cancer research. My FY 1998 budget allocates \$13.1 billion for NIH.

It is also important to note that this commitment in no way undermines our investments in AIDS treatment and prevention, both of which have consistently received increased funding since I have been in office. We recognize that millions of people around the world already have AIDS, and we must continue to develop treatments and provide them to as many people as possible, while at the same time stressing prevention. I will continue to bolster our efforts in those areas.

Q: REPORTS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE ORIGINAL MEDICARE PREMIUM ESTIMATES WERE TOO LOW AND THE ACTUAL INCREASE WILL BE TWICE AS HIGH AS PREVIOUSLY PROJECTED (ABOUT A DOLLAR A MONTH). IS THIS TRUE?

A: While original preliminary CBO projections may have been slightly off, we still estimate that the Part B premium will be only about \$1 more in 1998 than under current law. In subsequent years within the 5-year Budget Agreement, the annual increase should be no more than about \$2 more per month. As a result, by 2002, we project the premium being approximately \$8 more than it otherwise would have been without the home health reallocation.

Regardless of the final projection, the Part B premium will be almost \$20 per month less than it would have been if it was set at the same 31.5 percent level that I vetoed. The monthly premium under the 1997 Budget Agreement will be about \$69 in 2002. If the policy were a 31.5 percent premium instead of 25 percent, the premium would be about \$87. In 2002 alone, this would equate to about \$215 a year more for a single beneficiary, \$430 for a couple.

Low-income beneficiary protections are expanded. Unlike the 1995 Budget Agreement that I vetoed, which eroded current-law low-income protections, the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement invests \$1.5 billion to expand premium assistance to low-income beneficiaries. We believe this commitment will help many of the estimated 2.5 million Medicare beneficiaries who have incomes between 125 and 150 percent of poverty-- just above the current eligibility level for Medicare premium protection.

Savings from the new premium are offset by investments in beneficiary improvements. The \$9 billion in savings that comes from gradually including home health in the 25 percent premium is virtually identical to the amount of money dedicated to the investment in new benefits. Specifically, the 1997-Balanced Budget Agreement invests \$3.4 billion in new preventive benefits (which will, for example, detect breast and colon cancer, and cover the management of diabetes), \$4 billion to limit excessive hospital outpatient coinsurance to beneficiaries, and \$1.5 billion in premium protections for low-income Medicare beneficiaries. (This contrasts with the vetoed 1995 balanced budget agreement, which reinvested virtually none of its much greater beneficiary savings for benefit enhancements.)

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
OPENING REMARKS
EDUCATION TOWN HALL MEETING
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA
MAY 22, 1997**

Acknowledgments: Mary Helen Shields, student; Bob Kittle, Superintendent of Harrison County School System; Leon Pilewski, Principal, Robert C. Byrd High School; Gov. Underwood; Sen. Rockefeller; Sen Byrd; Rep. Mollohan; and State Superintendent of Education, Hank Marockie; Cleo Mathews (Sylvia's mom), President of State Board of Education.

We are here today to talk about what we must do together to set high standards that will ensure that all our children have the knowledge and skills to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Standards are the key to making sure every 8-year-old can read, every 12-year old can log on to the Internet, and every 18-year-old can go to college.

I came to Clarksburg because of the great strides you are making in the national movement for standards. And because I know that this challenge can not be met in Washington alone. We have much to learn from you. In 1996, West Virginia tied for third in improvement since 1992 in 4th grade and 8th grade math. I want to thank our host, Gov. Underwood, for his leadership in building on this accomplishment with his focus on raising standards and achievement even higher in this state.

Education is my top priority. It has always been the heart of opportunity in America. It is the embodiment of everything we must do to prepare for the jobs and careers of the 21st century. If we all have the tools to succeed, we can build a strong, united community and move forward as one America.

The balanced budget agreement we reached with Congress funds the largest investment in education in a generation; the largest increase in higher education since the G.I. Bill in 1945, more than 50 years ago; expands Head Start; funds America Reads; \$35 billion in tax relief for higher education, including HOPE Scholarship and \$10,000 tax deduction and will help us wire every classroom by the year 2000.

I want to thank former Gov. Caperton for his pioneering efforts to make West Virginia a national leader in the use of technology in schools. This state is now well on its way to putting a computer in every elementary school by 1999. You are making innovative use of "distance learning." This town meeting is being broadcast live on the Internet here in West Virginia and across the country.

But nothing we do matters as much as what our children learn each day. Our success depends upon holding our students to the highest standards -- making sure they learn the basics that will be the foundation of success in the next century.

