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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
8-25-98

Draft (8/25/98)

Public Supports Mainstream Investments in Education
A Mismatch with the Initial Congressional Education Budgets

by Terry Peterson, Jill Riemer, and Lidice Rivas

Rahm
By - an hour to
figure out how to
make this into a
voting issue
PK.

In the past year or so there has been an unusually large number of public opinion polls about education priorities in America. Investing in education and school improvement has become an important national and federal government priority in the eyes of the public. For example,

- 80 percent of American women voters surveyed in 1998 said that they strongly favor or favor increasing the federal government's level of funding for public education
- 30 percent polled in a 1998 Wall Street Journal survey said that any budget surplus could be spent on increasing spending for education, compared to another 30 percent wanting it spent on reforming social security/medicare, 21 percent on reducing the national debt, and only 12 percent want to spend any surplus on providing an across the board tax cut.

To further show this heightened priority at the federal level, Gallup (1998) found a major shift in public preference of tax sources to finance public schools over the last 10 years. This year, federal taxes are now the leading preference to finance public education. Yet, only 7 percent of school budgets come from the federal government.

In addition, these polls give an unprecedented roadmap of mainstream education priorities for which taxpayers are willing to pay and which voters are willing to support. A comparison of these surveys of public priorities against recent initial education budget action in Congress show an enormous mismatch. Below are a few examples listed:

America's Public Opinion

Types of Questions	America's Public Response	Congressional Budget Action
We need modern, well equipped schools? [Greenberg Quinlan & Tarrance Group]	81%- convincing statement	→US House and Senate budget resolutions deny \$22 million in interest free bonds to modernize schools.
Congress should provide funds to help repair and replace older school buildings. [Gallup]	86% favor	→Some Congressional leaders put intense pressure to eliminate the education (e-rate) discount to get technology in rural, small cities, suburban, and urban classrooms.

Do you favor limiting class size in the early grades to 18 to 1 and provide federal funds to address overcrowding? [AAUW]	In 1998, among women voters: 82% strongly favor to favor	US House and Senate budget resolutions deny \$12 billion to local schools over seven years to reduce class size.
Should Congress provide funds to reduce class size in grades 1-3? [Gallup]	In 1998: 80% favor	
As parents, do you want access to after-school programs? [National Opinion Research Center]	In 1997: 77% primary school parents want 82% middle school parents want	US House Appropriations Committee provides only \$60 million of \$200 million request for after-school funding.
Do you favor keeping schools open for educational and supervised recreational programs? [PACE Poll]	In 1996, Californians said: 93% favor 5% oppose	
Is reading more important than any other subject? [Southern Regional Education Board Data]	In 1954 In 1998 Yes: 62% Yes: 89%	US House Appropriations Committee fails to fund \$260 million for America Reads Challenge
Should federal government play a role in helping schools be safe from violence, guns, and drugs? [American Association for University Women - AAUW]	In 1998, women voters said: 84% support a very to somewhat strong role.	→US House Appropriations Committee fails to fund \$50 million efforts to put anti-drug and safety coordinators in middle schools.
As parents, do you want your child to go to college? [SREB]	In 1998: 87% Yes	US House and Senate budget resolutions deny \$140 million for High Hopes initiative
What prevents parents and students from applying for financial aid? [NELS]	78.9% did not apply because they do not know how	
How serious is the inadequacy of training public school teachers today? [Time/CNN Poll]	In 1997: 63% fairly to very serious	\$64.8 million in funds denied by US House Committee

Should public tax dollars be used to assist parents who send their children to private school or to invest only in public schools? [<i>AAUW and Garin- Hart -Yang- Research</i>]	In 1998, women voters: →66% only to improve public schools →Breakdown of “only public schools”: 72% Democrats 65% Independents 58% Republicans →In 1997, preferred approach to meet education needs: 69% improve public schools 25% promote private alternatives.	Numerous private school voucher type proposals have been proposed in Congress rather than funding the mainstream proposals to improve public schools.
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Congress will finalize the 1999 budget in late September or early October. So it is not too late for them to address the education needs Americans want addressed.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1998

TO: Ann Lewis
Amy Tobe

FROM: Sean Maloney

What do you think?

Maisha Berry
?

- Amy

To Maisha Berry -

While I was out, Sean sent
this to Amy & Ann for advice.

legally. the president - First Lady
can have their pictures taken for his
book, but I think there are other
considerations. Read the letter and let
me know what you think.