We must have high standards of excellence that all states -- from West Virginia to Nevada -- can agree on. That is why in my State of the Union address, I called for national standards of excellence in the basics -- not federal government standards, but national standards for 4th grade reading and 8th grade math, representing what all our students must know to succeed in the 21st century.

I have proposed national tests, based on widely used National Assessment of Educational Progress test. Today, I am pleased to announce that Gov. Underwood, along with the state board of ed. and state superintendent has agreed that West Virginia should participate in this test. In addition, Massachusetts and the National Alliance of Business are endorsing our call for national tests. We welcome West Virginia and these new partners to the growing national consensus for standards.

This is great news, but we must do even more. We all talk about standards, but today I want to walk through with you just what we mean when we talk about standards. [GO TO CHARTS]

CHART ONE: describes fourth grade reading standards -- what it means to meet basic, proficient and advanced standards.

CHART TWO: ask a student [Hannah Galey, a 4th grader from Nutter Fort Intermediate] to read passage from *Charlotte's Web*.

CHART THREE: Based on the above passage, how would you describe Charlotte to a friend? Three descriptions match three standard levels.

CHART FOUR: Shows how America's fourth graders are doing.

CHART FIVE: Shows a sample 8th grade math question. We will come back to this later.

Reading and math are the keys to everything we are trying to do to prepare our children for the next century -- from opening up a new world of knowledge on the Internet to opening the doors of college to getting our young people ready for the high-tech jobs of the future. We know we have a lot to do to lift the reading and math levels of our students up, but we know from the progress you have made here in West Virginia, that our students can do better. We know our children can meet high standards if they are challenged to do so.

That is why this meeting is so important. Standards are a way of making sure our children can learn and compete with students anywhere in the country and anywhere in the world. Now I want to hear from you...

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE OVERFLOW ROOM
ROBERT C. BYRD HIGH SCHOOL
May 22, 1997**

Acknowledgments: Gov. Underwood; Sen. Byrd, Sen. Jay Rockefeller; Rep. Mollohan; School Superintendent Bob Kittle; Robert C. Byrd principal Leon Pilewski; Robert C. Byrd High School Student Mary Helen Shields; Byrd Student Body President Dan Phares. Sylvia Mathews, my Deputy Chief of Staff, who went to high school not far from here in Hinton, West Virginia, not too long ago.

Since you have been excused from class this morning, I'm here to give you the town hall quiz. I hope you learned a lot from our discussion this morning.

I came to Robert C. Byrd High School because of the great strides your school has made. You have so many things to help you get a well rounded education: school-wide Internet access, the Eagle Battalion, Advanced Placement courses, the partnership with Josten's Learning Corporation, the instrumental music and theatre program, and the Community Environmental Learning Center. Robert C. Byrd High School is truly a high school for the 21st Century. I hope you all are proud to be here.

As you heard in the town hall, education is my top priority. We are doing all we can to make sure you have the skills and the knowledge to go to college, get good jobs, become good citizens and lead *all of us* into the next century.

Thanks for having me at your school today.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 21, 1997

'97 MAY 21 PM8:24

REMARKS TO THE PEOPLE OF CLARKSBURG

Date: Thursday, May 22, 1997
Location: Clarksburg Airport Tarmac
Time: 3:20-4:10 p.m.
From: Michael Cohen and Linda Moore

I. PURPOSE and BACKGROUND

To address the people of Clarksburg. You are the first sitting President to visit Clarksburg since Harry Truman.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 6,000 people are expected to attend. On the program with you will be Bridgeport Mayor Carl Furbee, Clarksburg Mayor Tom Flynn and Governor Underwood. On stage with you will be statewide elected officials: Sec. of State Ken Hechler, Attorney General Darrell McGraw, Jr., State Treasurer John Perdue and State Auditor Glen Gainer, all Democrats.

III. PRESS PLAN

Open press.

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You will be announced on to the stage accompanied by Governor Underwood, the two local mayors and the statewide elected officials.
- Mayor Furbee will make brief remarks and introduce Mayor Flynn.
- Mayor Flynn will make brief remarks and introduce Gov. Underwood.
- Gov. Underwood will make brief remarks and introduce you.
- You will make brief remarks and depart, working the ropeline as you go.

V. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting.

31 MAY 21 PM 97-25

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE PEOPLE OF CLARKSBURG
WEST VIRGINIA
May 22, 1997**

Acknowledgments: Governor Cecil Underwood, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, Sen. Robert C. Byrd, Rep. Alan Mollohan, Mayor of Bridgeport Carl Furbee, Mayor of Clarksburg Tom Flynn, Sylvia Mathews from Hinton West Virginia.

As the first sitting President to visit here since Harry Truman in 1952, I'm happy to report that I've had a great day in Clarksburg.

At Robert C. Byrd High School I talked with parents, teachers, and students about what we can do to give our children the tools they need to reach their God-given potential. It's vital that we work together to make sure every 8-year-old can read, every 12-year-old can log on to the Internet, and every 18-year-old can go to college. I am encouraged by what I learned today.

I came to Clarksburg because of the tremendous progress you are making in the national movement for standards. I'm pleased to work hand in hand with Governor Underwood who has agreed that West Virginia should participate in the widely used National Assessment of Educational Progress test. Governor Caperton led the way to high tech education, with his innovative use of "distance learning." Year after year, West Virginia is giving its students better classes, stronger programs, and more access to the information they will need to guide them into the next century.

Education is my top priority. The balanced budget agreement we reached with Congress funds the largest investment in education in a generation: the largest increase in higher education since the G.I. Bill in 1945, more than 50 years ago: expands Head Start; funds America Reads; 35 billion in tax relief for higher education, including HOPE Scholarship and 10,000 tax deduction and will help us wire every classroom --- just like Robert C. Byrd High School.

As Truman remarked from the rear platform of his departing train, West Virginia has a way of making one feel at home. Thank you for having me here.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN WEST VIRGINIA UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON

President Clinton's strategy to strengthen the economy is based on reducing the federal budget deficit, lowering trade barriers, and empowering workers, families, businesses and communities to succeed. Here are some of the results for West Virginia after the first 50 months of the Clinton Administration:

Improved Economic Conditions in West Virginia:

- The unemployment rate has dropped from 11.1% to 7.0%.
- West Virginia has added 60,600 new jobs, or 14,544 per year, compared to 8,250 per year during the previous 4 years.
- West Virginia has added 52,800 new private sector jobs or 12,672 per year, compared to 6,775 per year during the previous 4 years.
- West Virginia has added 7,200 new construction jobs or 1,728 per year, compared to 1,300 per year during the previous 4 years.
- New business incorporations have increased 2.2% per year, after declining 4.5% per year during the previous 4 years.
- Home building has increased 12.9% per year, after falling 3.2% per year during the previous 12 years.
- Bank lending has grown at 6.5% per year, compared to less than 1% per year during the previous 4 years.
- Bankruptcy filings have dropped 19.9% per year, after increasing 9.3% per year during the previous 12 years.
- Business failures have dropped 6.6% per year, after increasing 22.3% per year during the previous 12 years.

What President Clinton's Accomplishments Have Achieved for the People of West Virginia:

\$15,000 OF REDUCED FEDERAL DEBT FOR EVERY FAMILY OF FOUR IN WEST VIRGINIA: The national debt will be more than \$1 trillion lower over 7 years than was projected before the passage of the President's economic plan. That's \$15,000 of reduced federal debt for each family of four in West Virginia.

24 TIMES MORE WEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES RECEIVE A TAX CUT THAN A TAX INCREASE: As a result of the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, 105,017 working families in West Virginia will receive a tax cut. This compares to an increase in the income tax rate for only the 4,442 wealthiest taxpayers in West Virginia.

TAX CUT FOR 7,326 SMALL BUSINESSES IN WEST VIRGINIA: The President helped entrepreneurs, proprietors, and other small businessmen and women by expanding the annual expensing allowance from \$10,000 to \$17,500. About 7,326 small businesses in West Virginia are likely to benefit from the expansion of the expensing allowance this year alone and many more will benefit over the coming years.

210,000 WEST VIRGINIA WORKERS PROTECTED BY FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT: The Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth of a child, to care for a sick family member, or if they become too sick to work. This law covers about 210,312 workers in West Virginia, and protects the jobs of 12,635 workers in West Virginia who are likely to use unpaid leave this year alone.

106,500 STUDENTS AND FORMER STUDENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA WILL BE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM STUDENT LOAN REFORMS: Approximately 106,500 West Virginia borrowers -- 74,600 current borrowers and 31,900 new borrowers in the next few years -- can take advantage of the new direct student loan program by participating directly in the program or by consolidating guaranteed loans into direct loans. Some will benefit from lower interest rates, and all will benefit from more repayment options, including income contingent repayment.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 21, 1997

'97 MAY 21 PM 4:25

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Ann Walker

RE: West Virginia Local Issue Briefing

CRIME

The Republican dominated House of Representatives has approved legislation that allows courts to prosecute juveniles 15 years and younger as adults. West Virginia's three Democratic congressman heavily criticized the bill.