Phil
8/25

MARIANA COOK
PHOTOGRAPHER
115 CENTRAL PARK WEST
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023
TEL (212) 496-1836

MARIANA COOK

Go to
see.
Need advance
or put in
in book

12 July 1998

Copy

Dear President Clinton,

Thank you very much
for your handwritten note thanking
me for my book, Generations of
Women. I am honored to know
you spent a bit of time looking
at it.

Thanks also for your
good wishes for my next project,
Couples in America. My goal is to
portray the great ethnic, geographical
and socio-economic diversity within
our country and at the same time
show that all couples, regardless of
"race, creed or color," share similar
personal goals and concerns. I
like to believe there is an underlying
humanity amongst many, many Americans
which gives this country its true value.
(over please)

-2-
I know it's a longshot to ask,
but would you and Mrs. Clinton permit
me to photograph you for my book?
The publication date would be not
before Fall 2000. As you may recall,
I was able to make the successful
portrait of you and your mother in
less than ten minutes and a "couple's"
picture would take no longer. You
and Mrs. Clinton have acted with great
dignity during your tenure as President -
it's been difficult but your and Mrs. Clinton's
dedication to what is important is admirable.

Needless to say, I could easily
come to Washington to make the picture.
If you're planning to be on the Vineyard
this summer, I will be there from
July 25 until Labor Day. My phone there
is: 508-693-7846.

Please say, "Yes!"

As always, all good wishes,

Pranee Cook

P.S. I'd love to make a portrait of you alone, too. I'd do
a good job - for history's sake!

JULY 1995

The YALE REVIEW

PETER S. HAWKINS, MARIANA COOK,
RICHARD OLNEY, STEVEN MILLHAUSER,
ROBERTO GONZÁLEZ ECHEVARRÍA

FICTION BY T. M. McNALLY

POETRY BY CRAIG ARNOLD,

TURNER CASSITY, JENNIFER CLARVOE,
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MARK WUNDERLICH ■ REVIEWS BY

GEORGE BRADLEY, WAYNE KOESTENBAUM,
JAMES MCCOURT, MARY GARDNER NEILL,

CLAUDE RAWSON

VOLUME 83 NUMBER 3

Eight Portraits

MARIANA COOK

The definitions of “portrait” are as varied as the many photographs that might be “taken” of a given person during the course of a lifetime. For me, a true portrait must reveal a combination of psychological qualities that often seem incompatible. The moment when a person’s essential characteristics meet and show themselves distinctly is rare.

In 1987, I photographed Jacob Zeitlin, a rare book dealer in Los Angeles who had been a patron of writers and artists for many decades. Jake had given Edward Weston his first exhibition of photographs in 1928. At last, after three attempts over several years, I made a successful portrait of Jake six months before his death. His response to the picture made explicit my definition of a portrait: “My friends who have seen it are very much impressed. It stands on my mantelpiece where all my visitors see it on their arrival. It stops them, and they want to know who it is, which is very amusing to me because I think it looks more like me than I do.”

My wish in making a portrait is to reveal someone’s internal qualities. Whether the final result is a good “likeness” is irrelevant. For example, I often ask my subjects to remove their eyeglasses because the eyes unveil a face. It is a superficial concern of no significance if a subject does not “look like” what his or her friends and family see in daily life.

Original intent is the most critical aspect in creating a true portrait. Such a picture must be made as an end in itself. The photographs that follow were made for the sake of the portrait, in celebration of the person depicted – not for a magazine story, a book jacket, a family commission. I am grateful to the subjects for their courage in facing themselves and my camera in the world of natural light.

MARIANA COOK
PHOTOGRAPHER

MARIANA COOK

12 July, 1998

115 CENTRAL PARK WEST
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023
TEL: (212) 496-1836
FAX: 212-496-2373

Dear Nancy,

Thanks for having
passed along my generations
of intones book to the President.
I got two letters of thanks -
one handwritten from him weeks
ago + one "comme il faut" typewritten
yesterday.

I'd love to photo-
graph him + Mrs. Clinton for my
next book, Congress in America.

And I'd like to make a very
fine individual portrait of him.

I have several of my portraits
in the collection of the National Portrait
Gallery and I would hope to give a
(one)

successful portrait of the President
to them.

Would you be kind enough
to give the enclosed letter and
Yale Review opprint to the President.
I'd be grateful.

Yours sincerely,
M. A. A. A.