AIRPORT

There is a debate over building a new airport in West Virginia. The market for the airport is roughly 1 million people. The plans are caught up in a huge debate over cost, funding methods, and location. There are five possible sites under consideration. Some critics feel that there is not a large enough market to warrant the construction of the airport.

DEVELOPMENT

A group of residents has moved to sue the Kroger Company of Kanawha City in an effort to stop them from closing their warehouse. The resident's argued that the company has an obligation to keep the jobs in West Virginia because they had received tax incentives to build their stores. Last week, a local court has ruled that the company has the right to relocate. The relocation will leave 5,000 residents unemployed.

EDUCATION

Unions

The president of the teacher's union plans to present a petition to Putnam County School Board Monday. The union is seeking an across the board \$1,000 salary hike. The salary increase would effect all education professionals and service personnel--- everyone except administrators. About 600 instructional and 390 service employees would be effected. The proposal would cost \$1 million.

Graduates

West Virginia high school graduation rates have increased. About 87% of West Virginians between 18 and 24 have finished high school, eclipsing the national rate of 85%.

Test Scores

Low test score on a state academic test will keep 13 Kanawha County schools from getting state accreditation.

Taxes

Lawmakers approved several bills last month providing tax breaks to companies in an effort to create jobs and boost tax revenue. Many fear the bill will actually decrease tax revenue and affect school funding.

Kanawha County School Board will let voters decide the fate of a \$98 million bond plan in November. If the bond passes, the taxpayers will pay for it's interest through higher taxes. The money would be used to renovate the county's nine high schools and two vocational schools.

EMPLOYMENT

In 1980 the average West Virginia worker wage was higher than the national average. In 1997, the state average wage is running 15.6% below the national mean. The state ranks 38th among the 50 states. The drop in wages is attributed to the weakening coal industry.

ENVIRONMENT

Charleston will soon be accepting bids for a multi-million dollar composting facility to be constructed at Copenhaver Park. The main problem the composting facility would address, is the disposal of yard waste. The facility has become a necessity since the county has prohibited taking yard waste to landfills.

VOLUNTEERISM

A volunteer summit is scheduled in Charleston July 1st. The goal of the summit will be to help 2,000 children in the Kanawha Valley by the year 2000. The project is aimed at providing volunteer services to at-risk children. The gathering will be modeled after the President's Summit for America's Future held last month in Philadelphia.

WELFARE

The US Department of Agriculture rejected West Virginia's request to help residents in nine counties avoid losing food stamps. The state's high unemployment rate qualifies more than 80% of the state's counties for the federal welfare rule exemptions. Forty-six counties have been waived from the requirements. West Virginia represents one of the highest proportions of exemption in the United States.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1997

'97 MAY 20 PM 4:52

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

KITTY HIGGINS *88 to Kitty*

SUBJECT:

HOT ISSUES -- WEST VIRGINIA

EDA Industrial Facility Grant: Sen. Jay Rockefeller will be attending the May 29 announcement of a \$1.5 million Commerce/Economic Development Administration grant to the city of Huntington for a multi-tenant industrial facility. This grant will provide for the acquisition and renovation of three buildings on the former site of this Owens-Illinois glass factory. It is anticipated that this will create 250 permanent jobs over the next five years. (Commerce)

"Project Europe": The Charleston and Wheeling Export Assistance Centers are working with Rep. Bob Wise on Wise's "Project Europe" initiative to increase West Virginia trade with France, Germany and the United Kingdom. On May 29, there will be a World Trade Day event in Charleston with representatives from the three European embassies and Commerce European trade experts. (Commerce)

Procurement Practices Lawsuit: TMC Technologies, a West Virginia firm, filed suit May 1 against the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration alleging inappropriate procurement actions as part of a cooperative agreement signed with the West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation. The Consortium, organized at the initiative of Rep. Alan Mollohan, is a group of over 100 high-tech companies, primarily software developers, mostly located in the Morgantown to Clarksburg Interstate 79 corridor. TMC alleges that the Consortium was biased against them and as a result they were unable to compete for Commerce funds. Commerce and Justice are working together to represent the U.S. at a preliminary injunction hearing to be held May 30. (Commerce)

School Finance Ruling: On April 3, a West Virginia judge held that the state has not complied with a 1982 decision ordering higher quality and greater statewide equity in schools. The judge, who was appointed by the State Supreme Court to review the school finance system, gave the state one year to develop a spending formula to equalize spending between poor and wealthy school districts. Although the original decision served as a catalyst for statewide education reforms, substantial inequities remain because districts may impose excess levies on their residents to generate higher per-pupil spending. (Education)

Apple Grove Pulp and Paper Mill: This proposed billion dollar, 600-job conventional pulp and paper mill in Mason County has generated significant controversy over expected dioxin discharges to air and water. Proponents of the mill are being led by former Governor Caperton. Local environmentalists and a large affiliation of construction unions are opposed to the mill. The state is currently reviewing a second application for a water permit. The air permit issued in June 1996 is currently under appeal with hearings scheduled for June 1997. EPA Region III has been involved in this issue because of its obligation to review all state permits for major air and water sources. The Region will have an opportunity to review the surface water discharge permit again when the state proposes a new permit application. At that time, the Region will review the permit for its consistency with the Clean Water Act and other regulations. (EPA)

Appalachian Corridor H: Corridor H is a proposed billion dollar, 113-mile four-lane highway linking Elkins and the Virginia border. This project has been rejected by some state legislators and is under intense criticism from West Virginia environmental groups. The route has been altered and realigned several times and will impact high quality wilderness areas under any scenario. Interior supports the "no build" alternative. EPA had objections to the environmental impact statement because it contained insufficient information. The Division of Highways continues to coordinate with state and federal resources agencies to complete construction plans and finalization and implementation of an environmental impact mitigation plan. (EPA)



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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March 21, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

From: Kathleen A. McGinty *KAM*
Subject: West Virginia Environmental Issues

Global Climate Change

Coal miners are strongly concerned about the Administration's position in favor of more serious efforts to reduce the rising greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. In particular, they are upset that the Administration supports "binding commitments" for developed nations while not proposing binding obligations for developing countries. The U.S. is the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter, responsible for 23% of global emissions. The majority of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions come from carbon dioxide, much of which comes from burning coal -- a major industry in West Virginia. The international negotiations will reach conclusion in early December in Kyoto, Japan, and the Administration is working hard to achieve adequate flexibility (reasonable levels, timing and international emissions trading) to mitigate impacts on regions like West Virginia.

EPA Clean Air Rules for Ozone and Particulate Matter

The final rules that would establish more stringent Clean Air Act standards for ozone and particulate matter are now under consideration by EPA. Depending on the outcome, the new rules could have an effect on West Virginia's ability to meet its obligations under the Clean Air Act. The entire West Virginia delegation has written to the Administration expressing their concern over the rulemaking. Since this is a pending rulemaking you should not give any indication of the outcome on the substance of the final rules, but rather state that you understand the seriousness of this issue and that we will give it careful consideration. EPA is under a court order to issue the final rule by July 19. We expect to meet that deadline.

WTI Incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio

EPA has recently issued the final risk assessment on the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio, and the state of Ohio is expected to issue a final permit by the end of the year. West Virginians have been actively engaged in the ongoing controversy over the public health and environmental risks of the incinerator. As a Senator, the Vice President asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to investigate questions and concerns about the legality and safety of the WTI incinerator, located near Ohio's border with Pennsylvania and

West Virginia. During the 1992 campaign, the Vice President pledged that the Clinton Administration would not issue a burn permit until those questions had been answered.

The pledge was flouted by a Bush Administration decision to issue a permit to the facility, beginning a regulatory process that has led -- after litigation and appeals -- to the operation of the incinerator and consequent outrage by local environmental groups. The complaints of these groups frequently cite the campaign pledge, the close proximity of the incinerator to an elementary school and residences, and high dioxin emissions in the initial test burn. The GAO's final report concluded that the permitting process was lawful and that EPA has taken a number of steps beyond those required by law to ensure that the facility will not adversely affect the health or the environment of surrounding area. Subsequent testing has shown that the incinerator emissions are now well below permit limits.

In November 1995, EPA completed a draft risk assessment as part of the process of reviewing the final permit for the facility. The 3,000 page, seven-volume study was then forwarded to a panel of 21 outside experts for scientific peer review. The peer review process was completed in May 1995 and confirmed the following major conclusions of the assessment:

- The WTI plant presents most of the population, including students attending the nearby elementary school, with cancer risks of less than one in a million from stack emissions and fugitive emissions (primarily dioxins and furans).
- The WTI plant presents no risk of non-cancer health effects.
- The WTI plant presents very low to negligible ecological risk.
- The probability of on-site and off-site transportation accidents of any severity varies from unlikely to very unlikely. Potentially catastrophic accidents are found to be very unlikely.

The final risk assessment detailing the conclusions listed above was released on May 8. On this basis the state is expected to issue a final permit for the facility by the end of the year.